



## Hamilton Sports Council Secretary's Report 2010-2011

In addition to our usual calendar of events, our exchanges with the Danish Sport for All organisation DGI were a particular highlight of 2010-2011.

Following the AGM in 2010 the Executive Committee of Hamilton Sports Council comprised:

Honorary President	Russell Clearie MBE
Chairman	Councillor Graeme Horne
Vice-chair	Cathie Bennett
Secretary	Clare Winsch
Treasurer	Brian Miller
Secondary Schools representative	Stuart Sutherland
Schools Sports Co-ordinators	Paul Graham, M Murphy, Kevin Murphy
Combat Sports	Neil Malone
Team Sports	Hayley Duncan
Outdoor Pursuits	Ian Cannon
Bowling	Cathie Bennett
Leisure Pursuits	Brian Miller
South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture	Gary Burns, Mairi McLaughlin and Millar Stoddart

▪ **Affiliations:** South Lanarkshire Council (SLC) and South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture's (SLLC) policy of allowing free lets of indoor and outdoor facilities for under 16 year olds introduced in 2008 has sustained the number of clubs affiliating to Hamilton Sports Council (see the table below). The full list of clubs is attached to this report.

<i>Sports Council year</i>	<i>Number of affiliated clubs</i>
2010-2011	138
2009-2010	116
2008-2009	95
2007-2008	63
2006-2007	27
2005-2006	23

The Executive Committee agreed not to affiliate youth projects and children's clubs that do not have sport at their core but use sport as a diversionary activity. In most cases, clubs should be affiliated to a sports governing body or similar.

There was concern that clubs based outside South Lanarkshire Council were affiliating to South Lanarkshire's sports councils in order to take advantage of the free lets policy and therefore clubs seeking affiliation are carefully checked to ensure that most members are resident in South Lanarkshire. It was emphasized that the free lets policy was designed to benefit amateur clubs rather than professional clubs and their offshoots.

SLLC is planning a club accreditation scheme designed to improve the quality of clubs. The sports council's executive committee raised concerns about the impact of the scheme, particularly on small clubs and was advised that the scheme is still being developed.

The sports council continued its partnership with Mairi McLaughlin's Club development project, which this year concentrated on sports featuring in the International Children's Games in August 2011. These sports included tennis, athletics and volleyball.

- **Athletics:** The sports council decided not to run the 5K this year because 5K races were planned for every weekend in Strathclyde Park during the summer. Instead, we plan to hold a duathlon involving running and cycling: a course investigated by Brian Miller connecting Chatelherault and the Hamilton Palace Grounds has become viable now that the footpath connecting the two sites has been widened at its narrowest part alongside the River Avon.

The **1K race** was held, this year attached to the Family Fun Day organised by Active Schools at Hamilton Race Course. About 50 children and their adult supporters took part. The sports council supported the event by paying for the certificates.

The annual **Primary Schools Cross-country Races** were held on Friday 11 March 2011 at the Hamilton Palace Grounds. Event preparation was undertaken on the sports council's behalf by Shona Girdwood of SLLC. About 600 children took part from 21 schools, compared with 520 in 2009 and 400 in 2008. The finals took place on the 25 March 2011 with success for some of the Hamilton teams.

Shona also organised the **Hamilton Track and Field Championships** at the John Wright Sports Centre in East Kilbride in May 2010. This comprised javelin and long jump competitions and 600m, 400m and 4 x 100m races for P6 and P7s. The competitions are hotly contested by 300 children and hugely enjoyed by their teachers and parents. The sports council executive is very grateful for Shona's expert organisation of these events and very happy to support their cost.

- **Badminton:** The Hamilton Badminton Round Robin Tournament was held at Larkhall Leisure Centre on Saturday 5 March 2011. This annual event was moved to a Saturday in the hope that this would attract more competitors, and indeed the number of participants increased from 40 in 2010 to 44 in 2011.

The event was organised in the established successful format of four age groups: a Primary U12 event and U14, U16 and U18 categories. Happily there were sufficient entries from girls to run an U14 event as well as the U12 competition. It was nice that the four boys who took part in the U18 competition have competed in this event year on year.

The event was organised by Clare Wunsch and Marion Wotherspoon, with expert help on the day by Millar Stoddart.

- **Bowling:** The Bowling Sub-committee consists of Cathie Bennett supported by SLLC, chiefly Marion Wotherspoon, Millar Stoddart and club members. Cathie organised the **Hamilton Bowling Championships** in collaboration with SLLC.

Cathie organised Hamilton's teams for the **Scottish Association of Local Sports Councils (SALSC) Ladies' Tournament** at Paisley in which Hamilton was represented by a team from Blantyre. The sports council was represented at the **SALSC Gents' Tournament** in Strathaven by a team from Uddingston. A team was organised for the SALSC Junior event at Bathgate, but did not take part.

- **Curling** is represented in the sports council by Cathie Bennett. The annual Junior Sports Match Curling Challenge organised by Hamilton Young Curlers and Lanarkshire Ice Rink in Hamilton did not take place because of a clash with another major national competition. However the club provided winning U13 and U15 teams to represent Hamilton Sports Council in the annual **SALSC Junior Curling Tournament**.

- **Finance:** Brian Miller was unanimously elected as Treasurer at the AGM in 2010, replacing John Christie who retired from the sports council. The authorised signatories were increased to four, namely the Chairman, Vice-chair, Treasurer and Secretary.

As noted in the treasurer's report, the total value of grants was similar to last year. Several applications from international level players were referred to Hamilton International Sports Trust (HIST). The Sports Council continued to work in partnership with HIST, directing international-level players to benefit from the trust's scholarships and grants. HIST is funded through an annual show-am golf tournament which the sports council has supported and participated in every year since it started. This year was especially satisfying as our Chairman Graeme Horne won the individual trophy. The HIST trustees have agreed to wind up the trust in 2014, but for the time being HIST is giving special support to sports people with Commonwealth Games potential, namely Kirsty Gilmour in Badminton and Jamie McCallum in cycling.

- **Football:** Life Member George Mackenzie kindly organised the soccer sevens with support from the Executive Committee and Marion Wotherspoon in South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture. The ***Davie Cooper Primary Schools Soccer Sevens Tournament*** is our outstanding main event held in May each year.

The 2010 tournament took place on the 16th May 2010 with 20 boys' and 13 girls' teams with 315 children taking part. The boys' competition was won by Hamilton College with Our Lady & St Anne's as runners up and Townhill and St Joseph's as joint third. The girl's tournament was won by Chatelherault, with Muiredge as runners up and Newfield and Woodhead in third place. It was a very successful event, held on a lovely day at Hamilton Palace Grounds.

Provost Russell Clearie MBE made the presentations to the boys' winners and the girls' medals were presented by Christina McKelvie MSP.

First aid was provided by St Andrew's Ambulance. South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture provided administrative support, footballs and the pitch fee. Volunteers on the day included Chairman Graeme Horne, Mairi McLaughlin and Millar Stoddart from SLL, Cathie Bennett, Derek Pollock and Clare Winsch.

- **Golf:** The committee decided not to enter the ***SALSC Boys' Golf Competition*** as the cost of travelling and staying in Stornaway on Lewis was considered to be too high.

Hamilton Sports Council did participate in the annual ***South Lanarkshire Inter-area Seniors*** event and the ***Hamilton International Sports Trust (HIST) Annual Show-am Tournament***.

- **International Opportunities:** This theme was added to the committee's regular discussion last year as we noted the huge potential for life-enriching experience through international exchange which Hamilton Sports Council had only just begun to explore.



The committee was delighted to accept an invitation from DGI to visit Holstebro in Denmark and a group comprising Chairman Graeme Horne, Vice-chair Cathie Bennett, Mairi McLaughlin, Gary Burns, Dawn Anderson and Clare Winsch spent a 'short week' hosted by Kamma, Karen and Birte, visiting several well-supported and community-led facilities for all kinds of sports.

In return, 17 students and three young leaders, plus Birte Ahle and Karen Damborg visited Hamilton from 27 October to 1 November 2010. This was very much a group effort and very successful due to the energetic efforts of Mairi McLaughlin, Gary Burns, Millar Stoddart, Chairman Graeme Horne, Vice-chair Cathie Bennett, Ian Cannon, Stuart Sutherland and Clare Winsch plus Theresa Campbell and Councillor Brian McKenna.

The programme included martial arts at Blantyre Leisure Centre, tennis coaching for very young children with Ian Cannon at Uddingston Bowling and Tennis Club, a visit to Motherwell Heritage

Centre, football at Fir Park between Motherwell and Hamilton, a foggy trip to Loch Lomond and training at Hamilton Rugby Club. The Danes also attended a Hallowe'en Party at Blantyre Miners' Welfare Club as a party of invading Vikings.

The programme for the Friday was rescued from disaster (when a scheduled lecture at the University of the West of Scotland was cancelled at short notice) by Mairi's quick thinking and by Mrs Theresa Campbell, Senior Lecturer in Pedagogy Policy and Practice at Glasgow University who gave an inspiring and entertaining lecture to the Danish students. Councillor Brian McKenna also came to the rescue, quickly organizing lunch at Rutherglen Town Hall.

The students complained about the West of Scotland diet (too much soup and sandwiches) and we thought to change this another time, but Birte and Karen told us not to as it was a useful lesson!



The study tour was so successful that the DGI have asked if another group of young sports leaders could visit in November 2011 – for a (slightly) longer visit.

The visit was also a useful opportunity for Karen and Birte to meet representatives from local clubs with a view to sports exchanges organised by Danish and Scottish clubs in the future. Representatives from Larkhall Rifle Club and Hamilton Gymnastics Club were among those who met with the Danes to discuss these possibilities.

The sports council also supported Mairi McLaughlin's attendance at an international seminar held in Slovenia by the International Sport and Cultural Association (ISCA). (SALSC is affiliated to ISCA.) The conference theme was how sport may be used to overcome cultural differences. Mairi reported that she found Scotland is advanced in its activities for people with disabilities and with ethnic minorities compared with other countries. As a result of this experience, Mairi has organised a conference with ISCA and 14 other partners from 2-4 August 2011 (Immediately preceding the International Children's Games). The conference is on the theme of Health and Wellbeing and how sport may enhance the lives of young people. For more information see the ICG web site at [www.icg-lanarkshire2011.com/news/article/56/first\\_ever\\_health\\_and\\_wellbeing\\_conference](http://www.icg-lanarkshire2011.com/news/article/56/first_ever_health_and_wellbeing_conference).

- **Marketing, PR and the website:** Brian Miller continued to run the sports council web site at [www.hamiltonsportsCouncil.com](http://www.hamiltonsportsCouncil.com) which consistently receives 4-5 hits a day. The site has been updated and is a great window into the sports council's activities.
- **Martial Arts:** Hayley Duncan reported on Tae Kwon Do until family commitments made attendance impossible. However Neil Malone, past member of the Executive Committee made a very welcome return and kept the committee up to date on judo, commented on affiliations and drew on his experience of accreditation to advise the committee.
- **Rambling:** Brian Miller represented rambling and hill walking on the committee. He reported that his club responded to the SportScotland consultation for their Strategic Plan 2011-2015, saying that the plan should cater for competitive and non-competitive sports, especially cycling and walking which individuals may adapt to their ability and commitment as these change through life.

- **Rugby:** The annual U20s rugby tournament was held at Cambuslang Rugby Club because Hamilton's pitches were being rebuilt.
- **Sports Performers' Awards:** This annual event took place on Monday 28 March 2011 in South Lanarkshire Council's Banqueting Suite in Almada Street, Hamilton. This major project involved the Executive's volunteers, staff from SLLC especially Marion Wotherspoon and the banqueting team of South Lanarkshire Council's Community Resources.

There were 42 nominees including 28 individuals and 14 teams or clubs. Nominees were of very high standard and ranking them was extremely difficult. The winners are listed below.

Category	Sports Performers of 2010	Sport
Adult female	Pamela Pretswell	Golf
Adult male	Stephen McGuire	Boccia
Junior female	Kirsty Gilmour	Badminton
Junior male	James Steven	Golf
Senior team	Eddlewood AFC	Football
Junior team	Hamilton Accies Girls' U13	Football
Coach	Paul Brogan	Football – Eddlewood AFC
Club	Blantyre Bowling Club	Bowls

The selection panel included Cathie Bennett, Brian Miller, Councillor Graeme Horne, HIST Chairman Ronnie Smith, Millar Stoddart, HIST Secretary Hugh Waters and Clare Winsch.

This year, nominees were invited to send in their own photographs and film, which Ian Bremner edited into a short but entertaining backdrop to the presentation of awards.

On the night, the stage team comprised Chairman Graeme Horne, the MC Stuart Sutherland and Gary Burns, who together gave a polished presentation.

Several politicians attended the awards ceremony and accepted invitations to take part in the evening, including Provost Russell Clearie MBE, Tom McCabe MSP and Christina McKelvie MSP. Presentations were also made by Gerry Campbell, General Manager of South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture, Hugh Waters Secretary of HIST, Supercounty Chief Executive John Scott and Councillor David McLachlan the Representative for Youth.

In addition to recognizing the outstanding achievements of Hamilton's sports men and women in 2009, the Awards evening was the occasion for recognizing the achievements of volunteers and supporters in sport. May Bryson, bowling organiser and coach, received the **sportscotland and SALSC Services to Sport Award** which was presented by Millar Stoddart of SALSC. Ian Bremner received the Hamilton Sports Council **Rosebowl** for services to the sports council. The grand finale celebrated all the nominees as everyone received a certificate and featured in the big photograph at the end of the evening.

Hamilton Sports Council was represented by Chairman Graeme Horne, Vice-chair Cathie Bennett, Treasurer Brian Miller and Secretary Clare Winsch at the South Lanarkshire Council Sports Performers awards on the 30 August 2010 at which Pamela Pretswell and Daryn Duncan, Hamilton's adult winners for 2009, were named the top adult sports performers of 2009 for South Lanarkshire.

- **Tennis:** Ian Cannon, a tennis coach joined the Executive Committee in August 2009 and has worked with Active Schools to develop tennis, particularly to schools and clubs in Uddingston and Hamilton. This included a tennis festival for 157 children as well as using Cashback for the Community (proceeds from crime) to oversee sessions in seven sports including tennis.

Ian is also leading coaching for the International Children's Games in which Hamilton area children have provided 8 of the 16-strong squad.

Ian is heavily involved in the Lanarkshire Open, which is a level 4 tournament registered with Tennis Scotland and was in its 38<sup>th</sup> year in 2010. The Open took place at Uddingston Tennis Club in August and attracted players from all over Scotland.

- **Active Schools:** There have been vacancies in the Active Schools staff this year and this has had an impact on attendance by Active Schools representatives at the executive committee. However the team continues to promote a diverse range of sports and physical activities in local primary and secondary schools including the Aquathon at Blantyre Leisure Centre.
- **South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture:** The sports council executive committee has been kept up to date about South Lanarkshire Leisure's policies and programmes thanks to Gary Burns, Marie McLaughlin and Millar Stoddart. This year, Cultural Services transferred into South Lanarkshire Leisure in October 2010. In March 2011, SLLC started online booking for use of facilities and classes.
- **SALSC:** The Vice-chair Cathie Bennett and Secretary Clare Winsch attended the SALSC annual conference in Perth. SALC completed the official conversion to a company limited by guarantee.
- **South Lanarkshire Sports Forum:** Hamilton Sports Council participated in this forum along with sports councils for Clydesdale, Cambuslang and Rutherglen and East Kilbride and South Lanarkshire Disability Sport.
- **Commonwealth Games 2014:** members of Hamilton Sports Council attended the official ceremony and multi-sports event when the Commonwealth Games Flag was officially handed over to Glasgow from Delhi in a ceremony at Ravenscraig Regional Sports Centre on 14 October 2010.
- Hamilton Sports Council has had a busy and successful year thanks to the work of many active members on the Executive Committee and external supporters. Chief among **our supporters** are South Lanarkshire Council and South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture. We are particularly grateful for help received from the Provost and Councillors and from SLLC staff at the Academics North Stand, Hamilton Palace Grounds and Blantyre Leisure Centre. Many HSC activities would not easily take place but for Marion Wotherspoon, Millar Stoddart, Gary Burns and Mairi McLaughlin. In addition, the hall keeper at Ferniegair, Michael Carey is an excellent host.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone on the Executive Committee for their enthusiasm, cheerful company and excellent ideas throughout the year.

**Clare Winsch**

Secretary  
23 May 2011

## Affiliated clubs 2010-2011

5th Hamilton Boys Brigade Company	Hamilton Scottish Backhold Wrestling Club
Aberdeen Boys Club 2001	Hibari-kan Judo Club
Aberdeen Boys Club 2002	Hillhouse Junior Badminton Club
Aston Villa 2001	Hillhouse Junior Badminton Club 2
Aston Villa 2002	Hoey School of Tae Kwon Do
Aston Villa 2003	Lanarkshire Lightning Badminton
Aston Villa BC 1999	Lanarkshire Sports Club
Aston Villa BC 2000 Bothwell & Uddingston	Lanarkshire Sports Club 1999
Aston Villa Boys Club 1997	Lanarkshire Sports Club 2000
Aston Villa Boys Club 1998	Larkhall Academicals Badminton Club
Aston Villa Boys Club 2004	Larkhall Avondale ASC
Aston Villa Boys Club 98	Larkhall Rifle Club
Aston Villa Boys Club Colts 1996	Larkhall United 1995
Aston Villa Diamonds	Larkhall United 1996
Avon Boys Club	Larkhall United 1997
Baillieston Juniors Boys Club 1998	Larkhall United 1998
Blantyre BC	Larkhall United 1999
Blantyre Bowling Club	Larkhall United 2000
Blantyre Boys Club	Larkhall United 2001
Blantyre Boys Club 00	Larkhall United 2002
Blantyre Boys Club 1996	Larkhall United 2003
Blantyre Boys Club 1997	Mill United 2000
Blantyre Boys Club 2001	Mill United 2000
Blantyre Boys Club 2002	Mill United 2001
Blantyre Boys Club 2003-4	Mill United 2003
Blantyre Boys Club blue 1999	Mill United 2004
Blantyre Boys Club yellow 1999	Mill United 97s
Blantyre Hillwalking and Rambling Club	Mill United BC 1999
Blantyre Swimming Club	Mill United Boys Club Black 1995
Blantyre Vics 1996 (3921)	Mill United Colts 1998
Boys Brigade	Mill United Colts 1999
Burnhead Colts 2000	Mill United FC
Cadzow Boys Club 1997	Mill United FC 1996
Cadzow Boys Club 1998	Mill United Soccer School
Calderbraes Boys Club U15	Mill United White FC 1995
Calderhill Thistle Boys Club 1994	Moorlands 2004
Dolphin Swimming Club	Moorlands FC 1998 Reds
Hamilton Caledonian Thistle Girls FC 2000	Moorlands FC 1999
Hamilton Caledonian Thistle Girls FC	Moorlands FC 2000
Hamilton Caledonian Thistle Girls FC 1999	Moorlands FC 2001
Eddlewood Bowling Club	Moorlands FC 2003
Eddlewood Boys Club	Quarter Athletic 1997
Glassford Youth Club	Quarter Athletic FC
Gretna Youths	Reach for the Sky Basketball
Hamilton & District Batallion 'Boys' Brigade'	Scotland Boys Club 1999
Hamilton Academicals Boys Club 2000	Scotland Boys Club 2000
Hamilton Academicals Boys Club 2001	Scotland Boys Club 2001

Hamilton Academicals Girls U13  
Hamilton Academicals Girls U15  
Hamilton Academicals WFC U11  
Hamilton Accies BC 1997  
Hamilton Accies BC 1999  
Hamilton Accies BC 1999  
Hamilton Accies Girls U17  
Hamilton Accies SBC  
Hamilton Accies WLFC girls 1996  
Hamilton ASC Water Polo Club  
Hamilton Bowling Club  
Hamilton Caledonian BC  
Hamilton Colts Boys Club  
Hamilton Gymnastics Club  
Hamilton Gymnastics Club  
Hamilton Judo Club  
Hamilton Juniors (Netball)  
Hamilton Lawn Tennis Club  
Hamilton Palace Boys Club  
Hamilton Rugby Club S1  
Hamilton Rugby Club S2  
Hamilton School of Young Curlers

Scotland Boys Club 2002  
Shawlands United BC  
Siu Loong Karate Club  
South Lanarkshire Accies  
Sporting Judo Club Alba (SJCA)  
St John's Church Children's Football  
Stonehouse Boys Club (4 teams)  
Stonehouse Boys Club 1996  
Stonehouse Boys Club 1998  
Stonehouse Boys Club 2001  
Stonehouse Boys Club 2002  
Stonehouse Boys Club 2003  
Strathclyde United 1994  
Tei Karate  
Uddingston Badminton Club  
Uddingston Bowling & Tennis Club  
Uddingston Cricket Club  
Uddingston Hockey Club  
Uddingston Hockey Club  
Uddingston Rugby Club  
Udston Bowling Club  
Wolves 1999