**Strollers at Marine Drive**

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| 1958 | Strollers play their first game at the Civil Service Sports Councils new facility at Marine Drive, Muirhouse Edinburgh.  Although the land belongs to the Local Authority, the Sports Council own the clubhouse and have a long term lease. |
| 1958 - 1985 | Strollers run a variety of teams at East of Scotland, Lothian Amateur and under 19 with between 3 and 4 teams always on the go.  There were also other ‘public sector’ football clubs based at Marine Drive during this time including Postal United and Telman Star  Marine Drive has 4 football pitches, a hockey pitch, tennis courts, a bowling green and a cricket square.  To enable the cricket to go ahead (and a running track to be lined) all bar one of the football pitches are taken down in early April causing significant fixture congestion! |
| 1985-2000 | Edinburgh Civil Service were a successful hockey team in the 70’s and 80’s and the requirement for a plastic pitch meant they moved from Marine Drive. There was also a dip in popularity for cricket and the cricket square has fallen into disrepair over the years. A fifth football pitch was created in its place with other clubs such as Manfort and Leith Athletic also becoming involved with Marine Drive as a home ground.  The tennis courts become a training area with floodlights and the club is able to train at Marine Drive. |
| 2000-2007 | Tough economic times and a reduction in public sector jobs in the area mean that the Civil Service Sports Council start to consider options for Marine Drive. It is understood that negotiations with external organisations have taken place regarding the future of the facility.  It is widely believed that an agreement in principal has been made with an external group to create a new sports facility, however these plans do not go forward.  Strollers now only run an East of Scotland and 1 Lothian Amateur side. |
| 2008 | The recession has now really taken hold.  Edinburgh’s Telford College take over the lease from the Civil Service Sports Council and initial discussions take place with the football clubs that are still based at Marine Drive. The lounge at the clubhouse closes. |
| 2009-2011 | East of Scotland and Lothian Amateur Fixtures are booked on a week by week basis at Marine Drive. Hospitality is provided for opposing teams at Silverknowes Golf Club |
| 2012 | Edinburgh College is created through the merger of Telford, Stevenson and Jewel and Esk Colleges.  The relationship between the College and the Strollers builds and agreement is reached for the Strollers to prepare plans that would allow the club to seek a licence from the SFA. An SFA licence has become a requirement if clubs wish to retain membership of the SFA and to enter the Scottish Cup. |
| 2013 | Plans are prepared and agreement reached with the SFA that what is proposed by the Strollers can be construed as a ‘Football Ground’ for licencing purposes |
| 2014 | Strollers agree a ‘Licence to Occupy’ for a football ground, changing room facilities and cafe/bar area with Edinburgh College  Planning permission is gained by the club to construct a shelter for 100 spectators  Strollers now maintain the playing surface and surrounds themselves |
| 2015 | Strollers undertake significant work in the clubhouse and around the pitch including perimeter fencing and a seated enclosure. Bid for licence to SFA is denied.  The ‘Football Ground’ is renamed **Christie-Gillies Park**. Construction work starts to create the World of Football complex. |
| 2016 | Strollers continue to develop the playing area and clubhouse and a successful bid is made for an SFA licence.  Strollers enter the Scottish Lowland Football League  Strollers have both Saturday and Sunday amateur teams  Strollers start a Youth section for younger kids  Strollers start an under 20s development side |
| 2017 | World of Football opens |
| 2018 | For the first time Strollers do not have a side in an amateur league. This is partly caused by the difficulty in fulfilling fixtures for 2 games at Marine Drive under the SFA licencing criteria. Strollers win the SFA South Regional Cup |
| 2019 | Strollers are awarded an SFA licence under the revised criteria that requires floodlights to be in place.  Strollers again have an under 20s development side  The Youth section continues to develop and grow  The first fixture given to the club that requires the use of floodlights is on 13 November 2019 against Hill of Beath Hawthorn in the Football Nation Qualifying Cup |
| 2020-21 | Much of this period will be remembered for the impact Covid had on all our lives. In recognition of this Strollers sponsored The Pilton Community Health Project – who in turn designed, painted and made a feature of our pitch-side cabins. |

**Bill Christie and Ken Gillies**. From 1958 to2008 Bill Christie and Ken Gillies had been mainstays at the Strollers as players, team managers and active committee members. Their contribution to the club and its proud reputation has been immense and their names serve as a reminder of the standards expected. Bill and Ken set out the standards and ethos of the club. They are life-time honorary members, and they remain supportive of the club in their typically understated way. Before the ground was christened ‘Christie-Gillies Park’ they were kept in the dark as they would have protested.