



**STRONG SIDE:** The Portobello Water Polo club are looking forward to 2011

# Water polo club making a big splash

PORTOBELLO Water Polo club are looking forward to a memorable 2011 in which they will compete in a new-look British Championship and seek qualification for European club competitions.

That's as a consequence of Portobello finishing seventh in the latest First Division table to guarantee themselves a place in the re-structured league.

Along the way individuals will step up their bids for Olympic recognition at London 2012, and a club spokesman says: "It is absolutely vital for Scottish water polo that Portobello continue to have a foothold in the top

tier. Given the quality of opposition, finishing seventh actually feels like winning a trophy especially after being eighth and ninth in the past two seasons.

"We assembled a strong squad of 17 players drawn from locally developed talent, students and foreign imports, and a mix of experience and youth.

"With 17 games played over seven weekends the British Water Polo League is a challenge not only from a playing perspective, but with the venues spread all over England and Wales, from a financial perspective as well.

"The team had to fly to three venues in the south of England

and in Wales, as well as fly in goalkeeper Simon Fuste from Barcelona almost every weekend.

"The first half saw all ten teams play each other once, with a split then leaving the top five and the bottom five to play each other a further twice.

"Many of the top five teams have fulltime professionals and a number of foreign imports, and with the Portobello team still being moulded into a system of play it is always a challenging phase of the league.

"However, after the first round of games Portobello were eighth with two wins and a draw but by then

taking 11 out of a possible 16 points confidence grew.

"The final weekend required a minimum of one point from two games and this was secured in the first game with a 7-7 draw against Invicta, and followed up by a convincing 12-7 victory over Welsh Wanderers with captain Neilson Rutherford scoring four second half goals.

"The team now have the opportunity to compete in the British Championships in February in Manchester as well as an end of season shoot out to decide qualification places for the European Club competitions later in 2011.

## Big hearts needed for challenge

EDINBURGH entries are being invited for the annual Hearts and Heroes Challenge, which will take place on May 14 when more than 500 walkers and runners

will compete over a 29-mile course in the Scottish Borders, starting at St Mary's Loch and finishing at Melrose Rugby Club. There is also the opportunity to do

the bronze award (11 miles) or the silver award (21 miles).

Beneficiaries are Poppyscotland and Hearts and Balls. Further details from 07538 579191.

## Away day

HOLDERS Carlton will open their defence of the Murgitroyd Masterton Twenty:20 cricket trophy in 2011 away to Musselburgh. Runners-up Grange start at Fauldhouse.



**Courting success in SW19** Blackhall tennis player Reuben Henry enjoyed a successful 2010 in which one of the highlights was this trip to an iconic SW19 setting where he reached the semi-final of the HSBC Road to Wimbledon tournament losing to the eventual winner.



**Running like clockwork** Rugby Ecosse, fielding former Boroughmuir star Angus Martyn and Watsonian ace Michael Fedo, won the Avusy rugby sevens in Geneva beating the Paris Police and Fire Select 7s 38-0 in the final. Victory completed a Swiss double this year, with the crack invitation team having previously won the Geneva sevens.



## Squash ace crushes her opposition

Former world ranking star Senga Macfie (Sports Club) took the women's title at this season's Titan Sports East of Scotland squash tournament hosted by the Grange club.

Senga receives her prize from co-organiser Dave Ferguson. Senga defeated Donna Cruickshank in the final and emulated her male counterpart, Chris Ferguson, by not dropping a game in the tournament.