

The Braid Estate Recreation Grounds



Hello,

This booklet has been distributed to you as a householder of what is still known today as the Braid Estate. Here you will learn something about the Braid Estate Recreation Grounds with contributions from the Bowling and Tennis Clubs.

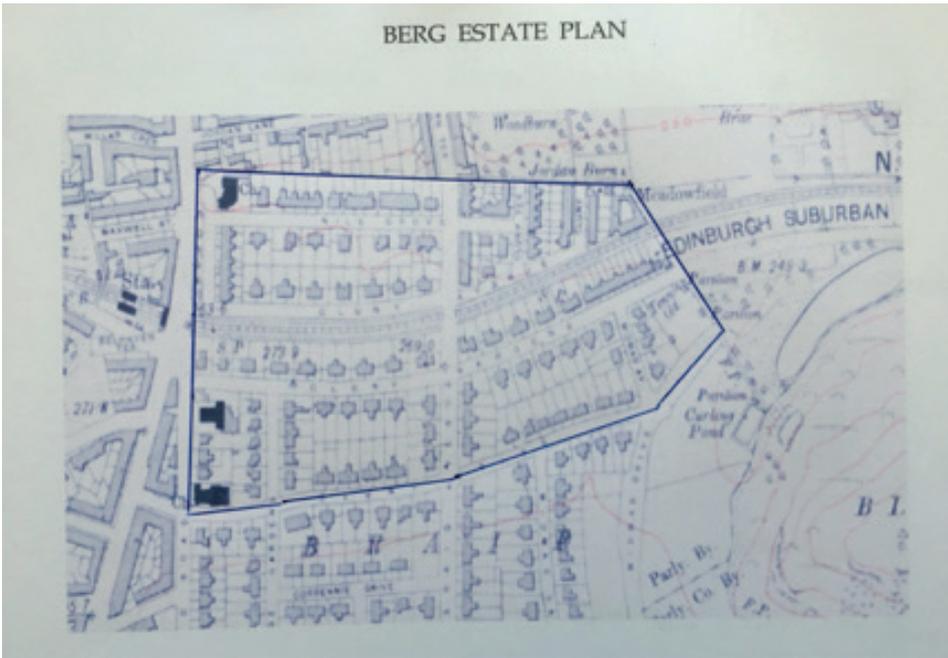
As one of the c 270 householders of the estate your title deeds identify you as one of the 'owners' of what is known as the Braid Estate Recreation Grounds. The Grounds comprise the Braid Bowling and Tennis Clubs located at Midmar on the western edge of the Blackford Pond.

So how did this all start and what does ownership mean for you?

In 1890 the trustees of the late John Gordon of Cluny developed part of their estates in the south of Edinburgh and built c 270 houses on what is still known as The Braid Estate. The streets included in the Braid Estate were identified as follows:

Braid Avenue, Braid Road, Cluny Avenue, Cluny Drive, Cluny Gardens, Cluny Place, Cluny Terrace, Hermitage Gardens, Midmar Avenue, Midmar Drive and Nile Grove.

BERG ESTATE PLAN



The trustees were very forward-looking and constructed a Bowling Green and Tennis Courts at the eastern end of the development. The cost of the construction of these recreational facilities was shared amongst the feuars of the Braid Estate. This meant (and still means) that the householders of the Braid Estate are the owners of the Recreation Grounds.

The original intention was that the recreational facilities should be for the exclusive use of the householders of the Braid Estate. It was though soon clear that there was not sufficient interest from amongst the feuars to keep the clubs going so they were opened up to anyone who was interested in playing bowls or tennis.

The management of the Braid Estate Recreation Grounds ("BERG") was placed in the hands of a Committee of Management representing the interests of the feuars and chosen by election at an annual general meeting of the feuars.

Up until 2004, the trustees of the Gordons of Cluny remained the feudal superiors of BERG. However this was ended by the Abolition of Feudal Tenure (Scotland) Act. The former feuars are now known as owners and the Chair and Treasurer of the BERG Committee act as trustees for the recreation grounds on behalf of you the owners. While both the Tennis and Bowling Clubs have considerable flexibility to run their own affairs, nevertheless issues of governance, membership, subscriptions and major property

matters are still the final responsibility of BERG, acting on behalf of the householders of the Braid Estate.

Neither the Tennis nor the Bowling Clubs pays any rent to BERG. The arrangement is that once essential running costs have been deducted, any surplus left over from the annual subscription income is passed on to BERG. These monies are then held by BERG to be used for any major maintenance work that is required to be carried out or to support any major construction work identified by the respective clubs (e.g. the resurfacing of the tennis courts). Thereafter the clubs are free to raise their own funds to assist with running costs and minor improvements to the facilities.

These arrangements continue to operate smoothly to this day and there is a close working relationship between BERG and the respective Club committees. An annual newsletter is published on the respective club websites for the 'owners' updating you regarding the operations of the two clubs. However the BERG Committee would welcome new members. The commitment is usually just attendance at the annual AGM of BERG which is held around Easter on a Sunday at 2.00pm in the Bowling Clubhouse.

Details of each year's AGM will be found on the web sites of the two clubs which you will find at the end of their respective sections.

Eric Melvin (Chair, BERG)

Braid Bowling Club

Since 1890 there has been a Bowling Club between Midmar Drive and Cluny Gardens, on Braid Estate Recreation Grounds, an area shared with Braid Tennis Club. Originally, membership of both clubs was restricted to feuars of adjoining properties on the Braid Estate. Although owners still have priority if there is a waiting list for membership, nowadays the members come from all around to enjoy the Club and its outstanding location.

The outdoor bowling season normally opens in the second half of April and runs through to the end of September.

Those wishing to try bowls are invited to free taster sessions which are held on most Sunday afternoons at 2 o'clock from the beginning of May to the beginning of September. No previous experience is required.

Bowls of various sizes and weights are available, so that potential members can experiment with them before buying their own set. Shoes, designed to prevent damage to the green, are also available.



Nearly every week throughout the season there are “Hat Nights” (where teams are drawn from a hat) on Mondays for men and on Fridays for mixed play. Informal games are played on Monday and Wednesday afternoons (ladies), and on Tuesday and Thursday forenoons (men). There is a full programme of competitions — singles, pairs, triples and fours. And both the Men’s and Ladies’ sections participate in external League matches against other clubs from all over Edinburgh.

Mixed Play takes place on a Saturday afternoon once a month throughout the season, culminating with a match between representatives of the Men and of the Ladies. These afternoons always end with light refreshments in the Club Room, situated on the upper floor of the Pavilion. On one of the Mixed Play Days there is an opportunity to contribute to a designated charity, sometimes local, sometimes national, selected by the Ladies’ President.

The current annual subscription is currently £145, but new members pay a reduced fee of £50 for their first year. There are also reduced rates for those under 25 and people on benefits.



The annual subscription covers the main running costs of the Club, but any additional expenditure depends on fund-raising events, including raffles at the Mixed Play events, a 550 Club from which half the proceeds is returned to subscribers, and an annual Summer Fair.

A programme of out-of-season activities enables members to attend an autumn series of travel and history talks, play whist fortnightly and participate in regular walks for “Bowlers and Strollers”.

There are also facilities for playing Petanque/Boules. The terrain is used by Edinburgh U3A on most Sunday afternoons, but is otherwise available for play at any other time, so long as no bowling competition is being played. Boules are available and are stored in the old Bowls House.

Further details of Braid Bowling Club’s activities can be found on the website www.braidbc.co.uk or contact info@braidbc.co.uk

Braid Tennis Club

Braid tennis club has three all-weather courts with free use of floodlights and balls. We have an original clubhouse dating from the 1890s, luckily with more modern facilities of showers, fully equipped kitchen and social area. The verandas are very popular and allow members to sit in the sun (or take cover!) and still watch play.



Many of our members live in the Braid Estate and have been members for many years. We currently have 280 members with a lively “golden oldies” section as well as strong junior and adult sections. There are eight teams in the LTA East of Scotland league, with our top men’s team winning Division 1 this year. Many members play in other interclub competitions such as the men’s and ladies’ vets and the winter league.

There are three social tennis sessions each week, Tuesday and Thursdays from 10-12 and Saturdays from 2-4.30pm. We run frequent social tournaments and other social events during the year. The club championships for members are run in August followed by our annual BBQ for 80-90 members and their families and friends.

This year we were extremely lucky to have Judy Murray for an afternoon when ran her 'She Rallies' coaching programme aimed at encouraging women and girls to play tennis. Fifty players aged from 5 to 92 enjoyed the day.



Our 3 strong coaching team is currently headed up by one of Scotland's best development coaches Mhairi Beattie. Members (and non-members) can come to group or individual coaching. Junior coaching in small groups runs weekly in the autumn and spring terms. There are tennis camps during half term and other school holidays. Mhairi and her team also run adult tennis camps throughout the year, as well as cardio and tactical tennis classes.

For more information and details of memberships please look at our website Clubspark.lta.org.uk/BraidLTC or contact the secretarybraidtc@gmail.com or treasurerbraidtc@gmail.com

The Braid Estate Recreation Grounds

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