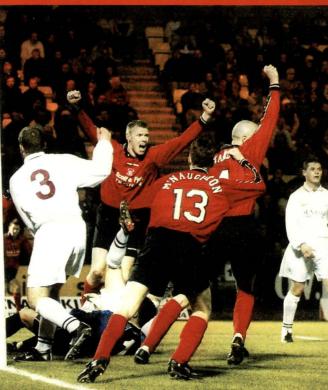
TAYPORT F.C.

Official Matchday Programme





Tayport's OVD Semi-Final Goal v Linlithgow Rose
Photo Courtesy of Fife Herald

2002 / 2003

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JUNIOR ROLL OF HONOUR

O.V.D. Scottish Junior Cup Winners 1995/96 Runners-up 1992/93, 1996/97

Tayside League Division I/Premier League Champions 1991/92, 1992/93, 1993/94, 1994/95, 1995/96, 1998/99, 1999/2000, 2000/2001, 2001/2002

Tayside League Division 2 Champions 1990/91

Zamoyski Cup Winners 1991/92 Centenary Cup 1994/95

Concept Trophy 1999/2000, 2001/2002

Taycars Trophy 1998/99, 1999/2000

Cream of the Barley Trophy 1994/95

Findlay & Co. (Currie) Cup Winners 1990/91, 1991/92, 1992/93, 1993/94, 1998/99, 2000/01, 2001/2002

Perthshire Advertiser Cup Winners 1990/91, 1995/96

Intersport Shield Winners 1990/91, 1993/94

D.J.Laing Trophy Winners 1997/98

North End Challenge Cup 1999/2000, 2000/01

Craig Stephen Trophy Winners 1990/91, 1991/92, 1993/94, 1995/96, 1997/98, 1998/99, 2000/01, 2001/2002

(Association's Top Scoring Club)

Albert Herschell Trophy Winners 1990/91, 1991/92, 1992/93, 1993/94, 2001/2002 1994/95, 1995/96, 1998/99, 1999/2000, 2000/2001

(Premier Champions v Division I Champions Charity Trophy)

David Scott Cup 1995/96

Tameside Association for the Blind International Challenge Cup Winners 1996

D.J. Laing Homes League Cup 2001/2002

COMPETITIONS ENTERED IN THIS SEASON

O.V.D. Scottish Junior Cup Whyte & Mackay East Region Super League Concept Group (Tayside & North Region Clubs) Cup (holders) Redwood (Fife/Tayside) Trophy Findlay & Co. (Currie) Cup (holders) North End Challenge Cup

TAYSIDE JFA Player of the Year

 Sean Wilkie
 1993/94

 Grant Paterson
 1994/95

 Dave Reilly
 1995/96

 Grant Buist
 1999/00

TAYSIDE JFA Top Goalscorer

 Dave Reilly
 1992/93

 Hamish Mackay
 1994/95

 Dave Reilly
 1995/96

 Ken Cameron
 1998/99

 Ken Cameron
 1999/00

 Ronnie Kenneth
 2000/01

 David Evans
 2001/02

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TODAY'S TEAMS

TAYPORT

from

G/k Frazer FITZPATRICK 2 Scott PETERS 3 Grant PATERSON

5 Derek WEMYSS 6 Brian CRAIK

John WARD

6 Brian CRAIK7 Allan RAMSAY

4

- 8 Steven STEWART
- 9 Ralph HUNTER
 10 David FISHER
- 11 David EVANS
- 13 Barry McNAUGHTON
- 14 Gareth DAILLY15 Ross GUNNION
- 16 Robbie HOLDEN
- 17 Scott FLYNN
- 18 Doug SCOTT

WHYTE & MACKAY SUPER LEAGUE

TAYPORT v HILL of BEATH HAW-THORN

SATURDAY 24th AUGUST 2002

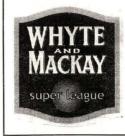
KICK-OFF 2.30pm

PORT PROG VOL. 12 No.1 2002/3



from

G/k	Ryan McGURK
G/k	Colin CAMPBELL
	Stuart HADDOW
	Ally GRAY
	Brian DEMPSTER
	Hugh O'NEIL
	Barry SMITH
	Colin RITCHIE
	Barry RITCHIE
	Darren WRIGHT
	Craig SMART
	Gordon WARDLAW
	Martyn THOMSON
	Stuart CURRAN
	Scott McELROY



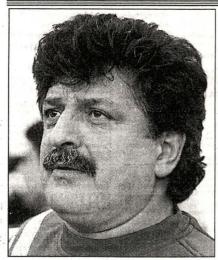
२०१४ दिल्लाम् २०१४ प्रस्तिति

TAYPORT THE HAWS THE RECENT MEETINGS

Meetings between this afternoon's combatants have been fairly infrequent. Once in amateur days in the 70s on East Common and Taycars ties in 1998 and 1999.

The last meeting here on the Canniepairt was 25th April 1998 when Haws ended Tayport's 34 game unbeaten run which had lasted from the second day of the season, winning by 3-1 in a Taycars Trophy 4th round tie before a crowd of 443. Only Allan Ramsay and Grant Paterson survive from Kenny Bunce's side that day.

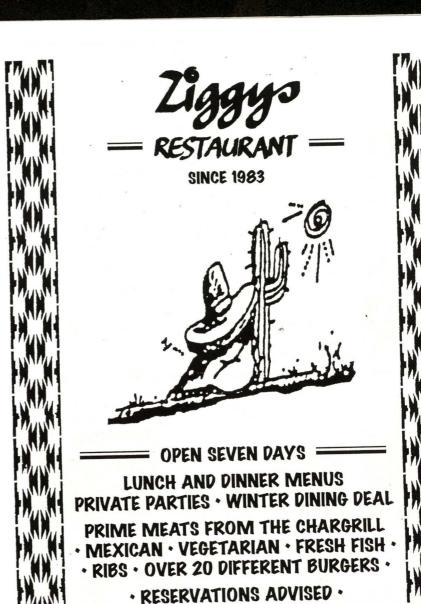
Better luck in the clubs' most recent meeting, on the 24th April the following season, 1998/99, when 'Port won a penalty shot-out after the sides finished goalless in a 3rd round Taycars tie before 409 at Keir's Park. Ramsay, Paterson Steven Stewart and Brian Craik survive from the Tayport line-up, managed that afternoon by Andy Sommerville.



Tayport coach Derek Carr photographed in a previous life when he was known as Yilmaz Vural and coached Turkish side Trabzonspor.

Derek, or Yilmaz, has forsaken the jet-set life, however, for the more serene surroundings of Scotscraig Golf Club, where he has recently taken out a membership

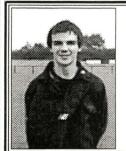
STOP PRESS Tayport could have a new face in today's pool. They were involved last night in negotiations with a senior club to bring another striker to the club.



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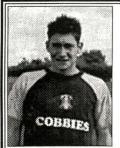
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Treasurer - R.Macmillan, 12 Banknowe Dr. Tayport

Committee - J.Anderson R.Irvine,A.McDade, J.McDade,K.Smith, T.Borland,A.Beat, R.McNicoll Manager - David Baikie

Coaches - Graeme Irons, Derek Carr, David Nicoll.

Physio - Norrie Marshall

Ground staff - John Ewing, Tom Borland

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Club Newsline

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TODAY'S GAME

They said it would never happen, but this afternoon is the proof that the Super League is very much here. In opposition today are two of Scotland's most consistently successful clubs over the past dozen years or so.

Like Tayport, Haws are relatively late starters in the Junior game, but again like Tayport have made a major impact on the game since moving up from the amateur ranks.

Both clubs, too, have long been staunch advocates of a restructure of the Junior game.

With the retiral of stalwarts, Brian Kenny, John Wright and John Mitchell, Hill of Beath lost three very experienced players in one fell swoop and, in addition, saw Lee Dair move to Cowdenbeath FC.

Well aware that changes are inevitable, manager Jock Finlayson isn't complaining and has brought in Paul McBride from St Andrews United and the Ritchies, Colin and Barry, from Glenrothes under 21 football.

A key man in defence for Haws will be big money buy from Glenrothes, Ally Gray in whom Tayport had an interest at one time. But it was newcomer McBride who received the plaudits last week for his goal line clearance which denied Edinburgh a second half equaliser. Martyn Thomson was the scoring hero with a 30 yard blockbuster which proved to be the winning goal.

He may well have had to restructure his side over the close season but there is no doubt that Finlayson, manager at Keir's Park for over a quarter of a century, will have his troops well drilled for this afternoon's encounter.

For their first Super League game on the Canniepairt, Tayport are unlikely to show many changes from the side that accounted for Bathgate last week. Ralph Hunter made his debut last Saturday but made way for the fresh legs of Davie Evans after 'Port were reduced to ten men following the dismissal of Scott Peters just after half time. Ralph was on the treatment table earlier in the week but trained on Wednesday and could again get the nod.

Like Evans, Ross Gunnion and Gareth Dailly will be anxious for a larger piece of the action than they got last week but Robbie Holden's inexperience means he will start on the bench as will the experienced Dougie Scott who is still a bit off full fitness.

Hopefully the fans will support the new league set-up and will be rewarded with entertaining fare.



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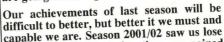
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THE BAIKER'S BIT

A warm welcome to our fans and the players and officials of our visitors Hill of Beath for our first home game of this season and of course the new Whyte & Mackay Super League.

The fantastic challenge that stands before us is just what we at Tayport have been advocating for near a decade now and at long last we have it before us. Basically I favoured a national super league with east and west premier divisions but at least we are going in the right direction.





capable we are. Season 2001/02 saw us lose three games in regulation time, we gained silverware five times, losing out narrowly in the Scottish Cup semi-final to the winners and fellow Super League side Linlithgow Rose. Our players showed fantastic attitude and commitment throughout last term and well earned their achievements. When you consider we operated the entire season with only sixteen or seventeen players, two of whom were goalkeepers, this was an achievement in itself. Ok, we could have added a player or two if required, if injuries and suspensions had hit us but we won't have that option this term, except for the transfer window, so it is vital that we aim for a healthy number before the August 31st deadline.

The pre-season games have gone reasonably well with wins over Maryhill, Newburgh, South Shields and Washington. Our 'final' preparation for the new season was in the form of a victory and silverware, albeit with a struggle, over Montrose Roselea at Montrose (not an easy place to go) in the Herschell Charity Trophy.

Last week saw us gain our first points with a 2-0 win at Bathgate. I felt we deserved our win and, in the end, with a bit of composure, we could have won by more. If you were to ask me if I was happy with our performance, I'd have to say Yes....and No! I felt our passing was poor, we gave the ball away too often and we let ourselves down in the final third and with our indiscipline, but I could not fault our overall effort, especially in the second period.

This afternoon we have the Fife champions as our visitors. Hill of Beath and Tayport have many parallels. Both clubs are very young in Junior football terms but both have dominated their respective regions and have achieved Scottish Cup success.

I believe we have a real challenge ahead of ourselves today, but I also believe we are well capable of victory. If we get every ingredient correct on the day, we can gain the three points and success.

Support The Port,

Dave Baikie

FROM THE ARCHIVES

TEN YEARS AGO - AUGUST 1992

On 15th August 1992 Tayport, having just secured their first Tayside Premier (then 1st Division) title, were setting off in pursuit of a second title, successfully as it turned out, when they returned from Kirrie Thistle with a 2-1 win in their opening game.

The Archive noted that..... it was a tough match. Kirrie put emphasis on the physical side of things but two magnificent goals took the points. Super support.

Team was: Fraser Mann (now coaching at North End),

George Malone (now battering the skin off a wee white ball round the corner at Scotscraig GC),

Grant Paterson (probably wearing the No. 3 jersey this afternoon)

Hamish Mackay (retired),

Paul Reilly (co-manager at Dundee North End),

Kevin Lynch (long since retired but still with Tayside Polis having secured a few promotions since and is now (?) a Chief Inspector)

Jackie Devine (now in his 41st year but still turning out for Lochee United),

Mark Spalding (retired and looking after twins),

Kevin Thoms (retired through injury and another who can be spotted at Scotscraig GC).

Dave Reilly (still playing at North End),

Gary Lamont (at Riverside Athletic Amateurs).

Subs were **Billy Coventry** (assisting another ex-Tayport man, Andy Heggie, at Broughty Athletic) and **Graeme Irons** (Baiker's right hand

Goalscorers were Dave Reilly and Kevin Lynch.

Hamish Mackay (r) - who was afforded legendary status amongst the 'Port support back in '93 following his OVD semi final hat-trick v. Auchinleck Talbot.





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THE WHYTE & MACKAY EAST SUPER LEAGUE

Competing from the East

Linlithgow Rose, Bathgate Thistle, Bonnyrigg Rose, Edinburgh United, Arniston Rangers

Competing from the Kingdom

Hill of Beath Hawthorn, Glenrothes, Oakley United

Competing from Tayside

Tayport, Carnoustie Panmure, Dundee North End, Dundee Violet

HOW THEY FINISHED 2001/02

Johnnie Walker Ea	Iker East Region First Division NCR Tayside Regio							on Premier Division								
	Pd	w	D	L	F	A	Pts		Pd	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	
Linlithgow Rose	22	18	1	3	60	20	55	Tayport	22	17	4	1	69	21	55	
Whitburn Juniors *	22	12	4	6	46	28	40	Carnoustie Pan	22	18	1	3	60	24	55	
Bathgate Thistle	22	11	5	6	40	32	38	Dundee North End	22	11	4	7	35	20	37	
Bonnyrigg Rose	22	10	2	10	35	31	32	DundeeViolet	22	8	9	5	40	28	33	
Edinburgh United	22	9	5	8	32	32	32	Forfar West End	22	9	6	7	41	36	33	
Arniston Rangers	22	9	4	9	37	45	31	Elmwood	22	7	5	10	34	47	26	
Bo'ness United	22	9	3	10	35	38	30	Lochee United	22	6	6	10	32	41	24	
Camelon Juniors	22	8	3	11	38	43	27	Broughty Athletic	22	8	0	14	34	46	24	
Musselburgh Ath	22	7	3	12	38	47	24	Downfield	22	5	8	9	31	48	23	
Armadale Thistle	22	6	5	11	31	43	23	Kirrie Thistle	22	5	8	9	26	43	23	
Newtongrange	22	6	5	11	28	46	23	Bankfoot Athletic	22	6	4	12	29	47	22	
Haddington Ath	22	5	4	13	33	48	19	Arbroath SC	22	3	3	16	37	67	12	

Super League Nail Bites

The final places in the Super League in both Tayside and Fife went to the wire.

In Fife, Thornton who were looking well placed going into the final matches of the season were pipped, on goal difference, by Glenrothes and Oakley United.

On Tayside a late surge by Violet saw them edge past Forfar West End also on goal difference.

Heineken Fife Region League Pd W D L F A

Hill of Beath	28	22	3	3	98	27	69
Glenrothes	28	17	5	6	66	28	56
Oakley United	28	16	8	4	60	25	56
Thornton Hibs	28	17	5	6	62	34	56
Lochore Welfare	28	17	1	10	85	44	52
Kelty Hearts	28	15	7	6	46	28	52
St Andrews United	28	15	4	9	60	49	49
Crossgates Primrose	28	13	8	7	50	35	47
Dundonald Bluebell	28	14	3	11	58	48	4
Newburgh	28	10	7	11	42	40	3
Rosyth Recreation	28	10	2	16	45	54	3
Tulliallan Thistle	28	4	3	21	31	81	1
Lochgelly Albert	28	4	2	22	37	93	1
Steelend Victoria	28	3	4	21	27	76	1:
Kirkcaldy YMCA	28	1	2	25	22	127	1

"Support the Port"

*Missing!

Whitburn Juniors, OVD Scottish Cup Winners in 2000 surprisingly declined the invitation to join the Super League.

TAYPORT F C SUPER SIX

Don't miss the chance to win a big prize in the Club's renowned weekly draw.

Contact any Committee member.

ate	Opposition	Comp	Venue	Result	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	At
ig 7	Montrose Roselea	Н	Α	W 1 -1+	Fitzpatrick	Peters	Morris	Ward	Wemyss	Craik	Ramsay	Stewart	Gunnion	Dailly	Evans 1	Paterson	McNaughton	Hunter	8
g 10	Bathgate Thistle	L	Α	W 2 - 0	Fitzpatrick	Peters 1	Paterson	Ward	Wemyss	Craik 1	Ramsay	Stewart	Hunter	Morris	McNaughton	Evans (9)	Dailly (6)	Gunnion (11)	1
g 17	HILL OF BEATH	L	Н	2.30						7/2							,		
g 24	Linlithgow Rose	L	Α	2.30															
31	GLENROTHES	L	Н	2.30															
ot 7	Oakley United	L	Α	2.30															
ot 14	ARNISTON	L	Н	2.30															
ot 21	Arbroath SC	С	Α	2.00															1
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Whyte & Mackay East Super League - Statistics

	Lea	gue	Table	e as	at 12	" Au	gust	2002	2				
TEAM				Home)				Away				
	P	W	D	L	F	Α	W	D	L	F	Α	GD	Pts
Linlithgow Rose	1	1	0	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	3
Bonnyrigg Rose	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	1	2	3
Carnoustie Panmure	1	1	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	3
Dundee North End	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	3
Tayport	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	2	3
Hill of Beath Hawthorn	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3
Edinburgh United	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	-1	0
Oakley United	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	3	-2	0
Arniston Rangers	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	-2	0
Glenrothes	1	0	0	1	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	-2	0
Bathgate Thistle	1	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	-2	0
Dundee Voilet	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	4	-3	0

				F	esults	Char	t					
	Arn- iston	Bath- gate	Bonn yrigg	Carn- oustie	Edin Utd	Glenr	Hill of Beath	Linlit- hgow	North End	Oak- ley	Tay- port	Violet
Arniston												
Bathgate Th											0-2	
Bonnyrigg			NO MET NO									
Carnoustie				1 3000		- 1.				3-1		
Edinburgh Utd					70 4 40							
Glenrothes			1-3			100						
Hill of Beath					1-0		S. C. C.					
Linlithgow												4-1
North End	2-0											
Oakley Utd										A JUNEAU		
Tayport											9 4	
Voilet												S. G. C.

Last Week's Results Saturday 10th August

Bathgate Th	0-2	TAYPOR
Carnoustie	3-1	Oakley Utd
Glenrothes	1-3	Bonnyrigg F
Hill of Beath		Edinburgh L
Linlithgow	4-1	Violet
North End	2-0	Arniston R

Today's Fixtures Saturday 17th August

Arniston R	V	Glenrothes
Bonnyrigg R	V	Carnoustie
Violet	V	Bathgate T
Edinburgh U	V	North End
Oakley Utd	V	Linlithgow
TAYPORT	V	Hill of Beat

Next Saturday's Fixtures Saturday 24th August

v Edinburgh U

Bathgate Th

V	Arniston R
V	Violet
V	TAYPORT
V	Bonnyrigg R
V	Oakley Utd
	V

League	Goalscorers
Dlavor	Club

Player	Club	Goals
Andrew	Glenrothes	1
Christie	Carnoustie	1
Corcoran	Linlithgow Rose	1
Craig	Carnoustie	1
Craik	Tayport	1
Devine	Dundee Violet	1
Dickov	Linlithgow Rose	1
Flynn	Linlithgow Rose	1
Garrick	North End	. 1
Harvey	Bonnyrigg Rose	1
Houghton	North End	1
Kelly	Carnoustie	1
Laidlaw	Bonnyrigg Rose	1
Newbigging	Oakley United	1
Peters	Tayport	1
Swift	Linlithgow Rose	1
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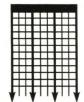


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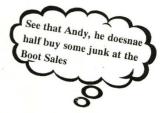


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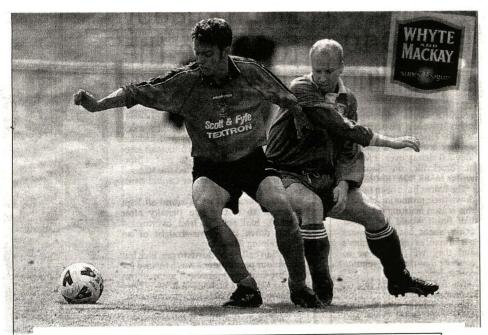
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JUNIOR CLUBS HIT BY FIFA TRANSFER BANS

Despite making protest, Junior clubs will have to toe the FIFA line which has decreed that no transfers can take place between 1 September and the end of the season, apart from a one month 'window' in January.



Barry McNaughton holds off Bathgate's Alan Middleton in last week's opening Super League game. (Photo courtesy of Edinburgh Evening News)

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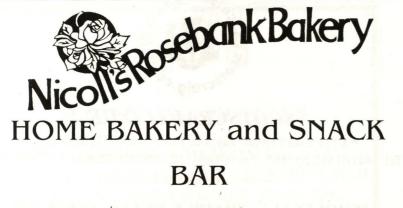


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MEDIA WATCH

We take a look at how the press opened their season, and in particular how they reported the new Whyte & Mackay Super League

In terms of coverage, the Edinburgh Evening News came out on top with a full page spread on Friday evening which previewed Saturday's card, including an interview with Dave Baikie. But what pushed the News to the fore was their run-down on the individual clubs, noting details of the manager, position last season, new faces and prospects.

However this was topped by Monday evening's edition of the same paper which had a half page devoted to the game of the day - Bathgate v Tayport including colour photographs and in depth interviews *PLUS* another half page which featured a report and line-ups for every Whyte & Mackay Super League game.

The **Evening Telegraph** had pretty comprehensive coverage on Friday and Monday and there are promising indications that a more in-depth look at the Whyte & Mackay Super League games will be the order of the day as the season develops.

The Courier split their Junior coverage and had a separate article, Saturday and Monday devoted to the Super League. Again there are very positive signs that there will be greater depth to the coverage of the new Super League.

As disorganised as ever, the *Fife Herald* failed to link Tayport's match report and preview with the information which sponsors Whyte & Mackay' had provided through their media pack. Still, at least the sponsor's press release appeared.

Saturday's **Sun** devoted a full page to the Super League with a photo and comprehensive interview with Bathgate's Alan Lawrence and a run-down on each of the Super League clubs. Unfortunately they let themselves down on Monday with scant coverage.

The Sunday papers? Absolutely pathetic. At least the ones I read were. Don't think I missed much either, although there is a limit to the time you can spend in the paper shop flicking through the papers before buying a couple of rolls. No, the Sundays are not worth buying if you want to read about Junior football, particularly the broadsheets. They manage to find plenty space to print nonsense however, if the Juniors blot their copybook in some way.

Radio Scotland. Bowfing! Only interested in the SPL, shinty, lacrosse, hockey, cross country and other pursuits wich attract a couple of oddballs, a dug and some seagulls. Radio Tay does no' bad and features Big Jock's gruff tones on a regular basis on a Saturday, and they do read out the Junior results on a Saturday at 6pm which is a big plus

Full marks to Whyte & Mackay for not just ploughing a lot of dosh into the Junior game but by taking an active interest in promoting it. I think I'll have a small Whyte & Mackay this evening as a gesture of support! Your round, Andy.....or is it Sandy's!

SNIFFING ABOUT WITH THE SNOUT



Because of the on-going car boot sales every second Sunday, work on the Canniepairt pitch will be held back until late September. The very heavy foot traffic at the boot sales over the years has compacted the playing surface and work will be carried out to address this problem.

We did say in the midst of all the hogwash that was uttered during last season about the Super League not getting off the ground, that the clubs would toe the party line when it came to the crunch. And so it came to pass with the exception of Whitburn who are happy to be in a feeder leagues. Mind you, it's kind of a Scottish trait. The old timers amongst us might recall that, with the notable exception of Hibs, Scottish Football snubbed the first European Cup and the first three World Cups. And we all know what Mickey Mouse competitions they turned out to be!

From this season players shown a straight red card will be automatically banned from their club's next match. Two yellow cards is not an automatic ban but has an appropriate number of points added to the player's tally

Tayport are delighted to have taken delivery of smart matchday travel suits courtesy of *Stella Artois*. Manufactured by *Nike*, the suits look pretty smart. Our grateful thanks to *Interbrew*, the parent company. You'd be amazed the amount of beer this committee has to drink to attract these sponsorships!

Keen observers may have noticed a photo in the Telegraph the other Friday of Brechin City's title winning squad of 1983/84. Not only were there three Tayport old boys in the photo - Gus Malone, Bobby Wilson and Mark Alexander - there was a new boy there too! Doug Scott who is working his way back to fitness and was on the bench at Bathgate last week.

Speaking of Tayport old boys, the NCR management representative who presented the Tayside awards to the successful clubs at the end of season function, the photos of which appeared in a full page spread in the Tele, turned out to be the Tayport Amateurs centre-forward of 31 years ago - Alex Kenneth.





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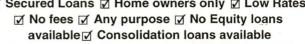
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REVIEW

by Dunmore

Having begun the campaign with last weekend's excellent away victory, Tayport must already feel very much a part of the inaugural Whyte & Mackay East Super League.

Bathgate was always going to provide a stiff challenge, but, after a sluggish start, 'Port took command of the contest. The opening goal was, of course, crucial and came via influential midfielder Scott Peters, who was on hand to scramble home a loose ball.

After the high of notching his club's first ever Super League goal, Peters would have contrasting emotions two minutes into the second half. Unfortunate to receive a second yellow card, he would play no further part in proceedings.

Ten man Tayport would not relinquish their hold on the game, though, and they extended their lead on 71 minutes, courtesy of the inimitable Brian Craik.

Fellow striker Davie Evans, who made a major contribution as a second half substitute at Bathgate, is also off and running in the scoring stakes. Last season's top Tayside marksman opened his account last Wednesday, in Tayport's first official match of 2002/03, away to Montrose Roselea, in the Albert Herschell Memorial Trophy. Following four friendly clean sheets, however, 'Port conceded an equaliser to Roselea, and only lifted the annual charity cup after a penalty shoot-out.

This was the tenth time the Canniepairt outfit have won the annual game between the champions of Tayside's two divisions, and they will certainly be looking to add further honours during what promises to be a most intriguing season.



AS SEEN THROUGH BLUE TINTED SPECS

Last Saturday's opening Super League game as seen from a Bathgate perspective (reported on the 'net' by Ian Anderson, author of 'Caledonia Dreaming - A Guide to Scottish Non-league Football'

Bathgate 0-2 Tayport (att 200)

I don't know who does the laundry for Tayport FC, but whoever it is should have a relatively easy job this weekend as many of the Tayport players did not even have to break sweat this afternoon, as they swatted aside Bathgate's challenge with almost contemptuous ease.

OK, so both of the visitors' goals (one in each half) owed a debt to some Pantomime Dame defending by the homesters, but this should not detract from what was an excellent display of controlled football from Tayport.

Apart from the opening 10 minutes or so when Bathgate's John Murphy headed just over and Alan Lawrence (I think) hit a post, Tayport dominated this match. Even when down to 10 men, the visitors' superior fitness and superb pressing game prevented Bathgate putting together any meaningful attacks.

What I wouldn't give to see the big lad Craik playing in the Bathgate midfield. Before being substituted late in the game he spent his time relentlessly pounding the beat from one penalty box to the other, getting through a power of work and rarely wasting a ball. An unsung hero in the Tayport side, in my opinion.

As for Bathgate, last season's problem of too many ball players and no ball winners in the midfield persists. You can get away with a surfeit of sand-dancers against the likes of Harthill as we did on Tuesday, but not at this level.

Violet found things tough at Prestonfield, according to the web report......

Linlithgow got off to a winning start in the new super league with a comfortable win over Violet in a game that could easily have finished 8-1 Rose played some lovely flowing football and created chances at will in the first half but some poor finishing let them down they did however go in front when a superb break involving Swift, McLauchlin and Flynn saw Corcoran slam the ball home and despite the dominance it was only 1-0 at the break...

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