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TODAY'S GAME
LEAGUE
JEANFIELD
6/4/13
No



Club members were saddened to learn of the death last Friday of Committee Member Robert (Bert) Irvine at the age of 71, following a short illness. The suddenness of Bert's passing was a shock to many as he had been carrying out his committee responsibilities until very recently. Bert joined the committee in 1993 and was very much part of the success the club enjoyed during the last two decades.

Always willing to assist at the club, no matter the task, Bert played a vital role, most recently as interim treasurer as well as looking after the Club's Lottery and was also the first point of contact for all those arriving at the club's car boot sales.

Bert, a lifelong Tayport resident, was pre-deceased by his wife Janet. Our thoughts at this sad time are with Bert's mum, sister, daughter Marie, son-in-law Scott, grandchildren Jack and Megan and mother-in-law Meg.

Bert's funeral service will take place this Monday at 10am at Kings Street U.F. Church, Tayport and thereafter to Leuchars Cemetery for the interment at 11am



Eat your heart out, Gareth Bale!

This sequence of photos by Ron Nicoll captures Steven McPhee's free kick goal which opened the scoring last week v Dalkeith Thistle.

It was an exquisite strike which was tastefully described by the Edinburgh Evening News as 'delicious'.



Emirates Scottish Junior Cup Quarter Final Results

Rutherglen Glencairn 3-1 Camelon ; Cumnock
3-5 Shotts BA; Linlithgow Rose 4-1 Bo'ness
United ; Kelty Hearts P v P Auchinleck Talbot

Fly Emirates

Emirates Scottish Cup Semi Final ties scheduled for 13th and 20th April
Hopes of an all-East Emirates Cup Final are still alive following the semi final draw which has paired Linlithgow with Shotts and the winners of Kelty and Auchinleck with Rutherglen.
There may have to be a re-think on dates, however, if Kelty and Talbot draw this afternoon.

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Today's Game

**McBookie.com Premier Division
Tayport v Jeanfield Swifts**

We welcome Jeanfield Swifts to The Canniepairt for the first time in eleven years. After being pretty much annual visitors for the first dozen or so years of our Junior existence, Jeanfield and ourselves went our own separate ways at re-organisation in 2012.

Interestingly enough, although Tayport have no survivors from that 5-0 Findlay Cup win in 2002, two of today's Jeanfield squad turned out for 'Port that day. Ross Gunnion and keeper Duncan Bruce, who came on as substitute, are now very much key players for manager Scott Brown at Jeanfield.

Striker Robbie Holden, another former Tayport player, who is currently top scorer at the Riverside Stadium with 26 goals, won't be in action today as he is serving the first of a three match suspension after being ordered off recently against Newtongrange Star.

The loss of Robbie not need be a problem for Swifts, however, as big John Anderson and midfielder Tony Holt are into double figures for the season. We had a similar situation for our most recent home game v Ballingry when top scorer Simon Murray was suspended. The programme notes said "*Greater responsibility will now fall on the shoulders of young striker Nik Mann*". And what did young Nik do? Only scored the winning goal with the last kick of the game! So, the absence of Robbie might not be too crucial.

Jeanfield arrive here on the back of a good run of three successive wins, totting up 17 goals in the process of beating Buchanhaven Hearts in the GA inter regional cup, Downfield in the East of Scotland Cup and Premier League leaders and promotion certs Newtongrange Star in their last outing. It's a run which has given the side loads of confidence and with ten games to play, a top four finishing spot and thus a promotion place is not beyond them.

Tayport had an unlikely, although richly deserved win in the last home game v Ballingry, then got through a potentially difficult East of Scotland tie at North End. Last week at Dalkeith they turned in a splendid performance with some great goals and misses which might also have been great goals! The away support made up around a third of the attendance at Kings Park and how they would love to see some more of that today.

Connaire Connelly signed last month from Arbroath FC, became the sixth 19 year old in the 'Port squad to make his debut this season when he came on as substitute at Dalkeith. Another, Connor Gray, is available again following suspension. John Tonner was receiving treatment for a slight injury during the week but is likely to be fit enough to be included in this afternoon's squad.

THE MANAGER WRITES



I'd like to wish Scott Brown and everyone connected with Jeanfield Swifts a warm Tayport welcome.

Today's game, in my opinion, will be our most difficult of the season to date. Not only have Jeanfield already beaten us, but they have also achieved some good results of late, notably the 4-2 win against Newtongrange Star. Like several other teams, ourselves included, Jeanfield will fancy their chances of gaining a promotion place. We have points in the bag, Jeanfield have games in hand and it's doubtful that either team would settle for anything less than a win today. A draw would be a case of two points dropped, for both teams.

We go into the match in fine fettle after a good victory last weekend, down at Dalkeith. It's quite incredible that it took us until the last Saturday in March to record our first away league win. Last season, our away form was fairly impressive. However, the biggest contrast to last year is the number of goals we have scored. Since the League Cup campaign, there have only been three games in which we haven't scored and that is extremely gratifying, as that's obviously something we've been working on since pre-season. Our 'Goals For' column is the healthiest for a few years and we're pleased that Simon Murray has broken through the twenty goal barrier.

For all of our ups and downs during this campaign, we're still in the mix and the players deserve a lot of credit for putting themselves in a decent position at this stage of proceedings. In football parlance, it's game on. If everyone plays their part, with a fair wind, we have a good chance of gaining another victory today.

I want to conclude with a few words about Bert Irvine. On behalf of the management and players, I want to pass on my condolences to Bert's family. He was a straightforward, honest, hard-working man. The way he conducted himself should have made an impression on our young players. In my opinion, it's not just about players learning the game of football. The young guys here should be picking things up from those who run the club and taking these attributes into their own lives. Bert may have come from a different generation, but he set a fine example and he will be sorely missed.

John McGlashan

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TODAY'S VISITORS JEANFIELD SWIFTS



Jeanfield Swifts were last season's Central Division Champions, a success which allowed them to take their place in this season's Premier Division. It's the club's highest placing since reorganisation and during this season the team has acquitted itself well in the East Region's second tier.

Jeanfield haven't really made a major impact over the past twenty years or so and it's probably fair to say they have under achieved during this period. Although no doubt it held special memories for many former players, committee and spectators alike, the sale in 2006 of their rather dilapidated Simpson Park for a housing development paved the way for a move to a new ground at North Muirton, the very impressive Riverside Stadium.

The relocation could well be the springboard for raising the profile of the Junior game in Perth. On the back of last season's first ever Regional Cup win, an impressive 3-0 win over Culter in the GA Engineering Cup Final in Aberdeen as well as the Central League title win, it looks as if Swifts are on the right road.

Jeanfield performed creditably in this season's Emirates Cup before going down narrowly to Cup favourites and Super League Champions elect Linlithgow Rose. Swifts are on course to retain the GA Cup and still retain an interest in the East of Scotland Cup, so it's been a pretty good season to date for the Perth lads. Their most recent outing, thumping league leaders Newtongrange Star by 4-2 is testimony to that.

Disappointingly, despite posting several impressive victories this season, the Perth public appears to have been slow to get themselves along to Bute Drive.

Team manager Scott Brown has brought together a locally based and fairly experienced squad which includes several who are very familiar faces in Tayside Junior ranks.

Survey 'For Preferred Football Calendar'

A team of researchers at the School of Sport at the University of Stirling is exploring options and preferences for football fixture calendars for the NON-professional game in Scotland on behalf of the Scottish Football Association. We are inviting club officials and players to respond to the survey. If you hold an official role in a football club (e.g. Chair, Secretary, President, coach) or you currently play competitive football, this is your chance to share your experience of football seasons in Scotland and to help inform future decision making.

<http://www.survey.bris.ac.uk/stirling/fixtures-clubs-players>

The survey is canvass thoughts on a change in the football calendar, effectively a winter break. As it's aimed at 'non-professional' and hasn't asked for spectator input, it seems strange it has been sent to Junior clubs. The link is above, so have a look and put in your tuppenceworth, even if you're not a player or official.

DUNMORE REPORTS.....



Over the last few weeks, there has been an air of sadness for all those connected with Tayport FC, given the sad news about Bert Irvine, who passed away last Friday, following a short illness. He will be missed by everyone at the Canniepairt.

On the park, March proved to be a successful month for the club. It began with a stunning victory against Dave Baikie's Ballingry Rovers. John McGlashan's underdogs opened the scoring through Steven McPhee, only for Bobby Linn to enhance his reputation with a forceful run and unstoppable strike, to make it one apiece.

Connor Gray was ordered off on the stroke of half-time, leaving Tayport a tough second half assignment. 'Port rose to the challenge and McPhee fired in his second goal of the afternoon to edge his team back into the lead.

Unfortunately, a second yellow card for Blair Mudie reduced Tayport to nine men and when Kevin Byers headed Ballingry's second equaliser, the visitors must have expected to go on to win the game.

Remarkably, it was the numerically disadvantaged hosts who notched the winner, in injury-time, with Nik Mann netting an emphatic strike which will long be remembered by the 'Port support.

The next match took place a fortnight later, at North End Park, in the East of Scotland Cup. Kris Rollo bundled home the first goal, only for a Robert Boyd own goal to level the score, before the break. In the second half, Stephen Tront slotted Tayport back into the lead, then North End had Ross Browne dismissed. Simon Murray then added two more goals in the final ten minutes, as 'Port made comfortable cup progress.

Another two weeks elapsed before the next fixture took place, against fellow promotion contenders, Dalkeith Thistle, at King's Park, where Thistle have a formidable record. Tayport, however, produced a top class display to record a thoroughly convincing 5-0 victory.

Steven McPhee's excellent free kick set the ball rolling and Stefan Elvin slammed home the crucial second goal. In the second half, following a Dalkeith dismissal, Simon Murray plundered another brace, while Nik Mann came off the bench to complete the rout.

Let's hope that the good form can continue this month, as we enter a critical phase of the season.

Support the 'Port.



Scott & Fyfe

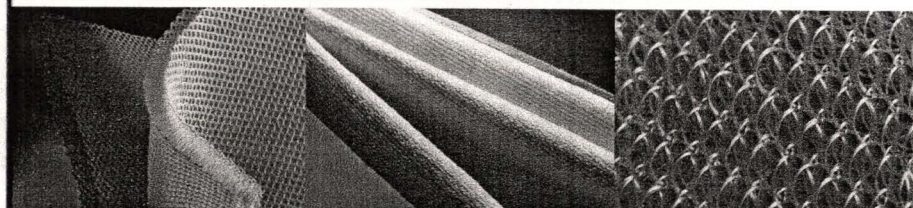
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Home games in capitals: * - yellow card; % - red card; LC – League Cup; PL – Premier League; SC – Scottish Cup; EoS – East of Scotland Cup

Date	Opposition	c	res	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	Sub	Sub	Sub	Att.
11-Aug	NORTH END	LC	W 5-0	Ross	Mudie	Robertson	Donachie	Thomson	Tonner	Milligan *	Strachan	Welsh	Elvin 1	Tosh 2	K Reilly (11)	Murray (9)2	Tront (8)	143
18-Aug	DUNDEE VIOLET	LC	L 0-2	Ross *	Mudie *	Robertson	Tront *	Thomson	Tonner	Milligan %	McPhee	Murray	Elvin **	Tosh %	K Rollo (3)	McNaught (8)		207
25-Aug	Broughty Athletic	LC	W 2-1	Ferrie	Mudie *	Potter *	Tront 1	Thomson	Tonner %	Mackie	McPhee	Murray	McDonald *	Rollo	Welsh (8)	Reilly (9)	McNaught(10)1	93
01-Sep	Oakley Utd	PL 1	D 2 -2	Ross	Mudie	Robertson	Tront	Thomson	Tonner *	Mackie	McPhee *	Murray* 1	Milligan 1	Rollo	Elvin (7)	McNaught (8)	McDonald (4)	92
08-Sep	BROUGHTY	PL 2	W 5-0	Ross	Mudie	Robertson1	Elvin	Donachie	Tonner	Tosh	McPhee	Murray * 2	Milligan 1	Rollo	Mackie 5)	McNaught (9)1	McDonald (4)	153
15-Sep	Bathgate Thistle	PL 3	D 1-1	Ross	Donachie	Robertson *	Tront	Thomson	Tonner	Tosh	McPhee	Murray 1	Milligan *	Rollo	Mackie (2)	McNaught (8)	McDonald (9)	140
22-Sep	WEST CALDER	SC 1	W 1-0	Ferrie	Donachie 1	Robertson	Tront	Thomson	Tonner	Elvin	McDonald	Murray	Milligan	Rollo	Mackie (8)	McNaught (9)	Mudie (11)	151
29-Sep	DALKEITH THIS	PL 4	W 8-1	Ross	Donachie	Robertson 1	Tront *	Thomson	Tonner	Elvin 1	McPhee %	Murray 3	Mudie	McNaught 3	Mackie (7)	McDonald (9) *	McCulley (6)	124
06-Oct	GLENROTHES	PL 5	W 2-0	Ross *	Donachie	Robertson	Tront	Thomson 1	Tonner 1	Elvin	Mackie %	Murray *	Mudie *	McNaught	Rollo (7)	Morris (2)	McCulley (9)	129
13-Oct	Dundee Violet	PL 6			Postponed	-	Surface	Water										
20-Oct	ANNBANK UTD	SC 2	W 1-0	Ross *	Donachie %	Robertson	Tront	Thomson	Tonner *	Elvin	Rollo	Murray	Mudie *	McPhee	Tosh (8)	McNaught (11)		143
27-Oct	Dunbar United	EoS1	W 3-0	Ferrie	Mudie	Robertson	Tront	Thomson	Tonner	Tosh	Rollo	Murray 2	McDonald	McNaught 1	McCulley (2)			130
03-Nov	Jeanfield Swifts.	PL 6	L 1-2	Ross *	Morris	Robertson	Tront 1	Thomson	Tonner *	Tosh %	Rollo	Murray	Milligan	McPhee	Mudie (6)	McNaught (11)		99
10-Nov	NEWTONGRANGE	PL 7	D 0-0	Ross	Mudie	Robertson	Tront	Thomson	Raeside *	Donachie	Rollo *	Murray *	Milligan	McPhee	Tonner (7)	McNaught (11)	Reilly (7)	177
17-Nov	Shettleston	SC 3	L 1-3	Ross	Mudie	Robertson	Tront	Thomson	Tonner	Donachie*	McPhee *	Murray 1	Milligan	McDonald%	McCulley (5)	McNaught *(10)		172
24-Nov	Dundee Violet	PL 8	L 1-2	Ross *	Mudie	Robertson	Raeside	Thomson	Tonner	Donachie	McPhee	Murray * 1	Rollo	McCulley	Milligan (10)	Elvin (4)	McNaught(11)	147
01-Dec	Ballingry Rovers	PL 9			Postponed		Frozen	Pitch										
08-Dec	ARMADALE THIS	PL 9			Postponed		Frozen	Pitch										
15-Dec	BATHGATE THIS	PL 9			Postponed		Frozen	Pitch										
22-Dec	JEANFIELD SWIFTS	PL 9			Postponed		Pitch	Flooded										
29-Dec	OAKLEY UNITED	PL 9	W 2-1	Ferrie	Mudie	Robertson	Elvin	Thomson	Jake Mair	Donachie *	K.Reilly	Murray *	Rollo 1	McCulley	West (8)1	Strachan (6)		138
05-Jan	ARMADALE THIS	PL10	D 0-0	Ferrie	Mudie	Robertson	Elvin	Thomson	Mair	Donachie *	Gray	Murray *	Rollo	Tonner	West (10)	McPhee (7)		119
12-Jan	BATHGATE THIS	PL11	D 3-3	Ferrie	Mudie	McCulley	Elvin* 1	Thomson	Mair	Donachie	McPhee*	Murray 1	Rollo	Tonner *	Gray (7) * 1	Robertson (11)		149
19-Jan	Newtongrange Star	PL12			Postponed		Frozen	Pitch										
26-Jan	Newtongrange Star	PL12			Postponed		Frozen	Pitch										
02-Feb	Newtongrange Star	PL12	L 0-1	Ferrie	Mudie	McCulley	Tront	Thomson	Tonner	Donachie *	Rollo	McPhee	Mair	Elvin	Gray (7) *	Robertson (3)	Tom Casey (9)	149
09-Feb	Armadale Thistle	PL 13	D 1-1	Ferrie	Mudie	Robertson	Tront	Thomson	Tonner	Donachie *	Rollo	McPhee	Nik Mann	Elvin 1	Gray (7)	Murray (8)	Mair (2)	128
16-Feb	PENICUIK ATH	PL 14	W 3-1	Ferrie	Mudie*	Robertson	Tront *	Thomson	Tonner	Gray	McPhee*	Murray 3	Mann	Elvin	Donachie (7)	Mair * (11)	Rollo (10)	125
23-Feb	Broughty Athletic	PL 15	L 2-3	Ferrie	Rollo	Robertson	Tront 1	Thomson	Tonner *	Donachie	McPhee 1	Murray *	Mair	Elvin	Gray (7)	Mann (10)		152
02-Mar	BALLINGRY ROVS	PL 16	W 3-2	Ross *	McCulley	Robertson	Tront	Thomson	Robert Boyd	Gray %	McPhee 2	Mann 1 *	Mair	Rollo	Mudie (5) **	Elvin (10)	Dale Hart (2)	164
09-Mar	Dalkeith Thistle	PL 17			Postponed		Frozen	Pitch										
16-Mar	North End	EoS 2	W 4-1	Ross	McCulley	Robertson *	Tront 1	Boyd	Mudie	Donachie *	McPhee	Mann	Elvin	Rollo 1	Mair (8)	Murray 2 (10)	Hart (11)	141
23-Mar	Glenrothes	PL 17			Postponed		Frozen	Pitch										
30-Mar	Dalkeith Thistle	PL 17	W 5-0	Ross	McCulley	Robertson	Tront	Boyd	Mudie *	Donachie	McPhee 1	Murray 2	Elvin 1	Rollo	Mann 1 (9)	Mair * (11)	Connelly	103
06-Apr	JEANFIELD SWIFTS	PL 18																
13-Apr	Glenrothes	PL19																



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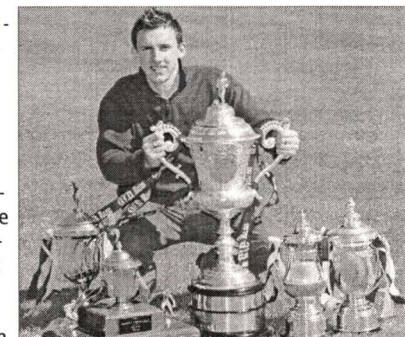
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Tayport old boys return to the Canniepairt this afternoon

Several of Jeanfield's squad today have worn Tayport's colours with distinction during the past ten years or so.

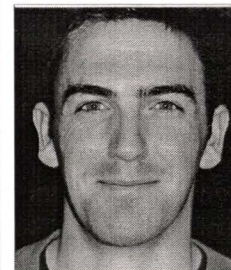
Steve McAllister played 25 games in 2007/08. and goalkeeper Duncan Bruce was signed by Tayport as a youngster from Dundee United and made some 38 appearances between 2004 and 2007. Only the consistency of Frazer Fitzpatrick restricted Duncan's appearances. Few who were there, are likely to forget Duncan's heroics in the two 1-1 draws against Clydebank in the 2006 Scottish Cup quarter finals, Tayport going through in a penalty shoot out in the replay away from home.



Robbie Holden had two spells with Tayport, 2002/03 and 2008/09. Robbie was but a callow youth when he was signed by Dave Baikie from Arbroath in 2003 but found his appearances restricted to four as 'Port went on that season to clean up virtually everything.

Although he had to wait 47 games—and then extra time, Robbie had his moment of glory, coming on as substitute and scoring the winner to lift the North/Tayside Cup v Dundee Violet at North End Park.

Pic shows Robbie Holden with the array of silverware gathered by Tayport in his first season at The Canniepairt.



Most notable of the 'Port old boys, however, has got to be Ross Gunnion (left). Signed back in July 2001, Gunner had a magnificent career at Tayport, playing just short of 300 games for the club in his two spells here, 2001-2008 and 2010-2011. Two Scottish Cup winners medals, two Super League titles and a host of other badges will have pride of place on the Gunnion sideboard (maybe it's a trophy cabinet).

Gunner also has the doubtful distinction of being ordered off in a Scottish Junior Cup Final and not too many players have that on their CV!

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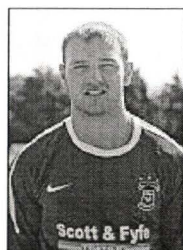
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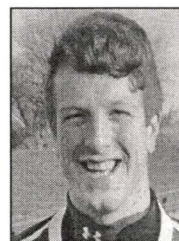
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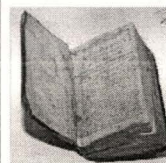
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TAYPORT v JEANFIELD SWIFTS FROM THE ARCHIVES

20 YEARS AGO JANUARY 1993

On 16 January 1993 Tayport played their 17th League game of the 1992/93 season when we met Jeanfield Swifts in a rearranged Tayside Division One match on The Canniepairt. Tayport had originally been scheduled to play Kinnoull in a Zamoyski Cup tie in Perth

After a week of heavy snow, prospects were bleak and that tie was called off during the week. However a thaw had set in on Friday and by Saturday, rain had started to shift the snow allowing a hastily arranged game against Jeanfield to go on, which not surprisingly, was the only game to be played in Tayside that afternoon.

Tayport ran out comfortable 2-0 winners with goals from the legendary strike force of Dave Reilly and Hamish Mackay. Team was Fraser Mann, Kevin Lynch, Grant Paterson, Mark Spalding, Andy Sommerville, Jimmy Hunter, Sean Wilkie, Hamish Mackay, Dave Reilly, Gary Lamont, Billy Coventry. Subs were Ian Harris and Jackie Devine.



Police Superintendent
Lynch who played for
Tayport v Jeanfield in
1993

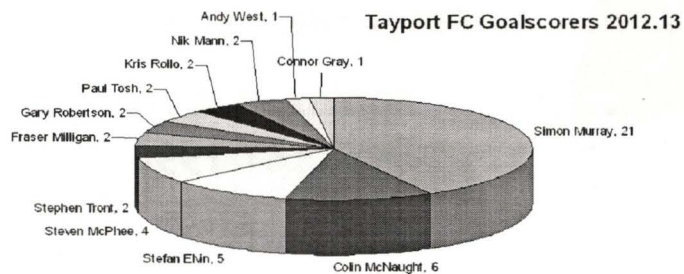
The press report commented *'The frantic efforts of the Tayport committee to clear several hundred gallons of water from one small area of the pitch paid off handsomely as the league leaders produced a highly competent display.... Tayport produced some very entertaining football.... in blustery conditions not normally conducive to skilful play'*

15 YEARS AGO MAY 1998

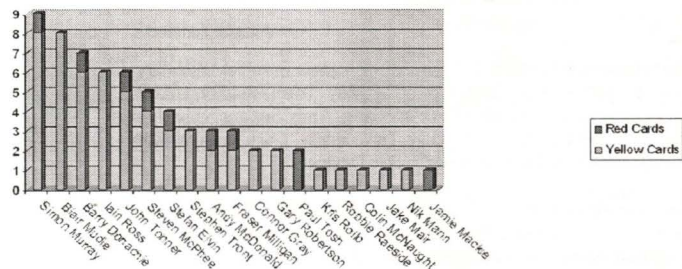
With eight games of a 49 game season still to play, Tayport travelled up the Tay to meet Jeanfield in a Tayside Division 1 game at Simpson Park. Tayport weren't destined to top the table at the end of that season but their 6-1 win kept them in contention and kept the home side in the relegation mire from where they would not escape come the end of the season.

Tayport fielded Fraser Mann, Grant Buist, Grant Paterson, Mark Spalding, Keith Nicolson, Steven Stewart, Ian Greig, Billy Coventry, Stevie Ross, Dave Reilly and Barry Gray. Subs were Steve Hutcheon, Barry Gardiner and Sean Wilkie. DR hit four goals with Ross and Gray weighing in with the others in front of a fairly healthy attendance of 116.

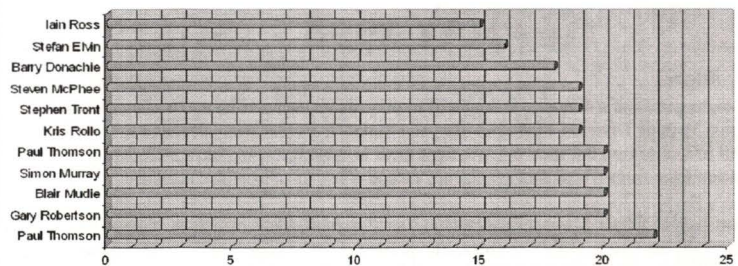
Club Stats. 2012/13



Tayport FC Indiscipline 2012.13



Tayport FC Top 11 Starters 2012.13



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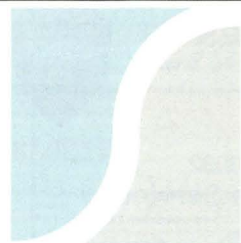
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TEAM	Home					Away					Pos	
	P	W	D	L	F A	P	W	D	L	F A	GD	Pts
Newtongrange Star	21	8	1	1	27 7	6	2	3	29	20	25	45
Ballingry Rovers	13	5	0	2	21 9	4	1	1	16	6	22	28
Dalkeith Thistle	18	6	1	2	21 19	1	6	2	17	25	-6	28
Tayport	17	6	3	0	26 8	1	3	4	13	12	19	27
Oakley United	17	2	3	2	19 24	4	1	5	17	29	-17	22
Bathgate Thistle	14	0	4	2	5 10	5	1	2	14	11	-2	20
Armada Thistle	12	3	1	2	14 8	2	1	3	7	7	6	17
Dundee Violet	13	4	0	2	13 8	2	0	5	12	17	0	15
Penicuik Athletic	12	3	1	3	12 12	1	2	2	9	9	0	15
Jeanfield Swifts	12	3	2	2	17 13	1	1	3	3	9	-2	15
Glenrothes	13	2	0	5	11 12	0	1	5	3	14	-12	7
GBroughty Athletic	16	1	3	4	7 20	0	0	8	10	34	-37	6

RESULTS CHART	Armada	Ballingry	Bathgate	Broughty	Dalkeith	Violet	Glenrothes	Jeanfield	Newtongrange	Oakley	Penicuik	TAYPORT
Armada			6/4	5-1		4-2		2-0	1-2	1-2		1-1
Ballingry	2-1			3-1	2-0	2-3	3-1		2-3	7-0		
Bathgate	0-2	0-0		13/4	2-2				1-1		1-4	1-1
Broughty		0-5	1-2		1-1			0-0	1-5	0-4	1-1	3-2
Dalkeith	2-1	13/4	0-1	4-3		5-2	1-0		2-1	5-5	2-1	0-5
Dundee Violet		6/4	3-1	4-1				1-3	3-1	0-1		2-1
Glenrothes			2-3	5-0	1-2	0-2		1-0	1-2	1-3		13/4
Jeanfield		2-3	0-1		4-4				4-2	3-0	2-2	2-1
Newtongrange	2-1	1-3	1-0	3-0	2-2	Points to NGS	4-0	5-0		8-1	6/4	1-0
Oakley	13/4		1-3	5-4	4-4	4-2	2-2		1-7			2-2
Penicuik	1-2	0-3			1-1	2-1	2-0		4-5	2-0		
TAYPORT	0-0	3-2	3-3	5-0	8-1		2-0	6/4	0-0	2-1	3-1	

SNIFFING AROUND WITH *THE SNOOT*

Dundee Violet's appeal against the £750 fine and forfeiture of points for failing to fulfil a fixture with Newtongrange at Christmas was dismissed by the beaks. Violet thought they had a good case but the SJFA Appeals Committee thought otherwise and backed the decision of the East Region Management committee.

The SJFA's decision to switch the Kelty v Auchinleck Talbot Emirates quarter final tie to Ballingry Rovers' Ore Park in Glencaig this afternoon has certainly prompted some very interesting debate. It does seem to be a surprising move. Ore Park, with very little terracing, therefore restricted viewing, and very limited parking seems to be a strange choice for a tie which is sure to attract a big attendance. Absolutely everyone will be needing transport to get there and big attendances at Ore Park are not exactly the norm at Glencaig. One thing's for sure, regardless of whether there's chaos or things go off super smoothly, it'll be an occasion.

Kelty issued the following statement following the decision to switch

"Kelty Hearts were yesterday instructed by the SJFA to switch this weekend's Emirates Scottish Junior Cup quarter final from our own ground, to Ore Park, home of Ballingry Rovers. We had already requested that we would like to wait until Wednesday/Thursday to make such a decision. We spoke to Ballingry Rovers regards this and they kindly agreed. With a favourable weather forecast, we were confident that the match could go ahead at Kelty, albeit with no guarantees, given the unseasonable snow/frosts that we have encountered in recent weeks.

Nonetheless, the SJFA insisted that if we didn't agree to this, then they would take the decision out of our hands. Reluctantly, we have had to agree to the switch. We apologise to all fans of Kelty and Auchinleck for any inconvenience this will cause as we know that prior arrangements had been made for bus trips etc. Apologies also to all our sponsors.

We will lose thousands of pounds over this decision, but ultimately it is our pitch that has caused us the grief. The turf has a condition known as Black Layer/Thatch, which causes it to retain moisture, thus not letting it reach the drains beneath it. Brechin City and Raith Rovers have had similar problems with their pitches. We have had it vertidraind several times, had it gravel banded and also shock waved. These procedures have had little effect due to the severity of the problem.

Looking further forward, and to enable us to complete our remaining fixtures, we asked the JFA if it would be possible to play on the pitch opposite our ground if we erected a temporary fence around it, but again this was refused, on the grounds that a 2 metre high perimeter fence and full railings around the pitch would need to be erected. The alternatives now are to stage games at local Junior grounds or to play our home fixtures away from home.

Kelty Hearts are a club that are not strangers to adversity and we are sure, with the continued support of fans and sponsors, to come out of this even stronger. Plans are already in place to do major work on the pitch at the end of June to alleviate this year's problems.

Thanks to all clubs that have already assisted us this season already, by changing fixtures at short notice and to Ballingry Rovers for being accommodating regards use of their premises.

All Fife Junior fans, get along to Ore Park on Saturday to support your local team."

The draw for the East of Scotland Cup 3rd round will take place next Tuesday.

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