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# TAYPORT F.C.

**2016 - 2017 Official Match Day Programme**

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**Port Prog Vol.26 No. 3 Saturday 7 January 2017**

**McBOOKIE.com PREMIER LEAGUE 2016/17**

**Tayport v Bathgate Thistle**



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1990 (Juniors)

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## Roll of Honour

<b>Scottish Junior Cup Winners</b> 1995/96, 2002/03, 2004/05 <b>Runners-Up</b> 1992/93, 1996/97, 2003/04 <b>East Super League Champions</b> 2002/03, 2005/06 <b>Runners-Up</b> 2003/04, 2004/05 <b>East Premier League Champions</b> 2009/10, 2014/15 <b>Tayside League Division 1/Premier League Champions</b> 1991/92, 1992/93, 1994/95, 1995/96, 1998/99 1999/00, 2000/01, 2001/02 <b>Tayside League Division 2 Champions</b> 1990/91 <b>GA Engineering Tayside/North Regional Cup</b> (previously sponsored by Zamoyski, North End Centenary, Concept Group, NCR and The Dugout) Winners 1991/92, 1994/95, 1999/00, 2001/02 2002/03, 2003/04, 2004/05, 2014/15 <b>Redwood Leisure Cup Winners</b> 1998/99, 1999/00, 2008/09 <b>Cream of the Barley Trophy Winners</b> 1994/95	<b>Currie Cup Winners</b> 1990/91, 1991/92, 1992/93, 1993/94 1998/99, 2000/01, 2001/02, 2004/05, 2005/06, 2007/08 <b>Perthshire Advertiser Cup Winners</b> 1990/91, 1995/96 <b>Intersport Shield Winners</b> 1990/91, 1993/94 <b>D J Laing Trophy Winners</b> 1997/98 <b>Challenge Cup Winners</b> 1999/00, 2000/01, 2002/03, 2006/07 <b>D J Laing League Cup Winners</b> 2001/02 <b>Craig Stephen Trophy (Association's Top Scoring Club)</b> Winners 1990/91, 1991/92, 1993/94, 1995/96, 1997/98, 1998/99, 2000/01, 2001/02 <b>Albert Herschell Trophy</b> (Premier Champions v Division 1 Champions Charity Trophy) Winners 1990/91, 1991/92, 1992/93, 1993/94, 1994/95, 1995/96, 1998/99, 1999/00, 2000/01, 2001/02 <b>David Scott Cup Winners</b> 1995/96 <b>Tameside Association for the Blind International</b> <b>Challenge Cup Winners</b> 1996
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## Competition Entered this Season

East Premier League    Scottish Junior Cup    North/Tayside Cup    East of Scotland Cup

## Tayport F.C. Triple Scottish Cup Winners

<b>12 May 1996</b> 2-0 (aet) v Camelon at Fir Park Motherwell F. Mann G. Buist G. Paterson M. Spalding K. Nicolson S. Wilkie G. Millar (A. Ramsay) S. Stewart S. Ross (B. Gray) D. Reilly G. Maher (J. Henry) Scorer - S. Ross (2) Att. 4,652	<b>1 June 2003</b> 1-0 (aet) v Linlithgow Rose At Firhill, Glasgow F. Fitzpatrick R. Gunnion G. Paterson R. Morris J. Ward S. Peters J. Mitchell S. Stewart (D. Scott) B. Craik (A. Ramsay) B. McNaughton G. Dailly (D. Evans) Scorer - Craik Att. 4,613	<b>29 May 2005</b> 2-0 v Lochee United at Tannadice F. Fitzpatrick R. Morris G. Paterson (L. Young) J. Ward D. Wemyss S. Peters B. McNaughton S. Stewart R. Henderson (A. Ramsay) G. Middleton (R. Hunter) B. Livie Scorers - Middleton, Henderson Att. 6,868
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## Tayport F.C Player of the Year Awards 2015/16

**Player of the Year** (Presented 1991 by Messrs Oswald, Redpath & Stewart) - **Gregor Anderson**  
**Players' Player Of The Year** (Presented 1991 in memory of the late Rev. G.S. Ayre) - **Gregor Anderson**  
**Travel Club Player Of The Year** (Presented in memory of the late Davie Ayre) - **Gregor Anderson**  
**Young Player Of The Year** (Presented by Bella Carmichael in memory Dite Carmichael) - **Gregor Anderson**  
**Fans' Favourite** - **Danny Cavanagh**    **Top Scorer Award** (Presented By Andrew Robertson) - **Alan Tulleth**  
**Morris Cooper Award for Goal Of The Season** (Presented 1993 by family of Morris Cooper) - **Alan Tulleth**



Tayport  
from

## Today's Teams

**McBOOKIE**

Bathgate  
from



1	Gavin SORLEY
20	Duncan BRUCE
2	Kieran CONWAY
3	Craig STURROCK
4	Daniel SANCHEZ
5	Drew FLEMING
6	Pavel OSTROVSKIS
8	Stuart WALTON
9	Alan TULLETH
10	Grant MOWATT
11	David GEEKIE
12	Liam ROSS
13	Struan CHRISTIE
15	Marc OGG
16	Sergio ALVAREZ
17	Connaire CONNELLY
18	Grant PATERSON
19	Dale REID
21	Fraser ANDERSON
22	Taylor CARROLL

Saturday  
7 January 2017

Kick off 1.45pm

Referee:  
Scott LAMBIE

Assistant 1  
tba

Assistant 2  
tba

Cover pic shows  
action from  
Tayport v  
Bathgate in 2008

gk	Michael WATSON
gk	James PENMAN
	Darren McINTOSH
	Darren MacISAAC
	Hassan NYANG
	Jamie CLARK
	George BONNAR
	Reece BOYLE
	David TAYLOR
	Rhys MINNOCK
	Stuart McLEOD
	Darren DALRYMPLE
	Robbie FEENEY
	Iain GRIFFIN
	Grant MacDONALD
	Richie HUTTON
	Sid EASTON
	Gordon HARRIS
	J J HENDERSON

Player/Manager - John Ovenstone

Assistant Manager - Steve Kerrigan

Coach - Allan Ramsay

Goalkeeping Coach - Jim Moffat

Manager - Andrew Collie

Assistant Manager - David Strathie

Coaches - Andy Malone

Gavin Kirkwood





## Today's Game Premier Division Tayport v Bathgate Thistle



A happy new year to everyone in both camps today as Tayport FC welcome Bathgate Thistle as first footers to the Canniepairt, their first visit since the final game of 2014/15 season. Such has been the change in personnel here, that only Alan Tulleth and Connaire Connelly are still at Tayport.

### Bathgate Thistle

A Bathgate club played in the Senior Central League pre-World War 1 along with the likes of Alloa Athletic, Dunfermline Athletic, St Johnstone and Stenhousemuir. At the end of the war the Central League clubs were more or less invited en bloc to form the second division of the Scottish League. Bathgate survived for eight seasons playing at Mill Park before resigning from the league. The club carried on until 1932 before folding and the ground was sold for council housing. The main stand was sold to Stenhousemuir.

Bathgate Thistle was formed in 1936 and joined

the Midlothian Junior League for season 1938/9, playing home games at Creamery Park, their present ground. In season 1947/48 Thistle reached the Scottish Junior Cup semi final, losing narrowly to Irvine Meadow after 3 games (two of them at Ibrox) watched by almost 93,000 people in total.

In the mid 1950s nine players went to the Seniors most notably goalkeeper Billy Ritchie who went to Rangers. With the loss of so many players in a short space of time the team went into decline and nearly folding several times in the early seventies. In 1987 the Hydraload company of Willie Hill, a former player and later manager, invested in the club. Things started to improve both on and off the park and Thistle won East Region Division 2 in 1986/7 and 90/91, East of Scotland Cup in 2006/7, Fife and Lothians Cup in 2009/10 and after being beaten semi finalists in 2006, Bathgate achieved their ultimate goal by winning the Scottish Junior Cup in

2008. Now part of a Community Club, Bathgate Thistle have slipped a bit from these halcyon days [haven't we all!] and were relegated from the Super League in 2012.

Today manager Andrew Colley will be hoping to continue winning ways after beating Dalkeith Thistle 3-1 in their last league game on December 17<sup>th</sup>. During the festive break, Bathgate played two friendlies, drawing 3-3 against Lothian Thistle H.V. and beating Stoneyburn 8-2. Players to watch out for are ex Dundee United striker Robbie Feeney [pictured] (14 goals), Darren Dalrymple (5 goals) and Hassan Nyang (4 goals).

Tayport boss John Ovenstone doesn't have a full squad available but nevertheless will be hoping to pick up three points to close the gap on the teams above



McBOOKIE



## Manager's Memo



Good afternoon and a happy new year to all our supporters, staff and today's visitors Bathgate.

2017 is a fresh year and we want it to be a successful one. With our relegation, 2016 wasn't the best of years for us but we are starting to rebuild and starting to see results. It's going to take time to get Tayport anywhere near the team we want them to be but as far as I'm concerned we're on the right track. I'm delighted with the promising youngsters we have coming through. The likes of Keiran Conway, Fraser Anderson, Grant Paterson and Struan Christie all just 17 and more than holding their own in the Premier League and are developing really well. It stands the club in good stead for the future as they are all local lads.

The league form has been really good at home this season but it's away that's letting us down. We need to rectify that over the next few months and cut out the draws because 6 is far too many. We have only suffered 3 defeats in 15

games in the league which anyone in our league would be happy with. Seeing out games when we've been on top is something we need to sort out because the silly draws are costing us dearly. We need to go on another run like we had at the start of the season and we are targeting January for that. We have 5 fixtures and hopefully the weather is kind to get that run of games in.

We've not been idle in the festive break. We played in the Kelty tournament and it was a good, competitive affair. The final saw us up against Kelty and they are probably the best junior side I've ever played against. The talent they have and they way they played was a great experience for our young lads. Although we were beaten 4-0, I thought we competed well and if it wasn't for magnificent finishing from them, on another day we could maybe have caused a wee upset. However that's the difference in levels between the sides but that's where we should be striving to be a few years down the line.

Today will be a difficult one as is every game in this league, Bathgate were tipped at the start of the season to be around the leaders come May and will be a dangerous outfit in the second part of the season.

We need to maintain our home form and start the year well with 3 points. We aren't far away from full strength which is a relief because we have been missing a few vital players. Alan Tulleth is now fit while Sergio Alvarez and Keiron Conway are looking to be back fit for Downfield next week. Daniel Sanchez is missing today as he is away home to visit his family over the festive period. He will be missed as he has been up there with the best performers this season but it gives others a chance to grab the jersey. Other than that, I've got a full squad from which to choose. I hope you enjoy your afternoon and 2017 is a successful year for everyone connected with Tayport.

C'mon the 'port, Ovy



## SCOTTISH JUNIOR CUP UPDATE

### 3rd Round replay results

Bonnyrigg 4-0 Thorniewood  
Culter 1-3 East Kilbride Thistle  
Greenock 3-2 Stonehaven



### 4th Round (Ties due on 21 January)

Beith v Auchinleck  
Broughty Ath v Sauchie  
Carluke v Irvine Meadow  
Cumbernauld v Luncarty  
Dunbar Utd v Benburb  
East Kilbride This. v Glenafton  
Edinburgh Utd v Kilwinning  
Fauldhouse v Maryhill

Gartcairn v Hermes  
Girvan v Penicuik  
Kelty Hearts v Hill of Beath  
Kilsyth v Bonnyrigg (28th January)  
Kirkintilloch v Musselburgh  
Linlithgow v Blantyre  
Petershill v Haddington  
Renfrew v Greenock

## Junior News

**Bonnyrigg Rose** have hit the big time with a home Wm Hill Scottish Cup 4th round tie against holders **Hibs** on January 21st. The tie has been switched from New Dundas Park, Bonnyrigg to Tynecastle and with roughly 13,000 tickets on sale at £20 adult and £10 concessions, revenue from this match should tide Rose over for a year or two.

In the last game before the festive break there was not much Christmas spirit on show at Newbyres Park, Gorebridge. **Arniston** were playing **Tranent** and both sides were already down to ten men when Tranent had a second player sent off. This sparked a mass brawl with several players and even some spectators taking part. With the home side leading 2-1, the referee took the players off the pitch to allow tempers to cool. When everyone had calmed down the teams returned to play the last few minutes only for nine man Tranent to draw level in the last minute.

**Brechin Vics** player/manager Charlie King has left to join **Broughty Athletic** as assistant manager. Stewart Petrie the previous assistant manager at Broughty, has moved to Montrose FC as manager. **Brechin Vics** have replaced Charlie King with former 'Port player Paul Tosh who will co-manage with Wayne Harrison.

McBookie

**SJFA East Region**  
**Premier League**

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
Forfar West End	16	11	2	3	29	16	13	35
Kennoway	16	11	0	5	40	24	16	33
Sauchie	12	10	1	1	39	12	27	31
Arniston Rangers	15	9	3	3	25	19	6	30
<b>Tayport</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>24</b>
Tranent	16	6	4	6	27	27	0	22
<b>Bathgate Thistle</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>21</b>
Downfield	13	6	3	4	27	22	5	21
Dalkeith Thistle	16	5	3	8	21	27	-6	18
Glenrothes	16	6	0	10	22	35	-13	18
Haddington Ath.	15	5	2	8	30	32	-2	17
St Andrews Utd	17	3	4	9	23	32	-9	16
Armada Thistle	15	3	3	9	11	34	-23	12
Whitburn	13	2	4	7	25	28	-3	10
Dundee Violet	14	2	2	10	21	41	-20	8

### THIS AFTERNOON'S PREMIER CARD

Dalkeith Thistle	v	Whitburn
Dundee Violet	v	Forfar West End
Kennoway Star Hearts	v	Downfield
Sauchie	v	Arniston Rangers
St Andrews United	v	Armada Thistle
Tayport	v	Bathgate Thistle
Tranent	v	Haddington Athletic



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# STATS 2016/17

Date	Opponent	Comp	WDL	Score	1	2	3	4	5
06/08	TRANENT	PL 1	D	1-1	SORLEY	OGG 1(p) R	STURROCK	CONWAY	OVENSTONE
10/08	Forfar WE	PL 2	L	2-3	SORLEY	OGG 1(p) R	ROBERTSON	CONWAY	OVENSTONE
13/08	Armadale Thistle	PL 3	D	1-1	SORLEY	STURROCK	ROBERTSON	CONWAY	OVENSTONE
17/08	DUNDEE VIOLET	PL 4	W	2-1	SORLEY	STURROCK	ROBERTSON	CONWAY	OVENSTONE
20/08	WHITBURN	PL 5	W	3-1	SORLEY	STURROCK	ROBERTSON	CONWAY	OVENSTONE
27/08	Haddington Ath	PL 6	W	3-1	SORLEY	STURROCK	WALTON	CONWAY	OVENSTONE
03/09	FORFAR ALB	EOSC 1	W	4-1	SORLEY	OGG	PATERSON	CONWAY 1	MACKIE
10/09	DALKEITH	PL 7	W	2-1	SORLEY	STURROCK	WALTON	CONWAY 1	OVENSTONE
24/09	Arniston Rangers	PL 8	D	1-1	SORLEY	STURROCK	WALTON	CONWAY	OVENSTONE
1/10	Coupar Angus	GAC 1	W	3-1	SORLEY	OGG	PATERSON	CONWAY	OVENSTONE
8/10	FORFAR WE	PL 9	W	1-0	SORLEY	STURROCK	WALTON	FLEMING	OVENSTONE
15/10	Glenrothes	PL 10	L	0-2	SORLEY	STURROCK	PATERSON	FLEMING	WALTON
22/10	Blantyre Vics	SC 2	L	0-2	SORLEY	STURROCK	PATERSON	FLEMING	WALTON
29/10	SAUCHIE	PL 11	D	2-2	SORLEY	STURROCK	WALTON	OVENSTONE	OGG 1p
5/11	Kennoway Star	PL 12	L	2-3	SORLEY	STURROCK	WALTON	OVENSTONE	OGG
12/11	ST ANDREWS UTD	PL 13	D	2-2	SORLEY	STURROCK	WALTON	OVENSTONE	OGG 1
19/11	ARMADALE THIS	PL	-	-		POSTPONED	FROZEN PITCH		
26/11	Bathgate Thistle	PL	-	-		POSTPONED	FROZEN PITCH		
3/12	Downfield	PL	-	-		POSTPONED	Downfield had	Scottish Cup Tie	
10/12	HADDINGTON	PL 14	W	4-3	SORLEY	STURROCK	Pavel OSTROVSKIS	FLEMING	OGG 1p
17/12	Whitburn	PL 15	D	2-2	SORLEY	STURROCK	Pavel OSTROVSKIS	FLEMING	OGG
7/01/17	BATHGATE	PL 16							
14/01	Downfield	PL 17							
21/01	JEANFIELD	EOSC 2							
28/01	ARMADALE	PL 18							

## CURRENT FORM (all games) most recent result to left

Forfar WE	W	W	W	W	D	W	L	L	D	W
Sauchie	W	W	W	L	L	D	W	W	W	W
KSH	W	W	L	L	W	W	L	L	D	W
Arniston	D	W	W	L	W	L	L	W	W	W
Tayport	D	W	D	L	D	L	L	W	W	D
Downfield	W	L	L	D	D	W	W	W	L	D
Bathgate	W	W	L	D	L	W	L	L	L	W

# STATS 2016/17

6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	Att
SANCHEZ	ALVAREZ	CONNELLY	REID	MOWATT	ROSS	Robertson (3)	Tulleth (11)	McDowell (10)	107
SANCHEZ	ALVAREZ	McDOWELL	REID 1	MOWATT	ROSS	Geekie (9)			89
SANCHEZ	ALVAREZ	MACKIE	GEEKIE	MOWATT	ROSS	Reid (9) 1	Paterson (8)		94
SANCHEZ	ALVAREZ	MACKIE 1p	REID 1	GEEKIE	ROSS	Mowatt (11)			97
SANCHEZ	ALVAREZ	MACKIE	REID 2	GEEKIE	ROSS 1	Connolly (5)	Mowatt (10)	Paterson (11)	139
SANCHEZ	ALVAREZ	MACKIE 1p	REID	MOWATT	TULLETH 1	Connolly (5) 1	Paterson(10)		98
WALTON	SANCHEZ 1	CONNELLY	TULLETH 1	GEEKIE	ROSS	Reid (10) 1	Alvarez (8)	Carroll (5)	105
ALVAREZ	SANCHEZ	CONNELLY	TULLETH 1	REID	ROSS	McDowell (8)	Paterson (2)	Geekie (11)	110
ALVAREZ	SANCHEZ	MACKIE 1	McDOWELL	REID	TULLETH	Geekie (9)	Ogg (3)	Connolly (8)	64
ALVAREZ	CONNELLY	GEEKIE	McDOWELL	REID 2	ROSS	Fleming (5)	Mowatt (11) 1		60
ALVAREZ	SANCHEZ	GEEKIE	MACKIE	REID 1	ROSS	Ogg (6)	Mowatt (11)	Connolly (8)	104
ALVAREZ	SANCHEZ	GEEKIE	MACKIE	REID	ROSS	McDowell (6)	Connolly (8)		89
CHRISTIE	SANCHEZ	McDOWELL	MACKIE	TULLETH	ROSS	Reid (11)	Mowatt (10)		158
CONWAY	SANCHEZ	McDOWELL	GEEKIE	REID 1	ROSS	Fleming (3)	Mowatt (8)		141
CONWAY	SANCHEZ	MACKIE	GEEKIE	REID 2	ROSS	Fleming (2)	Mowatt (11)	Christie (9)	91
CONWAY 1	SANCHEZ	FLEMING	PATERSON	REID	ROSS	Tulleth (11)	Alvarez (5)		161
CHRISTIE	SANCHEZ	CONNELLY	WALTON 1	REID 1	ROBERTSON	Ross (8)	Mowatt (6)	F. Anderson (11)	81
MACKIE 1	SANCHEZ	CONNELLY	WALTON	REID 1	MOWATT	Ross (11)	Geekie(5)	Tulleth (8)	131

A big thanks to all those who supported a very successful Christmas Draw by selling tickets, buying tickets and donating a wealth of prizes. A list of prize winners is on the website [www.tayportfc.org](http://www.tayportfc.org)

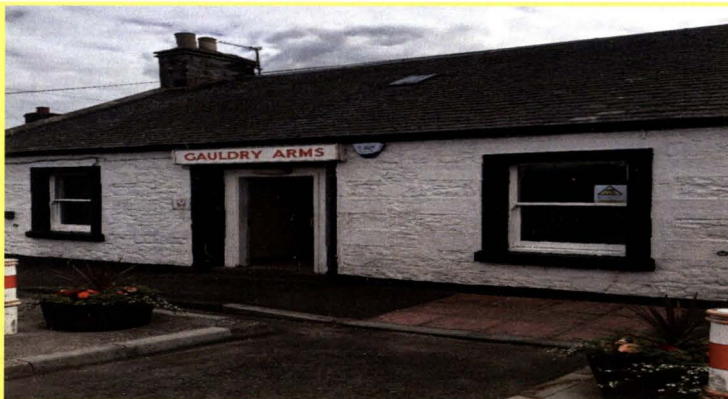
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## FROM THE PHOTO ARCHIVES 1990

From winning Tayport FC's Robertson Cup to Hollywood! Now that's progress !



**John Maclean's** the name and his achievement as a local youngster in winning the Cup in **Tayport FC's 1990 Fun Run** maybe just comes in as a poor third for the now Film Director who won a BAFTA in 2012 for his film *Pitch Black Heist* and then, in Los Angeles in 2015, the Sundance Film Festival's World Cinema Grand Jury Prize for the feature film *Slow West* starring Michael Fassbender which was released in the UK in 2016 to great critical acclaim. Who knows?

Maybe winning that Run got John used to celebrity status!

Following the success of *Slow West*, the press described the partnership between John Maclean and Fassbender as "not quite up there with Scorsese/De Niro yet, but a good start"

The Fun Run, once an annual event, hasn't taken place for some time and as a result the Robertson Cup, presented by Andy Robertson aka Bunt, has likely been gathering dust in a cupboard somewhere.



Main pic from our Archives shows a young Maclean approaching the finishing line at the Canniepairt in June 1990



## DUNMORE REPORTS....



It's been almost a month since Tayport last played on the Canniepairt and that East Premier League fixture against Haddington turned out to be a thriller. The visiting Hi-Hi dominated the first half and opened the scoring early on. Midway through the first half, Dale Reid guided in the equaliser, but the visitors were ahead again, by the interval, and only the crossbar prevented Haddington from going in with a two-goal cushion.

'Port were not performing and it did not take long for the Hi-Hi to add a third goal and leave Tayport well and truly up against it. Gradually, however, 'Port began to take the initiative, helped by a Struan Christie thunderbolt which crashed against the woodwork. Still, Tayport needed a goal to get back into contention and it came on 85 minutes. Stuart Walton's free kick hit the bar and Latvian Pavel Ostrovskis netted on his first appearance.

Three minutes later, Liam Ross was fouled by the goalkeeper and Marc Ogg lashed home the leveller, from the spot. In injury-time, the Canniepairt outfit completed a memorable comeback, with Stuart Walton getting the plaudits for a late, late winner, from the far side of the eighteen-yard box.

The following week, it was on to

Whitburn, where two points were dropped. Tayport had a few openings before eventually going in front on 37 minutes, when Jamie Mackie sent a screaming strike into the back of the net from distance.

At the start of the second half, Pavel Ostrovskis was sent off for a second caution and this would prove costly. Tayport did score a second, when Dale Reid dived to head home Grant Mowatt's effort, but Whitburn kept plugging away and pulled one goal back ten minutes later, before netting an 86th minute equaliser, to earn a share of the points.

That game at Whitburn was Tayport's last competitive outing, but John Ovenstone's side ended 2016 by playing in Kelty's festive tournament. Last Tuesday, 'Port took on Kennoway Star Hearts and came back from 4-2 down to win 5-4, in an exciting tournament opener. Fraser Anderson and Grant Mowatt notched one goal apiece, while Alan Tulloch stole the show with a hat-trick. In Thursday's final, against Kelty, the hosts were too strong, running out comfortable 4-0 winners. At least Tayport managed to get a couple of matches under their belts, which will stand them in good stead for today's league match, as Bathgate Thistle first-foot the Canniepairt.



## EVENING POST 27th NOVEMBER 1903

### TAYPORT F.C. TROUBLES.

#### PLAYERS REFUSE TO TRAIN.

#### TO-MORROW'S GREAT TIE.

The chances of the local team against Violet in the Scottish Cup tie to-morrow are considered very good, and there is no doubt that with a strong team opposed to them Violet will require to go the whole ninety minutes.

The committee are having some difficulty with the players refusing to attend to training, and one good player finds himself left out of the team this week owing to this, and the committee hope this will be a lesson to the others.

Team:—J. Cross, A. Berry and A. Oswald (captain); N. Oswald, J. C. Cowie, and J. Rae; A. Rae, H. Hill, D. Ross, J. Messer, J. Wilkie. Reserves—J. Cowie, C. Campbell, and S. Mitchell.

#### DUNFERMLINE'S STRONG TEAM.

For the Northern League tussle with Forfar Athletic to-morrow at East End Park.

### Scottish Junior Cup 3rd round

The 'troubles' (see left) must have been resolved as the 'Great Tie' went ahead as planned on Saturday 28th November 1903.

The match report said "*Tayport proved they were the superior lot and deserved credit for their fine first half display.*"

Tayport trailed Violet by 2-0 at half time but in the second half

*"the rain was now pouring hard...and towards the close the ball could hardly be followed owing to darkness...the game was then stopped 12 minutes before time"*

The following Wednesday the Scottish Junior FA ordered a replay for three days later, on Saturday 5th December.

The *Evening Post*, in the vernacular of the time reported... "*The postponement only seemed to whet the enthusiasm of the Fifers and notwithstanding an early start, there was a large crowd present...as the game progressed it was seen that the ground was really in a dangerous state and in some parts of the pitch it was impossible for the players to gain their footing. Tayport were a goal behind at half time and when they had a goal disallowed "Referee Sturrock had to bear the inflictions of some choice epithets from the Tayport supporters"* [113 years on, and no change there, then!]

Tayport then went 2 goals behind but fought back when "*the sphere was passed to Wilkie who headed through. Tayport went at it with a will and A. Oswald passed the ball to his brother who shot straight and hard. The teams now being on level terms, considerable excitement prevailed. Messer looked offside when he captured the ball and sent it into the top corner of the net, but the point was allowed and the players for the next few minutes went wild with excitement. They now had all the play and in the concluding ten minutes, the visitors could do little against such tactics. One of the hardest matches ever played on Tayport Common thus ended Tayport 3 Dundee Violet 2*"

No joy for Tayport in the 4th round as they went out of the competition, beaten 2-0 by Edinburgh's Morningside FC.

## Chairman's Chat

**Club chairman and legendary former manager David Baikie pens a regular column for the match programme.**

I hope everyone had an enjoyable time over the past couple of weeks and may I take this opportunity to wish all our supporters a happy and prosperous 2017. Looking back over the year just past at the club, there's been quite an upheaval with myself, Mel, Gus and Fraser deciding to call it a day, albeit just a couple of months prior to the beginning of 2016 and then announced retirement of Abby, Herx and Kenny from the committee close to the end of the season.

On the playing front, relegation from the Super League was a big disappointment but not unexpected as it's been a cycle that's unfortunately continued over this past decade. I've spoken previously regarding my thoughts on the reasons for this situation. The league reconstruction some twelve years ago definitely created a divide in fortunes whereby the clubs with the most financial clout have, in the main, succeeded and the rest have found a level. The midweek tournament at Kelty only confirmed my thoughts on the subject as the gulf between Kelty Hearts and Tayport was there for all to see. The difference was not only the quality on the pitch but off it as well. Unfortunately the days of pulling together a group who were willing to play for virtually buttons, but who had the massive advantage of having character and a desire to succeed, are all but a thing of the past.

This season our fortunes are most definitely still in our hands. Yes, the stats don't lie, but our league position is a reflection of where we are, as I know only too well just how difficult it has been for John to attract players who could strengthen our team. I recently looked at a photo of the side that won the Premier League and the CA Cup which was only 18 months or so ago and we now only have a couple of these players at the club. I lost 5 or 6 of those players going into the Super League and hard as I tried, I could not replace them with the same standard of player, so we were in a position, going into a division higher with a much weakened side. John has had to deal with the same scenario as he's had to con-

tend with the loss of, or almost of, the remainder of that group.

So what does 2017 hold for Tayport FC? Well, to state the obvious, it's another year. We have a committee, that is almost new and double in size and is willing to put in the effort. I, like them, am ambitious for the club to prosper. We have a young manager who has a backroom staff with vast experience and together we must all strive to make Tayport once again a force. Someone once said 'the only place where success comes before work is in a dictionary' so if we are all serious about wanting this club to be a force again, we must all pull together both on and off the field and put in the work.

At this time sponsorship is without doubt one of the main differences between our club and those clubs who sit at the top of the Super League. Tayport has always been a team of fundraisers. We've had a committee of hard workers who've dedicated their time and effort to raise funds for the club and team they love and support but in reality what was enough in the past is not enough now. We need to generate more income and find a substantial sponsor or sponsors to help Tayport move on from being a yo-yo club to becoming a major player again. Of course we must continue the fantastic work the past committee did but we must also double our efforts to seek strong financial backing.

Finally, I'd like to thank everyone on or off our committee for their efforts behind the scenes. Believe me, it was an eye opener for me who as a manager demanded this and demanded that. It's supposed to be an unpaid hobby but it can at times be an unpaid full time job, so all of us should recognise and thank all of these guys. We're all singing from the same hymn sheet and we all want our team to be the best.

Regards, Davie Baikie





## HALF TERM REPORT

As we approached the turn of the year, hopes of a quick Tayport return to the Super League appeared to be diminishing by the week, mainly due to the plethora of drawn games during the first half of the season.



Unfortunately the reality of the situation, based on historical Premier Division data, is not promising and to have a decent chance of automatic promotion, we would probably require to win ten of our thirteen remaining games. So, as each point won gives some hope, each point dropped increases the doubt.

Despite possessing one of only 5 unbeaten home records in the 60 club East Region, our form up to the turn of the year suggests we will have to show improvement to finish better than sixth top.

Tayport do have a track record, though, of trashing form statistics in this division so who knows? Wins in our three league games in January would go a long way to improving the picture.

Sauchie look certs for the title whilst at the other end Violet, at the moment, look destined for the drop but it's going to be tight and a run of bad results, such as St Andrews United are experiencing at present, could see one of half a dozen other clubs staring into the abyss come May.

### Forthcoming Fixtures

**Next Saturday** Tayport make the relatively short journey across the Tay to Kirkton to meet **Downfield** in a Premier Division match. Tayport's emergence as a force in the Junior ranks twenty seven years ago also marked the beginning of the end of Downfield's reign as the top side on Tayside under the Grier brothers' management.

The clubs met regularly, as often as six times a season, from 1990 until the advent of the Super League re-structure in 2002. From 42 games vs. each other in our first 6 seasons to only 6 games vs. each other in 14 post-restructure seasons illustrates the extent of the Spiders' demise. There are clear signs, however, that they are on the rise again and recording a first win against us in 24 meetings stretching back 21 years provides our opponents next Saturday with the perfect incentive.

On Saturday 21st January we host **Jeanfield Swifts** in the East of Scotland Cup then on 28th January we're at home v **Armada** in the league and on 4th February it's a trip to Aberdeen to meet **Sunnybank** in the GA Cup. Weather permitting, a vital month for the club which will make or break the season.

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