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# TAYPORT FC

**2023-2024 Official Match Day Programme**

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**TAYPORT v BLAIRGOWRIE**

**MIDLANDS LEAGUE**

**SATURDAY 6th JANUARY 2024**

**KICK OFF 1.30pm**

Vol 33  
No. 6

£2

## TAYPORT FOOTBALL CLUB SEASON 2023-2024

Club founded 1947 as Amateurs and 1990 as Juniors

Affiliated to the Scottish Football Association and the Scottish Junior FA

Members of the Midlands Football League in Tier 6 of the Scottish Football Pyramid

The Canniepairt, Shanwell Road, Tayport, Fife DD6 9DX  
Colours: Red /white Change: Black /black

### Honours

Scottish Junior Cup Winners: 1996, 2003, 2005  
Runners-up: 1993, 1997, 2004

East Super League Champions: 2003, 2006.  
Runners-up: 2004, 2005.  
East Region Premier League Champions 2010

10 Tayside JFA Championships 1990 - 2022  
11 Regional Cups 1992 - 2015  
21 Local Cups 1991 - 2008

### Club Management

Chairman: David Baikie - davidbaikie@hotmail.com  
Vice-Chairman: John Anderson  
Secretary: John Morris - johnmorris37@btinternet.com  
Treasurer: George Knight  
Committee:  
Brian Balfour Ian Ness Calum Ness  
Graeme McBeth Paul Berg Mick Roberts

### Team Management

Manager: Daryl McKenzie  
Asst. Manager: Gary Balfour  
Player/Coach: Gary Robertson  
Goalkeeping Coach: Darren McKenzie  
Physio: Elyse Ross

### Media

Usman Mujahid  
Emil Hansen



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## EDITORIAL

The current Scottish Football Pyramid System has been in place since 2021, yet some of the mainstream football media do not appear to be aware of, but perhaps have no interest in what goes on below tier 5. For example, the *Sunday Post* seems unaware that the only Junior Football Leagues are the Midlands League (our 20 clubs) and North Region (30 clubs). The *Sunday Post*, in recent match reports headlined *JUNIORS*, described Pollok and Cumnock, Dunbar, Broxburn and Tranent as 'Junior outfits'. Historically, perhaps, but nowadays these clubs are now West of Scotland and East of Scotland League members respectively. Yes, a criticism of our Scottish football media, but it's surprising somebody in the WOSL, EOSL or SJFA hierarchy hasn't brought this to the *Sunday Post's* attention... but maybe they have.

### NEXT WEEK'S MATCH

**St James v Tayport**  
**at Fairfield Park, Dundee**  
**Kick - off 1.45pm**

Opinions expressed in this programme are not necessarily those of Tayport FC

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## THE CHAIRMAN...

Good afternoon and welcome to all our fans for this Midlands League match against Blairgowrie FC. I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome both their players and officials to the Can-niepairt.

I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and may I wish everyone a Happy New Year.



As most of our fans know, just over a year ago, the week before last Christmas to be precise, we had an extensive flood in the main building and I mentioned that we were covered by Fife Council's insurance. After long and protracted conversations and meetings, including at one point being forced to get our local Councillor involved, the Council eventually agreed to get the work carried out. After this agreement it took a further two months for the work to actually start. This had all taken just one week shy of a year. The saga never ended there however, as they decided that the paintwork wouldn't be like for like as was agreed, but instead all white. I actually offered the club to foot the bill for the paint required to restore the original colours, but they refused. The main reason they had originally given for the two months delay was that they were sourcing the colours required to match the original! To be honest I'm just glad that it's now behind us.

A bit of good news, the club's old physio Andy Bell who's been in extensive pain for more than a year, had a hip replacement at Perth Infirmary last week and is doing well. Get well soon Andy.

Over the festive season we've had a few friendlies to keep the player ticking over so hopefully they will be in good shape for our first game of 2024.

Unfortunately, 2023 saw little or no improvement so let's hope that we see that much needed improvement, starting this afternoon. There's an old saying "today is the first day of the rest of our lives". Everyone at this great football club needs and expects success, so let's hope the playing side of our club begins to make our desires a reality.

Enjoy the Game.

*Support the Port. Davie Baikie*



Tayport  
from

## TODAY'S TEAMS

Blairgowrie  
from



g/k	Darryl BURNS
g/k	Elliot SMITH
	Callum PETRIE
	Marc VAN DER KUHL
	Jamie HUME
	Greg McCOLM
	Ian PLENDERLEITH
	Ethan SAMSON
	Gary SUTHERLAND
	Matthew ADAM
	Mackenzie WILLIAMSON
	Innes BARBOUR
	Aiden McKELVIE
	Aiden McDOUGALL
	Nicholas FLETCHER
	Max REID
	Gary ROBERTSON
	Jamie GILL
	Daryl McKENZIE
	Ryan SMITH
	Lewis TRACEY



Saturday  
6th  
January  
2024  
Kick-off  
1.30 pm

Referee:

Abbie  
HENDRY

Assistant 1:  
tba

Assistant 2:  
tba

Port Prog  
Vol. 33  
No. 6

g/k	Andrew SMITH
g/k	Zak SIMPSON
	Jamie FRASER
	Marc OGG
	Craig McLELLEN
	Stefan LAW
	Elliot WILLIAMSON
	Charlie LOFTUS
	Paul CONSTABLE
	Cammy McMANUS
	Kaisey BROWN
	Allan CRUICKSHANK
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	Harry WATSON
	Robbie WATSON
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	Callum COCKER-TOUGH
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1993 ARCHIVE PIC 1993



Who was the pitch invader in front of the Tayport fans at sunny Firhill Stadium in the 1993 Scottish Junior Cup Final? Was this mystery ever solved?

Three postponements and two festive break weekends mean that for only the second time since we joined the Juniors that we've had a blank December. The other occasion was 2010 when we went both December and January without a competitive game. This time however we did manage to get some match practice with friendly games on artificial pitches. The scorelines were nothing to write home about but the games were beneficial work-outs. A 4-2 defeat by Violet, ironically, two of their goals scored by Kyle McMulkin, a 3-0 win over Sunday Moring Amateurs Monifieth Athletic, a 3-2 win over Forfar United and a 3-1 win last week over Aberdeen's Stoneywood Parkvale, a side currently marooned at the foot of the North Region Juniors' Premier League, with three points to their name all season.

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### **TODAY'S GAME**

#### **TAYPORT v BLAIRGOWRIE**

#### **MIDLANDS CHAMPIONSHIP**



We welcome Blairgowrie this afternoon as our 2024 first foot, the first competitive action for us since November and only our second home game since September. Indeed we've not tasted victory at the Canniepairt since August!

Blair arrive here with only two away wins under their belt this season, 2-1 at Brechin Vics in August and 5-1 at Forfar United last month. However, the fact that only nine of their 24 games this season have been away from home sheds a slightly different light on this statistic. Prior to that win at Forfar United it had been 5 games without a win and the only game since then was a humbling 0-9 home reverse at the hands of high flying Lochee United, the first time in 11 games that the Berrypickers had failed to an opponent's net.

Tayport, too, have been struggling. Four successive home defeats, conceding thirteen goals and finding their opponent's net only once, have been giving the management a headache. Letham's win over Forfar West End in the only league game played on 2nd December, and St James' wins on 9th and 16th December has taken these clubs above us in the league, leaving us 11th, a lowest ever Tayside league standing. Should Violet win their games in hand, we would slip further down the table.

Tayport's most recent defeats have been by the odd goal, three of them by the current top three best placed teams in the League. But hard luck stories don't bring points. Tayport's attacking play continues to be ponderous and when we do create chances, we lack incisive finishing and consequently any goals conceded have had a crucial bearing on the outcome. There would be no better time than today to recover some winning form.

Innes Barbour is back in the fold after his loan at Forfar West End, during which time he played 5 league games, and recent signing Lewis Stracey has also returned from a loan spell at Arbroath Vics. However, Lewis was restricted by postponements to only one game, a Vics 4-2 win at today's visitors Blairgowrie. Tayport had John Cord on loan from Lochee United during December but his loan expired without him kicking a ball for us thanks to the weather.

There are two familiar faces in Blair's squad, full-back Mark Ogg who was at Canniepairt from 2015-16, during which time he managed to collect 10 cards in six months, and Kaisey Brown who moved from Canniepairt to Davie Park at the end of November. The young striker has already made his mark, netting a hat-trick inside an hour v Forfar United on 9 December

Nicholas Fletcher will be missing today through suspension, as will Blair's Caleb Robertson.

#### **Tayport are in good company!**

**Manchester United had 21 defeats in 2023, their most defeats in a calendar year since 1972. Tayport had 18 defeats in 2023, also their most in a calendar year since joining the Juniors in 1990**

## PAUL BERG of TAYPORT FC WALKING FOOTBALL CLUB REPORTS...

Last month the Tayport Walking Footballers sent a team to compete in the Raith Rovers' Walking Football Christmas Tournament at Starks Park, Kirkcaldy.

Clubs competing included Raith Rovers, Hibernian, Arbroath and Falkirk.

We had a mixed afternoon. Despite playing well in all four group games, we finished needing to beat Falkirk to make the semi-final. Although leading 1-0 going into the last few minutes, we conceded a late goal and the draw meant we just failed to make the semis.

Nevertheless, it was good experience for the players, including our new keeper Gordon Dunn who pulled off some great saves.

On 15th December we enjoyed our 3rd Christmas luncheon at Drumoig Golf Hotel, where we had a record attendance of 28, including club chairman Davie Baikie and programme editor Abby Oswald. The luncheon was a great success, and the photo below shows some of the guests deep in discussion, mostly about football, I presume. A few more would have been there but unfortunately, some still have to work for a living!

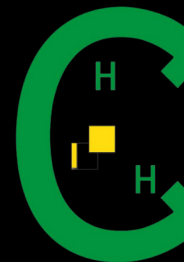
We have been lucky in being able to maintain our Friday morning training sessions but obviously indoors. Numbers have kept up with 18-20 attending. A fortnight ago, when the RPC was closed, we took 2 indoor pitches at Soccerworld in Dundee, and had a mini tournament with 4 teams of 5.

It made a good change from our normal format, but was certainly more tiring !

May I wish everyone all the best for 2024, especially Tayport FC, and if anyone wants to come along and join us on a Friday morning, just contact me, Paul Berg, on 07831-535555 or email [tfcwalkingfootball@gmail.com](mailto:tfcwalkingfootball@gmail.com).



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MIDLANDS LEAGUE	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Broughty Athletic	21	20	0	1	85	18	67	60
Lochee United	19	16	3	0	93	12	81	51
Dundee North End	19	16	1	2	62	18	44	49
Downfield	18	13	0	5	60	29	31	39
Montrose Roselea	21	12	2	7	52	35	17	38
East Craigie	20	10	5	5	53	26	27	35
Kirriemuir Thistle	21	11	2	8	40	44	-4	35
Carnoustie Panmure	17	11	0	6	46	24	22	33
St. James	19	9	1	9	44	47	-3	28
Letham	21	8	4	9	35	54	-19	28
<b>Tayport</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>27</b>
Brechin Victoria	22	6	4	12	25	40	-15	22
<b>Blairstown</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>-28</b>	<b>22</b>
Scone Thistle	18	6	3	9	31	46	-15	21
Lochee Harp	21	6	3	12	33	56	-23	21
Dundee Violet	16	6	2	8	25	28	-3	20
Arbroath Victoria	20	5	3	12	28	61	-33	18
Forfar West End	21	4	2	15	23	60	-37	14
Forfar United	21	2	2	17	31	88	-57	8
Coupar Angus	22	0	4	18	24	80	-56	4

### Match Report 25 November 2023 Montrose Roselea 2-1 Tayport

### Midlands Championship

Having recorded two wins already against Roselea this season, Tayport might have been expected to complete a league double. Alas, it wasn't to be, but a point at least looked on the cards as the referee's watch ticked into the 90th minute only for our dreaded Achilles Heel to kick in. Centre half Murray Soutar was up for a corner kick and connected strongly to head the winning goal. No wonder his teammates celebrated. It was only the seventh goal Roselea have ever scored in 27 matches against 'Port in losing 23 of these said matches.

Matty Adam replacing Ethan Samson who had been injured v Brechin, was the only change in the Tayport line-up. Greg McColm, returning after suspension, and Jamie Hume were on the bench.

After a confident opening period Tayport were rocked back on their heels on the 15 minute mark when Kieran Thomson found space in the box to beat Darryl Burns with a low shot into the corner of the net. It took Tayport until the hour mark to draw level. McKenzie Williamson was flattened on the edge of the Montrose box and elected to take the kick himself finding the net with a low drive through the wall.

The sun was disappearing rapidly as Montrose grabbed their late winner to move five points clear of Tayport and consign us to a seventh defeat in our last nine league games.



Tayport's Walking Football team pictured in Raith Rovers' annual Christmas Tournament at Starks Park. Back (l-r): Bruce Peebles, Gordon Dunn, John Boyle, Alan Gray, Bill Lafferty. Front: Fergus Mann, Jim Hogan, and Bert Valentine.



Round 3

Quest Precision Engineering Cup

Hermes or Maud v Carnoustie

Bridge of Don Thistle or Banchory (today) v North End (holders) or Forfar United

Buchanhaven Hearts or Islavale (today) v Broughty Athletic

Stonehaven or Dyce v Tayport

Downfield v Rothie Rovers or Deveron-side

East Craigie v Sunnybank or Ellon

Letham v Culter

Lochee Utd v Newmachar or Banks O' Dee

Seven of Tayside's eight 3rd round participants are known but there are 15 North Region clubs still with an interest in the competition. Their Quest 2nd round ties are scattered over the next few months, therefore it will be some time before the draw is clear.

**With the Scottish Junior Cup open to WoSL clubs, the Quest Cup is now the only cup competition exclusive to Junior League clubs.**

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## THE MANAGER'S VIEW

After the last few week's postponements, I thought this week's Manager's View was a good opportunity to summarise the first half of the season and discuss our plans for moving forward.

I, as much as anyone associated with the club, am frustrated at our current league position and our inconsistency in performances.

When I take time to reflect on my 18 months tenure, I am still convinced we are on the right track. When I took the reins in June 2022, I knew the situation with the club and I knew it would be a long-term project to get the club back consistently challenging at the top of the league. Although we are a long way off that aim just now, the work the whole club is doing to improve behind the scenes is progressing well. We must ensure that Tayport is a modern football club that both players and supporters want to play for and watch regularly.

In terms of the playing squad, we are still a very young squad and with young players there will always be inconsistency in performance levels. We simply haven't scored enough goals this season, but I am convinced Mackenzie, Ethan, Nick, Innes and a fully fit Jamie Gill will address this in the 2nd half of the season. We are still actively looking to improve the squad and hopefully we will be able to add 1 or 2 new players before the restart.

An important thing to remember is that any club needs consistency, consistency in players, coaches, tactics, messages etc. When you look at the most successful local clubs (Carnoustie, East Craigie, Lochee United, Arbroath, Montrose) over the last 5 years you can see the consistency in important people. My coaching staff have only been together from the start of this season, we signed 13 new players in the summer, and it will take time for them to settle into the Juniors and find consistent performance levels. I'm delighted to announce that 7 of our players have renewed their contracts with the club for 2024/25 season. Specific details will be announced on social media in the coming weeks.

I want to finish by wishing everyone a Happy New Year and to thank you for your continued support

*Daryl*



**Point to Ponder...** In recent years £millions have been ploughed into Scottish Football's academies and the like, yet one must question whether this has delivered. The number of non-Scottish footballers turning out for our Premiership clubs would suggest the benefits have yet to materialise. Take the Celtic v Rangers starting line-ups last weekend. Of the twenty two players at kick-off, Celts fielded three Scots and Rangers none.



## Scottish Gas Scottish Cup



The last remaining **local** non-SPFL club, **Jeanfield Swifts**, of the East of Scotland (EoS) Premier League, was eliminated from the Scottish Gas Scottish Cup in the 3rd round, losing 2-0 to **Clyde**.

As well as Jeanfield, another three clubs who, like ourselves, were formerly members of the Scottish Junior FA's East Region until they left to join the EoS League a couple of seasons ago, also made their exit at the 3rd round stage, all losing by the narrowest of margins. **Broxburn Athletic** went ahead against **Buckie Thistle** with 9 minutes left but the Highland League side, who eliminated us in round 1, equalised 8 minutes into added time. Broxburn regained their lead during the 30mins extra time period but Buckie forced penalties by equalising with the last kick of the game and went on to win the penalty shoot-out. **Dunbar United** took the lead against **Alloa Athletic** but went out 2-1 and it was a goal from former Tayport defender Matty Allan which ended **Tranent's** hopes in their 0-1 loss to **Forfar Athletic**. In fact, all Forfar's goals in their 3 matches prior to the tie, were scored by former Tayport players, Matty (2), Mark Whatley and Ryan Paterson.

**The 4th round draw gave a picture of what might have been, certainly for Tayport, when Buckie Thistle were drawn away to Celtic on 19th January. Dunbar might have been at Motherwell and Tranent would have been at home to Hibs. There would have been no money worries for these clubs for a few years!**

### Can Downfield join Lochee in Scottish Junior Cup last eight?

In their much postponed last sixteen tie, **Downfield** head for WoSL Division 1's **Johnstone Burgh** this afternoon in a bid to join **Lochee United** as the last of the Junior League clubs still retaining an interest in the competition. **Johnstone Burgh** have already eliminated East Craigie and North End and, having just won 8 games on the bounce at home, will be looking to complete a Midlands League hat-trick. The overseas investments by Jack Henderson and local businessman Scott Graham has revolutionised the Keanie Park club and a Scottish Cup win is an early target on the road to greater things.



In the only tie to beat the weather on Saturday 2nd December, **Lochee United** had a successful trip to Ayrshire to reach the quarter finals, beating **Largs Thistle** 3-0 on penalties after a 2-2 draw. 0-2 behind with less than half an hour left, Paul Scobie pulled back a goal before Paul Lunan levelled things with four minutes left. Largs Thistle, well placed in the West of Scotland League's (WoSL) Premier Division, had previously lost only once at home this season.

The round of 16 continued the following week, 9th December, when **Stonehaven's** dreams ended with a 0-1 home defeat by WoSL's Premier Division's **St Cadoc's**. On 16th December most of the remaining ties were completed. The North's remaining hopes, Rothie Rovers, lost 1-4 at home to WoSL Div 3 leaders **Bellshill Athletic** who had also ended the hopes of both Broughty Athletic and Brechin Vics. In the other outstanding ties, all between WoSL clubs, results were: Benburb 2-3 **Arthurlie**; **Darvel** 4-0 Larkhall Thistle; **Hurlford United** 3-2 Caledonian Locos; Vale of Leven 1-4 **Auchinleck Talbot**. The quarter final draw is Auchinleck v Hurlford; Bellshill v Arthurlie; **Darvel v Lochee United**; **Johnstone Burgh or Downfield v St Cadoc's**. Ties are scheduled for 10 February.

### Has the Scottish Junior Cup lost its magnetism?

The answer surely is Yes. Twenty years ago the number of entries was such that Tayport played 9 games, a total of 840 minutes, to reach the Scottish Junior Cup Final. This season if Lochee United, if they reach the final, will have played 5 games and 450 minutes. The competition has been devalued by having no extra time nor replays and no clubs from the Lothians and Fife (apart from Tayport) entering the competition. Scottish Junior Cup ties involving West of Scotland clubs would no longer appear to take matchday precedence in the WoSL calendar.

The 137 years old competition is rapidly losing its magnetism. It's no longer the 'Holy Grail' of Scottish Football and probably needs a major revamp and marketing boost which its history surely warrants. Let's hope Lochee and/or Downfield progress or we'll never read about it again in the local press!

**Match Report 11 November 2023**

<b>Tayport 1-2 Dundee North End</b>	<b>Midlands Championship</b>
<p>You couldn't make it up! Paul Sludden, former 'Port player on a hot streak of goals, continued in that vein by grabbing both Dokens' goals. Tayport had taken an early lead with a fine strike by Ethan Samson but ten minutes before the break the sides were level. Tristan Baxter, another Doken who had been in Tayport colours last season, launched a free kick into the box which found Sludden with enough time to control the ball and loft it past Darryl Burns for the equaliser.</p> <p>A minute into the second half and home chances suffered a major blow when Greg McColm was sent off and the ten men finally succumbed when Sludden netted the winner with 18 minutes to play</p>	

### SEASON 2023–2024

**Match Report 18 November 2023**

**Brechin Vics 0-2 Tayport** **Midlands Championship**

A first three points since we won at bottom of the league Coupar Angus back in September.

The splendidly appointed Links Park Stadium, Montrose was a switch of venue following the flooding calamity which engulfed Brechin. Tayport, without the suspended Greg McColm took the lead in 12 minutes when Callum Petrie's free kick from wide left deceived Vics' keeper to find the postage stamp corner. The lead was doubled ten minutes later when McKenzie Williamson cracked in a shot from 20 yards.

The Tayport support settled back into their comfortable stand seats expecting a boost to their team's goal difference to follow. It didn't happen. Poor passing, generally, and the final pass in particular ensured there was little to cheer. Indeed Tayport collected more yellow cards than they had shots on target. Still, a win's a win!

 Yellow card       2 x Yellow Cards       Red Card      \* Own Goal