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2023-2024 Official Match Day Programme

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TAYPORT v FORFAR UNITED

MIDLANDS LEAGUE

SATURDAY 2nd MARCH 2024

KICK OFF 2.30pm

Vol 33
No 10

£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: Olivia O'Donnell



EDITORIAL

Where have all the footballers gone? That could be the question asked when one becomes aware that 65% of the players who kicked off for the teams in last weekend's six Scottish Premiership matches weren't born in Scotland.

None of the 12 teams had less than six foreign players in their ranks. Hibs and Rangers each had ten imports in their line-ups. That's a huge change from a couple of generations ago when, for example, local senior clubs had a fair number of locals in their sides, never mind just Scots

It's bound to figure that with fewer locals in the local Senior ranks, the fewer ex-Seniors there will be around to step down to the Junior ranks to see out their careers

NEXT WEEK'S MATCH

Forfar West End v Tayport
League

Strathmore Park
Kick - off 2.30pm

NEXT HOME GAME

SATURDAY 16th MARCH

Tayport v East Craigie
Quest Cup
Quarter Final
Kick off 2.30pm

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

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£8,600 JACKPOT THIS WEEK

THE CHAIRMAN...

Forfar United provide our opposition for the afternoon's Midlands League game, I'd like to welcome both their players and officials to the Canniepairt and of course the Port Support. Since the turn of the year we've seen the team remain undefeated, winning four and drawing two. The two drawn games, both at home, were most definitely disappointing for different reasons. Of the two I'd have to say the Scone Thistle 1-1 was the most difficult to take. Although we were without a number of experienced players, we were very poor on the day, definitely two points dropped.

On paper the second encounter against Carnoustie was expected to be a tougher ask but we started the game well and found ourselves 2-0 up, possibly against the run of play and that's why I said, for different reasons as, to have a two goal lead and let it slip is hard to take.

On the four victories I'd say the two against Blairgowrie & Arbroath Vics were expected but the other two were good results, both away from home, a 1-0 win in the league at East Craigie and a 2-1 victory at Dyce in the Quest Engineering Cup. So it's been a good start to 2024. Let's hope we can continue in the same vein as the season progresses.

Today's opponents have had a fairly difficult time this season and I suppose we are complicated in that as we've raided their ranks of late with a fair number of their squad of last season now plying their trade with Tayport. So, it's a game that on paper we should be successful, but as they say, games aren't won on paper, wins have to be earned, so it's vital that we start the game well and play with a strong mentality.

We have in all but one of our six undefeated games of 2024, lost poor goals. In my management days I prided myself on shutouts and my players having a strong collective mentality. It's a major part of a successful side. So this afternoon, let's win with a shutout.

Enjoy the game.

Support the Port

Davie

Match Report 17 February 2024 Dyce 1 - 2 Tayport Quest Inter Regional Cup R3

A dismal first half display in Aberdeen, in which Tayport failed to register a shot on the Dyce goal, saw us trail at the break to a goal scored midway through the half. With the home side unbeaten at home this season, a quarter final place looked a forlorn hope for 'Port at this stage. However, the second half was a different story, with Tayport putting the memory of that poor 45 minutes behind them. Player-manager **McKenzie** notched the equaliser midway through and youngster **Alex Balfour** grabbed the winner with ten minutes remaining in what was a much improved second half performance. Six yellow cards cast something of a shadow over a good win but there's a home draw v East Craigie to look forward to in the quarter final.



Tayport
from

TODAY'S TEAMS

Forfar Utd.
from



g/k	Darryl BURNS
g/k	Elliot SMITH
	Callum PETRIE
	Marc VAN DER KUHL
	Jamie HUME
	Greg McCOLM
	Ian PLENDERLEITH
	Ethan SAMSON
	Mackenzie WILLIAMSON
	Innes BARBOUR
	Aiden McKELVIE
	Nicholas FLETCHER
	Max REID
	Jamie GILL
	Ryan SMITH
	Lewis STRACEY
	Alex BALFOUR
	Kieren CRIGHTON
	Thomas McCONNACHIE
	Gary ROBERTSON
	Daryl McKENZIE



Saturday
2nd
March
2024
Kick-off
2.30 pm

Referee:
Connor
OGIERMAN

Assistant 1:
tba

Assistant 2:
tba

Port Prog
Vol. 33
No. 10

	Jake SHAW
	David McAULEY
	Jake FLETCHER
	Ben RAMSTEAD
	Jude DUGUID
	Josh GORDON
	Louis JENKINS
	Jonjay REID
	Ross BELL
	Gordon NORRIE
	J Alexander YULE
	Aaron MITCHELL
	Jack DAVIE
	Jay McDONALD
	Jamie CROSBY
	Cameron GAUHL
	Bruno DEMBEBE
	Ben WILSON
	Owen ROBB
	Marc McCAGH
	Ruaridh TEMPLETON



Manager
Daryl
McKENZIE



Manager
Connor
YEATS



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PICS FROM THE PAST



Above, Dick McNicol, Sandy McDade & Jim McDade fit out the former bus garage for use as half-time members' refreshments facility

Left, the late trio of groundsman Billy Nelson, treasurer Ross Macmillan and vice Chairman Alastair 'Hercs' Oswald show off the club's new mower, once resident at the Queen's Royal Estate at Balmoral

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TODAY'S GAME

TAYPORT v FORFAR UNITED

MIDLANDS CHAMPIONSHIP



A warm welcome to The Canniepairt for our visitors from Angus.

Forfar United are currently sitting at the bottom of the League and that's maybe understandable, considering that, for the best part of the last six months, they managed to avoid defeat on only two occasions.

No great surprise, then, when at the turn of the year the club announced a change of management by appointing Connor Yeats to the Guthrie Park hot seat. Connor (right) is a highly motivated coach with UEFA coaching badges and experience at Montrose FC where he was their Academy Head Coach.



It hasn't taken long for the new manager to get down to business, making a number of new signings and therefore there will be a number of changes in personnel from the line-up which we faced in our 5-2 win at Guthrie Park back in August.

Five postponements since the turn of the year have frustrated Yeats' efforts to put his mark on the squad but there were clear signs of an upward spiral in the most recent performance, a 2-0 win over Brechin Vics, described by the manager as 'a fantastic and thoroughly deserved win which lifted the whole club after a tough season'. One of those singled out for praise was former Tayport' keeper Jack Shaw and recent signing from Kirrie, striker Gordon Norrie. Norrie will be missed today as he's serving a one match suspension.

One thing we can be pretty sure of this afternoon is seeing some goals. Despite their disappointing form, in their 14 away games this season to date, the Guthrie Park side have failed to score on only three occasions. Tayport have also been finding the road to goal in recent games and, stretching back to after Hurlford in November, we've managed to find our opponents' nets in each game. To add further interest to this afternoon's encounter, we're unbeaten at the Canniepairt in 2024.



A run of six games undefeated since November has boosted Tayport's confidence going into this afternoon's game, and adding to the interest is the form of teenager striker Alex Balfour who netted a first half hat-trick at Arbroath last week, the youngest 'Port player ever to have achieved this feat.

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

Things over the last few weeks have been pretty mundane and because of the weather conditions we have continued training inside. We have been indoors at the Regional Performance Centre at Caird Park, which must be one of the few indoor facilities where it is actually warmer outside than inside! We only book and use half the indoor pitch, and normally we have it to ourselves, but last week we had the Dundee FC junior squad next to us, and as we finished, St. Johnstone first team were coming in and took the opportunity of having good chat with our guys.



We have been invited to take part in the Glasgow Trophy on Sunday April 14th, being played at the Toryglen Regional Football Centre. There are 24 teams competing both from Scotland and England. A draw will take place next month and the teams will be split into 4 groups, each playing 5 games. The top 2 teams from each group will go into the quarter finals and onwards. We have only played four of the participating teams before, so it will be new territory for us. Exciting times!

The following week we are back with the league programme for both our teams, so April will be a busy and expensive month for us! Entrance fees for both competitions are £65:00, so we will be paying virtually £200:00 to take part. This comes out of TWF club funds, as players do not pay to take part in either competition. Giving up their time to play for the club is payment enough, especially when we have to travel to Glasgow.

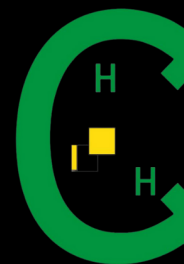
Finally we hope to return to training at The Canniepairt soon, hopefully on Friday March 8th, as we need to get out in the fresh air, and start playing on grass again. Fingers crossed

If anyone is interested in coming along and having a game, please get in touch with me via email. tfcwalkingfootball@gmail.com or 07831-535555.

Remember you can join us if you are 45 years old upwards. We have players in their 70s, so you're never too old!!

Paul

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MIDLANDS LEAGUE	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Broughty Athletic	29	27	0	2	121	27	94	81
Lochee United	26	21	4	1	115	21	94	67
Dundee North End	22	19	1	2	71	19	52	58
Montrose Roselea	29	15	3	11	67	54	13	48
Kirriemuir Thistle	27	15	3	8	56	51	5	48
East Craigie	25	14	5	5	68	30	38	47
Downfield	20	15	0	5	69	30	39	45
Carnoustie Panmure	22	13	2	7	61	33	29	41
Tayport	24	11	5	8	46	36	10	38
Letham	26	10	5	11	44	61	-17	35
St. James	24	11	1	12	52	59	-7	34
Dundee Violet	21	8	3	10	31	36	-5	27
Scone Thistle	22	7	4	11	36	53	-17	25
Blairgowrie	29	7	4	18	44	95	-52	25
Brechin Victoria	27	6	4	17	27	60	-33	22
Lochee Harp	28	6	3	19	38	81	-43	21
Arbroath Victoria	25	5	5	15	36	77	-41	20
Forfar West End	24	4	2	17	25	72	-47	14
Coupar Angus	27	3	4	20	40	93	-53	13
Forfar United	24	3	2	19	37	98	-61	11

Bridies In, Pies Out?



There's no truth in the rumour that in recognition of today's visit from our friends from Angus, we'll be selling bridies



in the pie shop! As well as our visitors there are five players in our current squad, Nick Fletcher, Kieren Crighton, Max Reid, Ian Plenderleith and latest recruit, teenage full-back Thomas McConnachie, who can count today's visitors Forfar United as a former club. In addition there's Ethan Samson, Marc Van der Khul, Callum Petrie and the boss Daryl who formerly played for their neighbours Forfar West End, whom we meet next Saturday at Strathmore Park.

FORFAR'S ROLE IN TAYPORT'S DEBUT SEASON

Forfar United (then Forfar Albion prior to their amalgamation with Lawson United AFC in 2020) were Tayport's first opponents as we made our debut in the Junior ranks in August 1990 in a Tayside Division 2 match on the Canniepairt (*Courier* report below).

In the corresponding game at Guthrie Park at the end of May 1991, Tayport scraped a 2-1 win against Albion which kept 'Port on course for a first title win.

Then in mid-June, the last Tayside JFA game of the season, Guthrie Park was the venue for the Intersport Cup final against Forfar West End.

Tayport's debut triumph

TAYPORT JUNIORS 4, FORFAR ALBION 1
TAYPORT MADE a winning debut in the Junior ranks in a McEwan's Lager League Division Two match played in front of several hundred spectators at Canniepairt last night.

The home side got off to a bad start when, after a defensive slip in the 6th minute, Smith rounded keeper Tosney to put Albion ahead. But five minutes later Lamont equalised from the spot after a trip on Christie.

Lamont struck again in the 20th minute to give the home side a 2-1 lead at half-time.

Tayport attacked immediately the second half started, with Thoms missing from close range. A minute later Coventry put them further ahead. Persistent pressure led to Thoms scoring Tayport's fourth in the 75th minute.

Tayport—Tosney, Malone, Paterson, Wilkie, Dolan, Spalding, Christie, Coventry, Thoms (Heggie), Reilly (baker), Lamont.

Forfar Albion—Gourley, Millar (Moss), Craig, Robinson, Simpson, Stewart (Lander), Leslie, Craigie, Smith, Taylor, Bissett.

Referee: T. McDonald, Dundee.



First Fan In



Tayport v Forfar Albion August 1990

Stan Cowe, the first person in the ground for Tayport's first Junior match in August 1990, displays his admission ticket.

The dear departed *Sporting Post* reported the Intersport Final in which Tayport capped their memorable season with a 5-1 win (Jackie Devine (3), Billy Coventry and Dave Reilly) before a crowd of 500 in the June sunshine at Guthrie Park.



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THE MANAGER'S VIEW

Today is the start of a very important run of fixtures for our young team. 4 of our next 5 fixtures are at home with 3 very important league games and a Quest Engineering quarter final vs East Craigie on Saturday 16th March. We hope to reward our fans with a long-awaited run of successive victories.

We come into today's game undefeated in 2024 and in a confident place. Our last home game vs Carnoustie was a positive performance and barring some dubious refereeing calls we would have won all 3 points. We have followed that up with two impressive away wins at both Dyce in the Quest Cup and at Arbroath Vics on Saturday.

We are now fully focused on today's visit of Forfar United. I want to welcome Connor and his team to the Canniepairt today. We won the away fixture 5-2 earlier in the season but it will be a much-changed team that lines up vs us today. Connor is a young and ambitious manager whom I'm sure will have his team prepared and organised for today's game and I'm expecting a very tough 90 minutes.

I want to finish today's column by discussing the positive impact our new signings have had on our group and specifically on the park. Recently, we have added Alex Balfour, Kieren Crighton and Ewan White to our squad and all three have made instant impacts.

Alex's goals and technical qualities get supporters on their feet and at 16 he has already bagged a 1st half hat trick and scored 6 goals. Kieren signed from Lochee United and I hope supporters can already see what a positive signing he is for our team. He is a strong defender and a natural leader which every good team needs.

Ewan has signed on loan from Brechin City until the end of the season and has had three positive performances so far and I'm sure he will be a fans' favourite for the remainder of the season.

Please give the players your continued support over the next 5 games, if we can continue to turn in good performances and victories then we should set ourself up for an exciting final few months of the season.

Daryl



Broughty Firmly in the Driving Seat

In the top of the league clash under the Thomson Park floodlights on Wednesday evening, Broughty Athletic took a major step towards this season's title with a 3-0 win over nearest challengers Lochee United. In so doing, they inflicted on the Blue-bells a first league defeat of the season as well as pretty much scuppering their chances of reaching a play-off to win a tier 5 place in the Highland League. In theory, Broughty's 14 point lead could be overhauled but in reality it won't happen.

The Junior Cup Semi Finals with no Junior Clubs!

Yes, that's what we've got after Lochee United's hopes were extinguished at Darvel. The four clubs remaining in the competition chose to leave the Junior game to join the nascent West of Scotland League, but retained their SJFA membership to allow participation in this competition.



The two legged semi-finals are on **Friday 12 April** - Auchinleck Talbot v Darvel & **Friday 19th April** - Darvel v Auchinleck Talbot. **Sunday 14 April** - Arthurlie v Johnstone Burgh & **Sunday 21 April** Johnstone Burgh v Arthurlie. Darvel are the only semi-finalist who haven't won the 138 years old Cup.

Home Draw in Quest Inter-Region Cup

East Craigie are quarter final visitors to Canniepairt

East Craigie's 5-0 demolition of Aberdeen Sunnybank brings our neighbours from across the river in two weeks as we bid to win a semi-final place. In our two previous meetings this season, it was 0-0 here and we triumphed 1-0 at Craigie Park the other week.



Only three North Region clubs, Hermes, Bridge of Don Thistle and Buchanhaven Hearts survived from the last 16 stage. Buchanhaven, nearer the bottom than the top of the North Region Premier Division, caused one of probably four surprise results of the round, eliminating Broughty Athletic. Hermes humbled Carnoustie by 7-1 and Bridge of Don defeated North End, the cup holders, on penalties after a 0-0 draw. No doubts over the biggest shock, however, that was Letham's 3-2 win over defending North Champions and current Premier League leaders Culter. The first of the four ties takes place this Wednesday evening when Lochee United travel to play Letham under the Perth club's lights The other ties on Saturday 16 March are Bridge of Don Thistle v Hermes and Buchanhaven Hearts v Downfield.

Match Report 24 February 2024

Arbroath Vics 1-4 Tayport

Midlands Championship

Tayport, starting with only two of the side which had taken the points in the corresponding game at Tayport earlier this season, extended their unbeaten record in 2024 with this comfortable win at Ogilvy Park. 16 years old **Alex Balfour** was Tayport's star with a first half hat-trick. Certainly the youngest player to have notched Tayport's quickest ever treble and no doubt someone will tell us if he's the first to get three in the first half. Only 2 minutes gone when Balfour chased a long ball, rounded the keeper and finished in an empty net. Tayport were punished for faffing about at the back 6 minutes later allowing McFarlane to equalise. Young Alex put Tayport back in front in 34 minutes when he collected a pass from Mark Van Der Khul to crash a shot high into the net and it took only another 4 minutes to complete that hat-trick with another fine goal, Ewan White suppling the pass this time. It was a scrappy second half and **Ethan Samson** made sure of the points when he netted goal no.4 within five minutes of coming on as substitute midway through the half.

