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2023-2024 Official Match Day Programme

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TAYPORT v LETHAM
MIDLANDS LEAGUE
SATURDAY 13th APRIL 2024

KICK OFF 2.30pm

Vol 33
No 15

£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: George Shields
Asst. Manager: Ray Farningham
Coach: Gary Surherland
Goalkeeping Coach: Donald Ritchie
Physio: Donald Ritchie

Media: Olivia O'Donnell



EDITORIAL

The Scottish Junior Cup semi-finals take place over the next two weekends. They are two leg affairs, Auchinleck v Darvel last night and next Friday, then Arthurlie v Johnstone Burgh this Sunday and next Saturday. These games between four West of Scotland League sides are likely to pass us by with little mention hereabouts. Maybe not surprising considering we're talking about Junior Cup semis with no Junior clubs participating. Unlike 1993 when we captured front and back pages after our first semi win



NEXT MATCHES

Wednesday 17th April

Tayport v Broughty Athletic

**League
Canniepairt**

Kick - off 6.45pm

Saturday 20th April

Tayport v Dundee Violet

**League
Canniepairt**

Kick off 2.30pm

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

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THIS WEEK**

THE CHAIRMAN...

Good afternoon to the Port support and a warm welcome to our visitors for today's league encounter Letham FC.

Last home game saw us gain a 3-0 victory over Coupar Angus. The first period produced no goals despite us dominating possession and like our fans, I was saying to myself here we go again. But unlike the past four games we were much more potent after the break and created numerous scoring opportunities, scoring three and hitting the bar on another three occasions. There's no doubt in my mind that playing players in positions that are more suited to their ability, a more positive shape and the addition of Scott and Jaden to the front line made all the difference

Unfortunately, after agreeing to stay on at the club, coach Gary Balfour has to step down for reasons I'm not privy to at this stage. I'd like to thank Gary for his time with the club and hope he finds another position where he is happier. On a positive note, another Gary in the form of Sutherland has joined the coaching staff. Of course, you all know Gary but his return to the club now has a different path. I'd like to welcome Gary back and I'm sure his experience in the game will make a positive impact to the club.

Letham provide this weekend's opposition, they arrive on the back of a heavy 6-1 home defeat to Lochee United so their confidence will have taken a dent, but they do only sit one position below us in the division so over the course of this season, the stats show we're not that far apart.

From my point of view the addition of both Ferguson and McComiskie most definitely can provide the difference between the sides and if I'm correct then we can succeed this afternoon.

Enjoy the game.

Support the Port,

Davie



Tayport
from

TODAY'S TEAMS

Letham
from



	Darryl BURNS
	Callum PETRIE
	Marc VAN DER KUHL
	Jamie HUME
	Greg McCOLM
	Ian PLENDERLEITH
	Ethan SAMSON
	Mackenzie WILLIAMSON
	Aiden McKELVIE
	Nicholas FLETCHER
	Ewan WHITE
	Max REID
	Jamie GILL
	Ryan SMITH
	Kieren CRIGHTON
	Gary ROBERTSON
	Scott McCOMISKIE
	Jayden FERGUSON



Saturday
13th April
2024
Kick-off
2.30 pm

Referee:
Kevin
MURRAY

Assistant 1:
Ross
ALEXANDER

Assistant 2:
Finlay
CAMPBELL

Port Prog
Vol. 33
No. 15

	Aidan BRIGHT
	Mark SHAW
	Andrew MacKENZIE
	Shaun SIMPSON
	Sam NOBLE
	Jayden DONALD
	Greig RAMSAY
	Aaron CARLON
	Corey SWEENEY
	Aiden EDWARDS
	Sean BURTON
	Kacpers PRZESCLIA
	Callum WILKIE
	Ryan MITCHELL
	Matthew REBBECK
	Sam SANCHEZ
	Ross WILSON
	Liam STRONG
	Adam STORRARR



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George
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Manager
Sean
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THE RACE FOR THE CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE

	to play	pts	max		to play	pts	max
Broughty Ath		94	103	Lochee Utd		86	101
today	Lochee Harp (a)			today	East Craigie (h)		
17 April	Tayport (a)			17 April	North End (a)		
20 April	Forfar United (a)			20 April	Downfield (a)		
				24 April	Carnoustie (a)		
				1 May	Forfar Utd (a)		
Broughty Athletic							
							

	to play	pts	max
North End		74	104
13 April	Coupar Ang (a)		
17 April	Lochee Utd (h)		
20 April	Kirrie This (a)		
24 April	Tayport (h)		
27 April	Forfar Utd (h)		
1 May	Arbroath Vics (a)		
4 May	Forfar WE (a)		
8 May	St James (a)		
	Brechin Vics (h)		
	Forfar Utd (a)		

Regardless of results, the race won't be over today but both Lochee United and North End will have to win today v East Craigie and Coupar Angus respectively whilst hoping that Broughty slip up at Harp today and/or here at Canniepairt on Wednesday.

Also next Wednesday is the big crunch match when North End host Lochee United



Hearts on target for a Cup double

Cupar Hearts, the Scottish Amateur Cup holders, are on target to repeat that success after their 4-1 quarter final win at Greenock HSFPs. Hearts will now meet Steins Thistle, the club they defeated in last season's final, in the semi-final on Friday 26 April.

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TODAY'S GAME

TAYPORT v LETHAM FC

MIDLANDS CHAMPIONSHIP



We welcome Letham's players, committee and supporters to the Canniepairt for only the third time, for a fifth ever meeting between the clubs. Previous meetings have all gone Tayport's way, all by the slimmest of margins, 3-2 and 1-0 in Tayport and the same two scorelines in Perth.

In terms of their results pattern this season, Letham, sitting one place below us in the league, are perhaps the League's most inconsistent club. They started the season badly then picked up with five successive wins including a 3-1 win at East Craigie.

Since then, they've had their successes but equally they've had disappointments in a rollercoaster run of results. In the space of three weeks in February, Letham won 6-0 at Blair-



gowrie, lost 0-6 at home to St James, drew 1-1 with Kirrie Thistle and then recorded one of their best results in their Junior history by eliminating Culter FC, the North Region's defending League champions and current runaway league leaders, from the Quest Cup with a 3-1 win at Seven Acres.

All to no avail however, as three weeks later Lochee United arrived in Perth for the next round and left with a 5-0 victory. Letham must be sick of the sight of the Bluebells this season, three meetings, goals for 1, goals against 21.

Aaron Carlon (pictured left), signed from Luncarty in March, has netted in Letham's last two games and will be looking to continue that run today). Andrew MacKenzie (above) is the man on the spot for Letham having scored 4 penalties in Letham's last 4 games.

Tayport missed out on any action last week with the postponement of the game vs. Broughty Athletic. New boss George Shields, who was pleased to get off to a winning start the previous week against Coupar Angus, has had another week to familiarise himself with his new charges.

Tayport will be without Jamie Gill who is serving a one game suspension.



Allan stars for Scotland Over 50s Masters in Thailand

Allan Ramsay, Junior caps and a medal laden career with Tayport FC from 1995-2007, was a key member of the Scotland Over 50s side which was runner-up in the 2023 Masters Tournament in Koh Samul, Thailand. After eliminating England 3-1 in the semi final, the Over 50s Scots were edged out 2-1 by Iran in the Final. *Nutmeg* said 'the quality and fitness of the squad were immediately apparent with men like Allan Ramsay and Stephen Quigg who are former Scottish Junior internationals and have a bounty of Scottish Junior Cup medals to their names, as well as the ex-pros who have played in Scotland, Cyprus, Germany and beyond'.



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

A good turn out at the Regional Performance Centre (RPC) at Caird Park a week past Friday where we had an attendance of 23 with 15 staying behind for refreshments.

We were due back at the RPC yesterday but hopefully we can get outside at The Canniepairt once the weather improves. Those players involved in the Glasgow Trophy tomorrow have been notified of arrangement with only details of what kit to wear yet to be determined.

The two squads for the league games on April 21st will be selected from the avail-

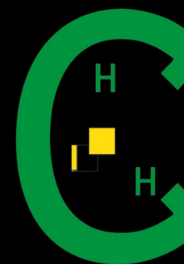
able pool of players, a task for Tom Malone with assistance from Alan Gray & Bruce Peebles.

If anyone you know of who might be 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	35	31	1	3	138	32	106	94
Lochee United	33	27	5	1	143	25	118	86
Dundee North End	28	24	2	2	89	22	67	74
Kirriemuir Thistle	30	18	3	9	62	59	3	57
Montrose Roselea	35	16	5	14	72	67	5	53
Carnoustie Panmure	28	16	4	8	74	43	31	52
Downfield	24	17	0	7	78	35	43	51
East Craigie	29	15	5	9	72	40	32	50
Tayport	28	13	6	9	53	38	15	45
Letham	32	12	6	14	57	77	-20	42
St. James	28	13	1	14	62	69	-7	40
Dundee Violet	26	11	3	12	38	39	-1	36
Blairgowrie	33	8	5	20	50	104	-54	29
Scone Thistle	27	8	4	15	42	69	-27	28
Lochee Harp	33	9	3	21	45	89	-44	28
Arbroath Victoria	31	6	8	17	44	92	-48	26
Brechin Victoria	31	7	4	20	28	66	-38	25
Forfar West End	29	5	4	20	29	77	-48	19
Coupar Angus	32	4	4	24	46	108	-62	16
Forfar United	30	3	3	24	44	115	-71	12

Match Report 30th March 2024 Tayport 3-0 Coupar Angus

Midlands Championship

After 338 barren minutes, Tayport finally scored a goal and it was new signing Scott McComiskie who made the breakthrough, giving his side the lead on the hour mark in what was a fairly one sided affair.

New manager George Shields had introduced a couple of new strikers, McComiskie and Jaden Ferguson, from Lochee United and both provided some effervescence to Tayport's play.

The first half had been relatively uneventful, other than the loss of Ethan Samson with an ankle injury, to be replaced by Ryan Smith.

There was more fire in Tayport's play after the break and within a minute of the restart Jamie Gill had crashed a shot off the Coupar crossbar. That set a pattern and Tayport would hit the woodwork on two further occasions.

Five minutes after McComiskie's opener Smith settled any nerves with a neat header and McComiskie put the seal on a fine debut with the third goal in the last minute.

FROM THE ARCHIVES....50 YEARS AGO APRIL 1974

Tayport FC cross the English Channel by Hovercraft!

Fifty years ago this weekend a party of 28 Tayport FC players, committee, 2 bus drivers and a few supporters were in Belgium to participate in an International Tournament. The party travelled by coach hired from Moffat & Williamson (then just Williamson's) for what was quite an arduous trip. First leg

was to Dover and an overnight stay in a Holiday Inn (£4.83 for B&B). Next morning the bus and its passengers boarded a Hovercraft which crossed the channel and landed on a beach at Calais before



travelling onward through France for the 450 mile trip to Liege. The total cost to each member of the party for the six day trip was £25.

The trip was a success with the club finishing runners-up in the 8 club tournament which had featured Belgian, French, Spanish and Italian clubs. Doug Henderson won the award as the Most Sporting Player of the Tournament (teammates speculated that, as he was a French teacher by profession, he was able to sweet talk the referees!!). Phil Callander won the award for the Tournament's best goalkeeper.

On April 6th, just prior to setting off to play in the Tournament, Tayport's 1st X1 lost 1-3 to St James on the East Common. Line-up was Phil Callander; Frank Leslie, Stuart Davie, Ron Fleming, Ian Mathers, Lindsay Ancell, Jim Scott, Albert Oswald, Stewart Ritchie, Ian Howe & Doug Henderson. Subs were Eddie Gilmour and Ian Rae. Oswald was the scorer. Three of that starting eleven from half a century ago are regulars at the Canniepairt today and likely to be at our game this afternoon.

No game on 6th April for the Alliance X1 as opponents Longforgan couldn't raise a team. The week before Tayport's Alliance XI lost 4-5 to Harris FP at Elliot Road, fielding Richard Callander, George Caldow, Ken Dick, John Anderson, Frank Feechan, Bryan Fitchett, Eddie Gilmour, Brian Burchell, Gordon Brankin, Gordon Hughes and Ally Harris. Subs were John Gilmour and Jim Spalding. Brankin (3) and Spalding were the scorers.

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THE MANAGER'S VIEW



Today sees us take on Letham JFC, a place below us in the top of the table, and I wish their coaching staff and committee all the very best for the remainder of the season.

My first game in charge saw us take on a Coupar Angus team that was prepared to sit in and try to counter attack us. Fortunately, we managed to break them down and thoroughly deserved our 3-0 win which could have been more convincing against a



well organised Coupar team.

I said in the last programme that I would keep everyone updated on players that were coming in to join

us. Two players that I have added to our squad are Scott McComiskie (left) and Jaden Ferguson (top), both of whom have had previous experience in the senior game and were most recently playing for Lochee

United. Both are strikers with Scott bagging a brace on his first start on Saturday past. Jaden was denied his first goal by an outstanding save from the Coupar Angus goalkeeper Elliot Smith but his time will come, I am sure. We also welcome back Gary Sutherland who has also joined my coaching staff and he will be a fantastic help to me whilst I settle into my new position.



Finally, I would like to thank Gary Balfour for his assistance when I accepted the job but unfortunately, he has decided to leave the club. Midfielder Innes Barbour has been transferred to Coupar Angus JFC and Broughty Athletic have recalled their young goalkeeper Dylan Rose, Everyone at Tayport wishes them all the very best for the future

George



MAYBE IT'S TIME FOR A CHANGE

Since the introduction of the Midlands League three seasons ago, pretty much the same clubs have finished in the bottom ten places and this season looks to be little different. Of course, there will always be the odd exception but it tells us is that the majority of those ten clubs will, nearly every season, finish in the bottom half of a 19, or this season, a 20 teams league.

Effectively then, with the season starting in mid-July, by the start of September the majority of our twenty clubs, having already played a dozen or so games, are no longer in the title race. They've nothing to play for, having invariably made no significant progress in the Scottish Cup and Regional Quest Cup, this season having no local cup competitions, in which to participate.

In season 1990/91 there were two divisions in Tayside, a 14 team first division and a 12 team second division and these 26 teams were each competing in 10 different competitions. At the end of that season, 6 different clubs had at least one trophy to show off at their annual awards ceremony, 7 clubs if you count the other promoted club.

Is it not time for two divisions again? There are only 20 clubs at the moment, but perhaps some others might be tempted to join up if we had a more

competitive season. Although Luncarty have picked up a bit and Jeanfield are faring well, Kinnoull and Newburgh are stuck at the bottom of their respective divisions in the East of Scotland League and must be counting the cost of regular travel to the Lothians, never mind the frustration of getting caught up in traffic holdups.

A second division would see the ten or so clubs which perennially finish in the bottom half of our league having the incentive of a promotion challenge. There could be the introduction of SPFL style play offs. Interest for the majority of the League's clubs would be maintained until the season's end. OK, fewer league games, but we could maybe return to a more civilised start of the season in August, dust down a couple of local cups and also introduce a cup competition for Division Two clubs only.

If Broughty win the league, as they are likely to do, the season will effectively be over for all clubs apart from the two in the Quest Cup and we've hardly reached the middle of April.

At Tayport we've missed eight match days this season through bad weather and that problem is likely to be exacerbated by climate change, so let's return to a busy competitive end of season where, historically, the Junior game came into its own. Just a thought.

SEASON 2023 –2024 ■ League ■ Scottish Cup ■ Junior Cup ■ Quest

 Yellow card  2 x Yellow Cards  Red Card * Own Goal