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TAYPORT v FORFAR UNITED

MIDLANDS LEAGUE

SATURDAY 17th AUGUST 2024



Vol 34
No 1

£2

TAYPORT FOOTBALL CLUB SEASON 2024-2025

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
Assistant manager: Barry Smith
Coach: Gary Sutherland
Goalkeeping coach: Grant Clark
Physio: Emma Gillespie

Media: Lachlan Harrison



EDITORIAL

When did you last see a local football League table in our local press, *The Courier* and *Evening Telegraph*? Yes, years ago.

A mere glance at League tables provides the reader, not only those who follow a club, but a readership which may only have a passing interest but nevertheless get an awareness of how their local team is faring.

Courier Country, to quote, their own description of their area of readership, embraces not just our Midlands League, but also four divisions of the East of Scotland League. With the technology of today, surely it's not beyond their ken to publish tables once a week. Take out one of the many photos, and they'll find the space.

Forthcoming Matches

Wednesday 21st August

East of Scotland Cup 2nd round
Tayport v St James 6.45pm

Saturday 24th August

Away v Dundee North End 2.30pm

Saturday 31st August

Scottish Gas Scottish Cup 2nd Prelim. Round
Tayport v Dundee North End,
Canniepairt 3pm

Cover Pic

Aerial view of The Canniepairt

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

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THIS WEEK

THE CHAIRMAN...

A warm welcome to the players and officials of today's opposition Forfar United and of course the Tayport fans.

I'd like to offer my thoughts on how we fared over the course of last season's campaign. Once again we finished the league in a position that, in my opinion, is far below where a club of our stature should be.

I pointed out at our awards night that we lost 15 points to clubs who finished below us in the table. This just shouldn't happen. I put that down to an attitude issue. Had we taken full points from these games we'd have finished four places higher in table.

There's no doubt that we didn't get the rub of the green in our cup ties. In the Scottish Cup, Hill of Beath, away, was a difficult tie but fortunately for us they were going through a difficult spell and we managed a 1-0 victory thanks to a Gary Robertson penalty. The next round, though, wasn't too kind to us, drawn at home to the Highland League champions Buckie Thistle who eventually went out to winners Celtic, and we were well beaten 4-0.

It didn't get any better in the Junior Cup, drawn away to Hurlford United. I must admit to being embarrassed by our performance in losing 6-0, I never thought that a Tayport side could lose so heavily. It could have well ended in double figures.

So, a very disappointing 2023/24 season.

I'm not naive, I know there aren't the players out there in this area and today's player, unfortunately for our game, tends to be more interested in finance over success but I genuinely believe that the right management can and will make a difference. Only time will tell as the season progresses.

Unlike last season, the quality of opposition in pre-friendlies was much more of a test and in the main we showed up well. We managed to carry that into our opening league game against Montrose Roselea. Despite the manager having to field a makeshift back line and goalkeeper due to suspension and illness, we managed to gain the three points. Someone was once quoted as saying "A job well begun is a job half done" so let's hope that statement rings true for our club's fortunes for the season. I, for one, am more positive than I've been for a long time but only time will tell.

Enjoy the game.

Davie Baikie



Tayport
from

TODAY'S TEAMS

Forfar
United
from



1	Darryl BURNS
20	Fraser BURNETT
3	Gary ROBERTSON
4	Kieron CRICHTON
5	James THOMSON
6	Jamie HUME
7	Sam SIMPSON
8	Ethan SAMSON
9	Scott McCOMISKIE
10	Ian PLENDERLEITH
11	Jamie GILL
12	Jamie CROWE
15	Greg McCOLM
16	Ryan SMITH
17	Aiden McKELVIE
18	Kyle McMULKIN
19	Lewis TRACEY



Saturday
17th August
2024
Kick-off
2.30 pm

Referee:
Joshua
McCALLUM

Assistant 1:
Vikki
ROBERTSON

Assistant 2:
Mark
FINDLAY

Port Prog
Vol. 34
No. 1

g/k	Dylan ROSE
g/k	Fraser REID
	Jonjay REID
	Aaron MITCHELL
	Bryn THOMSON
	Ben RANSTEAD
	Cammy WILSON
	Jay MACDONALD
	Sy COVENTRY
	Ross BELL
	Euan GRAHAM
	Mitchell JOHNSTON
	Jamie CROSBY
	Bruno DEMBEBE
	Kieran WATSON
	Rhys GARMANY
	Owen GODFREY
	Davie McAULEY
	Aiden CRICHTON
	Jack DAVIE
	Cameron GAUHL



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George
SHIELDS



Manager
Connor
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How Season 2023/24 Finished

Dundee North End	38	34	2	2	140	25	115	104
Broughty Athletic	38	34	1	3	148	34	114	103
Lochee United	38	29	6	3	154	37	117	93
Downfield	38	29	1	8	129	52	77	88
Carnoustie Panmure	38	24	5	9	102	54	48	77
Kirriemuir Thistle	38	22	5	11	84	72	18	71
East Craigie	38	20	7	11	96	49	47	67
Montrose Roselea	38	17	6	15	75	72	3	57
Tayport	38	16	8	14	72	61	11	56
St. James	38	17	4	17	84	94	-10	55
Dundee Violet	38	14	6	18	52	63	-11	48
Letham	38	13	7	18	65	94	-29	46
Scone Thistle	38	12	4	20	62	89	-27	41
Blairgowrie	38	10	6	22	57	114	-57	36
Lochee Harp	38	9	3	26	49	108	-59	30
Brechin Victoria	38	8	5	25	31	86	-55	29
Arbroath Victoria	38	6	10	22	48	121	-73	28
Forfar West End	38	7	6	25	46	106	-60	27
Coupar Angus	38	4	5	29	52	122	-70	17
Forfar United	38	4	4	29	53	146	-93	16

Match Reports

League 3rd August 2024: **Tayport 3 v 2 Montrose Roselea**

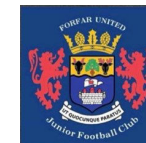
Tayport took the 3 points at the expense of Montrose Roselea in the opening fixture. Despite a spirited start, Tayport made heavy weather of things and were twice behind after only 14 minutes, **Ethan Samson** heading a delightful goal to cancel out Roselea's goal in their first attack. The visitors regained their lead in their next attack but Tayport were level again in 25 minutes after **McComiskie** was cluttered by the Roselea keeper to concede a penalty. Scott's first kick was saved but when a retake was ordered, he made no mistake. Tayport were in the ascendancy but had to wait until the 70th minute for their winner, **Jamie Hume** netting with a powerful header.

League 10th August 2024: **Tayport 7 v 1 Forfar West End**

Tayport went to the top of the league with a crushing win over a hapless West End side and it could have been - and probably should have been - by a greater margin as it was 6 - 0 with 25 minutes to play. West End pulled one back but **Scott McComiskie** got the 7th in the closing stages. Some great goals and a particularly memorable day for **Kyle McMulkin** who had a hat-trick, his first for the club. **Sam Simpson** got his first goal for 'Port and the others came from **Ryan Smith** and **Ethan Samson**.



TODAY'S GAME TAYPORT v FORFAR UNITED MIDLANDS CHAMPIONSHIP



It's top v bottom of the League today when Forfar United visit Canniepairt for our third Midlands League game of the season, all of which, somewhat strangely, have been at home.

With two wins, It's been a good league start for Tayport, which has taken us to a position we haven't enjoyed for some time - league leaders. The opposition to date, it must be said, hasn't been particularly testing. That's got to come.

It's early days in the newly restructured League but already there are signs, with the inevitable exception of one or two, that the top ten and the bottom ten are shaping up to be much the same as last season.

Forfar United were caught cold in their opening fixture, losing 12-0 at home to champions North End. Maybe no great surprise, given that North End were defending champions having scored 140 league goals last season, while United finished bottom of the pile, their keeper collecting the ball from the back of his net 146 times.

Forfar shrugged off that opening day defeat and, although going down 1-4 at Arbroath Vics last weekend, by all accounts, the scoreline flattered the home side. Another defeat in mid-week, losing to St James in the East of Scotland Cup, has manager Connor Yeats with his work cut out to rebuild the side's confidence for today.

Jamie Hume was unavailable last week but was back in Wednesday's squad. Sam Simpson took a knock v Blair but he should be fit for today

Match Report: East of Scotland Cup round 1 - 14 August 2024: **Tayport 2 v 0 Blairgowrie**

On Wednesday evening, the 2nd half played under lights following a late kick-off, Tayport eliminated Blairgowrie from the East of Scotland Cup. **Scott McComiskie** put Blair on the back foot in the first minute with a fine strike from the edge of the box and **Ethan Samson** settled the nerves with a cracking second goal in 52 minutes after good work by Callum Petrie. It could have been three on 70 minutes but McComiskie's penalty, after Samson had been tripped, was saved by the Blair keeper. The Berrypickers had their share of scoring opportunities throughout the tie and contributed to an entertaining evening's football.

Round 2 is this Wednesday 21 August when it's Tayport v St James 6.45pm

The East of Scotland Cup is being contested this season solely by the 20 Midlands Junior League clubs. We assume this is *the* East of Scotland Junior Cup which was played every season from 1885/86 until 2018/19, when it was won by Broughty Athletic, one of only two clubs from north of the River Tay to get their name on the old trophy. It's one of the oldest football competitions in world football but hasn't been contested since 2019/2020 when it was unfinished because of the pandemic. With a dozen or so East of Scotland League clubs having gained entry to the Scottish Junior Cup this season, one wonders why East of Scotland League clubs haven't entered this tournament.

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

Apart from the obvious differences between the 'big' Tayport team and ourselves, one other difference is that TFCWF doesn't have a "holiday period ". We play and train 52 weeks of the year, depending on what day Christmas falls, and weather dependency! This year we haven't missed a Friday session, mainly because we have used the indoor facilities at the Regional Performance Centre (RPC) within Caird Park, Dundee, when the Canniepairt wasn't available or the weather was wet!

Although the RPC has fantastic facilities, up to professional standards with a 4G indoor and outdoor pitch, it doesn't come cheap and so our club funds have been drained over the last eight months, but now the weather is improving and the pitch at Tayport is in fantastic shape, we have been back training on grass for the last few weeks. Our club funds have been further reduced by us having 2 teams in the Walking Football Scotland (WFS) over 50s league.

Up to this season we were the only club to enter 2 teams. Considering we only started in 2019 and other clubs in our North East divisions include Dundee, Dundee United SC, Raith Rovers, Hearts and Arbroath plus others, that is quite an achievement, but this comes at a cost! The total entrance fee for the WFS season for both teams is £520, the equivalent of £10 per week, and as we are totally self-funding (our only income is from player subs.), this makes an even bigger hole in the TFCWF bank account!

Fortunately, we get, on average, enough players coming on a Friday and paying their £5 sub. to cover the costs, and I have also introduced a monthly raffle which brings in a few more pennies to our account. The aforementioned clubs get an annual grant, and teams like Raith Rovers use Starks Park three times a week for free, attracting large numbers of players over those sessions. So our achievements as a club seem even more commendable compared to the other teams.

Last Sunday we played the 3rd group of league games at the RPC but we have struggled this year as we haven't had enough players available on league days. We've had players either out with injuries, in Germany for the Euros or on holiday, but last week we had virtually our best Premiership team out and it showed just what we have been missing.

Our first game was against the previously unbeaten Raith Rovers, but despite conceding an early goal, we went on to win 3-1. Next up was top of the table Hearts, whom we also beat 3-1. Against Luncarty FC we had all the chances, but just couldn't score and conceded a late penalty to lose 0-1. Our final game against Arbroath finished 2-2, so we managed 7 points, our best results so far.

Our Championship side is having a mediocre season, sitting in 6th place, but last Sunday they were short on squad numbers. Despite only having 3 games, we could only manage a 0-0 draw against Dundee Utd SC, a 1-4 defeat by unbeaten Forfar and finally a 1-4 defeat by Fairfield. We only had a squad of 7 to start with then had 2 players pick up injuries, finishing with only 5 fit players. We definitely need to increase our squad sizes, but that can only be done if we have the players available. Not all our club members want to play competitively and obviously we can only create squads from those available.

MIDLANDS LEAGUE	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Tayport	3	3	0	0	11	3	8	9
Arbroath Victoria	3	2	0	1	8	6	2	6
Broughty Athletic	3	3	0	0	10	1	9	9
Lochee United	3	3	0	0	11	2	9	9
Kirriemuir Thistle	3	3	0	0	7	1	6	9
East Craigie	3	2	0	1	4	3	1	6
Letham	3	3	0	0	6	3	2	9
Dundee North End	3	2	0	1	19	1	18	6
Downfield	3	1	0	2	5	6	-1	3
Blairgowrie	3	1	1	1	5	6	-1	3
Brechin Victoria	3	1	0	2	2	4	-2	3
Carnoustie Panmure	3	1	1	1	3	6	-3	4
Dundee Violet	3	1	1	1	5	5	0	4
St. James	3	0	2	1	3	4	-1	2
Montrose Roselea	3	1	0	2	5	6	1	3
Coupar Angus	3	1	0	2	5	5	0	3
Lochee Harp	3	0	0	3	1	13	-12	0
Scone Thistle	3	0	0	3	2	12	-10	0
Forfar West End	3	0	0	3	2	11	-9	0
Forfar United	3	0	0	3	1	17	-16	0

20 clubs in the Midlands League again this season but there has been a major change in how the League will operate. Each club will play each other once and thereafter the clubs will split into two Divisions. The top ten clubs, starting with their points already accumulated, will play each other once to determine the league championship and the bottom ten will similarly play each other once, with a trophy provided for winners.

Depending on other factors, eg number of postponements, local cup competitions could be introduced to take up any potential slack.

yet nothing has materialised. We are looking at all options, from senior players dropping into the junior leagues to up and coming talent from boys football who are looking to step up into the junior game. We have also enquired with senior teams regarding loan deals so we have all angles covered.

Thanks, George. We're sure the Port Support appreciate you giving them an insight into your thoughts and plans

Q & A With Manager George Shields

The team has made a good start to the League season, and you must be pleased with this. The Port support certainly seems to be happy with what they've seen, anyway. The team looks better organised and certainly more committed. What do you put this down to?

We are very pleased the way pre-season went and this has set us up for a good start to our league campaign. We have tried to install the correct attitude, commitment and a winning mentality into the playing squad. Firstly, training with a purpose to strive and do the correct things that ultimately we'll take into games and perform to the standards that we have set the players.

You've now got a very experienced management team with you. Gary Sutherland of course has been here relatively recently and it's good to see another old boy, Grant Clark looking after the 'keepers. Getting former Dundee boss Barry Smith on board as your assistant has raised a few eyebrows. How did you manage that?

Gary Sutherland has been added to the coaching staff so he can work with the strikers, Gary has played for me at several clubs and his experience will be invaluable to our strikers. Grant Clark needs no introduction to the Tayport faithful as I am sure he has been here on numerous occasions with a few different managers. Grant whom I have known for more years than I would like to mention has again worked with me in the past and is one of the top goalkeeping coaches around. When I heard that he was retiring from Brechin City FC, I thought I could maybe persuade him to come to Tayport with me. As he said, it took all of 27 minutes to persuade him, for which I am sure my 2 goalkeepers will be grateful, as they will only benefit from his knowledge and experience.

Barry Smith has been a good friend of mine for a long time and when I asked him if he would be interested in coming into help me coach at Tayport he didn't hesitate, saying if you need me to help you coach, that is not a problem. Barry is one of the most honest people I know and he will give myself and Tayport Football Club 120% and nothing less. His record speaks for itself, as a player with Celtic and Dundee, where he was a fans favourite. He became skipper of the club, youth team coach, first team coach and then went on to become the first team manager and we all know what he achieved with Dundee FC in the 2010-2011 season. Barry already has players believing in their own ability and this has been evident throughout pre-season, leading into the start of the season. His experience is invaluable to myself and all the coaching staff.

You've trimmed the squad. Are you still on the lookout for new faces to strengthen any perceived weaknesses? Can you give us an insight into where you might be looking.

We have a squad of 17 player and I will be looking to strengthen with possibly another 2 or 3 in the coming months. We have already tried to add more quality to the squad but as



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On the plus side is we now have 3 excellent goalkeepers from which to choose, a luxury we haven't had in the past, and this showed last Sunday when both keepers made numerous fine saves to keep us in each game.

We have until October before the final set of league matches are played, so we have time to get players fit and hopefully make sure they are available on the day, and we can go to the RPC with 2 full squads and finish the season in a positive manner.

If you know of anyone who may be interested in coming along and trying Walking Football, please get them to contact me by phone on **07831-535555**, or by email: tfwalkingfootball@gmail.com.

We train/play every Friday morning from 10:30 until 12:00, followed by refreshments and a chat in our club room. Showers and changing rooms available. We will normally be at Tayport FC, but if weather forecast isn't good, we will be at the RPC.

Contact me on a Thursday for definite details.

Paul

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PORT TRIVIA PROG

- Two former Tayport players, Mark Whatley (2009-2012) and Matty Allan (on loan from Dundee FC 2013/14) both lined up for Forfar Athletic in the Loons first game of this season.
- Iain Jenkins, recently appointed as manager at Dundee Violet, was Tayport's shortest serving manager, in charge for only six weeks in 2008, parting company with an 11% win success.
- Tayport's policy of, when at all possible ensuring we have official linesmen was never better illustrated than in the recent 3-2 win over Montrose Roselea. Scott McComiskie's penalty was saved and the game continued until an alert linesman's raised flag was spotted. The Montrose keeper had a foot in front of his line. The ref ordered a retake and Scott made no mistake second time round.
- During the 1992 Olympic games in Spain, Tayport FC travelled south to Essex in August to play a pre-season friendly v Wivenhoe Town of the Diadora League. In Tayport's squad was Kevin Lynch, sister of Liz McColgan who was running the 10,000m in Barcelona that day, so the team took a pit stop on the way south to cheer on Liz. A 10,000m silver medallist in Seoul in 1988, Liz finished 5th in '92.



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Sunday 25th August
Sunday 8th September
Sunday 22nd September at
The Canniepairt

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FORFAR ALBION'S GREATEST RESULT (one of them, anyway!)

32 years ago
1992 Forfar
United] arrived
for what was
routine league

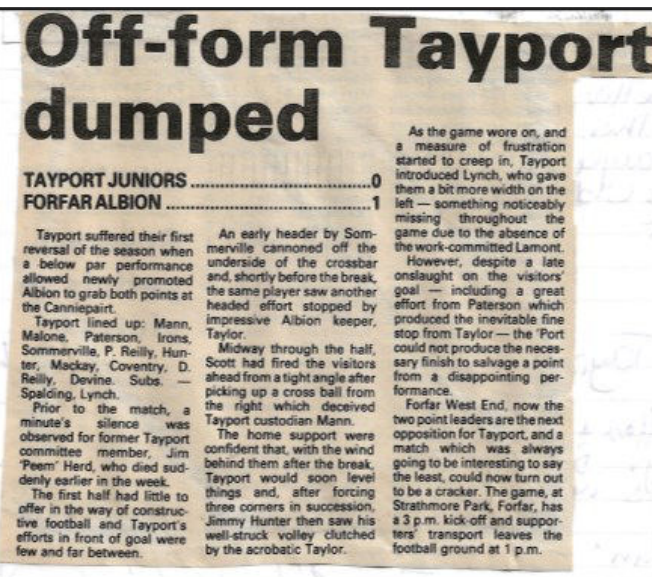


on 12 September
Albion [now Forfar
at The Canniepairt
expected to be a
win for the home

side. After all, Tayport were defending league champions and were looking to increase their flawless start to the season with a 7th successive win to remain at the top of the table. It wasn't to be, Albion pulled off a memorable 1-0 win. Memorable, in that it would be Tayport's only defeat in their first 46 games of a 60 game season.

Tayport shrugged off that Albion defeat, never losing another league game, and going on to retain their title and most famous of all, would defeat Auchinleck Talbot 3-0 in the semi final of the Scottish Junior Cup, a result which at the time stunned Scottish Junior football.

On the Albion defeat, Tayport FC's archive noted
"Huffed and puffed, but it just wasn't Tayport's day. Biggest attraction was the appearance at the match of Liz McColgan who had just returned from the Olympics in Spain"



Who Has Come, Who Has Moved On?

When a manager takes over the reins towards the end of a season, as George Shields did, it gave him the opportunity to have a good look at the squad he inherited. There was an inevitable shake up and just as a tree surgeon would do when pruning a tree to provide room for new growth, George parted company with several players brought in by his predecessor. Mackenzie Williamson moved to Newburgh who play in the Pyramid's 9th tier, the East of Scotland League's Division 3. The attraction of an offer from North End proved too great for an out of contract Jayden Ferguson. Also leaving to pastures new were Mark Van Der Kuyl, Innes Barbour, Nicholas Fletcher, Ewan White and Max Reid.

Additions to the pool are Sam Simpson (No7) from Carnoustie Panmure, keeper Fraser Burnett from Broughty Athletic (No.22), James Thomson (No.5) and local youngster Kyle McMulkin (No.18) who returned to the Canniepairt after a brief spell at Harp.

Note: The players will have squad numbers this season.

<p><u>East of Scotland Cup 1st round</u></p> <p>Brechin Vics 0-1 Kirrie Thistle</p> <p>East Craigie 5-0 Montrose Roselea</p> <p>Forfar United 0-4 St James</p> <p>Tayport 2-0 Blairgowrie</p>
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SEASON 2024 – 2025 ■ League ■ Scottish Cup ■ Junior Cup ■ Quest

LAST SEASON IN A NUTSHELL

Games

38 League - W 16 D 8 L 14 F72 A61 position 9/20
6 Cup ties - W 3 L 3 F6 A13
7 Postponements - 3 flooding, 2 frost, 1 snow.

Players

Appearances (incl. as substitute)
Most 40 - Darryl Burns. Outfield 38 - Mackenzie Williamson
Top scorer - Ethan Samson 11

Cards issued

88 yellows - Mackenzie Williamson 12
9 reds - Jamie Hume 2

Attendances

Home average 120
biggest 330 v Buckie Thistle. Lowest 54 v Lochee Harp
Away average 103
biggest 270 v Hill of Beath. Lowest 43 v Montrose Roselea

<u>East of Scotland Cup round of last 16</u>	
Broughty v North End	Carnoustie v East Craigie
Forfar WE v Lochee Utd	Letham v Coupar Angus
Lochee Harp v Arbroath Vics	Kirrie v Downfield
Scone v Violet	Tayport v St James
Ties due Wednesday 21st August	

■ East of Scotland Cup
 ■ Yellow Card
 ■ Red Card
 * Own Goal