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TAYPORT FC

2025-26 Match Day Programme Vol.35 No.6

Programme Sponsored by the TAYPORT ARMS



MIDLANDS LEAGUE 13th DECEMBER 2025



TAYPORT v LETHAM

£2

TAYPORT FOOTBALL CLUB SEASON 2025-2026

Club founded 1947 as Amateurs and 1990 as Juniors

Licensed members of the Scottish Football Association

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
Media : Iain Brough

Team Management

Manager: George Shields
Coaches: Barry Smith
Ross Lunan
Andy Ballantine
Goalkeeping coach: Grant Clark
Physio: Emma Gillespie

PORT LOTTO

This week's (10th Nov.) numbers were

1, 10, 18, 21.

There was no jackpot winner

There was one £50 second prize winner
with 3 numbers **1, 10, 17, 21**
Janet Irwin

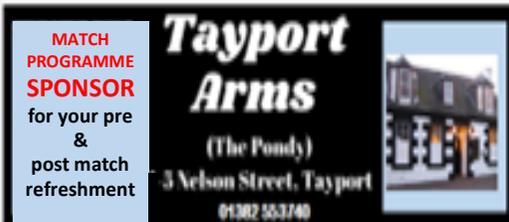
Google 'PORT LOTTO'
Will there be a big winner next week?



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DON'T REFEREES WATCH FOOTBALL ON TV?

There's no shortage of football on the television these days, some would say far too much. What we too often see are fouls, perfectly engineered to con referees. For example, where a player effectively trips himself up to win a penalty.

And of course we see these things replicated at our level. Players going down as if they've been hit by a bus, squealing, rolling over about six times, trainer on, then getting up with no apparent ill effects.

You don't have to go far to see which players or their coaches have been carefully studying TV footage. Plenty examples in a recent game here, but maybe our refs don't watch football on TV.

Next Week

Saturday 20th December

2.30pm

Midlands League

Home v KIRRIE THISTLE

Opinions expressed in this programme are not necessarily those

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THE CHAIRMAN...

Can I begin by welcoming the players and officials of our visitors Letham FC to the Canniepairt.



For me, last week's postponed game at Carnoustie wasn't a huge disappointment. We've been starting most of our previous encounters with one arm tied behind our back with a series of injuries, suspensions and call offs for various reasons so it must be so frustrating for our manager. There is no doubt these missing players contributed to the three reversals at Downfield, Benburb and our home game v Broughty Athletic where we managed to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory. So hopefully having a little break will give us the impetus to rekindle a response.

There is a possibility that Tayport maybe one of the clubs who will be offered an invitation into the inaugural tier 5 East Lowland League, I'm informed that there will be meetings over the coming few months to finalise the new structure.



From Tayport FC's perspective we are excited by the challenge. I was the club's manager when the East Super League was formed and it was a tremendous challenge back then, competing against the best sides in the East of Scotland. Our players were right up for the challenge, and emerged the first title winners.



A great achievement, and when I speak with our players from those days, they recall our 2-1 victory at Bonnyrigg Rose [scorers John Ward (right) and Scott Peters (left)] on the final game of that season to clinch the title. A wonderful memory! Indeed, we were champions twice and runners-up twice in the first four seasons of the Super League.

This time round, if we are invited, what an opportunity it is for everyone at Tayport. We are ambitious and want to improve every aspect of the club both on and off the field. I'll keep you all updated.

This afternoon we have Letham as our visitors. The Perth club haven't had the best of seasons to date but in most games they have pushed sides all the way. Today we have an opportunity to get back to winning games but make no mistake, we'll have to earn it.

Enjoy the Game

Davie Baikie



Tayport
from

TODAY'S TEAMS

LETHAM
from



1 gk	Gary THAIN
22 gk	Jordi DUNCAN
2	Owen LUNAN
3	Nairn LOWE
4	Kieren CRIGHTON
5	Greg McCOLM
6	Jamie HUME
7	Sam SIMPSON
8	Ethan SAMSON
9	Aaron SHEPHERD
10	Jay YULE
11	Jamie GILL
12	Jamie CROWE
14	James SIMPSON
15	Stefan ELVIN
16	Ben SIVEWRIGHT
17	Andy BALLANTINE
18	Ryan SMITH
19	Dale REID
21	Jamie TIMMONS

MIDLANDS
LEAGUE

18/36

Saturday
13th December

2025

Kick-off
2.30pm

Referee:
Craig
STEVENS

Assistant 1:
Finlay
CAMPBELL

Assistant 2:
Ross
ALEXANDER

Port Prog

Vol. 35

No. 6

gk	Aiden BRIGHT
	Liam RUTHVEN
	Paul McCONNACHIE
	Adam STORRAR
	Tyler GODSEN
	Greig RAMSAY
	Declan MURRAY
	Mark SHAW
	Nathan FORD
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HEADLINES FROM HISTORY

AUGUST 1999 AND MAY 1989

THE Sun

Skint Joeys tell beaks they're off

By SCOTT CAMPBELL

FALLEN giants Dundee St Josephs have quit the junior ranks after being crippled by a cash crisis.

Joeys won every trophy except the OVD Cup, just two seasons ago but have struggled since major backers the Marr brothers quit for Dundee.

The club - whose place will be taken by Lun-carty - were relegated from the First Division this term and lost boss George Shields to Brechin.

Club chief Davie Young said: "It's sad to have to do this but hopefully taking a year out can mean we can clear the decks and be back stronger next year.

"We will keep everything in place with our youth teams and our facilities and we have too much tradition in this city to just let it all fade away for good."

The Sun explains the reason why St Josephs FC are no longer with us. Our last meeting was a 14-0 league victory at Fairfield Park in November 1998. The Joeys didn't return.

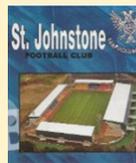


The young, meat-fed Keith Nicolson

Nicolson, Keith: a tall, commanding centre half who came from junior football in Dundee to play for Saints in 1988. His career with Saints was brief, just 10 games, but one of these was the infamous Aggie v Souness match at McDiarmid on the 26th of February 1991. That night, he made a significant impression on the St Johnstone fans and on Mark Hateley, who was not impressed by the youngster's raw and spirited approach to his task. In case you don't remember, that match finished in a 1 - 1 draw. Nicolson was part-time and didn't want to turn full-time, instead preferring to move to Brechin City.

This headline is not from a newspaper but from a St Johnstone FC programme article.

After leaving Brechin City, central defender Keith had a very successful Tayport-career at The Canniepairt, 1995-2000, making 222 appearances, scoring 17 goals and collecting umpteen honours



TODAY'S GAME

TAYPORT v LETHAM

MIDLANDS LEAGUE - MATCH 19/36



A glance at the League Table tells us that our visitors today are having a desperate season. They are exactly halfway through their league campaign but have gathered only a single point from their 18 games. But anyone thinking that today's match should be a comfortable home win, should probably think again. This will be our eleventh match against the Seven Acres club since they joined the Midlands League and, although we're unbeaten during this time, six games have been decided by the odd goal. In our two most recent encounters, we salvaged a point in a 2-2 draw in the final game of last season in Perth, while earlier this season at Canniepairt we won 2-0, one of Letham's more respectable scorelines this season.

Two league games ago, after four league wins on the bounce, Tayport had second top spot in the League in their sights. Sadly, however, it wasn't to be and we lost both, a humbling 1-5 defeat at Downfield and 3-4 at home to Broughty after holding the lead for most of the 90 minutes.

With a postponement last week and a win for Lochee United, Tayport have slumped to the foot of the top half of the League. There's half the season to go though, and, starting today, a few wins under our belt in coming weeks could see the challenge for a more lofty spot reignited.

Of course, Tayport's form of late hasn't been helped by a squad, so often depleted through injury and other reasons. Today we'll be without the suspended Owen Lunnan and Dale Reid.

On the positive side Jamie Hume is available again and we'll maybe see Ethan Samson and Aaron Shepherd getting some match action after long lay-offs

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

You would think that, as Christmas and the New Year approaches, our Walking Football players would be looking forward to having a rest, as our normal Friday training days are falling on 2 public holidays this year.

Not so..... we are hoping to switch training to Tuesdays December 23rd and 30th, still at the Regional Performance Centre in Caird Park, Dundee. It shows the enthusiasm they have for the game and seeing each other on a regular basis.

Although we enter 2 teams in the Walking Football Scotland Over 50s League, we aren't one of those clubs that enter every tournament going. Our strength is our weekly training session and the social refreshments and get-together we have afterwards. The Regional Performance Centre kindly provide an area in the main building where they arrange coffee, tea and soft drinks. We supply the Jaffa Cakes! Each attendee puts £2 or £3 in an honesty jar that we give to the RPC staff. We are happy at the RPC, and they enjoy us being there.

2026 will again, as mentioned earlier, see us enter 2 teams in the league. The first set of games will be on Sunday February 1st. No fixtures yet, so we don't know what teams we will be up against, but hopefully both our squads will be strong, and give a good account of themselves. One change in the format is that the Championship Division and Conference Division will start playing at different times. This will mean each Division will use 4 pitches instead of previously using 2, thus speeding up the games and cutting down on teams standing around waiting to play.

The dates of the league fixtures have thankfully taken into account the FIFA World Cup, So, after our games in April, we have a break until August. Despite the cost, we have a number of our guys going to support Scotland so hopefully they'll find their way home by then !

It began in Chesterfield in 2011 as a gentle way to coax older men back into exercise, says The Guardian. Now walking football has become one of the fastest-growing sports in the UK,

More than 100,000 people in the UK play the six-a-side sport. Players have to keep one foot on the ground and contact is not allowed. But when played well, it can be surprisingly fast, says England over-70s captain Tony Jones. Players with arthritis and other chronic conditions love it – the biggest draw, says Jones, being friendship. "It's the camaraderie, the dressing room banter."

A RECENT ARTICLE FROM **THE WEEK** MAGAZINE DEMONSTRATES JUST HOW POPULAR WALKING FOOTBALL HAS BECOME



TAYPORT FC's DIAMOND CLUB...the weekly draw for £60.



To join, contact club secretary John Morris
johnmorris37@btinternet.com

THIS WEEK'S WINNER was **No 37: John Morris**

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6	Ethan SAMSON	2	Sam SIMPSON
5	Kieren CRIGHTON	1	Ben SIVEWRIGHT
4	Jamie GILL	1	Jamie CROWE
4	James SIMPSON	1	Dale REID
3	Owen LUNAN	1	Nairn LOWE
2	Stefan ELVIN	1	Trialist

EMMA GILLESPIE



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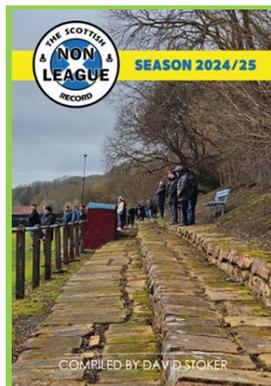
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MIDLANDS LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
North End	15	14	0	1	54	9	45	42
Downfield	19	13	2	4	54	27	27	41
Lochee United	18	13	1	4	67	23	44	40
Broughty Athletic	17	10	4	3	46	27	19	34
Tayport	17	10	2	5	47	28	19	32
Kirrie Thistle	19	7	2	10	31	45	-14	23
East Craigue	19	5	5	9	36	50	-14	20
Carnoustie	18	5	1	12	29	46	-17	16
Lochee Harp	20	4	0	16	18	60	-42	12
Letham	18	0	1	17	15	83	-68	1



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www.scottishfootballfixtures.com

The Tayport Football Archive

tayportfcarchive.com

The Archive kicks off in 1878 and follows the history of football in the town and has so far reached 1976. All Scottish Junior Cup results from 1899 and Scottish Amateur Cup results from 1947, nearly 500 programmes, videos and more.

THE MANAGER....



We at Tayport Football Club would like to welcome everyone to The Canniepairt today for our game versus Letham Lads Club

Everyone at Tayport Football Club would like to wish the management, coaching staff, committee and supporters of Letham Lads Club all the very best for the rest of season and a safe journey home to Perth after today's game.

On the playing side we have Greg McColm, Fraser Burnett and Ryan Smith still out injured, Dale Reid and Owen Lunan still suspended. On the plus side Jamie Hume, Ethan Samson, Nairn Lowe and Sam Simpson are back in the squad for the game today.

After our last result against Broughty Athletic FC which was a hard one to take, losing the game so late on and the sending off of Dale Reid. Our game versus Carnoustie Panmure FC was called off last week at very late notice but we have had a positive response in training over the last 2 weeks.

We have had a good start to our season with some excellent performances and are looking for consistency if we are to maintain our challenge, The game today is a must win if we are to keep the pressure on the teams above us.

We hope that after today's game and our final game of 2025 at The Canniepairt v Kirriemuir Thistle JFC next week, we will have put ourselves in a position to maintain our league challenge.

Ross, Barry, Andy, Grant, Emma and myself would like to thank everyone for their continued support and hope you can all enjoy today's game and we repay you all with 3 valuable points.

George



PIC FROM THE PAST...35 YEARS AGO...OCTOBER 1990



Here we have Tayport FC's Fife XI lined up before beating St Andrews University in an East Fife Amateurs League game in October 1990. Back (l-r) Alan Braid (committee), Alan Gray, Andy McDougall, Davie Blair, Miller Lang, Gary Kirk, Bert Valentine, Alan Hart. Front - Andy McRobbie, Doug Henderson, Colin Gray, Fergus Mann, Allan Harte & Eddie Ramsay. 9 days later they would lift the EFAFA's Skol League Cup with a 1-0 win over Savoy Hearts at East Fife FC's [original] Bayview Park. Only change was Richard Rennie for Doug Henderson.



PLAYER PROFILE

AARON SHEPHERD

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Tayport FC Debut - 2nd August 2025

Appearances to date 7 **Goals** 2 (been out injured since August!)

D o B 6.04.2007

Preferred position Forward

Previous clubs Luncarty FC, Falkirk FC, St Johnstone FC

Honours won CAS [Club Academy Scotland] Cup with St Johnstone

Biggest football influences my dad

Where did you live as a youngster Perth

Live now Perth

Schools/College Perth Grammar School

Any jobs whilst at school Sports Direct

Occupation Apprentice sparky

Girlfriend/Wife/Partner/Children I hope not!

Biggest match played in St Johnstone v Greenock Morton CAS Cup Final at Ochilview Finished 3v3 but we won 5-4 on penalties

Best ground/stadium in which you've played Falkirk Stadium

Last Holiday spot Majorca

If you were to win a National Lottery or Euromillions jackpot, what's the craziest thing you might do Buy an injury free body!!

THIS AFTERNOON COMPLETES THE FIRST HALF OF THE SEASON

We're halfway through the season, five months in and five months to go.

We've seen cup action on three fronts and have enjoyed trips to the Borders, Aberdeenshire, Dumfries and Glasgow but our interest remains in only one, the Inter Regional John Reilly Memorial Trophy and a home tie v Stonehaven FC early next year.

We've got the second half of the League campaign to look forward to and this provides a keen challenge if we want to improve on the first half.

We've played eight games against clubs currently sitting above us in the table:

P8 W1 D2 L5 Pts 5 - from a possible 24 Pts

We've played nine games against clubs sitting below us in the table:

P9 W9 D0 L0 Pts 27 - from a possible 27 Pts

Today's other Midlands League Fixtures

Broughty Athletic v Lochee United (2.30)

Downfield v Carnoustie Panmure (1.30)

North End v East Craigie (2.30)

Lochee Harp v Kirrie Thistle (2.00)



The King and Queen couldn't manage Dumfries but it was good to see them popping into Govan to Support the Port at Benburh

John Reilly Memorial Trophy

(North of Scotland Football League clubs & Midlands League clubs)

At the last 16 stage 8 Midlands clubs and 8 NoSFL clubs are drawn against each other

Brechin Vics v Hall Russell Utd

Colony Park or Buchanhaven Hts v

Broughty Athletic

Dundee Violet v Culter

Dyce v Downfield

Hermes v Lochee Harp

Maud v Forfar West End

North End v Rothie Rovers or Newmachar

Tayport v Stonehaven

MATCH REPORT

SATURDAY 29th NOVEMBER 2025

MIDLANDS LEAGUE 17/36

TAYPORT 3 V 4 BROUGHTY ATHLETIC

Billed as a six pointer, Tayport looked to have opened up a gap of seven points over Broughty when they led 3-2 with literally seconds of normal time to go. As we've all seen, things in football can change dramatically and such was the case here. Tayport failed to close out the game and surrendered two late goals which sees Broughty, after their 5-4 win over Downfield last Saturday, move two points ahead of us.

Tayport got off to a great start when Dale Reid and Jay Yule combined for the latter to net the opening goal in ten minutes. The lead lasted a couple of minutes before Broughty equalised but Tayport's striking partnership repeated their act to regain the lead five minutes later. Things were looking rosy for 'Port when Jamie Simpson's shot through a crowded goalmouth made it 3-1. It was end to end stuff with Tayport missing a chance to move further head but instead it was the visitors who were next on the scoresheet, a cheaply conceded goal on the half hour mark following a failure to deal with a corner kick.

Tayport twice had chances as they exerted early second half pressure but found keeper Diamond in good form. Yellow cards were flying right, left and centre as the referee's interpretation of what constituted an offence baffled players and supporters alike.

We, looked to have the points in the bag until that dramatic ending to the game. A miscue in midfield caught Tayport outnumbered at the back, leading to the equaliser. Then Dale saw red for a tackle, although despite the referee's predilection for cards, a red seemed a bit harsh. Deep into added time the Broughty comeback was complete with a winning goal leaving the home support shaking their heads.

Last Saturday's scheduled league fixture at Carnoustie was postponed after heavy overnight rain made the pitch unplayable. Only two Premier League matches went ahead.

Downfield lost their chance to get back to the top after being on the wrong end of the nine goal thriller at Whitton Park while United's 2-0 win in the Lochee derby took them to third in the table and within 2 points of the top of the league.

