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Every aspect of the Norries is captured on our website, hosted by Refresh Design — [www.nmbf.org.uk](http://www.nmbf.org.uk)

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- The history of the Fund and Development Squads
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If you have any ideas for items to include on the website or the newsletter, please contact Iain Brown on 01383 721987.

# Norrie McCathie Benevolent Fund Newsletter

## 91s sign off with Central Cup triumph

The 1991s finished their last season as a Norries squad with another taste of glory. They won the Central Regional Cup, in a tense penalty shoot-out with East Kilbride's Mill United at Ochilview Stadium.

A hotly-contested final saw the young Norries take the lead early in the second half, with a



The cup winners

beautiful strike from man-of-the-match Danny Murphy. It seemed likely then, that they would push on and win the match in regulation time.

But United were made of stern stuff and they weathered the Norries' storm and came back to equalise with twenty minutes left. It was then the Norries turn to hold on and work their way back into the game.

And in the final ten, the Norries began to regain control. With just three minutes left, the chance to win the cup came and went, as Ca-

lum Robertson won a penalty, only for the spot kick to be saved by the United 'keeper.

The Norries had the edge in extra time, and Ross Graham was denied when his drive from twenty yards came back off the bar.

The penalty contest proved both sides up to the test, with the first six kicks on each side



Danny Murphy

finding the net. When the seventh United penalty flew high over the bar, Callum Barrow stepped up to win the cup for the Norries.



Coaches Graham Birse and Alan Jeffrey were justifiably proud of their young team who improved through the season and were well worth this reward. They have set a high standard which the younger Norries squads will do well to emulate.

## Norries Soccer School

The new term for the Norries Soccer School starts on Saturday 1 November at Dalgety Bay astro from 11—12.

Please spread the word to all friends and family with boys and girls of birth year 2000 and younger, and help us identify and develop the next generation of Norries' stars! For more information, call Archie on 07724596611.

## Dutch Delight

A week of football and fun on the Dutch coast got off to a damp start as the 97s squad faced the challenge of the 2008 Haarlem Cup.

Wild and wet conditions greeted the party pre-tournament, as they set off to visit the Amsterdam Arena.

Match day one was graced by blue skies, and three wins against some very strong opposition left the boys feeling elated by their efforts, and confident for Day two.

A fourth excellent victory secured their position in the A group for the second phase, before the final group match brought the first taste of defeat. Day three saw two enthralling encounters, packed with end-to-end play and goalmouth incidents, which



Haarlem 2008

ended with one draw and a defeat. But the sides were evenly matched and a final spot was still a possibility.

Day 4 produced the best entertainment of the week, with the players experiencing an emotional rollercoaster, culminating in a Scotland-England tie with the opposition requiring victory to reach the final.

Three single goal defeats belied the quality of the performances from

'the Norries', who once again enhanced our reputation, on and off the field.

The players showed quality as individuals and a fantastic team spirit. They were a credit to themselves and their parents, giving their all on the pitch, physically, and mentally. Despite this, they managed to continue the action off the field, around the Hotel and in their many trips to the Beach Factory and Centre Parcs.



# Fund raising for the new season

Monday 29th September saw a Norries parents night in the Kingdom Suite at East End Park. A disappointing turn-out of around 20 parents participated in a very positive discussion of the ethos of the Fund, the budget for the new season and the need for a renewed vigour in fund raising.

The full year running costs of the Fund were outlined, with a total cost of over £28,000 for the full season, supporting five development squads and the summer trip to the Haarlem Cup. Player subscriptions left a shortfall of over £5,500, which forms the target for this season's supplementary fund-raising.

The success of the fund raising committee in the season past was highlighted, with almost £5,000 raised from eight events over the year. Rob Pennel, who led the fund raising push last year, has moved on and volunteers were sought from each squad to kick-off our efforts this season.

If you are able and willing to help in any way, please call Graeme Robertson on 07843314847.

## Bagging the pounds

Another successful Norries fund raising event took place on Sunday 2nd May with bag packing at ASDA Halbeath.

### Coaches comments

#### Archie Ford (1995s)

The progress the kids have made over the summer of their first season has been tremendous. Every game is highly competitive with many positives throughout the squad. There is a real hunger in their playing for each other, which will develop and be a real asset in the years to come.

#### Steve Fell (1998s)

This season has been one of steady development for the squad. Individual skill levels are increasing as is tactical awareness and teamwork. Growing confidence has brought some very encouraging performances. All the hard work and application in training will help accelerate squad development.

#### Archie Ford (1997s)

Early summer saw a change in the player's approach to the game, with a willingness to compete physically much in evidence. This was shown during the Haarlem cup and has continued into the new season. It bodes well for the future as we transition to 11-a-side

#### Iain Philp (1996s)

The squad has come together well and have put in some excellent performances in their early league games. 11-a-side demands a higher level of fitness and hard running as well as technical skills, and we have been working on all these aspects since before the start of the season.

#### Alan Jeffrey (1994s)

It has been a strong start to the season with several excellent wins and progress to the 3rd round of the 'Scottish'. We are still working on team shape and trying to encourage the lads to play the flowing football they are capable of. Hard work in training will pay off with results on the weekends.



The 94s squad

## 94s are up for the Cup

The 1994s squad have made a good start to their league and cup seasons for 2008/09. The Scottish Cup run started with a tie against last year's league winners, Leven. In a competitive match, goals by Jack Matson and Michael Fleming secured a 2-1 win.

This was followed by a more comfortable win in the second round. Four goals by Darren Campbell were the highlights of a 10-3 win over Elgin Star Tangerines.

The league season started brightly with three straight wins, before the unbeaten record was broken by a 1-0 loss to Tullibody.

New coaches Alan Jeffrey and Darren Yeates are working hard on technique and team shape. With a number of very strong teams in the first division of the Fife league and the 94s can look forward to an exciting season.

Organised by Rob Pennel, several of the development squads and many parents gave freely of their time and packed steadily on seven or eight aisles from 11 am to 4 pm.

All of the players and parents did the Norries proud and raised a fantastic £520 for the Fund. Well done to everyone who came along, and especially to Rob and the other parents who put so much work into the event.

And a big thank you to ASDA for giving us the opportunity.

## Fun for all at Norries Aberdour festival

The Norries 96s-99s squads took part in our annual football festival at Aberdour in late June. Invited teams from Fife and beyond played a series of friendly matches with our development squads.

As well as competitive action, there were cake and bottle stalls and the ever-popular shoot board. Many thanks to everyone who helped organise the event which raised around £350 for the Fund.



## Moving on up!

The 1996s squad moved up to 11-a-side in August, after four seasons playing in the Fife Sevens. The Norries are playing in the X league with 11 of the strongest teams from West and East Fife.



It is a steep learning curve, as they get to grips with the offside law and positional play for the first time. Coaches Graeme Robertson and Ian Philp are enjoying the challenge.

*'The boys are well prepared and need to show the*



*determination and hard work that is needed in 11s, to give themselves the space to play their passing game.'*



The development league started in mid-August and the 1996s have been playing

their home games on Saturday mornings at Queen Anne High School, and travelling the length and breadth of Fife for their away matches. So far they have competed well in all their games with a fair share of victories along the way.

## Dining out for the Fund

The eighth annual Norrie McCathie Benevolent Fund sportsman's dinner was held on Saturday 16th August in the Glen Pavilion.

The fantastic night's entertainment was organised by Graeme Robertson and capped by a successful auction of sporting memorabilia, raising over £3,500.

The crowd of over 100 individual and corporate supporters of the Fund were treated to a night of lurid sporting tales, chaired by former referee Brian McGinlay, and starring Joe Cammy and former-Hearts legend John Robertson.

Many thanks to all who supported the night so generously.

