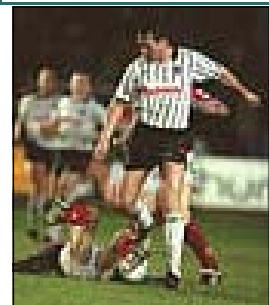




Number 7 May 2005

**Inside this issue:**

- Burntisland and back** 1  
- The kids take the lead in the fund-raising effort
- Gordy signs for the Pars** 1  
— Another Norries' graduate joins the Pars youth set-up
- Haarlem on our minds** 2  
- The -11s prepare for the challenges of the 2005 Haarlem Cup
- Under-14s news** 2  
— A good season so far with players called up to the Fife select squad
- 2005 Sportsman's Dinner** 2  
— Saturday 6th August for the big event of the Summer



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

- Norrie McCathie and his place in Dunfermline football history
- The history of the Fund and Development Squads
- Fixture lists for the coming month
- Coaches and players in the squads
- Events and latest news

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

## Burntisland and back - a real family occasion

In a major Summer fund raising initiative, the Developments Squads will be undertaking a sprightly walk along the Fife Coastal path, from Aberdour to Burntisland, and back.

The big date is Sunday 29 May, with kick-off (sorry, I can't avoid the football talk) at 2 pm. We hope that all players will take part, along with parents, siblings etc., and make it a real family day out.

Janine Pennel and Mari Erskine are taking the lead on this and hope to repeat the success of the Forth Bridge walk from last year (picture right), which was supported by over 30 players and almost as many parents. The efforts of all concerned raised around £1,500 for the Fund.

A letter with details of the walk and a sponsor form have been issued to all parents. If you didn't get yours, please contact Janine on [janinepennel@btinternet.com](mailto:janinepennel@btinternet.com) or 01383 723540 .

*Last years sponsored walk over the Forth Bridge and back*



## Gordy signs for the Pars

The -14s talented winger, Gordon Birse, is the latest Norries player to sign for the Pars. Gordon, whose pace and skill tormented defenders in the development league last season, is now lining up against the best that the Pro League has to offer.

He joins Darren Yeates (-14s), Craig Reid (-15s), Jack Nicholson (-13s), Scott Clarke and Brett McGuire (-12s), and Greg Steedman and Aaron Payne (-11s), as Norrie squad players who have recently joined The Pars. Sadly, our lads are still too young to help Jim Leishman's squad in their current relegation battle, but who knows, it might not be too long before the Norrie McCathie Development Squad produces a first team squad player for the club.

Gordon (pictured) said: "The self belief, discipline and good habits that the Norries' coaches have helped me develop has really helped me fit in to the Dunfermline set up."



# Haarlem Shuffle

The Under-11s squad are well advanced in planning their trip to the Haarlem Cup. This is an annual event, part of the World Friendship Games, which take place in the last week of July.

The trip provides the youngsters with an experience of their sport in an international setting. It is a learning experience in football, but also more broadly, in terms of their cultural and social awareness.

Whilst our primary aim is to enhance the kids sporting and social development, last year we were also successful in winning what is one of Europe's foremost youth football tournaments

We expect to make this experience available to all players in their Under-11

season and it should prove a highlight in everyone's Norries' careers.

The squad will fly out to Holland on Sunday 24 July and be based at Zandvoort, on the Dutch North Sea coast. They will play two matches per day over four days, with the finals on Saturday 30 July.

This year we will have a large party of 26 players, coaches and family travelling, for what is truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

All players and coaches travel and accommodation costs are paid by the Fund. This is, understandably, a major element of the fund's expenditure in the year and one of the main targets of our fund raising.

We hope to publish daily updates on the team's progress in Haarlem on our website: see [www.nmbf.org.uk](http://www.nmbf.org.uk).

At the end of April there were eight other teams entered in the Under-11s competition; seven from Holland (including three of the Dutch FA Development Squads) and FC Liria from Albania.



Mr Robertson with the youngsters and the trophy. Back, from left: Greg Steadman, Robert Jones, Kristoffer Patrick, Ross McLean, Jamie Stanhouse and Ryan Smith. Front: Brett McGuire, Ross Brown, Scott Clarke, Stuart Condie and Alesair Bowman.

**Team's miserly defence help bring home trophy**

A SQUAD of young Fife footballers have brought back the Haarlem Cup to Scotland after beating their Dutch opponents 5-0 in the final.

The under-11s from the Norrie McCathie Benevolent Fund played teams from Holland and Poland during the tournament, scoring 28 goals and only conceding three.

They are coached by Graeme Robertson and Kris Fotheringham at Pitreavie in Duntarvie.

Mr Robertson said he was very proud of the team, who had gone out to seek revenge after Scotland's 0-0 humiliation by Holland last year.

He said, "To do so well in another country is a great achievement for them."

They drew 3-3 in the first game but over the next eight games did not concede one goal.

Taking part gave the Fifers a chance to test their skills against foreign players and experience the excellent Dutch facilities.

The NMBF is already preparing to take the next squad of under-11s to the competition next year.

From *The Courier*, last August

## Coaches comments

With the Sevens season in full swing, the kids are maintaining the Norries' reputation for having strong squads at all age groups.

Keep it up guys!

### Under-8s

The 8s are coming along nicely and are beginning to gel into a very strong squad. They are starting to play well as a team, rather than a set of individuals. Much of the credit for this must go to Archie.

### Under-9s

After a shaky couple of matches, the -9s are progressing well and realising the benefits of a lot of hard work. They need to maintain this attitude and keep working on their passing and teamwork.

### Under-10s

The -10s have continued where they left off last season and are now a very strong side. They must maintain their application in all their matches and not become complacent.

### Under-11s

The -11s are performing well and have run up some impressive results. They are improving steadily (again, credit to Archie) and now need to move on to the next level and the challenge of the Haarlem Cup.

### Under-14s

The Norries' senior squad has been together for many years and has developed into a close-knit family of young players and young people. We've got a great spirit and atmosphere going, whether we're training or playing in games.

Contributions from **Graeme Robertson, Graham Birse** and **Andrew Kay**.



# Under orders for another Norries' race night

Following the success of the event in 2004 (see photo left), the Fund will be holding another race night, on a date to be confirmed in June.

This will be a family event, with children welcome. Please keep an eye on the website for details.

# Under-14s news Sportsman's Dinner 05

Competing in the Fife Development league, we've not been as dominant in terms of results as last season, mainly because of the physical nature of the opposition.

But Alan Jeffrey and I maintain that we are the best footballing side in the league, and our job is to develop young footballers and athletes, not win at all costs. Rest assured, these kids can play.

Some of our football is a joy to watch. We are sitting mid table-not bad for a squad that contains four players (Jay Mitchell, Ruari Spriddle, Robbie Burns and Richard Hunter) who are playing a year above their age group.

Our squad has also been strengthened by the arrival of our 'Ballingry Boys', Ross Graham and Danny Murphy, who've brought some experience and quality to the squad. Our other new signing, at the beginning of the season, Callum Robertson, has been in inspirational form and has become an important player for us.

Four of our players are currently participating in the SFA Fife Select squad and another four are to be invited to a trial to join the squad. A good return from the Norries! (Graham Birse)

The 2005 Norrie McCathie Benevolent Fund Sportsman's Dinner will be held on Saturday 6th of August at the Glen Pavilion.

This is our main fund raising event of the year and Graeme has excelled himself in attracting two of Scotland's most renowned after-dinner speakers — **George McNeill**, once Scotland's top professional sprinter, and **John Gahagan**, formerly of Motherwell FC. Both are famed for their hilarious and earthy observations on football, sport and life in general.

This is a fantastic evening's entertainment which has been very popular with the many supporters of the Fund over the past five years. In addition to our esteemed raconteurs, there will be raffles and auctions of top-quality football memorabilia and other sporting items.

Three tables (each seating eight) are set aside for parents with children in the Development Squads. Tickets are priced at £25. These will be made available on a first come-first served basis.

Please contact Graeme on 07831 774011 to book your place. This truly is the social highlight of the Summer.



<b>Fife Sevens</b>	The Fife Sevens takes its mid-season break through July, with the last scheduled match on the 25th June. Matches will re-start at Pitreavie on Saturday 6th August. Please watch the website for details of the post-break fixture list.
--------------------	--