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Norrie McCathie Benevolent Fund Newsletter

Another memorable week in Haarlem

The Norries 1995s squad produced a remarkable performance at the Haarlem Cup in Holland in late July, maintaining our growing reputation in one of Europe's leading youth tournaments.

First and foremost, all of the squad enjoyed a wonderful learning experience in their football and more broadly in terms of their personal experiences of the trip.

The squad which had carried all before it in the Fife Sevens this year, took on the pride of England and the Continent in what proved to be a very high quality competition.

Coach Andrew Kay had the squad fully prepared, for everything except the sweltering heat. This year's tournament coincided with the hottest part of the Summer heatwave and the boys played all their matches in temperatures over 30°C.

Despite the freak conditions, the week started brilliantly, with the lads winning all their group matches comfortably, to qualify for the Champions Group stage. And the success continued, with another win setting up a chance of making the final.

The biggest test was, however, just around the



corner - the Ajax feeder side, the Barca Boys, who were also undefeated. In what proved to be the match of the tournament, the Norries and the Dutch masters gave their all. Despite their best efforts, it was the Dutch lads who edged the result 2-1, and we had to accept that we had lost out to an exceptional side.

And so it proved. The Barca Boys swept through the tournament with an astonishing goals record of 72 for and 1 against (scored by the Norries), and destroyed England's St Ives Club 7-0 in the final.

In addition to their sterling efforts on the pitch, the players and accompanying parents and family were a credit to the Norries' throughout, and most importantly of all, had a fantastic time.

And now the challenge is passed on to the 1996s and 1991s squads to focus their preparations for next year's Dutch experience.



Haarlem 2006

Every aspect of the Norries' is captured on our website, hosted by Refresh Design — 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.

Dining on happy football memories

The 2006 Norries' Sportsman's Dinner was a special event for many reasons, most notably commemorating the tenth anniversary of Norrie's death, in January 1996. The special occasion was marked by some special speakers and one extra special guest.

Leading off, with a tribute to Norrie, was Jim Leishman, who shared some of his particular memories of 'the big man' and what made him a true Dunfermline legend.

After dinner, referee extraordinaire, Willie Young, and Scotland's most famous (or was that infamous?) goalie Alan Rough shared their reminiscences on the football scene past and present, and their individual experiences of Norrie.



And our final guest revived many memories of Scottish football's glory days. Archie Gemmill reminded us of when Scotland scored great goals in World Cup finals and, as manager of Scotland's Under-19s, of how they might yet do so again.

The night was an overwhelming success, raising more than £5,000 for the Fund. We'd like to thank all the individuals and local businesses, who supported the night with their outstanding generosity. Come on ye Norries!



Festival fun before the downpour

The first Norrie McCathie Benevolent Fund football festival was held on Sunday 2nd July in Aberdour.

The day began in bright sunshine at 9 am. A small army of willing parent helpers began setting out pitches, preparing food and, most challenging of all, raising the marquee.

With everything in place, the football began at 11 am, with all of the Norries' age-group squads participating, alongside a host of guest clubs from Fife and beyond.

Over 200 spectators came along for the day and were treated to a feast of football, played in wonderful, competitive spirit.

From the controlled excellence of the 1991s to the naive exuberance of the 1998s, the squads showed all the attributes that their coaches have been promoting, skill, teamwork, endeavour...and no shortage of fun.

The only 'dampener' on the day



was a thunderous downpour which arrived an hour from the end of the day and brought a premature end to proceedings.

Many thanks are due to Alec



Parker and Aberdour FC who allowed us the use of their excellent facilities, and the many parent helpers who gave their time to make the day an outstanding success.

Good prospects

The 1994s are preparing for the start of the Fife Development League, making the transition from the Fife Sevens to the full 11-a-side game.

The boys will have to adapt to the vagaries of larger pitches, larger



goals and, of course, referees and the offside rule.

The Development League aims to promote continued skills development and a positive playing environment, which is what the Norries is all about.

Fund-raising and social corner

The Norries fund raising group is poised for action again after the Summer break. In the period May 2005 to May 2006, the group, led by Rob Pennel raised over £6,000 for the Fund, which supported the full range of our activities and especially the trip to the Haarlem Cup in July.

Rob will soon be looking for new volunteers to keep up the good work. If you are interested in helping in any capacity, please call Rob on 07908 376223



All the best to '95s

Andrew Kay's 1995s squad is moving on to pastures new. After fantastic performances this year, culminating at Haarlem, they have been in huge demand from the SPL Youth Initiative and other senior clubs.

With boys receiving invitations from Hearts, Dunfermline, Alloa and Cowdenbeath, too few players remained to maintain a development squad.

The boys go with all our best wishes and every expectation that they will do the Norries' name justice at their new clubs.

Looking for '99s

The Norries' coaches are now on the look out for boys or girls born in 1999/2000 to begin forming our next development squad.

If you are aware of any youngsters showing the necessary enthusiasm and aptitude for the game, please feel free to ask their parents to contact Graeme Robertson on 07831 774011 to arrange their involvement in our participation sessions at Dalgety Bay.

A mixed start for the '91s

The 1991s set out on their league campaign with a solid 2-1 away win at Dunblane, the winning goal from Robbie Burns coming with only a couple of minutes to go.

However, they suffered a midweek reverse against league newcomers Rosyth, going down 1-0 in spite of having the best of the chances.

"At 16s the opposition can be very physical," said Coach Graham Birse. "We have to learn to cope with that and play our passing game."

Coaches comments

Linda Patrick (1998s)
The squad has gone from strength to strength and are forming into a great little unit. They have shown an excellent appetite in their matches so far, and with continued application to their basic skills they have a huge potential.

Archie Ford (1997s)
The boys have been working hard in both training and in their matches at the Fife Sevens. They are making steady progress and at times could do with some sterner challenges to take another step forward. They need to remain focused

Paul Thomson (1996s)
The squad has done well through the last few months, training hard and giving some good performances in the Fife Sevens. They can still be inconsistent in their performances and need to maintain their effort and competitive edge throughout their matches.

John Watson (1994s)
The squad has returned refreshed from the Summer break and showed what they are capable of in a fine 3-3 draw with Dunfermline's 94s at the Fleet Ground. If they show the same level of skill, commitment and concentration they will be very competitive in the Development League. Our aim is to produce this kind of performance consistently home and away, throughout the season.

