

**SPORT**

**COMMUNITY CORNER**

With Atholl Henderson

Community coach with St Johnstone, the SPA and Perth and Kinross Leisure.



**SCHOOL HOLIDAY FOOTBALL:** Our Scottish Hydro Football Courses continue at venues throughout Perth and Kinross. Places are still available on all remaining courses over the next two weeks and booking is easy. There are several alternatives. You can visit the Saints website and pay online. Alternatively, you can download the application form and send it in with the appropriate course fee. Age group is 5 to 16 years and details are: July 18-22: McDiarmid Park (pm); July 19-21: Crieff (am), Auchterarder (pm); July 20-22: Blairgowrie (am); July 25-29: McDiarmid Park (pm)

Blue Cards in the first week were awarded to - Kinross: Jack Britton, Ryan Westwaters, Brian McCormick, Gregor Sands, Struan Smith and Fraser Turnbull; Perth: Andrew Legge, Jamie McGregor, Cameron Bruce, Jack Simpson, Jack Stuart, Rannoch Ramsay, Kairn Brand, Rob Douglas, Finlay Axford, Ryan Mitchell, Samuel Lough and Cameron Barclay; Bridge of Earn: Patrick Brown, Greig Ramsay, Aaron Cole, Craig Donald and Gregor Donald.

**TICKET CHANGE OF DATE:** Everyone who attends our Scottish Hydro Summer Football receives a ticket to a St Johnstone Premier League game at McDiarmid Park. Allocated games this time around are Dunfermline on August 13, Dundee United on August 27 and Hearts, which has now been rescheduled for Sunday, September 25, with a 12 o'clock kick off.

**STREET FOOTBALL:** Our coaches have been busy delivering football sessions at various venues throughout Perth and Kinross. In conjunction with Perth Community Safety Partnership, we have visited Aberuthven, Coupar Angus, Lun-carty, North Muirton, Letham, Glenfarg and St. John's in recent weeks, with small sided games going ahead on the mobile court.

**SUPER J PRE MATCH CLUBS:** The first pre match club of the season will be prior to the Rangers game on July 30 and members should note that it will start at 11am due to the early kick off. Pre-match clubs suffered a fair bit of disruption last season with match postponements and the unavailability of the Muirton Gymnasium, however, with the new pitch looking good, we are really hopeful that things will be very much back to normal in 2011/12.

**SAINTS TEASERS:** Last week: Scorers in the 3-3 draw with Rangers in 1981 were John Brogan (2) and Jim Docherty. This week: Which experienced midfielder player did Alex Rennie sign from Dundee United in August 1980, who eventually left in 1983 to become manager of Arbroath?

**SUPER J OF THE WEEK:** This week's Super J is Michael Smith (9) - pictured - from Errol. Michael attends Errol Primary School and his hobbies are running, football and swimming. He would like to be a footballer when he leaves school. His favourite food is mince and tatties and favourite group are JLS. Michael's favourite players are: Present Saints - Steven Milne; past Saints - Billy Dodds; Scotland - Scott Brown; foreign - Wayne Rooney and favourite football ground - Old Trafford. If Saints had the money to buy any player regardless of cost he would like them to buy Robbie Keane.



For more information on Scottish Hydro Electric Super Skills contact Atholl Henderson on 01738 459595

**SNOOKER**

# Perth snooker player aims for top tour spot



**ON CUE:** Fair City snooker player Scott Donaldson is up against tough competition at the World Under 21 Championships.

**A PROMISING Perth potter is in the frame for a place on snooker's professional world tour if he chalks up success in his latest tournament.**

Teenage cueist Scott Donaldson has had the highest level in his sights since taking the tough decision to leave school in February in a bid to follow his dream.

And now the 17-year-old has the opportunity to secure a main tour spot, where he could potentially face snooker supremos such as Ronnie O'Sullivan and John Higgins, if he pots his way to victory in his first International and Billiards Federation World Under 21 Snooker Championship.

Speaking from Edinburgh Airport, ahead of his flight to Canada, where this year's tournament will be held, Donaldson was optimistic over his chances.

The confident teenager said: "I don't like to say I'm going to beat players. But what I will say is that if I play well on the day then I have a good chance.

"But there are a lot of players who are capable of beating each other.

**By Greg Christison**

"I've been playing well and hitting the ball nicely but it doesn't matter what you do in practice, it only matters what happens how you play when you get out there."

As the PA went to press yesterday, the former Perth High student was preparing for his first round robin matches against China's Wong Yun Shing and Roy (Lingbin) Zeng of Canada.

He will play Romania's Andrei Orzan tonight and tomorrow will face Nick Jennings of England and Kurt Dunham from Australia.

Donaldson will then take on Belgium's Kristof Vermeiren, Kishan Hirani from Wales and Qatar's Ali Al-Obaidli before the competition reaches its knockout phase on Tuesday.

Admitting progression on the main tour would be tough, Donaldson, who will be accompanied by fellow Scots Michael Leslie and Rhys Clark, explained a little longer at under 21 level may benefit him in the future.

He added: "I'd love to be on the tour

but even if I don't win it's not a bad thing.

"If you go in too young it isn't always a good thing because you don't have enough experience to win and move up the rankings.

"It's hard to say how I'd get on. "There are a ton of good players but I wouldn't have left school if I didn't think I could do it."

Last month Donaldson reached the quarter-finals of the European Snooker Championships in Bulgaria.

After a stunning 5-0 whitewash of Germany's Patrick Einsle, the teenager fell in a final frame decider to number one seed Martin O'Donnell from Ireland.

The World Under 21 title is currently held by Newcastle-Upon-Tyne 17-year-old Sam Craigie, who secured the title at Letterkenny, Ireland last August. He is currently ranked 80th on the main tour.

Scottish potters Leslie, Clark and Campbell Dunlop progressed to the knockout round last year, but all lost in their last 16 matches.

**MOTOR SPORTS**

# Torquill forced out by pitstop woes

SCONE rider Torquill Paterson returned to Scotland to race his YPE Power Suzuki GSXR 1000 Superbike at The East Fortune Raceway in East Lothian.

He was back on the bike for the first time since April and his time racing the Edinburgh Harley-Davidson backed XR 1200.

The two-day meeting was to host two rounds of the Scottish Superbike Championship and three rounds of the Melville Club Championship. It also celebrated 40 years since the start of motorcycle racing at the ex-wartime air base.

On Saturday Torquill went into the qualifying session and worked with the bike, getting faster and faster as he got used to the lighter and faster machine. On his tenth lap he put in his fastest time and the second fastest time of all the bikes.

He started from the all-important front row of the grid but Torquill wasn't happy, feeling he could not exploit the full power of the bike.

The first race was for Scottish Championship points and at the start Torquill was away



**MIXED FORTUNES:** Torquill Paterson in action. Ray Clark

fast and into second place.

He was pushing the bike as hard as he could but the leader kept pulling away and Torquill had to watch as the third place man was pushing him hard.

As the last lap started so did the rain and a slippery surface warning flag appeared.

Torquill lifted off and this rival

zipped through and held his position to the flag.

For the next race a few adjustments were made. But the Saturday races were cut short and the next race was on Sunday morning.

Again Torquill was into second at the start and he held firm.

He was determined to get to the front in the next race and pushed hard at the start. But he was fourth at the end of lap one. Then he had to pull into the pits at the end of lap three.

The securing point on the chassis for the steering damper had broken so his race

was over. Torquill must now steel himself for the next race in the Harley-Davidson XR1200 Trophy Championship at the Oulton Park Circuit in Cheshire. He currently lies sixth in the championship in the Edinburgh Harley-Davidson backed XR1200.

# 'Cup Tie' builds on Dee strike

**From page 72**

times "Hopefully a better pitch will suit us. We want to play a passing game. Last season there was a lot of long ball stuff because of the park and that didn't really suit the players we have here.

"It was different when we had the likes of Kenny Deuchar with his flick-ons up front. But it suits

us more to play it on the ground and I think you will see that. Guys like Jody Morris, Chris Millar, Liam Craig, Murray Davidson, Jamie Adams and Kevin Moon are all comfortable on the ball and we had to miss them out.

"They are all good football players but we had to hit it over their heads.

"Mooner has been outstanding

in pre-season so we have to keep him fit. He is due some luck. It is a big year for him.

"He only has a short-term contract but he will get that extended if he stays fit.

"He has great ability on the ball and makes runs forward.

"As he showed in Drogheda he can also chip in with a few goals."

# 'Gers tickets

**From page 72**

at the Perth stadium to both sets of fans from July 25 onwards. If one or other set of tickets sell out then the general sale will cease immediately.

Prices are as follows: East, North and Ormond Stand: Adult - £23, Under 18s and Over 65s - £11

West Stand Adult - £23, Under 18s and Over 65s - £13 Ticket Office opening hours are 9.30am to 5pm each weekday. Tickets can be ordered by telephone on 01738 455000.

**By Denis Brown**

**MEGASTAR Beyonce's T in the Park dressing room was pretty in pink thanks to a Perthshire woman's flower power.**

Grandtully-based Emma Harvey, who runs Coach House Flowers, supplied 50 Asiatic pink lilies to enhance the R&B diva's backstage Balado bolthole.

"Beyonce's dressing room was predominantly pink, so we thought that pink flowers would be a perfect compliment," she said.

"But we decided on Asiatic lilies because we didn't know if she'd like the scent as in a small area with so many flowers, the smell can be quite overpowering."

Originally from Killiecrankie, the florist to the stars returned to her roots when relocating to Grandtully three years ago after running west end Glasgow florist, Grace, for 10 years.

Among the goals she kicked when securing clients was Rangers Football Club, where before every home match her team would decorate the Ibrox ground's hospitality suites with floral displays.

However, her biggest annual event client for the past 10 years has been T in the Park, providing thousands of stems each year for displays in the artists' village, dressing rooms and "pampering area".

The initial window of opportunity at T came courtesy of interior designer Laura McInnes.

"Laura specialises in making dressing rooms look nice for the artists, all the finishing touches, and she used to come into our shop to order flowers for bands playing the SEC, everyone from Travis to Pavarotti," she said.

"For T in the Park she gives us a brief on the colour scheme she's thinking about and then we work on designs."

Typically making delivery of stems on Thursday morning at the Balado site, the job is usually plain sailing, although one band in particular threw a spanner in the works.

"Oh yes, the Red Hot Chili Peppers," she said. "They decided they wanted their whole area filled with trees but they only gave us an hour's notice."

"So what we did was to gather every last piece of greenery we had on hand in the shop and sent it down to the site - I think the band wanted a natural effect."

Now happily back in the Highlands, Mrs Harvey operates a workshop instead of a retail premises, getting all her flowers direct from Holland via truck twice a week.

Weddings are her main bread and butter and last year, in a T in the Park spin-off, she made a pilgrimage to the Isle of Bute to beautify T mogul Geoff Ellis's wedding to Fiona Rosie with gorgeous summer blooms.

So did she get an invite to the reportedly extravagant event? "No I'm afraid not - it was strictly business," she said.

# Beyonce tickled pink by Emma's star blooms



**STEM SELL:** T in the Park's official florist Emma Harvey, and Beyonce (top). paf140711emma-5

# Knifepoint robber is jailed

MINUTES after robbing a man at knifepoint of his £900 laptop and £400 mobile phone, a Perth drug addict sold them for £20 each.

Victim Scott Davison was also so terrified that he handed over his rucksack and £30 to knife-wielding Thomas Cummings (25), of Low Street, Perth.

Cummings, who has a long-standing heroin problem, was jailed for three-and-a-half years at Perth Sheriff Court yesterday. He will be supervised for 12 months after he is freed in a bid to "protect the public from serious harm."

During that period he will have to take part in drug counselling and treatment.

He pled guilty to assaulting and robbing Mr Davison at Perth's Ladeside last November 30.

He backed him up against a wall as he threatened him with the three-inch long blade and demanded that he hand over his property.

Depute fiscal Alan Kempton said that Mr Davison (42) had left work and, because of the bad weather, was walking home.

He was carrying his lunch bag and his laptop, which was in a case. As he neared the Comet electrical store he heard footsteps

rapidly approaching from behind.

"He then became aware of two males, one of whom was the accused, who stood in front of him and said: 'You have one choice' said the fiscal.

"At this point Thomas Cummings brandished the knife and asked him what was in his bag. he then demanded he hand over the laptop, which Mr Davison did."

Cummings then demanded the mobile phone and cash. As he left, he warned Mr Davison not to contact the police.

The laptop and mobile were later recovered. Cummings also admitted breaking the window of a transit van in Arran Road, Perth, on November 29 and stealing a satnav system, mobile phone and a CD.

The property, valued at £300, wasn't recovered.

Solicitor Alastair Houston said Cummings, who has alcohol and drug misuse problems, had taken Valium and had "no recollection" of breaking into the van.

He also had little memory of the assault and robbery but accepted responsibility.

Imposing the lengthy jail term, Sheriff Lindsay Foulis said: "You have an appalling record."

He noted the accused had been given a 33-month sentence in October, 2008, for assault to severe injury and permanent disfigurement.

He also had two convictions for offensive weapons - one a knife.

The 42-month sentence was backdated to June 30.

Cummings' drug addict cousin, Gary Cummings (21), of Gleneagles Avenue, Dundee, who appeared with him in the dock, was jailed for 20 months.

He admitted breaking into two trucks at I&H Brown, Dunkeld Road, on November 29 and attempting to break into a third.

Property worth a total of £260 was stolen. He also stole a van from the driveway of house in Perth's Gowans Terrace on December 1 and later gave a false name to police when apprehended.

He was seen running from the vehicle when police came upon it on the A90 Perth-Dundee road, near Longforgan, at 3am the same morning.

Solicitor Scott Norrie said his client had a serious heroin addiction which had escalated to injecting the Class A drug.



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