



Scottish Powerchair Football Association



Drive - Desire - Dedication

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Welcome to another packed edition of powerchair football newsletter for Scotland. The end of a decade, we look back and look forward to 2020 with all three trophies to play for and our first foray into Europe. We catch up with Kieran Burns on the opportunity he has and an update on the recent FIPFA Congress. We hope you enjoy reading it, please let us know what you think and we hope you all have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

End of a Decade

We are fast approaching the end of the decade, a decade that saw powerchair football introduced into Scotland. From humble beginnings at Craigholme with swim floats taped on to chairs to where we are now has been a phenomenal journey. I am proud of what we have achieved in Scotland. We have a strong grassroots and opportunities for players to play for fun, to compete at whatever level they are able and willing to get to. The players have developed so many skills over the years, not just football skills, we have seen friendships and romance grow. Everyone involved players, parents, carers, volunteers and supporters have all played a massive part. To be part of the worlds first Para Football Association through the SFA is something to be proud of. Let's hope the next decade is as successful and we all need to pull together to give our players at all levels the opportunities to continue to grow, to increase the number of teams in Scotland and to continue to influence the accessibility of venues



Roll of Honour

Premiership

- Clyde Alba (3)
- Tayside Dynamos (3)

Championship

- Lothian Wolves (2)

Scottish Cup

- Tayside Dynamos (4)
- Clyde Alba (1)
- Clyde Caledonia (1)

League Cup

- Tayside Dynamos (3)
- Queens Park(Glasgow Gladiators) (1)
- Clyde Caledonia (1)





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SPFA Planning event

On January 12th we will be holding a development event in Perth and we are looking for player, parent and volunteers involvement. We want to set out the aims and objectives of the SPFA as we move forward. Invitations have been issued by e-mail to all players, coaches and officials using Eventbrite. We hope you can join us and give us your input into how we develop our sport in Scotland. If you haven't received an e-mail or need help please let us know, by e-mail, or on our Facebook or Twitter page or through your club.

Together Driving Football Forward

- Shaping the future of the SPFA
- Sunday January 12th 2020
- UHI Perth College, Perth



Together Driving Football Forward

Football for All Leadership Programme

As we mentioned in our last Newsletter Kieran Burns was selected to participate in the Football for All Leadership Project, we caught up with Kieran after his trip to Lisbon;

Can you sum up what your project is? "All About ability" support/discussion group where players get together and talk about their own experiences and provide structural advice on different ways to maximise their own sport performance".

Who do you think will benefit and who will be involved in the project? "who will it help - players in the Powerchair football community. Creating an environment of support, who will be involved? out with our own players or coaches - I will look to bring in sports psychologist or any potential athletes I know as we go on further, as a week to week guest in order to provide more insight to the group but for the first couple as we get familiar with the group it will just be me taking sessions.

And finally how do you see this continuing when the project period ends? "I think we will see from this is a much stronger community in our sport, as well as helping each other it will provide a good base for individuals to fulfill potential with a stronger mentality and better perspective in how they see their own capabilities.

Sustainability - To start I would like to get that group in person directness to it ideally once every 1, 2 or even 3 months (depending on availability) where we book a hall and everyone meets in a fairly neutral location. In between those months start a podcast with myself and guests providing weekly valuable information for our athletes while keeping them up to date as to when/where the next event will be. As the group hopefully grows and is attended regularly, if they are willing putting a small charge for each individual member should cover costs of hall long term".



**FOOTBALL
FOR ALL**
Leadership Programme



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2020 vision

January of the new decade will see the League Cup finally competed for after the postponement in September, Tayside Dynamos looking to hold on to a trophy they have dominated over the years and on home soil at the brand new Dundee Performance Centre. This will be quickly followed by the MDUK National leagues re-starting. This should be an exciting second half to the season in both Premiership and Championship. Tayside Dynamos have been perfect so far but Clyde Alba will not give up their title lightly and with Gladiators, Tigers and Wolves all looking to make their mark nothing can be taken for granted. The Championship is as close, two points separating Clyde Caledonia, Riverside and Glasgow Gladiators. Our international team will continue to develop in what will be a big year for them. They start with a trip to Leeds to face the two home teams Chariots and Dynamos along with Electric Eels. This is a prelude to the second Tri Nations where we will welcome Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland to Largs in May, we will be looking to better the draw and 4-0 loss from last year. The international year will come to a climax in October when Largs will again host the team as they welcome the two Irish teams and the Auld enemy, England for the EPFA Home Nations in October. Exciting times but probably the highlight of next year will be Clyde Alba's trip to Geneva at the end of August to take part in the EPFA Champions Cup. They will compete against current champions Grafteaux, losing finalist Auch, who will both represent France. West Brom and spire will be there from England with Midlands Utd and DCU Storm there from Ireland and Ballerup, FC Inter and Eagles Asko Wien from Denmark, Finland and Austria. What a trip this will be for Clyde, to be mixing it with the best Europe has to offer is a truly exciting step for the club and Scottish Powerchair in general. All this and no doubt a few surprises on the way. Can't wait to see how the year unfolds.

Meet the Player's

Paul McIntyre

Age - 30

Team - Riverside

Favourite TV programme? **Only fools and horses**

If you were stranded on a desert island what three luxuries could you not live without? **Music, Food and Water**

What would be your perfect meal and who would you share it with? **Spaghetti Bolognese, Beyoncé**

Personal goals for the season? **Be top scorer in my team**

In your team who has the best sense of humour? **Kyle McLaren** and who is the most likely to be sent off? **Lizzie Jackson**

What advice would you give to anyone who was considering trying out the game? **Give it a go you never know how much you'll enjoy it**

What has been your most memorable moments in powerchair football? **Playing my 1st match**

How did you hear about powerchair football and what attracted you to the game? **My brother and the fast pace of the game**

Final question is What is your dream Christmas present? **A Strikeforce**

How long have you been playing? **1 year** What is the best thing about powerchair football? **The together of the team**



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FIPFA Congress

On November 9th the annual FIPFA congress meeting was held, an online event attended by representatives from powerchair countries across the world. The meeting facilitated by Ricky Stevenson, FIPFA president opened with updates from the regional zones, The America's, Asia/Oceania and of course Europe. Donal Byrne, EPFA President covered the activities in Europe for the last year, including the Champions Cup, held in Denmark and won by Grafeaux from France. He also spoke about the Football for all Programme that our own Lewis McConnell and Kieran Burns have been part of.

He commented on Scotland's first international against Middlesbrough and the EPFA workshop held in Dublin as well as updates on powerchair football in Spain and of course the Next Generation Experience we hosted in Largs. He then went on to outline some plans for 2020

- The EPFA Champions Cup - Geneva
- EPFA New Generation Experience - Spain
- EPFA Next Generation Experience - UK
- EPFA Home Nations Cup - Scotland
- Country focus – i. Italy ii. Ongoing - Spain, Germany iii.
- To encourage Portugal and Belgium to return
- Continue our partnerships with UEFA and Football For All Leadership Programme



The meeting continued with Marco Lanusse from Argentina being voted in as Vice President, It was announced Sophie Bevan was successful in her application for the role of FIPFA Director of Sport.

Updates were given on Classification and refereeing and the dates for the World Cup in Australia in 2021 were announced. The event will be held at the Sydney Olympic Park from 17th October until the final on 23rd October. The qualified nations are: Australia, England, France, Rep. of Ireland, Denmark, Northern Ireland, USA, Uruguay, Argentina and Japan.

SPFA in Holyrood

In October the SPFA were invited to have a display stand inside The Scottish Parliament, we were there for three days and we were delighted with the interest shown by MSP's from across all parties and regions around Scotland. Many have offered support, through social media posts, by writing to the Minister for Sport, Joe Fitzpatrick, contacting Sport Scotland and local authorities and by inviting us onto a cross party working group on football.



We would like to thank Brian Whittle, a big supporter of powerchair football and South Ayrshire Tigers in particular for sponsoring the visit. We were also mentioned countless times in a debate in the chamber on disability sport, the video is available on the Parliament website via the link below



[Parliamentary Debate](#)





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2019-20 Key Dates

12 th January	SPFA Development & Planning event	Perth
12 th January	Scotland Training day	Perth
26 th January	SPFA League Cup	Dundee
2 nd February	Duncan Scales Memorial tournament	Leeds
16 th February	MDUK National League	Stirling
8 th March	MDUK National League	Stirling
29 th March	Scotland Training day	Stirling
19 th April	MDUK National League	Stirling
26 th April	Scotland Training day	Stirling
9 th May	Tri Nations	Largs
24 th May	Scotland Training day	Perth
31 st May	PowerSoccerShop Scottish Cup	Largs

A Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year
from everyone at the SPFA



Contact the SPFA

Contact Mobility Central Sport

Contact MDUK

Contact PowerSoccerShop

