

March 2024, Edition 1

The **Staggies**



Contents

1. Update from the CEO

2. From the Dugout with Don Cowie

3. A view from pitchside

4. A view from pitchside

5. Player Profile

6. RCFC Academy Update

7. RCFC Commercial Update

8. Dicksons of Inverness

9. RCFC Supporters Club

10. Dark Blue Saturday Mk.2

11. Ross County Foundation

12. SLO Updates

13. Never a Cross Word

Update from our CEO

Firstly, I'd like to introduce our new Staggies Army Newsletter. We are always looking to improve our offering to our valued members and this is another step towards us doing this.

It has been a challenging few months for the club with results not swinging in the way we hoped when Derek was appointed. Derek took the decision following the away game at Motherwell to resign from his position as Manager. We have taken the decision to appoint Don Cowie as our Interim Manager and we hope he will be able to turn around results and push us upwards in the league standings.

We have begun the processes of looking at our offerings for the 2024/25 season. We are looking to link in our kit for the season ahead with our now 30-year association with the Scottish Leagues. We are looking to refine our hospitality offerings and provide the best options possible across all of our suites. We have also begun a pilot scheme of digital ticketing, initially only for away supporters at our recent home match against St Mirren. This initial pilot was successful and we will now be looking at the next steps in expanding this pilot scheme with the aim of eventually having digital tickets as an option for all supporters.

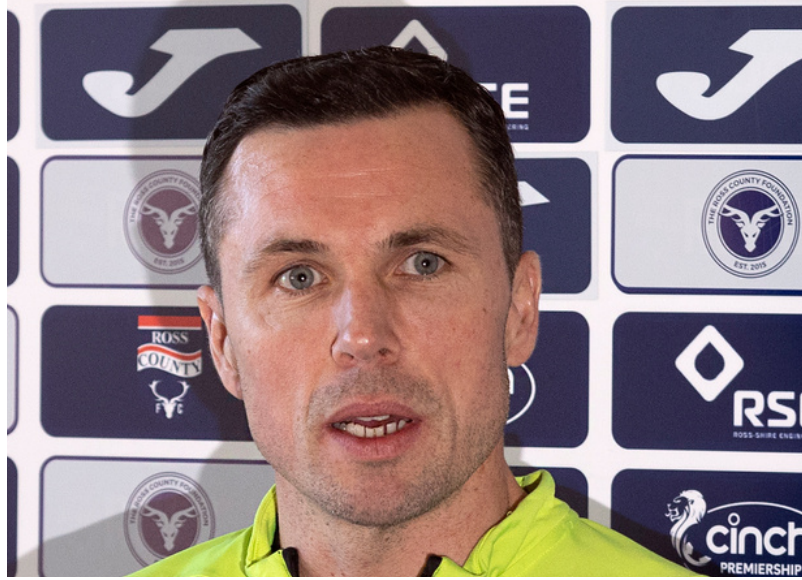
In our football department, we have also welcomed a new Head of Performance with Jason Moriarty joining the club. Jason has previously worked with AFC Wimbledon, Reading FC, Crawley Town and Brunei DPMM. Jason will take over from Alun Andrews who will be leaving the club to pursue a new opportunity at the end of the month and leaves with the best wishes of us all.

We are on the back of a tough period of fixtures on the road and the support shown by our supporters has once again been absolutely immense. The miles travelled and the late nights on the A9 are hugely appreciated by all the players and staff. We were delighted as a club for Don who managed to get his first win as Interim Manager against Livingston and followed it up with some fantastic results at home.

We have also worked closely with our new Official Supporters Club to try and enhance the travel options supporters have for our away matches. They have run their first away bus to our recent match against Hibs with it being a success. They are also running a bus to our upcoming match against Aberdeen as part of our 'Dark Blue Week' Mk2.



FROM THE DUGOUT WITH DON COWIE



Having been attached to the club as a youngster and then continuing on through its youth ranks, and with his dad a Ross County legend, it was possibly inevitable that Don Cowie would one day sit in the manager's seat.

And although the timing and reasons behind his arrival have not been of his making, it's clear he's a man who thinks his managerial time has come.

Appointed interim manager following the resignation of Derek Adams, Cowie is justifiably proud of fulfilling a long-held ambition to head into the dugout as the man main.

The fact that he's done so in Dingwall with County makes it even more pleasing.

And with County confirming that they're not looking for anyone else to fill the role for the present, Cowie knows he has the chance to make the job his own if he can motivate his players and start getting points on the board.

"We need the fans - that's what this club is all about."

"We're a community club and we do best when we all pull together. What I've been trying to do this week is get the players to know that I believe in them. I think they know that and I'm really looking forward to them putting on performances in front of our own fans."

"I said from the outset that I wanted the foundation to be hard work and I've seen that in our games. What we need is to take the plusses from both games, put them together, and be a bit more ruthless."

"My personality is all about engaging with the players and I do that a lot with one to ones, making them feel good about themselves. I want them to feel comfortable in this environment and that's why I talk to them a lot," he said.

Don added following our 2-1 win over Hearts, **"We were playing against a very good team, comfortably third in the league for a reason."**

"Beating them here has to give us confidence going into the last eight games of the season."

A view from pitchside



A view from pitchside



PLAYER PROFILE: RYAN LEAK



Born in Burton Upon Trent, Ryan joined Wolverhampton Wanderers academy at the age of 7 staying at the club for 14 years, progressing through the ranks, before making his debut for the U23 side in 2016 in a 3–2 victory over Crewe Alexandra in the EFL Trophy.

He went on to enjoy three loan spells, the first being a short loan to The New Saints in the Cymru Premier, where he made 12 appearances, scoring a solitary goal in a 5–2 victory against Carmarthen Town. After a short unsuccessful loan at AFC Telford United, a third loan spell took him abroad to Spain, where he joined FC Jumilla on a season long loan for the 2018–19 Segunda División B, making 30 appearances.

Ryan left Wolves at the end of the 2018–19 season, after 14 years, and joined fellow Segunda División B side Burgos CF, where he played 25 games over the following two seasons.

After leaving Burgos, Leak joined Burton Albion on trial, before signing a two-year deal with the club in July 2021. On 18 July 2022, Leak joined League Two club Salford City for an undisclosed fee, signing a two-year deal.. A year later, he signed for the Staggies.

SENIOR CAREER STATS

Years	Team	Apps	(Gls)
2016–2019	Wolverhampton Wanderers	0	(0)
2017–2018	→ The New Saints (loan)	12	(1)
2018	→ AFC Telford United (loan)	2	(0)
2018–2019	Jumilla (loan)	30	(0)
2019–2021	Burgos	25	(0)
2021–2022	Burton Albion	16	(0)
2022–2023	Salford City	38	(2)
2023–	Ross County	18	(0)

What's going on in the Ross County Academy?



Hi All,

It is great to be able to update you all on the academy and our progress so far. A lot has happened over the course of the year right the way through our academy, ranging from first team recognition with Dylan Smith, Jamie Williamson and Zach Macphee all playing their part, cup final drama and some individual moments of class. Here are a few magical moments that have inspired our boys to greatness over 2023/24.

Gary Warren - Head of Academy

Jamie Williamson



The play-off comeback against Partick Thistle will live long in the memories of the Staggies supporters but will be relived over and over for one young Staggie

Jamie Williamson made his senior debut in extra-time and helped the Staggies secure their Premiership status for this season.

Katoni Cup



It was great to see our U12s perform so well in the Katoni Cup in Aberdeen in a group which contained Celtic, Hibernian and Aberdeen. The boys did themselves proud with some great team performances

Finlay Macmaster was named as the Goalkeeper of the whole tournament. A great achievement that was well deserved with some fantastic saves on show.

Scottish Youth Cup



A great event which saw our U18's take on table topping Kilmarnock of the Elite League in the Scottish Youth Cup. It was great to have fans in the ground and also to see six of our U16s involved on the night.

Although we weren't victorious on the night, it was great to fantastic to put on hospitality and treat our supporters to some luxury on the night of the game.

Commercial Department Update

Ross County Ladies Day 2024

Ross County Ladies Day
February 2024

There is one day that is held in the Ross County Corporate calendar that we not only look forward to but anticipate with fear. That is the Ross County Ladies day. This year, the Archies Foundation were nominated to be the charity with all proceeds from the day going to this fantastic local charity. The Archie Foundation who makes the difference in healthcare and bereavement for the children and families right here in the Highlands, and across the whole of North of Scotland. From helping young patients access and get the very best from NHS healthcare to delivering professional support for children who have lost a loved one.

The suite was hosted by Celtic Rockers, Torridon's front men, Kenny Smith and Michael MacMillan with addition entertainment from Ross County's very own crooner, Chris Manning. The guests were greeted by the Victoria suite hosts with a complimentary drink to start things off followed by a three-course meal served by our contractors, Red Poppy.

Want to find out more about the Ross County Ladies day or other hospitality opportunities? Then email Ross County's Head of Commercial, Dunc Chisholm on dunc.chisholm@rosscountyfootballclub.co.uk





Ross County & Dicksons of Inverness

Ross County are delighted to announce a commercial partnership with Dicksons of Inverness.

Dicksons have supplied the club with a brand new Nissan Primastar Tekna van which will be used as the club's first-team kit van.

The support of Dicksons is welcomed by the club and the van will travel the length and breadth of Scotland supporting the first-team operation.

On the van there is a tribute to a club legend who passed away last year in our former club ambassador and kitman Roddy MacKenzie.

We would like to thank Dicksons for their support and we look forward to working with them going forward.





RCFC OFFICIAL SUPPORTERS CLUB

As you may have seen, on the 15th of December, we announced the launch of the official supporters club!

We are super excited to see how this journey will progress with the aim of bringing the supporters closer to the club, we have plenty of exciting things lined up. We hosted an initial information night for the Supporters Club in February, this was well received but we are always looking to hear from supporters interested in learning more about us and our plans for the future.

With this exciting news, we can also confirm the RCFCSC has partnered with Stagecoach to help provide affordable, accessible and a family-friendly option for any fans wishing to join us for away games. As part of the partnership, Stagecoach will provide us with an accessible bus for away games meaning it will be wheelchair accessible. We will be looking to fundraise to keep the costs for the fans to a minimum! To keep this bus as family-friendly and as pleasant as possible for all those travelling, there will be a no-alcohol policy operated.

We hope you'd like to join us on this journey and be sure to follow us on all of our socials for the latest on all of our exciting projects ahead.

**Supported
by:**





QUIZ NIGHT



***THURSDAY 28TH MARCH -
STAGGIES BAR - 7PM START
£5 PER PERSON***



THE ROSS COUNTY FOUNDATION

The Foundation continues to play a large part of Ross County Football Club. As a club committed to the community it is important that the foundation engages with these communities by providing not only football coaching and training to the youngsters throughout the Highlands and Islands but other Health and Wellbeing provision and engagement with adult groups. These are some of the current commitments being undertaken by Foundation staff.



Currently Running: Primary school programmes in Kiltearn, Croy, Dingwall, Strathgarve, South Lodge, Merkinch, Park, Munloch, St Clements and Farr.

Personal Development Secondary School Programmes in Inverness Royal Academy, Nairn, Charleston, Millburn, Tain and Inverness High.

Soccer Centres at HFA and Smithton

Mini Kickers at HFA and Smithton

Holiday Programmes in Orkney, Dingwall, Thurso, Wick and Stornoway

Birthday Packages

Being Progressed: Train Like A Pro – Easter Camp at Dingwall

Easter Programme – Thurso and Wick

Summer Programmes – Various locations

Walking Football – Ross-shire

Walking Group - Various Locations

Drop in café – At stadium for elderly, living alone or anyone who just wants a coffee, soup, cake or a chat. Cards, board games etc available

Girls / Ladies only football training

Archie Foundation Fun Day

Foundation Week

Supporter Liason Officers



Ross County can confirm the appointment of a second supporters liaison officer. (SLO)

Ross County are happy to announce the inclusion of Shaun Campbell as a second Supporter Liaison Officer at the club. Shaun will assist our existing SLO Kenny MacLennan who has been SLO at Ross County since 2017 with any matchday / supporter activities.

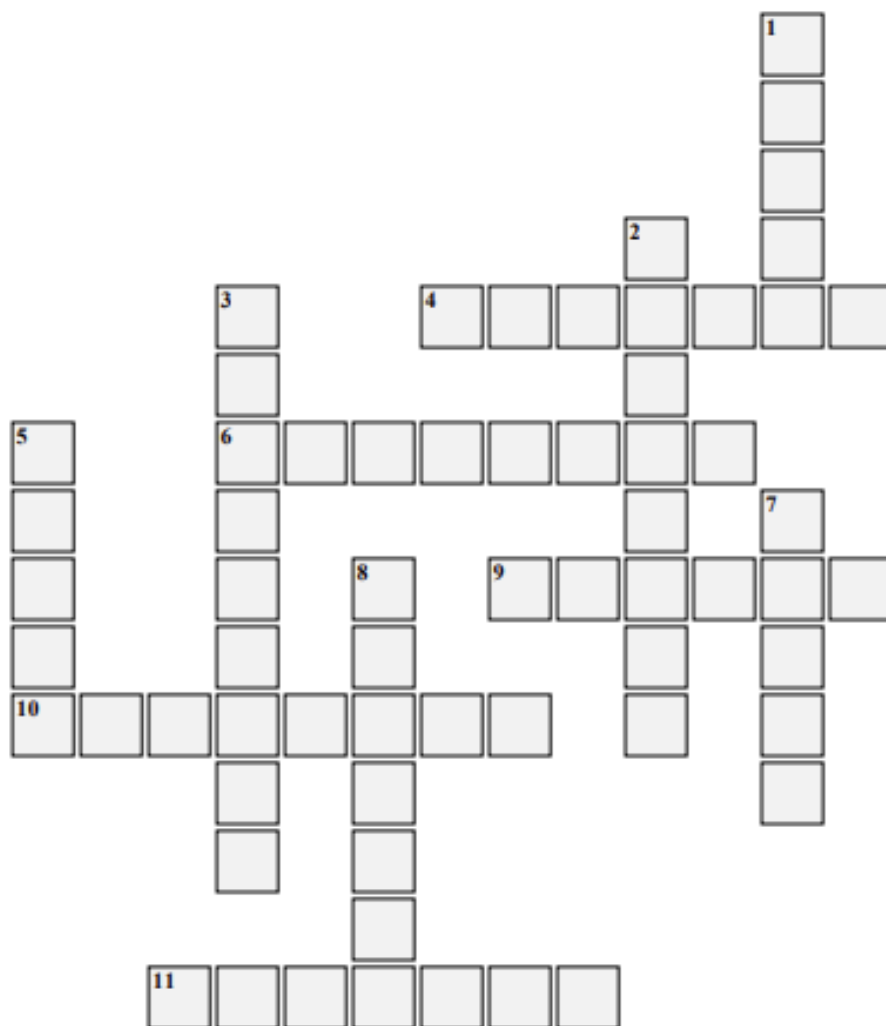
Kenny said: "Our role as SLO's is very much based on matchday fan engagement and assisting the club with ideas on how to improve the matchday experience. Primarily our role is to meet and greet both home and visiting supporters, assisting with any issues they may have and dealing with any supporter queries, complaints, and suggestions.

"Prior to home games, we contact our counterpart SLO's at the visiting club with any relevant information relating to their visit. We also put information on social media on matchdays for fans ahead of the game.

On the appointment of Shaun, Kenny added: "I'm delighted that Shaun has been appointed, I've known Shaun for many years and it's important that we double our efforts to engage with the supporters, it's also important that supporters see that they have two SLO's now dealing with their queries and suggestions.

Shaun added: "It's been a successful partnership so far with Kenny, we both have the supporters and club's best interests at heart. Simple little things like taking uncollected tickets down to away matches is an area where we are able to assist on a matchday, and on that note, I'd like to thank those supporters who have collected match tickets from me at away matches where they were unable to collect from the club ticket office – their understanding is much appreciated. Shaun attends most away games and will be a good conduit for supporters attending these matches with any queries / supporter related info. You can contact your SLO's by emailing SLO@rosscountyfootballclub.co.uk

never a cross word



Across

- [4] Training ground:
- [6] The firth
- [9] Head of Academy
- [10] Nickname of RCFC
- [11] Club captain

Down

- [1] The gaffer
- [2] Old name of stadium
- [3] Chairman
- [5] The ben
- [7] CEO
- [8] The court side

Is there anything you would like to see in our new newsletter? Let us know
email: Jack.michael@rosscountyfootballclub.co.uk