



# THROTTUR

OLD BOYS



COMMEMORATIVE SCOTLAND TOUR PROGRAMME



70 YEARS

MIRACLE



NETHEIMUR



GRÁI  
KÖTTURINN



niftylift





# A CLUB 70 YEARS IN THE MAKING

## Knattspyrnufélagið Þróttur

Þróttur, founded on 5 August 1949, was formed in a Nissen hut on the West side of Reykjavik. The club drew support from the local area which, in the 1950's, was, in many ways, poverty stricken. The club struggled financially for the first tentative years. Þróttur then moved to the East side of Reykjavik, in 1969, to a new district that was expanding due to population growth in the capital.

Þróttur moved its headquarters once again, in 1999, to the nearby area of Laugardalur where the club currently resides. Over the years there has been highs and lows, yet the club always shows a remarkable resilience even in the face of adversity. Þróttur have based the club's foundations on being a family orientated company with strong links to the surrounding neighbourhood. Being one of the smaller provincial capital clubs, it's very difficult for Þróttur to compete financially against the mainstream Reykjavik clubs. However, there is something very special going on at Laugardalur - situated in a contiguous, urban area of Reykjavik - a real community spirit which tugs at the heartstrings. Þróttur celebrate their 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year. I hope everyone associated with the club raises a glass as they go from strength-to-strength with the passing of each year.

Þróttur are, unquestionably, an inspirational club based in the heart of Reykjavik.

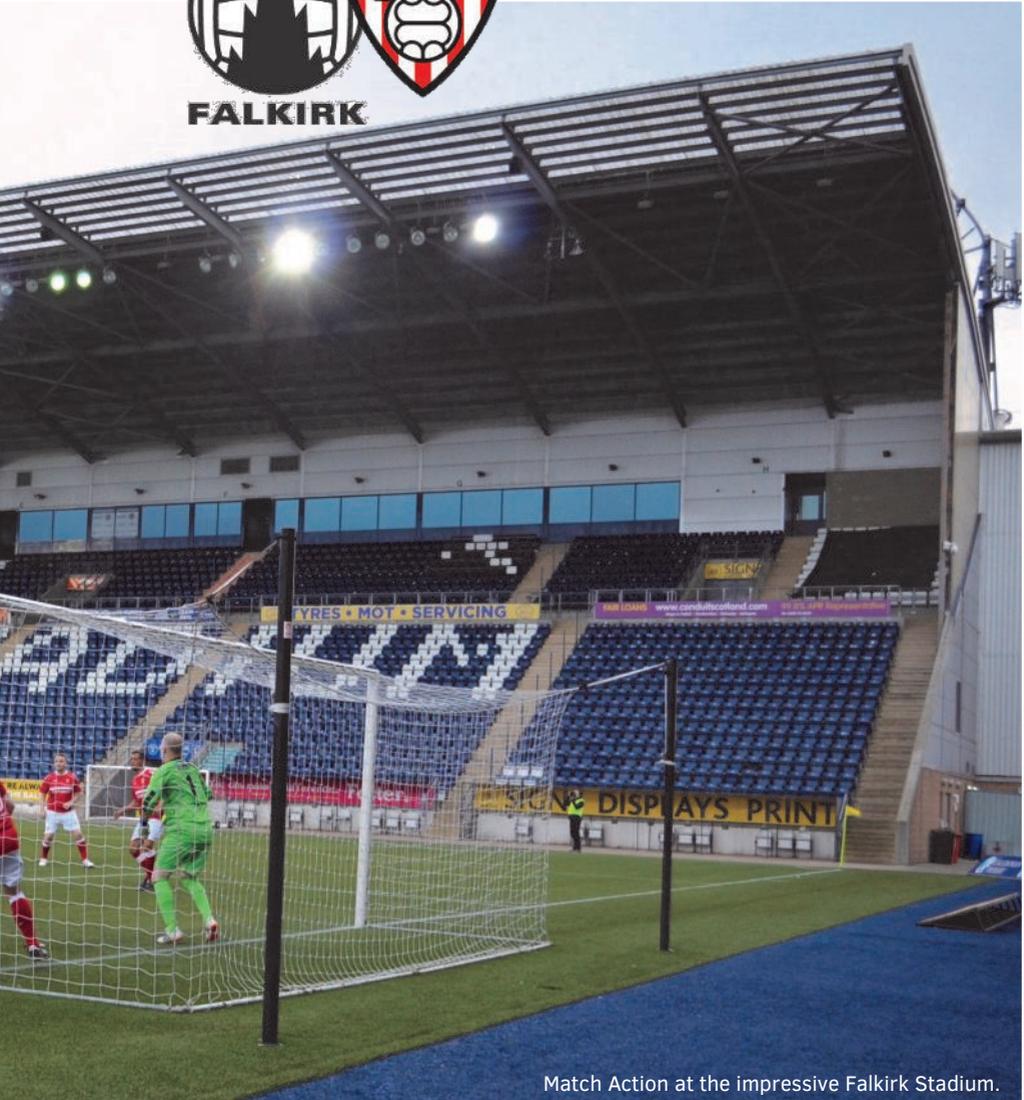
LIFI THROTTUR

# FALKIRK - THROTTUR

There was just enough time before the match for the 40-strong travelling party to visit one of Scotland's famous tourist attractions - The Kelpies. The largest equine sculptures in the world, The Kelpies (situated less than a mile from the stadium) rise 30-metres into the Falkirk skyline

and are a monument to horse powered heritage across Scotland. Throttur kicked off their Scottish tour against Falkirk 35s at the impressive, 8,000 seater, Falkirk Stadium. The teams were led onto





Match Action at the impressive Falkirk Stadium.

Jack Hunter leads the teams out with Captain Ellert Stefansson for the opening match against Falkirk.



the pitch by young mascots Jack Hunter (Throttur) and Cole Crawford (Falkirk). As the teams lined up, the haunting skirl of bagpipes, from Piper Neil Clark, echoed around the stadium as he played the Throttur anthem 'My Friend the Wind' followed by 'Flower of Scotland'. Referee David Somers blew his whistle to signal the start the match; the first 5 minutes of play was a cagey affair as both teams tried to maintain possession as they looked for openings in each others defence. The match burst into life shortly afterwards as ref Somers pointed to the penalty spot for an infringement in the Throttur box. Colin Moodie made no mistake from the spot as he sent Agust Tomasson the wrong way to give his side a 1-0 lead. The early goal seemed to

give the Falkirk outfit an air of confidence as they started to send passes into the wide flanks to create more space. Solmundur Jonsson was having a good game in the central defensive area as he foiled several Falkirk attacks. The Throttur midfield were struggling to make any headway, Ellert Stefansson was dictating some passages of play along with Asmundur Helgason out on the right-wing as Throttur pushed for an equaliser. Falkirk struck again after slack play in the Throttur defence, this time Johnny Taylor weaved his way into the box to send his shot into the bottom corner to give Falkirk a 2-goal cushion. On the half hour mark Bragi Skaftason saw his half-chance just go wide of the target. Throttur were struggling to penetrate a well marshalled Falkirk rear-guard. The crucial blow came on 35 minutes as Fal-

kirk hitman Johnny Taylor chased an innocuous ball that should have posed no danger; confusion prevailed in the Throttur box as Taylor managed to get himself between the defender and goalkeeper to chip the ball goal-ward into the empty net, Anil Thapa tried in vain to clear the ball but it just had enough pace as it trickled into the net to give the home-side a convincing 3-0 lead going into the half-time break. Manager Gudberg Jonsson made changes for the second half, as Throttur looked to try and salvage something from a match that was slipping away from them, and this was working for a 20 minute spell as they pinned back Falkirk deep in their half. Arnar Thor Jonsson, Ants Stern and Otthar Edvardsson were combining well as they pressurised the Falkirk midfield and defence. Gisli Olafsson was working tirelessly stopping the Falkirk midfielders catching Throttur on the counter-attacks. Throttur were unlucky not to get a couple of goals back for all their mounting pressure, but they were leaving spaces in defence as they pushed for the goal they craved.

**“EDVARDSSON ULEASHED A VENOMOUS SHOT HIGH INTO THE FALKIRK NET”**

Falkirk midfielder Ryan Wood latched on to long-ball as he raced through on goal to calmly dispatch past Agust Tomasson to put the Bairns into a commanding 4-0 lead. Throttur did eventually get a consolation for all their hard work as Otthar Edvardsson found some space behind a Falkirk defender and unleashed a venomous shot high into the net, past the outstretched hand of the Falkirk goal-

keeper, to give the Icelanders something to cheer about just as the rain started to swirl around the stadium. Rafn Jonsson and the commanding Solmundur Jonsson, in the heart of the Throttur defence, had to be on alert and dismantled the prowess of the Falkirk attacks with a series of well-timed last ditch tackles. A succession of foul throw-ins seemed to dog Throttur during play. Towards the end of the match an unnamed Throttur player (Thor Sigurdsson) was guilty of this misdemeanour on more than one occasion. Referee Somers, who was having a good game, came over to the player and had to educate him on how to take a throw-in correctly - much to the amusement of the crowd in the stands! This is the beauty of the game at Old Boys level: the referee was willing to give the player a second chance. With only a few minutes left on the clock, Falkirk striker Colin Moodie bagged his brace of the night as he sliced through on the Throttur goal and calmly slid the ball into the bottom corner of the net (from 10-yards) to extend Falkirk's lead, albeit against the run-of-play, as Throttur went on all-out attack. The match was played in great spirit by both teams and this was evident during the post-match hospitality as players posed for photos with their counterparts and enjoyed a beer together!



# BRAVE



Team Photo: After being piped onto the pitch.

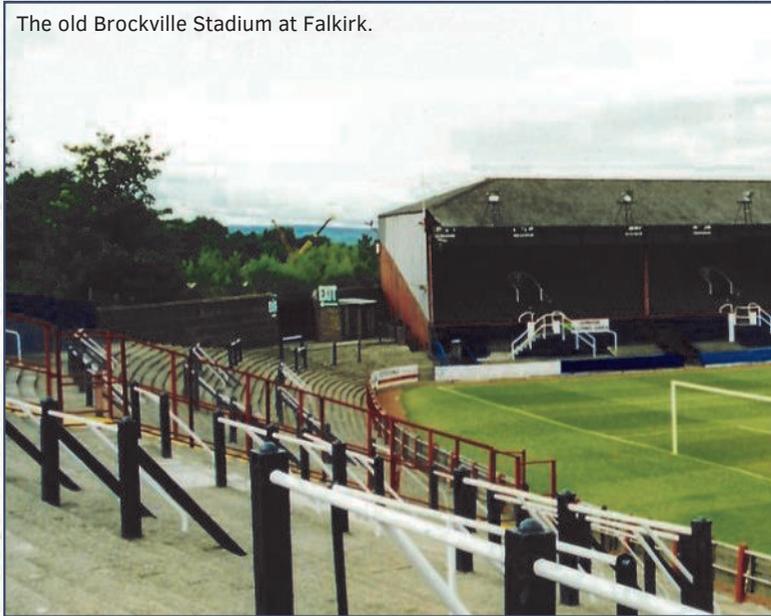
# HEARTS



Falkirk was founded in 1876 and competes in the Scottish First Division as a member of the Scottish Professional Football League. The club was elected to the Second Division of the Scottish Football League in 1902–03, were promoted to the First Division after two seasons and achieved its highest league position in the early 1900s when it was runner-up to Celtic in 1907-08 and 1909-10. The football club was registered as a Limited Liability Company in April 1905 – Falkirk Football & Athletic Club Ltd. Falkirk won the Scottish Cup for the first time in 1913. After 1945, Falkirk were promoted and demoted between the Premier and First Divisions seven times until 1995–96, and during the 1970s they spent three seasons in the Second Division. In 2005, Falkirk were promoted to the Scottish Premier League (SPL). Falkirk won the Scottish Cup again in 1957 and were runners-up in the competition in 1997, 2009 and 2015. As a result of its performance in the 2009 Scottish Cup, the club qualified for the inaugural season of the UEFA Europa League in 2009-10. Falkirk have won the second tier of Scottish football a record seven times, an honour shared with St Johnstone. They have also won the Scottish Challenge Cup more than any other club, winning it for the fourth time in 2012.

Falkirk's traditional colours are navy blue and white, which the team first wore during the 1882 season. However, the club's first strip, thin blue and white horizontal hoops on the jersey, was worn between 1876 and 1880. This was replaced with a blue jersey and white shorts, which has featured predominantly since. Touches of red were introduced to the strip in the late 1930s - mostly on the socks - was worn until the early 1960s, re-introduced in the mid-1970s and has since been featured in the team's kit. For the 2017-18 season the kit con-

The old Brockville Stadium at Falkirk.



sists of a navy blue jersey, white shorts and navy socks. The club's current crest is a stylised version of the Falkirk Steeple, a dominant landmark of the town. During the 2007–08 season the club used a crest - known as "The Highlander" - that was worn during the club's 1957 Scottish Cup win as a 50th anniversary tribute to the players. Kit manufacturer Umbro supplied the

club's kit for the 1977–78 season. Other kits have been supplied by Bukta, Patrick and Le Coq Sportif. As of August 2017, the current supplier since 2008 is Puma and the club's shirt sponsor is Central Demolition. Recent sponsors include Budweiser Budvar, John R Weir Mercedes Group and Beazer Homes. In the club's early years, Falkirk played its home games at three different sites: Hope Street, Randyford Park and Blinkbonny Park. The first pitch used by the club was on Hope Street, the location that would become Brockville Park in 1884. The

College, several hundred yards west of the present Falkirk Stadium. The club played at Blinkbonny Park between 1881 and 1883. Between 1885 and 2003, Falkirk was based at Brockville Park which was located a quarter of a mile (0.4 km) from the town centre of Falkirk. Brockville Park was largely terraced and had a capacity of between 7,500 and 8,000 spectators in its later years. On 21 February 1953, Falkirk's largest home attendance was recorded at the ground when 23,100 spectators watched the club play against Celtic in the third round of the

Scottish Cup. When the SPL was created in 1998, Brockville Park fell short of the SPL's stadium criteria, mainly because of the terraced stands. As a result, the club was denied entry to the league, despite winning the First Division or qualifying for a promotion play-off on three occasions. Falkirk remained at the stadium until the last day of the 2002-03 football season, and in late 2003 Brockville was demolished and the site sold to supermarket chain Morrison Supermarkets plc. To



first match at Hope Street was against Grasshoppers from Bonnybridge. After one season, Falkirk moved to Randyford Park, the home of East Stirlingshire Cricket Club during the summer months, in 1878 was where the club played its first competitive match, which it won against Campsie Glen of Lennoxton in the Scottish Cup. The ground was located near Forth Valley

commemorate the club's time at the stadium, the supermarket displays Falkirk F.C. memorabilia, including a turnstile. For the 2003–04 season, Falkirk entered an agreement with Stenhousemuir to ground-share Ochilview Park stadium for one season while the club's new stadium was under construction.

Since the beginning of the 2004–05 season, the club has been based at Falkirk stadium, an 8,750 capacity all-seater stadium built on the eastern outskirts of Falkirk. The stadium was opened in July 2004 with a friendly match against Dundee. When it opened, only the 4,200 capacity west stand was completed. The 2,000 capacity north stand was constructed during the opening season and was completed in May 2005, taking the stadium above the SPL's reduced 6,000 seating criterion. Falkirk became champions of the First Division that season and was promoted to the SPL. The stadium has since been further expanded; the south stand officially opened in a match against Royal Antwerp of Belgium in August 2009.

Falkirk's strongest recent rivalry is with Dunfermline Athletic. The towns of Dunfermline and Falkirk are roughly 13 miles apart, separated by the River Forth. Both clubs are a similar size and have regularly competed at the same level in the SPL and First Division but the origin of the rivalry is unclear, as former Falkirk manager John Hughes said in an interview in 2005. The two clubs have played important promotion and relegation encounters against each other over the past thirty years which has only increased the animosity between the two sets of fans.

In 2009 the Falkirk Herald recalled Super Tuesday: "More than 20 years ago a previously postponed league fixture took place at Brockville. The then mighty Dunfermline had come to town expecting victory as they

looked to continue their push for promotion from the B&Q First Division. But, for over half of the 9200 supporters that packed the terraces on 7 March 1989, little did they know they would witness a match which would eventually become part of Falkirk folklore. Goals from Derek McWilliams, Paul Rutherford, Sammy McGivern and Stuart Burgess without reply brought the Pars back down to earth with an almighty bang."

A significant match between Falkirk and Dunfermline took place in April 2009, when they met at the semi-final stage of the 2008–09 Scottish cup at Hampden Park; the Bairns won 2–0 in front of over 17,000 fans to progress to the final.

The club's traditional rival was East Stirlingshire a club that was also based in Falkirk. The two teams regularly competed against each other in their early existences in the Stirlingshire Cup, as well as in league football following Falkirk's election to the Scottish Football League in 1902–03, two seasons after East Stirlingshire. The last time the clubs played each other in a competitive league fixture was in April 1982, which East Stirlingshire won 3–0, when both clubs were in the First Division. Following East Stirlingshire's relegation that season, the two clubs have not competed in the same league; Falkirk predominantly in the First Division and East Stirlingshire in the Third Division. In 1999–00 the clubs were drawn against each other in the second round of the Scottish League Cup, which Falkirk won 2–0 after extra time was played, the last competitive fixture between the clubs excluding the Stirlingshire Cup.

- Scottish League Championships (first tier) •Runners-up (2):1907–08, 1909–10
- Scottish First Division: (second tier) Winners (7):1935–36, 1969–70, 1974–75, 1990–91, 1993–94, 2002–03, 2004–05
- Runners-up (8): 1904–05, 1951–52, 1960–61, 1985–86, 1988–89, 1997–98, 1998–99, 2015–16
- Scottish Second Division: (third tier) Winners (1): 1979–80
- Scottish Cup: Winners (2): 1913, 1957
- Runners-up (3): 1997, 2009, 2015
- Scottish League Cup: Runners-up (1):1947–48
- Scottish Challenge Cup: Winners (4): 1993,1997, 2004, 2012

**Notable players**

Scott Arfield (currently Rangers)  
 Sir Alex Ferguson who made 95 appearances.  
 David Weir (Ex Everton & Rangers) 69 Scotland caps.  
 Kasper Schmeichel (Leicester City) 15 apps.  
 Bob Shankly, the brother of Liverpool Manager Bill Shankly.



# THROTTUR AT HOME AND ABROAD

**T**hrottur Old Boys have been in existence for over 35 years; they entered their first competition in 1982.

Things were slowly evolving, at the newly formed club, and it took a few years before the Old Boys tasted success, however, 1990 was the year written into the club's history books as they were crowned Icelandic Champions for the first time. There has been sporadic success, over the years, as the Old Boys game, in Iceland, develops and gathers momentum; run under the auspice of the KSI, it is now split into 3 age groups: 30-40, 40-50 and 50+.

Throttur have, arguably, the biggest membership of active players

in the country and that is something the club is proud of; to have around 200 members doesn't just happen overnight - so much hard work has gone into improving the infrastructure. The small committee, within the Old Boys, give up much of their free time to organise tournaments over the winter months and keep everything ticking-over at the club.

At the forefront of revolutionising Old Boys football in Iceland, with the setting up of the 'Older' tournament (which is still very much in its infancy), in the not too distant future, Throttur are looking at trying to attract foreign opposition to Icelandic shores, to compete in an international tournament. The big-

The Old Boys committee.





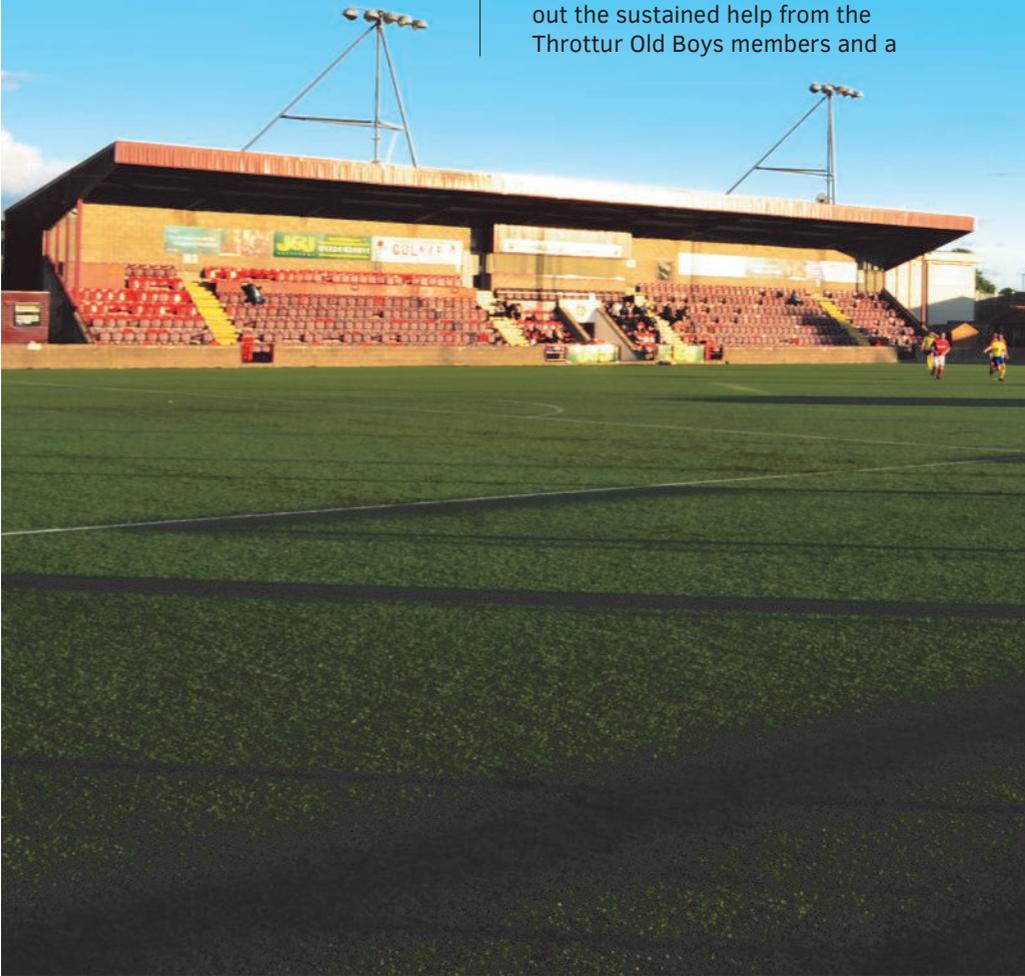
Legends: David Moyes Snr and Helgi Thorvaldsson

gest problem the club face, to make this a reality, is financial support from the governing bodies: KSI and UEFA. The top brass at these bodies are always quick to point out, at every given moment, “football is for everyone; It's a global game; Equality within football” whenever a major global tournament hits our TV screens. These days, Football is a billion-pound industry and over the past decade money from the windfall has been handed out to FA's across the world to invest in grassroots football. As a 40-something, ex-footballer, myself, there are many pitfalls within our age groups that many people will encounter: mental health, marriage break-up, job loss, and depression, to name a few, yet, this seems to go unnoticed by many of the suits and pen-pushers who allegedly care about the beautiful game. Football and the enjoyment of being part of a close-knit group has

far reaching impacts in our daily life. I can honestly say that actively playing football in the twilight of our lives is just as important as an 8-9 year old attending grassroots football training for the first time. Throttur Old Boys have good connections in Scotland, England and Denmark; it would be easy enough to get foreign clubs over for an International tournament, which would be ground-breaking for Icelandic football in general, however, as we all know, Iceland is a very expensive country to visit. If the KSI or Reykjavik Council were to help financially (i.e. airport transfers, reduced accommodation and food costs - similar to what they have with the Rey Cup) the idea of an International Old Boys competition could become reality! I have travelled the length and breadth of Iceland, in recent years, visiting clubs all over the country, hearing their

stories and how they plan to succeed in the future. The strides taken at Throttur, to improve the club and boost the dynamics within the community, is second to none: walking football, online matches (live) at the Rey Cup, and Bergid head space (an initiative for youngsters to reach out for counselling and improve well-being) are just some of the more recent things added to the club structure. The

Old Boys Committee: Gudberg Konrad Jonsson, Indridi Waage, Geir Leo Gudmundsson, Kolbeinn Reginsson and Otthar Edvardsson have raised the bar, for as far as the Old Boys scene in Iceland goes, as the rest of the clubs in the country try and emulate what Throttur Old Boys have built-up and achieved over the past decade, or so, as Throttur go from strength-to-strength. It's fair to say the club would not be able to function without the sustained help from the Throttur Old Boys members and a



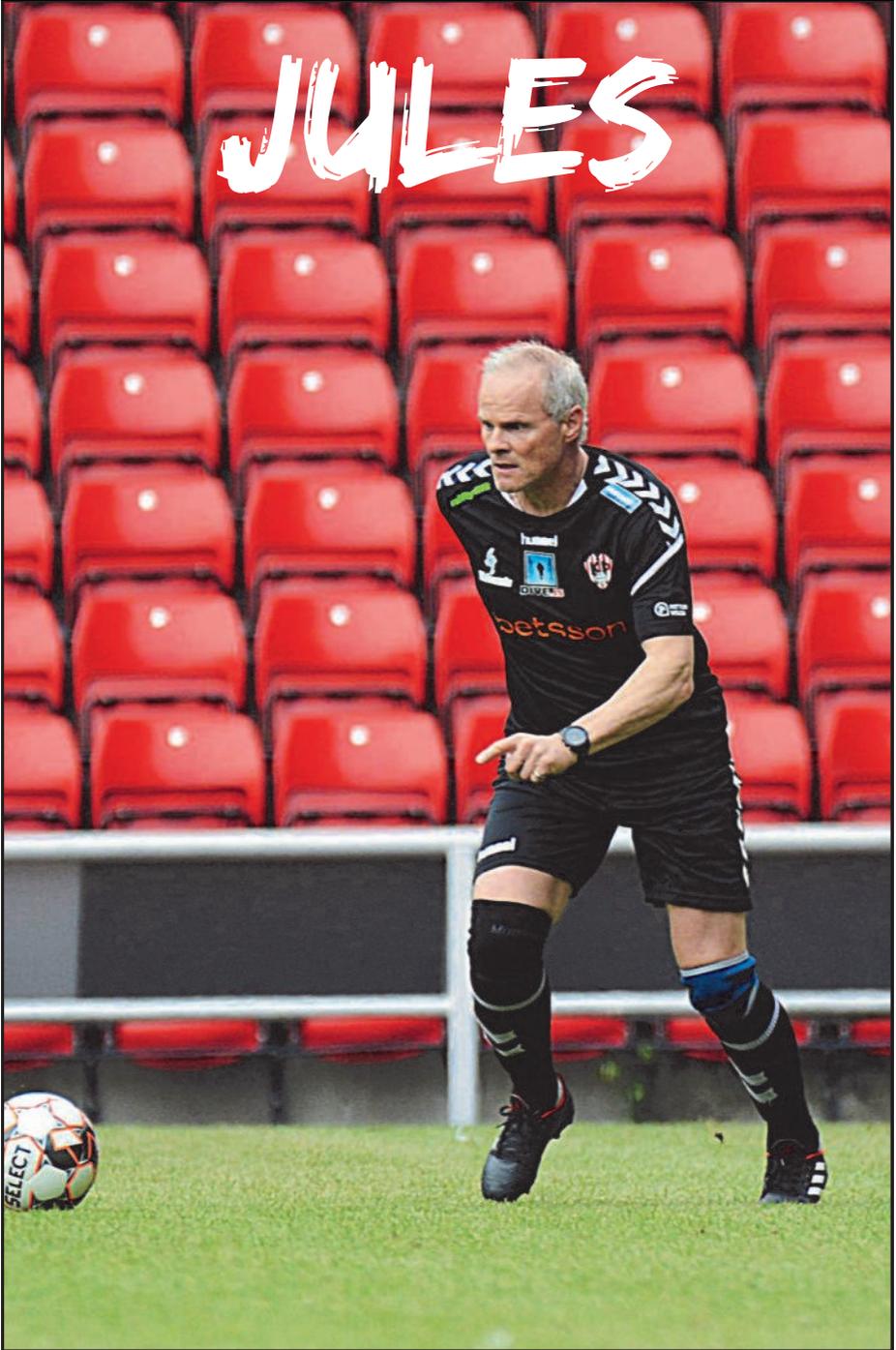
small army of volunteers who not only maintain the pitch but on a match-day provide stewarding, security, issue tickets and sell food. The committee have also made a concerted effort to take the club to the next level - this year's tour of Scotland has proved that the sky is the limit. The Scotland visit, in May, was one of the biggest and most ambitious football tours that any Icelandic club has ever taken. Again, this is all down to the hard work of the committee and the players themselves; it is testament to what can be achieved in life when

a group of guys show astounding commitment, which, at the end of the day, epitomises the Old Boys character. It's about time they are shown some recognition, from the KSI, for their work in the community - they are Ambassadors for Icelandic Football, at home and abroad. Have Throttur reached the pinnacle of playing international games at home and abroad?

They are only getting started...



Eye on the ball: Geir Leo and Solmundur get ready to make a tackle.





**Do you have a favourite ground away from Eimskjovollur:** Origovöllur (Valur FC) my old club.

**Who has been your toughest opponent:** Ómar Torfason, Víkingur

**Worst dressed at the club - Who thinks they are a fashion icon:** No idea

**There are many beautiful places to visit in Iceland, do you have a favourite:** Þórsmörk in Autumn

**What has been the funniest moment you have witnessed at the club:** When one of our defenders tried to clear the ball from 16 metres and it hit one of our players and rebounded back over our goalkeeper, he had no chance of saving it. Own goal.

**When did you play your first game at the Old Boys:** 2015

**Favourite drink:** Lemon

**Favourite food:** Lamb

**Favourite TV show:** Game of Thrones

**Favourite musician/band:** The Eagles

**Which teams would you never play with:** KR Reykjavík

**The most famous player you have met:** Ásgeir Sigurvinsson

**The best coach that has trained you:** Ásgeir Elíasson

**The most intolerable player[s] at Throttur Old Boys:** Not good to mention.

**The sweetest victory:** Beating Valur when I played with Thróttur in the first division.

**The biggest disappointment:** When Thróttur got relegated after 4 years playing in first division.

**What is the first thing you would change if you were the chairman of KSÍ:** Working on making all live TV football matches aired free to the public.

**Who is the best player in the squad:** Ótthar Edvardsson.

**Strangest thing that has happened during a match:** I scored a goal after 3 seconds at the start of a game.

**Outside football, which other sports interest you:** Golf

**Most embarrassing moment:** Can't think of any.

**Which three players would you take to deserted island:** Guðberg, Stebbi Mikk, Kolli.

**Interesting fact about yourself:** Always willing to help others.

# THE HISTORY OF GLASGOW



**G**lasgow is situated along both banks of the River Clyde, 20 miles (32 km) from the river's mouth on the western, Atlantic coast. Glasgow is Scotland's largest city, and it forms an independent council area that lies entirely within the historic county of Lanarkshire. The city occupies much of the lower Clyde valley, and its suburbs extend into surrounding districts. The most important commercial and administrative buildings lie north of the River Clyde.

Glasgow's Gaelic name, Glaschu, means "Green Glen." There is evidence of a fortified prehistoric village on the original site, but Glasgow did not begin to develop until about 550 CE with the arrival of St. Kentigern (Mungo) who established a religious community there. The present cathedral, dedicated to St. Mungo and begun in the 12th century, was built on the site of the chapel. About 1180 William I designated Glasgow a burgh of

barony, and about 1189 it was granted the right to hold an annual fair. The first stone bridge over the Clyde was built in 1350. Glasgow was created a royal burgh in 1450, and its university was founded in 1451. Glasgow prospered as a market centre because it was well situated between Highland and Lowland Scotland and also between Edinburgh - the capital, 45 miles (72 km) east—and the west. Yet it was not until after the union of the Scottish and English crowns (1603) that Glasgow grew significantly.

When trade with the Americas developed in the 18th century, Glasgow was already exporting coal, plaid (wool cloth), and herring to Europe. Trade in the Americas' tropical produce (tobacco, sugar and rum) then made fortunes for the Glasgow merchants, as the River Clyde was dredged and deepened and eventually made navigable to the heart of the city. In 1745, however, Glasgow was

almost ruined by the levies imposed by the army of the insurgent Charles Edward Stuart, the “Young Pretender,” which occupied the city. A greater blow followed in 1775 with the revolt of the American colonies and the end of the tobacco trade. Cotton manufacture, which was well suited to Glasgow’s damp climate, succeeded the trade in tobacco. Textiles were exported, sugar from the West Indies was processed, and Glasgow’s fortunes revived until supplies of raw cotton were disrupted during the American Civil War (1861–65).

With the Industrial Revolution, came coal mining, iron founding, chemical manufacturing, and, especially, shipbuilding, which developed in Glasgow early in the 19th century. The prosperity of Glasgow’s shipbuilding and heavy industry was badly shaken after World War 1, and its industry has since tended toward greater variety.

Industrial decline in Glasgow and the development of the peripheral new towns of East Kilbride and Cumbernauld, reduced the inner city’s population and congestion. During the mid-20th century high-rise redevelopment schemes replaced Glasgow’s notorious slum tenement areas (particularly the Gorbals). Late in the century Glasgow experienced a new wave of revitalization and construction. Glasgow’s economy in the 21st century includes traditional heavy engineering, advanced engineering and manufacturing, aerospace technology, and development (notably the production of satellites), information and communication technology, software engineering, and renewable energy and low-carbon innovations. The city’s Bio-Corridor brings the public sector business, and academia together

in the research, development, and production of pharmaceuticals, bioinformatics, and medical technology. Glasgow also has a huge retail sector, is a centre of film and television production, and is an important global financial and business services hub. Modern business and industrial estates house many small firms, and others have moved to Glasgow’s new towns. Tourism has increased in importance, aided by the Scottish Event Campus (known as Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre when it opened in 1985), which includes the 12,000-seat SSE Hydro entertainment arena (2013), the 3,000-seat SEC Armadillo auditorium (1997), and the SEC Centre, a complex of interconnected exhibition and meeting rooms.

The city is a notable education centre, led by the University of Glasgow (founded 1451). The University of Strathclyde was founded in 1796 as Anderson’s Institution and obtained university status in 1964. Glasgow Caledonian University, founded in 1875, gained university status in 1993. Glasgow’s other post secondary institutions include the Glasgow School of Art (founded in 1845 as the Glasgow Government School of Design), the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland (founded in 1847 as the Glasgow Athenaeum), City of Glasgow College (established in 2010 by the merger of Glasgow College of Nautical Studies, Glasgow Metropolitan College, and Central College Glasgow), Glasgow Kelvin College (formed in 2013 by the merger of North Glasgow College, Stowe College, and John Wheatley College), and Glasgow Clyde College (formed in 2013 by the merger of Anniesland,

## #LIFI

Cardonald, and Langside colleges). Few ancient buildings have survived the industrial era, apart from the cathedral and Provand's Lordship (1471), Glasgow's oldest house, but the historic district known as Glasgow Cross, just east of the modern city centre, preserves buildings and streetscapes from the 17th and 18th centuries and is well endowed with parks and cultural amenities, including the Scottish Opera, the Scottish Ballet, the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, and Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum. The Burrell Collection, in Pollok Country Park, includes ancient art and works by European and Asian masters. Glasgow also is the site of the Gallery

of Modern Art and the Lighthouse, an exhibition and conference centre devoted to architecture, design, and city planning. The Riverside Museum, on the banks of the Clyde, explores the history of transportation. The Glasgow Science Centre explores the effect of science and technology on society and includes the Glasgow Tower. This 459-foot- (140-metre-) high tower is the tallest free-standing structure in Scotland and the only structure of its height in the world that revolves 360 degrees from its base. Scotland's first public museum, the Hunterian (established in 1807), is housed on the grounds of the University of Glasgow.



Ready to paint the town red and white in Glasgow.

70 YEARS 

# INGI SAEVAR

# INGASON



**T**he beautiful game – it's a national obsession. Many of us might play football when we're young and probably think about giving it up as we get older. The Old Boys game, in Iceland, has been up and running for a number of years. In the UK it's a relatively new phenomenon but has had such a big impact in Scotland as it deters retired players from the temptations of alcohol abuse and it's also a great stimulant to help players who are suffering from depression or other acute medical conditions.

It's hard to think that a game of football can have such a positive impact on saving someone's life! Throttur Old Boys goalkeeper, Ingi Saevar Ingason, has managed to get his life back on track after succumbing to the demons of alcohol and substance

abuse. The 38 year old opened up about his drug heartbreak and how he found solace playing the beautiful game once again. "I was shy when I was a youngster and used to get bullied, it was difficult to deal with and I also had to contend with a particularly bad split-up from my girlfriend, I wasn't in a good place at the time, emotionally. That's when I tried amphetamine for the first time, it was an escapism from all the problems and pain that I was enduring in my life, it didn't take long before I became fully dependant on the drug as it helped numb-away the emotional and mental pain I was suffering." Ingi was in dire need of help. He showed me a couple of photos from his days of taking drugs, it was a haunting sight to see how much weight he had lost and what he had become. Most drug users find it difficult to admit they have a problem. The first step in the rehabilitation process is holding your hands up and asking for the specialist help that is needed. Ingi did that, however, it was going to be a long, arduous, process that would finally lead him onto a safe pathway from the lures of alcohol and drugs. Ingi went on to say, "I was determined to get clean and would often speak to a guy on the phone from the Icelandic rehab programme; more talking over the phone resumed and I was soon persuaded to get a hobby. I played football in my younger days for my local club Leiknir and then went on to play for Valur 3<sup>rd</sup>Flokkur. A good friend of mine, who was on the AA program, told me to come down to training practice with Throttur Old Boys and I duly took up the invitation." I can only imagine the nervousness that Ingi was feeling the night he turned up at the first training session as he met up with a complete bunch of strangers for a kick-about at the Eimskipvollur

and taking his first tentative steps of fully turning his life around. "I was 3 months sober when I arrived with my kit for training, the guys at Throttur knew I was attending and were aware of my problems. During the warm up I recognised a voice, I went over to speak to one of the Old Boys players and asked him if he was working with the rehab programme, it was indeed the same person who had been giving me so much support on the phone during my times of desperation! I thanked Karl Gunnarsson so much, he was like a beacon of light for me during my darkest hours."

**It's hard to ignore Ingi's infectious persona and honesty, talking candidly about such an emotional and fragmented part of his life. It takes someone with huge courage and an extraordinary spirit to come forward and talk about their pitfalls**

Ingi explains "I have to thank my teammates at the Old Boys, they welcomed me with open arms, being a goalkeeper was also to my advantage as they were short of players in this position, but in all honesty, being part of this group gives me a renewed focus - it's a real game changer for me."

In 2018, Throttur Old Boys came to Edinburgh, for a match in the Scottish Capital, and also a game at the Stadium of Light in Sunderland. This was a massive part of Ingi's transformation, "This was my first time abroad for 13 years and to be part of this unique group travelling from Iceland was a special feeling for me, the camaraderie and bonding I shared with the rest guys was so re-energizing and gave me much more confidence within myself. To play at the Stadium of Light is a moment I will treasure, walking down the tun-

nel into a 50,000 seater stadium and smelling the freshly cut grass as I entered the pitch is a memory I will cherish forever.”

There are certainly physical, mental and social benefits to playing football for older people, but many of these benefits are common to most regular exercise. Football is especially valuable for men. Around 22% of men die before the age of 65, compared to 13% of women. Physically active men have a 20-30% reduced risk of premature death and 50% less chronic disease. But by the age of 55-64, only 32% of men say that they take the recommended half-hour of strenuous exercise five times a week. Ingi went on a training regime of between 4-6 hourly sessions per week with a complete focus on getting back to full fitness as well as attending college to gain an education in computer tech. Success followed earlier this year as Ingi graduated with a diploma, however, he has set his sights on higher academic training as he hopes to achieve his lifetime ambition of working within the computer science sector. Ingi goes on to explain “There are many guys at Throttur who have successful business’, good jobs and families; they are role models to me, I want to succeed with my education and get a good job at the end of it. My family have given me tremendous support during my dark days, the lads at Throttur are in many ways an extension of my family.” One key factor to successful football at Throttur Old Boys is to keep it informal. The players have other commitments. The games can be drop-in, and they can be more or less age-limited as the participants agree. They can even be mixed-

gender provided there are some rules about contact. Or things can be made more formal and competitive, with age ranges and skill levels specified. Despite this informality, older footballers often seek extra training.

**“The guys at Throttur Old Boys are an inspiration to me, I can say that playing with the Old Boys has saved my life.”**

Throttur came on another tour to Scotland this year, Ingi travelled once again. “I had a back injury and couldn’t play in any of the matches but coming on these trips gives me a renewed vigour and I get to know the guys better. I love the Scottish culture and the people are so friendly. Obviously, I wanted to be out on the pitch playing but looking at the bigger picture, these trips give me an outlook on what can be achieved with determination. Five to six years ago, I was stuck in the middle of a drug and alcohol fuelled environment, coming on a football tour abroad would not have been remotely possible.”

Football has given Ingi ambition, hope, and has made him more adaptable in dealing with everyday situations. There are a number of factors that have helped him get his life back on track again, however, he goes on to say “The guys at Throttur Old Boys are an inspiration to me, I can say that playing with Throttur Old Boys has saved my life.”

I shared a light hearted moment with Ingi after this revelation: that a leather ball, full of air, can have such a positive impact of someone’s life and provide a light at the end of the tunnel! There are so many positives that people can take from Ingi’s story: he is such a genuine guy with a heart of gold and possesses an new, alluring, outlook on life which is based on a steely determination to succeed where others have failed.









Up in the heavens at St James' park: The lads getting a tour at Newcastle.



# AGUST TOMASSON



**Do you have a favourite ground away from Eimskjovollur:** Stadium of Light, of course, the only real stadium I've played at. But besides that, it's Tungubakkavöllur in Mosfellsbær around midnight in the summertime when the sun is still shining.

**Who has been your toughest opponent:** When you think of teams, it's KR in the 50+. However, we will beat them this summer, twice! Talking about players in Próttur, it's Júlí Kemp on the far post. Always scores.

**Worst dressed at the club - Who thinks they are a fashion icon:** There is usually some guys wearing a Liverpool strip to training. It's not the best!

**There are many beautiful places to visit in Iceland , do you have a favourite:** Yes, it's Þórsmörk, there you can always find something different.

**What has been the funniest moment you have witnessed at the club:** Slátrarinn og Gróttmaðurinn

**When did you play your first game at the Old Boys:** Around 2003 or 2004, I can't remember because it's was such a long time ago.

**Favourite drink:** A good malt is always nice to drink, slowly.

**Favourite food:** Lobster is my favourite food but I also like smoked lamb.

**Favourite TV show:** I don't watch TV much but I try to watch football when I think it will be a good game.

**Favourite musician/band:** It must be The Beatles.

**Which team would you never play for:** A team that plays dirty. I don't like that kind of football.

**The most famous player you have met:** Probably Hermann Hreiðarsson, the Herminator. I played against him once in an Old Boys tournament in Reykjavík. He's a good guy.

**The best coach that has trained you:** Hmmmm, I haven't had that many coaches and it's so long ago that I can't remember. I only started playing football after 40 years of age.

**The most intolerable player[s] at Throttr Old Boys:** Kolli, the Killer, he sometimes scores goals against me, usually ugly goals, often with his toe.

**The sweetest victory:** The last game of the Icelandic 50+ championship last summer when we beat Keflavík and won the silver medal. That was sweet.

**The biggest disappointment:** The two games against KR last year, it cost us the gold in the Icelandic championship.

**What is the first thing you would change if you were the chairman of KSÍ:** Stop thinking about building a bigger national stadium at Laugardalsvöllur, and put all the money into grassroots, work with kids and younger players. Building more artificial grounds and employ and educate more coaches. These two elements are the secret behind the success of the Icelandic national teams, women's and men's in recent years.

**Who is the best player in the squad:** That is a tricky one, I must say the King. Óli the centre back I have been playing with all my time in the old boys. It is always good to see him in front of you.

**Strangest thing that has happened during a match:** It felt strange to lose the sight of one eye after a ball hit me in the face.

**Outside football, which other sports interest you:** Handball is my favourite sport other than football.

**Most embarrassing moment:** It's always embarrassing when you get the ball between legs and it is a goal. I hate it.

**Which three players would you take to deserted island:** The Godfather because he gets things done, the King because he can find everything and Maggi Bárðar, the chairman of the old boys parents club, because he never stops.

**Interesting fact about yourself:** I have played more football until I reached the age of 40.

# GODFATHERS – SILVERFOXES



The Throttur squad were on the road, once again, travelling down to the North of England for a match at the Stadium of Light. On the way the team received a warm welcome at St James' Park, home of Newcastle FC, and got a history tour of the magnificent arena before continuing the short journey on to Sunderland. The 40-strong squad were split into two teams - Silverfoxes and Godfathers - to see who would come out on top and earn the bragging rights for the months ahead. The



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match kicked off and the Godfathers were on the ascendancy with a few early shots that warmed the hands of Gustafsson in the Silverfoxes goal. Arnar Thor Jonsson was creating a lot of problems on the left wing and whipping dangerous crosses into the box, however, the Godfathers were just missing the killer instinct in front of goal. The Silverfoxes started to get a foothold on the match, Jules was linking-up well with the ever dangerous Edvardsson to create some good passages of play. The first clear chance of the match fell to Jules after an excellent through-ball, from midfield, that carved open the Godfathers defence; Jules homed in on goal but screwed his shot just wide of the target. At the other end of the pitch the Godfathers

were causing all sorts of problems for the Silverfox defence. Anil Thapa (The Himalayan King) managed to out-smart Sigurdur Thorvaldsson before cutting in from the right-hand side and sliding the ball past a stranded Gustafsson; only to see his goal-bound shot deflected past the goal by Hagalin. The Silverfox forwards were still causing problems for the Godfather defence and got their just rewards as Kolbeinn Reginsson latched onto a lovely through-ball to slide his shot under the onrushing Tomasson to give the Silverfoxes the lead. The match raged from end-to-end with the Godfathers going close, once again, as Stefan Mikaelsson's ferocious shot was somehow saved by the athletic Gustafsson. There were great



The victorious Godfathers squad.

individual performances starting to develop all over the pitch: Stefan Olafur Sigurdsson, Gisli Olafsson and Magnus Geir Eyjolfsson catching the eye. The Godfathers continued pushing for an equaliser and got the goal they deserved, midway through the first half, as Berti Andresson teased and tormented the Silverfox defence before curling his powerful shot into the top corner of the net; it was a goal fit to grace any Premiership stadium. Arne Fridrik Karlsson and Gisli Olafsson continued to battle for supremacy and created sublime passes, for both sides, just before the interval. The scoreline was 1-1, at half-time, as both teams went to the dressing rooms deep in the bowels of this fantastic stadium. Indridi Waage made a number of changes dur-

ing the break and the Silverfoxes started the second half with renewed vigour as they started to dominate the midfield area. Ants Stern was making intelligent runs into wide areas; the Godfathers midfielders had no answer to his speed and dominance in the air. Godfather Manager, Gudberg Jonsson, brought on a number of subs to try and change the shape of his team; to nullify the Silverfox attacks. Agust Tomasson was the busier of the goalkeepers as he made a number of fantastic saves before Ants Stern steered in a dangerous cross, from the left-hand side, with pace; Gustafsson, who was now playing outfield, ghosted in at the back-post to knock the ball into the empty net. Moments later the Silverfoxes almost grabbed a third goal,



The Silverfoxes.

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a perfectly weighted pass put Boal one-on-one with Agust Tomasson: Boal's left-footed shot looked net bound until the shot-stopper managed to palm the ball onto the woodwork to deny the striker once again. The Godfathers were still hitting on the counter-attack and got the goal they deserved as Berti Andresson fired home, from close range, for his second goal of the match.

A virtuoso performance, at the other end of the pitch, from the seemingly impenetrable, Agust Tomasson was the main talking point from a match played in fantastic spirit. Otthar Edvardsson, Ants Stern and Geir Leo Gudmundsson all had chances but just couldn't find a way past Tomasson who was performing heroics

in the Godfather goal. With only three minutes of play remaining, Indridi Bjornsson (the ace up the Godfathers sleeve) latched on to a pinpoint pass, to knock the ball beyond the onrushing Stefan Hrafn Hagalin, and calmly slip the ball into the empty net as he wheeled away to celebrate, wildly, with the majority of the Godfathers bench. For the last few minutes, the Silverfox forwards lay siege to the Godfathers goal, firstly, a looping drive from Edvardsson was saved by the on-form Tomasson, who, then, showed good reflexes to stop another shot after a goalmouth melee. The Godfathers held out to secure a memorable 3-2 win. Agust Tomasson capped off the perfect afternoon as he was named the Sunderland officials 'Man of the Match'.



The 3 Amigos: L-R Berti Andresson, Agust Tomasson and Indridi Bjornsson



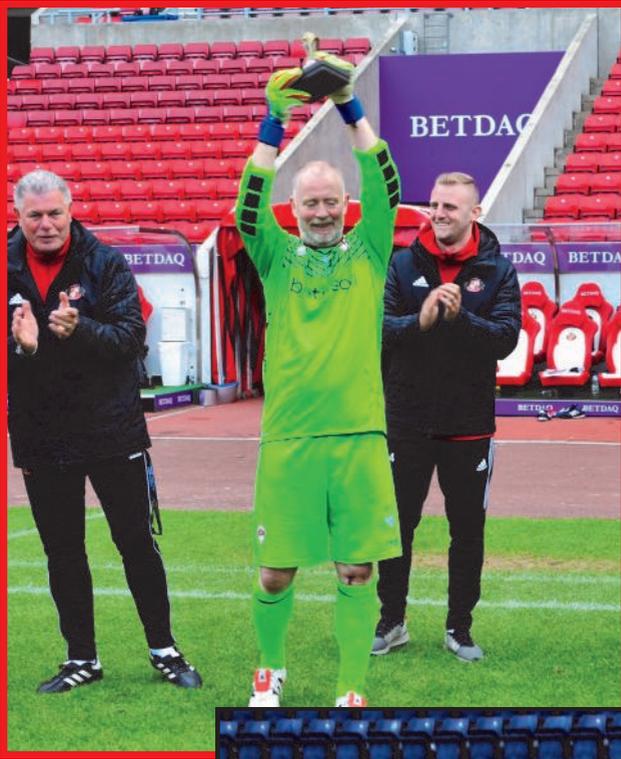
Sighvatur Arnmundsson retains possession under the watchful eye from Edvardsson.







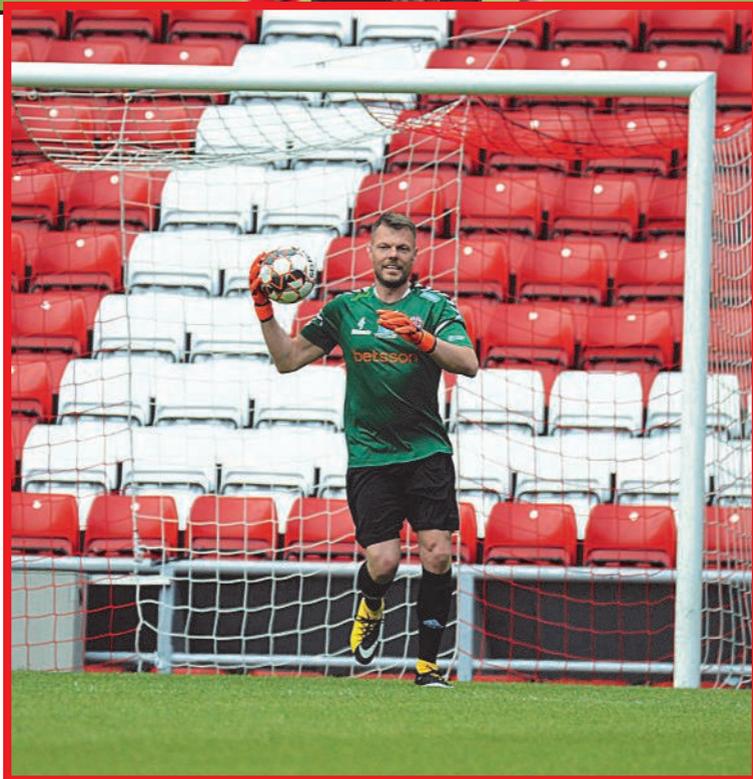
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# MAN OF THE MATCH



Solmundur Mar Jonsson: MOTM v Falkirk. Bogi Kristjansson: MOTM v Cumbernauld Colts. Agust Tomasson: MOTM v Silverfoxes. Karl Magnus Gustafsson: MOTM v Stenhousemuir.





Ready for kick-off at Broadwood Stadium.



# CUMBERNAULD COLTS - THROTTUR

## MATCH REPORT

This match was going to be a baptism of fire for Throttur; they were facing a squad that included former professional players such as David Rowson (Ex - Aberdeen & Stoke City), Alan Archibald (Ex - Partick Thistle & Dundee United) and Ian Maxwell (Ex - St Johnstone & St Mirren, and the current Chief Executive of the Scottish Football Association). The bulk of the Cumbernauld Colts, squad, played at Junior Level 7 in the Scottish pyramid system. Conditions were perfect for the match at the compact, 8,068 seater, Broadwood Stadium situated on the outer limits of Glasgow.

Jon Olafsson was the Captain for this match against the former Scottish 'Over 35s Champions'. The match kicked-off and immediately Colts took the initiative to Throttur, pinning the Reykjavik club deep inside their own half, it became evident that this was going to be backs against the wall for 90 minutes. The crisp passing and long diagonal balls across the pitch, all aimed at dragging Throttur players out of position, was working as the Old Boys struggled to compete against a much younger and fitter team. Karl Magnus Gustafsson put together a string of fine saves before Gavin Campbell slotted home, from close-range, to give the host side the lead. Rowson was pulling the strings in midfield for the home side, Ants Stern and Bogi were doing an admirable job as they were tasked with closing down the former Stoke City man. Colts dou-

bled their lead with a superb, looping, header from Grantham after 20 minutes, moments later Gavin Campbell bagged his second goal of the match, curling a shot into the top corner from 20 yards, leaving Gustafsson with no chance.

Karl Gunnarsson was linking well with Bogi Kristjansson who was starting to cause problems for Colts on the left side of the pitch. The aerial presence of Olafur Stefan Magnusson and Benjamin Sigursteinsson were forcing Colts a rethink of putting angled crosses into the box. Some slick play in midfield, from maestro Jon Olafsson and Indridi Waage, led to the ball being knocked forward to Steinn Kristinn Bragason who showed a deft control before unleashing a perfectly-weighted pass, with the outside of his boot, which opened up the Colts defence. Bogi Kristjansson, who raced in on goal, cut inside a Cumbernauld defender to poke his composed shot, past Colts goalkeeper Kirkwood, into the far corner of the net: much to the delight of the Icelandic fans in the stand. Another two, quick-fire, goals for Cumbernauld cast no doubt that the Old Boys were on a damage limitation exercise, by this point, and worse was to follow as the influential, man-mountain, Benjamin Sigursteinsson hobbled off the pitch with a hamstring injury and Colts added a goal from close range, after slack defending, to cruise into a 6-1

lead at the break. Manager Indridi Waage had to reshuffle his team for the second half and this worked for small passages of play with Arne Fridrik Karlsson, Magnus Geir Eyjolfsson and, a tracking, Otthar Edvardsson snuffing out the, free-flowing, attacks, stemming, from the Colts midfield. Jules and Kolbeinn Reginsson created a few half-chances that went wide of the target. Another 2 goals were scored for Colts, in the second half, by Stuart Carslaw and live wire Gordon Passmore. The hard working Stefan Hrafn Hagalin was having a head-to-head dual with the Colts number 10, Stewart Maxwell, who looked as if he was wanting to fight the world; referee Raymond Patterson had to intervene on a couple of occasions to give the temperamental Maxwell a ticking-off. The Throttur players must take

credit; for at no point, whatsoever, during the match, did heads go down and they continued to put in a hard shift even though they were chasing shadows at times.

After the match, the lads retired to the upstairs 'hospitality' lounge for a few beers and food. There was also a crazy statistic doing the rounds from a certain Jon Olafsson - that he had a passing accuracy of 83%. Luckily enough, Cumbernauld Colts use analytics giant Opta Sports as their provider: I managed to get hold of the statistics from the match against Throttur, a week after the game took place, Jon's pass accuracy was officially set at 11% - by Opta!!!



Team Talk: Indridi Waage gets his point across.

Agni Asgeirsson under pressure from a Colts attack.





Cumbernauld Colts FC has a long history in the town and indeed was the New Towns (Cumbernauld) first youth football club when it formed in 1969 and during the 70s and early 80s was the towns biggest youth football club. A number of youngsters during this era went on to become professionals, the two most prominent are Derek Whyte of (Celtic, Aberdeen, Middlesbrough and Scotland International) and Jackie McNamara of (Dunfermline, Celtic, Wolves, Aberdeen, Falkirk and Scotland International).

With no infrastructure in place to bring on new teams each year, during the 80s and 90s the club went into a period of decline with a number of teams disbanding, and during season 1998/99 the clubs one remaining team folded. In 1999 the club was reborn and re-branded with the launch of a new single youth age group team and over the next five years was steadily built back up and is now again considered to be one of, if not the biggest club in the Central Region. The club has both Boys and Girls Academy's, these initiatives are the life blood of the club as each year new small sided game sections are created. Cumbernauld Colts have Girls U9's U11's, U13's, U15's and adult teams, boys small game sections at every level i.e. U7's, 8s, 9s, 10s, 11s and 12's and 11-a-side teams up to Adult level, in all twenty four sections with a playing membership of almost 600. The club also delivers a number of community programmes i.e mini kickers 3-5 years, Over 35's, Disability Centre, After School Centres and Weekend Football Centres, these programmes have in excess of

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120 participants each week. In 2015 the club were awarded full membership of the Scottish FA and admitted to the SLFL (Scottish Lowland Football League), the clubs first step into the world of senior professional football. Along with the introduction of a 3G surface, Broadwood is now shared between Cumbernauld Colts and Clyde FC. Cumbernauld Colts are now the primary licence holders of the Stadium and the site is used 7 days a week. The Colts community development program means that all age ranges use the stadium on a daily basis. With Colts entering the Scottish Lowland League, Broadwood Stadium has hosted a second senior club from 2015–16. Clyde FC previously played in Glasgow at Bar-

rowfield Park, from their creation in 1877 until 1898, and then Shawfield Stadium from 1898 until they were evicted in 1986. Clyde shared Firhill with fierce rivals Partick Thistle from 1986 until 1991, and then Douglas Park with Hamilton Academical until moving to the purpose built Broadwood in 1994. The move to Broadwood, 10 miles outside Glasgow, meant that the club would lose some fans in the move, but hoped to gain some new supporters in the new town of Cumbernauld which had never hosted senior football before. The stadium opened to the public in February 1994 to a full house at that time, of 6000 fans. Clyde lost the game 2–0 against Hamilton Academical. At the time of opening, only two



Bogi Kristjansson clears the ball from a Colts attack.

stands, the Main Stand and the West Stand, had been completed, giving the stadium a capacity of 6,000. The third, South Stand was completed in 1997 to bring the overall capacity to just over 8,000. Plans to complete the stadium, and bring the overall capacity to 10,000 were shelved after Clyde failed to win promotion to the Scottish Premier league in 2004. The missing fourth stand has now been replaced by a community sports centre, and opened in 2013. Broadwood also previously hosted another Scottish League club, Airdrieonians, between 1994 and 1998. Broadwood also formerly hosted Rangers reserve team matches on a regular basis. The ground has hosted many Scotland U-21 matches. Broadwood was the scene of a giant Scottish

Cup shock in 2006, when Clyde beat holders Celtic 2–1. Broadwood has also hosted four Scottish Challenge Cup finals. Clyde announced in December 2010 their intention to leave Broadwood for a site elsewhere. In October 2011, they revealed that East Kilbride was one of the possible locations that they were exploring. They continue to play home games at Broadwood as secondary licence holders. Clyde do however have priority over first team matches. In June 2015, Newspaper, The Herald reported that Clyde's preferred option was to return to Glasgow, sharing with Shettleston Juniors, however that never materialized and Clyde will continue to play at Broadwood for the foreseeable future.



# NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD IN 1949 THE YEAR THROTTUR WERE FORMED.

Twelve nations sign the North Atlantic Treaty establishing NATO.

German Federal Republic (West Germany) established.

South Africa institutionalizes apartheid.

Britain recognizes the independence of the Republic of Ireland. Northern Ireland remains a part of the United Kingdom.

Peacetime conscription in the United Kingdom is regularised under the National Service Act 1947.

Post-war rationing of clothes ends in the UK.

Laurence Olivier's film Hamlet becomes the first British film to win a 'Best Picture' Oscar.

The 1949 FA Cup Final: Wolverhampton Wanderers, win the FA Cup for the first time in 41 years, and the third time in their history, with a 3–1 win over Leicester City at Wembley in front of 98,920 spectators.

Wartime rationing of sweets and chocolate ends in the UK.

The first self-service laundrette opens, in (Queensway) London.

The maiden flight of the British-built de Havilland Comet, the world's first passenger jet, at Hatfield, Hertfordshire.

Old Trafford is re-opened following a comprehensive rebuild due to bomb damage by the Luftwaffe eight years before.

The Berlin Airlift comes to an end, during which 17 American and 7 British planes have crashed delivering supplies to Soviet blockaded Berlin.

Valerie Hunter Gordon is granted a U.K. Patent for the first disposable nappy.

Winston Churchill makes a landmark speech in support of the idea of a European Union at Kingsway Hall, London.

A United Nations-sponsored ceasefire brings an end to the Indo-Pakistani War of 1947. The war results in a stalemate and the division of Kashmir, which still continues as of 2019.

The RMS Caronia of the Cunard Line departs Southampton for New York, on her maiden voyage.

The first VW Type 1 to arrive in the United States, a 1948 model, is brought to New York by Dutch businessman Ben Pon. Unable to interest dealers or importers in the Volkswagen, Pon sells the sample car to pay his travel expenses. Only two 1949 models are sold in America that year, convincing Volkswagen chairman Heinrich Nordhoff the car has no future in the U.S. (The Type 1 goes on to become an automotive phenomenon.)

The first Emmy Awards are presented, at the Hollywood Athletic Club.

Harry S. Truman is sworn in for a full term, as President of the United States.

The B-50 Superfortress Lucky Lady II (under Captain James Gallagher) lands in Fort Worth, Texas, after completing the first non-stop around-the-world airplane flight (it was refuelled in flight 4 times).

Operation Priboi: An extensive deporting campaign begin in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. The Soviet authorities deport more than 92,000 people from the Baltic states to remote areas of the Soviet Union.

The anti NATO riot takes place, prompted by the decision of the Icelandic Parliament to join the newly formed NATO.

The former British colony of Newfoundland joins Canada, as its 10th province.

Former First Lady of the Philippines Aurora Quezon, 61, is assassinated while en route to dedicate a hospital in memory of her late husband; her daughter and 10 others are also killed.

Superga Air disaster: A Fiat G.212 airliner of Avio Line Italiane, carrying the entire Torino F.C. football team, crashes into the back wall of the Basilica of Superga, killing all 31 on board.

Israel is admitted to the United Nations, as its 59th member.

Albert II, a rhesus monkey, becomes the first primate to enter space, on U.S. V-2 Hermes project Blossom IVB, but is killed on impact at return.

The first Television Western, Hopalong Cassidy, airs on NBC in the United States.

Israel and Syria sign a truce to end their 19-month war.

In Ecuador, the 6.8M Ambato Earthquake kills more than 5,000, and destroys a number of villages.

Portsmouth retained the First Division title by one of the narrowest margins in history ahead of Wolves.

The cornerstone of the Headquarters of the United Nations in Manhattan is laid.

Rangers secure the Cup treble at Hampden Park, beating Clyde 4-1 in the Scottish Cup Final in front of a crowd of 108,435.

The Soviet Union tests its first Atomic bomb, RDS-1 ("Joe 1"). Its design imitates the American plutonium bomb that was dropped on Nagasaki, Japan, in 1945.



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# JON OLAFSSON



**Do you have a favourite ground away from Eimskipvollur:** Not really!

**Who has been your toughest opponents:** I'll have to say the KR team who have been champions for the last few years but we are getting closer every year.

**Worst dressed at the club - Who thinks they are a fashion icon:** Not sure about the bad ones but we have Zoolander aboard. He changes every 10 minutes on the pitch.

**There are many beautiful places to visit in Iceland, do you have a favourite:** Ægis-síða, the beach near my house is a favourite.

**What has been the funniest moment you have witnessed at the club:** I haven't witnessed it yet. I think it will happen in Glasgow 2019 (May).

**When did you play your first game at the Old Boys:** Probably 10 years ago.

**Favourite drink:** Coke Zero

**Favourite food:** Lobster

**Favourite TV show:** Pepsi mörkin. A football show about the Icelandic Pepsi League.

**Favourite musician/band:** The Beatles!

**Which teams would you never play with:** Female teams. (I'm not allowed)

**The most famous player you have met:** Hmm....Eiður Smári, David Moyes, Frank Rijkaard, Sami Hyypia.

**The best coach that has trained you:** Helgi Þorvaldsson.

**The most intolerable player[s] at Throttur Old Boys:** I will take that secret to the grave with me.

**The sweetest victory:** When I was 12 and Thróttur youth team beat Valur in the final game of the season, we became Icelandic champions. Gudni Bergsson was playing for the Valur team at the time.

**The biggest disappointment:** No such thing.

**What is the first thing you would change if you were the chairman of KSÍ:** No comment!!!

**Who is the best player in the squad:** Ants Stern.

**Strangest thing that has happened during a match:** There was a game a few years ago when one of our boys' girlfriend appeared on the pitch, swearing and cursing at her man. It was in the middle of a game. Heart breaking.

**Outside football, which other sports interest you:** Handball most I think.

**Most embarrassing moment:** There are numerous. Probably when I walked into a wedding cake in the kitchen before it was supposed to be presented. That was pretty embarrassing.

**Which three players would you take to deserted island:** Óli King, Gúst Kaiser and Ási Helga, alias Prugelknabe

**Interesting fact about yourself:** I can hardly swim.



Pre-Match team talk at Ochilview.



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# STENHOUSEMUIR – THROTTUR

## MATCH REPORT

**O**n the 21st May, Throttur travelled to the Central Lowlands town of Stenhousemuir for the final match of their 2019 tour. Both teams entered the pitch as the Throttur anthem 'My Friend The Wind' cackled around the stadium from the tannoy system.

The weather conditions were perfect as bright sunshine bathed the pitch. A few key players were missing from the Throttur team, either through injury or tiredness, as four games in 5 days started to take its toll. It was a relatively even match for the first 15 minutes with both teams having a few half-chances in a match that was turning into a midfield battle for dominance. Ellert Stefansson and Magnus Geir Eyjolfsson were barking out orders to their team-mates and Throttur were managing to hold their shape well. After 25 minutes, Stenhousemuir started to turn the screw and following a succession of corners they inevitably took the lead as they capitalised on a defensive error to take the match by the scruff of the neck. Throttur were having none of this and pushed forward, Gisli Olafsson and Otthar Edvardsson were causing problems in the Stenny defence with some intricate link-up play. Stenhousemuir snatched a second goal, on the half hour mark, as the Throttur defence switched off. A few minutes later, Asmundur Helgason was the saviour as he managed to calmly clear a shot that was heading towards the bottom corner with Gustafsson stranded. Throttur continued to play some de-

cent football and they thought they had reduced the deficit 10 minutes before the interval as Gisli Olafsson slotted the ball into Stenhousemuir's net, however, the Referee, Gordon Wilson, judged the midfielder was marginally offside. This was hard on the Reykjavik side and worse was to come as some superb one-touch football, on the right flank from Stenhousemuir, ended with an out-swinging cross into the Throttur danger area, the cross was met by a Stenny striker for a bullet-header, past Gustafsson, into the Throttur goal, a few seconds later the half-time whistle blew; Stenhousemuir had a 3 goal lead, the scoreline was bitter for the Reykjavik side.

It was all or nothing in the second half as Throttur came out with guns blazing; they were going to have to take chances and leave space in defensive areas, and their hard work paid off as Bogi Kristjansson ghosted past the Stenhousemuir midfield to unleash a pile driver, from 25 yards right, into the top corner to give the Icelanders hope of salvaging something from the match. Stefan Mikaelsson was having a good match until he had to come off with an injury as the ball caught him square in the family jewels (nobody was on-hand with the magic sponge to ease that particular injury). Stenhousemuir were on the ropes now and could only hit Throttur on the counter attack. Kolbeinn Reginsson went close on a couple of occasions as Throttur pushed forward, Olafur Stefan Mag-

nusson was playing a blinder in defence with his last ditch tackles. The match had now become very open, it was end to end football, the Stenny forwards went one-on-one with the impenetrable Karl Magnus Gustafsson, a few times during the match, but the shot-stopper stood tall as Stenny missed a host of chances.. Throttur were still pressing the Stenhousemuir rearguard but just couldn't find the killer instinct to get the goal they deserved; they were leaving themselves exposed in defence and it was no surprise when Stenhousemuir added another two quick-fire goals. With 10 minutes to go, Throttur looked the stronger side as the Stenny players started to tire, the Reykjavik outfit finally got their reward, for their sustained pressure, after some neat play on the left side saw the ball cut-

back into the danger area, Otthar Edvardsson managed to make space, between 2 Stenny defenders, to lash the ball into the Stenhousemuir net for a consolation goal. It was no more than what Throttur deserved, the final 5-2 scoreline was harsh on the Icelanders considering the amount of chances they created in the second half. At the end of the match, as the Throttur players trudged off the pitch, the tannoy system burst into life as 'Eg Er Kominn Heim' echoed around the stadium; the full squad swayed gently from side-to-side and belted out the famous (Icelandic) classic as the glaring sun dipped beyond the Ochil hills to create a dusky haze. It's fair to say, I had a lump in my throat as all of this was taking place, it was a beautiful moment to end their 5 day festival of football.



Jack with the Throttur team that faced Stenhousemuir.



Othar Edvardsson's shot hits the back of the net at Stenhousemuir.





Left : Olafur Stefan Magnusson in the thick of the action. Above: Asmundur Helgason to the rescue in defence.



The club was founded in 1884 following a breakaway from a local team called Heather Rangers. In 1890, the Warriors moved to Ochilview following spells at Tryst Park and Goschen Park. In the early 20th century the club had a brief spell of success, winning the Scottish Qualifying Cup twice in 1901 and 1902. In 1902–03, the club reached the Scottish Cup semi-final, losing 1–4 at home to Rangers. The 1921–22 season saw Stenhousemuir compete for the first time in senior Scottish League Football. In 1925–26, Stenhousemuir goalkeeper Joe Short was offered a £50 bribe to throw a match against Broxburn, but he rejected the offer and the Warriors won the match 6–2. A bookmaker from Bainsford, a small village on the outskirts of Falkirk, was subsequently jailed for attempted match fixing. In 1928, the wooden grandstand at Ochilview Park burnt down in a fire, which led to a new stand being built in its place, although staircases had to be added later due to planning errors. The 1936–37 season saw the club record its highest victory – a 9–2 win against Dundee United. More than a decade later in 1949–50, a Scottish Cup quarter-final tie against East Fife drew a record crowd of 12,500 – the highest ever at Ochilview Park. In November 1951, the first floodlit game between two Scottish senior teams occurred at Ochilview Park, between Stenhousemuir and Hibernian. The floodlights were paid for by Tommy Douglas, a butcher in King Street, Stenhousemuir. In the summer of 1964, Rangers revealed a plan to The Scottish Football League to remove the Warriors from the league, along with four other clubs, on the basis that they were poorest-supported clubs over the previous

three seasons. Four years later, Stenhousemuir, along with Albion Rovers, Berwick Rangers, Brechin City and Stranraer, with support from a number of clubs, including Celtic, Hamilton Academical and Airdrieonians, successfully defeated the plan. In 1972–73, the Warriors defeated Rangers 2–1 at Ibrox Stadium in the Scottish League Cup. Notably, Rangers were the holders of the UEFA Cup Winners' Cup at the time. In 1992–93, the club allowed their rivals East Stirlingshire to ground share at Ochilview Park. In the 1993–94 season, the Warriors were moved out of the bottom league for the first time, due to the formation of the Scottish Third Division. The mid-1990s were one of the club's most successful periods in its history; in 1994–95 they defeated St Johnstone 4–0 and Aberdeen 2–0, both higher league opposition, en route to the Scottish Cup quarter finals. In the 1995–96 season, Stenhousemuir won the Scottish Challenge Cup defeating Dundee United 5–4 on penalties after a goalless 90 minutes and extra time. In the process they reached their first national semi-final since season 1902–03. In 1997–98, Stenhousemuir were relegated from the Scottish Second Division to the Scottish Third Division for the first time in the history of the club. However, the next season (1998–99) the Warriors won promotion back to the Second Division, also for the first time in the history of the club. In 2006–07, the club installed a new synthetic surface at Ochilview Park. It became the first in the UK to pass the FIFA 2 Star category accreditation. A new synthetic surface was installed in the summer of 2014. At the end of the 2008–09 season, Stenhousemuir were promoted back to the Scottish Second Division (having been relegated from there in

season 2002–03) after defeating Cowdenbeath 5–4 on penalties, this after drawing 0–0 on aggregate in the play-off final. The 2010–11 season saw Stenhousemuir narrowly avoid another relegation after spending most of the season in the bottom two positions. On the final day of the season the club defeated Peterhead 3–0 to move above Alloa Athletic and therefore avoided the relegation play-offs. In 2013 Stenhousemuir reached their second Challenge Cup Semi-Final by beating Dundee on penalties after drawing 1–1 but went on to lose 1–0 to Rangers. January 2014, after parting company with Martyn Corrigan, the Warriors appointed Scott Booth as their new manager. Booth was relieved of his duties on 1 February 2015 after winning just 12 from 42 games and failing to record any back to back victories. Assistant Manager, Brown Ferguson, took temporary charge for the second time, and the club announced on 2 April 2015 that 'Bomber' Brown would take over as manager on a full-time basis for the 2015–16 season. After a poor season in 2016/17, the club found itself relegated to Scottish League Two. However, the club came straight back up the following season despite finishing in fourth spot, winning promotion through the play-offs after beating Queen's Park in the play-off semi-finals and then Peterhead in the final. Stenhousemuir Supporters' Trust is the official supporters' club of Stenhousemuir FC. It is a democratic organisation based on one vote per person, and its committee is elected every year by the members. It is the largest shareholder in the club with about 11% of the shares with the aim to increase the shareholding so that no individual(s) can wrest the control of the club away from its supporters.

The Kriss Akabusi Loyal is a band of dedicated home and travelling supporters. The club also draws much international support: the Norwegian Supporters' Club is a small supporters' organisation based in Oslo, Norway. The Supporters Club was founded on New Year's Eve 1992 by Rolf Erik Wulff, Christian Wulff and Kjell Jarslett. In 1996 it was given one share of Stenhousemuir F.C. as a recognition of their support and promotion of the club. As of today, the supporters club and its members owns about 5% of the shares in Stenhousemuir. Stenhousemuir FC also has Danish support. The Denmark-based supporters club is an unofficial Warriors fan club founded and established in the summer 2000. The fan club has approximately 30 members. Stenhousemuir Supporters Trust, also known as The 'Warriors Supports Trust' is registered with the Financial Services Agency as a not-for-profit Industrial and Provident Society. It was established in 2003. It works with the Board of the football club and the Supporters Club to develop a more successful football club. The annual membership subscription of the Trust is £5 but Trust members can take out either a 'silver' membership of £5 a month, or a 'gold' membership of £10 a month. The cash obtained from membership of the Trust is used to buy shares the football club has for sale, and hence the club benefits financially. Since its inception the Trust has given money to the club, and its members have given their time and labour towards several projects. The current Chairman of the Stenhousemuir Supporters Trust is Graeme Wallace, who is also the stadium announcer at Ochilview.

# Ég er kominn heim

The dust finally settled from the trip to Scotland and so many positive aspects had taken place. One of the many pleasing things, that caught my attention, was that all of the players embraced the Scottish culture - visiting historical places of interest, going to museums and famous landmarks. The lads had some free-time on the Saturday, so, with many of them wanting to purchase kilts, to get into the Scottish spirit, taking 20 or so guys to buy kilts was something else, especially seeing the look of shock on the shop assistant's face - he was going to be working overtime for his pay and looked at me, with pleading eyes, to help him out! The players duly bought and wore their new Scottish attire, later in the evening, to watch the Eurovision Final and dance into the wee small-hours in Glasgow town. There is such a strong connection between Scotland and Iceland that three of the Throttur players went a stage further, than most, and received Scottish style tattoos for an everlasting reminder of the trip!

It was fantastic to have two legends from Scottish and Icelandic football, David Moyes and Helgi Thorvaldsson, respectively, come to show their support at the matches and relive stories from yesteryear. The Throttur travelling party noticed that there was a young mascot for two of the games; Jack Hunter, who

is a huge fan of Icelandic football and now a dedicated Throttur fan; it was great to have Jack at the matches to lead the teams out onto the pitch. There are satisfying moments that will stay with me: seeing the excited expressions on the players faces as they arrived at the fantastic arena's of Broadwood, Falkirk Stadium and the Stadium of Light; the return trip on the coach from Sunderland - there was an air of fulfilment as the lads, in a jovial mood, discussed the post-match analysis and enjoyed a beer, while an azure-blue dusk descended on silhouetted hills in the distance. Usually when you go on holiday there is a song that seems to get lodged into your head - the Ultravox classic 'Lament' (which was on DJ Otthar's playlist) will always be a timeless reminder, for me, whenever I hear it! The hospitality and friendliness of the Scottish clubs was endearing, they went out of their way to welcome their Icelandic visitors in the best possible way. It was fitting that this tour occurred during Throttur's 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year; we won't be around to see the following 70 years, however, this trip will go into the Throttur Reykjavik folklore. It was an honour and pleasure to join in, and be part of, this wonderful tour in my Scottish homeland.

**Old friendships were strengthened;  
new friendships were cemented.**



## THROTTUR OLD BOYS SQUAD 2019

Agust Tomasson  
 Anil Thapa  
 Arnar Thor Jonsson  
 Asmundur Helgason  
 Berti Andresson  
 Bragi Skaftason  
 Ellert Stefansson  
 Gisli Olafsson  
 Gudberg K Jonsson  
 Gudmunder Hoskuldsson  
 Indridi Bjornsson  
 Johann Pall Sigurdarson  
 Johann Ge Baldvinsson  
 Karl S Gunnarsson  
 Kristjan Kristjansson  
 Rafn Jonsson  
 Sighvatur Arnmundsson  
 Solmundur Mar Jonsson  
 Stefan Olafur Sigurdsson  
 Stefan Thor Ingvarsson  
 Thor Sigurdsson

Agni Asgeirsson  
 Ants Stern  
 Arne Fridrik Karlsson  
 Benjamin Sigursteinsson  
 Bogi Kristjansson  
 Geir Leo Gudmundsson  
 Indridi Waage  
 Ingi Saevar Ingason  
 Jon Olafsson  
 Julius Juliusson  
 Karl Magnus Gustafsson  
 Kolbeinn Reginsson  
 Magnus Geir Eyjolfsson  
 Marc Boal  
 Olafur Stefan Magnusson  
 Otthar Edvardsson  
 Sigurdur Thorvaldsson  
 Stefan Hrafn Hagalin  
 Stefan Mikaelsson  
 Steinn Kristinn Bragason



#LIFI



Knattspyrnufélagid  
Þróttur

70

1949 - 2019

# SCOTLAND 2019

