

Miller pays tribute to former midfield ace Sutherland

WICK Academy chairman Pat Miller paid tribute to former midfielder Stewart Sutherland who passed away recently.

Sutherland died suddenly, aged 49, in Inverurie on August 25. His funeral was held at Wick St Fergus Church with the burial at Watten cemetery.

Donations were made at St Fergus Church for the charity Epilepsy Scotland.

He leaves behind wife Janna and son Liam as well as his parents, Ian and Jennifer.

Sutherland spent five years at Wick Academy – including their inaugural season in the Highland League in 1994/95.

On September 17, 1994, the Scorries won their first Highland League match against Forres Mechanics with Sutherland bagging the only goal.

Sutherland would go on to make 138 appearances for the club, scoring nine goals. He also represented Caithness against Orkney and his nephew, Shane Sutherland, plays for SPFL side Elgin City.

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Miller, who was Stewart's first manager at Wick Academy, said: "Stewart was very popular in the

dressing room. As a lad he was outgoing and funny – the kind of character that every football club dressing room would like to have.

"He was a decent player too. Stewart was a hard-working midfielder.

"He was your ball-winner who would win back possession and would always make runs in support of the attack.

"When I was manager he was

emerging from the amateur scene and his strength in the middle of the park was a plus for us.

"Even when he left the club he still kept in touch. All of us at Wick Academy were sad to hear of his death – at such a young age as well."

A minute's silence was observed in Sutherland's memory before Academy's home match against Turriff United on Saturday.

Leaders Broch held by Can-Cans

FRASERBURGH remain top of the Highland League but that will be of scant consolation after they blew a 3-1 lead at home to Forres Mechanics.

Paul Campbell hit an opening brace only for Andrew Macrae to pull one back for the Can-Cans. Sean Butcher restored Broch's two-goal advantage but they then had a Scott Barbour goal controversially chalked off for offside.

That proved to be the turning point as goals from Macrae and Aaron Hamilton secured a 3-3 draw for Forres.

Inverurie Locos are a point behind Fraserburgh after winning 4-2 at Huntly.

Callum Dingwall (2), Chris Angus and Ryan Stott netted for Locos while Huntly's goals came from Nathan Meres and Declan Milne.

Buckie are level on points with Locos, but third on goal difference, after they won 2-0 at Clach.

Nairn County made it five wins out of six with a 4-1 victory against Strathspey Thistle.

Ali Sutherland (2), Steven Anderson and Allen Mackenzie were all on target for Rothes as they thumped Deveronvale 4-0.

Keith were 3-2 winners in a thrilling encounter at Lossiemouth.



Clach's James Anderson and Buckie's Kevin Fraser.



Wick Academy's Jack Halliday fires the ball past Turriff keeper Fraser Hobday to make it 2-0. Below: Craig Gunn gave Academy an early lead. Pictures: Mel Roger

Gunn puts the Scorries on road to victory



Football By Matt Leslie

A DELAYED kick-off, an 11-man defence and a flag-happy linesman could not stop Wick Academy helping themselves to three welcome points in Saturday's Highland League match against Turriff United.

Roadworks meant the Turriff bus was late for the scheduled 3pm kick-off time at Harmsworth Park. When the match finally started, half an hour later, the visitors duly parked it inside their own penalty box.

Despite setting out their stall in such a fashion, it took

the Scorries just five minutes to breach it.

A ball over the top was latched onto by Kuba Koziol. The Pole bore in on goal and, while everyone was expecting him to have a go himself, he unselfishly squared the ball to Craig Gunn who slotted into an empty net.

Koziol once more raced off towards goal and this time decided to shoot on goal himself, only to drag his effort wide.

Turriff's Dylan Stuart was unlucky not to win a penalty when it appeared he had been clipped from behind by Alan Hughes.

The same player would

later be denied when his shot from Robert Ward's cut-back came back off a post.

At the other end, Richard Macadie must have thought he was about to stretch Wick's lead when one-on-one with Fraser Hobday only for the Turriff keeper to pull off a great save.

After the interval, Gunn had the ball in the net again when Hobday spilled a shot from Hughes into his path only for the Wick forward to be pulled up for offside.

In fact, offside was the prevailing theme of the second half. The assistant running the touchline near the dug-outs was so obsessive about

his flag-waving that he even pulled up Gunn after he intercepted a backpass from a Turriff player.

However, after 67 minutes Jack Halliday decided to take a more direct approach to securing victory.

Picking up the ball midway inside Turriff's half, Halliday proceeded to surge towards goal. Although he got a lucky ricochet en route, Halliday was in no mood to argue as he forged on to slam the ball past Hobday.

Hughes saw a powerful effort from outside the box beaten away by the keeper.

Turriff finally came out from their shell to threaten

Wick's goal only for skipper Alan Farquhar to thwart Liam Norris by clearing his headed effort off the line.

Wick Academy: McCarthy, Manson, G Steven (D Mackay 67), Farquhar, R Allan, Halliday, S Mackay, R Macadie (Martens 71), Hughes, Gunn, Koziol (D Allan 56). Subs not used: MacNab, R Mackay, Clark.

Turriff United: Hobday, O Kinsella (Buxton 45), L Kinsella, Chalmers, E Smith, Copeland, Stuart, Norris, Ward, Grant (Ironsides 52), Ewen (K Smith 78). Subs not used: Robson, Reid, Brown, Otto.

Referee: Billy Baxter.