



PLENTY LEFT IN MY LOCKER Letham president Ken Drummond has no intention of coming back on his club duties

Gordon Waddell

Ken Drummond sees more than 400 kids fill Letham's football fields every week.

Fifty three years on from the day he started the club with FOUR, he admits their joy keeps him alive.

Now 72, the former oil industry worker still gives seven days a week to one of the best community set-ups in the country, a haven for youngsters in a housing scheme ranked among Scotland's most deprived.

And the Perth side's president isn't just there to milk his memories – he's still fighting to finalise funding for a 3G pitch that will leave a lasting legacy for the sport in his area.

His long service alone would probably have earned him his nomination in this season's McDonald's/Sunday Mail Grassroots Awards, the scheme we run with the SFA to honour Scottish football's unsung heroes.

But the progressive nature of his club, recognised in these awards four years ago as a flagship set-up in their field, shows he's still earning his keep.

Ken revealed: "We played Under-18 football in Perth when we were kids but once we were 18 we had nowhere to go so four of us formed our own juvenile team.

"That was in November 1960. We didn't even have changing rooms on our first pitch at south end, we used a single end!

"But by our second season we had won our league, two cups and a 17-year-old lad called Sandy McRorie was our first boy to go senior with St Johnstone.

"Since then we're close to having 100 players from our ranks go senior. I love nothing more than

Ken still salt o the Perth after 53-yr devotion



to see our youngsters flourish in the game and in life in general."

Like most volunteers we've recognised in the 10 years of the McDonald's/Sunday Mail scheme, Ken has done every job under the sun for his club, from player to coach to fundraiser to president.

He has no intention of stopping despite his advancing years.

He said: "I actually stopped playing at the age of 22 but I've been involved every day since."

"After the first team we organised, we realised we had to have sides feeding into it as players left or got older, so we started an Under-18s then an Under-16s. Now we have 19 teams and over 400

kids, boys and girls. It's a big job keeping it going and my background in the gas and oil industries meant I was well placed to look for sponsors.

"But we've still raised money by running dances and what have you. We're very close now to getting an all-weather pitch and that would be great."

"Letham is in the top 10 areas of deprivation in Scotland. It's our mission to make sure the kids have something to help them."

Drummond is the last of the club's four founding fathers still involved – but he's going nowhere soon.

He said: "One of the lads passed away, another is in Australia and the other lost interest. The idea of giving this up never entered my head. It's what keeps me alive."

GRASSROOTS 2013 NOMINATION FORM

Name:

Team:

Proposer's Name:

Contact details:

Who's the unsung footballer in your area?

This is the 10th season of the McDonald's/Sunday Mail Grassroots Awards and we've rewarded dozens of stars over the years with these THOUSANDS of pounds.

Tell us why your local club deserves recognition and publish the best stories.

The winners will enjoy to remember at Hampden in September and receive an award from Scotland's Kenny Dalglish and Chris Strachan.

Just email grassroots@trinitymirror.com or complete our form (left) and send it to Grassroots Awards, Sunday Mail Sport, One Central Glasgow G3 8DA.