

Upper Annandale AFC



Upper Annandale this year's League Champions

The **Robert Burns Bi-Centenary Cup** was presented to the league in 1996 by Tom Gibson proprietor of the Burns Café in Dumfries and was sponsored by Tom until his retirement last year. Russell Caskie of the Lochar Inn has kindly provided sponsorship for this season. This is the second season that this cup has been played in the knock out format, in previous seasons the cup was played at the start of the season as a mini-league.

Previous Winners - 96/97 Lochmaben, 97/98 YMCA, 98/99 Loreburn, 99/00 Lochmaben, 00/01 Kirkconnel, 01/02 Kirkconnel, 02/03 Lochmaben, 03/04 Kirkconnel, 04/05 Kirkconnel, 05/06 Lochmaben, 06/07 Lochar Thistle, 07/08 Upper Annandale, 08/09 Lochmaben



Lochar Thistle AFC pictured before this years QoS Cup Final

The league committee would like to thank Lochar Thistle YFC for the use of Enterprise Park today and are appreciative of Lochar Thistle's support in staging this cup final. The league would also like to thank Russell Caskie proprietor of the Lochar Inn, sponsor for this cup this season.



Robert Burns Bi-Centenary Cup Final
 Saturday 22nd May 2009
 Enterprise Park, Heathhall — KO 2pm



Upper Annandale AFC

versus

Lochar Thistle AFC



Lochar Inn

Edinburgh Road
 Dumfries
 01387 254159





Upper Annandale AFC

Upper Annandale secured their fourth championship in a row only a week ago and were presented with their trophies before last Saturday's resounding win against the YMCA in the semi-final of this cup. The club have already won the League and Nivison cups so far this season and will be hoping to add to that total today.

Squad for tonight (team to be selected from the following players)

R.Carlyle, R.Dawson, P.Pagan, G.Watson, K.Alston, N.Roddick, R.Johnstone, K.Jack, G.Jardine, T.Tyler, I.Jardine, J.Hughes, C.Hewitson, S.Campbell, R.Swan, D.McDowall, D.Ferbie, M.Johnstone, M.Wolczk, D.Gallimore, M.Leighfield, M.Swan, S.Porteous, S.Jackson, L.Cross, B.Hines, J.Mills

Path to the final

Round 1 **Upper Annandale 6-0 Morton Thistle**
Uppers played well to knock out Morton in this quarter-final tie. The goals came by way of a Neil Roddick hat-trick, a double from Glen Jardine and a single from captain Grant Watson.

Semi-Final **Upper Annandale 5-1 YMCA**
Uppers celebrated the being presented with the League Championship trophy before this match with an easy win over the YMCA. The home side were two nil up at the half and ran out convincing 5-1 winners. Mark Leighfield scored two with singles for Neil Roddick, Glen Jardine and Ryan Johnstone.

Uppers have added youth to their squad this year and unfortunately for the other teams in the league haven't missed a beat. The club has matched several other of the leagues greats such as Lincluden Swifts, Kirkconnel and Nithsdale in managing to win four league championships in a row. In this period of dominance they have also lifted 8 cups, they will be hoping to make that 9 this afternoon. The key to their success is their home form and defensive frugality, conceding the fewest goals in each of their championship titles.

Recent Form Guide (Last 6 matches up to 15th May) LWLWDW

Player Watch - Uppers Towering defender Ross Dawson is one of the leagues top performers along with team captain and midfield driving force Grant Watson. Widemen Ryan Johnstone and Michael Swan have both made a significant impact in recent finals.

Match Officials for this afternoon are.....

Lochar Thistle AFC



Lochar Thistle are featuring in their fourth cup final of the season today. Unfortunately they have finished as runners-up in the previous three so they will be keen to do better this afternoon. A fine victory over an in-form Lochmaben team in the semi-final should give them all the encouragement that they need to add the Burns Cup to their long list of honours.

Squad for tonight (team to be selected from the following players)

Craig Jones, Terry Jardine, Michael McGaughie, Scott Woodward, Alex McKenna, John Howie, Alan Gordon, Robert Blyth, Colin Coulter, Trevor Campbell, William Dempster, Russell Caskie, James Rogerson, Kevin McQueen, David Patterson, Nicholas Lavan, Steven Couper, Darren Stevenson, Mark Neill, Jim Brown

Path to the final

Round 1 **Lochar Thistle 2-7 Lochar Thistle**
Lochar had a surprisingly easy passage to the semi-final. Star failed to contain an energetic Lochar side with the tie virtually over at half-time with Lochar four goals to the good. On the day James Rogerson, Trevor Campbell and Terry Jardine all got two apiece, the final goal coming from Scott Woodward.

Semi-Final **Lochar Thistle 5-3 Lochmaben**
Lochar have fared badly against Lochmaben in recent weeks losing two finals at their hands. Thistle turned the tables in a deserved victory at the Home park on Monday night. Goals from John Howie (2), Mike McGauchie, Jim Brown and James Rogerson saw them through.

Lochar have had a very good season and it would be hard on them not to take anything from it, but football is a cruel game and they will have to fight hard to make it happen today. They have been over the course before and the fact that they defeated the league's form team Lochmaben on Monday night will give them plenty of confidence.

Recent Form Guide (Last 6 matches up to 15th May) WWLLLW

Player Watch - Lochar have several players who can turn a game and have strength in most areas of the team. Striker Terry Jardine has been on target regularly throughout May and will hope to add to his tally today. In midfield Mike McGauchie and Craig Jones have added a bit of dig to bolster their accepted passing ability. But it will be how well their defence copes with the strong running Uppers team that will decide the day.