

Football Snippets 2017

2017

Jan 3 *The Rovers didn't have a game as all north junior games were in abeyance over the festive season*

Jan 10 **Buckie Thistle 3 Rothes 0 (H/L)** the game was played on Wednesday, 4th Jan.
Turriff 2 Buckie Thistle 2 (H/L)

Newburgh Thistle 4 Buckie Rovers 3 (Sup/Lge)

Jan. 17 **Match off**-The game between Banchory St. Ternans and Buckie Rovers was off due to ground conditions.

Football news: Robbie Bruce (17) a S6 pupil at Buckie Community High School received a call from his country just before Christmas to the Scotland under 18 squad ahead of the Centenary Shield tournament against the other Home Nations. Robbie who plays in central midfielder fought off competition from across the country over the course of two trial games to gain a coveted place in the squad and is the only player from north of Dundee to feature. "It's a dream come true and quite an honour," Robbie told the Advertiser. "You dream of pulling on a Scotland jersey but to get the chance to do so is unbelievable."

Lossiemouth 0 Buckie Thistle 6 (H/L)

BUCKIE: Bell, Munro, Carrol, Dorrat (Wood), MacKinnon, McLean (Copeland), Fraser, Cowie, McLeod, Angus (Maitland), and Urquhart. Subs. Cheyne, Milne, Strong.

Jan 24. **Match off** The match between Huntly and Buckie Thistle was postponed due to Christie Park being frost bound.

Buckie Rovers 0 Culter 1 (Sup league) Rovers *deserved a share of points, they played well*

ROVERS: Craig Bain, Darren Thain, Liam Wood, Kyle McKay, Michael Gauld, Scott Mair, Ross Elder, Joe Sutherland, Dan Cormack, Mike Campbell, Matthew Henderson. Subs. Joe Marandola, Mike 'Scammers' Smith and Mike Munro (G/K)

Football news : The problem the Rovers have of players being absent on account of work commitments was shown up here with only one young player Marandola on the bench Smith and Munro were game to be named but they are more than veterans.

Jan 31. **Buckie Thistle 3 Inverurie Locos 1 (H/L)**

Deveronside 1 Buckie Rovers 1 (Sup/Lge)

Feb 7 **Brora Rangers 2 Buckie Thistle 1 (H/L)**

Buckie Rovers 0 Banks of Dee 6 (Sup/Lge)

Feb 14 **Buckie Thistle 4 Forres Mechanics 4 (?Cup) Forres won 4-2 on penalties.**

BUCKIE: Bell, Wood, Dorrat, Munro, MacKinnon, Cowie, Fraser, Taylor, Maitland (Urquhart) Copeland, (Carroll) McLeod (McLean). Subs. Milne Strong

Feb 21 **Buckie Thistle 1 Aberdeen F.C. Select 2** (Testimonial game for Darren Strong), played on Thursday evening in front of a crowd of 350.

Football news : The Thistle were dressed in a pink strip for this special testimonial match for former keeper Darren 'Dessie' Strong. The strips were all signed after the game and presented to fans who had earlier bid for them through Facebook. His friend from Primary School days in Elgin, Kevin Main, the present Turriff keeper who formerly played for Buckie replaced Strong midway through the second half.

Half of the proceeds from the game will go to four charities – the Archie Foundation, Clic Sargent, Macmillan Cancer Support and Breast Cancer UK, all of who provided support for his son Daniel and rest of the family as well as Darren's fiancée Angela, who has had treatment for breast cancer.

Maud 4 Buckie Rovers 2 (Sup/League) Rovers' scorers A. Scott and J. Sutherland

ROVERS Craig Ferguson Darren Thain Liam Wood Ross Elder Michael Gauld Scott Mair Jordan Sutherland Adam Scott Michael Campbell Nathan Walls Kyle Gauld Subs Michael Wood Mathew Henderson

Feb 28 *Wick Academy v Buckie Thistle - game off- park surface waterlogged.*

Buckie Rovers 2 Dyce 4 (Sup/League) *Against the League leaders the Rovers played well in fiercely contested battle.*

Football news: The Rovers were left with something of a last minute keeper crisis, but cometh the hour, cometh 52 year-old Mikey Munro, who stepped up to the plate and donned the gloves, While it was not to be a winning afternoon Mike nevertheless pulled off a number of first class saves chief among them being one from the spot.

Mar 7 *Fraserburgh v Buckie Thistle - game off – park surface waterlogged.*
Banchory St. Ternans v Buckie Rovers – game off – park surface waterlogged.

Football news: Heavy overnight rain was responsible for the whole Super League card being washed out on Saturday with no games being played.

Mar 14 Wick Academy 1 Buckie Thistles 1 (H/L)
BUCKIE: Bell, Wood, MacKinnon, Munro, Dorrat, McLean, Fraser, Cowie, Copland, (Cheyne), Urquhart, McLeod, (Angus), Subs. Fraser, Carrol, Taylor, Maitland and Strong (G/K)

Buckie Rovers had a free date.

Mar 21 **Buckie Thistle 1 Wick Academy 0 (H/L)** *Goal scorer John McLeod brought his tally to 40 for the season so far.*

Buckie Rovers 0 Hall Russell 3 (Sup League)

ROVERS: Scott Mair, Darren Thain, Liam Campbell, Kyle McKay, Ross Elder, Nathan Walls, Scott Davidson, Shaun Findlay, Russell McLaughlin, Adam Scott, Kyle Gauld. Subs, Mikey Wood, Matty Henderson and Daniel Cormack (all used)

Football news. The Rovers are toiling, A major part of their dismal run of defeats has been due to the fact that week in and out they have been bare of players especially a goal keeper, due to work commitments, injuries and other factors. The other week veteran Mike Munro helped out by donning the gloves and for the recent game had Scott Mair, and outfield player in goal. . He was badly missed in his usual position in midfield but worse in making two do or die saves was injured twice, the last to the head, when he was forced to retire. They finished the game with ten men when Mikey Wood was red carded for a rash challenge.

Mar 28 Huntly 1 Buckie Thistles 0 (H/L)

Banchory St Ternan 3 Buckie Rovers 0 (Super League)

Football news: The Rovers had stand-in keeper Scott Riddoch in goal here and though saving a first half penalty it wasn't enough to see the Rovers continue their tale of woes on the road. Shaun Findlay was the second Rovers' player to be red carded in successive game, being sent for an early bath in the concluding minutes for a second bookable offence. The Rovers had no subs.

April 4 **Buckie Thistle 6 Keith F.C. 0 (H/L)** (As a cyard I winna be reading that score ower affen.) *“Pile then on Keith”*

Buckie Rovers 0 Hermes 2 (A Cup game) Sonny Johnston was right fin he said: *A tae bag bides Langer in a cup than the Rovers.”*

April 11 **Buckie Thistle 3 Deveronvale 0 (H/L)**

Inverness City 2 Buckie Rovers 0 (Sup/Lg)

April 18 **Formartine 0 Buckie Thistle 0 (H/L)**

Colony Park 3 Buckie Rovers 0 (Sup/League)

April 25 **Buckie Thistle 9 Strathspey Thistle 0 (H/L)**

Buckie won the Highland League, with a better goal average than Cove Rangers.

Buckie Rovers 1 Stonehaven 1 (Sup Leag) Stonehaven is a top team in running for the title but was fortunate to draw here, with the Rovers dominating the game throughout. Though under strength in some departments they played the best that I had seen this season and, with no bias shown, should have won the tie.

May 2 **Buckie Thistle 2 East Kilbride 2** First game in a home and away tie to establish who would go forward to play in the APF League Two play off

May 9 **East Kilbride 2 Buckie Thistle 1** Second game played in the SPFL play-off. Game played at K-Park
BUCKIE; Bell, Copeland, Mackinnon, Munro, Carrol, McLean, K. Fraser, Urquhart, (J. Fraser), Angus, McLeod (Ross 65) Taylor. Subs not used – Sim, Milne, and Wood.

Hermes 6 Buckie Rovers 2 (Sup/League) Nikki Smith had the Rover's goals

Rovers: Ethan Murray, Darren Thain, Liam Wood, Kyle McKay, Michael Gauld, Ross Elder, Shaun Findlay, Joe Sutherland, Adam Scott, Nikki Smith, Matthew Henderson. Sub Mike “Scammer” Smith.

Football news- The end of Buckie Rovers' inaugural season in the Super League will also bring the curtain down on an era for two club stalwarts. Rovers are now seeking a new secretary and manager after Dave Roberts and Dave Findlay announced their time in the respective posts was drawing to a close. The last 18 years has seen Roberts serve in the role of secretary after previously being involved with Buckie and District Welfare League. Although he said it was time to step back he has plenty of great memories, among them seeing the club win the league and the Elginshire Cup. Findlay has a connection with the Merson Park side that stretches back to his teenage years, signing for the club as a midfielder at the tender age of 13 staying for eight years. In 1999 he returned to coach before taking over the managerial reins in 2014, winning the club's first promotion to the Super League last year. "I fancied a change and the fact that I knew a lot of the players here through Buckie Thistle 's youth set up made it a no-brainer", he said.

May 16 **Montrose Roselea 5 Buckie Rovers 0** - Play off against Roselea who were runners-up in the First Division West. The game was played at Colony Park, Inverurie. The result means that the Rovers were relegated and will be playing in the First Division East next season.

May 23 **Nil** to report

May 30 **Football News:** A fitting end to the perfect season saw Buckie Thistle sweep the boards at the Highland League Awards. The Highland League champions walked away with all the major honours at the dinner in Nairn last Thursday night, Manager of the Year was Jag's boss Graeme Stewart for masterminding their terrific title triumph and Aberdeenshire Cup success. The Player of the Year was inspirational captain Kevin Fraser, as voted by his fellow professionals. John McLeod lifted the Top Scorer trophy after netting 46 times for the Jags He was also named in the Scottish Cup team of the year alongside the Celtic pair of Scott Sinclair and Tomas Lustig. Rounding off a great trophy haul was the Fair Play award, with Buckie collecting the fewest cautions and red cards during the campaign.

June 6 **Nil** to report.

June 13 **Football news:** Buckie Rovers have until the end of the month to find a new manager or face having to sit out the forthcoming season, the club have been warned. The club is still searching for a replacement for David Findlay who held the managerial reins from 2014 and guided the Merson Park side to Elginshire Cup and McBookie Division 1 West title glory. Outgoing secretary David Roberts said: "The Club needs a new manager as soon as possible. The players are getting a bit restless and, quite understandably, many are reluctant to sign again until they see who is going to be manager.

June 20 **Nil**

June 27 **Football news:** Jags defender Shaun Wood could miss most if not all of next season after a scan on June 17 revealed that he had damaged a cruciate ligament. Wood was a key member of the Thistle team who captured the Highland League title last season.

July 4 **Football news:** Buckie Thistle signed striker Steven Ross (23) from Brora Rangers on a one-year deal. Ross formerly played for Ross County and Elgin City and scored 24 goals for Brora last season, but like John McLeod who made the switch from Brora at the beginning of last season Ross found himself well down Ross Tokely's pecking order. Ross joins centre half Ross Elder, a stalwart with Buckie Rovers last season and Declan Milne who was on loan at Victoria Park last season young winger Callum Murray has also put pen to paper to extend his stay at Victoria Park They were joined late last week by defender Ross 'Zander' Anderson (30) who has negotiated his release from his contract with Keith. The former Turriff United and Inverurie centre half joins Thistle on a 12-month deal.

Cumbernauld Colts 2 Buckie Thistle 1 (F)

Football news: Buckie Rovers are still looking for a new manager and secretary. With the new season just around the corner the club are still hoping to secure a new boss to guide them in the McBookie .com First Division West. Former boss Dave 'Parro' Findlay stepped down at the end of last season after three years in charge. He guided them to a league title and cup success but last season was a struggle in the Super League and the Rovers slipped to relegation after a five-goal defeat to Montrose Roselea in a play off. The club warned that they might need to take a year out if they could not recruit a new secretary to replace long-serving Dave Roberts, who now living in Keith has joined Islavale, and a manager.

July 11 **Buckie Thistle 1 Rothes 2 (F)** Both the Rothes goals were scored by former Jags player James Fraser

Football news The Thistle also lost in a 'friendly' against Dyce Junior before beating Dufftown.

July 18 **Cowdenbeath 4 Buckie Thistle 2 Betfred League Cup –**

BUCKIE Bell, Skinner, Mackinnon, Munro, Dorrat (Murray), McLean, Fraser, Cheyne (Copeland), Angus (Ross), McLeod, Taylor. Subs. Salmon, Anderson, Maitland, Urquhart.

Football news: At the annual general meeting of Buckie Rovers F.C. Club held in the pavilion at Merson Park. Grant Sutherland was returned to the post as President with Jim Sutherland as vice-president and Ian Gordon taking over the reins as secretary from Dave Roberts who had held the post for almost two decades before calling it a day when last season drew to a close. Coaches Malcolm Fielding and Mike Smith have been helping out with the team in the absence of a manager.

July 25 **Dundee 2 Buckie Thistle 0 Belfred Cup.**

Football news: No two people see a football game the same way. I listened to the report on the radio where the speaker said that Buckie were never in the game, this is to be compared to the report in the Buckie paper. It is to be expected that this would be a little biased but a neutral would have to say that for a Highland League club to meet a Premiership team on their own ground to lose narrowly deserves more credit than was given. In their next game at home against Dundee United, again the Belfred Cup, it was a different story as the Advertiser reporter said the Championship side were a 'class act' with the Thistle being "put to the sword" especially during the first half when the three goals, the end result, were scored in a sizzling 17minute spell.

Buckie Thistle 0 Dundee United 3 Belfred Cup

BUCKIE Bell, Skinner Maitland, Anderson, MacKinnon, McLean, Fraser, Copeland, (Murray), McLeod, (Ross), Angus, Taylor (Urquhart), Subs, Elder, Dorrat, Milne, Sim.

Football news: Buckie Thistle captain Kevin Fraser, is to train with Inverness Caley Thistle for a week

Aug 1 **Buckie Thistle 1 Clach 0 (H/L)** *Buckie were fortunate to collect the points*

Buckie Rovers 2 F.C. Buckie 0 (F) *Due to circumstances this was the only friendly played.*

ROVERS Ethan Murray, Keiran Cowie, Liam Wood, Michael Gauld, Darren Thain, Owen Morrison, Matthew Henderson, Jordan Sutherland, Adam Scott, Russell McLaughlin, Craig Cowie Subs. Nikki Smith, William Morrison.

Football news. Owen Morrison is a signed Keith F.C. player and is on loan to the Rovers.

Rovers have new manager: Neil Sinclair (38) who originally hails from Buckie and is set to move back to the town has taken over the reins from previous boss Dave Findlay. Neil played for the Rovers at left back before he joined the RAF at the age of 16. On the managerial side he cut his teeth in the dugout with RAF Lossiemouth and most recently was co-manager at Portgordon Victoria alongside Graham Collie. Family circumstance, however, mean it won't be until December before he will be available with until this date the coaching staff Darren Stewart and Kyle McKay will be in charge.

Aug 8 **Buckie Thistle 2 Nairn County 3 (H/L)** *Thistle not hungry enough says manager*

Turriff United 2 Buckie Thistle 2 (H/L) *New boy Steven Ross scores to help the Thistle square matters after falling two goals behind. Lewis McKinnon had the other goal in 78 minutes.*

Buckie Rovers 0 Dufftown 2 Grill Cup. *Lack of match practice played an important part in loss; the two goals were scored late on.*

Buckie Rovers 3 Islavale 2 (McBookie Co. 1st Div. West.) *Nikki Smith had a terrific first half, scoring two goals, hitting the bar and shooting narrowly by from the spot. Jordan Sutherland scored with a freekick.*

ROVERS: Murray, Cowie, Wood, Gauld, Scott Mair, Owen Morrison, Henderson, Sutherland, Smith, McLaughlin, and Craig Jones. Subs. Scott Davidson, Nathan Walls.

Aug 15 Wick Academy Buckie Thistle (H/L)

Deveronside 2 Buckie Rovers 0 (1st Div. west)

Aug 22 **Buckie Thistle 3 Formartine 0 (H/L)**

BUCKIE: Bell, Anderson, Mackinnon, Skinner, Munro, Cheyne (Taylor), Fraser, Angus (McLeod), Mclean, Urquhart, Ross (Copeland). Subs. Murray, Maitland, Carroll, Salmon.

Aug 29 **Keith 2 Buckie Thistle 5 (H/L)**

Buckie Rovers 2 Forres Thistle 3 (McBookie. Com.First Division)

ROVERS; Ethan Murray, Darren Thain, Liam Wood, Scott Mair, Shaun Findlay, Owen Morrison, Matthew Henderson, Duncan Philip, Jordan Sutherland, Craig Jones, Michael Simpson. Subs, Kyle Mackay, Darren Stewart, Conner Merson.

Football news -The Rovers game wasn't worthy of a sentence in the Advertiser this week.

Duncan Philip was in the Rovers' team here; Duncan previously played for the Rovers some years ago more frequently playing with Deveronside. Scott Mair played his last game for the Rovers said to be returning to play at the end of the Welfare League season. The Rovers are believed to have signed some new players from Dufftown and Keith including Michael Simpson in the team above.

Sept 5 **Buckie Thistle 0 Dunfermline Athletic 3 Irn Bru Challenge Cup**

Whitehills 1 Buckie Rovers 3 (McBookie Co. Div.1 West) Scorers were Russell McLaughlin (2) Liam Henderson.

ROVERS: Connor Merson, Liam Henderson, Liam Wood, Darren Thain, Shaun Findlay, Karl Harris, Michael Simpson, Owen Morrison, Russell McLaughlin, Scott Davidson, Craig Jones Subs, Kyle McKay, Darren Stewart and Ethan Murray (G/K)

Football news: The Rovers had a some of their new signings or trialists playing, namely Karl Harris, formerly with Dufftown, Michael Simpson, Islavale, Owen Morrison, Keith F.C., Liam Henderson, (Keith –Welfare League team) It was unknown at this point where Craig Jones and Connor Merson came from.

Sept 12 **Buckie Thistle 0 Fraserburgh 2 (Aberdeenshire Cup-)**

Brora Rangers 3 Buckie Thistle 0 (H/L)

The Rovers having scratched from the Grill League Cup were idle

Football news: The Rovers learnt that that their punishment for scratching from this season's Grill League Cup (on account of being unable to field a team) is that they will not be allowed to play in next season's competition.

Sept 19 **Strathspey Thistle 0 Buckie Thistle 6 (H/L)**

Sept 26 **Thistle had a free date** – *They had a bye in the 1st Round of the Scottish Spey Valley United 1 Buckie Rovers 3 (Div.1 West) *Liam Wood (2) Davidson (1 pen)* *cup**

Oct 3 **Buckie Thistle 5 Fort William 0 (H/L)**

Football News . Keith loon and former Scotland captain Colin Hendry was special guest at the game on Saturday. The ex Blackburn and Glasgow Rangers defender signed autographs and posed for pictures before the game. He later took part in a question and answer session in the Victoria Lounge

Glentnar 0 Buckie Rovers 4 (Domina Pizza Cup) *“Something of a historic win.” Craig Jones scored two, his first for the Rovers with Jo Sutherland also having a brace.*

Oct 10 **Buckie Thistle 4 Huntly (H/L)**

Inverurie Locos 3 Buckie Thistle 0 (H/L)

THISTLE; Daniel Bell, Ross Anderson, Hamish Munro, Craig Dorrat, Lewis McKinnon, Ceiran McLean, Kevin Fraser, Drew Copland (Callum Murray), Andrew Skinner Evan Smith), Kai Ross (Chris Angus) other subs – Stephen Bruce, Ross Salmon.(G/K)

Football news – The Thistle were understrength the team members being struck with illness among them being John McLeod and Sam Urquhart, Craig Cowie and Shaun Wood, the latter two being long term injury victims who are unlikely to play again this season due to cruciate problems. Some of those who did play did so playing through illness.

Buckie Rovers 5 Spey Valley United 1 (1st Div.)

ROVERS: Ethan Murray, Liam Henderson, Keiran Cowie, Nathan Walls, Kyle McKay Darren Thain, Michael Simpson, Declan Clark, Scott Mair, Scott Davidson, Liam Wood. Subs. Innes McKay, Karl Harris, Matthew Henderson, Darren Stewart.

Football news Coach, temporary manager, Darren Stewart had the unenviable task of fielding a team when a number of players were guests at a wedding and hence absent. On paper he has a big squad but rarely can he count on them always being available.

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Sept 26 **Thistle had a free date – They had a bye in the 1- Round of the Scottish Cup**

Spey Valley United 1 Buckie Rovers 3 (Div.1 West) Liam Wood (2) Davidson (1 pen)

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Oct.24 **Cove Rangers 7 Buckie Thistle 1 (H/L) (Wed.)**

Buckie Thistle 4 Fraserburgh 0 H/L

Burghhead Thistle 1 Buckie Rovers 4 (Div 1 west) Craig Jones had 3 goals

Oct 31 **Deveronvale 3 Buckie Thistle 2 (H/L)**

Hill of Beith 4 Buckie Rovers 0 Scottish Junior Cup *****

Nov 7 Fort William v Thistle game off due to waterlogged park

Buckie Rovers 0 New Elgin (Div 1 west) A bad day at the office

Nov 14 **Clach 1 Buckie Thistle 1 (H/L)**

Islavale 4 Buckie Rovers 1 (Div. 1 west) Rovers fail to stop losing spell

Nov 21 **Brechin City 3 Buckie Thistle 2 Scottish Cup Round 3 Manager was proud**

Buckie: Bell, Anderson, MacKinnon, Skinner (Milne), Carroll, Taylor, Murray, Cheyne(Munro), McLean, McLeod, Ross (Dorrat), Subs. Maitland, Strong.

Football news :Buckie Thistle are ready to sell fan's favourite Chris Angus after placing the 27-year-old on the transfer list on Monday. The Jag's manager Graeme Stewart said he felt Angus needed a new challenge and was no longer part of his first team plans. The Aberdonian had been nine years at Buckie and had won three Highland League titles with the club. Goalkeeper Ross Salmon was also placed on the transfer list. He had grown frustrated at the lack of games since Daniel Bell signed for the club.

Forres Thistle 1 Buckie Rovers 0 (Div 1 west) Luckless Rovers lose

Nov 28 **Nairn County 4 Buckie Thistle 1 (H/L) "County were stronger and hungrier "**

**Buckie Rovers 3 Deveronside 1 (Div 1. west) The ' Side are nae the team they were
The goal scorers were McLaughlin 2 and Jones 1**

Dec 5 Victoria Park was waterlogged on Saturday meaning the game with Wick was off.

Buckie Rovers were idle: Islavale played Whitehills on the ground.

Dec 12 Rovers game via Nairn Saints at Nairn was off with the Showground being snowbound