

P1053 The Angus Mackay Caithness Football Collection

RECORDS' IDENTITY STATEMENT

Reference number: GB1741/P1053

Alternative reference number:

Title: The Angus Mackay Caithness Football Collection

Dates of creation: 2024-2025

Level of description: Fonds

Extent: 3 volumes

Format: Paper

RECORDS' CONTEXT

Name of creators: Angus Mackay, Norman Glass

Administrative history: The first football team to be formed in Caithness was Rovers of Wick in 1887. They were followed by St. Fergus and Victoria of Wick, Pulteney Thistle, Wick Academy and John o' Groat F.C. (both inaugurated in 1893). Only Thistle, Wick Academy and John o' Groat F.C. survived to compete in the newly formed Wick and Pulteney Senior Football League in 1894.

The Thurso League was formed in 1894, with Thistle, Rovers, Victoria, and St. Clair competing. The original four teams did not survive long term but Academicals, Pentland, Swifts and Dounreay Athletic replaced them in the league.

Caithness Amateur Football Association was founded in 1927 when 6 clubs from the Wick & Thurso Leagues played for a trophy donated by Captain A J Mackay. The first season was played as a knockout competition and was won by Thurso side Academicals or Acks as they are known locally, by beating fellow Thurso side Pentland 2-1. The other teams taking part were Swifts also from Thurso and the 3 Wick teams. Thistle, Academy and Groats. Thereafter the competition has usually been played on a League basis.

The village teams of the county were not invited to join the County League setup so formed their own competition in 1930 and this was called The Caithness North East Rural Football League. Games were played in the summer

months and the teams taking part were Mey, Castletown, Halkirk, Watten, Wick Boy Scouts and the first winners Keiss. The village teams eventually joined the County Association in 1975 and a first and second division league was formed. By now the league had switched from winter to summer having changed in 1960 due to harsh winters. This format has remained to the present day with 14 teams currently taking part.

Norman M. Glass (1894-1976) was a foreman and principal linotype operator in the John o' Groat Journal office. He wrote and compiled 'Caithness and the War: 1939-1945' and 'The History of Caithness Football: The First Eighty Years, 1888 to 1968'.

The Miller Cup, presented by James H. Miller, was played for by the club sides of Caithness and Sutherland between 1933 and 1989.

Angus Mackay was secretary of the Caithness Amateur Football Association and involved in the administration of football in the county for many years.

Custodial history:

Deposited by Angus Mackay

RECORDS' CONTENT

Description:

3 volumes of research on the history of Caithness football, Wick Football Association, and Inter-County Football compiled and written by Angus Mackay and Norman Glass.

Appraisal:

Accruals:

RECORDS' CONDITION OF ACCESS AND USE

Access:

Open

Closed until:

Access conditions:

Copying:

Copying permitted within standard Copyright Act parameters

Finding aids:

Available in Caithness Archive Service searchroom

ALLIED MATERIALS

Related material:

Publication:

Notes:

Date of catalogue: April 2024

Ref.	Description	Dates
P1053	The Angus Mackay Caithness Football Collection	2024
P1053/1	'The Wick Football Association: Fixtures, League Tables, and Winners, 1894-95 to 2020' by Angus Mackay (1 volume)	2024
P1053/2	'The History of Caithness Football: The First Eighty Years, 1888 to 1968' by Norman M. Glass, with updated text and photographs by Angus Mackay (1 volume)	2024
P1053/3	'Inter-County Club Football: The Miller Cup, an Annual Competition between the football club sides of Caithness and Sutherland, 1933-1989' by Angus Mackay (1 volume)	2025