



and white, their home was New Station Park which is 'now a part of Cumnock's cemetery. They won no major honours as a SAL member, but took home a host of district trophies in their time as an SAL club.

DAILLY THISTLE

Joined the SAL in 1926 and lasted one season. A member of the Ayr & District League, they came from Old Dailly which can be found between Maybole and Girvan on the B741. Little is known or been recorded about this club.

DALMELLINGTON UNITED

Joined the SAL in 1927, and folded in 1931. They won no Ayrshire honours, but were stripped of the Ayrshire Cup in 1930 when they played an unregistered player against Cronberry in the final. Like most Ayr & District clubs little is known about them.

GALSTON JUNIORS

Joined the SAL in 1926, but went over to the Intermediates, and then stayed as a Western League club. Played in red and black, and reached no great heights as a Junior club.

GLENAPTON ATHLETIC

Were formed and joined the SAL in 1930 where they went on to win the last two League titles. Played in green, and then red and white, they moved into New Cumnock United's Connell Park ground. As an SAL member they won the Irvine & District Cup in 1931.

GLENBUCK CHERRYPICKERS

Joined the SAL in 1921, but never won the title. Played at Burnside Park in all white strips. They won the Ayrshire Cup for the first three years of it's founding, and won it for a fourth time in 1931 as a SAL member. What's left of Glenbuck can be found a few miles from Muirkirk. It was known as the "Nursery of Football" due to the great players from the village that become seniors, including the Shankly brothers.

GLENFIELD JUNIORS

A works team from Kilmarnock who joined the SAL in 1926, but lasted one season as they couldn't compete with the successful Kilmarnock club of that time. Little is known or has been recorded about this club.

GIRVAN JUNIORS

Joined the SAL in 1926, and folded in 1929. No records about this club.

HURLFORD THISTLE

Joined the SAL in 1924 when things were on the slide, and the club was facing financial ruin. They didn't last the season out. Played at Blair Park, and won the Ayrshire Cup in 1886, and the Consolation Cup in 1917.

IRVINE LMS

Joined the SAL in 1928, but only lasted a few seasons. They were a works side belonging to the London, Scottish, Midland, Rail Company.

only attended by the secretary Mr McIlwain and the Cathrine Juniors representative, this was also coupled with the fact that none of the teams were making positive moves to finish off their league programme it looked like once again league football was due to fail in South Ayrshire.

At the end of season AGM in Talbot's clubhouse with Mr Anderson on the chair, those present were told by Mr McIlwain the secretary that amazingly the league had made a profit of £12 10s 5d, and was financially sound. Talbot were unanimously elected league champions on the grounds that they had played more games than anybody else, and had amassed more points. Talbot were the first champions of the SAL, but it wasn't until October that they received the league flag.

THE SOUTH AYRSHIRE LEAGUE 1920-21

	Pld	Won	Lst	Drn	For	Ag	Pts
Auchinleck Talbot	9	6	2	1	17	9	13
New Cumnock United	5	3	1	1	7	4	7
Cathrine Juniors	2	1	1	0	3	3	2
Muirkirk Athletic	2	0	1	1	1	3	1
Kello Rovers	4	0	3	1	3	6	1
Cumnock Juniors	3	0	3	0	4	7	0

The meeting in the Talbot clubhouse continued with the election of the office bearers for the forth-coming 1921-22 season, and this saw a major reshuffle.

- President Mr Tom Murphy (Talbot)
  - Vice President Mr Andrew Pollok (New Cumnock)
  - Secretary Mr R Blair\* (No club )
  - Treasurer Mr J McMillan (Cumnock )
- \* (Mr Robert Blair was also secretary of the Cumnock & Nauchline FA)

After the elections were passed, the new committee wavered the rules so that the entry fee to the league be raised to £5, the visitors guarantee raised to £5, and a new clause that non-fulfillment of fixtures could lead to a £10 fine--£7 to the aggrieved club--£3 to the league. A representative from Cronberry attended the AGM and asked that his club be entered for the league under the proviso that they only pay last season's entry fee of £3. After a lengthy discussion they were voted out. The meeting closed with the statement that any club wishing to join the SAL should contact Mr Tom McIlwain at Coal Road, Auchinleck.

THE 1921-22 SEASON

No new clubs joined at the outset of the new season, and this time the six founder members who were later joined by Glenbuck managed to play all but one of their league fixtures for the season. The SAL committee by November still had to issue a warning that league games must not be played in the winter months after a few protests filtered through after darkness stopping matches, and if the clubs persisted in doing this fines would be dishd out.

On the football front Talbot became the pacesetters, ending in them not dropping a point at home, but it was their away form that invoved them in an amazing title race at the end of the season. At official level the SAL held a special in Cumnock's new clubhouse which was the old smithy on Donaldson's Brae's to honour the retiring president

Vice President Mr McCann  
 Treasurer Mr Steele  
 Secretary Mr Tanner

Glenafon Athletic  
 Auchinleck Talbot  
 Auchinleck Talbot

After the elections it was voted that the league now be called the South Ayrshire League, and all matters should be put before the committee who would now be holding meetings in the Cumnock district.

THE 1931-32 SEASON

So it was the power had swung back to the South Ayrshire League, and unknown to the clubs they were to embark on their last league campaign in the south of Ayrshire. The Western League dominated the county football, and with only six clubs left the SAL was now on it's last legs.

After a spirited return Glenbuck once again folded, so with only six clubs, the SAL kicked off with a full fixture list. Cumnock and the Glen's set the early pace, but Cumnock slipped back when Talbot won 5-1 at New Station Park. The Glen's on the other hand hammered Kello 7-0, Cumnock 6-0 and Talbot 5-0 all at Connell Park, coupled with a 5-1 away win at Croneberry. The championship was decided as early as February when a 3-2 victory for the Glen's at Beechwood saw them take the title.

THE SOUTH AYRSHIRE LEAGUE 1931-32

	PLD	WON	LST	DRN	FOR	AGT	PMS
Glenafon Athletic	10	7	0	3	35	6	17
Cumnock Juniors	10	5	2	3	18	16	13
Auchinleck Talbot	9	3	4	2	18	18	8
Croneberry Eglinton	7	3	4	0	10	19	6
Kello Rovers	6	1	2	3	6	18	5
Lugar Boswell	8	1	6	1	7	15	3

With the league finishing so early the committee brought back the old League Shield to play in a cup basis. The draw saw Lugar v Cumnock, and Kello v Croneberry, while Talbot and Glenafon received a bye. The Lugar v Cumnock tie took four games to decide the winner, with Lugar winning 1-0 at the fourth attempt. Croneberry made short work of Kello, and defeated Glenafon in the semi 3-1, their goalie scored twice from the spot. In the other semi Talbot and Lugar drew 2-2, but due to the SJFA bringing the season to a halt the shield was to be held over till next season. The competition was never finished as Cumnock, Talbot, Glenafon, Kello, and Lugar tried to enter the Western League. The SAL went to the wall, so did Croneberry, the five clubs were refused entry to the Western League, along with Ayr Juniors. The clubs protested to the SJFA but were again refused entry. Talbot tried to go it alone with the WL, but for the third time were refused. During the Intermediate Dispute, the SJFA passed ruling that the SAL should make room for anybody loyal to the SJFA cause. The SAL did this for a number of years, and was the only league in the county still loyal to the governing body. It was shoddy treatment by the SJFA to snub teams that were so loyal, and stood by their beloved cause of taking sides with the SJFA in a dispute set to split the Junior game. The treatment of the South Ayrshire sides in 1932 by the SJFA, AJFA, and the Western League, is a black mark on the history of League football in Ayrshire that the south has not forgotten.

the names given to them. They also pointed out that if Muirkirk knew that the player was on the books with a Lanarkshire club why wasn't it brought up before the kick off? The game was ordered to be replayed at a later date, Muirkirk won 3-1.

The season ended with the AGM in the Royal Hotel in July 1922 with Mr Murphy in the chair. The only main topics were the fact that the SAL had cleared £10 profit for the season, and that the entry fee drop from £5 to £4 and the Guarantee from £5 to £3. Catrine Juniors asked to be relieved of their league status, and squared up their dues, no more league football was to be played at Catrine's St Cutberts Park. This only left the election of office bearers to be voted on, and for the 1922-23 season the following men took office:

President Mr James Gibson  
 Vice President\*\* Mr James McMillan  
 Secretary Mr Robert Blair  
 Treasurer Mr Tom McLivain

Glenbuck Cherry's  
 Cumnock Juniors  
 No club  
 Auchinleck Talbot

\*\* (Note Mr McMillan gave up his post on the 22nd of July due to ill health and was replaced by Mr Tom McCaughtrile from Cumnock)

THE 1921-22 SOUTH AYRSHIRE LEAGUE

	PLD	WON	LST	DRN	FOR	AGT	PMS
New Cumnock United	12	8	1	3	27	8	19
Auchinleck Talbot	12	9	3	0	24	15	18
Cumnock Juniors	12	7	3	2	19	12	16
Glenbuck Cherrypickers	12	6	5	1	32	14	13
Muirkirk Athletic	12	3	8	1	14	19	7
Kello Rovers	11	2	9	0	11	31	4
Catrine Juniors	11	2	9	0	12	36	4

THE 1922-23 SEASON

After the fine way the league was run the season previous, the SAL committee hoped for some more of the same, but the lure of silverware was too much for some clubs, and at the start of the season the league became a sideshow. To highlight this Talbot opened their league account with a 4-0 victory over Cumnock at New Station Park, and then played their second match some six months later. To try and drum up some interest in the League the committee arranged a trial match at Beechwood for forthcoming select games (the SAL didn't play a select game in the whole season) The teams were to be named the A's and B's the A's made up from players from Talbot, Glenbuck, Muirkirk, and the newcomers Croneberry. The B's consisted of players from Cumnock New Cumnock, and Kello.

THE A's		THE B's	
Millin	Croneberry	McCall	Cumnock
Dunsmuir	Talbot	Ferguson	New Cumnock
Campbell	Glenbuck	Baird	Kello
McHallum	Croneberry	New	Cumnock
Brown	Muirkirk	McCracken	New Cumnock
Ladie	Muirkirk	Higgins	Cumnock
Scott	Glenbuck	Rorrison	Kello
Duke	Muirkirk	McDonald	New Cumnock
Thompson	Croneberry	Walker	New Cumnock
Weir	Talbot	McGulley	Cumnock
Menzies	Glenbuck	Ramsey	New Cumnock

The three clubs decided to stay in the Glasgow based Scottish Junior League. Cumnock had once again crossed the divide by being elected to the AL from the Intermediates, but the Nock had a hectic start to the season and had to play juvenile combinations until the SJFA had given all their last season's pool association status.

The league ran fairly well with Kello and Benwhat becoming early pacesetters. In their first three games Kello hammered Cronberry 7-1, Lugar 5-1, and Annbank 7-2, while Benwhat had annexed four points from Talbot, while hammering Cumnock 5-2 at Char Row.

The winter months saw the clubs interested in cup football, and this gave Cumnock a chance to re-sign their Intermediate side from the season previous, and what a change it made with Cumnock winning the league title, and losing to Kello in the finals of the Mauchline & District Cup, and Consolation Cup.

The new year had taken its toll on the league clubs, and by February Annbank Primrose and Irvine LMS had left the league. In April the AL played another select match against Ayr United's second string which ended in defeat and financial disaster. The team was: McCaffier(Dalmellington) Murray(Benwhat) Patton(Croneberry) Reid(Talbot) Baird(Talbot) McLeod(Kello) Wyllie(Dalmellington) Rorrison(Kello) McAvoy(Croneberry)(Duncan(Talbot) Ferguson(Dalmellington) Travelling Reserve was McHattie(Benwhat) The AL Select lost 3-1, Ferguson scoring.

The run-in for the title turned out to be exciting and controversial with Kello, Cumnock, and Benwhat all in the hunt. Kello dropped out of the race when Cumnock won 3-0 at New Station Park leaving the Kello lad's with 18 points. Benwhat were right behind Kello with 17 points and a game in hand against Cumnock, while Cumnock themselves had 15 points with two games to play. The first was at Lugar which ended in a shambles with four men sent-off and a break-in with ten minutes of the game remaining the score being 2-1 in Cumnock's favour. With this hanging over them Cumnock defeated Benwhat 2-0 at New Station Park, and at the June meeting of the AL Cumnock were given the points and the league title after the committee found Lugar guilty of bringing the game into disrepute, having 3 men sent-off, and their fans encroaching the field of play. At the meeting Cumnock's was a happy outcome, but Lugar were fined 10 shillings and their ground shut for four months, all their opening games were not to be played within a three mile radius of Lugar.

THE AYRSHIRE LEAGUE 1929-30

CLUB	PLD	WON	LS'T	DRN	FOR	AGT	PTS
Cumnock Juniors	12	9	2	1	35	17	19
Kello Rovers	12	8	2	2	33	14	18
Benwhat Heatherbell	12	8	3	1	35	24	17
Lugar Boswell	12	3	5	4	26	27	10
Auchinleck Talbot	12	3	7	2	18	31	8
Dalmellington United	12	2	7	3	17	28	7
Croneberry Eglington	12	1	8	3	19	42	5

(Annbank Primrose played 1 game, losing 7-2 to Kello, while Irvine LMS played 5, losing 2-0 to Lugar, 8-0 to Talbot, 11-1 to Kello, and 2-1 to Dalmellington. They drew 2-2 with Cronberry. All points were annexed by the league)

At the AGM at the YMCA Rooms in Ayr with Mr McCartney on the chair, the office bearers were then elected:

League ties only five field offences had been reported. After this the office bearers were then elected.

- President Mr T McCaughtrie Cumnock Juniors
- Vice President Mr R Irvine Kello Rovers
- Secretary Mr R Blair No club
- Treasurer Mr J Gibson Glenbuck Cherrypickers

THE SOUTH AYRSHIRE LEAGUE 1922-23

CLUB	PLD	WON	LS'T	DRN	FOR	AGT	PTS
New Cumnock United	12	9	1	2	21	9	20
Auchinleck Talbot	12	5	2	5	21	8	15
Cumnock Juniors	12	6	6	0	30	20	12
Muirkirk Athletic	12	5	5	2	22	29	12
Kello Rovers	12	4	6	2	20	23	10
Glenbuck Cherrypickers	12	4	6	2	19	23	10
Croneberry Eglington	12	2	9	1	8	28	5

With new president Mr McCaughtrie on the chair the committee passed rulings that the entry fee be dropped from £4 to £3, and a special competition would be set up for next season so that the top four clubs in the league would be able to play for a cup and badges so to keep the interest going right up till the end of the season. After the rulings the committee were pleased to announce that Skares had joined the league after turning down the chance to play in the Ayr and District league. Mr McCaughtrie closed the meeting by pointing out that Cumnock would be playing in blue and white stripes next season, and all secretaries take note of the following club secretaries, and their addresses.

- Auchinleck Talbot Mr David Dunbar Smithfield Place, Auch/e/k
- Cumnock Juniors Mr Andrew McCall Glaisnock St, Cumnock
- New Cumnock United Mr Charles Walker Castlehill, New Cumnock
- Muirkirk Athletic Mr James Gibson Ronaldo Place, Muirkirk
- Croneberry Eglington Mr Robert Biggans Store Row, Cronberry
- Kello Rovers Mr Robert Hughes 9 St Conals Sq, Kircornel
- Glenbuck Cherry's Mr Alexander Davidson Blyths Buildings, Glenbuck
- Skares Juniors Mr John Irvine 119 Skares

THE 1923-24 SEASON

The start of the new season passed pretty quietly with most of the clubs involved in cup football. The new boys from Skares found the going pretty tough, while league champions New Cumnock celebrated the unfolding of their second league flag by whacking Kello 5-2 in their opening fixture. I suppose it was the proverbial calm before the storm, because by the turn of the year things started to go wrong. At the February meeting in the Royal Hotel those present were informed that the SAL president Mr McCaughtrie and the secretary Mr Blair were invited to the AJFA's semi-jubilee dinner in Kilmarnock. At the same meeting it was proposed that the secretary get the fixtures wound up earlier than usual so the teams could take part in the new league shield competition.

A month later at the SAL meeting the committee were faced by irate New Cumnock members who were claiming that Cronberry be fined the set £10 for not turning up for their league match at Connell Park. The Cronberry secretary Mr Biggans pleaded with the SAL that he just could not put a team together because of the overtime shifts

Last season the SAL had to be congratulated on the 109 games that were played. The elections were then taken:

President	Mr Montieth	Kello Rovers
Vice President	Mr Torrance	Croneberry Eglington
Secretary & Treasurer	Mr Blair	No Club

Those present were then told that the Ayr & District League had been recruiting clubs to their fold so that a comeback could be made, and it had been mooted in footballing circles that Burnfoothill, Girvan, Aunbank, and Dalmeilington were taking an interest in affairs. This left the SAL with Croneberry, Kello, and Lugar in their ranks. Mr Blair was instructed to contact the SJFA Permits Committee after the meeting.

In August Mr Blair attended the Permits Committee meeting at Carlton Place to complain about the Ayr & District League, but he was told to hold a meeting with the Ayr members, and the SJFA would send a representative. The meeting took place at the YMCA Institute Rooms in Ayr on the 18th of August with Mr J.A. Lang of the SJFA in attendance. It was clear from the start that the A&D clubs wanted to go on their own, but Mr Lang was an expert speaker, and soon had the word amalgamation being raised. All his points were solid and sensible, and by the end of the meeting he had managed to heal the split by telling all the clubs to go back home, and think about it. A week later they attended another meeting in Ayr with Mr Gillespie of Burnfoothill on the chair, and suggestions and ideas were laid down, until Mr Montieath suggested that the two leagues should come under the banner of the Ayrshire League, as it was the only league in the county still loyal to the SJFA in the intermediate dispute. Mr Montieth also stated that the running of the league should come under the jurisdiction of the AyrFA, but this was soundly defeated. At last the two leagues struck up a partnership under the name of the Ayrshire League and the Ayr & District office bearers were voted as the new league's top men. Croneberry, Kello, and Lugar who had been trying to gain entry to the Scottish Junior League all joined. One part that the amalgamation overlooked was the end of Mr Robert Blairs association with league football. Mr Blair was one of the districts great leaders, and it was only fitting that the Cumnock Chronicle and all the local clubs paid tribute to him on his death in July 1931.

With the new Ayrshire League dominated by the Ayr clubs, for the first time everything ran like clockwork. Lugar were to be the top club in the county, although to be fair there was only about 12 clubs still loyal to the SJFA by then. By the end of the season Lugar had won the Ayrshire, Cumnock & District, Coyllon, and Ayr & District cups, while Croneberry took the Mauchline Cup, amazingly Lugar didn't take the league championship, but this was due to their cup success.

On New Years Day the Ayrshire League took a select down to play Stranraer, drawing 1-1 with White scoring the AL's goal, the team being: Murray, Stevenson, Bryce, Murray, McHattie, Duncan, Hessett, Whiteford, White, Scobie, and McClymont. It was reported as an enjoyable day for the AL members.

At the February meeting in Ayr the committee were informed that Annbank Primrose were seeking permission to leave the league as they had no support to mention, and were finding it difficult to carry on.

#### THE 1924-25 SEASON

This season started with the semi-finals of the new League Shield competition. Talbot won the big derby match against Cumnock thanks to goals by Toal and McCosh, while McCall got Cumnock's only counter. In the other semi it was goals galore as Muirkirk and New Cumnock served up an 8 goal thriller. Muirkirk were up 5-0 at one time with Easton grabbing a treble while Gebbie and Duke made up the total. To New Cumnock's credit they hit back with three goals, White(2) and McLaughlan, but it was too late in coming so Muirkirk and Talbot contested the first Shield final. At New Station Park the teams shared a 1-1 draw, Gebbie for Muirkirk and Wylie for Talbot. In the replay Muirkirk took the Shield by winning 2-0, Gebbie and Duke the scorers. Shortly after Gebbie signed on the dotted line for St Mirren

Muirkirk Athletic turned out to be the top team in the district, and by the end of the season they had taken the League flag as well as the Mauchline & District Cup. The league itself ran like clockwork until the end of the season when the SJFA were brought in to smooth matters. The usual lull in league football during the winter months saw Muirkirk sitting on top of the league, and when the push for the title started in earnest Cumnock and Kello made a gallant bid to knock Muirkirk from top spot. The two challengers didn't help their cause any by taking points from each other, and Cumnock were rocked by a 4-0 defeat when old rivals Talbot started pushing for a place in the last four. Cumnock and Kello soon had to curtail their league runs when they reached the finals of three cups. Cumnock took the Ayr & District Cup and Coyllon Cup, while Kello won the Cumnock & District Cup. After this distraction the league warmed up for the big finale and Muirkirk took the points off the Kello team at Furnace Park. Then Cumnock stopped any Muirkirk celebrations by winning 3-2 at New Station Park in a game that saw 2 Muirkirk players being sent off, and the police having to clear the field at one time. Muirkirk finally took the title by defeating Croneberry 4-0 at Furnace Park. After the taking of the league flag the league itself ground to a halt which left the SAL committee with the biggest headache so far

#### THE SOUTH Ayrshire LEAGUE 1924-25

	PLD	WON	LS'T	DRN	FOR	AGT	PTS
Muirkirk Athletic	14	11	2	1	28	14	23
Kello Rovers	12	9	3	0	27	12	18
Cumnock Juniors	13	8	3	2	26	15	18
Auchinleck Talbot	14	5	4	5	26	19	15
New Cumnock United	13	6	5	2	17	21	14
Glenbuck Cherrypickers	12	3	7	2	15	19	8
Croneberry Eglington	10	2	6	2	8	25	6
Hurlford Thistle	14	0	14	0	8	31	0***

\*\*\*(This is how the league was entered in the Cumnock Chronicle with Hurlford being credited with playing 14 games when in fact they only played 9. When they opted out the league all the clubs still to meet them were given the two points)

At the June meeting in the Royal Hotel Mr Pollok of New Cumnock Utd claimed the two points from the unplayed match against Croneberry as this would take them above Talbot and into the League Shield semi-final draw. After a lengthy debate the SAL committee declared that the unfinished game should go ahead at the beginning of next season

Before the SAL AGM, the Cumnock Chronicle reported that the rift between the SJFA and a large number of clubs was widening throughout Scotland. (I won't go into the dispute in great detail as a fellow Junior historian, Stewart Davidson hopes to publish a booklet on the Intermediate Dispute in the near future) In a nutshell a lot of clubs especially in the Central Belt of Scotland were far from pleased with the rulings that let the senior clubs poach Junior players with the Junior clubs powerless to do anything about it. The Chronicle reporter of that time didn't hold the Intermediates in high esteem, and it must have been a shock to his system when on the 17th of June Cumnock and Galston crossed over to play in the Western Intermediate League. The reporter rightly pointed out that the Western League had snubbed the southern clubs since 1920, and he found it rather strange that both Cumnock and Galston were welcomed with open arms at this stage in history. The Cumnock secretary stated in an interview that Cumnock Juniors were not interested in the dispute itself, but had welcomed the chance to provide a better class of football to the patrons of Cumnock, and with the visits of Meadow, Kilbirnie, and suchlike, in a way it was a shrewd move

The AGM meeting at the Royal Hotel was told that Muirkirk Athletic had folded, and any club in Ayrshire that was still loyal to the SJFA was welcome to join. Talbot, Kello, New Cumnock United, Lugar Croneberry, Burnfoothill, and Dalmellington United were then allowed admittance. Before the elections took place a representative asked what had happened to the League Shield, but the committee pointed out that due the 1925-26 League being wound up unfinished, and the debacle of the New Cumnock, Talbot semi final squabble the season previous to that, it seemed a lost cause. As for last season with two divisions, the League shield competition couldn't be run fairly. The elections then took place:

- |                |                   |                    |
|----------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| President      | Mr Lindsay        | Auchinleck Talbot  |
| Vice President | Mr James Montieth | Kello Rovers       |
| Treasurer      | Mr Bill Stevenson | New Cumnock United |
| Secretary      | Mr Robert Blair   | No Club            |

After the elections the representatives of Lugar and Burnfoothill complained about the quality of the badges they received for winning the two SAL sections. It was pointed out that the League was strapped for cash, and rather than go into the red, the committee decided that the badges were to be of inferior quality, remembering they had two sets of badges to pay for. Lugar excepted this explanation under a protest.

The 1927-28 season started with seven clubs, but by August the Ayr & District clubs Girvan and Annbank Primrose were re-admitted under a law passed by the SJFA that any club remaining loyal to the SJFA will be guaranteed league football. Why this was put forward by the SJFA in the case of Girvan and Annbank remains a mystery as both clubs had already played under the SAL banner. In September and still under the SJFA ruling, Rankinston Juniors and Irvine Railwaymen tried to join the League, but by this time the SAL put their foot down by telling the two clubs that the SAL fixtures were well under way.

The League was run without any major set-backs, although the working Saturday was still causing problems, and only mid-week and holidays were being used to full effect. Cumnock on the other hand were

that Croneberry refused to play the game on the 7th of November as there was no reward in it for them, and they were not prepared to put up with extra expense so to decide the outcome of a game that was supposed to played last season. The SAL couldn't agree on an outcome so the SJFA were telegraphed to decide the matter. A week later a communication from the SJFA demanded that Croneberry be disqualified, and New Cumnock be awarded the tie (seemingly the SJFA must have thought this was a cup game) The following week New Cumnock and Cumnock played the long awaited semi-final tie for a chance to meet Kello in the final. The teams fought out a 1.1 draw, before New Cumnock won 5-4, only to lose in the final to Kello.

With this major problem finally laid to rest the teams settled down for the league run-in. It was Cumnock and Muirkirk that broke away from the pack, but Cumnock suffered a major knockback when Kello won 3-1 at Kirkconnel. Cumnock fought back and recorded a fine 1-1 draw at Muirkirk's Furnace Park, and then took two points of Athletic by winning 3-2 at New Station Park, putting them back on top of the pile.

At the March meeting of the SAL, held at the Royal Hotel, Mr Gibson of Glenbuck asked for the Cherry's to be relieved of their remaining 7 fixtures, as crowds were dwindling to around 30 people, and the club was having difficulties paying the guarantee's to visiting clubs he also stated that every game was dragging the club further into the red. Although the SAL agreed that they didn't want to put any more financial pressure on Glenbuck, the fact was their remaining 7 matches could have a big say on where the championship was heading, and with a game against Muirkirk, and two against Cumnock the SAL couldn't postpone the Glenbuck fixtures. To compromise the SAL had Glenbuck play these three important ties with the two clubs that were in the championship race, as these were the last games that Muirkirk and Cumnock had to play. Cumnock made the journey to the Glenbuck village and recorded a 3-2 win putting them on level points with Athletic. Muirkirk then journeyed up to Glenbuck to play their mortal enemies (this tie overshadowed Cumnock and Talbot matches) and were crushed 6-3. Cumnock took the championship at New Station Park when they crushed Glenbuck 7-0 so to win their first championship. After this match the league was wound up with many matches still to play.

THE SOUTH Ayrshire LEAGUE 1925-26

	PLD	WON	IST	DRN	FOR	AGT	PTS
Cumnock Juniors	14	11	1	2	48	16	24
Muirkirk Athletic	14	10	2	2	50	29	22
New Cumnock United	12	5	4	3	37	26	13
Auchinleck Talbot	11	4	4	3	25	26	11
Croneberry Eglington	14	4	8	2	26	38	10
Kello Rovers	9	1	4	4	17	23	6
Glenbuck Cherrypickers	10	2	8	0	18	36	4
Mossblown Rangers	10	2	8	0	23	48	4

At the AGM in the Royal Hotel, Mr Blair told those present that the SAL was showing a few pounds profit, and it could have been more if the coal strike had not played havoc with fixtures and money matters. Sadly Mr Gibson of Glenbuck told all present that the Cherry's had decided to call it a day due to the financial position of the club