# Falkirk secures Premiership return after back-to-back promotions and fan-driven revival



Falkirk Football Club’s recent triumph in the Championship has been nothing short of a remarkable journey, culminating in back-to-back promotions that have reinvigorated the club and its fanbase. After a 3-1 victory over Hamilton Academical in early May, Falkirk sealed their return to the Scottish Premiership for the first time in 15 years. For Jamie Swinney, the club's chief executive, this moment not only marked a significant achievement but also relieved him of a personal anniversary dilemma, having narrowly avoided a rather gloomy wedding anniversary celebration.

The path to this monumental victory was fraught with challenges, characterised by nerve and meticulous planning. Swinney recounted a memorable incident involving a delivery mishap concerning the team’s championship kits. “Before they had even arrived, a Livingston fan took a photo of a DPD delivery that says ‘Falkirk FC Champions Kit, Jamie Swinney’," he shared, referring to how a slip-up could have tainted the club's celebration. Such hurdles highlight the often-overlooked logistical challenges that accompany sporting success.

Manager John McGlynn's leadership has been a cornerstone of Falkirk's resurgence. Under his guidance, the team not only achieved promotion but did so with an impressive undefeated season in League One, reinforcing the club's resilience and collective spirit. This achievement has been deemed one of the most significant of McGlynn's career, showcasing his ability to galvanise the squad. After recovering from an early goal down against Hamilton, a double from Ethan Ross and another from Calvin Miller cemented their place in the Premiership, illustrating the team's tenacity in high-stakes situations.

Community engagement has also been central to Falkirk’s strategy. Swinney has been vocal about the club's commitment to affordable ticket prices, ensuring that both season and match tickets remain accessible. “Our priority has to be fan growth. Our under-12s are still going free,” he stated. This initiative is crucial for fostering a new generation of supporters, as evidenced by the increase in free season tickets for children, which will rise to around 800 this year.

The recent success has seen a marked increase in season ticket sales, indicating a renewed enthusiasm among supporters. Almost 4,500 season tickets had already been sold, a number which gives hope for surpassing 5,000 in a stadium with a capacity of around 7,800. Such figures not only underline the club's revitalisation but also highlight the vital role of fans in the momentum of their success.

Furthermore, Falkirk’s proactive approach includes plans for a safe standing section, reflecting a desire to enhance the matchday experience for the passionate fanbase. “We started the relationship with the ultras two years ago and got bombarded with negativity from our fans… fast forward two years, and ultras are one of the best things we’ve ever done,” Swinney articulated, indicating a shift towards embracing supporter culture that is vital for the club's identity.

While there’s great optimism surrounding the future, Swinney is acutely aware of the financial contours within which a fan-owned club operates. The spectre of potential financial difficulties looms large, having faced near-crisis situations in both 2022 and 2023. Only the intervention of the Falkirk Supporters’ Society ensured the club’s survival during those critical months. Swinney emphasised the importance of cautious financial management, stating, “Don’t put the club at risk. We can never allow that again.”

Falkirk’s journey back to the top has not only revitalised the team but also reignited a fervour among its supporters, affirming the club’s place within Scottish football. As they prepare for the challenges of the Premiership, the blend of ambition, community focus, and prudent management could set the stage for enduring success in the seasons to come.

### Reference Map

1. Paragraphs 1, 2, 4, 5, 7
2. Paragraphs 2, 4, 5
3. Paragraphs 3, 4, 7
4. Paragraphs 1, 2, 4, 5, 6
5. Paragraphs 2, 3, 6
6. Paragraphs 1, 4, 6
7. Paragraphs 1, 5, 6

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/sport/football/football-news/unflinching-story-falkirk-title-triumph-35244491> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://news.stv.tv/sport/falkirk-seal-championship-title-and-premiership-promotion-with-win-over-hamilton> - Falkirk secured promotion to the Scottish Premiership after a 3-1 victory over Hamilton Academical, marking their return to the top flight for the first time in 15 years. The win ensured back-to-back promotions for manager John McGlynn's team, who had been playing in League One the previous season. The match was crucial, as both teams entered the final game level on points, with Livingston also in contention. Falkirk's comeback from an early goal down highlighted their resilience and determination.
3. <https://www.scotsman.com/sport/football/john-mcglynn-hails-falkirk-invincibles-his-greatest-achievement-as-two-goal-comeback-keeps-record-intact-4616825> - Falkirk manager John McGlynn praised his team's unbeaten League One season as the 'biggest achievement of his career.' The Bairns clinched the title with a 2-2 draw against Alloa Athletic, maintaining their invincible record. Despite being two goals down, Falkirk showcased their character by equalizing, with Aidan Nesbitt and Brad Spencer scoring crucial goals. McGlynn emphasized the team's resilience and the significance of the unbeaten run in Scottish football history.
4. <https://spfl.co.uk/news/falkirk-win-promotion> - Falkirk were crowned winners of the William Hill Championship after a 3-1 victory over Hamilton Academical. A double from Ethan Ross and one from Calvin Miller secured the win, ensuring back-to-back promotions for the club. This achievement marked their return to the Scottish Premiership for the first time since the 2009/10 season. The match was pivotal, as both teams entered the final game level on points, with Livingston also in contention.
5. <https://www.falkirkherald.co.uk/sport/football/the-bairns-are-back-falkirks-league-one-title-winning-campaign-review-invincibility-awaits-4611665> - Falkirk's journey back to the Scottish Premiership was marked by an impressive unbeaten League One season, culminating in a 7-1 victory over Montrose. The team secured the title with five games to spare, ending a five-year stint in the third tier. Manager John McGlynn highlighted the team's dominance and the collective effort that led to their success. The article also reflects on the challenges faced in previous seasons and the significance of this achievement for the club.
6. <https://www.falkirkherald.co.uk/sport/football/falkirk-boss-john-mcglynn-revels-in-scottish-premiership-promotion-after-targeting-back-to-back-titles-5111998> - Falkirk manager John McGlynn expressed immense pride after leading the team back to the Scottish Premiership, achieving back-to-back SPFL titles. The Bairns secured the Scottish Championship title with a 3-1 win over Hamilton Accies, marking their return to the top flight for the first time in 15 years. McGlynn praised the players' character and resilience, emphasizing the significance of the achievement and the collective effort that led to their success.
7. <https://www.bbc.com/sport/football/68644141> - Falkirk clinched the Scottish League One title with five games to spare, ending a five-season stint in the third tier. Their triumph was sealed after second-top Hamilton Academical were held to a goalless draw with Queen of the South. Falkirk celebrated in style by crushing fourth-placed hosts Montrose 7-1, with Ross MacIver and Aidan Nesbitt scoring doubles. The team's unbeaten run and dominant performance throughout the season highlighted their superiority in the league.