

COVE RANGERS 2ND OCTOBER 2021







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1921/22

RUNNERS UP

1938/39

SCOTTISH LEAGUE 1 RUNNERS UP

1976/77 1981/82

1984/85 1988/89 1999/00 2001/02 2009/10 2012/13

2016/17

SCOTTISH LEAGUE 2 WINNERS

1997/1998 2011/2012

CHALLENGE CUP WINNERS

1999/2000

RUNNERS-UP

2001/02 2014/15

STIRLINGSHIRE CUP WINNERS

1904/5 1907/8 1908/9 1912/13 1920/21 1924/25 1933/34 1946/47 1955/56 1957/58 1959/60 1965/66 1981/82 1996/97

MOST CAPPED PLAYER

Jock Hepburn, 1 Cap (Scotland v Wales 1891)

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Pat Lawlor Directors

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Martin Ross (Vice Chairman)

Ewen Cameron Steven Lynch

Dr Robert McElroy

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June McLauchlan

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Bob Malcolm(Assistant)
Stuart Phinn (Sports Therapist)
John Gibson (GK Coach)
Andrew Deeley (Club Doctor)
Derek Nicholson (Head of Youth)

Derek Nicholson (Head of Youth) Dean Robertson (Head of Scouting) Mike Zaleski (Head of Sports Science)

Ground Staff
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Pat Dunne Calum Wood

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Robert Wilson, Carol Edgar

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| | Р | W | D | L | GF | GA | GD | PTS |
|-------------------|-----|---|---|---|----|----|-----|------|
| QUEEN'S PARK | 8 | 4 | 4 | 0 | 13 | 6 | 7 | 16 |
| DUMBARTON | - 8 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 16 | 11 | 5 | - 14 |
| COVE RANGERS | - 8 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 13 | 9 | 4 | - 14 |
| MONTROSE MONTROSE | - 8 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 12 | 9 | 3 | 12 |
| ALLOA ATHLETIC | 8 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 11 | 9 | 2 | - 11 |
| FALKIRK | - 8 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 11 | 10 | 1 | - 11 |
| AIRDRIEONIANS | 8 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 11 | 11 | 0 | - 11 |
| CLYDE | 8 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 12 | 15 | -3 | - 11 |
| PETERHEAD | 8 | 2 | 0 | 6 | 10 | 15 | -5 | - 6 |
| EAST FIFE | 8 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 7 | 21 | -14 | 4 |

WEEKEND'S FIXTURES

ALLOA ATHLETIC





COVE RANGERS

CHAMPIONSHIP

HAMILTON ACCIES

KILMARNOCK



INVERNESS CT

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DEFENDERS

Keir **BURT**



Scott **TAGGART**



Daniel CHURCH



Craig HOWIE



MATCH most appearances

Cawley 382 216 Taggart Graham 202 Robertson 199

David **HUTTON**



Andy **GRAHAM**



Mark **DURNAN**



Jordan **ARMSTRONG**



GOALS

Cawley 66 Trouten 41 Graham 13 Taggart 8

Fernandy



MENDY



BARRY FERGUSON









MANAGER'S NOTES

Good afternoon and welcome to Paul Hartley and his staff and players from Cove. Again, they're one of the title favourites, Paul's got a good team, a lot of good players. Not many know we grew up just a mile down the road from one anotherand played for the same boys team.

Hopefully this week we'll have enjoyed another productive training week. We need to learn from some of the mistakes we made against Dumbarton and hopefully go and get the three points.

Sadly we've got more than a few niggles in the last couple weeks. Scougall with his better half was expecting a child didn't train all week and he went off through injury. Euan Henderson is struggling with a hamstring problem. While he got the go-ahead to play on Saturday, obviously he pulled up. They might be struggling to



train this week. Durnan and Robbo have got niggles - so we're low on bodies. Trouten's more long term but hopefully, going to be back in a couple weeks. But that's football and hopefully we'll have as many raring to go on Saturday as we can.

We've not been lucky with the fixture scheduling later in the month. Not ideal to have the Queen's Park game on the Sunday, Rangers on the Wednesday and then Airdrie on the Saturday. Nearer the time we'll have a look at it and manage - the league obviously is our bread and butter with that Rangers game squashed in the middle.

Hopefully, by Saturday, we'll have also strengthened. There's work going on behind the scenes to bring another player in but as is always the case with loans it's all about the parent team getting cover letting any go. After that I'll be really pleased with the squad we have - you can see we're getting there. Although we've been up and down results wise - the momentum is building. Niang's shown how good a signing he is. Adam

King, after, getting regular time is really starting to show his class. He's a footballer who's not had a good run of games at any club he's been with but still has enormous potential.

It's up to the team now to show their fight against Cove Rangers and come Saturday evening, be climbing the table.





NEWSDESK

Welcome to today's match against Cove Rangers, who are visitors to the Indodrill Stadium for the first time since in a historic first ever league match, having only meet previously in two Cup matches, to the players, directors, manager Paul Hartley, assistant Gordon Young and fitness coach Tam Ritchie, Hartley and Ritchie well known to the Alloa Athletic fans for their great success with "The Wasps". As

this is the final game in the first quarter both teams will be looking to secure more league points to see how close it can take them to their targets.

Jon Robertson is set to make his 200th appearance for club today, if selected, having joined the club from Stenhousemuir at the start 2016/17 season and has been a model professional mixing part-time football along with his job in the police force, well done to him as a player who just gets on with the job. (read Jonathan Markwell's article).

Congratulations to Stefan Scougall and his partner Jessica on the birth of their baby boy, Oxley on Thursday 23rd September, weighing 6lb 7oz. Birthday greetings also to Cameron O'Donnell who turned 20 on Wednesday 29th September, 2021. Mohammed Niang who has been in fantastic form, after his performance v. Falkirk and then scoring his first goal for "The Wasps" v. Montrose was included in the SPFL Teams of the week on both these occasions, well done.

Look out for current edition of "Four Four Two" magazine, it has a fantastic article on the 100 Greatest Grounds in Britain, of which 16 are in Scotland, these

are ranked by their matchday experience. The perfect ground does not exist. Pubs and good patter can be traded off against handy road access or proximity to a station. The feeling as you stroll towards, a sense of calm, a beauty spot, a special atmosphere unmatched elsewhere. your ground, which are all subject of course. Recreation Park, Alloa comes in a No. 52, 9th best in Scotland, with full marks for beauty and location. "Alloa are widely regarded as one of the best part-time clubs in Scotland extending to the maintenance of their tidy stadium. The 3G surface isn't for everyone's liking, but those glorious views of the Ochil hills from the Railway end wash all concerns away. Best Feature - The full experience isn't done until you have tried Alloa's famous pie in a roll".

Alloa Athletic supporters should take note of following rescheduled fixture dates - Queen's Park v Alloa Athletic which was due on Saturday 23rd October at Firhill Stadium, has been moved to Sunday 24th October as Partick Thistle are also due to be at home on the Saturday, Kick-Off 3pm and Alloa's Trust Cup tie v. Rangers B. scheduled for 9th October, will now be played on Wednesday 27th October at Indodrill Stadium, Kick-Off 7.45pm. This is due to Rangers having players involved in Scotland Under 21 Championship match v. Denmark on 9th October.

Young nineteen year old striker Liam Evans has went out on loan to Syngenta FC to gain more first team experience, Liam had been on loan to Broomhill earlier in season until injury cut short his game time.



Wasps 2000 Club winners - Week 38 Drawn 25th September, 2021

£ 100 0651 J.Wright £ 50 1321 J.Glencross £ 25 0204 S.Drummond

£ 25 0930 G.McKay £ 25 0345 C.Sharp

£ 250 0500 J.McDonald Scottish Football Programme & Memorabilia Fairs@Footballfairs, date for your diary - Forth Valley Programme and Memorabilia Fair. Sunday 31st October, 2021, Collessio Hotel, Stirling. 10am, Admission Free.





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We would like to take this opportunity to wish Alloa Athletic Football Club every success this season





25th September 2021 C&G Systems Stadium, Dumbarton 3:00pm KO

DUMBARTON

1:1

ALLOA ATHLETIC



(0:1)**SCORERS 45'** Boyd 0:1

> Boyle 80' 1:1









| | = |
|----------|--------|
| | |
| STARTING | 3 XI |
| 1 RAMSE | воттом |

BOYLE

BUCHANAN

2 MCGEEVER 4 LYNCH

15 PIGNATIELLO

CARSWELL 6

19 WILSON 14 MCKEE

DUTHIE

ORSI

SUBS

21 HANLEY

8 GEGGAN

11 MCLEAN

20 MUIR

22 MCKNIGHT

25 SCHIAVONE 28 HOPKIRK

SUBS

21 BURT

4 HOWIE

5 GRAHAM 7 CAWLEY

14 LAMONT

18 SAMMON

20 O'DONNELL

STARTING XI

31 HUTTON

2 TAGGART

6 DURNAN 23 MENDY

3 CHURCH

19 NIANG

16 KING

8 ROBERTSON

11 BOYD

22 HENDERSON

12 SCOUGALL

REFEREE: Matthew MacDermid



25th September 2021 Balmoral Stadium, Cove Bay 3:00pm KO

COVE RANGERS

1:0

AIRDRIEONIANS













| STARTING XI | |
|---------------|-------------|
| 1 MCKENZIE | |
| 25 LOGAN | SUBS |
| 5 ROSS | 6 STRACHAI |
| 2 NEILL | 8 YULE |
| 3 MILNE | 11 MCINTOSH |
| 4 SCULLY | 17 ADEYEMO |
| 24 FYVIE | 18 ROBERTSO |
| 16 VIGURS | 20 LEITCH |
| 10 MASSON | 23 GOURLAY |
| 13 MCALLISTER | |
| 9 MEGGINSON | |

RACHAN JLE CINTOSH DEYEMO **DBERTSON** ITCH

SUBS 14 ALLAN 15 MCDONALD **18 CANTLEY** 19 WALKER 20 CAVES

STARTING XI 1 CURRIE 24 MCGILL 4 KERR 16 WATSON 3 QUITONGO 11 SMITH 10 EASTON 8 AGNEW 21 FRIZZELL 22 KOUIDER-AISSA

9 GALLAGHER

REFEREE: Peter Stuart

CHILD PROTECTION AND WELLBEING POLICY

Alloa Athletic FC acknowledges its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of those who engage with the club especially children and vulnerable adults. We are committed to protecting children and vulnerable adults from all form of harm and actively promoting the creation of a positive, safe and supportive environment.

We recognise -

- the welfare of the child (up to the age of 18) is paramount.
- all children regardless of age disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity, have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or
- working in partnership with children and their families is essential in promoting and embedding this policy

The purpose of the policy and related procedures is to:

- promote and priotitise the saftey and wellbeing of children and vulnerable adults
- provide staff and volunteers with appropriate training to recognise, identify and respond to safeguarding concerns relating to children and vulnerable adults
- ensure appropriate action is taken in event of inicdents of concerns and that support is provided to those who raise or disclose the concern and that is dealt with confidentially:
- prevent the employment or engagement wof unsuitable individuals by adopting rigorous recruitment and veting procedures

Alloa Athletic Football Club's policy will be widely promoted and will be reviewed on a regular basis, or in the event of changes in legislation or government guidance, or as a result of any other changes.

MIKE MULRANEY, CHAIRMAN









JON ROBERTSON SET FOR 200TH GAME

"You'd struggle to find a player with a better attitude than Jon Robertson" - Andy Graham speaking to the Tell Him He's Pele Podcast in 2019

Being respected by your teammates is something all players crave – these words by Wasps captain Andy Graham undoubtedly signal the high esteem Jon Robertson is held in by the Alloa squad. With Robertson scheduled to hopefully make his landmark 200th Alloa appearance this afternoon, it is apt to delve a little deeper into Robbo's Wasps career.

Robertson was a Jack Ross signing in the summer of 2016. Having become a little disillusioned back in the part-time game after a stint in full-time football at St Mirren, Robbo was rejuvenated under Ross, playing a full role in the Wasps ten-game

winning start to the season. Highlights included scoring in the cup win over top-tier Ross County and a manof-the-match performance at Raith (after a delightful through ball set up Greig Spence's winning goal). Having been a regular in the first half of the season, a training ground injury saw Robbo in and out of the side for the rest of the campaign. He played a memorable role in the play-off

semi-final second leg victory over Airdrie, sweetly half-volleying home from 20 yards to level the tie. It was Jon's fourth goal of the season, but amazingly is still his last goal for the club – Robbo is 156 games without a goal and counting!

Robbo was a regular during the 2017/18 promotion winning season. After the Wasps indifferent form in the first quarter of the sea-

son, lim Goodwin chose to make some tactical changes, with Garry Fleming anchoring the midfield, Scott Taggart switching to central defence and Robertson moving to right-back. Although not his natural position, Robertson adapted well and was part of a backline which kept five shut-outs in eight matches to transform Alloa's season. Robertson's athleticism. fine distribution and excellent reading of the game all contributed to him becoming a trusted lieutenant in this full-back role. In the New Year Robbo was a frustrated onlooker from the substitutes bench, but stayed patient and started nine of the final ten games, culminating in the joyous promotion at Dumbarton, Although a knee injury forced Ion off the pitch early that afternoon, he still managed to celebrate

in style with his teammates! It was the third time Robbo had won promotion in his senior career, having previously won the same play-offs in 2010 and winning the third tier title in 2012, both whilst playing for Cowdenbeath.

In the 2018/19 Championship season Robertson had to bide his time as Iim Goodwin settled on a midfield pairing of Iain Flannigan and Stevie Hetherington, meaning Robbo was again on the bench in the early part of the season. However, Robbo came into the midfield in the Autumn and showed his quality as the Wasps began to get the results that their fine performances deserved. Competition for places that season was particularly fierce though, with Robbo in and out of the starting eleven. Come the business end of the season an injury to loanee Sam Roscoe saw Goodwin



implement the ultimate battle-plan move of 'Taggart to centre-back and Robbo to right-back', as the Wasps performed a great escape from relegation. Robertson was a reliable presence in that successful campaign, with his calm demeanour and performing well in whatever role he was asked to play testament to his character.

In 2019/20 under Peter Grant Robbo was largely found at full-back, equally on the left as well as the right, as injuries to Liam Dick and Andy Graham saw Robertson's adaptability utilised to the full. Two assists on the opening night cup game versus Elgin probably helped cement Grant's opinion that Robbo was a useful attacking weapon from full-back in his team. whether that was at full-back or in midfield. Robertson spoke to the Alloa Advertiser after making his 150th Alloa appearance in January 2020, endearing himself further to the supporters with quotes such as "I absolutely love it and I don't think I would want

to be anywhere else." The mutual respect between Robbo and the behind-the-scenes staff at the Recs was also self-evident when Robbo continued "The place is well run; right from the kitman (Pat Dunne), to Joyce, who provides us with food after training. even in the winter nights when she should be in the house watching Emmerdale. These wee things are fantastic and they do try and help you in anyway they can. They are good with me with my shifts when I sometimes can't make it to training and I have nothing but good things to say about the place. The chairman recognising that [his 150th Alloa appearance] is a nice touch."

Last season Jon started all but five of the matches played, with Grant again selecting to use Robbo largely in a full-back role. Robertson's versatility is without question one of his strengths. Whilst primarily either a box-tobox central midfielder or holding midfielder, he has filled in admirably





at full-back for the club too. In the midfield role you know exactly what you are going to get from Robbo, 100% commitment and an efficiency in his passing which marks him out as a calming presence amongst the often congested midfield battle. It is a compliment to Ion that everything he does seems simple; it often isn't but he makes it look simple with an unheralded nature which means he'll seldom grab the media headlines, but amongst his team-mates he'll be much valued.

Last season his opportunities in central midfield could be counted on a single hand and it was ironic that when he was given his first chance in his natural position away at Arbroath in December (and Robertson's presence already being felt in that game), it only lasted 40 minutes as an injury to Scott Taggart

saw him re-shuffled back to full-back. Robertson's only other central midfield outing came when Stevie Hetherington was suspended for the clash away at Queen of the South in March. Again, Robertson was a stand-out in the Wasps victory that day, but for the rest of the season returned to his full-back role.

When playing in the full-back role Robertson's key strength is his consistency and delivery in the final third. Whilst even Ion would probably admit that his style is not as swashbuckling as Scott Taggart when venturing forward from right-back, Robbo's crossing is probably more reliable than Taggs', resulting in Robbo earning more assists (6) than any other Wasp last season, with Robert Thomson's opening night cup winner at Airdrie and Kevin Cawley's home

goals versus Hearts and Raith being particular examples of Robbo's accurate crossing. Jon has also filled in at leftback on rare occasions too, with the televised win over Dundee United in October 2019 being one example. Whilst the rapid Paul McMullan sped past Robbo on a couple of occasions, Robertson stuck to his task admirably as the Wasps triumphed.

This season Barry Ferguson has used Robertson in both full-back positions and in central midfield, signalling that Robbo's versatility is going to be utilised to the full again. I think that Robbo's natural position as the base of the Alloa midfield could work really well in the system Ferguson is seeking to implement, but in reality Robbo will happily perform any role for the team, with his unselfish nature and praised attitude shining through.

Like so many part-

time players, the 32 year old's commitment is unguestionable. Combining night-shifts in his job with the police force and a young family, life must feel a little hectic and even overwhelming for Robertson sometimes. Peter Grant referenced one of his team working until 4.30am before beating Hearts last season (as a prelude to Grant's 'take your medicine' line which riled Robbie Neilson so much) and I'd guess he was talking about Robertson. I also recall tales of Robbo playing midweek away games in Inverness before going off to work – the glamorous life of a footballer eh? It is that sort of juggling act that isn't often spoken about, but means that when milestone appearances such as the double century Ion could reach today. they should be fully recognised and celebrated many congratulations in advance Robbo!









THE UNLIKELY SPOKE IN ALLOA'S WHEEL

It wasn't even a month since Alloa had played their first ever Scottish League match but the Wasps explosive start to life in the Second Division in 1921/22 had already raised expectations. A late winner at Dunfermline in early September had kept Alloa's 100% record intact after four games with an excited Sunday Post proclaiming that the team were "heading straight for the First Division". As struggling Iohnstone arrived in town on September 17th, the Sporting

Chronicle predicted that they "were unlikely to be the first to put a spoke in Alloa's wheel". Now football clichés hadn't quite kicked in back in 1921 but generations of managers since would have been well prepared for the occasion: 'Leagues aren't won in September/No easy games/One game at a time' etc etc. And so it proved with a stubborn Johnstone providing a stiffer test than expected. They defended stoutly and when a chance came their way from a corner, Lawson

made his way up from the back to head the visitors into a shock lead. Alloa responded well, that man Crilley cutting through the visiting defence before setting up Wood to equalise. Thereafter the Daily Record reported that it was "all Alloa attack but no goals" as the impressive Lawson stuck to "clever Crilley like a limpet". It finished 1-1 as Johnstone escaped with a hard earned point and Alloa's 100% record shattered, and Cowdenbeath leapfrogging the Wasps at the

top of the table.

Next up was a trip over the Forth to take on Bo'ness, a club against whom Alloa had played a number of big games in the Central League over the years. The Evening News reported that several charabancs would make the journey from the Wee County to West Lothian, but the hottest ticket in town was surely the "special steamer" that was chartered to leave Alloa Docks at 10am, 300 fans would set sail for Bo'ness and most likely many of

them also fitting the description of special steamers by the time kick-off arrived. The fans were still finding their places on the Newtown Park terraces when Alloa were presented with a guilt edged early chance, Whittle firing wide with the goal gaping. The first half ended goalless with the press describing the encounter as the "most cleanly contested and interesting game" seen at Bo'ness since the start of the season. It was Alloa's toughest test yet too and it got harder early in the second period with Clark beating Caldwell from 25 yards. Bo'ness now grabbed hold of the game and passed up several chances to finish off the Wasps. Well there's always a chance at 0-1 and especially when you have a man like Willie Crilley in your team. The Sunday Post reported that "the home supporters were just congratulating their team on being the first to lower Alloa's colours. when Crilley, with only two minutes to go, was the means of providing a most sensational finish to a rousing game". The wee man collected the ball and twisted and turned through the home defence before firing the ball across the face of the goal where Whittle forced it home at the second attempt. Alloa had saved a point and the travelling armada sailed back over the Forth safe in the knowledge that their team were still unbeaten, albeit they had now dropped to third behind Armadale and Cowdenbeath.

And so September rolled into October with the Wasps welcoming Forfar to the Recs and aiming to return to winning ways. 3000 fans were present and they witnessed another attempt to man mark Crilley, with visiting centre half Boath the latest to be handed the unenviable task of holding the midget centre. He didn't do too badly either but the wee man wriggled free shortly before the break to head home a free kick from McLean, the Forfar Dispatch claiming that he had "appeared from nowhere". On the restart Whittle and Dunn missed chances to extend Alloa's lead before Dawson equalised with Forfar's first real effort on the home goal. Were the Wasps going to drop points for a third game

in a row? Crilley provided an emphatic answer to that question, putting Alloa ahead once more from the penalty spot before completing his hat-trick in the final minute, although the hard to please Forfar Dispatch still managed to conclude that "Crilley, although clever in the outfield, finished badly". 3-1 Alloa with the Wasps back up to 2nd place and Crilley onto 9 goals for the season.

Next up would be a midweek Stirlingshire Cup clash with East Stirlingshire followed by a league visit to Edinburgh and a clash with St Bernards in Stockbridge. More in the next edition of The Wasp'.



APPEARANCES

| | | LEA | GUE | CI | JP | TOI | 'AL |
|------------|------|-------|------|-------|------|--------|------|
| | POS | APP | GOAL | APP | GOAL | APP | GOAL |
| HUTTON | GOAL | 8 (0) | О | 2 (0) | 0 | 10 (0) | 0 - |
| TAGGART | DEF | 7 (0) | - o | 4 (0) | - 1 | 11 (0) | 1 - |
| CHURCH | DEF | 4 (2) | 0 | 5 (0) | 0 | 9 (2) | 0 |
| HOWIE | DEF | 4 (0) | 0 | 4 (1) | 0 | 8 (1) | 0 |
| GRAHAM | DEF | 4 (1) | 0 | 4 (0) | 0 | 8 (1) | 0 |
| DURNAN | DEF | 7 (0) | 0 | 1 (0) | 0 | 8 (0) | 0 |
| JAMIESON** | DEF | 0 (0) | 0 | 0 (0) | 0 | 0 (0) | 0 - |
| ARMSTRONG | DEF | 1 (0) | 0 | 1 (2) | 0 | 2 (2) | 0 |
| MENDY | DEF | 7 (1) | 0 | 1 (0) | 0 | 8 (1) | 0 |
| WILLIAMSON | DEF | 0 (0) | 0 | 0 (0) | 0 | 0 (0) | 0 |
| ROBERTSON | MID | 5 (1) | 0 | 5 (0) | 0 | 10 (1) | 0 |
| SCOUGALL | MID | 6 (0) | - 1 | 5 (0) | - 1 | 11 (0) | 2 |
| LAMONT | MID | 0 (0) | 0 | 0 (0) | 0 | 0 (0) | 0 - |
| KING | MID | 7 (0) | 1 | 0 (0) | 0 | 0 (0) | 0 |
| O'DONNELL | MID | 0 (6) | 0 | 3 (0) | 0 | 3 (6) | 0 - |
| NIANG* | MID | 6 (0) | 1 | 1 (0) | 0 | 7 (0) | 1 |
| WCCOLL | MID | 0 (0) | 0 | 0 (1) | 0 | 0 (1) | 0 |
| CAWLEY | FWD | 3 (2) | 0 | 2 (0) | 0 | 5 (2) | 0 |
| ARMOUR | FWD | 0 (1) | 0 | 1 (3) | 0 | 1 (4) | 0 - |
| TROUTEN | FWD | 2 (0) | 0 | 1 (1) | 1 | 3 (1) | 1 |
| BOYD | FWD | 8 (0) | 4 | 5 (0) | - 1 | 13 (0) | - 5 |
| EVANS** | FWD | 0 (0) | О | 0 (0) | 0 | 0 (0) | 0 |
| SAMMON | FWD | 5 (3) | 3 | 3 (1) | 0 | 8 (4) | 3 |
| HENDERSON | FWD | 4 (0) | - 1 | 0 (0) | 0 - | 4 (0) | 1 |

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| 4 (2) | 0 | 5 (0) | 0 | 9 (2) | 0 | VICTOR HERRIDGE |
| 4 (0) | 0 | 4 (1) | 0 | 8 (1) | - 0 | WORLDWIDE WASPS |
| 157 (1) | 12 | 43 (1) | 1 | 200 (2) | - 13 | JOYCE & THE PIE HUT |
| 7 (0) | 0 | 1 (0) | 0 | 8 (0) | - 0 | CLELLAND SHAND |
| 10 (2) | 0 | 4 (0) | 0 | 14 (2) | - 0 | |
| 5 (4) | 0 | 3 (6) | 1 | 8 (10) | - 1 | |
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A FAN'S VIEW

A lot has happened since our last home game here three weeks ago. The 4 fixtures in that time scale were fairly tough and somewhat critical after some understandably patchy early league form as the team still looks to find its feet. Despite mixed fortunes on the road, the outcome from these games overall was pretty positive. I think that's the outlook I take at present - new signings are settling in, and although the team aren't vet where thev want to be in terms of a unit - progress is being made.

I felt it was quite possibly the weakest Falkirk team I could remember

Alloa facing in my time supporting the clubcertainly up there. So the opportunity to pick up a win against our neighbours was there for the taking. In terms of memorability, I'm not sure it quite lived up to the 3-0 win back in March 2014- but it was quite possibly a more dominant win. The way the game progressed really lived up to any pre match hopes- from an Alloa perspective the game fell completely into place and went entirely to plan. Euan Henderson had a terrific debut up front, particularly in the first half when he caused Falkirk a great deal of problems-dragging their defenders into places

they didn't want to go. It was great to see him get off the mark quickly in that opening period too-giving Alloa a hugely merited lead at the break which could really have been wider than a solitary goal. Alloa had received a couple of setbacks though, with Alan Trouten and Steven Boyd both leaving the field due to injuries. For Trouten in particular this was a real blow, as he had just returned from injury. He missed a glaring chance early on with a diving header, but his influence and play had been really effective in the half hour he contributed.

The second half played out much the same as the first, with

Alloa comfortable and resolute in defence. The partnership of Durnan and Mendy took care of the vast majority of opposition threats. Mendy in particular won every ball in the air, putting in a man of the match performance. It was also great to see substitute Connor Sammon doubling the lead after being on the receiving end of stick from the away support. And even more sickening for the Falkirk fans that another ex-player of theirs- Mark Durnanfloated the ball onto his head. This was a terrific afternoon overall and a richly deserved 3 points for the Wasps. Victories over our much bigger neighbours across the

water will always be savoured, regardless of circumstance.

There was no real time to catch breath, as the following Tuesday night the team travelled to Airdrie for the re-arranged fixture. Alloa passed the ball around well and dominated much of the possession for the first hour of the contest. Yet to their credit Airdrie's shape was excellent and restricted Alloa to very few openings. A fairly soft concession of a goal in the first half gave Airdrie a lead to protect and therefore no real requirement to change their setup. I felt the absence of Alan Trouten was particularly noticeable. When Airdrie added another really well worked goal in the 2nd half, the manager was forced to make changes and Alloa finally found some headway. Connor Sammon immediately provided a variable option up top, and he pulled Alloa back into it with a fantastic turn and shot. But despite numerous chances as the home defence tired in the closing stages, Alloa couldn't salvage a point.

This was Alloa's third successive defeat on the road so far, and with 2 away games to follow it was a monkey on the back that had to be evaded quickly. And in the opening quarter of an hour of the next match at Montrose, the

monkey appeared to be gaining even more weight. The home side came firing out of the traps, peppering the Alloa goal and were awarded a quick penalty when keeper Hutton was adjudged to have fouled Blair Lyons. Lewis Milne stepped up and rolled a weak effort wide of the post. Alloa gradually found their way into the game after the jolt of that let-off, and Niang gave Alloa the lead when he took advantage of some slack Montrose play and slotted home. Adam King added to the Wasps tally before the break with a wonderful long range effort. The second half was a bit of a non-event. Montrose did all they could to change their fortunes, but Alloa dealt with any threats comfortably once more. This was a huge 3 points in terms of the confidence of the team, and it was a hugely effective performance from the team away from home.

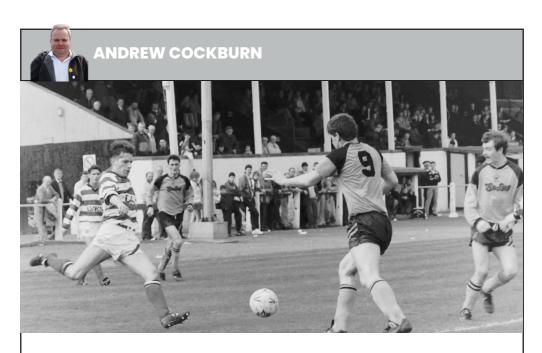
Finally, Alloa made the trip to form team Dumbarton last week. This is a ground I was reluctant to visit again after the highs of our previous journey therethe 2018 play-off final. On the balance of play a draw was a fair result-I just thought Alloa looked more dangerous going forward. It was disappointing to concede a late equaliser-Dumbarton has always been a tough ground to visit and this never really

changes.

During this pocket

of fixtures, I think the team is moving in the right direction overall, with obviously a good bit to go before Alloa get where they want to be. I think the most telling aspect for me at the moment is that the first goal appears to be vital. The team looks comfortable when they go ahead, and look fairly solid protecting a lead. But when chasing games, the team needs to be a bit more creative and not feel that pressure. Some of the new signings are settling in a bit more now. Steven Boyd was excellent against Dumbarton in particular from those games. His goal return has been good and he's starting to put together a run of consistent form. Mark Durnan of course has been a standout in most of his outings for the club so far. He is beginning to form a decent partnership with Fernandy Mendy. Of the loan players, Niang is really getting into his groove now and has become a key player in the centre of midfield. Hopefully Alloa can hang onto him for the full season-maybe someone needs to tell him to ease off for a week or two. Ion Robertson into the midfield has really helped the balance overall though. As we are fully aware Robbo is excellent in this position. that base in now far more solid. Euan Henderson has begun his loan spell strongly with some impressive outings. Also good to see Connor Sammon getting amongst the goals in the past few games, even if the majority of his game time has occurred from the bench in that timeframe. His link play has been good, and he provides a variable option up top.

Alloa are apparently "languishing in mid table" according to some papers, but the league positions at the moment don't really matter. The league is cut throat, with no team standing out or pulling away as it stands. Based on what we've witnessed so far, there are solid teams in the league- and Alloa don't have a divine right to win any game. But the quality is a step down from the Championship, and if we can put together a good run of form Alloa can easily challenge at the top. Today presents another tough game against in-form Cove Rangers, managed of course by the legendary Paul Hartley. Cove defeated the Wasps here last season in the Scottish Cup- winning 3-2 after scoring a late winner. I don't see that as a real indicator of what may happen this afternoon- on that day Cove were really impressive, whole It should be a really decent encounter today, so hopefully an eniovable afternoon with a positive result. Enjoy today's game.



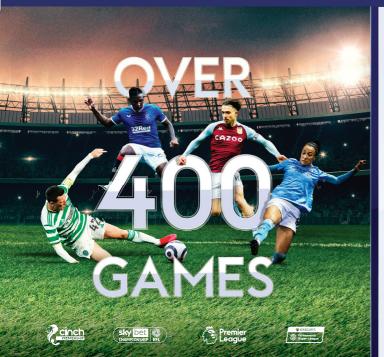
ON THE 2ND OCTOBER...

Just two games took place in the Premier Division, due to Scotland's Euro 2000 qualifier with Bosnia the following midweek. Leaders Rangers opened up a six-point lead over gameless second-placed rivals Celtic following a 3-2 win at Dundee, though The Celts did have a game in hand. The top Division's only other game was a "basement battle" at Pittodrie between rock-bottom Aberdeen. and second-bottom Hibs, which ended allsquare at 2-2. The result enabled Hibs to move

up one place, while for Aberdeen it was their first point of the season, though they remained anchored in last place. First Division leaders St. Mirren were held 1-1 at home by thirdplaced Livingston, while Dunfermline remained second, despite the cancellation of their game at bottom club Clydebank. The Division's "battle of the lowly" between third-bottom Airdrie and second-bottom Inverness CT ended all-square at 1-1, and meant no positional change for either club. Arbroath remained top

of the Second Division. despite being held 2-2 at lowly Hamilton Accies, while Alloa's 0-0 draw at Stranraer was enough to nudge them into second spot. The Wasps displaced near-neighbours Stenhousemuir. who dropped to third following a 1-3 home defeat by Clyde. There was no joy for bottom club Partick, who went down 1-3 at Stirling Albion, while Oueen Of The South remained just one place above Thistle, despite collecting a point from a 1-1 draw at Ross County. Third Division pacesetters

Oueens' Park extended their unbeaten start to the season thanks to a 2-1 home win over Montrose, Cowdenbeath remained second despite being held 0-0 at home by rock-bottom Albion Rovers, while East Fife staved third after a 3-1 success at another of the strugglers, second-bottom Brechin, Berwick went fourth after a 3-0 victory at East Stirling, while Forfar were fifth after hammering Dumbarton 5-0 at home, helped by a Milne hat-trick. English Premiership leaders Manchester United











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visited Chelsea the following day, and their lead was now down just one point over Sunderland, who went second after an empatic 4-0 win at promotion counterparts Bradford.

1993

Aberdeen remained top of the Premier Division, despite being held 0-0 at Motherwell, who dropped from second to third. Their place was taken by Hibs, 2-0 home winners over Dundee United, while Kilmarnock slipped from third to fourth, after a 0-0 stalemate at Celtic. Rangers were now fifth after sharing two goals and points at struggling Raith, while Celtic's own draw continued their own patchy star to the season, though they did move up one place to seventh. Dundee gained their first League success of the season

with a 2-0 home win over Hearts, though they remained rock-bottom. while Raith were still iust one place better off. Clydebank still led the First Division, though this was still only on goal difference over Airdrie. after a 1-1 home draw with St. Mirren. The Diamonds were also held 1-1 at home, by Ayr, while Falkirk stayed third after a 0-0 draw at bottom club Brechin. Queen Of The South's 1-0 home win over Montrose put them top of the Second Division on goal difference over previous leaders Meadowbank, who dropped to second after a 0-1 defeat at Alloa, for whom Willie Newbigging netted from the spot. Stenhousemuir's 2-1 home victory over Berwick moved them up to third. while Alloa's success saw them jump two places



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to seventh, with Forfar. 2-3 losers at East Fife. one place behind. East Stirling dropped to last place, following a 1-4 home reverse against Albion Rovers, Manchester United went five points clear at the top of the English Premiership, after beating Sheffield Wednesday by the odd goal in five at Hillsborough.





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GROUND

Balmoral Stadium, Cove Bay

TOP HONOURS

Scottish League Two Winners: 2019-20

Highland Football League Winners (7): 2000-01, 2007-08, 2008-09, 2012-13, 2015-16, 2017-18, 2018-19

Highland League Cup Winners (6): 1994–95, 1999–00, 2004–05, 2014–15, 2016–17, 2018–19

This afternoon we welcome back Paul Hartley to the Indodrill stadium for another League 1 crunch tie. Cove currently sit in third position, just three points ahead of the Wasps in fifth, and also two points behind current league leaders, Queen's Park. With the league table so tight. their last two games, which were back to back wins against Airdrie and Peterhead have propelled them up the league after a mixed start. Cove's involvement in the professional leagues has mostly been a success and last season was minutes away from being the

same. Stoppage time and extra time drama saw them lose out in the play-offs to Airdrie, who lost out to Morton in the final, in a high scoring 4-3 defeat. Despite the two full-time teams in the division, there is no doubt of Cove's intentions and expectations to go one further this year and reach the Championship for the first time.

THE BOSS PAUL HARTLEY

The man in the opposing dugout is one of the many former Alloa bosses plying their trade elsewhere in Scotland. Paul Hartley returns to

officially leaving the club in 2013. The midfielder has a prestigious playing career pulling on the shirts of Celtic. Hearts. and Scotland. It was in 2011 that he decided to hang up the boots and take the position at Alloa in Division Two. What would follow in his spell would be remembered for years to come by Alloa fans. Signing a whole new squad that summer, including the likes of Cawley, Bain and May, the side strolled the league. Alloa won the title with a fourteen point margin and that season was full of mesmerizing performances, most notable the 8-1 victory over Elgin. Hartley then went onto secure back-to-back promotions when the Wasps beat Dunfermline comfortably in the Championship play-off finals. Alloa's first season back in the second tier was Hartley's last with the club as he departed following a 5-1 defeat to Dumbarton in January. However, he left the club in a strong position in the league and a core of a team that would last for many years. Dundee followed for the manag-

Alloa once more after





er as he led them to a Championship title win on the final day in 2014. Following that, he then went onto bag a top-six finish for the club in their first season back. The only black mark on his CV would be his year stint at Falkirk which didn't kick start in his second season. Cove Rangers trusted Hartley to be at the helm to recreate similar history to Alloa when he was appointed in 2019.

THE CAPTAIN -MITCH MEGGINSON

Cove Rangers will be led out by another familiar face for Alloa fans. Mitch Megginson will captain the visitors for this cup tie. The striker has been at the club since 2016 following his second spell with Alloa. The striker spent a loan spell at Alloa from Aberdeen in the 2012/13 season before returning to the club for

a short stint in 2016. He will also be remembered fondly by Dumbarton fans after playing every single game in a season and notching sixteen goals in his eighty-three appearances. However, Megginson has really found his feet since signing for the then Highland Champions, Cove Rangers. Following the same path as his father who played for the club twenty years ago, he signed a three year deal in 2016 to be part of the journey. The hitman has been an integral part of their recent success captaining their two promotion winning seasons. This season has been a continuation of that as he already sits on six goals for the season, four of which have come in the league.

NEW BOY -SHAY LOGAN

Eyebrows were raised when Hartley pulled off the coup of signing Aberdeen defender. Shav Logan, in the summer. Beginning his career in the Premier League with Manchester City, Logan had various loan spells in the lower divisions before making a permanent move to Brentford. During his three years at Brentford he made ninety appearances before another loan spell to Aberdeen set up his next big career move. The right-back played an integral part in Derek

McInness's teams during his seven year stint, playing in Europe and being part of the League Cup winning team in 2014. His Aberdeen career came to an end in the summer but not before a short loan spell with Hearts where he would help them over the line for the Championship title. This summer he dropped down to play part-time football when signing for local side, Cove. He now does this alongside his new plumbing and heating business.

ONE TO WATCH -

Another summer signing who caught the eye was the arrival of midfielder lain Vigurs. Having spent the majority of his time up North with most notably Inverness and Ross County, it may not have surprised many to see him end up at Cove

CONTINUED ON P32





BY KIEREN MOONEY

Rangers at the age of thirty-three. Vigurs has had a very respectable career in Scotland with the highlights being his two title wins for Ross County, in his 2011 and 2019 spells, alongside cup success with three Challenge Cup wins for County and Caley Thistle. As well as that, he has also been included in PFA Team of the Years and played integral parts in all his sides. Vigurs has remained the heartbeat of the midfield

alongside Fraser Fyvie and Blair Yule, adding steel to an already stacked midfield.

THE CONNECTION

The two obvious connections in Paul Hartley and Mitch Megginson have already been highlighted. It is always good to see former managers do well and no doubt Paddy Connolly, Pat Dunnen and Kevin Cawley, the only ones remaining from Hartlev's era, will be glad to see a familiar face once more. Alloa's new loan star, Euan Henderson. also has a connection with Cove having spent time out on loan in the 2018/19 campaign. However, after being forced off early in last week's draw at Dumbarton, he may have to wait till December to face his former team.

PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The sides have only met twice in their history. The first one came back in 2016 under lack Ross. The Wasps were in fine form that day winning 4-0 thanks to goals from Greig Spence, Andy Graham, Jordan Kirkpatrick and

Isaac Lavne, Cove Rangers got their revenge last season though as they knocked Alloa out the Scottish Cup here at the Indodrill. Alloa took the lead, against the run of play, through an Alan Trouten penalty. Jamie Masson pulled the teams level before Cameron O'Donnell scored a delightful goal to restore Alloa's lead iust a minute later. Cove were rewarded for their constant pressure with fifteen minutes to go as Rory McAllister looked to take the game to a replay. However, Ryan Strachan's superb last minute freekick sent Cove away with a wellearned 3-2 victory.



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HT QUIZ

1. WHICH 2 ENGLISH CLUBS ARE ON COVERS RANGERS MANAGER PAUL HARTLEYS PLAYING CAREER CV?

2. COVE RANGERS STRIKER RORY MCALLISTER BEGAN HIS CAREER AT WHICH CLUB?





- 3. WHICH 10 ENGLISH CLUBS HAVE PLAYED IN THE CHAMPIONS LEAGUE GROUP STAGES SINCE ITS INCEPTION
- 4. NAME THE 9 SCOTSMAN WHO HAVE SCORED OVER 30 PREMIERSHIP GOALS

ANSWERS PAGE 37

| KEY: | | | GOALKEEPERS DEFENDERS | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------|----------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|---|-------|------------|----|-----------------------------|----|-----|--------|----------|---------------|--------|-----------|-------|
| 0 | CAPTAIN GOAL OWN GOA | SECOND YE | | | | | | PARRY MCDOWALL HUTTON | | | снивсн | HOWIE | GRAHAM | DURNAN | ARMSTRONG | MENDY |
| | DATE | OPPOSITION | | | SCORE | REFEREE | 1 | 21 | 31 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 17 | 23 |
| | | | | | | | X | × | X | X | X | × | × | X | X | * |
| LC | 13.07.21 | COWDENBEATH | Н | • | 0-1 | SCOTT | 90 | | | 90 | 65 | 90 | 90 | | 25 | |
| LC | 17.07.21 | LIVINGSTON | н | • | 2-1 | NAPIER | | 90 | | 090 | 90 | 90 | 90 | | 5 | |
| LC | 20.07.21 | BRECHIN CITY | A | • | 1-0 | MACDERMID | | 90 | | 90 | 61 | 90 | 90 | | | |
| LC | 24.07.21 | RAITH ROVERS | A | | 0-0 | AITKEN | | | 90 | 90 | | 90 | 90 | | | |
| LI | 31.07.21 | PETERHEAD | A | • | 2-0 | REID | | | 90 | | 81 | 90 | 90 | | 45 | 9 |
| LI | 07.08.21 | EAST FIFE | н | • | 3-1 | STUART | | | 90 | 90 | 90 | 90 | 90 | 90 | | 9 |
| LI | 14.08.21 | CLYDE | A | • | 2-1 | RONCONE | | | 90 | 90 | | 90 | 90 | 90 | | 6 |
| LI | 21.08.21 | QUEEN'S PARK | н | | 1-1 | FORDYCE | | | 90 | 63 | | 34 | 90 | 90 | | 2 |
| cc | 04.09.21 | COWDENBEATH | A | | 0-2 | MACFARLANE | | | 90 | | 90 | 10 | | 90 | | 9 |
| LI | 11.09.21 | FALKIRK | н | | 2-0 | DICKINSON | | | 90 | 90 | 1 | | | 90 | | 9 |
| LI | 14.9.21 | AIRDRIEONIANS | A | • | 2-1 | FORDYCE | | | 90 | 90 | 35 | | 20 | 90 | | 9 |
| LI | 18.09.21 | MONTROSE | A | | 2-0 | NEWLANDS | | | 90 | 90 | 90 | | | 90 | | 9 |
| LI | 25.09.21 | DUMBARTON | A | | 1-1 | MACDERMID | | | 90 | 90 | 90 | | | 90 | | 9 |
| LI | 02.10.21 | COVE RANGERS | н | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| LI | 16.10.21 | PETERHEAD | н | | | | | | | | | 100 | | 14 | 4 | |
| LI | 24.10.21 | QUEEN'S PARK | А | | | | | | | | | N F | | N. | -18 | |
| СС | 27.10.21 | RANGERS B | н | | | | | | | | | 9 | | | Den | |
| LI | 30.10.21 | AIRDRIEONIANS | н | | | | | | | | | | - 4 | | W. | F |
| LI | 06.11.21 | FALKIRK | А | | | | | | | | | CIN | 25TH\$# | | A. | .6 |
| LI | 13.11.21 | MONTROSE | н | | | | | | | | | 17 | 11 | | A A | T |
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| LI | 18.11.21 | COVE RANGERS | A | | | | | | | | | | | | PUT | |
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| LI | 02.01.22 | FALKIRK | н | | | | | | | | | 4 | - | 5 | 11 | |
| LI | 08.01.22 | MONTROSE | A | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| LI | 15.01.22 | QUEEN'S PARK | Н | | | | | | | | | | 100 | | | TU |
| LI | 29.01.22 | CLYDE | A | | | | | | | | | 198 | | 4 | | 17 |
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| u u | 09.04.22 | CLYDE | Н | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | |
| u u | 16.04.22 23.04.22 | COVE RANGERS FALKIRK | A | | | | | | | | | | | | Jake Y | |

| | MIDFIELDERS | | | | | | | | | |
|--------|-------------|-----------|-------------|-----------------|--------|-------------|-------------|-----------|--------|--|
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| | | | | 90 | | 90 | | | | |
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| 4 | 45 | 90 | | 90 | | 45 | 90 | 27 | | |
| 9 | 90 | 90 | 90 | 0 90 | 2 | 90 | 90 | | | |
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| 5 | 55 | 90 | | 70 | | 90 | 55 | | | |
| 7 | 7 | 90 | | | | 0 90 | 1 90 | 1 | | |
| 1 | 10 | 90 | | 80 | | 90 | 90 | 79 | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | |

QUIZ ANSWERS

- 1. MILLWALL, BRISTOL CITY
- 2. INVERNESS CALEDONIAN THISTLE
- 3. MANCHESTER UNITED, MANCHESTER CITY, CHELSEA, LIVERPOOL, ARSENAL, TOTTENHAM, LEEDS UNITED, BLACKBURN ROVERS, LEICESTER CITY, NEWCASTLE UNITED
- 4. DUNCAN FERGUSON (68), KEVIN
 GALLAGHER (56), STEVEN FLETCHER (53),
 GARY MCALLISTER (49), DON HUTCHISON
 (37), PAUL DICKOV (36), JOHN SPENCER
 (36), CHARLIE ADAM (33), JAMES MORRISON (32)





ALLOA ATHLETIC



COVE RANGERS



| | # | POS | | ⊛ | |
|----------|----|-----|-------------------|---|--|
| \times | 1 | | STUART MCKENZIE | | |
| × | 2 | | MORGYN NEILL | | |
| \times | 3 | | HARRY MILNE | | |
| \times | 4 | | CONNOR SCULLY | | |
| \times | 5 | | SCOTT ROSS | | |
| \times | 6 | | RYAN STRACHAN | | |
| \times | 8 | | BLAIR YULE | | |
| \times | 9 | | MITCH MEGGINSON | | |
| \times | 10 | | JAMIE MASSON | | |
| \times | 11 | | LEIGHTON MCINTOSH | | |
| \times | 12 | | RORY MCALLISTER | | |
| \times | 14 | | ROSS DRAPER | | |
| - | 15 | | JEVAN ANDERSON | | |
| \times | 16 | | IAIN VIGURS | | |
| | 17 | | OLA ADEYEMO | | |
| \times | 18 | | FINLAY ROBERTSON | | |
| \times | 20 | | ROBBIE LEITCH | | |
| X | 23 | | KYLE GOURLAY | | |
| X | 24 | | FRASER FYVIE | | |
| + | 25 | | SHAY LOGAN | | |
| × | MA | NAG | ER PAUL HARTLEY | | |

REFEREE: Alan Muir

ASST: Andrew McWilliam & George King

ALLOA'S NEXT FIVE

ALLOA ATHLETIC

27.10.21, HOME, 19:45

RANGERS B

16.10.21, HOME, 15:00

ALLOA ATHLETIC



PETERHEAD

24.10.21, AWAY, 15:00

QUEEN'S PARK



ALLOA ATHLETIC

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AIRDRIEONIANS

06.11.21, AWAY, 15:00





ALLOA ATHLETIC

MARSHALL CONSTRUCTION

MARSHALL

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Our exciting, stylish new development at 'Faulds Green' near Tillicoultry.

Situated in the central belt of Scotland, surrounded by fantastic open views of the Ochil Hills, this development is the perfect location for both business and leisure.

This exciting new development offers an exclusive selection of brand new 2, 3 and 4 bedroom homes, all built with our superb new specification throughout. Each home is spacious and beautifully styled to offer the highest standards in modern living.

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