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## ALLOA ATHLETIC FOOTBALL CLUB



scottish championship winners
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)

\*includes equivalent competitions

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#### **Club Officials**

Honorory Directors Pat Lawlor David R. Murrav Directors Mike Mulraney (Chairman) Martin Ross (Vice Chairman) Ewen Cameron Steven Lynch Dr Robert McElroy Secretary Ewen Cameron Mobile: 07810507185 Home: 01259722696 Email: eweng@sky.com **Operations Manager** Carol Edgar Child Protection Officer Alloa Athletic: Ewen Cameron Wasp Community Club: June McLauchlan

#### Management

Peter Grant(Manager) Paddy Connolly(Assistant) Gerry Docherty (Physio) Stuart Phinn (Sports Therapist) Alan Fraser (GK Coach) Andrew Deeley (Club Doctor) Tommy Farries (Scout) Graeme Ellis (Scout) Derek Nicholson (Head of Youth) Ground Staff John Robertson Kit Manager Pat Dunne Safety Officers Robert Wilson, Carol Edgar Wasp 2000 Manager Malcolm Gordon Club Shop lune McLauchlan Programme Editor John Glencross Mobile: 07939 539282 Email: jgxalloafc@aol.com Programme Contributors J. Markwell, A. Cockburn, B. Roach, K. Mooney, Club Photographer David Glencross AAFC Supporters Club Brian Roach - 07775764831

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## 2020/21

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#### **JOHN GLENCROSS**

# WEAR RED DAY

# NEWSDESK

Today we return to the Indodrill Stadium for our first home Ladbrokes Championship match against Dunfermline Athletic who have agreed a working partnership for season 2020/21, with the challenges posed by Covid-19, both clubs have agreed to work together this season, in the first such partnership in Scottish football. to assist each other with the sharing of resources and facilities.

Mike Mulraney, Alloa Chairman stated "We are convinced that this agreement shows that in these difficult times clubs can work together to ensure that we all not only survive, but can learn new ways to thrive even in the most difficult of circumstances. building resilience for both clubs will be only one of the very positive outcomes achieved. We believe that this shows a positive way forward for clubs to share resource

where appropriate and we thank Dunfermline Athletic Chairman Ross McArthur and all at Dunfermline for their positive approach and commitment to building a great outcome for both clubs"

Last Saturday "The Wasps" were disappointed to lose 1-0 at Cappielow to Greenock Morton in a match which the opening goal was to prove decisive, it was one of the few chances the home side

had in a game both sides ended with ten men, on the day decisions left fans baffled by the end of the game the home side were hanging on but we need to be more clinical in front of goal, hopefully starting today. Dunfermline Athletic have started the season on fire winning all three of their Betfred Cup ties before defeating John Robertson's Inverness CT 3-1 at East End Park last Saturday. so we know it will be

difficult today, without fans it is a strange game which reflects on the importance of fans, we need them back in some numbers.

Manager Peter Grant acted quickly after injury to Neil Parry in Betfred Cup tie v. Edinburgh City looks like keeping the big keeper out of action for 6-8 weeks. Reece Willison joins and made his debut at Cappielow last Saturday, the 21 year old goalkeeper was most recently an understudy at Airdrieonians in 2019/20 where he made 4 appearances, the former Celtic and St Mirren youth adds some vital depth to the goalkeeping position.

Already early in the season Alloa Athletic fans should note the change in two league fixtures, "The Wasps" were due to face Heart of Midlothian at Tynecastle next Saturday 31st October, however Hearts will be playing Hibernian that day in their Scottish Cup semi-final held over from last season, a new date has still to be confirmed and BBC Scotland have selected the Alloa Athletic v. Dundee fixture originally due to be played on Saturday 7th November, which has now been rescheduled to the Friday night 6th November, kick-off 7.45pm at the Indodrill Stadium.

Scotland made it eight games unbeaten for

the first time since 1988 when they defeated Czech Republic in UEFA Nations League Group B match on Wednesday 14th October. An early goal from Ryan Fraser sealed another memorable victory at Hampden as Scotland continue to top their Nations League group. The Newcastle United winger finished smartly in the opening stages of the match and what followed was a frantic 84 minutes at the national stadium. Scotland's next challenge is quite simply their biggest match in two decades. On Thursday, 12 November, Scotland have the chance to return to a maior tournament as they take on Serbia away from home in Belgrade in the UEFA European Championship Play-Off Final. They will then remain on foreign shores for matches against Slovakia and Israel as they aim to top their Nations League group which would aid qualification hopes for

World Cup 2022 with the chance of a play-off up for grabs.

Infront, a Wanda Sports Group company and the exclusive international media rights partner of the Scottish Professional Football League (SPFL), has extended the global reach of SPFL competitions to more than 150 territories. The increase comes as a result of several new broadcast agreements for the 2020/21 season. Recent partnerships with broadcasters including ESPN in the USA. Match TV in Russia, Polsat in Poland and Sport1 In Germany, Austria and Switzerland pushes the reach of Scottish football to over 150 territories. The deal is the latest in a series of recent agreements following partnerships with the Nordic Entertainment Group (NENT) and beIN Sport in Australia, New Zealand and South East Asia. All broadcasters will show matches from the Scottish

Premiership, Scottish Championship, Scottish League One & Two, as well as the Betfred Cup. Neil Doncaster, chief executive of the SPFL. said: "This announcement is fantastic news for Scottish football and puts our game, our competitions and our teams on a global stage. With SPFL competitions now available to watch in more than 150 territories across the world, more and more supporters will be able to experience the excitement and spectacle that is Scottish football. "During such a uniquely challenging time, it is testament to the strength of Scottish football's enduring popularity that there remains significant global demand for our game." 

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£25	A.Wilson							
£25	G.Smith							
£25	M. Mulraney							



#### **PETER GRANT**



# MANAGERS NOTES

I would like to welcome Dunfermline Athletic to the Indodrill Stadium here today. Which is strange as they have used the stadium more than we have since our return! Joking aside, I think it shows an understanding of the strange situation we all find ourselves in but also shows that clubs

CAN work together.

Welcome to Stevie his staff and players, especially Kevin O'Hara who was excellent for us last season and I'm delighted he got the opportunity to go back to full time football, so after today I hope he is a fantastic success.

Last Saturday at





Cappielow was a bitter disappointment. Not the performance but the way we lost; a really awful refereeing decision and terrible defending at the goal. To go away from home and the only effort the opposition have on target is the goal, tells how disappointed we all were after the game. Performance wise, after the first 15mins, I was delighted but as I have said many times football is about winning. We know today will be very tough but as I say constantly these boys can go toe to toe with anyone in this league. Enjoy the game however you can, hope to see you all soon, keep safe.

SUPPORT THE PLAYERS ALWAYS

**PETER GRANT** 





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



	BETH	RED								
SCOTTISH LEAGUE CUP										
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3 DICK	6 HETHERINGTON	10 HANDLING	8 BROWN							
23 MURRAY	10 TROUTEN	12 QUATE	11 JARDINE							
12 SCOUGALL	18 MALCOLM	15 HAMILTON	16 CAMPBELL							
22 GRANT	19 THOMSON	17 JARRON	19 SEE							
7 CAWLEY	20 O'DONNELL	18 BUTTERWORTH	20 NEWMAN							
17 CONNELLY	24 WILLIAMSON		22 HENDERSON							
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**REFEREE:** David Lowe

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25 MCPAKE			10 TROUTEN						
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## **REFEREE:** Alan Newlands

## **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 abuse.

- 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 ALLOA ATHLETIC FC

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### JONATHAN MARKWELL



## 5 CHALLENGES FACING ALLOA THIS SEASON

Although there are plenty of reasons for Alloa to be optimistic this season, there are inevitably numerous challenges facing the Wasps too. In the previous edition of 'The Wasp' I focused on the reasons for optimism (namely: a settled squad and manager: the form since Christmas 2019: other sides appearing weaker on paper; a kind fixture list; and, the return of Parry & Graham), with the focus today being the potential hurdles the Wasps will need to jump to have another successful season in the Championship.

#### 1. THE SHORTENED SEASON

In recent seasons Alloa have been slow starters and strong

finishers during the campaign, with the shortened season meaning there is far less scope to recover from poor starts than in 'normal seasons'. As such, it could be argued that the shortened league season will put more pressure on the teams who start slowly, with the stakes of each game being that much

higher. Hence, whilst it could reasonably be argued that a shortened season benefits the less fancied teams (sustaining good form for shorter periods is easier), it can also be surmised that the bigger teams will be more focused and there will be less scope for shock results. In the past six seasons Alloa

have gained more points in the second half of the season than the first. Even last season, when the second half of the campaign was curtailed (10 rather than 18 games) the Wasps had already picked up more points (17) than the first eighteen games (14 points). As such, the challenge for Alloa is to start better to reduce the extra pressure that playing catch up this season will bring.

#### 2. NO LONGER BEING THE UNDERDOG

During Alloa's first season back in the Championship in 2018/9, being the only part-time team in the division inevitably made Alloa the underdogs. The Wasps took inspiration from this, using a siege mentality to beat-the-odds to stay up. Last season the presence of Arbroath provided a second part-time team took the sole part-time attention away from the Wasps, but both teams were written off before a ball was kicked by many observers. That only helped to motivate both teams, with

Arbroath starting strongly and never easing up, while the Wasps were close to being the form team in the division beyond Christmas. Surely nobody will underestimate the Wasps for a third successive season? Although some commentators will forever consider Alloa in the Championship to be punching above their weight, in what Craig Levein would term 'the natural order', I anticipate that there will be far less instances of the Wasps being prematurely written off this season. The eve-catching nature of Peter Grant's style of play and some notable performances/results last season means it would be churlish to do so.

That, in itself, creates a potential challenge for the Wasps, as undoubtedly part of the motivation from the past two seasons was proving a point that Alloa deserved to be in the Championship, rather than being cannon fodder. Without that perceived feeling of injustice, the Wasps may need to find new motivation methods to continue to both survive and prosper in the second tier.

#### 3. NO CROWDS COULD BE A DISADVANTAGE IN AWAY GAMES

The number of times the away-day Wasps have revelled in silencing home crowds, or better still causing restlessness on the home terraces which then transcends onto

the home players, will be much reduced without spectators in the stands. It's been a tactic Alloa have specialised in masterminding in the Championship, helping to explain why the Wasps home records have only marginally been better than the on the road results. Without fans inside the grounds, for at least part of the season, may reduce that impact, with home players not feeling the wrath of supporters if they dare to go a goal behind to a team they are expected to comfortably dispatch. As such, it will be interesting to watch (from afar, naturally), whether there is a notable change in the mentality of home players if the



travelling Alloa side nullify their threat or go ahead in games without fans.

#### 4. THE CHANGING FACE OF THE LOAN MARKET

Alloa have arguably succeeded more than any other team in the country from a skilled utilisation of the loan market in recent years. A conveyor-belt of talent ready to showcase their skills has been flowing through Clackmannanshire for many years now, but it may prove a more problematic supply line this season. Although the possible number of loans has increased this season, two factors in the supply chain could cause complications. First, the need for players to remain in bubbles and logistics around travelling and training will make loans more challenging. The Alloa modus operandi of letting players remain at their parent clubs early in the week, before joining up

with the Wasps on a Thursday and play on a Saturday raises questions about players in different bubbles (and subject to different testing regimes) and the feasibility of it across borders too. Secondly, the increased number of substitutes on Premiership benches may mean parent clubs are more reluctant to let fringe players leave on loan, with perhaps only the youngest or lower standard player being available (Alloa

have a tendency to take players already familiar with loans, to quicken the bedding in period). Alas, whilst the relaxation on the number of loan deals may be welcomed, in practice other factors make this a more challenging market place for clubs like Alloa.

#### 5. TRYING TO REPLACE FLANNIGAN AND O'HARA

Like many clubs in the Championship this season, replacing departing stars



will be a significant challenge for Alloa. I'd go as far to say it is simply impossible for Alloa to find a likefor-like replacement for lain Flannigan, given the sheer guality the newly retired midfielder possessed. Instead, the team needs to evolve and find a new way to win without Flannigan. Football moves on each season and its also worthy of note that the Wasps drew and beat Inverness in two of the three

matches Flanny missed last season. Hopefully nobody will label Raymond Grant as Flannigan's replacement, as it will only lead to potentially unfair comparisons and Raymond doesn't need any additional pressure! Some players don't respond well to labels, with Darren Smith never living up to Allan Maitland's tag as 'the best part-time player in Scotland' a decade ago. Kevin O'Hara's richly deserved move back to full-time football marks another significant gap in the Alloa side from last season, O'Hara's fourteen goals and all-action displays meant all Alloa fans knew he wouldn't be around for long and we welcome him back for this first return this afternoon. However, it's the third time in the past four seasons that Alloa's top goalscorer has moved on (Greig Spence in 2016/7 and Ross Stewart in 2017/8 being the others), so Peter Grant

will be hoping his current strikers can fill the void.

No team goes into a season without unanswered questions; the success of the team will depend on how successfully those challenges are met. In my mind none of the acknowledged challenges I have identified are insurmountable and I have every confidence that the Wasps can continue to prosper in the Championship this season.



# APPEARANCES

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BROWN	- MID -	0 (0)	- 0	1 (0)	0	1 (0)	- 0	- 11 (16)	
MALCOLM	MID	0 (0)	0	1 (0)	- 0	1 (0)	0	- 10 (0)	
O'DONNELL	MID	0 (0)	0	0 (1)	0	0 (1)	- <b>0</b> -	1 (2)	
GRANT	MID	- 1 (0) -	- 0	3 (0)	- 0	4 (0)	- 0 -	- 1 (0)	
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**BRIAN ROACH** 



# A FAN'S VIEW

Since the last edition of the match programme, Alloa have found themselves with a good chance of progression to the knockout stages of the Betfred Cup with a home victory over Edinburgh City. The Wasps followed up by a small setback with defeat in their opening league match of the Championship

#### campaign.

Alloa faced Edinburgh City last midweek, with a bit of squad rotation evident in the starting lineup- obviously with one eye on the opening game of the league season on the Saturday. Innes Murray, Liam Buchanan, Stefan Scougall and Lee Connelly were fresh inclusion in the first 11. Alloa bossed much of the first half, and were deservedly in front after 17 minutes after some excellent build up play. Connelly's cross found Kevin Cawlev at the back post and he laid it on a plate to Scougall to tap in from close range. Alloa then missed clear-cut chances

which fell to Connelly, Trouten and Buchan in the second half to put the game to bed. The visitors gained more belief as the lead remained a slender one. And Alloa's lack of cutting-edge punished when substitute Blair Henderson headed home. However, substitute Robert Thomson. rescued Alloa with

a quick response, powering through the visitors defence with some neat footwork to slot home the winner, and his third Betfred Cup goal in successive games.

Alloa were on the front foot for most of the game - with Connelly and Cawley both outstanding. Hetherington too, who found himself frequently turning over possession. Stefan Scougall obviously notched his first goal for the club and had a good hours game time as he gets himself back up to full match sharpness. Scougall is a terrific signing for the club-



a class act who is probably as close to a replacement for lain Flannigan as we could have wished for. There was also the return of captain Andy Graham, introduced as a second half substitute. After such a long spell on the shelf it was great to see Andy back on the field in an Alloa jersey as his road to recovery took a big step.

Unfortunately, on the other side of the coin Alloa experienced a real injury



setback on another key player. Neil Parry picked up a calf problem towards the end of the opening half. I had hoped his exit from the game was only precautionarv, but it left Alloa without his services for the league match against Morton. The chances missed in the second half would also have been a slight concern, but the teams reaction to Edinburgh's leveler was good - managing to dig out the win with some real quality from Thomson.

Parry's injury meant Alloa faced the unwanted scenario of heading to Cappielow with a new man between the sticks. Reece Willison signed just prior to the match in something of an emergency transaction. It was hardly ideal preparation. The match was an interesting one tactically. Morton pressed Alloa hard in the middle of the pitch and in their own half for much of the game, making it difficult for the Wasps to play their regular passing game. Lee Connelly and Robert Thomson provided the varied outballs for Alloa to play long, but Morton dealt with these threats fairly well. However Connelly did manage to get free goal

side in the penalty area in the opening minutes, and clipped his heels for what looked like a clear penalty. The referee saw nothing wrong with the challengemaybe it occurred too early in the game, where the referee was still settling himself into proceedings. I think if it occurred at a later stage Alloa would've been awarded the spot kick.

Morton took the lead through a counter attack in the first half. It was easy in hindsight to say Jon Robertson should have cleaned the man out near to the halfway line as Morton broke away. But I thought he did the right thing, jockeying the player to buy Alloa's defence some time to get back in position. However, the pass through was an excellent one and Cameron Salkeld slotted home. The match was a frustrating watch for long spells. Alloa put together some spells of good passing play, but Morton's work ethic in pressing and stifling made it scrappy and difficult for the visitors to really cut them open. Adding to the woes, Alloa were left a man short with Stevie Hetherington's dis-

missal for a second caution. It was inevitable that Morton couldn't retain that level of intensity for the full 90 minutes. and their extra man advantage was lost when losh McPake was also red carded for his second booking, a dive in the penalty area. Alloa were patient, as they knew that opportunity would come in the closing stages. Introducing Scougall and Buchanan from the bench made a big difference and Alloa came on strong. Trouten hit the bar, and Alloa created a number of chances but just couldn't notch

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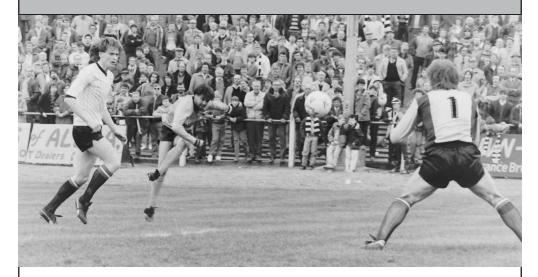


that all important equalizer. It was a frustrating day- nobody wants to begin their campaign with a defeat. But on another day, Alloa pick up at least a point on that showing. It was a struggle at times, and far from vintage. But credit must go to Morton for the way they set up in the game and didn't allow Alloa to play to their strengths for much of the 90 minutes. But there were certainly no alarm bells ringing and any real cause for concern.

Today's game against Dunfermline will be an interesting one. Alloa's record against the Pars is good in recent seasons, particularly at East End Park. Dunfermline got their campaign off to a good start with a win over Inverness last week. And Kevin O'Hara has a quick return to Alloa, where I hope he doesn't come back to haunt us, as ex-players frequently do. It's another game where you would truly love to attend as a supporter, but I guess we just have to grin and bear watching from afar for now. With no game next week, it would be ideal to pick up the 3 points here and get our players fresh for a busy end to the year.



#### **ANDREW COCKBURN**



# LOOKING BACK

#### 22<sup>ND</sup> OCTOBER 1988

In The Premier Division, there was no change at the top, for leaders Rangers and second-placed Aberdeen were due to meet in the final of the League/Skol Cup, the following day. But third-placed Dundee United missed out on the chance to displace Aberdeen from sec-

ond spot, when they were beaten 0-1 at home by St. Mirren. Fourth-placed Hibs were held 1-1 at lowly Motherwell, while Celtic remained fifth, in spite of a 2-0 win at another struggling side, Hearts. Rock-bottom Hamilton Accies were gameless, Motherwell remained just one place above their local rivals, while

Hearts still occupied third-bottom spot.

There was a change of leadership in The First Division, when Morton's 2-0 home win v Ayr saw them take over top spot, in place of Falkirk. The Bairns slipped to third following a 1-2 home reverse v Forfar, while today's visitors Dunfermline dropped one place to third, after a 1-3 v Meadowbank at Fast End Park, John Holt netting for The Pars. Airdrie remained fourth after a 3-3 draw at Clydebank, St. Johnstone's 4-2 win at Clyde saw them move up to fifth, while Meadowbank were now sixth. In the "basement battle" at Palmerston, Partick were 4-1 victors at Queen Of The



South, but in spite of their success. The lags remained just one place better off than their rock-bottom rivals. In another bottom-of-the-table clash, fourth-bottom Kilmarnock hosted third-bottom Raith. and a 1-1 draw meant no positional change for either club

Down in the Second, Arbroath, despite being held 3-3 at home by mid-table East Stirling, still retained pole position. But The Red Lichties advantage was now purely on goal difference over second-placed Stirling Albion, who defeated another of the pacemakers, Albion Rovers, by 4-2 at Annfield. Montrose were now third, after narrowly defeating an out-of-sorts Alloa side thanks to a firsthalf Garry Murray goal at Links Park, The Wasps having lined up as follows: Lowrie, Haggart, R. Lee, Millen, Mc-Culloch, Ramsay, A. Smith (S. Smith), Gibson (Bateman), Lytwyn, I. Lee, Lamont. In another top-of-the-table clash at Stair Park, sixthplaced Stranraer

hosted fourth-placed Queen's Park, and a 3-1 win for The Blues, saw them take over fourth spot. Albion Rovers defeat saw them slip from third to fifth, while Cowdenbeath were now sixth, after a 2-0 home success v struggling Dumbarton. Alloa meantime. remained in eleventh place, while there was no joy for bottom club Berwick. who went down 1-2 at home v East Fife.cv

South of the border, surprise First Division leaders Norwich extended their lead to three points, after a 3-1 home win v struggling Spurs. Second-placed Millwall were held 2-2 by Nottingham Forest at The Den, while Coventry remained third, despite being held 0-0 at Liverpool. In a basement clash at Upton Park, rock-bottom West Ham enter

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tained a Newcastle side one place above them, but a 2-0 win for The Hammers enabled them to move up two places, while The Magpies now propped up the table. Second Division leaders had to settle for a point from a 1-1 draw at Oxford.

Watford remained second in spite of a 0-2 reverse at Stoke. while Manchester City, despite being rather surprisingly held 0-0 at home by bottom club Birmingham, still moved into third place.





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## DUNFERMLINE

The Pars

**FOUNDED** 1885

**GROUND** East End Park, Dunfermline

**TOP HONOURS** Scottish Cup Winners 1960-61, 1967-68

Runners up (3)

Scottish League Cup Runners up (3)

Scottish Championship Winners 1925-26, 1988-89, 1995-96, 2010-11

It has been an exciting summer for Dunfermline fans with plenty of new faces, as well as a substantial investment from a German consortium. With all rosey during pre-season for Dunfermline, many wondered if the start on the pitch would live up to expectations but it has certainly done that. The Pars had a clean sweep of victories in their Betfred Cup group, sweeping aside Dumbarton on opening day. Following that an impressive derby

victory over Falkirk was next and then they concluded with vet another win over Premier League side, Kilmarnock at Rugby Park. Stevie Crawford's men continued their perfect form into the start of the league campaign last week with an eye-catching 3-1 triumph over highlv-rated Inverness C.T. Today presents them a chance to continue their quest for promotion and back-up the praise they have been receiving as they play Alloa at the ground they currently

train at due to the new COVID partnership.

#### THE BOSS -STEVIE CRAWFORD

Pars legend, Stevie Crawford, continues his tenure as Dunfermline boss this afternoon. The former Scotland striker played for Dunfermline at the start of the century over a hundred and fifty times, bagging over fifty goals in the process. His glittered career ended in 2011 when he branched out into coaching. Crawford had spells at Fast Fife as the main man but then took time to be an assistant manager at Falkirk, Hearts and Milton Keynes Dons. Following his short spell down South. Crawford moved back to East End Park in a coaching capacity under Allan Johnston before being promoted to head coach at the start of 2019. This will be his first full





season in charge of his beloved Pars and he has already stated that the play-offs should be the minimum going into it.

#### THE CAPTAIN -EUAN MURRAY

26-year old, Euan Murray, is the new man with the armband following the departure of former skipper, Paul Paton. Murray came through the youth ranks at Motherwell before having various spells here in Scotland with Clyde and Stenhousemuir. as well as down South with Southport and Barrow. His career really began to impress when he signed for Raith Rovers in 2017 where he enjoyed two successful years at Starks Park. That good form saw him earn a move to Raith's bitter rivals in lune 2019. After being appointed captain this September, alongside Ryan Dow who got vice-captain, he has gone on to further prove his worth at both ends of the park. The defender is already on four goals this season having bagged a brace against Falkirk and notching the equaliser against Inverness last Saturday.

#### NEW BOY -KEVIN O'HARA

The attacking prDunfermline have been one of the busier clubs during this pandemic transfer window, however, there is one new face of note is one that needs no introduction to Alloa fans. Kevin O'Hara sealed his move back to full-time football after the two clubs agreed a development fee this summer. O'Hara had previously played for rivals Falkirk, as well as Stenhousemuir before really

finding his feet under Peter Grant last season. The energetic forward played a part in a phenomenal 50% of Alloa's goals last season with fourteen goals and ten assists. O'Hara will be remembered fondly for his time at the Indodrill for his relentless work-rate and killer instinct. The winning goals against Dundee United and Oueen of the South will particularly live long in the memory.

**ONE TO WATCH – DOM THOMAS** Dunfermline are

blessed with several attacking outlets that Alloa will need to be wary of, however, none have caught the eve as much as the returning Dominic Thomas. The attacking midfielder spent a very short stint on loan at East End Park last season from Kilmarnock before the season ended prematurely. Stevie Crawford saw his worth though and made the deal permanent this summer. Thomas has always been an exciting player in Scottish football having enjoyed spells at Rugby Park, as well as impressing for Dumbarton. This season he has continued to prove that as he has formed a formidable partnership with Euan Murray and co. playing provider to Dunfermline's free-flowing, high scoring system.

THE CONNECTION

There are plenty of



familiar faces going up against their former employers this afternoon. To begin with Alloa's man on form, Robert Thomson, will face his ex-club today. Following Thomson's loan spell at Alloa in 2012, he signed for the Pars a year later on a permanent deal. Unfortunately, he only scored one goal for the side coming against Brechin City. Alloa's other frontman, Liam Buchanan, also enioved a spell at Dunfermline. The striker was part of

the Dunfermline squad in 2010/11 that gained promotion into the Premier League. Kevin O'Hara isn't the only one returning to the Indodrill this afternoon. his strike partner, Declan McManus is too. McManus played for the Wasps briefly during a loan spell in 2013.

#### PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The sides met four times last season with Alloa taking the majority of the spoils. The Wasps triumphed over the Pars in the cup at

East End Park, as well as a resounding 3-1 victory at the home of the visitors in the league later on in the season. The games at the Indodrill fell favourable to Alloa as well with a draw and another victory for Peter Grant's men. One man who has been fond of these fixtures is Alan Trouten, with the striker actually finishing top scoring at Fast End Park in the 2019/20 season despite playing for Alloa. However, Kevin O'Hara who has switched allegiances

was also a key player in these games last year scoring multiple times against his current club.. City came out in the second half with their tails up and it was Scott Shepherd who pulled his side level with half an hour to play. The game went to a penalty shootout and after misses from Scott Taggart and Andy Graham and four perfectly placed penalties from the homeside, it was Edinburgh who progressed to the next round.

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## **HT QUIZ**

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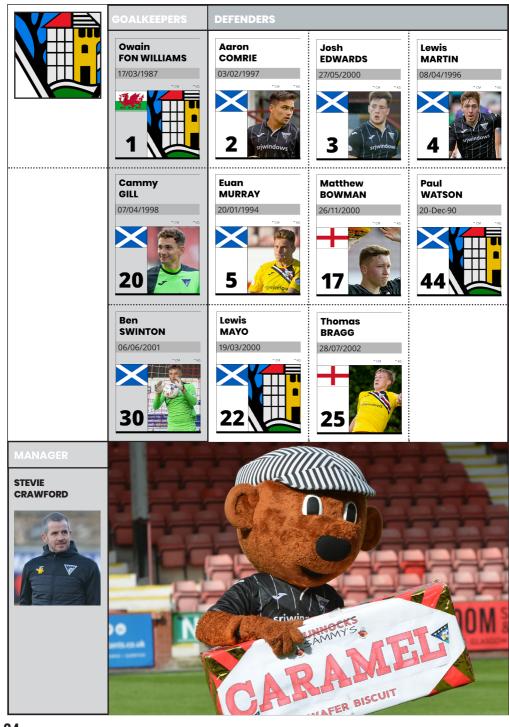
1. Stevie Hetherington previously received a red card against which team last season?

2. Last season Kevin O'Hara scored a double for Alloa in 3 consecutive games against which clubs?

3. Name the goalscorers for Alloa in the previous meeting between Alloa and Dunfermline at the Indodrill Stadiuma 2-1 win back in November last year

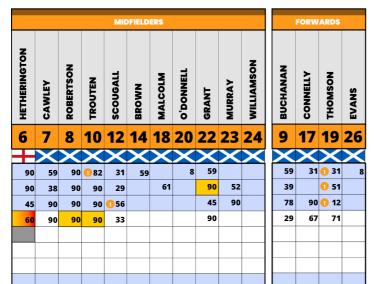
4. Name the 13 English clubs who have won a European trophy- European Cup/Champions League, Cup Winners Cup, or UEFA/Fairs Cup

**ANSWERS PAGE 37** 





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#### QUIZ ANSWERS

**1. ARBROATH** 

2. INVERNESS CALEY THISTLE, QUEEN OF THE SOUTH AND ARBROATH

3. ALAN TROUTEN AND KEVIN CAWLEY

4. MANCHESTER UNITED, LIVERPOOL, ARSENAL, CHELSEA, MANCHES-TER CITY, TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR, NEWCASTLE UNITED, ASTON VILLA, EVERTON, NOTTINGHAM FOREST, LEEDS UNITED, WEST HAM UNITED, IPSWICH TOWN









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## MARSHALL CONSTRUCTION

### COMING SOON

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

MARSHALL Classic Homes

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.

To register your interest in this development and to receive further information when it is available, please contact Frances Pender, **f.pender@marshallconstruction.co.uk** or visit www.marshallconstruction.co.uk/marshall-homes/

#### **TALISKER**

**OBAN** 

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