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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

Club Information

Address:

Indodrill Stadium,
Clackmannan Road,
Alloa, FK10 1RY

Telephone: 01259722695

Fax: 01259210886

Email: fadmin@alloathletic.co.uk

Web: alloathletic.co.uk

Club Officials

Honorary Directors

Pat Lawlor

David R. Murray

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

PA Announcer

Gerry Watson

Wasp 2000 Manager

Malcolm Gordon

Club Shop

June McLauchlan

Programme Editor

John Glencross

Mobile: 07939 539282

Email: jgxalfoafc@aol.com

Programme Contributors

J. Markwell, A. Cockburn,

B. Roach, Kieren Mooney,

Ben Crawford

Club Photographer

David Glencross

AAFC Supporters Club

Brian Roach - 07775764831

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2020/21



CHAMPIONSHIP 2020/21

Pos	Club	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1	Alloa Athletic	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	Arbroath	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	Ayr United	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	Dundee	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	Dunfermline Athletic	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	Greenock Morton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	Heart of Midlothian	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	Inverness CT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	Queen of the South	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	Raith Rovers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

TODAY'S FIXTURES

GROUP A

HEARTS VS RAITH
ROVERS
INVERNESS VS
COWDENBEATH

GROUP C

DUNDEE UNITED VS
KELTY HEARTS
PETERHEAD VS BRE-
CHIN CITY

GROUP E

FALKIRK VS CLYDE
KILMARNOCK VS DUN-
FERMLINE

GROUP G

GREENOCK MORTON
VS QUEEN'S PARK
QUEEN OF THE SOUTH
VS PARTICK THISTLE

GROUP B

BRORA RANGERS VS
COVE RANGERS
FORFAR VS HIBERNIAN

GROUP D

MONTROSE VS ELGIN
CITY
ROSS COUNTY VS
ARBROATH

GROUP F

AYR UNITED VS AN-
NAN ATHLETIC
STRANRAER VS HAM-
ILTON

GROUP H

ALLOA VS EDINBURGH
CITY
STENHOUSEMUIR VS
AIRDRIEONIANS



LEAGUE CUP GROUP H 2020/21

Pos	Club	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1	Livingston	2	2	0	0	7	2	5	6
2	Alloa Athletic	2	1	0	1	3	2	1	3
3	Stenhousemuir	1	0	1	0	2	2	0	2
4	Airdrieonians	1	0	0	1	0	2	-2	1
5	Edinburgh City	2	0	0	1	3	7	-4	0



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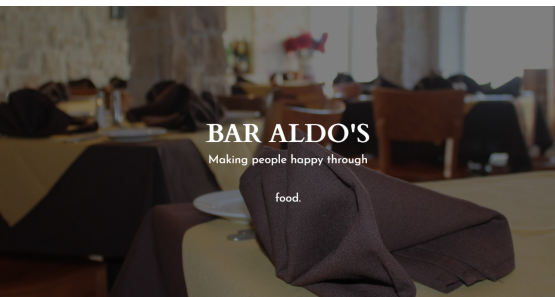
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GOALKEEPERS

**Neil
PARRY**

08/11/1985

184 CM 95 KG



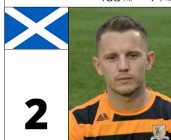
1

DEFENDERS

**Scott
TAGGART**

27/12/1991

183 CM 71 KG

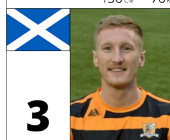


2

**Liam
DICK**

19/08/1995

156 CM 76 KG



3

**Andy
GRAHAM**

22/09/1983

183 CM 83 KG



5

MATCH

most appearances

Cawley	344
Taggart	182
Graham	163
Hetherington	163
Robertson	160

GOALS

Cawley	61
Trouten	33
Buchanan	21
Graham	12
Thomson	8

**Andy
WILSON**

22/04/1998

184 CM 70 KG



21

**Jon
ROBERTSON**

25/04/1989

183 CM 77 KG



8

**Nicky
JAMIESON**

03/08/1996

184 CM 89 KG



15

**Nathan
GILHOOLY**

07/08/2001

156 CM 70 KG



16

**Lucas
WILLIAMSON**

26/03/2003

154 CM 58 KG

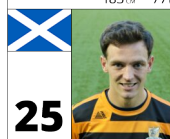


24

**Edin
LYNCH**

07/08/2000

183 CM 77 KG






25

MANAGER

PETER GRANT



MIDFIELDERS			FORWARDS	
Steven HETHERINGTON 09/03/1993 156 cm 70 kg   6	Kevin CAWLEY 17/03/1989 183 cm 64 kg   7	Stefan SCOUGALL 07/12/1992 155 cm 64 kg   12	Liam BUCHANAN 27/03/1985 155 cm 70 kg   9	Alan TROUTEN 08/11/1985 155 cm 70 kg   10
Adam BROWN 09/06/1995 155 cm 70 kg   14	Lee CONNELLY 18/10/1999 155 cm 58 kg   17	Cameron O'DONNELL 29/09/2001 183 cm 70 kg   20	Lee CONNELLY 18/10/1999 155 cm 58 kg   17	Robert THOMSON 28/05/1993 155 cm 83 kg   19
Ray GRANT 01/09/1996 155 cm 70 kg   22	Innes MURRAY 17/02/1998 156 cm 70 kg   23		Liam EVANS 17/11/2001 184 cm 70 kg   26	
				
				




ALLOA ATHLETIC FC

SINCE 1878


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**NORTHERN GAS AND
POWER**


1 week ago



LEE CONNELLY



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INNES MURRAY JOINS

COUNTDOWN

Alloa Athletic v Edinburgh City

01 days	09 hrs	05 mins	51 secs
------------	-----------	------------	------------



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Today we return to the Indodrill Stadium for our first competitive match since 7th March, 2020 v. Inverness CT, in a match that promised so much in our 2-0 victory not knowing what was about to change the face of the World and Scottish Football as we look to control the spread of covid-19 and find a vaccine to end the pandemic. With recent further restrictions put in place, hopefully professional sport will

be allowed to continue but without fans it is a strange game which reflects on the importance of fans, we need them back in some numbers.

"We are extremely grateful to our friends at Premier Sports, Betfred and the Scottish FA for their flexibility in agreeing this season's Betfred Cup schedule. Mark Pearson, Head of Media at Betfred, said: "Season 2020/21 marks the fifth year of our extremely

enjoyable and successful title sponsorship of the Betfred Cup. We are delighted that the dates for the new season are now confirmed and we are looking forward to another thrilling competition. "From the competitiveness of the group stage to the drama of the Final at Hampden Park, the Betfred Cup never disappoints in delivering memorable moments and we cannot wait to see what the coming

season brings. Best of luck to all the teams taking part." The group stages uses the traditional three points for a win and one for a draw model however all drawn matches will go straight to a penalty shoot-out whereby the winner of the penalty shoot-out will be awarded a bonus point. The eight group winners and four best runners up will progress to the second round, where they will be joined by



Inverness CT in our 2-0 victory. Young players Liam Evans and Lucas Williamson have progressed from our youth squad of last season and young goalkeeper Fraser Currid has joined from Dundee United having been capped by Scotland at schoolboy level. We're pleased to welcome back our main shirt sponsors, Northern Gas and Power for another season. Northern Gas and Power offers specialist services in energy procurement, energy management, targeting, and reduction. They are the largest energy consultancy by customer volume. Their continued partnership with Alloa Athletic has helped us secure little wins and, hopefully, some big wins in the future.

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 on 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.

In the close season the Alloa Athletic website has been completely revamped and given a huge upgrade which was desperately needed, the old site had been built over twelve years ago.

the four UEFA qualifying clubs and then the competition reverts to a straight knock-out format.

It would be totally remiss not to mention the fact that Iain Flannigan decided to retire from the game in the close season such a huge player he was for the club. Iain himself said "I've had a great time at the club and I'd like to thank, the Chairman and the board, managers and assistant managers - both past and present, the back room staff, the supporters and all my teammates throughout my time at Alloa Athletic." Iain played a total of 221 competitive games for "The Wasps" scoring 36 goals which will be looked back in admiration in years to come. Thanks for the memories.

The manager has recruited well in bringing in Nicky Jamieson

from Queen's Park, Edin Lynch after being released from Kilmarnock, Raymond Grant having been "Player of the Season" with Clyde, attracting Stefan Scougall to join after leaving Carlisle United who has signed until the end of the year, Innes Murray joins on loan from Hibernian and Lee Connelly returns on loan from Sunderland having ended last season with his goal against

ALLOA ATHLETIC FC

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MANAGERS NOTES

Good evening everyone!

What strange times we are all living through! All I can say is I hope you and your loved ones are safe and well. It's fantastic to be doing notes for tonight's game and hopefully we

can produce a performance for you however you follow the game.

It's been an incredible experience for everyone but in football terms I have to give the players enormous credit for the way they have looked

after themselves through this trying time and we are all absolutely delighted to be back playing football.

I would also like to mention the Chairman and his staff who have worked so hard to get the facility





up to the safety required, we really appreciate the work they have done

On to tonight's opponent's Edinburgh City, we know it will be a very difficult game, I have seen them play a few

times over the last couple of seasons and been impressed with what they have done, we have played well in our games so far and know we have to keep improving, we have to use the games as part of a pre season but

obviously we want to WIN and qualify but also to try and get game time into everyone's legs.

Finally I would like to welcome James McDonough and all the Directors and staff and players of Edinburgh

City and wish you a successful season after tonight.

SUPPORT THE PLAYERS ALWAYS

PETER GRANT





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SCOTTISH LEAGUE CUP

7th October 2020
Penny Cars Stadium, Airdrie
7:45pm KO

AIRDRIEONIANS

0:2

ALLOA ATHLETIC



(2:0)

SCORERS

0:1 14' Trouten

0:2 69' Thomson



STARTING XI

20 CURRIE

2 MACDONALD

3 MCCANN

4 KERR

5 CRIGHTON

6 FORDYCE

7 THOMSON

8 MCKAY

10 ROY

12 SABATINI

15 CARRICK

SUBS

1 HUTTON

9 GALLAGHER

11 ROBERT

13 RITCHIE

17 O'REILLY

18 MURDOCH

19 WALKER

21 STOKES

24 HUGHES

SUBS

21 WILSON

12 SCOUGALL

16 GILHOOLY

17 CONNOLLY

18 MALCOLM

19 THOMSON

20 O'DONNELL

24 WILLIAMSON

26 EVANS

STARTING XI

1 PARRY

3 DICK

25 LYNCH

2 TAGGART

8 ROBERTSON

22 GRANT

6 HETHERINGTON

7 CAWLEY

10 TROUTEN

14 BROWN

9 BUCHANAN

REFEREE: Steven Reid

SCOTTISH LEAGUE CUP

10th October 2020
Tony Macaroni Stadium, Livingston
3:00pm KO

LIVINGSTON

2:1

ALLOA ATHLETIC



(2:0)

SCORERS

0:1 31' Thomson

Forrest **46' 1:1**

Mullin **50' 2:1**



STARTING XI

32 STRYJEK

2 DEVLIN

25 AMBROSE

12 SERRANO

29 TAYLOR-SINCLAIR

6 BARTLEY

8 PITTMAN

14 MULLIN

10 SIBBALD

11 FORREST

9 EMMANUEL-THOMAS

SUBS

40 MALEY

5 FITZWATER

13 LOKOTSCH

15 POPLATNIK

17 ROBINSON

18 HOLT

21 MCMILLAN

22 TIFFONEY

27 GUTHRIE

SUBS

21 WILSON

7 CAWLEY

9 BUCHANAN

12 SCOUGALL

16 GILHOOLY

17 CONNELLY

20 O'DONNELL

24 WILLIAMSON

26 EVANS

STARTING XI

1 PARRY

3 DICK

25 LYNCH

2 TAGGART

8 ROBERTSON

22 GRANT

6 HETHERINGTON

18 MALCOLM

10 TROUTEN

23 MURRAY

19 THOMSON

REFEREE: Alan Muir

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 prioritise the safety 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 incidents 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 of unsuitable individuals by adopting rigorous recruitment and vetting 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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5 REASONS FOR OPTIMISM THIS SEASON

Optimism for football supporters peaks prior to the start of each league campaign. Without a ball being kicked, it allows us all to dream of a successful season ahead. Whatever the realistic objectives for the season are, be it a tilt at promotion or safely avoiding the drop, the close season provides a renewed

sense of hope. This time around, due to the enforced seven month hiatus, just to see the return of the lower league game in Scotland brings its own optimism after what has been a challenging year for everybody. For Alloa supporters, there are numerous specific reasons to be optimistic for the season ahead, with this arti-

cle pinpointing five of the key factors.

1. A SETTLED SQUAD AND MANAGER

In a time of unparalleled instability for many clubs, Alloa having a relatively settled squad and manager could be a major advantage. A dozen players will be entering at least their third seasons with the club, meaning

they are comfortable in their surroundings and are fully aware of the ethos and ambitions of the club. Peter Grant also brings that steadying influence and wealth of experience from the sidelines too. It will actually be the first time since Allan Maitland's tenure a decade ago that Alloa will start the season with the same

manager and be in the same league as at the beginning of the previous season. Alloa's travels down, up, down again and back up again in the leagues in the past decade, together with a revolving door of largely impressive managers in that time, has meant there has always been a different man in charge or a new division to play in compared with the starting point of the previous campaign. As such, the continuity and considerable knowledge Peter Grant will bestow from his experiences last season could be a considerable benefit. In comparison with last season, when Grant was appointed less than a week prior to the first competitive game of the season, the cohesion that now exists can only benefit the Wasps.

2. THE CONFIDENCE GAINED FROM ALLOA'S FORM SINCE CHRISTMAS 2019

Although it seems a long time ago now, Alloa's form since Christmas 2019 was nothing short of phenomenal. Four

points adrift at the foot of the table it looked like it might be a bleak new year for the Wasps, but a morale boosting victory at Dunfermline ignited Alloa's season. It marked the beginning of a seven-match unbeaten league run (Alloa's longest unbeaten run in the second tier since 1973 – no fewer than 503 second tier games ago), during which the Wasps were the form team in the Championship. In-fact, the Wasps only lost one league game in the ten league games played

from Christmas until the premature end to the season, amassing more points in the curtailed second half of the season (17 from 10 games) than the first (14 points in 18 games). Alloa's 8th place finish in the league table made it the Wasps joint second highest overall league placing in 93 seasons and just the fifth Alloa side to stay up in the second tier. These facts should not be overlooked and will hopefully provide the players with confidence throughout the upcoming campaign.

3. ON PAPER OTHER SIDES APPEAR WEAKER

Obviously football isn't played on paper, but it would appear from first glance that the majority of fellow Championship sides squads are weaker than last season. Most clubs have lost key players, for a variety of reasons, with the majority of replacements appearing more unheralded in stature and reputation. Arguably Alloa fall into that category too, with Iain Flannigan's retirement, Kevin O'Hara's



move to full-time football and the annual departure of the loanees. However, the Wasps squad has not been decimated like Queen of the South, or undergone as radical surgery as Ayr, Inverness or Dunfermline. It is therefore reasonable to surmise that Alloa can take optimism from the competition perhaps not being as fierce as it has been in the two previous campaigns.

4. A KIND FIXTURE LIST

The shortened season has inevitably resulted in an in-balance of home and away games, with the Wasps playing some teams twice at home and once away, and vice-versa. The fixture computer has been relatively kind to Alloa, with the Wasps having an extra home game and the selected double-away-days appearing favourable too. Home advantage correlating with better results is

an age-old theory, although in the two previous seasons the Wasps have actually only gained one more point at home than away (20 home points versus 19 from away games in 2018/9 & 16 versus 15 in 2019/20). Accordingly, Alloa's recent trend of being proficient away from our home comforts means that to play two away games at happy hunting grounds Palmerston Park (three wins and a draw in the

past two seasons), Cappielow Park (successive wins in 2018/9 and a heroic 4-4 comeback draw last February) and Gayfield Park (Alloa were 8 games unbeaten at Arbroath, stretching back to 2009, until the 2-1 reverse last November) were top of my best-case-scenario thinking. Two trips to Tynecastle Park appear tough assignments in theory, but being the underdog is a role Alloa revel in. Therefore, the split



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of fixtures appear to have been kinder than I'd anticipated, which is another source of optimism.

**5. THE RETURN OF
PARRY & GRAHAM**

After playing every single minute of Alloa's successful 2018/19 Championship season, indispensable duo Neil Parry and Andy Graham were sidelined for significant parts of last season. Parry was sidelined for six months with a serious hamstring

injury, restricting the keeper to just six league starts (with three clean sheets in those games). Lionheart captain Graham didn't play beyond Christmas due to a painful discitis (inflammation on the spine) condition. To be without two key players for prolonged periods was not ideal, so for the defensive duo to be scheduled to be back this season can only be beneficial. After rare spells on the sidelines, both



experienced players will have a renewed enthusiasm and will-to-win for the game. The reassurance it will give to the rest of the team to see Parry and Graham back in the side will be another benefit and source for optimism.

So, all in all, there are plenty of reasons to be optimistic for the season ahead from an Alloa perspective. There are inevitably numerous challenges ahead as well, which I will detail in the next edition of The Wasp.





A SEASON LIKE NO OTHER

Seven long months have passed since Alloa Athletic, and many other lower league sides, last graced the pitch for some competitive action. All was beginning to look rosy at the Indodrill in our last game as Peter Grant's classy side swept away promotion hopefuls, Inverness, 2-0. Form was beginning to pick up, stalwarts like Neil Parry were making their way back and the arrival of some exciting young-

sters were catching the eye. Of course those youngsters being Scott Banks and Lee Connolly who brought such flair and guile in the last victory of the season.

So, Banks hitting the scene, Parry back in the sticks, Trouten and O'Hara on fire ... the promotion push was on! However, it was all too good to be true as the football season came to an almighty halt before the crunch

tie against Partick Thistle. Alloa sat in 8th position. After a very smooth and transparent process, that position was confirmed final and Peter Grant had achieved the season goal of staying up.

The several months since that decision have been quite a roller-coaster of drama and emotion for the fans. What's happened? A heck a lot of negativity with a sprinkling of pos-

itivity. Let's not labour the legal drama and voting procedures. Nor, the financial turmoil the game is in with endless testing and little incomings. Instead, we'll focus on what matters for now, on the pitch with Alloa Athletic.

Before highlighting the stories that everyone wants to talk about like signings, it is worth noting the innovative strides taken by Mike Mulraney and the club

<p>to combat this pandemic. Alloa were a key driver in forming the first Covid-19 partnership with Dunfermline Athletic. As well as that major development has been ongoing at the Indodrill to ensure that football activities from the first-team to the kids can take place smoothly and safely. This, with many other examples, showcase how well ran this club is from upstairs and definitely should be applauded.</p> <p>Moving back onto the pitch, it will be a different viewing for the Alloa faithful this campaign as we tune into our laptops and televisions from home as the turnstiles remain firmly locked. However, there'll be a bigger change. The absence of a certain slick-haired maestro in the heart of midfield. Myself, alongside many, went through what can only be described as symptoms of a tragic break-up as Iain Flannigan ended his seven year spell at the club in the summer. After putting in stand-out performances against sides like Dundee United in the previous campaign, nobody expected the player of the candidate to hang up the boots. Flanny has been a mainstay in the Alloa midfield for the last few years now and without his presence, eye for a pass and odd classy</p>	<p>finish it definitely leaves a major gap in the Alloa midfield. The baton may find it's way to Stevie Hetherington who looks to have raised his game once again in the pre-season friendlies.</p> <p>As well as Flannigan leaving, the other obvious departure is Kevin O'Hara. What was perceived as a risk last summer certainly paid off as he went onto contribute half of the side's goals with his fourteen goals and ten assists. Not many try as hard, run as fast and finish as many as Kev so our loss is definitely Dunfermline's gain. Without a direct replacement as of yet in this area, this is still a slight concern entering the season.</p> <p>Now we have the doom and gloom out the way, we can look forward to the new season. It's going to be a totally unpredictable season with Covid-19 still looming large in society. Not only fans being locked out, some team's can see their squad list plummet with a single positive test as well as finances still hanging over many boardrooms. The question marks will of course surround that but what is more interesting to think about is Peter Grant's signing spree this summer.</p> <p>The signing of the manager's son, Ray Grant, is definitely the pick of the bunch for me. Taking away the whole Peter element</p>	<p>to this, the signing on paper is a real intriguing one. Grant has been exceptional during his time at Broadwood and it was clear for all to see he was going to make the step up soon. Thankfully for Alloa, he knocked back the lure of full-time football to attempt to fill the boots of Flanny. With the club paying a fee for the player and him coming so highly regarded, many fans will be watching with a keen eye to see how this one pans out.</p> <p>The skipper, Andy Graham, is close to making a triumphant return to the side and he will be joined alongside two new centre halves. Both Nicky Jamieson and Edin Lynch both offer an interesting outlook on the season as the youngsters make big step up's to the second tier. Coming from Kilmarnock youth's and Queens Park, the pair have certainly picked well to ply their trade as they look to become the next young defender to play with Andy and kick on. Names like Jamie McCart, Sam Roscoe and Robbie Deas show what can happen if they do grasp this opportunity. The incomings are finished up with the return of Lee Connolly and the arrival of Hibebe, Innes Murray, who has sparked excitement on social media.</p> <p>Personnel wise, there are still minor tweaks to be done but the side</p>	<p>are more than ready to hit the ground running on Wednesday evening with the core of the side still maintaining the hunger for success at Alloa. Betfred Cup group H will set the side up before a shortened Championship which will boast big name players like Craig Gordon, Steven Naismith and Charlie Adam. We'll stay warm and save the travel costs over the next few months but nothing will replicate a piping hot bovril and steak pie on a winter's day.</p> <p>Game one is less than a week away and it sees us return to Airdrie as the 'plastic pitch' group kick starts. There are some tasty fixtures as we can get one over local rivals Stenhousemuir as well as Livingston and Edinburgh City who have pipped us in cup competitions in recent years. Those four games will hold a whole host of benefits for our opener against Morton on the 17th. The cut league season looks set to be another monumental challenge for the Wasps but it is nothing that they aren't used to.</p> 
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A FAN'S VIEW

It's great to see the match programme finally returning, albeit in restricted online form. Obviously there are more prominently important challenges facing the world, but we have at least some elements of normality with football finally returning and watching 11 men in black and gold take

to the field, even if it is on a laptop. The true return will only occur when we are back behind that Clackmannan Road end in all elements of weather cheering them on in person.

I watched the opening pre-season friendly against Kilmarnock a few weeks back through a crack in the gate at the away side of the

ground next to KFC. Hardly ideal circumstances as the entire pitch wasn't totally visible. It was a real pity, as the game appeared to be a real cracker that would have been well worth attending. Kilmarnock had gone ahead through a second half penalty which I couldn't see. But in the closing stages the game re-

ally came to life with 4 goals in the last ten minutes. Adam Brown equalised, then Alloa edged in front following an excellent header from Trouten. Kilmarnock then responded with two goals in the final seconds of the game. The result obviously was of secondary importance to the players experiencing

a first 90 minutes of playing time.

The following friendly against Stranraer was thankfully available online, as I had plans to park my car next to the railway end away turnstile and stand on my roof. Don't really need a working vehicle all that much these days anyway. It was well worth the watch again, with goals from Trouten, Buchanan and O'Donnell giving Alloa a 3-1 win. Trouten was undoubtedly star man, and new signing Eden Lynch also stood out well in that backline- which was marshalled superbly by Scott Taggart. Lynch appears

to be very much a safety first defender, but if space opens up ahead of him he's confident enough to drive forward with the ball and get the team up the pitch.

Last midweek saw the opening competitive match of the season- the Betfred Cup group tie at Airdrie. Obviously Alloa

will be looking to put up a strong showing in this competition. But for me- particularly taking into account the current climate- these games are more important for minutes on the pitch and preparation for the league campaign. It's a shortened season, with less time to

find your feet. The Championship is cut throat and bizarre at the best of times. The closed door nature of the season I think will accentuate this further.

Alloa produced a very encouraging, solid performance against Airdrie. For the opening competitive match, the organisation and shape of the team was clear throughout. And the effort the players demonstrated with and without the ball was excellent. The early goal helped, which appeared to be a fairly soft penalty award when the ball struck an Airdrie defenders arm in the area. Never the less, Trouten duly converted to give the Wasps a good foundation for their



performance. Alloa bossed much of the remainder of the first half. After the break, the hosts looked to push on and they tested the Alloa backline for a 15-minute spell. Jon Robertson was a class act at right back, and is still for me the most underrated player at the club. He has such a good football head on him, with great delivery in his passing. And it was a brilliant cross from Robbo which Robert Thomson headed home to kill the game. We also got our first sighting of marquee signing Stefan Scougall from

the bench. He wasn't really required to take a real foothold in the game, but he had some really good touches including a turn which took out 2 Airdrie midfielders and was probably worth the 10 pounds online fee on its own. It was a solid, comfortable win for Alloa overall and an impressive performance.

Prior to tonight's match, Alloa faced a far tougher test with the visit to Premiership side Livingston. Gary Holt has made it clear he views the Betfred Cup as a tournament his side can win, and all his big hitters

were included in his starting lineup. As expected Livingston started on the front foot, with Alloa surrendering a bit of territory. But again Alloa's shape and work ethic ensured they were solid, and the door remained locked. Alloa were fairly comfortable and grew into the game. And most encouragingly scored with their first clear cut chance- with Thomson again on the scoresheet after bundling home from close range. Alloa will need a similar clinical conversion ratio in the Championship this season. Livingston had a

penalty shout as the first half drew to a close, but for me there was very little contact and the referee made the correct decision.

Unfortunately, the perils of online technology took hold and the live stream evaporated temporarily as the second half began. And when normal service was resumed, Livingston were 2-1 ahead. A clear setback and Livingston continued to turn the screw in an attempt to seal the points. But the Wasps weathered the storm and responded well. They certainly made the hosts work for their

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win, with Scougall missing a good chance then Cawley going close towards the matches conclusion. Overall, it was another excellent performance by the team. Keep in mind that Livingston are not only a league above, but have played a good chunk of their league campaign so far. This was Alloa's second competitive game, and they matched their opponents for long spells. Ray Grant was the standout performer for me. His tussle with Marvin Bartley was an interesting one- he certainly possesses his Dads trademark fire. Grant drove the team forward frequently and looks like a smart acquisition to the squad.

In the outings so far we look very well organised, with everyone aware of their roles within the unit. And we have leaders all over the park looking to step up and take responsibility. Scott Taggart is the stand in captain in Andy Grahams absence, and as earlier stated marshals that backline as the most experienced defend-

er. Alan Trouten's movement, link play and goal threat also remains. And Stevie Hetherington also appears to be looking to step up to fill the void left by the departed mercurial Iain Flannigan. I'm already predicting Stevie will be our top performer this season. There is room for improvement definitely, and we probably need to

add another striker option. But the overall outlook for the season ahead is very positive.

Tonight's opponents produced one of the rare proper low points in Jim Goodwin's managerial reign at the club, when they defeated Alloa on penalties in the Challenge Cup two seasons ago. It was more a missed opportunity, because I felt we had a path to the final had we progressed that day. I was impressed with City on that occasion, maybe not so impressed by how cold it was at the stadium. Enjoy the game, and let's hope this sanitised football doesn't last a full season.





LOOKING BACK

15TH OCTOBER 1983

In The Premier Division, Dundee United retained leadership, despite being gameless due to the cancellation of their clash at St. Mirren. Celtic's point from a 1-1 home draw with Hearts was still enough to nudge them up into second spot, The Celts displaced Aber-

deen, who slipped to fourth, while Hearts moved up one place from fourth to third. St. Johnstone ended their nightmare start of seven successive defeats with their first win of the season, 1-0 v fellow strugglers, Motherwell. But in of this welcome success, The Saints remained anchored to the bottom of the table,

Motherwell were still just one place better off, while inactive St. Mirren still occupied third-bottom spot.

There was a change of leadership in The First Division, for Falkirk, thanks to a fifth successive win, this time by 1-0 at Ayr, took over top spot in place of Partick, who slipped to second, following a 1-2 reverse at

Meadowbank. Kil-marnock remained in third place, in spite of a 0-1 defeat at Airdrie, while Dumbarton retained fourth spot after a 1-0 win v struggling Clyde at Boghead. At the other end of the table, Alloa after a poor start, had since shown signs of recovery, what with a tremendous 7-2 win at Clydebank,



and more recently, two successive home wins v Brechin and Airdrie. And they now faced Raith, who'd also experienced a hard time of things so far, Alloa's line-up showing one or two changes to that which narrowly overcome Airdrie the previous week: Hunter, Thomson, Munro, Purdie, Garner, Houston (Martin), Thompson, Weir, Jobson, Lloyd, Cole. Alas, despite having led 1-0 at the break, courtesy of a Garry Thompson goal, second-half efforts from Marshall & Kerr (pen) saw Raith end up victorious. The Rovers thus moved up one place of second-bottom spot, this was now occupied by Alloa, while winless Clyde still propped up the table.

Down in the Second, the day's top

clash was undoubtedly at Palmerston, where second-placed Queen Of The South hosted unbeaten leaders Forfar, and a 1-1 draw meant no positional change for either side. Berwick remained third after a thrilling 4-3 win v bottom club Albion Rovers, Arbroath were now fourth thanks to a 1-0 success at Dunfermline, The Red Lichties displaced Stirling Albion, who dropped one place to fifth, after they were held 1-1 at East Fife.

South of the border, Manchester United were the new First Division leaders, after a 3-0 win v WBA at Old Trafford. The Red Devils displaced West Ham, who slipped to second, following a 1-3 home defeat v Liverpool, while bottom club

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Leicester's home clash with Southampton was abandoned, following torrential rain. Second Division leaders Sheffield Wednesday extended their unbeaten start, and at the same moved four points

clear, thanks to a 1-0 win at Portsmouth. Manchester City remained second in spite of a 0-1 defeat at Charlton, while third-placed Chelsea were 2-0 home winners v Cardiff.



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TOP HONOURS

Scottish League 2
Playoff Winners -
2016

Lowland League
Winners -
2014-15, 2015, 16

After seven long months, competitive football is finally returning to the Indodrill and the first opponents for Peter Grant's side is Edinburgh City. The Citizens have had a mixed return to football so far in this Betfred Cup group. Their opener saw a tough lesson from Premiership side Livingston, as they were brushed aside 5-1 at home. Saturday's fixture saw them lose out on penalties to fellow League 2 side, Stenhousemuir. Goals from Blair

Henderson and debutant, Rafa De Vita, saw them earn a 2-2 draw before losing out on the bonus point. They will be looking for a positive display and result this evening as they begin their League 2 campaign with a trip to Glebe Park on this weekend. Last season ultimately ended in disappointment as with the premature ending to the league, their hopes of promotion via the play-offs were taken away from them forcing them to settle for another year in League 2.

THE BOSS - JAMES MCDONAUGH

James McDonaugh looks to set to embark on another season in the hot seat at Ainslie Park. The 42 year-old began his career as the Head of Academy Coaching at Hibernian, as well as assistant at Falkirk to Peter Houston. His time at Easter Road was a successful one as his u19 side won the league and cup double in 2009, as well as several other accolades such as the Foyle Cup victories. The time spent with Falkirk was also a positive one as he was part of the historic set-up that saw the Bairns reach the 2015 Scottish Cup Final and finish in second place in both 2016 and 2017. McDonaugh would venture out on his own however, replacing Gary Jardine at Edinburgh City at the end of 2017. During that season he led the club to safety and has looked





to build ever since. After securing City's status as one of League 2's dominant forces, he will look to go one further and achieve promotion into League 1 in the coming year.

THE CAPTAIN - CRAIG THOMSON

Edinburgh-born right back, Craig Thomson, will lead out this evening's visitors. Thomson began his career at Heart of Midlothian and after successfully coming up through the youth ranks, made his competitive debut in 2009 in the Europa League against Dinamo Zagreb where he went onto win man of the match. The defender would subsequently be sent out on loan to Lithuania in 2011 before being released by the

club in the 2012-13 season. He went on to spend time in the junior leagues with Arniston Rangers and Newtongrange Star before joining Kelty Hearts. It was there Thomson impressed to earn a chance to play in the senior leagues again, sealing a move to Edinburgh City in 2017. Since signing on, he has played an integral role for the club

making over eighty appearances in what is considered the club's most successful spell.

ONE TO WATCH - DANNY HANDLING

The attacking prowess of another Edinburgh man, Danny Handling, will be one that the Alloa defence will need to be wary of. Handling began his career at Hibernian and made his

senior debut against Aberdeen in 2011. A series of loan spells to Berwick Rangers and Raith Rovers followed for the midfielder. His Hibernian career had been stop-start until then missing all the 2015 season with injury and then picking up a further injury the year later. Handling secured a permanent move out of Easter Road in 2017 to Dumbarton in a bid to get his career back on track with regular football. He impressed for the Sons, most notably scoring the first goal in their semi-final victory of The New Saint's in the Challenge Cup. This form saw him earn a move to City where he has been a stand-out at Ainslie Park since. Handling has begun this season particularly well also by notching



his first of the season with a penalty against Livingston.

THE CONNECTION

There is only one player returning to his former stomping ground this evening and that is left back, Callum Crane. During Alloa's very successful 2017-18 season, Crane was an ever-present on the left hand side of defence. On loan from Hibs at the time, he immediately filled the gap left by Calum Waters with assured defensive displays as well as providing a goal

threat. Most notable goals would be his cracker at Hampden against Queens Park and the not-forgotten strike at home to Ayr at the end of the season. He went the distance with the Wasps securing our status back in Scotland's second tier with a victory over Dumbarton. Since that famous day at The Rock, Crane has spent time with Livingston and Raith Rovers before signing for Edinburgh City in 2019. Disappointingly it looks like Callum may miss out tonight having picked

a hamstring injury on Saturday against Stenhousemuir.

PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The two sides have only met competitively once in recent times, prior to that you would have to go back to Season 1938/39 when the sides met in the old Scottish Second Division. On our last meeting Edinburgh City came out on top, goals from Alan Trouten and Dario Zanatta saw the Wasps storm into a commanding lead in

the Inn Bru Cup Quarter Final. However, a goal just before half-time changed the dynamic of the tie from Blair Henderson.

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 shoot-out 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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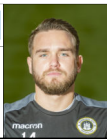



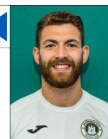





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HT QUIZ


- 1. Which 3 clubs did Stefan Scougall play for in his spells down south?**
- 2. Name the 2 British clubs who have won the World Club/Intercontinental Cup**
- 3. Which 5 players have won the English Premier-ship, World Cup and Champions League**
- 4. Miodrag Belodedici was the first player to win the European Cup for 2 different clubs- which 2 clubs?**

ANSWERS PAGE 37

	<div><div>GOALKEEPERS</div><div><div><div>Callum ANTELL</div><div>04/04/2001</div><div></div></div></div></div>	<div><div>DEFENDERS</div><div><div><div>Craig THOMSON</div><div>17/04/1991</div><div></div></div><div><div>Conrad BALATONI</div><div>27/01/1991</div><div></div></div><div><div>Lee HAMILTON</div><div>15/09/1995</div><div></div></div></div></div>		
	<div><div><div>Harry SHARP</div><div>27/12/1991</div><div></div></div></div>	<div><div><div>Callum CRANE</div><div>08/03/1996</div><div></div></div></div>	<div><div><div>Liam HENDERSON</div><div>25/04/1996</div><div></div></div></div>	<div><div><div>Robbie MCINTYRE</div><div>17/04/1994</div><div></div></div></div>
	<div><div><div>Kelby MASON</div><div>16/10/1998</div><div></div></div></div>			
<div><div>MANAGER</div><div><div>JAMES MCDONAUGH</div><div></div></div></div>				

MIDFIELDERS			FORWARDS	
Andrew BLACK 20/09/1995 	Marc LAIRD 06/04/1999 	Liam BROWN 03/08/1996 	Allan SMITH 25/01/1994 	Blair HENDERSON 10/08/1994 
Danny JARDINE 17/01/1998 	Zac BUTTERWORTH 23/09/1987 	Raffaele DE VITA 03/02/1997 	Ouzy SEE 25/08/1994 	
Danny HANDLING 06/02/1994 	Sam NEWMAN 08/06/2001 	Alex HARRIS 26/03/2003 		
Josh CAMPBELL 06/05/2000 				
				

KEY:							GOALIES		DEFENDERS					
	CAPTAIN			YELLOW CARD			PARRY	WILSON	TAGGART	DICK	GRAHAM	JAMIESON	GILHOOLY	LYNCH
	GOAL			SECOND YELLOW										
	OWN GOAL			RED CARD										
				INELIGIBLE										
	DATE	OPPOSITION		SCORE	REFEREE		1	21	2	3	5	15	16	25
														
LC	07.10.20	AIRDRIEONIANS	A		0-2	REID	90		90	90				90
LC	10.10.20	LIVINGSTON	A		2-1	MUIR	90		90	90				90
LC	13.10.20	EDINBURGH CITY	H											
CHA	17.10.20	GREENOCK MORTON	A											
CHA	24.10.20	DUNFERMLINE	H											
CHA	TBA	HEART OF MIDLOTHIAN	A											
CHA	06.11.20	DUNDEE	H											
LC	14.11.20	STENHOUSEMUIR	H											
CHA	21.11.20	QUEEN OF THE SOUTH	A											
CHA	05.12.20	AYR UNITED	H											
CHA	12.12.20	ARBROATH	A											
CHA	19.12.20	INVERNESS CT	H											
CHA	26.12.20	RAITH ROVERS	H											
CHA	29.12.20	DUNDEE	A											
CHA	02.01.21	GREENOCK MORTON	H											
CHA	09.01.21	AYR UNITED	A											
CHA	16.01.21	HEART OF MIDLOTHIAN	H											
CHA	23.01.21	INVERNESS CT	A											
CHA	06.02.21	QUEEN OF THE SOUTH	H											
CHA	13.02.21	ARBROATH	H											
CHA	20.02.21	DUNFERMLINE	A											
CHA	27.02.21	RAITH ROVERS	A											
CHA	06.03.21	INVERNESS CT	H											
CHA	13.03.21	QUEEN OF THE SOUTH	A											
CHA	20.03.21	DUNDEE	H											
CHA	27.03.21	AYR UNITED	H											
CHA	03.04.21	ARBROATH	A											
CHA	10.04.21	HEART OF MIDLOTHIAN	A											
CHA	17.04.21	RAITH ROVERS	H											
CHA	24.04.21	GREENOCK MORTON	A											
CHA	30.04.21	DUNFERMLINE	H											
							1	21	2	3	5	15	16	25







ALLOA ATHLETIC



EDINBURGH CITY

#	POS			
	1	NEIL PARRY		
	21	ANDY WILSON		
	3	SCOTT TAGGART		
	4	LIAM DICK		
	5	ANDY GRAHAM		
	6	STEVEN HETHERINGTON		
	7	KEVIN CAWLEY		
	8	JON ROBERTSON		
	9	LIAM BUCHANAN		
	10	ALAN TROUTEN		
	12	STEFAN SCOUGALL		
	14	ADAM BROWN		
	16	NATHAN GILHOOLY		
	18	BLAIR MALCOLM		
	19	ROBERT THOMSON		
	20	CAMERON O'DONNELL		
	22	RAYMOND GRANT		
	23	INNES MURRAY		
	24	LUCAS WILLIAMSON		
	25	EDIN LYNCH		
	26	LIAM EVANS		
	MANAGER PETER GRANT			

#	POS			
		CALLUM ANTELL		
		HARRY SHARP		
		KELBY MASON		
		CRAIG THOMSON		
		CONRAD BALATONI		
		LEE HAMILTON		
		LIAM HENDERSON		
		CALLUM CRANE		
		JOSH CAMPBELL		
		ANDREW BLACK		
		MARC LAIRD		
		LIAM BROWN		
		DANNY JARDINE		
		ZAC BUTTERWORTH		
		RAFFAELE DE VITA		
		ALLAN SMITH		
		OUZY SEE		
		BLAIR HENDERSON		
		DANNY HANDLING		
		SAM NEWMAN		
		ALEX HARRIS		
		JOHNNY JARRON		
		CAMERON QUALE		
	MANAGER JAMES McDONOUGH			

REFEREE: David Lowe

ASST: Daniel Macfarlane & Steven Wilson

ALLOA'S NEXT FIVE

17.10.2020, AWAY, 15:00



MORTON



ALLOA

17.10.2020, HOME, 15:00



ALLOA



DUNFERMLINE

06.11.2020, HOME, 19:45, BBC SCOTLAND



ALLOA



DUNDEE

13.11.2020, HOME, 15:00



ALLOA



STENHOUSEMUIR

20.11.2020, AWAY, 15:00



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