



# MMXX

HEART OF MIDLOTHIAN  
28TH NOVEMBER



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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:** fcadmin@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

##### Wasp 2000 Manager

Malcolm Gordon

##### Club Shop

June McLauchlan

##### Programme Editor

John Glencross

Mobile: 07939 539282

Email: jgxalloy@alloy.com

##### Programme Contributors

J. Markwell, A. Cockburn,

B. Roach, K. Mooney,

##### Club Photographer

David Glencross

Photos from Queen of the South

Colin Johnstone

##### AAFC Supporters Club

Brian Roach - 0777576483

## CONTENTS

<b>LEAGUE TABLES AND TODAY'S FIXTURES</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>THE ALLOA SQUAD</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>NEWSDESK</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>PETER GRANT</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>QOS VS ALLOA</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>HEARTS VS ALLOA</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>SCOTT TAGGART: PART MAN, PART MACHINE</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>APPEARANCES</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>A FAN'S VIEW</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>LOOKING BACK</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>THE OPPOSITION</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>THE AWAY SQUAD</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>PERFORMANCE TABLE</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>TEAM LINES</b>	<b>38</b>



2020/21



	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
DUNFERMLINE	5	4	1	0	12	5	7	13
HEARTS	5	4	0	1	13	5	8	12
RAI TH ROVERS	5	3	1	1	14	5	9	10
AYR UNITED	5	2	2	1	7	5	2	8
INVERNESS CT	5	2	1	2	8	7	1	7
GREENOCK MORTON	5	2	1	2	4	8	-4	7
DUNDEE	5	1	2	2	7	12	-5	5
QUEEN OF THE SOUTH	5	1	1	3	6	11	-5	4
ARBROATH	5	0	2	3	2	8	-6	2
ALLOA ATHLETIC	3	0	1	2	4	13	-9	1

**WEEKEND'S FIXTURES**

**ROUND TWO**

ALLOA ATHLETIC	HEART OF MIDLOTHIAN	HIBERNIAN	DUNDEE
ARBROATH	DUNFERMLINE	LIVINGSTON	AYR UNITED
CELTIC	ROSS COUNTY	MOTHERWELL	ST JOHNSTONE
FALKIRK	RANGERS	ST MIRREN	ABERDEEN

**LEAGUE 1**

**LEAGUE 2**

AIRDRIEONIANS	COVE RANGERS	ALBION ROVERS	STIRLING ALBION
EAST FIFE	CLYDE	ANNAN ATHLETIC	EDINBURGH CITY
MONTROSE	PARTICK THISTLE	QUEEN'S PARK	STENHOUSEMUIR
PETERHEAD	FORFAR ATHLETIC	BRECHIN CITY	STRANRAER
	ELGIN CITY	COWDENBEATH	



	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS		P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
LIVINGSTON	4	4	0	0	11	2	9	12	HEART OF MIDLOTHIAN	4	4	0	0	8	3	5	12
ALLOA ATHLETIC	4	3	0	1	9	5	4	9	RAI TH ROVERS	4	2	1	1	7	7	0	8
EDINBURGH CITY	4	1	1	2	5	9	-4	4	INVERNESS CT	4	1	1	2	5	9	-4	6
AIRDRIEONIANS	4	1	0	3	3	7	-4	3	EAST FIFE	4	1	0	3	3	7	-4	3
STENHOUSEMUIR	4	0	1	3	4	12	-8	2	COWDENBEATH	4	0	1	3	0	4	-4	1

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GOALKEEPERS

Neil PARRY

08/11/1985

195 cm 95 kg



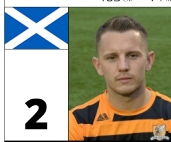
1

DEFENDERS

Scott TAGGART

27/12/1991

183 cm 71 kg

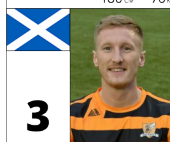


2

Liam DICK

19/08/1995

180 cm 76 kg



3

Andy GRAHAM

22/09/1983

188 cm 83 kg



5

MATCH

most appearances

- Cawley 350
- Taggart 188
- Hetherington 179
- Graham 168
- Robertson 166

GOALS

- Cawley 62
- Trouten 35
- Buchanan 24
- Graham 12
- Thomson 10

Andy WILSON

22/04/1998

190 cm 70 kg

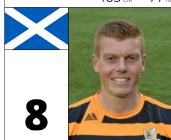


21

Jon ROBERTSON

25/04/1989

183 cm 77 kg



8

Nicky JAMIESON

03/08/1996

190 cm 89 kg



15

Lucas WILLIAMSON

26/03/2003

168 cm 58 kg

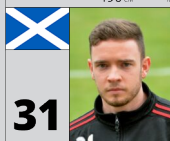


24

Reece WILLISON

27/05/1999

190 cm 77 kg

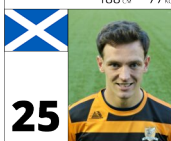


31

Edin LYNCH

07/08/2000

188 cm 77 kg



25

MANAGER

PETER GRANT



MIDFIELDERS

**Steven HETHERINGTON**

09/03/1993

180 cm 70 kg



**Kevin CAWLEY**

17/03/1989

170 cm 64 kg



**Stefan SCOUGALL**

07/12/1992

170 cm 64 kg



**Adam BROWN**

09/06/1995

175 cm 70 kg



**Blair MALCOLM**

03/02/1997

180 cm 70 kg



**Cameron O'DONNELL**

29/09/2001

180 cm 70 kg



**Ray GRANT**

01/09/1996

178 cm 70 kg



**Innes MURRAY**

17/02/1998

180 cm 70 kg

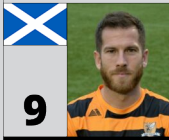


FORWARDS

**Liam BUCHANAN**

27/03/1985

175 cm 70 kg



**Alan TROUTEN**

08/11/1985

173 cm 70 kg



**Lee CONNELLY**

18/10/1999

170 cm 58 kg



**Robert THOMSON**

28/05/1993

188 cm 83 kg



**Liam EVANS**

17/11/2001

190 cm 70 kg





# NEWSDESK

Today we return to the Betfred Cup at the Indodrill Stadium having progressed to the second round of the tournament after finishing 2nd in Group H behind Livingston who finished top, qualifying for the second round of the tournament as one of the four best teams who finished second our reward for this is a home tie against Heart of Midlothian whom we met on league business at Tynecastle on Tues-

day evening. One of the most disappointing situations ahead of this tie is the fact that we are still not able to share these games with the return of fans who are such an important part of the football game experience. As we move into the second round of the Betfred Cup Tournament, the tournament reverts to a traditional knock-out format, with ties decided by extra time and penalties if the

scores are level after 90 minutes. The Quarter-final games will be played in the midweek of 15th - 1th December, 2020.

“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 success-

ful 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."

Alloa Athletic will today try to end the fact that they have never defeated Hearts in a competitive match, the closest they got was in a Scottish Cup 3rd Round tie at Recreation Park on Saturday 26th January, 1980 when leading 1-0 through an Alan Holt goal the game was abandoned by Referee W. McLeish from Stonehouse, the Alloa team lined up - Dougie McNab, Hugh McCann, Gregor Abel, Lindsay Hamilton, Alan Holt, Paul Rodger, Ian Cochrane, Billy Morrison, Donnie Mclean, Colin McIntosh, Ian Smith subs: John Robertson, Jim Ferguson & Lex Shields. Hearts :- John Brough, Walter Kidd, Jim Denny, Crawford Boyd, Frank Liddell, Jim Jeffries, Willie Gibson, Canny Fraser, Derek O'Connor, Bobby Robertson, Malcolm Robertson Subs: Bobby Masterton, Des O'Sullivan & Ian Black. The fog came down and saved Hearts from their first defeat by "The Wasps" Alan Holt had given Hugh Wilson's side the lead which they deserved but a blanket of fog saved Hearts on the day. In the replay Hearts were to emerge 1-0 victors but it was "The Wasps" who took all the credit, given a standing ovation by their fans for their effort

at the end of the 90 minutes.

The club was saddened to learn that Alloa Athletic supporter, Derek Nelson, recently passed away aged 90. Derek lived in Liverpool all his life, however he started following Alloa in the 1950s after a work trip to Clackmannanshire and always followed "The Wasps" results.

Alloa Athletic fans should note the change in date for league fixture, early in the New Year due to Championship clubs being involved in the Scottish Cup 2nd Round this season, the League match against Ayr United which was due to be played at Somerset Park on Saturday 9th January,

2021 will now be played on Tuesday 12th January at Somerset Park, Kick-Off 7pm.

This season's Scottish Cup competition has had to be revised due to the ongoing circumstances of the pandemic which have resulted in a need to condense the Competition, and a consequential necessity to adapt the format of the Competition for this Season, the Scottish FA Board has approved the revised format and Competition Rules for Season 2020/21 only.

- Altered entry point of clubs to the Competition and the number of ties in each round;
- Removal of replays for all matches with

the outcome of any drawn match being determined by extra time and penalties, if required;

· The requirement to attempt to re-schedule any postponed match in the Preliminary Rounds, Round One and Round Two, during the first midweek after the original match date.

For the 2020/21 Competition the rules regarding the number of substitutes permitted in a match will revert back to no more than three being permitted in the match, and an additional one permitted in any period of extra-time. Alloa Athletic enter at the Second Round stage on 9th January, 2021.





# MANAGERS NOTES

Good Afternoon  
Everyone

Last Saturday against Queen of the South, to say we were disappointed with the result and performance would be an understatement. In all the other games we had a lot of positives without the

result but not on Saturday. We pride ourselves on doing the basics well and on Saturday we shadow boxed for 94 minutes.

What I can say about Tuesday is we can't concede goals the way we do, that's a fact but yet again i've got to say, we've got





a lot of good stuff but the goals we lost were criminal. That's what's cost us dearly.

The way they went about their business in the second half encourages. They never crumbled and it's

easy to do that against a very experienced squad.

The second half, it would have been easy to go under. The players were together as a group, they defended well together, attacked

well together and retained the ball further up the pitch.

Today we welcome Robbie and all his staff and players to today's match, obviously we want to progress to the next

round which would be fantastic but as every other game we will have to be at our best.

**SUPPORT THE PLAYERS ALWAYS**  
**PETER GRANT**



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# SCOTTISH CHAMPIONSHIP

21<sup>st</sup> November 2020  
 Palmerston Park, Dumfries  
 3:00pm KO

**QUEEN OF THE SOUTH**

**2:0**

**ALLOA ATHLETIC**



(10)

SCORERS

G. Buchanan **38'** **1:0**

McKee **47'** **2:0**



**STARTING XI**

**1 LEIGHFIELD**

**3 MAXWELL**

**4 BUCHANAN**

**5 OBILEYE**

**6 MCKEE**

**7 FITZPATRICK**

**8 PYBUS**

**10 SHIELDS**

**11 DOBBIE**

**17 JOSEPH**

**33 GIBSON**

**STARTING XI**

**1 PARRY**

**3 DICK**

**5 GRAHAM**

**2 TAGGART**

**8 ROBERTSON**

**6 HETHERINGTON**

**22 GRANT**

**7 CAWLEY**

**10 TROUTEN**

**14 BROWN**

**19 THOMSON**

**SUBS**

**20 FERGUSON**

**9 GOSS**

**12 MCCABE**

**16 EAST**

**18 MCKECHNIE**

**21 MCMAHON**

**22 SYLLA**

**SUBS**

**31 WILLISON**

**9 BUCHANAN**

**12 SCOUGALL**

**15 JAMIESON**

**17 CONNELLY**

**20 O'DONNELL**

**23 MURRAY**

**REFEREE:** John Beaton

# SCOTTISH CHAMPIONSHIP

24<sup>th</sup> November 2020  
 Tynecastle Park, Edinburgh  
 7:00 pm KO

## HEARTS

# 3:0

## ALLOA ATHLETIC



(3:0)

### SCORERS

Smith **6'** **1:0**

Halliday **24'** **2:0**

Trouten **37'** **3:0**



### STARTING XI

**1** GORDON

**2** SMITH

**5** HARING

**6** BERRA

**7** WALKER

**10** BOYCE

**11** ROBERTS

**14** NAISMITH

**16** HALLIDAY

**21** KINGSLEY

**26** HALKETT

### SUBS

**13** STEWART

**3** WHITE

**8** LEE

**15** WIGHTON

**28** POPESCU

**31** HENDERSON

**36** MCGILL

### SUBS

**31** WILLISON

**9** BUCHANAN

**12** SCOUGALL

**14** BROWN

**15** JAMIESON

**17** CONNELLY

**24** WILLIAMSON

### STARTING XI

**1** PARRY

**3** DICK

**2** TAGGART

**5** GRAHAM

**8** ROBERTSON

**6** HETHERINGTON

**22** GRANT

**7** CAWLEY

**10** TROUTEN

**23** MURRAY

**19** THOMSON

**REFEREE:** Grant Irvine

# 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 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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## SCOTT TAGGART: PART-MAN, PART-MACHINE!

Fish and chips, Ant and Dec, pie and bovril, shoes and socks. There are some things in life which are inherently linked. Until the Betfred Cup group stage game a fortnight ago versus Stenhousemuir another entry on that list would surely have been Scott Taggart's name on the Alloa teamsheet. However,

Peter Grant's decision to make Taggart one of eight team changes meant the 28 year old defender's run of consecutive starting appearances for the Wasps ended at 94 games. Since April 2018 Taggart had been a reassuringly permanent fixture in the Alloa team, not missing a single millisecond of the 8,490 minutes the club had

played in that time. To not only start each of those 94 games was one thing, but not to be substituted during that period was simply exceptional.

Whether playing at right-back or in the heart of the Wasps backline, Taggart's consistently excellent performances have made him an

automatic selection in the starting XI for successive managers in Clackmannanshire. Taggart's energy reserves are as bottomless as a coffee in The Bobbing John, while his calmness on the ball is akin to the water on Gartmorn Dam on a still summer morning. To continue these analogies, Taggart is evidently well-respected by his



team-mates, with Neil Parry affectionately referring to Taggs as being as fit as a butcher's pencil, while Jon Robertson quipped on social media that he's part-man, part-machine!

Some people might say that the minimum an employer can expect is for their employee to attend their workplace every day. However, in football things don't really follow that concept, with fitness, form, squad rotation (especially prevalent in cup competitions as Taggart now has first-hand experience of), card-happy referees and this year Coronavirus all contributing to footballers staying ever-present during a single season, let alone close to a century of games, nigh on impossible. It is



therefore to Taggart's considerable credit that he got close to a rarely achieved landmark.

To provide some context, in the curtailed 2019/2020 season Taggart was one of only four outfield players across the four divisions of the SPFL to play every minute of every game their team played. Taggart was present throughout all 3,240 minutes of the 36 matches the Wasps

played last season, an unbroken feat which was only matched by Dumbarton defender Morgyn Neill, St Johnstone captain Jason Kerr and Stranraer's former Alloa loanee Connor McManus. Airdrie's Callum Fordyce was the only other outfield player to start every game played (league and cup competitions – a number of other players were rested for those pesky Betfred Cup group games), but the Airdrie de-

fender was subbed off once and received a (later overturned) red card in another match. There were of course a number of goalkeepers who were also ever-present, but in my opinion it is far simpler for a keeper to play every minute of every game as they are less prone to injury, suspension or squad rotation. For the record, there were no fewer than 8 keepers that had an unblemished appearance record last season (Aberdeen's Joe Lewis, Clyde's David Mitchell, Cove's Stuart McKenzie, Elgin's Tom McHale, Forfar's Marc McCallum, Motherwell's Mark Gillespie, Peterhead's Greg Fleming and St Mirren's Vaclav Hladky).

Of those players who were ever-present last season, all



barring Greg Fleming have either missed minutes this season or had during the 2018/2019 season, which means Taggart was on the longest ever-present run by any outfield player in the whole country. That is no mean feat (albeit a fairly niche statistic!), so congratulations to Taggs for that!

Unfortunately not even Taggart can compete with current Stranraer keeper Greg Fleming, who based on my hopefully reliable research is in an ever-present phenomenon league of his own, having not

missed a game since 2014! During that time the Fife-born keeper has enjoyed unbroken spells with Stenhousemuir, Ayr, Peterhead and now Stranraer, amassing 240 appearances in that time. Fleming was substituted with an injury of the final day of the 2017 season (his final appearance for relegated Ayr), but had recovered during the summer to begin a three-year unbroken stint with Peterhead.

Fleming himself still has a way to go to surpass Harold Bell, who holds the record for the most consecutive appearances for

a British football team having played 401 consecutive games for Tranmere Rovers between 1946 and 1955.

It should not however have come as a complete surprise for Taggart to be on a long unbroken appearance run, as after signing for the Wasps in 2016 Scott was a permanent starter for 92 games. That run was only broken late in the 2017/8 season when Taggart amassed sufficient bookings to miss an end-of-season game at Forfar through suspension (coincidentally just before the all-impor-

tant play-offs begun). During that run Scott was substituted once, when injury forced him off at Ayr in February 2018, ending 7,263 consecutive minutes in the Wasps starting XI since his debut.

In terms of other Alloa players from the past quarter of a century, like Taggart's latest run, several others have got tantalisingly close to a century of successful appearances, but just like Taggs always fell close to the final hurdle. Keepers Mark Cairns and Neil Parry both got to 93 consecutive games before injury thwart-



ed their best efforts. Coincidentally, both came in cup games against top division sides, with Cairns stretchered off with a knee injury versus Dundee United in the Scottish Cup (the Wasps were 2-1 ahead at the time, with midfielder Gary Clark having to replace Cairns in goal) and Parry's face painfully colliding with Christian Doidge's knee at Easter Park in a Betfred Cup encounter at the beginning of last season. Taggart's appearance in the fog against Dundee meant he surpassed the runs of both

Cairns and Parry to go on the longest starting stretch by any Alloa player in at least the past quarter of a century.

Below that the list of ever-presents reads like a who's who of lionheart Alloa defenders. Andy Graham's red-card rant at Morton denied him the possibility of a century of starts in August 2019, while Craig Valentine (twice) and Michael Doyle succumbed to injury. Finally, poor Michael Bolochowecyj had played 61 successive games for the club when Tom Hendrie decided to rest the then young defender

from an end-of-season dead-rubber at Forfar, infamous for Spanish midfielder Juan Calderon scoring in his only starting appearance for the club. Making up the Alloa top ten in the past quarter of a century (that's the time I've been amassing statistics about the Wasps, although its naturally possible that Alloa players prior to that played more successive games!) is the only non-goalkeeper or defender; talisman Willie Irvine, who picked up a Third Division Championship medal and Third Division Player of the Year award during an

unbroken run of 60 appearances for the Wasps.

However, returning to Taggart, you have to be a strong character and an excellent player to get anywhere close to making a century of consecutive starts for any club. Fortunately Scott passes both those tests and with his milestone 200th Alloa appearance now on the horizon, it will hopefully only be a matter of time before I'll be discussing Taggart's exploits for the Wasps in detail again.

## CONSECUTIVE STARTING APPEARANCE SEQUENCES BY ALLOA PLAYERS IN THE PAST 25 YEARS

RANK	PLAYER	NUMBER OF SUCCESSIVE STARTS, DATES & WHAT ENDED IT
1	Scott TAGGART <sup>^</sup>	94 (April 2018 – November 2020) rested
2=	Mark CAIRNS <sup>*</sup>	93 (January 1998 – February 2000) injury
2=	Neil PARRY <sup>^</sup>	93 (July 2017 – July 2019) injury
4	Scott TAGGART <sup>^</sup>	92 (July 2016 – April 2018) suspension
5	Andy GRAHAM <sup>^</sup>	86 (October 2017 - August 2019) suspension
6	Craig VALENTINE <sup>#</sup>	84 (July 1999 – March 2001) injury
7	Craig VALENTINE <sup>*</sup>	70 (April 1997 – December 1998) injury
8	Michael DOYLE <sup>^</sup>	68 (November 2013 – April 2015) injury
9	Michael BOLOCHOWECHYJ <sup>*</sup>	61 (January 2004 – April 2005) rested
10	Willie IRVINE <sup>*</sup>	60 (November 1997 – March 1999) suspension

\* = Doesn't include pesky Stirlingshire Cup ties played in that time period!

# = Includes Stirlingshire Cup ties, including when Valentine scored in a penalty shoot-out!

^ = No Stirlingshire Cup ties played in that time period.

# APPEARANCES

	POS	LEAGUE		CUP		TOTAL	
		APP	GOAL	APP	GOAL	APP	GOAL
PARRY	GOAL	2 (0)	0	3 (0)	0	5 (0)	0
WILSON	GOAL	0 (0)	0	0 (1)	0	0 (1)	0
WILLISON	GOAL	3 (0)	0	1 (0)	0	4 (0)	0
TAGGART	DEF	5 (0)	0	3 (0)	0	8 (0)	0
DICK	DEF	5 (0)	0	3 (0)	0	8 (0)	0
GRAHAM	DEF	3 (0)	0	1 (1)	0	4 (1)	0
JAMIESON	DEF	0 (0)	0	1 (0)	0	1 (0)	0
GILHOOLY	DEF	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0
WILLIAMSON	DEF	0 (0)	0	1 (0)	0	1 (0)	0
LYNCH	DEF	2 (0)	0	3 (0)	0	5 (0)	0
HETHERINGTON	MID	4 (0)	0	2 (2)	1	6 (2)	1
ROBERTSON	MID	5 (0)	0	3 (0)	0	8 (0)	0
SCOUGALL	MID	0 (4)	0	2 (2)	1	2 (6)	1
BROWN	MID	2 (0)	0	2 (0)	0	4 (0)	0
MALCOLM	MID	0 (0)	0	2 (0)	0	2 (0)	0
O'DONNELL	MID	0 (0)	0	1 (1)	0	1 (1)	0
GRANT	MID	5 (0)	0	3 (1)	0	8 (1)	0
MURRAY	MID	2 (1)	0	3 (0)	0	5 (1)	0
CAWLEY	FWD	5 (0)	1	2 (1)	0	7 (1)	1
THOMSON	FWD	5 (0)	1	1 (2)	3	6 (2)	4
BUCHANAN	FWD	0 (4)	0	3 (1)	3	3 (5)	3
TROUTEN	FWD	5 (0)	2	2 (1)	1	7 (1)	3
CONNELLY	FWD	2 (2)	0	1 (1)	0	3 (3)	0
EVANS	FWD	0 (0)	0	1 (1)	0	1 (1)	0



ALLOA CAREER LGE		ALLOA CAREER CUP		ALLOA TOTAL	
APP	GOAL	APP	GOAL	APP	GOAL
117 (0)	0	32 (0)	0	149 (0)	0
1 (1)	0	0 (1)	0	1 (2)	0
3 (0)	0	1 (0)	0	4 (0)	0
148 (0)	6	40 (0)	1	188 (0)	7
57 (0)	1	19 (0)	0	76 (0)	1
131 (0)	11	36 (1)	1	167 (1)	12
0 (0)	0	1 (0)	0	1 (0)	0
0 (0)	0	1 (1)	0	1 (1)	0
0 (0)	0	1 (0)	0	1 (0)	0
2 (0)	0	3 (0)	0	5 (0)	0
117 (30)	5	24 (8)	1	141 (38)	6
106 (22)	2	35 (3)	2	141 (25)	4
0 (4)	0	2 (2)	1	2 (6)	1
13 (16)	3	12 (4)	0	25 (20)	3
10 (0)	0	2 (1)	0	12 (1)	0
1 (2)	0	1 (3)	0	2 (5)	0
5 (0)	0	3 (1)	0	8 (1)	0
2 (1)	0	3 (0)	0	5 (1)	0
251 (37)	52	55 (7)	10	306 (44)	62
19 (22)	6	3 (6)	4	22 (28)	10
44 (20)	16	18 (4)	8	62 (24)	24
56 (5)	21	17 (3)	14	73 (8)	35
3 (5)	1	1 (2)	0	4 (7)	1
0 (0)	0	1 (1)	0	1 (1)	0



ALLOA SUPPORTER'S MINIBUS

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## A FAN'S VIEW

Alloa come into today's cup tie following a setback on league duty last week away to Queen of the South, and also faced our opponents in mid-week Championship duty at Tynecastle (prior to this article being written). But I'll cover these in the Ayr United programme next week. For now the focus is

on the Betfred Cup and covering Alloa's last fixture of the group stages against Stenhousemuir a fortnight ago.

With only 4 second placed teams qualifying for the knockout stages out of the 8 groups, Alloa had to win the game whilst retaining a watching brief on one or two

results elsewhere. I had spent a good half hour on the morning of the game checking all the potential mathematical permutations from the other groups. The manager had rotated the squad a bit in the other Betfred Cup games, so in the pre match lead up we anticipated a few alterations. But we

probably didn't predict 8 of them from the previous league match against Dundee. Reece Willison, Andy Graham and Adam Brown were the only survivors in the starting 11, with debuts handed to young Lucas Williamson and Nicky Jamieson signed from Queens Park in summer amongst a flood of changes.

In terms of formation and setup Alloa used the same tactical system as they have all season- so it made sense to give opportunities to fill similar positions. But after Liam Buchanan couldn't quite make a connection to Scougalls lay-off early on, Alloa endured a fairly torrid first half. They were understandably disjointed, but Stenhousemuir clearly smelled blood- pushing up the pitch exerting pressure as Alloa looked to build attacks. They themselves attacked the Alloa goal time and time again as the half wore on. Alloa went in at the break 2 goals behind, but it could have been four or five in all

honesty. There was certainly no re-requirement to check results elsewhere during the half time interval- hopes of progression looked pretty bleak at that moment.

With an hour gone, the manager introduced Steven Hetherington and Ray Grant from the bench. This gave Alloa a bit more structure and foundation to gain a better foothold on the game and turn the tide. Less than 10 minutes later Alloa were level. Buchanan scrambled one back, then converted from the spot. After a few blanks, Liam needed a goal or two- and he completed his hat-trick (kind of) with 12 minutes remaining after some comical



defending by the visitors. His connection to Cameron O'Donnell's delivery into the area was limited to a few stray hairs on the tip of his head at most. But the Stenhousemuir goalkeeper and defender scrambled around the trickling effort like a couple of drunks at 3am in Drysdale Street juggling a kebab- and it somehow ended up in the net. Hether-

ington's long range effort in stoppage time sealed the win, and results elsewhere didn't amount to any real threat as Alloa progressed to the knockout stages.

The manager received an element of criticism post match for risking so many changes to the team. And while there's no doubt it was a gamble, it's probably one he wouldn't have



taken to such excess in a standard season and standard circumstances. Due to Covid there are no reserve leagues, Stirlingshire Cup, Monday bounce games, Challenge Cup or any other real avenue to give the full squad of players some game time. It's preferable to introduce limited changes into a more settled team- but that just isn't possible right now. The manager also showed patience and belief that they could settle and change the flow of the game- he resisted the urge to take drastic measures

and make 5 subs at the break, as many of us may have been clamouring for him to do. He introduced his two enforcers after an hour- but the majority of the players who under performed in the first half played their part in the second half comeback. For the younger players in particular, coping with adversity and reverting it to a positive outcome would have been really valuable.

In a standard season today's game would have been viewed as a fairly well anticipated occasion. Obviously Hearts are in the

Championship this season so this match will be one of at least 4 meetings. But the game would have still generated a bit of income from the increased attendance, with a good atmosphere inside the ground. Sadly, none of these appealing factors listed are applicable at the moment. Hearts breezed through the group stages, rotating their squad and managed 4 wins over fellow Championship teams Raith Rovers and Inverness Caledonian Thistle as well as Cowdenbeath and East Fife to comfortably top their

group. Like Alloa, the League Cup won't be the top priority for Robbie Neilson this season- and I expect he'll make some changes today. Alloa will of course be underdogs, and although additions to the fixture list this season aren't quite as appealing it would be great to emulate the 2016 team by reaching the last eight of this tournament.

Enjoy the game.

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## ANDREW COCKBURN



# LOOKING BACK

### 26TH NOVEMBER 1988

In the Premier Division, the day's top game was undoubtedly at Ibrox, where leaders Rangers hosted second-placed Aberdeen, in front over 42,000 onlookers, and a 1-0 win for The Gers saw them extend their advantage to four points over their title rivals. Third-placed Celtic

were 3-2 winners at St. Mirren, Dundee United stayed fourth after a narrow 1-0 home success v hapless Hamilton Accies, while Hibs' point from a 1-1 draw v Dundee at Easter Road was still enough to nudge them up into fifth spot. Hamilton Accies latest reverse kept them firmly anchored to the

bottom of the table, while in the "basement battle" at Fir Park, second-bottom Motherwell met fellow strugglers Hears, who lay just one place above their hosts. And while The Well chalked up their first league win of the season, by 2-0, they remained one place behind The Jambos, but were now just two points

adrift.

Falkirk retained leadership of The First Division, despite being held 0-0 at home by lowly Clyde, while second-placed Airdrie narrowed the gap on The Barins, thanks to a 2-0 success at struggling Partick. Morton stayed third after a 3-2 win at another side in the doldrums, Queen Of



The South, fourth-placed Clydebank came from behind to defeat Meadowbank 2-1 at home, while fifth-placed St. Johnstone were 2-0 victors v Ayr at McDiarmid Park. At the bottom, Queen Of The South remained firmly ensconced in last place, still with just one league win to their credit so far, Partick were still just one place better off, while Kilmarnock, despite collecting a welcome point from a 2-2 home draw v Dunfermline, still occupied third-bottom spot.

Down in The Second, there was a change at the top, for Albion Rovers 2-0 win at Brechin enabled them to assume pole position at the expense of

Stirling Albion, who slipped to second, after a 0-2 reverse at Queen's Park. Cowdenbeath were now third, thanks to a 2-0 home win v lowly Stenhousemuir, Cowden displayed Arbroath, who slipped one place to fourth after they were held 0-0 at home by local rivals Montrose, while Queen's Park's win moved them up to fifth. Alloa & East Fife meantime, had endured rather lack-lustre league campaigns to date, and as such, both clubs were stuck in the lower regions of the table, prior to their meeting at Recreation Park, where The Wasps lined up as follows: Lowrie, Robertson, Haggart, Millen, R. Lee, Gibson (Smith), Blackie, Rodgers, Lyt-

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wyn, I. Lee, Lamont (Bateman). And Alloa emerged victors by 2-1, thanks to goals from Charlie Lytwyn & John Gibson, Deas netting for The Fifers. This was Alloa's first win in four games, and if lifted them up to ninth place in the table. But there was no joy for bottom club Berwick, who were hammered 0-5 at home by East Stirling.

First Division leaders Norwich were held to a third successive draw, this time 2-2 v struggling Luton. The Canaries still moved three

points clear of second-placed Arsenal, who went down 1-2 at Derby. Third-placed Millwall were also drew 2-2, at Southampton, while Liverpool, despite being held 1-1 at Anfield by struggling Wimbledon, still retained fourth spot. There was no change in the relegation zone, as bottom club Newcastle hosted Manchester United the following day, second-bottom West Ham were 0-1 home losers v Everton, while Wimbledon remained third from bottom.



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# HEART OF MIDLOTHIAN

*The Jam Tarts*

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## TOP HONOURS

Scottish Premiership  
Winners (4)  
Runners-up (14)

Scottish Cup  
Winners (8)  
Runners-up (7)

Scottish League Cup  
Winners (4)  
Runners-up (3)

This afternoon we take a break from Scottish Championship action and turn our attention to the Betfred Cup once again. Today's opponents are once again Hearts after our match-up on Tuesday evening. The Jambos eased through their group as winners by taking full points from all four games. Inverness, Cowdenbeath, Raith and East Fife were put to the sword to earn Robbie Neilson's men a place in the next round. This rejuvenated

Hearts side have their eyes firmly set on sealing promotion back to the Premiership, however, have a squad definitely capable of challenging across multiple competitions. This was shown as they booked their place in last year's Scottish Cup final with a victory over bitter rivals, Hibernian. They did suffer their first defeat last Friday night though. A superb performance from high-flying Dunfermline meant that they went to the top of the league with a 2-1 victory.

## THE BOSS – ROBBIE NEILSON

The visiting manager will need no direction on how to get to the Indodrill this evening as it once again is the returning Robbie Neilson. The former right-back of course guided Dundee United to the Championship title last season, although his side did find

coming here quite a challenge with a draw and a defeat. He shocked some quarters of Scottish football in the summer when he sealed a return to Tynecastle to lead the Championship title surge once again. He was remembered fondly by Jambo's after his first spell which saw one of the best sides to win Scotland's second tier cruising past rivals Rangers and Hibs. He went onto qualify for the Europa League in the first season back in the top flight by finishing third before departing for MK Dons. The move down South didn't work out as planned, however, a chance at Tannadice brought his career back on track as he became something of a Championship title expert winning it for the second time.

## THE CAPTAIN – STEVEN NAISMITH

The man to lead out the visitors this





afternoon will be the well-renowned, Steven Naismith. The attacker burst onto the scene in 2004 with Kilmarnock where impressive performances would start a bidding war from the two big clubs in Glasgow for his services. Naismith opted for a move to Rangers and he would go on to enjoy five years at Ibrox. During his time with the Gers he would win the league three times, the Scottish Cup once and today's tournament, the League Cup, twice. He has also played pivotal roles for Everton, Norwich and of course, Scotland. 2018 saw him make a move to Hearts, initially on loan. A further loan spell followed before making the move permanent in 2019. A year later, in an attempt to

shake things up for a struggling Hearts, Daniel Stendel stripped Christophe Berra of the captain armband and handed it to the 50 capped striker.

#### **NEW BOY - CRAIG GORDON**

It has been a summer of change at Tynecastle as the new manager gives this Hearts side a fresh look going into the season. However, the best coup of all could be regarded as Craig Gordon. The goalkeeper was released from Celtic where he played an integral part in their historic success over the last six years. It was to be a fairytale reunion for the Edinburgh based boy when he signed the dotted line at Hearts. Gordon began his career at Hearts in 2001 where he was something

of a sensation. After scooping the youth titles, he went onto create history by winning the Scottish Cup. That outstanding form saw him earn a record-breaking £9 million move to Sunderland. Again, he was very highly regarded down South pulling off fantastic saves and holding down the National side's number 1 jersey. Injuries hampered Gordon's career though before he admirably got it back on track at Celtic. He has already proved his worth on his return this year though putting in stand-out performances for Robbie Neilson, none more so than in the Scottish Cup semi final. This sort of form couldn't be ignored by Steve Clarke who brought

him back into the Scotland set-up in the last camp.

#### **ONE TO WATCH - LIAM BOYCE**

Peter Grant could pick anyone of the opposing players as an one to watch with multiple internationalists and top-flight players. However, none will offer as much of a goal threat as Liam Boyce. The striker already has a few goals to his name this year and is coming into the game high on confidence. He was well-known in Scotland prior to Hearts days with two sensational seasons for Ross County. In the 2015/16 season he netted seventeen goals in just twenty-four games. The following season he would be better that further by finishing the top scorer in the league with



twenty-three goals. That earned him a club record move to Burton, however injuries hampered his opportunities there. At the start of 2020, Boyce decided to come back up North and sign for Hearts. He would get off to the perfect start with a debut winning goal against Rangers. Boyce has been back finding the back of the net this season with his most notable goal being the winner at Hampden against Hibs.

#### THE CONNECTION

There aren't any players in the op-

posing ranks making a return to Alloa this afternoon. Similarly in the Alloa dressing room there is only the connection would be the Hibernian boys, Buchanan and Murray, looking to get one over their rivals! However, there have been a few players who have spent some time on loan at Alloa from Hearts. The most memorable of those being Dario Zanatta. The Candian lit up the Recs with his blistering pace and trickery during his time with the club in 2018/19. Alloa fans will have fond memories of the winger but

probably none rank as highly as his perfect solo goal against Dundee United to earn all three points moments from the final whistle.

#### PREVIOUS MEETINGS

You only have to go back four days to find the last meeting between the two clubs with the sides meeting at Tynecastle on Tuesday evening in League duties. It was a comfortable win for the hosts with first half goals from Michael Smith, Andy Halliday and Peter Haring set the Jambos up for a 3-0 win. Liam Boyce had the chance

to add from the spot twice but was denied by Parry and the woodwork for the retake. Before that the sides met four times in the 2014/15 season as the Jambos romped to the league. It was four victories for Hearts that season and none to remember for the Wasp faithful. They included some hard evenings with familiar scores, like the 3-0 defeat at Tynecastle which saw current Scotland player, Callum Paterson, on the scoresheet and Alloa favourite, Mark Docherty, receiving a red card.

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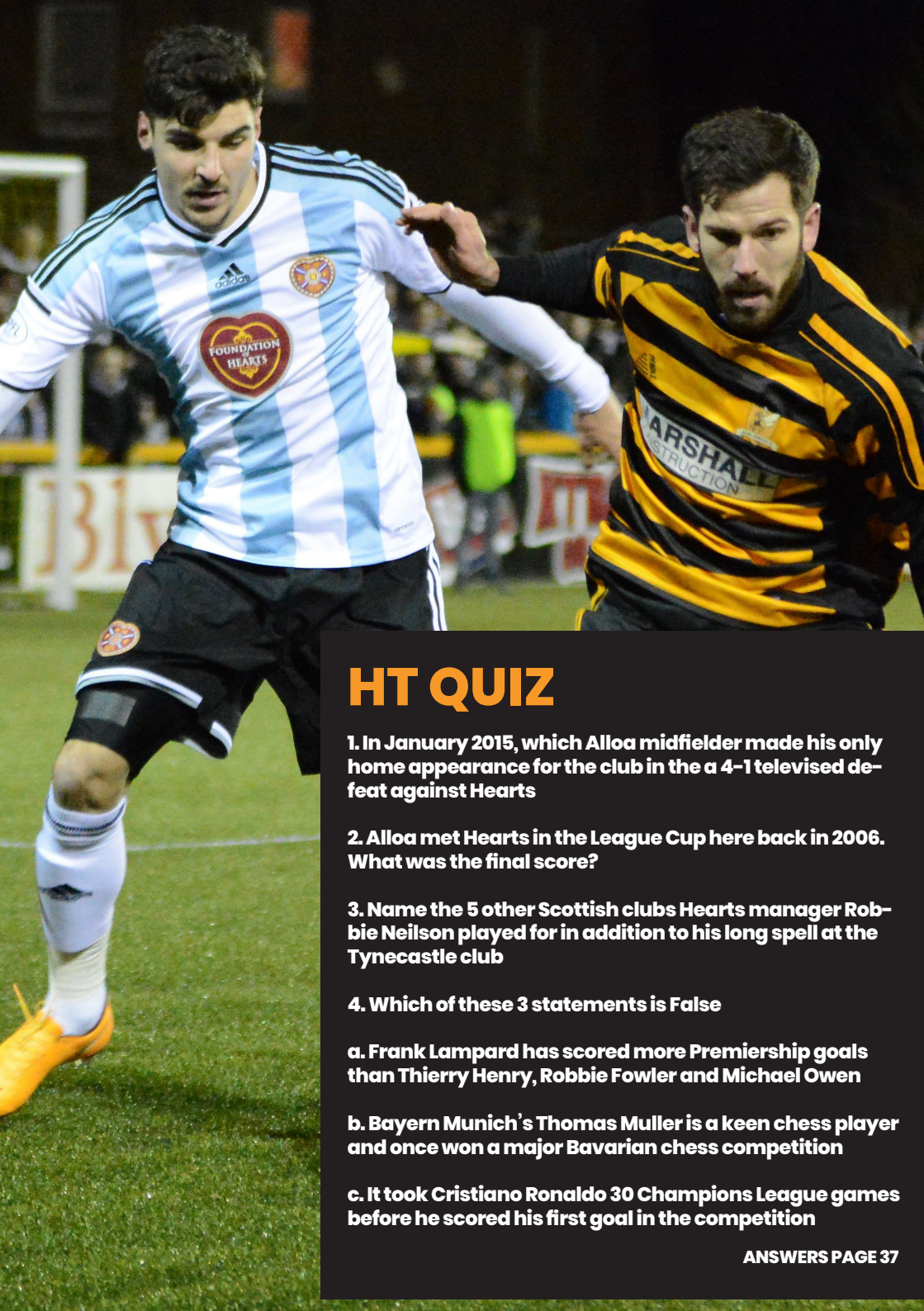
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## HT QUIZ

**1. In January 2015, which Alloa midfielder made his only home appearance for the club in the a 4-1 televised defeat against Hearts**

**2. Alloa met Hearts in the League Cup here back in 2006. What was the final score?**

**3. Name the 5 other Scottish clubs Hearts manager Robbie Neilson played for in addition to his long spell at the Tynecastle club**

**4. Which of these 3 statements is False**

**a. Frank Lampard has scored more Premiership goals than Thierry Henry, Robbie Fowler and Michael Owen**

**b. Bayern Munich's Thomas Muller is a keen chess player and once won a major Bavarian chess competition**

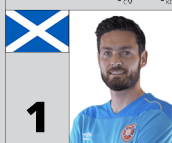
**c. It took Cristiano Ronaldo 30 Champions League games before he scored his first goal in the competition**



### GOALKEEPERS

**Craig GORDON**

31/12/1982



1

### DEFENDERS

**Michael SMITH**

04/09/1988



2

**Aidy WHITE**

27/10/1991



3

**John SOUTTAR**

25/09/1996



4

**Ross STEWART**

10/04/1995



13

**Christophe BERRA**

31/01/1985



6

**Stephen KINGSLEY**

23/07/1994



21

**Jamie BRANDON**

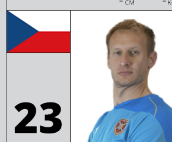
05/02/1998



25

**Zdenek ZLAMAL**

05/11/1985



23

**Craig HALKETT**

29/05/1995



26

**Mihai POPESCU**

07/05/1993



28

### MANAGER

**ROBBIE NEILSON**



MIDFIELDERS

**Peter HARING**

02/03/1993



**Jamie WALKER**

25/06/1993



**Oilly LEE**

11/07/1991



**Jordan ROBERTS**

05/01/1994



**Andy HALLIDAY**

11/08/1991



**Andy IRVING**

03/02/1997



FORWARDS

**Liam BOYCE**

06/05/2000



**Steven NAISMITH**

03/08/1996



**Loic DAMOUR**

25/08/1994



**Elliott FREAR**

11/09/1990



**Lewis MOORE**

04/07/1998










**Josh GINNELLY**

24/03/1997



**KEY:**

	CAPTAIN		YELLOW CARD
	GOAL		SECOND YELLOW
	OWN GOAL		RED CARD
			INELIGIBLE

	DATE	OPPOSITION		SCORE	REFEREE
LC	07.10.20	AIRDRIEONIANS	A	0-2	REID
LC	10.10.20	LIVINGSTON	A	2-1	MUIR
LC	13.10.20	EDINBURGH CITY	H	2-1	LOWE
CHA	17.10.20	GREENOCK MORTON	A	1-0	NEWLANDS
CHA	24.10.20	DUNFERMLINE	H	1-4	ROBERTSON
CHA	06.11.20	DUNDEE	H	3-3	MUIR
LC	14.11.20	STENHOUSEMUIR	H	4-2	IRVINE
CHA	21.11.20	QUEEN OF THE SOUTH	A	2-0	BEATON
CHA	24.11.20	HEART OF MIDLOTHIAN	A	3-0	IRVINE
LC	28.12.20	HEART OF MIDLOTHIAN	H		
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		

GOALKEEPERS		
PARRY	WILSON	WILLISON
1	21	31
90		
90		
44	46	
		90
		90
		90
		90
90		
90		

DEFENDERS					
TAGGART	DICK	GRAHAM	JAMIESON	GILHOOLY	LYNCH
2	3	5	15	16	25
90	90				90
90	90				90
90	90	34			56
90	90				90
90	90				90
90	90	90			
		90	90		
90	90	90			
90	90	90			



1	21	31
---	----	----

2	3	5	15	16	25
---	---	---	----	----	----

MIDFIELDERS										
HETHERINGTON	CAWLEY	ROBERTSON	TROUTEN	SCOUGALL	BROWN	MALCOLM	O'DONNELL	GRANT	MURRAY	WILLIAMSON
6	7	8	10	12	14	18	20	22	23	24
90	59	90	1	82	31	59		8	59	
90	38	90	90	29		61		90	52	
45	90	90	90	1	56			45	90	
60	90	90	90	33				90		
	1	90	90	27				90	74	
90	90	90	2	90		55		90	5	
1	29				1	90		29	61	90
90	90	90	90	33	57			90		
90	72	90	90	18				90	81	

FORWARDS				
BUCHANAN	CONNELLY	THOMSON	EVANS	
9	17	19	26	
59	31	1	31	8
39		1	51	
78	90	1	12	
29	67	71		
16	63	90		
	35	1	85	
3	90	9		61
29		61		
45		45		

## QUIZ ANSWERS

1. CALAUM JAHRAL-DO-MARTIN

2. ALLOA 0 HEARTS 4

3. COWDENBEATH, QUEEN OF THE SOUTH, DUNDEE UNITED, FALKIRK, EAST FIFE

4. ANSWER B



6	7	8	10	12	14	18	20	22	23	24

9	17	19	26



# ALLOA ATHLETIC



# HEARTS

#	POS				
	1	NEIL PARRY			
	21	ANDY WILSON			
	31	REECE WILSON			
	2	SCOTT TAGGART			
	3	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			
	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				
	1	CRAIG GORDON			
	2	MICHAEL SMITH			
	3	AIDY WHITE			
	4	JOHN SOUTTAR			
	5	PETER HARING			
	6	CHRISTOPHE BERRA			
	7	JAMIE WALKER			
	8	OLLY LEE			
	10	LIAM BOYCE			
	11	JORDAN ROBERTS			
	13	ROSS STEWART			
	14	STEVEN NAISMITH			
	15	CRAIG WIGHTON			
	16	ANDY HALLIDAY			
	19	ANDY IRVING			
	21	STEPHEN KINGSLEY			
	22	LOIC DAMOUR			
	23	ZDENEK ZLAMAL			
	24	ELLIOT FREAR			
	25	JAMIE BRANDON			
	26	CRAIG HALKETT			
	27	LEWIS MOORE			
	28	MIHAI POPESCU			
	30	JOSH GINELLY			
	31	EUAN HENDERSON			
	MANAGER ROBBIE NEILSON				

**REFEREE:** Gavin Duncan

**ASST:** Daniel MacFarlane & Alister Mather


## ALLOA'S NEXT FIVE

19.12.20, HOME, 15:00

	ALLOA ATHLETIC		INVERNESS CT
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05.12.20, HOME, 15:00

	ALLOA ATHLETIC		AYR UNITED
--	----------------	--	------------

26.12.20, HOME, 15:00

	ALLOA ATHLETIC		RAITH ROVERS
--	----------------	--	--------------

12.12.20, AWAY, 15:00

	ARBROATH		ALLOA ATHLETIC
--	----------	--	----------------

29.12.20, AWAY, 19:45

	DUNDEE		ALLOA ATHLETIC
--	--------	--	----------------

# MARSHALL CONSTRUCTION



## COMING SOON

**Our exciting, stylish new development  
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## BOWMORE



## TALISKER



## DEANSTON



## OBAN



## SKYE





# PENDLE

20/21  
SEASON

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