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ALLOA HLETIC **FOOTBALL CLUB**



SCOTTISH CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS

1921/22

RUNNERS UP

1938/39

SCOTTISH LEAGUE 1 RUNNERS UP

1976/77 1981/82 1984/85 1988/89 1999/00 2001/02 2009/10 2012/13 2016/17

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)

Club Information

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Club Officials

Honorory 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

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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

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TEAM LINES

38

^{*}includes equivalent competitions

2020/21

scottish CHAMPIONSHIP	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
RAITH 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	5	0	1	4	4	13	-9	1

WEEKEND'S FIXTURES

CHAMPIONSHIP



PREMIERSHIP	LEAGUE 1	LEAGUE 2
HAMILTON ACCIES KILMARNOCK	CLYDE FORFAR ATHLETIC	COWDENBEATH QUEEN'S PARK
LIVINGSTON — DUNDEE UNITED	COVE RANGERS MONTROSE	EDINBURGH CITY ALBION ROVERS
MOTHERWELL HIBERNIAN	EAST FIFE AIRDRIEONIANS	ELGIN CITY ANNAN ATHLETIC
ST MIRREN — ABERDEEN	FALKIRK PETERHEAD	STENHOUSEMUIR BRECHIN CITY
ROSS COUNTY	PARTICK THISTLE DUMBARTON	STIRLING ALBION STRANRAER
CELTIC ST JOHNSTONE		





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- **Exhausts**
- **Tyres**



DEFENDERS

Neil **PARRY** 08/11/1985 195 cv 95 ki



Scott **TAGGART**



Liam DICK



Andy GRAHAM



MATCH

most appearances

Cawley 351 189 Taggart Hetherington 180 169 Graham Robertson 166

Andy WILSON



Jon **ROBERTSON**



Nicky **JAMIESON**



Lucas WILLIAMSON



GOALS

Cawley 62 Trouten 36 Buchanan 24 12 Graham Thomson 10

Reece WILLISON



Edin



LYNCH



PETER GRANT







09/03/1993

180 см 70 кб

Kevin **CAWLEY**

17/03/1989



Stefan **SCOUGALL**



Liam



Alan **TROUTEN**



Adam **BROWN**



Blair **MALCOLM**



Cameron O'DONNELL



Lee CONNELLY



Robert **THOMSON**



Ray GRANT



Innes **MURRAY**



Liam



EVANS









JOHN GLENCROSS



NEWSDESK

The club made history by defeating Hearts for the first time in a competitive match in 131 years, with a richly deserved win. Earlier in midweek Kevin Cawley made his 350th appearance for "The Wasps" at Tynecastle also against Hearts, making him only the third player since the Second World

War to have made over 350 appearances for the club. Bobby Gray who played between (1962-1971) still has the most with 359 appearances. Andy Campbell who played between (1968-1977) 351 appearances and Kevin Cawley now moves to 351 after last Saturday. Goalkeeper Neil Parry

also celebrated his 150th appearance for the club last Saturday against Hearts, apart from a double save early in the match which was so important Neil had a relatively quiet day in notching up his 42nd clean sheet in his Alloa Athletic career. Alan Trouten is certainly the man for the Betfred Cup

being the all time Top Goalscorer in Betfred Cup Group stage matches with 16 goals, his winning goal last week now takes him onto 17 goals and made sure Alloa Athletic reached the Ouarter Final stages of the League Cup for their sixth time in their history, the previous seasons the club reached the

quarter-final stages were:- 1948/49, 1950/51, 1965/66, 1983/84 and most recently in 2016/17.

Today we return to league business and the Ladbrokes Championship match against Ayr United who had a fantastic 2-0 victory over Dundee in their last league match which lifted them to fourth in the table. Striker Michael Moffat made history scoring his 100th goal for the club, his 3rd goal this season.

Congratulations to Alloa Athletic defender Nicky Jamieson making only his second start of the season he was included in the SPFL Team of the week last Saturday.

BETFRED CUP QUARTER-FINALS

Tuesday 15th December, 2020

Alloa Athletic v. Hibernian (Live Premier Sports 8pm)

Dunfermline v. St. Johnstone (7.45pm)

Wednesday 16th December, 2020

St. Mirren v. Rangers (Live on Premier Sports 8pm)

Livingston v. Ross County (7.45pm)

Alloa Athletic & Ayr United fans should note the change in date 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.

WASPS 2000 DRAW – 28TH NOVEMBER, 2020 WEEK 48

£ 100 L.MURRAY £ 50 C.COFFIELD £ 25 R.BLACK £ 25 L.ALLAN £ 25 L.POLLOCK

NOVEMBER WINNER £275 M MCKENZIE

In the week of so many tributes to the passing of Diego Maradona it would be remiss to not recall the occasion when he first graced the pitch at Hampden Park on 2nd June, 1979 when I was one of the 61.918 fans who witnessed his greatness. Argentina had only just won the World Cup in 1978 defeating Holland 3-1 in the final and I can remember saving I was glad Mario Kempes was not in the team at Hampden which might give us a chance. The Scotland team on the day - Alan Rough, George Burley, lain Munro, Dave Narey, Paul Heggarty, Alan Hansen, Frank McGarvey,

John Wark, Kenny Dalgleish, Asa Hartford & Arthur Graham, George Wood replaced Alan Rough at half-time and Frankie Gray replaced Asa Hartford with 25 minutes left. Maradona ran riot and Scotland were lucky to be only 3-0 behind, Lugue scoring after 33 & 60 minutes before Maradona scored a fantastic goal past George Wood, Arthur Graham scored a consolation goal for the Scots with 5 minutes left, but all the headlines were about a certain Diego Maradona RIP. Undoubtedly the best player I have ever witnessed on a football pitch.



PETER GRANT



MANAGERS NOTES

Good afternoon everyone,

It sure has been an interesting period since my last programme notes! We have played Hearts twice in that period with mixed results. In the league game away from home, we let ourselves down in a 20 minute period where we lost 3 poor goals but on the plus

side we didn't capitulate and I thought we played very well in the 2nd half. So going into the cup tie at home all we reiterated to the players was to maintain that level of performance and defend better as a group and to a man they most certainly did! They showed real courage and determination along with the ability they





have to get a result they richly deserved but that's in the past now and we have to show that resilience consistently. We know our bread and butter is always the league so we have to get results to match 80% of our performances starting today against a very

tough opponent.

I would like to welcome Mark who has done a terrific job and all his staff and players of Ayr United.

SUPPORT THE PLAYERS ALWAYS PETER GRANT





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





SCOTTISH LEAGUE CUP

28th November 2020 Almondvale Stadium, Livingston 3:00pm KO

LIVINGSTON

4:0

AYR UNITED



	(4:0)
	SCORERS
Chalmers (og) 6	/ 1:0
Fitzwater 10	2:0
Fitzwater 12	. [/] 3:0
Forrest 44	['] 4:0









			STATE OF THE PARTY
STARTING XI			STARTING XI
32 STRYJEK			1 SINSALO
2 DEVLIN	SUBS	SUBS	2 HOUSTON
27 GUTHRIE	3 BROWN	4 MUIRHEAD	5 ROSCOE
5 FITZWATER	9 EMMANUEL-THOMAS	9 ANDERSON	30 BAIRD
33 LAWSON	12 SERRANO	19 ZANATTA	3 READING
6 BARTLEY	17 ROBINSON	20 HEWITT	8 MILLER
10 SIBBALD	21 MCMILLAN	21 HARE-REID	11 MCCOWAN
14 MULLIN	22 TIFFONEY	22 MCKENZIE	6 MURDOCH
8 PITTMAN	25 AMBROSE	27 KERR	18 CHALMERS
11 FORREST	29 TAYLOR-SINCLAIR	31 SMITH	15 CAMERON
15 POPLATNIK	40 MALEY		7 MOFFAT

REFEREE: David Munro



SCOTTISH LEAGUE CUP

28th November 2020 Indodrill Stadium, Alloa 3:00 pm KO

ALLOA ATHLETIC

1e:0

HEARTS





1:0 Trouten (p) 109'











STARTING XI			STARTING XI
1 PARRY			1 GORDON
3 DICK	SUBS	SUBS	2 SMITH
2 TAGGART	31 WILLISON	13 STEWART	3 WHITE
5 GRAHAM	12 SCOUGALL	11 ROBERTS	5 HARING
15 JAMIESON	14 BROWN	14 NAISMITH	6 BERRA
6 HETHERINGTON	17 CONNELLY	15 WIGHTON	7 WALKER
22 GRANT	18 MALCOLM	19 IRVING	8 LEE
7 CAWLEY	19 THOMSON	25 BRANDON	10 BOYCE
10 TROUTEN	20 O'DONNELL	31 HENDERSON	16 HALLIDAY
23 MURRAY	24 WILLIAMSON	36 MCGILL	21 KINGSLEY
9 BUCHANAN	25 LYNCH		28 POPESCU

REFEREE: Gavin Duncan

CHILD PROTECTION AND WELLBEING POLICY

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

We recognise -

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

The purpose of the policy and related procedures is to:

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

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

MIKE MULRANEY, CHAIRMAN ALLOA ATHLETIC FC



JONATHAN MARKWELL



I LOVE IT WHEN A PLAN COMES TOGETHER.

Connelly's delicately clipped back post cross was intelligently caressed across the face of goal by Cawley and there was an onrushing Scougall, who couldn't miss to tap home Alloa's first competitive behind closed doors goal at the Indodrill Stadium, 410 miles away, watching on my laptop, I clenched my left fist and let out the tiniest 'YES' as the Wasps took the lead against Edinburgh City in the Betfred Cup. However, in all honesty my goal celebration was a little muted and in no way compensated for being there. But then, as the Alloa players congratulated Scougall on his maiden goal for the club, a reassuringly familiar tune raised my spirits

no end:

Yes, competitive football, not as we knew and loved it, was back at the Recs after a 221 day hiatus. In that time unimaginable change had occurred in everybody's way of life, so to hear The A-Team theme tune ring out around the ground to celebrate the Alloa goal, albeit

from the realms of my own home, was comforting in the extreme. With no crowd and no commentary on the live stream, I really got to appreciate every bar of that wonderful theme tune, from the 1980/1990s American action-adventure television series. which has resonated around the Recs after Alloa goals since 2005.

I must admit that I'm a big fan of the Alloa goal celebration music, although most of the time I don't even notice it. as instead I'm caught in that joyous moment of celebrating an Alloa goal. Games now being played behind closed doors means goal music has become more noticeable, and as a concept it divides opinions amongst supporters. On the one hand there are the football purists, who see it as a further indicator of the Americanisation of the world, which dilutes the auintessential sound of football: that roar of fans celebrating a goal. Others, like myself, are more relaxed about the concept

means of adding to the match-day experience (there are of course far more important matters to get exorcised about). After all, who cannot enjoy the Hampden roar being supplemented with Bits & Pieces?

Games without fans has undoubtedly brought the goal celebration music back into focus though. Some fail to acknowledge the relevance, while others consider it essential in maintaining a 'life goes on' mentality of normality during a time which is anything but normal. Most clubs in Scotland are continuing with it, for better for worse. However, the most amusing instance I've seen/heard since lockdown was south



themselves.

I'll make a bold call here and suggest that Alloa are top of the Championship league table when it comes to goal celebration music. The combination of originality and quality shines through for me. BBC Scotland commentator Alisdair Lamont was certainly distracted by it when Dundee came to town last month, musing whether

Robert Thomson's nickname was Mr T after opening the scoring! But where was the A-Team music for Cawley's equaliser versus Dunfermline and the comeback versus Stenhousemuir? It was much missed by me at least! I've been listening carefully to the moments after a goal is scored in the Championship this season, and in my mind the A-Team theme eclipses all others.

Dunfermline's long standing anthem of Dave Clark Five's 'Glad all over' is generally well received, with its longevity and tradition being at the heart of its popular appeal for Pars supporters. However, it's marked down in my book by being more





synonymous with Crystal Palace (who have been using it since the 1960s) and commonly being used elsewhere too no originality Pars! Hearts have gone all out on the music front this season, with the season opener versus Dundee including fake crowd noise and two separate soundtracks when they pinged six past Dundee. The first and last goals that night were accompanied by The Beatles 'Hev lude' (not for me, as that should

be copyrighted for exclusive use by Cardiff City's Bluebirds), while the other goals were celebrated with the club mix of Pianoo by Eric Prydz (better, but still not great for me). Hearts are also marked down for having separate celebratory tunes, leaving me with lots of unanswered questions (perhaps I'm thinking about this too much) - who decides which one to play? Is it a criteria based selection e.g. Hey lude for goals inside the box and the big guns of Prvdz when a long-range

screamer or penalty is scored (which appeared to be the criteria that night)? Do certain players have particular songs? The uncertainty as to which song is played wouldn't sit well with me if I were a Jam Tarts supporter!

Dundee meanwhile celebrated their winning goal versus Morton in October with a rendition of 'Levels' by Avicii. Again, that choice gets marked down as Avicii tunes are so common in grounds. Raith also joined the party in November when

they used the same five second melody to celebrate each of their five goals versus Morton. Unfortunately, the tune cut-off before I could even distinguish what it was - a shame! Finally, Queen of the South have gone for a left-field choice this season, with a South American commentary inspired shout GOOOAALLLL' for a full ten seconds, followed by a collection of thumping beats. I'd suggest that it might actually put Stephen Dobbie off scoring. as I doubt he'd want



to listen to that too many times! In all seriousness, credit to Queens trying something a bit different, but I'd question how long it lasts when the Dumfries natives are allowed back into Palmerston! Sadly, the rest of the Championship teams appear to be choosing not to participate in goal celebration music, meaning all you presently hear are the high pitched screams of players, echo ridden claps from substitutes and directors and the obligatory 'GET SWITCHED ON' shout from a coaching team member! So. whilst being wholeheartedly biased, Alloa are top of the league for me.

I must also confess that the A-Team theme tune really resonates with me personally. I fondly remember as a young child tuning in on a Saturday night whilst munching on my beans on toast. I still have a toy car version of the famous black A-Team van which is now in my own children's toy box, while B.A. Baracus was the epitome of cool for

me as an impressionable 6 year old. I also clearly recall dancing around the living room in harmony with the music for the end credits, jumping off the sofa in a silhouette (similar to a Cristiano Ronaldo goal celebration these days) to vividly mimic the producer typing feverishly, then ripping a page from his typewriter and flinging it in the air, morphing into the "C" logo of the Cannell production company. As such, when the Wasps belatedly joined the goal celebration music back in 2005 I was delighted with the A-Team choice. I recall at the time that fans were very much split about the concept and the choice of tune, but over the years it has for me just became another established element of a trip to the Recs. At the time the club took suggestions from supporters and discussed it with the players, who had the final sav. I can only speculate who ultimately decided on the A-Team tune - was it bass guitarist striker Graeme Brown or perhaps mayerick entertainer

Jose Quitongo? But what a fine choice it was!

I think the A-Team theme tune also hits the sweet spot of all the essential ingredients you'd want in a goal celebration song. It is immediately recognisable (if you are of certain age at least) and annoyingly catchy, isn't a generic tune vou hear elsewhere (Tom Hark der der der der anvone. The Fratellis Chelsea Dagger or the White Stripes Seven Nation Army you hear ad nauseam in mainland Europe?), is somewhat jovial and occasionally annoys away supporters. Whenever Alloa leftback Callum Crane's goal versus Avr from April 2018 goes viral online (thanks to the critical analysis from a vociferous Ayr supporter) there are always comments about the A-Team music being the pièce de résistance in the overall comedy value of the clip.

There have also been times when the Wasps have gone ahead in a game, only to then concede two quick goals. In such scenarios away

fans are only too happy to joyfully sing the A-Team theme tune back at the Alloa supporters. One Cowdenbeath supporter fondly recalled on the Pie and Bovril forum doing just that in February 2008, only for Brown Ferguson's penalty and a last-minute winner from Andv Scott leaving the Blue Brazilian supporter crestfallen at his premature banterous singing! For me, the A-Team theme tune getting into the head of opposition fans (I've read more than once "If I hear that A-Team song one more time..." from Dundee United supporters) is simply delicious to read after an Alloa victory!

All in all, the biggest compliment I can pay the A-Team theme tune is that whenever I occasionally hear it away from football, it immediately jolts my brain to memories of glorious goals scored at the Recs over the years. For that reason alone, I hope to be hearing it for many years to come, and after

APPEARANCES

			LEA	GUE	С	UP	то	ΓAL	200
\geq	777	POS	APP	GOAL	APP	GOAL	APP	GOAL	4.1
	PARRY	GOAL	2 (0)	0	4 (0)	0	6 (0)	0	
V	WILSON	GOAL	0 (0)	0	0 (1)	0	0 (1)	0	
	WILLISON	GOAL	3 (0)	0	1 (0)	0	4 (0)	0	
			11				1 1		
-	TAGGART	DEF	5 (0)	0	4 (0)	0	9 (0)	0	
	DICK	DEF	5 (0)	0	4 (0)	0	9 (0)	0	-
	GRAHAM	DEF	3 (0)	0	2 (1)	0	5 (1)	0	
	JAMIESON	DEF	0 (0)	0	2 (0)	0	2 (0)	0	
1	GILHOOLY	DEF	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	1
	WILLIAMSON	DEF	0 (0)	0	1 (0)	0	1 (0)	0	
L	LYNCH	DEF	2 (0)	0	3 (0)	0	5 (0)	0	1000
	HETHERINGTON	MID	4 (0)	0	3 (2)	1	7 (2)	1	
	ROBERTSON	MID	5 (0)		3 (0)	- 0	8 (0)	0	
-	SCOUGALL	MID	0 (4)		2 (2)	1	2 (6)	1	100
	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	4 (1)	- 0	9 (1)	0	
-	MURRAY	MID	2 (1)	0	4 (0)	0	6 (1)	0	NAME OF TAXABLE PARTY.
4	++	111	十十十		N. W.			1	
	CAWLEY	FWD	5 (0)	1	3 (1)	0	8 (1)	1	
	THOMSON	FWD	5 (0)	1	1 (3)	3	6 (3)	4	
	BUCHANAN	FWD	0 (4)	0	4 (1)	3	4 (5)	3	
	TROUTEN	FWD	5 (0)	2	3 (1)	2	8 (1)	4	
	CONNELLY	FWD	2 (2)	0	1 (2)	0	3 (4)	0	The same
	EVANS	FWD	0 (0)	0	1 (1)	0	1 (1)	0	

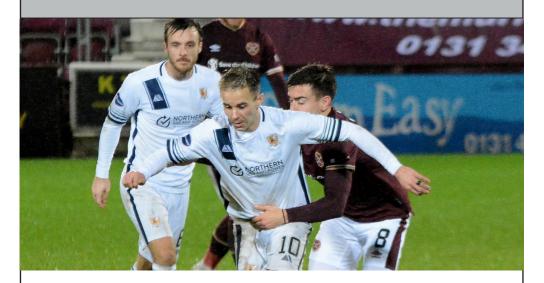
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PROGRAMME PRINTERS

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	ALLOA CA	AREER LGE GOAL	ALLOA CA	REER CUP GOAL	ALLOA APP	TOTAL	SPONSORS P
	117 (0)	0	33 (0)	0	150 (0)	0	
1	1 (1)	0	0 (1)	0	1 (2)	0	11111
	3 (0)	0	1 (0)	0	4 (0)	0	111111
	11	11			1 1	1	1111111
	148 (0)	6	41 (0)	1	189 (0)	7	
	57 (0)	1	20 (0)	0	77 (0)	1	
	131 (0)	11	37 (1)	1	168 (1)	12	H T T T T T L
	0 (0)	0	2 (0)	0	2 (0)	0	HELLETTI
4	0 (0)	0	1 (1)	0	1 (1)	0	of C
-	0 (0)	0	1 (0)	0	1 (0)	0	14 1-00
	2 (0)	0	3 (0)	0	5 (0)	0	
A			TIT				DICK
	117 (30)	- 5	25 (8)	1	142 (38)	6	ALLOA SUPPORTER'S MINIBUS
1	106 (22)	2	35 (3)	2	141 (25)	4	
=	0 (4)	0	2 (2)	1	2 (6)	1	GOSTALL S
	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	4
	5 (0)	0	4 (1)	0	9 (1)	0	1-11
A	2 (1)	0	4 (0)	0	6 (1)	0	
ě			4	-	+11		
L	251 (37)	52	55 (7)	10	306 (44)	62	AIMEE BURGESS
	19 (22)	6	3 (7)	4	22 (29)	10	
	44 (20)	16	19 (4)	8	63 (24)	24	WORLDWIDE WASPS
No.	56 (5)	- 21	18 (3)	15	74 (8)	36	MCCALLUM ENGINEERING
	3 (5)	1	1 (3)	0	4 (8)	1	
	0 (0)	0	1 (1)	0	1 (1)	0	52 1 2 2 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1

BRIAN ROACH



A FAN'S VIEW

For a supporter working in Edinburgh (albeit virtually at the moment), this week has been absolutely terrific following last weekend's upset win over Hearts. Particularly when I was derided by some of them in a fairly patronising manner after their teams 3-0 victory over Alloa in the league a few days

prior. Following victories over Rangers. Hibs and Dundee United in a fairly recent era of the clubs history, Alloa added another large scalp to that list. The last ten years have been filled with some incredible moments which we really should not take for granted. This latest instalment was probably

Peter Grant's finest hour as manager of the club to date.

Alloa came into this tie as virtual no hopers after being comprehensively beaten by their opponents at Tynecastle the previous Tuesday. You never write off this Alloa team, but Hearts did show real quality that night and the

tie looked a real uphill task. The main glimmer of hope I possessed was that in a football double header, identical results are rarely the outcome of the two games. Alloa were dealt a blow prior to kick off. Jon Robertson was unable to take his place in the starting 11 following a hamstring injury picked up at

Tynecastle late in the match. Robbo is a terrific performer for the club and always a big missalthough it allowed Scott Taggart the opportunity for a somewhat rare outing in his natural right back position.

The visitors fired some early warning shots when Olly Lee was clean through on goal- but Parry rushed out well to initially block his shot and Boyce's effort from the rebound. It was a fairly ominous beginning, but in hindsight Parry's toughest work of the afternoon. The opening half to be honest was a fairly dull encounter with any chances only speculative efforts. After Tuesday night's game, just what we needed. As the game progressed you could see the confidence growing amongst the Alloa players- breathing new life into wearv legs. With 20 minutes remaining Alloa created the best chance of the game-Liam Buchanan's flashing header was saved brilliantly by Craig Gordon.

Alloa persistently asked questions of the Hearts backline. They surrendered lots of possession, but always provided a threat in their spells with the ball.

As Robbie Neilson threw on substitute after substitute it was equal parts alarming and hugely impressive that Peter Grant held firm and changed no personnel until the first period of extra time. Neilson used his full quota of 5 substitutes to Alloa's 2. But the introduction of subs Lee Connelly and particularly **Robert Thomson** proved pivotal to the outcome.

As the game moved into period when I tend to begin showing nerves- where it's evident Alloa have put so much into a game and how cruel it would be to end up empty handed. Hearts always have that quality in their locker to create an opportunity to break the deadlock. But as the clock ticked down I was strangely calm. I really did fancy us to nick it, whether it be in the



90 minutes, extra time or indeed a shootout if required. Thomson had made a real impact in extra time- a real physical presence and a threat that the tiring Hearts backline were clearly not relishing. Scott Taggart's layoff with 10 minutes of additional time remaining allowed him some space in the penalty area, before he stumbled to the floor after clashing with Hearts Jamie Walker. Was it a penalty? Very difficult to ascertain from the stream. And to be honest, after the decision Dundee were given a few weeks ago at the same end of the ground I'm not particularly concerned if it was or wasn't. Trouten was never missing from the spot-despite the magnitude of the moment and even

when facing a keeper as accomplished as Craig Gordon. Based on what they had put into the game- Alloa merited their lead. A Hearts onslaught was anticipated- my immediate thought after the goal was that a penalty shootout would now be the worst case scenario. But the bombardment never really arrived- Alloa seeing the tie out with no real heart stopping moments of fear and prevailing for a famous win.

There were no failures amongst the 13 Alloa players who played a part in the game- in terms of effort, workrate, character and craft. But in terms of singling out individuals, I actually thought our best performers were relatively new acquisitions.

Nicky Jamieson was a late addition at centre half. Iamieson had a bit of a baptism of fire in his previous game against Stenhousemuir-but coming into that established unit of Taggart. Graham, Dick and Parry- he was an absolute rock all game. Composed and solid, along with Graham I don't think the centre half pairing lost a thing in the air. Jamieson would have probably received my vote for Alloa's best player on the day, but Ray Grant wasn't far behind. He kept possession well all day as well

as regularly starting passages of play for the hosts. But most importantly he covered the whole pitch, plugging gaps and closing space. Hearts lack of actual openings on goal across the 120 minutes was largely down to the stifling and pressing of Grant, who was absolutely outstanding.

I was a bit puzzled by Hearts manager Robbie Neilson's post match comments. Ignoring the penalty award, I just couldn't understand his view that Hearts murdered Alloa all game and just couldn't score. Yes. they had possession- but the early stages aside, it was as comfortable an afternoon for Parry as he's experienced in a long time. Craig Gordon produced the best save of the game, and in terms of chances created it was fairly even between the two teams. Alloa now move on to face Hibs in the quarter finals. I was looking for St Johnstone in the draw, as its been over 15 years since our last encounter with them. However we can take big solace in the fact that we are at home once again. Having already conquered Edinburgh City and

Hearts this season, it's a chance to claim the capital as our own before marching onto a Hampden semi-final. And if we adopt the 4,000 capacity limit in Scotland, we will still have enough tickets for everyone on a 50/50 allocation split. Great days lie ahead potentially.

It's a return to normality today, with Ayr United the visitors on league duty. And whilst it's only natural we bask in the glory of last week's cup exploitsthe league is our prime focus.

Enjoy today's game.

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ANDREW COCKBURN



LOOKING BACK

6TH DECEMBER 1986

In The Premier Division, there was no positional change amongst the top group, though leaders Celtic did extend their advantage to six points, thanks to a 2-0 home win v Dundee. In the day's top clash at Tannadice, second-placed Dundee United were held 0-0 by fifth-placed Aberdeen, 0-0 was

also the outcome at Easter Road in the meeting between lowly Hibs and fourth-placed Rangers, while Dundee remained in sixth place. In the "basement battle" at Douglas Park, rock-bottom Hamilton Accies were held 0-0 by fellow strugglers Clydebank, thus The Accies remained eight points adrift of third-bot-

tom Hibs, while The Bankies still occupied second-bottom spot.

Dunfermline retained leadership of The First Division thanks to a 2-0 home win v Forfar, while second-placed Dumbarton were triumphant by the same scoreline at struggling Partick. Morton remained third after a 3-2 home success v Clyde, while fourth-

placed East Fife were also victorious on home soil, by 2-1 v Kilmarnock. At Palmerston, fifth-placed Queen Of The South faced an Airdrie side lying one place below them, but a 1-0 for The Diamonds saw them exchange places with their hosts. In a bottom-of-the-table clash at Glebe Park. Brechin entertained their fellow strug-



glers and near-neighbours Montrose, And in spite of The Gable **Endies running** 3-2 winners, they remained in bottom spot, but narrowed the gap on their second-bottom hosts to four points, while Partick's defeat kept them in third-bottom position.

In the first round of The Scottish Cup. Alloa made the long journey to the far North, for a clash v Highland League outfit Inverness Caledonian, The Wasps lining up as follows: Lowrie, Thomson, Haggart, Donaldson, Dall, Wilkie, Smith, Nelson (Cole). And

for Alloa at the break. when the home side led by 2-0, thanks to goals from Hercher & Gibson, but second-half efforts from Gus Smith & Martin Nelson earned The Wasps "a second bite at the cherry". Elsewhere, another Highland League outfit, Peterhead, provided a surprise with a 1-0 home v The Second Division's bottom club East Stirling. while Ayr accounted for another nonleague side, Annan, by 3-1 at Somerset Park, Sludden (2) & a Williamson OG The Honest Men's scoron Rovers overcame





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by 2-1, Stirling Albion were 3-0 home winners v Cowdenbeath. while the Forres Mechanics v Berwick tie was cancelled.

South of the border, there was no positional change at the top of The First Division, where leaders Arsenal remained three points clear, thanks to a 3-1 home win v London rivals QPR. Second-placed Nottingham Forest defeated struggling Manchester City 2-0 at The City Ground, while Everton were now third, thanks to a 4-0 win v Norwich at Goodison. At the

other end of the table, Manchester City's defeat kept them in bottom spot, Chelsea, 0-4 losers v London neighbours Wimbledon, still occupied second-bottom position, while Leicester, beaten 0-1 at Midlands rivals Coventry, were now third from bottom. Second Division leaders Oldham were 3-0 home winners v Shrewsbury, second-placed Portsmouth defeated Crystal Palace 2-0 at Fratton Park, while Plymouth remained third, in spite of a 0-1 defeat at Stoke.



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AYR UNITED

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GROUND

Somerset Park, Ayr

TOP HONOURS

Scottish Championship* Winners (6) Runners-up (4)

Scottish League 1 Winners (3) Runners-up (3) Playoff winners (3)

Scottish League Cup Runners-up 2001-02

This afternoon we welcome Ayr United to the Indodrill as both teams get back to league action in December, It was a weekend of mixed fortunes for the sides last week with the Wasps historically booking their place in the Quarter Finals of the Betfred Cup. whilst the Honest Men crashed out away to Livingston with a heavy defeat. However, Ayr have started strongly in the league and currently sit in the promotion play-off spot where they will

hope to be come May. Their last league outing saw them secure a massive 2-0 victory over Dundee and that couple with a win against Queen of the South, as well as draws, sees them sit pretty in fourth. After a turbulent end to last season they missed out on a chance to compete in the play-offs, however, with a solid start and shortened season, they must remain the aim.

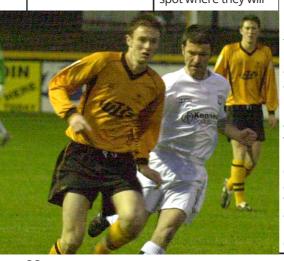
THE BOSS - MARK KERR

The visitors will be led by player/ manager, Mark Kerr, this afternoon. The midfielder signed on a Somerset shortly after leaving Falkirk in 2019 and when Ian McCall made the switch to Patrick Thistle later that year, he was given the role of managerial duties alongside his player tasks. Kerr has had an impressive career playing for various clubs in Scotland and

branching abroad with a stint in Greece. He has two League One Titles in his locker, one with Falkirk in 2003 and more recently with Ayr in 2017. Kerr also had lengthy spells at Aberdeen and Dundee United where at the latter he reached two major cup finals, only to come home with a runners up medal.

THE CAPTAIN -JACK BAIRD

Summer signing, Jack Baird, is the man with the armband this afternoon. The ex-St Mirren player secured a move to Somerset this year following his departure from Paisley and was given the armband shortly after. The centre-back raised eyebrows last season when he spent time out on loan from St Mirren at bitter rivals. Greenock Morton, where he impressed in blue and white. Baird actually got on the scoresheet for the Ton against his current employ-





ers. That ended his six-year stint at St Mirren where he had experienced so much from promotions to delegations over his 128-appearances.

NEW BOY - CAMMY SMITH

Exciting attacking midfielder, Cammy Smith, signed on at Ayr United this summer on loan from Premiership side, Dundee United. Smith has been around in career to date, starting at Aberdeen and moving onto St Mirren following that. During his time at both clubs, he spent a lot of time out on loan. However, he did manage to lift the League Cup at his time at Pittodrie during his 76 appearances and then went onto win the League in Paisley. His move to Dundee United

didn't quite work out so Smith went out to Dundalk in search of games.

Another loan switch followed when he signed for Ayr. It's been a positive start for him though combining with well with his forwards and getting on the scoresheet himself twice with goals against Dundee and Greenock Morton.

ONE TO WATCH-

There is one man who will need no introduction to Alloa as a goal-threat and that's Michael Moffat. The striker recently entered the record books at Somerset when he bagged his 100th goal against Dundee meaning he's oozing with confidence. After leaving

Girvan, he signed for Ayr in 2011 and scored 57 goals in his spell that ended in 2014. He signed for Dunfermline and continued his goal-scoring exploits as they stormed to the League One title in 2016. It was a fairytale return a year after that when he signed back for the Honest Men and again, won League One. This season he has shown through-



out his career with superb link-up play and an eye for goal. Moffat is the current top goalscorer at the club with three goals, as well as his two assists.

THE CONNECTION

There are a few players returning to familiar territory when they come to the Indodrill this afternoon. The first. Dario Zanatta is in his first season at Somerset after triggering a clause in his Patrick Thistle contract that would free him up to leave. Zanatta spent time out on loan at Alloa in 2018/19

and the Wasps fans were treated to great pace, trickery and fantastic goals during his year at the club. Another ex-loanee. Sam Roscoe, will return too. He spent time here in the same season and created a strong partnership with Andy Graham which earned him his full-time move to Avr the season after. Many of the Alloa dressing room have also worn the white of the Honest Men. Andy Graham will be remembered most fondly for his winning penalty in the play-off final against Stranraer which earned

them a place in the Championship. Scott Taggart, Kevin Cawlev. Liam Buchanan. Alan Trouten even going back to Paddy Connolly, all have also had short stints at Somerset.

PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The sides last met in February here at the Indodrill. That day, Ayr came out on top winning 2-0. Goals from Steven Bell and Alan Forrest. who have both since departed, saw them iump to third with that result. The other game last season saw Alloa on the losing side once again. A

brace from Ross Docherty, another one who left in the summer, was enough to see past Kevin O'Hara's fine strike that afternoon in December, Alloa's last win in the fixture came in April 2018 when lain Flannigan and Calum Crane looked to kill off Avr United's title hopes with a 2-1 victory for the Wasps. However, Alloa would go onto get a result the following week against Raith Rovers handing the title back to the Honest Men.

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QUIZ ANSWERS

- 1. IAIN FLANNIGAN, CALLUM CRANE
- 2. BRAZIL (1958), ENGLAND (1966), SPAIN (2010).
- 3. CELTIC VS HIBS
- 4. ANDERSON, RAFAEL, FABIO





ALLOA ATHLETIC



AYR UNITED



	#	POS		⊕	_
+	1		VILJAMI SINISALO		l
X	2		JORDAN HOUSTON		
X	3		PATRICK READING		l
X	4		AARON MUIRHEAD		
+	5		SAM ROSCOE		
X	6		ANDY MURDOCH		
X	7		MICHAEL MOFFAT		l
X	8		MICHAEL MILLER		
X	9		BRUCE ANDERSON		l
X	10		TOM WALSH		
X	11		LUKE MCCOWAN		
\times	14		CAMMY SMITH		
\times	15		INNES CAMERON		
X	18		JOE CHALMERS		
*	19		DARIO ZANATTA		
X	20		MICHAEL HEWITT		
.∵ ₩	21		ELLIS HARE-REID		
X	22		MARK MCKENZIE		I
X	24		LIAM MILLER		ĺ
X	27		MARK KERR		
X	30		JACK BAIRD		
X	31		PAUL SMITH		ſ

REFEREE: Barry Cook

ASST: Graeme Leslie & Colin McAlpine

ALLOA'S NEXT FIVE

19.12.20, HOME, 15:00

ALLOA ATHLETIC

INVERNESS CT

12.12.20, AWAY, 15:00

ARBROATH



15.12.20, HOME, 8:00PM, PREMIER SPORTS

ALLOA ATHLETIC

HIBERNIAN





26.12.20, HOME, 15:00

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RAITH ROVERS

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