



# MMXXI

## GREENOCK MORTON

### 2ND JANUARY



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# ALLOA ATHLETIC FOOTBALL CLUB



#### SCOTTISH CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS

1921/22

#### RUNNERS UP

1938/39

#### SCOTTISH LEAGUE 1 RUNNERS UP

1976/77 1981/82

1984/85 1988/89 1999/00

2001/02 2009/10 2012/13

2016/17

#### SCOTTISH LEAGUE 2 WINNERS

1997/1998 2011/2012

#### CHALLENGE CUP WINNERS

1999/2000

#### RUNNERS-UP

2001/02 2014/15

#### STIRLINGSHIRE CUP WINNERS

1904/5 1907/8 1908/9

1912/13 1920/21 1924/25

1933/34 1946/47 1955/56

1957/58 1959/60 1965/66

1981/82 1996/97

#### MOST CAPPED PLAYER

Jock Hepburn, 1 Cap  
(Scotland v Wales 1891)

\*includes equivalent competitions

#### 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  
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**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

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	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
HEARTS	9	8	0	1	29	10	19	24
DUNFERMLINE	10	5	4	1	20	13	7	19
DUNDEE	10	4	4	2	21	11	10	16
RAITH ROVERS	9	4	3	2	20	13	7	15
GREENOCK MORTON	9	4	2	3	9	12	-3	14
AYR UNITED	10	3	4	3	14	13	1	13
INVERNESS CT	9	3	3	3	15	12	3	12
QUEEN OF THE SOUTH	10	2	1	7	12	25	-13	7
ALLOA ATHLETIC	10	2	1	7	10	24	-14	7
ARBROATH	10	1	2	7	5	15	-10	5

**CHAMPIONSHIP**

ALLOA ATHLETIC	GREENOCK MORTON	ARBROATH	INVERNESS CT	QUEEN OF THE SOUTH	AYR UNITED
DUNFERMLINE	RAITH ROVERS	DUNDEE	HEART OF MIDLOTHIAN		

**PREMIERSHIP**

RANGERS	CELTIC
ABERDEEN	DUNDEE UNITED
HAMILTON ACCIES	MOTHERWELL
HIBERNIAN	LIVINGSTON
KILMARNOCK	ST MIRREN
ROSS COUNTY	ST JOHNSTONE

**LEAGUE 1**

DUMBARTON
COVE RANGERS
EAST FIFE
MONTROSE
PARTICK THISTLE

**LEAGUE 2**

AIRDRIEONIANS	ALBION ROVERS	QUEEN'S PARK
PETERHEAD	BRECHIN CITY	ELGIN CITY
FALKIRK	COWDENBEATH	EDINBURGH CITY
FORFAR ATHLETIC	STENHOUSEMUIR	STIRLING ALBION
CLYDE	STRANRAER	ANNAN ATHLETIC



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### GOALKEEPERS

**Neil PARRY**

08/11/1985

195 cm 95 kg



### DEFENDERS

**Scott TAGGART**

27/12/1991

183 cm 71 kg



**Liam DICK**

19/08/1995

180 cm 76 kg



**Andy GRAHAM**

22/09/1983

188 cm 83 kg



### MATCH

most appearances

Cawley	355
Taggart	191
Hetherington	186
Graham	175
Robertson	172

### GOALS

Cawley	62
Trouten	35
Buchanan	26
Graham	12
Thomson	11

**Andy WILSON**

22/04/1998

190 cm 70 kg



**Jon ROBERTSON**

25/04/1989

183 cm 77 kg



**Nicky JAMIESON**

03/08/1996

190 cm 89 kg



**Lucas WILLIAMSON**

26/03/2003

168 cm 58 kg



**Reece WILLISON**

27/05/1999

190 cm 77 kg



**Edin LYNCH**

07/08/2000

188 cm 77 kg



### 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





LEWIS RUSSELL



# NEWSDESK

It's been a rough couple of weeks since gaining back-to-back league wins against Arbroath and Inverness Caledonian Thistle.

First last season's League 1 champions, Raith Rovers fired 5 past the Wasps to consign us to our largest defeat of the season. Manny Duku put the Rovers ahead inside the first

ten minutes while twelve minutes from the end of the half a freak cross from Daniel Armstrong found its way straight into the net and past a helpless Neil Parry, who wouldn't survive the half-time break after picking up an injury.

In the second half there was a clear reaction and Alloa carved out some

golden opportunities. Yet, profligacy reigned and it would take until 75 minutes for Buchanan to find the back of the net and set up a seemingly nervy end for Raith.

Just 10 minutes later, substitute Lokotsch restored the Raith lead to two. Alloa would win a penalty and Buchanan stepped

up masterfully to bag a brace but with minutes on the clock grabbing another would be hard work.

Not so for Raith who almost directly from kick-off broke through and on-loan Aberdeen midfielder Ethan Ross put a decisive nail in the coffin

With demoralised heads abounding

after coming close twice to getting back in the game Ethan Ross took the ball on a mazy run and managed to jink past every challenger and beat Willison to add insult to injury.

Midweek, in harsh winter conditions, Den's Park was a pretty uninviting place. Alloa though were looking to go three games unbeaten and they started in the best fashion with Steven Hetherington latching on to a poor Christie Elliot header and racing through one v one with the keeper, to slot past with all the flourish of a seasoned striker.

The Wasps would hold Dundee until the break with Willison making some handy stops to deny

James McPake's men but Alloa looked reasonably comfortable against the Dee.

But that lead wouldn't hold long into the second half. After Alloa gave the ball away cheaply from their own offensive free kick Dundee broke and punished the makeshift line of Alloa bodies making up the defence. Elliots driven ball evaded everyone until finding the unmarked Sow at the back post to direct it goalwards. Willison in a remarkable show of reflexes looked like he'd saved it before it crossed the line but the officials were decisive and the score was level.

Minutes later Alloa caused all kinds of problems in the Dundee box and



when Dick's knock-on stopped in the six yard box there was seemingly only one outcome. But the hands and arms of Sow denied the opportunity, pushing Buchanan to the floor. Somehow Steven Reid standing only yards away ignored the infringement, to the shock of any onlookers.

Things got worse just a minute later as a Dundee corner stranded Willison in no man's land and Fontaine who was conspicuously missing a marker converted at the back post.

Alloa struggled to threaten and were dealt a further blow when the linesman ignored a straight-forward offside. Sow took full advantage to add a second.

Alloa are yet to lose three on the

bounce in the league, and that's hopefully a good omen that today's game against Greenock Morton comes at a time when Alloa traditionally start putting a run of results together.

Whatever the case, there'll be a break from league duty with a full Scottish Cup fixture card next Saturday.

Alloa were drawn against Paul Hartley's Cove Rangers. The League 2 winners will prove a stern test.

## WASPS 2000 DRAW

### WEEK 52

£ 100 F MCLAREN

£ 50 M MALTMAN

£ 25 A SKELTON

£ 25 J GRAY

£ 25 R COOK

**DECEMBER WINNER**

£275 E SULLIVAN

## SCOTTISH CUP SECOND ROUND DRAW 2020-21

AIRDRIEONIANS v EDINBURGH CITY

ALLOA ATHLETIC v COVE RANGERS

ARBROATH v FALKIRK

BUCKIE THISTLE v INVERNESS CALEDONIAN THISTLE

CAMELON OR BRORA RANGERS v HEART OF MIDLOTHIAN

DUMBARTON v HUNTLY OR

CUMBERNAULD COLTS

DUNDEE v BONNYRIGG ROSE ATHLETIC

OR BO'NESS UNITED

DUNDONALD BLUEBELL OR v QUEEN OF THE SOUTH

QUEEN'S PARK



PETER GRANT



# MANAGERS NOTES

Good Afternoon  
Everyone,

Hope you and all your families have a fantastic and healthy New Year! The last 2 games have brought us disappointing results. Performance wise I was very disappointed with our all around game against Raith and against Dundee we were not helped by bad

decisions on our part, as well as very poor refereeing decisions. I never like blaming referees especially after a defeat but when the bad and very clear errors are made at crucial moments, it is very frustrating to say the least. Especially frustrating when the officials are never held accountable. That said we didn't do enough in





both games. We have obviously been short on numbers recently through injury and we have other players not being able to train but put themselves out for selection and that perfectly sums up the squad of players we have.

I would like to

welcome Anton and everyone connected to Morton. They have picked up some fantastic results and we know it will be a difficult game as usual. Enjoy the game

**SUPPORT THE PLAYERS ALWAYS**

**PETER**





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## SCOTTISH CHAMPIONSHIP

19<sup>th</sup> December 2020  
 Indodrill Stadium, Alloa  
 3:00pm KO

### ALLOA ATHLETIC

### 2:5

### RAITH ROVERS



(0:2)

#### SCORERS

**0:1 8'** Duku

**0:2 33'** Armstrong

Buchanan **75'** **1:2**

**1:3 84'** Lokotsch

Buchanan **89'** **2:3**

**2:4 90'** Ross

**2:5 93'** Ross



#### STARTING XI

**1** PARRY

**3** DICK

**5** GRAHAM

**6** HETHERINGTON

**7** CAWLEY

**8** ROBERTSON

**9** BUCHANAN

**15** JAMIESON

**20** O'DONNELL

**22** GRANT

**23** MURRAY

#### SUBS

**17** CONNELLY

**18** MALCOLM

**19** THOMSON

**24** WILLIAMSON

**25** LYNCH

**26** EVANS

**31** WILLISON

#### SUBS

**11** LOKOTSCH

**13** SPENCER

**17** THOMSON

**19** MAHADY

**23** UGWU

**25** ARNOTT

**27** COULSON

#### STARTING XI

**1** MACDONALD

**2** TUMILTY

**5** MENDY

**6** BENEDICTUS

**7** ARMSTRONG

**8** HENDRY

**9** DUKU

**12** MATTHEWS

**14** MUSONDA

**18** TAIT

**22** ROSS

**REFEREE:** Steven Mclean

# SCOTTISH CHAMPIONSHIP

29<sup>th</sup> December 2020  
Den's Park, Dundee  
7:45 pm KO

**DUNDEE**

**3:1**

**ALLOA ATHLETIC**



(0:1)

SCORERS

**0:1** 11' Hetherington

Sow **49'** **1:1**

Fontaine **54'** **2:1**

Sow **73'** **3:1**



## STARTING XI

- 1** HAMILTON
- 3** MCGHEE
- 4** FONTAINE
- 8** BYRNE
- 10** MCGOWAN
- 11** MCDAID
- 14** ASHCROFT
- 16** ELLIOT
- 21** SOW
- 23** MARSHALL
- 26** ADAM

## SUBS

- 12** FERRIE
- 2** KERR
- 5** FORSTER
- 9** MULLEN
- 17** AFOLABI
- 19** ROBERTSON
- 24** ANDERSON

## SUBS

- 17** CONNELLY
- 18** MALCOLM
- 19** THOMSON
- 21** WILSON
- 24** WILLIAMSON
- 25** LYNCH
- 26** EVANS

## STARTING XI

- 31** WILLISON
- 3** DICK
- 5** GRAHAM
- 15** JAMIESON
- 8** ROBERTSON
- 22** GRANT
- 6** HETHERINGTON
- 7** CAWLEY
- 23** MURRAY
- 20** O'DONNELL
- 9** BUCHANAN

**REFEREE:** Steven Reid

# 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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JONATHAN MARKWELL



## SECOND HALF OF THE SEASON SPECIALISTS

The beginning of the calendar year usually marks the start of the second half of the season. However, this campaign is one like no other, with a quarter of the season written off and league placings being decided after 27 rounds of matches instead of the usual 36. Hence, rather than traditionally splitting the season into quarter or halves, we are left with dividing this campaign into thirds. Nevertheless, if we

assume for a minute that we are almost at the halfway point (today is scheduled to be matchday 11, albeit due to printing deadlines I'm writing this the day after the matchday 7 win at Arbroath) I can reasonably predict that the Wasps points tally in the remainder of the season will improve, as in recent decades Alloa have been specialists in having stronger form in the second half of the season than the first.

In fact, since the turn of the millennium Alloa have picked up more points in the second part of the season in sixteen of the twenty-one campaigns, including each of the last six seasons.

For me, this is more than a statistical coincidence, with it evidently just being in Alloa's DNA to perform better at the "business end" of the season. More evidence-based reasons

for the Wasps stronger showings in the latter part of the season include strong January transfer windows (the loan signings of Ross Stewart and Jordan Kirkpatrick from St Mirren in 2017/18 spring immediately to mind). The annual Summer turnover of players being fully bedded into the Alloa system later in the season could be another explanation. Alternatively it could be that ultimately come

the closing weeks of the season the team with the more pressing need for the points invariably gets them (as the Wasps are often battling against relegation or chasing promotion this applies). A change in manager during the course of a season having either a galvanising or adverse impact could be another factor. A further explanation may be that starting a season slowly subconsciously lulls opponents into thinking the Wasps are a soft touch and easy three points in later meetings. All Alloa supporters will have seen opposing teams underestimating the Wasps in recent seasons, which falls straight into the hands of a determined Wasps outfit, who are always happy in the role of underdog and



joyfully upsetting the odds. Alternatively, the facts and figures which I've calculated since the millennium could just be a load of mumbo-jumbo for which there is no underlying explanation!

The seasons where there have been the greatest contrast in more points being gained in the second half of the season were in 2002/03 and 2005/06,

when 71% and 69% of Alloa's total points collected came in the final eighteen matches. In 2002/03 the Wasps were battling against relegation from the then First Division and put together an excellent end of season run of form in winning four of the final five games, only to ultimately be relegated on goal difference. The loan captures of Robert Sloan in attack

and Derek Soutar in goal played a big part in improving Alloa's form in the closing months of that season. The 2005/06 campaign was another end of season battle against the drop. This time it was happily a successful one, thanks to new manager Allan Maitland and a host of fresh signings helping Alloa achieve a great escape from relegation in the inaugural play-offs.



The 'new manager bounce' explanation can also be seen on another occasion in the statistics too. During the early days of Tom Hendrie's second spell as manager in 2003/04 the Wasps form picked up in comparison with the final months of Terry Christie's tenure. Jack Ross was another new Alloa boss who accumulated more points than his predecessor Danny Lennon in 2015/16, adding further evidence to that particular narrative.

There are always exceptions to the general rule, with the 2010/11 and 2013/14 seasons being the most illuminating. In 2010/11 Alloa could have gone third in the table at Christmas with a win over Airdrie,

but had a disastrous end to the match in conceding two late goals to turn a 2-1 victory into a 3-2 defeat. Thereafter the Wasps' form nose-dived spectacularly, eventually culminating in relegation to the basement division for the first time in twelve years. 2013/14 was a slightly different context, as Paul Hartley's side benefited from a successive season promotion bounce to rise to the dizzy heights of 4th in the Championship towards the end of the opening half of the season. We all knew it was unlikely to continue, which it didn't and Hartley soon decided he'd taken the Wasps as far as he could, leaving his replacement Barry Smith trying to steady the ship for the rest of the season. In the end

Smith achieved this when Alloa dramatically avoided the relegation play-offs at Falkirk (thanks to Sir Bob McHugh's 95th minute goal for Queen of the South at Cowdenbeath).

However, I'd still suggest that the Wasps certainly have a knack for strong second half of the season performances and that was further demonstrated by the curtailed campaign last season. Despite the second half of the season being prematurely ended after 10 of the 18 regular games had been played, Alloa had still managed to repeat recent history by collecting more points in that time than the first half of the season. The 17 points collected in those 10 games eclipsed

the 14 points gained up-to Christmas from 18 games. Momentum and confidence were undoubtedly at play last season, as the Wasps grew in stature after some morale boosting victories acting as springboards for future matches.

Whatever the reasons for Alloa generally doing better in the second part of the season than the first, at this point in time I don't particularly mind, so long as it results in a successful end to the season for the Wasps this year!



League		Half of the season	Won	Drew	Lost	Goals scored	Goals Against	Points	% of points	League position
99/00	Div 2	First 18 matches	7	9	2	23	18	30	47%	2 <sup>nd</sup>
		Last 18 matches	10	4	4	35	20	34	53%	2 <sup>nd</sup>
00/01	Div 1	First 18 matches	5	5	8	19	32	20	63%	7 <sup>th</sup>
		Last 18 matches	2	6	10	19	29	12	37%	10 <sup>th</sup>
01-Feb	Div 2	First 18 matches	8	5	5	27	17	29	49%	2 <sup>nd</sup>
		Last 18 matches	7	9	2	28	16	30	51%	2 <sup>nd</sup>
02-Mar	Div 1	First 18 matches	2	4	12	11	40	10	29%	10 <sup>th</sup>
		Last 18 matches	7	4	7	28	32	25	71%	9 <sup>th</sup>
03-Apr	Div 2	First 18 matches	5	4	9	27	31	19	43%	9 <sup>th</sup>
		Last 18 matches	7	4	7	28	24	25	57%	7 <sup>th</sup>
04-May	Div 2	First 18 matches	6	3	9	30	42	21	46%	6 <sup>th</sup>
		Last 18 matches	6	7	5	36	26	25	54%	6 <sup>th</sup>
05-Jun	Div 2	First 18 matches	2	4	12	21	50	10	31%	10 <sup>th</sup>
		Last 18 matches	6	4	8	15	27	22	69%	9 <sup>th</sup>
06-Jul	Div 2	First 18 matches	5	5	8	21	37	20	48%	8 <sup>th</sup>
		Last 18 matches	6	4	8	26	33	22	52%	7 <sup>th</sup>
07-Aug	Div 2	First 18 matches	9	3	6	32	27	30	54%	4 <sup>th</sup>
		Last 18 matches	7	5	6	30	26	26	46%	4 <sup>th</sup>
08-Sep	Div 2	First 18 matches	5	2	11	23	37	17	41%	9 <sup>th</sup>
		Last 18 matches	6	6	6	24	22	24	59%	8 <sup>th</sup>
09-Oct	Div 2	First 18 matches	9	4	5	21	16	31	48%	3 <sup>rd</sup>
		Last 18 matches	10	4	4	28	19	34	52%	2 <sup>nd</sup>
10-Nov	Div 2	First 18 matches	7	5	6	30	30	26	72%	4 <sup>th</sup>
		Last 18 matches	2	4	12	19	41	10	28%	9 <sup>th</sup>
11-Dec	Div 3	First 18 matches	10	6	2	30	22	36	47%	1 <sup>st</sup>
		Last 18 matches	13	2	3	40	17	41	53%	1 <sup>st</sup>
Dec-13	Div 2	First 18 matches	11	3	4	32	17	36	54%	2 <sup>nd</sup>
		Last 18 matches	9	4	5	30	18	31	46%	2 <sup>nd</sup>
13/14	Champ	First 18 matches	8	4	6	19	16	28	70%	5 <sup>th</sup>
		Last 18 matches	3	3	12	15	35	12	30%	8 <sup>th</sup>
14/15	Champ	First 18 matches	3	4	11	16	29	13	48%	9 <sup>th</sup>
		Last 18 matches	3	5	10	18	27	14	52%	9 <sup>th</sup>
15/16	Champ	First 18 matches	2	2	14	8	38	8	40%	10 <sup>th</sup>
		Last 18 matches	2	6	9	6	16	12	60%	10 <sup>th</sup>
16/17	Lge 1	First 18 matches	7	6	5	35	25	27	44%	4 <sup>th</sup>
		Last 18 matches	10	5	3	34	19	35	56%	2 <sup>nd</sup>
17/18	Lge 1	First 18 matches	8	4	6	28	23	28	47%	3 <sup>rd</sup>
		Last 18 matches	9	5	4	28	20	32	53%	3 <sup>rd</sup>
18/19	Champ	First 18 matches	3	7	8	17	26	16	41%	8 <sup>th</sup>
		Last 18 matches	7	2	9	22	27	23	59%	8 <sup>th</sup>
19/20	Champ	First 18 matches	3	5	10	17	32	14	45%	10 <sup>th</sup>
		Last 10 matches	4	5	1	16	11	17	55%	8 <sup>th</sup>

# APPEARANCES

	POS	LEAGUE		CUP		TOTAL	
		APP	GOAL	APP	GOAL	APP	GOAL
PARRY	GOAL	6 (0)	0	5 (0)	0	11 (0)	0
WILSON	GOAL	0 (0)	0	0 (1)	0	0 (1)	0
WILLISON	GOAL	4 (1)	0	1 (0)	0	5 (1)	0
TAGGART	DEF	7 (0)	0	4 (0)	0	11 (0)	0
DICK	DEF	10 (0)	0	5 (0)	0	15 (0)	0
GRAHAM	DEF	8 (0)	0	3 (1)	0	11 (1)	0
JAMIESON	DEF	4 (0)	0	3 (0)	0	7 (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	9 (0)	1	4 (2)	1	13 (2)	2
ROBERTSON	MID	10 (0)	0	4 (0)	0	14 (0)	0
SCOUGALL	MID	1 (4)	1	3 (2)	1	4 (6)	2
BROWN	MID	2 (1)	0	2 (0)	0	4 (1)	0
MALCOLM	MID	0 (2)	0	2 (0)	0	2 (2)	0
O'DONNELL	MID	2 (0)	0	1 (2)	0	3 (2)	0
GRANT	MID	8 (0)	0	4 (1)	0	12 (1)	0
MURRAY	MID	6 (2)	1	4 (0)	0	10 (2)	1
CAWLEY	FWD	10 (0)	1	4 (1)	0	14 (1)	1
THOMSON	FWD	5 (5)	2	1 (4)	3	6 (9)	5
BUCHANAN	FWD	4 (4)	2	5 (1)	3	9 (5)	5
TROUTEN	FWD	8 (0)	2	4 (1)	2	12 (1)	4
CONNELLY	FWD	3 (4)	0	2 (2)	0	5 (6)	0
EVANS	FWD	0 (0)	0	1 (2)	0	1 (2)	0



ALLOA CAREER LGE		ALLOA CAREER CUP		ALLOA TOTAL	
APP	GOAL	APP	GOAL	APP	GOAL
121 (0)	0	34 (0)	0	155 (0)	0
1 (1)	0	0 (1)	0	1 (2)	0
4 (1)	0	1 (0)	0	5 (1)	0
150 (0)	6	41 (0)	1	191 (0)	7
62 (0)	1	21 (0)	0	83 (0)	1
136 (0)	11	38 (1)	1	174 (1)	12
4 (0)	0	3 (0)	0	7 (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



122 (30)	6	26 (8)	1	148 (38)	7
111 (22)	2	36 (3)	2	147 (25)	4
1 (4)	1	3 (2)	1	4 (6)	2
13 (17)	3	12 (4)	0	25 (21)	3
10 (2)	0	2 (1)	0	12 (3)	0
3 (2)	0	1 (4)	0	4 (6)	0
8 (0)	0	4 (1)	0	12 (1)	0
6 (2)	1	4 (0)	0	10 (2)	1
256 (37)	52	55 (7)	10	311 (44)	62
20 (27)	7	3 (8)	4	23 (35)	11
48 (20)	18	20 (4)	8	68 (24)	26
59 (5)	21	19 (3)	15	78 (8)	36
4 (7)	1	2 (3)	0	6 (10)	1
0 (0)	0	1 (2)	0	1 (2)	0

ALLOA SUPPORTER'S MINIBUS

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**BRIAN ROACH**



# A FAN'S VIEW

A Happy New Year to everyone connected to the club as we kick off 2021 with a home fixture against Greenock Morton. Like everyone, we bid good riddance to 2020 with the hope of some light at the end of the tunnel. With Scotland qualifying for a major tournament for the first time in over 20

years, the target of returning to stadiums in time for that June trip to Wembley seems a hopeful and somewhat realistic target.

On the pitch, it was another successful year for the club. Alloa retained their place in the Championship when last season was abruptly cut short in

March. This was ultimately the achievement of a target most within the club would have set at the seasons infancy, but there was a lingering frustration at what might have been. Having concluded some key transfer business in the January window, the manager was just beginning to see the fruits of his work

since joining the club. The team were on an excellent run of form- I believe pushing their way up the table when the season ended. We witnessed some excellent games in early 2020- which we savour all the more due to worldwide events since. January gave us a comfortable and hugely pivotal

midweek victory over Arbroath, when Kevin O'Hara showed the form which earned him a full time move to Dunfermline in summer. This was followed by a brilliant away day against Queen of the South at Palmerston. O'Hara made it three consecutive doubles there as Alloa won with a late winner to make it 3-2 and take the points home.

There was also a point picked up against the league leaders Dundee United in a cagey, somewhat dull live television encounter. The visitors manager Robbie Neilson clearly set his team out not to lose the game, which was the ultimate respect in a way. Points on the road at Inverness



and Dundee- tough grounds for Alloa- were also achieved, with the latter seeing a remarkable return to the team for goalkeeper Neil Parry. Then of course that great comeback against today's opponents at Cappielow, coming from 4-2 behind to snatch a point at the end with a header from Robbie Deas. Inverness were again the visitors for the final fixture before Covid cut short the season. What a way to end though, with

Alloa producing one of their best performances in the second tier in a thoroughly dominant performance. Most will remember this one as the Scott Banks show. The loanee youngster had the crowd in the palm of his hand as he teased and toyed with the opposition all afternoon. Not since Stevie Mays 4 goal haul against Elgin in 2012 have I witnessed so many supporters raving about an individual Alloa player post

match. I keep an eye on his progress at Crystal Palace, and he is the star of the under 23 team there. We would have loved to see what the boy could have produced in the remainder of the season, because on that day against Inverness he was something very special.

The void of March to October has meant that this season is only 16 domestic games old for the club. We have been restricted to sanitised events, without supporters in the grounds. Although we are thankfully missing the wintry elements, it's not the same watching the matches at home through streams. And supporters of lower



league clubs have probably felt this more than anyone. We aren't armchair fans, with much of the enjoyment originating from attending matches, going to stadiums and travelling across the country to watch your club. At the moment I don't think I'll ever grumble about the long trip back down the A9 in the pitch black, nor the odd irritating fellow who moans on the terrace nearby. Nevertheless, this unique season has so far contained another great run in the League Cup- defeating Hearts in a real

last 16 upset before going down narrowly to Hibs in the Quarter Finals. Fellow Alloa supporter Ross McLauchlan lives adjacent to my back garden, so we set up the TV in his garden for the Hearts game, watching through the patio window whilst adhering to all distancing protocols etc. I can tell you through that extra time period, many of the neighbours' lights began illuminating the darkness in the garden. They were wondering just what exactly these two clowns were up to outside as we experienced a roller-coaster of emotions

through that last 15 minutes of the game.

As stated, 2020 was a successful, yet largely "what might have been" year for the club on the pitch. Off the pitch the club, and the chairman in particular, deserve great credit for being at the forefront of the Covid response- and for their hospitality in aiding other clubs in Scotland after the Covid friendly conversion to the ground. I think it spoke volumes to the work being undertaken at boardroom level that no supporters were particularly concerned about

the clubs plight as Scottish football continues to sit on a financial precipice. We understandably have ambitions as supporters- a comfortable position in the Championship table being the immediate goal. But the profile of Scottish football could potentially be significantly altered if this pandemic is prolonged. Looking at the big picture, the ambition should be survival, with the real hope that any damage to the clubs long term goals and general operations are minimised.

Happy New Year to all and enjoy today's game.

THE

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**ANDREW COCKBURN**



# LOOKING BACK

## **5TH JANUARY 1991**

In The Premier Division, leaders Rangers made it three wins in a row, and at the same time extended their unbeaten league sequence to ten games, thanks to a 1-0 win at Hearts. Second-placed Dunfermline maintained their own title challenge with a 4-1 win at Dunfermline, Dundee United remained third thanks to a 3-2 win v lowly St. Mirren at Tannadice, while fourth-placed St.

Johnstone were held 2-2 at another of the strugglers, Motherwell. Out-of-sorts Celtic's rather mediocre league campaign continued with a 1-1 home draw with struggling Hibs, The Celts sixth league game without success, and as such they remained in fifth place, with their only realistic hope of success in 1990-91 now in The Scottish Cup. Hibs, in spite of their welcome point, were still now

winless in twelve league games, and as such still propped up the table, while St. Mirren & Motherwell still lay immediately above them.

The First Division's top clash was undoubtedly at Brockville, where leaders Falkirk hosted second-placed Dundee, in front of nearly 8,000 fans. And a 1-0 win for The Bairns saw them move two points clear, Dundee remained in second spot, third-placed Hamilton Accies

were 2-0 home winners v Clydebank, while fourth-placed Airdrie were held 1-1 at Raith. Today's visitors Morton were gameless due to the cancellation of their home game with Forfar, and as such remained in tenth place, while bottom club Clyde were another inactive side. Second-bottom Brechin's relegation worries continued with a 1-3 home reverse v Meadowbank, while Forfar remained just one place



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Down in the Second, there was a much reduced programme, but the game of the day was staged at Annfield, where leaders Stirling Albion hosted third-placed Queen's Park. And a 1-0 win for The Spiders saw them move into second place, just four points behind The Binos. Dumbarton and Alloa meantime, were both placed in the lower half of the table, but their clash at Boghead was cancelled due to bad weather. Indeed "The Wasps" never played another league game until the 22nd January, so severe was the frost when they defeated Stenhousemuir 1-0 at Recreation Park, Shaun Smith being the goalscorer. However The Wasps thus remained in ninth place,

while bottom club East Stirling's woes continued with a 0-4 hammering at fellow strugglers Albion Rovers. In the second round of The Scottish Cup, Inverness Thistle of The Highland League were held 1-1 at home v East Fife, while the Ross County v Queen Of The South & Spartans v Cowdenbeath ties were both postponed.

South of the border, it was FA Cup third round day, and holders Manchester United hosted QPR the following Monday, while runners-up Crystal Palace met Nottingham Forest at Selhurst Park on the Sunday. Fancied Arsenal progressed after a 2-1 home win v Sunderland, but another of the favourites, Liverpool, had to settle for a replay, when they were held 1-1 at Second Division strugglers Blackburn.

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# GREENOCK MORTON

*The Ton*

## FOUNDED

1874

## GROUND

Cappielow Park,  
Greenock

## TOP HONOURS

Scottish Cup  
Winners 1921-22  
Runners up 1947-48

Scottish League Cup  
Runners Up 1963-64

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

This afternoon calls for the first game of 2021 at the Indodrill as Greenock Morton visit to kick-start the new year. At the time of writing this, prior to the Boxing Day games, despite Morton's struggles they sit in a commanding position in the league. They have managed to block out the hysteria surrounding them and the potential woes in a managerial sense to rise up to third in the league. Before their Boxing Day fixture was postponed they managed to grab two back-to-back victories against Dunfermline away from home and Queen of the South at Cappielow to soar up

the table. They have a stern test away to Ayr United on Tuesday to strengthen that momentum prior to this game, however, this piece was written before that match. It hasn't all been rosey for the Ton though as it has been highlighted in the press. Manager David Hopkin was the first managerial casualty of the league when he departed following the Hearts defeat at the start of December. However, the care-taking team have not put a foot wrong with their 100% win ratio which paints a much positive picture for Morton.

## THE BOSS - ANTON MCELHONE

Following the departure of David Hopkin, Anton McElhone took temporary charge of the visitors for the coming games. At the time of writing McElhone still remains in charge being supported by captain, Jim McAlister, Chris Millar and Brian McLean. The caretaker boss, McElhone, has already expressed his desire to stay on at Morton and has done himself no harm with the opening two victories. However,

he has no intention of applying for the role of manager. The former assistant manager has plenty of experience throughout his career having spent time at New England Revolution and Bradford City as a coach. Prior to that, he also spent time at Tottenham Hotspur as a fitness coach to players such as Tim Sherwood and Brad Friedel.

## THE CAPTAIN - JIM MCALISTER

As well as helping with the off-field duties the last few weeks, Jim McAlister, will skipper the visitors. The experienced midfielder is in his second spell at the club after re-signing back in 2018. His first spell was glittered with success as he won two league titles, the Third Division in 2003 and the Second Division in 2007. After eight years at the club and over two hundred appearances at the club, he made the switch to Hamilton before moving over to Dundee where he would be part of a title winning side in 2014. Over a hundred appearances later, McAlister ventured into English football after





signing a two-year deal at Blackpool. Despite a positive start at the club, he broke his leg in 2017 which saw his Blackpool career peter out. However, it would be a fairytale ending to his career as he looks set to finish his career at a club where he is valued so highly and the player has such a connection.

**NEW BOY – MARKUS FJORTOFT**

The English-born Norwegian defender, Markus Fjortoft, signed on at Cappielow in the summer following a season at Hamilton. He comes from good footballing stock as his Dad, Jan Age, is a Norwegian legend with over seventy caps for his national side. As well as a significant career for Norway, he also won the First Division with English side Middlesbrough. However, back to Markus, he

began his career playing college soccer at Duke University before being selected in the second round of the MLS draft. After spending time at Seattle Sounders, his next career move would see him go to New Zealand to play for Southern United before finding a new home in Scotland with Hamilton. After struggling to settle at Accies, the podcast host decided to drop down to the Championship and

sign on at Cappielow. In his eleven appearances so far at the club he has become somewhat of a fans favourite with his likeable character and steady performances at the back.

**ONE TO WATCH – JOSH MCPAKE**

The on-loan Rangers star, Josh McPake, has caught the eye since making a temporary switch to Cappielow in

the summer. The winger is well thought of at Ibrox after winning the Academy Player of the Year in 2019 which saw him earn a new long-term deal and a professional debut in the UEFA Europa League. He did make a loan move last season to the Championship when he signed for Dundee, however, an ankle injury halted his opportunity there as he found himself back in the Rangers treatment room for the final few weeks of the season. This season he has found himself back in the second tier though signing an initial six month deal at the Ton, with an option to extend. Despite not finding the back of the net yet, he is causing teams all sorts of problems with his trickery. Alloa found it a challenge to deal with him

**CONTINUED ON P32**



**BY KIEREN MOONEY**

on the opening day of the season before he eventually saw red with fifteen minutes to go.

### THE CONNECTION

There are several familiar faces that the opposition fans will recognise tuning in this afternoon. Scott Taggart, Andy Graham, Alan Toruten and Robert Thomson have all spent time at the Ton. Captain, Andy Graham, had a one-year spell at the club he supports in 2011 and went on to make just under 30 appearances. Taggart spent significant time there also making over sixty appearances during his two years at the club. Thomson spent a similar duration at Cap-

pielow, however, didn't make as many appearances for the club with a total around the forty mark. With so much change at Cappielow, there are no returning names in the Morton ranks. One of the significant names of the past, Declan McManus, won the SPFL League One Player of the Year in 2015 with Morton and he too, spent a short spell at Alloa in 2013.

### PREVIOUS MEETINGS

This is the return fixture after the two sides met on opening day back in October. The Ton came out narrow winners that afternoon after a solitary striker from Cameron Salkeld

was the difference between the sides in a 1-0 win. The second half saw both teams reduced to ten men after Josh McPake's red card followed one given to Alloa midfielder, Stevie Hetherington. Both of which could be argued to be slightly harsh. Last season the two teams could have been said to play out the game of the season. In a topsy-turvy affair at Cappielow the points were shared in a dramatic 4-4 draw. Kyle Jacobs opened the scoring for Morton before a quickfire double from Alan Trouten and Kevin Cawley put Alloa into the lead. However, Morton would go one better than hitting the Wasps for three more

goals in quick succession to make it 4-2 at the break. Luca Colvillem, Reghan Tumilty and Bob McHugh this time the scores. Alloa huffed and puffed before getting a lifeline with Kevin O'Hara's goal five minutes from time. It would be Robbie Deas who rose highest to head home a last-gasp equaliser on the 92nd minute for the visitors. The last game here at the Indodrill wasn't as spectacular as Morton cruised to a 2-0 victory. Eventual goal of the season winner, Nicky Cadden, opened the scoring with a thunderbolt on the hour mark before Jack Baird sealed all three points minutes later.

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## HT QUIZ

1. NAME THE 4 INDIVIDUAL GOALSCORERS IN ALLOAS 4-4 DRAW AT CAPPELOW BACK IN FEBRUARY 2020
2. WHICH PLAYER HAD A SPELL PLAYING CLUB FOOTBALL IN SCOTLAND AND IS ONE OF 10 FRENCHMEN TO SCORE A HAT TRICK IN THE CHAMPIONS LEAGUE?
3. WHICH PLAYER, WHO IS CURRENTLY STILL PLAYING IN SCOTLAND, WAS THE LAST SCOTSMAN TO SCORE A ENGLISH PREMIERSHIP HAT TRICK?
4. WHICH CLUBS DID THESE SCOTLAND INTERNATIONAL WORLD CUP GOALSCORERS REPRESENT AT THE TIME OF SCORING IN THE FOLLOWING TOURNAMENTS: ARCHIE GEMMILL IN 1978, JOE JORDAN IN 1982, STUART MCCALL IN 1990

ANSWERS PAGE 37



### GOALKEEPERS

**Aidan  
MCADAMS**

23/03/1999



**20**

### DEFENDERS

**Michael  
LEDGER**

15/11/1997



**2**

**Markus  
FJORTOFT**

12/01/1994



**3**

**Brian  
MCLEAN**

28/02/1985



**4**

**Sean  
MCGINTY**

11/08/1993



**5**

**Lewis  
STRAPP**

26/11/1999



**16**

### INTERIMMANAGER

**ANTON MCELHONE**



MIDFIELDERS

**Kyle JACOBS**

14/06/1991



**Chris MILLAR**

30/03/1983



**Jim MCALISTER**

02/11/1985



**Robbie MUIRHEAD**

08/03/1996



**Gary OLIVER**

14/07/1995



**Aidan NESBITT**

05/02/1997



**Craig MCGUFFIE**

12/05/1998



**Reece LYON**

13/03/2000



**Kalvin ORSI**

15/04/1997



**Cameron SALKELD**

06/12/1998



**Cameron BLUES**

13/04/1998



**Luca COLVILLE**

17/07/1999



**Rabin OMAR**

21/07/1997



**Ross MACIVER**

28/02/1999



**James WALLACE**

29/08/2000



**Josh MCPAKE**

31/08/2001





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	82	31	59		8	59				
90	38	90	90	29		61		90	52			
45	90	90	90	56				45	90			
60	90	90	90	33				90				
	90	90	90	27				90	74			
90	90	90	90		55			90	5			
29					90			29	61	90		
90	90	90	90	33	57			90				
90	72	90	90	18				90	81			
120	120		120					120	99			
90	90	90	90					90	64			
90	71	90	90	90	19				46			
90	90	90	86	67			23					
90	90	90				3	90		90			
90	90	90					90	90	90			
90	90	90				15	45	90	90			

FORWARDS				
BUCHANAN	CONNELLY	THOMSON	EVANS	
9	17	19	26	
59	31	31	8	
39		51		
78	90	12		
29	67	71		
16	63	90		
	35	85		
90	9		61	
29		61		
45		45		
101	21	19		
77	26	13		
75		15		
60	90	30	4	
87	67	23		
90		39		
75	45	15		



## QUIZ ANSWERS

1. ALAN TROUTEN, KEVIN CAWLEY, KEVIN O'HARA, ROBBIE DEAS

2. FRANCK SAUZEE

3. STEVEN NAISMITH

4. ARCHIE GEMMILL- NOTTS FOREST, JOE JORDAN- MILAN, STUART MCCALL- EVERTON



6	7	8	10	12	14	18	20	22	23	24
---	---	---	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----

9	17	19	26
---	----	----	----



# ALLOA ATHLETIC



# GREENOCK MORTON

#	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				
	2	MICHAEL LEDGER			
	3	MARKUS FJØRTOFT			
	4	BRIAN MCLEAN			
	5	SEAN MCGINTY			
	6	KYLE JACOBS			
	7	CHRIS MILLAR			
	8	JIM MCALISTER			
	9	ROBBIE MUIRHEAD			
	10	AIDAN NESBITT			
	11	GARY OLIVER			
	12	KALVIN ORSI			
	14	CAMERON SALKELD			
	15	CRAIG MCGUFFIE			
	16	LEWIS STRAPP			
	17	REECE LYON			
	18	CAMERON BLUES			
	19	LUCA COLVILE			
	20	AIDAN MCADAMS			
	21	RABIN OMAR			
	23	ROSS MACIVER			
	24	JAMES WALLACE			
	25	JOSH MCPAKE			

**CARETAKER** ANTON MCELHONE

**REFEREE:** David Dickinson

**ASST:** David Roome & Calum Doyle


## ALLOA'S NEXT FIVE

09.01.21, HOME, 15:00



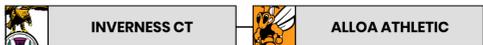
12.01.21, AWAY, 19:45



16.01.21, HOME, 15:00



23.01.21, AWAY, 15:00



06.02.21, HOME, 15:00



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