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**27TH MARCH**



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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

**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

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2020/21



	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
HEARTS	21	14	4	3	48	21	27	46
RAITH ROVERS	20	8	6	6	33	26	7	30
DUNFERMLINE	19	8	6	5	27	20	7	30
DUNDEE	21	8	6	7	37	35	2	30
INVERNESS CT	21	6	9	6	27	23	4	27
QUEEN OF THE SOUTH	21	8	3	10	33	42	-9	27
AYR UNITED	21	6	7	8	26	25	1	25
GREENOCK MORTON	21	6	7	8	19	26	-7	25
ARBROATH	21	5	7	9	17	26	-9	22
ALLOA ATHLETIC	21	4	5	12	24	47	-23	17

## WEEKEND'S FIXTURES

### CHAMPIONSHIP

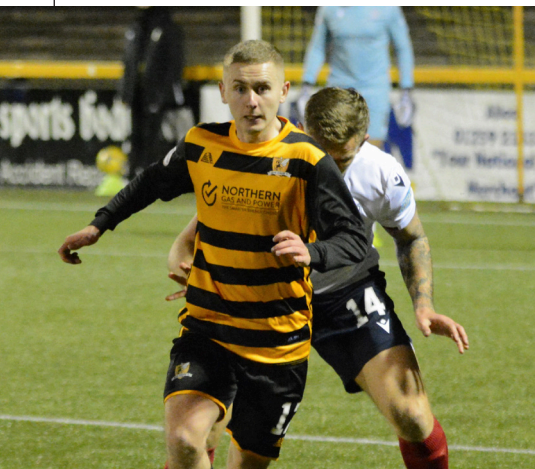
ALLOA ATHLETIC	AYR UNITED
HEART OF MIDLOTHIAN	QUEEN OF THE SOUTH
INVERNESS CT	ARBROATH
RAITH ROVERS	GREENOCK MORTON
DUNDEE	DUNFERMLINE

### LEAGUE 1

AIRDRIEONIAN'S	PARTICK THISTLE
DUMBARTON	PETERHEAD
EAST FIFE	COVE RANGERS
FORFAR ATHLETIC	FALKIRK
MONTROSE	CLYDE

### LEAGUE 2

ALBION ROVERS	ANNAN ATHLETIC
BRECHIN CITY	QUEEN'S PARK
COWDENBEATH	STRANRAER
EDINBURGH CITY	STENHOUSEMUIR
ELGIN CITY	STIRLING ALBION







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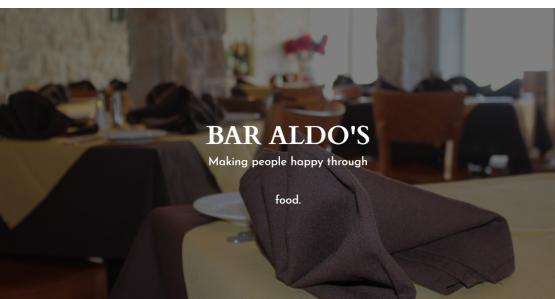
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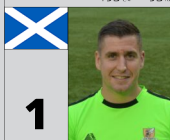


## GOALKEEPERS

**Neil PARRY**

08/11/1985

195 CM 95 KG



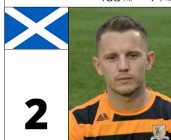
**1**

## DEFENDERS

**Scott TAGGART**

27/12/1991

183 CM 71 KG

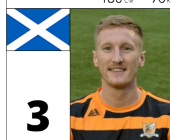


**2**

**Liam DICK**

19/08/1995

180 CM 76 KG



**3**

**Andy GRAHAM**

22/09/1983

188 CM 83 KG



**5**

## MATCH

most appearances

Cawley	369
Taggart	198
Hetherington	196
Graham	186
Robertson	182

## GOALS

Cawley	65
Trouten	39
Buchanan	27
Graham	13
Thomson	11

**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

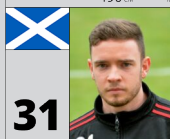


**24**

**Reece WILLISON**

27/05/1999

190 CM 77 KG



**31**

**Jordan WRIGHT**

28/02/1999

198 CM 77 KG

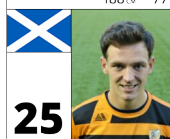


**51**

**Edin LYNCH**

07/08/2000

188 CM 77 KG



**25**

## MANAGER

**PETER GRANT**



MIDFIELDERS			FORWARDS			
<div>Steven HETHERINGTON</div> <div>09/03/1993</div> <div>180 cm70 kg</div> <div></div>	<div>Kevin CAWLEY</div> <div>17/03/1989</div> <div>170 cm64 kg</div> <div></div>	<div>Stefan SCOUGALL</div> <div>07/12/1992</div> <div>170 cm64 kg</div> <div></div>	<div>Liam BUCHANAN</div> <div>27/03/1985</div> <div>175 cm70 kg</div> <div></div>	<div>Alan TROUTEN</div> <div>08/11/1985</div> <div>173 cm70 kg</div> <div></div>		
<div>Adam BROWN</div> <div>09/06/1995</div> <div>175 cm70 kg</div> <div></div>	<div>Blair MALCOLM</div> <div>03/02/1997</div> <div>180 cm70 kg</div> <div></div>	<div>Cameron O'DONNELL</div> <div>29/09/2001</div> <div>180 cm70 kg</div> <div></div>	<div>Innes CAMERON</div> <div>22/08/2000</div> <div>188 cm70 kg</div> <div></div>	<div>Lee CONNELLY</div> <div>18/10/1999</div> <div>170 cm58 kg</div> <div></div>		
<div>Ray GRANT</div> <div>01/09/1996</div> <div>178 cm70 kg</div> <div></div>	<div>Innes MURRAY</div> <div>17/02/1998</div> <div>180 cm70 kg</div> <div></div>				<div>Robert THOMSON</div> <div>28/05/1993</div> <div>188 cm83 kg</div> <div></div>	<div>Liam EVANS</div> <div>17/11/2001</div> <div>190 cm70 kg</div> <div></div>
						
						





**JOHN GLENCROSS**



# NEWSDESK

To-day we welcome Ayr United FC to the Indodrill Stadium, welcoming manager David Hopkin, the players, officials and directors of Ayr United FC. "The Honest Men" have mirrored Alloa's results in our last three matches, winning one, drawing one and losing one since David Hopkin replaced Mark Kerr in the middle of March. "The Wasps" having defeated Queen of the South 3-2 at Dumfries a

fortnight ago would be disappointed to lose 3-0 at home versus Dundee in the BBC Scotland Live Friday night match. We now have two very important matches against Ayr United today at the Indodrill Stadium and Arbroath next Saturday at Gayfield to gain vital league points to give us an opportunity to fight and stay in the SPFL Championship for the fourth consecutive season, keep on believing.

Scott Taggart is set to make his 200th first team appearance for the club if he plays against Ayr United in today's SPFL Championship fixture. Scott was signed by Jack Ross at the start of season 2016/17 and is now in his fifth season with "The Wasps". Scott has been a huge success for the club and a model of consistency, still only 29 years old and holding the record of 92 consecutive games for

an outfield player at the club it is hoped Scott will adding to that total in the future.

Liam Buchanan who recently made his 100th appearance for "The Wasps" and in the past has also served Ayr United, today celebrates his 36th birthday. He recently showed he has still an eye for goal scoring the winner in 3-2 victory over Queen of the South at Palmerston, another goal today

would be a great way to celebrate!

Prior to restart of Leagues One & Two last weekend there was a lot of movement involving ex Alloa Athletic players - Graeme Holmes moved from Edinburgh City to join Forfar Athletic, Ryan Finnie moved from Berwick Rangers on loan to Cowdenbeath, Darryl Megatt and Jordan Kirkpatrick both moved from Darvel on loan to Stirling Albion and David Cox moved from Cowdenbeath to Albion Rovers.

The following matches in the Scottish Championship have been selected for live coverage on BBC Scotland channel - Later tonight, Saturday 27th March Dundee v. Dunfermline Athletic Kick-Off 7.45pm and Tuesday 30th March Raith Rovers v.



Dunfermline Athletic Kick-Off 7.05pm.

Scotland will continue their FIFA World Cup 2022 Qualification games in Group F when they face Israel on Sunday 28th March away, Kick-Off 7.45pm, then back at Hampden Park v. Faroe Islands on Wednesday 31st March at 7.45pm. Scotland's other opponents in Group F are Moldova who they will not face until 4th September,

2021 as they look to qualify for their first World Cup since 1998.

#### **WASPS 2000 DRAW - WEEK 10 13TH MARCH, 2021**

**£ 100 0036 J PATERSON**

**£ 50 0504 S. GARDINER**

**£ 25 1460 D. GLENCROSS**

**£ 25 0101 P. GRANT**

**£ 25 0656 T. SPENCE**





PETER GRANT



# MANAGERS NOTES

Good Afternoon  
Everyone,

Hopefully you and  
your friends and  
family are safe and  
well.

We come into today's  
game on the back of  
a disappointing result  
against Dundee.

We have played  
better in other games  
but there wasn't

much between the  
teams apart from  
at vital moments in  
both boxes. I have  
said many times,  
when people ask  
many questions  
about the difference  
between teams and  
players, and my  
answer is always the  
same CONCENTRA-  
TION. By that, I mean,  
when in possession  
am I sloppy? When  
I'm without the ball





do I make it difficult for my opponent? All the things we say that are basic fundamentals.

We know the game flows and opponents are there, trying to do the same things, that's why when the game is static we have to do our individual jobs well and as a group we can't hide from the fact we haven't done this well enough consistently. The effort and commitment of the players can NEVER be

questioned but these moments are vital no matter what level you play at.

We welcome David and all his staff and players from Ayr United here today.

**ENJOY THE GAME  
AND SUPPORT THE  
PLAYERS ALWAYS**

**PETER**





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# SCOTTISH CHAMPIONSHIP

20th March 2021  
Indodrill Stadium, Alloa  
7:45 pm KO

**ALLOA ATHLETIC**

**0:3**

**DUNDEE**



**(0:1)**

## SCORERS

**0:1 42'** Ashcroft

**0:2 57'** Ashcroft

**0:3 80'** Anderson



## STARTING XI

**1** PARRY

**2** TAGGART

**3** DICK

**5** GRAHAM

**6** HETHERINGTON

**7** CAWLEY

**8** ROBERTSON

**11** CAMERON

**17** CONNELLY

**22** GRANT

**23** MURRAY

## SUBS

**31** WILLISON

**9** BUCHANAN

**14** BROWN

**15** JAMIESON

**20** O'DONNELL

**24** WILLIAMSON

**25** LYNCH

## SUBS

**1** HAMILTON

**2** KERR

**8** BYRNE

**17** AFOLABI

**25** CAMERON

**26** ADAM

**27** STRACHAN

## STARTING XI

**13** LEGZDINS

**9** MULLEN

**10** MCGOWAN

**11** MCDAID

**14** ASHCROFT

**16** ELLIOT

**18** MCMULLAN

**23** MARSHALL

**24** ANDERSON

**29** FISHER

**35** CUMMINGS

**REFEREE:** Grant Irvine



# SCOTTISH CHAMPIONSHIP

13<sup>th</sup> March 2021  
Palmerston Park, Dumfries  
3:00 pm KO

**QUEEN OF THE SOUTH**

**2:3**

**ALLOA ATHLETIC**



(2:2)

SCORERS

Mebude **11'** **1:0**

**1:1** **20'** Murray

East **37'** **2:1**

**2:2** **44'** Connelly

**2:3** **77'** Buchanan



## STARTING XI

**20** FERGUSON

**33** GIBSON

**3** MAXWELL

**5** OBILEYE

**19** BREEN

**4** BUCHANAN

**29** MEBUDE

**16** EAST

**10** SHIELDS

**12** MCCABE

**7** FITZPATRICK

## SUBS

**1** LEIGHFIELD

**15** MCGRORY

**17** JOSEPH

**18** MCKECHNIE

**26** DICKSON

**21** MCMAHON

**9** GOSS

## SUBS

**31** WILLISON

**9** BUCHANAN

**15** JAMIESON

**26** EVANS

**14** BROWN

**20** O'DONNELL

**18** MALCOLM

## STARTING XI

**1** PARRY

**8** ROBERTSON

**5** GRAHAM

**24** WILLIAMSON

**25** LYNCH

**2** TAGGART

**22** GRANT

**7** CAWLEY

**11** CAMERON

**23** MURRAY

**17** CONNELLY

**REFEREE:** Greg Aitken

# 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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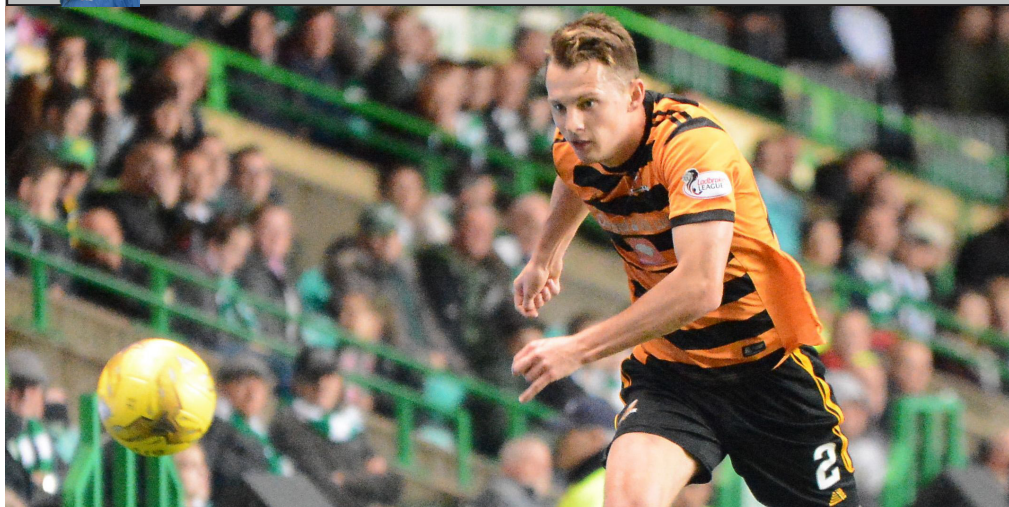
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Chartered



**JONATHAN MARKWELL**



# **TAGGART SET TO JOIN THE 200 CLUB**

In the post-WW2 era just twenty-two Alloa players have made 200 starting appearances for the club. Today could see a new entry on that exclusive list, with Scott Taggart scheduled to become Alloa's latest double centurion. To mark this milestone appearance it is only fitting to chronicle Taggart's successful Wasps career to date.

Scott has been a close-to ever-present

in the Alloa backline since being signed in the pivotal Summer of 2016 by Jack Ross. The then 24-year-old had just been released by Dumbarton, surprisingly to some observers, and the Alloa manager was delighted to attract Taggart to the club. A re-built squad, the nucleus of which is still standing strong five years on, gave Alloa a real tilt at an immediate return to the Championship, with Taggart a

key component. Early assists for Greig Spence and Calum Waters goals showcased the attacking potential of Alloa's new right-back, as the Wasps unbelievably started the season with ten successive victories. An unheralded element of those early season halcyon days was the Alloa defence, who quietly chalked up seven clean sheets while the attacking players grabbed the headlines in that club record breaking

sequence of wins.

Taggart also enjoyed an early season trip to his Paradise, as the Wasps held out for 83 minutes against the then all-conquering Celtic, with Taggs competing admirably against a combined force of Kieran Tierney and James Forrest down his wing. That narrow defeat in the Betfred Cup Quarter-Final meant Scott couldn't emulate a career



highlight 1-0 win he achieved at Celtic Park three years earlier with Morton. As the season progressed Taggart showcased some of the qualities which Alloa fans have now become accustomed to. From his right-back berth Taggart's undoubted athleticism was clear to see, with his crossing ability with both feet another quality. Only a couple of weeks ago Spence was singing the praises of Taggart's guaranteed delivery from wide areas, with grateful recipient Greig naming Taggs in his all-time team during a Through the Turnstiles Podcast.

Taggart also got on the scoresheet three times during his first season at the club, with his first goal for the club still his finest. On an otherwise forgettable afternoon and defeat at Airdrie (infamously remembered for new manager Jim Goodwin scoring an own-goal

before being sent-off!), Taggart's superbly taken 15 yard volley into the top corner gave Alloa some hope in the second half. After making a late run to meet Waters' deep cross, the technique Scott demonstrated (combining precision, power and accuracy) was nothing short of perfection.

Come the end of the season Taggart was ever-present throughout as the Wasps agonisingly missed out on promotion after losing out to Brechin in a sudden-death penalty shoot-out. The second half of the season saw Taggart in top form, with Alloa often using Taggs as an effective out-ball to switch play and then see Scott embark on marauding runs down the right-flank. Defensively Scott was part of a backline which kept 16 clean sheets, with a headed goal-line clearance away at East Fife being one instance of Scott playing a crucial



role in that fine record. Alas it wasn't a promotion winning season for Taggs, but he could feel proud of his efforts.

Unlike the team as a whole Taggart started the 2017/8 season in fine form, scoring in successive September games versus Ayr and Albion Rovers. Alloa's Autumn resurgence was thanks to a couple of tactical tweaks by Jim Goodwin. Garry Fleming's rejuvenation as a holding midfielder caught the eye most, but Taggart's switch into the centre of defence alongside Andy Graham was just as pivotal. The season changing 4-1 win over East Fife had Goodwin purring about Taggs, quipping that he'd had "a cigar out all day". Scott's calmness on the ball, good reading of the game and unheralded pace all combine to make him a reliable ball-playing central defender, whilst leaving as much of the aerial duels as possible to Graham! The pair have developed their partnership in the ensuing years, complementing each other's

games so well.

The January loan signing of Jamie McCart enabled Scott to return to his preferred right-back role. February 2018 saw Taggart finally miss his first minutes in an Alloa shirt, after being withdrawn with a knock away at Ayr, after 7,263 consecutive minutes in the Wasps starting XI! A couple of months later Taggart's successive starting appearances record ended too, with a one-match suspension ending an amazing sequence of 92 successive starts for the Wasps. Scott slotted straight back into the team for the exhilarating conclusion to the season, culminating in a glorious return to The Rock to win promotion in the most dramatic of circumstances. In those memorable extra-time minutes against Dumfries, Scott was still full of running whilst the Sons were floundering, with an extra incentive to put one over his former team/manager motivating Scott to eke out every last bit of energy to secure promotion.



It was a fitting end to a fine season for Taggart, who was deservedly named in the League One Team of the Season by his fellow professionals.

Scott's return to the Championship saw him spend the majority of the campaign in his preferred full-back role, where his trademark stamina was always in evidence. One telling contribution was a tremendously whipped cross down at Palmerston to set up Connor Shield's headed first goal for the Wasps. Come the business end of the season Taggart was back in the centre of defence alongside Andy Graham after an injury to loanee Sam Roscoe (who we welcome back to the Recs this afternoon with Ayr, where Scott coincidentally spent a loan spell back in 2010 from first club Hibernian). During that glorious late-season run of four successive wins,

which helped propel the Wasps up the table (a repeat this season would be nice!), Scott was a bedrock of Alloa's successes. The Wasps ultimately beat the drop under Jim Goodwin, with Taggs playing an integral part. Alongside his defensive comrades Neil Parry and Andy Graham, Taggart played every minute (4,140) of every game (46) that season.

Last season Scott was an essential part of Alloa's successful season under Peter Grant. Yet again Scott played every minute (3,240) of every game (36), with those appearances equally split between his natural right-back position and his increasingly familiar role in the centre of defence. Some particular highlights included a sensational slide-rule pass in the build up to Kevin O'Hara's winner versus Dundee United, a man of the match performance in the other home encounter against the Tangerines,

a first goal (another superbly taken volley away at Elgin) to end a 92 match and 2 year wait for his 7th in Alloa colours, countless blocks and last-ditch tackles to prevent certain goals (two at Dens Park were of the highest order), and finally, captaining the side to victory over Inverness in what became the final game of the season. More than anything, post-Christmas Taggs and Robbie Deas really stepped up to cover the absence of lionheart captain Andy Graham. Scott took on extra responsibility and revelled in the role, even developing his aerial prowess too. Taggs finished the season on 180 Alloa appearances, remarkably only missing 1 game in 4 seasons!

This season Scott has yet again been a stand-out performer for the team. The early season continued absence of Andy Graham meant Taggart retained the captain's armband and led the defence during the opening weeks of the season, with his performance on the opening day of the league season at Morton sensational, even in defeat. In November Scott was rested for the Betfred Cup Group Stage match against Stenhousemuir, ending a run of not missing a single minute of the previous 94 matches – which equated to 8,490 consecutive minutes! That was the longest run

of starting appearances by any Alloa player for at least 25 years (breaking Mark Cairns' 93 game run).

During the original lockdown Neil Parry affectionately remarked that Taggart was as fit as a butcher's pencil. The lead on that pencil broke for the first time away at Arbroath, with Scott missing almost two months of the season with injury. It was perhaps no coincidence that Taggart's return from injury in early February saw the Wasps win against Queen of the South. Scott has slotted straight back into the team, again showing his ever-increasing class at the heart of the Alloa defence. Still only 29, a recent new feature of Scott's repertoire has been taking attacking free-kicks, with Taggs denied goals against Dunfermline, Raith, Inverness and Dundee by fine goalkeeping – hopefully the next one will finally nestle in the back of the net! Perhaps Scott's recent absence from the side only went to emphasise what an essential part of the team he is – his non-stop running, coolness on the ball, accuracy in short and long passing/crossing and a steely determination and will-to-win means I for one hope that this 200 appearance milestone is only a stepping stone to many more games and heroics in an Alloa shirt for Scott in the future.









# APPEARANCES

	POS	LEAGUE		CUP		TOTAL	
		APP	GOAL	APP	GOAL	APP	GOAL
PARRY	GOAL	17 (0)	0	6 (0)	0	23 (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	15 (0)	0	4 (0)	0	19 (0)	0
DICK	DEF	19 (0)	0	6 (0)	0	25 (0)	0
GRAHAM	DEF	19 (0)	1	4 (1)	0	23 (1)	1
JAMIESON	DEF	8 (2)	0	4 (0)	0	12 (2)	0
LYNCH	DEF	4 (0)	0	3 (0)	0	7 (0)	0
GILHOOLY	DEF	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0
WILLIAMSON	DEF	4 (0)	0	1 (0)	0	5 (0)	0
HETHERINGTON	MID	19 (0)	1	5 (2)	1	24 (2)	2
ROBERTSON	MID	19 (1)	0	5 (0)	0	24 (1)	0
GRANT	MID	18 (0)	0	5 (1)	0	23 (1)	0
MALCOLM	MID	0 (2)	0	2 (0)	0	2 (2)	0
ROBERTSON	MID	19 (1)	0	5 (0)	0	24 (1)	0
BROWN	MID	2 (4)	0	2 (0)	0	4 (4)	0
MURRAY	MID	11 (3)	2	4 (1)	0	15 (4)	2
SCOUGALL	MID	6 (5)	1	3 (3)	1	9 (8)	2
O'DONNELL	MID	3 (2)	0	2 (2)	1	5 (4)	1
TROUTEN	FWD	15 (0)	4	5 (1)	3	20 (1)	7
BUCHANAN	FWD	6 (11)	3	6 (1)	3	12 (12)	6
THOMSON	FWD	6 (8)	3	1 (5)	3	7 (13)	6
CONNELLY	FWD	6 (4)	1	2 (2)	0	8 (6)	1
EVANS	FWD	0 (1)	0	1 (2)	0	1 (3)	0
CAMERON	FWD	9 (0)	4	0 (0)	0	9 (0)	4
CAWLEY	FWD	21 (0)	4	5 (1)	0	26 (1)	4



ALLOA CAREER LGE		ALLOA CAREER CUP		ALLOA TOTAL	
APP	GOAL	APP	GOAL	APP	GOAL
132 (0)	0	35 (0)	0	167 (0)	0
1 (1)	0	0 (1)	0	1 (2)	0
4 (1)	0	1 (0)	0	5 (1)	0
158 (0)	6	41 (0)	1	199 (0)	7
71 (0)	1	22 (0)	0	93 (0)	1
147 (0)	12	39 (1)	1	186 (1)	13
8 (2)	0	4 (0)	0	12 (2)	0
4 (0)	0	3 (0)	0	7 (0)	0
0 (0)	0	1 (1)	0	1 (1)	0
4 (0)	0	1 (0)	0	5 (0)	0
132 (30)	6	27 (8)	1	159 (38)	7
120 (23)	2	37 (3)	2	157 (26)	4
18 (0)	0	5 (1)	0	23 (1)	0
10 (2)	0	2 (1)	0	12 (3)	0
120 (23)	2	37 (3)	2	157 (26)	4
13 (20)	3	12 (4)	0	25 (24)	3
11 (3)	2	4 (1)	0	15 (4)	2
6 (5)	1	3 (3)	1	9 (8)	2
4 (4)	0	2 (4)	1	6 (8)	1
66 (5)	23	20 (3)	16	86 (8)	39
50 (27)	19	21 (4)	8	71 (31)	27
16 (30)	8	3 (9)	4	19 (39)	12
7 (7)	2	2 (3)	0	9 (10)	2
0 (1)	0	1 (2)	0	1 (3)	0
9 (0)	4	0 (0)	0	9 (0)	4
267 (37)	55	58 (7)	10	325 (44)	65



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**AIMEE BURGESS**





**BRIAN ROACH**



# A FAN'S VIEW

We go into today's match against Ayr United with six fixtures remaining and very little margin for error. In all likelihood Alloa are going to have to pick up 4 wins to have any hope of consolidating their position in the Championship. All is not lost, as we achieved a similar tally of wins with 7 matches remaining a couple of seasons back. The character and spirit of this group of players has never been in

question. Their strength in times of adversity have illustrated that they should never be written off.

When Dundee visited last Friday, I watched their team take to the field looking reasonably relaxed. Following their shock home defeat in the previous fixture against today's opponents Ayr, they were facing real adversity and some disarray amongst their fanbase. When

their manager James McPake made his way to the dugout, he certainly looked like a man feeling the pressure. It was a huge moment for him- his players had to react, or essentially his prospects looked very bleak. Either his players felt the pressure, or they gave him a reaction. Without wishing ill upon any opposition manager (in the majority of cases anyway), I had hoped for the former, but unfortunately the latter

occurred. Let's be honest, if you look at the talent within that Dundee team they really should be beating Alloa comfortably. The result was no huge shock, and Dundee's record at Alloa overall is very good in recent times. The visitors began strongly, but Alloa were achieving more success when their pressing became more aggressive as the half wore on. The opening goal was a real setback- going in level at



the break would have provided a great foundation for Alloa to build on. The lead allowed Dundee to sit in a bit more after the break and look for the likes of Paul McMullen to hit Alloa on the counter attack. They conserved vital energy levels and played out from the back when required. Their win was deserved and it was just one of those nights from an Alloa perspective.

Hindsight is a wonderful thing of course, and it's easy for supporters to say "the manager should have done this" after the fact. The previous week down at Palmerston Park I thought Jon Robertson was terrific deputising for Stevie Hetherington. He always found space to take a pass, kicking off creative passages of play and essentially pulling the strings. It's no real secret I am a huge Jon Robertson fan. But on the other hand, I could understand the decision to place Robbo back into defence for this game. This was a fixture where space was likely to be at a premium, and Hetherington is tailor made for this type of encounter. However, I think the performances of both Robertson and his deputy at right back Eden Lynch in that game at Palmerston should remain in the managers' thoughts in the final half dozen matches. Particularly

when we are going to perhaps be required to break down defences sitting a bit deeper and allowing space to drive forward.

It's undoubtedly been a tough season with the covid restrictions and the players would have been feeling that. Much of our playing squad have been together for quite some time, which is unique in the part-time environment of annual contract renewals. The strength in the unit has always been a huge factor in the team's achievements, and I'd hazard a guess that it's perhaps affected our team more than most. But all is not quite lost yet- we know the players will give it their best shot in the remaining games to consolidate in the

league for yet another season.

We will shortly look at votes for Player of the Year and Goal of the Season. There are still quite a few contenders for Player of the Year, although long spells out with injury have affected our general stalwarts such as Alan Trouten, Neil Parry, Scott Taggart and Andy Graham. My top contenders would probably be the ever consistent Liam Dick, and the flair and eye for goal of Kevin Cawley as he broke his appearance record for the club. The goal of the season voting is likely to be far more straightforward. Alan Troutens lob from the halfway line at Somerset Park the last time these clubs met would probably be fit to

win the award in any of the recent campaigns. At the turn of 2020 I compiled a list of Alloa's Goals of the Decade for the previous 10 years. I'd hazard a guess that Troutens goal would have made the top 10 of that list, maybe even top 5. It was one of those moments this season where celebration is immediately tinged with sadness - you weren't there to witness it as we would have in "normal life" - Sadly, that day we ended up on the losing side. Let's hope it's different today.

Enjoy the game.













ANDREW COCKBURN



# ON THE 26TH MARCH

## 1994

Rangers retained their four-point advantage at the top of the Premier Division, and with a game in hand, following a 2-1 win at Hearts, while second-placed Motherwell were 1-0 victors at Celtic, who remained fifth. Third-placed Aberdeen defeated Dundee United by a single goal at Pittodrie, while Hibs stayed fourth in spite of a 0-1 reverse at Partick. At the other end of the

table, Dundee recorded their first League win since mid-November, 3-0 vs. fellow strugglers Kilmarnock, but still remained in last place. Second-bottom Raith's woes continued after a 0-2 reverse at another side in the doldrums, St. Johnstone, who stayed in third-bottom spot despite their success. The top game in the First Division saw second-placed Dunfermline entertain leaders Falkirk in front of over 13,000

spectators at East End Park, and a 1-1 draw meant no positional change for either club come full-time. Airdrie stayed third in spite of a 0-2 home defeat to St. Mirren, and as they trailed Falkirk by nine points, they clearly faced quite a task if they were to claim the sole promotion spot. Hamilton remained one place behind their Lanarkshire neighbours in fourth place, after they hammered hapless

Brechin 9-1 at Douglas Park. This was City's seventh League game without success, and they remained firmly ensconced in bottom place, while in the "basement battle" at Cappielow, third-bottom Morton overcame second-bottom Clyde 2-0. Stranraer maintained their six-point advantage at the top of the Second Division, after a 1-1 draw at Alloa, for whom Steve Cadden was on target. Sec-



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ond-placed Stenhousemuir were held 0-0 at home by lowly Albion Rovers, while third-placed Meadowbank also had to settle for a share of the spoils, after a 1-1 draw at Arbroath. Berwick stayed fourth after an emphatic 5-1 win at rock-bottom Cowdenbeath, while Alloa remained fifth. English Premiership leaders Manchester faced Aston Villa in the Coca-Cola Cup final the following day, and their lead at the top was now down to just three points, after second-placed Blackburn defeated bottom club Swindon 3-1 at home.

## 1988

Premier Division leaders Celtic's run of successive League wins came to an end, after they were held 0-0 at home by mid-table Dundee United, though they still held a five-point advantage over their second-placed fierce rivals Rangers, 3-2 winners at Dundee, and also had a precious game in hand. Hearts stayed third after a 2-0 home win over luckless bottom club Morton, while fourth-placed Aberdeen defeated another of the strugglers, Falkirk, 2-0 at Pittodrie. At the other end of the table, Morton's defeat virtually sealed their fate, while second-bottom Dunderline's own worries continued after they lost their vital relegation

clash at Motherwell by 2-3. Falkirk remained third from bottom, while Motherwell's success game them some relief, though they remained in fourth-bottom spot. in the First Division, Hamilton Accies lead at the top was now down to three points, after they were held 1-1 at by Lanarkshire rivals Airdrie at Douglas Park, and second-placed Meadowbank defeated Forfar 3-0 at home. Raith remained third in spite of a shock 0-1 home defeat by struggling East Fife, while Airdrie retained fourth spot. In the relegation zone, it now appeared to be any two from three clubs to make the drop to the Second Division. East Fife remained rock-bottom despite their success, but were now just one point from safety. Second-bottom Kilmarnock went down 0-1 at Queen Of The South, who remained fourth from bottom, but were now eight points clear of the drop zone, while third-bottom Dumbarton's problems continued after they too lost by a single goal, at Clydebank. Second Division leaders Ayr's 2-2 draw at Stirling Albion assured them of First Division football in 1988-89, barring a freak set of results during the last few weeks of the season. Second-placed St. Johnstone went down 1-2 at third-placed Queen's Park, but as The

Saints led The Spiders by seven points with only a handful of games left, they now seemed more or less certain to accompany Ayr "upstairs". Fourth-placed Brechin triumphed 3-0 at local rivals Arbroath, but like Queen's Park, their own promotion chances now seemed somewhat slim. Alloa moved up one place to seventh, after goals from Stephen Smith and Gus Rutherford

(pen) gave them a 2-0 win at Montrose, while in the "battle of the lowly", rock-bottom Stranraer went down 0-2 at second-bottom Berwick, their twenty-fifth League game without success. Liverpool remained fourteen points clear at the top of the English First Division, and still with two games in hand, after a 2-1 home win over Wimbledon.





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# AYR UNITED

*The Honest Men*

## FOUNDED

1910

## GROUND

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## TOP HONOURS

Scottish League Cup  
Runners-up 2001-02

Scottish Championship\*

Winners (6)

Runners-up (4)

Scottish League One\*

Winners (3)

Runners-up (3)

Playoff-Winners (3)

This afternoon we welcome Ayr United to the Indodrill for a crunch tie in the Scottish Championship. The Honest Men currently sit in seventh position, a comfortable eight points ahead of the hosts going into the game. Alloa will be looking to drag them back into the relegation dog-fight with five to play after this afternoon. A victory away to Dundee and a draw to high-flyers, Raith Rovers, in the space of a week has definitely given the side from Somerset a much more positive outlook

on the season and the play-offs are still not out of sight. They currently sit five points behind Dundee, however, a win this afternoon and results going their way could see the gap close to just the three points. The Championship has always been a league full of surprises and shocks, so the fact Ayr could get promoted or relegated, is fitting of the league.

## THE BOSS DAVID HOPKIN

There will be a new man in charge of the visitors this afternoon,

however, still a familiar face to this division. Ayr United appointed former Morton boss, David Hopkin, earlier this month. Hopkin had been in charge of league rivals, Morton, up until December when he decided to leave in a 'selfless act' to save the club financially. An intentionally capped midfielder, he began his managerial career at Livingston back in 2014. During his time there he guided them to successive promotions in 2017 and 2018 before leaving for Bradford City. His stint at both Bradford and Morton did not last long but he will hope to have many successful years at Somerset after signing a two-year deal. So far in the league he has secured on of each result after losing to Hearts a day after his appointment, beating Dundee and drawing with Raith Rovers.

## THE CAPTAIN JACK BAIRD

Commanding centre half, Jack Baird, will take the armband for the opposition today. Baird made his debut for St Mirren in 2014 and would go onto establish







signing as Ayr United boss by bringing in Jamie Barjonas in on loan from Rangers. The midfielder has made nine appearances for Rangers after progressing through their youth ranks and signed on at Somerset less than ten days ago. Barjonas, despite being born in Leeds, has also played for all the Scotland National Team youth ranks thanks to his Scottish parents. The league isn't unfamiliar to Barjonas after spending time on loan at Partick Thistle before the shut-down of the league last season. He also has had short stints at Bury and Raith Rovers.

#### ONE TO WATCH - LUKE MCCOWAN

Today's man to watch is one of the most exciting young talents in the Scottish Champi-

onship, Luke McCowan. The 23-year old has come through the youth ranks at Somerset, he would do this alongside playing for East End United, working as a lifeguard and attending the gym. Eventually the hard work paid off when he signed his first professional contract in 2017 with Ayr. A game against Partick Thistle led to him becoming a real star to watch and Ayr rewarded that with a new two-year deal. This season has been a real coming of age year for the winger as he has stepped up and taken his game to a new level. Seven goals across all competitions makes him a goal threat, of which Alloa will be well aware of. McCowan bagged a brace the last time the sides met at the end of January in a 4-1 victory for the Honest **CONTINUED ON P32**

himself a fan-favourite and started for the next six years. Eyebrows were raised when the Buddie made a loan switch to Greenock Morton last season but he shortly became a fan favourite there too with impressive performance. He became a mainstay for David Hopkin, who has reunited with him since joining, which raised the

question of a permanent move. Ayr United made the move to bring him in the summer after his release from Paisley though. The skipper has made twenty-one appearances in the league, scoring one goal.

#### NEW BOY - JAMIE BARJONAS

David Hopkin has already made his first



**BY KIEREN MOONEY**

Men and a goal in the first fixture too.

### THE CONNECTION

There are a few connections between each of the sides. Scott Taggart, Andy Graham, Liam Buchanan and Alan Trouten have all played for The Honest Men. Our captain, Graham, is the most recent and notable playing in the play-off winning season and captaining the side. Trouten also played a significant role during his time at Ayr United playing over eighty times in his two spells. 'Taggs' only was at Somerset for a short loan spell in 2010. The only player in the opposing ranks making a return is Sam Roscoe.

The centre half enjoyed a successful loan spell at the Indodrill last year creating a strong partnership alongside Graham as we secured our Championship status.

### PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The sides have already met twice this season with Ayr United coming out on top on both occasions. The first fixture back in December saw Ayr cruise to a comfortable 2-0 victory with goals from Luke McCowan and Andy Murdoch. Alloa were given a glimmer of hope with a red card for Cammy Smith, however, it was too little too late for Peter Grant's men.

The following fixture saw Ayr United win again convincingly, this time 4-1. Tom Walsh opened the scoring for the home side before Alan Trouten equalised with what will no doubt be the Wasps goal of the season. 'Trouts' caught

the goalkeeper off his line and expertly guided a free-kick in from his own half. It wasn't to count for much though as a brace for McCowan and a penalty from Aaron Muirhead ensured the three points were staying at Somerset.



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## HT QUIZ

1. WHICH AYR UNITED PLAYER HAS NETTED IN BOTH MATCHES AGAINST ALLOA THIS SEASON?
2. WHICH CURRENT ALLOA PLAYER WAS SENT OFF FOR AYR AGAINST ALLOA IN THE PAST DECADE?
3. WHO AM I? BORN IN 1978, I RETIRED ALMOST 4 YEARS AGO. I HAVE 89 CAPS FOR MY COUNTRY. I HAVE WON 7 LEAGUE TITLES IN 3 COUNTRIES, 2 MAJOR EUROPEAN TROPHIES AND AN INTERNATIONAL TOURNAMENT. I PLAYED WITH ALVARO MORATA, LUIS FIGO, ANTHONY MARTIAL, NEMANJA MATIC AND MEZUT OZIL.
4. DEREK MCINNES WAS AT ABERDEEN FOR 7 YEARS, NAME THE OTHER 11 MEN SINCE 1990 WHO HAVE MANAGED A SCOTTISH SENIOR CLUB FOR AT LEAST 7 YEARS DURING A SINGLE SPELL?



## GOALKEEPERS

**Viljami  
SINISALO**

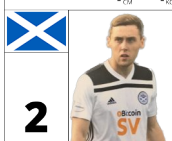
11/10/2001



## DEFENDERS

**Jordan  
HOUSTON**

28/01/2000



**Patrick  
READING**

29/05/1999



**Aaron  
MUIRHEAD**

30/08/1990



**Ellis  
HARE-REID**

12/01/1999



**Sam  
ROSCOE**

16/06/1998



**Corrie  
NDABA**

25/12/1999



**Michael  
HEWITT**

23/10/2000



**Peter  
URMINSKY**

24/05/1999



**Jack  
BAIRD**

07/02/1996



## MANAGER

**DAVID HOPKIN**





MIDFIELDERS			FORWARDS	
<div>Andy MURDOCH</div> <div>30/01/1995</div> <div><div>6</div><div></div></div>	<div>Michael MILLER</div> <div>31/12/1994</div> <div><div>8</div><div></div></div>	<div>Tom WALSH</div> <div>11/07/1996</div> <div><div>10</div><div></div></div>	<div>Michael MOFFAT</div> <div>15/02/1985</div> <div><div>7</div><div></div></div>	<div>Andre WRIGHT</div> <div>07/12/1996</div> <div><div>9</div><div></div></div>
<div>Cammy SMITH</div> <div>24/08/1995</div> <div><div>14</div><div></div></div>	<div>Joe CHALMERS</div> <div>03/01/1994</div> <div><div>18</div><div></div></div>	<div>Brett MCGAVIN</div> <div>21/12/1999</div> <div><div>23</div><div></div></div>	<div>Luke MCCOWAN</div> <div>09/12/1999</div> <div><div>11</div><div></div></div>	<div>Dario ZANATTA</div> <div>24/05/1997</div> <div><div>19</div><div></div></div>
<div>Liam MILLER</div> <div>01/01/2002</div> <div><div>24</div><div></div></div>	<div>Jamie BARJONAS</div> <div>24/01/1999</div> <div><div>28</div><div></div></div>	<div>Paul SMITH</div> <div>30/04/2002</div> <div><div>31</div><div></div></div>	<div>Mark MCKENZIE</div> <div>17/08/2000</div> <div><div>22</div><div></div></div>	<div>Gabe SKEOCH</div> <div>14/09/2000</div> <div><div>32</div><div></div></div>
<div></div>		<div></div>		<div></div>





FORWARDS					
BUCHANAN	CAMERON	CONNELLY	THOMSON	EVANS	
9	11	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		
90			18		
61			29		
23			82	8	
25	90				
28	90				
	90		3		
	90		5		
7	90				
4	90				
	90	58			
22	90	68			
30	90	70			
9	11	17	19	26	



## 37



# ALLOA ATHLETIC



# AYR UNITED

# 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			
	11	INNES CAMERON			
	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	VILJAMI SINISALO			
	2	JORDAN HOUSTON			
	3	PATRICK READING			
	4	ARON MUIRHEAD			
	5	SAM ROSCOE			
	6	ANDY MURDOCH			
	7	MICHAEL MOFFATT			
	8	MICHAEL MILER			
	9	ANDRE WRIGHT			
	10	TOM WALSH			
	11	LUKE MCCOWAN			
	14	CAMMY SMITH			
	17	CORRIE NDABA			
	18	JOE CHALMERS			
	19	DARIO ZANATTA			
	20	MICHAEL HEWITT			
	21	LUCA SANDBERG			
	22	MARK MCKENZIE			
	23	BRETT MCGAVIN			
	24	LIAM MILLER			
	28	JAMIE BARJONAS			
	29	PETER URMINSKY			
	30	JACK BAIRD			
	31	PAUL SMITH			
	32	GABE SKEOCH			

**MANAGER** DAVID HOPKIN

**REFEREE:** Alan Muir

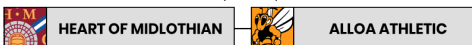
**ASST:** David Roome & Chris Phillips


## ALLOA'S NEXT FIVE

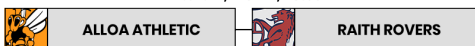
03.04.21, AWAY, 15:00



10.04.21, AWAY, 15:00



17.04.21, HOME, 15:00



24.04.21, AWAY, 15:00



31.04.21, HOME, 19:45





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