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ALLOA FOOTBALL CLUB



SCOTTISH CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS

1921/22

RUNNERS UP

1938/39

2016/17

SCOTTISH LEAGUE 1 RUNNERS UP

1976/77 1981/82

1984/85 1988/89 1999/00 2001/02 2009/10 2012/13

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)

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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

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Carol Edgar

Child Protection Officer

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Wasp Community Club: June McLauchlan

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^{*}includes equivalent competitions

2020/21

SCOTTISH CHAMPIONSHIP	P	w	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
HEARTS	20	14	3	3	48	21	27	45
DUNFERMLINE -	18	8	6	4	27	19	8	30
RAITH ROVERS -	19	8	5	6	32	25	7	29
DUNDEE	19	7	6	6	34	35	-1	27
QUEEN OF THE SOUTH	20	8	3	9	32	40	-8	27
INVERNESS CT	20	5	9	6	26	23	3	24
AYR UNITED -	20	6	6	8	25	24	1	24
GREENOCK MORTON	20	5	7	8	17	25	-8	22
ARBROATH	20	5	6	9	17	26	-9	21
ALLOA ATHLETIC -	20	4	5	11	24	44	-20	17

WEEKEND'S FIXTURES

CHAMPIONSHIP



PREMIERSHIP







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We would like to wish the team every success for the coming season!



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Neil

DEFENDERS



Scott **TAGGART**



Liam DICK



Andy GRAHAM



MATCH

most appearances

Cawley 365 198 Taggart Hetherington 196 Graham 186 Robertson 182

Andy WILSON



Jon **ROBERTSON**



Nicky JAMIESON



Lucas WILLIAMSON



GOALS

Cawley 65 Trouten 39 Buchanan 27 Graham 13 Thomson 11



WILLISON

27/05/1999

Jordan **WRIGHT**



Edin LYNCH



PETER GRANT











NEWSDESK

Todav we welcome Dundee FC to the Indodrill Stadium. welcoming manager James McPake, the players. officials and directors of Dundee FC. This match will feature Live on BBC Scotland tonight Friday 19th March, 2021 at Indodrill Stadium. Kick-Off 7.45pm, having been rescheduled from Saturday 20th March, Kick-Off 3.00pm. The last time the teams faced each other earlier this season also live on

BBC Scotland the game served up a 3-3 cracker, although having been 3-1 ahead in the last match at the Indodrill Stadium it is one of games "The Wasps" will look back and had hoped they could have held on for full points. Last Saturday at Dumfries against Queen of the South we deserved our 3-2 victory with the home team not having lost at Palmerston since our visitors tonight Dundee defeated them on

26th December, 2020. The following matches in the Scottish Championship have been selected for live coverage on BBC Scotland channel -Saturday 27th March Dundee v. Dunfermline Athletic Kick-Off 7.45pm and Tuesday 30th March Raith Rovers v. **Dunfermline Athletic** Kick-Off 7.05pm. Scottish Professional Football Leagues One & Two will restart,

beginning tomorrow, Saturday 20th March, however discussions are still continuing with the clubs regarding the total number of matches to be played in each division this season.

Scotland will begin their FIFA World Cup 2022 Qualification games in Group F when the face Austria at Hampden on Thursday 25th March, Kick-Off 7.45, then on Sunday 28th March they face Israel 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.

Dick Campbell was recently named SPFL Championship Manager of the Month for February, 2021, presented by Glen's Vodka, Alloa Athletic were the only team to take points off "The Red Lichties" during February when they drew 1-1 at the Indodrill Stadium on 13th of the month.

Ayr United have appointed David Hopkin as their new manager folling the recent departure of Mark Kerr, while Greenock Morton have appointed Gus

Macpherson as their new manager on a deal until the end of the current season assisted by ex Alloa Athletic player Andy Millen. Anton McElhone had been in interim charge since the departure of David Hopkin in December, 2020.

INTRODUCING WEEK-LY PRIZES WITH PAPA JOHN'S!

SPFL Official Delivery and Takeaway Partner Papa John's will now be providing tasty weekly prizes for the SPFL Score Predictor! You can turn your correct picks into tasty treats and prizes and be rewarded for your big Scottish football brain!

Each week, you can now win:

6 Correct Scores: 1 Playstation 5 with 1 digital copy of: PES 2021, FIFA 2021, Call of Duty: Black Ops Cold War. 5 Correct Scores: £20 to spend



every month for a year at Papa John's 4 Correct Scores: A Papa John's Big Match Bundle. 3 Correct Scores: A free large pizza from Papa John's. 2 Correct Scores: Free garlic pizza sticks side OR potato tots side. 1 Correct Score: £10 off with a spend of £25 or more at Papa John's.

You are immediately eligible to play for these prizes, and there's no need to change any-

thing in your account, this is live for this week's fixtures, so get your picks in, and get the pizza in if you predict correctly!

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







MANAGERS NOTES

Good Afternoon Everyone

Hope you and all your family and friends are safe and well. hopefully we are getting closer to the day when we can welcome you all back inside the stadium in your rightful place. On to the football and we play against a very tough opponent in Dundee. James has done very well in his 1st job in management and his

recruitment of quality players to an already strong squad has been excellent.

We go into tonight's game on the back of a well deserved victory at the weekend, to be fair to the players I personally believe they have been playing well and not getting results so I was obviously delighted with the win but we also know that's gone now and our soul focus is tonight. As I said



earlier, Dundee have a very strong squad and we will have to be at our best but I also know the squad we have are more than capable of winning any match, I have been delighted with the full squad and each and everyone of them have been fully committed whether they have been playing or not and all have very supportive of their teammates none more so than Liam Buchanan and I was delighted that he got what proved to be the winner on Saturday. Finally I would like to welcome James and all his staff and players here tonight.

SUPPORT THE PLAYERS ALWAYS

PETER







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





SCOTTISH CHAMPIONSHIP

6th March 2021 Indodrill Stadium, Alloa 3:00 pm KO

ALLOA ATHLETIC

1:1

INVERNESS CT



(1:1) scorer Cameron 17' 1:0

1:1 27' Todorov









STARTING XI			STARTING XI
1 PARRY			1 RIDGERS
3 DICK	SUBS	SUBS	6 DEVINE
5 GRAHAM	31 WILLISON	21 MCKAY	7 KEATINGS
6 HETHERINGTON	18 MALCOLM	4 WELSH	11 SUTHERLAND
7 CAWLEY	19 THOMSON	8 CARSON	12 MACGREGOR
8 ROBERTSON	20 O'DONNELL	10 DORAN	16 HARPER
9 BUCHANAN	24 WILLIAMSON	14 VINCENT	17 STOREY
10 TROUTEN	25 LYNCH	27 MACKAY	18 ALLARDICE
15 JAMIESON	26 EVANS	77 TODOROV	19 KENNEDY
17 CONNELLY			22 MCKAY
23 MURRAY			24 DEAS

REFEREE: Alan Muir



SCOTTISH CHAMPIONSHIP

13th 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









	The state of the s		
STARTING XI			STARTING XI
20 FERGUSON			1 PARRY
33 GIBSON	SUBS	SUBS	8 ROBERTSON
3 MAXWELL	1 LEIGHFIELD	31 WILLISON	5 GRAHAM
5 OBILEYE	15 MCGRORY	9 BUCHANAN	24 WILLIAMSON
19 BREEN	17 JOSEPH	15 JAMIESON	25 LYNCH
4 BUCHANAN	18 MCKECHNIE	26 EVANS	2 TAGGART
29 MEBUDE	26 DICKSON	14 BROWN	22 GRANT
16 EAST	21 MCMAHON	20 O'DONNELL	7 CAWLEY
10 SHIELDS	9 GOSS	18 MALCOLM	11 CAMERON
12 MCCABE			23 MURRAY
7 FITZPATRICK			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 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





THE EVERGREEN ALLOA GOALSCORERS

When Andy Graham calmly struck shot nestled into the bottom corner of the Queen of the South net last month, he became Alloa's oldest goalscorer since 2012. At the age of 37 years, 4 months and 16 days young the club captain showed his trademark composure to draw Alloa level from close range, as the Wasps came from behind to earn a very welcome three points that afternoon. It was

Andy's first Alloa goal for close to 22 months, with him spending virtually half that time out of action with the rare spinal condition discitis. As such, getting back onto the pitch was an achievement in itself and Graham's evident joy at getting on the scoresheet was tremendous to see.

The goal had me scrambling for my record books to research Alloa's oldest goalscorer

in the past quarter of a century. It turns out that Andy's strike made him the fourth eldest scorer for the club in the past 25 years. Top of the vintage scorers list is none other than the Wasps top goalscorer in the post-WW2 era. Willie Irvine, Like Graham, Irvine joined the Wasps at the age of 32 and made a similarly lasting impression at the club having been the star player during two promotions and a Challenge Cup

victory. The last of Willie's 91 goals was an uncommon header (from an Andy Seaton corner), which drew Alloa level in extra-time against Inverness CT in a 2001 Challenge Cup game, with the Wasps eventually winning the second round tie and then going on to reach a second Challenge Cup final in three seasons. Irvine however was left on the bench in the final defeat against Airdrie, with him sadly leaving

the club weeks later having fallen out with Terry Christie over his lack of game-time. In Christie's autobiography he reflected that he'd made a mistake by leaving Irvine on the bench for the cup final. Irvine's final Wasps goal at the age of 37 years, 7 months and 18 days made him 4 days older than when Keith Knox scored his final Alloa goal.

Knox was a shrewd signing by Christie in 2001, despite having been released by Stranraer and rapidly approaching his 37th birthday. Two days before that birthday the ex-Clyde stalwart scored two excellent goals from his right-wingback position, first a diving header and then a sweet volley in Alloa's 4-0 opening league day win at Berwick. Knox's final goal for the Wasps was later that season. which ended with the Wasps winning promotion back to the First Division. The Wasps were two-nil down within ten minutes against Knox's former side Stranraer, but a second half recovery started by a close-range Knox finish earned a draw which moved the Wasps back into the promotion places with seven games to go. Knox was still full of energy down the right-flank in the opening months of the 2002/3 season, despite being 38 and the Wasps

PLAYER	AGE AT TIME OF GOAL	APPS	GOALS	ALLOA CAREER
WILLIE IRVINE	37 years 7 months 18 days	234	91	1996-2001
KEITH KNOX	37 years, 7 months, 14 days	45	5	2001-2003
ROBBIE WINTERS	37 years, 5 months, 15 days	29	5	2011-2012
ANDY GRAHAM	37 years, 4 months, 16 days	186	13	2016-PRESENT
HAMISH FRENCH	37 years, 1 month, 17 days	25	2	2000-2001

struggling in the First Division. I vividly recall watching him have rosv red cheeks on a baking afternoon at Love Street, playing like a youngster with endless energy. However, a spell on the bench led to his departure to Third Division newcomers Gretna, far closer to the postman's Stranraer base. Knox's enthusiasm and commitment is reminiscent of Graham's, with both being true legends of the lower leagues.

The other player older than Andy to score for the Wasps in the past twenty-five years is Robbie Winters. The one-time Scotland cap helped Alloa to the Third Division title in 2012. playing under a manager two years his junior! Although it took Robbie 21 appearances to get off the mark for Paul Hartley's Champions, his final Alloa goal (in the win versus a Stranraer defence featuring future Wasps Scott Taggart and Frank McKeown) was his fifth in six matches. Completing the top five evergreen Alloa goalscorers was another single season Wasp. Despite Hamish French's grey hair, he was one of the fittest players in Terry Christie's 2000/1 First Division Alloa side. The former

Dundee United and Dunfermline midfielders final goal for the Wasps was a welcomed winner away at Ross County in late March, earning a first win for over three months. Alloa's other goalscorers that day were fellow 37 year old Willie Irvine and the comparative youngster, at 34, Gareth Evans!

Returning to Andy again, there were a few other interesting facts about his goal last month against Queen of the South. First, it was Andy's third Alloa goal scored past goalkeeper Rohan Ferguson, accounting for 23% of all his goals for the Wasps.

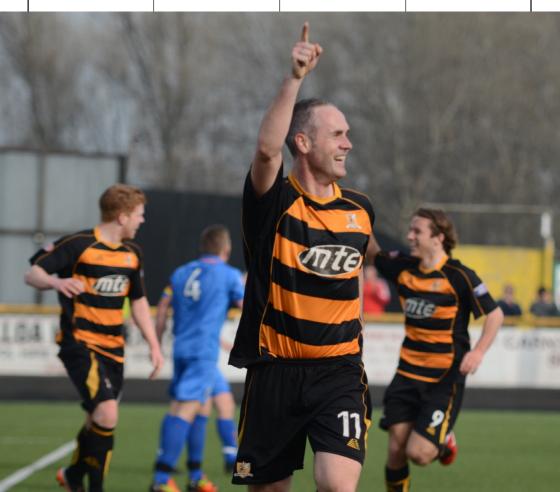


Back in February 2017 Graham scored a 14 minute double during a 2-1 victory over Airdrie, with Ferguson in the nets that afternoon too. Coincidentally all three of those goals occurred at the Indodrill Stadium. with each being scored at the Railway End of the ground too! Last weekend Ferguson gained a degree of revenge by well saving Graham's second half penalty. Graham had scored past Ferguson from the spot before in the play-off penalty

shoot-out victory over Airdrie in May 2017, but on this latest occasion the former team-mate of Neil Parry guessed right to stop Graham adding to his already impressive personal goalscoring haul against him.

In addition, Alloa never lose when Andy gets on the scoresheet. The Wasps have won eleven and drawn one of the dozen separate games in which Graham has found the back of the net. Personally I'd say that in the game which Alloa drew that Andy shouldn't take credit for the goal (Graham flicked a free kick on but George Oakley then clearly directs it towards his own goal up at Inverness), but I wouldn't dare take it off Andy! It's a tremendously positive record and one which Andy himself is well aware of, having told the Alloa Advertiser's Ciaran Vance after his strike last month "We don't seem to lose when I score so I just need to score more often." Although Andv isn't

particularly renowned for his goalscoring, it's another signal of his positive impact, as when he does score the team always picks up a result too. Despite the hiccup from the penalty spot last weekend (it wasn't Andy's first normal time penalty miss for the Wasps, after seeing one saved versus Airdrie in November 2018 too). hopefully a few more goals from Graham in the remaining weeks of the season equate to further positive results for the Wasps.





APPEARANCES

					The same of the sa		Aleks of	
		LEA	GUE	CL	JP	тот	AL	ġ
	POS	APP	GOAL	APP	GOAL	APP	GOAL	
PARRY	GOAL	16 (0)	0	6 (0)	0	22 (0)	. 0	
WILSON	GOAL	0 (0)	- О	0 (1)	0	0 (1)	0	-
WILLISON	GOAL	4 (1)	0	1 (0)	0	5 (1)	0	
WRIGHT	GOAL	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	
TAGGART	DEF	14 (0)	0	4 (0)	0	18 (0)	0	J.
DICK	DEF	18 (0)	0	6 (0)	0	24 (0)	0	A
GRAHAM	DEF	18 (0)	1	4 (1)	0	22 (1)	1	
JAMIESON	DEF	8 (2)	0	4 (0)	0	12 (2)	0	
LYNCH	DEF	4 (0)	0	3 (0)	0	7 (0)	0	Ļ
GILHOOLY	DEF	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	
WILLIAMSON	DEF	4 (0)	0	1 (0)	0	5 (0)	0	
HETHERINGTON	MID	18 (0)	1	5 (2)	1	23 (2)	2	-
ROBERTSON	MID	18 (1)	0	5 (0)	0	23 (1)	0	
GRANT	MID	17 (0)	0	5 (1)	0	22 (1)	0	
MALCOLM	MID	0 (2)	0	2 (0)	0	2 (2)	0	
ROBERTSON	MID	18 (1)	0	5 (0)	0	23 (1)	0	-
BROWN	MID	2 (3)	0	2 (0)	0	4 (3)	0	
MURRAY	MID	10 (3)	2	4 (1)	0	14 (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 (10)	3	6 (1)	3	12 (11)	6	}
THOMSON	FWD	6 (8)	3	1 (5)	3	7 (13)	6	}
CONNELLY	FWD	5 (4)	1	2 (2)	0	7 (6)	1	-
EVANS	FWD	0 (1)	0	1 (2)	0	1 (3)	0	-
CAMERON	FWD	8 (0)	4	0 (0)	0	8 (0)	4	-
CAWLEY	FWD	20 (0)	4	5 (1)	0	25 (1)	4	

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ALLOA CA	AREER LGE	ALLOA CA	AREER CUP	ALLOA	TOTAL	
APP	GOAL	APP	GOAL	APP	GOAL	SPONSORS
131 (0)	0	35 (0)	0	166 (0)	0	
- 1 (1)	0	0 (1)	0	1 (2)	0	
- 4 (1)	0	1 (0)	0	5 (1)	0	
- 0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	
- 157 (0)	6	41 (0)	1	198 (0)	7	
70 (0)	1	22 (0)	0	92 (0)	1	
- 146 (0)	12	39 (1)	1	185 (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	
- 131 (30)	6	27 (8)	1	158 (38)	7	ALLOA SUPPORTER'S MINIBUS
119 (23)	2	37 (3)	2	156 (26)	4	
17 (0)	0	5 (1)	0	22 (1)	0	
10 (2)	0	2 (1)	0	12 (3)	0	
- 119 (23)	2	37 (3)	2	156 (26)	4	
- 13 (19)	3	12 (4)	0	25 (23)	3	
10 (3)	2	4 (1)	0	14 (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	MCCALLUM ENGINEERING
- 50 (26)	19	21 (4)	8	71 (30)	27	WORLDWIDE WASPS
- 16 (30)	8	3 (9)	4	19 (39)	12	Control of the last of the las
6 (7)	2	2 (3)	0	8 (10)	2	
0 (1)	0	1 (2)	0	1 (3)	0	
8 (0)	4	0 (0)	0	8 (0)	4	
266 (37)	55	55 (7)	10	321 (44)	65	AIMEE BURGESS





A FAN'S VIEW

We go into tonight's game with a far more optimistic outlook having picked up a massive 3 points against Oueen of the South last weekend. For once. results elsewhere also worked in Alloa's favour and now they are just 4 points from safety. Much of the discussions about the final outcome at the foot of the table amongst fans of other clubs essentially wrote Alloa off as finishing bottom. In the previous

edition of the match programme I mentioned Alloa's late comeback of season 2018/19, where we picked up 4 wins in the last 7 games. We may need something similar this season to survive, but last week's result gave us a real platform to build on in the coming games. The one constant is that vou never write off this group of players, such is their character and desire.

Picking up a result last weekend was absolutely critical, because a fortnight ago it felt like a real opportunity missed to gain 3 points against Inverness Caledonian Thistle. Alloa played really well in the opening half of the game. There was a real fluidity to the midfield and thev passed the ball around with real confidence and purpose. Interim manager Neil McCann has Inverness playing out from the back, but

it's still very much a work in progress as the temporary manager tries to implement his strategies. Alloa pressed their opponents high up the pitch as a result and achieved plenty of success. Innes Cameron gave Alloa the lead with an explosive finish. Cameron has been a revelation since joining the club on loan. His presence, link play and eye for goal has given the club a much needed new dimension at times

in the final third of the pitch. It was a real setback that the visitors equalised with their first real attack of the game, when Todorov stroked home. However Alloa created a number of opportunities before the break. The manager stated in his post-match interview that the team should have been out of sight, and it was hard to disagree with that. The second half wasn't nearly as action packed, and Inverness threatened a bit more. In normal circumstances such as earlier in the season it would have been viewed as a reasonably good point-but results are paramount in the closing stages of the campaign. The performance overall however I thought was a real plus.

And so it was onto Palmerston Park the following week. The task looked daunting. As we know, Queen of the South are on an excellent run of form and full of confidence. In addition to that, they came into the game flying after they had overturned a 2 goal deficit to win against Arbroath the previous weekend. And to add to Alloa's woes, Alan Trouten and Stevie Hetherington were absent due to suspension. Liam Dick was also declared unavailable immediately prior to kick off having felt unwell on the journey south. I agreed with

the manager's changes, pushing Ion Robertson into centre midfield and bringing in Eden Lynch on the right side of essentially a back 3. The 2 clubs have contested some excellent games at Palmerston in recent times, and this one was no exception. Queens took an early lead from an excellent Mebude volley, but Alloa sliced the home defence open on the 20-minute mark. Some great work from Innes Cameron teed up Murray who fired high into the net. 8 minutes from half time the hosts were back in front- a header from Ewan Fast which could have perhaps been defended a bit better. But right before the break Alloa were level once more, when Lee Connelly scored with a

beautiful curling effort. There was a moment of controversy right before the whistle to cap an action packed opening period. Queens man mountain Ayo Obileye rashly caught Ray Grant as Alloa looked to start a counter attack- which the referee deemed a straight red card offence. For the purpose of objectivity, I tend to consider how I'd feel if Alloa were on the wrong end of such an offence. And on the surface I thought it perhaps only merited a booking. However, as the referee was so close to the action on this occasion maybe on reflection the call was the correct one. Obileve. who had performed well throughout the afternoon, certainly gave the referee a decision to

leading with studs after he attempted to make amends for a poor first touch.

It meant a pending 45 minutes where in a way Alloa's season was on the line. Oueen of the South began taking shortcuts due to the numerical deficit. They were launching long, using Mebude and Shields as outballs. They mostly sat deep and compact, giving Alloa lots of the ball but ensuring the door was locked. It was a huge opportunity to get 3 points. Alloa were awarded a fairly soft penalty in 53 minutes, when the ball ricocheted off Willie Gibson's arm after his first touch didn't go to plan. As is the common rhetoric now, it's a type of incident that universally



we don't want to see penalised-but in the past couple of years we've seen an abundance given. I'm sure most were similar in their surprise as Andy Graham stepped up to take it. I noticed several people post-match questioning why Andy took the spot kick- but the truth is if the captain picks up the ball there isn't anyone who can really over rule or out rank him. I felt Cameron might have been the best option in current form, but it was what it was- hindsight is truly wonderful. Andy's effort was saved, and Oueens received a shot in the arm as a result of our setback. I had expected him to hammer it, so was surprised he opted for placement. It was a tense watch from there on as Alloa continued to probe for

a breach in the Queens defensive unit. A point at that stage would have suited the hosts. and would have meant little damage to their run of form or league standing. The onus was very much on Alloa to take the game to them. loy and relief arrived with 12 minutes left-Liam Buchanan found an Obileye shaped gap in front of the Queens back 4, allowing him to advance into shooting range. His low drive proved to be the winner. But more drama followed at the end of the game, with Queens midfielder Rhvs McCabe joining Obileye for an early bath. There was no debating this one- a borderline assault on Innes Murray at the touchline. This was followed by a quite hilarious rugby tackle from Andy

Graham on Mebude as Oueens looked to build a counter. There was no real malice to it- in fact I think the tackle was more of a "show" from the captain to his team mate Kevin Cawley. who Andy berated for not covering the space. Overall this was a massive 3 points for Alloa. Had they been unable to break down Queen of the South in the second half and only left with a point, it would have been a hammer blow. The players showed real character to dig that result out, particularly with 3 of their best performers this season absent. Oueens were undoubtedly hindered by the first red card, but it was no bad day at the office for them. In the first half, they were right at it and yet Alloa matched them blow for blow. As well as

the 3 points, they should also take the positives from that. If I was the manager I'd be considering keeping Robertson in the centre of midfield. He was outstanding plugging gaps and dictating play. I thought he was Alloa's best player on the pitch- you could tell he was enjoying himself, and it showed in the level of performance he produced. Of course there's an element of risk changing the back 4, but Lynch I thought also had a good outing. Brilliant at driving forward, he was also solid enough defensively up against really good players in Mebude and Shields. Let's hope Alloa can build on that excellent result last week as we face Dundee in front of the TV cameras.

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LOOKING BACK

18TH MARCH 1989

Scottish Cup quarter-final day, and holders Celtic booked a semi-final place thanks to a 2-1 home v Hearts. Alloa meantime, seeking to reach the semi-finals for the first time ever. visited Hibs, whose last Scottish Cup success had come way back in 1902, and The Wasps lined up at Easter Road as follows: Lowrie, Haggart (Rodgers), R. Lee, Millen, McCulloch, Gibson, Blackie,

Ramsay, McCallum, I. Lee, Lytwyn (A. Smith). Alas, Alloa's Scottish Cup hopes were ended for another season, as a solitary first-half goal from Paul Kane proved decisive for The Hi-Bees, leaving The Wasps to now focus 100% on their Second Division promotion bid. However this will always be a great day for the Wasps fans to remember pushing Hibs all the way with Billy Blackie probably coming closest to scor-

ing for The Wasps and Ronnie Lowrie fantastic between the sticks, indeed Hibs had a decent goalkeeper themselves on the day a certain Andy Goram. The two outstanding ties, the all-Premier Division clash between Rangers and the previous season's runners-up Dundee United, and the all-First Division clash between Morton and St. Johnstone, were scheduled for the following midweek.

With no games scheduled in The Premier Division, it was asyou-were, with Rangers six points ahead at the top, followed by their arch-rivals Celtic, Dundee United, Aberdeen & Hibs. Hamilton Accies were still well adrift at the bottom, while Dundee and Motherwell lay immediately above them.

In The First Division, leaders Dunfermline were gameless due to the cancellation of



their game at hapless Queen Of The South. And second-placed Airdrie missed out on the chance to displace The Pars from top spot, when they went down 0-1 at a Partick side beginning to pull away from the bottom. Third-placed Falkirk and fourth-placed Clydebank were both gameless, bottom club Oueen Of The South were now all but doomed for the drop, while in a crucial relegation four-pointer at Meadowbank Stadium, second-bottom Meadowbank hosted a Clyde side lying one place above them. But a 2-0 win for Thistle saw them move up three places, Clyde now occupied second-bottom spot, while Kilmarnock. held 2-2 at home by Forfar, slipped to third-bottom position.

Down in The Second. leaders Albion Rovers and second-placed Brechin were both held at home, 2-2 v Stranraer and 1-1 v Stenhouse-

muir respectively. Stirling Albion were now third after a 2-1 home win v lowly East Stirling. Alloa's inactivity saw them slip one place to sixth, while rock-bottom Berwick were gameless.

South of the border, it was also cup quarter-final day, and the previous season's runners-up Liverpool comfortably progressed, thanks to a 4-0 home win v Third Division Brentford. Nottingham Forest also booked a semi-final place, thanks to a 1-0 win v Manchester United at Old Trafford, the West Ham v Norwich tie ended in a 0-0 stalemate. while Everton hosted holders Wimbledon the following day.

Matters were largely unchanged at the top of The First Division, with gameless leaders Arsenal still two points ahead of second-placed Norwich. But third-placed Millwall narrowed the gap on the top two, with a 2-0 home win v Aston Villa. while West Ham still



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propped up the table, with Newcastle just one place above them. The Second Division's top game was undoubtedly at Maine Road, where leaders Manchester City hosted second-placed Chelsea, in front of just over 40.000 spectators.

And a 3-2 win for The Londoners enabled to swap places with their promotion rivals, while WBA remained third. thanks to a narrow 1-0 home win v struggling Brighton.





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DUNDEE

The Dark Blues

FOUNDED

1893

GROUND

Den's Park, Dundee

TOP HONOURS

Scottish Premiership Winners 1961-62 Runners-up (4)

Scottish Cup Winners 1909-10

Scottish League Cup Winners (3)

Scottish Championship* Winners (5)

Alloa welcome Dundee to the Indodrill for a game under the Friday night lights for the second time this season. The visitors returned to the promotion play-off spots after seeing off Arbroath and Alloa doing them a favour by picking up three points in Dumfries against Oueen of the South. It has been a mixed season so far for the Dee, however, after a strong January transfer window, there has been a noticeable shift in their performances as they look to secure a play-off spot and head into those games in a run of form. They were

not given the opportunity to compete in these games last season after the early termination of the campaign. Dundee sat in third at that point but weren't able for a shot at the Premiership. After heavy investment this year though, the ultimate goal is to return to Scotland's top flight, where they have been missing since their relegation in 2018/19 season under Jim McIntyre.

THE BOSS JAMES MCPAKE

36-year old James McPake is in his second full season in management as he takes charge of Dundee this evening. The defender began his career at Livingston before stints with Coventry and Hibernian. He began his connection at Dens when he signed for the Dee as a player in 2014. The most notable moment in his playing career came with his derby day goal against Dundee United, Unforutnately for McPake his playing career was hampered by a serious knee injury which kept him out the majority of his final years playing. At the start of 2018.

McPake was appointed a coach in the academy system at the club and following the sacking of lim McIntyre a year later he took temporary charge of the club. Despite failing to save the club from relegation, he was entrusted with the job of bringing them back up permanently. Although last season ultimately ended in disappointment for McPake, he will be hoping with his recruitment and aid from Gordon Stratchan that he will be able to go one step further this season.

THE CAPTAIN CHARLIE ADAM

One of Dundee's stand-out signings from the summer, was also rewarded with the captaincy during the season. Charlie Adam has set the Championship alight with his quality and after such a successful start to his career with his boyhood heroes, was given the role of captain. He signed a two-vear deal last September as he set his sights on finishing career at his dream club. It didn't take him long to show his prowess with a fantastic debut goal





and performance in a defeat to Hearts. Adam has gone onto score seven goals, as well as assist nine, in his twenty appearances so far this season. That type of form saw him bag the SPFL's Championship Player of the Month award for December. He has missed the last few games after testing positive but returned to training last week. McPake will be desperate to get a player, who has the League Cup with Liverpool and capped by Scotland, back into his squad to provide that quality and experience.

NEW BOY -LIAM FONTAINE

Although not a January transfer window signing, Liam Fontaine has certainly made a difference since arriving at the club during the season. Last November, McPake snapped up the services of the centre half following a successful trial period at the club. He would make his debut a day later against Ayr and then go into a rich vein of form. Fontaine scored three goals in four appearances in December, including a strike against Alloa. The signing of the 35-year old secured Dundee will invaluable experience

as they seek promotion to the top tier. In his spells with Hibernian and Ross County he won the Championship twice in 2017 and 2019. During that time as well he added a Scottish Cup and Scottish Challenge Cup medal to his trophy cabinet. The veteran centre back missed their game against Arbroath with an achilles injury picked up in training and

was replaced by young Malachi Fagan-Walcott, another new face who arrived at Dens on loan from Tottenham Hotspur.

ONE TO WATCH-JASON CUMMINGS

This week's one to watch needs no reminder of who he is, nor the threat he gives Dundee. Considered a major coup, Jason Cummings signed on at Dens this lanuary on a deal till the summer of 2022. Following a spell down South with Nottingham Forest and Shrewsbury Town, he will be most remembered for his goals against Liverpool in the FA Cup. It was in Scotland he really made a name for himself, and in particular the Scottish Championship. Despite growing up a Hearts fan, he became a cult-hero

CONTINUED ON P32





BY KIEREN MOONEY

for their rivals Hibernian as he fired them. to the Premiership, something he had always promised, and won the Scottish Cup. His performances for Hibs that season saw him nominated for the PFA Player of the Year and Young Player of the Year. A return to Scotland raised many eyebrows as the club announced him in typical Cummings fashion with their 'loker' themed tweets. What the Dee fans have seen on the pitch though is very similar to the potent form in front of goal seen at Easter Road. Cummings has hit the back of the net four times in his six appearances so far.

THE CONNECTION

There have been plenty of connections between the two clubs in recent years with managers who have been in charge of both clubs, such as Paul Hartley and Barry Smith, and likewise with players such as Kyle Benedictus, Scott Bain, Daryll Meggatt, Darren Young, Mark Gilhanev. Calum Elliot & Andy Ferguson. Despite these connections in the past, there are no current Dundee players returning to their former club at the Indodrill tonight. Similarlv. there are no current Alloa players who have also played for tonight's visitors.

PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The sides have already met twice this season in which we saw entertaining games both times. The first encounter was in similar fashion tonight with the BBC cameras descending on the Indodrill for Friday night football. The producers certainly picked well that evening in November with the game ending 3-3. Robert Thomson opened the scoring before Alloa were pegged back with a Declan McDaid strike from the edge of the area. The second half went perfectly to plan for Alloa initially with an Alan Trouten double putting the Wasps in a

commanding position with thirty minutes to play. However, Cammy Kerr's effort snuck in to give Dundee hope going into the final fifteen. With five to play, Charlie Adam, who had grown into the game and becoming increasingly influential, equalised from the penalty spot to share the points. The reverse fixture was also a midweek tie, making it even harder for Peter Grant's part-timers. Stevie Hetherington got a rare goal to put Alloa ahead early on, however, it didn't last long in the second half. A brace from Osman Sow and a goal from Liam Fontaine saw Alloa fall short of Dundee and lose 3-1.

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DEFENDERS



Jordan **MCGHEE**

Malachi



Liam **FONTAINE**













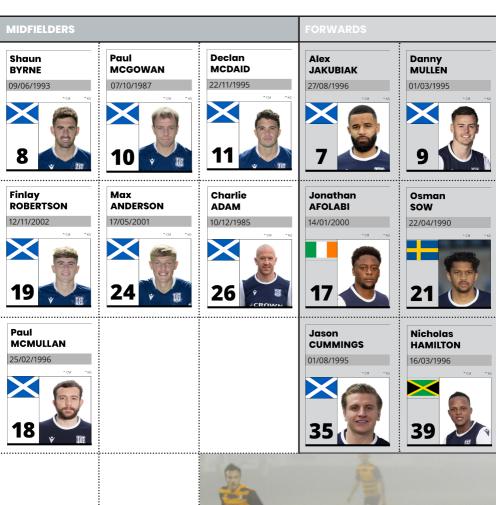








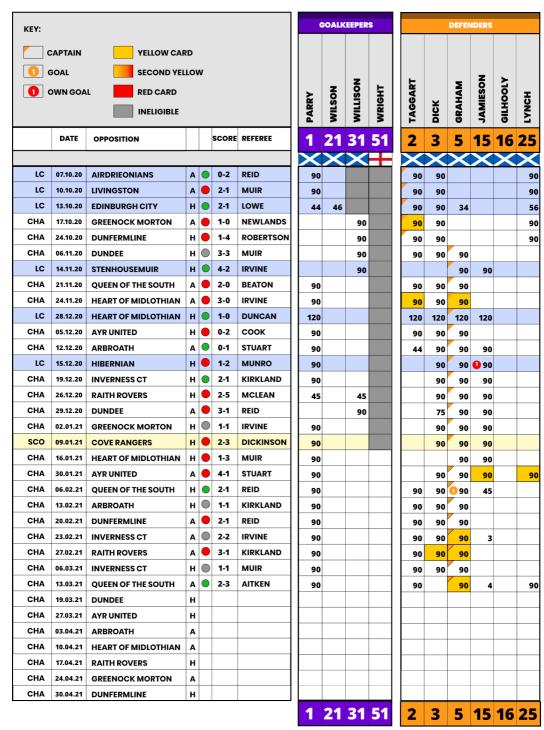












MIDFIELDERS										
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QUIZ ANSWERS

- 1. ALAN TROUTEN (2), ROBERT THOMSON, STEVIE HETHERING-TON
- 2. WILLIE FALCONER
- 3. FLEETWOOD TOWN
- 4. BRIAN KIDD, DENIS LAW, CARLOS TEVEZ, ANDY COLE, PETER SCHMEICHEL, OWEN HARGREAVES





ALLOA ATHLETIC



DUNDEE



REFEREE: Grant Irvine

ASST: Calum Doyle & Andy Milne

ALLOA'S NEXT FIVE

10.04.21,
HEART OF MIDLOTHIAN



ALLOA ATHLETIC

27.03.21, HOME, 15:00



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24.04.21, AWAY, 15:00

RAITH ROVERS

03.04.21, AWAY, 15:00



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