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### 6TH MARCH



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## SCOTTISH CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS

1921/22

## RUNNERS UP

1938/39

## SCOTTISH LEAGUE 1 RUNNERS UP

1976/77 1981/82

1984/85 1988/89 1999/00

2001/02 2009/10 2012/13

2016/17

## SCOTTISH LEAGUE 2 WINNERS

1997/1998 2011/2012

## CHALLENGE CUP WINNERS

1999/2000

## RUNNERS-UP

2001/02 2014/15

## STIRLINGSHIRE CUP WINNERS

1904/5 1907/8 1908/9

1912/13 1920/21 1924/25

1933/34 1946/47 1955/56

1957/58 1959/60 1965/66

1981/82 1996/97

## MOST CAPPED PLAYER

Jock Hepburn, 1 Cap  
(Scotland v Wales 1891)

\*includes equivalent competitions

## Club Information

### Address:

Indodrill Stadium,  
Clackmannan Road,  
Alloa, FK10 1RY  
**Telephone:** 01259722695  
**Fax:** 01259210886  
**Email:** fcadmin@alloathletic.co.uk  
**Web:** alloathletic.co.uk

## Club Officials

### Honorary Directors

Pat Lawlor  
David R. Murray  
Directors  
Mike Mulraney (Chairman)  
Martin Ross (Vice Chairman)

Ewen Cameron  
Steven Lynch  
Dr Robert McElroy

Secretary  
Ewen Cameron  
**Mobile:** 07810507185

**Home:** 01259722696

**Email:** eweng@sky.com

Operations Manager

Carol Edgar

Child Protection Officer

Alloa Athletic: Ewen Cameron

Wasp Community Club:

June McLauchlan

## Management

Peter Grant (Manager)

Paddy Connolly (Assistant)

Gerry Docherty (Physio)

Stuart Phinn (Sports Therapist)

Alan Fraser (GK Coach)

Andrew Deeley (Club Doctor)

Tommy Farries (Scout)

Graeme Ellis (Scout)

Derek Nicholson (Head of Youth)

### Ground Staff

John Robertson

### Kit Manager

Pat Dunne

### Safety Officers

Robert Wilson, Carol Edgar

### Wasp 2000 Manager

Malcolm Gordon

### Club Shop

June McLauchlan

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		P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
	HEARTS	18	12	3	3	44	20	24	39
	RAITH ROVERS	16	8	3	5	32	24	8	27
	DUNFERMLINE	17	7	6	4	26	19	7	27
	DUNDEE	16	6	6	4	30	30	0	24
	QUEEN OF THE SOUTH	18	7	3	8	26	35	-9	24
	ARBROATH	18	5	6	7	15	20	-5	21
	INVERNESS CT	16	4	7	5	24	21	3	19
	GREENOCK MORTON	17	4	7	6	16	22	-6	19
	AYR UNITED	16	4	5	7	20	21	-1	17
	ALLOA ATHLETIC	18	3	4	11	20	41	-21	13

## WEEKEND'S FIXTURES

### CHAMPIONSHIP

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

### PREMIERSHIP

	ABERDEEN		HAMILTON ACCIES
	MOTHERWELL		LIVINGSTON
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	ST JOHNSTONE		HIBERNIAN
	DUNDEE UNITED		CELTIC







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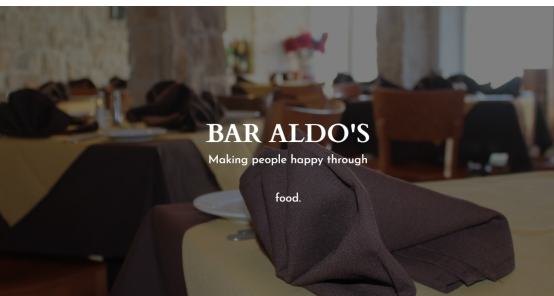
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## GOALKEEPERS

**Neil PARRY**

08/11/1985

195 CM 95 KG



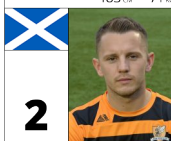
**1**

## DEFENDERS

**Scott TAGGART**

27/12/1991

183 CM 71 KG

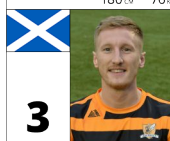


**2**

**Liam DICK**

19/08/1995

180 CM 76 KG



**3**

**Andy GRAHAM**

22/09/1983

188 CM 83 KG



**5**

## MATCH

most appearances

Cawley	363
Taggart	196
Hetherington	195
Graham	184
Robertson	180

## GOALS

Cawley	65
Trouten	39
Buchanan	26
Graham	13
Thomson	11

**Andy WILSON**

22/04/1998

190 CM 70 KG

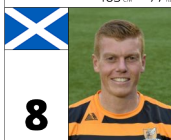


**21**

**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

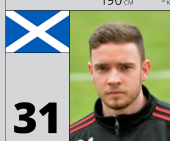


**24**

**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>6</div></div>	<div>Kevin CAWLEY</div> <div>17/03/1989</div> <div>170 cm64 kg</div> <div><div>7</div></div>	<div>Stefan SCOUGALL</div> <div>07/12/1992</div> <div>170 cm64 kg</div> <div><div>12</div></div>	<div>Liam BUCHANAN</div> <div>27/03/1985</div> <div>175 cm70 kg</div> <div><div>9</div></div>	<div>Alan TROUTEN</div> <div>08/11/1985</div> <div>173 cm70 kg</div> <div><div>10</div></div>		
<div>Adam BROWN</div> <div>09/06/1995</div> <div>175 cm70 kg</div> <div><div>14</div></div>	<div>Blair MALCOLM</div> <div>03/02/1997</div> <div>180 cm70 kg</div> <div><div>18</div></div>	<div>Cameron O'DONNELL</div> <div>29/09/2001</div> <div>180 cm70 kg</div> <div><div>20</div></div>	<div>Innes CAMERON</div> <div>22/08/2000</div> <div>188 cm70 kg</div> <div><div>11</div></div>	<div>Lee CONNELLY</div> <div>18/10/1999</div> <div>170 cm58 kg</div> <div><div>17</div></div>		
<div>Ray GRANT</div> <div>01/09/1996</div> <div>178 cm70 kg</div> <div><div>22</div></div>	<div>Innes MURRAY</div> <div>17/02/1998</div> <div>180 cm70 kg</div> <div><div>23</div></div>				<div>Robert THOMSON</div> <div>28/05/1993</div> <div>188 cm83 kg</div> <div><div>19</div></div>	<div>Liam EVANS</div> <div>17/11/2001</div> <div>190 cm70 kg</div> <div><div>26</div></div>
						
						





**JOHN GLENCROSS**



# NEWSDESK

To-day we welcome Inverness Caledonian Thistle FC to the Indodrill Stadium, welcoming Interim Manager Neil McCann, the players, officials and directors of Inverness CT FC. Everyone at Alloa Athletic FC sends their heartfelt wishes to John Robertson at this difficult time, our thoughts are very much with John and his family at this time while he is on compassionate leave.

Congratulations to Liam Buchanan who has now made 100 appearances for the club after coming on as late substitute at Starks Park last Saturday. Liam who is now in his 2nd spell with the club, having originally been signed by Barry Smith at start of 2014/15 season before a move back to full-time football with Livingston and spell with Raith Rovers before Jim Goodwin brought him back to the club at start

of 2019/20. Although now 35 Liam has still managed five goals for "The Wasps" this season including hat-trick against Stenhousemuir in this season's Betfred Cup.

Ex Alloa Athletic defender, Scott Walker is a much-travelled former player for a number of Scottish clubs, including Kilmarnock, East Stirling, St. Mirren and Dunfermline Athletic. He is now a sports

therapist and facing a new challenge on behalf of Epilepsy Action. The charity are working to support sufferers of the condition that many don't understand. Scott is running 50 miles on behalf of the organisation and to raise the profile of the condition, his office is at 18 Glebe Terrace, Alloa and would welcome any donations, e mail - [scotwalker498@gmail.com](mailto:scotwalker498@gmail.com) or contact direct 07951 419281.



Alloa Athletic will feature Live on BBC Scotland on Friday 19th March, 2021 at Indodrill Stadium against Dundee, Kick-Off 7.45pm, this match has been rescheduled from Saturday 20th March, Kick-Off 3.00pm.

### INTRODUCING WEEKLY 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;

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You are immediately eligible to play for these prizes, and there's no need to change anything 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 8 27TH FEBRUARY, 2021

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£ 25 0656 L.STOCKS  
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WINNER - 0292 J.COOK



PETER GRANT



# MANAGERS NOTES

Good Afternoon  
Everyone

I would like to start by sending our thoughts and prayers to Inverness manager John Robertson during this very difficult period. On to the last few weeks which have been very difficult results wise but I think anyone watching the games would definitely say

the boys have deserved much more, but football is cruel at times, we have to keep persevering, working with this squad of players I know that will never be questioned: their effort and commitment is unquestionable but like everything in life you also need a little bit of fortune. We also appreciate football is





about winning. There is no better feeling than winning football matches (for a manager that lasts about half an hour)

Today's match we are up against Inverness a team we played very recently but also with a new coach in charge through John being unavailable. Neil has plenty of experience and also has very good players so we know how difficult a game we have in front of us, but as I constantly say

I also have very good squad of players and we are more than capable of beating anyone. We all know that is easy to say but you have to prove that week in week out so hopefully we start getting the results the boys' efforts and performances deserve.

### **SUPPORT THE PLAYERS ALWAYS**

**PETER**





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## SCOTTISH CHAMPIONSHIP

23<sup>rd</sup> February 2021  
Caledonian Stadium, Inverness  
7:00 pm KO

**INVERNESS CT**

**2:2**

**ALLOA ATHLETIC**



**(0:1)**

**SCORERS**

**0:1 20'** Cameron

Duffy **76'** **1:1**

Keatings **78'** **2:1**

**2:2 87'** Trouten (p)



### STARTING XI

- 1** RIDGERS
- 2** DUFFY
- 6** DEVINE
- 8** CARSON
- 11** SUTHERLAND
- 12** MACGREGOR
- 16** HARPER
- 18** ALLARDICE
- 24** DEAS
- 27** MACKAY
- 77** TODOROV

### SUBS

- 21** MCKAY
- 7** KEATINGS
- 17** STOREY
- 22** MCKAY
- 25** NICOLSON
- 28** HYDE
- 29** HARKNESS

### SUBS

- 51** WRIGHT
- 9** BUCHANAN
- 14** BROWN
- 15** JAMIESON
- 17** CONNELLY
- 19** THOMSON
- 23** MURRAY

### STARTING XI

- 1** PARRY
- 2** TAGGART
- 3** DICK
- 5** GRAHAM
- 6** HETHERINGTON
- 7** CAWLEY
- 8** ROBERTSON
- 10** TROUTEN
- 11** CAMERON
- 12** SCOUGALL
- 22** GRANT

**REFEREE:** Grant Irvine



# SCOTTISH CHAMPIONSHIP

27<sup>th</sup> February 2021  
Stark's Park, Kirkcaldy  
3:00 pm KO

**RAITH ROVERS**

**3:1**

**ALLOA ATHLETIC**



**(0:1)**

## SCORERS

**0:1 16' Cameron**

Davidson **67' 1:1**

Hendry **84' 2:1**

Gullan **91' 3:1**



## STARTING XI

- 1 MACDONALD**
- 2 TUMILTY**
- 3 MACDONALD**
- 4 DAVIDSON**
- 6 BENEDICTUS**
- 7 ARMSTRONG**
- 8 HENDRY**
- 9 DUKU**
- 12 MATTHEWS**
- 13 SPENCER**
- 21 KENNEDY**

## SUBS

- 17 THOMSON**
- 5 MENDY**
- 14 MUSONDA**
- 18 TAIT**
- 23 UGWU**
- 26 KING**
- 32 GULLAN**

## SUBS

- 51 WRIGHT**
- 9 BUCHANAN**
- 18 MALCOLM**
- 15 JAMIESON**
- 17 CONNELLY**
- 19 THOMSON**
- 23 MURRAY**

## STARTING XI

- 1 PARRY**
- 2 TAGGART**
- 3 DICK**
- 5 GRAHAM**
- 6 HETHERINGTON**
- 7 CAWLEY**
- 8 ROBERTSON**
- 10 TROUTEN**
- 11 CAMERON**
- 12 SCOUGALL**
- 22 GRANT**

**REFEREE:** Steven Kirkland

# 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**



# LIAM BUCHANAN

## THE CENTURION

Liam Buchanan's late cameo from the bench last weekend was the striker's landmark 100th appearance for the Wasps. It is therefore a fitting moment to chronicle Liam's Alloa career.

Buchanan was signed by Alloa manager Barry Smith in the summer of 2014 after a 14-goal season in the third tier with East Fife. While the Fifers were relegated to the basement division,

Buchanan went in the opposite direction by jumping up to the Championship with the Wasps, as Smith sought to add goals to an otherwise settled squad with the additions of Buchanan, Greig Spence and David Weatherston. It took Buchanan six games to open his account (in the 3-0 win at first-club Cowdenbeath – Spence already had 7 goals by that time!), but once he'd started, Buchs literally couldn't stop

scoring, finishing the season with a spectacular seventeen goals. Buchanan followed up his opening strike a week later with a close range equaliser against his boyhood heroes Hibs, as the Wasps famously went onto beat the Hibeese thanks to Iain Flannigan's late free-kick.

This was the season when the Wasps were up against Rangers, Hearts and Hibernian

in the Championship, but come December Buchanan was amongst the top goalscorers in the league after going on an incredible seven-match scoring streak. At the time it was reported as the longest scoring sequence by any Alloa player in the post-WW2 era, and it began with another strike against Cowdenbeath. This was followed up by a rare looping header in a draw at Raith, a



powerful close-range finish in the cup draw at Ayr, a crisp low strike in the Recs rain for the winner versus Livingston and another low finish across the keeper in the cup replay win versus Ayr. The sixth game of Buchanan's run was perhaps the most memorable, as his equaliser with twelve minutes to play earned Alloa a draw at Ibrox. Kevin Cawley's shot was palmed away by Rangers keeper Steve Simonsen, but Buchanan followed up to finish into the roof of the net. There were wild celebrations by Liam, his team-mates and the away support as he became Alloa's first goalscorer at Ibrox since 1921. Buchanan's seventh goal in successive matches was from the penalty spot in reducing the deficit to 2-3 in a home match against Falkirk, and marked his tenth of the season. Liam couldn't make it eight in the cup against Hibs the following week, but a seven-match scoring streak will be a tough record for any Alloa striker to beat in the years to come. Liam didn't score the following week in the infamous 3-2 Petrofac Challenge Cup semi-final victory over Rangers, but played a full role in the game by leading the line and certainly enjoyed the celebrations afterwards!

It actually took Liam

another three-and-a-half months to score his next Alloa goal, during a tough run of fixtures and results which saw manager Barry Smith resign. Despite a plethora of new attackers being brought to the club during the January transfer window (Isaac Layne, Calaum Jahraldo-Martin, Greg Rutherford and Phil Roberts), Buchanan remained a permanent member of the starting eleven. The St Patrick's Day draw at Ibrox ended his goal drought, as Cawley and Ryan McCord cleverly combined to slip in Buchanan (thanks to his perfectly timed run beyond the Rangers backline) to expertly finish beyond Cammy Bell. The 82nd minute equaliser earned Alloa another tremendous draw at Ibrox, with the obvious glee on Liam's face in direct contrast

to the stern looks from the concerned home support behind him as he celebrated. It turned out that Buchanan actually scored more goals at Ibrox that season than 'Gers frontman Kris Boyd! That goal, together with another new strike partner in the form of Michael Chopra, saw Buchanan go on another mini-scoring streak, with four goals in three games in the build up to the Challenge Cup Final. Like all Alloa players, that day in Perth was one to forget for the Wasps, as Livingston dominated Alloa to mean it was only a runners-up medal that Liam received.

From that point on, it was time for Buchs to fully focus on helping to retain Alloa's place in the Championship under new manager Danny Lennon. Buchanan was still the first-choice

striker and scored his fifteenth goal of the season with a typical low finish to earn a home point versus Queen of the South. However, come the final day of the season the Wasps were bottom of the table, but a win over Cowdenbeath would secure at least a play-off spot and possibly even an 8th place finish depending on Livingston's result. By the time Buchanan scored Alloa's third goal of the afternoon, with an emphatic finish from the edge of the box, it looked as if the great escape was on. However, a late Livingston winner meant it was the play-offs for the Wasps. After seeing off Brechin in the semi-final, things looked bleak in the final with the Wasps trailing 3-1 in the first leg at Forfar. However, Buchanan played an instrumental role in turning the tie in



Alloa's favour, scoring the second goal of the afternoon midway through the second-half to level the scores at 3-3. It was undoubtedly Buchanan's most important goal of the season, and arguably his finest too. After a mix up between Darren Dods and Rab Douglas, the ball fell to Liam on the corner of the box. Many players would have taken a touch to control a bouncing ball, but Buchanan took it first time and showed amazing technique to rifle the ball through the eye of a needle into the very corner of the net beyond Douglas. The Clackmannan Road end of the ground went wild, as did his Alloa team-mates, while Liam himself naturally remained the coolest

player on the pitch. It was a simply sensational finish which helped shift the momentum in Alloa's favour, as the Wasps eventually beat the drop.

It was a tremendous climax to the season for the Wasps and a splendid season for Buchanan personally, with seventeen goals in forty-seven appearances. That sort of record was always going to catch the eye and, despite Alloa's best attempts to keep him at the Recs, the lure of a two-year full-time contract at Livingston was too much for any hungry 30-year-old eager to return to full-time football. Buchanan's two-year stint at Livi was successful; despite suffering relegation in his first season,

the second campaign saw Liam score 27 goals and win the SPFA divisional player of the year award. Whilst it looked like Buchanan would be returning to the Championship, he instead raised some eyebrows by signing a 2-year contract with Raith Rovers, newly relegated into League One. Buchanan reached double figures in both his seasons at Stark's Park, but ultimately couldn't help Raith to promotion, leading to his release in 2019. Those four seasons back in the full-time game were all thanks to that 2014/5 season with Alloa, which really helped rejuvenate Buchanan's career.

The summer of 2019 saw Jim Goodwin come calling for Buchanan.

Having tried to capture Buchanan in the two previous summers, Jim finally got his man as 34-year-old Buchanan returned to the Recs. However, within weeks Goodwin was off to St Mirren, so prior to the season Liam was left in the strange situation of the loss of the manager that had just signed him! Nevertheless, Buchanan started the season well, scoring on his second debut with a close-range finish against Elgin, and followed that up with the winner against Stirling Albion and an equaliser in the eventual win at Arbroath. Alloa's indifferent start to the league campaign subsequently saw Liam in and out of the side, with Peter Grant switching his frontmen in an attempt to find



SEASON	LEAGUE			CUP			TOTAL		
2014/15	35	(2)	15	10	(0)	2	45	(2)	17
2019/20	9	(14)	1	5	(3)	3	14	(17)	4
2020/21	6	(9)	2	6	(1)	3	12	(10)	5
TOTAL	50	(25)	18	21	(4)	8	71	(29)	26

the winning formula. Liam's only league goal of the campaign came in an away draw in Inverness, as after a fine team-move a one-two with Cawley saw Buchs curl home a fine finish into the bottom corner. Beyond that goals were hard to come by for Liam, as goalkeepers appeared to specialise in making heroic saves to deny him! Ross Doohan (Ayr), Scott Fox (Partick), Mark Ridgers (Inverness), Derek Gas-ton (Arbroath) and Dan-ny Rogers (Morton) all made outrageous saves to deny an unlucky Buchanan; had at least some of those went on I think Liam would have been looking at reach-ing double figures last season. Alas, the season was prematurely cur-tailed, with Buchanan certainly still contribut-ing to Alloa's eventual 8th place finish.

This season Liam has once again been in and out of the team. After mainly being used from the bench early in the season, a fine 101 minute appearance in

the eventual cup win over Hearts began a run of nine successive starts for the 35-year-old. It's fair to say that the lone frontman role for the Wasps in the Champi-onship is a tough gig at times, with Buchanan often isolated and hav-ing to put in a tonne of work with little reward, when he'd far prefer being conserving his energy for being in and around the penalty box to finish chances. It is no coincidence to me that in the first half of the season both Buchanan and Robert Thomson personally looked much more comfortable when playing as a pair (e.g. Buchs setting up Thom-son's equaliser against Morton). Nevertheless, Buchanan's hold up play and willingness to put everything into a lone frontman role cannot be questioned. A return of five goals to date has eclipsed his total from last season, including a memorable 'perfect' (header, right foot and rebound off his back!) hat-trick versus Sten-housemuir and double

in the Boxing Day en-counter with Raith. More recently, the arrival of Innes Cameron has seen Buchs return to the bench, but he has still been making an impact, with his calm and wise head greatly helping the Wasps in closing out the win over Queen of the South last month.

Liam does his best work in the penalty box, with the sheer variety of finishes during his Alloa career showcasing his natural instinct for scoring goals. Although not as quick as he once was, he doesn't lack con-fidence in beating de-fenders in 1v1 situations and can often drop deep to link play intelligently. His character also helps

knit together the group, with him a respected member of the squad. With over 200 career goals and in excess of 600 senior appearances across all four divisions, Buchanan's 19th senior season is unlikely to be his last. Throughout his Alloa career he was only been missing on two oc-casions (after suffering mild concussion in that 3-2 win over Rangers), helped no doubt by punishing boxing gym routines which have helped prolong his ca-reer. Hopefully there are many more appearanc-es and many more goals in the tank for one of the most likeable Alloa players from the past decade.





# APPEARANCES

	POS	LEAGUE		CUP		TOTAL	
		APP	GOAL	APP	GOAL	APP	GOAL
PARRY	GOAL	14 (0)	0	6 (0)	0	20 (0)	0
WILSON	GOAL	0 (0)	0	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	12 (0)	0	4 (0)	0	16 (0)	0
DICK	DEF	17 (0)	0	6 (0)	0	23 (0)	0
GRAHAM	DEF	16 (0)	1	4 (1)	0	20 (1)	1
JAMIESON	DEF	8 (1)	0	4 (0)	0	12 (1)	0
LYNCH	DEF	3 (0)	0	3 (0)	0	6 (0)	0
GILHOOLY	DEF	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0
WILLIAMSON	DEF	3 (0)	0	1 (0)	0	4 (0)	0
HETHERINGTON	MID	17 (0)	1	5 (2)	1	22 (2)	2
ROBERTSON	MID	16 (1)	0	5 (0)	0	21 (1)	0
GRANT	MID	15 (0)	0	5 (1)	0	20 (1)	0
MALCOLM	MID	0 (2)	0	2 (0)	0	2 (2)	0
ROBERTSON	MID	16 (1)	0	5 (0)	0	21 (1)	0
BROWN	MID	2 (3)	0	2 (0)	0	4 (3)	0
MURRAY	MID	9 (3)	1	4 (1)	0	13 (4)	1
SCOUGALL	MID	6 (5)	1	3 (3)	1	9 (8)	2
O'DONNELL	MID	3 (0)	0	2 (2)	1	5 (2)	1
TROUTEN	FWD	14 (0)	4	5 (1)	3	19 (1)	7
BUCHANAN	FWD	6 (9)	2	6 (1)	3	12 (10)	5
THOMSON	FWD	6 (8)	3	1 (5)	3	7 (13)	6
CONNELLY	FWD	3 (4)	0	2 (2)	0	5 (6)	0
EVANS	FWD	0 (1)	0	1 (2)	0	1 (3)	0
CAMERON	FWD	6 (0)	3	0 (0)	0	6 (0)	3
CAWLEY	FWD	18 (0)	4	5 (1)	0	23 (1)	4



ALLOA CAREER LGE		ALLOA CAREER CUP		ALLOA TOTAL	
APP	GOAL	APP	GOAL	APP	GOAL
129 (0)	0	35 (0)	0	164 (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
155 (0)	6	41 (0)	1	196 (0)	7
69 (0)	1	22 (0)	0	91 (0)	1
144 (0)	12	39 (1)	1	183 (1)	13
8 (1)	0	4 (0)	0	12 (1)	0
3 (0)	0	3 (0)	0	6 (0)	0
0 (0)	0	1 (1)	0	1 (1)	0
3 (0)	0	1 (0)	0	4 (0)	0
130 (30)	6	27 (8)	1	157 (38)	7
117 (23)	2	37 (3)	2	154 (26)	4
15 (0)	0	5 (1)	0	20 (1)	0
10 (2)	0	2 (1)	0	12 (3)	0
117 (23)	2	37 (3)	2	154 (26)	4
13 (19)	3	12 (4)	0	25 (23)	3
9 (3)	1	4 (1)	0	13 (4)	1
6 (5)	1	3 (3)	1	9 (8)	2
4 (2)	0	2 (4)	1	6 (6)	1
65 (5)	23	20 (3)	16	85 (8)	39
50 (25)	18	21 (4)	8	71 (29)	26
16 (30)	8	3 (9)	4	19 (39)	12
4 (7)	1	2 (3)	0	6 (10)	1
0 (1)	0	1 (2)	0	1 (3)	0
6 (0)	3	0 (0)	0	6 (0)	3
264 (37)	55	55 (7)	10	319 (44)	65



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**BRIAN ROACH**



# A FAN'S VIEW

This weekend marks a full calendar year of Alloa supporters being unable to attend matches, with ironically that final fixture prior to shutdown occurring against today's opponent's Inverness Caledonian Thistle. Supporters were on a real high in the aftermath of that fixture. A 2-0 victory and a dominant performance, which was arguably Alloa's best of the campaign. In the town afterwards, the

focus was prominently towards raving about young Scott Banks incredible performance. Alloa were on a high at that moment and in a good run of form. Peter Grant had understandably taken some time to find his feet, but his recruitment was excellent and his team were beginning to really show what they were capable of. When the season was suspended, and subsequently concluded with the league

positions standing, Alloa confirmed their status in the Championship for the following season. But the feeling amongst the support wasn't one of relief, as you'd maybe expect. Most had ambitions and expectations of climbing that table and catching fellow part time club Arbroath, who were up in 5th place.

Fast forward a year, and although there are far more pressing challenges facing the

world- the absence of that Saturday escapism of The Recs on a Saturday has left a significant void in our lives. Doing the co commentary on games this season has allowed me access to matches, but the experience is significantly diluted in comparison to attending matches with friends. It involves one journey to the main stand to take a seat for the commentary, then a post-match exit by the same route. I would





guess that the standard volume of people I interact with is maybe 6-8 people, compared to easily 10 times that for a regular matchday. And for the sizeable majority of us, the actual match is a purpose but only a segment of the overall picture. It's a catch up with friends and forgetting the pressures of the working week. I'm also really missing the away fixtures and the travelling. That feeling of being the gate crashers to the party as you rock up to towns, cities and stadiums across the land. The Championship is where Alloa have predominantly plied their trade in recent years, which has by default made Alloa the underdog for the vast majority of away fixtures. The adversity of that situation only adds to the appeal. And in recent seasons it's been great to travel with a sizeable number of younger lads who have been bitten by

the bug of following the team home and away-reliving their enthusiasm and enjoyment at that age that we all experienced in the distant past. Alloa's road form in the past decade has also generally been excellent, and we've experienced some brilliant matches and results- far too many to really single out any individual examples.

Although the omission of our typical Saturday has been tough, there are obviously much more meaningful challenges many of us will have faced in the past year. And although football was resumed in its current form, it's also important to have an awareness of how the pandemic has affected players, managers and coaching staff, who are

humans just like the rest of us. It must be very difficult for them with all the restrictions in place, and of course playing to empty stadiums on a weekly basis. I listened to a podcast last week called Through the Turnstiles, with former Alloa player Greig Spence as guest. He gave a really good insight into the challenges facing lower league football players through COVID-19. Similarly, the manager of our opponents today has taken some time away from football due to personal issues he has faced in recent months. John Robertson comes across as one of the nicest guys in the Scottish game and we hope to see him return to football soon.

Alloa of course currently sit in a precarious position at the foot of the table. Four games



have occurred since the last edition of the match programme, with a home fixture against Arbroath followed by three on the road against Dunfermline, Inverness and Raith Rovers. Alloa picked up 2 points from these games, which was probably less than their efforts deserved. Looking at the positives, the manager has finally been able to get a small run of games with what I'd regard as his strongest available starting 11. At Inverness I thought the game plan worked really well- flooding the flanks to ensure minimal crosses into the penalty area- looking to eradicate areas where goals have been lost previously. It was as well drilled as I've seen the team in some time. Innes Cameron has

come in and made a real difference up front- a really good presence and has managed to get on the scoresheet regularly. In the other two away matches against Dunfermline and Raith, Alloa were on the wrong end of referees decisions in key moments. At East End Park Alloa had a couple of penalty claims that weren't necessarily blatant but in the "seen them given" category. Similarly, at Starks Park last week there wasn't a great deal of contact but it looked a foul on Innes Cameron in the build up to the decisive second goal. Without intricately reviewing the merit of those calls, the general feeling for me is that we are not catching too many breaks- which tends to be the case, or certainly the perception, when sitting bottom of

the league.

There's certainly much work to be done in the final "third" of the campaign which starts today. For a bit of belief that Alloa can turn this around, I look back a couple of seasons ago when Alloa faced a midweek trip to today's opponents Inverness in late March 2019. Alloa had lost 6 out of 7 of the previous league matches- all in games where they experienced narrow defeats. Alloa ended up 3 down that night, and manager Jim Goodwin looked a frustrated and resigned figure in the dugout. They managed 2 consolation efforts which made the scoreline respectable. But what followed was a real purple patch where the team picked 4 successive wins in

their following games. And matches where we finally started getting a few breaks. If you recall Stevie Hetherington's wind assisted corner kick at home to Queen of the South and Jack Hamilton's scrambled winner against Morton at Cappielow. Although points return has been disappointing in recent games, the players have still shown spirit- and performances generally have been fine. In the past 2 games against Inverness and Raith we looked jaded in the closing stages. Hopefully a week's rest will eradicate that problem and we can look to build on those performances and pick up some much needed wins.

Enjoy today's game.

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# LOOKING BACK

## 9TH MARCH 1985

In the quarter-finals of The Scottish Cup, holders Aberdeen faced a replay, after a 1-1 draw at Hearts, while 1-1 was also the outcome at Dens Park, in the clash between Dundee, and the previous seasons runners-up, Celtic. But Dundee United progressed to the semi-finals after a comfortable 4-1 win at St. Mirren, while 4-1 was also the outcome at Fir Park, in favour of

Motherwell v Forfar.

With no games in The Premier Division, it was "as you were", with leaders Aberdeen still five points clear of second-placed Celtic, and Rangers in third place. At the other end of the table, bottom club Morton were still well adrift of safety, and looking more or less certain to make an instant return to the First Division, while Dumbarton and Hibs still lay immediately above them.

First Division leaders Clydebank extended their advantage to three points, after a 0-0 draw at Falkirk, while below them were Motherwell, Airdrie, Forfar and Brechin, all of whom were gameless. In the relegation zone, St. Johnstone's 3-1 rather welcome home win v East Fife, their first league success since mid-December, moved them up one place off the bottom, The Saints were replaced by Mead-

owbank Thistle, who lost a rather vital clash at home v fellow strugglers Partick Thistle by 0-2. But in spite of this success, The Jags still remained in fourth-bottom spot, while Kilmar-nock, despite taking a point from a 1-1 home draw v Hamilton Accies, still occupied third-bottom position.

Down in The Second, leaders Alloa, after a 1-2 reverse v Stranraer at Recreation Park, were back on home soil, this





time to face Queen's Park, The Wasps lining up as follows: Lowrie, Thompson, Haggart, Thomson, Dall, Martin (Mackie), Paterson, Kelly, Sorbie, Harris, Lloyd. And in front of a crowd of 800, Alloa's third-highest home league gate so far in 1984-85, the home side returned to winning ways, by 2-1, thanks to goals from Robert Harris & Stuart Sorbie. Thus Alloa retained leadership of The Second Division, second-placed Montrose were held 1-1 at Queen Of The South, while third-placed Dunfermline maintained their own challenge with a 3-1 win at rock-bottom Arbroath.

South of the border, it was FA Cup quarter-final day, and holders Everton faced a replay, after Ipswich forced a 2-2 draw at Goodison Park, but another of the

favourites, Manchester United, made it to the semi-finals after a 4-2 win v West Ham at Old Trafford. The Barnsley v Liverpool tie took place the following day, while in a fifth round/2nd replay, the previous season's runners-up Watford were beaten 0-1 at local rivals Luton.

In the English First Division there was no change at the top, as leaders Everton and third-placed Manchester United were both on cup duty, second-placed Spurs were also inactive, as were doomed bottom club Stoke City. Manchester City retained leadership of The Second Division after a narrow 1-0 home win v struggling Middlesbrough, Birmingham were now second after a 2-1 win v their bottom-of-the-table Midlands rivals Notts County, while Black-



burn, beaten 0-2 at Lancashire neighbours Oldham, slipped from second to third.

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## FOUNDED

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## GROUND

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## TOP HONOURS

Scottish Cup  
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Scottish League Cup  
Runners up 2013-14

Scottish Championship\*  
Winners 2003-4,  
2009-10

This afternoon we welcome Inverness Caledonian Thistle to the Indodrill for another match-up between the two sides in just over a week. The visitors, who will have played two games less than the hosts, come into the game in 7th position. However, with a fixture against Dundee on Tuesday, prior to this article, they could rise above their opponents into 5th. It has been a strange season for Caley with so many of their games unable to survive the harsh winter elements in the North leaving them with a backlog of several

games. As the weather improves and temperatures rise, so too do Inverness's play-off hopes as they have their eyes firmly set on securing that ever-so competitive 4th spot.

## THE BOSS - NEIL MCCANN

There has been a temporary change in the dug-out for the visitors since their last visit. Manager, John Robertson, has taken some personal leave due to family circumstances and decided to take some time away from his position at the club. First and foremost, everyone at Alloa Athletic wants to give John our very best wishes. In the meantime, Neil McCann was appointed interim manager last month. Having managed both Dunfermline and Dundee, McCann comes in with experience despite being out of the game for three years. He comes into the club with a high profile playing career having played for Hearts, Rangers and Scotland amongst several others. Since coming into the club, he started work after a draw with Alloa and his first game

was against his former club, Hearts. An inspired performance from Caley saw them earn a draw against the run-away leaders. Before coming to the Indodrill, he will return to familiar territory once again to face another former club, Dundee.

## THE CAPTAIN - SEAN WELSH

Central midfielder, Sean Welsh, will lead out today's opponents. Having started his career at boyhood heroes Hibernian, he failed to make a single senior appearance despite captain youth sides to league and cup glories. Following a few loan spells away from Easter Road, he ended up making his last one permanent and signed on at Partick Thistle. He enjoyed five years at Firhill captaining the club and enjoying a promotion to the top flight in 2013. His stint ended in 2017 and after a very short spell with Falkirk that ended after eight months, he signed for Inverness in 2018. It didn't take him long to find his feet in the Highlands as he scored his first goal for the club that August from the





spot against Alloa. He has remained an integral player this season playing fourteen times for the club.

### **NEW BOY – ANTHONY MACDONALD**

It was a quiet January transfer window for Caley Thistle, however they did make a move to bring back a former winger to the Highlands. McDonald signed a permanent deal until the end of the season returning to the club where he spent a short spell on loan. Back in 2019, McDonald moved North and scored once in his fourteen appearances whilst on loan from Hearts. He came through the youth ranks at Tynecastle before loan spells at Inverness and Dunfermline. His career caught the eye though when he made the surprising switch to Spain to sign for Córdoba CF. Despite signing

on for two years there, he returned to Scotland just months later with Inverness. It has been a frustrating start to his return after he picked up a knock early on which would see him, and fellow midfielder Doran, out for the 'foreseeable future'

### **ONE TO WATCH – JAMES KEATINGS**

Experienced Championship forward, James Keatings, is always a threat to backlines in this division. Alloa will need no reminder of that fact having conceded a goal to him last Tuesday evening. Keatings has four goals to his name so far this campaign but his experience and know-how to get promoted and score goals in the division is priceless. The Championship is a league he has won twice with both sides of the Edinburgh rivalry, in 2015 with Hearts and

then in 2017 with Hibernian. He also played a part in the Hibeets most historic moment winning the Scottish Cup in 2016. Keatings best goal return in the league though came with Hamilton Accies when he scored thirteen goals and then secured promotion via the play-offs. Having come off a barren spell without a goal since mid-December prior to his strike against Alloa, he will be

looking to build on that and find his goal scoring form once again.

### **THE CONNECTION**

There are two players returning to an old stomping ground this afternoon and both are in the defence. Robbie Deas enjoyed a loan spell with Alloa last season where he impressed alongside Andy Graham at the heart of the defence. Comfort-

**CONTINUED ON P32**



**BY KIEREN MOONEY**



able on the ball, commanding in the tackle and grabbing a goal or two, most notably in dramatic fashion in a 4-4 draw at Cappielow, made him a real fan favourite in his short spell. Following a summer departure from Celtic, he followed other ex-Celts and Wasps, for example Jamie McCart, by making the permanent move to the Caledonian Stadium. Another former Wasp, Kevin McHattie, will return also. The left-back spent time on loan at Alloa back in the 2011/12 season from Heart of Midlothian. Since that spell, he has gone on to play for Kilmarnock, Raith Rovers, Derry City before signing for Inver-

ness in 2019. Alloa have no players currently playing who have plied their trade in Inverness. Looking further into history, two notable names have pulled on both shirts. Paul Sheerin played for the Wasps before his big money move to Southampton in the early 90's. He returned to the Recs in 1997 before impressive performances saw him earn a full-time deal to Inverness. Another name of note is Darran Thomson. The left-back had a short spell during Tom Hendrie's second spell in the mid 2000's.

#### PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The sides have met twice already this campaign and both

results have been positive for today's host. The first game just before Christmas saw Alloa complete a heroic comeback to earn a very well deserved three points. Brad McKay opened the scoring early on for the visitors before a spectacular free-kick from Innes Murray levelled the sides on the hour mark. It would be super-sub Robert Thomson who put the Wasps ahead with seventy-eight minutes on the clock to bag the win for Alloa. As mentioned earlier, the two teams met in the Highlands last Tuesday night. Alloa took the lead this time after a great ball from Ray Grant set up Innes Cameron to round the

goalkeeper and score. A quickfire double from Wallace Duffy and James Keatings saw the game turned on its head ten minutes to go, however. The hosts had the opportunity to put the game to bed when Miles Storey stepped up from the spot only to be denied by a great low save from Neil Parry. The Wasps would make them rue that missed opportunity when they got a penalty of their own three minutes from time. Alan Trouten made no mistake from the spot scoring for the sixteenth time from twelve yards.

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## HT QUIZ

1. INVERNESS MANAGER JOHN ROBERTSON HAD A SPELL AT WHICH ENGLISH CLUB AS A PLAYER?
2. NAME THE TWO ALLOA GOALSCORERS IN THE PRE PANDEMIC FIXTURE BETWEEN THE CLUBS HERE IN MARCH 2020?
3. WHICH FORMER CELTIC GOALKEEPER WON AN OLYMPIC GOLD MEDAL IN 1988?
4. NAME THE 10 SCOTTISH INTERNATIONAL PLAYERS WHO COMPETED IN LAST WEEKENDS ENGLISH CHAMPIONSHIP?





## GOALKEEPERS

**Mark RIDGERS**

09/08/1990



**1**



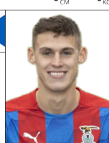
## DEFENDERS

**Wallace DUFFY**

12/04/1999



**2**



**Kevin MCHATTIE**

15/07/1993



**3**



**Lewis TOSHNEY**

26/04/1992



**5**



**Cammy MCKAY**

09/12/1996



**21**

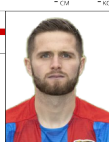


**Danny DEVINE**

07/09/1992



**6**



**Cameron HARPER**

10/11/2001



**16**

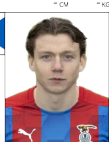


**Harry NICOLSON**

16/01/2001



**20**

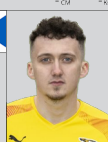


**Martin MACKINNON**

03/05/2000



**31**



**Brad MCKAY**

26/03/1993



**22**

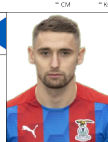


**Robbie DEAS**

27/02/2000



**24**

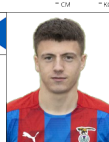


**Daniel MACKAY**

19/04/2001



**27**



## MANAGER

**NEIL MCCANN**





MIDFIELDERS			FORWARDS	
<b>Sean WELSH</b> 15/03/1990  	<b>David CARSON</b> 20/09/1995  	<b>Anthony MCDONALD</b> 17/03/2001  	<b>James KEATINGS</b> 20/01/1992  	<b>Shane SUTHERLAND</b> 23/10/1990  
<b>Aaron DORAN</b> 13/05/1991  	<b>Roddy MACGREGOR</b> 21/12/2001  	<b>James VINCENT</b> 27/09/1989  	<b>Miles STOREY</b> 04/01/1994  	<b>Nikolay TODOROV</b> 24/08/1996  
<b>Scott ALLARDICE</b> 31/03/1998  	<b>Ryan FYFFE</b> 21/04/2001  	<b>Lewis HYDE</b> 15/07/2002  	<b>Shane HARKNESS</b> 06/01/2001  	
				









# ALLOA ATHLETIC



# INVERNESS CT

# POS



	1	NEIL PARRY			
	21	ANDY WILSON			
	31	REECE WILSON			
	51	JORDAN WRIGHT			
	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 SCOUALL			
	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	MARK RIDGERS			
	2	WALLACE DUFFY			
	3	KEVIN MCHATTIE			
	4	SEAN WELSH			
	5	LEWIS TOSHNEY			
	6	DANNY DEVINE			
	7	JAMES KEATINGS			
	8	DAVID CARSON			
	9	ANTHONY MACDONALD			
	10	AARON DORAN			
	11	SHANE SUTHERLAND			
	12	RODDY MACGREGOR			
	14	JAMES VINCENT			
	16	CAMERON HARPER			
	17	MILES STOREY			
	18	SCOTT ALLARDICE			
	19	HARRY NICOLSON			
	21	CAMMY MACKAY			
	22	BRAD MCKAY			
	24	ROBBIE DEAS			
	26	RYAN FYFFE			
	27	DANIEL MACKAY			
	28	LEWIS HYDE			
	29	SHANE HARKNESS			
	31	MARTIN MACKINNON			
	77	NIKOLAY TODOROV			

**MANAGER** NEIL MCCANN

**REFEREE:** Alan Muir

**ASST:** Graeme Stewart & Paul McAvinue

## ALLOA'S NEXT FIVE

13.03.21, AWAY, 15:00



QUEEN OF THE SOUTH



ALLOA ATHLETIC

19.03.21, HOME, 19:45



ALLOA ATHLETIC



DUNDEE

27.03.21, HOME, 15:00



ALLOA ATHLETIC



AYR UNITED

03.04.21, AWAY, 15:00



ARBROATH



ALLOA ATHLETIC

10.04.21, AWAY, 15:00



HEART OF MIDLOTHIAN



ALLOA ATHLETIC

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## BOWMORE



## TALISKER



## DEANSTON



## OBAN



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