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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)

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Pat Lawlor Directors

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Martin Ross (Vice Chairman)

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June McLauchlan

Management

Barry Ferguson(Manager) Paddy Connolly(Assistant) Bob Malcolm(Assistant) Cameron McDermid (Fitness Coach) Stuart Phinn (Sports Therapist) John Gibson (GK Coach) Andrew Deeley (Club Doctor) I Robertson (Scout) Derek Nicholson (Head of Youth) Dean Robertson (Head of Scouting) **Ground Staff** John Robertson Kit Manager Pat Dunne Calum Wood

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^{*}includes equivalent competitions

cinch CENCH LEAGUE 1

		P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
	QUEEN'S PARK	5	3	2	0	8	2	6	- 11
MONTROSI	MONTROSE	5	3	1	1	9	4	5	10
7 7	FALKIRK	- 5	3	1	1	8	4	4	- 10
	COVE RANGERS	- 5	2	1	2	10	8	2	7
	DUMBARTON	- 5	2	1	2	8	9	-1	7
	CLYDE	- 5	2	1	2	6	10	-4	7
	ALLOA ATHLETIC	4	1	1	2	5	6	-1	- 4
A.F.	AIRDRIEONIANS	4	1	1	2	6	9	-3	4
SCOTLAN	EAST FIFE	- 5	1	1	3	7	11	-4	4
12	PETERHEAD	- 5	1	0	4	5	9	-4	3
SOUTH STATE OF THE						-			-

WEEKEND'S FIXTURES

ALLOA ATHLETIC





FALKIRK

CHAMPIONSHIP

ARBROATH



HAMILTON ACCIES



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DEFENDERS

Keir **BURT**



Scott **TAGGART**



Daniel CHURCH



Craig HOWIE



MATCH most appearances

Cawley 378 212 Taggart Graham 201 Robertson 195

David **HUTTON**



Andy **GRAHAM**



Mark **DURNAN**



Jordan **ARMSTRONG**

02/04/1999 193 см

GOALS

Cawley 66 Trouten 41 Graham 13 Taggart 8

Fernandy

16/01/1994 23

MENDY

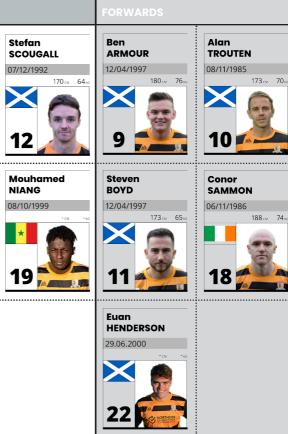


BARRY FERGUSON





MIDFIELDERS Kevin Jon **CAWLEY ROBERTSON** 17/03/1989 25/04/1989 170 см 64 кс Adam Mark KING **LAMONT** 11/10/1995 25/02/1998 Cameron O'DONNELL 29/09/2001











MANAGER'S NOTES

Good afternoon to Paul Sheerin and Falkirk's staff and players.

It's tough to go to Central Park, I thought we played really well. There's always room for improvement but I was really happy with how we kept the ball, and were a threat going forward which is what we've tried to create over the last few weeks. We're delighted to come away with the win and make it to the next

Euan Henderson is going to bring a real energy to the front line. That's what I ike in forward players. He's got real pace and he showed that last year against Alloa. He's coming in to fight for a place. The four boys on Saturday playing in the forward areas - Scougs, Trouts getting his first 90 minutes in a long time was great to see,



Kevin Cawley on the way back and Boyd was a constant threat through the middle and that's without mentioning Sammon on the bench. I want 18-19 players fighting to get into the starting XI and Euan just adds more quality to that competition.

Falkirk, again, are another favourite for the league. There's no doubt about that. We'll show them the respect they deserve - and we've watched them closely while scouting. On our day though we will be more than a match for anybody. We just need to bring our 'A' game and we showed signs against Cowdenbeath that. This week we'll work hard, prepare and have a tough game

today, hopefully in front of a good crowd.

It's disappointing to hear shouts directed at players, especially directed at Hutts, I think the vast majority will agree he's came in and done really well for us. I had to make a decision and sometimes its not easy as a manager to make these decisions but It saddens me a wee bit when you

hear 'crazy' shouts. Hutton's had a good career and he's going to show how good a goalkeeper he is, that's a given but if there's someone the fans want to give stick, give it to me but get behind the players.

Hopefully, today, we can get a winning run going and begin climbing the table.





NEWSDESK

Welcome to today's match against Falkirk. who are visitors to the Indodrill Stadium for the first time since February, 2019, to the players, directors, Head Coach Paul Sheerin and Assistant Head Coach Danny Grainger who having taken up their new roles with "The Bairns" in close season. We have missed games against Falkirk in the past couple of seasons although Falkirk will be desperate to return to

SPFL Championship football and will be tough opponents today, we take great heart from our last meeting when "The Wasps" won 2-1 at Falkirk with goals from Dario Zanatta and Jordan Kirkpartick's late winner.

Manager Barry Ferguson has signed Hearts forward Euan Henderson on loan until the 16th January, 2022 and hope he can make his debut today. Twenty two year old Euan joined Hearts from Hutchison Vale and made his first team debut v. Celtic back in May, 2017. He has had a previous spell on loan to Montrose but most recently he has been part of the Hearts side which won promotion to the SPFL Premier Division. Euan has made 48 appearances for Hearts scoring 4 goals. Welcome to the club.

It would be remiss

not to mention the fact goalkeeper Neil Parry has decided to move to Clyde FC on a two year contract after he had slipped to third choice keeper this season. Neil was often named "The best part-time keeper in the league" and made 174 first team appearances for "The Wasps" including 45 clean sheets and 10 penalty saves. A very popular player who will be missed at the Indodrill Stadium. Craig McDowall has also decided to move again having signed at the start of the season for a third time. Young Keir Burt who celebrated his 17th birthday on Thursday will now look to step up from the Under 20s where he has been in impressive form, Keir will wear shirt no. 21.

Last Saturday's victory at Central Park v. Cowdenbeath now see the side progress to the SPFL TRUST TROPHY ROUND 3, where "The Wasps" will meet the winners between the tie Rangers B v. Ayr United, tie to be played Tuesday 14th September at C&G Systems Stadium, Dumbarton.

Hamilton Academical v Aberdeen B Kilmar-

nock v Queen's Park Elgin City v Inverness Caledonian Thistle Raith Rovers v East Fife Cove Rangers v Albion Rovers Alloa Athletic v Rangers B or Ayr United Queen of the South v Partick Thistle Montrose v Morton

Ties to be played on the weekend of October 9/10

Stefan Scougall who scored the second goal v. Cowdenbeath was included in the SPFL Trust Trophy team of Round Two this week, well done to Stefan who is currently in great form.

Alloa Athletic supporters should take note of following rescheduled fixture dates - next Tuesday we will play Air-



drie at the Penny Cars Stadium, Airdrie, Kickoff 7.45pm, originally Saturday 28th August. While Queen's Park v Alloa Athletic which was due on Saturday 23rd October at Firhill Stadium, has been moved to Sunday 24th October as Partick Thistle are also due to be at home on the Saturday, Kick-Off 3pm

Craig Howie who received a red card v. Queen's Park on Saturday 21st August, received a one match suspension which will see him unavailable for selection today v. Falkirk.

Wasps 2000 Club winners - Week 35 Drawn 4th September, 2021

£ 100 1460 D.Glencross

£ 50 1180 F.Gordon £ 25 0557 T.Black £ 25 0191 I.Dewar £ 25 0506 K.Aitken Scottish Football Programme & Memorabilia Fairs@Footballfairs, date for your diary - Forth Valley Programme and Memorabilia Fair. Sunday 31st October, 2021, Collessio Hotel, Stirling. 10am, Admission Free.

Scotland Women's National Team fixtures at the national stadium are now on sale, with the SWNT set to play all their home FIFA Women's World Cup qualification campaign matches at the national stadium for the first time. New SWNT Head Coach Pedro Martinez Losa will lead his team out at Hampden for the first time on 21 September when they play Faroe Islands, Tickets start priced at £10 for adults. £5 for concessions and are free for Scotland Supporters Club members.





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





4th September 2021 Central Park, Cowdenbeath 3:00pm KO

COWDENBEATH

0:2

ALLOA ATHLETIC



(0:1)**SCORERS**

0:1 **46'** Boyd

0:2 **79**′ Scougall









STARTING XI					
1 GILL					
2 MULLEN					
5 BARR					
4 TODD					
3 THOMSON					
7 BUCHANAN					
6 MILLER					

8 HUTTON 11 CLARKE 9 RENTON 10 BUCHANAN

	BS
12	SWANN
4	BARR
15	COULSON
16	POLLOCK
17	MCGURN
18	COLLINS
19	MAHADY
20	WATSON

	31 HUTTON
SUBS	8 ROBERTSON
4 HOWIE	23 MENDY
5 GRAHAM	6 DURNAN
14 LAMONT	3 CHURCH
18 SAMMON	16 KING
20 O'DONNELL	19 NIANG
41 IRVINE	12 SCOUGALL
	7 CAWLEY
	10 TROUTEN
	11 BOYD
	Control of the Contro

REFEREE: Dan MacFarlane



4th September 2021 Rugby Park, Kilmarnock 3:00pm KO

KILMARNOCK

3:1

FALKIRK



(1:1)								
	SCORERS							
Murray	4′	1:0						
		1:1	8'	Nesbitt				
Naismith	55'	2:1						
Murray	78′	3:1						









STARTING XI
12 WALKER
22 NAISMITH
14 SANDERS
5 MURRAY
18 WATERS
17 LYONS
8 ALSTON
11 ARMSTRONG
19 POLWORTH
15 MURRAY

UI	BS	
	HEMMING	
2	HODSON	
3	HAUNSTRUP	
1	MCGINN	
7	MCKENZIE	
0	CAMERON	
7	WARNOCK	
4	WATSON	

SU	BS
1	MUTCH
3	DIXON
4	HALL
6	MILLER
8	HETHERINGTON
17	KEENA
21	TELFER
23	WEEKES

STARTING XI
12 MARTIN
24 WILLIAMSON
22 MCKAY
25 LEMON
15 MCCANN
16 ROSS
5 KRASNIQI
10 NESBITT
14 WILSON
18 OMPREON
11 MCGUFFIE

REFEREE: Alan Newlands

9 SHAW

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
- 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





ANDY GRAHAM'S TWO HUNDRED APPEARANCES

Inevitably in football players come and go, as clubs constantly strive for that winning formula. Occasionally it feels like a revolving door, with players departing soon after arriving without leaving any lasting memories. Sometimes however there is a rare breed of player who goes onto leave such imprints that their character defines the whole identity of a club and they become era-defining players. At

Alloa there have been a handful of players in the past quarter of a century who can be described in such glowing terms. Craig Valentine and Willie Irvine in the late 1990s and early 2000s, Brown Ferguson through the 2000s and a whole host of loyal players from the Hartley and subsequent era of the 2010s. One such giant of the game for Alloa in the present day recently made his 200th Wasps appearance and needs no introduction – that man is the irrepressible Andy Graham.

Central defenders are often categorised as being one of two breeds – one a 'meat and potatoes' stopper who would tackle their granny and head away incoming boulders, and the other being a ball-playing central defender who relies on perfect timing to avoid the 'dirty stuff' and then

elegantly looks to step out of defence to begin moves with intelligent passing. It is a compliment to Andy that he excels in both areas. Seldom will you meet a braver defender than Graham, who it is clear to see takes such pride in the art of defending, with a commanding header, sliding tackle and last-ditch block being three ingredients you know Andy will give you every game. I wouldn't be surprised if Italy's victorious captain Giorgio Chiellini has clips of Andy which he uses as inspiration, as at very different levels of the game the pair share many similar traits. I've lost track of the number of times Graham has had to receive treatment for head-knocks. which have then seen him ending the game with bandages struggling to stay on his head as he repels attack after attack with yet more towering headed clearances to close out a victory. A Tell Him He's Pele podcast a few years back revealed Graham played through the pain barrier in the promotion decider at Dumbarton in 2018 something he hid well and has done many times since.

However, to characterise Andy as an 'old school' defender would be a great disservice to him. The captain can play a bit too and

likes nothing more than getting on the ball and building attacks with his underrated passing and no lack of skill in those famous Adidas Mundial boots of his! A cheeky drop of the shoulder here and a Cruyff turn there, Andy's repertoire often takes strikers by surprise as he sails past them (or memorably bamboozling three Morton players with his skills in a single move in December 2019).

Undoubtedly one of Andy's key strengths is his leadership - on the pitch it is clear to see that Andy is a natural in the role, constantly demanding high standards and organising all around him. That captaincy role extends off the pitch too, with his songs and encouragement the stuff of legend amongst his teammates. He evidently leads by example and his sheer enthusiasm for the game is infectious.



He inspires all around him, as well as making him a respected figure known throughout the game.

Andy also has a winning mentality and knows exactly how to win at all costs. If that involves a bit of the dark arts, then so be it. Bookings for cynical fouls in the closing stages of wins at Queen of the South last March and earlier in the season versus Livingston testify to that; both instances had me heartily cheering! I also particularly enjoy how Andy always changes ends if he wins the coin toss on an away day. The desired unsettling impact on the opposition not being able to shoot towards their fans in the second half has worked perfectly so many times! The live streams last season also highlighted how Andy makes a deliberate point to chat with the referee for as long as possible prior to the coin toss or the beginning of the season half - my completely anecdotal hypothesis is that he is trying to find favour from the officials

by being such a nice guy!

Graham joined the club in that pivotal summer of 2016, when Jack Ross rebuilt the squad and led the Wasps to a glorious ten game winning streak at the beginning of the season. A debut goal and seven shut-outs in that run showcased Andy's pedigree, which culminated in a virtual clean sweep of the clubs end-of-season awards (Directors Player of the Year; Alloa Advertiser Player of the Year; Supporters Club Player of the Year) and a place in the League One Team of the Year, Those richly deserved individual awards didn't however mask the crushing collective disappointment of a sudden-death penalty shoot-out defeat to deny the Wasps promotion. One of my defining images of Andy is him staring out from the ice-bath recycling bin towards Brechin's wild promotion celebrations. soaking up that emotion to use as motivation for the next season. Fast-forward twelve months and the fabulous sight of a delighted





Graham high-fiving Alloa supporters after winning the promotion play-off on his old stomping ground in Dumbarton was so satisfying. At the age of 34 Andy was back in the Championship having captained Alloa to promotion.

The 2018/19 season was arguably Andy's finest in Alloa colours. Together with his defensive comrades Neil Parry and Scott Taggart, Graham played every minute (4,160) of every game (46) as the Wasps defied the odds to avoid relegation in an otherwise full-time Championship. Graham's consistent excellence saw him named by his fellow professionals in the Championship Team of the Season. Andy described this as one of the biggest personal achievements of his career, having initially considered it a wind-up when it was announced! A clean

sweep of the club's five separate player of the year gongs fully underlined what a triumphant season it was for Graham. He led from the front as Alloa typically defended stoutly before hitting teams with late sucker punches. During the late-season four game winning run Andy was instrumental at both ends of the pitch, with his memorable equaliser at Morton being celebrated wildly and a heroic defensive display versus Queen of the South particular highlights. Various injuries, including a broken nose during the Queens match, would not stop Alloa's absolute warrior from leading the Wasps to a sweet survival on the final day in Ayr. The fact Alloa had been written off and underestimated by virtually everyone outside of the club throughout the season played right into a siege mentality lim Goodwin built in the

dressing room. Andy typified that spirit on the pitch, with the skipper describing those outside comments as a bit disrespectful and having a galvanising effect on the squad.

The 2019/20 season saw Andv maintain those colossal performances at the heart of Alloa's defence, Suspension saw an incredible sequence of 86 consecutive starting appearances between October 2017 and August 2019 end. but worse was to follow as a rare inflammation on the spine (discitis) saw his season curtailed prior to Christmas. In total Andy spent 10 months on the sidelines, in the midst of the global pandemic too, not being able to exercise in any form. At the age of 36 many players may have called it a day, but Andy is no ordinary character and his desire to play for as long as

possible shone brightly. The determination Andy showed in returning to action was admirable, while he also publicly expressed his thanks to the club for standing by him and offering him a new contract for the 2020/21 campaign. Whilst last season proved a step too far on the pitch for Andy and Alloa in the Championship, with Graham's form a little up and down (fully understandable given the context), nobody could deny the effort and desire to succeed remained. There were still some memorable moments along the way, such as a typically committed performance in repelling Hearts for 120 minutes as Alloa triumphed over the Jam Tarts for the first time. In addition, a first goal for 22 months in February's victory over Queen of the South meant my statistic that



Alloa never lose when Andy scores remains – results read WWWW-WWWDWWWW, with the only draw being a goal at Inverness which any dubious goals panel would have credited as an own goal rather than Andy's!

With Andy now approaching his 38th birthday in a few weeks, and competition for places in central defence having never been fiercer, it is illuminating that Andy prides himself on his conditioning and until last weekend had plaved every minute of every game. That unbridled enthusiasm to continue to give his all for the club remains evident and whilst beaten in 1vs1 situations on a couple of high-profile occasions, on the whole Graham has still been one of the Wasps top performers so far this campaign.

To reach a double century of appearances for the Wasps is a truly considerable achievement and one I'm sure Andy will look back on with pride in years to come. To put things into perspective, in that time there have been 44 clean sheets. keeping Celtic out for 82 minutes, one beautiful promotion, three rollercoaster seasons in the Championship, two Team of the Year awards, too many club-level Player of the Year awards to

mention, playing in goal at Stenhousemuir, last minute winning goals (nothing quite like a 91st minute midweek winner away at Brechin!), a brace in a win over Airdrie, returning from a career threatening condition and a lifetime of memories along the way. I could easily write a thesis on Andy's time with the club, with him simply being one of the finest players on and off the pitch for the Wasps. Now realistically in the autumn of his playing career, everyone will be hoping that there are still a couple of glorious chapters to be written on Andy's magnificent Alloa playing career.

DONALD POLLOCK



ALLOA HEADING STRAIGHT FOR THE FIRST DIVISION

Excitement was at fever pitch in the Wee County. Like much of Scotland, the people of Clackmannanshire had fallen head over heels with association football in the closing decades of the 19th century. Every community had a team, there had been a flourishing junior league and a stream of local players had gone on to play for top clubs in Scotland and England. There was a long wait however, for Scottish League football. When the time finally came with the formation of

a new Second Division in 1921, Clackmannanshire would have two representatives in Alloa and Clackmannan: old rivals but not necessarily old friends. As Alloa had gradually established themselves as the strongest team in the area, clubs in the surrounding towns had thrown in their lot with the junior game, all except the 'County Lads' of Clackmannan who continued to strive for senior football. While not always reaching the standards of Alloa. Clackmannan had

managed to upset the Wasps on occasion with notable victories in the Scottish Qualifying Cup in particular. The aftermath of these matches had seen accusations of "riotous conduct" and officials claiming they had been threatened on the street.

After 40 years of bickering on a local level, Alloa and Clackmannan were now taking their fraught rivalry onto the national stage and the fixture list had contrived to bring them together on the second day of season 1921/22. Both

sides had started with promise, Alloa seeing off Stenhousemuir 1-0 while Clackmannan were enjoying an eye catching 3-1 win over St Johnstone in Perth. Just like Alloa, Clackmannan had been busy improving their ground in preparation for Scottish League football with the construction of a new 400 seater stand. It was full to bursting on August 27th 1921 as 4000 supporters squeezed into Chapelhill. Many were still finding their places when Alloa grabbed the

lead, who else but Willie Crilley picking up on an error in the heart of the home defence before firing the ball into the net. Clackmannan responded strongly but the Alloa back line, marshalled once more by Orrock and McGregor, stood firm. As the game went on Alloa were in the ascendency and Crilley scored a second goal after good work by Jock Stirling. A last minute penalty from Cowan was too late for Clackmannan and Alloa had won the first Scottish League derby 2-1. The natural order of things in the Wee County had been restored and the Wasps were the top of the Second Division. Noticeably too, the four goals scored since the start of competitive football in 1921 had all come from Willie Crilley.

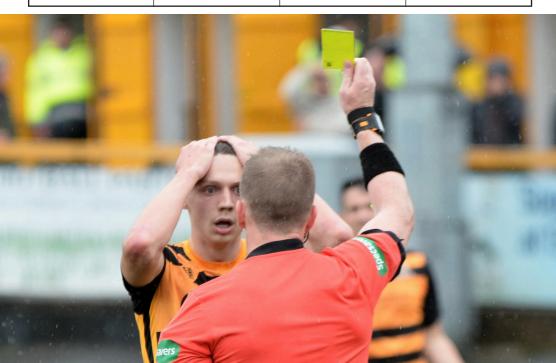
The next test was back at the Recs with Bathgate the visitors. The West Lothian men had finished just above Alloa in the Central League the previous season and had also made an unbeaten start in the Scottish League. They were off the mark quickly with Stein capitalising on a mistake to score within a minute. The Wasps didn't panic. Crilley soon equalised with Dunn then giving the home team a halftime lead. There was a let off when Bathgate blasted a spot kick high over the bar and shortly after Gaffney headed Alloa further ahead. Chalmers pulled one back but it finished 3-2 and Alloa's perfect record was maintained.

It was a trip east next as the Wasps ventured

into the kingdom of Fife to take on Dunfermline in front of 7000 fans. The Pars had a plan: stop Crilley. Defender Dickson followed the wee man up and down East End Park and for long a time it seemed that the strategy might just succeed. One Alloa fan appeared to have settled for a point too, refusing to return the ball when it landed in the crowd in the closing stages until it was "forcibly taken from him". It would seem that his fellow Wasps had more faith, the Dundee **Evening Telegraph** reporting that "he must have regretted his imprudent behaviour during the next few moments judging by the jostling he got from those around him". And the faith of those fans would be rewarded.

As the seconds ticked away, Dunfermline were caught napping by a speculative ball in from the right. The ever alert Crillev broke free from the clutches of Dickson and raced in to nod it over onrushing Pars' keeper Paterson. It was a "sensational goal" to settle a "hard, tousy encounter" and the Wasps perfect record was intact with four wins from four.

Even at this early stage of the season some in the media had seen enough, the Sunday Post headline proclaiming 'ALLOA HEADING STRAIGHT FOR THE FIRST DIVISION'. But there were tougher tasks ahead. More in the next edition of 'The Wasp'



APPEARANCES

		LEA	GUE	Cl	CUP		TOTAL	
	POS	APP	GOAL	APP	GOAL	APP	GOAL	
HUTTON	GOAL	4 (0)	0	2 (0)	0	6 (0)	0 -	
TAGGART	DEF	3 (0)	0	4 (0)	- 1	7 (0)	1 -	
CHURCH	DEF	2 (0)	0	5 (0)	0	7 (0)	0	
HOWIE	DEF	4 (0)	0	4 (1)	0	8 (1)	0	
GRAHAM	DEF	4 (0)	0	4 (0)	0	8 (0)	0 -	
DURNAN	DEF	3 (0)	0	1 (0)	0	4 (0)	0 -	
JAMIESON**	DEF	0 (0)	o	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	
ARMSTRONG	DEF	1 (0)	o	1 (2)	0	2 (2)	0	
MENDY	DEF	3 (1)	0	1 (0)	0	4 (1)	0	
WILLIAMSON	DEF	0 (0)	o	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	
ROBERTSON	MID	1 (1)	o	5 (0)	0	6 (1)	0	
SCOUGALL	MID	4 (0)	1	5 (0)	1	9 (0)	2	
LAMONT	MID	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	
KING	MID	3 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	
O'DONNELL	MID	0 (3)	0	3 (0)	0	3 (3)	0	
NIANG	MID	2 (0)	0	1 (0)	0	3 (0)	0	
WCCOLL	MID	0 (0)	0	0 (1)	- 0	0 (1)	0	
CAWLEY	FWD	1 (0)	0	2 (0)	0	3 (0)	0	
ARMOUR	FWD	0 (1)	0	1 (3)	0	1 (4)	0	
TROUTEN	FWD	1 (0)	0	1 (1)	1	2 (1)	1	
BOYD	FWD	4 (0)	3	5 (0)	1	9 (0)	4	
EVANS	FWD	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	
SAMMON	FWD	4 (0)	1	3 (1)	0	7 (1)	1	
WEBSTER	FWD	0 (1)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (1)	. 0	

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0 0	0	0 (1)	0	0 (1)	0	
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0 (1)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (1)	0	





A FAN'S VIEW

Welcome to the Indodrill Stadium for todays game, with league favourites Falkirk sure to provide a stern test as the visitors. Alloa have picked up a couple of positive results in recent weeks in preparation for this match. Although its way too early to say Alloa are picking up form, the contrast of the last 2 performances with earlier outings will have given the players and management team some much needed confidence going into this match and a belief that progress is being

made.

I must admit I'd have been happy never to play todays opponents again after the last meeting between the clubs at the Falkirk Stadium. Back in April 2019 Alloa picked up their first win over Falkirk at their current abode in eight attempts. Jordan Kirkpatricks late winner sent the visiting fans home happy in a pivotal game. The 3 points were vital in Alloa consolidating their position in the Championship that season, whereas Falkirk

suffered relegation to League One where they have remained. After being on the receiving end of defeats typically from Falkirk, this was a great moment for all Wasps supporters.

Of course, today sees the return of Stevie Hetherington for the first time since his summer departure. After becoming part of the furniture at Alloa having been at the club for so long, it will be quite surreal to see Stevie line up for the opposition here. Stevie was a terrific servant to the club, mainly in

providing the perfect foil for lain Flannigan to flourish and pull the strings for a number of seasons. Stevie provides a great anchor in breaking up play and covering pockets of space left by full backs driving forward. The perfect team player, he is also technically a far better player than he is perhaps given credit for. Already Falkirk captain, Im sure he will go on to have a successful spell at our near neighbours. A feisty player who never shirks a challenge, he'll get the home support

going and provide some entertainment today. But sure to get a great reception- don't forget Stevie also provided the assist for Greig Spences legendary winner in the 3-2 victory over Rangers back in late 2014. Stevie will always be welcome here.

As stated earlier, Alloa have bounced back from the Clyde defeat with a couple of positive performances-firstly against Queens Park in the league before last weekends win in the SPFL Trust Trophy vs Cowdenbeath. The Clyde game was a bit of an anomaly. The performance wasn't great by any means, but as the game wore on following the equaliser from Stefan Scougall you felt the worst Alloa would gain was a point. At no time did we really look like losing that game, but of course it happened. It was a real opportunity missed, because we knew Queens Park would provide a stern test the following week due to their full time nature and quality of player. And it looked bleak when Craig Howie picked up his second yellow card with ten minutes still to play in the opening half. But with the experienced backline of Robertson. Durnan, Graham and Taggart Alloa showed some real character and managed to limit Oueens Park to verv few real chances on goal. Queens appeared

to feel the pressure of the extra man more than Alloa. So it was a real blow when some crossed wire communications at the back enabled Simon Murray to put the visitors ahead.

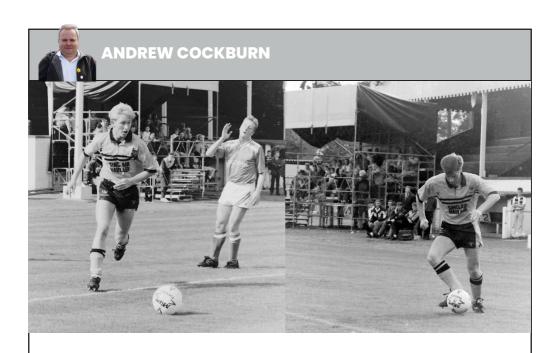
When the manager changed Sammon and Taggart for King and Mendy soon after, I admit I was sceptical that the changes would be effective. However. I was very pleased to be proved wrong as both played their part in our recovery. Alloa were looking for a break in the final third- a set piece to take advantage of. With just over 10 minutes to play Alloa were awarded a free kick on the edge of the area and Steven Boyd duly delivered- a great effort which bounced in off the bar to give Alloa a point. Given the length of time with a man deficit, this was a moral victory against one of the leagues best outfits.

Unfortunately I missed last weeks win over Cowdenbeath due to preferring to soak up the bars of Glasgow pre match prior to the Scotland-Moldova game over dashing across the country to take in both games. After Neil Parrys departure I feared the atmosphere might be a bit toxic, but on the park it was good to get a bit of revenge for the defeat to Cowden in the League Cup earlier in the season. Stefan Scougall once again got himself on the scoresheet, and he is shaping up to be a real difference maker for Alloa- as we suspected he would be this season. He obviously has the quality and the pedigree to do so-probably as close to Flannigan as we've seen but a different type of player. He fleets in and out of games a bit more but provides real game changing quality. Earlier in the season that East Fife game here was on a real knife edge- but Scougall provided a couple of bits of quality that ensured Alloa picked up the 3 points. We need to keep him fit this seasondefinitely one of the leagues best players.

Finally it wouldn't be right to finish without mentioning the real sense of disappointment after Neil Parry departed the club recently. Neils contribution to the club speaks for itself- a brilliant goalkeeper who performed brilliantly on a consistent basis

in a 5 year spell. When at a loose end over the extensive lockdown period I watched the 2018 play-off final 2nd leg win over Dumbarton quite regularly. With Ross Stewart and Jordan Kirkpatrick grabbing the headlines that day its easy to forget just how good Parry was. An outstanding performance in a game where there no margin for error. Its probably forgotten because it was simply a standard performance from big Neilly. He was also my daughters favourite player, and I'll always remember how lovely he was to her whenever we bumped into him. He would even wave right to her after matches if we were in the main stand together. I wish Neil the best of luck at Clyde and he's another who is sure to get a terrific reception when he returns here later in the season. Enjoy todays game.





LOOKING BACK 8TH SEPTEMBER 1990

In The Premier Division. there was a change of leadership, for Dundee United's 1-0 home win v St. Mirren not only extended their 100% record in the league so far, but also saw them displace Aberdeen, held 1-1 at Dunfermline. from top spot. The Dons slipped to second, Rangers remained third after a 3-1 victory at Hearts, Motherwell staved fourth after 3-0 home success v St. Johnstone, while Dunfermline still occupied fifth position. Celtic, after two straight league defeats, now recorded their initial league win of the season, 3-0 at home v Hibs, which lifted them up three places off the bottom. St. Johnstone, still winless after their defeat by Motherwell, now propped up the table, while Hibs and Hearts, also still both yet to record a league victory, lay immediately above The Saints. Airdrie remained top of The First Division, and

still with a 100% league record, after a 3-0 home victory v Brechin. Raith's 1-0 home success v Morton moved them up one place to second. The Rovers displaced Clydebank, who dropped to fifth after a 1-3 home defeat v Dundee, who moved up to third, while Hamilton Accies, 3-1 home winners v newly-promoted Kilmarnock. were now fourth. At the other end of the table, Morton's defeat left them both pointless

and goalless, and as such they continued to prop up the table. Today's visitors Falkirk had also yet to collect a single point, after they went down 0-2 at home v Partick, Thistle and The Bairns remained in second-bottom position, while Kilmarnock still occupied third-bottom spot.

Down in The Second, Stirling Albion were the new leaders, thanks to a 3-2 win at Arbroath, The Binos displaced











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Montrose, who slipped to fifth after a 1-2 defeat at Berwick. Oueen's Park, who enjoyed an emphatic 4-0 home success v East Stirling, were now second, while Alloa, who also enjoyed a handsome home victory, by 4-1 v Oueen Of The South, were now third, goals from John Irvine (2), Willie Newbigging & Jimmy Ormond were on target for The Wasps, who'd lined up as follows: Lowrie, Newbigging, R. Lee, Wilcox, McCulloch, McEntegart, Grant, Ramsay (Thomson), Black (Ormond), Irvine, Smith. East Fife remained fourth despite being held 2-2 at home by Albion Rovers, while Cowdenbeath's 3-1 success at Dumbarton moved them off the bottom, they were replaced by Oueen Of The South.

South of the border. Liverpool retained leadership of The First

Division, and also their 100% record, after a 2-1 win at Wimbledon. Crystal Palace's 3-0 win at Norwich moved them into second spot, Manchester United were now third after a 3-1 win v OPR at Old Trafford. while Everton, despite collecting their first point of the season from a 1-1 home draw with Arsenal, still rather surprisingly propped up the table. Oldham still headed The Second Division, after they made it four wins out of four, with a 1-0 victory at Barnsley. Sheffield Wednesday too still boasted a 100% record to date, after a 1-0 win at Charlton, and they remained second. while Millwall, also with maximum points from their fixtures so far, after they triumphed by 2-1 at Newcastle, still held third spot.

The best football players in the World in 1990 were Lothar Matthäus.



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Diego Maradona, the top players were Salvatore Schillaci. Andreas Brehme, Paul Gascoigne, Franco Ba-

Maurice Malpas, Ally Mc-Coist, John Collins, Paul Elliott, Gary McAllister, John Robertson, Gordon Strachan and Gordon Durie





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Scottish Premiership Runners up* 1907-8, 1909-10

Scottish Championship* Winners (7) Runners up(8)

Scottish League 1* Winners 1979-80 Runners-up 2019-20

This afternoon we return to league action as we welcome Falkirk to the Indodrill stadium. The visitors dropped out of the Challenge Cup last week after falling to defeat to Championship side Kilmarnock, however, it has been a fairly strong start to the league campaign as they sit in 3rd, six points ahead of the Wasps. Impressive results at home to Clyde and away to Airdrie put the Bairns in a strong position before falling to their first league defeat of the season to Oueen's Park. It will no doubt be of the highest priority for Falkirk to achieve promotion

having missed out completely in the playoffs last season and finishing behind Raith the previous.

THE BOSS PAUL SHEERIN

After failing to secure promotion last season. Falkirk decided to change the man at the helm as Paul Sheerin was appointed head coach. Sheerin actually began his professional career at Alloa Athletic signing on from junior side Whitehill Welfare in 1991. A year later he left to sign for Southampton, and then Ostersunds FK. When returning to Scotland,

he briefly signed again for Alloa before moving on to Inverness. The midfielder had notable stints there. Arbroath and St Johnstone where he scored as they won the Challenge Cup Final in 2007. Youth football management is where he has spent most of his career after playing, helping St Iohnstone's u17 Youth Division in 2019 and guiding Aberdeen's u20s to a league title win and cup final. Following the departure of Derek McInnes. Sheerin went back out again looking for senior football taking the position at the Falkirk Stadium.

THE CAPTAIN -STEVEN HETHERINGTON

Today's opposition skipper needs no introduction to the Alloa faithful. Stevie Hetherington made the move over to our league rivals in the summer and was very quickly awarded with the captain's armband. Beginning his career at Motherwell, the midfielder had a few stints down South before signing for the Wasps in 2014. Immedi-





ately in his first season he was thrown in against Rangers in the cup where he heroically helped Alloa to a 3-2 victory. Over two-hundred games, promotions and a player of the year award later, he became a fan favourite for the Alloa fans. Known for his relentless workrate. crunching tackles and the odd sweet strike, it was a big loss to Ferguson's men to lose him in the summer. However. since moving over to Falkirk he has started well doing everything we know he is capable of, scoring and dictating the midfield.

NEW BOY -MICHAEL RUTH

You only have to look to the start of this week to see Paul Sheerin's newest signing. Michael Ruth made the temporary switch to Falkirk on Monday from Premiership club Aberdeen.

The 19-year old striker is highly rated within the game ever since his Hampden debut for Queens Park at the age of 16. After moving to Pittodrie he won the Development Player of the Year, with seventeen goals during that spell. Ruth spent time out on loan at Arbroath last season, a team who he scored against last weekend for Aberdeen B side, but the loan was cut short. Sheerin will be looking for Ruth to hit the ground running quickly after handing him the number nine iersev in his first week training with the club.

ONE TO WATCH - AIDAN NESBITT

There are plenty of threats in this Falkirk side, however, Aidan Nesbitt stands out after making the switch in the summer. The winger began his career at Celtic Park before having

eye-catching spells at Greenock Morton. Milton Keynes Dons and Dundee United. As a youth player at Celtic, big things were expected of Nesbitt as he was included in the UEFA European Under-17 Championship Team of the Tournament and won accolades with Celtic, Robbie Nielson was the man to take him down South and bring him back to Scotland for

undisclosed fees but after that failing to work, he has found himself at Falkirk looking to revive previous form. It was a signing that excited many and Nesbitt has started strong to prove that they were right to be excited. A goal and three assists so far this season show that he is a man to keep an eye on for Ferguson's men.

THE CONNECTION

Two Alloa connections returning have already been highlighted in Paul Sheerin and more recently, Stevie Hetherington. This will be the first time Hetherington has faced the Wasps which will make for an interesting affair in the middle of the park. There are two familiar faces for the visiting fans and both are new signings for the Wasps. Firstly,

CONTINUED ON P32





BY KIEREN MOONEY

Conor Sammon spent a couple of years at Falkirk scoring eight goals across his two seasons in League 1. Furthermore. Mark Durnan also spent two years at the same time as Sammon playing at the heart of Falkirk's defence. Similar to Hetherington, this will be the first chance for Alloa's new duo to face their former sides. Other players include Liam Dick, Jamie MacDonald, Iain Flannigan, Kevin O'Hara, Reis Peggie, Thomas Grant, Jason Marr, David Weatherston, Connor Kelly & Rvan Millar.

PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The last time the sides met was the season

of great escapes for Alloa and relegation for Falkirk. 2019 saw Alloa go on a remarkable unbeaten run to secure safety and a memorable win at Falkirk was part of that, Dario Zanatta and Zak Rudden had the teams locked level but a very late strike from Iordan Kirkpatrick saw Alloa snatch all three points on the road. That season saw tight games between the two sides with Falkirk winning one of the ties and the other two games ending in a draw. The only player remaining who scored in any of these fixtures is Alan Trouten who bagged a brace in a 2-2 draw away to Falkirk at the end of 2018.



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Steven **HETHERINGTON**



Aidan **NESBITT**



Craia MCGUFFIE



Aidan **KEENA**



Samuel **OMPREON**



Seb **ROSS**



Charlie **TELFER**



Ben **WEEKES**





WILLIAMSON

Cammy



HT QUIZ



2.IN THE PAST 5 YEARS, 2 SCOTLAND PLAYERS HAVE AMASSED LESS THAN 5 CAPS BUT HAVE SCORED FOR THE **NATIONAL TEAM. NAME THEM**

3.NAME THE 11 PLAYERS WHO HAVE PLAYED FOR ALLOA IN THE PAST 10 YEARS AND HAVE BEEN CAPPED AT INTER-NATIONAL LEVEL (BEFORE OR AFTER THEIR STINTS AT THE CLUB)

4.NAME THE LAST 6 MANCHESTER CITY PLAYERS TO GET **ENGLAND CAPS**

ANSWERS PAGE 37







MIDFIELDERS										FC		
CAWLEY	ROBERTSON	TROUTEN	SCOUGALL	LAMONT	KING	NIANG	O'DONNELL	MCCOLL		ARMOUR	BOYD	
7	8	10	12	14	16	19	20	22		9	11	
X	×	X	X	×	×	*	X	X		×	×	
74	90		90		90					16	90	
	90	1 28	90		62		70			20	90	
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QUIZ ANSWERS

HENDERSON

18 22 25

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45

90

70

37

90

90

27

0 90

- 1. ZAK RUDDEN, ALAN TROUTEN
- 2. STUART FINDLAY AND LAWRENCE SHANKLAND
- 3. ROBBIE WINTERS, STEVIE MAY, SCOTT MCKENNA, SCOTT BAIN, DEREK RIORDAN, ANDY KIRK, CALLAUM JAHRALDO MARTIN, MIKK REINTAM, JIM GOODWIN, CONNOR SAMMON, FERNANDY MENDY
- 4. JACK GREALISH, PHIL FODEN, KYLE WALKER, JOHN STONES, RAHEEM STER-LING, FABIAN DELPH





ALLOA ATHLETIC



FALKIRK



\^a	#	POS		⊛	0	1
$\boldsymbol{\times}$	1		ROBBIE MUTCH			Γ
×	2		RYAN WILLIAMSON			ľ
X	3		PAUL DIXON			Γ
	4		BEN HALL			Ī
*	5		ERNALDO KRASNIQI			Γ
×	6		GARY MILLER			Γ
${f \times}$	7		CALUMN MORRISON			Γ
+	8		STEVEN HETHERINGTON			Γ
\times	9		MICHAEL RUTH			
${f \times}$	10		AIDAN NESBITT			
${f \times}$	11		CRAIG MCGUFFIE			
${f \times}$	12		PADDY MARTIN			L
${f \times}$	14		JAIME WILSON			
$\mathbf{\times}$	15		LEON MCCANN			
$\boldsymbol{\times}$	16		SEB ROSS			
	17		AIDAN KEENA			
+	18		SAMUEL OMPREON			
\times	19		CHARLIE TELFER			L
\times	20		BRAD MCKAY			L
$\boldsymbol{\times}$	21		BEN WEEKES			L
×	22		CAMMY WILLIAMSON			L
\times	23		MACKENZIE LEMON			
×			ER PAUL SHEERIN			

REFEREE: David Dickinson

ASST: Jonathan Bell & Steven MacDonald

ALLOA'S NEXT FIVE

18.09.21, AWAY, 15:00 ALLOA ATHLETIC MONTROSE

11.09.21, HOME, 15:00 ALLOA ATHLETIC

FALKIRK

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ALLOA ATHLETIC

14.09.21, AWAY, 19:45













09.10.21, HOME, 15:00

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