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# ALLOA ATHLETIC FOOTBALL CLUB



#### SCOTTISH CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS

1921/22

#### RUNNERS UP

1938/39

#### SCOTTISH LEAGUE 1 RUNNERS UP

1976/77 1981/82

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

2016/17

SCOTTISH LEAGUE 2 WINNERS

1997/1998 2011/2012

CHALLENGE CUP WINNERS

1999/2000

#### RUNNERS-UP

2001/02 2014/15

#### STIRLINGSHIRE CUP WINNERS

1904/5 1907/8 1908/9 1912/13 1920/21 1924/25 1933/34 1946/47 1955/56 1957/58 1959/60 1965/66 1981/82 1996/97

#### MOST CAPPED PLAYER

Jock Hepburn, 1 Cap (Scotland v Wales 1891)

#### **Club Information**

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# Club Officials Honorory Directors

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Directors

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Martin Ross (Vice Chairman)

Ewen Cameron Steven Lynch

Dr Robert McElroy

Secretary

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Child Protection Officer Alloa Athletic: Paula Campbell

Wasp Community Club:

June McLauchlan

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Barry Ferguson(Manager)
Paddy Connolly( Assistant)
Bob Malcolm( Assistant)
Stuart Phin (Sports Therapist)
Andrew Deeley (Club Doctor)
Derek Nicholson (Head of Youth)
Dean Robertson (Head of Scouting)

Mike Zaleski (Head of Sports Science) *Ground Staff* Alan Petrie

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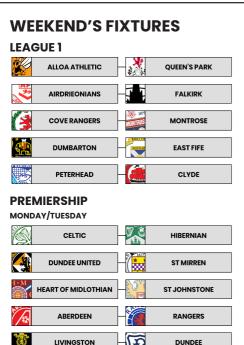


<sup>\*</sup>includes equivalent competitions



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#### GOALKEEPERS

#### DEFENDERS

Scott

# Keir BURT -



#### Daniel CHURCH



#### Craig HOWIE



# **MATCH** most appearances

Cawley 395 Taggart 229 Robertson 211 Graham 209

#### David HUTTON



#### Andy GRAHAM

22/09/1983 188 cw 83 cc 5

#### Mark DURNAN



#### Jordan ARMSTRONG



#### **GOALS**

Cawley 67 Trouten 42 Graham 13 Henderson 11

#### Fernandy MENDY 16/01/1994

23

#### Lucas WILLIAMSON



#### Tom LEIGHTON



#### MANAGER

#### BARRY FERGUSON





#### **MIDFIELDERS**

#### Kevin **CAWLEY**



#### Jon **ROBERTSON**



#### Stefan **SCOUGALL**



# Ben



#### Alan **TROUTEN**



#### Mark **LAMONT**



#### Charlie **GILMOUR**



#### Adam KING



#### Steven BOYD



#### Conor **SAMMON**



#### **Mouhamed** NIANG



#### Cameron O'DONNELL



# Euan



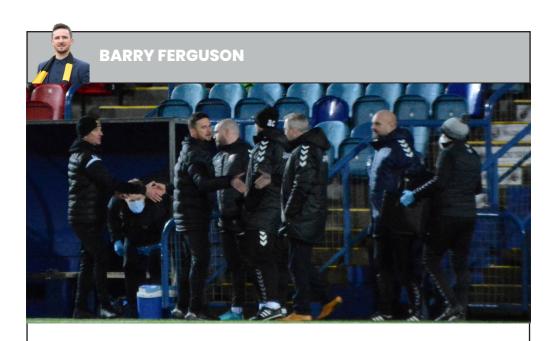
# **HENDERSON**











# MANAGERS NOTES

Welcome to the Queen's Park players and staff and happy new year to everyone.

On Saturday, in the first half especially, I thought we were excellent. We had worked on lots of things during the week. It wasn't helped by losing Charlie Gilmour early on Saturday due to COVID. Second half wasn't as good but we worked hard as a team. So now my bit to the players is can we bring that for the whole 90 minutes.

Montrose for me are one of the best sides in the division. We controlled the first half, should have had another few goals, but just weren't clinical enough. Stuart's got a good team up there, three points is what we want but a draw on the road is still respectable.

There's probably never a good time to play Queen's Park. Despite their recent form and change of manager they're a full time team and could be playing at a higher level. Despite them missing games recently through COVID I'm sure they'll be fit and raring to go. We expect a difficult game after the two good games we've contested. Prepare ourselves right and bring that level that

we showed in the first half against Montrose is what we need to do. We need to start winning games.

Every game that we enter, we need to have the mindset to win. There's a gap developing with the top three but there's a great opportunity to go on a run and pull ourselves into at least play-off contention.

Henderson should be staying, Senna is here for the season but Charlie Gilmour is heading back to St Iohnstone unfortunately. It's sore to lose him, he's been outstanding. St Johnstone have been good enough to give us him in the first place but he's going back there to compete for a first team place. He's been

a pleasure to work with, brilliant attitude and all the attributes to play at a higher level. Of course that means trying to find a replacement for him and trying to strengthen all over the pitch. It's been busy. We've missed out on a couple of targets to Championship clubs. We're keeping an eye out for how we can improve and that's

where we are just now.

With restrictions being lifted and having a full house against Celtic, that will be great for the boys, great for the club, the town and supporters although probably not brilliant for me!

We'll look forward to that next week and hopefully, as it's the Scottish Cup, anything can happen.





# **NEWSDESK**

Welcome to today's match against Queen's Park FC at the Indodrill Stadium, who will be our "First Foots" after the Falkirk game was had to be postponed due to covid issues within the Falkirk squad. Queen's Park have had a stop start December playing only two matches and deciding to part with manager Laurie Ellis and his assistant Grant Murray. New Director of football Marijn Beuker brought

in from Dutch football and Chief Executive Leeann Dempster have this week brought in John Potter to take temporary charge helping Garner Spiers and Peter Grant junior who had been taking training. Last Saturday we returned from Links Park with a 1-1 draw but manager Barry Ferguson knows it is victories the club are needing at this present time.

Congratulations to

Fernandy Mendy for receiving a call up to the Guinea-Bissau inInternational team. They play in Group D of the African Cup of Nations against Egypt, Nigeria and Sudan. Best of luck Nando!

They opened their account with a goalless draw v.s Sudan. As Brian Roach commented "Guinea-Bissau did all the attacking, should have won. Awarded a late penalty, but delay

between award and kick ramped up tension-Pele looked like a man summoned to the electric chair and missed. Fendando Mendy didn't get on, on ice for the big guns". Fernando will celebrate his 28th birthday tomorrow, Sunday 16th January, congratulations.

Alloa Athletic's reward for reaching the Scottish Cup 4th Round is a home tie against Celtic in the New Year, a side we have not faced in the Scottish Cup since 4th September, 1996. This tie will be eagerly awaited but for now we need to concentrate on gaining more valuable league points. Our Scottish Cup 4th Round tie on the 22nd January will be shown live on PREMIER SPORTS. Kickoff will be at 5:30PM.

Full crowds can return to Scottish outdoor sporting events from Monday 17th lanuary, first minister Nicola Sturgeon has confirmed. The Scottish government last month introduced Covid restrictions that capped attendances at events at 500. The first minister said the "Covid certification scheme will remain in place" but with "two important changes" for organisers of events. "Firstly, our guidance will now stipulate that the organisers of large events of 1,000 or more people should check the certification status of at least 50% of at-

tendees, rather than the current 20%, or at least 1,000 people - whichever figure is higher," Ms Sturgeon explained "And, second, from Monday the requirement to be 'fully vaccinated' for the purposes of Covid certification will include having a booster if the second dose was more than four months ago. "It will still be possible to gain admission to events and venues covered by the certification scheme by providing proof of a recent negative lateral flow test."

Wasps 2000 Draw - Week 1 8th January, 2022

£ 100 0166 I.Kennedy £ 50 0354 G.Morrison £ 25 1390 A.Syme £ 25 0651 J.Wright £ 25 0466 M.Carmichael

Alloa Athletic is proud to announce the launch of our new senior women's squad, which will compete at SWFL level for the 2022 season.

In addition to bringing

senior women's football to Indodrill Stadium and Clackmannanshire, the establishment of our Alloa Athletic Women's FC squad will provide a pathway to the senior game for the players of our Wasp Community Club Girls section.

As we progress our recruitment process, we welcome contact from players or coaches with an interest in being considered for a role within the squad.

You can contact the club on Facebook and Twitter (@AlloaAthWFC) or email womens@ alloaathletic.co.uk for more information.
Email Address: womens@alloaathletic.co.uk Socials: facebook.com/alloaathwfc + twitter.
com/alloaathwfc

Scotland's draw and fixtures for the forthcoming Nations League was recently made grouping us with Armenia, Ukraine and the Republic of Ireland. The fixtures will be:- Saturday 4th June, 2022 Scotland v. Armenia Kick-Off 2pm

Tuesday 7th June, 2022 Scotland v. Ukraine Kick-Off 7.45pm

Saturday 11th June, 2022 Rep Ireland v. Scotland Kick-Off 5pm

Tuesday 14th June, 2022 Armenia v. Scotland Kick-Off 5pm

Friday 23rd Sept, 2022 Scotland v. Rep Ireland Kick-Off 7.45pm

Monday 26th Sept, 2022 Ukraine v. Scotland Kick-Off 7.45pm

Ross Stewart who was on loan to "The Wasps" in the season 2017/18 from St. Mirren and helped the club win promotion at Dumbarton is being touted for a call up to the Scotland Squad having already scored 17 goals for Sunderland this season in 25 games where he is having an outstanding season at the Stadium of Light.





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





8th January 2022 Links Park , Montrose 3:00pm KO

## **MONTROSE**

# 1:1

## **ALLOA ATHLETIC**













STARTING XI	

- 1 FLEMING
- 2 BALLANTYNE
- 3 STEEVES
- 4 ALLAN
- 14 DILLON
- 6 MASSON
- **20 BALLANTYNE**
- 8 WATSON
- 24 GARDYNE
- 18 SIMPSON
- 11 LYONS

# SUBS

- 17 QUINN
- 19 CALLAGHAN
- التالية المستقلة السيالة
- 15 CAMPBELL
- 16 JOHNSTON
- 12 ANTONIAZZI
- 9 KEATINGS
- 21 MATTHEWS

#### SUBS

- 20 O'DONNELL
- 10 TROUTEN
- 17 ARMSTRONG
- 9 ARMOUR
- 21 BURT

#### **STARTING XI**

- 31 HUTTON
- 8 ROBERTSON
- 5 GRAHAM
- 6 DURNAN
- 3 CHURCH
- 16 KING
- 19 NIANG
- 7 CAWLEY
- 22 HENDERSON
- 18 SAMMON

**REFEREE:** Gavin Duncan



29th December 2021 Penny Cars Stadium, Airdrie 3:00pm KO

## **AIRDRIEONIANS**

1:0

## **QUEEN'S PARK**















STARTIN	G XI
1 CURR	IE
2 MCIN	ROY
6 FORD	YCE
7 MCC	ABE
16 WATS	ON
15 MCDC	DNALD
8 AGNE	w
10 EAST	N
24 MCGI	LL
11 SMITH	1

GALLAGHER

**SUBS** 3 QUITONGO **12** RITCHIE

14 ALLAN 18 CANTLEY 19 WALKER 20 CAVES

SUBS **11** QUITONGO 15 GILLIES 16 YEATS 18 BIGGAR

31 BEVERADGE 41 MAHON **MCCORMICK**  STARTING XI **17** HERAGHTY DAVIDSON

**MORRISON** 19 FOX

ROBSON 48 CONNELL GILLESPIE

**THOMSON** 

**4** KILDAY 28 LONGSTAFF

**MCHUGH** 

**REFEREE:** Chris Fordyce

#### 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





#### **JONATHAN MARKWELL**



# 2021 – ALLOA'S YEAR IN NUMBERS

2021 will not be remembered particularly fondly by Alloa Athletic Football Club, in many ways reflective of the mood of the nation as a whole. The Wasps suffered relegation from the Championship and at the turn of the year were languishing in 8th place in the cinch League One table, making it a difficult time for everyone connected with the club. Nevertheless, the recent turn of the year provides me

with another opportunity to continue my annual look back at the numbers behind Alloa's calendar year (for an eighteenth successive year for long-suffering readers of this fine publication!). There were some memorable moments and fine achievements amongst the disappointments, so join me on this statistically-based, but also light-hearted at times. journey through Alloa's 2021.

#### 11 WINS

The Wasps won a quarter of all games played in 2021, with the see-saw comeback wins at Oueen of the South (3-2) and Queen's Park (4-3) arguably being the most dramatic and memorable. Alloa's late comeback victory over top-tier Livingston in the League cup group stage shouldn't be overlooked either, with it being Alloa's first win over a top-tier side since Inverness CT in 2016 and Barry Ferguson's first victory as Alloa manager. The Wasps also drew 12 games and lost the other 21 games played in 2021.

#### 11

Euan Henderson topped the goalscoring charts for Alloa in 2021, scoring 11 of the 59 goals the Wasps netted. Three players managed six goals for the club (Innes Cameron, Alan Trouten and Steven Boyd) and in total, 21 separate players got on the scoresheet for Alloa in the calendar year. Of those goals, there were a disproportionately high amount of spectacular strikes, with my personal top five being: 5 - Boyd's freekick equaliser versus Queen's Park, which satisfyingly rebounded from the crossbar twice before crossing the line; 4 - Lee Connelly's strike at Queen of the South, which nestled into the postage stamp top corner of the net: 3 – Adam King's sublime strike from 25 yards into the very top corner away at Montrose, which showed excellent technique and the ball rolling along the goal net made the strike look even more aesthetically pleasing; 2 – Alan Trouten's outrageous free-kick from the centre circle, lobbing Ayr keeper Viljami Sinisalo from more than 50 yards, showcased the intelligence, vision and perfect execution which have been hallmarks of Trouten's career - amazingly, it was his first (and only so far) goal scored from outside the penalty box for Alloa; 1 – Lucas Williamson's 30-yard screamer versus Avr. This was as sweet a strike you are ever likely to see, with the ball falling to Lucas (on the day after he celebrated his 18th birthday) and begging to be struck -Williamson obliged and

the ball rocketed into the top corner, beyond the despairing dive of Sinisalo and the camera angle was perfect to show the strike in its full glory; it really was a truly special strike.

#### 10

Stefan Scougall topped Alloa's goal assists table in 2021. with his double figures return of teeing up 10 goals all coming during the current season. That included providing the passes for both of Steven Boyd's goals in August's win over East Fife; against Bonnyrigg in November Scougall went one better by notching a hat-trick of assists, setting up two Henderson strikes with clever passes and his dangerous corner delivery being dispatched acrobatically by Mouhamed Niang to open the scoring. Second in the table with 7 assists was Jon Robertson, with some of his crosses last season being a key weapon in Alloa's attacking play (happily Robbo 'the assist machine' was back producing last weekend at Montrose too!). Making up the podium positions were both Scott Taggart and Kevin Cawley, who each assisted four Alloa goals in 2021.

#### 5-0

The victory over Bonnyrigg Rose Athletic in the Third Round of the Scottish Cup was Alloa's biggest of 2021. In-fact, it was Alloa's biggest win since 2017 (6-1 versus Brechin) or 2005 in cup competitions (9-0 against Selkirk). Euan Henderson's hat-trick that day was Alloa's only treble of 2021, with his rich vein of form making it 8 goals in 6 games for the loanee at that point in time.

#### 3

Nothing emphasises the struggles Alloa encountered in 2021 more than the fact the Wasps never went more than 3 games without defeat. An unbeaten run of 3 games was achieved twice (August-September & October-November), but the ability to breed confidence and build momentum was frequently curtailed by regular defeats throughout the year. A New Year resolution must surely be to go on a sustained

run of at least half a dozen games without defeat.

#### 9 RED CARDS

The nine red cards suffered by Alloa in 2021 was the most in a calendar year since I began keeping my records about Alloa in 1996, just eclipsing the eight dismissals endured in 2006, 2008 and 2011. As well as the five occasions Alloa have been reduced to ten men this season, it seems a lifetime ago that four were also suffered in opening months of 2021 too. The recipients were Lucas Williamson (on his league debut versus Hearts), Raymond Grant (versus Arbroath). Alan Trouten (versus Inverness) and Neil Parry (later rescinded versus Raith). It means in total, eight of the nine orderings off came in



matches at the Recs, which one can only explain as being coincidental surely?

#### 9 YELLOWS

Stevie Hetherington picked up 9 bookings in the 16 games he played for the Wasps in 2021. taking him to the top of the Alloa bookings chart for 2021. The combative midfielder easily held off competition from Mark Durnan (6 yellow cards) and Raymond Grant (5 bookings) to take this gong. My favourite booking without doubt was Andy Graham man-handling Dapo Mebude to the ground to prevent the Oueen of the South attacker getting anywhere near the goal in the closing stages of Alloa's win - it was tremendous game management from Andy and had me heartily cheering at home! A special mention too for Peter Grant, who re-



ceived 3 bookings from the touchlines during 2021 for Alloa (in total the manager collected 6 bookings from the bench in the 2020/1 season), meaning both Barry Ferguson and Bob Malcolm have a lot of catching up to do having only been booked once apiece this season!

#### CONCEDING MORE THAN DOUBLE THE NUMBER OF PENALTIES THAN WERE GAINED.

The ever changing

handball rules means it is inevitable that more penalties will be awarded in games. That's even without the influence of VAR in the Scottish game, which if introduced would only result in a further increase in spot-kicks. However, it is surprising that the Wasps conceded more than double the number of penalties than were awarded for us in 2021. with 11 being conceded (averaging one every

four games) and just 5 being earned. The difference is more stark on a season-by-season basis. with only 1 being in Alloa's favour in 2021/22 (a soft award versus Livingston, converted by Alan Trouten), whereas 7 have been conceded. The Wasps had a 60% conversion rate from the spot (below the 0.76 xG rate for a penalty), with Trouten successful in 3 of his 4 attempts (former team-mate Iamie MacDonald saved the other) and Andy Graham missing Alloa's other spot-kick in the eventful 3-2 win at Oueen of the South. The conversion rate of penalties conceded was higher at 73% (8 converted from 11 conceded), with Parry saving Miles Storey's late spot-kick at Inverness. Milne of Montrose shooting wide and Airdrie's McCabe smacking the bar being the only unsuccessful kicks. It is fair to say that some of the awards were dubious, both for



and against the Wasps, with the level of consistency being questionable at times too.

#### 360

In January Kevin Cawlev broke a 50 year club record by becoming Alloa's top post-WW2 appearance maker, with his 360th game for the Wasps against Hearts. Kevin was made captain for the day and scored an excellent header late in the game, making it a memorable personal day for him despite the eventual 3-1 defeat to the Champions-to-be. Whisper it quietly, but in the next month Cawley is on course to make it 400 appearances in an Alloa shirt, which would be a simply incredible achievement in the modern-day game.

#### 200 & 100

As well as Cawley's appearance record, it would be remiss not to reflect that Scott Taggart, Stevie Hetherington, Andy Graham and Ion Robertson all made their milestone 200th appearances for the Wasps in 2021. Hetherington reached the double century just before departing to full-time football with Falkirk, while the remaining trio have all been instrumental since ioining the club in the summer of 2016. In addition. Liam Buchanan and Alan Trouten also made their landmark 100th appearances for the Wasps in 2021, with the pair having scored some of the most memorable goals in recent years during their Alloa careers.

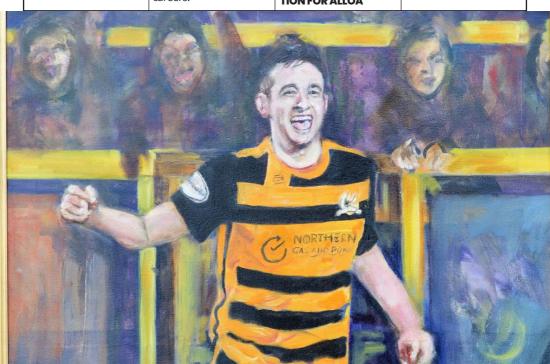
#### ß

The number of different goalkeepers Alloa utilised throughout the year. Neil Parry (19 games), Reece Willison (37 minutes), Craig Mc-Dowall (2 games), David Hutton (22 games), Keir Burt (53 minutes) and Kieran Wright (1 game) all provided the last line of defence for the Wasps, with Hutton earning 5 of the 6 shut-outs achieved in 2021 (Parry kept the remaining one). Whilst the overall number of keepers used is unusually high, either Hutton or Parry started 93% of the games played, meaning in reality there hasn't been as much of a revolving door of goalies than was perhaps felt through the year.

#### YEARS ENDING IN A '1' RESULTS IN RELEGA-TION FOR ALLOA

For the third successive decade the Wasps were relegated when the year finished in a '1'. In 2001 Terry Christie's side finished bottom of the First Division. In 2011 Allan Maitland's Alloa side self-imploded in the second half of the season to be relegated to the bottom tier. As such, there was a degree of inevitability about Alloa being relegated in 2021, if you believe in numerical sequencing like me!

To sum up matters, the turn of the year provides an opportunity to look forward with refreshed optimism. 2021 wasn't the best for the Wasps, so hopefully 2022 represents a more successful year for the club.



# DONALD POLLOCK

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# SURVIVING THE ORDEAL OF A HEAVY NEW YEARS PROGRAMME

It was the kind of festive schedule that would have brought Jurgen Klopp out in a cold sweat. Alloa's Division 2 promotion chasers of 100 years ago had delivered an early present on Christmas Eve with a hard fought 1-0 win at Gayfield. Hogmanay had seen a 5-2 win at Johnstone with yet another Willie Crilley hat-trick, before Clackmannan arrived to first foot at the Recs on January 2nd. Alloa's struggling neighbours were awkward opponents too, a couple of

second half goals eventually seeing the Wasps home 2-0. But still there was no rest for Alloa. The following day they were back in action on a "frost bound" pitch at Bathgate with Young drafted in for the injured Gaffney. Two specially organised trains from Alloa swelled the crowd to 5500, the biggest attendance of the season at Mill Park, and they saw an end to end encounter. The home side made a lively start with McConnell firing just wide, before an Alloa break ended with

the ball being "nipped away from Crilley's toes" just as the wee man made to shoot. Ouinn then came close for the Wasps before Caldwell in the Alloa goal had to dive to deny Black. "A tremendous pace was being maintained and with a new ball and on hard ground the ball travelled from end to end with marvellous speed", reported the Linlithgowshire Gazette, and yet the sides turned around level at 0-0. On the resumption it was the home side who took the initiative

and as the second half progressed the Alloa goal lead a charmed life; Cameron hitting the crossbar before Robertson fired over with the goal gaping. "At the stage the defence of Orrock and McGregor was superb", noted the West Lothian press, but Alloa might still have stolen the points, Dunn shooting over in the final minute. It finished a point apiece and the crowd apparently well satisfied despite the lack of goals. "Neither team carried a weakling and a better contested game

has not been seen at Mill Park this season". concluded the the Linlithgowshire Gazette. It brought Alloa's 5 match winning streak to an end, but a point away at tricky opponents and amidst such a testing schedule was still a fine result. "Like Rangers in the First Division, Alloa have survived the ordeal of the heavy New Year programme, and are still comfortably placed at the head of the Second Division table", noted the Falkirk Herald.

The Wasps now had the luxury of 3 days off before taking on St Johnstone at the Recs. The Perth men had begun to climb away from the foot of the table and made for difficult opponents. Despite the Sunday Post reporting that Alloa were "obviously superior", the first

half ended goalless. A breakaway early in the second period almost brought a shock load for the visitors. Caldwell making a fine save from an effort by Duff. Back on the attack went Alloa and after an hour they were ahead through a terrific volley by Wood. Although "the scoring opportunities which came Alloa's way were almost innumerable". there were no more goals and the Wasps happy enough to hear the full-time whistle on a 1-0 victory and their three point lead at the top of the table maintained.

Alloa were now back on the road with a trip to Methill against an East Fife side who had drawn at the Recs earlier in the season. The Fifers had been on the slide since and now 7 points behind Alloa, they were determined to grab a win and reignite their challenge. The media had already questioned the lack of depth in the Bayview squad and two new faces drafted in from Newtongrange Star were in the side that took the field against the Wasps. Despite those Methil reinforcements and a treacherous playing surface, it was Alloa who were on top from the start, the Sunday Post reporting that "East Fife appeared hypnotised with the clever movements of Crillev and Co". The wee man himself was now two games without a goal and it didn't take him too long to put that right, cutting through the home defence to score with the East Fife defenders, apparently suspecting some kind of foul play, waiting for a whistle that never came.

Alloa continued in the same vein in the second half and the killer goal arrived from a header after a cross from Stirling. The press reported the scorer as McDougal, deputising for Quinn on the left side of attack. and on first assumption this would seemed to have been Duncan McDougal, the Alva born former Millwall winger who Alloa had signed earlier in the season. Subsequent press reports later on the month would question that theory. Regardless, Alloa travelled home from Fife with a 2-0 win, and with Cowdenbeath's match having been postponed, their lead at the top was increased to 5 points. Next up was another tough test as 3rd place Vale of Leven visited the Recs. More in the next edition of The Wasp



# **APPEARANCES**

		LEA	GUE	CUP		TOTAL		ALLOA CAREER LGE	
	POS	APP	GOAL	APP	GOAL	APP	GOAL	APP	GOAL
HUTTON	GOAL	19 (0)	0	- 4 (0)	0	23 (0)	0	19 (0)	0
BURT	GOAL	0 (1)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (1)	0	0 (1)	0
ARMSTRONG	DEF	1 (0)	0	2 (2)	0	3 (2)	0	1 (0)	0
MENDY	- DEF -	14 (2)	О	2 (0)	0	16 (2)	0	14 (2)	0
LEIGHTON	DEF	0 (0)	0	- 1 (0)	0	1 (0)	0	0 (0)	0
ARMSTRONG	DEF	1 (0)	0	2 (2)	0	3 (2)	0	1 (0)	0
DURNAN	- DEF -	18 (0)	2	1 (0)	0	19 (0)	. 2	18 (0)	2
CHURCH	DEF	8 (2)	0	6 (0)	0	14 (2)	. 0	8 (2)	0
HOWIE	DEF	8 (3)	1	4 (2)	0	12 (5)	1	8 (3)	1
GRAHAM	DEF	9 (1)	0	6 (0)	0	15 (1)	0	162 (1)	12
TAGGART	DEF	18 (0)	0	5 (1)	1	23 (1)	1 -	- 182 (0)	- 6
WILLIAMSON	DEF	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0
ROBERTSON	MID	14 (3)	0	6 (0)	0	20 (3)	0	139 (26)	2
SCOUGALL	MID	16 (0)	1	- 6 (1)	1	22 (1)	2	24 (8)	2
LAMONT	MID	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0
KING	MID	10 (0)	1	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0
O'DONNELL	MID	1 (7)	0	4 (0)	0	5 (7)	0	6 (11)	0
NIANG*	MID	16 (0)	1	3 (0)	3	19 (0)	4	16 (0)	1
GILMOUR*	MID	12 (0)	1	0 (0)	0	12 (0)	1	12 (0)	1
WCCOLL	MID	0 (0)	0	0 (1)	0	0 (1)	0	0 (0)	0
CAWLEY	FWD	13 (4)	1	3 (0)	0	16 (4)	1	286 (41)	57
ARMOUR	- FWD	0 (1)	- o	1 (4)	0	1 (5)	0	0 (1)	0
TROUTEN	FWD	2 (3)	0	2 (1)	2	4 (4)	2	71 (9)	24
BOYD	FWD	18 (1)	6	6 (0)	1	24 (1)	7	18 (1)	6
SAMMON	FWD	8 (11)	4	- 4 (2)	0	12 (13)	4	8 (11)	4
EVANS**	FWD	0 (0)	0	- 0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (1)	0
HENDERSON*	FWD	14 (1)	8	- 1 (0)	- 3	15 (1)	11	14 (1)	8
WEBSTER	- FWD	0 (1)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (1)	0	0 (1)	0

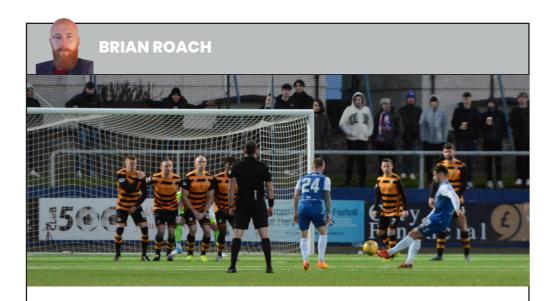
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1 (0)	3	15 (1)	11		
0 (0)	0	0 (1)	0		



# A FAN'S VIEW

A belated Happy New Year to everyone after the previous home game against Falkirk was postponed a fortnight ago. Hopefully today will be the last of the games conducted under the current restrictions. Being forced to place myself incognito with the home supporters for the two away matches against Airdrie and Montrose has been strange to say the least. We go into today's game following a good performance at Links Park last week. This will hopefully provide a bit of a stepping stone to push on again and reverse this current poor spell of form in the league.

Alloa didn't really recover from a disastrous start at Airdrie on Boxing Day, when they found themselves 2 down in the first six minutes of the game. Both goals probably could have been defended better from an Alloa perspective. And the goals also came from two ex Alloa strikers, with Callum Smith and Calum Gallagher slotting home. Alloa unsurprisingly made a couple of half time changes after a largely ineffective showing to that point. Conor Sammon and Fernandy Mendy were introduced for Cammy O'Donnell and Andy Graham. Alloa improved after the break, but after an

hour Airdrie fullback Kerr McInrov sealed the points with a brilliant long range strike. Euan Henderson pulled one back, but Airdrie hit the woodwork on multiple occasions- one occurring from the penalty spot when Rhys McCabe rattled the bar. It was a day to forget for Alloa, despite the aforementioned improvement in the second half. A Boxing Day game usually presents a welcome opportunity to get out of the house and away from the family for a bit. But this was not an eniovable round trip. having to sit amongst the home support as well as witness a bad defeat.

The following week Alloa experienced another setback after the Falkirk match was postponed very late on- only a few hours prior to kick off. It was unfortunate as I don't think there has ever been a better time to play them, and I thought it was a great opportunity to kick start the season again by picking up some points. I'll stop short of questioning the legitimacy of the Falkirk request to postpone (particularly with covid being a universal problem in football right now), but the outcome was certainly more favourable to Alloa's opponents. You would imagine come the rearranged game they will have

recruited a number of reinforcements as new manager Martin Rennie continues his rebuilding process there. I noticed Southampton manager Ralf Hasenhuttl's thoughts on this matter-stating that clubs should be able to play any players signed after a postponed game in the rearranged fixture. Some food for thought there perhaps for the SPFL- then again, perhaps not.

Alloa then faced a tough task last weekend, travelling to in-form Montrose who have only lost 2 games all season with real aspirations to win the league. It was tricky enough gaining access to this game, with the club doing their utmost to ensure only supporters were present in the ground. It was eventually overcome through somewhat corrupt means, but I was in regardless. To add to the adversity Alloa had some key players absent- most notably Stefan Scougall and the usually ever-present Scot Taggart. Jon Robertson filled in at right back and Conor Sammon was also in the starting line-up. The first half was a really decent spectacle- some really good football played and chances at both ends. Sammons' finishing let him down on a couple of occasions, but he was very effective and caused an abundance of problems

for the home backline as Alloa's main striking threat. Montrose targeted Alloa's right flank, perhaps due to Taggart's omission-but Robertson stood up really well to this. It's easy to take for granted how much of a key player Robbo is for the team. His work rarely grabs headlines, but he is such a versatile player and continues to plug gaps where required. New Montrose signing Michael Gardyne caused some problems with some excellent set piece deliveries, but Alloa shaded the half overall and got their rewards just before the break. And it was that man Robertson with a good overlapping run. His cutback found Steven Boyd in space and he made no mistake slotting home.

Montrose introduced midfielder Liam Callaghan at the break, and over the course of the 2nd half it became quite mystifying that he hadn't started the game, such was his impact. He levelled the game after 51 minutes with an excellent free kick which gave Hutton no chance in the Alloa goal. Proceedings did get a bit scrappier as the match wore on, and a draw was probably the correct outcome overall. But the team performance was a big improvement on the Airdrie Boxing Day showing. Cawley, Boyd, Henderson and Sammon all had their moments, and the midfield

unit looked far more cohesive. Obviously at this stage Alloa need wins to really climb the table, so the point gained didn't really affect our league position in a positive manner. However, the performance was hopefully a good foundation to build on for today's game. My friend's girlfriend is a massive Queens Park supporter, and as they have not beaten Alloa since 2008, we have really dined out pretty shamefully on the bragging rights over the years. Of course with Queens recently moving to full time status with vast cash injections, we felt it was a matter of time before our bubble finally burst. This made the previous encounter between the teams all the sweeterthat fantastic 4-3 win at Firhill back in October last year. With 2 Euan Henderson injury time goals winning the game for the Wasps, it was a grandstand finish to what had been a superb afternoon's entertainment from both teams. Whilst it would take something really special to provide a similar spectacle today, I'd be

more than happy with a

dull encounter with the same outcome of three points.

I noticed a few fans already getting a bit antsy after around 4 days of the transfer window being open. As is customary in modern times, the transfer window for Alloa tends to involve retaining loan players in the first instance. I believe this is Euan Henderson's last match of his loan spell, and we can only hope that this loan period is extended further. His goals have been invaluable to the team, and he's certainly done the business in his spell at the club. Obviously with the slump in form, the manager may dip into the market for a couple of additions subject to availability. But I don't believe wholesale changes are required. We have a strong squad of players at the club, who are capable of producing the results needed to climb the table. I guess that was the most frustrating aspect as 2021 drew to a close. Fingers crossed that the turn of the year leads to an upturn of fortunes in the league.

Enjoy today's game.





# LOOKING BACK 12<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 1991

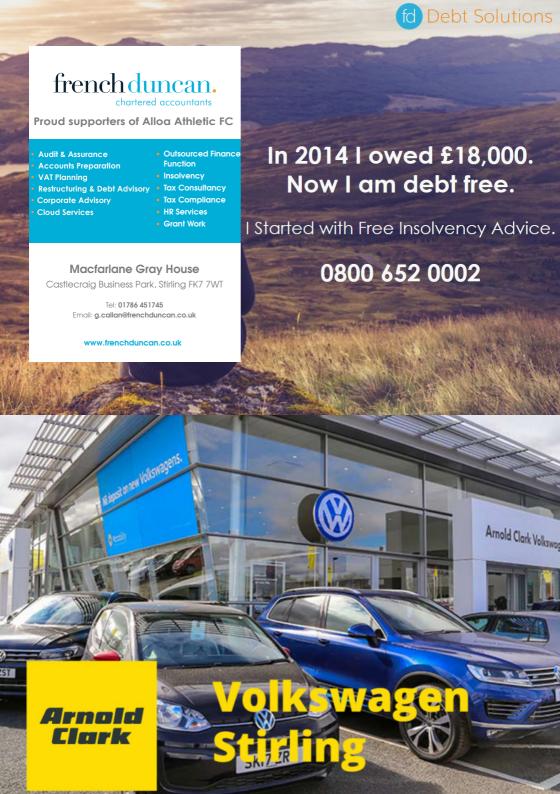
In The Premier Division, matters were unchanged at the top, as leaders Rangers 2-0 win Dunfermline at Ibrox kept them five points clear of second-placed Aberdeen, who were also victorious by 2-0 on home turf, v struggling Hibs, Dundee United remained in third place, despite the cancellation of their clash at fourth-placed Tayside rivals St. Johnstone, while Hearts' 2-0 home success v St. Mirren moved them into fifth place, The Jambo's displaced Celtic, who dropped to sixth after

their game at Motherwell was postponed. Hibs' defeat extended their winless league run to thirteen games, as they continued to prop up the table, while St. Mirren & Motherwell lay immediately above them.

There was a reduced programme in The First Division, due to bad weather, so it was "as you were" at the top, as gameless Falkirk still led the way, by two points from second-placed Dundee, who were also inactive. But third-placed Hamilton Accies missed out on the

chance to displace The Dee, when they went down 0-1 at Kilmarnock. who were now sixth. while fourth-placed Airdrie and fifth-placed Raith were two other gameless sides. At the other end of the table there was also no positional change. as rock-bottom Clyde, second-bottom Brechin, & third-bottom Forfar were three more inactive sides.

Down in The Second, table-topping Stirling Albion maintained their two-point advantage, thanks to a 4-1 win at Stranraer, while today's visitors Oueen's Park remained second, after a 1-0 home victory v another of the promotion challengers, fifthplaced Stenhousemuir. thanks to a second-half effort from David Greig. Third-placed Berwick were 0-1 home losers v Cowdenbeath, while East Fife still retained fourth spot, in spite of a 1-3 reverse v Montrose at Bayview. Alloa meantime, were gameless due to the cancellation of their home clash v their bottom-of-thetable local rivals East Stirling, and as such The Wasps remained



in eleventh spot having not now played a match since 18th December, 1990 when they lost 1-0 at Hampden to today's vistors Oueen's Park.

South of the border, there was no change at the top of The English First Division, for Liverpool, despite being held 0-0 at Aston Villa, remained top, two points clear of second-placed Arsenal, who also drew 0-0, at North London rivals Spurs. Third-placed Crystal Palace were 1-0 winners at bottom club Sheffield United. Leeds remained fourth in spite of a 0-2 reverse at mid-table Norwich, while fifth-placed

Manchester United were 3-0 victors v relegation-haunted Sunderland at Old Trafford. And it was a similar story re the leading positions in The Second Division, as West Ham remained five points clear at the top after a 1-0 win at struggling Watford, while second-placed Oldham were also successful v one of the sides in the doldrums. Portsmouth. whom they crushed 4-1 at Fratton Park. Sheffield Wednesday remained third after a win 1-0 victory at bottom club Hull, while fourth-placed Notts County shard six goals and the points at Oxford.



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# **QUEEN'S PARK**

## The Spiders

#### **FOUNDED**

1867

#### **GROUND**

Firhill Stadium, Glasgow (temporarily)

#### **TOP HONOURS**

Scottish Cup Winners (10): 1874, 1875, 1876, 1880, 1881, 1882, 1884, 1886, 1890, 1893

Scottish Championship\* Winners 1922-23

Scottish League 1\* Winners 1980-81

Scottish League 2\* Winners [2]

This afternoon we welcome Oueens Park to the Indodrill for Alloa's opening game of 2022 at home. Due to a Covid outbreak and waterlogged pitches it has been a start-stop beginning to the year for the Spiders. They haven't played a game since the 29th December where they fell short to Airdrie in a 1-0 defeat. With only three games in December, they will be looking to now gather more momentum in their promotion push. After a poor run of form which only had one win in the last nine games, Queens have slipped down to fourth position nineteen points off top spot. Although

they have played three games less than the league leaders Cove, the form was enough for the visitors board as they parted ways with manager, Laurie Ellis. After winning the league last year at a canter, coupled with the large financial backing at the Glasgow club, Leann Dempster will be hoping that 2022 will bring more success in their bid to climb to the Championship.

#### **THE BOSS**

Queen's Park will be without a permanent manager this afternoon after relieving Laurie Ellis of his duties last month. Gardner Spiers had been taking the team with help from senior player. Peter Grant but it's been heavily rumoured, John Potter, who worked with QP CEO Leeann Dempster at Hibernian, will join on a short-term basis as the Spiders look to buy time in their managerial search. Potter has had experience in the dugout with a brief spell in charge of Dunfermline, as well as assisting ex-Alloa manager, Jack Ross, at Sunderland, Hibernian and St Mirren. With Queens Park making the eve-catching appointment of Mariin Beuker as director of football from A7 Alkmaar, all attention will be on Glasgow to see what his first major decision will bring with a permanent manager.

# THE CAPTAIN MICHAEL DOYLE

It is a familiar face that will lead out the opposition in former-Wasp favourite, Michael Doyle. The right-back joined Alloa back in 2011 and became a modern day legend with his vital part in the heroics under Paul Hartley. Doyle was an integral player in the league winning, play-off





champions, cup final and survival specialists team. He then departed the Wasps for St Johnstone in the Premiership. Spells at Greenock Morton. Oueen of the South and Falkirk followed before he signed on at Hampden in 2020 as they looked to rebuild with a new look squad. Again. Doyle played a key role as they stormed to the league title and will no doubt be looking towards the play-offs to replicate his Alloa days once again. He has been a mainstay for the Spiders this season with one goal to his name also against Cove Rangers.

#### NEW BOY -LOUIS LONGSTAFF

After the dug-out changes, the Spiders

are yet to make a January transfer signing to bolster their ranks. However, one player making a name for himself since moving in the summer is Louis Longstaff. The 20-year old currently plays for Liverpool and was part of the starting eleven that played Aston Villa in the quarter-finals of the EFL Cup. He moved to Glasgow on loan in the summer and has hit the ground running in the opening six months. Longstaff is currently joint top scorer at the club with five goals.

# ONE TO WATCH -

Queen's Park's main man in the middle of the park is Luca Connell. The highly-rated Irish midfielder joined the Spiders last season on loan for Celtic and after a successful spell, Ellis looked to renew the deal and bring him to Firhill for another season. Having been capped for Republic of Ireland at all the junior levels and having several appearances for Bolton in the FA Cup and Championship, hopes have been

high for the career of the midfielder. Celtic moved to sign him in 2019 for a fee of £350,000, however, he has been unable to make a breakthrough at Parkhead. Connell has been lighting up League 1 since the move though with four goals, including one in the side's last meeting.

#### THE CONNECTION

There is a couple of players in the Alloa ranks who will hope to be playing against one of their former clubs. Alan Trouten will be remembered fondly for his time with the Spiders. He spent four years at the club where he would win individual awards and be part of the famous squad who knocked out Aberdeen in the 2007 League Cup. Trouts scored the winning

#### **CONTINUED ON P32**





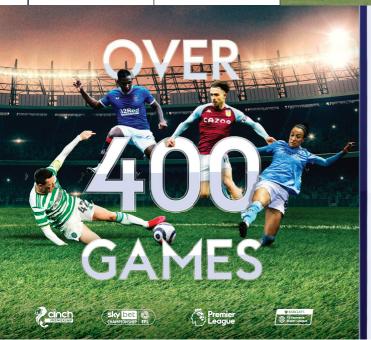
BY KIEREN MOONEY

penalty that day. Adam King joined "The Spiders" on loan during the second half of season 2019/20 when he played in the same side as Nicky Jamieson who is currently out on loan to Stenhousemuir, Following the departure of their captain, David Galt, in the summer Michael Doyle is the only player who is returning to the Indodrill, However, at the heart of defence for the Spiders is Peter Grant who is Wasps former boss, Peter's son. Other players with a recent connection would be Neil Parry, Lee Connelly, Dario Zanatta, Daryll Meggatt, Jamie Longworth and David Crawford in recent times.

# PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The last game between the two sides will be remembered as most likely the game of the season. Alloa were triumphant 4-3 winners at Firhill back in October in the most dramatic of fashions. Kevin Cawley opened the scoring for the Wasps with just a minute on the clock before a double from Bob McHugh either side of half-time put the Spiders 2-1 ahead. Craig Howie then brought it to two-a-piece before Luca Connell looked to steal the three points with eighty-eight minutes on the clock. The fans could not believe what would follow with substitute scoring on the ninetieth and ninety-second minute to snatch all the points for Alloa. The first meeting between the clubs this season was less dramatic with the game finishing 1-1. Craig Howie's first half sending off put the pressure on Alloa before Simon Murray put the visitors ahead. Steven Boyd's special free-kick twelve minutes from time meant that the points were shared. Alloa go into this game sixteen games unbeaten against Queen's Park





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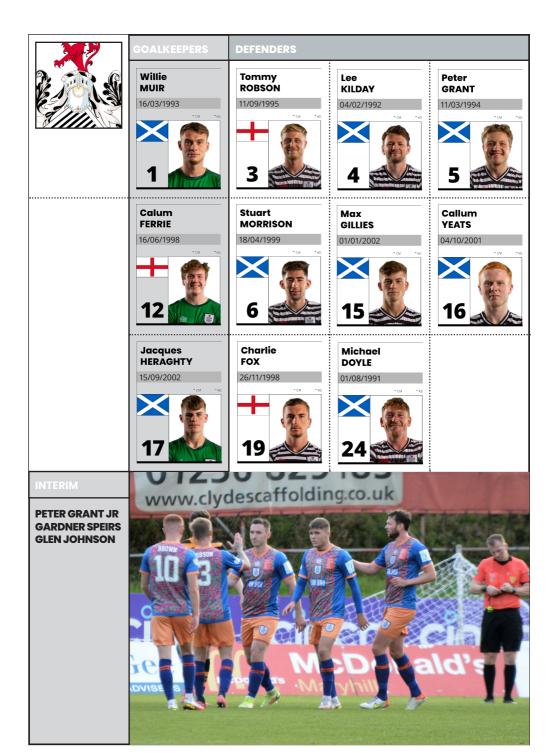
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#### Luie LONGSTAFF



#### Simon MURRAY





#### Luca CONNELL



# **HT QUIZ**

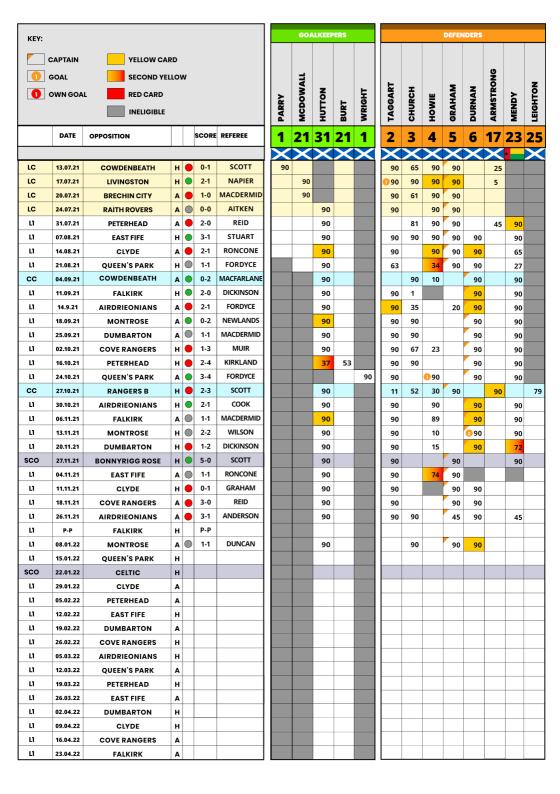
1. FERNANDY MENDY IS CURRENTLY ON AFRICAN CUP OF NATIONS DUTY WITH HIS COUNTRY GUINEA-BISSAU. **GUINEA-BISSAU IS SITUATED IN THE NORTH, SOUTH, EAST** OR WEST OF AFRICA?







- 3. WHICH FORMER QUEENS PARK DEFENDER SCORED FOR ALLOA AGAINST THEM AT HAMPDEN IN A 4-0 ALLOA VIC-**TORY IN OCTOBER 2017**
- 4. THE CHALLENGE CUP IN SCOTLAND HAS HAD 8 DIFFER-ENT SPONSORS SINCE ITS INCEPTION IN 1990- CAN YOU NAME THEM? **ANSWERS PAGE 37**



	MIDFIELDERS								
CAWLEY	ROBERTSON	TROUTEN	SCOUGALL	LAMONT	GILMOUR	KING	NIANG	O'DONNELL	MCCOLL
7	8	10	12	14	15	16	19	20	22
X	X	×	X	×	X	×	*	X	×
74	90		90			90			
	90	0 28	90			62		70	
	90		90			29		84	6
	90		90					56	
		45	90	9		90		45	
			90			90			
	25		<del>1</del> 90			66	90	21	
45	90		90			45	90	27	
90	90	90	<b>1</b> 90	2		90	90		
90	90	32	90				90	58	
55	90		70			90	55		
7	90					<u>1</u> 90	0 90	1	
10	90		80			90	90	79	
34	23		90		90	67	1		
37	18		90		90	90			
<b>1</b> 90	90	19	71		90	- 00	0.50	00	
		<del>1</del> 79	30	60		90	0 60	90	
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27 90	90		63		90		90 90		
90	90	38	90 52		90		69		
90	90	36	90		90	90	290		
90	90		89		90	90	90		
90	90		90		90	- 50	90		
72	90		61		90	18	90		
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90	90					90	90	4	

	FO	RWAR	DS						
ARMOUR	BOYD	SAMMON	HENDERSON	WEBSTER					
9	11	18	22	25					
X	×		×	×					
16	90	90							
20	90	70							
53	90	37							
34	90	90							
	90	90		4					
	<u>0</u> 90	<b>0</b> 90							
24	69	90							
	<b>1</b> 90	27							
	<b>1</b> 90								
	90	<b>1</b> 0 50	<b>1</b> 89						
	90	<b>1</b> 35	90						
	90		83						
	080	10	29						
	90	56							
	190	19	71						
	90	71	<b>2</b> 19						
45	90	45							
	75	30	<b>290</b>						
	90	1	<del>1</del> 90						
	80	2	88						
	90	1 21	75						
	90	5	<b>385</b>						
	1	3	<b>1</b> 87						
	78	12	90						
	90	29	90						
		45	<b>1</b> 90						
	<b>1</b> 90	86	90						
				_					
				_					
				-					



#### QUIZ ANSWERS

- 1. WEST
- 2. ALGERIA
- 3. DARYLL MEGGATT
- 4. B & Q, BELLS, MG ALBA, RAMSDENS, PETROFAC, IRN BRU, TUNNOCKS, SPFL TRUST





## **ALLOA ATHLETIC**



## **QUEEN'S PARK**



**REFEREE:** Alan Muir ASST: Dougie Potter & Ian Hart

**ALLOA'S NEXT FIVE** 

05.01.22, AWAY, 15:00

22.01.22, HOME, 17:30

ALLOA ATHLETIC

CELTIC

12.02.22, HOME, 15:00

19.02.22, AWAY, 15:00

EAST FIFE

ALLOA ATHLETIC

29.01.22, AWAY, 15:00



CLYDE



ALLOA ATHLETIC



**DUMBARTON** 



ALLOA ATHLETIC

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MARSHALL

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Situated in the central belt of Scotland, surrounded by fantastic open views of the Ochil Hills, this development is the perfect location for both business and leisure.

This exciting new development offers an exclusive selection of brand new 2, 3 and 4 bedroom homes, all built with our superb new specification throughout. Each home is spacious and beautifully styled to offer the highest standards in modern living.

To register your interest in this development and to receive further information when it is available, please contact Frances Pender. f.pender@marshallconstruction.co.uk or visit www.marshallconstruction.co.uk/marshall-homes/











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