THE WASP





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scottish championship winners 1921/22

RUNNERS UP

1938/39

SCOTTISH LEAGUE 1 RUNNERS UP

1976/77 1981/82 1984/85 1988/89 1999/00 2001/02 2009/10 2012/13 2016/17

SCOTTISH LEAGUE 2 WINNERS

1997/1998 2011/2012

challenge cup winners 1999/2000

RUNNERS-UP

2001/02 2014/15

STIRLINGSHIRE CUP WINNERS

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

MOST CAPPED PLAYER

Jock Hepburn, 1 Cap (Scotland v Wales 1891)

*includes equivalent competitions

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	CINCH LEA	GUE 1															
		Ρ	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS								
	COVE RANGERS	26	16	7	3	49	22	27	55								
	AIRDRIEONIANS	26	15	5	6	45	29	16	50								
MONTROS	MONTROSE	26	- 11	11	4	41	25	16	44								
	QUEEN'S PARK	25	7	15	3	39	25	14	- 36								
	FALKIRK	26	9	6	11	37	39	-2	- 33								
	CLYDE	26	7	10	9	31	43	-12	- 31								
K		26	7	7	12	33	44	-11	28								
	DUMBARTON	26	7	5	14	37	52	-15	26								
	PETERHEAD	25	6	7	12	30	36	-6	25								
SCOTLAN	EAST FIFE	26	- 4	7	15	25	52	-27	- 19								

WEEKEND'S FIXTURES

LEAGUE 1		CHAMPIONSHIP	
ALLOA ATHLETIC	COVE RANGERS	HAMILTON ACCIES	INVERNESS CT
	CLYDE	AYR UNITED	QUEEN OF THE SOUTH
FALKIRK -	EAST FIFE	DUNFERMLINE	KILMARNOCK
PETERHEAD -	DUMBARTON		ARBROATH
QUEEN'S PARK	MONTROSE	RAITH ROVERS	PARTICK THISTLE
PREMIER LEAGUE		LEAGUE 2	
	DUNDEE UNITED	EDINBURGH CITY	COWDENBEATH
	LIVINGSTON	ELGIN CITY	STIRLING ALBION
	ST JOHNSTONE	KELTY HEARTS	ANNAN ATHLETIC
ST MIRREN	HEART OF MIDLOTHIAN		FORFAR ATHLETIC
RANGERS	MOTHERWELL	STRANRAER	ALBION ROVERS
HIBERNIAN -	CELTIC		



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



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BRIAN RICE



AFTER BEING UNVEILED AS ALLOA MANAGER

"I'm very pleased to be here, until last week I stayed local – in Menstrie for many years. It's a club I've known for years and one I've visited, played and coached against. I know it's history, how great a club it is and how well run it is for a part-time side. It's got a good name in Scottish football"

"I know the squad very well, I go to games whenever I can, I keep my eye on all the divisions and all players and here there's a few players I've worked with before. There's no surprises in the squad."

"My expectations are simple: Win the next game we play. There's nothing more important than that. If we focus on that obviously we'll maintain our status in the league." "Saturday was a great result in testing conditions for both teams. I thought the boys in terms of attitude and application about the match deserved to win the game. It was a good atmosphere in the dressing room and we've

LLOA ATHLETIC FOOTBALL CLUB

got to carry that on and we'll look to pick up as many points as we can between now and the end of the season."

"Paddy Connolly, will be a massive part of the team, I'm going to work with him and expect a lot, with his support and knowledge of the club. He'll be someone I can rely and lean on and he's got an excellent reputation in and out the game."

"We're not in to change everything, just build a structure that will allow us to win football games, and between Paddy and I, we will do that together"



JOHN GLENCROSS



NEWSDESK

To-day we welcome Cove Rangers FC to the Indodrill Stadium, welcoming Paul Hartley, the players, officials and directors of Cove Rangers FC. Cove Rangers have proved to be leading the league for a reason, being five points clear at the top of the division and having defeated "The Wasps" 3-1 at the Indodrill Stadium on 2nd October and again 3-0 in a fog bound Balmoral Stadium on 18th December, 2021, Our

victory over Dumbarton 2-1 last Saturday at the C&G Systems Stadium was massive and we look to move forward under new manager Brian Rice.

Since our last home game v. East Fife, the Club can confirm that Barry Ferguson tendered his resignation on Monday 14th February, 2022. Barry believed that the team needed a change in direction over the rest of the season and he therefore wishes to step aside to allow someone else time to give the players that fresh impetus. Chairman Mike Mulranev said "I have huge respect for Barry and appreciate the effort he has given the Club this season, whilst I share Barry's disappointment in our performances over the last few weeks I have nothing but praise for his endeavour and commitment to the Club in his time with us.

His professionalism and dedication has been a credit to him and he leaves with our best wishes and thanks."

We're pleased to welcome Brian Rice as the next Alloa Athletic manager, who joined the club officially on Monday 21st February, 20222 at a Press Conference at the Indodrill Stadium. The former Hamilton boss has been snapped up quickly after the exit of Barry



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



	cinch	(LEAGUET									
19th February 2022 Dumbarton Football Stadium, Dumbarton 3:00pm KO											
DUI	MBARTON 1	:2 ALLOA A	THLETIC								
	ecce C Paton 45'	1:1) DRERS D:1 22' Cawley 1:1 1:2 81' King									
STARTING XI			STARTING XI								
15 PIGNATIELLO	cupe		2 TAGGART								
3 BOYLE	SUBS 1 RAMSBOTTOM	SUBS 21 BURT	3 CHURCH								
16 BRONSKY	9 ORSI	28 RILEY-SNOW	5 GRAHAM								
5 BUCHANAN		23 MENDY	6 DURNAN								
7 DUTHIE	10 STOKES	20 O'DONNELL	8 ROBERTSON								
29 STANGER	19 WILSON	9 ARMOUR	7 CAWLEY								
18 PATON	4 LYNCH	17 ARMSTRONG	19 NIANG								
22 WYLDE	20 MUIR	4 HOWIE	16 KING								
22 WYLDE 27 HUTCHINSON	20 MUIR		16 KING 11 BOYD								

REFEREE: Lloyd Wilson

	cinch	LEAGUET										
19th February 2022 Balmoral Stadium, Cove 3:00pm KO												
COVE	RANGERS 2	:0 FALKIF	RK									
	Megginson 25 '	I:0) DRERS I:0 2:0										
STARTING XI			STARTING XI									
			1 МИТСН									
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1 MCKENZIE 2 NEILL 26 REYNOLDS 6 STRACHAN	10 MASSON 11 MCINTOSH	3 DIXON 6 MILLER	1 MUTCH 5 TAYLOR-SIN- 44 WATSON 22 MCKAY									
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REFEREE: Colin Steven

CHILD PROTECTION AND WELLBEING POLICY

Alloa Athletic FC acknowledges its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of those who engage with the club especially children and vulnerable adults. We are committed to protecting children and vulnerable adults from all form of harm and actively promoting the creation of a positive, safe and supportive environment.

We recognise -

- the welfare of the child (up to the age of 18) is paramount.

 - all children regardless of age disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity, have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse.

- working in partnership with children and their families is essential in promoting and embedding this policy

The purpose of the policy and related procedures is to:

- promote and priotitise the saftey and wellbeing of children and vulnerable adults

- provide staff and volunteers with appropriate training to recognise, identify and

respond to safeguarding concerns relating to children and vulnerable adults - ensure appropriate action is taken in event of inicdents of concerns and that support

is provided to those who raise or disclose the concern and that is dealt with confidentially;

 prevent the employment or engagement wof unsuitable individuals by adopting rigorous recruitment and veting procedures

Alloa Athletic Football Club's policy will be widely promoted and will be reviewed on a regular basis, or in the event of changes in legislation or government guidance, or as a result of any other changes.

MIKE MULRANEY, CHAIRMAN ALLOA ATHLETIC FC

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JONATHAN MARKWELL



DOUBLE-BARRELLED WASPS

The January loan signing of Blaise Riley-Snow has given the Wasps midfield a further option after the departure of fellow loanee Charlie Gilmour. Borrowed from Raith Rovers. Riley-Snow has already shown glimpses of his fine passing repertoire mixed with physicality in the Wasps engine room, but I have more than a little sympathy with the Wasps TV commentators Kieren Mooney and Lewis Russell in

saying his name without becoming tongue-tied during commentary! Blaise Riley-Snow, as tremendous a name as it undoubtedly is. doesn't exactly roll off the tongue; that's arguably a commentator's nightmare when it comes to mentioning any double-barrelled surname. Unfortunately shortening our new signings name to BRS doesn't quite have the same ring to it as JET up at Aberdeen or GMS

over at Hearts, so Kieran and Lewis have been sticking to Riley-Snow so far. This got me thinking about other Alloa plavers with a double-barrelled surname and had me scratching my head for a time. Riley-Snow in-fact joins an exclusive list of Alloa players with double-barrelled surnames, which total just three, four or five Wasps depending on exactly how you define such players!

First on the list is what I consider to be Alloa's verv first double-barrelled player, the infamous Noel Makombo-Eboma. Admittedly, the 16 year old French striker only played a single Stirlingshire Cup game for the official top-team, in August 2012, as well as being an unused substitute a month later for a league defeat away at Queen of the South. However, during that month, shortly after signing for

the youth team from Clydebank, Makombo-Eboma created plenty of headlines having scored a double hat-trick for the young Wasps side and there being national press reports of interest from Arsene Wenger's Arsenal!

Then manager Paul Hartley, who we welcome back to the Recs this afternoon. wasn't shy in adding fuel to the story, telling TalkSPORT' "Noel is an exciting young talent ... and he's already made an excellent impression. Our head of youth Graeme Liveston thinks he's one of the best he's worked with. Some big English clubs are watching him and it doesn't surprise me because he has bags of potential." In a separate interview with The Herald Hartley added "Noel has been with us for about six weeks now and is doing really well. He has been on fire, scoring in every game he has played, including six in one game. That's a bit special at any level."

Alas the big move never materialised and Makombo-Eboma's chances with the Wasps were also curtailed owing to a €270,000 compensation claim being due to Sochaux in his native France should he sign an official contract (he was only on an amateur deal with the Wasps). Unsurprisingly

Alloa couldn't afford that and by May 2013 Makombo-Eboma was back with Clydebank and never made the grade. He is however fondly remembered online by a number of Football Manager computer game enthusiasts. Such was the media circus around Makombo-Eboma that on FM13 he was something of a wonder-kid signing, who you could pluck for a nominal fee from the Alloa youth team and within a year he'd developed into a superstar - if only it had happened like that in real life for Noel

Another brief Alloa signing with a double-barrelled surname was Calaum Jahraldo-Martin, who made two substitute appearances after signing on loan from then Premier League side Hull City in January 2015. Left-footed winger Jahraldo-Martin was one of a flurry of mid-season signings, as Alloa had a brief link-up with English scout Lee Ebdon, which saw Isaac Layne, Greg Rutherford and Michael Chopra all travel beyond Hadrian's Wall towards the Recs. After appearing from the bench on the right-wing for the final half-hour of televised home defeat to Hearts, Jahraldo-Martin stayed on the bench the next week. and then managed a 15 minute cameo the following week at Oueen of the South. Another week on

the Antigua and Barbuda international (I recall at the time thinking that James Hepburn's 1891 record of being Alloa's only ever internationalist was under threat...) was left on the bench at the authentic surroundings of Central Park Cowdenbeath and that was it - Iahraldo-Martin cut short his stay in Scotland and headed back to the comforts of U23's football on Humberside.

The winger never made the breakthrough at Hull and, after a loan spell with Leyton Orient, then had short-spells with Oldham in League One, Newport County in League Two and then in non-league with home-town club

Hemel Hempstead and Billericay Town. These days it appears that Jahraldo-Martin hangs onto the coattails of elite players through his "members-only luxury lifestyle management and concierge company" FirstLuxe Group, which in practice appears to be him looking after his former Newport teammate Ben White, now of Arsenal – a handsome living if you can get it!

Depending on how tightly you define double-barrelled players, you could arguably count Sam Roscoe and Guido van de Kamp as other former double-barrelled Wasps.



Roscoe enjoyed a successful loan spell at the club in the glorious Championship survival 2018/19 season. Signed at the end of the summer transfer window once lim Goodwin guickly decided he couldn't trust Zac Karadachki. Roscoe slotted in nicely besides Andy Graham at the heart of the Alloa defence. The Aberdeen loanee had only just turned 20 and this was his first loan, so he was somewhat raw and wasn't the most comfortable in possession at times, but his 6ft 5ins frame and left foot gave natural balance to the Wasps backline. He also fully embraced the 'never say die' attitude of Alloa defenders in the Championship, putting his body on the line to block, deflect and protect in any way he could the Alloa goal.



The Manchester-born defender was a regular in the team until an injury in March ruled him out for six weeks. Roscoe returned to fitness for the final three games of the season, but such was the form of the Robertson-Graham-Taggart-Dick backline that the loanee saw out the campaign on the bench. Whilst never known as anything but Roscoe at Alloa, when he pitched up at Ayr United the following season he had the moniker Roscoe-Byrne. Throughout his two-year stint at Somerset Park his name seemed to regularly interchange between just Roscoe and Roscoe-Byrne, with that continuing after his move across the Irish Sea to David Healy's Linfield last summer. At his new club Roscoe-Byrne has scored in the Europa League Conference and played the majority of games under the management of Northern Ireland's all-time top goalscorer David Healy. Roscoe-Byrne has also in the past month been re-united with one of his former Alloa teammates in Belfast, with Jake Hastie joining up at Windsor Park. Although never known for having a double-barrelled surname at the Recs, Sam clearly goes under that alias now and I'll be keeping a keen eye on his future career after his promising beginning with the Wasps.

Finally, Guido van de Kamp can loosely be described as a double-barrelled surname. In the Netherlands 'van de' simply translates as 'from the' and is a common prefix in the Dutch lexicon. In Guido's case, his surname translates into 'from

the fenced in land'! As such, I'd personally not count it as a double-barrelled surname, but it does provide me with an opportunity to recall the keeper's threemonth thirteen game spell with the Wasps in 2001, as he answered Terry Christie's SOS for a replacement keeper for the injured Mark Cairns. Van de Kamp fitted the bill perfectly, having vast experience from his decade in the Scottish game with Dundee United. Dunfermline and Raith Rovers. Having just left Stark's Park the 37 year old finished his time in Scotland with 13 appearances for the Wasps (although he couldn't prevent relegation from

the First Division) before returning home over the North Sea. Van de Kamp is still involved in the game behind the scenes at his home-town club Den Bosch. Last summer I listened to a 'Talkin Fitbaw' podcast interview with Guido, where he recalled many of his tales from his time in Scotland with Derek Clark (not his former Alloa team-mate of the same name!).

Returning back to Riley-Snow though, hopefully in the remaining months of the season he proves to be an astute loan signing for the Wasps. The Englishman's back story is an unusual one. Having been released by Brentford and Barnet as a youngster he recovered his love for the game with a two year spell in Spain. Blaise played in the Valencia-based regional league for Universidad Alicante and the 2018 founded Alicante Citv football academy, who appear to specialise in providing opportunities to international players to compete in Spain, before earning a fulltime deal at Stark's Park. Whilst Riley-Snow is one of only a handful of Alloa players with double-barrelled surnames to ever play for the club, the increasing prevalence of hyphenated surnames means he certainly won't be the last!







THE WASPS ARE GOING UP

In a thus far challenging season for Alloa the return of Euan Henderson from Hearts at the start of the month was a welcome bit of good news. After all, managers are always keen to tell us that everyone is looking for a prolific striker. As Alloa's bid for the first ever automatic promotion place in the Scottish League began to build towards a climax at this time 100 years ago, goalscorers - and how to find them, keep them and replace them - was the main topic of conversation.

Alloa themselves had spent most of February 1922 trying to placate their resident goal-machine. Wee Willie Crillev's sensational scoring had taken the Wasps to the brink of the top flight just months after joining the league. Crilley was the darling of the Wee County and the envy of clubs across the land, and he knew it. The Wasps did too and also that they were a much diminished outfit when Crillley was posted missing. With speculation now mounting that Crilley would

lead the Scotland attack against Ireland, the wee man had tipped off the papers that he was keen to leave Alloa and join a club more befitting of his talents. After a frantic fortnight of claim and counter claim and talk of unofficial agreements, it now seemed that Crilley would indeed see out the season at the Recs. But it wasn't iust Alloa where strikers were the talk of the town. Over the Forth at Falkirk the Bairns had shocked the football world by securing the signature of England

international forward Syd Puddefoot from West Ham for a global record transfer fee. The press reported a huge crowd gathering at Grahamston to welcome Syd with "hearty cheers and cries of 'good old Puddefoot". There was a striking dilemma at Dunfermline too as the Pars struggled to find someone capable of replacing their Scottish international forward Andy Wilson, who had gone south to Middlesbrough. "At their wits end". Dunfermline would now try right-back Grieve at centre-forward against Alloa.

It was a bold experiment from Dunfermline and the crowd of 5000 at the Recs were indeed treated to a vintage performance of centre-forward play. Unfortunately for the Pars, it was Willie Crilley who provided it. Well, at least Grieve had a front row seat. The fans were still jockeying for position on the terraces when Crilley put the Wasps ahead, collecting a pass from the right before cutting through the defence and firing beyond Patterson in the visiting goal. Crilley again and Quinn came close before half-time with Patterson's efforts keeping

Dunfermline in touch. It was game over early in the second period, Crilley again on target following a corner. It finished 2-0 with the Sunday Post reporting that Alloa's striker had been "in his element" with "several splendid runs". The unfortunate Grieve didn't last 90 minutes at number 9, finding himself shipped out wide as Dunfermline tried forlornly to get back into the match.

There was no rest for the Wasps in their bid for title glory with Bo'ness arriving in the Wee County for a re-scheduled midweek encounter. There were 1500 fans at the Recs despite the awkward Tuesday afternoon kick-off with a contingent from West Lothian travelling by car

to South Alloa before catching the ferry over the Forth. They arrived to a quagmire of a pitch following recent rainfall and two hours of solid snow before the match. The surface was reported to be "a fearful mess, especially the end next the railway". Alloa had to wait half an hour for the opener with McLean on target. Shortly after Crilley converted a Dunn cross to put the Wasps in a commanding 2-0 lead at halftime. Baxter pulled one back for the West Lothian men on the restart only for Crilley to restore Alloa's cushion. The wee man wasn't finished there with two penalties making it four from Crilley and 5-1 to Alloa. "Alloa's midget on the mark" proclaimed

the Dundee Courier. "The midget showed himself an opportunist pure and simple", said the Linlithgowshire Gazette, adding that it looked likely that the "Wasps are going up....and good luck to them!"

Alloa were 6 points clear, albeit Cowdenbeath had a game in hand. The Wasps now turned their attention to the mouth watering Scottish Cup tie against Motherwell at Fir Park, and the chance to test themselves against top flight opposition and the standard that awaited them if they could stay the pace and clinch the championship. More in the next edition of The Wasp.

	P.	W.	·L	D.	F.	A.	Ps.
Alloa	28	20	.2	6	63	22	
Cowdenbeath	27	18	5	4	52	19	40
Armadale	29	15	9	5	41	29	35
St Bernards	29	13	9	7	39	31	33
Vale of Leven	28	12		8	38	23	32
Broxburn	26	13	8	5	32	26	31
Bathgate	26	10	8	8	38	30	28
East Fife		12	11	4	43	38	28
Arbroath		9	10	8	31	28	26
Johnstone		9	10	8	34	45	26
Lookgelly United	28	10	12	6	37	41	26
Bo'ness	28	10	13	5	39	43	25
Stenhousemuir	27	8	11	8	27	37	24
Dunfermline Ath		9	19	6	36	33	24



	POS	LEA APP	GUE GOAL	CI	JP GOAL	TO [.] APP	TAL GOAL	ALLOA CAREER LGE APP GOAL		
	PUS	AFF	GUAL	APP	GUAL	APP	GUAL	AFF	GUAL	
HUTTON	GOAL	25 (0)	- 0	- 5 (0)	0	- 30 (0)	- 0 -	25 (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	18 (2)	- 0	- 2 (0)	0	20 (2)	0 -	18 (2)	- 0 -	
LEIGHTON	DEF	0 (0)	- 0	- 1 (0)	0	1 (0)	- 0 -	0 (0)	- 0 -	
ARMSTRONG	DEF	1 (0)	- O	- 2 (2)	- 0	3 (2)	- 0 -	1 (0)	- o -	
DURNAN	DEF	23 (0)	- 3	2 (0)	- 0 -	25 (0)	- 3 -	23 (0)	- 3 -	
CHURCH	DEF	14 (2)	- 0	6 (0)	- 0 -	20 (2)	- 0 -	14 (2)	0 -	
HOWIE	DEF	9 (3)	- 1	5 (2)	- 0	14 (5)	- 1 -	9 (3)	1 -	
GRAHAM	DEF	12 (1)	- 0	7 (0)	- 0 -	- 19 (1)	- 0 -	· 165 (1)	- 12 -	
TAGGART	DEF	- 24 (0)	- 0	7 (1)	- 1	- 31 (1)	- 1 -	- 188 (0)	- 6	
WILLIAMSON	DEF	0 (0)	0	- 0 (0)	- 0	0 (0)	- 0 -	0 (0)	- 0 -	
ROBERTSON	MID	16 (4)	- 0	- 6 (1)	0	22 (5)	- 0 -	141 (27)	2	
SCOUGALL	MID	17 (4)	- 2	- 6 (2)	- 1	23 (6)	- 3 -	25 (12)	- 3 -	
LAMONT	MID	0 (0)	- 0	- 0 (0)	- 0	0 (0)	- 0 -	0 (0)	- 0 -	
KING	MID	14 (0)	- 2	- 0 (0)	- 0	0 (0)	- 0 -	0 (0)	- 0 -	
O'DONNELL	MID	- 1 (11)	- 0	- 4 (0)	- 0	5 (11)	- 0 -	6 (15)	- 0 -	
NIANG*	MID	22 (0)	- 1	- 4 (0)	- 3 -	26 (0)	- 4 -	22 (0)	- 1 -	
GILMOUR*	MID	12 (0)	- 1	- 0 (0)	0	12 (0)	- 1 -	12 (0)	- 1 -	
MCCOLL	MID	0 (0)	- 0	- 0 (1)	0	0 (1)	- 0 -	0 (0)	- 0 -	
RILEY-SNOW	MID	4 (0)	- 0	- 0 (0)	0	4 (0)	- 0 -	4 (0)	- 0 -	
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ARMOUR	FWD	0 (2)	- 0	- 1 (4)	- 0	- 1 (6)	- 0 -	0 (2)	- 0 -	
TROUTEN	FWD	2 (3)	- 0	- 2 (2)	2	4 (5)	2	71 (9)	- 24 -	
BOYD	FWD	- 23 (3)	- 6	7 (0)	- 1	30 (3)	7 -	23 (3)	- 6 -	
SAMMON	FWD	12 (12)	- 4	- 5 (2)	- 1	17 (14)	- 5 -	12 (12)	4	
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- 0 (1)	0	- 0 (1) - 0		
- 0 (0)	0	- 4 (0) - 0		
- 62 (7)	10	- 353 (49) - 69	AIMEE BURGESS]
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BRIAN ROACH



A FAN'S VIEW

Another fortnight brings another rollercoaster ride as an Alloa supporter, with masses of activity to cover. Two weeks ago the East Fife match here provided the lowest point of the season so far-which made events in the days which followed perhaps less of a shock. Alloa were outplayed by a team who hadn't scored in six games, and didn't have an away league victory to their name all season.

Yet it all started so well, with a headed goal from Mark Durnan in the opening minutes of the game. East Fife had fired a few warning shots in the first half, opening Alloa up and creating some real chances. At that stage you were hoping Alloa were just labouredand getting the team in at the break would hopefully allow them to regroup, turn the tide and hopefully add to their lead. I don't think anyone was prepared for the double sucker punch that occurred in the closing 10 minutes before half time. Firstly, Durnan was adjudged to have fouled Connell of East Fife in the penalty area. This is where the "there was contact" factor becomes murky. It was a bit clumsv from Durnan and his arm brushed Connell. But there was nowhere near sufficient contact for Connell to yell and fly to

ground in the manner he did. The penalty was in the "seen them given" category, but nowadays that particular category is bursting at the seams. East Fife had an equaliser they merited, but even worse was to follow. A high ball was played into a dangerous area just outside the Alloa penalty area. It appeared Andy Graham was nudged as he looked to get the ball to safety. His lunge to do so was a debatable pass back, but still- goalkeeper Hutton shouldn't have gambled and picked up the ball. An indirect free kick followed, and as the Alloa defence charged the perceived shooter, they left Connell free at

the post to sweep home all too easily.

The players would have gone in at the break shell shocked. But as they tried to get back in the game after the break. further disaster was to follow. 5 minutes into the second half. Euan Henderson attempted to divert a loose ball into the net but fouled the goalkeeper- which the referee deemed worthy of a straight red card. I admit I was raging with decision at the time. which was directly in front of me. However, it does look worse upon repeat viewing through the highlights. There was certainly no malice in Henderson's actions.



but it goes back to the reckless terminology used within the laws of the game. Harsh on Henderson, but Alloa lost some belief after this setback and never looked like clawing their way back. Danny Denholm sealed the points with 10 minutes remaining.

Barry Ferguson then departed the club on the following Monday, stating it would be best for someone else to take the team forward this season. Heads did drop quite uncharacteristically in the Falkirk and East Fife games, with the team visibly starting to lack confidence after a poor run of form. Paddy Connolly stepped in for yet another caretaker spell in charge, while rumours were already rife that Brian Rice would be the next manager as the week wore on. But Paddy took the team for a huge match at Dumbarton last weekend. With Euan Henderson suspended and a treacherous weather beaten playing surface, Alloa faced an uphill task. Yet there was a more positive vibe both amongst the travelling support and the way the team played on the park.

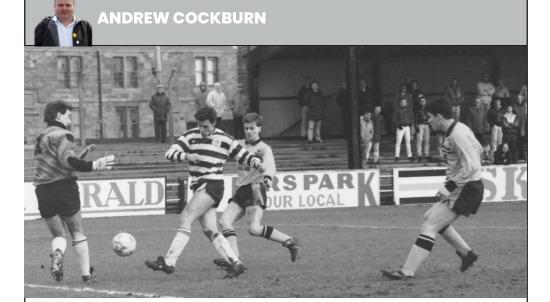
After yet another landmark appearance recently, Kevin Cawley continued to show how vital he is to the club with the opener. Adam Kings cutback found Cawley in the penalty area and he slotted home after 22 minutes. The midfield trio of King, Robertson and Sena were winning the maiority of the 50-50 battles and as impossible as it appeared, were actually putting together some good passing play through mainly mud and sand. Dumbarton did begin to creep back into the game just before the break thoughand right on half time a well worked equaliser was finished well from Paul Paton, who had a fine game in all fairness. Credit to both teams who put in a ton of effort second half on that surface. and it did look like it may end with honours even. However, with 8 minutes remaining Adam King capitalised on a bobble-fuelled error by Dumbarton keeper Kieran Wright. He kept his composure well and managed to slot home despite the desperate attempts by the home defence to

clear. Alloa hung on to pick up a huge 3 points.

It was a great battling performance by the team, who not only showed the heart for the fight- but also played with more freedom and cohesion. Daniel Church was rightly earmarked for high praise from fans after the game, and one of Alloa's best performers on the day at left back. Brian Rice took in the game in the stand, and was officially appointed on the Monday as the new manager of the club. Of course we wish him all the best, and he begins with a tough task today. Although no-one within the club will say it- Cove Rangers look like champions elect, and despite there still being a lot of football yet to be played I wouldn't expect them to be caught at the top. On our trip up there in December, we met many Cove fans in the social club at the ground and they were a really decent bunch. Obviously we hope they go home disappointed today and the new manager starts with 3 points.

Enjoy today's game.





LOOKING BACK 23RD FEBRUARY 1991

In the fourth round of the Scottish Cup, favourites Rangers comfortably progressed after a 5-0 win v Second **Division Cowdenbeath** at Ibrox. Motherwell overcame First Division leaders Falkirk by 4-2 at Fir Park, while Dundee United were also up against First Division opposition in the shape of Airdrie at Tannadice. and ran out 2-0 winners. St. lohnstone defeated Premier Division counterparts Hibs by 2-1 at McDiarmid Park, while the all-First Division clash between Avr & Hamilton Accies ended

in a goalless stalemate. The Celtic v St. Mirren tie was postponed, while in a delayed third round tie, Meadowbank were emphatic 6-1 winners at the last surviving non-league outfit, Ross County.

Just one game took place in The Premier Division, a re-arranged clash between Dunfermline and Hearts at East End Park. And The Pars ran out 3-1 winners, to thus move up one place to seventh in the table. There were also a couple of re-arranged fixtures in The First Division. At Firhill,

Raith Rovers ran out 3-0 winners v Partick Thistle. to thus move up into fourth place in the table. Meantime at Station Park, a crunch relegation clash took place between third-bottom Forfar and rock-bottom Clvde. The Bully Wee ran out winners by 3-1, and while they remained in bottom place, they still cut the gap on The Loons to four points, while they also had three games in hand.

Down in The Second Division, the day's top clash was undoubtedly at Annfield, where leaders Stirling Albion hosted second-placed Oueen's Park, and a 2-0 win for The Binos saw them extend their advantage to eight points. Another key clash took place at Ochilview, where fifthplaced Stenhousemuir faced another of the promotion challengers, Montrose, and The Gable Endies ran out winners by 1-0, which meant they retained third spot, though The Warriors dropped to sixth. Berwick were now fourth thanks to a 1-0 success at lowly Arbroath, while East

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Fife, in spite of a 1-3 reverse at Albion Rovers. still retained fifth spot. Local rivals Alloa and East Stirling meantime, had not enjoyed the best of campaigns so far, and prior to their meeting at Firs Park The Shire actually occupied bottom spot, while their visitors were just three places better off. And Alloa lined up as follows: Lowrie, Newbigging, Thomson, Wilcox, McCulloch, McEntegart, Grant (Henry), Ramsay, Black, Smith (Irvine), Gibson. But Alloa proceeded to lav on a treat for their travelling contingent, running out 6-1 winners, thanks to goals from Arthur Grant. Steve Ramsav. Tom McEntegart, Scot Henry, John Gibson & John Irvine, this tremendous result moving them up one place to tenth, while East Stirling perhaps not surprisingly remained bottom of

CKEWHITE

the pile.

South of the border, Arsenal's 4-0 home win v third-placed London rivals Crystal Palace saw them return to the top of The First Division on goal difference from Liverpool, who were no doubt still reeling from the shock resignation of ex-Celtic Kenny Dalglish as manager the previous day, and who dropped to second. At the other end of the table. Derby, despite collecting a welcome point from a 0-0 draw at home v Norwich, still propped up the table. But Sheffield United's recent revival continued with a third straight win, this time by 2-1 at Everton, though The Blades still remained in second-bottom position. With Second Division leaders West Ham not facing their East End neighbours Millwall at Upton Park until the following

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day, second-placed Oldham missed out on the chance to take over leadership, when they were held 1-1 at relegation-haunted Watford. Third-placed Sheffield Wednesday were game less, while Middlesbrough were now up to fourth, thanks to a 1-0 win at Charlton.



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Highland Football League Winners (7): 2000-01, 2007-08, 2008-09, 2012-13, 2015-16, 2017-18, 2018-19

Highland League Cup Winners (6): 1994–95, 1999–00, 2004–05, 2014–15, 2016–17, 2018–19

COVE RANGERS

The Toonsers

This afternoon Brian Rice welcomes league leaders, Cove Rangers, to the Indodrill stadium for his first game in charge of the Wasps. Paul Hartley's men are flying in League 1 sitting five points clear ahead of their closest challengers, Airdrie. They have gone sixteen games in the league since suffering their last defeat which came back in mid-October. That run has also had a competitive game at Easter Road against Hibernian, which they ultimately lost out in extra-time. and a Challenge Cup run which they play in the semi-final of next weekend against Queen of the South. There is

plenty of ambition from the club up North with their aspirations being well above the level they are currently playing at. However, with the experienced head of Paul Hartley in charge, they take it one game at a time as they look to climb the divisions. Having received plaudits from the media and supporters alike for their style of play and results so far this season. it definitely is a baptism of fire for Brian Rice.

THE BOSS -PAUL HARTLEY

The man in the opposing dugout is one of the many former Alloa bosses plying their trade elsewhere in Scotland. Paul Hartley returns to Alloa once more after officially leaving the club in 2013. The midfielder has a prestigious playing career pulling on the shirts of Celtic, Hearts, and Scotland. It was in 2011 that he decided to hang up the boots and take the position at Alloa in Division Two. What would follow in his spell would be remembered for years to come by Alloa fans. Signing a whole new squad that summer, including the likes of Cawley, Bain and May, the side strolled the league. Alloa won the title with a fourteen point margin and that season was full of mesmerizing performances, most notable the 8-1 victory over Elgin. Hartley then went onto secure backto-back promotions when the Wasps beat Dunfermline comfortably in the Championship play-off finals. Alloa's first season back in the second tier was Hartlev's last with the club as he departed following a 5-1 defeat to Dumbarton in lanuary. However, he left the club in a strong position in the league and a core of a team that would last for many years. Dundee followed for the manager as he led them to a Championship title win on the final day in 2014. Following that, he then went onto bag a top-six finish for the club in their first season back. The only black mark on his CV would be his year stint at Falkirk which didn't kick start in his second season. Cove Rangers trusted Hartley to be at the helm to recreate similar history to Alloa when he was appointed





in 2019. This season has been going exactly to plan so far and he was rewarded for his efforts so far with the League 1 Manager of the Month award for December.

THE CAPTAIN -MITCH MEGGINSON

Cove Rangers will be led out by another familiar face for Alloa fans. Mitch Megginson will captain the visitors for this cup tie. The striker has been at the club since 2016 following his second spell with Alloa. The striker spent a loan spell at Alloa from Aberdeen in the 2012/13 season before returning to the club for a short stint in 2016. He will also be remembered fondly by Dumbarton fans after playing every single game in a season and notching sixteen goals in his eighty-three

appearances. However, Megginson has really found his feet since signing for the then Highland Champions, Cove Rangers. Following the same path as his father who played for the club twenty years ago, he signed a three year deal in 2016 to be part of the journey. Megginson plays an integral part of this team and despite speculation elsewhere, maintains his place up top for the Gers. This season he has been in scintillating form, with seventeen goals and thirteen assists in just thirty-four games. Alloa will be well aware of his threat having been on the receiving end of one of the goals and the assists. The hitman is coming into today's games in fine form breaking his four game duct last week with a goal in the win over Falkirk.

NEW BOY - MARK REYNOLDS

Cove made another eve-catching January signing when they secured the services of Mark Revnolds. The 34vear old defender began his career at Motherwell where he would spend the first six years of his career. After a brief spell down South he would return to Scotland to play for Aberdeen where he would enjoy most of his success. Three cup finals, one in which he won in 2013/14, were the highlights, as well as a team in the PFA Scotland Team of the Year. It was during that time he was rewarded with his call-up to the senior Scotland squad for the first time for a friendly against Nigeria. He again received a further call-up four years later

to face England, however, failed to make a cap for the first team. Following his release from Dundee United, where he was for three years, he returned to Aberdeenshire for Cove on an eighteen month long deal. Since joining he has five appearances under his belt.

ONE TO WATCH - RORY MCALLISTER

It isn't just the attacking threat of Mitch Megginson that Alloa have to be wary of. His partner up top is another prolific striker in the SPFL in the form of Rory McAllister. Alloa fans need only to look back at the last fixture at the Indodrill where McAllister bagged a hat-trick to see his deadliness in front of goal. He continued to be a thorn in the Alloa side with a goal and assist in

CONTINUED ON P32





BY KIEREN MOONEY

the return fixture before Christmas. It hasn't just been Alloa who have struggled to deal with him this season, as he has averaged a goal every two games with his seventeen total. McAllister was the first player to hit a hundred goals in the SPFL history when he hit the back of the net for Peterhead in 2018 and he hasn't let up since as he looks to fire up his new club to the Championship.

THE CONNECTION

The two obvious connections in Paul Hartley and Mitch Megginson have already been highlighted. It is always good to see former managers do well and no doubt Paddy

Connolly, Pat Dunne and Kevin Cawley, the only ones remaining from Hartley's era, will be glad to see a familiar face once more. Alloa's loan star. Euan Henderson. also has a connection with Cove having spent time out on loan in the 2018/19 campaign. Alloa also made the signing of Tom Leighton earlier in the season having spent time at Cove previously. After just one game for the Wasps, Leighton left the club in January.

PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Cove have had all the success in this fixture so far this season. The first game was a tough ninety minutes for Alloa after being reduced to ten men just twenty seconds in after Niang was given an early bath. From that moment on, it was always going to be a tough task and Cove showed their class with a McAllister hat-trick giving them a 3-1 win. Blair Yule's own goal pulled Alloa level briefly before two late sucker punches ended Alloa's hopes. The return fixture was a foggy affair at the Balmoral stadium. The Gers dominated that day and goals from Jamie Masson and two highlighted, McAllister and Megginson, saw them stroll to a comfortable 3-0 victory. Brian Rice will be looking to change his side's fortune and inflict their first league defeat since October today.









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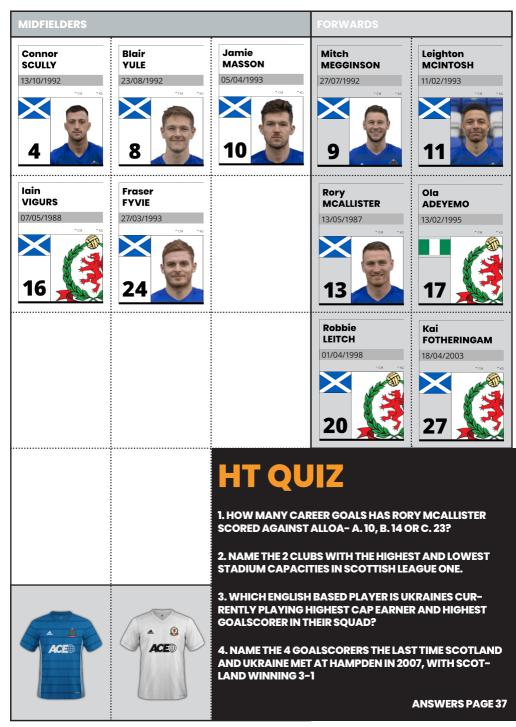
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	90	0 28	90			62		70			20	90	70		
	90		90			29		84	6		53	90	37		
	90		90					56			34	90	90		
		45	90	9		90		45				90	90		45
			90			90						2 90	0 90		
	25		190			66	90	21			24	69	90		
45	90		90			45	90	27				090	27		
90	90	90	190	2		90	90					090			
90	90	32	90				90	58				90	1 50	189	
55	90		70			90	55					90	0 35	90	
7	90					090	1 90	1				90		83	
10	90		80			90	90	79				080	10	29	
34	23		90		90	67	1					90	56		
37	18		90		0 90	90						1 90	19	71	
190	90	19	71		90							90	71	219	
		0 79	30	60		90	0 60	90			45	90	45		
90		15	90		90		90					75	30	2 90	
27	90		63		90		90					90	1	090	
90	90		90		90		90					80	2	88	
90	90	38	52		90		69					90	121	75	
90	90		90			90	2 90					90	5	85	
90	90		89		90	90	90					1	3	087	
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90	64				90	26	90	45					45	090	
90						90	90					190	86	90	
090	90		21			90	69	4				84	6	90	
77	45	13	13			77	90					90	1 90		
64	11		79					26		90		90	90		
80			80			10	90			90	-	10	90	190	
9			30			60	90	14		76		81	90	90	
90	45		45			84	61	29		45	6	45		50	
072	90		18			090	90	5				90	90		
											<u> </u>				



QUIZ ANSWERS

1. B. 6 FOR BRECHIN CITY, 3 FOR PETER-HEAD, 5 FOR COVE RANGERS

2. HIGHEST- AIRDRIE (CAPACITY 10,101) LOWEST- EAST FIFE (CAPACITY 1,980)

3. ANDRIY YARMOLENKO (106 CAPS, 44 GOALS)

4. KENNY MILLER, LEE MCCULLOCH, JAMES MCFADDEN, ANDRIY SHEVCHENKO







	<u> </u>					11.							
	# PC	os (€ 🛛			#	POS		۲				
\mathbf{X}	21	KEIR BURT			Х	1		STUART MCKENZIE					
\mathbf{X}	31	DAVID HUTTON			X	2		MORGYN NEILL					
\times	2	SCOTT TAGGART			X	З		HARRY MILNE					
\times	3	DANIEL CHURCH			\mathbf{X}	4		CONNOR SCULLY					
\mathbf{X}	4	CRAIG HOWIE			\mathbf{X}	5		SCOTT ROSS					
$\mathbf{\times}$	5	ANDY GRAHAM			\mathbf{X}	6		RYAN STRACHAN					
\mathbf{X}	6	MARK DURNAN			\mathbf{X}	8		BLAIR YULE					
\times	7	KEVIN CAWLEY			Х	9		MITCH MEGGINSON					
\times	8	JON ROBERTSON			X	10		JAMIE MASSON					
\mathbf{X}	9	BEN ARMOUR			Х	11		LEIGHTON MCINTOSH					
	10	ALAN TROUTEN			\mathbf{X}	13		RORY MCALLISTER					
	11	STEVEN BOYD			\times	15		JEVAN ANDERSON					
	12	STEFAN SCOUGALL			\times	16		IAIN VIGURS					
	16	ADAM KING		Π		17		OLA ADEYEMO					
	17	JORDAN ARMSTRONG			X	20		ROBBIE LEITCH					
	18	CONOR SAMMON		\square	\times	23		KYLE GOURLAY					
1	19	MOUHAMMED NIANG			\mathbf{X}	24		FRASER FYVIE					
	20	CAMERON O'DONNELL		Π	-+-	25		SHAY LOGAN					
	22	EUAN HENDERSON			X	26		MARK REYNOLDS					
2	23	FERNANDY MENDY			X	27		KAI FOTHERINGHAM					
	28	BLAISE RILEY-SNOW		Π		ма	NAG	ER PAUL HARTLEY					
	36	DEVAN MCCOLL				IVIA		PAUL HARTLET					
	REFEREE: Peter Stuart ASST: George King & Ross Clark												
											_		
	Ļ	ALLOA'S NEXT FIVE			ALLOA	19.03.22, HOME, 15:00	EAD						
		05.03.22, HOME, 15:00	_		EADIPH			26.03.22, AWAY, 15:00		_			
	ALL	OA ATHLETIC	NS		SCOTLAN		EA	IST FIFE - ALLOA AT	HLETI	2			
		12.03.22, AWAY, 15:00						02.04.22, HOME, 15:00					
	QL	JEEN'S PARK	тіс				ALLOA		RTON				

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