# THE WASP



AIRDRIEONIANS

5<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 22

LEAGUE 1

THE SMARTER ENERGY CHOICE

CÎNCH

LEAGUE 1











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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)

#### **Club Information**

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Indodrill Stadium. Clackmannan Road. Alloa, FK10 1RY

Telephone: 01259722695

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#### Club Officials **Honorory Directors**

Pat Lawlor

Directors

Mike Mulraney (Chairman)

Martin Ross (Vice Chairman)

Ewen Cameron Steven Lynch

Dr Robert McElroy

Secretary

Ewen Cameron Mobile: 07810507185 Home: 01259722696

Email: eweng@sky.com

Operations Manager Carol Edgar

Head of Media Lewis Russell

Child Protection Officer

Alloa Athletic: Paula Campbell Wasp Community Club: June McLauchlan

#### Management

Brian Rice(Manager) Paddy Connolly( Assistant) Stuart Phin (Sports Therapist) Andrew Deeley (Club Doctor) Derek Nicholson (Head of Youth) Robert Glen (Goalkeeping Coach) Mike Zaleski (Head of Sports Science) Allan Salvona (Women's Team Manager) **Ground Staff** Alan Petrie Kit Manager

Pat Dunne Safety Officers

Robert Wilson, Carol Edgar Wasp 2000 Manager

Malcolm Gordon Club Shop

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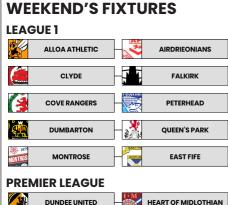


**TEAM LINES** 

38

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

#### cinch CINCH LEAGUE 1 P W **GF** D L GA GD **PTS COVE RANGERS AIRDRIEONIANS MONTROSE OUEEN'S PARK FALKIRK CLYDE** -12 **ALLOA ATHLETIC** -11 **PETERHEAD** -6 **DUMBARTON** -16 **EAST FIFE** -29









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#### **DEFENDERS**

# PJ MORRISON 27/02/1998





Daniel



#### **MATCH** most appearances

Cawley 403 Taggart 238 Robertson 216 Graham 213

#### Keir BURT -



Andy

Mark DURNAN 28/11/1992



Jordan ARMSTRONG



#### **GOALS**

Cawley 69 Trouten 42 Graham 14 Henderson 12





#### Fernandy MENDY

16/01/1994

#### AANAGED

#### **BRIAN RICE**

























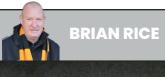


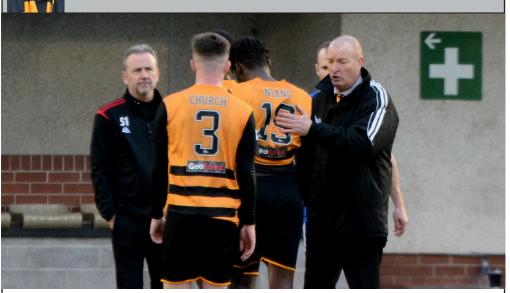












# MANAGER'S NOTES

First I want to welcome Ian Murray, Airdrie and their staff and players.

I had a lot of pride about the way we went about the Cove game especially in the first half. We had to dig in, obviously the sending off changes the match but the effort and commitment from the players and buying into that new shape, I couldn't ask anything more of the players.

These are the games we want to be playing in. Top on Saturday, second top this week but that's where we would like to be - top or second top. It's something we'll aspire to, although

it might take time to get there. Your Cove's and Airdrie's are good teams, there's a lot of experience in there, I've worked with a fair few of them, I know how good they are but I can take lots of positives from what I've seen from the players so far.

I've added Ross

MacIver and PJ Morrison before the loan window ended. PJ has a lot of experience, in the championship and league 1. He's in at Motherwell full-time so they've got great expectations for him. So far this season we've only had Hutts and two young kids, and for the youngsters it would

be very unfair to throw them in at the deep end if anything happened to Hutton. It'll keep him under pressure too, it's cover but whoever can train the best will play.

Ross MacIver, I've known for a long time when I worked up at Inverness. He was a kid coming through at Ross County. He always used to catch my eye. Really good in the air for his size, he's deceptive. Managed to get a move to Motherwell where he played a few games, dropped down to the Championship as part of Ian McCall's squad

at Partick Thistle. That's a strong squad and a good team and Ross is part of that but I think that it's a good time for him to come and play regular football and show what he has got.

Enjoy the game and support the team,

Brian







# **NEWSDESK**

To-day we welcome Airdrieonians FC to the Indodrill Stadium. welcoming Ian Murray, the players, officials and directors of Airdrieonians FC. Airdrieonians are currently sitting in second position in the SPFL League One table with aspirations of promotion, while they have won the two league fixtures at the Penny Car Stadium, "The Wasps" won the home fixture at Indodrill Stadium on 30th October, 2021, 2-1

with a Fuan Henderson double. A similar score line today is what we will be striving towards. Last Saturday against league leaders Cove Rangers we played some of our best football of the season and merited at least the 2-0 half-time lead however the red card after 62 minutes changed the game and Cove Rangers fought back to grab two goals in the final ten minutes to snatch a draw.

With the SPFL loan window closing at 5pm on Monday 28th February, 2022, Alloa Athletic manager Brian Rice moved to bring in another two players on loan until the end of this season, Ross Maclver a forward joins from SPFL Championship side Partick Thistle. Ross began as a vouth with Ross County where he had spells on loan with Wick Academy, Forfar Athletic and Elgin City. At the start of Season 2019-

20 Ross joined SPFL Premiership side Motherwell making a scoring debut against his old club Ross County. To gain more first team opportunities Ross moved to Greenock Morton on a season long loan but was recalled by Motherwell in January, 2021, before a move to Partick Thistle where he won the SPFL League One title and promotion back to the Championship, Ross will have squad number 15

at Alloa. Also joining is goalkeeper Peter (PI) Morrison from SPFL Premiership side Motherwell. PI has impressed throughout his progress through the Youth system at Fir Park and was part of the Motherwell squad which won the Scottish FA Youth Cup in 2015-16 beating Hearts 5-2 in the final. We welcome both players to the Indodrill Stadium and our grateful thanks go to Partick Thistle FC & Motherwell FC for their assistance and willingness to agree to these loan deals.

Robert Glen has become the newest addition to the Alloa Athletic FC coaching staff, taking up the post of the club's goalkeeper

coach. Robert has a wealth of experience in Scottish football with a reputation of developing top quality goalkeepers. He started with youth academy at Celtic FC for seven years but has since worked with Scotland International youth teams, Rangers youths, to first teams at Clyde, Stenhousemuir, Ayr United, Annan Athletic and Dumbarton, Robert holds the Goalkeeping Licence Award from the Scottish Football Association, bringing great experience to Indodrill Stadium.

Alloa Athletic Safety Officer Robert Wilson will today miss his first home game in 20 years as he is attending a wedding in Ireland. Have a safe journey Robert.

Wasps 2000 Draw -Week 8 26th February, 2022

£ 100 0327 J.Renton

£ 50 0984 D.Jenkins

£ 25 0252 R.Aitken

£ 25 0372 I.Crawford

£25 0586 M.Lumsden

£ 250 0684 E.Ramsay

The next Scottish Football Programme & Memorabilia Fairs@ Footballfairs, which was due to be held on Saturday 15th January, 2022 at the Holiday Inn, West Nile Street, Glasgow, and had to be cancelled due to covid restrictions, has

been rescheduled for Sunday 13th March, 2022 from 10am - 2pm, free admission, for the majority of the vendors, cash payments are the best option, contact Jim Thomson Scottishfootballfairs@yahoo.com.

Recent first games in charge for Alloa Athletic FC managers

Manager Date Opponents H/A Score Scorers

Brian Rice 26th Feb, 2022 Cove Rangers (H) 2 - 2 Andy Graham, Steven Boyd

Barry Ferguson 13th July, 2021 Cowdenbeath (H) 0 - 1

Peter Grant 16th July, 2019 Elgin City (H) 3 - 3 K. Cawley, L. Buchanan, A. Trouten

Jim Goodwin 15th Oct, 2016 Brechin City (A) 1 -0 Jason Marr

Jack Ross 19th Dec, 2015 St. Mirren (A) 0 - 2

Danny Lennon 8th April, 2015 Hearts (A) 0 - 3

Barry Smith 1st Feb, 2014 Dundee (A) 1 - 1 Ben Gordon

Paul Hartley 23rd July, 2011 Peterhead (A) 2 - 2 Ross McCord, Max Wright

Allan Maitland 12th Jan, 2006 Livingston (A) 2 - 1 Ross Hamilton, Robert Sloan





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





26th February 2022 Indodrill Stadium, Alloa 3:00pm KO

#### **ALLOA ATHLETIC**

2:2

#### **COVE RANGERS**



	(2:0)	
	SCORERS	
Graham <b>5</b> ′	1:0	
Boyd <b>19'</b>	2:0	
	2:1	<b>81</b> ' Adeyemo
	2.2	<b>27'</b> McAllister









STA	- 10 10	NIC	VI
-5 I A	MIII.	IN LE	

- 31 HUTTON
- DURNAN
- GRAHAM
- 2 TAGGART
- CAWLEY
- 16 KING
- 19 NIANG
- CHURCH
- 12 SCOUGALL
- 11 BOYD
- **18** SAMMON

#### SUBS

- 21 BURT
- 23 MENDY
- 8 ROBERTSON
- 9 ARMOUR
- **17 ARMSTRONG**
- 28 RILEY-SNOW
- 20 O'DONNELL
- 4 HOWIE

#### SUBS

- 11 MCINTOSH
- 13 MCALLISTER
- 17 ADEYEMO
- 20 LEITCH
- 23 GOURLAY
- 27 FOTHERINGHAM

#### STARTING XI

- 1 MCKENZIE
- 2 NEILL
- 3 MILNE
- 4 SCULLY
- 5 ROSS
- 8 YULE
- 9 MEGGINSON
- 10 MASSON
- 16 VIGURS
- 24 FYVIE
- **26 REYNOLDS**

**REFEREE:** Peter Stuart



26th February 2022 Excelsior Stadium, Airdrie 3:00pm KO

#### **AIRDRIEONIANS**

1:1

#### **CLYDE**





McGill **74' 1:1** 









ST	ARTING XI	
1	CURRIE	
16	WATSON	s
7	МССАВЕ	
6	FORDYCE	1
3	PATERSON	1
2	AGNEW	1

21 FRIZZELL

10 EASTON
24 MCGILL

9 GALLAGHER
13 AFOLABI

12	RITCHIE	
14	ALLAN	
15	MCDONALD	
18	CANTLEY	
19	WALKER	
23	MCGILL	
25	DEVENNY	

UBS

**KERR** 

**SMITH** 

SUBS

MORTIMER

NICOLL

JONES

ANDREW

24 TADE 26 ELSDON STARTING XI

21 BRADLEY-HURST

8 CUDDIHY
5 RUMSBY

20 PAGE

3 LIVINGSTONE
18 MCALLISTER

4 GOMIS

16 SPLAINE
11 LOVE

7 JAMIESON

10 CUNNINGHAM

**REFEREE:** Calum Scott

#### 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**



# MAN ON A MISSION

Euan Henderson returns to the Alloa matchday squad this afternoon and is likely to be a man on a mission in the final quarter of the season. The Hearts loanee has twelve goals so far this campaign and told the Alloa Advertiser last month that he was targeting twenty goals before returning to Tynecastle in the summer. Admittedly, that interview came before his recent suspension, which has

undoubtedly made that personal ambition more challenging. However, Alloa fans have already seen the 21-year-old enjoy a fabulous goalscoring streak during the first half of the season and will be hoping for a repeat in the coming weeks.

After scoring on his debut in September's home victory versus Falkirk, Henderson had a couple of games without a goal and picked

up a slight injury away at Dumbarton. It was during his sixth appearance for the club that his season ignited, with a devastating 19 minute match-winning cameo from the bench at Firhill. The Edinburgh-born frontman dramatically scored 90th and 92nd minute goals to turn a 3-2 defeat into a 4-3 victory for the Wasps over then league leaders Queen's Park (who have arguably not vet recovered from that

result yet). Henderson followed that up with another double the following weekend to earn the Wasps a win over Airdrie, becoming just the second Alloa player in the past decade (after Kevin O'Hara in 2020) to score doubles in successive Alloa appearances. Another 90th minute strike the following week, this time to earn a dramatic draw at Falkirk, made it five goals in three games (or six in eight for the

season), with Hendo directly contributing to 10 of the 18 points gained by Alloa at that point of the season.

At the end of November Henderson scored his first career hat-trick in the Scottish Cup victory over Bonnyrigg, with three clinical finishes. Another strike the following weekend at East Fife took his tally into double figures and made it 9 goals in his last 7 games. Henderson set a record by reaching double figures for the season in fewer games than any other Alloa player in at least the last 25 vears! His ten strikes in just twelve matches eclipsed legendary Alloa goalscorers Stevie May [ten in 13 during 2011/121. Willie Irvine [ten in 14 during both 1997/98 and 1998/991 and Greig Spence [ten in 15 during 2016/17]. For Henderson to have a better strike-rate than those vintage Alloa goalscorers was a true mark of his goalscoring



prowess. His minutes per goal ratio was sensational at that point too, with a goal notched every 89 minutes played. Henderson grabbed one more goal before briefly returning to Hearts in January. Upon his return to Alloa in early February, having extended his deal at Hearts. Euan only needed 14 minutes to pick up exactly where he'd left off, with what turned out to be the winning goal away at Peterhead. As

2016/17 Greig SPENCE

such, his tally presently stands at an impressive dozen goals from twenty appearances.

26 in 50

1:1.92

In terms of a deep dive into Henderson's goals, its promising that there have been a wide variety of finishes so far. From running in behind defences, using his undoubted speed, to finish (such as his debut strike versus Falkirk and the winners at Queen's Park and Peterhead) to picking up the ball from deep before running

and finishing well (both strikes versus Airdrie in the corresponding fixture to today's meeting and the second versus Bonnyrigg), to the instinctive six yard box finishes which every striker thrives on (the equaliser at Falkirk and Boxing Day strike at Airdrie). A common theme has been that Henderson tends to keep his strikes low and, refreshingly, isn't afraid to finish with either foot. or shoot from outside the box either. Although there have been no headed goals from Henderson so far. Alan Trouten has scored 42 goals for the Wasps and still hasn't scored one header either!

In terms of Henderson's strengths,
Alloa fans were already
fully aware of his
blistering pace after that
lung-busting 70 yard run
last season against the
Wasps to win a penalty



for Hearts. Down at League One level that extra pace is even more evident, with him simply able to breeze past players over short and long distances. In one versus one situations you'd always be confident that Euan can beat his man: he often intentionally slows down when receiving the ball, teasing defenders towards him before slipping the ball beyond them and accelerating away. He's also shown some ridiculous touches and pieces of skill which set him apart from your typical striker at this level. Hendo's finishing has also been impressive, with an increasing coolness which is evidently borne out of confidence. Another pleasing element has been his willingness to drop deep and link play with his midfielders.

suggesting that Hendo could be suited to playing as part of a striking partnership, which may bode well if Brian Rice chooses to continue with a front two as he did last weekend.

Like all young players there are areas for development, such as playing with his back to goal (which has progressed in his time with the Wasps already) and his heading, although he probably hasn't been accustomed to League One central defenders in the past, especially having played most of his senior football before this season on the wing. It's also fair to say his general demeanour off the ball can be a source of frustration for some supporters. His natural body-language is such that it appears he is only strolling around the



pitch, perhaps not contributing off the ball as much as he should. For me, it is clear he is trying to conserve energy for those dynamic bursts of pace when he gets sight of the ball in an attacking sense. I think it shouldn't be considered negatively, but instead be considered as a signal of maturity from the player (surely its better to preserve energy rather than continually chase lost causes?), although its a style which will always attract criticism from casual observers.

Looking forward, Henderson signed a one-year contract extension at Hearts before returning to the Recs on loan last month, but in my mind he is still approaching a crossroads in his early career. In particular, the length of the contract extension

only being a single year until the summer of 2023 raises a number of questions in my opinion, and perhaps draws some parallels with the situation faced by Dario Zanatta at Hearts a few years ago. Does Henderson stick at Hearts hoping to hit the ground running in pre-season training to become an integral member of the lam Tarts team next season? That must be the preferred option for the player, and probably the club too, although the one-vear nature of the deal has a hint of the club protecting its asset, or even stockpiling talent in case it is required - a familiar trait by larger clubs. If a club had great future plans for a 21 year old player surely they would have offered longer than just a single year extension? Or it might be that a one year



deal worked best for both parties, keeping the player hungry but with flexibility on both sides? I obviously don't know the exact context, but it is a situation faced by many players at that 20 – 22 year old bracket across all levels of the professional game, where they either need to establish a key role in the side or seek pastures new.

With that in mind, another option would be for Henderson to instead make the bolder decision of moving away from Hearts to gain himself the security of a longer-term contract and the prospect of a fresh start and a more likely starting role

at another Premiership side or perhaps drop down to the Championship? I would imagine that Henderson would have been left a little frustrated having excelled at Alloa in the first half of the season (his goal return must have pleased Robbie Neilson). but on returning to Hearts in January being an unused substitute four times and seeing Hearts loan signings Ben Woodburn and Ellis Simms getting gametime ahead of him as a home-grown youngster. This grated with some Hearts supporters too, who couldn't see the logic in at least giving Euan a further opportunity to stake his claim in a com-

petitive Hearts game after such a hot streak of form at Alloa. Ultimately that didn't materialise and the Wasps are now the beneficiary of the situation, with the prolific frontman returning to Clackmannanshire for the remainder of the season.

Whichever pathway Henderson's career takes next season there are success stories from other former Alloa loanees. Although it took Zanatta a couple more moves (to Partick & Ayr) before truly showing his Wasps form this season at Raith, he is now forging a good career for himself in professional football. Jamie McCart, Robbie Deas

and Ross Stewart are other notable examples (to name but three) of Wasps loanees who flew the nest of their parent clubs after returning from an Alloa loan and have enjoyed considerable success for their subsequent clubs. There are also those that stuck around at their parent clubs and prospered too, most notably later internationalists Stevie May and Scott McKenna. Either route can work and my fingers are crossed that in the years to come we can add Henderson's name to the list of success stories after a profitable loan with Alloa.



# DONALD POLLOCK

SCOTTISH LEAG	UE-	-Seco	nd	Divi	sion	1.	3819
					Goa	ils.	
	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A. 1	Pts.
Alloa Athletic,	30	21	3	6	68	26	48
Cowdenbeath,	29	18	6	5	52	21	41
Armadale,	31	16	10	5	46	35	37
Vale of Leven,	30	13	9	8	43	36	34
St Bernards,	31	13	11	7	40	35	33
Broxburn United,	28	13	9	6	36	31	32
Bathgate,	29	12	9	8	43	34	32
East Fife,	29		12	4	48	41	30
Bo'ness,	30	12	13	5	46	44	29
Johnstone,	30	10	11	9	39	50	29
Arbroath,	29	10	11	8	33	30	28
Dunfermline Ath	29	10	12	7	41	34	27

# BACK TO BACK DEFEATS FOR THE FIRST TIME

A mysterious illness was spreading through the Wee County. Alloa had embarked on a famous Scottish Cup run as a Central League club in 1921, removing First Division Falkirk and Clydebank over 7 ties before heading to Ibrox. The Wasps had come close to causing a sensation in Govan too, drawing 0-0 with Rangers before losing the replay (back at Ibrox again) 4-1. A year down the line the Wasps were now a Scottish League club themselves and had the top flight very

much in their sights. For now though there was a distraction from the title bid - and the good folk of Clackmannanshire had gone down with cup fever once more. Over 1000 fans would follow the Wasps to Fir Park with the Scottish Cup tie against Motherwell also offering a fascinating insight into how Alloa might fare if they were indeed to go on and clinch promotion to the First Division. The Steelmen were having a rather mixed season in the league and the Motherwell Times had

a pre-march warning about Alloa's fine form, albeit they added that "It remains to be seen whether the best in the Second League is fit to knock out a groggy member of the First League". The Motherwell folk were also keen to see local lad Dunn in the Alloa team as well as former Fir Park favourite Tom McGregor, and of course Wee Willie Crilley, who had spent the previous few weeks at the centre of fevered transfer speculation and rumours of a possible Scotland call-up, Indeed,

the Carluke and Lanark Gazette noted the fans were expected to travel to "Steelopolis" to see "Wee Crilley – Scotland's reserve centre-forward".

In front of 18,000 supporters it was Motherwell who grabbed the initiative as Alloa were quickly forced onto the backfoot. After several months when Crilley and co in attack had invariably grabbed the headlines, this time it was Orrock, McGregor and Gaffney who won praise for their desperate defence. Just as it seemed that Alloa

would reach half-time level disaster struck. Hugh Ferguson for once escaping the clutches of "sleuthhound" Gaffney and "banging a real beauty past Caldwell". On the restart the Wasps made some chances of their own with Crilley - "who was a really popular hero with the crowd" - forcing a series of saves from Rundell in the home goal. Alloa again had to look lively in defence but there was no further scoring and it was Motherwell who progressed to the next round. The press were unanimous that the better side had won but that Alloa had gone down with the "flag flying" after putting up a "splendid fight". There was good news for the Wasps that Saturday evening too as news filtered through of Cowdenbeath losing 2-0 to East Fife in the league.

Alloa were now 6 points clear with 10 games left to play.

There was a quick chance to extend the lead as the Wasps travelled to Perth for a re-scheduled Wednesday afternoon fixture against St Johnstone, Perhaps over confident with their unbeaten league run now stretching to 3 months, Alloa were shocked when the Perth Saints grabbed the lead in the opening minute following a slip from McGregor. The Wasps gave an immediate response, lock Stirling bursting down the flank and crossing for Crillev to level. Back came St Johnstone with Hannigan on target, only for Crilley to equalise once more. An action packed first-half ended 2-2. Hannigan put Saints ahead again in the second-half and the unfortunate McGregor

- perhaps suffering a slight cup hangover – then miskicked to set up Forbes to make it 4-2. Alloa battled on and Dunn pulled one back but there was no further scoring with a barnstorming fixture ending 4-3 for St Johnstone. It was back to back defeats for the Wasps for the first time in 1921/22.

Lochgelly were the visitors to the Recs the following Saturday as Alloa aimed to get back on track. With a heavy pitch once more causing problems it was reported that Alloa "did not display their usual harmony in attack" and the opening period ended goallless. The Wasps needed a goal and ten minutes after the break Dunn provided it. Shortly after Crilley made it 2-0 and Alloa were safe. It was a crucial victory with news coming through

that Cowdenbeath had been held by Forfar, the Sunday Post concluding that the the Fifers had "now flung away all chances of winning the league". It was a 7 point advantage now for the Wasps at the top and the Alloa fans at least grateful that Crilley had been leading their attack rather than Scotland's, the national team forcing a rather unconvincing 2-1 win over Ireland.

The other big news was the financial strain on many Second Division clubs. The press reported that while the new division had provided plenty of excitement on the field, that a combination of the miners' strike, collapse of trade, and widespread unemployment had left members of the second tier "trembling on the brink of bankruptcy". The Post reported that "not even Alloa" had made a profit over the season. With questions now being posed on the viability of the league for the following season, Alloa were surely more determined than ever to escape to the riches of the First Division. Next up was a midweek clash with Vale of Leven before a trip to Broxburn.

More in the next edition of The Wasp.





# **APPEARANCES**

		LEAGUE		C	UP	TO	ΓAL	ALLOA CAREER LGE		
	POS	APP	GOAL	APP	GOAL	APP	GOAL	APP	GOAL	
HUTTON	GOAL	26 (0)	0	5 (0)	- 0	31 (0)	0	26 (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	19 (2)	- 0	2 (0)	- 0	21 (2)	0	19 (2)	0	
LEIGHTON	DEF	0 (0)	- 0	1 (0)	- 0	1 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	
ARMSTRONG	DEF	1 (0)	- о	- 2 (2)	- 0	3 (2)	0	1 (0)	0	
DURNAN	DEF	24 (0)	3	2 (0)	0	26 (0)	3	24 (0)	3	
CHURCH	DEF	15 (2)	0	6 (0)	0	21 (2)	0	15 (2)	0	
HOWIE	DEF	9 (3)	1	5 (2)	0	14 (5)	1	9 (3)	1	
GRAHAM	DEF -	12 (1)	1	7 (0)	0	19 (1)	1	165 (1)	13	
TAGGART	DEF -	25 (0)	- О	7 (1)	- 1	32 (1)	- 1	189 (0)	- 6	
WILLIAMSON	DEF	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	
ROBERTSON	MID	16 (5)	0	6 (1)	- 0	22 (6)	0	141 (28)	2	
SCOUGALL	MID	18 (4)	- 2	6 (2)	1	24 (6)	- 3	26 (12)	3	
LAMONT	MID	0 (0)	- 0	0 (0)	- 0	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	
KING	MID	15 (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	23 (0)	1	4 (0)	3	27 (0)	- 4	23 (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	
RILEY-SNOW	MID	4 (1)	- 0	0 (0)	0	4 (1)	0	4 (1)	0	
CAWLEY	FWD	19 (5)	- 3	4 (0)	0	23 (5)	3	292 (42)	- 59	
ARMOUR	FWD	0 (3)	- о	1 (4)	0	1 (7)	0	0 (3)	0	
TROUTEN	FWD	2 (3)	- о	2 (2)	2	4 (5)	2	71 (9)	24	
BOYD	FWD	24 (3)	7	7 (0)	1	31 (3)	8	24 (3)	7	
SAMMON	FWD	13 (12)	4	- 5 (2)	1	18 (14)	5	13 (12)	4	
EVANS**	FWD	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	- 0	0 (0)	0	0 (1)	0	
HENDERSON*	FWD	18 (1)	- 9	1 (0)	- 3	<b>19 (1)</b>	- 12 -	18 (1)	- 9	

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1 (0)	3	19 (1)	12		



## A FAN'S VIEW

It may have ultimately ended in some degree of disappointment, but last week's match against the league leaders Cove Rangers here was a breath of fresh air. Not only did we witness a really entertaining spectacle. But there was plenty of positives as the team took the game right to the champions elect and showed what they're capable of in a great first performance under the new manager.

I had read recent reports from Hamilton Accies fans stating how Brian Rice freshened the place up when he was initially appointed, so I expected similar things from him at Alloa. I thought he might do something different for this game and the opening moments of the game proved exactly this. The team was set up in a new 3-4-1-2 formation. Scot Taggart was placed in the left centre back position which appeared very unnatural. But it allowed him to pick up the dangerous runs of Mitch Megginson who tends to drive at defences and cut inside. Kevin Cawley probably added another position to his resume in something of a right wing back role. Crucially further up the pitch, the manager deployed a front 2, with Boyd as the foil for Conor Sammon, And Stefan Scougall was in

a far more central position where he can influence the game, rather than being deployed wide for much of the season. Upon watching the highlights package, you can hear team mate Alan Trouten on co commentary remarking that Scougall is never a winger- I'm glad it wasn't just me who came to this conclusion.

With elements of nullifying the league leaders threat, and being set up to ask questions of the opposition was all very simple, but very encouraging. And for the opening 30 minutes of the match Alloa supporters were treated to some of the best football of the season and they simply blew Cove out of the water. Andy Graham slid home something of a goal poachers finish for opener after 5 minutes. And it was to get better for the hosts as Steven Boyd finished off a great passing move after 18 minutes for Alloa's second. There were a couple of penalty shouts in amongst this period of domination. A handball claim which in all honesty probably would have been harsh. When Scougall was pole-axed by the Cove goalkeeper McKenzie right in front of goal, this appeared to be a far more clear cut appeal. I'm surmising that the referee deduced the ball had gone, but it was



very much in the "seen them given" category. Conor Sammon then had a terrific chance, with his volley bringing out a fine save from McKenzie where the visiting defence waited for an offside flag which never came. Alloa were winning most of the 50-50 battles in the midfield for the second successive week, with Sena and King once again showing what they're capable of. At this stage, Alloa could have been a number of goals ahead. Cove responded and struck the Alloa post on 34 minutes with their first major threat of the game. And although they showed some signs of recovery as the half drew to a close, it was an absolutely terrific first half from Alloa.

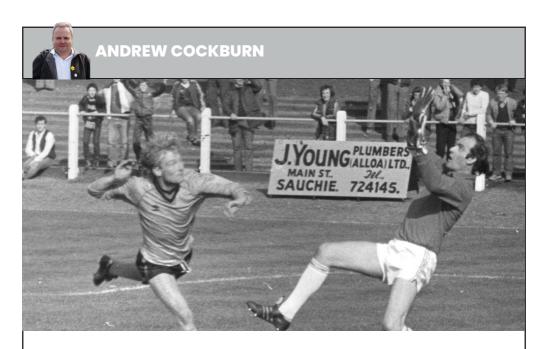
After the break Cove had tweaked their system, with Paul Hartley clearly realising something needed to change in the game. But although Milne was always a threat down the left flank for the visitors, Alloa's goalmouth wasn't threatened all that much. However. an all too common theme this season again proved to be a turning point in the game. Alloa substitute Jon Robertson challenged Iain Vigurs near the centre circle. Although his boot was high, he seemed to play the ball and pull out of the challenge as much as he could. You could feel that sense of inevitability by the referees charge towards the incident, combined with the Cove players reaction. The red card was produced- Alloa's 7th of the season so far. I thought he could have given Robertson a yellow, but again the Wasps found themselves a man short. The home fans velled for a red card for Cove defender Morgyn Neill, who fouled Sammon as he looked clean through on goal. And although I was amongst them, I had to admit I felt the yellow card was probably the correct decision.

Cove responded by

throwing on as many attack minded players as possible as the clock ticked down, including their talisman Rory McAllister. And they showed their championship challenging credentials by slowly turning the screw. Alloa hearts were broken by the 2 Cove goals in the closing ten minutes. The Cove bench absolutely erupted at the late equaliser, which irked me slightly at the time but you could understand it. It was a point that they couldn't have foreseen at half time, and it was a compliment of the way Alloa had tested them all afternoon. Alloa gave Cove a real game, and undoubtedly would have won with 11 men. But Cove did show why they look like the pending league winners. Of course we won't know til the end of the season if the concession of those 2 points will prove costly. But there was a largely refreshing atmosphere on the terraces to how Alloa played the game and they were roundly

applauded at full time.

As stated, the shape adopted by the manager was really effective up until the disruption of the red card. And whilst it was really an excellent performance as a unit there were standout individual performances all over the park. Conor Sammon was absolutely terrific leading the line. He didn't score, but caused problems all game in one of his finest outings in an Alloa shirt, Adam King and Sena impressed for the 2nd successive week. showing that they can thrive in a midfield with increased structure and balance. Hopefully Alloa can build on last week as they face another tough match today against an Airdrie team on good form. I think it can be construed as a slightly back handed compliment, but Airdrie have been the most well organised team I've seen in the league this season. Ian Murray has done a great job and whilst winning the division may be beyond them, they should clinch one of those promotion play-off spots comfortably. One of Alloa's best performances of the season occurred on Airdrie's last visit here back in October, whilst a Boxing Day trip to Airdrie provided one of the lowest moments. Let's hope it's the former and we can build on that feel good factor from last week. Enjoy today's game.



# LOOKING BACK 2ND MARCH 1985

In The Premier Division, Aberdeen, having lost at title rivals Celtic the previous week, now returned to winning ways with a 3-0 home victory v St. Mirren, to thus extend their advantage at the top to six points. Second-placed Celtic's own title challenge suffered a blip, when they were held 0-0 at Dundee United, who thus dropped one place to fourth, and were replaced in third place by Rangers, who defeated relegation-haunted Dumbarton by 3-1 at

Ibrox, while Hearts. 1-0 victors at hapless bottom club Morton. were now fifth. This was The Ton's tenth league defeat in a row, and as they trailed safety by eight points, with just nine games to go, their fate seemed virtually sealed. Dumbarton's defeat kept them in second-bottom position. though on only on goal difference from Hibs, whose own relegation worries continued after a 0-1 home reverse v Dundee.

Clydebank's 2-0 home success v Clyde kept

them a point clear at the top of The First Division. second-placed Motherwell maintained their own promotion bid with a 2-1 victory at Ayr, while The Well's local rivals Airdrie retained third spot after they too were victorious by 2-1 at home, v Falkirk, thanks to goals from Rodger & McGuire, Forfar's 1-0 home win v Hamilton Accies moved them up into fourth place, & The Loons local rivals Brechin were now fifth. after a 2-1 success v struggling Kilmarnock at Glebe Park. In the dan-

ger zone, St. Johnstone remained rock-bottom, and now four points adrift of safety, after a 2-6 hammering at fellow strugglers Partick. The Jags thus moved up one place to eleventh, and were replaced in third-bottom spot by Kilmarnock, while second-bottom Meadowbank went down 0-1 at East Fife.

Down in The Second, leaders Alloa, after having suffered a 1-3 reverse in a rather crunch promotion clash v Dunfermline, now faced their third and



final meeting of the season with fierce local rivals Stirling Albion, this time at Annfield, where The Wasps lined up as follows: Lowrie. Thompson, Haggart, Thomson, Dall, Harris, Paterson, Kelly, Sorbie (Shearer), Barr, Llovd. And Alloa returned to winning ways, by 3-2, thanks to efforts from David Lloyd (2) & Drew Paterson, all of the goal action coming in the first period. Thus The Wasps remained a point clear of second-placed Montrose, who defeated their bottom-of-the-table local rivals Arbroath by 3-0 at Links Park, while Dunfermline retained third spot in spite of a 1-2 home defeat v local rivals and fellow promotion challengers Cowdenbeath, who remained in fourth place.

South of the border. The First Division's top

clash was undoubtedly at Old Trafford, where just over 51,000 were present to witness the crucial top-of-the-table clash between Manchester United, who lav in third place, and leaders Everton. And a 1-1 draw meant no positional change for either side, though Everton's lead was now reduced to two points over second-placed Spurs, who triumphed by 2-0 at doomed bottom club Stoke. There was also another top-of-the-table clash in Lancashire. this time in The Second Division, and at Ewood Park, where leaders Blackburn hosted second-placed Manchester City, in front of a crowd of just over 22,000. And a 1-0 win for City saw them take over at the top. while Blackburn slipped to second. At The Manor Ground, another crunch promotion



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clash took place, when third-placed Oxford met a Birmingham side lying once place below them, and a 3-0 win for The Blues saw them exchange places with their promotion





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### **AIRDRIEONIANS**

#### The Diamonds

#### **FOUNDED**

2002

#### GROUND

Excelsior Stadium, Airdrie

#### **TOP HONOURS**

Scottish League One\* Winners: 2003-4

Runners-up: 2007-8

Scottish Challenge Cup Winners: 2008-9

Runners Up: 2003-4

This afternoon we welcome Airdrie to the Indodrill stadium for Brian Rice's second game in charge of the Wasps. The Diamonds have had a strong season so far sitting in second place, just five points behind the league leaders, Cove. Despite being unbeaten in the last eleven league games, four draws since the turn of the year has seen them struggle to topple Cove so far. However. with nine games left of the season, including a game against the leaders. Airdrie will still have their sights firmly set on automatic promotion come the end of the season. Despite

dominating the game last weekend against Clyde with twenty-one shots and fifty-seven percent possession, again they were held to a 1-1 draw leaving them with a tinge of disappointment with Cove dropping points here at the Indodrill to a newlook Alloa side.

## THE BOSS -

The Diamonds will be managed by experienced coach, lan Murray. During his playing career he played for a whole host of sides, including Alloa Athletic briefly, but is most known for his time at Hibernian. Two

spells across ten years ended in 2012 when he left to take up his first managerial gig at Dumbarton, Success at The Rock with survival in the Championship and just missing out on promotion play-offs saw him earn a move to St Mirren. That move did not go to plan, however, and he departed before the year was out. A fleeting spell in Norway with Asker as assistant manager filled the void before being appointed Airdrie boss in 2018. This season Murray has been receiving accolades and praise for his side performances. It can be seen in the club's double swoop in January where Murray won League One Manager of the Month.

## THE CAPTAIN -

The Diamonds will be led out by commanding centre half, Callum Fordyce. He joined the Livingston youth system in 2009 before making his senior debut just two years later. Fordyce would go on to spend four years with the Lions making over one hundred appearances and guiding them to a





Challenge Cup victory, of which Alloa were the victims of in the final. Spells at Dunfermline and Queen of the South followed, which were successful too. He knows what it takes to get out of this division having won it in 2016 with Dunfermline. In 2019, he made the switch from Dumfries to Airdrie and has become a fan favourite since. No nonsense defending and leadership from the back has made him one of the most reliable defenders in the division. It has become a family affair at the Excelsior now after his cousin. Rhys McCabe, made the move to join him at Airdrie in the summer. They have spent the majority of the season partnering each other at centre-half. Fordvce scored the consolation when Alloa won the first fixture 2-1 thanks to an

Euan Henderson brace.

#### NEW BOY – JONATHAN AFOLABI

lan Murray made the move to bolster his attacking options in February as he secured the services of Jonathan Afolabi on loan from Celtic. The Irishman had spent the first half of the season at Somerset Park

with Ayr United, as well as enjoying spells on loan at Dunfermline and Dundee previously, Born and raised in Dublin, he came through the youth ranks of Shamrock Rovers, before moving to Lourdes Celtic and St Joseph's Boys before earning his dream move. In 2019. he crossed the water to sign for the Glasgow Giants. Afolabi's Celtic move caught the eye as he started picking up form and earning callups to the Republic of Ireland u-21 squads. In 2019 he played for the u-19's in the European Championships and won a place in the Team of the Tournament. alongside current Barce-Iona star, Ferran Torres. His Airdrie career began perfectly as he bagged the winner away to Peterhead a few weeks back.

#### ONE TO WATCH-DYLAN EASTON

A thorn in Alloa's side could come from the tricky play from Airdrie's Dylan Easton. When he made the move from Kelty Hearts in the summer, nobody was surprised to see him hit the ground running immediately a few leagues up with strong performances. This season has seen him hit the back of the net six times. however, it is his all-round play and assists that have caught the eye. With nine assists to his name, he sits joint-top assister with Mitch Megginson of Cove Rangers. The two of them are two ahead of Alloa's own, Stefan Scougall. Impressive performances were rewarded in January when Easton swooped the January Player of the

#### **CONTINUED ON P32**





**BY KIEREN MOONEY** 

Month award for the division.

#### THE CONNECTION

There are a few familiar faces returning to the Indodrill today to face their former time. The man who spent the longest with Alloa was Scott Agnew who spent a year with the club in 2007 making thirty appearances. The other two spent short loan spells at the club. Firstly, Callum Gallagher, who is the current vice-captain of Airdrie, had a spell at Alloa back in 2012. Callum Smith's spell was a lot more recent, being part of the Jim Goodwin promotion winning side in 2018. One of the most memorable names for

the Airdrie supporters is Alloa goalkeeper, David Hutton. Signing back in 2018, Hutton went onto make over fifty appearances for the club in his three years there.

# PREVIOUS MEETINGS

This will be the side's fourth and final match against one another this season. Airdrie have enioved two wins out of the previous three. The first of those came back in September as goals from Calum Gallagher and Adam Frizzell saw the home side stroll into a commanding lead. A goal on the hour mark from Conor Sammon looked to put a comeback on, however, Alloa's possession

came to nothing and they left Airdrie with nothing to show for it. They were able to get their revenge with a 2-1 win of their own in the second game though with an Euan Henderson brace enough to see off Callum Fordyce's late goal. Boxing Day saw Airdrie put in their best performance against the Wasps. Two goals in the opening seven minutes from Callum Smith and Calum Gallagher meant that Alloa had a mountain to climb thanks to their two former strikers. A Kerr McInroy wonder goal put the nail in Alloa's coffin that dav. Euan Henderson would bundle home a consolation but it would prove meaningless as Airdrie comfortably saw the game out as 3-1 winners. Alloa will be looking to make two wins a piece this season as the Diamonds visit the Indodrill for the last time this season.









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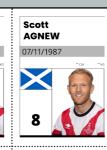
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# **HT QUIZ**

1.2 CONTESTS BETWEEN ALLOA AND AIRDRIE HAVE BEEN **DECIDED BY A PENALTY SHOOTOUT IN THE PAST, NAME** THE YEARS IN WHICH THE MATCHES TOOK PLACE

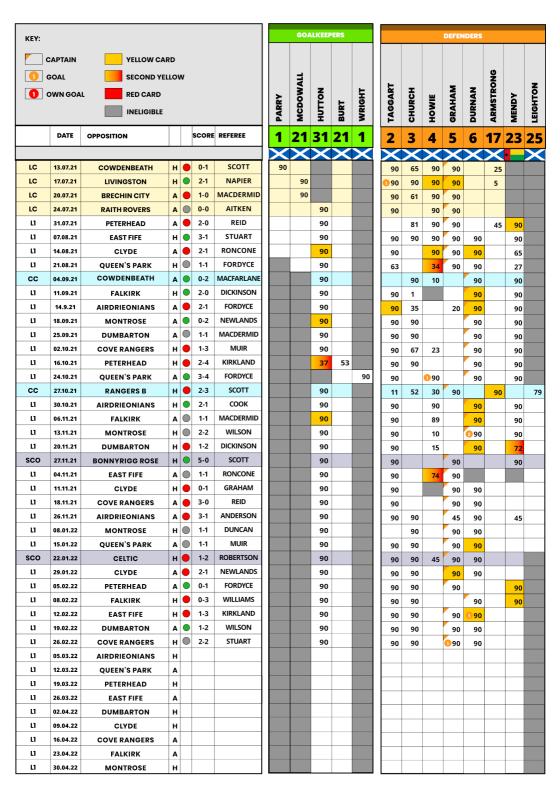
2. NAME THE 7 OTHER SENIOR CLUBS IN SCOTLAND BRYAN PRUNTY PLAYED FOR IN HIS CAREER OTHER THAN AIRDRIE AND ALLOA



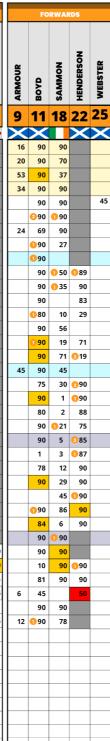


- 3. WHICH COUNTRY COMPETED IN THE 1970 WORLD CUP IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING AN EARTHQUAKE IN THEIR **HOMELAND WHICH KILLED 70,000 PEOPLE?**
- 4. NAME THE 3 OLDEST MANAGERS ACROSS THE SPFL **LEAGUES**

**ANSWERS PAGE 37** 



				М	DFIEL	DERS						F
CAWLEY	ROBERTSON	TROUTEN	SCOUGALL	LAMONT	GILMOUR	KING	NIANG	O'DONNELL	MCCOLL	RILEY-SNOW	ARMOUR	BOVD
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<b>1</b> 72	90		18			190	90	5				90
90	4		64				90			26	12	1090





#### QUIZ ANSWERS

1. 2009 AND 2017

2. CELTIC, ABERDEEN, INVERNESS CALE-DONIAN THISTLE, AYR UNITED, STIRLING ALBION, DUMBARTON, ARBROATH

3. PERU

4. DICK CAMPBELL (AGED 68), MARK MCGHEE (AGED 64), JOHN MCGLYNN (AGED 60)





#### **ALLOA ATHLETIC**



#### **AIRDRIEONIANS**



**REFEREE:** Scott Lambie **ASST:** Michael Banks & Colin Drummond

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26.03.22, AWAY, 15:00 **FAST FIFE** 



12.03.22, AWAY, 15:00

QUEEN'S PARK



ALLOA ATHLETIC



19.03.22, HOME, 15:00



ALLOA ATHLETIC



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ALLOA ATHLETIC



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