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1921/22

RUNNERS UP

1938/39

SCOTTISH LEAGUE 1 RUNNERS UP

1976/77 1981/82

1984/85 1988/89 1999/00

2001/02 2009/10 2012/13

2016/17

SCOTTISH LEAGUE 2 WINNERS

1997/1998 2011/2012

CHALLENGE CUP WINNERS

1999/2000

RUNNERS-UP

2001/02 2014/15

STIRLINGSHIRE CUP WINNERS

1904/5 1907/8 1908/9

1912/13 1920/21 1924/25

1933/34 1946/47 1955/56

1957/58 1959/60 1965/66

1981/82 1996/97

MOST CAPPED PLAYER

Jock Hepburn, 1 Cap
(Scotland v Wales 1891)

*includes equivalent competitions

Club Information

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Clackmannan Road,
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Fax: 01259210886
Email: fcadmin@alloathletic.co.uk
Web: alloaathletic.co.uk

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Honorary Directors

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Martin Ross (Vice Chairman)
Ewen Cameron
Steven Lynch
Dr Robert McElroy
Secretary

Ewen Cameron

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Paddy Connolly (Assistant)

Stuart Phin (Sports Therapist)

Andrew Deeley (Club Doctor)

Derek Nicholson (Head of Youth)

Robert Glen (Goalkeeping Coach)

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Allan Salvona (Women's Team Manager)

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Robert Wilson, Carol Edgar

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	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
COVE RANGERS	29	18	8	3	60	27	33	62
AIRDRIEONIANS	29	17	6	6	52	31	21	57
MONTROSE	29	13	12	4	43	25	18	51
QUEEN'S PARK	29	9	16	4	45	28	17	43
FALKIRK	29	10	7	12	42	45	-3	37
CLYDE	29	7	12	10	34	49	-15	33
ALLOA ATHLETIC	29	7	9	13	36	49	-13	30
PETERHEAD	29	7	7	15	37	47	-10	28
DUMBARTON	29	7	5	17	40	61	-21	26
EAST FIFE	29	5	8	16	28	55	-27	23

WEEKEND'S FIXTURES

LEAGUE 1

ALLOA ATHLETIC	PETERHEAD
AIRDRIEONIANS	QUEEN'S PARK
CLYDE	EAST FIFE
DUMBARTON	FALKIRK
MONTROSE	COVE RANGERS

PREMIER LEAGUE

ABERDEEN	HIBERNIAN
CELTIC	ROSS COUNTY
HEART OF MIDLOTHIAN	LIVINGSTON
ST JOHNSTONE	MOTHERWELL
ST MIRREN	DUNDEE UNITED
DUNDEE	RANGERS

CHAMPIONSHIP

DUNFERMLINE	GREENOCK MORTON
ARBROATH	AYR UNITED
KILMARNOCK	QUEEN OF THE SOUTH
PARTICK THISTLE	HAMILTON ACCIES
RAITH ROVERS	INVERNESS CT

LEAGUE 2

EDINBURGH CITY	STRANRAER
ALBION ROVERS	FORFAR ATHLETIC
COWDENBEATH	STENHOUSEMUIR
ELGIN CITY	KELTY HEARTS
STIRLING ALBION	ANNAN ATHLETIC

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GOALKEEPERS

PJ MORRISON

27/02/1998



DEFENDERS

Scott TAGGART

27/12/1991



Daniel CHURCH

21/07/2000



Craig HOWIE

02/07/1996



MATCH

most appearances

- Cawley 405
- Taggart 240
- Robertson 217
- Graham 216

GOALS

- Cawley 69
- Trouten 42
- Graham 14
- Henderson 12

Keir BURT



Andy GRAHAM

22/09/1983



Mark DURMAN

28/11/1992



Jordan ARMSTRONG

02/04/1999



David HUTTON

18/05/1985



Fernandy MENDY

16/01/1994



MANAGER

BRIAN RICE



MIDFIELDERS

Kevin CAWLEY
17/03/1989
170 CM 64 KG




7

Jon ROBERTSON
25/04/1989
183 CM 77 KG




8

Stefan SCOUGALL
07/12/1992
170 CM 64 KG




12

Adam KING
11/10/1995
180 CM 69 KG




16

Mouhamed NIANG
08/10/1999
180 CM 74 KG




19

Cameron O'DONNELL
29/09/2001
180 CM 70 KG




20


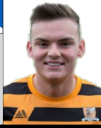
Blaise RILEY-SNOW
23/09/1998
180 CM 74 KG




28



FORWARDS

Ben ARMOUR
12/04/1997
180 CM 76 KG


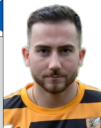
9

Alan TROUTEN
08/11/1985
173 CM 70 KG

10

Steven BOYD
12/04/1997
173 CM 65 KG

11

Ross MACIVER
28/02/1999
180 CM 74 KG






15

Conor SAMMON
06/11/1986
188 CM 74 KG




18

Euan HENDERSON
29.06.2000
180 CM 74 KG

22





BRIAN RICE



MANAGER'S NOTES

Welcome to Jim McNally and everyone at Peterhead FC,

I'm big pals with Jim, we came through the Scotland youth teams together and we were at Nottingham Forrest together. It's great credit to him that he's still managing and we know how good football his teams play. I wouldn't

mind being in the job that long, that would take me up to my 70's!

We'll prepare as we always do - its about focusing on ourselves. I'm more concerned about keeping up the confidence and letting the boys know exactly what their jobs are. Of course, we'll look at their set pieces but

really we'll focus on how we want to play and try get that right.

Last Saturday, conditions were atrocious, we rotated the team. After visiting Firhill a few times recently, we saw the difficulties with playing football on that surface. It's dictated the team we picked. The pitch was a throwback to the olden

days with very little grass on the park. It was tricky to play football for both teams but ultimately great credit to the lads for securing a point. It's taken a fantastic strike to deny us the 3 points but overall, the effort and commitment and the energy was superb.





JOHN GLENCROSS



NEWSDESK

To-day we welcome Peterhead FC to the Indodrill Stadium, welcoming Jim McNally, the players, officials and directors of Peterhead FC. With now only seven league matches to go it is fair to say all games are big games with all teams in the bottom, fighting for their lives. The results at this time of the season are the most important statistic. It is all about us, if we do our job it will not matter about other scores, it has been

a frustrating season but with Brian Rice now in charge there is a new optimistic feeling within the stadium, the players are enjoying and looking forward to the games ahead, in which they will show bravery, courage and a lot of character and looking forward to winning matches again. We have huge games coming up including four home matches which we really need to take maximum points -

Saturday 19th March, 2022 v. Peterhead (H)

Saturday 26th March, 2022 v. East Fife (A)

Saturday 2nd April, 2022 v. Dumbarton (H)

Saturday 9th April, 2022 v. Clyde (H)

Saturday 16th April, 2022 v. Cove Rangers (A)

Saturday 23rd April, 2022 v. Falkirk (A)

Saturday 30th April, 2022 v. Montrose (H)

Fernandy Mendy has been released from his contract with Alloa Athletic. Fernandy returned to Scotland at the end of July to sign for the Wasps, making 20 appearances in the process. Mendy's story was shone via the media spotlight in this year's African Cup of Nations after being called up for Guinea-Bissau but he was only an unused

substitute for the group stage exit as Guinea-Bissau lost out to eventual runners-up Egypt and more populous Nigeria. Fernandy will now return to France after making the decision based on what was best for his family.

Kevin Cawley celebrated his 33rd birthday on Thursday 17th March, St. Patrick's day, he has now made an incredible 405 first team appearances for "The Wasps" making him the longest serving player at the club, let's hope he has many more to celebrate in Alloa colours.

Last Tuesday 7th March, manager Brian Rice took the opportunity to give some of the fringe

players an opportunity to face Raith Rovers at the Indodrill Stadium in a friendly match against SPFL Championship opposition. The Alloa team was - Burt, Howie, Graham, Armstrong, Church, King, Riley-Snow, O'Donnell, Niang, Henderson & Maclver. Subs:- All used at some point in second half - Taggart, Williamson, Armour, McColl, Buchanan, Trialist. Euan Henderson put "The Wasps" 1-0 ahead in first half before Raith Rovers equalised with free-kick in second half.

Scotland's World Cup Qualifier play-off semi-final has officially been postponed. The two teams were supposed to meet on 24th March;

however, FIFA have agreed to postpone the tie following the Russian invasion of Ukraine. As a result, Scotland will be playing a home friendly on 24th against Poland in support of Ukraine fundraising appeal at Hampden Park - with a donation of £ 10 from each ticket sold supporting UNICEF's Humanitarian response in Ukraine and will play the losers of Wales v Austria in an away match on 29th March.

Discussions have now begun to rearrange the match for a new date, with the June Nations League window being the most likely option. The Scottish FA have said they "support the decision to uphold the

request to postpone the match and reiterate our message of solidarity to our friends and colleagues within the Ukrainian Association of Football".

Wasps 2000 Draw -
Week 10 12th March, 2022

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£ 50 1199 M.Black-
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Kenzie

£ 25 0182 J.Munro

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12th March 2022
 Firhill Stadium, Glasgow
 3:00pm KO

QUEEN'S PARK

1:1

ALLOA ATHLETIC



(0:0)

SCORERS

0:1 49' Durnan

Darcy 85' **1:1**



STARTING XI

- 12** FERRIE
- 3** ROBSON
- 5** GRANT
- 7** LONGRIDGE
- 9** MCHUGH
- 10** BROWN
- 19** FOX
- 22** THOMSON
- 24** DOYLE
- 27** SMITH
- 48** CONNELL

SUBS

- 2** DAVIDSON
- 8** LYON
- 15** GILLIES
- 17** HERAGHTY
- 18** BIGGAR
- 28** LONGSTAFF
- 29** MCBRIDE
- 47** BRUCE
- 49** DARCY

SUBS

- 31** HUTTON
- 7** CAWLEY
- 12** SCOUGALL
- 11** BOYD
- 17** ARMSTRONG
- 15** MACIVER
- 3** CHURCH
- 9** ARMOUR

STARTING XI

- 1** MORRISON
- 2** TAGGART
- 4** HOWIE
- 5** GRAHAM
- 6** DURNAN
- 20** O'DONNELL
- 28** RILEY-SNOW
- 16** KING
- 19** NIANG
- 18** SAMMON
- 22** HENDERSON

REFEREE: Grant Irvine

12th March 2022
 Balmoor Stadium, Peterhead
 3:00pm KO

PETERHEAD

0:1

MONTROSE

(0:1)

SCORERS

0:1 68' Gardyne



STARTING XI

- 1 LONG**
- 23 QUITONGO**
- 4 MCDONALD**
- 26 WANT**
- 32 DUFFY**
- 12 MCCARTHY**
- 8 BROWN**
- 21 SAVOURY**
- 7 RITCHIE**
- 9 MCLEAN**
- 15 STRACHAN**

SUBS

- 11 COOK**
- 18 BROWN**
- 20 DUNCAN**
- 22 FRASER**
- 25 BROWN**
- 27 CULLEN**

SUBS

- 1 FLEMING**
- 6 MASSON**
- 8 WATSON**
- 9 CAMPBELL**
- 17 QUINN**
- 18 SIMPSON**
- 19 BELFORD**

STARTING XI

- 21 LENNOX**
- 2 BALLANTYNE**
- 4 ALLAN**
- 14 DILLON**
- 3 STEEVES**
- 22 CAMERON**
- 20 BALLANTYNE**
- 15 WHATLEY**
- 11 LYONS**
- 16 JOHNSTON**
- 12 GARDYNE**

REFEREE: Peter Stuart

CHILD PROTECTION AND WELLBEING POLICY

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

We recognise -

- the welfare of the child (up to the age of 18) is paramount.
- all children regardless of age disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity, have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse.
- working in partnership with children and their families is essential in promoting and embedding this policy

The purpose of the policy and related procedures is to:

- promote and prioritise the safety and wellbeing of children and vulnerable adults
- provide staff and volunteers with appropriate training to recognise, identify and respond to safeguarding concerns relating to children and vulnerable adults
- ensure appropriate action is taken in event of incidents of concerns and that support is provided to those who raise or disclose the concern and that is dealt with confidentially;
- prevent the employment or engagement 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



FORWARD THINKING

One of the most immediately evident changes in the opening weeks of Brian Rice's tenure as Alloa manager has been a switch of formation to deploy two strikers in games. Barry Ferguson's ill-fated spell with the Wasps was characterised by a staunch use of playing just a single front man, whoever the opponents were, which made the change to a front pairing in Rice's first game in charge versus Cove

Rangers even more noticeable. After the Airdrie defeat a fortnight ago the new manager specifically spoke about playing with a front pairing, explaining "The team is set up to get three points with two strikers every week. The game is about trying to score goals and my belief is that you have more chance of scoring with two strikers than one; that's how I set my teams up".

Such comments will have been well received by large swathes of the Wasps support, who in recent years have become accustomed to a modern phenomenon seen throughout the game to play only a single central striker. Whilst Alloa playing with a single out-and-out striker in the Championship was understandable to an extent, most supporters would likely favour seeing the Wasps more on the front foot

back in League One, and an integral part of such a strategy would be the use of two front men. Whilst not wishing to come across as a 'footballing dinosaur' of promoting teams to adopt a classic 4-4-2 formation with the ball launched to a target man to win flick ons to a nippy strike partner to run in behind to finish, I personally think there are lots of merits in playing two central strikers.

First, playing with a front pairing is widely considered a more attack-minded and positive formation than one that features only a single striker, as in the very simplest terms the ball is more likely to stay in the opponent's half if there are more players permanently positioned there to receive it! The main issue with a sole front man is that they often become isolated if midfield runners don't go beyond them, meaning possession is more likely to be lost as the lone front man is outnumbered. By having a strike pair it provides a better opportunity for interplay further up the pitch to occur. It's a more forward focused approach, taking the game to the opposition if there are two permanently stationed strikers; the old cliché is that scoring goals is the hardest task in football and, as Brian Rice pointed out, he believes a two-man strike force gives the Wasps a



better chance of winning games. It was notable that last weekend, whilst understandably switching to a single front man with the Wasps a goal up with fifteen minutes to play, as soon as Queen's Park equalised Steven Boyd moved forward to partner Ross MacIver for the final five minutes of the game. Such a switch underlined Rice's commitment to a front pairing being his default option, with the intention in time,

for whoever the front pairing is, to build a partnership to cause havoc in the final third.

Secondly, another cliché in the footballing lexicon is that 'defending starts from the forwards'. By playing two strikers it reduces the ability of the opposition playing out from the back, with the two/three central defenders less capable of beginning attacks if there are two strikers closing down the distribution channels.

For a lone front man it is a virtually impossible task to 'high press' multiple central defenders, giving the opposition an easy basis to build attacks from the back. With a pair of strikers it means the time central defenders have on the ball should be reduced, thereby negating the main way many attacks are now built in modern-day football. A pair of strikers can perform high pressing far more effectively than a single front man, which for some opposing teams will pressurise them away from their usual and preferred style of play, which can only bode well for the team with two strikers.

To expand on this a bit further, in recent years I've begun to feel real sympathy for anybody playing as a lone front man. The sheer amount of work they need to



carry out means it often becomes a thankless and undervalued role in the team. Not only are they expected to deliver goals for the team, but this primary role has all too often been clouded by a need to:

a) hold the ball up at every opportunity and await support from the midfielders (if there is any!)

b) run the channels when balls are played over the top to 'occupy' defenders, although sometimes this simply becomes a case of chasing lost causes – the amount of 'off the ball' work a lone striker undertakes is only increasing!

c) be the first line of defence in closing down at least two central defenders and preventing them from running out from defence to create

overloads elsewhere on the pitch for the opposition

As such, it is no surprise that central strikers don't tend to be the top goalscorers in teams any-more, with them instead often being the provider for the wide attackers to finish moves and score the goals! My general feeling is that when the lone front man does get a rare sight of goal they are often exhausted from getting into that position that they often don't show the composure required to perform surely their primary role of scoring goals!

In recent years Alloa have tried all different types of striker in the lone front man role, ranging from wily experienced front men such as Andy Kirk, Liam Buchanan and



Conor Sammon, to energetic youngsters like Kevin O'Hara and Dario Zanatta and everything in-between from the deceptively skilful Robert Thomson to the diminutive Jack Aitchison. Arguably the most successful are those that have a good all-round game, mixing physicality with pace... the two players who spring immediately into my mind at that juncture would be Ross Stewart and Innes Cameron, with both being somewhat raw but hugely promising during their respective loan spells at the Recs.

Last year I sought the Through the Turnstiles podcast, when they interviewed Greig Spence, to ask whether the trend to play only a single striker had hindered Greig's career. Spenny, as honest as ever,

agreed that it probably had, as he's a typical penalty box striker who you think works better in a front pairing, with his partner doing the brunt of the physical work outside the area and leaving deadly finishers like Greig to do his best work inside the box. Although I haven't seen too much analysis or commentary on this particular subject, I'm sure if you asked 9 out of 10 strikers, they'd prefer to play as part of a front pairing rather than the lone striker. Take Alloa this season as an example. On the two occasions Barry Ferguson's Alloa side did start with a forward pairing, I thought things looked a whole lot more promising. Away at Clyde at the end of January Alloa had thirteen goal attempts, more than any game





in only playing a single striker! Although I'll leave the real analysis of Ferguson's tenure to my fellow Wasp contributor Brian Roach in his end-of-season review, my view is that one of Ferguson's downfalls was his consistent formal changes during matches and from match to match. On some occasions there were games when three different formations were played during a single game; admittedly most of those occasions were when the Wasps were reduced to ten men. But there were times when the Wasps retained 11 men on the pitch and continually tinkered the formation, such as the away defeat to Airdrie in September, which saw 4-2-3-1, 4-4-2 and 3-4-3 all deployed during the course of the 90 minutes. Although 4-2-3-1 became Ferguson's preferred starting formation, I counted nine different starting formations during his 33 game tenure, with all but two of them involving a single central striker.

In truth Ferguson never got his preferred system of play to be effective for the Wasps. The first half of Brian Rice's maiden game in charge versus Cove was so refreshing in its free-flowing nature; had Ferguson been watching he would no doubt have had a wry smile to himself that it was implemented with one of the few formations he never tried – a 3-4-1-2 line-up! Unfortunately that same formation didn't have the same surprise factor against Airdrie the following week, with the Diamonds play resulting in an early shift to 4-3-1-2. Last weekend at Firhill the back 3 returned, but with a shift in the midfield to combat both Queen's and the pitch, seeing 3-1-4-2 as the primary formation. All in all it has been a season of changing formations for the Wasps and I for one very much hope that in the coming weeks Brian Rice can get the team to gel, with ideally the welcome move of playing two central strikers proving fruitful.

for over two months, and I attributed that to the Sammon and Boyd strike-pairing that afternoon. The following week at Peterhead Euan Henderson's return saw him paired with Sammon, with both players looking far more comfortable playing as a pair together, rather than "feeding off scraps" as they'd both endured for much of the campaign when deployed as the single striker.

of games, or on other occasions the pair run into each other's paths if they are not on the same wavelength. For example, I've noticed that both Henderson and Sammon naturally like to drift out to the left channel, which in one respect increases the possibilities of overloads, but on the other hand at times means they appear to be in each other's way!

That's not to say that a two-man strike-force is a guaranteed success, with it having its limitations. There's a reason it's not as popular as it used to be, chiefly as patterns of play are increasingly created by movement into spaces between the lines of the opposing team. A particular front pairing downfall is that sometimes one of both strikers appear too static, susceptible to being marked out

As such, if the Wasps are going to play with a front pairing it is essential that there is some flexibility and freedom given to both players to rotate their roles and the spaces they run into, to create a chaos factor which defences at cinch League One level are seldom going to cope with.

Flexibility of the Wasps overall formation is certainly something Barry Ferguson used, despite his inflexibility





DONALD POLLOCK

SCOTTISH LEAGUE—Second Division.

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Goals.		Pts.
					F.	A.	
Alloa Athletic,	32	22	3	7	70	27	51
Cowdenbeath,	30	18	6	6	52	21	42
Armadale,	32	16	11	5	46	39	37
Vale of Leven,	32	13	9	10	44	37	36
St Bernards,	32	13	12	7	40	36	33
Broxburn United,	29	13	10	6	36	32	32
East Fife,	30	14	12	4	48	44	32
Bathgate,	30	12	10	8	45	37	32
Arbroath,	30	10	11	9	33	30	29
Dunfermline,	30	11	12	7	44	34	29
Johnstone,	31	10	12	9	39	53	29
Bo'ness,	31	12	14	5	46	45	29

GRINDING OUT RESULTS

"Are Alloa going stale?" That was the question posed by the papers in March 1922 as the football season began to build towards a climax. The Wasps had taken the Scottish League by storm on their debut season, rising to the top of the Second Division while advancing to the last 16 of the Scottish Cup, where they had been squeezed out 1-0 by top flight Motherwell. Alloa were now within touching distance of clinching the championship and claiming their own place

in the First Division. A bit like Terry Christie's Alloa team of several decades later, the Wasps faced a fixture backlog and the real danger of cup success sabotaging their prospects of league glory. The Dundee Courier opined that tiredness had crept into Alloa's play "due doubtless to their having played so many mid-week matches recently". There was another on March 7th 1922 with a re-scheduled encounter against Vale of Leven, who had switched the match from their own ground

in Alexandria to Celtic Park. Not only were the Wasps suffering from heavy legs, they were surely also sick and tired of the sight of the Vale for this was the fourth meeting between the sides in the previous six weeks. A hard fought first-half ended goalless before Jackson put the Vale ahead early in the second period. Just as it seemed that Alloa might suffer a damaging defeat, up popped Quinn to level and save a point for the Wasps. It was enough to send Alloa eight points clear

of Cowdenbeath, albeit the Fifers now had two games in hand.

Next up was a trip to West Lothian and a match which the local press had billed as "a day of days in the annals of football in Broxburn". It was noted that Broxburn had been unlucky to lose at the Recs earlier in the campaign and that they would surely "stretch" an Alloa team "who cannot afford to drop points now". A bumper home support would be boosted by a special train from Alloa and a

large neutral contingent keen to catch a glimpse of Willie Crilley: "the little hero who has brought deserved renown to his club". The wee man hadn't quite managed to find a place in the Scotland team for the recent match against Ireland but he had been close enough to earn the title of "Scotland's reserve centre-forward", and he quickly showed the fans at Broxburn exactly why he was so highly rated. With just seconds on the clock Crilley robbed Broxburn of possession and released Stirling into space. The veteran combined with Dunn to set up Quinn whose powerful effort was parried back into the path of the onrushing Dunn. 1-0 Alloa within 30 seconds. It was "a sensational start" enthused the Linlithgowshire Gazette and it seemed to revitalize those tired Alloa legs, the Wasps turning on the style and creating several chances before the break. The crucial second goal didn't come though, and roared on by the home crowd, Broxburn fought back. It was reported that Caldwell in the Alloa goal "had a warm time", and there was controversy when a Broxburn effort was said to be "stopped by an Alloa defender

with both hands". No penalty ruled the ref. There was another lucky escape as a drive from Hendry crashed off the crossbar with Caldwell beaten. "Again and again they bore down on Alloa, and only a capital defence saved the Wasps from defeat". There was still time for one more scare, Broxburn calling for another penalty as McGregor cleared in the dying seconds, but the ref once more ignored the claims and Alloa held on for a huge victory. Stale or not, these boys could grind out a victory when they needed to; Terry Christie would have been proud of them.

There was good news from Alexandria too where Cowdenbeath had been held by the Vale. Alloa

were now nine points clear with the title and promotion within touching distance. The Wasps were again showing their worth on the park but there were still those who questioned whether or not the club had the infrastructure to sustain top flight football. The Sunday Post took those doubts to the club – and they found Alloa chairman Mr A.L. Roxburgh in bullish mood:

"Could Alloa carry on in the First Division? Certainly! With a naturally exclusive district between the Ochils and the Forth, containing a population of 40,000, and the prospect of appealing to a much wider area from Kinross to Stirling and Dunfermline to Dunblane, there is no doubt of sufficient

support being forthcoming for a first-class team.

"Besides, Alloa is admirably placed within easy reach of all the populous football centres, and excellently served on both the Caledonian and North British railway systems by fast trains for the convenience of travelling club supporters. Our team? Well we are not bad hands at talent-spotting or team-building, are we?"

This was a small club with big ambitions. The finishing line was now in sight with Dundee Hibs set to visit Alloa. More in the next edition of The Wasp.



APPEARANCES

	POS	LEAGUE		CUP		TOTAL		ALLOA CAREER LGE	
		APP	GOAL	APP	GOAL	APP	GOAL	APP	GOAL
MORRISON*	GOAL	2 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	2 (0)	0	2 (0)	0
HUTTON	GOAL	26 (0)	0	5 (0)	0	31 (0)	0	26 (0)	0
ARMSTRONG	DEF	1 (0)	0	2 (2)	0	3 (2)	0	1 (0)	0
MENDY***	DEF	17 (2)	0	2 (0)	0	19 (2)	0	17 (2)	0
DURNAN	DEF	26 (0)	4	2 (0)	0	28 (0)	4	26 (0)	4
TAGGART	DEF	27 (0)	0	7 (1)	1	34 (1)	1	191 (0)	6
CHURCH	DEF	16 (3)	0	6 (0)	0	22 (3)	0	16 (3)	0
HOWIE	DEF	10 (3)	1	5 (2)	0	15 (5)	1	10 (3)	1
GRAHAM	DEF	16 (1)	1	7 (0)	0	23 (1)	1	169 (1)	13
WILLIAMSON**	DEF	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0
SCOUGALL	MID	19 (5)	2	6 (2)	1	25 (7)	3	27 (13)	3
ROBERTSON	MID	16 (5)	0	6 (1)	0	22 (6)	0	141 (28)	2
KING	MID	17 (4)	2	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0
O'DONNELL	MID	2 (12)	0	4 (0)	0	6 (12)	0	7 (16)	0
NIANG*	MID	25 (0)	1	4 (0)	3	29 (0)	4	25 (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	5 (1)	0	0 (0)	0	5 (1)	0	5 (1)	0
CAWLEY	FWD	20 (6)	3	4 (0)	0	24 (6)	3	293 (43)	59
ARMOUR	FWD	0 (3)	0	1 (4)	0	1 (7)	0	0 (3)	0
TROUTEN	FWD	2 (3)	0	2 (2)	2	4 (5)	2	71 (9)	24
BOYD	FWD	24 (5)	7	7 (0)	1	31 (5)	8	24 (5)	7
SAMMON	FWD	15 (12)	4	5 (2)	1	20 (14)	5	15 (12)	4
HENDERSON*	FWD	20 (1)	9	1 (0)	3	21 (1)	12	20 (1)	9
WEBSTER	FWD	0 (1)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (1)	0	0 (1)	0
MACIVER*	FWD	0 (2)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (2)	0	0 (2)	0



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ALLOA CAREER CUP		ALLOA TOTAL	
APP	GOAL	APP	GOAL

SPONSORS

0 (0)	0	2 (0)	0
5 (0)	0	31 (0)	0
2 (2)	0	3 (2)	0
2 (0)	0	19 (2)	0
2 (0)	0	28 (0)	4
48 (1)	2	239 (1)	8
6 (0)	0	22 (3)	0
5 (2)	0	15 (5)	1
46 (1)	1	215 (2)	14
0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0
9 (5)	2	36 (18)	5
43 (4)	2	184 (32)	4
0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0
6 (4)	1	13 (20)	1
4 (0)	3	29 (0)	4
0 (0)	0	12 (0)	1
0 (1)	0	0 (1)	0
0 (0)	0	5 (1)	0
62 (7)	10	355 (50)	69
1 (4)	0	1 (7)	0
22 (5)	18	93 (14)	42
7 (0)	1	31 (5)	8
5 (2)	1	20 (14)	5
1 (0)	3	21 (1)	12
0 (0)	0	0 (1)	0
0 (0)	0	0 (2)	0

THE CAIRN, ALVA	
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STUART LATHAM	KURAGE-TEI, JAPAN
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BRIAN ROACH



A FAN'S VIEW

The trip to Queens Park last weekend produced encouraging signs as Alloa recovered well from that previous home defeat at the hands of Airdrie. Whilst the conditions ensured it wasn't a vintage performance, it was a game that for a long spell Alloa looked likely to pick up the 3 points. The manager also got the opportunity to look at other players in the squad as he reshuffled the pack for the game. The managers team selection was a starting eleven I'm sure no supporter could have predicted beforehand, and was surely implemented with the surface in mind. Firhill right now is one of the

worst pitches I've seen in many years, which is pretty impressive given the experience at Dumbarton as recently as last month. Even the flanks were really badly cut up, so it made sense to set up the team with more of a battle in the trenches anticipated. Riley-Snow was recalled into centre midfield alongside Sena and King. Scott Taggart was reverted to his natural right side in wing back position, with Craig Howie shoehorned into the back 3 alongside Graham and Durnan.

Of course our last trip to Firhill back in October produced that incredible game with Alloa winning 4-3 after notch-

ing 2 goals in stoppage time. It was a game that had everything, and it was always going to be an uphill struggle for both sets of players to replicate that spectacle. The surface made it nigh on impossible. And as expected, the second journey of the season to the west end of Glasgow produced a far tougher watch for both sets of fans. Queens Park, buoyed by a couple of recent wins going into this game, started the brighter of the two. Bob McHugh struck the woodwork early on as they pressed and probed, testing the Alloa defence. It took Alloa a good half hour to make a telling contribution to the game.

One of the best chances of the half fell to Alloa's Sena who was unable to steer home from close range. The hosts had a small flurry before the break, with McHugh ending the half the way he started- striking the crossbar this time. At half time Alloa would have been fairly relieved to go in level, but in truth both teams had struggled to gain any real fluidity in a bit of a non-event- which given the conditions was understandable.

The game clearly needed a goal, and it duly arrived just four minutes after the break. Thankfully it came from the visitors. Queens Park goalkeeper Ferrie

rushed out to claim an Alloa corner and completely misjudged, with Mark Durnan on hand to stab home. In the past few weeks that's both Andy Graham and now Durnan who have both notched goals of the poaching variety, that any striker would have been proud of. The rest of the match was fairly end to end- Queens Park as expected searched for an equaliser but they didn't really make much headway in terms of cutting Alloa open. Howie, Durnan and Graham looked a solid back 3 and as the game wore on it looked more and more likely that Alloa would leave with the victory. A few fans in the stand were providing updates on scores elsewhere, and I remember saying none really mattered if we won here. It was going to take something really special to break the resolute Alloa backline and unfortunately with 5 minutes to go it happened. Queens substitute Ronan Darcy equalised with an admittedly terrific long range effort and Alloa were left with a share of the spoils.

The managers progress to date has largely been positive, as he continues to stamp his influence on the team and set the foundations to progress and pick up results. The system he's utilising is flexible and appears effective,

with the players taking to it in a fairly smooth transition. I felt the inclusion of Howie into that back 3 against Queens Park gave us a really resolute backline- I'd like to see us continue with this combination. Howie of course blotted his copybook a bit through the season with a couple of avoidable red cards- and this seemed to put him out of favour with the previous regime. However, I think Howie is a good player who has always showed up pretty well and certainly has something to offer. Putting him in beside the experienced Graham and Durnan looks a no brainer. More recently Jon Robertson experienced the worst possible start under the new manager by picking up a red card during his first game in charge- moments after being introduced against Cove Rangers as substitute. I think Robbo can count himself harshly dealt with there, and I see him having a big part to play- I think he fits best that central midfield berth in

the managers' system. I also noted an interesting point made online (from the clubs media man Lewis no less) that last week's game was the second successive weekend without picking up a single yellow card - perhaps a by-product of better organisation, less last ditch tackles etc.

I do think there's still a few tweaks required which will be giving the manager food for thought. I'm not sure we have seen the best of Euan Henderson in the last 2 games- he hasn't posed as much of a threat. A well organised Airdrie team and a plough field may well have been the cause of this, but we need to ensure he has the best opportunity to produce what he's done all season in the remaining games. Overall the outlook appears to be encouraging, but obviously at the business end of the season its points on the board that matter. I can't help but think that we could have picked up more

points in these 3 games, particularly against Cove and Queens Park- matches we should have won. But we look a stronger, better unit recently and I'm confident a more reflective points return will arrive in the coming weeks. The phrase "7 cup finals" is a cliché that appears to be even more overused than ever before this season, but there's little doubt today's game is massive for both teams. A win for Alloa would put them in a strong position, allowing some breathing space away from 9th place. Peter-head were showing a bit of form, but that's tailed off slightly in the last few games, with the narrow defeat at home to Montrose last week possibly a costly one. After a difficult run of initial fixtures for Brian Rice, the next burst of matches- today then East Fife and Clyde to follow- feature games we can win. The last few weeks have certainly shown the team are capable of doing so. Enjoy today's game.





ANDREW COCKBURN



LOOKING BACK 16TH MARCH 1985

Premier Division leaders Aberdeen reinforced their title bid with an emphatic 4-0 win at Dundee, and thus moved eight points ahead of second-placed Celtic, whose own title ambitions were checked after a rather surprise 0-1 home reverse v relegation-haunted Hibs, though The Celts did have two games in hand over Aberdeen. Third-placed Dundee United enjoyed a 1-0 victory at Hearts, while fourth-placed Rangers were beaten 1-2 at St. Mirren, who were now

fifth. In the "basement battle" at Cappielow, hapless bottom club Morton now appeared all but doomed following a 0-1 defeat v companions-in-distress Dumbarton, and while The Sons remained in second-bottom position, they now trailed third-bottom Hibs purely on goal difference.

The First Division's top game was undoubtedly at Fir Park, where third-placed Motherwell hosted table-topping Clydebank, The Well running out winners by 1-0. So while Clydebank

retained leadership, their advantage was now down to one point over second-placed Airdrie, who were held 1-1 at lowly Partick, Rodger The Diamond's marksman. Motherwell remained third, while Falkirk stayed fourth after a 1-0 home success v Clyde. There was no positional change in the relegation zone, where Meadowbank still propped up the table, despite a 2-1 home win v fellow strugglers Kilmarnock, who thus remained third from bottom, while St.

Johnstone, in spite of a 1-0 success at Forfar, still found themselves sandwiched in between Thistle and Killie in second-bottom spot.

Down in the Second, leaders Alloa hosted fellow promotion hopefuls Cowdenbeath in an important clash, The Wasps line-up showing one or two changes to that which beat Queen's Park the previous week: Lowrie, Thompson, Haggart, Thomson, Dall, Harris, Paterson (Cole), Kelly, Sorbie, Mackie, Lloyd (Shearer). But despite

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having led through a first-half goal from Stuart Sorbie, Alloa eventually had to settle for a point when Davie Wilcox, who was later to join "The Wasps" netted a second-half equalizer for the visitors, though in spite of the dropped point The Wasps remained two points clear of second-placed Montrose, who were held 0-0 at lowly East Stirling. Third-placed Dunfermline also drew 1-1, at mid-table Queen's Park, fourth-placed Stenhousemuir were 2-1 home winners v Stranraer, Cowdenbeath retained fifth spot, while Stirling Albion remained sixth thanks to a 1-0 win at bottom club Arbroath.

South of the border, matters at the top of the First Division were still tight, and Everton retained leadership following a 1-1 draw

at mid-table Aston Villa, though The Toffees advantage was purely on goal difference over second-placed Spurs, who were 1-0 winners at Liverpool. Third-placed Manchester United had drawn 2-2 at West Ham the previous evening, fourth-placed Southampton were rather surprisingly held 0-0 at home by rock-bottom Stoke, while Liverpool remained fifth. Second Division leaders Manchester City's emphatic 4-0 home win v Shrewsbury moved them six points ahead of second-placed Oxford, who were held 0-0 at Brighton, while third-placed Blackburn won their important home clash v another of the challengers, Birmingham, by 2-0. City thus dropped to fifth and were replaced in fourth spot by Portsmouth, 3-2 winners at Grimsby.

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The Blue Toon

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Scottish League Two
Winners: 2013-14,
2018-19

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Cup Runners Up:
2015-16

Highland League
Winners (5)

Aberdeenshire Cup
Winners (20)

This afternoon we welcome Peterhead to the Indodrill stadium for a real six-pointer at the bottom end of the table. Alloa currently sit in seventh position on thirty points, the visitors are hot on the heels of Alloa though in eighth and just two points behind. A win today for either side would go a long way in securing League One status for next season. The Blue Toon will be looking to change their fortunes with their last three games ending in defeat. Their last victory towards the end of February came in sensational fashion with a Grant Savoury late strike giving Peter-

head a 4-3 win against fellow relegation rival, Dumbarton. Despite being on the wrong end of results in recent weeks, performances have been positive. This was the case as the side crashed out the Scottish Cup to Dundee, however, gained the plaudits for their attractive style of play and could have had a penalty kick with the scoreline still tight. There are seven games left of the season, so it is all to play for in the race for survival.

THE BOSS - JIM MCINALLY

It is the familiar face of Jim McNally who will take charge of the Blue

Toon this afternoon. With over ten years in the post, McNally is the longest serving manager in Scottish football by a significant margin, and has enjoyed a fair amount of success at Balmoor. The former Dundee United midfielder gained ten caps for Scotland and was part of an United side that reached the UEFA Cup in 1987 and won the Scottish Cup in 1994. McNally also enjoyed time down South with notable performances with Nottingham Forrest, playing in the same Forrest side as Alloa manager, Brian Rice, in the mid-eighties. Managerial spells at Sligo Rovers, Greenock





NEW BOY – RICO QUITONGO

Peterhead made the move to bolster their defensive options in January with the signing of Airdrie defender Rico Quitongo. The left back was released by the Diamonds in the middle of January and that opened the door for a move up North in the search for first team football. At just 22-years old, Quitongo has ample experience of this league with Airdrie and Dumbarton. It has been a challenging few months for Quitongo in the midst of a racism investigation at the end of his time at Airdrie, however, he has shown great resilience to get back doing what he loves and playing football. He comes from a footballing family, with his brother Jai with promotion hopefuls,

Queen's Park. Also, his father, Jose, who will be remembered fondly by Alloa fans for his time at the club.

ONE TO WATCH – RUSSELL MCLEAN

Today's man that Alloa will have to be wary of is Russell McLean. The striker began his career in the youth ranks of Alloa, alongside Wasp favourite at the time, Scott Hynd. His impressive performances saw him earn a move to Hearts and since then he has found his feet in the lower leagues with East Kilbride, Montrose, and this season, Peterhead. McLean is currently the top scorer in the Blue Toon ranks with fourteen goals to his name, two of those coming in victories over the Wasps. Tipped to a play at a higher level,

CONTINUED ON P32

Morton and East Stirling preceded his appointment at Peterhead in 2011. Since moving up North, he has won the Scottish League Two title two times, in 2014 and 2019, and has established the club in League One since his arrival.

THE CAPTAIN – SCOTT BROWN

The visitors will be led out by skipper, Scott Brown, this afternoon. The combative midfielder began his career at Bradford before returning to Scotland with St Johnstone after just a few senior appearances. After a loan spell at Dumbarton, Brown made the move to Balmoor in 2016 and has made himself a mainstay and fan favourite amongst the supporters. With over one-hundred and

fifty appearances in his name, Brown has been in great form this season notching five goals, one in which came in Peterhead's last game. At only 26-years old, Brown has always been linked with big moves back to full-time football after countless impressive performances for McInally's men.



BY KIEREN MOONEY

McLean sits fifth top scorer in the division. The six foot four striker will offer Andy Graham and co. plenty of problems this afternoon.

THE CONNECTION

There are a few more connections on top of today's one to watch in Russell McLean. The other returning face is Alan Cook who spent a year at Alloa in 2017. However, his season has been hampered with injuries. Alloa have a few familiar faces also with Barry Ferguson raiding Balmoor for two players last summer. Steven Boyd, spent a year up North before making the switch over to the Indodrill. Ben Armour also made

that move this summer following two years with Peterhead. Similar to Cook though, his season has been stop-start due to injuries.

PREVIOUS MEETINGS

This will be the fourth and final time the sides will meet this season with the Blue Toon enjoying most of the success so far. The two teams met at Balmoor in the first game of the season as Peterhead strolled to a 2-0 victory without much say from Alloa. Goals from Russell McLean and Niah Payne were enough to see off the Wasps at the end of July 2021. The return fixture was a six goal thriller between the

teams, however, a red card from David Hutton meant that it was always going to be a tough task. Goals from Steven Boyd and Charlie Gilmour had Alloa 2-1 up, Niah Payne on the scoresheet again for the visitors. The Hutton red card and converted penalty from Scott Brown just before half-time meant the sides went in level on

goals, but not on players. Second half strikes from Russell McLean and Josh Mulligan were enough to secure the three points with a 4-2 victory. It would prove to be third time lucky for Alloa as a goal on Euan Henderson's return to the club gave Barry Ferguson his last victory for Alloa last month.



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Jason BROWN

07/07/1996



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Lenny WILSON

29/12/1996



David WILSON

18/03/2000



Jordan BROWN

28/11/1992



Rico QUITONGO

15/04/1999



Owen CAIRNS

08/11/1993



Shaun WANT

09/02/1997



Flynn DUFFY

13/08/2003



MANAGER

JIM MCINALLY



MIDFIELDERS

Ryan CONROY
28/04/1987




3

Simon FERRY
11/01/1988




6

Hamish RITCHIE
07/05/1997




7

Scott BROWN
25/11/1994




8

Alan COOK
25/04/1992




11

Andy MCCARTHY
20/10/1998




12

Ryan DUNCAN
18/01/2004




20

Gary FRASER
02/07/1994




22

Jack BROWN
27/07/2001




25

FORWARDS

Russell MCLEAN
16/06/1998






9

Niah PAYNE
25/11/1998




14

Grant SAVOURY
07/07/2000

21

Derek LYLE
13/02/1981




99



HT QUIZ

1. NAME THE 2 SCOTTISH CLUBS JIM MCINALLY HAS MANAGED OTHER THAN PETERHEAD

2. WHICH CLUBS CURRENTLY SIT SECOND IN THE TABLE IN THE FOLLOWING LEAGUES- ENGLISH PREMIERSHIP, BUNDESLIGA, SERIE A

3. NAME THE 6 PLAYERS WHO HAVE SCORED MORE GOALS IN LEAGUE ONE THIS SEASON THAN ALLOA STRIKER EUAN HENDERSON

4. NAME THE ONLY 3 MANAGERS TO HAVE WON THE EUROPEAN CUP/CHAMPIONS LEAGUE ON THREE OCCASIONS

ANSWERS PAGE 37

MIDFIELDERS										
CAWLEY	ROBERTSON	TROUTEN	SCOUGALL	LAMONT	GILMOUR	KING	NIANG	O'DONNELL	MCCOLL	RILEY-SNOW
7	8	10	12	14	15	16	19	20	22	28
							*			+
74	90		90			90				
	90	28	90			62		70		
	90		90			29		84	6	
	90		90					56		
		45	90	9		90		45		
			90			90				
	25		90			66	90	21		
45	90		90			45	90	27		
90	90	90	90	2		90	90			
90	90	32	90				90	58		
55	90		70			90	55			
7	90					90	90	1		
10	90		80			90	90	79		
34	23		90			90	67	1		
37	18		90			90	90			
90	90	19	71			90				
		79	30	60		90	60	90		
90		15	90			90	90			
27	90		63			90	90			
90	90		90			90	90			
90	90	38	52			90	69			
90	90		90			90	2	90		
90	90	89				90	90	90		
90	90	90	90			90	90			
72	90		61			90	18	90		
90	64					90	26	90	45	
90						90	90			
90						90	69	4		
77	45	13	13			77	90			
64	11		79					26		90
80			80			10	90			90
9			30			60	90	14		76
90	45		45			84	61	29		45
72	90		18			90	90	5		
90	4		64			90	90			26
90			64			90	90	45		
15			7			83	90	62		62

FORWARDS					
ARMOUR	BOYD	MACIVER	SAMMON	HENDERSON	WEBSTER
9	11	15	18	22	25
16	90		90		
20	90		70		
53	90		37		
34	90		90		
	90		90		45
	90		90		
24	69		90		
	90		27		
	90				
90			50	89	
90			35	90	
90				83	
	80		10	29	
	90		56		
	90		19	71	
	90		71	19	
45	90		45		
75		30	90		
90		1	90		
80		2	88		
90		21	75		
	90	5	85		
	1	3	87		
	78		12	90	
	90		29	90	
			45	90	
	90		86	90	
	84		6	90	
	90		90		
	90		90		
	1		87		
6	45		50		
	90		90		
12	90		78		
	45	26	45	90	
	28	7	83	75	



QUIZ ANSWERS

- MORTON AND EAST STIRLINGSHIRE
- LIVERPOOL, BORUSSIA DORTMUND, NAPOLI
- RORY MCALLISTER, MITCH MEGGINSON (COVE RANGERS), RUSSELL MCLEAN (PETERHEAD), GRAHAM WEBSTER (MONTROSE), CALLUM GALLAGHER (AIRDRIE), DAVID GOODWILLIE (CLYDE)
- BOB PAISLEY, CARLO ANCELOTTI, ZINEDINE ZIDANE





ALLOA ATHLETIC



PETERHEAD

#	POS				
	1	PJ MORRISON			
	21	KEIR BURT			
	31	DAVID HUTTON			
	2	SCOTT TAGGART			
	3	DANIEL CHURCH			
	4	CRAIG HOWIE			
	5	ANDY GRAHAM			
	6	MARK DURMAN			
	7	KEVIN CAWLEY			
	8	JON ROBERTSON			
	9	BEN ARMOUR			
	10	ALAN TROUTEN			
	11	STEVEN BOYD			
	12	STEFAN SCOUGALL			
	15	ROSS MACIVER			
	16	ADAM KING			
	17	JORDAN ARMSTRONG			
	18	CONOR SAMMON			
	19	MOHAMMED NIANG			
	20	CAMERON O'DONNELL			
	22	EUAN HENDERSON			
	28	BLAISE RILEY-SNOW			
	36	DEVAN MCCOLL			
		MANAGER BRIAN RICE			

#	POS				
	1	BRETT LONG			
	3	RYAN CONROY			
	4	ANDY MCDONALD			
	5	JASON BROWN			
	6	SIMON FERRY			
	7	HAMISH RITCHIE			
	8	SCOTT BROWN			
	9	RUSSELL MCLEAN			
	11	ALAN COOK			
	12	ANDY MCCARTHY			
	14	NAIAH PAYNE			
	15	DANNY STRACHAN			
	17	DAVID WILSON			
	18	JORDON BROWN			
	19	JADEL MUSHANU			
	20	RYAN DUNCAN			
	21	GRANT SAVOURY			
	22	GARY FRASER			
	23	RICO QUITONGO			
	24	OWEN CAIRNS			
	25	JACK BROWN			
	26	SHAUN WANT			
	27	CONNOR CULLEN			
	32	FLYNN DUFFY			
	99	DEREK LYLE			
		MANAGER JIM MCINALLY			

REFEREE: Steven Reid

ASST: Steven McKay & Brian Christie

ALLOA'S NEXT FIVE

09.04.22, HOME, 15:00

	ALLOA ATHLETIC		CLYDE
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26.03.22, AWAY, 15:00

	EAST FIFE		ALLOA ATHLETIC
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16.04.22, AWAY, 15:00

	COVER RANGERS		ALLOA ATHLETIC
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02.04.22, HOME, 15:00

	ALLOA ATHLETIC		DUMBARTON
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23.04.22, AWAY, 15:00

	FALKIRK		ALLOA ATHLETIC
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