

# THE WASP



**QUEEN OF THE SOUTH**  
**12<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2022**



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# ALLOA ATHLETIC FOOTBALL CLUB



#### SCOTTISH CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS

1921/22

#### RUNNERS UP

1938/39

#### SCOTTISH LEAGUE 1 RUNNERS UP

1976/77 1981/82

1984/85 1988/89 1999/00

2001/02 2009/10 2012/13

2016/17

#### SCOTTISH LEAGUE 2 WINNERS

1997/1998 2011/2012

#### CHALLENGE CUP WINNERS

1999/2000

#### RUNNERS-UP

2001/02 2014/15

#### STIRLINGSHIRE CUP WINNERS

1904/5 1907/8 1908/9

1912/13 1920/21 1924/25

1933/34 1946/47 1955/56

1957/58 1959/60 1965/66

1981/82 1996/97

#### MOST CAPPED PLAYER

Jock Hepburn, 1 Cap  
(Scotland v Wales 1891)

\*includes equivalent competitions

#### Club Information

##### Address:

Indodrill Stadium,  
Clackmannan Road,  
Alloa, FK10 1RY  
**Telephone:** 01259722695  
**Fax:** 01259210886  
**Email:** fcadmin@alloathletic.co.uk  
**Web:** alloathletic.co.uk

#### Club Officials

##### Honorary Directors

Pat Lawlor  
Ewen Cameron  
Directors  
Mike Mulraney (Chairman)  
Martin Ross (Vice Chairman)  
Steven Lynch  
Dr Robert McElroy  
Andrew Allan

##### Secretary

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)  
Kenny Brannigan (Assistant)  
Stuart Phin (Sports Therapist)  
Andrew Deeley (Club Doctor)  
Derek Nicholson (Head of Youth)  
Robert Glen (Goalkeeping Coach)  
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

Geoff Kay

#### Programme Editor

John Glencross  
Mobile: 07877530314  
Email: jgxaltoaafc@aol.com

#### Programme Contributors

J. Markwell, A. Cockburn,  
B. Roach, K. Mooney, D. Pollock

#### Club Photographer

David Glencross

#### A AFC Supporters Club

Brian Roach - 07775764831

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	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
 <b>DUNFERMLINE</b>	14	9	4	1	20	7	13	31
 <b>FC EDINBURGH</b>	14	8	1	5	25	19	6	25
 <b>FALKIRK</b>	14	7	3	4	25	16	9	24
 <b>MONTROSE</b>	14	7	3	4	22	14	8	24
 <b>ALLOA ATHLETIC</b>	14	7	2	5	25	20	5	23
 <b>AIRDRIEONIANS</b>	14	6	3	5	26	21	5	21
 <b>QUEEN OF THE SOUTH</b>	14	5	4	5	23	21	2	19
 <b>KELTY HEARTS</b>	14	5	2	7	13	21	-8	17
 <b>CLYDE</b>	14	2	1	11	16	30	-14	7
 <b>PETERHEAD</b>	14	1	3	10	9	35	-26	6

## WEEKEND'S FIXTURES

### LEAGUE 1

 <b>ALLOA ATHLETIC</b>	 <b>QUEEN OF THE SOUTH</b>
 <b>AIRDRIEONIANS</b>	 <b>PETERHEAD</b>
 <b>DUNFERMLINE</b>	 <b>CLYDE</b>
 <b>FALKIRK</b>	 <b>FC EDINBURGH</b>
 <b>KELTY HEARTS</b>	 <b>MONTROSE</b>

### PREMIER LEAGUE

 <b>ST MIRREN</b>	 <b>RANGERS</b>
 <b>CELTIC</b>	 <b>ROSS COUNTY</b>
 <b>HEART OF MIDLOTHIAN</b>	 <b>LIVINGSTON</b>
 <b>KILMARNOCK</b>	 <b>HIBERNIAN</b>
 <b>ST JOHNSTONE</b>	 <b>MOTHERWELL</b>
 <b>ABERDEEN</b>	 <b>DUNDEE UNITED</b>

### CHAMPIONSHIP

 <b>HAMILTON ACCIES</b>	 <b>AYR UNITED</b>
 <b>ARBROATH</b>	 <b>COVE RANGERS</b>
 <b>DUNDEE</b>	 <b>RAITH ROVERS</b>
 <b>GREENOCK MORTON</b>	 <b>PARTICK THISTLE</b>
 <b>QUEEN'S PARK</b>	 <b>INVERNESS CT</b>

### LEAGUE 2

 <b>EAST FIFE</b>	 <b>ALBION ROVERS</b>
 <b>ELGIN CITY</b>	 <b>DUMBARTON</b>
 <b>FORFAR ATHLETIC</b>	 <b>BONNYRIGG ROSE</b>
 <b>STIRLING ALBION</b>	 <b>ANNAN ATHLETIC</b>
 <b>STRANRAER</b>	 <b>STENHOUSEMUIR</b>

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every success for the coming season!**



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**GOALKEEPERS**

**William  
MUIR**

16/03/1993

183 CM 75 KG



**1**



**DEFENDERS**

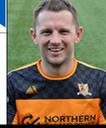
**Scott  
TAGGART**

27/12/1991

183 CM 75 KG



**2**



**Daniel  
CHURCH**

21/07/2000

183 CM 79 KG



**3**



**Craig  
HOWIE**

02/07/1996

CM KG



**4**



**Keir  
BURT**

09/09/2004

175 CM 69 KG



**21**



**Andy  
GRAHAM**

22/09/1983

188 CM 85 KG



**5**



**Mark  
DURNAN**

28/11/1992

188 CM 89 KG



**6**



**George  
STANGER**

15/08/2000

190 CM 88 KG



**14**



**Jay  
HOGARTH**

18/07/2003

185 CM 82 KG



**31**



**Paul  
MCLAREN**

01/04/2004

185 CM 76 KG



**22**



**David  
DEVINE**

20/06/2001

CM KG



**23**



**MANAGER**

**BRIAN RICE**



**MIDFIELDERS**

**Kevin  
CAWLEY**

17/03/1989



**Jon  
ROBERTSON**

25/04/1989



**Murray  
MILLER**

29/01/2001

175 CM 65 KG



**Stefan  
SCOUGAL**

07/12/1992

170 CM 63 KG



**Adam  
KING**

11/10/1995

178 CM 74 KG



**Cameron  
O'DONNELL**

29/09/2001

183 CM 70 KG



**FORWARDS**

**Luke  
DONNELLY**

20/01/1996



**Bradley  
RODDEN**

21/08/1996

178 CM 68 KG



**Ross  
MACIVER**

28/02/1999

180 CM 73 KG



**Seff  
KHYAM**

06/07/2002

175 CM 69 KG



**Conor  
SAMMON**

06/11/1986

188 CM 91 KG



**Steven  
BUCHANAN**

26/03/2003

178 CM 70 KG



**Luke  
RANKIN**

27/11/2004



**Kieran  
OFFORD**

28/03/2004





**BRIAN RICE**



## ALL-SQUARE IN FIFE

I thought first half we were excellent and dominant, we just couldn't get that second goal. Second half Kelty came out change their system and caused us a few problems, got the equaliser, we changed our system and got on top again and I think in the last

twenty minutes there was only one team going to win the game. We've had a goal chopped off and it's pretty soft but we tried to go for the winner and couldn't get it in the end. We just couldn't get the second goal that our good play deserved.

Jay Hogarth hurt

himself in the warm-up and William Muir had to come in at the last minute. He came in and did exceptionally well, looked confident despite it being his first game in the league this season.

We had one or two other problems with Howie injured and

Steven Buchanan involved in a car crash but despite the problems we tried to win the game and the boys gave everything I asked for.

It's an excellent move for the goal. It's good play and a great finish from Churchy. With the left foot he's got he should be

scoring more goals but he's got to want to score the goals and want to get into those positions. I encourage him all the time to go and score so I'm delighted to see him do that.

I'm not disappointed because we played

well. I'm just a wee bit frustrated. Although I'm far away from the action and the referee has a better view from me I thought it looked soft for the disallowed goal. The consensus from the dressing room was the same was that

the foul was soft but that happens. Sometimes they go for you and sometimes they go against you - the referee makes his decision and you just get on with it.

It's great to have Stefan back - he's had his problems with his

ribs He's done a bit of training - not ready to start today but it's great to have him back. We know how good a player he is and you can see the difference he makes when he comes on.





## JOHN GLENCROSS



# NEWSDESK

Welcome back to the Indodrill Stadium for our fifteenth league fixture in this season's Cinch League One and our eighth home league match, today against Queen of the South FC, we welcome Wullie Gibson and Grant Murray as the management team, the directors, players and fans of Queen of the South FC.

Malcolm Gordon, Wasps 2000 Club manager, at our last home match v. Clyde, handed over two cheques to the

Alloa Athletic FC Board of Directors, one for Ten Thousand Pounds from the Wasps 2000 Club and the other for Four Thousand Pounds from the recent Sportsman's Dinner held at Inglewood House Hotel in Alloa. The club are always on the lookout for new members for the Wasps 2000 Club, £1 per week to be entered into a Weekly Prize pot of £225 + Monthly Prize Draw for £ 200, members must be 16+, Prize Fund may be reduced or raised in line with

member numbers.

Our Third Round tie in the 2022/23 Scottish Cup against Open Goal Broomhill FC has now been scheduled for Friday 25th November, 2022 at Broadwood Stadium, Cumbernauld, Kick-Off 7.45pm, ticket prices will be £ 12 adults, £ 8 concessions, £ 4 kids. These will be available to purchase online from <https://opengoalbroomhillfc.ticketco.events/uk/en> once put on sale.

Our last 16 SPFL Trust Trophy tie against queen of the South at the Indodrill Stadium has been scheduled for Friday 9th December, 2022, Kick-Off 7.45pm, tickets will be available in the week running up to the game. BBC Alba has chosen the Falkirk v. Dundee Round 4 tie to be shown live on Thursday 8th December, 2022.

Another fixture amendment is our tie v. Clyde, originally scheduled for Saturday

24th December at 3pm at New Douglas Park, Hamilton has been moved to Friday 23rd December with a new Kick-Off time 7.45pm

Scotland's Under-21s return to action next month as Scot Gemmill's side are set to host Iceland in another preparation match ahead of the start of the next set of European Championship qualifiers which get underway in the new year. The match will take place on Thursday, 17 November, at Fir Park, Motherwell with a Kick-Off time to be confirmed. Entry to the match will be free for everyone. This friendly will be the third match in the new cycle for the

Under-21s, with only players born in 2002 or later now eligible for selection. Scotland will be looking to back up their successful September camp which saw as many as 14 players make their Under-21 debuts including Jay Hogarth who is currently on loan to "The Wasps" from Glasgow Rangers, as the young Scots secured a 3-1 victory and a 1-1 draw in two matches against Northern Ireland.

Scotland's Under -19s also return to action as part of UEFA U19 European Championship qualifying rounds. The Young Scots, whom Billy Stark has named Kieran Offord, who is on loan

to Alloa Athletic currently from St. Mirren, they start with Wednesday 16th November v. Iceland at Firhill Stadium, Glasgow, Kick-Off 7.30pm, Saturday 19th November v. Kazakhstan at Somerset Park, Ayr Kick-Off 3pm and finally Tuesday 22nd November v. France also at Somerset Park, Ayr Kick-Off 7.30pm.

Just the present every Alloa Athletic fan will want for Christmas - The History of Alloa Athletic book, which celebrates the club's 100 years in the Scottish League, Over 660 pages in A4 size covering League Tables, Results, and Player Appearances since the

club joined the Scottish League in 1921. The book will be sold via the club with profits going directly into the club. The book will be on sale at Waterstones Retail Price £ 40. However the book can be ordered direct from the club for £ 29.95. Orders can be placed directly on the club website [alloathletic.co.uk](http://alloathletic.co.uk) visiting the club shop and placing order.

Wasps 2000 Draw - Week 44 5th November, 2022

- £ 100 0146 V.Rodgers
- £ 50 0291 R.Cook
- £ 25 0518 C.Hunter
- £ 25 0861 J.Heggie
- £ 25 1309 E.Reid





5th November 2022  
 New Central Park, Kelty  
 3:00pm KO

**KELTY HEARTS**

**1:1**

**ALLOA ATHLETIC**



(0:1)

SCORERS

**0:1** 26' Church

Agyeman **56'** **1:1**



**STARTING XI**

- 1** JAMIESON
- 3** PEGGIE
- 4** O'WARE
- 6** FORSTER
- 7** CARDLE
- 10** BARJONAS
- 11** HIGGINBOTHAM
- 12** TIDSER
- 22** AGYEMAN
- 26** LYON
- 28** THOMSON

**SUBS**

- 2** LOGAN
- 5** MARTIN
- 16** MCNAB
- 19** BARBOUR
- 20** CAMPBELL
- 21** CAMERON
- 24** KAMGNA JR.
- 25** DOHERTY

**SUBS**

- 1** MUIR
- 12** SCOUGALL
- 20** O'DONNELL
- 16** KING
- 25** OFFORD
- 10** RODDEN
- 22** MCLAREN
- 24** RANKIN

**STARTING XI**

- 31** HOGARTH
- 2** TAGGART
- 5** GRAHAM
- 14** STANGER
- 7** CAWLEY
- 3** CHURCH
- 11** MILLER
- 8** ROBERTSON
- 9** DONNELLY
- 18** SAMMON
- 15** MACIVER

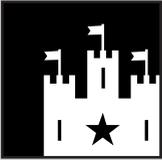
**REFEREE:** Duncan Williams

5th November 2022  
Meadowbank Stadium, Edinburgh  
3:00pm KO

**FC EDINBURGH**

**0:3**

**QUEEN OF THE SOUTH**



**(0:1)**

SCORERS

**0:1 46'** Gibson

**0:2 53'** Paton

**0:3 84'** Connelly



**STARTING XI**

- 31** MUTCH
- 28** CRAIGEN
- 16** BRYDON
- 17** FONTAINE
- 3** MCINTYRE
- 23** MURRAY
- 13** JACOBS
- 27** DELFERRIERE
- 30** CRANE
- 10** HANDLING
- 9** SEE

**SUBS**

- 1** RAMSBOTTOM
- 2** MACDONALD
- 7** SHANLEY
- 11** ROBERTSON
- 19** JOHNSON
- 25** BOYLE

**SUBS**

- 2** MCKAY
- 10** CONNELLY
- 13** FOX
- 15** MCGRORY
- 19** RUTH
- 20** IRVING
- 21** MCMAHON
- 22** BANGE

**STARTING XI**

- 1** CURRIE
- 12** MCKENNA
- 5** MCKAY
- 17** HENDRIE
- 27** GIBSON
- 3** QUITONGO
- 6** COCHRANE
- 4** WILSON
- 11** MURRAY
- 9** REILLY
- 7** PATON

**REFEREE:** Barry Cook

# 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 of unsuitable individuals by adopting rigorous recruitment and vetting 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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## FLEXIBLE FORMATIONS

One of the talking points so far this season amongst Alloa supporters has been the variation in formations the team has lined up in. Some of these changes have been game to game, but it is also commonplace for changes in formation to occur during matches themselves, as Brian Rice seeks to plot a spell for the Wasps to win games. I've been impressed so far with the way in which Rice sets his team up positively, always seeking to win,

so it's a matter I consider deserves a deeper dive into investigate further.

The undoubtedly flexible nature of Alloa's shape this season has had a positive impact from my standpoint. In recent weeks when you see the teamsheet before the game you can never be quite sure whether it's going to be a three at the back 3-4-1-2 formation or a diamond midfield 4-1-2-1-2 set up. It has become something of a 2-3pm Saturday

afternoon conundrum for me to try and establish and I know I'm certainly not alone in that. If supporters who watch the Wasps on a weekly basis cannot fathom the formation in advance, then I'm pretty sure the opposition will be struggling too. That's to the Wasps advantage early in games, with it perhaps being no surprise that it is Alloa who have scored first in 9 of the 14 league matches played so far this season. Take last weekend for example, having

started with a flat back four in the previous four matches, it looked from the teamsheet that this would continue with Taggart-Stanger-Graham-Church being the four logical defenders. But no, when the match kicked off Taggart was playing centrally and the Wasps were going for a three centre-backs system on the day. That tactical shift probably helped explain why Alloa had the better of the first half, with Kelty changing their own system at half-time to

cause the Wasps some problems early in the second half to force an equaliser. However, the balance of the play then became more even and it was the Wasps who arguably looked more threatening towards the end once Rice tweaked his system again to four at the back and a midfield diamond.

It is those in-game changes in formation which have been particularly noticeable under Brian Rice. By my calculations in each of the last eight games there has been a mid-match formation tweak, with the Wasps either starting with three at the back and finishing with a back four, or vice-versa. In my opinion that's more often than not had a positive impact. For example, the first half switch from three to four at the back helped the Wasps get on top versus Airdrie in the cup, while a switch to add an extra central defender has helped Alloa see out and turn 1-0 leads into 2-0 victories against both Airdrie and Peterhead. Even going back to Rice's first game in charge versus Cove last February, the new twin strike force and Scougall just behind completely bewitched the league leaders as Alloa raced into a 2-0 first half lead. With clubs playing one another so regularly (for instance the 8 games versus Cowdenbeath in

the 2009/2010 season springs immediately to mind) there is what I consider to be a critical need to keep the opposition guessing and altering the tactical shape of the team to find an advantage. Brian Rice appears to me to be skilled at adapting the shape of his team on a constant basis to put the Wasps on the front-foot during matches and cause his opposite number untold headaches. I remember Italian managers used to scoff at their British counterparts a couple of decades ago, saying it was so easy to nullify a British team as they always played 4-4-2 and never switched tactics during a game. Well, that's certainly not the case nowadays with more modern managers continuously switching systems during games, with 'Rice-ball' showing that flexibility in formation is alive and well in Clackmannanshire.

If you wish to play in a flexible system which is constantly evolving then you need to have the players to implement it. Fortunately the Alloa squad is full of intelligent footballers, with the core of the squad having played with one another for a number of years meaning it is easier to switch formations during games. Players such as Scott Taggart, Jon Robertson and Kevin Cawley (who have a combined total of 924 Alloa appearances between them) are seasoned professionals who can perform admirably in a number of positions, making them worth their weight in gold for any manager. So far this season Taggart has started 7 games as a conventional right-back, 4 as the left-sided centre-back in a back three, 3 as the right-sided centre back in a back three, 2 at left-wing-back and 1 game each at right-wing-back, right-centre back

and left-centre back as part of a back four. I don't know about you, but I'm tired from just writing that sentence of the seven separate defensive positions Taggart has started games at! Moreover, its not uncommon for the stand-in skipper to also switch between two or three of those roles during a single game. Fortunately Taggart is an astute player who can adapt seamlessly from one role to another without breaking sweat and performs with distinction in each and every position he's asked to play, although it's fair to say that most will agree that the more often he's able to start in his conventional position the better it is likely to be for the team!

The shape of the Alloa midfield can also vary on a week to week basis, with sometimes the nuances being subtle and on other occasions it being clear for all to



see. Occasionally it is a narrow diamond with four players centrally and all the width coming from the full-backs, sometimes it is two central players complemented by the wing-backs, and then there are days when it becomes almost a lop-sided diamond with Cawley and O'Donnell's more natural tendency to drift wide evident, whereas Scougall and Miller typically prefer to stay central and Jon Robertson is normally the central glue which stitches everything together. There's also occasions, particularly when Taggart is the right-centre-back and Cawley at right-wing-back, that out of possession Alloa play three at the back, but that actually morphs into a four at the back system in possession. Taggart springs into life as a rampaging right-back and Cawley is far further forward

than a wing-back ever typically is. It's that dual shape (two simultaneous formations!) which can help create the overloads that fashion Alloa's attacking play in these instances, which is certainly interesting to watch and can be very effective.

Whilst the defensive and midfield shape in Rice's Alloa side is always flexible, the set-up of the frontline is all together more predictable. Without fail under Rice there have been two central strikers, complemented by a man playing 'in the hole' just behind the strikers as 'a number 10'. It's unquestionably a bold and attacking formation, with the objective of taking the game to the opposition and playing the game in the opponent's half. For me, this has been so refreshing after the previous Alloa manager persisted with a lone frontman who was continuously



isolated and feeding off crumbs. Thankfully, Alloa no longer play on the counter-attack with wide forwards in a formation which appeared to me to be afraid of losing, rather than actively trying to win – for that alone Alloa have a lot to thank Brian Rice for.

Whilst the general shape of Rice's frontline is settled, the personnel filling the roles has been varied. The goalscoring prowess of Conor Sammon (happy 36th birthday last week Conor!) has seen the 10 goal top-scorer start all but one (cup) game this season as one of the two central strikers, but Sammo's starting strike partner has been shared between Bradley Rodden (10 games), Ross Maclver (6 games) and Kieran Offord (3 games). I had a wry smile to myself last weekend when listening to the excellent Wasps Nest Podcast debating whether it would be Rodden or Offord

partnering Sammon at Keltly; there was (surprisingly to me) no mention of Maclver, who was then duly on the team-sheet starting as Rice continued to mix up his front pairing. Whilst the primary focus will be choosing the personnel to exploit weaknesses of the opposition, another helpful factor will be making it more difficult for the other team to be certain what they'll face. I therefore think it's a healthy position to be in where Alloa have a variety of versatile forwards, who can play in different roles and have different skill-sets and strengths within that department. That means that they can play the same role in different ways and I think those variations can only benefit the Wasps.

When it comes to the role behind the strikers, or at the head of a midfield diamond, the number of players utilised in this all-impor-



tant position increases further. So far this season the starter in the 'number 10' pocket between midfield and attack has been shared between MacIver (9 games), Stefan Scougall & Luke Donnelly (each 4 times) and Kevin Cawley & Adam King (each for one game). This really is a demanding role in the Rice system, as they provide a creative focus for the Alloa attacks from a central position, have licence to join the strikers, but also have considerable defensive responsibilities when Alloa are out of possession too. In some ways they are a bit of 'cheat code' for Alloa by playing two positions in the place of one player. The fact that the Wasps have always lined up with this link-man between midfield and attack this season, as well as two strikers, is brave tactically, but has been rewarding so far. In the past fortnight the first half performances of Luke Donnelly have been such that both Clyde and Kelty changed their systems or players to seek to counter Donnelly's influence on proceedings. I'm sure lots of former Wasps are looking on enviously at this attacking system, with Jordan Kirkpatrick and Alan Trouten being two recent natural 'number 10's' who often had to perform in slightly different positions when the Wasps didn't play this system.

I've seen some gentle criticism online about the Wasps not yet fielding a settled team and that having a negative impact on performances and results, with the players not being able to find a rhythm which generally stems from the continuity of a consistent team. However, for me personally, that's an increasingly simplistic argument, based on the intentional flexible approach the manager evidently prefers. Rice has also been quick to point to the fact that he manages a squad of players, not solely a starting XI. The fact that precisely 25% of Alloa's goals this season have been scored by substitutes helps evidence this (the 8 of 32 goals scored by subs have come from

Rodden [3], Rankin, Oxford, Sammon, MacIver & O'Donnell). The recent introduction of utilising five subs means more than ever the value of a strong squad is paramount. Furthermore, the number of changes to the starting XI has typically only been 1 or 2 (for league games), with the greatest number of changes being 4 after the 3-0 home defeat to Dunfermline. It's evident that the Wasps have multiple options when it comes to personnel and systems this season, with the players appearing fairly comfortable in quickly shifting from one style to another mid-game, all buying into Rice's willingness to be flexible in his approach in order to eek out every single point

from games. The fact that the Wasps are playing plenty of midweek bounce games and played an abundance of pre-season friendlies means everyone in the squad can become comfortable in the variety of patterns Rice employs during the real games.

Accordingly, when you are looking at the teamsheet before the game today and trying to predict the formation and positions of players, don't be surprised if you are wrong. However, don't be disappointed if you are wrong either, as that's probably all part of the plan to help Brian Rice's Alloa earn another win.





## DONALD POLLOCK

	Pld.	Won	Lost	Drn.	For	Agst.	Pts.
Dundee .....	15	9	3	3	28	15	21
Rangers .....	13	8	1	4	27	8	20
Falkirk .....	14	6	2	6	21	10	18
Airdrieonians .....	14	7	4	3	15	8	17
Hearts .....	14	4	1	9	20	16	17
Aberdeen .....	16	7	6	3	21	17	17
Hibernians .....	15	7	5	3	16	21	17
Celtic .....	12	8	4	0	19	17	16
Third Lanark .....	14	6	6	2	17	19	14
St. Mirren .....	14	4	5	5	21	20	13
Morton .....	13	5	6	2	14	15	12
Ayr United .....	13	5	6	2	13	16	12
Kilmarnock .....	14	4	6	4	20	24	12
Alloa .....	14	4	6	4	13	19	12
Raith Rovers .....	14	4	6	4	8	21	12
Motherwell .....	13	3	5	5	21	18	11
Partick Thistle .....	13	3	5	5	18	19	11
Clyde .....	14	3	7	4	12	18	10
Albion Rovers .....	14	2	6	6	12	21	10
Hamilton Acad. ....	15	2	11	2	13	27	6

# BATTLES AGAINST CLYDE AND THE WEE ROVERS

Alloa's First Division prospects were looking good. Late October 1922 had seen the Wasps bounce back from a sticky spell in their debut season in the top flight to record a famous 1-0 win over Third Lanark at Cathkin Park. Alloa had followed that up by defeating Hibs 2-1 at the Recs – finally getting their first home victory in the First Division after three victories on the road. The news had reached the Manchester based

Athletic News who informed their readers that "Alloa removed the reproach of being considered a freakish combination on Saturday for at home they mastered Hibernians – the first success on their own pastures, although they have three times won on the grounds of their opponents". The Mancunians were also well aware of the scale of Alloa's achievement in rising from the Central League to compete at the highest level: "Nor

was it a small distinction for a club of Alloa's antecedents to succeed against Hibernians, who have played so well and counted stern foes among their victims".

The back to back wins had pulled Alloa once more into the pack of teams in mid-table and while inspirational attacker Willie Crilley remained sidelined, there was growing optimism about the performances of Thomas 'Tully' Craig in the forward line. The

summer recruit from Celtic had scored both goals against Hibs to take his tally for the season to six, with the Linlithgowshire Gazette noting that: "If Craig maintains his form, Alloa do not require to look further for a deputy for Crilley". Wee County football fans were aware too that Alloa now had very winnable games against Albion Rovers and Clyde, two sides sitting below the Wasps in the table. That wasn't

to say that the trip to Cliftonhill would be easy. The Wee Rovers had been in the top flight longer than Alloa and had competed in the Scottish Cup final just two years earlier. With only one win so far they also needed the points and they had the boost of an early goal. Alloa keeper Thomson appeared to have matters under control when he flung himself on the ball on the penalty spot, but alas, goalies weren't so well protected in 1922 and an Albion Rovers boot dislodged the ball from Thomson's grip to leave Moreland with an easy finish. The Wasps responded well and Dunn fired home a splendid equaliser, but there was still time before the interval for Fleming to put the home team back in front. The second half saw plenty of Alloa pressure but no goals.

Indeed, Thomson had to make three fine saves late on as the Wasps piled forward and left spaces a the back. The papers were almost unanimous that a draw would have been fair but the Wee Rovers held on for two crucial points.

Next up was the visit of Clyde to the Recs. Alloa moved to strengthen their hand before the game with the signing of Micheal Connaboy of Loanhead Mayflower. Connaboy was an inside right "of good height and build". It was reported that Alloa had been following his progress for some time and that with several other clubs now showing an interest the Wasps made their move. With Forrest suffering from a cold, Connaboy went straight into the team against the Bully Wee. Old warhorse Bobby Orrock was also out with local boy Headrick taking his place

at the back. The big news however, was in attack where Willie Crilley had declared himself fit. Crilley hadn't played since his injury against Airdrie six weeks earlier but was back in the side "at his own request". The wee man "had a kick at the ball and ran up and down the pitch two or three times to satisfy himself and the committee". He started at centre-forward with Tully Craig moving into a wider role. Unfortunately it soon became obvious that Crilley was far from fit, the Sunday Post reporting that "although he had many opportunities to shine, he gave a disappointing display". The second-half saw Crilley move to outside left - again at his own request - and "where he was equally disappointing". The Scotsman went further, labelling Crilley "a passenger and a slow one at that. The team were left to play practi-

cally with ten men only". Alloa still enjoyed the majority of possession, but perhaps hamstrung by the changes in attack and their lame hitman, failed to seriously trouble the Clyde defence. The game finished 0-0 and was regarded as a missed opportunity, although there was the consolation of a clean sheet and a promising display from Connaboy who "fully merited inclusion". There was praise also for the old fox Jock Stirling, who gave a fine display against the club where he had started his senior career fourteen years earlier, and Bertie Dunn playing in a deeper role.

The Wasps now prepared for two more home games against Hamilton and Ayr. Once more the most pressing issue was the fitness of their talisman in attack. More in the next edition of The Wasp.



# APPEARANCES

	POS	LEAGUE		CUP		TOTAL		ALLOA CAREER LGE	
		APP	GOAL	APP	GOAL	APP	GOAL	APP	GOAL
MUIR	GOAL	1 (0)	0	1 (0)	0	2 (0)	0	1 (0)	0
BURT	GOAL	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (1)	0
HOGARTH	GOAL	13 (0)	0	4 (0)	0	17 (0)	0	13 (0)	0
TAGGART	DEF	14 (0)	1	5 (0)	0	19 (0)	1	208 (0)	7
CHURCH	DEF	9 (3)	1	5 (0)	0	14 (3)	1	29 (7)	1
HOWIE	DEF	0 (4)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (4)	0	17 (7)	1
GRAHAM	DEF	6 (1)	0	5 (0)	0	11 (1)	0	182 (2)	13
DURNAN	DEF	4 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	4 (0)	0	37 (0)	4
STANGER	DEF	13 (0)	2	4 (1)	0	17 (1)	2	13 (0)	2
MCLAREN	DEF	1 (1)	0	2 (1)	0	3 (2)	0	1 (1)	0
DEVINE	DEF	6 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	6 (0)	0	6 (0)	0
ROBERTSON	MID	12 (1)	0	0 (0)	0	12 (1)	0	159 (29)	2
SCOUGALL	MID	7 (2)	1	3 (1)	0	10 (3)	1	41 (15)	6
KING	MID	3 (6)	0	4 (0)	0	7 (6)	0	29 (11)	4
O'DONNELL	MID	5 (5)	1	2 (1)	0	7 (6)	1	12 (25)	1
MILLER	MID	9 (2)	0	5 (0)	0	14 (2)	0	9 (2)	0
CAWLEY	MID	13 (1)	0	1 (2)	0	14 (3)	0	311 (44)	62
DONNELLY	FWD	4 (4)	3	1 (0)	0	5 (4)	3	4 (10)	4
SAMMON	FWD	14 (0)	5	4 (1)	5	18 (1)	10	35 (13)	10
MACIVER	FWD	11 (3)	3	4 (1)	0	15 (4)	3	14 (8)	4
KHYHAM	FWD	0 (1)	0	0 (3)	0	0 (4)	0	0 (1)	0
RODDEN	FWD	6 (6)	5	4 (0)	1	10 (6)	6	6 (6)	5
BUCHANAN	FWD	0 (4)	0	1 (2)	0	1 (6)	0	0 (4)	0
RANKIN	FWD	0 (2)	1	0 (0)	0	0 (2)	1	0 (2)	1
OFFORD	FWD	3 (6)	2	0 (0)	0	3 (6)	2	3 (6)	2



## OFFICIAL PROGRAMME DISTRIBUTION PARTNERS

ALLOA CAREER CUP		ALLOA TOTAL	
APP	GOAL	APP	GOAL
1 (0)	0	2 (0)	0
0 (0)	0	0 (1)	0
4 (0)	0	17 (0)	0
5 (0)	0	213 (0)	7
53 (1)	2	82 (8)	3
6 (0)	0	23 (7)	1
10 (2)	0	192 (4)	13
46 (1)	1	83 (1)	5
6 (1)	0	19 (1)	2
2 (1)	0	3 (2)	0
0 (0)	0	6 (0)	0
0 (0)	0	159 (29)	2
3 (1)	1	44 (16)	7
10 (4)	1	39 (15)	5
0 (0)	0	12 (25)	1
5 (0)	0	14 (2)	0
6 (4)	1	317 (48)	63
1 (3)	0	5 (13)	4
4 (1)	5	39 (14)	15
4 (1)	0	18 (9)	4
0 (3)	0	0 (4)	0
4 (0)	1	10 (6)	6
1 (2)	0	1 (6)	0
0 (3)	0	0 (5)	1
0 (0)	0	3 (6)	2

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**BRIAN ROACH**



## A FAN'S VIEW

Today's game is one of only two remaining Saturday afternoon home fixtures for Alloa in 2022, with three games on the road following this one. For the travelling supporters, we will experience by all accounts the somewhat unique experience at Meadowbank next weekend for the F.C. Edinburgh fixture - time to get up the loft and dig out that telescope you received as an unwanted Christmas gift years ago. This is followed by a couple of tough games against Lowland League Open Goal Broomhill in the Scottish Cup, and Montrose in the league. And with three remaining 2022 fixtures being moved

to Friday nights we get to embrace a different routine with a few free weekends thrown into the mix.

A fortnight ago, Alloa faced a struggling team who had experienced nine straight league defeats. Danny Lennon was placed on gardening leave, which left former assistant Allan Moore to pick up the pieces. These scenarios are of course all too frequent in modern football with such a high turnover of managers, but for Alloa it carried its own unique pressure. The "new manager bounce" is an oft-used cliché, but the theory certainly holds water. And of course,

we know all about Allan Moore from his time as manager of Stirling Albion. He may have a bit of a pantomime villain status, but most Alloa supporters will concede he put together a decent Stirling team in his tenure (leaving the finances aside) and gave us a few bad days. In addition expectations were high with the Alloa support turning up certainly expecting the three points to build on the previous week's victory up at Peterhead.

Alloa's starting line-up yielded some surprise inclusions and it was initially tough to ascertain the formation and approach from the list of names. Scott Taggart

had arguably his best game of the season so far up at Peterhead, but he was shifted to the centre of defence once more with Paul McLaren coming in at right back. However, it was encouraging to see Kevin Cawley deployed further up the pitch. For the opening 25 or so minutes Alloa were excellent, with Cawley and Luke Donnelly noticeable standouts. Cawley was driving the team forward most predominantly from the left side of the pitch, while Donnelly's presence and link play in the final third caused the Clyde rear guard plenty food for thought. It was Donnelly who opened the scoring with the aid of a slight

deflection. I've been saying for a few weeks- a lot of supporters weren't exactly shouting from the rooftops when he signed on deadline day, but at the moment I think he's the best player in the team.

Just after the half hour mark Clyde had a close-range header disallowed for a foul on Jay Hogarth. But Alloa didn't heed that warning on goal- a minute later the visitors were level. Kurtis Roberts was allowed perhaps slightly too much space on the edge of the area, but admittedly was a well worked goal and fine finish. For the remainder of the first half, it was worrying times as Alloa struggled to get a foothold back into the game. It was a slight relief to go in level at the interval.

In the second both middlefields cancelled each other out for much of the proceedings. Alloa began to play long to make some headway in the final third, but the outcome appeared to be heading towards a share of the spoils. In the closing stages though, Clyde were noticeably a bit more edgy in their defensive work as they could see the end of their long losing run in sight. Paul Kennedy was dismissed in the final minute of normal time, and Clyde were looking to simply see it out. In the final minute

of stoppage time Scott Taggart delivered a free kick into the penalty area in one final throw of the dice. The ball bounced around before falling to Donnelly who finished brilliantly on the turn to give Alloa the 3 points. Due to the more direct approach, Donnelly had experienced a quieter second half, but he was in the right place when it mattered. Clyde certainly gave a positive reaction and would have been disappointed to leave empty handed. From an Alloa perspective I had anticipated a tough game, and that's exactly how it unfolded. Regardless of circumstances, you can't beat a last-minute winner as a supporter- the players kept going right to the final whistle and got their just rewards.

Last weekend saw a hotly anticipated fixture for the travelling fans- a maiden trip to New Central Park, home of Kelty Hearts. And it didn't disappoint- the ground is an excellent facility. With raised terracing behind each goal offering a great view of the game as well as two standing enclosures- everything also feels very close to the pitch to give it a real personal feel for the spectator. I met a couple of fellow supporters inside the ground and opted to just remain in the corner next to entry (essentially the Kelty end of the ground), as Alloa were shooting towards that goal in the first half.

An elderly home fan was fairly unimpressed at our wild celebrations after Daniel Church opened the scoring and celebrated on the touchline a few feet from our vantage point. But his death stare dissipated slightly after we applauded home centre half Tam O'Ware off after he pulled up with a hamstring strain- again right in front of us.

Onto the actual game, where goalmouth action was fairly sparse in the first half other than the aforementioned Church goal, which was an excellent finish. At the interval Alloa were the team looking likely to add to their lead, and Ross MacIver went close with a header soon after the restart. But the hosts eventually responded and built up a head of steam- striking the inside of the post before the dangerous looking Agyeman netted the equaliser. Alloa goalkeeper Willie Muir- a late inclusion after Jay Hogarth pulled up in the warm-up- may have dealt with the shot a bit better, but other than that his performance was fine. Alloa lost their

way for a bit- again resorting to long ball tactics. But the introduction of Stefan Scougall from the bench tilted the game in Alloa's favour once again. Scougall and Cawley dominated the midfield, and Alloa had a goal disallowed when Kelty keeper Jamieson was adjudged to have been fouled- a rather soft award. Although they looked the more likely team to grab the winner, Alloa had to settle for a point. Kelty have certainly improved since their previous visit to the Indodrill Stadium back in August and over the piece the outcome was probably fair.

Another tough match awaits today, where Queen of the South will probably feel aggrieved that Alloa snatched a point at the death at Palmerston Park last month. Meanwhile, Alloa will be looking for a much better showing against Queens than they produced that day. In a very cut-throat league, an Alloa win would help put some daylight between other clubs in the division including our opponents today. Enjoy the game.





**ANDREW COCKBURN**



# LOOKING BACK 10TH NOVEMBER 1990

In The Premier Division, Dundee United remained a point clear at the top, thanks to a 2-1 win v third-placed Rangers, in the day's top clash at Ibrox. Second-placed Aberdeen maintained their own title challenge, with an emphatic 4-0 victory at struggling St. Mirren, St. Johnstone retained fourth place despite being held 1-1 at home by Hibs, while fifth-placed Celtic's rather lack-lustre league campaign

continued, in the shape of a 0-1 defeat at lowly Hearts. The Jambos success, only their third in the league so far, moved them up one place off the bottom of the table, they were replaced by St. Mirren, while the clash between third-bottom Dunfermline and fourth-bottom Motherwell at East End Park produced a thrilling 3-3 draw, but meant no positional change for either club.

There was no positional change at the top of The First Division, though leaders Airdrie moved three points clear, after a 2-0 home victory v Kilmarnock, while The Diamonds local rivals Hamilton Accies remained second, despite being held 1-1 at home by struggling Morton. Third-placed Raith were victorious by 2-1 at another of the strugglers, Clyde, fourth-placed Falkirk hammered Clydebank

by 5-1 at Brockville, while Partick, despite being held 2-2 at another side in the doldrums, Brechin, remained fifth. Clyde's defeat kept them rooted to the bottom, Brechin remained just one place above The Bully Wee, in spite of their welcome point, while Forfar, held 2-2 at Meadowbank, still occupied third-bottom spot.

Down in The Second, leaders Stirling

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Albion had to settle for a point from a 0-0 draw at lowly Queen Of The South, but still extended their lead to three points, while East Fife remained second in spite of a 1-2 home reverse v Stranraer, who thus moved up to sixth. Third-placed Queen's Park were held 0-0 at home by Montrose, while Stenhousemuir's 4-1 home win v their bottom-of-the-table local rivals East Stirling moved them into fourth place of Berwick, who were crushed 0-5 at Alloa. All of The Wasps goals came in a rather frenetic first period, courtesy of Barrie Moffat, Keith McCulloch, Arthur Grant, John Irvine & Tom McEntegart, and the home side had lined up as follows: Butter, Newbiggin, R. Lee, Wilcox, McCulloch, Thomson, Grant (Black), Ramsay, Moffat, Irvine (Ormond), McEntegart. The Wasps followed this up by travelling to Dumfries on 24th Nov, 1990 and won 3-1 with goals from Barrie Moffat 2 and Ian Black. Cowdenbeath moved up to fifth place, after a 2-0 home win v struggling Albion Rovers, Alloa's fine win moved them up one place to ninth, while today's visitors Queen Of The South, in spite of their welcome point, remained in second-bottom spot.

South of the border, First Division leaders Liverpool moved six points clear, after a third

straight league win, this time by 4-0 v Luton at Anfield, while The Anfield Reds also extended their unbeaten start to the season to twelve league games. Arsenal remained second, despite being held 0-0 at their fourth-placed London rivals Crystal Palace, while Spurs stayed third, after they overcame another

side from the capital, Wimbledon, by 4-2 at White Hart Lane. At the other end of the table, Sheffield United picked up only their fourth point of the season, from a 0-0 home draw v fellow strugglers Everton, but The Blades still remained firmly entrenched in bottom spot. Oldham's 4-1 home win v bottom club Watford, saw them

move four points clear at the top of The second Division, West Ham remained second, despite begin held 1-1 at their East End neighbours Millwall, who thus dropped from fourth to sixth, while Sheffield Wednesday stayed in third place, in spite of a 0-1 loss at Blackburn.



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# QUEEN OF THE SOUTH

*The Doonhamers*

**FOUNDED**  
1919

**GROUND**  
Palmerston Park,  
Dumfries

**TOP HONOURS**  
**SCOTTISH LEAGUE**  
**ONE\***  
Winners: 1950-51,  
2001-02, 2012-13,  
Runners-Up: (5)

**SCOTTISH LEAGUE**  
**TWO\***  
Runners-up 1924-25

**SCOTTISH CUP**  
Runners-up: 2007-08

**CHALLENGE CUP**  
Winners:  
2002-03, 2012-13

This afternoon we welcome Queen of the South to Alloa for another crunch tie in the battle of the promotion play-offs in League 1. The Doonhamers currently sit in 7th position in the table, compared to Alloa's 5th, but no doubt both teams have their vision firmly locked on the all-important spots in the top 4. There are only 4 points separating the sides showing how important a result for either side could be this afternoon. After falling to relegation last season, it was a tough start to the campaign, however, results have had a recent turn which

has put them back in contention for the play-offs. With 4 wins in the last 5, they also come in a rich vein of form. The most recent of those a convincing 3-0 victory at Meadowbank against FC Edinburgh.

## **THE BOSS – WILLIE GIBSON**

The visitors are led by player-manager, Willie Gibson, today. Having begun his career at Palmerston back in 2001, his first spell lasted 6 years before his move to Kilmarnock. After a few years there, the right-back or winger, went on to play for a whole host of teams,

including Dunfermline, Falkirk, Stranraer, Dumfries, Peterhead, and Stenhousemuir to name a few. In 2019, he returned to Queen of the South for his 3rd spell as the manager of the reserve team, however, after a little bit of time, he dusted off the boots and became an integral part of the squad. With goals and eye-catching performances, Gibson won the Championship Player of the Month award in February 2021. Exactly a year later, the managerial role became vacant and he relinquished captaincy duties to take charge as a player-manager. Since taking on that role, he has floated in and out of the team, with 5 appearances to his name, there is definitely a preference to be in the dug-out. He has the perfect replacement in the team with his son, Lewis, playing. The 17-year old and his dad made history when they appeared together in the closing minutes of their league tie against FC Edinburgh, becoming the first parent and child to play in a Scottish senior football match.



\*includes equivalent competitions



### THE CAPTAIN – JOSH TODD

After Gibson gave up captaincy, he decided his first task was to give the armband to midfielder, Josh Todd. Born in Carlisle, he began his career with his local team, Carlisle United, which included loan spells at Workington and Annan Athletic. It was the latter which he made permanent when he moved to Annan in 2014. Since making that move he has made Scotland his home by playing for various clubs across the divisions. Dumbarton, St Mirren, Queen of the South, Dundee, Falkirk, and Ayr all take their place on Todd's packed CV. He returned to Palmerston once more in 2021 and has been in fine form this season with 4 goals in his 15 appearances.

Unfortunately, he picked up a hamstring injury which has meant he has missed the last 3 games for his side.

### NEW BOY – SCOTT FOX

Gibson made the move to bring in quality in depth to his goal-keeper department by bringing in experienced keeper, Scott Fox, in the summer. Fox has been highly rated since his Celtic youth days where he was part of squads that dominated the under-19 leagues and Youth Cups from 2004 to 2006. After leaving Parkhead, he signed an amateur contract at Queen of the South in 2010 and took the place of a familiar face in David Hutton for his Doonhamer debut. A brief spell at Dundee followed before his career really took it off at Partick

Thistle. At the end of the 2012–13 season, with Partick Thistle having won the First Division, gaining promotion to the Scottish Premier League, Fox was named in the PFA Scotland 2012–13 First Division Team of the Year. 135 games later, he moved up North to Ross County where he won a League Cup, Challenge Cup and Scottish Championship Title. A spell that again involved inclusions into the Championship Team of the Year. Now at Motherwell, he is yet to play at Fir Park but made a temporary return to Palmerston earlier this season. With 5 appearances so far this season, Fox was involved the last time the sides met. Following defeat to Kely, Fox

missed out on the squad the next week and has been on the bench the last 3 games with Max Currie resuming his place in goals for Gibson's side.

### ONE TO WATCH – RUARI PATON

The 22-year old Irishman, Ruari Paton, has been in scintillating form this season for the Doonhamers. Following his release from Hibernian at the age of 17, Paton has risen through the ranks the hard way with spells at Gala Fairydean, East Kilbride, and Stranraer, before his move to Queen of the South. The Palmerston side paid Stranraer an undisclosed fee and gave Paton a 2-year deal back in 2021 and this season feels like

**CONTINUED ON P32**



**BY KIEREN MOONEY**

the year he is stepping up to be the main man. With 10 goals already this season, he has been a threat in that sense, as well as assists with 5 to his name. After a small dry patch since the last time the sides played, Paton has returned to form with 2 goals and an assist in his last 3 games for the side. Despite Alloa keeping his name off the scoresheet last time, he looked lively and full of threat for the Alloa defence that day and will no doubt look to do the same.

### THE CONNECTION

The only former Wasp returning today is tricky winger, Lee Connelly. The 23-year old will be remembered fondly by Alloa fans for his impressive

performances during his two loan spells at the club from Sunderland in 2020-21. The most notable moments of that spell were his performances against Inverness where he scored a fine goal or two. After leaving Sunderland, he made the permanent move to Queen of the South in the summer of 2021 and has become a fan favourite at his new club. Despite not starting as many games as he might have liked this season, he is still finding the back of the net. A glorious chip at Ibrox caught the eye in the side's 3-1 defeat to Rangers in August. Connelly also bagged a goal last week against FC Edinburgh which may have pushed him further forward in the manager's thinking for

a start. The first of two familiar names for visiting fans is Mark Durnan. Alloa's club captain, who won't feature this afternoon, had a 3-year stint at Palmerston in 2012 and enjoyed a lot of success during that time. He was part of the squad that won the Scottish Second Division title and Scottish Challenge Cup, which also led to a place in the Team of the Year for that 2012-13 season. The other name in David Devine was unable to make as much of an impact as his centre-half counter part but did spend a short loan spell at Palmerston in 2020.

### PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The sides have already met once already this season and it was a tough afternoon for

Alloa. Not at their firing best, Queen of the South took the lead just before half-time when Gavin Reilly latched onto a defensive mix-up to put his side 1-0 up. The home side looked to dominate proceedings but Alloa's Jay Hogarth stood tall with some fine saves to keep his side in it. With minutes left on the clock, Ross MacIver rose highest to head home an equaliser for his second goal of the season, at the time. Alloa looked like they might have executed the perfect comeback when Luke Donnelly tried to knock it down in the 6-yard box. With Adam King ready to smash home, Queen's done enough to hook it clear and settle for a point a piece.



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**BRIAN ROACH**



# THREE OF THE BEST..... QUEEN OF THE SOUTH CLASHES

## **ALLOA 4 QUEEN OF THE SOUTH 2- SCOTTISH CUP 4TH ROUND REPLAY, 22ND FEBRUARY 1989**

A quarter final tie against Hibs was at stake in this Scottish Cup 4th Round replay. Incredibly this was Alloas seventh Scottish Cup tie of the campaign. The Wasps required replays to defeat Berwick Rangers and Forres Mechanics in the opening rounds, before defeating Albion Rovers. Queen of the South had joined the tournament in the 3rd round at the expense of First Division counterparts Kilmarnock also after a replay. Alloa and Queen of the South had played out a goalless draw at Palmerston Park in the initial game, and there was a big crowd at the midweek replay on a heavy Recreation Park pitch.

The Wasps took a first half lead when cult hero Steve Ramsay scrambled home from close range.

Queen of the South equalised but Charlie Lytwyn restored Alloas lead early in the second half. Rain and hailstorms made for terrible conditions before Alloa substitute Gus Smith was introduced to make his mark on the game. He scored an excellent diving header to make it 3-1, creating bedlam from the Wasps support at the railway end. He sealed the tie after linking well with Lytwyn to score from close range. A late Queens goal was a mere consolation as Alloa reached the last eight of the competition. There were pitch invasions after the third and fourth Alloa goals, and one of my abiding childhood memories of this game is the announcer warning supporters not to invade the pitch again. Alloa lost narrowly to Premier League Hibernian 1-0 at Easter Road in the Quarter Finals. Never the less it was a cup run which lived long in the memory, and they capped a mem-

orable season by sealing promotion to the First Division- bypassing Queen of the South who were relegated. But with the roles reversed, Queens got their revenge in the Scottish Cup 3rd round the following season when both clubs were again paired together. History repeated itself with another initial goalless draw at Palmerston Park- but Queens won the replay at Recreation Park 3 2 before narrowly losing to semi-finalists Dundee United in the next round at Tannadice.

Alloa team: Ronnie Lowrie, Bobby Robertson, Larry Haggart, Andy Millen, Keith McCulloch, John Gibson, Billy Blackie, Steve Ramsay, Mungo McCallum, Ian Lee, Charlie Lytwyn. Subs- Gus Smith, Alan Rodgers

Queen of the South squad: Rikki Ferguson, Barry Holland, Gary Johnston, Mark Shanks, Tom McDonald, Willie Gray, Kevin Hetherington, Dougie Mills, Gary Fraser,

Billy Reid, John Gamble, Jim McGuire, Derek Cook, Alan Bain, Tommy Sloan, Gary Telfer.

## **ALLOA 1 QUEEN OF THE SOUTH 0- SCOTTISH DIVISION 2 11TH DECEMBER 2012**

Another midweek encounter played in less-than-ideal conditions. 2nd Division league leaders Queen of the South had retained their full-time status following relegation from the First Division and were looking to immediately bounce back under Allan Johnston. Queens has built up a real head of steam- heading into this game 6 points in front of Alloa and as the only senior club in the UK yet to taste a league defeat. 2nd placed Alloa had been promoted that summer after a memorable debut season under manager Paul Hartley, winning the Third Division championship. The match was initially due to be played on the Saturday,

but it was postponed after the referee deemed the freezing temperatures had made Alloa's artificial pitch unplayable. The surface looked even worse in mid-week under the floodlights, resembling a bit of a skating rink in specific areas- but the rescheduled match went ahead regardless.

In sub zero conditions Alloa started the match strongly and hit the woodwork twice- the closest through Kevin Cawley who agonisingly struck the inside of the post after some neat interchange play with Graeme Holmes. Queens also had their moments and Gavin Reilly struck the bar just after the half hour mark. The deadlock was broken in the 58th minute, when Alloa were awarded a penalty after Ryan McGuffie fouled Martin Grehan in the penalty area. Ryan McCord- so reliable from the spot over his Alloa career- slotted home to give Alloa the lead. Queens pressed hard for an equaliser, but Alloa contained them well- keeping their strong defensive shape and asking questions on the counter attack. Alloa held out to hand Queens their first league defeat of the season and cut the deficit at the top of the table to 3 points. However, Queens did go on to become 2nd Division champions comfortably with a final point tally of 92- undoubtedly one of the best third tier teams in the 21st century. Alloa of course were also promoted through the play-offs- defeating Brechin City followed by Dunfermline Athletic to achieve consecutive promotions.

Alloa team: Scott Bain, Michael Doyle, Mark Docherty, Ben Gordon, Jason Marr, Darren Young, Kevin Cawley, Ryan McCord,

Graeme Holmes, Nicky Low, Martin Grehan. Subs used- Callum Tapping, Jason Thomson

Queen of the South team: Lee Robinson, Chris Mitchell, Mark Durman, Chris Higgins, Ryan McGuffie, Paul Burns, Willie Gibson, Stephen McKenna, Danny Carmichael, Gavin Reilly, Nicky Clark. Subs used- Kevin Holt, Kevin Smith, David Hopkirk

### **ALLOA 2 QUEEN OF THE SOUTH 2- SCOT-TISH CHAMPIONSHIP 18TH APRIL 2015**

This was a pivotal match for both clubs in arguably the most decorated second tier campaign in Scottish football history. Four current Scottish Premiership clubs pledged their trade in the Championship that season- Rangers, Hearts, Hibs and Livingston. Queen of the South were looking for a victory to help cement their place in the Premiership play-offs, while Alloa were desperately looking for points to avoid relegation.

Five minutes before the break Alloa broke the deadlock with Ben Gordon heading home Iain Flannigan's corner

kick. But Queens came out for the second half and responded well. With 51 minutes gone Danny Carmichael weaved into the Alloa penalty between Kevin Cawley and Daryl Meggatt. He appeared to go down rather easily with minimal contact, but the referee saw this as a sufficient enough offence to point to the spot. Top marksman Derek Lyle slotted home to equalise for the visitors. Worse was the follow for the Wasps just two minutes later when they were sucker punched by a Queens counter attack. Another run forward by the tricky Carmichael was followed by an inch perfect switched ball to Mark Millar. He expertly slid the ball past John Gibson from close range as Queen of the South turned the game on its head to lead. But with 66 minutes gone Alloa responded after Iain Flannigan led the attack feeding Liam Buchanan on the left. The striker edged into the penalty area, cut inside and fired past Zander Clark to equalise. In the closing stages the visitors were reduced to ten men. Goalscorer Miller was involved in an altercation with Michael Doyle and

appeared to attempt a head butt on the Alloa right back- giving the referee no alternative but to issue a straight red card. It was honours even in an exciting match- but the end justified the means for both clubs. Queen of the South qualified for the Premiership play-offs- losing narrowly to Rangers in the quarter finals. Meanwhile Alloa finished in 9th position- before beating Brechin City and Forfar to ensure a third consecutive season in the 2nd tier division for the first time in their history.

Alloa team: John Gibson, Ben Gordon, Daryl Meggatt, Kyle Benedictus, Michael Doyle, Kevin Cawley, Ryan McCord, Graeme Holmes, Iain Flannigan, Greig Spence, Liam Buchanan. Subs used- Adam Asghar, David Ferguson, Michael Chopra

Queen of the South team: Zander Clark, Kevin Holt, Andy Dowie, Mark Durman, Chris Higgins, Mark Millar, Stephen McKenna, Danny Carmichael, Gavin Reilly, Michael Paton, Derek Lyle. Subs used- Iain Russell, Jake Pickard, Aidan Smith

## **HT QUIZ**

- 1. FORMER ALLOA AND QUEEN OF THE SOUTH STRIKER JACK HAMILTON CURRENTLY PLAYS FOR HARTLEPOOL UNITED ALONGSIDE WHICH 2 FORMER ALLOA PLAYERS?**
- 2. WHICH NATION WILL MAKE THEIR WORLD CUP DEBUT IN THE 2022 TOURNAMENT THIS MONTH?**
- 3. WHICH 3 MEN HAVE WON THE WORLD CUP AS BOTH PLAYER AND MANAGER?**
- 4. WHICH 8 SCOTSMEN HAVE OVER 250 APPEARANCES IN THE ENGLISH PREMIERSHIP (IE 1992 ONWARDS)?**
- 5. EUROPA LEAGUE OPPONENTS MANCHESTER UNITED AND BARCELONA HAVE FACED EACH OTHER IN 3 EUROPEAN FINALS- 1991, 2009 AND 2011- WHAT WAS THE RESULT IN EACH OF THESE GAMES?**

**ANSWERS PAGE 37**







# ALLOA ATHLETIC



# QUEEN OF THE SOUTH

#	POS				
	1	WILLIAM MUIR			
	21	KEIR BURT			
	31	JAY HOGARTH			
	2	SCOTT TAGGART			
	3	DANIEL CHURCH			
	4	CRAIG HOWIE			
	5	ANDY GRAHAM			
	6	MARK DURMAN			
	7	KEVIN CAWLEY			
	8	JON ROBERTSON			
	9	LUKE DONNELLY			
	10	BRADLEY RODDEN			
	11	MURRAY MILLER			
	12	STEFAN SCOUGALL			
	14	GEORGE STANGER			
	15	ROSS MACIVER			
	16	ADAM KING			
	17	SEFF KHYYAM			
	18	CONNOR SAMMON			
	19	STEVEN BUCHANAN			
	20	CAMERON O'DONNELL			
	22	PAUL MCLAREN			
	23	DAVID DEVINE			
	24	LUKE RANKIN			
	25	KIERAN OFFORD			
		MANAGER BRIAN RICE			

#	POS				
	1	MAX CURRIE			
	2	DAVID MCKAY			
	3	RICO QUITONGO			
	4	IAIN WILSON			
	5	PAUL MCKAY			
	6	HARRY COCHRANE			
	7	RUARI PATON			
	8	JOSH TODD			
	9	GAVIN REILLY			
	10	LEE CONNELLY			
	11	CONNOR MURRAY			
	12	CIARAN MCKENNA			
	13	SCOTT FOX			
	14	STUART MORRISON			
	15	CALVIN MCGRORY			
	16	EUAN EAST			
	17	STEPHEN HENDRIE			
	18	KIERAN MCKECHNIE			
	19	MICHAEL RUTH			
	20	ROSS IRVING			
	21	DOM MCMAHON			
	22	EWAN BANGE			
	27	LEWIS GIBSON			
	28	BEN JOHNSTONE			
	29	JAY BURNS			
	33	WILLIE GIBSON			
		MANAGER WILLIE GIBSON			

REFEREE: Greg Aitken

ASST: Graham McNeillie & Liam Duncan


## ALLOA'S NEXT FIVE

19.11.22, AWAY, 15:00

	FC EDINBURGH		ALLOA ATHLETIC
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25.11.22, AWAY, 19:45

	OG BROOMHILL		ALLOA ATHLETIC
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03.12.22, AWAY, 15:00

	MONTROSE		ALLOA ATHLETIC
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09.12.22, HOME, 19:45

	ALLOA ATHLETIC		QUEEN OF THE SOUTH
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17.12.22, HOME, 15:00

	ALLOA ATHLETIC		FALKIRK
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