

THE WASP



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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

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Clackmannan Road,
Alloa, FK10 1RY
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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

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	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
 DUNFERMLINE	17	11	5	1	26	9	17	38
 FC EDINBURGH	17	10	1	6	31	24	7	31
 FALKIRK	17	8	5	4	31	20	11	29
 MONTROSE	17	8	4	5	25	19	6	28
 ALLOA ATHLETIC	17	8	3	6	33	25	8	27
 AIRDRIEONIANS	17	7	5	5	29	23	6	26
 QUEEN OF THE SOUTH	17	6	5	6	29	27	2	23
 KELTY HEARTS	17	6	2	9	17	25	-8	20
 CLYDE	17	2	3	12	21	38	-17	9
 PETERHEAD	17	1	4	12	10	41	-31	7

WEEKEND'S FIXTURES

SPFL TRUST TROPHY

 ALLOA ATHLETIC	 QUEEN OF THE SOUTH
 FALKIRK	 DUNDEE
 ARBROATH	 DUNFERMLINE
 ELGIN CITY	 CLYDE
 HAMILTON ACCIES	 INVERNESS CT
 KELTY HEARTS	 LINFIELD
 QUEEN'S PARK	 MONTROSE
 RAITH ROVERS	 GREENOCK MORTON

LEAGUE 2

 EAST FIFE	 BONNYRIGG ROSE
 STENHOUSEMUIR	 FORFAR ATHLETIC



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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

183 cm 75 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

183 cm 75 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



AFTER A POINT IN ANGUS

I'm happy to get a clean sheet. I'm happy to come here and get a point today considering the team we had out and the bench. We couldn't fill the bench.

Two boys, Scougall and Donnelly wouldn't have played if we'd have been able to use the full squad. The boys went through the pain barrier today.

Boys working and suspended. We're stretched, really stretched today so to come here and walk away with a clean sheet is no mean feat.

First half they had a couple chances but I thought we had the best chance of the half through Conor [Sammon] and the second half I thought we've controlled the game and made a

few chances. Happy to have got a point but at the same time it could have been three.

I think it should have been a penalty kick in the first half but it's not my view that matters. The referee said that he was looking for it. But I was pleased the way we responded as we were the walking wounded out there.

Robbo had to come off, Luke [Donnelly] had to come off. We put the kids on and they brought us some life and energy so I'm pleased for them but it shows that you need your best players and we are missing 6 just now.

Like I said coming away with a clean sheet is no mean feat in the circumstances.



11

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JOHN GLENCROSS



NEWSDESK

Newsdesk v. Queen of the South

Welcome back to the Indodrill stadium for our SPFL Trust Trophy Round 4 tie against Queen of the South, which is another Friday night tie under the lights, a break away from Cinch League One fixtures. However we will face Queen of the South who will be desperate to make up for their last league fixture at the Indodrill stadium on 12th November, 2022 when they lost 5 - 1, we know

how tough a fixture this will be. We welcome Wullie Gibson his assistant Gavin Murray, the directors, players and fans of Queen of the South FC.

The SPFL Trust Trophy is back for 2022-23, and this season we're celebrating extraordinary stories from across Scottish football communities. We know the difference that football clubs and community trusts make to people's lives every day. And so you're going to be able

to watch and listen to some incredible football powered stories as the tournament progresses.

There will be more too, with competitions, promotions and other opportunities to get involved as we build up to Final 2023. We're committed to making this the most community engaged competition in the tournament's history. Community trusts and associated SPFL clubs have risen spectacularly to the challenge of supporting

those in need during the pandemic with practical support that has made a difference to so many. We're going to use the rights available to us through this partnership to tell the story of the difference they're making to people's lives every day. And we'll celebrate those supported by community trusts and clubs, too. It will be a time of recovery and renewal, and we cannot wait to play our part! The work carried out by Scottish football's community trusts is

hugely important to the local communities that surround and sustain the 42 SPFL clubs. We are therefore delighted to be able to support this much-loved cup competition through the SPFL Trust.

Following the cancellation of the tournament in 2020/21, last season the tournament returned but was limited to Scottish Clubs to limit unnecessary travel across the British Isles. This season with restrictions now relaxed we are delighted to welcome back four cross-border clubs - The New Saints and Caernarfon Town from Wales and Linfield and Cliftonville from Northern Ireland, with Linfield having progressed to Round 4.

In the event of a draw after 90 minutes, matches will be decided by a penalty shoot-out

Round 4 (16 clubs – 8 ties) – Weekend of December 10/11

Quarter-finals – Weekend of January 7/8

Semi-finals – Weekend of February 4/5 or midweek of February 7/8 – subject to change

Final – Weekend of March 25/26 (provisional date).

SPFL TRUST TROPHY - Round 4 Ties
Thursday 8th Dec Falkirk v. Dundee Live BBC Alba
Friday 9th Dec Alloa

Athletic v. Queen of the South 7.45pm
Arbroath v. Dunfermline Athletic 7.45pm
Saturday 10th Dec Elgin City v. Clyde 2.00pm
Hamilton Accies v. Inverness CT 3.00pm
Kelty Hearts v. Linfield 3.00pm
Queen's Park v. Montrose 3.00pm
Raith Rovers v. Morton 3.00pm

In the event of a draw after 90 minutes, matches will be decided by a penalty shoot-out

Ex Scotland International Tommy Hutchison, who began his senior career at Recreation Park with Alloa Athletic in March, 1966 will be guest of honor at the Alloa Athletic Cinch League One match v. Falkirk on Saturday 17th December, 2022. Tommy will be available on the day to sign copies of his recently published autobiography "Hutch - Hard Work and Belief" which will be on sale for Twenty Pounds, against RRP of Twenty Five. This is the story of how one small boy's near impossible dream became a reality. Growing up in poverty in the austere 1950s Fife coalfield, Tommy Hutchison had an unshakable belief that one day he would wear the dark blue shirt of Scotland. To an outsider it seemed an improbable ambition. Too weak to cross a ball from the byline to the

goal area, the teenage Hutchison was overlooked by his teachers and never made the school football team. Through sheer determination, an indomitable spirit and hour upon hour of lonely practice, the adolescent Tommy was finally noticed by his local team, and his journey to Hampden and World Cup glory began. Tommy signed for Alloa Athletic on 5th March, 1966 from Dundonald Bluebell after having trials with Dundee United, Blackburn Rovers and Oldham Athletic, Archie "Curly" McPherson signed him for "The Wasps" and the journey began, eventually signing for Blackpool on 7th February, 1968 for Six Thousand Pounds which was a lot of money at that time. Tommy's football genius ultimately took him all over the world to play with and against some of the greatest footballers of the 1970s and 80s in a career spanning four amazing decades. Making his Scotland debut v. Czechoslovakia at Hampden in 1973 in 2-1 victory which saw the Scots qualify for the

1974 World Cup in Germany, he also played for Coventry City, Manchester City, Burnley, Swansea City & Merthyr Tydfil before moving into management. Hutch, Hard Work and Belief is the funny yet inspiring story of how the seemingly unattainable can be achieved by unwavering, resolute self-belief. Catch up with Tommy at the Alloa Athletic home match v. Falkirk on 17th December, 2022, when he will be happy to recall his memories in the Beautiful Game and sign copies of his book.

The match against Kelty Hearts originally scheduled for Monday 2nd January has now been moved to Saturday 31st December. Please note the new kick-off time of 1pm.

Wasps 2000 Draw - Week 48 3rd December, 2022

£ 100 1053 F.Wheeler
£ 50 1440 C.Sammon
£ 25 0205 C.Ormiston
£ 25 0506 K.Aitken
£ 25 0171 R.McGrouter





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3rd December 2022
 Links Park, Montrose
 3:00pm KO

MONTROSE

0:0

ALLOA ATHLETIC

(0:0)



STARTING XI

- 21** SINCLAIR
- 7** WEBSTER
- 3** STEEVES
- 14** DILLON
- 5** WADDELL
- 6** MASSON
- 24** BALLANTYNE
- 19** CALLAGHAN
- 9** MCALLISTER
- 16** JOHNSTONE
- 22** BROWN

SUBS

- 1** LENNOX
- 17** QUINN
- 2** HUTCHINSON
- 4** ALLAN
- 18** WRIGHT
- 15** WHATLEY
- 11** LYONS
- 12** GARDYNE

SUBS

- 1** MUIR
- 11** MILLER
- 25** OFFORD
- 19** BUCHANAN
- 22** MCLAREN
- 24** RANKIN

STARTING XI

- 31** HOGARTH
- 2** TAGGART
- 4** HOWIE
- 5** GRAHAM
- 3** CHURCH
- 8** ROBERTSON
- 12** SCOUGALL
- 16** KING
- 9** DONNELLY
- 18** SAMMON
- 15** MACIVER

REFEREE: Grant Irvine

3rd December 2022
 East End Park, Dunfermline
 3:00pm KO

DUNFERMLINE

1:1

QUEEN OF THE SOUTH



(0:1)

SCORERS

0:1 45' Paton

Todorov 67' 1:1



STARTING XI

- 1** MEHMET
- 12** BREEN
- 4** BENEDICTUS
- 15** FISHER
- 2** COMRIE
- 3** EDWARDS
- 26** TODD
- 8** CHALMERS
- 21** RITCHIE-HOSLER
- 11** MOCHRIE
- 9** WIGHTON

SUBS

- 5** HAMILTON
- 6** MACDONALD
- 10** TODOROV
- 20** LITTLE
- 27** YOUNG
- 28** TOD
- 29** SUTHERLAND
- 30** MAHON
- 31** HOGGAN

SUBS

- 6** COCHRANE
- 11** MURRAY
- 15** MCGRORY
- 18** MCKECHNIE
- 19** RUTH
- 20** IRVING
- 21** MCMAHON
- 22** BANGE
- 43** HENDERSON

STARTING XI

- 1** CURRIE
- 2** MCKAY
- 5** MCKAY
- 12** MCKENNA
- 17** HENDRIE
- 27** GIBSON
- 8** TODD
- 4** WILSON
- 10** CONNELLY
- 7** PATON
- 9** REILLY

REFEREE: Colin Steven

CHILD PROTECTION AND WELLBEING POLICY

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

We recognise -

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

The purpose of the policy and related procedures is to:

- promote and 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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JONATHAN MARKWELL



FRIDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL

Welcome along to the game this evening under the lights at the Recs. It feels good to say that as there's always something special about night games at the football, and even more so in specific regard to the increasingly common phenomenon of Friday night football at the Recs.

Night games really are a delight for the senses. Players glisten under the lights as spectators always seem to arrive later to the ground for night

games, be it owing to being in more of a rush after work, putting small children to bed or extra time in the pub prior to kick-off. Often, night games are the complete opposite to the old adage of 'the calm before the storm', with you being in such a rush due to normal day-to-day life that for night games they become the moment for relaxation, having run a marathon to get all your usual commitments out of the way to make it to the match.

Night games therefore always have that feeling of being entirely different to a Saturday 3pm matchday. The perfect evening game for me always has that nip in the air but it is always a clear crisp night that commentators would always say is 'perfect for football'. Players and fans alike always seem to have an extra spring in their step, with there being an additional buzz around the occasion, as it is out of the ordinary and feels more special in a number of ways.

There is also an abundance of evocative images to be enjoyed. I always treasure the sight of huddled players' breath, usually as they wait for a corner to be taken, rising in the cold air like a scene from the backdrop of an old industrial landscape painting by LS Lowry. Perhaps it is the snake-like meandering curve of the queue for Joyce's Pie Hut, with some non-regulars occasionally breaking out of the line to squint a glance at the menu despite

the imperfect lighting, as their tummies begin to rumble as they edge closer to making that order to see themselves through the game. Maybe it's the reassuring sight of Robert Wilson diligently undertaking his safety checks around the perimeter of the pitch; whatever the weather Robert is always there, scanning all around him to ensure everything is in order. It might be those darker than normal corners in the ground which add to the atmosphere with you never being completely sure where you are putting your feet on the terraces and the lack of natural light meaning you sadly don't see as many of those many familiar faces that 'you only know from the football' that particular night.

Perhaps it's the sound of the away end shuffling around getting used to their new surroundings for the evening, with many from so-called bigger teams thinking to themselves exactly how far their once illustrious sides have fallen that they've ended up in Alloa on a Friday night. In recent years, reality hurts for fans from the City of Discovery, with nothing saying 'welcome to the Championship' more than a Friday night trip to the Recs, with the TV executives eagerly anticipating the Dundee clubs enduring

a rude awakening of where they now find themselves in the pecking order.

The setting at a night game is perhaps more sharply in contrast at the Recs than it is at many other grounds, as one of the clubs unique selling points for any first-time visitor, or indeed regular spectator, isn't on show. At night games, the majestic Ochil Hills do not form the backdrop for the setting of the game – frequent fans may take them for granted, for they act like a familiar friend overseeing proceedings on the pitch from a distance, but first time visitors to the Recs on a night game miss out on the full atmospheric experience of the ground which the Ochils contribute so much to. Just think of all the famous scenes those famous hills have overseen down the years, from the decades of service from the 1880s by James Hep-

burn, still Alloa's only internationalist, to the countless goals by Willie Crilly in the 1920s, the raw delights of a young John White in the 1950s and all the way through to the present day, the Ochils have seen it all from a distance!

In recent seasons, there have been an abundance of games under the lights on Friday at the Recs, thanks to BBC Scotland's deal to show Championship games as the curtain-raiser to the weekend.

Those canny TV executives knew exactly what they were seeking when selecting Alloa's Friday night fixtures. Nothing says club 'X' are not in the Premier League anymore than a trip to the perceived unglamorous surroundings of the Recs on a Friday night. They are seeking to create TV theatre, with all the ingredients of a shock result and ample opportunities to get all

the football clichés out of the cupboard for another airing. Big team 'Y' gets a rude awakening and bloodied nose from plucky upstarts club 'Z', with the big club not looking forward to being out of their comfort zone in these unfamiliar surroundings, turning the game into more of cup-tie feel and on an artificial pitch too! The narrative really did write itself and happily for Alloa, it probably did work and helped the Wasps gain more points than we would have had all those matches been your traditional Saturday afternoon encounters.

Take Alloa's 1-0 victory over Dundee United in October 2019 as the prime example of this genre. It was early in the season and the Wasps were at the foot of the table, up against the top-of-the-league Tannadice team, with Robbie Neilson's side having smashed Morton 6-0 the previous week and



including first-time Scotland call-up Lawrence Shankland in their ranks, who was scoring goals for fun at the time with 15 goals earning that international call. Alloa however ripped up the form book with an outstanding display, totally outplaying, out-fighting and outsmarting the league leaders. The winning goal came after just 18 minutes as a vintage slide-rule pass from Scott Taggart played in Kevin Cawley down the right flank and Cawley's instinctive low cross was perfect for the onrushing Kevin O'Hara to slot home beyond Benjamin Siegrist. The Wasps pressing was immense all night and United were not allowed back into the game, with Alloa having more chances to extend the margin of victory, which would have been deserved given the Wasps supremacy. Whilst Iain Flannigan was sent-off for a sec-

ond booking late-on, he would have still been my choice as man-of-the-match, after a virtuoso display conducting the Alloa midfield orchestra full of skill and quality. BBC Scotland certainly enjoyed their trip to the Recs that night, with commentator Alasdair Lamont morphing into Alan Partridge by describing one particularly intricate Wasps move as "liquid football from Alloa!"

The BBC bosses were evidently so impressed by the encounter that when the return fixture came about in February it was switched to the Friday night for TV coverage again. In-fact, the BBC showed they had a sense of humour as the Friday was actually Valentine's Day, leading to many away supporters taking to social media to confirm that there was nowhere they'd rather spend their Valentine's night than at the atmos-



pheric Recs! However, there were a few less fireworks on this occasion, with the game finishing goalless on a cold and windy evening. By this stage of the season the Tangerines were the runaway league leaders, seventeen points clear at the summit, but they couldn't breach a diligent Alloa backline marshalled by the excellent Scott Taggart and ably assisted by the ever-maturing performances of loanee Robbie Deas. It

was very much a point gained for the Wasps, who were depleted because of injuries but full of character as always when it came to playing Dundee United.

The following season it was United's near-neighbours turn to roll up to the Recs for their slice of the Friday night under the lights experience. With all home games that season played without fans, the supporters sadly couldn't enjoy in person the early season October 2020 encounter against James McPake's Dundee. Amidst the foggy surroundings of the Recs it looked for a long time as if it was going to be another famous against-the-odds win for the Wasps, with a Robert Thomson back-post finish and a second half double from Alan Trouten putting Alloa 3-1 up. However, late in the game the momentum swung in Dundee's favour thanks



to the influence of Charlie Adam's wand of a left foot, which caused Alloa continual headaches and despite another brave effort the Dees eventually found a way back into the game for it to finish 3-3 in the end. Come the return game in March 2021 Dundee were beginning on a run of form which would eventually see them win promotion via the play-offs, while Alloa's downward spiral towards relegation was beginning to become clearer. There was no shock on that occasion, as two almost identical

Lee Ashworth headers from corners making it a more comfortable than anticipated evening for Dundee.

In the two subsequent Friday night games at the Recs Alloa have happily recorded successive victories. Peter Grant finished his reign as Alloa manager with a victory over Dunfermline, as Alloa waved goodbye to Championship football in April 2021. The Pars had one eye that night on their upcoming Premiership promotion play-off matches that

night, which seems a very long time ago now given they too are battling to get back to the Championship. In the previous round of the SPFL Trophy this season the Wasps switched the game to Friday to avoid any clash with Scotland playing on the Saturday. The result was an open entertaining encounter with Airdrie, which somehow only finished 1-0 to the Wasps, when it could have easily been 4-3 given the amount of chances created by both sides on the night. Just a fortnight ago, this time away from the

Recs, the Wasps picked up another Friday night win by avoiding a Scottish Cup upset with victory against Open Goal Broomhill. It is little surprise that the Wasps enjoy playing on Friday nights, given the largely decent record of wins the club have collected in recent years. Fingers crossed Alloa can achieve another good result under the lights this evening and the fan experience includes all the delights that Friday night football can bring.





DONALD POLLOCK

SCOTTISH LEAGUE—First Division.

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Goals.		Pts.
					F.	A.	
Dundee,	17	11	3	3	33	17	25
Rangers,	15	9	2	4	28	9	22
Hearts,	16	5	1	10	25	19	20
Airdrieonians,	16	8	4	4	18	10	20
Hibernian,	17	8	5	4	19	21	20
Falkirk,	16	6	3	7	22	12	19
Aberdeen,	18	8	7	3	27	19	19
Celtic,	14	9	5	0	22	18	18
St Mirren,	16	5	6	5	22	22	15
Third Lanark,	16	6	7	3	18	23	15
Motherwell,	15	4	5	6	27	22	14
Partick Thistle,	15	4	5	6	21	21	14
Ayr United,	15	5	6	4	16	19	14
Kilmarnock,	16	5	7	4	21	29	14
Raith Rovers,	16	5	7	4	9	22	14
Alloa,	16	4	7	5	14	22	13
Morton,	15	5	8	2	17	21	12
Albion Rovers,	16	2	7	7	14	26	11
Clyde,	16	3	8	5	15	23	11
Hamilton Acad.,	17	3	12	2	15	28	8



THE CRILLEY SAGA CONTINUES

It was only November but already Alloa's clash with Hamilton Accies back in 1922 had the look of a four pointer. The Wasps had already managed some notable successes in their debut season in the top flight with October victories against Third Lanark and Hibs suggesting they were very much at home. Optimism was subsequently dampened somewhat by a narrow defeat away at struggling Albion Rovers and a drab 0-0 home

draw with Clyde. The most noteworthy news from the Clyde match had been the return of Willie Crilley to the Alloa team. The goalmachine of the previous season had suffered an injury almost immediately after coming back to Alloa from a short sojourn with Celtic. His comeback against the Bully Wee had not been successful, a clearly lame Crilley described by the press as "a passenger and a slow one at that". There was

more bad news when it emerged after the game that Crilley was to go under the knife for a knee operation at Glasgow's Victoria Infirmary. The controversy was only beginning there.

With Crilley missing, Tully Craig was back at centre-forward as bottom of the table Accies arrived in the Wee County. Recent signing from Loanhead Mayflower, Mick Connaboy, retained his place, with the press

also revealing that the winger was apparently a skilled negotiator: "Connaboy, now of Alloa, would seem to be also a "canny boy" if the story is true that he wanted £1000 down and £7 a week from Dunfermline Athletic to sign". There were no details of the terms he had secured from Alloa, but whatever they were, Connaboy and co certainly didn't earn their cash against the struggling Accies. In front of 4000 fans

at the Recs, Hamilton were reported to have "toyed" with a distinctly off colour Alloa, racing into a two goal half-time lead. The second half was slightly better with Alloa's best chance coming from the spot, an opportunity passed up by Wood. The match ended in a damaging 2-0 defeat with Thomson in goal rated as Alloa's best player.

Next up was Ayr, once more at the Recs. The Crilley saga continued in the build up to the game, the Dundee Courier reporting that the operation the previous week hadn't in fact gone ahead due to a lack of beds in the Victoria Infirmary.

In the meantime there was a dramatic re-shuffle for the visit of the Honest Men. Local boy James Headrick, who had impressed when called upon in defence since his summer arrival from Dundee Hibs, took to the field at centre-forward, backed up by Forrest, Connaboy, Craig, and Cochrane. The change of approach worked, the Sunday Post reporting that "The opening period was all in favour of Alloa, whose forwards were in rampant form". Unfortunately, the Wasps found Nisbet in the Ayr goal in outstanding form and half-time arrived with the game goalless.

"The second half was simply a repetition of the first - Nisbet versus the Alloa forwards", said the Post, but disaster then struck as the visitors went in front on a rare attack. Alloa responded well with another fine spell, the pressure eventually telling when Forrest cut in from the right to fire home. A string of opportunities followed, spoiled only by the "over eagerness" of the front men and the brilliance of Nisbet. It finished 1-1 with the verdict that "Seldom has such brilliant goalkeeping been witnessed in the brewing town", and the bold prediction also that Headrick had done enough to show that he "should solve Alloa's centre-forward problem".

The scale of that problem was now to be revealed to the public and quickly overshadowed the much improved Ayr performance. "ALLOA SENSATION - CRILLEY SUSPENDED TILL END OF SEASON" screamed the headline in the Evening News. "For some weeks the little fellow has been fighting shy of the inevitable operation, and all manner of excuses have been tendered as to why the operation was not being done", explained the paper. Alloa had finally managed to get their star man into the Victoria Infirmary, only for the "elusive Crilley" to "make his departure from the institution in

some mysterious way". An infuriated Alloa board had thus "decided unanimously to suspend him until the end of the season".

Further details emerged with Crilley himself giving his own version of events to the press from his bed as he rested his knee. He had willingly presented himself at the infirmary on Wednesday, he claimed, only to find out he would need to wait for the operation. "I didn't fancy stopping in all the time, as I wasn't lame and feeling first class. So, says I to the doctor, it would be fine if you let me out all day and let me come back in to stop all night. But the doctor wouldn't hear of that and said I had to bide in. That was on the Friday, and at night I decided to shift. No, I didn't tell anybody what I was to do. I just got my things and went out without giving any warning. I went right home, and I suppose the folk in the infirmary wondered what had become of me. I sent a message to the Alloa secretary, saying that I had left the hospital, and then I got a letter from him stating that I had been suspended until the end of the season".

The Sunday Post revealed that Alloa secretary J.W Saunders had only managed to track down Crilley by speaking to his sister, after a phone call to

the Victoria Infirmary which had confirmed that the midget centre "had done a bunk". The directors were "very angry. His conduct was reprehensible". And yet there was a sting in the tail. Crilley had written to Alloa informing the club that he was now willing to go under the knife, and it was understood that the directors were willing to lift the suspension in the event of the operation going ahead. Despite all that had happened, it was suggested that the board were still "hoping that Crilley will ere long return to the team perfectly fit, and give service such as he rendered last season". While patience was running thin, the Alloa blazers were very aware of what Crilley was capable of, and such was their predicament in attack, clearly felt he was still their best bet for First Division survival. They had also invested heavily in their star man. They would definitely have to do without him in the short term though with a daunting set of games against Aberdeen, Kilmarnock, Dundee and Rangers coming up before Christmas. 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	3 (0)	0	1 (0)	0	4 (0)	0	3 (0)	0
BURT	GOAL	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (1)	0
HOGARTH	GOAL	14 (0)	0	5 (0)	0	19 (0)	0	14 (0)	0
TAGGART	DEF	17 (0)	1	6 (0)	1	23 (0)	2	211 (0)	7
CHURCH	DEF	11 (3)	2	6 (0)	0	17 (3)	2	31 (7)	2
HOWIE	DEF	2 (5)	0	0 (1)	0	2 (6)	0	19 (8)	1
GRAHAM	DEF	8 (1)	1	6 (0)	0	14 (1)	1	184 (2)	14
DURNAN	DEF	4 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	4 (0)	0	37 (0)	4
STANGER	DEF	14 (0)	3	4 (1)	0	18 (1)	3	14 (0)	3
MCLAREN	DEF	1 (2)	0	2 (1)	0	3 (3)	0	1 (2)	0
DEVINE	DEF	6 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	6 (0)	0	6 (0)	0
ROBERTSON	MID	15 (1)	0	0 (0)	0	15 (1)	0	162 (29)	2
SCOUGALL	MID	10 (2)	1	4 (1)	0	14 (3)	1	44 (15)	6
KING	MID	4 (8)	1	5 (0)	0	9 (8)	1	30 (13)	5
O'DONNELL	MID	6 (6)	1	2 (1)	0	8 (7)	1	13 (26)	1
MILLER	MID	11 (3)	0	6 (0)	0	17 (3)	0	11 (3)	0
CAWLEY	MID	14 (1)	0	2 (2)	0	16 (3)	0	312 (44)	62
DONNELLY	FWD	7 (4)	4	2 (0)	1	9 (4)	5	7 (10)	5
SAMMON	FWD	17 (0)	5	5 (1)	5	22 (1)	10	38 (13)	10
MACIVER	FWD	14 (3)	4	4 (2)	0	18 (5)	4	17 (8)	5
KHYHAM	FWD	0 (1)	0	0 (3)	0	0 (4)	0	0 (1)	0
RODDEN	FWD	6 (7)	5	5 (0)	1	11 (7)	6	6 (7)	5
BUCHANAN	FWD	0 (5)	0	1 (3)	0	1 (8)	0	0 (5)	0
RANKIN	FWD	0 (3)	1	0 (0)	0	0 (3)	1	0 (3)	1
OFFORD	FWD	3 (8)	3	0 (0)	0	3 (8)	3	3 (8)	3

HT QUIZ

1. WHO SCORED BOTH GOALS FOR QUEEN OF THE SOUTH THE LAST TIME THE TWO CLUBS MET IN THIS COMPETITION BACK IN NOVEMBER 2016?

2. WHO IS THE ONLY PLAYER COMPETING IN THIS YEAR'S WORLD CUP TO HAVE SCORED 10 WORLD CUP GOALS?



ALLOA CAREER CUP		ALLOA TOTAL	
APP	GOAL	APP	GOAL
1 (0)	0	4 (0)	0
0 (0)	0	0 (1)	0
5 (0)	0	19 (0)	0
6 (0)	1	217 (0)	8
54 (1)	2	85 (8)	4
6 (1)	0	25 (9)	1
11 (2)	0	195 (4)	14
46 (1)	1	83 (1)	5
6 (1)	0	20 (1)	3
2 (1)	0	3 (3)	0
0 (0)	0	6 (0)	0
0 (0)	0	162 (29)	2
4 (1)	1	48 (16)	7
11 (4)	1	41 (17)	6
0 (0)	0	13 (26)	1
6 (0)	0	17 (3)	0
7 (4)	1	319 (48)	63
2 (3)	1	9 (13)	6
5 (1)	5	43 (14)	15
4 (2)	0	21 (10)	5
0 (3)	0	0 (4)	0
5 (0)	1	11 (7)	6
1 (3)	0	1 (8)	0
0 (3)	0	0 (6)	1
0 (0)	0	3 (8)	3



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3. CRISTIANO RONALDO RECENTLY BECAME THE FIRST PLAYER TO SCORE IN 5 WORLD CUPS. CAN YOU NAME THE FOUR PLAYERS TO HAVE SCORED IN 4 WORLD CUP TOURNAMENTS?

4. IN WHICH TWO WORLD CUP TOURNAMENTS WAS THE GOLDEN GOAL CONCEPT USED IN EXTRA TIME OF KNOCKOUT TIES?

5. NAME THE TEN AFRICAN COUNTRIES TO HAVE COMPETED IN A WORLD CUP ON MULTIPLE OCCASIONS (I.E. MORE THAN ONE APPEARANCE)



BRIAN ROACH



A FAN'S VIEW

A month has passed since the last edition of The Wasp after spending the last few weekends on our travels. Alloa had some mixed fortunes on the road, but the last home fixture was a memorable one- a 5-1 victory over tonight's opponents. Stefan Scougall made a welcome return into the starting line-up for that game after an excellent outing from the bench the previous week against Kelty Hearts. Queen of the South's impressive away form this season, and Alloa started the game on the back foot as the visitors started like a house of fire. Queens took the lead after a couple of minutes and could

easily have been a few goals up in the opening stages. Alloa struggled to get a foothold in the game as Queens looked dangerous on every occasion they overturned possession. But seconds before the interval Alloa managed to get the goal that ultimately changed the outlook of the game- an equaliser they probably scarcely deserved. Some slack Queens defending from a corner kick allowed Ross MacIver to stab home and allow the Wasps to leave the pitch on level terms.

You could argue that Queens repeated the pattern of the opening half by starting the stronger team after the break. But Alloa put

the game to bed in the space of six glorious minutes. On the hour mark, Daniel Church controlled and volleyed home to put Alloa in front. After scoring the first senior goal of his career the previous Saturday, he repeated the feat to double his account. Three minutes later George Stanger rose in the area to extend Alloa's lead. Then Kieran Offord sealed the points with a low first-time drive on 66 minutes. Alloa added a 5th with seven minutes left. Following a great diagonal run from substitute Brad Rodden, his ball across the face of the goal was finished by fellow sub Adam King. It was a result no-one

would have predicted in the first ten minutes of the game, but that second half was one of the most enjoyable I've witnessed at Recreation Park in a long time.

Sadly, the following fixture against FC Edinburgh was as bad an experience as the Queens game was great. The Meadowbank facility is a sports centre rather than a football stadium, with the viewing from the tiny stand making it really difficult to watch the action. The match itself was utterly bizarre, with Alloa racing into a quick 3 goal lead- all through free headers in the penalty area. The hosts pulled a goal back before the break, but no-one would have

envisaged the points were not safe. The second half was disastrous though- with Alloa conceding three goals, Cameron O'Donnell picking up a red card and Stefan Scougall missing a penalty. To be fair, Scougall's penalty was hit well, and it was a terrific save by the Edinburgh goalkeeper. But the collapse left a lasting scar on me, and I will no doubt feel an ice cool shiver run down my spine when we return there in March.

The SPFL website had asked me to do a few pieces on Alloa to increase coverage on all lower league clubs during the World Cup. The Alloa profile was uploaded online on the Monday after the Edinburgh game, and whilst the coverage was really good- I unfortunately was still sulking from the weekend and had little appetite or enthusiasm for any resultant social media interactions. You can't stay down in the dumps for too long though- and by the Friday I was raring to go for the Scottish Cup tie against Open Goal Broomhill at Broadwood Stadium. I must admit I was pretty impressed with the Broomhill setup. They attracted a really credible attendance for a cold Friday night, and there was even a wee light show right before kick-off to give the matchday experience a modern edge- and it

was surprisingly not that embarrassing. The team itself another matter though- although they're plying their trade in the Lowland League they have some decent players in their ranks and I expected a bit more than what they showed. In all honesty they rarely got up the pitch to trouble the Alloa rearguard. Alloa got their noses in front through Luke Donnelly but after that huffed and puffed a bit despite dominating the majority of possession. Stefan Scougall was strolling proceedings in the middle of the pitch, but Alloa just couldn't find that second goal to kill off the tie. They were almost punished late in the match when Open Goal Broomhill scored with their only real chance on goal. The equaliser came from a corner kick which was powered in like a battering ram from the experienced defender Kirk Broadfoot. The game hadn't been great as a spectacle, and the prospect of another 30 minutes wasn't massively appealing. However, I had no doubt Alloa would likely go on to win in extra time. But we were spared all that when Alloa were awarded a penalty in stoppage time. It looked a clear handball from the stand, and I subsequently watched a few replays and frame by frames of the incident post match but the angles weren't really

conclusive. Nevertheless the opposition bench completely lost their heads, and this dragged on through social media for a number of days afterwards. I still think it was a penalty though, and Scott Taggart slotted home to put Alloa into the next round. The resultant Fourth Round draw gave us a home tie against Falkirk- which isn't entirely appetite whetting- but a winnable game.

Finally, Alloa faced a trip to Montrose last weekend as they returned to league duty. The outcome of a point was fine based on the circumstances. Alloa were depleted with injuries- George Stanger, David Devine, Mark Duran, Kevin Cawley and Brad Rodden were all absent from the squad and Cameron O'Donnell suspended. And it was only within the managers post-match interview we learned that Stefan Scougall and Luke Donnelly were thrown in through necessity as neither was 100%. Montrose had the better of the first half, with Andy Graham and Rory McAllister having a memorable tussle. It was honours even by the break though, and McAllister had a bit of a tantrum as the referee blew for half time- sitting on the pitch protesting he was fouled in the last play of the half (he wasn't). He wasn't quite the same in the second half and was subbed

off well before full time. Alloa did probably have the most clear-cut chance of the game when Conor Sammon headed wide from close range. They also had a decent shout for a penalty when Luke Donnelly was barged over in the area. Alloa pushed on as the game drew to its conclusion. Kieran Offord looked dangerous off the bench and gave them an alternative option to cause the home defence concern. They couldn't make it count, but in the end a draw was probably the correct outcome. The icy coastal wind made this the coldest fixture of the season so far, and I spent most of the game adjacent to the pile stall- topping the system up with regular cups of Bovril to stay warm.

Despite not being at their best in the last couple of games, Alloa have picked up results. Last weeks clean sheet should ensure any left-over damage caused by the Edinburgh game has disappeared. Tonight's game gives both clubs a break from league duty as they look to progress in the Challenge Cup. I'm expecting to see both starting 11s given a bit of a shake up, and if its anything like the last round against Airdrie, hopefully we see an open entertaining game with the shackles off to an extent. Enjoy the match.



ANDREW COCKBURN



LOOKING BACK 10TH NOVEMBER 1990

In The Premier Division, the day's top game was undoubtedly at Pittodrie, where leaders Aberdeen hosted second-placed Celtic, and a 4-2 win for The Dons saw them move six points clear of their closest title challengers. Rangers remained third, despite being held 1-1 at home by sixth-placed Hearts, fourth-placed Dundee United also had to be content with a share of the spoils, after they were held 2-2 at

struggling Dumbarton, while St. Mirren retained fifth place after a 3-2 win at another side in the doldrums, Hibs. bottom club Morton's woes continued in the shape of a 1-5 beating at Dundee, Hibs' defeat meant they remained just place above The Ton, while Dumbarton, in spite of their welcome point, still dropped to third-bottom position.

Airdrie retained pole position in The

First Division, despite being held 1-1 at local rivals/fellow promotion hopefuls Motherwell, while Clydebank, who also had to settle for a point after an incredible 4-4 draw at Ayr, still held onto second spot. Third-placed Forfar also shared the spoils after a 0-0 stalemate at East Fife, Clyde remained fourth in spite of a 1-2 reverse at struggling St. Johnstone, while Motherwell still occupied fifth place. At the

other end of the table, rock-bottom Kilmarnock faced second-bottom Meadowbank in a rather important "basement battle", at Rugby Park. And a 2-1 win for Killie saw them move up to twelfth place, Thistle now propped the table, while gameless Partick dropped to second-bottom spot.

It was also Scottish Cup first round day, and the "star performance" took place at Annfield,

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where Stirling Albion hammered non-league Selkirk by an incredible 20-0 scoreline, the biggest win in British football for nearly a century. Berwick defeated Albion Rovers by 3-1 at Shielfield, while 3-1 was also the outcome at East End Park, rather surprisingly in favour of Second Division strugglers East Stirling, v promotion-seeking Dunfermline. There were 2-1 home wins

for Stenhousemuir v non-leaguers Whitehill Welfare, & today's visitors Queen of The South v Arbroath, Stewart Cochran & George Cloy The Doonhamers scorers. Another non-league outfit, Gala Fairydean, did well to earn a home replay v Stranraer, after forcing a 2-2 draw at Stair Park, while Alloa had a bye to the second round, where they'd face

near-neighbours East Stirling which they won 2-1 with goals from Bobby Barr and Davie Lloyd, the following round they travelled to Pittodrie to face Aberdeen.

South of the border, Everton remained on top of The First Division, despite being held 0-0 at lowly QPR. But Manchester United missed a great chance to take over the leadership, when they went down 2-3 at Nottingham Forest, this after having held a 2-0 half-time lead. United thus slipped one place to third, and were replaced in second spot by Spurs, who defeated Newcastle 3-1 at White Hart Lane, while bottom club Stoke's

problems continued with a tenth straight league defeat, this time by 0-2 at home v fellow strugglers Ipswich. Oxford's emphatic 5-0 home win v Charlton saw them top The Second Division, on goal difference from the previous leaders Blackburn, who were also victorious on home soil, by 3-1 v Sheffield United, but who still slipped to second. Barnsley's point from a 3-3 at Wimbledon was still enough to nudge them up into third place, while Portsmouth, beaten 0-3 at Carlisle, slipped from third to fourth.



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QUEEN OF THE SOUTH

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Runners-Up: (5)

SCOTTISH LEAGUE
TWO*
Runners-up 1924-25

SCOTTISH CUP
Runners-up: 2007-08

CHALLENGE CUP
Winners:
2002-03, 2012-13

This evening we turn our attention to SPFL Trust Trophy action as we take on fellow League 1 side, Queen of the South. It is 4th round action tonight with the winners earning a place in this year's Quarter finals. It was FC Edinburgh from the capital that the Doonhamers put to the sword in the last round.

4 goals without reply from Connor Murray, David McKay, Mikey Ruth, and former Wasp, Lee Connelly fired their side into the next round against Alloa.

The sides are pretty closely matched in the league with just 4 points separating them and it

has been a fairly up and down few weeks for the side. Since falling to a 5-1 defeat at this ground, they have gone on to beat Montrose 4-0, lose 4-1 to Morton and grab a commendable point at East End Park against Dunfermline. Tonight is the opportunity to put the league to the back of the team's minds as they gear up for the cup.

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, Dumbarton, 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 the team, with 7 appearances to his name, including 1 in the previous round. There is definitely a preference on the management side of the game with his last appearance coming at the end of October in a 3-1 defeat to Falkirk.





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 5 goals and 3 assists so far from

the midfield. Having missed out in October with a hamstring injury, he returned from a spell on the sidelines with a sub appearance in the 5-1 defeat to Alloa and has since started the last couple of games with his captain armband.

ONE TO WATCH – LEWIS GIBSON

From one Gibson to another, the manager's son, Lewis Gibson, has caught the eye since breaking onto the scene in the last few months. At only 17-years old, he made his league debut at Meadowbank in the victory over FC Edinburgh and with a goal, couple of assists and a goal-line clearance he was stuck on for a man of the match award in his opening game. He has maintained his place in the team since and bagged an assist

a week later in that 5-1 game last time out. Similar style to his father, Gibson offers pace and directness from the wing back area posing a threat at both ends of the park.

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 was also on the scoresheet, as previously mentioned, in the last round of this cup meaning there could be another start on the cards tonight.. The first of two familiar names for visiting fans is Mark Durran. 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

CONTINUED ON P32



BY KIEREN MOONEY

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 counterpart but did spend a short loan spell at Palmerston in 2020.

PREVIOUS MEETINGS

It has been a fixture that Brian Rice's Wasps have enjoyed so far this season. The opening fixture at Palmerston wasn't Alloa's best performance of the season as they found themselves a goal behind thanks to Gavin Reilly's strike. It took until injury time for Alloa to carve open an opportunity and Ross MacIver made no mistake when it came with his last-minute headed equaliser

to snatch a point. The following game was simply outstanding from Alloa as they blew the Doonhamers away with their 5 goals. Despite Reilly opening the scoring with only 2 minutes on the clock, Alloa fans would not be blamed for thinking we had a long afternoon ahead. Alas, MacIver's goal just before the break changed the whole dynamic of the game. Coming into the second half a chaotic

5 minute spell saw Alloa bag 3 goals from 3 different scorers in Daniel Church, George Stanger, and Kieran Offord. Not settled at 4, Alloa put the icing on the cake with Adam King turning home a fantastic Bradley Rodden cross at the end. To compile misery on Gibson's men they saw red with Stephen Hendrie being sent for an early shower





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BRIAN ROACH



THREE OF THE BEST..... REVOLUTIONARY REBUILDS

TOM HENDRIE- 1996/97

In the 1980s Alloa were a classic yo-yo team between the old Second and First Divisions- achieving promotion on three occasions only to be relegated the following season. However, they found it tougher to replicate this feat in the 90s where they spent the first half of the decade cemented in the third tier. Hugh McCann came closest to achieving promotion as manager in 1991/92- but they needed a win in a final day Recreation Park shoot-out with Cowdenbeath, and the match agonisingly ended in a 0-0 draw. When league reconstruction occurred in 1994 Alloa found themselves in the newly formed Third Division. Alloa hit their lowest point in season 1995/96, languishing near the foot of the bottom league under the helm of Pat MacAulay. Tom Hendrie joined the club in February of 1996 and whilst Alloa didn't immediately

pick up form, they at least managed to avoid finishing bottom of the league on goal difference- winning their final match of the campaign against Cowdenbeath. Albion Rovers were consigned to the wooden spoon despite defeating the Wasps the week before at Cliftonhill. Alloa had plateaued and big changes were required. And Hendrie set his sights on rebuilding an Alloa team to compete with the best part time clubs in the country.

Hendrie raided his former club Berwick Rangers and picked up Mark Cowan, Craig Valentine and Willie Irvine. Irvine and Valentine of course became bona fide legends of the club, and Mark Cowan a popular long serving defensive option. He also added the mercurial striker Peter Dwyer from East Stirlingshire. During the 96/97 campaign Mark Wilson, Miller Mathieson, Stuart Wilson, David Pew and Paul Simpson were

also added to the squad. Alloa produced a huge cup upset in the early stages of the season, defeating Motherwell in the League Cup on a penalty shoot-out at Fir Park. This earned them a tie with Celtic, played at Firhill to accommodate the larger crowd. Alloa were eventually outclassed but managed to draw level early in the second half through Paul McAneny to give the Glasgow giants a scare.

Alloa finished the season in a credible 4th position, but 13 points from promotion. However, the loss of Dwyer in January with 12 goals already to his name left many Alloa supporters wondering "what if..." Dwyer had emigrated to Australia through his day job and he left a significant void up front. Hendrie continued to make good additions to his squad that summer as they looked to progress and compete for the Third Division Championship in 1997/98.

Steve Ramsay returned to the club alongside Gregor McKechnie and left back Lloyd Haddow. And the emergence of youngster Martin Cameron up front provided a more than capable replacement for the departed Dwyer. Alloa won the Third Division Championship by 6 points- only the second league trophy in the club's history. It was an amazing transformation in just two campaigns- and Hendries success had caught the attention of clubs in higher divisions. Hendrie departed to join St Mirren right before Christmas in 1998 but not before masterminding one of the clubs most memorable victories in November. Alloa defeated close rivals Stirling Albion 7-0 with goals from Paul Simpson, David Pew, Gregor McKechnie (2), Mark Cowan, Willie Irvine and Stuart Mackay- all scorers with the exception of Mackay were brought to the club by Hendrie. Terry

Christie took over at the helm and took the team to the next level- culminating in one of Alloas best ever campaigns in 1999/2000- winning promotion and the Challenge Cup. Hendrie set the platform though with his brilliant initial recruitment drive.

PAUL HARTLEY – 2011/12

Alloa ended the first decade of the millennium with some degree of heartbreak, having been pipped to the Second Division championship by Stirling Albion on the final day of the league season. They were unable to recover from that significant setback in the play-offs- losing to Cowdenbeath in the semi-finals having previously been unbeaten against the Fife club in the other seven encounters that season. It was anticipated that Alloa would again compete for the league championship in season 2010/11. But an even more alarming collapse in the second half of that season saw the club drop to 9th place, where they were relegated to the Third Division by Annan Athletic via the Second Division play-offs. Allan Maitland saw his 5-year tenure as manager come to an end after the season's final game. His replacement was Paul Hartley, a Scotland international who had previously starred for Hearts, Celtic and Aberdeen and looking to cut his teeth in management. Hartley surprisingly wiped the slate clean, looking to recruit an entirely new squad of players. His initial recruitment drive in June 2011 saw Scott Bain, Ben Gordon, Kevin Cawley, Darren Young, Graeme Holmes, Ryan Harding and Ross and Ryan McCord arrive at the club. Michael Doyle and Mark Docherty also arrived

the following month. Other notable additions arrived within the backroom staff- with Tam Ritchies input providing a high level of fitness and professionalism which is still prevalent within the club today.

The supporters were immediately taken by the attractive quality of football on offer by Hartleys team. They finally reached the summit of the Third Division following a 3-0 Boxing Day victory over Elgin City. By that time Stevie May had also arrived on loan from St Johnstone. After the Elgin victory Alloa won 12 of their next 15 matches- sealing the championship with another win over the Highlanders by 8 goals to 1. Youngster May was the standout player during this period, ending the season with 19 goals and the championship was eventually won by a 14-point margin. Hartley made some tweaks to his team for the 2012/13 Second Division campaign- adding Daryll Meggatt, Steven Simmons and Jason Marr to the squad. Alloa didn't quite have enough to topple an outstanding Queen of the South team, but they were outstanding in the second half of the season- achieving consecutive promotions after putting Dunfermline to the sword in the play-off final. Alloa were now competing in the second tier with the majority of the playing squad initially signed by Hartley for his maiden Third Division campaign. A flying start to their Championship bow had Alloa sitting just 4 points from the top in December 2013. A subsequent poor run of results saw Hartley quit the club in mid-January. But he left the club as one of its greatest ever managers, building a team from scratch with the

quality to climb through the lower leagues and compete with any team they faced.

JACK ROSS – 2016/17

Alloa continued to achieve success following Paul Hartleys departure- consolidating themselves in the second tier for three consecutive seasons with Barry Smith then Danny Lennon at the helm. It was the first time this had been achieved in the clubs' history. They also picked up a famous victory over Rangers in the Challenge Cup semi-final, despite losing the final heavily against Livingston. There was a real "end of an era" feel to the club in the summer of 2015, and Lennon attempted to overhaul the squad following a procession of Hartleys team departing. The attempt to build a bigger squad on the budget was fairly disastrous, as Alloa didn't have the quality on the pitch to compete with their predominantly full-time opponents. Lennon departed the club in December, with Jack Ross recruited as his replacement in his first managerial role. Like Hendrie almost 20 years prior, Ross was unable to immediately revert the team's fortunes and they ended the season relegated to League One. But the 2016 summer transfer window was one where Ross really put his stamp on the Alloa squad and made it his own. Kevin Cawley and Greig Spence made their returns to the club, with Neil Parry, Jordan Kirkpatrick, Jon Robertson, Scott Taggart, Andy Graham, Callum Waters and Jim Goodwin also arriving. Ben Gordon also returned for a brief loan spell having now progressed up

the ranks to Livingston. This new Alloa team flew out of the traps like no other in recent memory. July saw Alloa end the League Cup

group stages with a 100% record- despatching of Cove Rangers, Montrose, Raith Rovers and Premiership cup holders Ross County (eliminating them in the process). Alloa won their league curtain raiser against Peterhead 4-0, before defeating another Premiership club- Inverness Caledonian Thistle- in the League Cup last 16. They made it 10 consecutive victories with wins over Stranraer, East Fife and Albion Rovers in the league followed by another success over East Fife in the Challenge Cup. In September Alloa faced Brendan Rodgers eventual "invincible" Celtic team at Parkhead in the League Cup Quarter Finals. They gave the Scottish champions as good a game as anyone that season- only succumbing to 2 goals in the last ten minutes of the game scored by James Forrest and Moussa Dembele. Jack Ross was turning heads with this rip-roaring start to the season and upsets over major clubs- and again drawing direct comparisons to Tom Hendrie it was St Mirren who came calling. Ross couldn't refuse the offer to manage his former club and he was replaced by Jim Goodwin. He signed off with a memorable victory over Bala Town in the Challenge Cup- the first half performance that day as good as anything produced under his tenure. Like Hendrie and Hartley before him, others may have picked up the baton and led the team to even greater heights. But Jack Ross built Alloas second great team of the decade- and with Taggart, Cawley, Robertson and Graham still at the club his influence remains to this day.

MIDFIELDERS					
CAWLEY	ROBERTSON	MILLER	SCOU Gall	KING	O'DONNELL
7	8	11	12	16	20
		90	90	90	71
		90		90	87
39		76	26	90	14
75	45	68	90	22	
90		90	90	90	
54	36	90	62	90	
90	90	60	50	30	29
90	90	45		69	45
80	84	6		10	85
90	90		35	3	90
83	90		83	7	90
36		90	90	64	
65	90		90	25	61
45	90	27	90		90
90	90	72	90	18	
62	90	90			
64	90	90			26
82	90	68			22
89	61	90			1
90	90	74	90	15	16
	90	64	90	26	55
90		90	64	90	
	82	8	90	90	

FORWARDS							
DONNELLY	RODDEN	MAGIVER	KHYAM	SAMMON	BUCHANAN	RANKIN	OFFORD
9	10	15	17	18	19	24	25
		62	14	90	28		
	87	90	3	87	3		
	76	90	14	64			
	45	90		90			
	18	90		72			
	28	90		90			
	40	90		90			
	30	90		60	21		
	73	90	5	80	17	10	
35	155	90		87		2	35
27	21	90		63	7		69
72	90	31		18	59		
29	29	90		61			61
45	63	63		45			27
72	64	26		77			18
		90		90			90
75	75	20		70			15
90	63	27		27	8		27
90	90	90		69			21
82	8	59		82			31
64		90		83			7
90	53	37		77	13		
77				68	13		22



QUIZ ANSWERS

1. STEPHEN DOBBIE

2. THOMAS MULLER (GERMANY)

3. UWE SEELER (WEST GERMANY- 1958, 1962, 1966, 1970), PELE (BRAZIL-1958, 1962, 1966, 1970), MIROSLAV KLOSE (GERMANY- 2002, 2006, 2010, 2014) LIONEL MESSI (ARGENTINA- 2006, 2014, 2018, 2022)

4. 1998 AND 2002

5. SOUTH AFRICA, EGYPT, IVORY COAST, SENEGAL, NIGERIA, GHANA, MOROCCO, ALGERIA, TUNISIA, CAMEROON





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			
	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			
	43	SAM HENDERSON			
		MANAGER WILLIE GIBSON			

REFEREE: Graham Grainger

ASST: Gary Hilland & Colin Drummond

ALLOA'S NEXT FIVE

17.12.22, HOME, 15:00

	ALLOA ATHLETIC		FALKIRK
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23.12.22, AWAY, 19:45

	CLYDE		ALLOA ATHLETIC
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31.12.22, HOME, 13:00

	ALLOA ATHLETIC		KELTY HEARTS
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07.01.23, AWAY, 15:00

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

	ALLOA ATHLETIC		FC EDINBURGH
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