

THE WASP



FC EDINBURGH
14TH JANUARY 2023



NORTHERN
GAS AND POWER
THE SMARTER ENERGY CHOICE



Mitre®
DIFFERENT LEAGUE



Mitre®

Official
Ball
Supplier
of the



mitre.com

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 Salvano (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

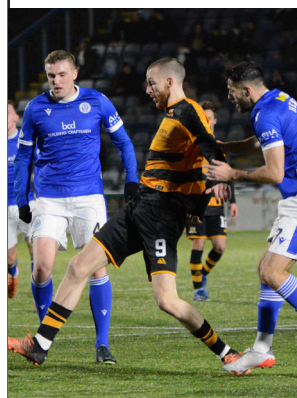
David Glencross








AAFC Supporters Club

Brian Roach - 07775764831

CONTENTS











LEAGUE TABLE AND FIXTURES	4
THE ALLOA SQUAD	6
MANAGER'S NOTES	8
NEWSDESK	10
QUEEN OF THE SOUTH VS ALLOA ATHLETIC	12
EDINBURGH VS DUNFERMLINE	13
ALLOA'S YEAR IN NUMBERS	16
NEW YEAR, NEW HOPE?	20
APPEARANCES	22
A FAN'S VIEW	24
LOOKING BACK	26
THE OPPOSITION	30
THREE OF THE BEST	34
PERFORMANCE TABLE	36
TEAM LINES	38



	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
 DUNFERMLINE	19	12	6	1	28	11	17	42
 FC EDINBURGH	21	12	2	7	42	30	12	38
 FALKIRK	19	10	5	4	38	23	15	35
 AIRDRIEONIANS	20	9	5	6	39	30	9	32
 ALLOA ATHLETIC	20	9	5	6	37	28	9	32
 MONTROSE	21	8	6	7	30	27	3	30
 KELTY HEARTS	21	8	3	10	22	29	-7	27
 QUEEN OF THE SOUTH	21	7	5	9	34	36	-2	26
 CLYDE	20	2	4	14	24	42	-18	10
 PETERHEAD	20	1	5	14	10	48	-38	8

WEEKEND'S FIXTURES

LEAGUE 1

 ALLOA ATHLETIC	 FC EDINBURGH
 DUNFERMLINE	 PETERHEAD
 FALKIRK	 CLYDE
 KELTY HEARTS	 AIRDRIEONIANS
 MONTROSE	 MONTROSE











PREMIER LEAGUE

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




LEAGUE CUP SEMI-FINALS

 CELTIC	 KILMARNOCK
---	--

CHAMPIONSHIP

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

LEAGUE 2

 BONNYRIGG ROSE	 STIRLING ALBION
 EAST FIFE	 STENHOUSEMUIR
 ELGIN CITY	 ANNAN ATHLETIC
 FORFAR ATHLETIC	 DUMBARTON
 STRANRAER	 ALBION ROVERS

 RANGERS	 ABERDEEN
---	--



**Celebrating 30 years of
VIP and Corporate Coach hire
TEL: 01259751753**

woodscoaches.net

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



WEE COUNTY BLINDS

Ian Douglas

FREE MEASURING & FITTING

**VENETIAN, ROLLERS
WOODEN & FAUX WOOD**

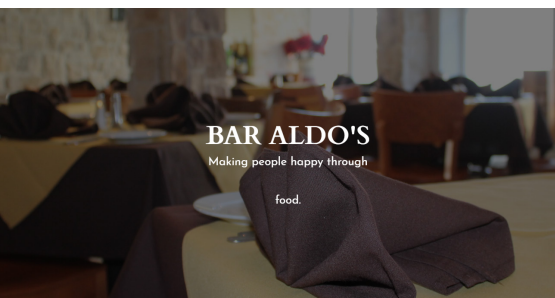
**BUY ONE GET ONE FREE ON
SELECTED VERTICAL BLINDS**

REPLACEMENT VERTICAL SLATS FROM £1

Tel: 01259 723917

Tel: 07763752341

weecountyblinds@gmail.com



BAR ALDO'S

Making people happy through

food.

9 Coalgate, Alloa, Clackmannanshire, FK10 1EH
bookings@baraldos.uk
01259 729 243

RIVERBANK LAUNDRY LTD

Unit 5a, Castle Street, Alloa

Tel: 01259215643

We collect and deliver

**Official laundry partners of
Alloa Athletic FC**

SMS

**Bedford Place,
Church Street, Alloa**

Tel: 01259 216586

- **Brakes**
- **Parts & spares**
- **Accessories**
- **Batteries**
- **Exhausts**
- **Tyres**



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

CM 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



**Luke
STRACHAN**

22/03/2001

CM KG



27



MANAGER

BRIAN RICE





BRIAN RICE



BATTLING THROUGH WIND & RAIN IN DUMFRIES

I'm delighted [with the win] in atrocious conditions. The wind spoiling it but great credit to the boys, great spirit. I thought we deserved to win the game. First half there wasn't a lot in it but they took their chance. I said to them at half time:

"Keep going, keep going and with a wee bit more quality in the final third you'll go and win the game" and we got that because it's a great goal to win the match.

Luke Strachan was excellent today. I thought he gave us composure, good

balls into the strikers and delivery from set plays. He's trained with us for a couple weeks and shown his good qualities and he deserves his chance so we brought him in.

On thing about Conor Sammon is he always works

hard. He does it for the team. He's a very humble guy so I'm delighted he's back on the score-sheet. He's went a few weeks without scoring but it's not through the lack of effort so it's great to see him scoring today.

With Church and Strachan both playing together it shows the benefits of playing a full back as a centre back - getting them on a break - to be fair to Churchy he did the same down here the last time - he whips in a fantastic cross and a good header from Ross. What a way to

start the new year! Coming to Palmerston is always very difficult so to pick up the three points we're absolutely delighted.





JOHN GLENCROSS



NEWSDesk

Welcome back to the Indodrill stadium for our first home Cinch One league fixture in 2023, today against FC Edinburgh, we welcome Gary Naysmith and Mark Kerr as the management team, the directors and supporters of FC Edinburgh. FC Edinburgh have already proved to be a difficult opponent this season and are currently sitting second in the division on merit, but "The Wasps" will have a point to prove today after losing the opening two

fixtures against Alan Maybury's side this season.

Manager Brian Rice signed on loan, Dundee full back/midfielder, Luke Strachan last week after impressing in trial match v. East Fife. The 21 year old came through the Peterborough Academy before signing for Dundee in 2019. He previously has had spells on loan with Brechin City, which was cut short due to covid and Forfar Athletic last season contributing 7

assists in 31 appearances. This year he made his debut for Dundee in the Challenge cup against The New Saints in a 3-0 win for Dundee. Luke will wear the No. 27 jersey for "The Wasps".

This weekend will see the launch of an intense and thrilling short season for new-look Biffa SWFL regional leagues, to bring them into the Scottish Women's Football pyramid. Three regional leagues have become four, with sev-

eral new teams entering a structure for the short season which will allow the most ambitious clubs a route to the top of the game in Scotland. The half season will run to the summer, allowing the SWFL to align itself with the performance game and introduce promotion and relegation from the Women's League One at the end of the current season. The four top-placed teams in the four leagues out with development sides will enter play-offs to take their

place in League One, with the side finishing bottom of League One relegated to their local regional league. "Now, with a league sponsor for the first time, the regional Scottish Women's Football Leagues will take their place in a robust pyramid, providing a route for all clubs to reach the top of the game based on their sporting prowess and their commitment to youth development and the wellbeing of our players. The Biffa SWFL West has Alloa Athletic, Athena Glasgow, Bishopton, Clydebank Ladies, Cumbernauld Colts, Drumchapel United, Dunipace, Harmony Row and West Park United join SWPL club Motherwell's development team. The league commences on January 15th and teams will play each other home and away. The top-placed team in each SWFL league (not including development sides) will then play each other in play-off finals,

with the top three joining SWF League One next season. Alloa Athletic Women kick-off tomorrow, 15th January v. Athena Glasgow at Indodrill Stadium, Kick-Off 3pm.

The Alloa Athletic U20's side restarted their season on Monday 9th January, 2023, defeating Edinburgh University 3-1 at the Indodrill Stadium in the East League Cup, Alloa's goalscorers were Nick Muir, Kian Morris and Nathan Cannon in a very young side, Nathan is currently in the Scottish Schoolboys Squad. Last night, Friday 13th January, the young Wasps were due to play Kelty Hearts at the Indodrill Stadium.

Greig Spence who has had four previous spells with "The Wasps" on Friday 6th January, 2023 signed for local rivals Stirling Albion on an 18 month deal, returning to senior football having most recently been with Inverkeithing

Hillend Swifts, this will be Greig's twelfth club having played for Rangers Youths, Falkirk Youths, Alloa Athletic(4), Celtic, Hamilton Accies, Raith Rovers (2), Cowdenbeath, Arbroath, Stenhousemuir, East Fife, Inverkeithing Hillend Swifts and now Stirling Albion. Another ex Wasp who has this week moved out on loan, is Lucas Williamson who played in the recent bounce game between Alloa Athletic and East Fife on Tuesday 3rd January, 2023 before joining Sauchie Juniors from East Fife on loan for the remainder of this season last weekend.

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 alloaathletic.co.uk visiting the club shop and placing order.

Wasps 2000 Draw - Week 1 7th January, 2023

£ 100 0022 K.Murray
£ 50 1009 A.Sand
£ 25 1424 D.McGregor
£ 25 0564 A.Hopkins
£ 25 0303 R.Graham

Forthcoming Alloa Athletic FC fixtures – Saturday 21st January v. Falkirk (H) Scottish Cup, Saturday 28th January v. Airdrieonians (A) Cinch League One, Saturday 4th February v. Peterhead (H) Cinch League One and Tuesday 7th February v. Falkirk (H) Rescheduled Cinch League One fixture.





7th January 2023
Palmerston Park, Dumfries
3:00pm KO

QUEEN OF THE SOUTH

1:2

ALLOA ATHLETIC



(1:0)

SCORERS

Paton **28'** **1:0**

1:1 **62'** Sammon

1:2 **86'** MacIver



STARTING XI

30 COWIE
2 MCKAY
4 WILSON
5 MCKAY
7 PATON
8 TODD
12 MCKENNA
15 MCGRORY
17 HENDRIE
20 IRVING
27 GIBSON

SUBS

43 HENDERSON
3 QUITONGO
9 REILLY
18 MCKECHNIE
19 RUTH
21 MCMAHON
22 BANGE
26 MUIR
28 JOHNSTONE

SUBS

21 BURT
5 GRAHAM
6 DURNAN
25 OFFORD
16 KING
20 O'DONNELL
11 MILLER
9 DONNELLY
19 BUCHANAN

STARTING XI

31 HOGARTH
2 TAGGART
3 CHURCH
14 STANGER
7 CAWLEY
27 STRACHAN
8 ROBERTSON
12 SCOUGALL
15 MACIVER
18 SAMMON
10 RODDEN

REFEREE: Chris Fordyce

7th January 2023
Meadowbank Sports Centre, Edinburgh
3:00pm KO

EDINBURGH

0:1

DUNFERMLINE



(0:1)

SCORERS

0:1 20' Wighton



STARTING XI

31	MUTCH
28	CRAIGEN
17	FONTAINE
16	BRYDON
3	MCINTYRE
23	MURRAY
13	JACOBS
30	CRANE
10	HANDLING
9	SEE
7	SHANLEY

SUBS

1	RAMSBOTTOM
2	MACDONALD
4	HAMILTON
8	TAPPING
11	ROBERTSON
19	JOHNSON

SUBS

7	O'HARA
10	TODOROV
11	MOCHRIE
19	FENTON
20	LITTLE
21	RITCHIE-HOSLER
27	YOUNG
30	MAHON

STARTING XI

1	MEHMET
3	EDWARDS
15	FISHER
4	BENEDICTUS
2	COMRIE
5	HAMILTON
8	CHALMERS
26	TODD
6	MACDONALD
14	MCCANN
9	WIGHTON

REFEREE: Stewart Luke

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

OVER 400
LIVE GAMES

sky sports





2022 – ALLOA’S YEAR IN NUMBERS

2022 can be summarised as a work-in-progress for Alloa, with Brian Rice joining the club in February and playing a forward-thinking brand of football to get the Wasps into position to challenge at the right end of the table. Results have certainly been far improved in comparison with Rice’s predecessor, with the Wasps now certainly in the mix for a second half of the season push for the promotion play-offs. The turn of the year also provides me

with another opportunity to continue my annual look back at the numbers behind Alloa’s calendar year (for a nineteenth successive year for ‘The Wasp’).

18 WINS

In 2022 Alloa achieved more wins (18) than defeats (15) for the first year since 2018. The biggest margin of victory came in August’s 5-0 demolition of Peterhead (Alloa’s biggest ever win against the Blue Toon), closely followed by the 5-1 home

victory over Queen of the South in November. That emphatic victory over the Doonhamers was more impressive given Alloa actually went behind in the game before recovering in dramatic fashion. This was one of three comeback wins through the year, with the others also eventually being handsome 4-1 victories over Montrose (in April) and Buckie Thistle (July).

12 GOALS

Conor Sammon topped the goalscoring

charts for Alloa in 2022, scoring 12 of the 70 goals the Wasps netted. Sammon’s dozen was mainly thanks to a purple patch of nine goals in the first twelve games of the 2022/3 season, which included his first hat-trick since 2010 in the win at Buckie. Beyond Sammon Alloa’s other goalscorers in 2022 were: Henderson, Rodden & Cawley – all 6; MacIver & Donnelly both 5; Scougall 4; 3 each for King, Offord, Taggart & that perennial scorer ‘Own goals’; 2

each for Boyd, Durnan, Church and Graham; and finally single strikes from Riley-Snow, Rankin and O'Donnell.

12 ASSISTS

Alloa's top assist maker in 2022 was Ross MacIver, who going by my records accumulated a dozen assists for the Wasps. MacIver's assists perhaps go under the radar somewhat, although he did receive some well deserved recognition for teeing up three of Euan Henderson's four goals in the end-of-season encounter versus Montrose. Arguably Ross repeated the trick in the August mauling of Peterhead, as he played in both Rodden and Sammon for goals before seeing a late shot of his own saved, with Luke Rankin following up to finish. In fantasy football MacIver would get a 'key contribution' for Rankin's goal,

so I'm counting that as another hat-trick of assists for the hard-working MacIver! Making up the podium positions were Daniel Church with 7 assists (all of which have been this season) and Stefan Scougall with 6 assists. Any regular watcher of the Wasps would quite reasonably assume that Scougall would have topped the assists chart, with Stefan often being the Wasps creative spark. I don't keep records of pre-assists (pre-assist simply is the assist before the assist), but I'd guess that Scougall features heavily by that metric.

5 UNBEATEN / 4 WITHOUT A WIN

Nothing emphasises the mixed bag of results Alloa encountered in 2022 more than the fact the Wasps never went more than 5 games without defeat, but on the other side of the

coin never went more than 4 games without a win. The unbeaten run of 5 games was achieved from the end of August victory over Peterhead until the early October smash and grab draw at Queen of the South. As part of that the Wasps actually went on a four match winning streak, for the first time since that glorious end of season winning run in 2019 as Jim Goodwin master-minded Alloa's dramatic escape from relegation in the Championship. The 4 game sequence without a win occurred in January in the final days of Barry Ferguson's time at the club. Under Brian Rice Alloa had never gone more than three games without a win until the final four games of 2022 (three draws and a defeat), with successive defeats only endured once.

5 RED CARDS

After the record-breaking 9 red cards dished out to Alloa players in 2021, the number of dismissals thankfully fell to 5 in 2022. The most high-profile of those wasn't actually brandished during a game, with Mouhamed Niang getting Alloa's first ever (as far as I am aware) retrospective red-card after the Scottish Cup tie against Celtic, for a challenge during the match which drew debate afterwards. This season the Wasps

have actively sought to improve in this area and have only suffered one dismissal so far, which came the last time Alloa faced today's opponents Edinburgh when Cammy O'Donnell deservedly got his marching orders for an overzealous mid-field challenge.

9 POINTS GAINED / 22 POINTS LOST

In recent years Alloa have excelled in gaining points from losing positions in games, with 20 points recovered in 2016/7, 21 in 2017/8 and 14 crucial points gained in the Championship in 2018/19 for example. However, in 2022 that unfortunately reversed for the Wasps, with only 9 league points gained from losing positions in games, whereas 22 points were surrendered from winning positions during the year. Of the points gained, this included the aforementioned comeback wins against Montrose and Queen of the South. However, in contrast, four league defeats were suffered after the Wasps were leading earlier in the matches. Two of those defeats occurred against the visitors to the Recs this afternoon (no repeat please Edinburgh!), with the others being Barry Ferguson's final game in charge versus East Fife and that crazy April encounter versus Dumbarton when Blaise Riley-Snow opened the



scoring with a spectacular strike after 82 minutes, but the Wasps contrived to lose 3-2 in an extraordinary end to the match. Losing from winning positions are often the most disappointing, whereas comeback wins are that extra bit satisfying, so hopefully the second half turnaround last weekend in Dumfries is a good omen that Alloa will once again become the comeback kings in 2023.

400 AND COUNTING...

In February Kevin Cawley became the first post-WW2 player to make 400 appearances for the club. The circumstances were not particularly

memorable, as the landmark game came as a late sub in a 3-0 home defeat to Falkirk, but that shouldn't tarnish in any way Cawley's magnificent achievement over two spells for the club. Cawley is still going strong and his long-range wonder-strike in December 2022 evidenced he still has plenty to offer in the attacking third of the pitch. During 2022 Cawley also moved from 5th to 3rd in Alloa's list of top goalscorers since WW2, above Barrie Mof-fat (68 goals between 1990-1996) and Peter Smith (69 goals between 1960-1969), with Cawley being on 73 goals for the Wasps at the end of 2022. Next on the

horizon is matching Jimmy Docherty's 76 goals between 1955-1964, but Kevin still has a long way to go to get anywhere close to the 91 goals Willie Irvine scored for the Wasps between 1996 and 2001.

100

After 100 years of trying Alloa finally out-pointed Falkirk in head-to-head encounters over the course of a season in 2022. The WDLW record during the 2021/22 campaign meant Alloa collected 7 points from games versus the Bairns, with the usually dominant (against the Wasps at least) Falkirk earning just four. That proved important come the end of the season,

with Alloa rising above the FK2 side to finish 5th in the table and so finish above them for a fourth successive season.

500 GAMES IN THE DUGOUT

The November cup win versus Open Goal Broomhill marked Paddy Connolly's milestone 500th game in the Alloa dugout. The Assistant Manager has been a vital cog in Alloa's successes since 2011, having served under Paul Hartley, Barry Smith, Danny Lennon, Jack Ross, Jim Goodwin, Peter Grant, Barry Ferguson and now Brian Rice. Connolly's five separate spells in caretaker charge of the Wasps included a one-game spell in 2022, the welcome 2-1 success on a quagmire of a pitch at Dumbarton, with Brian Rice watching on from the stand days before his official appointment. The loyalty and warmth which players (most recently Andy Graham in the Alloa Advertiser) and managers alike speak about Connolly is testament to the positive impact he has behind the scenes at the club.

19/15

Alloa's fantastic record in league matches versus Montrose continued in 2022 with another 4 games unbeaten (2 wins and 2 draws). That now means the Wasps are now 19 league games unbeaten against the



Gable Endies, stretching back to 1995. In terms of league encounters at Links Park, Alloa actually haven't tasted defeat since 1988, with 15 trips to Angus either being drawn or won.

2 GOALLESS DRAWS

Alloa's most recent trip to Links Park resulted in a rare scoreless draw for Alloa, a first for 63 matches, going back to the July 2021 Premier Sports League Cup encounter at Raith. After waiting all that time two then came along in four games, with the curtain drawn down on 2022 with a stalemate versus Kelty Hearts. With Brian Rice's footballing philosophy embracing attacking play it is no surprise that there has been a plentiful supply of goals, typically at both ends of the pitch with the Wasps only recording 10 clean sheets during the year, but only failing to score on 9 occasions.

43/44

In addition to being Alloa's top goalscorer in 2022 Conor Sammon also made the most appearances, playing in 43 of Alloa's 44 matches during the year. At the age of 36 Sammon's longevity in the game is assisted by his evidently excellent physical conditioning, making him an example to any young player in the game. It is interesting to note that of those 43 appearances, 38 have been starts



for the former Republic of Ireland international striker. Just behind Sammon is the ever-reliable Scott Taggart, with 39 starting appearances (including not missing a single minute of the 2022/23 season). Taking the bronze medal is Daniel Church, with 34 starts and 5 sub appearances during 2022.

2240 DAYS

There were an amazing 2240 days between Luke Donnelly's first and second goals for the Wasps. Of course Alloa's number 9 wasn't a Wasps player for the vast majority of that stretch of time between his loan spell from Celtic as a youngster

under Jack Ross to being signed by Brian Rice at the end of the summer transfer window having left Arbroath. Happily the Alloa support didn't have to wait long for Donnelly to score further goals for the Wasps, with his tally up to 5 until being unfortunately sidelined with a broken foot in December. His cameo return from the bench last weekend was a big boost for the team.

4 GOALS

Euan Henderson became the first Alloa player in more than a decade to score 4 goals in a single game when the Hearts loanee signalled the end of his productive time at the

Recs in spectacular fashion. Alloa hadn't seen such a feat since another young loanee, Stevie May, bagged four versus Elgin to clinch the Third Division title for Alloa in 2012. In-fact, it was just the fourth occasion in forty years that an Alloa player notched four goals in just 90 minutes, with the others being Ross Hamilton versus Airdrie in 2001 and Barrie Moffat against Albion Rovers back in 1995.

In summary, whilst 2022 provided some memorable moments, I'm very much hoping that 2023 can deliver some truly unforgettable memories for every Alloa supporter.



DONALD POLLOCK

SCOTTISH LEAGUE—First Division.							
					Goals.		
	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	Pts.
Rangers,	23	15	2	6	45	14	36
Dundee,	26	14	8	4	41	31	32
Airdrieonians,	24	13	6	5	30	21	31
Aberdeen,	26	12	8	6	34	23	30
Falkirk,	24	9	4	11	30	18	29
Hibernian,	25	11	9	5	27	28	27
Celtic,	22	12	8	2	34	27	26
Hearts,	24	8	6	10	36	33	26
St Mirren,	24	9	9	6	36	36	24
Morton,	23	9	9	5	30	28	23
Ayr United,	23	7	7	9	25	25	23
Kilmarnock,	24	9	10	5	34	41	23
Raith Rovers,	24	8	9	7	17	30	23
Partick Thistle,	23	8	9	6	35	35	22
Motherwell,	23	7	9	7	42	39	21
Hamilton Acad., ..	25	8	14	3	33	38	19
Third Lanark,	25	7	13	5	26	40	19
Clyde,	24	6	12	6	22	34	18
Albion Rovers,	24	3	13	8	24	44	14
Alloa,	24	4	14	6	19	55	14

NEW YEAR, NEW HOPE?

After the traditional Hogmanay celebrations at Alloa Cross, the Recs was the venue for the first big Wee County event of 1923. Following an encouraging start to their maiden campaign in Scotland's top flight with some landmark victories and several fine performances in defeat, Alloa were now on a bad run which was threatening to derail their season completely. A 1-0 defeat at Shawfield on January

1st had extended that run to ten matches without a win. It was a game which had typified much of the unfortunate sequence with Alloa winning plaudits for their performance but finishing up with nothing. The run had also included a December clash with Kilmarnock which was abandoned due to fog with just minutes remaining and the Wasps 5-2 up. Ordered to replay the game, Alloa

had thrown away a 3-1 lead to ultimately draw 3-3 after playing most of the match with ten men due to injury. As Falkirk made the short trip to first foot Alloa on January 2nd, the Wasps were set for their fourth game in seven days. With accusations from the terraces that the footballing authorities wanted Alloa out of the First Division, weary legs on the pitch and injured players in the stand, the team were in dire need

of a new year lift as the Bairns arrived in town.

Perhaps the new year brought new hope however, with a fine crowd reported to be between 8,000 and 10,000 squeezing into the Recs. The cold snap had broken too and if the pitch was "sodden", that was probably still preferable to the bone hard and sand covered surfaces Alloa had been playing on over the

festive period. With the bumper crowd roaring them on, the Wasps put their recent travails to one side with a fast start. A Dunn free-kick found Forrest who fired over the bar and shortly after Quinn just failed to head home after the Falkirk keeper had punched away a cross from Young. There were further opportunities for Quinn and Cochrane before Alloa grabbed a deserved lead with fifteen minutes played. McInally's pass opened up the visiting defence and Cochrane collected the ball before driving a shot "like lightning" beyond Ferguson in the Falkirk goal. Alas for the Wasps, they failed to settle on their lead. Falkirk went straight into attack and after Alloa failed to clear, Hunter forced the ball home.

To their credit, Alloa didn't allow their heads to drop and Quinn, Cochrane and Headrick all had unsuccessful shots on goal. Shortly before the break there was a blow as the impressive Dunn was carried off. Alloa went in with ten men and probably feeling that 1-1 hardly reflected their first-half efforts. The second period began with a limping Dunn back on the field and a golden chance almost immediately for Alloa. Cochrane hacked down by Hunter as he closed in on the

Falkirk goal. Up stepped Headrick only to fire his penalty straight at Bairns keeper Ferguson, who was "laid out in the act of clearing". With an hour played Dunn once more hobbled off, the Alloa wide man "badly crocked", and this time he didn't return. The Wasps began to drop deeper and deeper and although the Falkirk Herald reported that the home team "defended gamely with their depleted side", the pressure was growing. Just as Alloa were starting to believe they might at least emerge with a point, up popped England international Syd Puddefoot – the man for whom Falkirk had broken the world transfer record just a few months earlier – with a fine goal to secure a 2-1 win for the Bairns. Alloa were once more left feeling they deserved better, but while they could certainly point to some bad luck, in truth the Wasps had again contributed to their own downfall.

As a beleaguered Alloa licked their wounds, the directors sat down to consider how they might field a team for the trip to Kirkcaldy four days later. Controversial striker Willie Crilley was still unavailable and Thomson, Orrock, McGregor, Ford, Dunn, McInally, Connaboy and Craig had all sustained injuries during the hectic festive schedule. The Dundee Courier reported that the directors

hoped that four of those men might be fit to face Raith. To further bolster their struggling team, the board also drafted in centre-forward Anderson from Ayrshire juniors Stewarton Thistle. Anderson would play as an amateur at Starks Park with the Courier concluding that Raith "ought to record an easy win".

In the end, five of the walking wounded took to the field with Anderson leading the Alloa attack on his debut. Once more the Wasps rose to the occasion when the odds seemed to be against them and the game remained goalless well into the second-half. Indeed, Alloa might well have begun to scent an unlikely win when Jennings of

Raith sustained a nasty knee injury. Almost immediately however, the home team went ahead, Gilmour picking up a pass from Bell and lashing the ball beyond Thomson. Alloa battled on and "displayed neat footwork, and at times very clever combination", without being able to open up their opponents. The ten men of Raith held on for a 1-0 win and Alloa's winless streak grew to twelve. As news came through of Albion Rovers cruising to a 3-0 victory over Clyde, the Wasps hit the bottom of the First Division. With storm clouds gathering over the Recs, next up would be a Scottish Cup clash with Second Division leaders Queen's Park. More in the next edition of The Wasp.



PICTURED BOBBY ORROCK

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	17 (0)	0	6 (0)	0	23 (0)	0	17 (0)	0
TAGGART	DEF	20 (0)	2	7 (0)	1	27 (0)	3	214 (0)	8
CHURCH	DEF	14 (3)	2	7 (0)	0	21 (3)	2	34 (7)	2
HOWIE	DEF	2 (5)	0	0 (2)	0	2 (7)	0	19 (8)	1
GRAHAM	DEF	9 (1)	1	7 (0)	0	16 (1)	1	185 (2)	14
DURNAN	DEF	4 (0)	0	0 (1)	0	4 (1)	0	37 (0)	4
STANGER	DEF	17 (0)	3	4 (1)	0	21 (1)	3	17 (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
STRACHAN	DEF	1 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	1 (0)	0	1 (0)	0
ROBERTSON	MID	18 (1)	0	0 (0)	0	18 (1)	0	165 (29)	2
SCOUGALL	MID	12 (2)	1	4 (2)	0	16 (4)	1	46 (15)	6
KING	MID	5 (9)	1	6 (0)	1	11 (9)	2	31 (14)	5
O'DONNELL	MID	7 (7)	1	3 (1)	0	10 (8)	1	14 (27)	1
MILLER	MID	12 (4)	0	7 (0)	0	19 (4)	0	12 (4)	0
CAWLEY	MID	17 (1)	0	3 (2)	1	20 (3)	1	315 (44)	62
DONNELLY	FWD	7 (5)	4	2 (0)	1	9 (5)	5	7 (11)	5
SAMMON	FWD	19 (1)	6	6 (1)	5	25 (2)	11	40 (14)	11
MACIVER	FWD	17 (3)	5	5 (2)	0	22 (5)	5	20 (8)	6
KHYAM	FWD	0 (1)	0	0 (3)	0	0 (4)	0	0 (1)	0
RODDEN	FWD	7 (8)	5	5 (1)	1	12 (9)	6	7 (8)	5
BUCHANAN	FWD	0 (6)	0	2 (3)	0	2 (9)	0	0 (6)	0
RANKIN	FWD	0 (4)	1	0 (1)	0	0 (5)	1	0 (4)	1
OFFORD	FWD	5 (8)	4	0 (0)	0	5 (8)	4	5 (8)	4



OFFICIAL PROGRAMME DISTRIBUTION PARTNERS

ALLOA CAREER CUP		ALLOA TOTAL	
APP	GOAL	APP	GOAL
1 (0)	0	4 (0)	0
0 (0)	0	0 (1)	0
6 (0)	0	23 (0)	0
55 (1)	3	269 (1)	11
13 (0)	0	47 (7)	2
5 (4)	0	24 (12)	1
53 (1)	1	238 (3)	15
2 (1)	0	39 (1)	4
6 (1)	0	23 (1)	3
2 (1)	0	3 (3)	0
0 (0)	0	6 (0)	0
0 (0)	0	1 (0)	0
0 (0)	0	165 (29)	2
13 (7)	2	59 (22)	8
6 (0)	2	37 (14)	7
0 (0)	0	14 (27)	1
7 (0)	0	19 (4)	0
65 (9)	11	380 (53)	73
2 (3)	1	9 (14)	6
6 (1)	5	46 (15)	16
5 (2)	0	25 (10)	6
0 (3)	0	0 (4)	0
5 (1)	1	12 (9)	6
2 (3)	0	2 (9)	0
0 (4)	0	0 (8)	1
0 (0)	0	5 (8)	4

SPONSORS	
-	-
FREEBETS.LTD.UK	-
CASINOSITES.LTD.UK	LEON PRESTON
LEAH REID	JONATHAN MARKWELL
WORLDWIDE WASPS	NEIL PARRY ALLOA SUPPORTERS CLUB
MAYFIELD AUTOS SCOTLAND LTD	-
JOYCE & THE PIE HUT	-
VICTOR HERRIDGE	BETTING.BET
ROP ENGINEERING	FOOTYSAB, JAPAN
IMO SCOTLAND, HAMILTON	MORTGAGE ADVICE BUREAU, STEPPS
-	-
-	-
S SMITH VEHICLE REPAIRS	-
MCCALLUM ENGINEERING	DC CONSULTING
BRAIN DAMAGED BARON	-
ROBERTSON'S CARPETS & FLOORING	-
STUART LATHAM	-
AIMEE BURGESS	-
CRAIG CAMPBELL SEO	CRAIG CAMPBELL SEO
CARRUTHERS WELDING SERVICES	-
HAMISH COMRIE PLUMBING	CRAIG GRACE
CHARLIE & JAMIE BELL	-
THE WASPS NEST PODCAST	-
MACGREGOR BUILDING SERVICES	MACGREGOR BUILDING SERVICES
SMS ALLOA	V-TECH
STMIRREN.INFO	SAGE



BRIAN ROACH



A FAN'S VIEW

A Happy New Year to all as we return for our first home game of the new calendar year. It was a challenging end to 2022 for the team, with injury problems throughout the team and some testing circumstances for the manager. Despite losing a bit of ground at the top of the table with a few draws, Alloa didn't lose any games through that period. The gap between Alloa and today's opponents FC Edinburgh in 2nd position is only six points, with a game less played. Injuries

also appear to be clearing up now- in particular the return of Luke Donnelly last week was a welcome one given his impact this season. Picking up the three points last week, along with the prospect of a couple of January additions to add to Luke Strachan, should hopefully ensure Alloa can kick start a positive push to finish as high up the table as possible.

The year ended with a Hogmanay clash here against Kelty Hearts. Looking at both starting line-ups

pre match, there was more than enough quality on the pitch for anticipation of an entertaining game. However, both teams cancelled each other out and creativity took a bit of a nosedive at both ends of the pitch. Both defences would be happy with the clean sheet and their performances overall- with Alloa's George Stanger and Kelty's Jordan Forster the main individuals emerging with a lot of credit. But a good spectacle it wasn't unfortunately. I only re-

call two real clear-cut chances in the game. Just before the break Kieran Offord and Ross MacIver worked well to get past the barrier of Forster, but MacIver shot over the bar when it opened up for him. And in the second half Kelty's substitute Joe Cardle struck the woodwork with a long-range effort. That was pretty much all she wrote. Certainly not a game for the ages, and not the perfect start to the Hogmanay festivities, but we take the clean sheet as a positive and

move on.

A trip to Palmerston Park followed last Saturday to face Queen of the South. There was a noticeably reduced number of away supporters down in Dumfries on this occasion- but I think this can be attributed to the time of year rather than any issues supporters may have with the teams recent run of form. January is generally a universal bad month in terms of finances- particularly in the current climate- and unfortunately something has to give. Still, the team were backed brilliantly by the younger fans who generated a lot of noise throughout the ninety minutes. The manager recalled Conor Sammon to the starting line-up and changed the shape to a back 5- with Daniel Church moving inside to left centre back and new loan signing Luke Strachan at left back. There wasn't a whole lot in the first half in terms of balance of play, but Alloa did unfortunately find themselves behind at the break. I thought there was an element of bad luck to the Queens opener- when Sammons headed clearance fell to Ruari Paton who finished well to put the hosts ahead. The second half performance was much improved- the players looked fully

accustomed to their shape and began to piece together some flowing passages of play. Just after the hour mark Alloa got their equaliser- and it was great to see Sammon back among the goals again when he capitalised on some poor defending and essentially waked the ball into the net. Alloa were asking more questions, with Stefan Scougall in particular exerting more influence as the game wore on. But as the clock ticked down the match looked to be heading for another stalemate- which in reality wouldn't have been a terrible result. But Alloa got the winner with a really well worked goal. Some great interchange between Strachan, Donnelly and Church on the left, with Churches delivery finding MacIver to head home. It did take a while for Alloa to really get going, but for spells in that second half they looked impressive. Luke Strachan had an excellent debut at left back and as mentioned in the opening paragraph I think the return of Luke Donnelly will be pivotal to the team unit moving forward.

I think it was a win Alloa really needed heading into today's game. Both previous matches against FC Edinburgh have been frankly pretty disas-

trous, and the players will certainly feel they have something to prove today. I feel some degrees of sympathy for Edinburgh manager Alan Maybury- stadium issues and internal wrangling with the clubs fanbase have somewhat overshadowed the excellent work he has done to date this season. They've benefitted from that "surprise package" as a newly promoted club, but I doubt many would have predicted their current league placing and consistent performances. I certainly didn't feel there was much between them and Alloa in either match this season, and there were many elements of Alloa being the architects of their own downfall. But Edinburgh's second half performance on

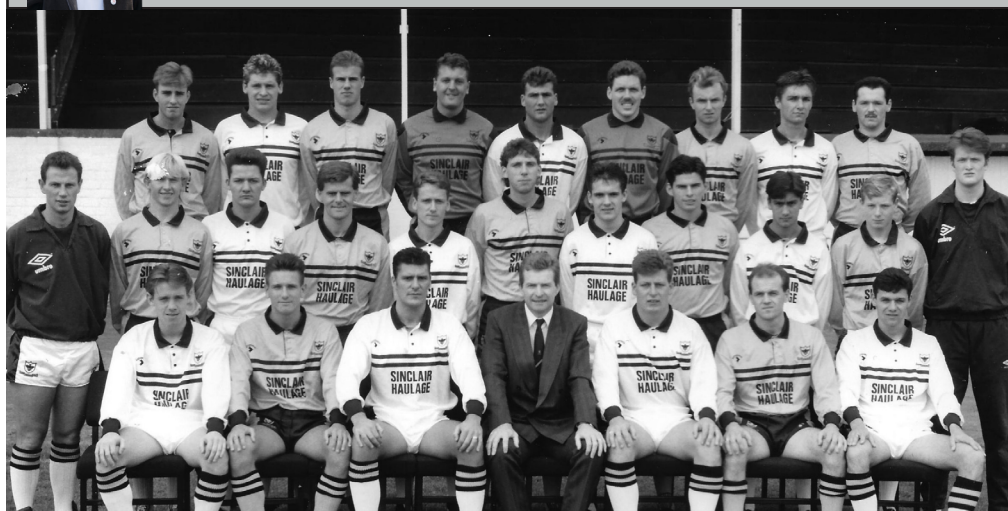
their last visit here was probably the best instance of game management I've seen from an opposition team all season. Three points today for me would be a massive boost- both in terms of league placing and from a psychological perspective.

Finally, one for the diary later in the year- an early update on the Alloa Supporters Player of the Year Night towards the end of the 2022/23 campaign. This is due to take place at Braehead Golf Club on Saturday April 22nd, following the final home game of the season. There will of course be ticket information as well as voting to follow as the season progresses- but keep that date free. Enjoy today's game.





ANDREW COCKBURN



LOOKING BACK 12TH JANUARY 1991

Premier Division leaders Rangers maintained their five-point advantage, thanks to a 2-0 victory v lowly Dunfermline at Ibrox, while second-placed Aberdeen kept up their own title challenge, also with a 2-0 home success, v another of the strugglers, Hibs. Dundee United remained third, in spite of the cancellation of their clash at their fourth-placed local rivals St. Johnstone, while Hearts' 2-0 home success v

struggling St. Mirren moved them into fifth spot in place of Celtic, who were gameless after the cancellation of their game at another of the strugglers, Motherwell, and who thus slipped to sixth place. Hibs' defeat kept them rooted to the foot of the table, while St. Mirren and Motherwell remained immediately above The Hibeese.

Bad weather took it's toll on The First Division programme, with just

two games surviving. There was no change at the top, with leaders Falkirk, & second-placed Dundee both inactive, but third-placed Hamilton Accies missed out on the chance to have taken over top spot, when they went down 0-1 at mid-table Kilmarnock. It was as-you-were in the relegation zone, as fourth-bottom Ayr's relegation worries continued in the shape of a 0-1 defeat at Meadowbank in the division's only other game. The

"basement clash" between third-bottom Forfar and rock-bottom Clyde was one of the several cancellations, as was second-bottom Brechin's home fixture v Airdrie.

Down in The Second, table-topping Stirling Albion remained two points clear, thanks to a 4-1 win at Stranraer, while second-placed Queen's Park remained hot on the heels of The Binos, after they narrowly defeated fifth-

Proud sponsors of Alloa Athletic.

Accountancy | Tax | Corporate Advisory | Restructuring |
Personal Insolvency | Wealth Management |
HR | Payroll | Health & Safety

**Struggling
with your debts?**

Get free advice at
fddebtsolutions.co.uk
or call 0800 652 0002.

 Debt Solutions

Macfarlane Grey House, Stirling

Tel: 01786 451745

Also in Edinburgh & Glasgow.



placed Stenhousemuir 1-0 at Hampden. Berwick retained third place in spite of a 0-1 home reverse v Cowdenbeath, while East Fife still held fourth spot, despite losing 1-3 v Montrose at Bayview. Alloa meantime, were gameless due to the cancellation of their home clash with their bottom-of-the-table local rivals East Stirling. Thus The Wasps remained in eleventh place, having yet to play a competitive game since the turn of the turn of the year, their previous two scheduled New Year fixtures v Dum-

barton and one of their other near-neighbours, Stenhousemuir, having also been cancelled. Football at Recreation Park returned on 22nd January, 1991 defeating Stenhousemuir 1 - 0, Mike Smith on target with winning goal, "The Wasps" lined up as:- Jim Butter, Willie Newbigging, James Thomson jnr, Davie Wilcox, Keith McCulloch, Dougie Lee, Arthur Grant, John Gibson, Barrie Moffat, Ian Black, Mike Smith Subs: Jimmy Ormond and John Irvine. 26th Jan v. Dumbarton 0 - 0 and

29th Jan v. Arbroath 1 - 1, Ian Black goalscorer.

South of the border, there was no change at the top of The First Division, as leaders Liverpool and second-placed Arsenal were both held to 0-0 draws away from home, at Aston Villa & Spurs respectively, & thus The Anfield Reds remained a point clear of their nearest title rivals. Third-placed Crystal Palace were 1-0 victors at bottom club Sheffield United, Leeds retained fourth place in spite of a 0-2 reverse at Norwich,

while fifth-placed Manchester United were 3-0 winners v struggling Sunderland at Old Trafford. In The Second Division, the leading trio of West Ham, Oldham, and Sheffield Wednesday were all victorious on their travels at some of the Division's strugglers, 1-0 v Watford, 4-1 v Portsmouth & 1-0 v Hull respectively. Thus The Hammers remained five points clear, though both Oldham and Wednesday had a game in hand.



DIAGEO

Proud to support the
Wasp Community Club
in association with Alloa Athletic FC

DIAGEO Technical Centre Europe, Menstrie



Hamilton & Brydie Ltd.

Roughcast Chipping Specialists
Delivering Roughcast & Renders all over
Scotland

UNIT 1 BLOCK 6, BOND STREET, DUMYAT BUSI-
NESS PARK, TULLIBODY, FK102P6

TEL: 01259722896 FAX: 01259216217
EMAIL: SALES@HAMILTONBRYDIE.CO.UK

Caesar & Howie
The Central Scotland Law Group

If you require assistance in the
following please contact us.

- ✓ **Childrens' Panel**
- ✓ **Child Contact & Residence**
- ✓ **Grandparents' Contact**
- ✓ **Divorce & Separation**
- ✓ **Financial Settlements**
- ✓ **Guardianship, Wills and Powers of Attorney**

0800 005 1755

29 George St,
Bathgate,
EH48 1PG

107 Almondvale South,
Almondvale Centre,
Livingston, EH54 6QT

32 West Main St,
Whitburn,
EH47 0QZ

27 Mar St,
Alloa,
FK10 1HX

www.caesar-howie.co.uk |  



1928

FC EDINBURGH

The Citizens

FOUNDED

1966

GROUND

Meadowbank
Stadium, Edinburgh

TOP HONOURS

Scottish League Two
Runners-up (2)

Lowland League
Winners (2)

East of Scotland
League Winners
2005-6

East of Scotland
League First Division
Winners 1995-96

EoS League Cup
Winners (3)

This afternoon we play the first game of 2023 in Alloa as F.C. Edinburgh take the trip from the capital to play the Wasps. In their first season in the division, Edinburgh have been in fine form this season and find themselves sitting nicely in 2nd spot in Cinch League 1. Despite the home side sitting in 5th, the gap could be halved this afternoon with only 6 points separating the sides. Before Saturday the visitors had been unbeaten in their last 5 league games, which included a victory over the Wasps at Meadowbank. With the opportunity to close the gap to the top last

Saturday, they failed to do so by falling to a 1-0 defeat to Dunfermline at home. Alan Maybury will be looking to bounce back today as they continue to press on in their promotion push.

THE BOSS – ALAN MAYBURY

The man in charge of the visitors is former Ireland international, Alan Maybury. The Dublin born full-back began his career at Leeds but is most known for his stints with Hearts, Leicester, and latterly, St Johnstone and Hibernian. With many senior appearances to his name at a

club level, Maybury was also capped 10 times for the Republic of Ireland. Towards the end of his playing career, Maybury had taken coaching roles at Hibernian and Falkirk in a bid to learn the trade. Two more spells at St Johnstone, and most recently, Kilmarnock followed for Maybury before being entrusted in his first managerial role in March with FC Edinburgh. He was quickly thrown in the deep-end as the team approached the business end of the season, and results didn't disappoint. Maybury led his side through the play-offs, taking some scalps on the way, to take their place in League 1 for the first time ever. Rumours always circulate when vacant jobs arise, testament to the job he is doing at the club, but he is fully committed to bringing the continued success at the capital.

THE CAPTAIN – ROBBIE MCINTYRE

The Citizens will be led out by left-back, Robbie McIntyre, this afternoon. Scottish-born, McIntyre began his career at





2016, has really find his goal scoring form this season as he looks to propel his side up the division. With 11 goals to his name already this season, he has been catching the eye of many with his goal scoring exploits. This form was recognised with the Cinch League 1 Player of the Month award for October. Alloa will need no introduction to him with a goal and an assist to his name against the Wasps already this season.

THE CONNECTION

There are plenty of familiar faces returning to the Indodrill this afternoon who have pulled on the black and gold in the past. One of the most notable is

defender Mark Docherty. Playing for the Wasps on two occasions, 'Sparky' was part of the successful Paul Hartley team who lifted the Division 3 title. He would spend some time away from the club before returning when Alloa were in the Championship and play his part in survival, cup finals, and heroics against Rangers. After being released from Clyde last season, he made the switch to the capital. There are three permanent City players who spent a temporary spell on loan at Alloa. Firstly, Callum Crane, spent time out on loan in the 2017-18 season, playing a key role in promotion to the Championship with steady performances at the back and the odd goal, like

CONTINUED ON P32



Tynecastle Colts as a child before getting a move to Rangers u17's. He would rise partially through the ranks at Ibrox before being released from the u20 side in 2012. His career saw him head down South for Huddersfield, before making the switch to Bury, and ultimately returning to Tynecastle FC in 2015. Back in familiar territory, he enjoyed the next 3 years back at Tynecastle before finally finding a new home with FC Edinburgh in 2018, where he has been ever since. Last season was a hard one for McIntyre spending half a year out with a bad ankle injury sustained at the end of August. He did, however, manage to come back in towards the end of the season to help his side over the line for promotion. McIntyre has continued to play an integral role

this season with 18 appearances to his name and despite his fellow defender Liam Fontaine taking the armband on occasion, McIntyre is still officially named as their skipper.

ONE TO WATCH - DANNY HANDLING

FC Edinburgh are glittered with players who have the potential to cause Alloa problems, however, arguably none more so than forward Danny Handling. Beginning his career at Hibernian, he became the fourth youngest player to play for Hibs before departing on various loan spells at Berwick Rangers and Raith Rovers. A short spell at Dumbarton followed on a permanent basis before he signed on for Edinburgh in 2018. The former Scotland u-21, who won the Scottish Cup back in



BY KIEREN MOONEY

his strike at Hampden against Queens Park. Edinburgh City's play-off hero last season was Innes Murray, who also spent time at Alloa under Peter Grant. It was a hard year during Covid for the club but Murray impressed with some spectacular strikes from distance. You have to go back to 2012 to find the last one in Callum Tapping. The midfielder made his senior professional debut for Alloa whilst on an one-month loan deal from Hearts. Despite impressing and Hartley wanting to keep Tapping, he only played 4 times for the club and returned to Hearts at the beginning of 2013. The only current connection in the Alloa ranks is Seff Khyyam who spent a short spell last season with The Cit-

izen's u20 side, Khyyam is now currently on loan at St Andrews where he has 4 goals this season.

PREVIOUS MEETINGS

This hasn't been a fixture the Wasps have enjoyed this season and they will be looking to right some wrongs from previous games this afternoon. The sides first met on match day 3 here in Alloa and it was the away team who took all the spoils. Despite Connor Sammon's early goal to put Alloa 1-0 up, it was Edinburgh who began to dominate proceedings and strolled into a 3 goal lead thanks to goals from John Robertson and Innes Murray. Ross MacIver gave the Wasps a lifeline with 5 minutes to play,

before Danny Handling sealed the victory with their fourth to make it 4-2. Former Wasp, Callum Crane, saw red in stoppage time but there was no change to proceedings following that. The second fixture can probably go down as one of the most chaotic games of the season and it was in favour again of F.C.

Edinburgh. Alloa blew away the hosts in the opening 20 minutes at Meadowbank storming to a 3-0 lead with all the goals from Andy Graham and Luke Donnelly coming from corners. Many thought the game was done at that point but little did they know what was to come. Ryan Shanley's goal before half-time gave the hosts a glimmer of hope which

they really made count in the second half. Shanley doubled his tally right after the break and what would follow after would prove pivotal in the game. Stefan Scougall saw his penalty saved and minutes later Alloa found themselves down to 10 men after a late challenge from Cameron O'Donnell. Momentum at that point had well and truly swung and Danny Handling grabbed the equaliser at the hour mark. Shanley would be the hero on the day by completing his hat-trick and completing the comeback to put his side 4-2 up with 10 minutes to go. One thing you can guarantee if you base it off the previous affairs is plenty of goals and actions this afternoon.



Meet the engine room

Whether you're carrying the squad or riding solo, you'll find the perfect ride from the biggest range of cars to buy entirely online. Browse, buy and relax with a 14-day Money Back Guarantee.



Join the nation and cinch it.

Comparison is against equivalent 'pure-online' used car retailers like cinch. Verify at cinch.co.uk/rangeclaim. Returns subject to mileage restrictions. T&Cs apply.

cinch



BRIAN ROACH



THREE OF THE BEST..... DELIGHTFUL DOUBLE HEADERS

ROSS COUNTY- 2ND DIVISION 11TH SEPTEMBER 1999 (HOME)/CHALLENGE CUP 14TH SEPTEMBER 1999 (AWAY)

With a league double header looming with Falkirk next month, this edition of Three of the Best covers memorable similar circumstances of the past. Alloa and Ross County have had some memorable clashes over the last three decades. County came to Alloa for two cup ties in the early 90s as a Highland League representative, and the clubs continued their rivalry when the Dingwall club were admitted into the SFL. In September 1999 County were the reigning Third Division Champions and looking

to achieve consecutive promotions. Alloa had promotion aspirations of their own under Terry Christie- and this was an opportunity to lay down a marker early in the domestic campaign. County were the visitors to Recreation Park in the league, followed by a midweek Challenge Cup Quarter Final tie at Dingwall. Alloa picked up the league points with a penalty from Willie Irvine quickly followed by an Ian Little goal- both occurring early in the second half. It was anticipated the long journey north on a Tuesday night would provide a significant barrier to Alloa's Challenge Cup progression. They fell behind just before the interval when George Shaw scored the opener for the

hosts. But a late Mark Donaghy equaliser forced extra time before Willie Irvine won the tie with the decisive goal after 113 minutes. Alloa of course would go on to defeat their derby rivals Stirling Albion in the semi-finals before winning the cup against Inverness Caledonian Thistle. They would also pip Ross County to 2nd spot and an automatic promotion place that season- only two points separated the clubs in the final league table.

DUNDEE UNITED CHAMPIONSHIP 1ST SEPTEMBER 2018 (HOME)/CHALLENGE CUP 8TH SEPTEMBER 2018 (AWAY)

This pair of matches against Dundee United destroyed my theory that a double header in football never produc-

es the same result. Nevertheless, this was a memorable outcome against a club many times larger than Alloa. United were initially Alloa's visitors for the Championship clash, with the Wasps still looking for their first league win. Despite a really good Alloa performance, it appeared to be heading towards another hard luck story when Paul Dixon gave Dundee United a scarcely deserved 71st minute lead. However, Iain Flannigan's soaring free kick late on rescued a point for Alloa on the day- the very least they deserved.

Alloa travelled to Tannadice the following Saturday in the Challenge Cup, where they faced a completely different United

starting eleven. For this tournament, manager Ray McKinnon allowed his Reserve Team Coach Craig Easton to take charge and bleed a few of his youngsters. Alloa started on the front foot and the opening 20 minutes Greig Spence and Connor Shields had enough chances to win multiple games. But frustratingly Alloa found themselves behind in this period- like the previous week it occurred completely against the run of play. Matt Smiths low drive from close range after quarter of an hour had given the hosts the lead. The match was open and entertaining throughout- and Alloa finally got their just reward with twelve minutes remaining. Dario Zanatta was upended in the box and Alan Trouten stepped up to equalise. With the teams level, the tie went straight to a penalty shootout. Alloa converted all 5 of their spot kicks, with Neil Parry saving from Declan Glass to send the Wasps through to the next round.

HEARTS- CHAMPIONSHIP 24TH NOVEMBER 2020 (AWAY)/LEAGUE CUP 28TH NOVEMBER 2020 (HOME)

The "Covid Season" was a tough year from an Alloa perspective- with a shortened season and supporters reduced

to watching the action on internet streams as Alloa were unfortunately relegated from the Championship. This however, was undoubtedly the high point of that campaign. There was no real surprise from the outcome of the first match here- a midweek trip through to Tynecastle was always going to be an uphill struggle for the part timers. First half goals from Michael Smith, Liam Boyce and Peter Haring gave Hearts a very comfortable victory on the night- although Alloa had a couple of clear shouts for penalties turned down by referee Grant Irvine.

Hearts understandably arrived at Alloa full of confidence for the League Cup Last 16 tie at the weekend. But the outcome would be somewhat different on this occasion. Hearts opened up the Alloa defence in ten minutes of the game, when Olly Lee was clean through on goal forcing Neil Parry into a double save. But for the remainder of the tie they struggled to break down a resolute Alloa backline- with centre half Nicky Jamieson having undoubtedly his best game in his brief spell at the Wasps. It was Alloa who had the best opportunity of the game- Liam Buchanans

goal-bound header producing a great save from Craig Gordon. The stalemate continued into the second period of extra time- before Jamie Walker fouled Alloa's Robert Thomson in the penalty area. Unlike Tynecastle they weren't to be denied this time as referee Gavin Duncan pointed to the spot. Alan Trouten coolly converted and Alloa hung on for a famous victory- their first over Hearts in the clubs history. The only gripe was the empty terracing and the lack of supporters to witness this landmark moment "in the flesh".

HT QUIZ

1. WHICH CLUB DID FC EDINBURGH DEFEAT IN THE 2016 PLAY-OFF TO ACHIEVE PROMOTION TO SCOTTISH LEAGUE 2?

2. NAME THE CURRENT SHIRT SPONSORS OF THE FOLLOWING CLUBS: ABERDEEN, CELTIC, HIBERNIAN, MANCHESTER UNITED, TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR

3. WHICH CLUB DID ALLOA DEFEAT IN THE SCOTTISH CUP LAST SEASON TO EARN A HOME TIE AGAINST CELTIC IN THE 4TH ROUND?

4. FOLLOWING THE DEPARTURE OF JIM MCINALLY FROM PETERHEAD EARLIER IN THE SEASON, NAME THE TOP 2 LONGEST SERVING CURRENT MANAGERS IN THE SCOTTISH SENIOR LEAGUES?

5. WHICH OF THESE THREE INCIDENTS FROM THE INAUGURAL 1930 WORLD CUP TOURNAMENT IS A LIE?

A. BELGIUM BANNED THEIR STAR STRIKER AND CAPTAIN RAYMOND BRAINE FROM THE TOURNAMENT FOR OPENING A CAFÉ IN BRUSSELS.

B. WORK ON THE ESTADIO CENTARIO IN MONTEVIDEO HAD NOT BEEN COMPLETED IN TIME FOR THE TOURNAMENTS OPENING GAME- IT IS ESTIMATED THAT AROUND 10,000 SPECTATORS PERCHED PRECARIOUSLY ON HIGH SCAFFOLDING TO TAKE IN THE MATCH

C. IN THE SEMI FINAL BETWEEN HOSTS URUGUAY AND YUGOSLAVIA, A PITCH SIDE POLICEMAN GOT AN ASSIST IN A URUGUAY GOAL WHEN HE KICKED THE BALL BACK INTO PLAY- THE GOAL WAS BIZARRELY ALLOWED TO STAND.

ANSWERS PAGE 37



ALLOA ATHLETIC



FC EDINBURGH

POS



	1	WILLIAM MUIR			
	21	KEIR BURT			
	31	JAY HOGARTH			
	2	SCOTT TAGGART			
	3	DANIEL CHURCH			
	4	CRAIG HOWIE			
	5	ANDY GRAHAM			
	6	MARK DURNAN			
	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	SAM RAMSBOTTOM			
	2	KIERAN MCDONALD			
	3	ROBBIE MCINTYRE			
	4	LEE HAMILTON			
	6	DANNY JARDINE			
	7	RYAN SHANLEY			
	8	CALLUM TAPPING			
	9	OUZY SEE			
	10	DANNY HANDLING			
	11	JOHN ROBERTSON			
	13	KYLE JACOBS			
	17	LIAM FONTAINE			
	22	CIARAN BRIAN			
	23	INNES MURRAY			
	28	JAMES CRAIGEN			
	30	CALLUM CRANE			
	31	ROBBIE MUTCH			

MANAGER ALAN MAYBURY

REFEREE: Ian Snedden

ASST: Michael Banks & Thomas Denholm

ALLOA'S NEXT FIVE

21.01.23, HOME, 15:00



ALLOA ATHLETIC



FALKIRK

28.01.23, AWAY, 15:00



AIRDRIEONIANS



ALLOA ATHLETIC

04.02.23, HOME, 15:00



ALLOA ATHLETIC



PETERHEAD

07.02.23, HOME, 19:45



ALLOA ATHLETIC



FALKIRK

18.02.23, AWAY, 15:00



FALKIRK



ALLOA ATHLETIC



MARSHALL CONSTRUCTION

PROUDLY SUPPORTING

ALLOA ATHLETIC FC



buy direct
save typically

40%

PRINTED TEAM KITS FROM

£149



UK'S MAJOR BRAND SUPPLYING FOOTBALL KITS & TEAMWEAR DIRECT



INDUSTRY LEADING QUALITY STANDARDS



MARKET LEADING 2 DAY DESPATCH ON PRINTED KITS