

# THE WASP



**PETERHEAD**  
**4<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2023**



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#### SCOTTISH CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS

1921/22

#### RUNNERS UP

1938/39

#### SCOTTISH LEAGUE 1 RUNNERS UP

1976/77 1981/82

1984/85 1988/89 1999/00

2001/02 2009/10 2012/13

2016/17

#### SCOTTISH LEAGUE 2 WINNERS

1997/1998 2011/2012

#### CHALLENGE CUP WINNERS

1999/2000

#### RUNNERS-UP

2001/02 2014/15

#### STIRLINGSHIRE CUP WINNERS

1904/5 1907/8 1908/9

1912/13 1920/21 1924/25

1933/34 1946/47 1955/56

1957/58 1959/60 1965/66

1981/82 1996/97

#### MOST CAPPED PLAYER

Jock Hepburn, 1 Cap  
(Scotland v Wales 1891)

\*includes equivalent competitions

#### Club Information

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Clackmannan Road,  
Alloa, FK10 1RY  
**Telephone:** 01259722695  
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**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 McLaughlan

#### Management

Brian Rice(Manager)  
Paddy Connolly( Assistant)  
Kenny Brannigan (Assistant)  
Stuart Phin (Sports Therapist)  
Andrew Deeley (Club Doctor)  
Derek Nicholson (Head of Youth)  
Robert Glen (Goalkeeping Coach)  
Allan Salvona (Women's Team Manager)

#### Ground Staff

Alan Petrie

#### Kit Manager

Pat Dunne

#### Safety Officers

Robert Wilson, Carol Edgar

#### Wasp 2000 Manager

Malcolm Gordon

#### Club Shop

Geoff Kay

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	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
 <b>DUNFERMLINE</b>	21	13	7	1	33	12	21	46
 <b>FALKIRK</b>	21	12	5	4	44	24	20	41
 <b>FC EDINBURGH</b>	23	12	2	9	44	34	10	38
 <b>AIRDRIEONIANS</b>	22	10	6	6	44	31	13	36
 <b>ALLOA ATHLETIC</b>	22	10	5	7	39	33	6	35
 <b>MONTROSE</b>	23	9	7	7	31	27	4	34
 <b>QUEEN OF THE SOUTH</b>	23	8	5	10	37	38	-1	29
 <b>KELTY HEARTS</b>	23	8	5	10	26	33	-7	29
 <b>CLYDE</b>	23	2	5	16	25	46	-21	11
 <b>PETERHEAD</b>	23	2	5	16	12	55	-43	11

## WEEKEND'S FIXTURES

### LEAGUE 1

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







### PREMIER LEAGUE

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

### CHAMPIONSHIP

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

### LEAGUE 2

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

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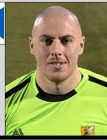
**GOALKEEPERS**

**Scott GALLACHER**

15/07/1989



**1**



**DEFENDERS**

**Scott TAGGART**

27/12/1991



**2**



**Daniel CHURCH**

21/07/2000



**3**



**Craig HOWIE**

02/07/1996



**4**



**Keir BURT**

09/09/2004



**21**



**Andy GRAHAM**

22/09/1983



**5**



**Mark DURMAN**

28/11/1992



**6**



**George STANGER**

15/08/2000



**14**



**Jay HOGARTH**

18/07/2003



**31**



**Paul MCLAREN**

01/04/2004



**22**



**David DEVINE**

20/06/2001



**23**



**Luke STRACHAN**

22/03/2001



**27**



**MANAGER**

**BRIAN RICE**



**MIDFIELDERS**

**FORWARDS**

**Kevin  
CAWLEY**

17/03/1989



**Jon  
ROBERTSON**

25/04/1989



**Luke  
DONNELLY**

20/01/1996



**Bradley  
RODDEN**

21/08/1996



**Ross  
MACIVER**

28/02/1999



**Murray  
MILLER**

29/01/2001



**Stefan  
SCOUGAL**

07/12/1992



**Conor  
SAMMON**

06/11/1986



**Steven  
BUCHANAN**

26/03/2003



**Luke  
RANKIN**

27/11/2004



**Adam  
KING**

11/10/1995



**Cameron  
O'DONNELL**

29/09/2001



**Quinn  
COULSON**

01/09/2003





**BRIAN RICE**



## **AFTER A TOUGH RESULT IN AIRDRIE**

We had a very poor start. We've been bullied all over the pitch today.

The first is an easy corner to defend and we don't defend it. Boys have been putting their bodies on the line and defending well for the last six or seven

weeks but today they weren't at the races.

I've asked them in there and there's just no explanation of how we defended today.

It's very difficult to win a match when you don't defend properly and give away the goals we

did today.

We know we can create chances but I had boys in there today who didn't put their body on the line. If they're not going to do that then they are no good to me, simple as that. I don't want to be overcritical of them

because they have been fantastic so far but today we were easy beat.

Buchanan came on today and it looks like he's done his hamstring. It's tough on him but that's why we've got a squad and young Coulson came on and showed



his eagerness and determination and put a foot in; something we didn't really do today.

This season Taggs has been sensational and he'll never play as badly again. George Stanger who's been heading things, clearing things will never play as badly again. They know that

without me telling them that but we are bitterly, bitterly disappointed,

We're always looking in the transfer window at making another signing. We've tried to get three or four that just haven't worked out. It's very difficult, you know, but we keep looking.

There's still plenty of time to add a loan with the window open until February but they have to be better than we've got and we've brought three in already; goalkeeper, left back, midfielder.

While this has been a bad day; it's only been that, a day. We

need to pick it up next week. It'll be a tough week. I'll take it personal all week but we've got to get back and get ready for Peterhead.





**JOHN GLENCROSS**



# NEWSDESK

Welcome back to the Indodrill Stadium for our second home Cinch League One fixture against Peterhead FC this season, welcoming David Robertson, Ian Esslemont, Jimmy Lindsay the players, officials, and directors of Peterhead FC, we are looking to bounce back after a disappointing result and performance last Saturday against Airdrie, going down 4-0 at the Penny Cars Stadium. However, new Peterhead manager, David Robertson will be

looking for more league points have picked up his first victory against Clyde a fortnight ago.

Since our last home programme in the Scottish Cup tie against Falkirk, the manager has brought back Scott Gallacher to the club after ending his spell with East Fife. Scott is an experienced goalkeeper, now aged 33 who had a spell with "The Wasps" at start of 2016 when Jack Ross brought him from Hearts making 15 appearances, he

has signed a short term contract until the end of this season. Quinn Coulson has also joined, nineteen year old left sided attacking midfielder who began his football career with the Fife Elite FA and had offers from Dunfermline Athletic before joining Raith Rovers. He had a spell on loan with Cowdenbeath and was a free agent after leaving Raith Rovers in December, 2022. He recently played as "trialist" against Alloa for East Fife in friendly at

Indodrill on 3rd January, 2023 and most recently had played as "trialist" for Dundee before Brian Rice offered him a contract until the end of this season initially. Kieran Offord has returned to his parent club St.Mirren after making 13 appearances and scoring 3 goals for "The Wasps", we thank him for his time at the Indodrill Stadium.

Seventeen year old Nathan Cannon who plays for Alloa Athletic Under 20's side

made his International debut for the Scottish Schoolboys against Australia recently at New Western Park home of Renfrew Juniors FC in Paisley, representing his school, St. Columba's High School, Gourock, although he had also played for Scottish Schoolboys in friendlies against Airdrie and Partick Thistle previously. Scotland have a final preparation game on 14th February when they take on the U20 students at Stirling University at 2.00pm. Then it's the start of the Centenary Shield campaign when they play Republic of Ireland, again at New Western Park, Renfrew on Thursday 23rd February at 7.00pm. Followed by Northern Ireland (A) on Thursday 2nd March, Friday 31st March v. England (H) and finally Wales (A) on Thursday 13th April, 2023.

Tommy Hutchison returned to Alloa, visiting the Indodrill Stadium on Saturday 21st January, 2023, some 55 years after moving to Blackpool for a fee of around £ 6,000. He was delighted with the warmth of reception he received from Alloa Athletic fans, young and old as he took in all the changes in the surrounding since his last visit as he promoted and sold his book "Hutch - Hard work and belief" recalling his times playing in the black and

gold colours. He was joined by three of his ex team mates from back in Season 1967/68 - Alex Hodge, Campbell Walker and John Flannagan who recalled memories from games back in the sixties.

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](http://alloaathletic.co.uk) or visiting the club shop or Lime Tree House, Alloa to pick up a copy.

Last Sunday 29th January marked the anniversary of the death of a famous ex Wasp - Thomas "Tully" Craig who began his footballing career with Grange Rovers before signing for Celtic in 1919 then joining "The Wasps" on 9th May, 1922 where he had a brief spell playing alongside Willie Crilly (his 2nd spell) before his move to Rangers in 1923, where he would spend 12 seasons winning the

Scottish League title on 7 occasions and the Scottish Cup twice (1928, 1930). Craig's nickname "Tully" relates to Tullibody where he spent several years as a child, although he spent most of his life in Carronshore, where he worked as a dock labourer. Celtic manager Wille Maley was said to be only too pleased to offload the Falkirk-born player to Alloa in an exchange deal which saw Tully Craig and two other Celts swapped for Willie Crilly. Whilst Willie Crilly would disappoint in the Hoops, Tully Craig went on to be a huge success at Alloa - so much so that after a season Rangers snapped him up for a hefty fee. At Ibrox, Tully Craig continued to impress, and he was to be a key member of the successful Rangers side of the twenties. He went on to be capped eight times by Scotland, and after leaving Rangers he became the manager at Falkirk (15 years) and Linfield (1 year). Sadly he died on 29th January, 1963 aged 65.

Wasps 2000 Draw - Week 2 14th January, 2023

£ 100 0366 I.McCormack  
£ 50 0691 M.Maltman  
£ 25 1189 C.Lindsay  
£ 25 0234 S.Menzies  
£ 25 0663 A.Rundle

Alloa Athletic FC Women sit top of the Biffa SWFL West after three victories in their opening 3 league fixtures - winning 5-0 v. Athena Women (H), 6-0 v. Cumbernald Colts Women and last Sunday they won 4-0 v. Clydebank Women who play their fixtures at Holm Park, Yoker. This Sunday they face their biggest game of the season so far, facing Harmony Women at the Indodrill Stadium with the two teams unbeaten this season but Harmony Women are joint leaders, Kick-Off 3pm at the Indodrill Stadium, free admission, come along and support the women, they deserve your support.





HOLEMASTERS

21

HOLEMASTERS

9

28th January 2023  
 Excelsior Stadium, Airdrie  
 3:00pm KO

**AIRDRIEONIANS**

**4:0**

**ALLOA ATHLETIC**



(3:0)

SCORERS

Fordyce	2'	1:0
Gallagher	18'	2:0
Telfer	41'	3:0
Gallagher	63'	4:0



STARTING XI

- 1** RAE
- 3** TAYLOR-SINCLAIR
- 4** MCCABE
- 6** FORDYCE
- 9** GALLAGHER
- 10** FRIZZELL
- 11** SMITH
- 16** WATSON
- 19** DEVENEY
- 21** TELFER
- 23** MCGILL

SUBS

- 43** HUTTON
- 2** BALLANTYNE
- 5** STANWAY
- 7** KOUIDER-AISSA
- 8** MCGREGOR
- 14** MCMASTER
- 17** DEVENNY
- 24** BYRD
- 25** PRINCE

SUBS

- 1** GALLACHER
- 5** GRAHAM
- 6** DURNAN
- 11** MILLER
- 20** O'DONNELL
- 24** RANKIN
- 26** COULSON
- 19** BUCHANAN

STARTING XI

- 31** HOGARTH
- 2** TAGGART
- 3** CHURCH
- 14** STANGER
- 27** STRACHAN
- 16** KING
- 8** ROBERTSON
- 12** SCOUGALL
- 9** DONNELLY
- 15** MACIVER
- 18** SAMMON

**REFEREE:** Peter Stuart

28th January 2023  
 Balmoor Stadium, Peterhead  
 3:00pm KO

**PETERHEAD**

**1:3**

**QUEEN OF THE SOUTH**



(0:1)

SCORERS

Shanks 45' 1:0

1:1 55' Paton

1:2 79' Kabia

1:3 84' Murray



STARTING XI

1 MCKENZIE

5 BROWN

6 STRACHAN

2 JOSHUA

25 IKWA

18 BROWN

8 MCCARTHY

22 WILKIE

26 OYINSAN

10 SHANKS

42 FOSU

SUBS

4 MCDONALD

12 BROWN

15 STRACHAN

20 MCLEOD

23 WALUSIMBI

24 BISLAND

27 WOOD

29 MELINGUI

39 GABRIEL

SUBS

2 MCKAY

9 REILLY

11 MURRAY

20 IRVING

21 MCMAHON

22 KABIA

26 MUIR

27 GIBSON

42 BOTTERILL

STARTING XI

25 DABROWSKI

15 MCGRORY

35 BRYDON

5 MCKAY

17 HENDRIE

16 EAST

8 TODD

6 COCHRANE

18 MCKECHNIE

19 RUTH

7 PATON

REFEREE: Duncan Williams

# 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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# SAMMON'S SCORING STREAKS

Erling Haaland. Wout Weghorst. Aleksander Mitrovic. The big man up front seems to back in fashion down south, with there being something of a renaissance in powerful forwards leading the line in the self-proclaimed best league in the world. At Alloa, the Wasps have taken things a couple of steps further, with Brian Rice's preferred striking trio in recent weeks being 6' 1" Ross MacIver, 6' 2" Conor Sammon and 6' 3" Luke Donnelly, meaning at times Alloa's

frontline resembles a tower of giraffes. I say this in purely affectionate terms, as it has proved more often than not a very effective tactic and one which has been easier on the eye than casual observers might first expect.

At the centre of Alloa's successful triumvirate is Conor Sammon, with the instantly recognisable frontman having one of the most successful goalscoring seasons of his notable career to date. In-fact, Sammon

has only eclipsed his impressive current tally of 13 goals for the campaign once before, with his 19 goals during the 2010/11 season earning him a mid-season move from Kilmarnock to at that time fully established Premier League club Wigan Athletic. One thing that I've noticed with Sammon this season is his tendency to score goals in streaks, with 8 goals in the first 10 games of the season and 3 goals in the first 2 games of 2023, which ended a run of 10

games without finding the back of the net.

Sammon's scoring streaks appear to be an illuminating feature throughout his career. Last season for the Wasps, the Dublin-born striker bagged 3 goals in 5 games during August and September, but had a number of barren spells, including one 12 game stretch before scoring his 6th and final goal of the season in the penultimate day triumph at former club



Falkirk. In his time with the Bairns, Sammon notched doubles on successive weekends in August 2019. The previous season at Motherwell Sammon only scored 3 goals in total but they came in successive games. Whilst at Partick Thistle, Sammo enjoyed a real purple patch between December 2017 and February 2018, scoring 8 goals in 8 games to win three successive player of the month awards with Thistle but only notched 2 goals outside that spell. The previous season Sammon bagged 3 in 4 games on loan at Kilmarnock between February and March 2017, having only scored a single goal in a frustrating first half of the season at parent club Hearts. Going back further in time to Conor's first spell at Kilmarnock, Sammon's

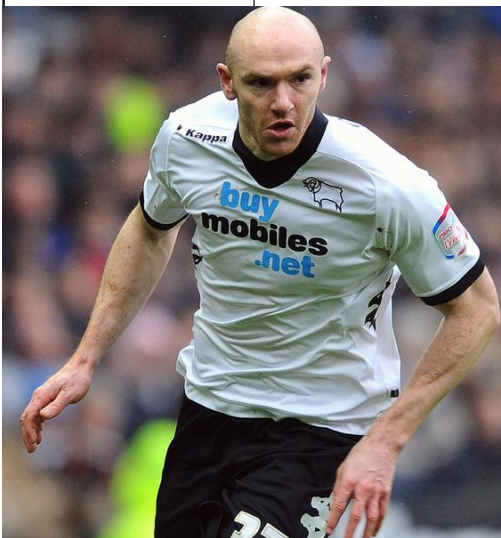
finest scoring streaks saw him notch 6 goals in 7 games between August and October 2010, before a phenomenal 8 goals in 6 successive games between October and November 2010. Even in the two previous seasons at Killie, Sammon wasn't prolific but when he did score, they came in successive games.

These scoring streaks point to Sammon thriving off the confidence gained from that magical habit of scoring, as once he scores one or two goals it puts him in the mood to score more. It doesn't matter what level of the game you play at, or how illustrious your past career has been, having that extra belief in your ability can often be the difference. That was certainly evident after Sammon got back on the scoresheet last month.

His perseverance to take advantage of a mistake in the Queen of the South defence and score Alloa's equaliser, in the eventual comeback win at Palmerston Park, saw Sammon transformed. From what looked like another afternoon of frustration for the frontman, after a spell of ten games without scoring, Sammon was energised into one where all the knock downs, flicks and link up play, which are such features of Sammon's play, were all coming off handsomely in the final half hour in Dumfries. That continued the following week against Edinburgh, when for the opening 45 minutes in particular Sammon was everywhere and was a class above, with his positive play putting Alloa on the front foot, his tireless pressing forcing Edinburgh into countless mistakes and, the cherry on top, two fine headed finishes from delicious crosses from the left from Luke Strachan and Daniel Church. Although the game changed in the second half, Sammon was still excelling off the confidence those goals had brought him. I certainly agreed with some other Alloa supporters who described it as Sammon's finest performance in an Alloa shirt.

It's tremendous to see Sammon in such fine form, as all too often throughout his career he

has become a scapegoat for some supporters of his many clubs. When he isn't scoring, it spotlights the awkward touches and missed chances which all but the very best strikers encounter, but which some fans are only too happy to highlight about Sammon. For me, that's a bit unfair on the player, who given his supreme physical stature (which at the age of 36 must be fully commended) means it simply isn't possible for him to hide in games. Nor does he hide, as even when things aren't falling for him in front of goal, he always works tremendously hard for the team off the ball (being the first line of defence) and any defender will know that they're in for a challenging afternoon when they are facing him. At Alloa, I think he's generally been more warmly appreciated by the fan-base than at some of his other clubs, with his unpredictability and the chaos he creates being part of his charm for me. His physical conditioning means that he's hardly missed a game since joining and the manner in which he occupies defenders often helps create space for others, with several goals scored by his team-mates this season being assisted by Conor distracting defenders to create space in the penalty box.



Taking a deeper dive into the type of goals Sammon has scored for Alloa, it may surprise some supporters to note that his quick-fire double of headers versus Edinburgh last month were only his second and third headed goals of the season, with the other also coming against Edinburgh too (it is interesting to note that all 8 of Alloa's goals against Edinburgh have come from crosses, with 7 Alloa headers and an own goal finding the back of the net). That means both MacIver (who is probably better in the air than Sammon) and Donnelly (who 99 times out of 100 would prefer the ball to feet

than in the air) have scored as many headers as Sammo despite each scoring less than half the total as the former Irish internationalist. So, while you might expect a typical Conor Sammon goal to be a header (especially as two of his most prominent goals last season – versus Falkirk and Celtic at the Recs – were headers), in fact just as many of his strikes have been finishes rolled into the bottom right hand corner of the net, or poachers finishes inside the six yard box. 8 out of Conor's 19 Alloa goals to date have been close range finishes inside the six yard box, with 10 between 6 and 18 yards from goal (i.e. outside the six-yard box

but still in the penalty area), with just a single strike from outside the box to date. That goal came at Airdrie last season was probably the most aesthetically pleasing strike by Sammon so far, as he took a touch 20 yards out and delightfully curled the ball into the bottom right corner to reduce the deficit to 2-1, but it turned out to be a consolation goal on those all too common instantly forgettable trips to the Excelsior Stadium for Alloa. All of Sammon's goals are finished low into the net, either from his foot or through downward headers, but I look forward to Sammo finding the stanchion at the Recs one day in the

future as he certainly has it in his locker!

Last season, I felt that Sammon deserved more than his 6 goal return. He was really unlucky not to score on numerous occasions, with the woodwork denying him a good few times and luck not being on his side on other occasions. That made me confident that Sammon would beat his tally this season, with Brian Rice's tactic of playing a front pair or three always going to result in more goals for the strikers, rather than feeding off scraps that lone frontman often endure. However, I wasn't quite expecting Sammon to have eclipsed his



scoring tally from last season by the end of August and the then 35 year old being joint top goalscorer in the whole country at that point of the campaign. It took Sammon 16 games to reach 10 goals, which in the past quarter of a century has only been done quicker in an Alloa shirt by Euan Henderson (12 games), Stevie May (13 games), Willie Irvine (14 and 15 games) and Greig Spence (15 games) – that's illustrious company in Alloa circles!

There's also been a couple of personal milestones for Sammon so far this season, with the hat-trick at Buckie being his first since 2010 for Kilmarnock versus

Airdrie – the 4,343 day wait was worth it! Furthermore, in October Sammon passed 600 competitive appearances in the senior game, which is a commendable milestone for any player (as a side-note, my calculations suggest Andy Graham could pass that very same milestone today if selected). It's been a nomadic career at times, full of ups and downs, but whatever you say about the 'Sammon of College' as he is affectionately nicknamed back in Ireland, he has made the most of his ability and lived out many people's dream of being a professional footballer and playing for his country (9 senior

caps, 3 for the U21s and 1 for the U23s). From his schoolboy days with Malahide United and Cherry Orchard in the County of Dublin, to his first days in the senior game at UCD and Derry City, and then across the Irish Sea to Kilmarnock, Wigan, Derby, Ipswich (loan), Rotherham (loan), Sheffield United (loan), Hearts, Kilmarnock (loan), Partick (loan), Motherwell (loan), Falkirk and now Alloa, its certainly been some journey for the striker. My calculations suggest that his current goalscoring tally is at 128, with his 100th goal in the British game coming last month in Dumfries.

Hopefully there are still a few chapters to write in Sammon's career story, with, whisper it quietly, the prospect to break the 20-goal-in-a-season barrier for the first time still being a distinct possibility this season. I would like nothing more than Sammon to go on another one of his scoring streaks, to see his career spanning goal celebration of jumping high and punching the air with delight before cupping his hands into a heart shape on repeat, for the rest of the season and beyond for the Wasps!





## DONALD POLLOCK

	Pld.	Matches				Goals		
		Wn.	Lst.	Drn.	For.	Ag.	Pts.	
Rangers ... ..	25	17	2	6	50	15	40	
Falkirk ... ..	27	10	4	13	35	21	33	
Dundee ... ..	28	14	9	5	41	33	33	
Aberdeen ... ..	28	13	8	7	39	25	33	
Airdrieonians ... ..	26	13	7	6	30	23	32	
Hibernians ... ..	28	13	9	6	32	28	32	
Celtic ... ..	25	12	10	3	37	32	27	
Heart of Mid. ... ..	26	8	7	11	37	35	27	
Partick Thistle ... ..	25	10	9	6	39	35	26	
Raith Rovers ... ..	26	9	9	8	19	31	26	
Morton ... ..	26	9	10	7	32	33	25	
Ayr United, ... ..	26	8	9	9	28	32	25	
St Mirren ... ..	26	9	10	7	37	39	25	
Kilmarnock ... ..	26	10	11	5	39	46	25	
Motherwell ... ..	26	8	10	8	44	41	24	
Clyde ... ..	26	7	12	7	24	34	21	
Third Lanark ... ..	27	8	14	5	27	42	21	
Hamilton Acads. ... ..	28	9	16	3	35	44	21	
Albion Rovers ... ..	28	5	15	8	29	47	18	
Alloa ... ..	27	5	16	6	21	39	16	

# ALLOA AT A TURNING POINT?

It wasn't quite February 1923 yet and already Alloa's hopes of retaining First Division status looked bleak indeed. After a fine start to their debut season in the top flight, the Wasps had embarked on a long winless streak which had now reached fourteen games. They had one point from their previous nine league matches and had managed just one goal in six games. Several different players had

been tried at centre-forward with little success while star striker Willie Crilley watched on from the stand in disgrace. Crilley had been banned by Alloa shortly after returning to the club from Celtic in September 1922. His crime: absconding from a Glasgow hospital while waiting for a knee operation. That suspension had only been lifted when the wee man begrudgingly relocated to Alloa to undergo

treatment, but he still wasn't fit to play. It must have felt like a long time since the heady days of October when Alloa had been described as a "wonder team" after defeating Third Lanark and Hibs. They hadn't tasted victory since and the late January clash with Albion Rovers – the side directly above the table – was a game the Wasps simply had to win. Various newspaper reports opined that the

Wasps were already doomed regardless, and there was another unwelcome distraction on the eve of the game when the Stirlingshire Junior FA slapped a two week ban on Alloa's latest signing, 17 year old Daniel Craig had been drafted in from Camelon and had the led the line against Partick at Firhill. It now emerged that Craig had been cited for "a field offence against Stirling Emmet four days before

signing for Alloa", with uncertainty over whether or not this ban would stand at senior level.

The answer was no and the youngster was at centre-forward as the Wasps took to the field against the Wee Rovers in front of 4000 fans. Young Craig might have been in the news but it was a player at the other end of his career who took the initiative in the early stages. Veteran winger Jock Stirling dazzled on his return to the team and formed a menacing right wing partnership with Mick Connaboy. It was the old fox Stirling who gave Alloa the lead shortly before half-time, skinning his man before making on goal and lifting a shot high above the Rovers keeper. His wingman Connaboy then grabbed a crucial second shortly after the break, forcing the ball home after an effort from Quinn had been blocked. Typically, Alloa had to live on their nerves in the closing stages when both Orrock and Fyfe limped off injured. Bobby didn't reappear but Fyfe bravely returned in the closing stages to ensure Alloa were only one man down. Thomson in goal kept the Rovers at bay as the Wasps saw the game out for their first victory in three months. McGregor, Wood, Stirling and Con-

naboy were rated as the best performers, while young Craig showed "promise of developing into a first-class centre forward".

Alloa were back level with the Wee Rovers at the bottom with Hamilton and Clyde just three points further ahead. All of a sudden there was a renewed optimism in the Wee County. Alloa fans were "again swaggering about their favourites", reported the Devon Valley Tribune. "Many now think that this is the turning-point, and that Alloa will keep on winning and save themselves from the Second Division". Further speculation about Sandy Cochrane probably wasn't what the fans wanted to see, the Athletic News reporting that rumours of a £1,500 bid from Newcastle were untrue. The paper added, however, that Alloa

were "not in affluent circumstances" and that £1000 should be enough to prise Cochrane away from the Recs.

The tricky winger was in the team as Alloa prepared to face Motherwell at Fir Park. Alloa had already drawn with the Steelmen earlier in the campaign and a win would bring them to within four points of their opponents. There was news on Alloa's missing stars too. Top scorer Tully Craig was still "in the hands of the doctor and making slow progress", but the big revelation concerned Crilley. After months on the sidelines, there was speculation that the wee man would feature in a bounce game with a view to soon returning to the first team.

First up was Fir Park where the travelling

Alloa fans quickly began to lose that newly regained swagger. There were only five minutes on the clock when Greenshields put the home team ahead. Ferrier added a second before the break and the game ultimately finished 2-0. "Alloa were disappointing in front of goal, and much good work went for nothing simply because there seemed no one able to finish the job properly", reported the Sunday Post. It was a story the Wee County fans knew all too well.

Alloa were now looking for a miracle. Cometh the hour, cometh the man, for the word on the street was that Willie Crilley would lead the attack in the forthcoming game against Partick Thistle. More in the next edition of The Wasp.



PICTURED JOCK STIRLING

# APPEARANCES

	POS	LEAGUE		CUP		TOTAL		ALLOA CAREER LGE	
		APP	GOAL	APP	GOAL	APP	GOAL	APP	GOAL
GALLACHER	GOAL	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	15 (0)	0
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	19 (0)	0	7 (0)	0	26 (0)	0	19 (0)	0
TAGGART	DEF	22 (0)	2	8 (0)	1	30 (0)	3	216 (0)	8
CHURCH	DEF	16 (3)	2	8 (0)	0	24 (3)	2	36 (7)	2
HOWIE	DEF	2 (5)	0	0 (2)	0	2 (7)	0	19 (8)	1
GRAHAM	DEF	9 (3)	1	7 (1)	0	16 (4)	1	185 (4)	14
DURNAN	DEF	4 (0)	0	0 (1)	0	4 (1)	0	37 (0)	4
STANGER	DEF	19 (0)	3	5 (1)	0	24 (1)	3	19 (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	3 (0)	0	1 (0)	0	4 (0)	0	3 (0)	0
ROBERTSON	MID	20 (1)	0	1 (0)	0	21 (1)	0	167 (29)	2
SCOUGALL	MID	14 (2)	1	5 (2)	0	19 (4)	1	48 (15)	6
KING	MID	7 (9)	1	6 (0)	1	13 (9)	2	33 (14)	5
O'DONNELL	MID	7 (8)	1	3 (1)	0	10 (9)	1	14 (28)	1
MILLER	MID	12 (5)	0	7 (1)	0	19 (6)	0	12 (5)	0
CAWLEY	MID	18 (1)	0	4 (2)	1	22 (3)	1	316 (44)	62
DONNELLY	FWD	8 (6)	4	2 (0)	1	10 (6)	5	8 (12)	5
SAMMON	FWD	21 (1)	8	7 (1)	5	28 (2)	13	42 (14)	13
MACIVER	FWD	19 (3)	5	6 (2)	0	25 (5)	5	22 (8)	6
KHYIAM	FWD	0 (1)	0	0 (3)	0	0 (4)	0	0 (1)	0
RODDEN	FWD	7 (8)	5	5 (2)	1	12 (10)	6	7 (8)	5
BUCHANAN	FWD	0 (7)	0	2 (3)	0	2 (10)	0	0 (7)	0
RANKIN	FWD	0 (4)	1	0 (2)	0	0 (6)	1	0 (4)	1
COULSON	FWD	0 (1)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (1)	0	0 (1)	0



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ALLOA CAREER CUP		ALLOA TOTAL	
APP	GOAL	APP	GOAL
0 (0)	0	15 (0)	0
1 (0)	0	4 (0)	0
0 (0)	0	0 (1)	0
7 (0)	0	26 (0)	0
56 (1)	3	272 (1)	11
14 (0)	0	50 (7)	2
5 (4)	0	24 (12)	1
53 (2)	1	238 (6)	15
2 (1)	0	39 (1)	4
7 (1)	0	26 (1)	3
2 (1)	0	3 (3)	0
0 (0)	0	6 (0)	0
1 (0)	0	4 (0)	0
1 (0)	0	168 (29)	2
14 (7)	2	62 (22)	8
6 (0)	2	39 (14)	7
0 (0)	0	14 (28)	1
7 (1)	0	19 (6)	0
66 (9)	11	382 (53)	73
2 (3)	1	10 (15)	6
7 (1)	5	49 (15)	18
6 (2)	0	28 (10)	6
0 (3)	0	0 (4)	0
5 (2)	1	12 (10)	6
2 (3)	0	2 (10)	0
0 (5)	0	0 (9)	1
0 (0)	0	0 (1)	0

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**BRIAN ROACH**



## A FAN'S VIEW

We head into today's game with an altogether different feel in contrast to the last edition of The Wasp a fortnight ago. After a really bad day at the office last Saturday up at Airdrie, a quick response will be the key approach today as we welcome Peterhead as visitors. A fortnight ago, Alloa were unfortunately eliminated from the Scottish Cup after a home loss to close neighbours Falkirk. There was no real shame in defeat though- Alloa were edged out in a tie that at worst could have

gone either way- but a sizeable majority of supporters at the game from both clubs would probably agree Alloa were the better side. Carrying on where they left off the previous week against Edinburgh in the league, Alloa were terrific in the opening half against Falkirk. Luke Donnelly gave Alloa the lead, and he was probably the pivotal Alloa player in that opening period. Losing an equaliser on the stroke of half time was undoubtedly a major body blow. There was some sense of injustice as Falkirk were

definitely very fortunate to go in level- but I didn't think that would derail Alloa for the second half. Rather than emerging with all guns blazing, the equaliser settled the visitors, and I thought Alloa could build again and replicate the dynamics of the opening half. What did derail Alloa slightly was the enforced substitutions to Luke Strachan, Luke Donnelly and Stefan Scougall. With his pinpoint deliveries, it hurt the team when Strachan was an enforced half time change. And with Donnelly

still getting over a bad injury, it was probably right to try and get an hour from him at most- he certainly impacted the game significantly, as he was the best player on the pitch to that point. And Scougall always gives the team that quality in what was a tough midfield battle against a good opponent. Losing those three were costly, as we had just a little less quality to our play. It was a fine margin but one that was particularly pivotal after Falkirk got their noses in front. General consensus amongst the



Alloa supporters post-match seemed pretty universal- that the team had played really well and matched Falkirk throughout.

Airdrie's Excelsior Stadium hasn't been much of a happy hunting ground for Alloa especially in more recent times. But off the back of the Falkirk performance, I felt really confident heading over for the match. The injured trio of Scougall, Donnelly and Strachan had all made the starting line-up and I felt Alloa's front three of MacIver, Sammon and Donnelly could cause a lot of problems for something of a makeshift Airdrie backline. Sadly, it was a day where everything that could go wrong, did go wrong. After conceding a very soft goal from a corner kick after just two minutes, Alloa never recovered, and things went from bad to worse. All credit to Airdrie who were excellent overall, and certainly deserved the win by the margin they achieved it. Charlie Telfer was terrific in the middle of the park for the Diamonds and Alloa keeper Jay Hogarth actually some fine saves in the game or the final result could have been a heavier defeat. A selection of Airdrie supporters stated that it was up there with their best performances over the past couple of years. We know Airdrie can pass the

ball around with tempo, and perhaps pre match I underestimated that aspect a little bit. The outcome was a combination of two elements though- Airdrie at their best and Alloa not at the races. Even Alloa's top consistent performers such as Taggart, Stanger and Donnelly had a day to forget. Alloa passed the ball around, but it was usually in front of Airdrie's defensive unit. They really struggled to make any real headway in regard to this- and when they created the odd chance they fell to Donnelly mainly who was unable to convert. There were a few Alloa supporters critical of the defensive setup- playing full backs within the back three with two centre halves taking their place on the bench. I think that's inevitable with perceived "gambles"- hailed when effective, but open to critique if not. Personally, I don't think I would have changed it from the previous week- as stated when I saw the starting line-up I was actually really confident of three points. An inquest is inevitable after such a bad defeat, but the key aspect is the response today. Alloa are still in good position in the league table, and although we are reaching a key point in the campaign this defeat will be forgotten should Alloa return to winning ways quickly.

On paper today's

fixture would be one you would handpick to bounce back after the Airdrie defeat- a home fixture against the bottom club. I think it's great to see David Robertson back in the game in Scotland and I'm keen to see him do well at Peterhead as manager. Like many others, I found his documentary on his time at India's Real Kashmir immensely entertaining. Robertsons rants and moans were a hilarious watch and he came across really likeable through his constant suffering. Peterhead triumphed in their relegation 6 pointer against Clyde in January, but the Bully Wees unlikely point against Dunfermline last week confines today's visitors the bottom of

the table once again on goal difference. Alloa won the corresponding fixture 5-0 back in August and followed that up with a 2-0 October victory at Balmoor Stadium. However, from recent reports it appears Robertson is bringing in players and turning over some of the squad- so there's perhaps an element of the unknown to our opponents today. Whilst I'm certainly not going to take anything for granted today, I think we really need to end the day with a win and a good performance, regardless of the result. Next up is a very difficult header against Falkirk, and we can't afford to go into that without some degree of momentum. Enjoy today's game.





**ANDREW COCKBURN**



## **LOOKING BACK 2ND FEBRUARY 1985**

In The Premier Division, leaders Aberdeen made it four league wins on the bounce, with a 2-0 victory at struggling Dumbarton. Second-placed Celtic were also victorious on their travels by 2-0, at St. Mirren, and while they still trailed The Dons by eight points, they had the advantage of three games in hand. Third-placed Rangers & fourth-placed Dundee United were also 2-0 winners, both at home, and v two of the divi-

sion's other strugglers, Morton and Hibs respectively. Rock-bottom Morton's own defeat was their sixth in a row in the league, and as they trailed safety by seven points, even at this stage of proceedings, they appeared to be booked for an instant return to The First Division. And while Hibs and Dumbarton remained immediately above The Ton, their own chances of survival seemed a little brighter.

Clydebank retained leadership of The First Division, in spite of a 0-2 home reverse v Brechin, while second-placed Hamilton Acciers were held 0-0 at home by Falkirk. Motherwell's 1-0 victory at relegation-haunted St. Johnstone moved them up to third place, Airdrie remained fourth in spite of a 1-3 defeat at East Fife, while Forfar, despite being held 1-1 at home by Clyde, still held on to fifth spot. At the other end of the table,

Meadowbank collected a welcome point from a 1-1 draw at Ayr, though they still propped up the table. St. Johnstone still lay immediately above Thistle, while in a vital "basement battle" at Rugby Park, third-bottom Kilmarnock hosted second-bottom Partick, but a 1-0 win for The Jags enabled them to swap places with their fellow strugglers.

Down in The Second, Alloa retained pole position, thanks to a 2-1

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win at mid-table Raith, courtesy of goals from Garry Thompson & Gary Murray. And The Wasps had lined up as follows: Lowrie, Thompson, Haggart, Thomson, Dall, Martin, Mackie (Harris), Kelly, Sorbie, Barr, Lloyd (Murray). The Wasps had now gone seven games unbeaten in the league with their only defeat so far in 1985 to Aberdeen in the Scottish Cup losing 5-0 at Recreation Park. Second-placed Montrose

enjoyed a comfortable 4-1 victory at bottom club Albion Rovers, Dunfermline remained third in spite of a rather surprise 1-4 defeat at mid-table Queen's Park, but there were no such problems for The Pars fourth-placed local rivals Cowdenbeath, who crushed lowly East Stirling by 5-1 at Central Park.

South of the border, First Division leaders

Everton moved four points clear, thanks to a second successive 4-0 home win, this time v Watford, while Spurs remained second despite being held 2-2 at struggling Luton. Third-placed Manchester United maintained their own title bid with a 2-0 win v WBA at Old Trafford, but there was no joy for rock-bottom Stoke, who went down 0-1 at Sunderland. Oxford's 1-0 win at Carlisle was enough for them

to regain leadership of The Second Division, albeit on goal difference from Blackburn, who dropped to second, after they were held 1-1 at Wimbledon. Manchester City remained third thanks to a 2-1 win at lowly Crystal Palace, while fourth-placed Birmingham were also victorious on their travels, by 1-0 at Huddersfield.



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# PETERHEAD

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This afternoon Alloa look to return to winning ways here at the Indodrill as Peterhead visit. Defeat last Saturday to Marvin Bartley's, Queen of the South, meant that Peterhead moved to bottom of the league on goal difference. They sit equal on points with Clyde, who they beat the week before, but unfortunately, are 20 goals worse off than their relegation rivals. There was a change at the helm with David Robertson coming in and results and performances look to be improving at Balmoor. That victory against Clyde, thanks to a Kieran Shanks strike,

was a big statement in their battle against the Bully Wee and Robertson will be looking to see his side return to those heroics this afternoon. It looked like they would be on their way to back-to-back victories when they went 1-0 up against Queen's last weekend, however, a second half swing saw them on the wrong end of a 3-1 defeat. Manager, Robertson, described the performance, for the first time as poor. He will no doubt be looking for a reaction this afternoon against Brian Rice's side, who gave similar feedback to his side after defeat at Airdrie.

## **THE BOSS – DAVID ROBERTSON**

It will be a strange feeling welcoming a Peterhead side to Alloa without mainstay Jim McInally in the dugout, however, after a poor run of results, they ended their long-term affiliation with the manager in November. Returning to Scotland to take the hot seat was former Scotland left-back, David Robertson. Most recently managing in India with Real Kashmir, his 5-year stint was full of success with promotion to the top flight of Indian football and an IFA Shield victory in consecutive





years. Adding to that silverware, his time also featured on documentaries for the BBC which was met with awards at the Scottish BAFTA's and UK Broadcast Awards. He is no stranger to managing in Scotland with spells at Elgin and Montrose in the early part of the century. Robertson, as well is no stranger to Scottish football success, with trophies at Aberdeen and most notably Rangers, where he won 6 Premierships, 3 Scottish Cups, and 3 League Cups between 1991 and 1997.

**THE CAPTAIN – PAUL DIXON**

The Blue Toon are captained by experienced defender, Paul Dixon. Now at 36-years of age, Dixon, made the move up North in the summer following his departure from

fellow League 1 side, Falkirk. Also capped 3 times by Scotland, he is most known for his time in Dundee where he played for both sides of the divide. Beginning his career at Dundee, he then had two spells at rivals United, where he won a Challenge Cup in 2017. Adding to his footballing CV, he also had spells at Huddersfield Town in the English Championship and Grimsby in League 2. Unfortunately, his season has been a bit of a write-off so far after sustaining a serious knee injury in October against Dunfermline. It has meant that he has only played 8 times this season in the league.

**NEW BOY – STUART MCKENZIE**

Robertson has been busy in the January transfer window with 3 recruits coming in the

last week, and no doubt more between writing this article and the game on Saturday. As well as capturing the services of Elie Ikwa and Joshua Oyisan, Peterhead also moved for a new goalkeeper in the form of Stuart McKenzie. After racking up 150 appearances for Cove Rangers,

including 2 titles, he ended his affiliation last week and made the move a little bit further North to Peterhead. With a stint at Montrose too, he brings a wealth of experience to the backline at Balmoor and made his first start, along with the other new boys, on Saturday against Queen of the South.

**ONE TO WATCH – KIERAN SHANKS**

This afternoon's one for the defence to keep an eye on is forward, Kieran Shanks. Also classed as a 'new boy', Shanks joined the club earlier this month on loan from Championship club, Arbroath. They have high hopes for him at Gayfield following his big move up from Inverurie Loco's

**CONTINUED ON P32**



**BY KIERAN MOONEY**

but see Peterhead as the perfect place for him to gain crucial first team minutes in his development. It was his scintillating form at the Locos that saw him bag 30 goals in 44 league appearances, scooping all sorts of individual accolade as well. With just 4 appearances to his name since joining, he is now beginning to find that goalscoring form once more with 2 goals in his last 2 games. Praised for his incredible work rate and goalscoring exploits, he will no doubt look to be a thorn in this Alloa side.

### THE CONNECTION

As we mentioned last time the clubs met, if we wrote this piece last season we could reel off many who had played for both clubs. At Balmoor, you had Alan Cook who departed in the summer along with Simon Ferry to Broomhill. More recently, Russell McLean, once a hot Alloa youth prospect, departed a few weeks ago to League 2 side Dumbarton in their bid for promotion back to League 1. On Alloa's side it is a familiar story with most familiar faces having departed the club. Ben Armour is now plying his trade at Forfar,

following his move from Peterhead to Alloa last season. Similarly, Steven Boyd, has since left the club to play for Championship side, Inverness.

### PREVIOUS MEETINGS

This is the third time the sides have met this season with the Wasps taking all the spoils so far. The opening fixture he at the Indodrill was vintage Alloa, and arguably their best performance of the season. They put 5 past Peterhead that day with no reply with goals coming from all over the park. Conor Sammon bagged a brace, with his first coming in the

opening minute which really set the tone for the afternoon. George Stanger and Bradley Rodden were also on the scoresheet that day, before young Luke Rankin made it 5 on his senior debut. The return fixture saw Alloa take all 3 points once again but this time a much closer affair. Captain on the day, Scott Taggart, skipped past the defence to opening the scoring in the second half before Cameron O'Donnell's deflected strike made it 2-0 to the visitors. The latter of those goals was soon to be accredited as a Jason Brown own goal.





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**BRIAN ROACH**



## THREE OF THE BEST..... MEMORABLE PLAYER CONVERSIONS

### **MICHAEL BOLOCHOWECKYJ- CENTRE HALF TO CENTRE FORWARD, JANUARY 2007**

Having produced a "great escape" from near certain relegation in 2006 following the appointment of manager Allan Maitland, the following campaign was a tough one for the club as Maitland looked to further the rebuilding process. He had signed Kieran McAnespie who went onto have a really good campaign, but the forward line was where the manager had his troubles to seek. Graeme Brown had a decent goal return in the first half of the season, with 9 goals to his name. But there was an unfair over reliance on Brown, and additional quality options were

proving difficult to land. Javier Payo was brought in on a short-term loan, but quickly returned to Hamilton after a handful of games. Maitland also plucked Chris Mackie from Shotts Bon Accord- a prolific striker at junior level who unfortunately struggled with the step up in quality to play in Division 2. Alloa went into the New Year derby at home to Stirling Albion beset with injury problems and with only one real attacking option in his starting line-up- unproven youngster Neil McCallum. Alloa had already been on the receiving end of a real drubbing against their derby rivals a couple of months earlier- losing 5-0 at Forthbank in one of the worst derby days in living memory. Ex-

treme situations called for extreme measures as Alloa supporters were treated to the bizarre sight of centre half Michael Bolochowecyk deployed as a centre forward. When Chris Aitken put the visitors ahead with twenty minutes left it appeared Alloa were consigned to their third derby defeat of the season. But makeshift striker Bolo popped up in the penalty area in stoppage time to equalise and ensure Alloa took something from the game. Context is king here- whilst scrambling a point at home to Stirling may not seem a major moment nowadays, it was the only point Alloa picked up that season against a good Stirling team who eventually achieved promotion.

### **DAVID GORMLEY- STRIKER TO GOALKEEPER, JANUARY 2011**

Striker David Gormley was a popular player amongst the Alloa support after being signed by the club in January 2010. Strong as an ox, his goal return of 3 that season perhaps doesn't quite paint the full picture- he was a great foil at times for Alloas main targetman Bryan Prunty. Of course, Alloas title challenge fell short that season in agonising fashion. But his three goals were memorable ones- a stoppage time equaliser at home to Stenhousemuir before Prunty sensationally grabbed a winner, a vital goal away to title challengers and derby rivals Stirling Albion, and the opening goal in

the play-off semi final against Cowdenbeath at Central Park. After a reasonable start the following season, Alloas form began to tail off at the seasons halfway point, and it was clear all was not well at the club. But they had progressed in the Scottish Cup following a memorable despatching of Raith Rovers (covered in the last edition of the match programme) and faced struggling Premier League club Hamilton Academical in the next round. On paper it appeared a tough ask for an Alloa team notably on the slide- but Accies were bottom of the league, hadn't won a home match all season and went into the game having scored once in their previous seven games. Alloa started well, with striker Bryan Prunty going close with a couple of early chances. And the Wasps were mystifyingly denied what looked like a clear penalty when a certain Andy Graham upended Kevin McDonald in the penalty area. Accies broke the deadlock with the opener in 33 minutes gone through Nigel Hasselbaink. Alloa couldn't make the breakthrough to force a replay but the game provided some entertaining late drama. Accies were awarded a penalty kick with just a few minutes remaining when goalkeeper Stephen Robertson upended Jim McAllister- with the

Wasps custodian receiving a straight red card for the offence. With no substitutes remaining Gormley took the gloves for the final few minutes, immediately facing the resultant spot kick. The experienced Simon Mensing stepped up for Hamilton but Gormley saved to his left in a brilliant moment. Admittedly, there was an element of narrowing the angle to his effort. Gormley was essentially on the 6-yard line when he thwarted the strike- a retake would surely have been awarded in current times with more rigid rules now in place. Unfortunately, Hamilton scored from the resultant corner to seal the tie, but it was still the main talking point of the game. This was Gormleys last act for the club, as he joined Elgin City on loan the following week. A truly memorable way to end his tenure.

### **GARRY FLEMING- STRIKER TO PLAY- MAKER, 2018**

The final example was more of a permanent player conversion than the solitary occasions listed above. Striker Garry Fleming was plucked from the juniors in 2012 by Dumbarton, establishing himself as something of a cult hero at the Sons, despite only reaching double figures in one of his five seasons at the club. After an acrimonious departure from the club Alloa moved to sign him in the summer of 2017. Alloa experienced a tough start to the season, and after a 5 - 2 home defeat to Albion Rovers in late September manager Jim Goodwin was feeling a bit of pressure. As the games wore on Fleming was yet to open his account and appeared to be something of a flop signing. After an aggressive altercation with a section

of supporters at the Clackmannan Road end of the pitch it looked all over for Fleming in an Alloa shirt. Goodwin turned it around in the January window with some key signings including striker Ross Stewart on loan from St Mirren. But another key driver to that success was the conversion of Fleming from a striker into a holding midfielder. He was majestic in that role, playing a key part in Alloa's march to promotion and also added a few goals to his name. He became something of a cult hero in the second half of that season- and there was element of personal redemption for Fleming as Alloa achieved promotion through the play-offs- relegating his former club Dumbarton in the final. Certainly, one of the greatest zero to hero stories of recent times at the club.

## **HT QUIZ**

- 1. WHAT WAS THE NAME OF PETERHEADS FORMER GROUND PRIOR TO THEIR 1997 MOVE TO BALMOOR STADIUM?**
- 2. WHICH ALLOA PLAYER SCORED HIS ONLY GOAL FROM OPEN PLAY UP AT BALMOOR IN ALLOAS 2-0 VICTORY OVER PETERHEAD IN OCTOBER?**
- 3. NAME THE SIX FORMER ALLOA PLAYERS WHO STARRED IN DARVEL'S RECENT SCOTTISH CUP UPSET VICTORY OVER ABERDEEN.**
- 4. WHO IS SCOTTISH LEAGUE ONES SECOND LONGEST SERVING MANAGER AFTER STEWART PETRIE OF MONTROSE?**
- 5. NAME THE ONLY ISRAELI NATIONAL WHO HAS PLAYED IN THE SCOTTISH PREMIERSHIP (IE 2013 ONWARDS) BUT NOT FOR CELTIC?**
- 6. NAME THE 5 MOST CAPPED CURRENT SCOTLAND INTERNATIONAL PLAYERS IN DESCENDING ORDER**

**ANSWERS PAGE 37**



MIDFIELDERS					
CAWLEY	ROBERTSON	MILLER	SCOUGALL	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
66		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	
1	90	76	14	90	45
90	90	45		83	45
54	54	36	90		64
83	90		90		35
62	90		49	90	41
90	90	22	68		
	90			52	

FORWARDS								
DONNELLY	RODDEN	MACIVER	KHYIAM	SAMMON	BUCHANAN	RANKIN	OFFORD	COULSON
9	10	15	17	18	19	24	25	26
		62	14	90	28			
	1	87	90	3	87	3		
		76	90	14	64			
		45	90	90				
		18	90	72				
	2	28	90	90				
		40	90	90				
		30	90	60	21			
	1	73	90	5	80	17	10	
35	1	55	90	87		2	35	
27	1	21	90	63	7		69	
72	90	31	18	59				
29	29	90	61				61	
45	63	63	45				27	
1	72	64	26	77			18	
		90	90				90	
75	75	20	70				15	
9	90	63	27	27	8		27	
90	90	90	69				21	
82	8	59	82				31	
1	64	90	83		7			
1	90	53	37	77	13			
	77	90	68	13			22	
		24	90	83	66	7		
		7	90	57	33		90	
		90		26	36	26	64	
7	55	90	90					
28		90	83					
1	61	23	90	90		6		
90		90	66	4			24	



## QUIZ ANSWERS

1. RECREATION PARK

2. SCOTT TAGGART

3. DARYLL MEGGATT, WILLIE ROBERTSON, JORDAN KIRKPATRICK, ROSS CALDWELL, ANDY STIRLING, ALAN MCKENZIE.

4. BRIAN RICE

5. OFIR MARCIANO (HIBS)

6. CRAIG GORDON (74), ANDREW ROBERTSON (60), JOHN MCGINN (52), CALLUM MCGREGOR (49), GRANT HANLEY (46).



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# ALLO ATHLETIC



# PETERHEAD

#	POS				
	1	SCOTT GALLACHER			
	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			
	18	CONNOR SAMMON			
	19	STEVEN BUCHANAN			
	20	CAMERON O'DONNELL			
	22	PAUL MCLAREN			
	23	DAVID DEVINE			
	24	LUKE RANKIN			
	26	QUINN COULSON			
	27	LUKE STRACHAN			
		<b>MANAGER</b> BRIAN RICE			

#	POS				
	1	STUART MCKENZIE			
	2	KEVIN JOSHUA			
	3	PAUL DIXON			
	4	ANDY MCDONALD			
	5	JASON BROWN			
	6	RYAN STRACHAN			
	7	HAMISH RITCHIE			
	8	ANDY MCCARTHY			
	10	KIERAN SHANKS			
	11	CONOR O'KEEFE			
	12	JACK BROWN			
	14	ROBBIE SCULLION			
	15	DANNY STRACHAN			
	16	DAVID WILSON			
	18	JORDON BROWN			
	20	CODY MCLEOD			
	22	JACK WILKIE			
	23	ENOCK WALUSIMBI			
	24	LAYTON BISLAND			
	25	ELIE IKWA			
	26	JOSHUA OYINSAN			
	27	SANDY WOOD			
	29	BORIS MELENGUI			
	39	GLENN GABRIEL			
	42	DANIEL FOSU			
	-	JACK MACIVER			
		<b>MANAGER</b> DAVID ROBERTSON			

**REFEREE:** Stewart Luke

**ASST:** David Dunne & Steven McKay


## ALLOA'S NEXT FIVE

07.02.23, HOME, 19:45

	ALLOA ATHLETIC		FALKIRK
--	----------------	--	---------

18.02.23, AWAY, 15:00

	FALKIRK		ALLOA ATHLETIC
--	---------	--	----------------

25.02.23, HOME, 15:00

	ALLOA ATHLETIC		MONTROSE
--	----------------	--	----------

04.03.23, AWAY, 15:00

	DUNFERMLINE		ALLOA ATHLETIC
--	-------------	--	----------------

11.03.23, AWAY, 15:00

	FC EDINBURGH		ALLOA ATHLETIC
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