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22ND APRIL 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

SClub Information

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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

Bill Anderson

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)

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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AAFC Supporters Club

Brian Roach - 07775764831

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| | P | W | D | L | GF | GA | GD | PTS |
|--|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|
|  DUNFERMLINE | 33 | 21 | 11 | 1 | 58 | 19 | 39 | 74 |
|  FALKIRK | 34 | 17 | 10 | 7 | 63 | 37 | 26 | 61 |
|  AIRDRIEONIANS | 33 | 16 | 8 | 9 | 76 | 46 | 30 | 56 |
|  ALLOA ATHLETIC | 33 | 16 | 6 | 11 | 51 | 41 | 10 | 54 |
|  FC EDINBURGH | 34 | 15 | 5 | 14 | 57 | 49 | 8 | 50 |
|  QUEEN OF THE SOUTH | 33 | 14 | 6 | 13 | 50 | 54 | -4 | 48 |
|  MONTROSE | 33 | 12 | 9 | 12 | 46 | 47 | -1 | 45 |
|  KELTY HEARTS | 33 | 9 | 9 | 15 | 34 | 47 | -13 | 36 |
|  CLYDE | 33 | 4 | 8 | 21 | 31 | 64 | -33 | 20 |
|  PETERHEAD | 33 | 3 | 6 | 24 | 16 | 78 | -62 | 15 |

WEEKEND'S FIXTURES











LEAGUE 1

| | |
|--|---|
|  ALLOA ATHLETIC |  FALKIRK |
|  AIRDRIEONIANS |  DUNFERMLINE |
|  FC EDINBURGH |  KELTY HEARTS |
|  PETERHEAD |  CLYDE |
|  QUEEN OF THE SOUTH |  MONTROSE |


PREMIER LEAGUE

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

CHAMPIONSHIP

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

LEAGUE 2

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

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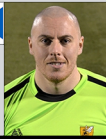
GOALKEEPERS

Scott GALLACHER

15/07/1989



1



DEFENDERS

Scott TAGGART

27/12/1991



183 CM 75 KG

2



Daniel CHURCH

21/07/2000



183 CM 79 KG

3



Michael DOYLE

01/08/1991



4



Keir BURT

09/09/2004



175 CM 69 KG

21



Andy GRAHAM

22/09/1983



188 CM 85 KG

5



Mark DURMAN

28/11/1992



188 CM 89 KG

6



George STANGER

15/08/2000



190 CM 88 KG

14



Jay HOGARTH

18/07/2003



185 CM 82 KG

31



Paul MCLAREN

01/04/2004



185 CM 76 KG

22



David DEVINE

20/06/2001



CM KG

23



Luke STRACHAN

22/03/2001



CM KG

27



MANAGER

BRIAN RICE



MIDFIELDERS

FORWARDS

**Kevin
CAWLEY**

17/03/1989



**Jon
ROBERTSON**

25/04/1989



**Luke
DONNELLY**

20/01/1996



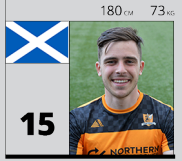
**Bradley
RODDEN**

21/08/1996



**Ross
MACIVER**

28/02/1999



**Murray
MILLER**

29/01/2001



**Stefan
SCOUGAL**

07/12/1992



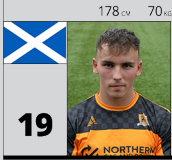
**Conor
SAMMON**

06/11/1986



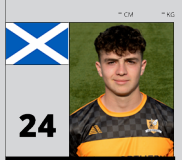
**Steven
BUCHANAN**

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



BRIAN RICE AFTER LATE KELTY HEROICS

It's a great three points, a good time to score but we dominated the whole match. The pitch was sticky for both teams but better late than never. Quality ball in from Strachan and a great header from

Sammon so to come up here and get three points at this time of the season is absolutely fantastic.

Next Saturday we'll have the local derby against Falkirk. They've got a Scottish cup semi-final to look

forward to as well so there's loads to play for. Nothing is set in stone yet with the playoffs and we're not there yet. There's going to be three difficult games and we need to get ourselves over that line

but great credit to the squad today.

We had Durnan pull out on Thursday. Donnelly pulled out on Friday and early on Taggart went down injured but the boys on the park kept going and going.

I told them at half time keep doing what you're doing and trust that all we need is a bit of quality in the final third and we'll get that cross and find the goal and luckily enough that happened.

Taggart ended up today with a dead leg

and in typical Taggs fashion tried to play through it. He never comes off and he's a massive miss today but Andy has come on and done what Andy Graham does. Kicks it, heads it, organises.

I'm really pleased with the defence

today getting a clean sheet. I thought George Stanger again today was excellent and good for the goalkeeper to get a clean sheet today. It's been a really good day for us all around.





JOHN GLENCROSS



NEWSDESK

Welcome back to the Indodrill Stadium for fifth meeting of the season four in Cinch League One and one in the Scottish Cup this season, welcoming Manager John McGlynn, Assistant manager Paul Smith and Bobby Geddes Goalkeeping Coach, the players, officials, and directors of Falkirk FC.

The SPFL recently announced the dates for the end-of-season play-offs, with a total of 10 matches to be broadcast live. BBC Scotland will show the cinch Premiership play-off quarter-finals on Tuesday May 9 and Friday May 12, followed by the semi-finals on Friday May 19 and Friday May 26. The final, which marks the conclusion

of the 2022/23 season, will be screened live on Sky Sports on Thursday June 1 and Sunday June 4. If in the event that Inverness Caledonian Thistle reach both the Scottish Cup final and the play-off final, those play-off ties will instead take place on Tuesday June 6 and Friday June 9. The cinch Championship and cinch League 1 play-off semi-finals begin on Tuesday May 9, with both legs of the finals live on BBC ALBA. Tuesday May 16 and Friday May 19 are the dates for the League 1 play-off final, while the Championship play-off final will be played on Wednesday May 17 and Saturday May 20. SPFL chief executive Neil Doncaster said: "The play-offs are always something to look

forward to and provide unrivalled tension and drama for the fans in the stadium and those watching on TV. We are delighted that 10 play-off matches will be broadcast live across Sky Sports, BBC Scotland and BBC ALBA to help showcase the SPFL at all levels."

CINCH LEAGUE 1 PLAY-OFFS - Tuesday May 9 or Wednesday May 10

Saturday May 13 cinch League 1 play-off semi-finals, 2nd leg
Tuesday May 16 cinch League 1 play-off final, 1st leg

Lowest-ranked team at home in 1st leg Live on BBC ALBA, kick-off 7.35pm

Friday May 19 cinch League 1 play-off final, 2nd leg

Highest-ranked team at home in 2nd leg Live on BBC ALBA, kick-off 7.35pm.

On Monday 10th April we held our second Football Memories Group in conjunction with Alzheimer Scotland and Football Memories Scotland part of the Memories Scotland network. The football reminiscence group is to be enjoyed by anyone living with Dementia, experiencing difficulty with memory, and is open to all including football supporters, family and friends. At meeting we had a another good turnout of over sixteen people who enjoyed looking back on football

through the ages and looking at old programmes, team lines, and photographs. Our next Football Memories meeting will take place on Monday 8th May at Indodrill stadium, at 11.30 – 1.00 O'clock, all are welcome.

After the success of the History of Alloa Athletic book this season, the club will be producing a second book which will be available to purchase in June. Diary of a Season continues where the History book ends. It covers what has happened at the club over the course of this season through articles and stats as well as match photos by David Glencross. Both John Glencross and Stuart Latham have added additional information that has come to light since the history book was published. Stuart states "in 1981 I wrote a handbook on the club to celebrate 60 years in the Scottish League and it was voted the best handbook ever produced for a Scottish team. This season John and I have written the history of the club and it again broke records for being the largest book ever written about a Scottish club, so at Alloa we like to be the best, so having looked at the annuals that Hearts produce I thought we could go for that record as well, so in June we will produce a book on

the season and I hope it will reach about 175 pages to beat all other annuals. If it sells well then we could look to do another book next season".

As with the history book, all profits will go to the club. Exact price will be in the £17.99 to £19.99 estimate, but exact price will be confirmed at the end of the season when the final number of pages has been established. As with the history book, we are offering subscribers a chance to have their names put into the book. If you are interested, please let me know and we will put your names in the publication. Contact – John Glencross, email jgxalfoafc@aol.com or 07877 530314.

Another date for your diary is the Scottish Football Programmes & Memorabilia Fair, which on this occasion is being held at Forthbank Stadium, home of neighbours Stirling Albion FC, this will on Sunday 11th June, 2023, 10.30am – 2.30pm, Admission Free, please come along and support.

Wasps 2000 Draw
- Week 15 15th April, 2023

£ 100 0411 J.Millar
£ 50 0404 D.Hunter
£ 25 1294 J.Robertson
£ 25 0636 G.Kay
£ 25 0171 R.McGrouth-

er

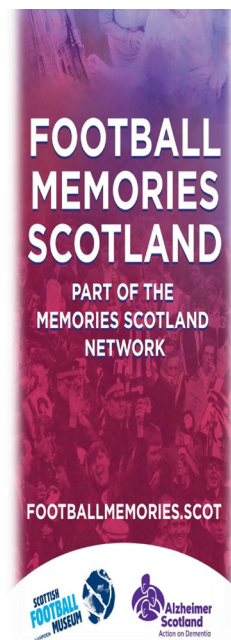
Congratulations to Michael Doyle who was named in the SPFL Team of the week after his display against Kelty Hearts at New Central Park in 1-0 victory.

The Supporters End of Season Awards Night takes place on Saturday April 22nd at Braehead Golf Club, Alloa at 6pm- right after the home fixture against Falkirk. The players and management team will be present for the awards. Tickets are available from Brian Roach pre and post-match in the Black and Gold Lounge from today. Tickets are priced at £10 and include the presentations, buffet and DJ. Come along to meet the players and have a great evening. Voting for Player of the

Year and Goal of the Season will be available for supporters online from next week. For the less technical among us, there will voting forms available at the next home game in a fortnight.

Alloa Athletic FC professional Youth Academy will be holding Talent I-D days, open to ambitious players born 2008 on Sunday 23rd April, 2023 from 5.30pm – 7.00pm at the Indodrill Stadium.

Alloa Athletic Academy@AlloaAthAcademy, our 2010 Junior Academy Squad is on the lookout for new talent! Our Junior Academy squads provide an exciting platform for ambitious and talented players to be part of the @AlloaAthleticFC Development Pathway.



Indodrill Stadium Alloa

**Monday 8th
May 2023**

11.30-13.00

For more info please contact
jgxalfoafc@aol.com
07877 530314



1st April 2023
Indodrill Stadium, Alloa
3:00pm KO

KELTY HEARTS

0:1

ALLOA ATHLETIC



(0:0)

SCORERS

0:1 93' Sammon

STARTING XI

- 1** JAMIESON
- 2** MEGWA
- 3** PEGGIE
- 6** DARGE
- 7** CARDLE
- 10** BARJONAS
- 12** TIDSER
- 19** MILNE
- 22** AGYEMAN
- 26** LYON
- 28** THOMSON

SUBS

- 8** REILLY
- 14** PHILP
- 17** MCCULLOCH
- 18** SHEARER
- 20** CAMPBELL
- 24** KAMGNA JR.
- 27** HUNTER

SUBS

- 71** CLARK
- 7** CAWLEY
- 5** GRAHAM
- 16** KING
- 20** O'DONNELL
- 24** RANKIN
- 26** COULSON

STARTING XI

- 31** HOGARTH
- 2** TAGGART
- 4** DOYLE
- 14** STANGER
- 18** SAMMON
- 11** MILLER
- 3** CHURCH
- 27** STRACHAN
- 15** MACIVER
- 8** ROBERTSON
- 12** SCOUGALL

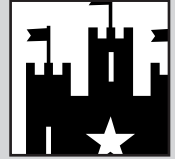
REFEREE: Dan McFarlane

18th April 2023
The Falkirk Stadium
7:45pm KO

FALKIRK

1:2

FC EDINBURGH



(0:0)

SCORERS

0:1 72' Handling

Kennedy **85'** **1:1**

1:2 92' Murray



STARTING XI

- 17 KINNEAR**
- 2 WILLIAMSON**
- 6 DONALDSON**
- 22 MCKAY**
- 15 MCCANN**
- 4 MCGINN**
- 5 HENDERSON**
- 11 MCGUFFIE**
- 10 NESBITT**
- 73 KENNEDY**
- 19 BURRELL**

SUBS

- 3 ROWE**
- 7 MORRISON**
- 18 OLIVER**
- 21 LAWAL**
- 23 KUCHERIAVYI**
- 1 MORRISON**
- 9 ALLAN**
- 14 YEATS**
- 16 WRIGHT**

SUBS

- 10 HANDLING**
- 23 MURRAY**
- 26 ANUKAM**
- 1 BAIN**
- 6 DEVINE**
- 22 MCNAMARA**
- 30 CRANE**

STARTING XI

- 31 MUTCH**
- 2 MACDONALD**
- 4 HAMILTON**
- 5 MERCER**
- 13 JACOBS**
- 19 WARNOCK**
- 28 CRAIGEN**
- 20 STIRLING**
- 11 ROBERTSON**
- 9 SEE**
- 7 SHANLEY**

REFEREE: Alan Newlands

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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BRIAN RICE'S HALF CENTURY

Football management is a precarious business with clubs now routinely changing managers twice or three times during a single season in the constant search for success. As such, managers reaching even a half-century of games in charge is becoming increasingly rare. A fortnight ago Brian Rice reached his half-century of games in charge of the Wasps, which provides a perfect opportunity to reflect on Rice's tenure to date.

I think Rice's 14

months in charge so far have been largely productive and encouraging, especially when considered within the context he inherited after Barry Ferguson's tumultuous spell in Clackmannanshire. After joining the club for the final quarter of the 2021/2022 season Rice immediately brought a front-foot and positive approach back to the team. This cumulated in five victories in the final seven matches of the season, steadying the ship, ending any possi-

ble threat of relegation, and instead excelling to see the Wasps jump from 7th to 5th in the final table. The news of Rice signing a two-year deal before the final game of the campaign was testament to the feel-good factor he instilled around the club. His personable approach and positive outlook in interviews means as a supporter you warm to him, with this surely rubbing off on his playing squad too, who by their performances certainly

have the full respect of their manager. Rice's enthusiasm for the game is clear to see, with him sometimes wearing his heart on his sleeve, but in my book that's a positive position to take.

This season the Wasps have consistently been in and around the promotion play-off positions, quietly going about their business in an efficient manner, continuously picking up victories and never suffering a run of more than two successive

league defeats. At the beginning of the season Rice importantly added Kenny Brannigan to his coaching team and alongside Paddy Connolly, Robert Glen and Andy Graham, Rice has gathered a vastly experienced team around him at the club. With three games now to play Alloa are right in the mix for the end of season promotion play-offs and it could yet prove to be another memorable end of the season for the Wasps. Highlights so far this season have included the four successive victories at the end of August and throughout September, the four

dramatic victories secured with winning goals in the final five minutes of matches and the nine match unbeaten run in league games at the Recs, a feat not achieved since 2017 when the Wasps similarly went half a league season unbeaten at home under Jim Goodwin. Nobody can fault the commitment or effort of this group of Alloa players either, typified by 21 of the 79 goals scored (27%) within the 59 year old's reign coming in the final 10 minutes of matches. Conor Sammon's dramatic 93rd minute winner last weekend being the 20th last 10 minute goal this

season, disproportionately accounting for 32% of all goals scored by the Wasps this campaign. That just shows this Alloa side fight to the very end of matches and three injury time match-winning goals this season is testament to that.

On the pitch Rice's tactical nous has been successful more often than not, with him cleverly adapting his tactics and formations regularly during matches to turn defeats into draws and draws into victories. For some Alloa supporters Rice's fluid systems (and the deployment of players in less favoured positions within those

formations) have sometimes been a source of frustration, but it's clear that the players are comfortable with the variety and it has been proven to deliver results, with Rice openly, and refreshingly so, not interested in draws and always pushing for wins. Whether it is three or four at the back, or a two or three man Alloa front-line, the Wasps are playing to win matches and attack the opposition, which is certainly easier on the eye than a number of seasons of the Wasps typically playing with a lone frontman and counter-attacking teams.



Rice has also built a stronger squad of players than some of his predecessors, exemplified by 13 Alloa goals this season being scored by substitutes (a greater number than at any time in the past decade). Part of that has seen the welcome introduction of young players into the team, with a number of youth team players getting minutes under Rice. In addition, teenagers Jay Hogarth and Quinn Coulson have been trusted to be regular starters in the team as 'Chipper' hasn't been afraid to give young players a chance to play without fear for

the Wasps. Some of the appearances by youngsters have been necessitated by a string of injuries within the squad this season, or more than ever the availability of senior players due to work commitments (e.g. Mark Durnan and Kevin Cawley). That's part and parcel of the game, but the more settled backline in recent months has certainly helped with four clean sheets in the past eight matches.

Focusing more closely on recruitment, Rice's success rate in respect of permanent new signings has been very promising, with

Ross MacIver, Bradley Rodden, George Stanger, Luke Donnelly and Quinn Coulson all having positive impacts on the team this season. Rice clearly has an eye for a player, built up over decades of dedicating himself to the game and getting out and about to watch as many games as he can, as well as arranging plenty of bounce games where he's evidently not only looking at his own players (e.g. Coulson trialling for East Fife but being snapped up by Rice). Perhaps an area for improvement is the success rate of loan signings; at this level loa-

needs can add an X-factor that can prove the difference. For a variety of reasons not all the Alloa loan signings have worked out quite as well as had been hoped this season, or perhaps more accurately haven't quite sparkled as brightly as their predecessors? In reality, Alloa supporters have perhaps just been spoilt in the past with a conveyor-belt of treasure passing through the Recs, and the ever expanding substitute benches and 'B' teams making it increasingly difficult to sign superstar loan players? Another tangible factor in Rice's favour is that

| YEARS IN CHARGE | | WON | DRAW | LOSS | FOR | AGAINST | WIN % |
|-------------------|-------------------|-----|------|------|-----|---------|-------|
| 1993-1995 | Billy Lamont | 16 | 18 | 16 | 54 | 57 | 32% |
| 1996-1998 | Tom Hendrie (1st) | 19 | 11 | 20 | 64 | 71 | 38% |
| 1999-2003 | Terry Christie | 23 | 16 | 11 | 78 | 66 | 46% |
| 2003-2006 | Tom Hendrie (2nd) | 19 | 9 | 22 | 84 | 93 | 38% |
| 2006-2011 | Allan Maitland | 17 | 12 | 21 | 54 | 84 | 34% |
| 2011-2014 | Paul Hartley | 26 | 10 | 14 | 89 | 64 | 52% |
| 2014-2015 | Barry Smith | 13 | 9 | 28 | 49 | 74 | 26% |
| 2016-2019 | Jim Goodwin | 18 | 13 | 19 | 73 | 72 | 36% |
| 2019-2021 | Peter Grant | 17 | 11 | 22 | 66 | 82 | 34% |
| 2022-23 so far... | Brian Rice | 25 | 8 | 17 | 78 | 66 | 50% |



he's evidently improved the form of a number of players he inherited from the previous regime. Trusting Stefan Scougall to play in a central position has paid off with the energetic and skilful midfielder a standout at League One level. Getting 16 goals (and counting...) out of Conor Sammon has undoubtedly been another success story, as has been the visible increase in confidence displayed by Daniel Church pushing forward from full-back this season.

When comparing Rice's 50 game record with previous Alloa managers from the past thirty years it stands up extremely well. Rice's win percentage, at precisely 50% (now 51% after the victory at Kelty last weekend), is second only to Paul Hartley, with the majority of Hartley's first 50 games being at the lower fourth tier, where traditionally wins are easier for Alloa to achieve. Despite that, Hartley only recorded one more win than Rice, which emphasises the fine record 'Chipper' has with the Wasps.

A more realistic comparison would be with the records of Terry Christie, Tom Hendrie (2nd spell), Allan Maitland and Jim Goodwin, who like Rice managed their first 50 Alloa games at third tier level (either the Second

Division or cinch League One as it is presently known). Rice's 50% win rate outshines Christie (46%) and is significantly better than Hendrie (38%), Goodwin (36%) or Maitland (34%). Given Christie and Goodwin took over the reigns with the Wasps already in an upward trajectory (with previous managers Hendrie and Jack Ross both leaving the club after being poached by St Mirren) for Rice to have better win rates is impressive. Goodwin's first 50 in charge, in particular, included Alloa's run to finish runners up to Livingston in 2016/17, but Jim's win rate was undermined by a poor record in cup competitions and a mediocre start to the 2017/18 campaign (which then significantly improved as Alloa went onto win promotion via the play-offs). Whichever way you compare records, when it comes to the pure data Rice's record compares favourably with his predecessors.

Whatever the outcome of this season for the Wasps I think Rice can hold his head high with the job he's done so far this season. The Alloa faithful can look forward to next season with some justified confidence that with Rice in charge the club is in safe hands and can move forward.

Other quickfire facts of Rice's Alloa tenure so far:

BIGGEST WIN: 5-0 v Peterhead

HEAVIEST DEFEAT: 0-4 v Airdrie

LONGEST UNBEATEN RUN (ALL COMPS): 5 games August-October (4 wins / 1 draw)

LONGEST WINLESS RUN: 4 games December-January

ONLY LOST SUCCESSIVE LEAGUE GAMES TWICE (August v Edinburgh & Airdrie & April v Airdrie & QoS)

9 HOME LEAGUE GAMES UNBEATEN from October to April's defeat to Airdrie

4 SUCCESSIVE WINS August-September

Alloa's points haul in the first half of the season (28) was the Wasps **JOINT HIGHEST IN THE PAST DECADE**, with the

same points tally also recorded in 2017/2018, which ended with Alloa promoted via the play-offs.

26 POINTS already in second half of the season (28 in first half of the season), so the Wasps are close to earning more points in the second half of the campaign for a ninth successive season.

Last weekend the Wasps **WON A THIRD SUCCESSIVE AWAY GAME** for the first time since 2017. All three wins came with clean sheets too. It turns out that before this current run the Wasps hadn't won three away games in-a-row without conceding since 2003. That came under the reign of Terry Christie, when the Wasps came so close to avoiding the drop from the First Division, helped by successive 1-0 away wins at Ayr, Queen of the South and Arbroath.





SCOTTISH LEAGUE—First Division.

| | Goals. | | | | | | |
|-------------------|--------|----|----|----|----|----|------|
| | P. | W. | L. | D. | F. | A. | Pts. |
| Rangers, | 38 | 23 | 6 | 9 | 67 | 29 | 55 |
| Airdrie, | 38 | 20 | 8 | 10 | 58 | 39 | 50 |
| Celtic, | 38 | 19 | 11 | 8 | 62 | 39 | 46 |
| Falkirk, | 38 | 14 | 7 | 17 | 44 | 32 | 45 |
| St Mirren, | 38 | 15 | 11 | 12 | 54 | 44 | 42 |
| Aberdeen, | 38 | 15 | 11 | 12 | 46 | 54 | 42 |
| Dundee, | 38 | 17 | 14 | 7 | 51 | 45 | 41 |
| Hibernians, | 38 | 17 | 14 | 7 | 45 | 40 | 41 |
| Raith Rovers, .. | 38 | 13 | 12 | 13 | 31 | 43 | 39 |
| Ayr United, | 38 | 13 | 13 | 12 | 43 | 44 | 38 |
| Partick T., | 38 | 14 | 15 | 9 | 51 | 48 | 37 |
| Hearts, | 38 | 11 | 12 | 15 | 51 | 50 | 37 |
| Motherwell, .. | 38 | 13 | 15 | 10 | 60 | 60 | 36 |
| Kilmarnock, | 38 | 14 | 17 | 7 | 57 | 66 | 35 |
| Morton, | 38 | 12 | 15 | 11 | 44 | 47 | 35 |
| Clyde, | 38 | 12 | 17 | 9 | 36 | 44 | 33 |
| Third Lanark, .. | 38 | 11 | 19 | 8 | 40 | 59 | 30 |
| Hamilton, | 38 | 11 | 20 | 7 | 43 | 59 | 29 |
| Albion Rovers, .. | 38 | 8 | 20 | 10 | 38 | 64 | 26 |
| Alloa, | 38 | 6 | 21 | 11 | 27 | 52 | 23 |

END OF SEASON CONSOLATION

Alloa's dream of retaining First Division status was over but as season 1922/23 drew to a close, the Wasps would still have a say in who would join them in dropping them out of the top flight. Relegation had been confirmed in a 1-1 draw with Ayr in Alloa's penultimate away match. Another 1-1 draw had followed at the Recs against Morton before the Wasps would conclude their league campaign

at Douglas Park against Hamilton. The game was crucial to Accies who were now just a point clear of an Albion Rovers side coming off eye catching victories over Rangers and Aberdeen. Hamilton would need to beat Alloa to be sure of seeing off the challenge of the resurgent Wee Rovers.

With a fortnight between the Morton draw and the trip to Douglas Park however,

the Wasps first had the chance to wrap up some unfinished business. Alloa's Stirlingshire Cup hopes had come to an abrupt end with a 4-0 thumping from Falkirk back in September. That parachuted the Wasps into the Stirlingshire Consolation Cup where Falkirk Amateurs would be their midweek semi-final opponents at Brockville. The game looked like something of a mismatch and Alloa duly took an early lead

when Falkirk left-back Glegg – who was apparently normally a goal-keeper – headed into his own net. Gilmour added another before Willie Crilley popped up with two second-half goals, the wee man having another couple chalked off. It was a 4-0 win achieved by an Alloa side who in the eyes of the Falkirk Herald “had not an outstanding man on the field”, albeit the paper admitted that “perhaps they did not

exert themselves unduly". Alloa might have been going through the motions against the amateurs but the game was not without significance for it marked Willie Crilley's final appearance in an Alloa shirt, for now at least. A few days later the midget centre would set sail for New York. 64 years before Peter Dwyer upped and left Scotland for Australia, here was another Alloa star striker heading for new horizons not so long after the club had spent a significant sum to secure his services, although Dywer certainly did more in his few months at the Recs than Crilley had managed in his ill-fated second spell with the Wasps. It was a far cry from the same time the year before when he was breaking goalscoring records as he fired into Alloa into the top flight, and it certainly wasn't what the Alloa directors had expected when they had lured their star man back to

the Wee County early in the campaign after his short spell with Celtic. Along with Alloa's relegation, the departure of Crilley marked the closing of a golden era for the club. The Wasps held onto his registration anyway, just in case he might return to Scotland in the future.

The following Saturday saw young Daniel Craig back at centre-forward and on the scoresheet with the only goal as Alloa defeated the Scottish Junior Select 1-0 at the Recs. It wasn't enough to keep him in the team for the Stirlingshire Consolation Cup final against East Stirlingshire at Brockville on Wednesday night with James Headrick once more moving from centre-half to centre-forward. 3000 fans were in attendance to see Quinn and Tully Craig give Alloa a 2-0 half-time lead on a night when Jock Stirling rolled back the years with a virtuoso performance on the wing: "Stirling was hav-

ing a regular field day against Hunter, who was repeatedly left standing", reported the Falkirk Herald, with Quinn also in form on the other flank. Headrick added a third goal before the Shire pulled one back late on. It finished 3-1 to ensure the Wasps would end the season with some kind of silverware.

And so to Douglas Park for the final game of the campaign. Just a few miles north, Albion Rovers were hosting Partick Thistle in the knowledge that a victory coupled with an Alloa win at Hamilton would keep them up at the expense of Accies. It didn't take too long for things to unravel for the Coatbridge men though, Partick going ahead early on before a Rovers player was ordered off after "vigorous claims" for a penalty, generating "much hostility from the home fans". There was no way back from here and Rovers were condemned to relegation with a 1-0 defeat. It was just as well they didn't need ultimately need a favour from Alloa

– because they didn't get one. With Headrick back in defence and young Craig returning in attack, the Wasps were reported to have played some nice football in the first-half but came in trailing to an Accies team "playing with tremendous vigour". The second period saw Alloa "make many credible efforts" to break down the home defence but once again those efforts were in vain. Hamilton duly secured the points with a second goal late on. "There wasn't much in it" concluded the Athletic News, which was pretty much the story of Alloa's season.

The campaign thus ended with Alloa and Albion Rovers relegated and Queen's Park and Clydebank both returning to the First Division a year after dropping out of the top flight. Alloa fans were left wondering what had gone wrong – and as the vultures began to circle – who would be left at the Recs for the season ahead back in the Second Division. 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 | 28 (0) | 0 | 7 (0) | 0 | 35 (0) | 0 | 28 (0) | 0 |
| TAGGART | DEF | 31 (0) | 4 | 8 (0) | 1 | 39 (0) | 5 | 225 (0) | 10 |
| CHURCH | DEF | 21 (4) | 2 | 8 (0) | 0 | 29 (4) | 2 | 41 (8) | 2 |
| HOWIE | DEF | 2 (5) | 0 | 0 (2) | 0 | 2 (7) | 0 | 19 (8) | 1 |
| GRAHAM | DEF | 9 (4) | 1 | 7 (1) | 0 | 16 (5) | 1 | 185 (5) | 14 |
| DURNAN | DEF | 12 (1) | 0 | 0 (1) | 0 | 12 (2) | 0 | 45 (1) | 4 |
| STANGER | DEF | 28 (0) | 3 | 5 (1) | 0 | 33 (1) | 3 | 28 (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 | 5 (2) | 0 | 1 (0) | 0 | 6 (2) | 0 | 5 (2) | 0 |
| DOYLE | DEF | 8 (0) | 0 | 0 (0) | 0 | 8 (0) | 0 | 155 (0) | 2 |
| ROBERTSON | MID | 25 (2) | 0 | 1 (0) | 0 | 26 (2) | 0 | 172 (30) | 2 |
| SCOUGALL | MID | 19 (5) | 1 | 5 (2) | 0 | 24 (7) | 1 | 53 (18) | 6 |
| KING | MID | 7 (15) | 2 | 6 (0) | 1 | 13 (15) | 3 | 33 (20) | 6 |
| O'DONNELL | MID | 7 (11) | 1 | 3 (1) | 0 | 10 (12) | 1 | 14 (31) | 1 |
| MILLER | MID | 20 (5) | 1 | 7 (1) | 0 | 27 (6) | 1 | 20 (5) | 1 |
| CAWLEY | MID | 22 (2) | 0 | 4 (2) | 1 | 26 (4) | 1 | 320 (45) | 62 |
| DONNELLY | FWD | 12 (9) | 6 | 2 (0) | 1 | 14 (9) | 7 | 12 (15) | 7 |
| SAMMON | FWD | 26 (5) | 10 | 7 (1) | 5 | 33 (6) | 15 | 47 (18) | 15 |
| MACIVER | FWD | 28 (3) | 6 | 6 (2) | 0 | 34 (5) | 6 | 31 (8) | 7 |
| KHYAM | 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 |
| OFFORD | FWD | 5 (8) | 4 | 0 (0) | 0 | 5 (8) | 4 | 5 (8) | 4 |
| COULSON | FWD | 9 (1) | 1 | 0 (0) | 0 | 9 (1) | 1 | 9 (1) | 1 |



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| 1 (0) | 0 | 4 (0) | 0 |
| 0 (0) | 0 | 0 (1) | 0 |
| 7 (0) | 0 | 35 (0) | 0 |
| 56 (1) | 3 | 281 (1) | 13 |
| 14 (0) | 0 | 55 (8) | 2 |
| 5 (4) | 0 | 24 (12) | 1 |
| 53 (2) | 1 | 238 (7) | 15 |
| 2 (1) | 0 | 47 (2) | 4 |
| 7 (1) | 0 | 35 (1) | 3 |
| 2 (1) | 0 | 3 (3) | 0 |
| 0 (0) | 0 | 6 (0) | 0 |
| 1 (0) | 0 | 6 (2) | 0 |
| 0 (0) | 0 | 155 (0) | 2 |
| 1 (0) | 0 | 173 (30) | 2 |
| 14 (7) | 2 | 67 (25) | 8 |
| 6 (0) | 2 | 39 (20) | 8 |
| 0 (0) | 0 | 14 (31) | 1 |
| 7 (1) | 0 | 27 (6) | 1 |
| 66 (9) | 11 | 386 (54) | 73 |
| 2 (3) | 1 | 14 (18) | 8 |
| 7 (1) | 5 | 54 (19) | 20 |
| 6 (2) | 0 | 37 (10) | 7 |
| 0 (3) | 0 | 0 (4) | 0 |
| 32 (2) | 1 | 39 (10) | 6 |
| 2 (3) | 0 | 2 (10) | 0 |
| 0 (0) | 0 | 5 (8) | 4 |
| 0 (0) | 0 | 9 (1) | 1 |

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BRIAN ROACH



A FAN'S VIEW

The decisive goal may have arrived deep into the final minute of stoppage time last week, but at this stage, the three points were all that mattered. Alloa responded well at Kelty last week following two home defeats and left with the victory, requiring one more win to cement their place in the promotion play-offs. The game was similar to Alloa's previous visit to Fife earlier in the season in terms of the balance of play. They dominated the opening half and into the second period, with Keltys belief growing as

the game progressed and the score remained level. It appeared it was going to be one of those days for Alloa, and the goal was never going to arrive. But Conor Sammon popped up with that near-post header to send the busy traveling support home happy.

In the last edition of The Wasp, I looked at the Championship Play-Off contenders from League One, and each club's subsequent fixture run-in. This week, I'll focus on the contenders from the Championship, where the team in the 9th posi-

tion will join those finishing 2nd, 3rd, and 4th in League One. Today's opponents, Falkirk, will obviously take up one of those League One play-off slots, so will also have a passing interest. The relegation battle in the Championship consists of three clubs - Arbroath, Hamilton, and Cove Rangers - who currently occupy 8th, 9th, and 10th positions, respectively. Following the midweek results, it does look increasingly like Hamilton will occupy that ninth spot, but there may be a twist or turn yet.

ARBROATH- (8TH, 33 POINTS) RE-MAINING FIXTURES: COVE RANGERS (H), PARTICK THISTLE (A), HAMILTON (H)

Despite a tough season in the aftermath of their heroics last term, Arbroath is in the strongest position of the three by some distance. Four points clear of Hamilton in 9th and 6 in front of Cove at the bottom, they only require a point on Saturday against Cove to seal their safety from automatic relegation. A victory may also be enough to confirm 8th position, providing

Hamilton doesn't match their win. Should it be required, they also face Hamilton at Gayfield on the last day of the season. Dick Campbell's men are in good form too, having only lost one of their last five games, including victories over Queens Park and Ayr within that spell. Mathematically, Arbroath is still in the mix, but in all likelihood, this looks like a battle between 9th and 10th.

HAMILTON- (9TH, 29 POINTS) REMAINING FIXTURES: PARTICK THISTLE (H), ARBROATH (A)

Hamilton tasted defeat at home to Inverness on Tuesday night, which was a major setback for them as they would have been looking to put pressure on Arbroath. That fixture was pulled forward due to Caley Thistle's cup semi-final against Falkirk next week. Having played a game more than their rivals, Hamilton must now take maximum points from their remaining fixtures to have any hope of avoiding 9th position. They won the SPFL Trust Trophy, defeating Raith Rovers last month, and they followed that up with a league win over Rovers in early April. However, they were also on the end of a recent 7-0 defeat from Dundee. Should Alloa cement their place in the play-offs, they would obvi-

ously be without Michael Doyle - currently on loan from Accies. With Doyle's performances in his loan spell, this would be a substantial blow. Hamilton also has ex-Wasp Dario Zanatta within their ranks, with a large chunk of his appearances this season coming from the bench.

COVE RANGERS- (10TH, 27 POINTS) REMAINING FIXTURES: ARBROATH (A), DUNDEE (A), MORTON (H),

Last season's League One champions have experienced a strange campaign- a little surprising when they looked for all intents and purposes like a club capable of progressing and holding their own in the Championship. Manager Paul Hartley departed the club last summer to join Hartle-

pool, only to be sacked and return to Cove in the New Year to replace Jim McIntyre. Alloa and Falkirk supporter's opinions on Hartley will be something of a contrast, but its fairly clear that his return hasn't had the desired effect. They have only won 1 of their 14 league games under Hartley and passed up a great opportunity to get closer to Hamilton a fortnight ago when they could only draw at SuperSeal Stadium. With a televised clash away to championship chasing Dundee next week, today presents Coves best opportunity to gain points- but they'll require at least two wins to finish 9th.

I originally had today's match earmarked as I game where I felt Falkirk may rest some players in anticipation of their

big cup semi-final next weekend. But following their surprise home defeat to Edinburgh in midweek, there will be a bit of pressure on them to head into the cup tie on a high- particularly given that their opponents Inverness are in good form. This should make no difference to Alloa's approach of course, and after running Falkirk close several times this season it would be great to seal their place in the play-offs with a win here. Their midweek result brings Edinburgh to within four points of Alloa but having played a game more Alloa's objective remains the same- one more win from the three remaining games. Hopefully we see that outcome achieved today.





ANDREW COCKBURN



LOOKING BACK 24TH APRIL 1993

In The Premier Division, just one game took place, due to Scotland's World Cup qualifying game in Portugal the following mid-week. This was at McDiarmid Park, where St. Johnstone and Motherwell played out a goalless draw, which meant that The Saints remained in sixth place, while The Well, battling to avoid relegation, moved up one place to ninth, now four points off the drop zone. Otherwise, it was "as you were", with Rangers ten points clear at the top, and

now virtually certain to retain their title crown, followed by Aberdeen & Celtic. At the other end of the table, bottom club Airdrie looked doomed, as did today's visitors Falkirk, who stood in second-bottom position, while Dundee dropped to third-bottom spot, as a result of Motherwell's point.

Runaway First Division Champions Raith enjoyed a 4-1 home win v their hapless local rivals Cowdenbeath, while Dunfermline, 1-0 winners at another of

the strugglers, Meadowbank, moved into second spot in place of Kilmarnock, who dropped to third, after they went down 1-2 v fourth-placed St. Mirren, in a top-of-the-table clash at Love Street. At the other end of the table, rock-bottom Cowdenbeath's fate had long since been sealed, Meadowbank's defeat kept them in second-bottom place, while third-bottom Stirling Albion's own relegation worries continued, after a 2-3 home defeat v Clydebank.

Down in The Second, leaders Clyde moved three points clear, after they drew 1-1 at Alloa, for whom Hendry netted a second-half equaliser, and The Wasps had lined up as follows: Jim Butter, Lawrence Crombie, Neil Bennett, Davie Wilcox, Keith McCulloch, Colin Campbell, John Gibson (Gavin Tait), Stevie Ramsay, Mike Hendry (Stevie McCormick), Barrie Moffat, Neil McAvoy. Brechin remained in second place, despite losing 0-1 to their fourth-placed rivals

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Forfar in another important top-of-the-table clash at Glebe Park, while third-placed Stranraer maintained their own promotion push with a 4-1 win at sixth-place Arbroath, who were now out of the promotion reckoning. Alloa's point saw them retain fifth place, but as they now trailed second-placed Brechin by six points, and with just three games left to play, it seemed

their promotion hopes were all but over, while Albion Rovers remained rooted to the bottom, after a 0-2 home reverse v Stenhousemuir.

South of the border, there were no games in The Premier League, so matters were unchanged at the top and bottom. Manchester United stood top, four points clear of second-placed Aston Villa,

and now needed just one more win to take the title, while at the bottom, Middlesbrough stood in last place, three points adrift of safety, with just two games to play, and now looking doomed. In The First Division, Portsmouth's 2-0 home win v Wolves saw them take over leadership from Newcastle, who slipped to second spot. However, The Magpies had the chance to regain pole

position the following day, when they hosted their relegation-haunted arch North East rivals Sunderland. Third-placed West Ham remained in contention for automatic promotion, thanks to a 2-1 home win v bottom club Bristol Rovers, a result which sealed The Rovers relegation fate



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Scottish League 1 *
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Runners-up 2019-20

This afternoon we welcome Falkirk to the Indodrill stadium for the penultimate home game of the league campaign. Knowing a victory would seal Alloa's play-off spot, this derby still has more to play for than most people think. Despite the Bairns losing out on the league title last Saturday when rivals, Dunfermline, clinched top spot, they too have a massive month ahead. It has been hard to focus on the league form or position recently with a historic trip to Hampden coming for Falkirk. A victory against Ayr United in the Scottish Cup Quarter

Finals set Falkirk up for a semi-final showdown against Inverness C.T. a week today at the National Stadium. However, the Falkirk faithful know their bread and butter has to be in the league as they will be hoping not to be spending a further year in Scotland's third tier. They only have notched 1 victory in their last 7 league games, however, still sit 4 points clear in 2nd place. A win today would not only go a long way into cementing their runners place but also give them a boost of confidence going into the Scottish Cup semi's next week.

THE BOSS – JOHN MCGLYNN

John McGlynn will continue to take his place in the dug-out in his side's third visit to Alloa this season. Not many can deny the significant progress he has made with the club since joining last summer with a place at Hampden and an improved league position from 6th to what looks like 2nd. He came into the role with confidence and experience from his CV. Having managed rivals Raith Rovers, both his spells at Starks Park were full of success winning 5 trophies over his time.





He began with a Second Division title and Fife Cup in his first spell, before returning to the club to win League 1 in 2020, and 2 challenge cups. That experience of getting out of this division and into the second tier of Scottish football is something that Falkirk will have to lean on coming into a crucial month for the football club.

**THE CAPTAIN –
STEPHEN MCGINN**

Stephen McGinn will lead out the Bairns once again this afternoon. Following his departure from Kilmarnock after helping them to a Championship title, Falkirk made the move to sign experienced midfielder, Stephen McGinn. The 34-year-old has had a glittered career playing for teams like St Mirren, where he also won the league, Dundee, Sheffield

United, and Hibernian to name a few. His calming and influential presence in the center of the park has been a fantastic asset to McGlynn's side since joining, which in turn has made him a firm fan favourite in his short time. Despite only being here a short time, he has already made a massive impact with the amount of football he has played. McGinn has only not featured in one league game this season, which was their 0-0 draw with Keltie Hearts in March. Being an ever-present in both league and cup has given the Bairns foundations to build on. Of course, it is worth noting the strong footballing blood that runs in his family with both his younger brother Paul and John both playing professionally and being Scotland internationalists.

**ONE TO WATCH –
KAI KENNEDY**

One player who Alloa have to be wary of is red-hot Falkirk winger, Kai Kennedy. The on-loan Rangers player has stepped up this year to become an integral part of Falkirk's attacking style of play, which has caught the eye of many.

His 8 goals and 7 assists this season is a respectable and impressive number but it is the magnitude of these strikes in recent months which has been so important. Having hit the winner against Ayr to send his team to Hampden, it seems to have given Kennedy the boost he needed going into the final flurry of the season. 3 strikes in his last 2 games, including both goals in their 2-1 victory over Montrose, means he is the go-to man for Falkirk's big moments this quarter of the season.

THE CONNECTION

Referencing back to the close proximity of the two clubs, this inevitably means that there are a

CONTINUED ON P32



BY KIEREN MOONEY

few familiar faces for both sets of supporters. Returning to the Recs is goalkeeper, PJ Morrison. The 24-year-old spent time out on loan at Alloa last season and was mightily impressive in his short stint. After suffering a significant injury in the first half of the season, he returned to the side just before Christmas. Despite winning 8 out of his 9 games in that run, a draw being the other result, he has found himself playing back-up to West-Ham loanee Brian Kinnear. The only other connection in the Bairns ranks was former skipper, Stevie Hetherington, who is currently out on loan at Arbroath. The two former Bairns now playing their trade with Alloa

are Mark Durnan and Conor Sammon. Both of these players played for Falkirk from 2019 to 2021 before moving to Alloa. Since switching allegiances, they have enjoyed games against their former employers scoring in a few of the fixtures since moving. Durnan did miss out in Alloa's victory last Saturday but will be looking to make a return against his former side. Meanwhile, Sammon returned to the scoresheet with his 16th goal of the season.

PREVIOUS MEETINGS

This will be the fifth time the sides have met this season, with Alloa playing their part in Falkirk's Scottish Cup run

too. It has been a fixture that Falkirk have enjoyed this season having won 3 out of those 4 games, however, more recently, they have been closely matched affairs. The first game of the season was tough for the Wasps with Falkirk storming to a commanding lead early on, going into the break 3-0 up. Sammon's strike in the second half meant the game ended 3-1. The teams then met 3 times in a month with all of the games being extremely tight. Falkirk edged the cup game with a comeback win after Luke Donnelly's first half opener. An equaliser from Brad McKay right on the half-time whistle, followed by Rumarn Burrell's late winner was enough for a 2-1 win. The sides then

met again in Alloa in the league, with the game ended a goal apiece. Gary Oliver's 86th minute header seemed to be a killer blow for Brian Rice's men, however, with great character and determination Scott Taggart's 95th minute penalty saw Alloa earn a deserved point. The most recent game was another closely matched affair at the Falkirk Stadium, this time only a wonder goal from Callum Morrison being the difference in a 1-0 Falkirk victory. Alloa will be looking to continue their momentum and secure their first victory against McGlynn's team this afternoon.



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BRIAN ROACH



THREE OF THE BEST..... PLAY-OFF CLINCHERS

RAITH ROVERS 0 ALLOA 1 - DIVISION 2, 29TH APRIL 2006

A challenging campaign for everyone associated with Alloa. After experiencing one of the worst losing runs in living memory, with thirteen consecutive league defeats and a few drubbings contained within. But in the Scottish Cup Alloa seemed to revel in the change of scenery- achieving their club record victory by defeating Selkirk 9-0 then claiming the scalp of Premier League Livingston in a later round. Back to the league though, and manager Tom Hendrie was sacked after 10 defeats in a row which left Alloa cut adrift at the bottom of the table by the turn

of the year. His successor Allan Maitland arrived in time to produce that aforementioned cup shock over Premier League Livingston in his first match at the helm- a 2-1 replay win on a memorable night at Almondvale. However, success in the league was not so instant. Alloa lost Maitland's first three league games against Forfar, Morton and Gretna to leave the Wasps 11 points adrift of Dumbarton at the foot of the table by mid-February. Fortunes slowly began to turn- wins over Ayr and Partick Thistle and this was followed up by a shootout midweek victory at their relegation rivals Dumbarton- Jamie Stevenson scoring the winner in a game Alloa

simply had to win. Alloa chipped away further at the deficit with a win over Partick Thistle at Firhill in early April, whilst Dumbarton had imploded under manager Paul Martin. On the penultimate day of the season, the Sons visited Alloa with the teams dead level on points- albeit Alloa with a vastly inferior goal difference. A Jamie Stevenson penalty was the difference between the sides as Alloa moved three points clear of the basement going into the final weekend. They made the trip to Kirkcaldy to face Raith Rovers requiring a point to avoid automatic relegation. It was a nervy affair, compounded even further when news filtered through

that Dumbarton were 2 goals up at the interval at home to Partick Thistle. A Raith goal would have sent Alloa down but thankfully Graeme Brown's header gave the visitors a 66th minute lead, ultimately the only goal of the game. Dumbarton ended up losing anyway but it mattered not- Alloa had completed the job on their own. A pitch invasion from the travelling support followed, and they completed their "great escape" in the play-offs- despatching of Arbroath and Berwick Rangers to consolidate in Division 2.

ALLOA 1 FORFAR 0- DIVISION 2, 13TH APRIL 2013

Unlike 2006, Alloa were competing for

the promotion play-offs to the First Division under Paul Hartley and cemented their position here in a far more comfortable fashion. Having inflicted the first league defeat on leaders Queen of the South in early December, Alloa looked bona fide challengers for the championship at that stage. But they couldn't match Queens outstanding consistency and the pace setters were quickly out of sight. Although still sitting second in the table, Alloa's form had dipped in New Year- with the lack of goals being the main issue. Mitch Megginson and Calum Gallagher eventually carved out excellent careers in the lower leagues, but neither provided the required firepower for Alloa. Hartley eventually found the solution, with Callum Elliot joining the club following a stint playing in Lithuania. He was the perfect foil for Kevin Cawley and they formed a potent partnership. The addition of Kevin Moon in midfield was another catalyst as Alloa embarked on a great run of form. Ryan McCord and Graeme Holmes were dominating teams every week, and both were instrumental in victories over Stranraer and Ayr United which left Alloa on the brink of sealing their place in the First Division play-offs with four games left. Fellow play-off challengers Forfar were the visitors

to Recreation Park, and it was another dominant performance by the Wasps- despite the narrow margin of victory. Kevin Cawley notched the winner just after the interval, but Alloa really should have put the game out of sight. Despite a loss to East Fife the following week, Alloa maintained their momentum with a comfortable home win over Albion Rovers. And their 1-0 win at Gayfield on the final day allowed Forfar to pip their Angus neighbours Arbroath to the final play-off spot. Alloa of course achieved consecutive promotions by memorably defeating Brechin and Dunfermline in the play-off ties.

ALLOA 3 COWDENBEATH 0- CHAMPIONSHIP, 2ND MAY 2015

Alloa entered into a three-way relegation shoot-out on the final day of the 2014/15 campaign- alongside

Cowdenbeath and Livingston, who had beaten Alloa 4-0 in the Petrofac Cup Final the previous month. Alloa started the day at the bottom of the table, with Livingston level on points with a better goal difference. Cowdenbeath were in 8th position a solitary point ahead of both. One of them would be automatically relegated, whilst a place in the play-offs and Championship salvation were also up for grabs. Alloa faced Cowdenbeath at Recreation Park, while Livingston were also at home against Queen of the South. Alloa performed brilliantly on the day against their relegation rivals. They were in front after 12 minutes- Iain Flannigan won his midfield battle and fed Liam Buchanan on the right side of the penalty area. His cut back was fired home brilliantly by Michael Chopra- who picked the perfect time to open

his Alloa account. Soon after the break, Mark Docherty's ball into the area found the head of Ben Gordon as Alloa extended their lead. With fifteen minutes remaining, Cowdenbeath's fate was sealed when Liam Buchanan fired high into the net to consign his former club to relegation. For much of the second half it appeared Alloa would finish in 8th place, as Livingston vs Queen of the South remained goalless. However, a late Kyle Jacobs penalty ensured Livingston pipped Alloa to eighth on goal difference. Alloa clinched their play-off opportunity though, and defeated Brechin and Forfar to join Livingston in the 2015/16 Scottish Championship. Hopefully we imminently witness another Alloa play-off clincher- if not today then certainly over the final 3 weeks of the season.

HT QUIZ

- 1. NAME THE THREE ALLOA PLAYERS TO FIND THE NET AGAINST FALKIRK SO FAR THIS SEASON**
- 2. FROM WHICH ENGLISH CLUB DID RANGERS SIGN RICHARD GOUGH IN 1987?**
- 3. BESIDES ANDY ROBERTSON, WHICH FOUR OTHER CURRENTLY ACTIVE SCOTLAND PLAYERS HAVE PREVIOUSLY CAPTAINED THE NATIONAL TEAM**
- 4. WHO ARE THE ONLY CLUB TO BE HOLDERS OF THE EUROPA LEAGUE AND THE CHAMPIONS LEAGUE AT THE SAME TIME?**
- 5. WHICH OF THESE FORMER AND CURRENT ALLOA PLAYERS HAS EARNED THE MOST INTERNATIONAL CAPS: CONOR SAMMON, MIKK REINTAM, DEREK RIORDAN, ANDY KIRK**
- 6. NAME THE CURRENT TOP GOALSCORERS IN EACH OF THE FOUR SCOTTISH LEAGUES**

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 |
| 36 | | 90 | 90 | 64 | |
| 65 | 90 | | 90 | 25 | 61 |
| 45 | 90 | 27 | | | 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 | |
| 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 | |
| | | 90 | 90 | 24 | |
| | | 90 | 67 | 23 | |
| | | 90 | 90 | | 10 |
| | 45 | 45 | 82 | 45 | |
| 34 | 90 | | 45 | 45 | |
| 86 | 90 | 90 | | 4 | 11 |
| 90 | 90 | 90 | 20 | | 2 |
| 65 | 90 | 88 | 25 | | |
| 90 | 90 | 62 | 28 | 28 | |
| | 82 | 90 | 90 | | 8 |
| 16 | | | 74 | | |

| FORWARDS | | | | | | | | | |
|----------|--------|---------|--------|--------|----------|--------|--------|---------|----------|
| DONNELLY | RODDEN | MACIVER | KHYIAM | SAMMON | BUCHANAN | RANKIN | OFFORD | COULSON | MOHAMMED |
| 9 | 10 | 15 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 25 |
| | | 62 | 14 | 90 | 28 | | | | |
| | 87 | 90 | 3 | 87 | 3 | | | | |
| | 76 | 90 | 14 | 64 | | | | | |
| | 45 | 90 | | 90 | | | | | |
| | 18 | 90 | | 72 | | | | | |
| | 28 | 90 | | 90 | | | | | |
| | 40 | 90 | | 90 | | | | | |
| | 30 | 90 | | 60 | 21 | | | | |
| | 73 | 90 | 5 | 80 | 17 | 10 | | | |
| 35 | 155 | 90 | | 87 | | 2 | 35 | | |
| 27 | 21 | 90 | | 63 | 7 | | 69 | | |
| 72 | 90 | 31 | | 18 | 59 | | | | |
| 29 | 29 | 90 | | 61 | | | 61 | | |
| 45 | 63 | 63 | | 45 | | | 27 | | |
| 72 | 64 | 26 | | 77 | | | 18 | | |
| | | 90 | | 90 | | | 90 | | |
| 75 | 75 | 20 | | 70 | | | 15 | | |
| 90 | 63 | 27 | | 27 | 8 | | 27 | | |
| 90 | 90 | 90 | | 69 | | | 21 | | |
| 82 | 8 | 59 | | 82 | | | 31 | | |
| 64 | | 90 | | 83 | | 7 | | | |
| 90 | 53 | 37 | | 77 | 13 | | | | |
| 77 | | 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 | | | | | |
| 61 | 23 | 90 | | 90 | | 6 | | | |
| 90 | | 90 | | 66 | 4 | | 24 | | |
| | | 90 | | 90 | | 26 | 64 | | |
| | | 90 | | 77 | | 13 | 83 | 7 | |
| 23 | | 90 | | 90 | | | 67 | | |
| 45 | | 90 | | 45 | | | 90 | | |
| 34 | | 90 | | 90 | | | 56 | | |
| 79 | | 76 | | 14 | | | 90 | | |
| 88 | | 55 | | 35 | | | 70 | | |
| 75 | | 90 | | 15 | | 2 | 65 | | |
| 90 | | 62 | | 28 | | | 62 | | |
| 90 | | 90 | | 32 | | | 45 | | |
| | | 72 | | 90 | | 18 | | | |



QUIZ ANSWERS

1. CONOR SAMMON, LUKE DONNELLY, SCOTT TAGGART

2. TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR

3. SCOTT MCKENNA, KIERAN TIERNEY, CALLUM MCGREGOR, JOHN MCGINN

4. CHELSEA (CHAMPIONS LEAGUE WINNERS IN 2012, EUROPA LEAGUE WINNERS IN 2013 TEN DAYS BEFORE THE CHAMPIONS LEAGUE FINAL)

5. REINTAM (12 CAPS FOR ESTONIA), KIRK (11 CAPS FOR N IRELAND), SAMMON (9 CAPS FOR REP OF IRELAND), RIORDAN (3 CAPS FOR SCOTLAND)

6. PREMIERSHIP- KYOGO FURUHASHI (23), CHAMPIONSHIP- DIPO AKINYEMI (20), LEAGUE 1- CALUM GALLAGHER (20), LEAGUE 2- TOMMY GOSS (22)





ALLO ATHLETIC



FALKIRK

| # | POS | | | | |
|---|-----|-------------------|------------|--|--|
| | 1 | WILLIE MUIR | | | |
| | 1 | SCOTT GALLACHER | | | |
| | 21 | KEIR BURT | | | |
| | 31 | JAY HOGARTH | | | |
| | 2 | SCOTT TAGGART | | | |
| | 3 | DANIEL CHURCH | | | |
| | 4 | MICHAEL DOYLE | | | |
| | 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 | | | |
| | 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 | | | |
| | | MANAGER | BRIAN RICE | | |

| # | POS | | | | |
|---|-----|------------------|--------------|--|--|
| | 1 | PJ MORRISON | | | |
| | 2 | RYAN WILLIAMSON | | | |
| | 3 | BLAINE ROWE | | | |
| | 4 | STEPHEN MCGINN | | | |
| | 5 | LIAM HENDERSON | | | |
| | 6 | COLL DONALDSON | | | |
| | 7 | CALLUM MORRISON | | | |
| | 8 | ARCHIE MEEEKISON | | | |
| | 9 | JORDAN ALLAN | | | |
| | 10 | AIDAN NESBITT | | | |
| | 11 | CRAIG MCGUFFIE | | | |
| | 14 | FINN YEATS | | | |
| | 15 | LEON MCCANN | | | |
| | 16 | MATTHEW WRIGHT | | | |
| | 17 | BRIAN KINNEAR | | | |
| | 18 | GARY OLIVER | | | |
| | 19 | RUMARN BURRELL | | | |
| | 21 | OLA LAWAL | | | |
| | 22 | BRAD MCKAY | | | |
| | 23 | MAX KUCHERIAVYI | | | |
| | 26 | SEAN MACKIE | | | |
| | 28 | PEARSE CARROLL | | | |
| | 44 | PAUL WATSON | | | |
| | 73 | KAI KENNEDY | | | |
| | | MANAGER | JOHN MCGLYNN | | |

REFEREE: Gavin Duncan

ASST: Graham Chambers & Brent Falconer

| | |
|--|--|
| | |
| | |
| | |

ALLOA'S FINAL TWO

29.04.23, AWAY, 15:00



MONTROSE



ALLO ATHLETIC

06.05.23, HOME, 15:00



ALLO ATHLETIC



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