

# THE WASP



**QUEEN OF THE SOUTH**

**8TH APRIL 2023**



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# ALLOA ATHLETIC FOOTBALL CLUB



## SCOTTISH CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS

1921/22

## RUNNERS UP

1938/39

## SCOTTISH LEAGUE 1 RUNNERS UP

1976/77 1981/82

1984/85 1988/89 1999/00

2001/02 2009/10 2012/13

2016/17

## SCOTTISH LEAGUE 2 WINNERS

1997/1998 2011/2012

## CHALLENGE CUP WINNERS

1999/2000

## RUNNERS-UP

2001/02 2014/15

## STIRLINGSHIRE CUP WINNERS

1904/5 1907/8 1908/9

1912/13 1920/21 1924/25

1933/34 1946/47 1955/56

1957/58 1959/60 1965/66

1981/82 1996/97

## MOST CAPPED PLAYER

Jock Hepburn, 1 Cap  
(Scotland v Wales 1891)

\*includes equivalent competitions

## SClub Information

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Indodrill Stadium,  
Clackmannan Road,  
Alloa, FK10 1RY

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**Fax:** 01259210886

**Email:** fcadmin@alloathletic.co.uk

**Web:** alloathletic.co.uk

## Club Officials

### Honorary Directors

Pat Lawlor

Ewen Cameron

Directors

Mike Mulraney (Chairman)

Martin Ross (Vice Chairman)

Steven Lynch

Dr Robert McElroy

Andrew Allan

### Secretary

Carol Edgar

### Head of Media

Lewis Russell

### Child Protection Officer

Alloa Athletic: Paula Campbell

## 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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David Glencross











## AAFC Supporters Club

Brian Roach - 07775764831

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|   | P  | W  | D  | L  | GF | GA | GD  | PTS |
|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|
|  DUNFERMLINE        | 30 | 19 | 10 | 1  | 49 | 17 | 32  | 67  |
|  FALKIRK            | 30 | 16 | 8  | 6  | 56 | 30 | 26  | 56  |
|  AIRDRIEONIANS      | 31 | 15 | 7  | 9  | 71 | 44 | 27  | 52  |
|  ALLOA ATHLETIC     | 31 | 15 | 6  | 10 | 49 | 39 | 10  | 51  |
|  FC EDINBURGH       | 31 | 14 | 5  | 12 | 54 | 45 | 9   | 47  |
|  QUEEN OF THE SOUTH | 31 | 13 | 6  | 12 | 48 | 48 | 0   | 45  |
|  MONTROSE           | 30 | 11 | 9  | 10 | 43 | 41 | 2   | 42  |
|  KELTY HEARTS       | 31 | 9  | 8  | 14 | 34 | 46 | -12 | 35  |
|  CLYDE              | 31 | 3  | 7  | 21 | 29 | 63 | -34 | 16  |
|  PETERHEAD          | 30 | 2  | 6  | 22 | 14 | 74 | -60 | 12  |

## WEEKEND'S FIXTURES


## LEAGUE 1

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










## PREMIER LEAGUE

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

## CHAMPIONSHIP

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

## LEAGUE 2

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





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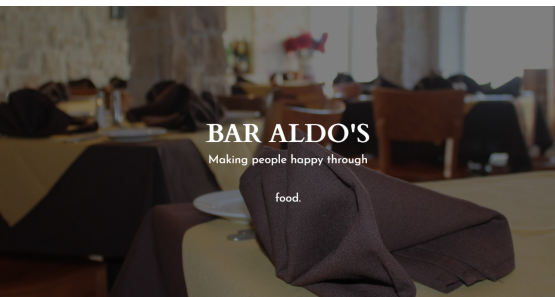
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## GOALKEEPERS

**Scott GALLACHER**

15/07/1989



1



## DEFENDERS

**Scott TAGGART**

27/12/1991



2



**Daniel CHURCH**

21/07/2000



3



**Michael DOYLE**

01/08/1991



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   |   |   |
|--|---|--|---|---|
| <div>Kevin CAWLEY</div> <div>17/03/1989</div> <div>CM KG</div> <div>   </div>         | <div>Jon ROBERTSON</div> <div>25/04/1989</div> <div>CM KG</div> <div>   </div>            | <div>Luke DONNELLY</div> <div>20/01/1996</div> <div>CM KG</div> <div>   </div>       | <div>Bradley RODDEN</div> <div>21/08/1996</div> <div>178 CM 68 KG</div> <div>   </div>  | <div>Ross MACIVER</div> <div>28/02/1999</div> <div>180 CM 73 KG</div> <div>   </div> |
| <div>Murray MILLER</div> <div>29/01/2001</div> <div>175 CM 65 KG</div> <div>   </div> | <div>Stefan SCOUGALL</div> <div>07/12/1992</div> <div>170 CM 63 KG</div> <div>   </div>   | <div>Conor SAMMON</div> <div>06/11/1986</div> <div>188 CM 91 KG</div> <div>   </div> | <div>Steven BUCHANAN</div> <div>26/03/2003</div> <div>178 CM 70 KG</div> <div>   </div> | <div>Luke RANKIN</div> <div>27/11/2004</div> <div>CM KG</div> <div>   </div>         |
| <div>Adam KING</div> <div>11/10/1995</div> <div>178 CM 74 KG</div> <div>   </div>     | <div>Cameron O'DONNELL</div> <div>29/09/2001</div> <div>183 CM 70 KG</div> <div>   </div> | <div>Quinn COULSON</div> <div>01/09/2003</div> <div>CM KG</div> <div>   </div>       |   |   |
|  |   |   |   |   |
|    |    |  |   |   |



**BRIAN RICE**



## **BRIAN RICE AFTER THE NARROW LOSS TO AIRDRIE**

Airdrie were the better team in the first half. I thought we looked nervous, a wee bit anxious but second half we played really well and had the better of the second half. A really closely matched game between two

good teams but everything is still in our own hands.

Airdrie are a good attacking team - everyone's been raving about the goals they've scored in the last couple weeks - well, today, they've scored one.

I did expect there to be goals today so I was surprised but like I say they are a really good team but there's not much between us.

Every Saturday is a must win, though, at any stage of the season losing at home

is something we don't like to do but it has taken a really good strike in the top corner to beat us. We were playing against what is the form team in the league just now and we've ran them really close.







JOHN GLENCROSS



# NEWSDESK

Welcome back to the Indodrill Stadium for our second home Cinch League One fixture against Queen of the South FC this season, welcoming Manager Marvin Bartley, Assistant manager Grant Murray, Gordon Marshall Goalkeeping Coach, Jim Law / Scott Walker Physiotherapist, the players, officials, and directors of Queen of the South FC. This is another huge match for both sides. In the Cinch League One games this season "The Wasps" have won 5-1 at home, won 2-1 away from home along with a drawn match 1-1 at nPaqlmerston. Queen's did however win on their last visit to

the Indodrill Stadium on the 9th December, 2022 in the Trust Trophy winning 4-2 and are currently on a five match unbeaten run including 4 wins and 1 draw, which saw their Manager Marvin Bartley win the Manager of the Month award for March, 2023 which was awarded earlier this week.

Congratulations to 17 year old Nathan Cannon who plays for Alloa Athletic Under 20's side was on target for the Scottish Schoolboys against England on Friday 31st March at Broadwood Stadium, Cumbernauld, representing his school, St. Columba's High School, Gourock, this was part

of the Centenary Shield campaign, having already faced Republic of Ireland, followed by Northern Ireland and will finally face Wales (A) on Thursday 13th April, 2023.

Alloa Athletic WFC got back to winning ways last Sunday when they completed a league double over Clydebank Ladies on this occasion winning 1-0 with a goal from Amy Cully. This week is a free week due to Easter Holidays and the following week they will be back on the road to face league leaders Harmony Row on Sunday 16th April, 2023.

On Monday 10th April we will hold 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 the first meeting we had a good turnout of over twenty 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 Easter Monday 10th April at Indodrill



stadium, at a slightly later time of 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](mailto: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 13 1st April, 2023

£ 100 0425 A.McLaren  
£ 50 0026 W.Rennie  
£ 25 1480 K.Burt  
£ 25 0524 M.Lumsden  
£ 25 1467 S.Taggart

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.



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For more info please contact  
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1st April 2023  
Indodrill Stadium, Alloa  
3:00pm KO

**ALLOA ATHLETIC**

**0:1**

**AIRDRIEONIANS**



(0:1)

SCORERS

**0:1 42' Watson**



**STARTING XI**

**31 HOGARTH**

**15 MACIVER**

**11 MILLER**

**4 DOYLE**

**2 TAGGART**

**8 ROBERTSON**

**26 COULSON**

**6 DURNAN**

**9 DONNELLY**

**14 STANGER**

**7 CAWLEY**

**SUBS**

**71 CLARK**

**5 GRAHAM**

**16 KING**

**18 SAMMON**

**12 SCOUGALL**

**20 O'DONNELL**

**24 RANKIN**

**27 STRACHAN**

**SUBS**

**43 HUTTON**

**8 MCGREGOR**

**21 TELFER**

**24 BYRD**

**7 KOUIDER-AISSA**

**19 DEVENEY**

**5 STANWAY**

**20 DIXON**

**4 MCCABE**

**STARTING XI**

**1 RAE**

**3 TAYLOR-SINCLAIR**

**16 WATSON**

**6 FORDYCE**

**2 BALLANTYNE**

**17 DEVENNY**

**10 FRIZZELL**

**23 MCGILL**

**14 MCMASTER**

**11 SMITH**

**9 GALLAGHER**

**REFEREE:** Mike Roncone



1st April 2023  
Palmerston Park, Dumfries  
3:00pm KO

**QUEEN OF THE SOUTH**

**2:1**

**PETERHEAD**



(0:0)

SCORERS

Paton **48'** **1:0**

**1:1** 69' Brown

Connelly **84'** **2:1**



**STARTING XI**

**25** DABROWSKI

**5** MCKAY

**35** BRYDON

**16** EAST

**23** LOGAN

**4** WILSON

**8** TODD

**17** HENDRIE

**11** MURRAY

**7** PATON

**18** MCKECHNIE

**SUBS**

**2** MCKAY

**10** CONNELLY

**12** MCKENNA

**19** RUTH

**20** IRVING

**21** MCMAHON

**26** MUIR

**27** GIBSON

**42** BOTTERILL

**SUBS**

**3** DIXON

**4** MCDONALD

**7** MACIVER

**9** ALLAN

**16** WILSON

**19** GABRIEL

**20** MCLEOD

**21** IKWA

**27** THOMPSON

**STARTING XI**

**1** MCKENZIE

**2** JOSHUA

**5** BROWN

**12** WILKIE

**6** STRACHAN

**8** MCCARTHY

**18** BROWN

**15** STRACHAN

**25** BROWN

**22** OYINSAN

**10** SHANKS

**REFEREE:** Stuart Luke

# CHILD PROTECTION AND WELLBEING POLICY

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

We recognise -

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

The purpose of the policy and related procedures is to:

- promote and prioritise the safety and wellbeing of children and vulnerable adults
- provide staff and volunteers with appropriate training to recognise, identify and respond to safeguarding concerns relating to children and vulnerable adults
- ensure appropriate action is taken in event of incidents of concerns and that support is provided to those who raise or disclose the concern and that is dealt with confidentially;
- prevent the employment or engagement of unsuitable individuals by adopting rigorous recruitment and vetting procedures

Alloa Athletic Football Club's policy will be widely promoted and will be reviewed on a regular basis, or in the event of changes in legislation or government guidance, or as a result of any other changes.

**MIKE MULRANEY, CHAIRMAN**  
**ALLOA ATHLETIC FC**

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## MACIVER AIMS FOR A GRAND SLAM

Some strikers, for whatever reason, have a certain knack of scoring goals against particular teams. For Ross MacIver, he must quietly be licking his lips at the prospect of facing Queen of the South this afternoon, having scored for the Wasps in all three league meetings against the Doonhamers so far this season. If the 24 year old does manage to get on the scoresheet this afternoon he will join an exclusive clan of Alloa players to score in all

four league encounters against a team since league reorganisation 29 years ago.

Although MacIver's tally for the season currently stands at six goals, half of those have come against today's opponents. In the first game of the season the Wasps committed an act of daylight robbery by stealing a late equaliser against a Queens side who had failed to take numerous chances to add to a one goal lead, set against the backdrop of a lacklustre

Alloa performance. Queens were made to pay for their profligacy in the 87th minute when Daniel Church's searching cross was expertly headed home with venom by MacIver, bringing great scenes of joy amongst the Alloa players who knew they didn't really deserve a point that day.

The return fixture in November turned thanks to MacIver's equaliser just before half-time. Queens had been impressive in the first-half and led thanks

to an early Gavin Reilly strike, but the momentum switched in Alloa's favour just before the interval. A Kevin Cawley corner was only half cleared and MacIver guided the ball home into the top corner with the help of a deflection from 10 yards out to visibly give the Wasps a boost. In the second half the Wasps of course then produced a devastating five minute spell of scoring three times and went onto win 5-1, a result nobody who had watched the



first 40 minutes would have seen coming.

In the last league encounter back down in Dumfries the Church-Maclver combination came up trumps again for the Wasps. Again Queens had the better of the opening stages of the game, but things were more even after Conor Sammon's equaliser just after the hour mark. In the final five minutes of the game the Wasps won all three points after fine combination play down the left between Church, debutant Luke Strachan and late sub Luke Donnelly saw Church deliver a pinpoint cross straight

onto the forehead of an onrushing Maclver, whose textbook header into the ground from six yards bounced perfectly into the top corner of the net. It was a fine and satisfying winning goal from the Wasps, with Maclver taking the congratulations in front of the loyal band of Alloa supporters who had travelled in early January down to a happy hunting ground for the Wasps in recent years.

Regular spectators of the Wasps will know that Maclver's game is so much more than goals. Whether he is deployed as a central striker or within the 'number 10' role just behind a front

pairing, Maclver's work-rate is second to none. The Inverness born frontman's unselfish nature, running off the ball and tireless tracking back has made him an integral member of Brian Rice's Alloa side. His play with his back to goal is effective and intelligent, with his ability in the air perhaps being his personal superpower. The proportion of aerial duels he wins is really impressive, far better than some of his predecessors as targetmen in Alloa colours, with flick ons and knock downs aplenty from Ross. The power of work he gets through for the team sometimes means when

he gets in goalscoring positions he doesn't always seem to have an absolute natural instinct to finish, but when the ball does find the back of the net it can sometimes be spectacular, as his goal of the season candidate long-range piledriver versus Airdrie in October testifies. Like most strikers at this level, confidence plays a big part in Maclver's game, but even when things aren't quite falling for Maclver you know he'll never shirk putting in a shift for the team. He's also been ever-present since joining the club just over a year ago, with the vast majority of those close to a half



century of appearances being from the start and lasting the entire 90 minutes. In-fact Ross has started all bar three league games this season and only been subbed off six times (no mean feat considering the five subs rule means strikers are now more regularly rotated), proving what a trusted and valued member of the team he is considered to be by his manager.

Without wishing to tempt fate in any way, should the former Partick Thistle frontman find the back of the net today he would become just the third Alloa player to score in all four league meetings against

the same team in a single season. The fact only two Alloa players have completed this grand slam of goals in the past 29 years is testament to its difficulty and rarity.

The first Alloa player to achieve this feat should be no surprise to Wasps supporters with the longest memories, as it is the Wasps' post-war top goalscorer Willie Irvine. The old maestro not only achieved this considerable achievement once, but Willie Irvine being Willie Irvine actually managed it twice. The first occasion was during the memorable Third Division Championship campaign of 1997/1998. Irvine was on target in

all four games against Montrose, with the Gable Endies sick of the sight of Alloa, and Irvine in particular, by the end of the season as the Wasps triumphed on all four occasions (5-1, 2-0, 3-2 and 3-0 to put the Wasps within a point of promotion at Links Park). The following season Willie was at it again, with East Fife this time being the poor victims of Irvine's cultured right foot. This included a goal in Alloa's very first visit to New Bayview Park Stadium back in February 1999. Irvine's 6th minute opener that day was, however, soon forgotten as strike partner Martin Cameron bagged an eleven minute hat-trick to put the Wasps into

an unassailable 4-0 lead after just 23 minutes of play. Irvine was also on target during a 2-2 draw at Old Bayview (infamous for Fifers keeper Willie McCulloch's theatrics leading to Mark Cowan being sent-off and therefore being suspended for Alloa's upcoming cup tie at Ibrox), scored two during a 5-1 drubbing of the Fifers at the Recs and the opener on a penultimate day of the season as part of an eventual 3-0 success.

The second Alloa player to score in all four games against the same side is an altogether more surprising name, with former captain Graeme Holmes scoring 31% of his 16 goals in





228 Alloa appearances in four games against Stranraer during the 2012/2013 season. That promotion winning season a decade ago (with the Wasps securing successive promotions under Paul Hartley, although Alloa were well behind an unstoppable Queen of the South side that season) saw Holmes score a career high 8 goals, with him managing that same total in his other five seasons with the Wasps combined. Those goals included Homers only ever brace of his senior career in a 4-1 January win, supplemented by single strikes in the other three matches including one lovely slaloming run and finish which typified

Holmes' class and skill to a tee. After his final goal, a deadlock breaker in an eventual 2-0 win at Stair Park, Holmes told the Alloa Advertiser "I said to Ryan McCord when I scored that I wish I could play them every week! They appear to be a very lucky team for me because I scored against them for Morton as well". Now 39, it is pleasing to see from a distance that Holmes is still going strong in the Lowland League for Cumbernauld Colts, no doubt still running the show!

To further emphasise how difficult it is to score in all four games against the same team, only three players have ever inflicted this on

the Wasps. The first was actually a Recreation Park alumni, with Berwick Rangers' Gareth Hutchison going goal crazy against Alloa in the 2003/2004 season. Hutch had a very prolific first season with Alloa in 2001/2002, notching 20 goals as Alloa were promoted back to the second tier at the first attempt. Hutchison's second season was less successful, scoring just six goals and often deployed at left midfield by Terry Christie as Alloa were relegated on goal difference that season. Hutch decided to move on from the Recs, showing the Wasps faithful what they were missing by scoring a total of six goals in the four games

against Alloa in the season immediately following his spell in Clackmannanshire, with two braces emphasising the extra motivation Hutchison evidently displayed against his former team. The other nemeses of Alloa have been Brechin's prolific frontman Paul Ritchie in the 2004/05 season and Ayr United's Lawrence Shankland in the 2018/19 season, as part of 34 goals Shankland notched in his final season with the Honest Men.

As such, if MacIver does manage to score this afternoon he will be amongst some very select company in achieving a rare goalscoring feat.







## DONALD POLLOCK

| SCOTTISH LEAGUE—First Division. |    |    |    |    |       |    |      |
|---------------------------------|----|----|----|----|-------|----|------|
|                                 | P. | W. | L. | D. | Goals |    | Pts. |
|                                 |    |    |    |    | F.    | A. |      |
| Rangers, .....                  | 36 | 21 | 6  | 9  | 63    | 29 | 51   |
| Airdrieonians, .....            | 36 | 19 | 8  | 9  | 52    | 37 | 47   |
| Falkirk, .....                  | 36 | 14 | 6  | 16 | 43    | 27 | 44   |
| Celtic, .....                   | 35 | 18 | 11 | 6  | 50    | 38 | 42   |
| Hibernian, .....                | 37 | 17 | 13 | 7  | 45    | 39 | 41   |
| Dundee, .....                   | 38 | 17 | 14 | 7  | 51    | 45 | 41   |
| St Mirren, .....                | 36 | 14 | 11 | 11 | 53    | 44 | 39   |
| Aberdeen, .....                 | 36 | 13 | 11 | 12 | 43    | 33 | 38   |
| Raith Rovers, .....             | 37 | 13 | 12 | 12 | 30    | 42 | 38   |
| Ayr United, .....               | 35 | 13 | 12 | 10 | 42    | 42 | 36   |
| Hearts, .....                   | 36 | 11 | 11 | 14 | 50    | 46 | 36   |
| Motherwell, .....               | 36 | 13 | 14 | 9  | 59    | 58 | 35   |
| Kilmarnock, .....               | 36 | 14 | 16 | 6  | 57    | 65 | 34   |
| Morton, .....                   | 36 | 12 | 14 | 10 | 43    | 45 | 34   |
| Partick Thistle, ....           | 36 | 12 | 15 | 9  | 49    | 48 | 33   |
| Clyde, .....                    | 37 | 12 | 16 | 9  | 36    | 43 | 33   |
| Third Lanark, .....             | 38 | 11 | 19 | 8  | 40    | 59 | 30   |
| Hamilton Acad., ....            | 37 | 10 | 20 | 7  | 41    | 59 | 27   |
| Albion Rovers, .....            | 37 | 8  | 19 | 10 | 38    | 63 | 26   |
| Alloa, .....                    | 37 | 6  | 20 | 11 | 27    | 50 | 23   |

# ALLOA'S FATE SEALED

"ALLOA DISGRUNTLED" was the headline in the Evening News 100 years ago as the First Division season began to draw to a close. After the excitement of August as the Wasps set out on their maiden season in the top flight, a three month spell without a win over the winter had sucked the life out of Alloa's survival hopes. Time and again match reports had spoken of Alloa matching or outplaying opponents

but failing to convert their chances. As they headed to Ayr on April 7th 1923 they were five points from safety with just three games remaining. "Alloa supporters are now reconciled to relegation to the Second Division, and they are not disconcerted over the fact" claimed the Evening News. There was some lingering anger too, the paper reporting that the Alloa board felt that some

referees had not been entirely fair, and neither had they "forgotten the decision of the League Management Committee to make them play over their match against Kilmarnock, which was stopped owing to dense fog seven minutes before time when they were leading five goals to two. It will be remembered the replay was a draw". Alloa could certainly feel aggrieved over that decision but it should also be

remembered that they had thrown away a 3-1 lead late on in the re-arranged fixture. The Evening News also made the claim that some Alloa fans wanted the club to resign from the Scottish League altogether and aim to resurrect the Central League, although it was pointed that the club had attracted good crowds to the Recs over the season despite initial doubts over their suitability as a top flight

outfit.

Somerset Park was a tough venue for a team needing to win with Ayr in the midst of a fine home run. Sure enough, the Honest Men grabbed the lead in the opening five minutes, Slade sliding home a Kilpatrick cross. Once more Alloa showed grit and they were level before half-time. Gibson felled Tully Craig in the box and up stepped Willie Crilley to drive the penalty into the net and finally score his first Alloa league goal of the season. It was his first competitive goal since scoring for Celtic against Hibs back in September, shortly before his move back to the Wasps. It would be fair to say that the Alloa directors would not have expected to wait until April to see the wee man back among the goals. It would seem that Crilley was enjoying himself on the Ayrshire coast though, albeit there were some questions over his fellow attackers: "Crilley was making his first and final appearance before the local crowd, and right well he lived up to the reputation he has gained for cleverness, but his outside men being weak he got few chances to shine, and had to make his own openings". It was a day when Alloa's best men were at the back, the defence noted for "determined and

never-say-die tactics", while goalkeeper Thomson "gave a really wonderful display". The match finished 1-1 and with Hamilton holding Aberdeen 0-0 on the same afternoon, Alloa's fate was sealed. Fittingly however, in a season when they had rarely been outclassed despite their lowly league position, the Wasps had gone down fighting. 'Ben Cleuch' in the Devon Valley Tribune regretted that there were only two games left: "Had they struck the form displayed on Saturday about two months ago, Alloa would have been well up the league table by this time".

Relegation had been confirmed but Alloa still had two league matches to play. Morton would be the final First Division visitors to the Recs and the Ton clearly expected a tough game despite Alloa's circumstances, the Port Glasgow Express noting that the Waps had "put up some good performances, and on several occasions lost only by the

narrowest margin". With Scotland and England clashing the same day – a game which ended 2-2 – there was a smaller attendance than usual at Alloa but those who did turn up saw a fine home performance. The opening goal came from a man who a year earlier had himself been on the fringes of the Scotland team. Willie Crilley seemed to be finally returning to sharpness, albeit far too late to save Alloa. The wee man was said to have "distinguished himself" and he turned the ball into the net before half-time following a scramble in which Connaboy and Craig had come close. "Alloa continued to hold the upper hand" but failed to finish off their opponents and with ten minutes remaining the Ton broke away to equalise. The game ended 1-1 and Alloa fans must have sighed to see yet more post match reports about how "decidedly unlucky" their team had been, although they probably still preferred that to the rather cruel prediction

in the Athletic News that the game would be "the last First Division match that will be played at Alloa for presumably a long time to come". The Manchester based paper wasn't ultimately far wrong: it would be another sixteen years before the Wasps would again take to the field at the Recs as a top flight club.

There was still one league game left in 1922/23 with Alloa finishing up their campaign at Douglas Park against Hamilton Accies. It was an important fixture too, for Albion Rovers had followed up their recent surprise win over Rangers by defeating Aberdeen 2-1 at Pittodrie. The Coatbridge men were now just a point behind Accies and were looking for a favour from Alloa on the last day to help prevent them joining the Wasps in the Second Division. More on that, and Alloa's late season efforts in the Stirlingshire Consolation Cup, in the next edition of The Wasp.



FAMOUS SCOTTISH  
FOOTBALLERS

No. 24

W. CRILLEY  
(Alloa Athletic)

GIVEN FREE

# 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    |
| KHYHAM    | 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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|------------------|------|-------------|------|
| 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    | 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

After last week's setback against Airdrie, Alloa will be looking to bounce back today against another contender for the promotion play-offs. They lost third spot following last weeks reverse, but FC Edinburgh failing to pick up the three points at home to Montrose ensured there was no real additional bumps in the road as a result. With five games remaining in the season, the chase to achieve promotion play-offs looks an exciting one where there will undoubtedly be a few twists and turns yet. Results are very difficult to predict at this stage of the season- particularly within ten

team divisions where most clubs still vying for the championship, promotion- and relegation. With Dunfermline 11 points clear at the summit, they face nearest challengers Falkirk today. I don't feel the outcome of their game will ultimately change the course of the championship, but it may still influence the promotion play-offs. With Falkirk four points clear of 3rd placed Airdrie with a game in hand, the championship may be beyond them- but they look fairly cemented for play-offs. It would take an almighty collapse for our neighbours to drop out, and although they have experienced

end of season disasters recently, I can't see it occurring- certainly not to that extent. Keeping this in mind, I think we are looking at four teams vying for two play-off places- Airdrie, Alloa, FC Edinburgh and Queen of the South. I decided to look at each clubs remaining fixtures and their form this season against each team they face in their respective run-ins:

**AIRDRIE-** (3rd, 52 points) Remaining fixtures: Montrose (h), Falkirk (a), Dunfermline (h), Queen of the South (h), FC Edinburgh (a).

With their fourth consecutive league vic-

tory last week at Alloa, Airdrie will be confident of picking up three points at home to Montrose today. They have won their last 2 games against the Links Park club, scoring 8 times in the process. They also remain something of a bogey team for Falkirk having left with a point on their last trip to the Falkirk Stadium in December following Callum Smiths late equaliser. They will be looking to rectify their previous home collapse against league leaders Dunfermline back in February, having led 3-0 with an hour gone and losing 4-3. Airdries form against Queen of the South and Edinburgh

|  |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <p>also leaves a lot to be desired to date- they haven't beaten either team this season so far, and have conceded 14 goals to FC Edinburgh in the games between the clubs.</p> <p>ALLOA- (4th, 51 points) Remaining fixtures: Queen of the South (h), Kelty (a), Falkirk (h), Montrose (a), Dunfermline (h)</p> <p>Alloa's run-in looks tough, but there are a couple of caveats along the way which may come to fruition. They are unbeaten against today's visitors Queen of the South, and won the corresponding home fixture 5-1. However, Queens come into the game on excellent form and were victorious on their last visit here in the SPFL Trust Trophy. Alloa are also unbeaten against next weeks opponents Kelty Hearts, albeit only leaving with a point on their trip to New Central Park last November. Alloa also face Falkirk at home the following week- but its tough to ascertain what their opponents' approach will be that day, with the championship likely to have mathematically slipped away and a pending Scottish Cup Semi Final against Inverness the following week. Montrose have also yet to inflict defeat on Alloa this season, and again on the final day Dunfermline may still be in party mode</p> | <p>after a championship win.</p> <p>FC EDINBURGH- (5th, 47 points) Remaining fixtures: Peterhead (a), Clyde (a), Falkirk (a), Kelty (h), Airdrie (a)</p> <p>FC Edinburgh have a perceived advantage of being the only club of the four yet to face any of the bottom two in their remaining games. They will be looking to increase the pressure on Airdrie and Alloa in the next fortnight where they face both. At this moment it appears Peterhead and Clyde have accepted their fate, and I don't anticipate either team pulling off any real shocks before the seasons end. Edinburgh have a 100% record against Clyde this season without conceding a goal, but they did struggle to pick up a point on their last trip to Peterhead- salvaging a draw only after the home side were reduced to ten men. With three defeats, they have barely laid a glove on Falkirk this season, but their record against Kelty and Airdrie is exemplary so far with six wins out of six.</p> <p>QUEEN OF THE SOUTH- (6th, 45 points) Remaining fixtures: Alloa (a), Dunfermline (a), Montrose (h), Airdrie (a), Kelty (h).</p> <p>With three consecutive wins including an impressive victory over Falkirk, Queen of the South have made a late surge to put</p> | <p>themselves in promotion play-off contention. New manager Marvin Bartley has just picked up the Manager of the Month award for March- where we obviously hope that the "curse" of this achievement bears fruit today. They'll approach today's match knowing that anything other than a win is likely to derail their play-off ambitions. If achieved, they face an uphill task next weekend- heading to Dunfermline where a Pars win could potentially clinch the championship. However, the leaders may be nervy as a result- and Queens picked up a point on their last trip there in December- where they led at half time through Ruari Patons goal. They despatched Montrose comfortably 4-0 at Palmerston Park back in November and would be confident of another victory should they remain in the play-off hunt. Three defeats to Kelty Hearts so far this season shows where they have struggled this</p> | <p>season. It's an outside opportunity, but Queen of the South are certainly capable on their day and will be buoyed by a chance at promotion which appeared highly unlikely a month ago.</p> <p>As is the nature of football, the promotion play-off run-in will undoubtedly throw in some unpredictable results and outcomes. Looking at the information above I don't really feel any of the contenders have a particular advantage with their remaining fixtures- the most clear and obvious aspect being FC Edinburgh still to face the bottom two, whereas every other club has those fixtures out of the way and subsequent points already on the board. Alloa have their destiny in their own hands, and there is no reliance on other results as it stands. Let's see what today brings first though- hopefully the three points.</p> |
|--|---|---|--|







**ANDREW COCKBURN**



## LOOKING BACK 6TH APRIL 1991

In the semi-finals of The Scottish Cup, Dundee United assured themselves of a place in the final, thanks to a 2-1 win v Tayside rivals St. Johnstone, at East End Park. United would meet the winners of the Celtic v Motherwell tie, which had ended in a 0-0 stalemate at Hampden Park three days earlier, & meant both The Celts and The Well would replay at the same venue, the following mid-week.

In The Premier Division, leaders Rangers

were rather surprisingly held 0-0 by struggling Hibs at Ibrox, which meant that The Gers advantage was reduced slightly to two points over second-placed Aberdeen, who narrowly defeated fourth-placed Celtic by 1-0 at Pittodrie. Dundee United remained in third place in spite of their inactivity, while in the division's only other fixture, fifth-placed Hearts crushed lowly Dunfermline by 4-1 at Tynecastle. Thus The Pars remained in third-bottom spot, Hibs still occupied sec-

ond-bottom place, while rock-bottom St. Mirren were game less.

Falkirk's 2-1 home win v relegation-haunted Brechin City saw them move four points clear at the top of The First Division, second-placed Airdrie were 1-0 winners at Meadowbank, and third-placed Dundee also triumphed by 1-0, at home v Morton. Partick Thistle retained fourth spot after they too were victorious by 1-0, at Hamilton Accies, while fifth-placed Kil-marnock were also suc-

cessful on their travels, by 2-1 at Raith Rovers. At the other end of the table, Brechin's defeat kept them in last place, while at Douglas Park, a vital relegation clash took place between Clyde and Forfar. And The Loons emerged victors, by 1-0, which meant they moved up one place, and were replaced in third-bottom spot by Ayr, 0-1 home losers v Clydebank, while Clyde still occupied second-bottom position.

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Down in The Second, leaders Stirling Albion recovered from their 1-2 home reverse v local rivals Alloa, John Irvine & Scott Henry "The Wasps" goalscorers the previous week, to defeat another of the promotion contenders, Montrose, by 1-0 at Links Park, a result which sealed both promotion and The Second Division title for The Binos. Queen's Park remained second, despite a 1-2 defeat in an important top-of-the-table clash at another of the leading sides, Cowdenbeath, who thus moved up to fourth place. Stenhousemuir still retained third spot, despite being held 1-1 at home by Berwick, Montrose's defeat saw them slip from fourth to

fifth, while Alloa were held 2-2 at home by Arbroath, & thus remained in eighth place. Willie Newbigging (penalty) and Scott Henry had been on target for The Wasps, who'd lined up as follows: Butter, Newbigging, McEntergart (Ramsay), Wilcox, McCulloch, Campbell, Ormond (McCallum), Gibson, Irvine, S. Henry, Smith. Today's visitors Queen of The South, despite picking up a point from a 2-2 draw at fellow strugglers Albion Rovers, remained in second-bottom spot, Gary Fraser (Ex Motherwell) and Willie Watters, who was later in Season 1995/96 to join "The Wasps" for a brief period, were The Doonhamers scorers.

Another side in the doldrums, East Stirling, enjoyed an emphatic 5-1 home win v East Fife, but despite this resounding success, The Shire still propped up the table.

South of the border, First Division leaders Arsenal had to settle for a point from a 1-1 draw at rejuvenated Sheffield United, though The Gunners still moved seven points clear of second-placed Liverpool, who were inactive, though The Anfield Reds did have a precious game in hand. Crystal Palace, who faced Everton in the final of The Zenith Data Systems Cup the following day, remained in third place, while Leeds retained fourth spot after a 1-0 win at Wimbledon.

Bottom club club Derby were game less, but still now looked more or less doomed to the drop, while second-bottom Sunderland's own relegation worries continued, after a 0-1 home defeat by fellow strugglers QPR. West Ham's 1-0 win at Port Vale saw them regain leadership of The Second Division, The Hammers displaced Oldham, who dropped to second, after they were held 1-1 v Millwall, in an important top-of-the-table clash at Boundary Park. Millwall remained in fourth place, while Sheffield Wednesday still retained third spot, in spite of a 0-2 defeat at relegation-haunted Portsmouth.





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# QUEEN OF THE SOUTH

*The Doonhamers*

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### CHALLENGE CUP

Winners:  
2002-03, 2012-13

Alloa must dust themselves down from defeat to the Diamonds last week to get ready for another cruncher in the race for the play-offs. Last week we welcomed a side fresh off of a 3-game winning streak and today we do the same with Queen of the South. The visitors unbeaten run stretches back 5 games though with their last defeat coming at the end of February against the team tipped for the title, Dunfermline. They still sit in 6th in the league compared to the Wasps in 4th but the table could be even tighter should they get a positive result today. With

Alloa 6 points ahead of the Doonhamers, many are dubbing this a 6-pointer in the race for the final few play-off spots.

## THE BOSS - MARVIN BARTLEY

Just hours after Alloa defeated Queens in the last game on the 7th of January, the Board announced the appointment of Marvin Bartley as the club's new manager following the departure of Willie Gibson. Bartley was an interested spectator that day but since taking the reigns is now beginning to his style implemented with a new look

Queens moving up the table. With an impressive career in England, where he played under red-hot manager, Eddie Howe, at Bournemouth, the midfielder moved to Scotland in 2015 to sign for Hibernian. Following a promotion and Scottish Cup win he made the switch to Livingston under David Martindale. His playing time was looking more sparse as he focussed on coaching before being made assistant to Martindale towards the end of his time at the Tony Macaroni. He took his first step in management at Palmerston and as mentioned, looks to be finding his feet with



\*includes equivalent competitions



their impressive run of results. An enthusiastic and youthful manager, he has been tipped by former teammates and pundits to seize this opportunity and have a successful career in management. This week, Bartley has been awarded the SPFL League 1 Manager of the Month award for March.

#### **THE CAPTAIN – JOSH TODD**

The visitors will be led out by midfielder, Josh Todd. The Englishman began his career with Carlisle United before a loan spell in 2013 to Annan Athletic kick-started his career in the Scottish leagues. Since that move he has gone in to play for Dumbarton, St Mirren, Dundee, Falkirk, Ayr, and of course, Queen's on two occasions. Offering support to both the defence and attack in his anchoring

role in midfield, Todd is one of the stand-outs in the visiting team. Previous boss, Gibson, saw his leadership traits too by making him captain at the start of the season. Despite his defensive qualities, Todd has contributed at the other end of the park this season with 4 goals and 4 assists so far, with the most recent of those setting up a crucial goal in last week's 2-1 victory over Peterhead.

#### **NEW BOY – KEVIN DABROWSKI**

Bartley returned to familiar territory in the January window by looking to former club Hibs for help to bolster his options. One of the key areas of reinforcements needed was in goals following Scott Fox's departure and they have filled this with the signing of Kevin Dabrowski on loan from the capital. The 6ft6 keeper has

been at the club since 2017 and has spent time out on loan at Berwick Rangers, Civil Service Strollers, Cowdenbeath and most notably, Dumbarton, where he began to make a name for himself. After many years at the club, Dabrowski finally made his first team debut for Hibs at the beginning of 2022 in a goalless draw with

their Edinburgh rivals, Hearts. An injury at the start of the season meant that Hibs made moves to bring in another goalkeeper, meaning he was free once more to make a loan move. Since moving down the Palmerston he has made 10 appearances for the club, keeping 2 clean sheets.

#### **ONE TO WATCH – RUARI PATON**

In a similar vein to last weekend's match, today's one to watch is another on-form attacker in Ruari Paton. The Dublin born centre-forward has been in scintillating form this season as he has made big contributions to Queen of the South's goal tally. His total tally currently sits at 17 goals

**CONTINUED ON P32**



**BY KIEREN MOONEY**



in the season, which leaves him 2nd in the golden boot race, just a goal behind Airdrie's Calum Gallagher. Like Gallagher, he has also turned provider a few times this season with 5 assists to his name. 2 goals in the last 2 games mean he is coming into this game full of confidence. Alloa defence will be well aware of him from our last encounter to where he opened the scoring in the last match at Palmerston. Alloa did turn it around that day to take all 3 points but throughout all the games this season, Paton has been a handful and created chances.

### THE CONNECTION

The only former Wasps player in the visiting ranks is exciting forward, Lee Connelly. On loan from Sunderland, Connelly technically had two spells at Al-

loa back in 2020. Known for his bag of tricks, he scored some fantastic and important goals for the club in his time. Most notably remembered for that game against Inverness where he and Scott Banks produced some of the best football seen at the Indodrill in a 2-0 victory over the Highlanders. There are a few familiar names for Queen's fans to look out for. David Devine, on loan at Alloa, also spent time on loan at Palmerston. Unfortunately, spells with both clubs were plagued with injuries. Another one of Alloa's current loanees, Michael Doyle, also enjoyed a spell at Palmerston. The right-back made 35 appearances, with 2 goals, in his season with the club in 2018. The man who made the most impact at Palmerston is current Wasps skipper, Mark Durnan.

During his first season with the club in 2012/13 he helped play a part in a team that won the Second Division title and Scottish Challenge Cup. His performances earned him a place in the PFA Second Division Team of the Year, and eventually a big move to Dundee United.

### PREVIOUS MEETINGS

This will be the 5th game between the sides, having played all of our leagues thus far and a cup tie. The most recent of those was the 2-1 victory at Palmerston where Paton's early strike was returned with a goal from Sammon on the hour mark and a late winner from MacIver. The 2 games prior to that were the games here at the Indodrill. The Challenge Cup tie in December ended 4-2 to the visitors, with a brace from Connelly, McKenna

and Todd finding the back of the net for the Doonhamers, despite some goal of the season contenders from King and Cawley. The other game was another goalfest and one that Alloa fans will remember for a long time. Despite Reilly scoring in the 2nd minute for Queen's, Alloa went onto blow them away with a 5-1 victory, big thanks to a 5 minute spell where the Wasps found the back of the net 3 times. Goals from MacIver, just before half-time, and Church, Stanger, Offord and King in the second half capped off a memorable day for Alloa. The first game of the season saw us have more drama as MacIver got another goal against Queen of the South in the dying embers of the game. That goal cancelled out a Reilly opener to see the game finish a goal-a-piece.



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**BRIAN ROACH**



## THREE OF THE BEST..... MATCHES OF THE SEASON

### **ALLOA 5 QUEEN OF THE SOUTH 1 – 12TH NOVEMBER 2022**

Alloa's most comprehensive win of the season to date was a 5-0 home victory over bottom club Peterhead in August. That was a pleasing win, but on the day Alloa scored after 30 seconds and were comfortable from start to finish. This match in November against today's opponents Queen of the South was certainly no cakewalk- despite the final result. Indeed, the visitors started the game like a house on fire and could have been out of sight in the first quarter of an hour. Ruari Paton forced Alloa goalkeeper Willie Muir into a first minute block, and

less than 60 seconds later he was picking the ball out of the net after a glancing header from Gavin Reilly gave Queens the lead. Alloa tried to get going for most of the opening half, but on most occasions their attacking play was squandered- and Queens threatened to open up Alloa with quick counter attacks. However, two minutes before the break the Wasps received a shot in the arm with an equaliser. Ross MacIver steered the ball home following some slack defending by the Queens rear-guard. Just after the hour mark, the game turned on its head in five crazy second half minutes. Daniel Church volleyed home

following a goalmouth scramble to put Alloa in front- his second senior goal having scored his first the previous week away at Kelty Hearts.

George Stanger then headed home Churches free kick moments later to extend Alloa's lead. In 67 minutes they made it four- a long clearance from Muir was nodded back by Luke Donnelly into the path of Kieran Offord. The young loan striker made no mistake with his first-time effort.

Alloa rounded off the scoring in the closing stages when substitutes Brad Rodden and Adam King combined for their fifth.

### **ALLOA 1 FALKIRK 1- 7TH FEBRUARY 2023**

A last gasp scram-

bled draw may initially appear to be an odd choice- but in terms of atmosphere in the ground under the floodlights and the spectacle on the pitch this game provided real value for money. The teams had faced one another at Alloa in a Scottish Cup tie a couple of weeks prior to this rearranged league game. As well as narrowly defeating Alloa to progress in the cup, Falkirk had won their previous 5 league matches and arrived challenging for the championship and full of confidence- backed by a large travelling support who had made the short journey across the Forth. Alloa received a pre match boost with the loan signing of Mi-



chael Doyle from Hamilton Accies for his third spell at the club. Alloa started brightly against their opponents, just as they had in the Scottish Cup tie. They forced a save from Falkirk keeper P.J. Morrison after barely a minute on the clock and had further early chances through a Sammon header and a blocked MacIver effort. Stefan Scougall came closest in the first half, when his excellent long-range strike smashed the upright with Morrison rooted to the spot. There were fewer chances on goal in the second half though, and Falkirk began to get some traction after introducing Gary Oliver and Callum Morrison from the bench. Alloa were injury depleted by comparison and relied on a couple of youngsters for tiring legs- Rayan Mohammed and Luke Rankin. With little over ten minutes to go opportunities on goal from MacIver and substitute Adam King were diverted in the space of 30 seconds- and it didn't appear fortune was on Alloa's side on this night. Worse was to come for the hosts with 4 minutes remaining. Falkirk were awarded something of a soft free kick, where there appeared little contact from Scott Taggart on Morrison. But from the resultant set piece, Gary Oliver struck home at the far post to give the visitors the lead. Alloa

desperately searched for an equaliser and were rewarded with a penalty kick deep into stoppage time. It was great work by young sub Mohammed to pressure Falkirk defender Coll Donaldson, who panicked as he tried to get goal side of the young forward. The ball struck his arm and the referee pointed to the spot. Taggart showed great composure to convert the spot kick and give Alloa a share of the points, which was the least they deserved on the night.

### FC EDINBURGH 0 ALLOA 2- 11TH MARCH 2023

One for the road, this away victory against fellow play-off contenders FC Edinburgh in March was a pivotal three points- with the comfortable nature of the

win the most pleasing factor. On their previous trip to Edinburgh back in November Alloa had disastrously blown a 3 goal first half lead to leave empty handed. On this March afternoon the team left little opportunity for a repeat. Whilst not their flashiest outing, Alloa won every battle all over the pitch, thoroughly deserving the three points. Recalling Kevin Cawley to the starting line-up after a spell injured, he linked with Quinn Coulson, Luke Donnelly and Ross MacIver to form a potent attacking unit. MacIver won the vast majority of his arial duals, providing a foundation for Donnelly and Coulson to cause the Edinburgh defence a multitude of problems. Murray Miller and Jon Robertson provided the midfield

anchor, and the defence was solid throughout on the rare occasions Alloa conceded territory. Alloa took the lead in 32 minutes, in a goal which typified their desire on the day. George Stanger won a midfield tussle as Alloa pressed high, and the ball fell to Luke Donnelly who slotted home well. The clinching second goal by Coulson with 9 minutes remaining was something of a mishit cross, which Robbie Mutch made an absolute mess of in the Edinburgh goal. This concludes my three most memorable games of the season to date- hopefully these three are eclipsed at the tail end of the season as Alloa look for a place in the Championship play-offs.

## HT QUIZ

**1. WHICH ALLOA PLAYER HAS SCORED IN ALL THREE LEAGUE MEETINGS SO FAR WITH TODAY'S OPPONENTS QUEEN OF THE SOUTH?**

**2. WHO WERE SCOTLANDS GOALSCORERS WHEN THEY LAST DEFEATED SPAIN AT HAMPDEN BACK IN NOVEMBER 1984?**

**3. PRIOR TO SCOTT MCTOMINAY, NAME THE LAST 3 MEN TO HAVE PLAYED FOR MANCHESTER UNITED'S FIRST TEAM IN A COMPETITIVE MATCH WHO HAVE GAINED INTERNATIONAL CAPS FOR SCOTLAND**

**4. WHICH FOUR CLUBS IN THE CURRENT SCOTTISH PREMIERSHIP HAVE NEVER BEEN CROWNED CHAMPIONS OF SCOTLAND IN THEIR RESPECTIVE HISTORIES?**

**5. WHICH FIVE ENGLISH CLUBS HAVE REACHED THE EUROPA LEAGUE FINAL SINCE ITS REBRANDING IN 2009?**

**6. NAME THE TWELVE MANAGERS WHO HAVE BEEN SACKED TO DATE IN THE ENGLISH PREMIERSHIP THIS SEASON**

**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          | 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   |           |

| FORWARDS |        |         |        |        |          |        |        |         |          |  |  |
|----------|--------|---------|--------|--------|----------|--------|--------|---------|----------|--|--|
| DONNELLY | RODDEN | MACIVER | KHYVAM | 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       | 55     | 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      |        | 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     |         |          |  |  |



# QUIZ ANSWERS

- ROSS MACIVER
- MO JOHNSTON (2), KENNY DALGLISH IN A 3-1 WIN
- DARREN FLETCHER, PHIL BARDSLEY, ANDY GORAM
- ST JOHNSTONE, LIVINGSTON, ROSS COUNTY AND ST MIRREN
- ARSENAL, CHELSEA, FULHAM, LIVERPOOL, MANCHESTER UNITED
- SCOTT PARKER (BOURNEMOUTH), THOMAS TUCHEL (CHELSEA), BRUNO LAGE (WOLVES), STEVEN GERRARD (ASTON VILLA), RALPH HASELHUTL (SOUTHAMPTON), FRANK LAMPARD (EVERTON), JESSIE MARSCH (LEEDS UNITED), NATHAN JONES (SOUTHAMPTON), PATRICK VIEIRA (CRYSTAL PALACE), ANTONIO CONTE (TOTTENHAM), BRENDAN RODGERS (LEICESTER), GRAHAM POTTER (CHELSEA)







# ALLOA ATHLETIC



# QUEEN OF THE SOUTH

# 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



|  |                        |                  |  |  |
|--|------------------------|------------------|--|--|
|  | 25                     | KEVIN DABROWSKI  |  |  |
|  | 42                     | GORDON BOTTERILL |  |  |
|  | 2                      | DAVID MCKAY      |  |  |
|  | 4                      | IAIN WILSON      |  |  |
|  | 5                      | PAUL MCKAY       |  |  |
|  | 6                      | HARRY COCHRANE   |  |  |
|  | 7                      | RUARI PATON      |  |  |
|  | 8                      | JOSH TODD        |  |  |
|  | 10                     | LEE CONNELLY     |  |  |
|  | 11                     | CONNOR MURRAY    |  |  |
|  | 12                     | CIARAN MCKENNA   |  |  |
|  | 14                     | STUART MORRISON  |  |  |
|  | 15                     | CALVIN MCGRORY   |  |  |
|  | 16                     | EUAN EAST        |  |  |
|  | 17                     | STEPHEN HENDRIE  |  |  |
|  | 18                     | KIERAN MCKECHNIE |  |  |
|  | 19                     | MICHAEL RUTH     |  |  |
|  | 20                     | ROSS IRVING      |  |  |
|  | 21                     | DOM MCMAHON      |  |  |
|  | 22                     | JAZE KABIA       |  |  |
|  | 23                     | CAMMY LOGAN      |  |  |
|  | 26                     | RYAN MUIR        |  |  |
|  | 27                     | LEWIS GIBSON     |  |  |
|  | 35                     | JACK BRYDON      |  |  |
|  | MANAGER MARVIN BARTLEY |                  |  |  |

REFEREE: Duncan Williams

ASST: Craig Macrae & Jamie Andrews

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

## ALLOA'S FINAL FOUR

15.04.23, AWAY, 15:00



KELTY HEARTS



ALLOA ATHLETIC

22.04.23, HOME, 15:00



ALLOA ATHLETIC



FALKIRK

29.04.23, AWAY, 15:00



MONTROSE



ALLOA ATHLETIC

06.05.23, HOME, 15:00



ALLOA ATHLETIC



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