

# THE WASP



**DUNFERMLINE**  
6TH MAY 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

##### Address:

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Clackmannan Road,  
Alloa, FK10 1RY  
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**Fax:** 01259210886

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

**Web:** alloaathletic.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 (Physiotherapist)

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

## CONTENTS











<b>LEAGUE TABLE AND FIXTURES</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>THE ALLOA SQUAD</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>MANAGER'S NOTES</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>NEWSDESK</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>MONTROSE VS ALLOA</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>DUNFERMLINE VS CLYDE</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>DEFINING MOMENTS EVERY FIVE YEARS</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>THE END OF THE 20'S GOLDEN ERA</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>APPEARANCES</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>A FAN'S VIEW</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>LOOKING BACK</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>THE OPPOSITION</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>THREE OF THE BEST</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>PERFORMANCE TABLE</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>TEAM LINES</b>	<b>38</b>













	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
 <b>DUNFERMLINE</b>	35	22	12	1	61	21	40	78
 <b>FALKIRK</b>	35	18	10	7	67	38	29	64
 <b>AIRDRIEONIANS</b>	35	16	9	10	78	50	28	57
 <b>ALLOA ATHLETIC</b>	35	17	6	12	56	45	11	57
 <b>FC EDINBURGH</b>	35	15	6	14	59	51	8	51
 <b>QUEEN OF THE SOUTH</b>	35	15	6	14	55	58	-3	51
 <b>MONTROSE</b>	35	13	9	13	49	53	-4	48
 <b>KELTY HEARTS</b>	35	10	10	15	38	50	-12	40
 <b>CLYDE</b>	35	4	9	22	33	67	-34	21
 <b>PETERHEAD</b>	35	3	7	25	18	81	-63	16

## WEEKEND'S FIXTURES













### LEAGUE 1

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











### CHAMPIONSHIP

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

### PREMIER LEAGUE

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

### LEAGUE 2

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





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every success for the coming season!**



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01259 729 243



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**

**Kevin  
CAWLEY**

17/03/1989



**Jon  
ROBERTSON**

25/04/1989



**Luke  
DONNELLY**

20/01/1996



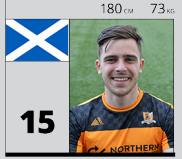
**Bradley  
RODDEN**

21/08/1996



**Ross  
MACIVER**

28/02/1999



**Murray  
MILLER**

29/01/2001



**Stefan  
SCOUGAL**

07/12/1992



**Conor  
SAMMON**

06/11/1986



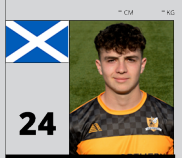
**Steven  
BUCHANAN**

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**



## THE MANAGER AFTER SECURING PLAYOFFS

There's never an easy three points in football. Today we started a wee bit slow but once we got the first goal we were excellent after that. Scored some good goals. A bit lucky with the second goal but

Sammon closes the goalkeeper down and deserves that luck. In the second half we were exceptional and I think we could have scored more. A great performance and result. If you'd have said at the start of the season we'd have been

in the playoffs, we'd all have taken that. The league has been one of the strongest I've ever seen. Dunfermline, Queen of the South, Falkirk, Airdrie - two teams dropping down from the Championship - It

really is a really good league and I can't be more proud of the boys for getting into the playoffs.

Every game counts - we get judged for every game but it's good to go into it knowing we are se-



cure, but we want to go out of the league on a high.

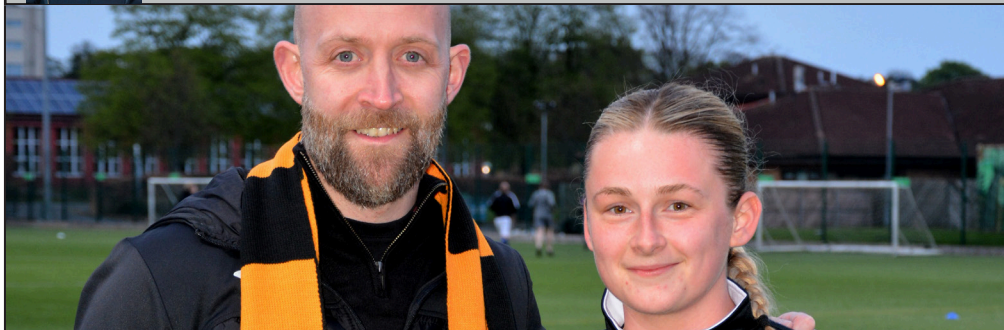
Ask a player if they want rested... noone wants rested so we'll put out a team we think that can win the game. We'll have one eye on the injuries and the fitness for the playoff on Tuesday

but we want to go out with a win. We'll just enjoy the bank holiday weekend - that's what I've told the boys. To come here and score four goals at any stage of the season is no mean feat.





**JOHN GLENCROSS**



# NEWSDESK

Welcome back to the Indodrill Stadium for our final Cinch League One match of the season, prior to the end of Season Play-Off Semi-finals, welcoming Manager James McPake, Assistant manager Dave MacKay and Andy Collier Goalkeeping Coach, the players, officials, and directors of Dunfermline Athletic FC. Dunfermline Athletic have performed with real consistency throughout the season and we would like to congratulate them on winning the cinch League One title. The club has lost only one match all season in the league, with their unbeaten run spanning nearly six months. The title is richly deserved, with Dunfermline Athletic also conceding the

least goals of any side in the SPFL this season, and I'm sure their supporters and team will enjoy celebrating their immediate return to the cinch Championship.

Alloa Athletic are delighted to announce that Charles Dignan has been appointed as the new Alloa Athletic Women's Team Manager and thank Sean Black for his period as Interim Women's team manager since the departure of Allan Salvona. Charles has been involved in coaching for the last ten years with Kennoway United, Thornton Hibs and most recently with East Fife Ladies being part of the management team which gained Promotion to SWPL 2 as Scottish Women's Champions

Play-Off winners. We welcome Charles to the club and look forward to supporting the development of the Women's squad. Welcome to the Wasps!

Today's mascot is Benjamin McArthur, who recently celebrated his 9th birthday, he lives in Aberdeen but his mum Claire is from Coalsnaughton and his grandad, Stewart, has attended Alloa's matches since 1975 and is a current season ticket holder.

Congratulations to Conor Sammon who was named in the SPFL Team of the week after his display against Montrose at Links Park last weekend in 4-0 victory, with Conor scoring a double taking

his goalscoring tally to 18 this season.

At the end of our last home game v. Falkirk, the Alloa Athletic Supporters presented their end of the season awards. Scott Taggart winning the Player of the Season award, Conor Sammon won the Top Goalscorer award and Ross MacIver won the Goal of the season award for one of his goals v. QOS at Palmerston this season.

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. Now that Inverness Caledonian Thistle have reached 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."

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 jgxalloaf@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 17 29th April, 2023

£ 100 1113 B.Ferguson  
£ 50 0438 H.Dawson  
£ 25 0713 E.McCallum  
£ 25 0177 A.Prentice  
£ 25 0541 D.Glencross

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.







29th April 2023  
Indodrill Stadium, Alloa  
3:00pm KO

**MONTROSE**

**0:4**

**ALLOA ATHLETIC**



(0:2)

SCORERS

**0:1 15'** Cawley

**0:2 22'** Sammon

**0:3 68'** Miller

**0:4 70'** Sammon



**STARTING XI**

- 1** LENNOX
- 7** WEBSTER
- 3** STEEVES
- 4** ALLAN
- 5** WADDELL
- 8** WATSON
- 12** GARDYNE
- 22** BROWN
- 9** MCALLISTER
- 23** MACHADO
- 11** LYONS

**SUBS**

- 21** MATTHEWS
- 14** DILLON
- 15** WHATLEY
- 10** MILNE
- 16** JOHNSTON
- 19** CALLAGHAN
- 2** GRANT

**SUBS**

- 71** CLARK
- 6** DURNAN
- 9** DONNELLY
- 16** KING
- 19** BUCHANAN
- 20** O'DONNELL
- 24** RANKIN
- 26** COULSON
- 28** CANNON

**STARTING XI**

- 31** HOGARTH
- 4** DOYLE
- 5** GRAHAM
- 7** CAWLEY
- 11** MILLER
- 12** SCOUGALL
- 14** STANGER
- 15** MACIVER
- 18** SAMMON
- 23** DEVINE
- 27** STRACHAN

**REFEREE:** Dan McFarlane

29th April 2023  
 East End Park, Dunfermline  
 3:00 pm KO

**DUNFERMLINE**

**2:1**

**CLYDE**



**(1:1)**

SCORERS

**0:1** 12' Salkeld

Ritchie-Hosler **45'** **1:1**

McCann **93'** **2:1**



**STARTING XI**

- 1** MEHMET
- 2** COMRIE
- 3** EDWARDS
- 5** HAMILTON
- 16** OTOO
- 3** EDWARDS
- 18** ALLAN
- 8** CHALMERS
- 21** RITCHIE-HOSLER
- 23** MCGOWAN
- 11** MOCHRIE

**SUBS**

- 6** MACDONALD
- 10** TODOROV
- 14** MCCANN
- 19** FENTON
- 20** LITTLE
- 30** MAHON

**SUBS**

- 5** THICOT
- 7** DUTHIE
- 11** RENNIE
- 14** KENNEDY
- 16** MCDONALD
- 17** CAMERON
- 99** BRADLEY-HURST

**STARTING XI**

- 21** MULLEN
- 2** LYON
- 25** SULA
- 4** MCLEAN
- 3** QUITONGO
- 15** SCULLION
- 18** HYNES
- 8** ROBERTS
- 22** CRAIG
- 24** SALKELD
- 9** DOCHERTY

**REFEREE:** Colin Steven

# CHILD PROTECTION AND WELLBEING POLICY

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

We recognise -

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

The purpose of the policy and related procedures is to:

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

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

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

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JONATHAN MARKWELL



## DEFINING MOMENTS EVERY FIVE YEARS

At the beginning of the season I had a nagging feeling that the end of the campaign was destined to involve some sort of drama. That's as exactly 5, 10, 15, 20 and 25 years ago Alloa's end of seasons have always involved defining moments and that made me hopeful that this sequence would continue and something similar (in a positive manner!) would be in store this time around too. From the ultimate highs of picking up the Third

Division Championship trophy in 1998, to the euphoric play-off promotion successes to the second tier in both 2013 and 2018, and even the heartache of losing in the play-offs so dramatically in 2008 and being relegated on goal difference in 2003, if the year ends in a three or an eight, Alloa always seem to be a central part of the Scottish football narrative at the conclusion of the season. Happily, a highly impressive victory at Montrose last weekend

guaranteed Brian Rice's side at least a 4th place finish and another tilt at promotion back to the Championship via the play-offs. As such, let's delve into the storylines behind Alloa's dramatic end of seasons during these landmark five year intervals.

Most recently, it may surprise some that the Wasps' last promotion was in-fact now five years ago. I don't know whether it's because four members of that triumphant squad are still at the Recs (Kevin

Cawley, Scott Taggart, Andy Graham and Jon Robertson) or whether world events mean that time feels like it's passed quicker, but I can still recall that glorious promotion winning conclusion to the season like it was yesterday. First, there was Alloa's involvement in determining the destination of the league title, beating Ayr on the penultimate weekend of the campaign to hand the advantage to Raith, before only going to Stark's Park and cruelly spoiling the Rovers

title winning day with a goalless draw. Then days later deservedly beating the subsequently beleaguered Kirkcaldy outfit home and away in the play-offs semi to stop the Rovers #RoaringBack to the Championship, with the momentum from six wins in eight games oozing through Jim Goodwin's determined Alloa side. Then finally the two legged play-off final against old foes Dumbarton, where ultimately the thrill and excitement of promotion trumped the fear and angst of relegation so evident in the Sons. The fact the Alloa side contained half a dozen

former Dumbarton players made it all the sweeter. Moreover, the circumstances of winning promotion were extraordinary and would be turned down as too far-fetched by Hollywood writers. From waiting until the 93rd minute for Ross Stewart to squeeze home the goal which took the second leg into extra-time to Jordan Kirkpatrick's magnificent winner to secure a promotion which looked a million miles away after an indifferent first quarter of the season, it was an exhilarating time to be an Alloa supporter.

Even more surprising is that the decade an-

niversary of the Wasps achieving back-to-back promotions under Paul Hartley is just two weeks away. Alloa's march up the leagues was a sensational time for the club, as the swashbuckling football under young manager Paul Hartley was a joy to behold. Nowhere was that more typified than in the play-off final itself, with the first leg at the Recs being Alloa's first ever live televised game (on BBC Alba). The Wasps put on a show for the cameras, outplaying a fragile Dunfermline side which had been decimated by administration, a points deduction and the forced release of eight

senior players. The Pars simply were not prepared for a well-drilled and clinical Alloa side, with an error from Pars keeper Michal Hrivnak leading to Alloa's opener after 27 minutes. On the stroke of half-time Alloa were in dreamland as Calum Elliot's audacious chipped finish put the Wasps 2-0 up and led to some joyous celebrations on the touchline with the manager trying his best to calm his players. The second half saw Alloa dominate the play and even missed a penalty two minutes from time, prior to Kevin Moon gloriously finishing a 15+ pass move to score a killer third goal





and send the Clackmannan Road end wild in celebration. In the second leg at East End Park the Wasps put in a disciplined performance from start to finish, limiting the increasingly desperate Pars to few clear cut chances. Although the home side did reduce the deficit to 3-1 with eighteen minutes to play the Wasps were never in serious trouble and deservedly won promotion to cue delight amongst the Alloa contingent amongst the 5,110 crowd in attendance. There were remarkable scenes amongst the Alloa support, including a series of Stephen Simmons face masks in tribute to Alloa's midfield maestro.

Last Wednesday marked the 15th anniversary of one of the most dramatic play-off encounters Scottish football has ever witnessed, with Alloa gut-wrenchingly on the wrong end of a Clyde comeback of epic proportions. The Wasps had arguably overachieved in reaching the play-offs in the first instance, with Allan Maitland's side functional if unspectacular. Having finished 4th in the Second Division, it meant the 9th place First Division Bully Wee laid in store. Alloa had the advantage after the first leg, with Adam Coakley scoring a spectacular goal (which was a rare occurrence) to help Alloa lead 2-1. Back at Broadwood, Clyde levelled the

tie after half an hour, but the game swung in Alloa's favour just before the break with the best goal you'll ever see from Brown Ferguson (a 35 yard rocket which bounced in off the crossbar before hitting the crossbar again such was its beauty) and Fraser Forrest getting onto the end of a Derek Fleming free-kick to make it 4-2 on aggregate.

A minute into the second half a spot in the play-off final appeared certain for Alloa, as a comedy of errors in the Clyde backline saw Dusan Bestvina score perhaps the funniest own goal you'll ever see to put Alloa 5-2 up. Poor Dusan sliced a clearance, got in the way of his team-mate who tried

to clear to only tee up Alloa's Kyle MacAuley to race through, and then Bestvina completed a hat-trick of errors in failing to clear Kyle's partially saved effort (by future Wasp David Hutton), with the ball bouncing up and off the Slovak defender and into the net. Bestvina was hooked minutes later by home manager John Brown and never played in Scottish football ever again. Despite everything seemingly being in Alloa's favour a Gary McSwegan inspired home side somehow scored three without reply to take the game to extra-time, where the energy-sapped Wasps knew momentum was against them and Pat Clarke scored the



decisive goal for the home side, although a goal and hat-trick of assists from McSwegan were key. Allan Maitland was forlorn at the final whistle, with the former Clyde manager crouching on the touchline utterly dejected, just like every Alloa fan – if you can bear it the ‘highlights’ are still available via YouTube, although it’s not for the faint hearted!

20 years ago this week, in the time before play-offs in the lower leagues, the Wasps were instead relegated from the second tier on the final day owing to an inferior goal difference to Ross County. A second half of the season revival had seen Terry Christie’s Alloa side almost achieve a great escape from relegation, but not even four wins in the Wasps final five games was good enough in the end. Alloa’s efforts in the latter months of the season were boosted by Scotland U21 keeper Derek Soutar on loan from Dundee, and tricky winger Robert Sloan borrowed from Hearts. It all came down to the final day and despite Alloa sweeping aside St Mirren 4-0 at the Recs, County comfortably beat Ayr to survive. Christie, never one to mince his words, blamed referee Colin Hardie for Alloa’s relegation, reflecting on a pivotal decision in the

December encounter against the Buddies when former Alloa striker Martin Cameron handled a cross but Hardie somehow gave a penalty, turning a 2-0 Alloa lead into an eventual 3-2 defeat, with Cameron inevitably scoring two of the Saints goals.

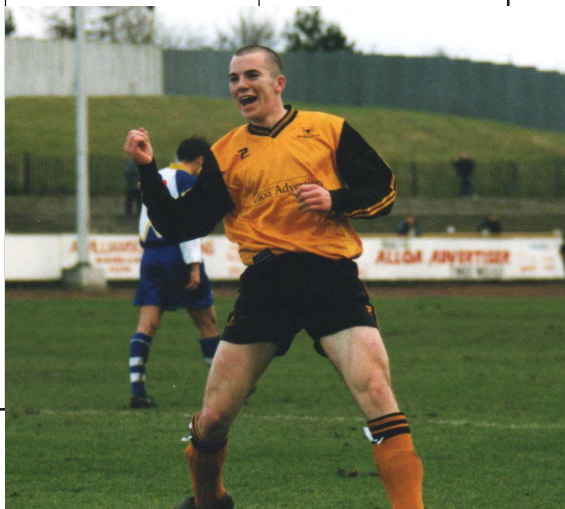
Happily, the events of 25 years ago were memorable for the right reasons, with Cameron at that time a raw 19 year old striker for the Wasps, playing his part in Alloa’s 1997/98 Third Division Championship winning season. Saturday 9th May 1998 was trophy day for Tom Hendrie’s Wasps, as the club celebrated a first title success for 76 years. Promotion had already been guaranteed a fortnight earlier after a 5-2 home success over East Stirling. The league championship was then secured the week before the final game, with Central Park the unglamorous scene for Alloa becoming league Champions. Cowdenbeath were defeated 3-1 on the day, thanks to a header from Miller Mathieson (the last goal of his career before retiring that summer) and young subs Gregor McKechnie and Cameron scoring late goals. That meant the final game against Berwick was party time, with Lloyd Haddow’s single goal securing a 1-0 win, although Haddow was

also sent-off late on! That didn’t dampen his spirits though, as the toothless grin from the left-back was soon on show once the final whistle sounded.

Alloa’s star man was undoubtedly Willie Irvine, who not only scored 24 goals that season, but ran the show in the final third of the pitch with his creativity. Irvine also unsurprisingly picked up the Third Division Player of the Season award that season. With a strong and settled side, it was no surprise that the Wasps had managed to win twenty-four of the thirty-six league games, scoring more goals and gaining more points than any other side in all four divisions of the country that season. This culminated in an end to the season that saw only one defeat in seventeen games. It was left to team captain Craig Valentine and club captain Keith McCulloch, who unfortunately missed much of the

season through injury, to pick up the trophies in the after-match presentation. The players then went on a customary lap of honour, with the celebrations continuing long into the evening. There was a touch of class from the directors too, who specifically requested that 20 medals were delivered so that players such as McCulloch (who hadn’t made enough appearances to qualify for a medal) got their own piece of silverware to savour too.

Our visitors to the Recs this afternoon had their own title celebrations last week, as Dunfermline bode farewell to cinch League One after deservedly winning the title to make an instant return to the Championship. Whisper it quietly, but this Alloa side have a chance of emulating the Wasps sides of 5, 10 and 25 years ago and meeting back up with the Pars next season too.







SCOTTISH LEAGUE—First Division.

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Goals.		Pts.
					F.	A.	
Rangers, .....	38	23	6	9	67	29	55
Airdrie, .....	38	20	8	10	58	39	50
Celtic, .....	38	19	11	8	52	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	34	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

# THE END OF THE EARLY 20'S GOLDEN ERA

The dream was over for Alloa. The early years of the 1920s had brought intoxicating times for the club. From the Central League, the Wasps had embarked on a legendary Scottish Cup run, defeating First Division Falkirk and Clydebank over seven incredible ties before coming within inches of beating Rangers at Ibrox. Alloa had then been elected to the new Second Division of the Scottish League and had promptly won

it at the first attempt, in doing so becoming the first SFL side to win automatic promotion. While plenty of commentators had raised doubts over the ability of Clackmannanshire to support a top flight side – and Alloa would after all be going up against the country's elite just a year after being a non-league club – they had found Recreation Park chairman A.L Roxburgh in bullish mood: "Could Alloa carry on in the First Division? Certainly!

With a naturally exclusive district between the Ochils and the Forth, containing a population of 40,000, and the prospect of appealing to a much wider area from Kinross to Stirling and Dunfermline to Dunblane, there is no doubt of sufficient support being forthcoming for a first-class team. Besides, Alloa is admirably placed within easy reach of all the populous football centres, and excellently served on both

the Caledonian and North British railway systems by fast trains for the convenience of travelling club supporters. Our team? Well we are not bad hands at talent-spotting or team-building, are we?" If Mr Roxburgh himself was a little intoxicated on the back of two years of unprecedented success then who could blame him. Alas, a year of struggle in the First Division with just six victories had brought a sobering dose of

<p>reality to the Recs. So what exactly had gone wrong?</p> <p>Mr Roxburgh had been rightfully proud of the scouting that had taken Alloa into the First Division. On their elevation to the top flight the directors had again shown an eye for a player with a number of astute additions to the title winning group. Alloa began the season with two competitive defeats against the Old Firm, losing 2-0 at Ibrox before going down 3-2 at the Recs against Celtic. That set the tone for a season in which the Wasps were very rarely outclassed. Their worst margin of defeat was 3-0 – against Hearts and Airdrie – and after both matches the press would claim that the score did not reflect the contests. That was often the case on the eleven occasions that Alloa were beaten by the odd goal, and indeed in the eleven draws. This was the national press too, not the local papers, with a frustratingly regular narrative that Alloa were a good footballing side who consistently failed to harvest the points their general play merited. The Wasps went down having conceded 52 goals from 38 games, a better tally than five other clubs and not significantly more than Airdrie and Celtic in second and third.</p>	<p>The problem was at the other end of the field where Alloa were the lowest scorers with just 27 goals. A year earlier Wee Willie Crilley had scored 48 league goals all on his own to blast the Wasps to the title. And just as Crilley had been the beating heart of Alloa's glory season of 1921/22, so was he absolutely integral to their downfall a year later. Indeed, it was the fate of the wee man rather than any further teambuilding that had been the Alloa board's biggest challenge in the wake of the title winning season. His importance to the team was obvious and as suitors lined up on Clackmannan Road in summer 1922, Alloa were reported to have made him the best offer, better even than the deal which eventually took him to Celtic. Alloa subsequently spent weeks agonising over how to replace a man who was essentially irreplaceable, ultimately landing on the unlikely figure of untried youngster Thomas Burns from Belfast. The diminutive Burns also fitted the description of 'midget centre' but he was no Willie Crilley and he did not last long. The directors could surely hardly believe their luck when the option subsequently arose in September to bring Crilley back from his ill-fated short spell at Parkhead. The deal was done and it seemed that the final piece in the jig-</p>	<p>saw that would see Alloa consolidate in the First Division was in place. But almost as soon as Crilley was back he was injured. After an ill-conceived attempt at an early comeback, Crilley would abscond from hospital rather than undergo an operation ordered by the club, resulting in him being suspended by Alloa, a suspension only lifted when he eventually relocated to Clackmannanshire where the directors could ensure he was following his rehabilitation schedule. All the while Alloa were trying different experiments at number 9 amidst a hugely damaging winless run – which included four single goal defeats over the festive period in which the team managed just one goal. It didn't help either that Tully Craig, the forward who had come from Celtic as part of the original Crilley deal and who had been a success in attack, also picked up an injury at this point. The winless run would last three months and see Alloa drop from mid-table to the bottom. Victories in late January and February – and the eventual return of Crilley – brought hope. But while it was understandable that the directors, in spite of everything, had still placed all their hopes on Crilley, the wee man took time to find fitness and form. The spark gradually returned but his first Alloa league goal of the season ar-</p>	<p>rived on April 7th against Ayr in the game which sealed the club's relegation. He scored again the following week before turning his back on Alloa and Scotland as he sought a new life in New York. Alloa could only look back and wonder what might have been. While he could not have been expected to match his tally of the previous season, a fit and focussed Crilly would surely have managed at least double figures over the season, something which might well have been enough to keep Alloa up. After all, despite the long absence and travails of Crilley, the injuries to Craig and other key men, and the sale of Sandy Cochrane to Middlesbrough in late February, Alloa still went into the last game of the season against Hamilton just four points from Accies and safety. That was how close the Wasps were to holding onto their hard earned First Division status. It wasn't to be. As Crilley landed in New York, back in Scotland the vultures were circling the Recs with one May 1923 headline proclaiming "ALLOA PLAYERS IN DEMAND". It would be a different Alloa team which would take to the field back in the Second Division in August. The golden era of the early 20s was over.</p>
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# 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	32 (0)	0	7 (0)	0	39 (0)	0	32 (0)	0
TAGGART	DEF	33 (0)	5	8 (0)	1	41 (0)	6	227 (0)	11
CHURCH	DEF	23 (4)	2	8 (0)	0	31 (4)	2	43 (8)	2
HOWIE	DEF	2 (5)	0	0 (2)	0	2 (7)	0	19 (8)	1
GRAHAM	DEF	11 (5)	1	7 (1)	0	18 (6)	1	187 (6)	14
DURNAN	DEF	13 (3)	0	0 (1)	0	13 (4)	0	46 (3)	4
STANGER	DEF	32 (0)	3	5 (1)	0	37 (1)	3	32 (0)	3
MCLAREN	DEF	1 (2)	0	2 (1)	0	3 (3)	0	1 (2)	0
DEVINE	DEF	7 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	7 (0)	0	7 (0)	0
STRACHAN	DEF	9 (2)	0	1 (0)	0	10 (2)	0	9 (2)	0
DOYLE	DEF	12 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	12 (0)	0	159 (0)	2
ROBERTSON	MID	28 (2)	0	1 (0)	0	29 (2)	0	175 (30)	2
SCOUGALL	MID	23 (5)	2	5 (2)	0	28 (7)	2	57 (18)	7
KING	MID	7 (16)	2	6 (0)	1	13 (16)	3	33 (21)	6
O'DONNELL	MID	7 (13)	1	3 (1)	0	10 (14)	1	14 (33)	1
MILLER	MID	24 (5)	2	7 (1)	0	31 (6)	2	24 (5)	2
CAWLEY	MID	23 (4)	1	4 (2)	1	27 (6)	2	321 (47)	63
DONNELLY	FWD	13 (9)	6	2 (0)	1	15 (9)	7	13 (15)	7
SAMMON	FWD	29 (6)	13	7 (1)	5	36 (7)	18	50 (19)	18
MACIVER	FWD	32 (3)	6	6 (2)	0	38 (5)	6	35 (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 (4)	1	0 (0)	0	9 (4)	1	9 (4)	1



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ALLOA CAREER CUP		ALLOA TOTAL	
APP	GOAL	APP	GOAL
0 (0)	0	15 (0)	0
1 (0)	0	4 (0)	0
0 (0)	0	0 (1)	0
7 (0)	0	39 (0)	0
56 (1)	3	283 (1)	14
14 (0)	0	57 (8)	2
5 (4)	0	24 (12)	1
53 (2)	1	240 (8)	15
2 (1)	0	48 (4)	4
7 (1)	0	39 (1)	3
2 (1)	0	3 (3)	0
0 (0)	0	7 (0)	0
1 (0)	0	10 (2)	0
0 (0)	0	159 (0)	2
1 (0)	0	176 (30)	2
14 (7)	2	71 (25)	9
6 (0)	2	39 (21)	8
0 (0)	0	14 (33)	1
7 (1)	0	31 (6)	2
66 (9)	11	387 (56)	74
2 (3)	1	15 (18)	8
7 (1)	5	57 (20)	23
6 (2)	0	41 (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 (4)	1

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**BRIAN ROACH**



## A FAN'S VIEW

What a difference a week makes! A sobering defeat here to Falkirk two weeks ago opened the door for Montrose for an outside opportunity to reach the promotion play-offs, having narrowed the gap to six points. Alloa headed to Links Park last week still requiring a point to cement their place in play-offs and ensure no final day tension. Montrose had promoted the game within the community leading to a bumper crowd of 1300 inside the stadium on the day. Alloa had to stand tall in adversity- and they certainly did

that. The timing couldn't have been better as they produced their best away performance of the season- and arguably their best of the entire campaign.

Pre match I would have been more than happy for Alloa to stink the place out to obtain a goal-less draw- and as expected Montrose started on the front foot applying pressure to the Alloa goal. But as Alloa settled into the game they looked a level above the hosts. Kevin Cawley, Murray Miller and Stefan Scougall were all outstanding as the midfield three. They

were a joy to watch all afternoon and it was great to see Cawley playing so high up the pitch. Alloa were two goals to the good at the break- Cawley's touch which opened up the space to slot home the opener was sublime. The second was admittedly a goalkeeping howler- Conor Sammon deflecting Montrose custodian Aaron Lennox's clearance into the net- but it was a reward for Alloa's constant pressing of the home backline. Alloa lived up to their nickname- swarming the opposition and ensuring

unforced errors. Murray Miller capped his best performance in an Alloa shirt with another outstanding finish in the second half for Alloa's third. Our vantage point in the far corner of the ground allowed for a perfect view of the shot flying into the top corner of the net. Sammon rounded off the scoring with a tap in after Cawley's initial effort was saved. This was an absolute rout, where the result could have been an even higher margin. Rather than scrambling into the play-offs after a tough few weeks, Alloa reached them in

emphatic style which will have recycled some real belief going into the play-offs next week.

At the time of writing this article, Alloa could potentially face 4 different opponents in the play-off semi-final. Should Alloa pip Airdrie to third place in League One they would face Falkirk in midweek, whilst Arbroath, Hamilton and Cove Rangers battle it out at the bottom of the Championship. In the aftermath of the celebrations following the Links Park win, much of the discussions amongst supporters focussed on their play-off preferences. Falkirk's comfortable win here a fortnight ago means an inevitable level of trepidation over facing them again with some justification attached. Whilst in the Championship, Arbroath appeared to be safe from bottom spot and play-offs but are stumbling over the line. A loss to Cove Rangers opened the door for their relegation rivals, and they followed that up with another loss last week to Partick Thistle. Cove Rangers do not appear to be the same team who swept to the League One title last season but had gained some momentum at the perfect stage of the season- with 4 points picked up in the two games going into last night's conclusion. Hamilton have looked precarious in

recent weeks but facing them would mean the absence of Michael Doyle- on loan from Accies and a vital player for Alloa in the closing stages of the season. Last night's fixtures will clear up the situation in the Championship- so by kick-off today we will be aware of Alloa's fate should they remain in fourth position. In terms of preference though, I think we just see how today plays out and deal with the pathway accordingly. The play-offs are a 4-team tournament where you have to come out on top- whoever the opponents are in that semi-final. On the surface it may appear that an initial 2-legged tie Falkirk would be the toughest outcome- but having been eliminated from the Scottish Cup



last week Falkirk will head into the play-offs carrying the most pressure- from both their fanbase and accountants at the club. By the same token Alloa will probably be regarded as the underdogs of the 4 play-off participants- regardless of the way the play-offs sit at 5pm today. I think we certainly have the players capable of winning the play-offs, and thankfully the manager can pre-

pare as well as could be expected by potentially resting a few players today with the midweek tie in mind. We obviously congratulate our visitors -Dunfermline - very worthy champions having lost only one league match all season. The outcome of today's match matters little, but in the coming weeks we can hopefully do enough to join them in next seasons Championship.







**ANDREW COCKBURN**



# LOOKING BACK 4TH MAY 1991

In The Premier Division, there was a rather significant development re the title race. For Rangers rather surprise 0-3 reverse at mid-table Motherwell, meant they relinquished the leadership, albeit on goal difference, to Aberdeen, who defeated St. Johnstone 2-1 at Pittodrie. Thus the scene was nicely set for a rather gripping title deciding match between The Gers and The Dons at Ibrox, on the season's final day. Third-placed Dundee United concluded their

home programme with a 2-1 win v fifth-placed Hearts, while Celtic, sandwiched in between these two clubs in fourth spot, hosted rock-bottom St. Mirren the following day. The Buddies were now assured of "the wooden spoon", but as relegation from The Premier Division was suspended in season 1990-91, they would live to fight another day in the top flight. While the same was true of second-bottom Hibs, and third-bottom Dunfermline, who met at Easter Road, The

Hi-Bees running victors by 3-0.

Airdrie, 2-0 winners at Partick, now led The First Division in place of gameless Falkirk. The Bairns thus dropped to second spot, but had the chance to regain top spot when they hosted Ayr the following mid-week. Third-placed Dundee remained in contention, despite being held 0-0 at fifth-placed Kilmarnock, who were now out of contention, while the same was true of fourth-placed Partick. Doomed

bottom club Brechin salvaged some pride with a point from a 1-1 draw at Meadowbank, but Clyde, 1-3 losers at Hamilton Accies, now accompanied City in the drop to The Second Division. Forfar were now safe after a 2-2 home draw with Morton, The Loons thus moved up one place, and were replaced in third-bottom spot by Ayr.

Runaway Second Division Champions Stirling Albion were held 0-0 at mid-table Berwick, while the battle

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for runners-up spot was now more or less a three-way tie. And Montrose retained second place thanks to a 2-0 home win over lowly East Stirling, while the top-of-the-table clash between third-placed Cowdenbeath and Stenhousemuir at Central Park, ended in a 1-1 stalemate, and meant no positional change for either club. Alloa and Albion Rovers meantime, had both endured disappointing league campaigns in 1990-91, and they met at Recreation Park in a rather meaningless fixture, The Wasps lining up as follows: Butter, Newbigging, R.

Lee, Wilcox, McCulloch, Campbell, Moffat (Henry), Ramsay, McCallum, Irvine, Gibson. Alas, Alloa's home campaign ended in disappointing fashion, in the shape of a 1-2 defeat, a second-half effort from Davie Wilcox eventually proving to be of mere consolation value. Thus Alloa slipped two places to ninth, while there was no joy either for bottom club Arbroath, who were also beaten on home soil, by 0-1 v East Fife.

South of the border, First Division leaders Arsenal were held 0-0

at relegation-haunted Sunderland, though The Gunners still opened up a four-point lead over second-placed Liverpool, whose own title ambitions suffered a setback after a 2-4 defeat at mid-table Chelsea, as Arsenal now needed just one more win from their remaining two games to seal the title. In the relegation zone, Sunderland, in spite of their welcome point, remained in second-bottom place, though purely now on goal difference from third-bottom Luton, who were beaten 0-1 at Everton. Doomed bottom club Derby salvaged

some pride with a 6-2 home win v Southampton, The Rams first league win since early December. West Ham, despite being held 1-1 at London rivals Charlton, still moved two points clear at the top of The Second Division, second-placed Oldham were beaten 0-2 in a crunch top-of-the-table clash at fourth-placed Notts County, while third-placed Sheffield Wednesday remained on course for automatic promotion, with a 2-1 win v fifth-laced Millwall, in another crucial promotion clash at Hillsborough.





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# DUNFERMLINE

*The Pars*

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**GROUND**

East End Park,  
Dunfermline

**TOP HONOURS**

Scottish Cup  
Winners (2)  
Runners-up (3)

League Cup  
Runners-up (3)

Championship\*  
Winners  
Runners-up (9)

League 1\*  
Winners (3)  
Runners up (2)

Challenge Cup  
Winners 2007-08

This afternoon we conclude the league campaign with a game against the League 1 champions, Dunfermline. With only a single loss to their name, the Pars have been pretty much faultless as they have strolled to the title and secured their place back in the Championship at the first time of asking. After coming back from 2-0 down to deny their rivals, Falkirk, for all the points, it was a foregone conclusion who would lift the title. A few weeks following that result Dunfermline hit 5 past Queen of the South with no return to clinch the title. Last

Saturday looked like it would be their second consecutive draw since winning the title but Lewis McCann's 93rd minute against Clyde meant that the Pars faithful could celebrate trophy day off the back of 3-points. With the season wrapped up and the trophy lifted, interest will be taken into what team James McPake sends out on the final day.

**THE BOSS -  
JAMES MCPAKE**

A popular figure at East End Park is the manager, James McPake. Since taking over last summer, he has led his side to the ultimate

success by winning the league. With a successful playing career with clubs like Livingston, Hibernian, and Dundee, as well as a management spell at the latter, this is actually his first piece of silverware. He reinforced the importance of cherishing the moment as he lifted the cup the other week. His immensely successive season was rewarded in March when the club agreed a 2-year deal with McPake. This means that he will be tasked, once again, to get success in Scotland's second tier. Last time he managed in that division he won the promotion play-offs with Dundee.



\*includes equivalent competitions



success next season. Benedictus also had a brief spell at the Wasps where he was part of history too starting in the 3-2 victory over Rangers.

### ONE TO WATCH – CRAIG WIGHTON

With this side being so dominant in the division you could easily pick any as their one to watch. We have opted for the man who has been firing in the goals, Craig Wighton. 19 goals in all competitions is a fantastic return from Wighton, especially when you take into account the 4 assists also to his name. Similar to Benedictus, these goals have been vital in winning the league. The striker is in hot form too with 5 goals in his last 5 games and will be looking to go out the season in style with a trip to the Indodrill. He currently sits 3rd top scorer

**CONTINUED ON P32**

### THE CAPTAIN – KYLE BENEDICTUS

The man who lifted the trophy last Saturday was skipper, Kyle Benedictus. Since arriving at the club, Benedictus has been sensational at the heart of the defence for the Pars. Providing stability at the back with his commanding

presence, Benedictus has placed himself in all of the Player of the Year discussions. It hasn't just been his defensive duties that have caught the eye as he has come up with 4 goals, also. Each one of those strikes were crucial in the games. An equaliser against Falkirk, the only 2 goals as they

fought abc for a point at Clyde, and finally a goal in the remarkable 4-3 comeback win over Airdrie proved pivotal in the Par's romp to the title. He has already won this division with Raith Rovers in 2020, and having won the Scottish Championship in 2014 with Dundee, he will be hoping for similar



**BY KIEREN MOONEY**





in the league with the possibility of catching Ruari Paton and Callum Gallagher looking next to impossible, he will have to settle for a very impressive bronze medal in the golden boot race.

### THE CONNECTION

There are a few familiar faces in the camps for supporters to look out for. The previously mentioned Kyle Benedictus will no doubt continue to marshall the defence on his return to the Indodrill. One player who won't be featuring

is Kevin O'Hara following his unsuccessful appeal against a red card shown against Airdrie. The forward has found the back of the net 3 times this season and spent time at Alloa in the 2019/20 season where he finished top scorer with big moments against the likes of Dundee United. The only current player who has played for the Pars is Alloa captain, Mark Durnan. After leaving Dundee United in 2018, Durnan signed for Dunfermline and played for a single season at the club before departing for Falkirk. Some memorable names that

have pulled on both shirts in the past are Darren Young, Stephen Simmons and Graeme Holmes.

### PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Like many of the league, Alloa have failed to make their mark over the champions in the league season. After beginning the campaign with a trip to East End Park in the cup, where the Wasps won on penalties, following a 1-1 draw where Connor Sammon scored, they have failed to notch a single goal against the visitors. The opening

day of the season saw Dunfermline take victory after a fluke goal from Matty Todd caught Jay Hogarth out. The Pars were much more convincing in the return fixture at the Indodrill. Goals from Aaron Comrie, Matty Todd, and Craig Wighton saw Dunfermline stroll to a 3-0 victory. The following game Dunfermline hit Alloa for 2 with no reply, this time Chris Hamilton and Kevin O'Hara grabbing the goals. Brian Rice will be hoping his side can roll into the play-offs with momentum with their first victory over Dunfermline today.



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**BRIAN ROACH**



## THREE OF THE BEST .... FINAL DAY DRAMATICS

### **ARBROATH 0 ALLOA 1- SCOTTISH SECOND DIVISION 11.06.1985**

Whilst Alloa face Dunfermline today in a more relaxed affair with little at stake, this was absolutely not the case almost 40 years ago. In season 1984/85 both clubs were competing for promotion to the First Division, along with Angus club Montrose. Alloas championship ambitions were somewhat extinguished through March and April as they embarked on a 6-game winless run- which also opened the door for the Pars to pip them to the last promotion spot (with the top 2 promoted automatically). On the penultimate day of the campaign Dunfermline visited Recreation Park

in third position, but only a point behind the Wasps. A late penalty save by Alloa goalkeeper Ronnie Lowrie earned the Wasps a massive point as the match finished goalless. Thus, it was advantage Alloa on the last day of the season. They faced bottom club Arbroath at Gayfield knowing a win would promote them. Dunfermline faced second bottom Berwick at East End Park- a fixture they were expected to win, so there was little margin for error. Dunfermline did indeed prevail by 2 goals to 1, but Alloa had taken an early lead at Gayfield through defender Garry Thompson. In the days prior to smart phones and internet, radio updates and

subsequent Chinese whispers on the terrace were all too prevalent. As Dunfermline awaited news from Gayfield on the outcome, it came to light that the final whistle was delayed by a spot of crowd trouble- which was wrongly assumed to be due to an Arbroath equaliser. But Alloa had held on to clinch the promotion spot behind eventual league winners Montrose. The joyous occasion was unfortunately overshadowed by events down in England- with the Bradford City stadium fire at Valley Parade tragically killing 56 supporters on the same afternoon.

Alloa Team: Lowrie, G Thompson, K Thomson, Kelly, Dall, Martin, Murray, Barr, Shearer, Mackie, Cole (Lloyd)

### **FALKIRK 3 ALLOA 1- SCOTTISH CHAMPIONSHIP, 03.06.2014**

This short trip across the River Forth produced arguably the most dramatic final day in recent memory for Alloa supporters- all of which occurred due to events elsewhere. Alloa went into the final day of their Championship campaign embroiled in a straight shootout with Cowdenbeath for the safety of an 8th placed finish. Alloa sat on 40 points, with Cowdenbeath starting the day worse off by a point. Goal difference comparisons also fell in Alloas favour- Cowdenbeath had to win their home fixture against promotion play-off contenders Queen of



the South- and hope the Wasps dropped points against a formidable Falkirk team (also cemented within those Premiership play-offs). Striker Mark Beck gave Falkirk an early lead, but Kevin Cawley equalised for Alloa on the half hour. It was all square at the break, and still goal-less at Central Park- as it stood, Alloa were safe. However, their fortunes took a dip in the second half. Craig Sibbald restored Falkirk's lead on the hour mark, before news travelled that Kane Hemmings had given Cowdenbeath a 78th minute lead. Beck added a second in stoppage time to seal the points for Falkirk, and for Alloa it was time to gear up for the roulette of the Championships play-offs with a midweek trip to face Ayr United at Somerset Park. As the full-time whistle sounded at the Falkirk Stadium, many Alloa supporters held back to await updates from Fife. Any prayers were answered, as in the 96th minute Bob McHugh scrambled a Queen of the South equaliser to ensure Alloa took that coveted 8th position. This was only the second time in the club's history that consolidation in the second tier had been achieved- although of course they went on to repeat the feat on numerous occasions during the decade, including the final entry of this edition. This story also didn't end well for

Alloa's visitors today- Cowdenbeath picked themselves up from this late disappointment retain their place in the Championship by defeating Dunfermline in the play-off final.

Alloa Team: Bain, Doyle, Robertson, Gordon, Young (Ferns), Simmons, Cawley, McCord, Holmes, Caldwell, Caddis

### **AYR 1 ALLOA 1- CHAMPIONSHIP, 04.06.2019**

The most recent example of proper nail-biting drama for Alloa supporters occurred just over 4 years ago. Alloa were again looking to consolidate their position in the Championship and were one of the participants in a last day shootout with Queen of the South and Falkirk to determine the final positions of the bottom 3. Queen of the South began the day in 8th position- on 38 points and facing Partick Thistle at home. Alloa

had the same points tally in 9th with a weaker goal difference- travelling to Somerset Park to face an Ayr United team already cemented in the promotion play-offs. Falkirk were 3 points lighter than the Wasps- requiring a home win over Ross County who had already sealed the Championship title. Alloa took the lead after 33 minutes at Somerset through Connor Shields, but the Ayr talisman Lawrence Shankland equalised minutes later. The scores remained level at the break- and elsewhere Queen of the South were 2 goals behind to Partick at Palmerston. But Zak Rudden had given Falkirk a half time lead against County. Alloa really needed to hang on and take something from the game. Former Wasp Ross Stewart equalised for County before the hour mark, and there was a sigh of relief as news filtered

through that Iain Vigurs had put the champions in front- with the bonus of Queen of the South losing a third goal. But the Falkirk game turned swung back in their favour- with two quickfire goals giving the Bairns a lead once more. At Somerset Park Ayr United manager Iain McCall had thrown on Allan Forrest and Michael Moffat, seemingly going all out to win the game- despite there being very little at stake from their perspective. This led to a torturous final quarter as the nerves were jangling- manager Jim Goodwin looked as anxious as the Alloa support pacing the technical area of the dugout. But Alloa held on for the point they needed to seal 8th place and consolidate their position in the Championship.

Alloa Team: Parry, Taggart, Dick, Graham, Hetherington, Robertson, Trouten (Kirkpatrick), Flannigan, Zanatta, Shields (Brown), Cawley

## **HT QUIZ**

- 1. ALLOAS ONLY GOAL IN OPEN PLAY AGAINST DUNFERMLINE THIS SEASON WAS SCORED BY WHICH PLAYER?**
- 2. WHICH 2 COUNTRIES HAVE SCOTLAND FACED IN WORLD CUP TOURNAMENTS THAT NO LONGER EXIST?**
- 3. AT WHICH TOP TIER ENGLISH CLUB IS IT A TRADITION FOR THE CAPTAIN TO DETERMINE THE LENGTH OF SLEEVES WORN BY THE ENTIRE TEAM?**
- 4. NAME THE FOUR FORMER ALLOA PLAYERS WHO HAVE SCORED AGAINST THE CLUB THIS SEASON IN ALL COMPETITIONS?**
- 5. WHICH PLAYER IN THE CURRENT TOP TEN ENGLISH PREMIERSHIP GOALSCORERS HAS PLAYED AT ALLOAS RECREATION PARK IN HIS CAREER?**
- 6. WHICH 3 CURRENTLY ACTIVE PLAYERS MADE THEIR SCOTLAND INTERNATIONAL DEBUTS AGED 18?**

**ANSWERS PAGE 37**



MIDFIELDERS					
CAWLEY	ROBERTSON	MILLER	SCOUALL	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	
	82	90	90		8
16			74		
21	90	68	90		
90		79	74	16	16

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			
		69		90		22		21	
		74		74		11		16	



## QUIZ ANSWERS

1. CONOR SAMMON (PREMIER SPORTS CUP, JULY 2022)
2. YUGOSLAVIA (1958,1974) SOVIET UNION (1982)
3. ARSENAL
4. INNES MURRAY (FC EDINBURGH), CALLUM GALLAGHER (AIRDRIE), LEE CONNELLY (QUEEN OF THE SOUTH), KEVIN O'HARA (DUNFERMLINE)
5. IVAN TONEY (PLAYED FOR NORTHAMPTON TOWN AGAINST ALLOA IN A 2014 PRE SEASON FRIENDLY)
6. KIEREN TIERNEY, OLIVER BURKE, DANNY WILSON







# ALLOA ATHLETIC



# DUNFERMLINE

#	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			
		<b>MANAGER BRIAN RICE</b>			

#	POS				
	1	DENIZ MEHMET			
	2	AARON COMRIE			
	3	JOSH EDWARDS			
	4	KYLE BENEDICTUS			
	5	CHRIS HAMILTON			
	6	KYLE MACDONALD			
	7	KEVIN O'HARA			
	8	JOE CHALMERS			
	9	CRAIG WIGHTON			
	10	NIKOLAY TODOROV			
	11	CHRIS MOCHRIE			
	12	RHYS BREEN			
	14	LEWIS MCCANN			
	16	EWAN OTOO			
	18	PAUL ALLAN			
	19	MILLER FENTON			
	20	MAX LITTLE			
	21	KANE RITCHIE-HOSLER			
	23	PAUL MCGOWAN			
	24	JAKE RENNIE			
	25	MICHAEL BEAGLEY			
	26	MATTY TODD			
	29	TAYLOR SUTHERLAND			
	30	ROBBIE MAHON			
	31	LIAM HOGGAN			
		<b>MANAGER JAMES MCPAKE</b>			

**REFEREE:** Calum Scott

**ASST:** Ross Nelson & Michael MacDermid


## CHAMPIONSHIP PLAYOFF

09.05.23, HOME, 19:45

	ALLOA ATHLETIC	—	TBC
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13.05.23, AWAY, 15:00

TBC	—		ALLOA ATHLETIC
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17.06.23, 19:35

FINAL FIRST LEG – LIVE ON BBC ALBA
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20.06.23, 17:15

FINAL SECOND LEG – LIVE ON BBC ALBA
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