



# THE WASP

OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME



**VS ST JOHNSTONE**  
**22ND JULY 2023**



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#### SCOTTISH CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS

1921/22

#### RUNNERS UP

1938/39

#### SCOTTISH LEAGUE 1 RUNNERS UP

1976/77 1981/82

1984/85 1988/89 1999/00

2001/02 2009/10 2012/13

2016/17

#### SCOTTISH LEAGUE 2 WINNERS

1997/1998 2011/2012

#### CHALLENGE CUP WINNERS

1999/2000

#### RUNNERS-UP

2001/02 2014/15

#### STIRLINGSHIRE CUP WINNERS

1904/5 1907/8 1908/9

1912/13 1920/21 1924/25

1933/34 1946/47 1955/56

1957/58 1959/60 1965/66

1981/82 1996/97

#### MOST CAPPED PLAYER

Jock Hepburn, 1 Cap  
(Scotland v Wales 1891)

\*includes equivalent competitions

#### Club Information

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#### Club Officials

##### Honorary Directors

Pat Lawlor

Ewen Cameron

Mike Mulraney

##### Directors

Andrew Allan (Chairman)

Martin Ross (Vice Chairman)

Steven Lynch

Dr Robert McElroy

##### Secretary

Carol Edgar

##### Head of Media

Lewis Russell

##### Child Protection Officer

Bill Anderson

#### Management

Brian Rice (Manager)

Paddy Connolly (Assistant)

Kenny Brannigan (Assistant)

Sebastian Panczyk (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

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	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
 <b>AYR UNITED</b>	2	1	1	0	2	1	1	5
 <b>STIRLING ALBION</b>	2	1	1	0	3	2	1	4
 <b>STENHOUSEMUIR</b>	2	1	0	1	1	1	0	3
 <b>ALLOA ATHLETIC</b>	1	0	0	1	1	2	-1	0
 <b>ST JOHNSTONE</b>	1	0	0	1	0	1	-1	0

**Group A**

St. Johnstone  
Ayr United  
Alloa Athletic  
Stirling Albion  
Stenhousemuir

**Group B**

Dundee United  
Partick Thistle  
Falkirk  
Peterhead  
The Spartans

**Group C**

Livingston  
Hamilton Accies  
Cove Rangers  
Clyde  
Brechin City

**Group D**

Ross County  
Greenock Morton  
Edinburgh  
Kelty Hearts  
Stranraer

**Group E**

Dundee  
Inverness CT  
Airdrieonians  
Dumbarton  
Bonnyrigg Rose

**Group F**

Kilmarnock  
Raith Rovers  
Dunfermline Athletic  
Annan Athletic  
Albion Rovers

**Group G**

Motherwell  
Queen's Park  
Queen of the South  
East Fife  
Elgin City

**Group H**





St. Mirren  
Arbroath  
Montrose  
Forfar Athletic  
Cowdenbeath

**WEEKEND FIXTURES**





**GROUP A**

 ALLOA ATHLETIC	 ST JOHNSTONE
 STIRLING ALBION	 STENHOUSEMUIR

**GROUP B**

 DUNDEE UNITED	 PETERHEAD
 PARTICK THISTLE	 FALKIRK





**GROUP C**

 BRECHIN CITY	 COVE RANGERS
 LIVINGSTON	 HAMILTON ACCIES





**GROUP D**

 ROSS COUNTY	 GREENOCK MORTON
 STRANRAER	 FC EDINBURGH





**GROUP E**

 AIRDRIEONIANS	 DUNDEE
 DUMBARTON	 BONNYRIGG ROSE





**GROUP F**

 ANNAN ATHLETIC	 ALBION ROVERS
 DUNFERMLINE	 KILMARNOCK

**GROUP G**

 ELGIN CITY	 QUEEN OF THE SOUTH
 MOTHERWELL	 QUEEN'S PARK

**GROUP H**

 COWDENBEATH	 MONTROSE
 ST MIRREN	 ARBROATH

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every success for the coming season!**



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**GOALKEEPERS**

**PJ MORRISON**

27/02/1998



**1**

**DEFENDERS**

**Scott TAGGART**

27/12/1991

183 cm 75 kg



**2**

**Euan DEVENEY**

16/11/2002



**3**

**Morgyn NEILL**

10/03/1996



**6**

**Keir BURT**

09/09/2004

175 cm 69 kg



**21**

**Andy GRAHAM**

22/09/1983

188 cm 85 kg



**5**

**David MCKAY**

17/06/1998



**15**

**Paul MCLAREN**

01/04/2004

185 cm 76 kg



**22**

**David DEVINE**

20/06/2001



**23**

**Josh DEBAYO**

17/10/1996



**27**

**MANAGER**

**BRIAN RICE**



MIDFIELDERS

**Steven HETHERINGTON**

09/03/1993



**Kevin CAWLEY**

17/03/1989



**Kurtis ROBERTS**

06/09/1994



**Stefan SCOUGALL**

07/12/1992

170 CM 63 KG



**Miko VIRTANEN**

29/01/1999



**Cameron O'DONNELL**

29/09/2001

183 CM 70 KG



**Jon ROBERTSON**

25/04/1989

183 CM 70 KG



FORWARDS

**Luke DONNELLY**

20/01/1996



**Bradley RODDEN**

21/08/1996

178 CM 68 KG



**Conor SAMMON**

06/11/1986

188 CM 91 KG



**Steven BUCHANAN**

26/03/2003

178 CM 70 KG



**Luke RANKIN**

27/11/2004



**Quinn COULSON**

01/09/2003





**BRIAN RICE**



## **AFTER OPENING DAY DEFEAT TO THE BINOS**

We're disappointed to lose the match, I thought we had control at 1-0 but they made a change and brought two strikers on. That changed the game and it upset our three centre backs.

Coulson scored the goal but I expect a lot more from him. He knows that himself although there are some positives from tonight - Stephen Buchanan probably had his best game for us, he put some

great balls in especially during the first half.

Steven Hetherington was controlling the midfield. Big Conor [Sammon] is just back and we had to play him tonight, we gave him an hour.

Josh Debayo hasn't had any game time really but we gave him a bit of time as well.

It was two poor goals that we lost. It's not a great way to start.

If it's a penalty, it's a penalty, my view doesn't matter we just have to get on with the game. There's too much debating on these things - just get on with the game. We're here to play football and try to win football games. If the linesman helps the referee out and says it's a penalty, it's a penalty, I've not got any gripes about that

*On offensive reinforcements...*



It'll be after the group stages, People get caught up in the window but recruitment is every day of the year, right through the season and right through the summer.

It's not just about the window, you're always looking and looking and there's just this timescale where you can actually do it.

We're looking for loans but we won't get any until beginning of August. Strikers are the hardest ones to get.

We're a part time club, I tried to get four strikers and they opted to go for full time clubs.

You can't argue with that. Boys want to play full time football and that's what we're up against.

We keep looking and we keep looking and it never stops all the way throughout the year.

*On St Johnstone's visit...*

It's another game [this Saturday]. We want to see if we can get that win. St Johnstone is a Premiership team, we need to make sure we don't give away any soft goals that we gave away tonight and we try to be more clinical.

We had plenty chances in the first half tonight to wrap up the game but fair play to Stirling Albion, they hung in there and finished the game strongly. Their two strikers coming off the bench made a big difference - we don't yet have that luxury up front.

I'm asking Coulson to play in a foreign position for him to help us out at the minute, Luke Donnelly hasn't done a pre-season and he's a big player for us.

I'm disappointed about tonight but I look forward to Saturday.





**JOHN GLENCROSS**



# NEWSDESK

Welcome back to the Indodrill Stadium for our second fixture in the Viaplay Cup, their second season as sponsors for the League Cup. We have been drawn in Group A against Stirling Albion who we faced last Tuesday losing 2-1 to a late penalty, today we face St. Johnstone at home, followed by Stenhousemuir away next Tuesday 25th July and finally Ayr United at Somerset Park on Saturday 29th July, 2023. The group stage involves 40 clubs - the 37 SPFL clubs from 2022/23 who did not qualify for Europe plus Brechin City (Highland League champions), The Spartans (Lowland League champions) and Cowdenbeath, who were relegated from cinch League 2 in May 2022. Teams are drawn into eight groups of five based on final league positions. As was the case last season, there is no regionalisation

in the group stage. Group matches - Clubs are awarded the usual three points for a win but all drawn games in the group stage go straight to penalties - the shoot-out winners receive a bonus point. ie three points for a win, two points for a shoot-out win and one point for losing on penalties. If clubs are level on points at the end of the group stage, the criteria for separating them is 1) goal difference, 2) goals scored, 3) away goals scored, 4) matches won, 5) away matches won, 6) head-to-head record, 7) drawing of lots. The eight group winners and three best runners-up progress to the second round, where they are joined by the five clubs competing in European competitions - Celtic, Rangers, Aberdeen, Heart of Midlothian and Hibernian. The seeded teams in the last 16 will be the five European

representatives and the three group winners with the best records. The tournament reverts to a traditional knock-out format from the second round onwards, with ties decided by extra time and penalties if the scores are level after 90 minutes.

Alloa Athletic can confirm that Mike Mulraney will stand down as club Chairman. He will be replaced as chairman by existing board director Andy Allan with the change-over effective from Monday 17th July, 2023. Mike, who has led Alloa Athletic since 2005, will remain an Honorary President of the club as he undertakes the duties as President of the Scottish FA. "Having been elected President of the Scottish FA, I felt that I could no longer offer Alloa the time and focus required of a chairman. It was always my intention to step

down before the start of the new season if elected but it was imperative that the club found someone with the drive, expertise, and passion to take over and push the club forward. "The club has such a person in Andy and I wish everyone at Alloa Athletic the very best for the future."

Andy, a qualified chartered accountant with 40 years' experience, joined the board in August 2022 and looks forward to the challenge ahead. "Firstly, I would like to thank Mike and the board for their support since I joined last year. We are all supportive of Mike's decision, given the commitment required of a President of the Scottish FA. "I look forward to leading the club forward off the field with the ongoing expertise of our board members and supporting Brian and his team meet our on-field objectives this season and beyond."

**WASPS 2000 DRAW - WEEK 28  
15TH JULY, 2023**

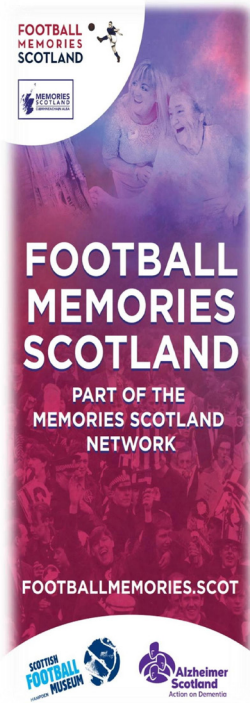
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£ 25 0592 C.Meighan  
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After the success of the History of Alloa Athletic book last season, the club will be producing a second book which will be available to purchase by August, 2023. Diary of a 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 when the final number of pages has been established. If you are interested please let John know and we make sure you will get one of the first copies. Orders now being taken for the "Diary of a Season".

On Monday 14th August we will hold our fifth 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 all the meetings we have had good turnouts of between sixteen and twenty four 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 14th August at Indodrill stadium, at 11.30 - 1.00 O'clock, all are welcome.



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## Football Memories Group

### Indodrill Stadium Alloa

**Monday 14th  
August 2023**

**11.30-13.00**

For more info please contact  
[jpsalloafc@aol.com](mailto:jpsalloafc@aol.com)  
07877 530314



**ANDY ALLAN,  
ALLOA AFC CHAIRMAN**



JONATHAN MARKWELL



## SCOUGALL'S CENTURY

This afternoon's encounter against one of his former teams St Johnstone will be the mid-fielders 100th Alloa appearance. To mark that landmark it is only fitting to chronicle Scougall's three years with the club to date.

Scougall joined the Wasps in the days prior to football first returning in October 2020 after being shut down due to the global pandemic for the previous seven months. Actually, without COVID-19 it is 99% certain that Scougall would never have arrived in Clackmannanshire, as the technically gifted left footer was all set for a move to Australian football before that

fell through for obvious reasons. Prior to the first lockdown, Scougall had been playing with Carlisle where one of his teammates was Peter Grant Jr. That connection meant Alloa manager Peter Grant Snr. was alerted to his availability and the Edinburgh based Scougall jumped at the chance to get back playing at a decent standard amidst all the uncertainties of the time. He was something of a marquee signing for the club, being 27 years old at the time but with a decade of full-time experience. Having first burst onto the scene as a teenager at Livingston, Scougall earned a big move down south playing for Sheffield

United in League One for three and a half seasons, before an injury-hit year with St Johnstone and almost two seasons back on the other side of Hadrian's Wall at Carlisle.

Scougall's first season with the Wasps was a frustrating one for the player personally and the club as a whole. Scougall took some time to settle into part-time football in a largely full-time Championship, all against the backdrop of the on-going pandemic and playing behind closed doors. Peter Grant decided to gradually introduce Scougall to the starting XI, with his first starts coming in the Betfred Cup (including his first goal in his

home debut against Edinburgh City). His first league start came away at Arbroath in December, with Scougall's 20 yard shot squirming under Derek Gaston to earn Alloa a first league win of the campaign. It was hoped this would be a turning point in the season for both player and club, with Scougall backing that up with an impressively skilful performance in the Betfred Cup Quarter-Final versus Hibernian. Sadly Scougall picked up a heel injury towards the end of the cup tie which kept him sidelined for a month and then, after starting three successive games in a week in February, Scougall was then sidelined for another three games. The lack of momentum meant the Wasps were not seeing the best of Stefan, with the club struggling at the foot of the table compounding the difficulties.

The day Alloa were relegated probably summed up Scougall's season in a nutshell. Playing well, Alloa were 1-0 up against Raith until Neil Parry was red-carded (later reduced to a booking on appeal), with Scougall the unfortunate sacrificial lamb substituted to allow a sub goalkeeper come on. Scougall's first start for 6 weeks was over after 55 minutes, with the player looking truly dejected as he trudged off the pitch head bowed. The fact Scougall hadn't played ten successive games since his days at Sheffield United in 2016 must have made things extremely challenging for such a talented player.

After that frustrating first season at the Recs, Scougall was excited at the prospect of working with new manager Barry Ferguson, an idol of Scougall's from growing up a Rangers supporter. It seemed like there was a mutu-

al respect between the pair too, with Ferguson possibly building his team around Scougall in his favoured central role. However, after just five games in a central position Ferguson switched his tactics and went for brawn over brains in central midfield, with Craig Howie, Mouhamed Niang and Charlie Gilmour all coming in to add steel to the middle of the pitch and shunting Scougall out to a wide right role. Stefan inadvertently didn't help himself either, creating both of Steven Boyd's goals in his first game back on the wing, leading to lavish praise from his manager "Scougs was in a different position today, He's got fantastic ability but one thing I love about him is his work rate. He's phenomenal. If you look at him he's about 8 stone wet but he gives me everything. I need to get a position where I can build my team around a player like him. He's a match-winner when he plays like that." Furthermore, Scougall was regularly starting games under

Ferguson in that wide-right role and positively impacting games too, with a couple of assists in the 4-3 comeback win at Queen's Park and a hat-trick of assists in the cup against Bonnyrigg being good examples of Scougall's goal contributions. However, there was a nagging feeling that Alloa supporters were never seeing the best of Scougall out wide, with that evidently being the opinion of his new manager Brian Rice. In Rice's very first game Scougall was redeployed to a 'number 10' position behind two central strikers, with league leaders Cove bamboozled by Scougall's movement and change in style as Alloa were 2-0 up after twenty minutes. Scougall never started a game on the wing for the rest of the season, either playing in an advanced role or further back as part of a conventional central midfield pairing or trio. The transformation in Scougall's form and whole persona on the pitch was evident for all to see, with him clearly revelling in a





central role which played to his strengths. The Alloa Advertiser quizzed Scougall on his switch to a deeper central role under Rice, with the player explaining the benefits: "You do get on the ball a lot more. I'd prefer to play higher but you don't get on the ball as much. As long as I'm getting on the ball, I don't mind where I'm playing and I'll play anywhere for the gaffer here. It's where I started my career, a wee bit deeper as a number eight or a four." Scougall finished the season with 5 goals (including 2 penalties), a highly impressive 14 assists (although 2 of those were being fouled for penalties!) from a credible 40 appearances (including 33 starts), indicating that his injury problems were being managed better.

Scougall carried on his fine form in the opening weeks of the 2022/23 season, so much so that before end of July his contract was extended for a further year. The new deal was announced between the double-header away games at Dunfermline, where Stefan was a star performer on both occasions. First, Scougall dictated the tempo in that deep-lying central midfield role,

but the following week on league business he excelled back in the more advanced role just behind the strikers, where his rapid twists and turns and ball carrying bearing down on back-tracking defenders is where Scougall is at his most dangerous. As the season progressed, Scougall spent the majority of his time starting as part of a two-man central-midfield pivot (18 starts), with a handful of starts (5) in the 'No. 10' role or as part of a midfield diamond (another 5 starts). Whatever the role, Rice has always started Scougall in a central position to ensure one of his best players is always in the thick of the action. At the start of the season Scougall had revealed

his preferred role in the team "Anywhere central I don't mind. If I'm getting on the ball I love it. Out wide sometimes you're hardly touching the ball or you go home and think: 'What was the point of playing today?' but in the middle of the park I feel even if you're not getting on the ball as much you're in an area to get on the ball or influence the game by making a tackle. I've enjoyed it and the gaffer sees me playing in there." Come the end of the season Scougall had amassed another 36 appearances, made 2 assists and scored 3 goals, but despite his numbers being down on the previous season his importance to the Alloa team in overall terms had grown considerably in that central role.

When in full flight Scougall is a joy to watch and oozes class with his graceful play. His close control and skill on the ball is way beyond the level of League One, with his quickness over the first five yards being a particular feature for me which sets him apart from others. He is a tremendous operator in close spaces, using all that technical ability to keep hold of the ball when tackles are flying in around him, with a body swerve here, a duck and a weave there and still somehow coming



away with the ball.

That's not to say that Scougall's only strengths are in the attacking third of the pitch – in the past season in particular he's shown that he's often tenacious in retrieving the ball too, quickly closing down opposing players, putting them under pressure and winning the ball back – last season Scougall was particularly impressive in that 'dirty side of the game', which you don't immediately associate with him given his stature, in the countless encounters against Falkirk, with Stephen McGinn put on his backside a good few times by the relentless Scougall dispossessing him. Scougall appears to thrive in those bigger encounters.

Another thing you only notice when watching Scougall regularly is that, like all the top players, he's always scanning the pitch in double quick time, knowing that somebody will be closing him down as soon as he gets the ball and needing to be a few steps ahead of them, to make the next pass and progress the play. Another one of his party pieces is receiving throw-ins, with his masked drop of the shoulder to let the ball run across him, opening up the pitch and the play in a single movement being too much for most opposing players.

Scougall's natural quality on the ball and quickness over the first few yards inevitably leads him to receiving more kicks from opposing players than any other player in the Alloa team. It is something of an occupational hazard for him and takes immeasurable bravery from the player to continuously keep getting up from all the 'special treatment' he receives on an

almost weekly basis. It must be difficult mentally to know that to play his best game he's going to have to put himself in danger of being injured, meaning sometimes it must feel easier to play safe and try to avoid those situations in the first place, but doing that means that we don't see the best of him and I suspect that Brian Rice will continuously want him to be brave on the ball and always encourage him to be so for the value it adds to the side. I have to admire Scougall for always wanting to make the difference for the team, to beat a couple of players to make the space for others to exploit, whilst not always taking the plaudits in terms of goals or assists.

The sheer number of times that we've seen Scougs shuffling off the pitch after 70-80 minutes, having taken one kick too many, is testament to his courageous nature, as many players simply wouldn't be able to survive half the knocks Scougall faces. I also understand that Scougall often played through the pain barrier with a variety of knocks, including a back issue, last season and being hospitalised a week prior to playing a full 90 minutes in the play-offs at Hamilton – unfortunately given the type of player he is, and the threat his guile gives,

he's always going to be targeted by the opposition.

I haven't got the data to back this up, but I would suspect that 'pre-assists' by Scougall (i.e. the build up play prior to the final pass before a goal) are probably far greater than actual assists, as it is Stefan's initial craft which develops the play, before others finish off the moves and take all the glory!

Something Scougall will be keen to improve is his goalscoring output. His tally of 10 in 98 games across three seasons feels a little under par for the quality he possesses. Last season his three goals comprised an early season corner which Kelty keeper Darren Jamieson fumbled into his own net, then a late season penalty versus Falkirk and the last-day rebound from a saved penalty at Hamilton. Scougall was denied spectacular long-range strikes by the woodwork in successive home games in February, with first an outrageous 30 yard effort versus Falkirk striking the far post and then a dipping 25 yarder cannoning off the bar against Montrose – my advice, for what its worth, is to simply keep shooting Scougs and a goal today to mark your century of appearances would be very welcome!





**DONALD POLLOCK**



# THE PROMISING SANDY COCHRANE

The start of the season was still a month away but the Alloa directors of 100 years ago were working flat out to build a new team. Following relegation from the First Division, the committee had their work cut out to replace stalwarts of the most successful side in the club's history. And yet the directors had form – that team had been built mainly on free transfers and up and coming juniors - and one prime example was settling in nicely at his new club in that same summer of 1923.

Sandy Cochrane had arrived at the Recs midway through the title winning season of 21/22. The young Glaswegian had a footballing pedigree – relatives Bob and Johnny would manage Morton and St Mirren and

Sunderland – and Sandy made a goalscoring debut for the Wasps as a trialist. Alloa subsequently secured his signature from Shawfield Juniors with the papers describing the 5 ft 6 inside left as “promising and highly sought after”. Sandy quickly showed why Alloa had been so keen to get him with a fine performance and goal in a Scottish Cup win over St Bernards on his official debut. He was a fixture in the team thereafter and wrote his name into Alloa history with the title clinching goal against East Stirlingshire.

There was another landmark goal a few months later, his effort at Love Street in September securing Alloa's maiden victory in the First Division. He was clearly at home at the

higher level and added further goals in eye catching wins at Airdrie and Third Lanark. As the shot shy Wasps began to flounder, Cochrane took on scoring responsibility with 3 goals in 3 games as Alloa threatened a mini revival. Rumours emerged initially over a possible switch to Newcastle before Cochrane sealed a move to Middlesbrough. The Dundee Courier noted that “In view of Alloa's precarious situation on the league table, Cochrane's transference seems to be anything but a wise one”. An earlier report had suggested the Wasps were “not in affluent circumstances”. In selling their top scorer, the directors moved to balance the books while also probably delivering a killer blow



to any hopes they still had of staying in the First Division.

Sandy Cochrane started at Middlesbrough with another debut goal to clinch victory over Arsenal. His form until the end of the season saw the press label him as the "much lauded forward from Alloa". He began the new season well too, one report exclaiming: "Middlesbrough have certainly picked up a goal-getting forward in Alec Cochrane who was Alloa's leading marksman until he went to Ayresome. He now threatens to assume a similar role with the English club". He was on target again with a "beautiful goal" in a 3-2 derby defeat against Newcastle but the Teesiders found the going increasingly tough - with some press reports complaining that Cochrane himself was too small. Boro were ultimately relegated from the First Division and inconsistency would seem to have dogged Sandy thereafter, goals and fine performances in the first team punctuated by spells in the reserves. Come April 1926 the press reported on a "local sensation" as Middlesbrough embarked on a "drastic clearance of players" with Cochrane among seven men transfer listed. Before summer was out, Cochrane had made the short journey to join Second Division rivals Darlington. Despite weighing in with some important goals, Sandy again found himself playing in a struggling team with Darlington relegated to the Third Division North.

Sandy was a solid performer at the lower level and in January 1929 he was bought by promotion chasing Bradford City. As City closed in on the Third Division North title, it was reported that Cochrane "has been a revelation to Valley Parade supporters....he has always looked upon as being too small, yet he is as effective

and artistic at Valley Parade as any player could be". The goals flowed and a backheel clinched a win over Rochdale that effectively sealed promotion to the Second Division - before Sandy got the opener against South Shields a week later to make it official.

The following season would be the best of his career - Cochrane perhaps finally finding the form that had persuaded Middlesbrough to buy him from Alloa several years before. He finished with over 20 goals - his return crucial in keeping City up. Indeed, it was a Cochrane double that pulled City out of the relegation zone - the headline in the Leeds Mercury: 'COCHRANE'S OPPORTUNISM BRINGS SAFETY TO BRADFORD CITY'.

Sandy didn't reach those heights the next season and in 1931 he was snapped up by Third Division North champions Chesterfield. It was claimed that Chesterfield had done well to secure his signature amidst stiff competition but while he would help the Spirities survive, a mixed campaign saw Sandy transferred to Llanelly. There the press enthused that "The new player was a great success, showing splendid ball control and a capacity for carrying on flanking movements which has never been surpassed by any Llanelly player. On Saturday's form he is a wonderful capture". Cochrane was appointed captain and was a frequent scorer. A Daily Mirror report in April 1933 spoke of Llanelly's ambitions of Football League status and the importance of holding onto their "star...undoubtedly, Alec Cochrane has been one of the most closely watched players outside league football this season...tempting offers have been made for his services". Cochrane was in demand - although the Mirror was a few years out in describing him as a "young player".

Llanelly didn't make it into the Football League but Sandy

was back in the Third Division (South) in January 1934 when he was bought by Northampton. It was a sad day for Llanelly with the Western Mail noting that the departure of Cochrane and other key men had "left Welsh League football, and Llanelly in particular, much the poorer". Now in the veteran stages of his career, Cochrane would impress again: "In the art of ball manipulation, and deceiving opponents by sheer brilliance of footwork, the Northampton player is as good now as ever he was in his varied career". From Northampton, Cochrane would spend a season with Swindon Town before returning home to Scotland in 1936 to sign for East Stirlingshire. And where did Sandy begin his Shire career as an early season trialist in a 2-0 win? Where else but the Recs, the Falkirk Herald reporting that "according to certain forecasters, East Stirlingshire were crossing the Forth without hope of even sharing the spoils.... it must have been a rude shock to the large body of (Alloa) supporters to see their team flop so badly". Perhaps the Wasps had missed a trick in not bringing the old favourite home.

Sandy would spend just over a year with the Shire, leaving in 1937 as one of a number of players who refused an offer from the cash strapped club to take a share of gate receipts rather than wages. He immediately signed for Dumbarton where he would wind down a long career. Sandy Cochrane might not have consistently reached the heights hoped for when he starred for Alloa in the First Division in 1922/23 - but 17 seasons as a professional with spells in every division in the Scottish and English Leagues (and the Welsh League) wasn't bad going.

The Alloa directors needed to unearth few more gems like Sandy as their summer of 1923 teambuilding continued. More on that in the next edition of The Wasp.

# APPEARANCES

	POS	LEAGUE		CUP		TOTAL		ALLOA CAREER LGE	
		APP	GOAL	APP	GOAL	APP	GOAL	APP	GOAL
MORRISON	GOAL	0 (0)	0	1 (0)	0	1 (0)	0	0 (0)	9
BURT	GOAL	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (1)	0
TAGGART	DEF	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	229 (0)	11
GRAHAM	DEF	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	189 (7)	14
STANGER	DEF	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	34 (1)	3
MCLAREN	DEF	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	1 (2)	0
DEVINE	DEF	0 (0)	0	0 (1)	0	0 (1)	0	10 (0)	0
NEILL	DEF	0 (0)	0	1 (0)	0	1 (0)	0	0 (0)	0
DEVENEY	DEF	0 (0)	0	1 (0)	0	1 (0)	0	0 (0)	0
MCKAY	DEF	0 (0)	0	1 (0)	0	1 (0)	0	0 (0)	0
DEBAYO	DEF	0 (0)	0	1 (0)	0	1 (0)	0	0 (0)	0
ROBERTSON	MID	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	175 (30)	2
SCOUGALL	MID	0 (0)	0	1 (0)	0	1 (0)	0	59 (18)	8
O'DONNELL	MID	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	16 (34)	9
CAWLEY	MID	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	324 (47)	63
HETHERINGTON	MID	0 (0)	0	1 (0)	0	1 (0)	0	137 (30)	6
VIRTANEN	MID	0 (0)	0	1 (0)	0	1 (0)	0	0 (0)	0
ROBERTS	MID	0 (0)	0	0 (1)	0	0 (1)	0	0 (0)	0
DONNELLY	FWD	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	12 (19)	7
SAMMON	FWD	0 (0)	0	1 (0)	0	1 (0)	0	51 (22)	19
RODDEN	FWD	0 (0)	0	1 (0)	0	1 (0)	0	7 (8)	5
BUCHANAN	FWD	0 (0)	0	1 (0)	0	1 (0)	0	0 (11)	0
RANKIN	FWD	0 (0)	0	0 (1)	0	0 (1)	0	0 (11)	1
COULSON	FWD	0 (0)	0	0 (1)	1	0 (1)	1	12 (4)	1



**OFFICIAL PROGRAMME DISTRIBUTION PARTNERS**

ALLOA CAREER CUP		ALLOA TOTAL	
APP	GOAL	APP	GOAL
1 (0)	0	1 (0)	9
0 (0)	0	0 (1)	0
55 (1)	3	284 (1)	14
53 (2)	1	242 (9)	15
7 (1)	0	41 (2)	3
2 (2)	0	3 (4)	0
0 (1)	0	10 (1)	0
1 (0)	0	1 (0)	0
1 (0)	0	1 (0)	0
1 (0)	0	1 (0)	0
1 (0)	0	1 (0)	0
44 (5)	2	219 (35)	4
15 (7)	2	74 (25)	10
5 (1)	0	21 (35)	9
66 (9)	11	390 (56)	74
28 (8)	1	165 (38)	7
1 (0)	0	1 (0)	0
0 (1)	0	0 (1)	0
3 (3)	2	15 (22)	9
13 (3)	6	64 (25)	25
6 (2)	1	13 (10)	6
3 (3)	0	3 (14)	0
0 (5)	0	0 (16)	1
0 (1)	1	12 (5)	2

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**BRIAN ROACH**



## A FAN'S VIEW

It's never nice to lose to your rivals in the first competitive match of the season- particularly when it ends a winning streak going back 14 years. But all good things come to an end and I'd probably rather it occur now than in the league fixture next month. Being League 2 champions last season I had expected a tough match from Stirling- a team accustomed to winning tend to be a tough proposition. But although disappointed to lose, I didn't see too much for a basis of any real concern. I thought it was a game Alloa certainly didn't deserve to lose. They were on the front foot far more regularly as was probably expected. But Stirling made inroads as the game wore on, particularly after the introduction of substitute Dale Carrick in the second half. The striker did convert something of a controversial late penalty though.

Dave Mackay's challenge on Dale Hilson was clumsy, but it looked to be on the outskirts of the penalty area. This was also the view of the referee, who appeared to be in a good position to make the decision. But his assistant referee informed him the challenge was in the area and a penalty was awarded.

The result leaves Alloa likely requiring three victories now to have a chance of progression. Stenhousemuir's initial win over St Johnstone blew the group wide open on match day 1. As a result our Premiership opponents will find themselves in a similar position coming into this today as a must win game. They will also have the added pressure of recovering from what was a fairly significant upset, and ensuring lightning does not strike twice.

As always I found pre-season a bit of a slog. I was in Oslo to see Scotland pick up a brilliant win in June, and the high of that moment probably enhanced the non-competitive nature of pre-season friendlies for me. Admittedly Kevin Cawley's testimonial was a great day- it was brilliant getting to see former players like Jason Marr, Ryan McCord, Mark Docherty and a whole host of others once more. It was fitting tribute to one of the greatest players in the clubs history, and of course it was Cawley who provided the best moment of the afternoon with a superb goal. I attended four of the six arranged pre-season friendlies and it was just my luck that I missed the fixtures where Alloa scored- against Celtic B and Morton. Despite the limited enjoyment, I've been fairly impressed with the recruitment we have undertaken so far. The

team looks in pretty good shape. Alloa have had to revamp their defensive unit- with PJ Morrison, Dave Mackay and Morgan Neill coming in, as well as David Devine signed permanently. Devine I thought was a good performer in the closing stages of last season following his battles with injury, and Mackay and Neill look comfortable and assured. I've also been impressed with new left back Euan Devenny- his runs down the flank and deliveries appear to have plugged the gap left by the departure of Daniel Church.

In midfield, we know all about Stevie Hetherington. He endured a tough time of it at Falkirk, but thankfully this doesn't appear to have affected him one iota. As stated within Tuesday night's match programme, he looks as though he was never gone- slotting right back in. And midfield partner Miko Virtanen also appears to like a tackle or two, which should give Alloa some steel in the middle of the park.

Kurtis Roberts flies around the pitch like the Duracell Bunny, and again this gives the manager a variety of midfield options at his disposal. It's fairly clear that further strengthening is required in the forward positions. Conor Sammons absence on holiday for the last few pre-season games, coupled with the injury of Luke Donnelly really magnified this point. I can see by the manager's post-match comments on Tuesday that he has tried to bring in a number of options where the potential signings have opted for full time clubs. That's unfortunately inevitable for a part time outfit, but it indicates that the manager is looking for a high calibre of player. The loan market will open up in August, and personally I would be pleased to see the return of Kieren Offord if possible, although St Mirren may wish to loan him out to a Championship club. Despite some slight shortcomings up top, the rest of the squad looks fulfilled- also adding defender Josh Debayo just prior to the Stirling Albion

game on Tuesday.

I'm looking forward to this afternoon's game- Alloa haven't faced St Johnstone in a while and it may be a good time to face them with new manager Steven McLean still finding his feet. We will of course see the return of Stevie May who will receive a brilliant reception. These circumstances almost inevitably see the player scoring against his former club, so as much as we love Stevie I hope to see our defence stifle him out of the game. Finally, Alloa supporter Bailey Welsh is participating in a new podcast, called "The Wee Cinch Podcast" which covers various aspects of lower league football in Scotland. They are onto episode 4, which is available on all the usual podcast sites such as soundcloud. Follow them on twitter @TWCP21. The excellent Wasps Nest podcast by Kieren Mooney and Kevin Gallagher has just hit episode number 50, so hopefully Bailey's podcast can also increase its numbers and popularity.





**ANDREW COCKBURN**



## SEASON IN RETROSPECT

After gaining promotion from The Second Division as runners-up in season 1988-89, Alloa had no doubt been hopeful of a longer stay in the top section. However, and in common with one or two previous occasions, adjustment to life in The First Division once again proved to be a bit of a bridge too far, and thus The Wasps returned to The Second Division at the first time of asking, ironically along with Albion Rovers, who after ending the 1988-89 campaign as Second Division Champions, had also found the going too tough.

So no doubt Alloa were hopeful of an instant return "upstairs", and indeed their form in the early part of the 1990-91 campaign was rather encouraging, when four wins from the first five league games saw them in second place by mid-September. However, Alloa then went eight league games without a single success, which saw them plummet down into the lower regions of the table. They appeared to have turned the corner with a tremendous 5-0 home win v Berwick (all the goals coming in a rather frenetic first period) in early November,

though this proved to be a false dawn of sorts, and come The New Year, Alloa were still stuck in the bottom half of The Second Division.

But they turned on the style at their bottom-of-the-table local rivals East Stirling near the end of February, running out 6-1 winners, though The Shire would gain revenge of sorts by 1-0 at Recreation Park just three days hence, while Alloa would also ship six goals at home v East Fife, a couple of weeks later, results which perhaps illustrated quite well their up-and-down league form. But in

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



spite of this, The Wasps still held a mathematical chance at least of promotion by the end of March, what after a rather surprise 2-1 win at their fierce local rivals/ Second Division Champions-elect Stirling Albion. Though just one win during the remainder of the campaign quashed any hopes of immediate promotion, as they ended in a rather disappointing final placing of ninth.

There was no joy in The Scottish Cup, with Highland League leaders Ross County ending Alloa's interest before it had even begun, with a 3-1 win at Recreation Park, in a first round replay, while it was a similar tale in The Skol Cup, as Alloa perhaps not surprisingly succumbed at home v Dundee United, by 0-3, in a second round tie. However, The Wasps did fare slightly better in The B&Q Centenary Cup, accounting for First Division Forfar by 3-0 at home in the first round, before Dundee ran out rather comfortable 5-2 winners in a second round tie at Recreation Park.

**RESULTS 1990-91**  
**SECOND DIVISION**

Home/Away

Albion Rovers	1-2/1-0	1-3
Arbroath	2-2/2-1	1-1
Berwick Rangers	1-1/5-0	0-1
Cowdenbeath	1-2	0-1/1-1
Dumbarton	0-1/2-1	0-0
East Fife	3-6	3-1/2-2
East Stirling	0-1	6-1/0-0
Montrose	1-0/1-0	4-2
Queen Of The South	4-1	0-0/3-1
Queen's Park	1-1	1-3/0-1
Stenhousemuir	1-1/1-0	0-1
Stirling Albion	0-1	2-1/0-2
Stranraer	0-1	0-0/0-2

**SCOTTISH CUP**

First round Ross County (a) 1-1  
First round replay Ross County (h) 1-3

**SKOL CUP**

Second round Dundee United (h) 0-3

**B&Q CENTENARY CUP**

First round Forfar Athletic (h) 3-0  
Second round Dundee (h) 2-5

**GOALSCORERS**

League: Irvine 11, Moffat 7, Newbigging 5 (2 pens), Black 4, Gibson 4, Grant 3,

Henry 3, Smith 3, Wilcox 3, McEntegart 2, Ormond 2, Ramsay 2, McCallum 1,

McCulloch 1

Scottish Cup: Irvine 1, Newbigging 1 (pen)

B&Q Cup: Irvine 2, Moffat 2, McCallum 1, Wilcox 1

**FINAL SECOND DIVISION TABLE SEASON 1990-91**

Pos		PL	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Stirling Albion	39	20	14	5	62	24	54
2	Montrose	39	20	6	13	54	34	46
3	Cowdenbeath	39	18	9	12	64	50	45
4	Stenhousemuir	39	16	12	11	56	42	44
5	Queen's Park	39	17	8	14	48	42	42
6	Stranraer	39	18	4	17	61	60	40
7	Dumbarton	39	15	10	14	49	49	40
8	Berwick Rangers	39	15	10	14	51	57	40
9	Alloa Athletic	39	13	11	15	51	45	37
10	East Fife	39	14	9	16	57	65	37
11	Albion Rovers	39	11	13	15	48	63	35
12	Queen of the South	39	9	12	18	46	62	30
13	East Stirling	39	9	11	19	36	71	29
14	Arbroath	39	8	11	20	41	59	27



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# ST JOHNSTONE

*The Saints*

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## TOP HONOURS

Championship\*  
Winners (7): 1923–24,  
1959–60, 1962–63,  
1982–83, 1989–90,  
1996–97, 2008–09

Scottish Cup Winners  
2013-14, 2020-21

Scottish League Cup  
Winners 2020-21

Scottish Challenge Cup  
Winners 2007-08

This afternoon, Alloa continue their Viaplay League Cup group stage with a match against Premiership opposition, St Johnstone. This article has been written before Alloa's opener against Stirling Albion, however, will be able to capture St Johnstone's full campaign with the visitors missing the mid-week card. It was not the start they desired when the Saints travelled to Stenhousemuir last Saturday. A Euan O'Reilly, formerly of St Johnstone, strike was enough for the Warriors to secure a 1-0 victory and their first win over St Johnstone in 28 years. It was a result

that left the group wide open, alongside Stirling Albion and Ayr United's draw on the opening day. However, with experienced heads such as Andrew Considine calling for no panic, there is still plenty of time for the Premiership outfit to qualify out this group. Having played top flight football since 2009-10 and winning this cup, alongside the Scottish Cup, only a matter of a few years ago, they will back themselves to bounce back.

## THE BOSS – STEVEN MACLEAN

After parting ways with club legend, Callum

Davidson, last season, the Saints board turned to another Perth Legend in Steven MacLean to turn the side's fortunes. He became interim manager of St Johnstone in April 2023 and following an improved run of results and Premiership safety was given the job of a permanent basis. MacLean had a glittered playing career with some of the happiest days coming with the Perth side. Over his 6-year playing stint his best moments include his goal in the Scottish Cup final win over Dundee United in 2014, as well as memorable goals in the Europa League against FC Luzern. Ma-



\*includes equivalent competitions

clean began his career at Rangers, where he was on the bench for more Scottish Cup success over Dundee in 20023. However, it was Sheffield Wednesday where his career would really kick start when he became the first Owl to hit 20 goals in a single season since Mark Bright in 1994, one of those being a crucial penalty in the play-off final, which they eventually won over Hartlepool. Spells at Cardiff, Plymouth, Aberdeen and Yeovil to name a few followed before St Johnstone. He hung up the boots in the Scottish capital with Hearts, before returning to Perth to become Davidson assistant and eventual number 1.

### **THE CAPTAIN – LIAM GORDON**

St Johnstone are known for their long-serving heroes and their skipper is one of those. Liam Gordon has been at the club since 2015 and is another one influential in their success over the recent years. Having been born in Perth, Gordon grew up a loyal supporter of

St Johnstone but found himself beginning his career at Hearts. A loan spell at Arbroath would occur for him there before his dreams would come true with a permanent transfer to St Johnstone. After a few loan spells at Elgin and Peterhead, he would cement his position in the St Johnstone backline and become a crucial part of their first team set up. He would go on to make himself a legend in Perth by playing a key role in their double winning season during lockdown. Scottish League Cup victory over Livingston and Scottish Cup triumph over Hibernian would cement their place in St Johnstone history till the end of time.

### **NEW BOY – DIMITAR MITOV**

It has been a quiet off season for the Saints in terms of incomings, however, one player recently through the door is Bulgarian goalkeeper, Dimitar Mitov. Born in Montana, he began his career in Bulgaria before moving over to Britain in 2015 with Charlton Athletic. His performances in the u18's side

at the time caught the eye, especially when he scored from his own 6-yard box against Coventry City. Despite rising through all the youth ranks, he left the club without a senior appearance and moved to Cambridge United in League 2. He fought hard at Cambridge and did displace Irish internationalist, David Forde, to take his place as the club's main goalkeeper. Towards the end of his Cambridge career he started to take more headlines again with his impressive performances in the club's survival season and a remarkable performance in the side's 1-0 victory over Newcastle United last January. These performances did not go unnoticed as he scooped the Cambridge Player of the Season award. The 26-year has now expressed his excited to be moving to Scotland as he put pen to a 2-year contract.

### **ONE TO WATCH – STEVIE MAY**

A man who needs no introduction to the Wasps faithful is this afternoon's one to watch.

**CONTINUED ON P32**



**LIAM GORDON HEADING AWAY DURING A  
LOAN SPELL FOR ELGIN CITY**



**BY KIEREN MOONEY**

Striker, Stevie May, is still doing what he does best and scoring goals as he leads the line for the visitors today. The 30-year-old burst onto the scene with his Alloa loan spell back in 2012. Originally only a month's deal, however, after creating history becoming the first player to win the SFL Player of the Month, Young Player of the Month and Irn-Bru Ginger Boot awards for January, his spell was extended until the end of the season. 19 goals, a league title and the SFL Phenomenal Third Division Player of the Season he would return to Perth a legend around these parts to this day. His career has seen him score goals at St Johnstone, Aberdeen, Hamilton, as well as down South with Sheffield Wednesday and Preston. His goal scoring exploits whilst in England saw him awarded with a Scotland cap in the country's game against England at Celtic Park. Another member of the St Johnstone squad who has won 3 domestic trophies places him high on the list of greats in

Perth too, and with still plenty to offer, who know what may come next. May bagged 10 goals last season in the side's survival, as well as 6 assists.

### THE CONNECTION

Having already highlighted the returning hero of Stevie May, there aren't too many to go through. There will be no other returning faces in the opposing ranks, however, it has been an avenue the Wasps have used in the past. Former loanees such as Liam Caddis and Charlie Gilmour have also made the temporary switch from Perth to Clackmannanshire. Some of Alloa's former loanees at other clubs have made their mark for the Saints too, such as Jamie McCart. There is one player the Saints fans will recognize in the Alloa ranks. Midfield maestro, Stefan Scougall, had a spell at St Johnstone in 2017 for 2-years.

### PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The meetings between the

sides have been few and far between. In fact, if you completed the quiz on Kevin Cawley's testimonial match, you will know that St Johnstone are one of the few clubs Cawley hasn't played against during his time at Alloa, which spans over 400 appearances and 11 seasons. The sides were last in a league together in 2002/2003 and since that season have only been drawn against each other twice in cup competitions. The first of those was in August 2004 for the League Cup. The Wasps stormed into a 3-goal lead in Perth with goals from Ross Hamilton, Stuart Callaghan and Brown Ferguson, who was also sent off. With Alloa down to 10-men, St Johnstone looked to load a late comeback with strikes from David Hannah and Chris Hay. However, Alloa did enough to hold on for a 3-2 victory. The last game with the teams was a year later in July 2005. Again the tie played in Perth, St Johnstone were 2-0 victors with goals coming from Steven Milne and Stephen Dobbie.





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**BRIAN ROACH**



## THEY STARRED FOR BOTH TEAMS

### **ALEX TOTTEN- ALLOA MANAGER 1980-1982, ST JOHNSTONE MANAGER 1987- 1992**

Alex Totten is most prominently known for his association with neighbours Falkirk- but is also a big name in the past history of Alloa and St Johnstone. Alex had played with Alloa in the early 1970s before becoming assistant manager to Hugh Wilson. He succeeded Wilson as manager at Recreation Park in the summer of 1980 after the club had finished bottom of the Second Division- the worst league placing in Scotland. In the space of two seasons Totten achieved promotion- pipping Arbroath to second place on goal difference with a final day win up at Forfar. Totten made

some terrific signings for the club to completely revert their fortunes- bringing in players such as Arthur Grant, Lennie McComb, Drew Patterson, Bryan Purdie, Stuart Munro and Willie Garner. Alloa held their own in the second tier under Totten. They were sitting in 6th position in December before Falkirk made an approach for him- Totten felt he could not turn down this opportunity. Alloa managed to hold onto the 6th place finish at the end of the 1982/83 season- still their best overall league placing in the clubs history. Following stints at Falkirk, assistant manager at Rangers, then Dumbarton- Totten was named manager of Second Division St Johnstone in the summer of 1987. In a replication of his work at Alloa, he had a major

impact in turning the Perth club around. They were promoted to Division 1 in his first season, finishing as runners-up to Ayr United. St Johnstone consolidated their place in the division with a mid-table finish the following season- whilst the Saints fans savoured an excellent run in the Scottish Cup. In a campaign where his former club Alloa reached the quarter finals, Tottens' Saints went one better reaching the last four. And they held Rangers to a goal-less draw at Parkhead in the semi-final tie before succumbing to the Scottish champions-elect in the replay. He was also at the helm when St Johnstone moved to their new stadium McDiarmid Park in 1989. Saints first campaign at their new home was a memorable one. They were

promoted to the Premier League as champions, beating Airdrie 3-1 in a memorable decisive game. Incidentally, Alloas first visit to the new stadium ended in a crushing 6-0 league defeat that season. Totten pulled off a major signing coup in 1990, signing former U.S.S.R. captain Sergie Baltacha from Ipswich. Just 2 years earlier, Baltacha had faced Holland in the European Championship Final. A Scottish Football Writers Manager of the Year was awarded to Totten in 1991, along with another semi-final appearance- this time in the League Cup where they fell once more to champions Rangers. St Johnstone continued to punch above their weight in the Premier Division before Totten was shockingly sacked from the club at the end of 1992. He went on to manage East Fife, Kilmarnock before a second spell at Falkirk where he reached the Scottish Cup Final in 1997. But his work in transforming both of today's clubs will be fondly remembered by supporters of a certain vintage.

**KIERAN MCANESPIE- ST JOHNSTONE 1995-2000, 2004-2006. ALLOA 2006-2007**

In the late nineties midfielder Kieran McAnespie was an exciting prospect in the St Johnstone youth system. So much so that in 1998, he was identified by Scotland manager Craig Brown as a future international. He travelled with the Scotland squad to the World Cup in France as a "hamper boy"- along with Paul Gallacher, Mark Burchill and another former Alloa player Darren Young. Apparently he suggested the goal celebration to John Collins that the Monaco midfielder utilised in the opening match against Brazil when he equalised from the penalty spot. He had made a handful of appearances for the St Johnstone

first team in 1997, but really rose to prominence during season 1998/99 following his World Cup experience where he made 20 first team appearances. The two goals he notched that season certainly made the headlines. He scored the winner in a 2-1 victory over Scottish champions Celtic, and the clincher as they bested Rangers 3-1, both games taking place at McDiarmid Park. Firmly establishing himself in the St Johnstone first team, his previous association with John Collins at the World Cup assisted in paving

the way for a trial at Fulham in 2000, where Collins was in the twilight of his career as a player. He was offered a contract and made the move south. He struggled to make an impact at the London club, and departed to join Plymouth after spells on loan at Hearts and Bournemouth. He made the permanent move back north in 2003, joining First Division Falkirk to kick start his career.

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 33**



# HT QUIZ

- 1. WHICH STRIKER SCORED 3 GOALS FOR ST JOHNSTONE AGAINST ALLOA IN SEASON 2002/03 AND WENT ON TO BECOME A LENGTHY SERVANT FOR THE WASPS FOR OVER 10 YEARS?**
- 2. STEVIE MAY HAS ONE FULL INTERNATIONAL CAP FOR SCOTLAND. HE EARNED THIS AGAINST WHICH NATION?**
- 3. NAME THE FIVE FORMER ALLOA PLAYERS THE WASPS COULD FACE FROM THEIR 3 REMAINING OPPONENTS IN THIS SEASONS VIAPLAY CUP GROUP STAGE?**
- 4. WHICH TWO FORMER ALLOA PLAYERS WERE ON THE SCORESHEET ON MATCHDAY 1 OF THE VIAPLAY CUP (LAST SATURDAY)?**
- 5. NAME THE FIVE PLAYERS BORN IN BELGIUM WHO HAVE A CHAMPIONS LEAGUE WINNERS MEDAL (IE 1992-93 ONWARDS)**
- 6. NAME THE SIXTEEN PLAYERS WHO HAVE A CHAMPIONS LEAGUE WINNERS MEDAL (AGAIN 1992/93 ONWARDS) WHO ALSO PLAYED FOR A SCOTTISH CLUB AT SOME POINT IN THEIR CAREERS?**

**ANSWERS PAGE 33**

# ALLOA ATHLETIC F.C.

# GINGH LEAGUE 1 23/24

DATE	OPPOSITION	HOME/AWAY
05 AUG 23	QUEEN OF THE SOUTH	A
12 AUG 23	STIRLING ALBION	H
19 AUG 23	KELTY HEARTS	A
26 AUG 23	FALKIRK	H
02 SEP 23	COVE RANGERS	H
16 SEP 23	HAMILTON ACADEMICAL	A
23 SEP 23	ANNAN ATHLETIC	A
30 SEP 23	EDINBURGH CITY	H
07 OCT 23	MONTROSE	A
21 OCT 23	KELTY HEARTS	H
28 OCT 23	FALKIRK	A
04 NOV 23	STIRLING ALBION	A
11 NOV 23	QUEEN OF THE SOUTH	H
18 NOV 23	EDINBURGH CITY	A
02 DEC 23	ANNAN ATHLETIC	H
09 DEC 23	HAMILTON ACADEMICAL	H
16 DEC 23	COVE RANGERS	A
23 DEC 23	MONTROSE	H
30 DEC 23	KELTY HEARTS	A
06 JAN 24	EDINBURGH CITY	H
13 JAN 24	QUEEN OF THE SOUTH	A
27 JAN 24	FALKIRK	H
03 FEB 24	ANNAN ATHLETIC	A
10 FEB 24	STIRLING ALBION	H
17 FEB 24	COVE RANGERS	H
24 FEB 24	HAMILTON ACADEMICAL	A
02 MAR 24	MONTROSE	A
09 MAR 24	KELTY HEARTS	H
16 MAR 24	EDINBURGH CITY	A
23 MAR 24	QUEEN OF THE SOUTH	H
30 MAR 24	ANNAN ATHLETIC	H
06 APR 24	STIRLING ALBION	A
13 APR 24	MONTROSE	H
20 APR 24	COVE RANGERS	A
27 APR 24	HAMILTON ACADEMICAL	H
04 MAY 24	FALKIRK	A

FIXTURES SUBJECT TO CHANGE





He returned to St Johnstone the following year, with the Saints now also playing in the second tier. His 18 month second spell was less impactful, and he moved to Ayr United for a brief spell. At Alloa, manager Allan Maitland had kept the club in the Second Division against all odds and was about to embark on his first full season at the helm. It was a real coup to land McAnespie who had become a free agent. Season 2006/07 was not a particularly memorable one for Alloa supporters. There was progress from the previous season thankfully, but they still finished closer to the summit of the table in seventh position- with a few hidings from Cowdenbeath and rivals Stirling Albion along the way. McAnespie however was a real shining light in the team that season. He was by some distance Alloas best player and earned a quick move back to full time football with Morton. I recall hearing McAnespie was instrumental in ensuring Alloa received a transfer fee- which was around the 10k mark. He went on to play for Dumbarton and Stirling Albion later in his career, with his last appearance at Recreation Park being notable for rather rashly conceding a penalty as Alloa defeated the Binos 3-2 in the 2013/14 Scottish Cup.

**STEVIE MAY- ST JOHNSTONE 2009-2014, 2019-PRESENT. ALLOA 2011-2012 (LOAN)**

Onto another promising St Johnstone academy graduate, and likely the most well-known current link between the two clubs. Stevie May made his St Johnstone debut as a 16 year old in May 2009- scoring in a 4-0 victory over Airdrie. He was utilised mainly from the bench the following season, but in 2011/12 found it tougher to get game

time. Alloa manager Paul Hartley moved to sign the promising youngster on loan in December as the Wasps looked to bolster their squad to challenge for the Third Division championship. He made an instant impact, providing an assist to Michael Doyle in his debut against Queens Park. The goals soon followed and there were many. A stunning hat-trick at East Stirlingshire at the turn of the year set the tone- 19 goals in 22 appearances, and arguably the best loan player in the clubs history. His four goals in an 8-1 April win over Elgin was the icing on the cake- one of the best performances I've seen from an Alloa striker- and certainly for one at just 19 years of age. The loan spell at Recreation Park was followed by another fruitful season long loan at Hamilton- scoring 26 goals in 40 appearances there. May was now ready for the Premier League, and started season 2013/14 perfectly with the winner against Rosenborg in the Europa League. 27 goals were scored for the Saints, including a double in the Scottish Cup Semi Final against Aberdeen. St Johnstone would lift the trophy after defeating Dundee United. May was transferred to Sheffield Wednesday, picking up 7 goals in his opening season in the English Championship. Injuries curtailed his spell in England however, and he returned north joining Aberdeen in 2017. He struggled with form at the Dons before making his return to St Johnstone in 2019. Stevie hasn't quite reached the heights of those early years in terms of goal tallies, but he is definitely a more complete player. He was part of the historic cup double winning team and remains a key man for the Saints. He will undoubtedly receive a great reception today by the home support following his amazing exploits here 11 years ago.



**QUIZ ANSWERS**

- 1. PADDY CONNOLLY**
- 2. VS ENGLAND (2014)**
- 3. STEVIE MAY (ST JOHNSTONE), NICKY JAMIESON, JORDAN KIRKPATRICK, ADAM BROWN (ALL STENHOUSEMUIR), GEORGE STANGER (AYR),**
- 4. INNES CAMERON (KILMARNOCK), STEVEN BOYD (MORTON)**
- 5. DANIEL VAN BUYTEN (2013 BAYERN MUNICH), DIVOCK ORIGI (2019 LIVERPOOL), EDEN HAZARD (2022 REAL MADRID), THIBAUT COURTOIS (2022 REAL MADRID), KEVIN DE BRUYNE (2023 MANCHESTER CITY)**
- 6. FRANCK SAUZEE, BASILE BOLI, PETER VAN VOSSEN, RONALD DE BOER, FRANK DE BOER, SERGIO PORRINI, FABRIZIO RAVANELLI, PAUL LAMBERT, STEFAN KLOS, RINO GATTUSO, EDGARAS JANKAUSKAS, PEDRO MENDES, HENRIK LARSSON, GIOVANNI VAN BRONCKHURST, ANDY ROBERTSON, VIRGIL VAN DIJK**





# ALLOA ATHLETIC



# ST JOHNSTONE

#	POS				
	1	PJ MORRISON			
	21	KEIR BURT			
	2	SCOTT TAGGART			
	3	EUAN DEVENEY			
	4	STEPHEN HETHERINGTON			
	5	ANDY GRAHAM			
	6	MORGYN NEILL			
	7	KEVIN CAWLEY			
	8	KURTIS ROBERTS			
	9	LUKE DONNELLY			
	10	BRADLEY RODDEN			
	11	STEFAN SCOUGALL			
	12	MIKO VIRTANEN			
	15	DAVID MCKAY			
	18	CONOR SAMMON			
	19	STEVEN BUCHANAN			
	20	CAMMY O'DONNELL			
	22	PAUL MCLAREN			
	23	DAVID DEVINE			
	24	LUKE RANKIN			
	25	JON ROBERTSON			
	26	QUINN COULSON			
	27	JOSH DEBAYO			
		MANAGER BRIAN RICE			

#	POS				
	1	DIMITAR MITOV			
	2	JAMES BROWN			
	3	TONY GALLAGHER			
	4	ANDREW CONSIDINE			
	5	RYAN MCGOWAN			
	6	LIAM GORDON			
	7	STEVIE MAY			
	8	CAMMY MACPHERSON			
	9	CHRIS KANE			
	10	NICKY CLARK			
	11	GRAHAM CAREY			
	14	DREY WRIGHT			
	15	MAX KUCHERIAVYI			
	20	ROSS SINCLAIR			
	21	ALI CRAWFORD			
	23	GRAHAM CAREY			
	24	CALLUM BOOTH			
	25	CAMMY BALLANTYNE			
	28	ALEX FERGUSON			
	30	JACK WILLS			
	32	LIAM PARKER			
	33	TAYLOR STEVEN			
	34	DANIEL PHILLIPS			
		MANAGER STEVEN MACLEAN			

REFEREE: Grant Irvine

ASST: Sean Carr & Paul McAvinue


## ALLOA'S NEXT FIVE

25.07.23, OCHILVIEW STADIUM, 19:45



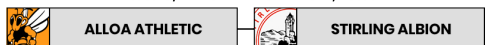
29.07.23, SOMERSET PARK, 15:00



05.08.23, PALMERSTON PARK, 15:00



12.08.23, INDODRILL STADIUM, 15:00



19.08.23, NEW CENTRAL PARK, 15:00





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