









# 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)

#### 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 Geoff Kay

Programme Editor

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<sup>\*</sup>includes equivalent competitions





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David



Paul











Jon



## THE MANAGER AFTER PRESEASON

We've been back a month, we've got a brand new squad together and we're trying to get them to gel together.

I'm hoping to bring in anything that's better than we've got. I still feel we're about one or two places short but it's hard.

It's a hard window to try and get players in but we're trying every day.

I'm happy with the squad we've got but I'm still looking to add to it.

The new boys have been fantastic. They've come in, it's a different way of playing for them. They've got to adapt and they're trying to do that.

It'll take time but they'll be looking to hit the ground running on Tuesday night, it's as simple as that.

I've got one or two still carrying knocks, Scott Taggart and Luke Donnelly haven't had a pre-season.

They're two key players for us

and they've still to come back in the team.

It doesn't matter who it's against, it's the first match of the new season and we're going to show up here ready to go.

It's the League Cup section, we're wanting to get through it and we're looking to go as far as we can but Stirling will be feeling the same.

We'll just make sure we're ready to go on Tuesday night.







## **NEWSDESK**

Welcome back to the Indodrill Stadium for a new season, we open the season with our opening 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 shall face this evening, St. Johnstone on Saturday 22nd July at home, then 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 shootout 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 changeover effective from next Monday.

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."

The History of Alloa Athletic FC, a book by Stuart Latham and John Glencross will be published in August, 2022 and celebrates Alloa Athletic's 100 years in the Scottish League. Over 660 pages in A4 size covering League Tables, Results, Player Appearances since the club joined the Scottish League in 1921. The book will be sold via the club with profits going directly into the club. The book will be on sale at Waterstones Retail Price f 40. However the book can be ordered direct from the club for £ 29.99, Jaunch date will be notified as soon as books are available from the club. Orders can be placed directly with the club at alloaathletic.co.uk



### Football Memories Group

### Indodrill Stadium Alloa

Monday 14th August 2023

11.30-13.00

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





## STATS OF THE SEASON

The close season is becoming ever shorter, with the Wasps back in pre-season training for the 2023/2024 campaign days before Scotland's memorable wins over Norway and Georgia, and just days after the Champions League Final brought the curtain down on the marathon domestic season that was 2022/2023. Alloa's final game of last season was just 66 days ago and whilst not wishing to dwell too much on that particular day, the completion of the season enables me to complete a statistical review of last season before this one officially begins for the Wasps!

#### 19 GOALS

Alloa's top goalscorer was the evergreen Conor Sammon, with the 19 goals the 36 year old scored equalling the best ever goalscoring season of his long career. That haul included one hat-trick (away at Buckie Thistle), three separate braces (in victories over Peterhead, Edinburgh and Montrose), four match-winning goals (versus Airdrie, Edinburgh, Peterhead and most memorably in the 93rd minute away at Kelty) and six goals which opened the scoring in games. Looking more closely at Sammon's strikes, 13 came via his right-foot, 5 were headers and 1 came off some part of

his body as Sammo charged down Montrose keeper Aaron Lennox's clearance for what was also Conor's only goal scored from outside the penalty box! 6 other goals came from inside the 6-yard box, but Sammon was most potent between 6 and 18 yards from goal, with 12 strikes from the rest of the penalty box. After scoring all 6 of his Alloa goals during the second half of matches in his first season with the Wasps, Sammon's goals in 2022/23 were more evenly spread, with 8 during the first half of matches and 11 after the break. Sammon's most potent time for scoring came in the final 15 minutes of games,

with 6 of his strikes coming in the closing stages of encounters. To fully underline Sammon's importance to the team in 2022/23 he scored 27% of all the Wasps goals, making him Alloa's runaway top scorer.

#### **10 ASSISTS**

Ross MacIver topped the Alloa assists chart with ten during the season, just ahead of runner-up Daniel Church (nine) and bronze medallist Cammy O'Donnell (five), Highlights from MacIver included a hat-trick of assists in the early season rout of Peterhead, with Ross' approach play obviously being something which caught the eye of John McGlvnn, with MacIver securing a return to full-time football after just a single season as a permanent Alloa player. Perhaps even more-eye-catching were the assists of Daniel Church. with whipped crosses from a left-footer being one of the most aesthetically pleasing sights in the game. Church assisted half of MacIver's six goals last season, including two goals scored by MacIver away at Queen of the South. Perhaps it was therefore no surprise that Church got his full-time move to Palmerston Park, with the Doonhamer supporters hoping Church provides plenty of assists for his new team too.

#### 46 / 46 GAMES

Ross MacIver and Conor Sammon jointly made the most appearances of any Alloa player last season, featuring in every competitive game the Wasps played. MacIver started 39 games and made another 7 appearances off the bench, with Sammon just behind with 38 starts and 8 sub appearances. Both loanees from Rangers were ever-presents in the Wasps matchday squad too, with Jay Hogarth starting 43 games and being an unused sub 3 times, while Murray Miller started 34 times, came off the bench 6 times and was an unused sub on another 6 occasions too. Another two players only missed a single game too. Andy Graham was in every matchday squad barring missing out for the league opener at Dunfermline due to suspension, while Adam King was only missing from the matchday squad for the final game having been ever-present in the 2021/22 squad too.

#### **7 BOOKINGS**

Despite only playing in a total of 18 games during the season Mark Durnan still managed to receive more bookings than any other Alloa player, collecting 7 yellow cards. Durnan's no nonsense approach to defending saw him pick up bookings in 50% of the matches he started (14), with all but one of those cautions being for fouls (the other was

blocking a free-kick being taken quickly). Durnan just edged out Cammy O'Donnell (6 bookings and 1 red-card in 27 appearances), with the Wasps being reduced to ten-men on just two occasions throughout the whole season (down from 9 dismissals the previous season). Both those occasions were infamous though, in the away defeats at Edinburgh and George Stanger's costly dismissal in the play-offs at Hamilton, Durnan also collected more bookings than any other player during the 2021/22 season too (8), but with the firefighter moving onto Dumbarton in the summer that means he won't be able to complete a hat-trick!

Fortunately, the return of Stevie Hetherington means Alloa supporters can reasonably predict which Alloa player will pick up the most bookings this season. Hetherington is something of a yellow card merchant, collecting more bookings than any of his teammates in each of his last five seasons with the Wasps!





From the looks of the pre-season friendlies Stevie might have some competition this season from Miko Virtanen. With Alloa's new Finnish midfielder looking competitive and having picked up five bookings in 11 appearances for Cove last season, he has some pedigree too! In all seriousness though, Alloa's discipline under Brian Rice has generally been very good, with the Wasps amassing the second fewest bookings last season behind Airdrie, and keeping a full compliment of players on the pitch far better than Rice's predecessor managed.

SECOND HALF OF THE SEASON SPECIALISTS

For the ninth consecutive season the Wasps amassed more points in the second half of the season than the first. The Wasps really are second half of the season specialists, although it was by the narrowest of margins last season, with 28 points in the first half of the season being eclipsed by the 29 points gained in the final 18 games of the season!

Better at home than away

The Wasps picked up more points at the Recs (32) than on our travels (25), with Alloa having the second best home record in the division until losing our final four home games of the campaign to end with a record of W10 D2 L6 (the 4th best in the division come the end of the season). While Dunfermline went the whole league season undefeated at East End Park, they actually picked up more points on the road, with Edinburgh being the only other side in League One to have a better away record than at home. The two relegated sides. Peterhead and Clyde. actually relied upon their home form for points the most (81% & 75% respectively), but that was

probably owing to their appalling away form, with Peterhead's away form of W0 D3 L15 only slightly bettered by Clyde W1 D3 L14, with the Bully Wee's sole win being on the opening day of the season (4-1 away at Queen of the South). Alloa's distribution of home versus away goals scored was comparable with points gained, with 55% scored at the Recs and 45% away, with goals conceded being almost even (49% conceded at home, 51% away). In the division as a whole the biggest differentials came from Clyde, who scored 66% of their goals at their adopted 'home' in Hamilton, and Kelty, who only conceded 33% of all their goals at New Central Park.

#### **LAST 10 MINUTE SPECIALISTS**

In League One Alloa scored more goals in the final ten minutes of matches than any other side, with 16 goals accounting for 28.5% of all the goals the Wasps scored. In particular, the last 5 minute winners by Bradley Rodden (v Montrose), Luke Donnelly (v Clyde), Ross MacIver (at QoS) and Conor Sammon (at Kelty) were particularly enjoyable. In addition, the Wasps pleasingly conceded the second fewest goals in the final 10 minutes of League One matches too (just



4 during the league campaign), meaning the Wasps were by far the most successful team in the final stages of games last season in League One. Alloa's desire to not lose late goals stemmed direly from the previous season, when the complete opposite happened, with 22 damaging goals conceded in the final ten minutes of games to the frustration of all! As such, the turnaround last season should be applauded and will hopefully be repeated this season!

If there is an area during games where a similar improvement is needed this season by Alloa, it is just before and just after half time. Last season the Wasps scored 2 and conceded 7 between the 31st and 40th minutes and scored 1 and conceded 8 between the 41st and 50th minutes of games. As such, I wouldn't be surprised if Brian Rice is emphasising to his players this season to eradicate that by keeping their concentration levels high either side of half-time.

#### 16 LEAGUE GAMES UNBEATEN AT LINKS PARK

Another proud record maintained last season was the Wasps long unbeaten league record at Links Park. This sequence now stands at 16 matches after a goalless draw and emphatic late-season victory at Montrose, with you having to go back to 1988 to record a home league win for the Gable Endies against Alloa.

## 4 SUCCESSIVE AWAY-DAY CLEAN SHEETS

Since joining the Scottish Football League in 1921 only two Alloa goalkeepers have kept four successive clean sheets in consecutive away matches.

Sandy Thomson achieved this considerable feat in 1975/6 and last season lay Hogarth emulated it with his late season shut-outs. at Edinburgh (2-0), Peterhead (2-0), Kelty Hearts (1-0) and Montrose (4-0). Hogarth's commitment to the Alloa cause could not be questioned, as he could have easily missed the long-trip to Peterhead during that run but chose the Wasps over a potential Scotland Under-21 appearance. According to the SPFL Stats Centre Hogarth made the second most clean sheets in League One last season (11 in total, only eclipsed by Denis Mehmet's remarkable 21 shut-outs) and the second most saves too (94 in total, only bettered by the 130 saves by Edinburgh's Robbie Mutch).

#### **LANDMARK APPEARANCES**

Alloa have been very fortunate in recent years to have a band of loyal players who have performed heroically for the club over many seasons, amassing hundreds of appearances between them all in the process. Last season Scott Taggart, Jon Robertson and Andy Graham all made their landmark 250th appearances for the club. In the next couple of months there will hopefully be yet further appearance landmarks on the horizon, with both Stefan Scougall and Conor Sammon closing in on a century of Alloa appearances, Kevin Cawley fast approaching 450 and Taggart's triple century not being too far away either.

To conclude, 'lies, damned lies, and statistics' is a phrase describing the persuasive power of statistics to bolster weak arguments, but hopefully the above provides a reasonable evidence base to suggest that last season was a positive one for Alloa and should be used as a source of encouragement for the upcoming campaign.









# TALENT SPOTTING AND TEAM BUILDING IN 1923

"Our team? Well. we are not bad hands at talent-spotting or team-building, are we?" Those were the bullish words of Alloa chairman A.R.L. Roxburgh as the Wasps closed in on the Second Division title in March 1922. Mr Roxburgh had every right to be somewhat smug as an Alloa side built mainly on cast offs and up and coming juniors stepped up from the Central League and went right through the Second Division, becoming the first team in the Scottish League to win automatic promotion.

The signings for the top flight season hadn't been bad either - with the Wasps ultimately falling just short in their survival bid. That many of the Alloa team had been at home in the top flight hadn't gone unnoticed and several were on the move in the summer of 1923, Most notable was Thomas 'Tully' Craig, the attacker who had arrived at the Recs a year earlier having been deemed surplus to requirements at Celtic. Craig's form for the Wasps had now earned a move to Rangers and he had already

impressed for the Ibrox men in a summer tour of Switzerland. "T.Craig should make a choice partner for Alan Morton on the left wing when T.Cairns is absent. There are many who aver that the new man will oust Cairns once he gets the opportunity", predicted the Athletic News. The pride of Tullibody would indeed excell in Govan.

Also staying in the top flight was goalkeeper John Thomson. Thomson had been a safe pair of hands since arriving at Alloa from Bristol Royers and had now been picked up by Partick Thistle. Arthur McInally was another who had been signed for the top flight and shown up well. He would be leaving too, with a protracted tug of war involving Hull City, Third Lanark, Clyde and Hamilton kicking off. Two noted attackers had packed their bags before the season was out, Sandy Cochrane signing for Middlesbrough and the enigmatic Willie Crilley sailing for New York. Even on the other side of the Atlantic the Alloa board weren't free from the machinations of Crilley, summer reports detailing that the wee man was homesick and keen to return to Alloa – just as long as the club paid his tax bill. With speculation emerging that this was a ploy from Crilley to prompt the Wasps to release his registration and allow him to sign for whoever he wanted in the UK, the club duly reported him to the Scottish League. Crilley would stay in America.

At the other end of the field, another icon of the glory days - a far more wholesome figure it must be said - was also on his way. The old warhorse Bobby Orrock had been Alloa's defensive lynchpin during the rise from the Central League to the First Division. The former Scotland cap and Scottish Cup winning captain hadn't been out of place in the top flight despite his advancing years, and he hadn't taken the summer off after relegation either, instead joining Third Lanark as a guest player on their tour of Argentina and Uruguay. On his return to Scotland, 38 year old Orrock went back to where it all started by signing for East Stirlingshire. Bobby had more than earned his place in Alloa history. There was one more pending departure, attacker Bertie Dunn attempting to free himself

from the Recs: "Alloa are determined to hold onto Bertie Dunn, their clever forward, and the Management Committee of the League, for a very cogent reason, promptly refused the player's request to be placed on the open-to-transfer list", reported the Sunday Post.

The pressure was on and the committee would have to work their old magic in talent-spotting and team-building - with a reduced post relegation budget. They started locally by drafting in young goalkeeper J.Crawford: "a hefty Stirling juvenile" of Fallin Violet, who had impressed in the Scottish League the previous season while on trial at Stenhousemuir, Into the half-back line came Morris of Raith Rovers and Lees of Swindon Town. "Promising outside right" Wilson arrived from ex Wasp Robert Jack's Plymouth, while a double raid on Dumbarton brought in attackers Alexander and Halloran: "Alloa Athletic have made a smart capture in Alexander, the Dumbarton centre forward" predicted the Dundee Evening Telegraph. These men and several trialists (some things never change) took to the field at the Recs on August 11th 1923 as Alloa faced a Clackmannanshire XI. The locals were surely keen for a football fix for it was three long months since the First Division

the local press had been reporting on the Alloa Coal Company's new pit at Crophill near Fishcross where 200 men would get work, before later being reduced to the tale of four kittens born joined together at Back O'Dykes. Under the headline 'Feline Freak'. it was detailed that the unfortunate creatures had been drowned by their owner after just two days. The new look Alloa side were hoping for an altogether brighter future and they had no bother in seeing off the county select 3-0. The Sunday Post was positive, suggesting that if this "can be taken as an indication of how Alloa are to fare in the Second Division, their prospects are indeed rosy. On paper the side does not appear to be of strong calibre, but it was nevertheless a well balanced one. Craft was blended well with graft". Connaboy and Wilson were said to be forming a promising combination on the right while another new face. Morris, "remained cool under pressure, and his kicking was lusty, vet judicious". Robert Wood was an old head in the middle where Lees also impressed, and one of the previous year's new men, James Headrick, made a solid contribution at the back. Alexander "led the forward line in fine fashion", ably supported by

adventure had ended. In

the absence of football,

Halloran. Young trialist Dunbar of Dunnikeir did well at outside left and "if signed forthwith he should prove a decided acquisition". More trialists would come and go in the weeks ahead. More ominously, the impressive Bertie Dunn – "the brain of the half line" - hadn't appeared for the second half due to injury, and he still hadn't re-signed either.

The national press were hopeful about the Wasps but local Devon Valley Tribune columnist Ben Cleuch wasn't so sure. "With Alloa now in the Second Division. excitement will not be so keen this season as last" he predicted, albeit adding "this is only my supposition and I am liable to be wrong". Ben Cleuch finished with an appeal to local fans: "As during last season, I will try to give a fair criticism of each of Alloa's games, and though I am not likely to please everybody with my remarks, I only ask you to take them as they are meant - in a sportsmanlike manner". And you couldn't say fairer than that.

The team-building wasn't over but now the real tests were coming. The new season would start at East End Park on August 18th with Dundee Hibs and East Fife then to visit the Recs. More in the next edition of The Wasp.

## **APPEARANCES**

|              |      | LEAGUE |      | CUP   |      | тот   | ΓAL   | ALLOA CAREER LGE |      |  |
|--------------|------|--------|------|-------|------|-------|-------|------------------|------|--|
|              | POS  | APP    | GOAL | APP   | GOAL | APP   | GOAL  | APP              | GOAL |  |
| MORRISON -   | GOAL | 0 (0)  | - o  | 0 0   | 0    | 0 0   | 0 -   | 0 (0)            | - 9  |  |
| BURT -       | GOAL | 0 (0)  | - o  | 0 (0) | 0    | 0 (0) | 0 -   | 0 (1)            | 0    |  |
| TAGGART      | DEF  | 0 (0)  | - o  | 0 (0) | 0    | 0 (0) | - 0 - | 229 (0)          | - 11 |  |
| GRAHAM       | DEF  | 0 (0)  | - o  | 0 (0) | 0    | 0 (0) | - 0 - | 188 (7)          | - 14 |  |
| STANGER -    | DEF  | 0 (0)  | - o  | 0 (0) | 0    | 0 (0) | 0 -   | 34 (1)           | 3    |  |
| MCLAREN -    | DEF  | 0 (0)  | - o  | 0 (0) | 0    | 0 (0) | 0 -   | 1 (2)            | 0    |  |
| DEVINE -     | DEF  | 0 (0)  | - o  | 0 (0) | 0    | 0 (0) | 0     | 10 (0)           | 0    |  |
| NEILL -      | DEF  | 0 (0)  | 0    | 0 (0) | 0    | 0 (0) | 0     | 0 (0)            | 0    |  |
| DEVENEY      | DEF  | 0 (0)  | 0    | 0 (0) | 0    | 0 (0) | 0     | 0 (0)            | 0    |  |
| МСКАУ        | DEF  | 0 (0)  | 0    | 0 (0) | 0    | 0 (0) | 0     | 0 (0)            | 0    |  |
| ROBERTSON    | MID  | 0 (0)  | 0    | 0 (0) | 0    | 0 (0) | 0     | 175 (30)         | 2    |  |
| SCOUGALL     | MID  | 0 (0)  | 0    | 0 (0) | 0    | 0 (0) | 0     | 58 (18)          | 7    |  |
| O'DONNELL    | MID  | 0 (0)  | 0    | 0 (0) | 0    | 0 (0) | 0     | 16 (34)          | 1    |  |
| CAWLEY       | MID  | 0 (0)  | 0    | 0 (0) | 0    | 0 (0) | 0     | 324 (47)         | 63   |  |
| HETHERINGTON | MID  | 0 (0)  | 0    | 0 (0) | 0    | 0 (0) | 0     | 137 (30)         | 6    |  |
| VIRTANEN     | MID  | 0 (0)  | 0    | 0 (0) | 0    | 0 (0) | 0     | 0 (0)            | 0    |  |
| ROBERTS      | MID  | 0 (0)  | 0    | 0 (0) | 0    | 0 (0) | 0     | 0 (0)            | 0    |  |
| DONNELLY     | FWD  | 0 (0)  | 0    | 0 (0) | 0    | 0 (0) | 0     | 0 (18)           | 7    |  |
| SAMMON       | FWD  | 0 (0)  | 0    | 0 (0) | 0    | 0 (0) | 0     | 52 (20)          | 18   |  |
| RODDEN       | FWD  | 0 (0)  | 0    | 0 (0) | 0    | 0 (0) | 0 -   | 7 (8)            | - 5  |  |
| BUCHANAN     | FWD  | 0 (0)  | 0    | 0 (0) | 0    | 0 (0) | 0 -   | 0 (11)           | 0    |  |
| RANKIN       | FWD  | 0 (0)  | 0    | 0 (0) | 0    | 0 (0) | 0     | 0 (12)           | 1    |  |
| COULSON      | FWD  | 0 (0)  | 0    | 0 (0) | 0    | 0 (0) | 0     | 12 (4)           | 1    |  |



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| 7 (1)            | 41 (2)   | - 3             | -                                | -                        |
| 2 (1)            | 3 (3)    | - 0             | -                                | -                        |
| 0 (0)            | 10 (0)   | - 0             | -                                | -                        |
| 0 (0)            | 0 (0)    | - 0             | -                                | •                        |
| 0 (0)            | 0 (0)    | - 0             | -                                | -                        |
| 0 (0)            | 0 (0)    | - 0             | -                                | -                        |
| 44 (4)           | 219 (34) | - 4             | THE JOLLY BOYS                   | -                        |
| 14 (7)           | 72 (25)  | 9               | STUARTT LATHAM                   | MCCALLUM ENGINEERING     |
| 0 (0)            | 16 (34)  | 1               | ROBERTSON CARPET & FLOORING      | -                        |
| 66 (9)           | 390 (56) | <del>- 74</del> | AIMEE BURGESS                    | THE JOLLY BOYS           |
| 27 (8)           | 164 (38) | 7               | WASP NEST PODCAST                | -                        |
| 0 (0)            | 0 (0)    | - 0             | -                                | -                        |
| 0 (0)            | 0 (0)    | - 0             | -                                | -                        |
| 2 (3)            | 2 (21)   | - 8             | CRAIG CAMPBELL SEO               | CRAIG CAMPBELL SEO       |
| 7 (1) - 5        | 59 (21)  | - 23            | THE BRAIN DAMAGED BARON          | S SMITH VEHICLE REPAIRS  |
| 5 (2)            | 12 (10)  | - 6             | RUARI & BRIAN                    | FREEBETTINGTIPS.COM      |
| 2 (3)            | 2 (14)   | - 0             | BETTING.BET                      | -                        |
| 0 (5)            | 0 (17)   | - 1             | SMS, ALLOA                       | -                        |
| 0 (0) - 0        | 12 (4)   | - 1             | NEIL PARRY ALLOA SUPPORTERS CLUB | -                        |



## A FAN'S VIEW

As we kick off the new season with Alloa's first competitive match tonight, it's season prediction time again. Rather than isolating it to my own personal views, I thought I'd open it up to a cross section of Alloa supporters for inclusion. This provided an interesting contrast of views, and of course come next May hopefully means I'm not the only person way off the mark.

The prediction topics are exclusive to the Scottish leagues and of course Alloa's fortunes over season 23/24. Without further ado, here are my predictions alongside fellow Alloa supporters.

## ALLOA PLAYER OF THE YEAR 2023/24: STEVEN HETHER-INGTON

After a turbulent spell at Falkirk, Stevie appeared to bounce back in a spell on loan at

Championship Arbroath- where they consolidated their place in the Championship in the embryonic stages of the season. I had envisaged an attempt to sign him up on a permanent basis this summer, so Hetherington's return to Alloa was a real coup for the club. I don't read too much into pre-season friendlies. but Stevie has looked like he never departed in terms of his contribution to the team. I'm already excited at the prospect of Hetherington, Virtanen and Scougall in a midfield three. Hetherington was the most popular choice amongst the supporters, who also opted for a cross section of new signings and established stalwarts.

## ALLOA FINAL LEAGUE POSITION: 3RD

League One looks very competitive once again, with two full time clubs (Cove Rangers and

Hamilton Accies) dropping down from the Championship to join fellow full timers Falkirk and Oueen of the South. That being said, I think Alloa have recruited well over the summer-increasing striking options appears to be the only real obvious gap in the recruitment to date. As such, I'm anticipating another season where Alloa compete at the top end of the table in a cut throat league-likely looking at the promotion play-offs once more. The views of fellow supporters also reflect a general feeling that Alloa will have a decent campaign.

## LEAGUE ONE WINNERS: HAMILTON ACCIES

Although Falkirk will be likely be favourites to become champions, I've been more impressed with some of Hamilton's signings, including former Wasp striker Kevin O'Hara. There may be a degree of in-fighting between the owner and the fanbase, but on the park they look to have recruited well. I'm tipping them to pip Falkirk to the league. The vast majority have also predicted one of the full time clubs, although we have a couple of optimistic supporters who predict Alloa to lift the championship trophy in May.

## PREMIERSHIP WINNERS: CELTIC

This prediction doesn't require significant commentary. The departure of manager Ange Postecoglu to Spurs was a major setback, but the return of Brendan Rodgers provides a high standard of replacement. I don't think Rodgers would have returned had he not been given

the promise of being backed heavily in the transfer market. And the added windfall from the sale of Jota should enhance that transfer kitty even further. Like most, I can't see past Celtic retaining the Premiership.

## CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS: DUNDEF UTD

Again, I haven't really pushed the boat out with this prediction. Dundee United will be the hot favourites as the biggest club in the division. And with Jim Goodwin at the helm, a lot of Alloa supporters will be keeping an eye on his progress and want him to do well. United were the overwhelming choice in the predictions to bounce straight back into the top tier.

#### SCOTTISH LEAGUE 2 WIN-NERS: STENHOUSEMUIR

We will obviously get a bit more of an indication when Alloa face the Warriors at Ochilview next midweek, but signings like Darren Jamieson and Jordan Kirkpatrick should really bolster their promotion bid. Perhaps it's the familiarity of these players to the Alloa support which has led to many tipping them to win a very open League 2 this season.

All predictions included belowwhich we will revisit come May next year. Needless to say Im hopeful John Tanner and Conor Jacks early season optimism becomes reality. Enjoy tonights game

| returned had he not been given |              |   |          |                     |                 |               |  |
|--------------------------------|--------------|---|----------|---------------------|-----------------|---------------|--|
| Name                           | Alloa POTY   | Alloa League Position L1 Winners Prem Winne |          | <b>Prem Winners</b> | Ch'ship Winners | L2 Winners    |  |
| Brian Roach                    | Hetherington | 3rd   | Hamilton | Celtic              | Dundee Utd      | Stenhousemuir |  |
| Ben Conroy                     | Taggart      | 3rd   | Hamilton | Celtic              | Dundee Utd      | Stenhousemuir |  |
| Scott Fawcett                  | Virtanen     | 4th   | Cove     | Celtic              | Dundee Utd      | Forfar        |  |
| William Neil                   | Neill        | 3rd   | Falkirk  | Rangers             | Dundee Utd      | Dumbarton     |  |
| Lee McQuillan                  | Virtanen     | 4th   | QOS      | Celtic              | Dunfermline     | East Fife     |  |
| Kieren Mooney                  | Hetherington | 4th   | Falkirk  | Celtic              | Dundee Utd      | Clyde         |  |
| Logan Forbes                   | Hetherington | 4th   | QOS      | Rangers             | Dundee Utd      | Stenhousemuir |  |
| Peter Duncan                   | Neill        | 3rd   | QOS      | Rangers             | Dundee Utd      | Dumbarton     |  |
| John Tanner                    | Hetherington | 1st   | Alloa    | Celtic              | Raith Rovers    | Stenhousemuir |  |
| Ross McLauchlan                | Hetherington | 5th   | Falkirk  | Celtic              | Dundee Utd      | Stenhousemuir |  |
| Jake Stewart                   | Scougall     | 3rd   | Falkirk  | Celtic              | Dundee Utd      | Stenhousemuir |  |
| Donald Pollock                 | Hetherington | 4th   | Hamilton | Celtic              | Dundee Utd      | Forfar        |  |
| Rory Dow                       | Virtanen     | 4th   | Hamilton | Rangers             | Dundee Utd      | Spartans      |  |
| Conor Jack                     | Coulson      | 1st   | Alloa    | Celtic              | Airdrie         | Forfar        |  |







## **SEASON IN RETROSPECT**

After a disappointing final finish of seventh in The Second Division in season 1987-88. Alloa made up for this in the best possible manner in the following 1988-89 campaign, when it proved to be a case of third time lucky in a way, as they regained The First Division place they'd lost three years earlier. However, their early season form was rather poor. for just three wins from the first eleven league games saw The Wasps stuck in eleventh place, something which perhaps had their faithful fearing a season of struggle. But a 2-0 win at

Queen's Park at the end of October proved to be a turning point of sorts, for this marked the run of a strong run form, during which time defeat was suffered on only three occasions in seventeen league games, and which propelled Alloa into the thick of the promotion battle by early March. Successive 0-1 away defeats v East Fife & Berwick perhaps served as a guard again over-confidence, but three straight wins v Cowdenbeath (2-1), Stranraer (4-1) and Stirling Albion (4-0), moved Alloa into third place, with promotion now a very real prospect. The

Wasps then wobbled slightly, when they suffered defeat at near-neighbours East Stirling, and when they dropped a point at home v Montrose. Then at the end of April, came a really crunch clash at Recreation Park. in the final home game of the season v runaway Second Division Champions Albion Rovers, in front of a crowd of 993, the second-highest in the league in the 1988-89 campaign. And Alloa secured a vital 2-0 win. which moved them into second place, then a 2-0 win at Oueen's Park in the penultimate fixture/ final away fixture, meant it was

#### 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 priotitise the saftey 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 inicdents 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 wof unsuitable individuals by adopting rigorous recruitment and veting 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



a straight tie between themselves and Brechin on the final day of the season, for runners-up spot. But another 2-0 away success. this time at Dumbarton, meant Alloa took the second promotion place, though Brechin's 1-2 defeat at Stranraer tended to make the issue academic anyway, especially in view of Alloa's superior goal difference. So The Wasps returned to The First Division after a three-season absence, no doubt hoping for a longer stay this time round. There was also the bonus of a rather lengthy Scottish Cup run, when Alloa accounted for Highland League outfit Forres Mechanics. Second Division counterparts Albion Rovers & First Division stugglers Queen Of The South, before a narrow exit at Hibs of The Premier Division in the quarter-finals. Though there wasn't much luck for The Wasps in The Skol Cup, when their interest ended before it had even begun, after fierce local rivals Stirling Albion won 4-2 in a first round tie at Recreation Park.

| RESULTS 1988-89<br>SECOND DIVISION<br>Away | Home/               |
|--|---------------------|
| Albion Rovers                              | <b>2-0</b> /3-1 2-3 |
| Arbroath                                   | <b>3-0/</b> 3-3 2-2 |
| Berwick Rangers                            | <b>2-1 0-1</b> /1-1 |
| Brechin City                               | <b>2-2 2-1</b> /1-2 |
| Cowdenbeath                                | <b>2-1</b> /2-1 1-1 |
| Dumbarton                                  | 2-0 2-0/1-1         |
| East Fife                                  | <b>2-1 0-1</b> /0-2 |
| East Stirling                              | <b>2-2 0-2</b> /1-2 |
| Montrose                                   | <b>3-3</b> /1-0 0-1 |
| Queen's Park                               | <b>0-0 2-0</b> /2-0 |
| Stenhousemuir                              | <b>4-0</b> /1-2 0-2 |
| Stirling Albion                            | <b>4-0</b> /3-2 1-3 |
| Stranraer                                  | <b>1-1 4-1</b> /2-2 |

#### **SCOTTISH CUP**

First round Berwick Rangers (away) 1-1

First round replay Berwick Rangers (home) 2-1

Second round Forres Mechanics (away) 1-1

Second round replay Forres Mechanics (home) 2-1 Third round Albion Rovers (home) 3-1

Fourth round Queen Of The South (away) 0-0

Fourth round replay Queen Of The South (home) 4-2

Quarter-finals Hibernian (away) 0-1

#### **SKOLCUP**

First round Stirling Albion (home) 2-4

#### **GOALSCORERS**

League: Lytwyn 23 (2 pens), Lamont 9, McCallum 7, Blackie 4, Gibson 4, A. Smith 4,

McCulloch 3, Millen 3 (1 pen), Bateman 2, I. Lee 2, Ramsay 2, Rodgers 1,

Rutherford 1, S. Smith 1

Scottish Cup: A. Smith 5, Lytwyn 3, Gibson 2, Lamont 2, Ramsay 1

Skol Cup: Lytwyn 1, Rutherford 1 (pen)

#### SCOTTISH SECOND DIVISION FINAL TABLE SEASON 1988-89

| Pos   |                 | PI | W  | D  | L  | F  | Α  | Pts |  |
|-------|-----------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|--|
| 1     | Albion Rovers   | 39 | 21 | 8  | 10 | 65 | 48 | 50  |  |
| 2     | Alloa Athletic  | 39 | 17 | 11 | 11 | 66 | 48 | 45  |  |
| 3     | Brechin City    | 39 | 15 | 13 | 11 | 58 | 49 | 43  |  |
| 4     | Stirling Albion | 39 | 15 | 12 | 12 | 64 | 55 | 42  |  |
| 5     | East Fife       | 39 | 14 | 13 | 12 | 55 | 54 | 41  |  |
| 6     | Montrose        | 39 | 15 | 11 | 15 | 54 | 55 | 41  |  |
| 7     | Queen's Park    | 39 | 10 | 18 | 11 | 50 | 49 | 38  |  |
| 8     | Cowdenbeath     | 39 | 13 | 14 | 12 | 48 | 52 | 38* |  |
| 9     | East Stirling   | 39 | 13 | 11 | 15 | 54 | 58 | 37  |  |
| 10    | Arbroath        | 39 | 11 | 15 | 13 | 56 | 63 | 37  |  |
| 11    | Stranraer       | 39 | 12 | 12 | 15 | 58 | 63 | 36  |  |
| 12    | Dumbarton       | 39 | 12 | 10 | 17 | 45 | 55 | 34  |  |
| 13    | Berwick Rangers | 39 | 10 | 13 | 16 | 50 | 59 | 33  |  |
| 14    | Stenhousemuir   | 39 | 9  | 11 | 19 | 44 | 59 | 29  |  |
| * Two | points deducted |    |    |    |    |    |    |     |  |



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### **STIRLING ALBION**

#### The Binos

### **FOUNDED** 1945

#### GROUND

Forthbank Stadium, Stirling

#### **TOP HONOURS**

Championship\* Winners 1952–53, 1957–58, 1960–61, 1964–65 Runners-up 1948–49, 1950–51

League 1\* Winners 1946-47,1976-77, 1990-91,1995-96, 2009-10 Runners up 2006-07

League 2\* Winners 2022-23 Runners up 2003-4

This evening Alloa begin the 2023/24 campaign with a home tie against rivals, Stirling Albion, in the Viaplay cup group stages. The Binos will have already kick started their season with a home game against Ayr United, prior to writing this article, with Stenhousemuir and St Johnstone coming up for both sides in the next fortnight. Last season was a successful one for our visitors clinching the Cinch League 2 title and returning to the third tier of Scottish football. It was a closely run title race for a period of time between the Binos and Dumbarton

but with some excellent form towards the end of the season. Darren Young's men went onto win the league fairly convincingly. A 9-point gap was what separated the sides come the final day of the season. Optimism and enthusiasm are high among the away support following that success, as well as some impressive performances in pre-season. however, the test will start now as they begin to compete in a higher division.

#### THE BOSS – DARREN YOUNG

We welcome back Stirling Albion manager, Darren Young, to the Indodrill Stadium for this evening's derby match. Young enjoyed a successful spell as captain of the Wasps from 2011 to 2014, securing back-to-back promotions, as well as Championship survival. He departed the club in 2014 but returned only a matter of weeks ago to kit up once more for the Alloa Athletic Legends team for Kevin Cawley's testimonial, where he rolled back the years for 45 minutes in midfield. After he left the club in 2014, he joined Albion Rovers as a player / manager which began in a fitting manner for the success that came.



\*includes equivalent competitions

In his first match in charge, he scored the winning penalty as Albion Rovers beat Airdrieonians 4–2 on penalties following a 2–2 draw in the Scottish Challenge Cup on 26 July 2014. Young won the League Two championship and promotion in his first season as a manager. A 4-year spell would follow at East Fife before joining Alloa's rivals in 2021. Last season he returned to success by guiding them to the title and being nominated for Manager of the Year.

## THE CAPTAIN - PAUL MCLEAN

The visitors will be led out by captain, Paul McLean. Described as one of the most influential players in the team by supporters, he is coming off a fantastic season for the club. A league title and a place in the PFA League 2 team of the season capped off a stellar year for the club. McLean started his career in England after growing up in Musselburgh. The defender began at Norwich City playing for their u23's before moving to the Falkirk academy.

It was Brechin who offered him his first senior contract though at the age of 19. He became a part of the furniture at Glebe Park staying for 10 years and being part of teams that rose all the way up to the Championship. After that spell, he departed in 2019 to sign for only his second senior club with Stirling Albion. Now 33-years old, he is looking forward to hopefully continuing the success they have built last season in Cinch League 1.

#### **NEW BOY - DALE HILSON**

Adding firepower to the Binos frontline. Dale Hilson, made the switch to Forthbank this summer. The 30-year old has spent the last few seasons at Arbroath where he found the back of the net 5 times in the Championship side's campaign last year. It was at the Lichtie's rivals. Forfar, where he made a name for himself following four different loan spells and two permanent spells at Links Park. With golden boot awards and influential performances in the attacking third, he was part of Forfar sides that have

caused Alloa trouble in the past. He now partners up with Greig Spence and Player of the Year, Dale Carrick, in the Binos front line for Cinch League 1, which is a trio that will cause many a team defensive headaches.

#### ONE TO WATCH - GREIG SPENCE

The Wasps programme could not possibly write The Opposition' piece without paying tribute to the former number 9, Greig Spence, returning to the club. The Spence Alloa relationship began in 2008 when he embarked on his first spell with the club, making his senior debut at the age of 16. A year later Alloa would receive a club-record breaking fee for Spence to move to Celtic where he would spend time out on loan at Hamilton, and then permanently at Raith before returning once more to Alloa in 2014. This was a memorable stint with a hat-trick on his returning debut and a historic brace against Rangers in the Challenge Cup semi-final victory. A spell

#### **CONTINUED ON P32**



at Cowdenbeath would follow before once again returning for spell 3 in 2016, where he finished top scorer at the club. That form earned him a return to full-time football with Raith and of course, following a year at Raith, he would come back for a 4th time in 2018. Since leaving the club, time at Arbroath, Stenhousemuir, East Fife and Hillfield Swifts followed before moving to Stirling Albion last season on an 18-month deal. He scored 3 goals and notched 1 assist in the second half of the season, a tally he will no doubt be looking to build on.

#### THE CONNECTION

The two most notable returning faces have already been highlighted in Darren Young and Greig Spence, who, as mentioned, both returned at the end of June for Kevin Cawley's testimonial match. However, there is another returning face at the Binos in Robert Thom-

son. The 6ft 2 striker had his first spell at Alloa in 2012 on loan before returning for two years in 2019 on a permanent basis. It was at the Wasps where he would score his first professional goals of his career in a brace against Albion Rovers in 2012. For the travelling support, they will be glad to see a legend for both clubs, Andy Graham, take to the park again. The 39-yearold centre back began his career at the Binos and played there for 5 years, ironically with his first professional goal being for Stirling Albion against Alloa in 2005. He started his career as a central defender but won the Stirling Albion Player of the Year award for the 2009-10 season playing at right back when they won the Second Division title. One of Alloa's new boys, Kurtis Roberts, also had a spell at Stirling for 2 vears back in 2020.

#### **PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

Despite a fiery pre-season

game last year, the clubs have rarely met in recent years. This, of course, will change with both teams battling it out in this season's League 1. That last meeting between the sides came in 2022 where Alloa brushed aside their rivals with a convincing 4-1 victory in a friendly. The most recent League Cup game was in 2019 where again Alloa took the victory, this time 2-1. David Wilson had opened the scoring for the visitors, before second half goals from Kevin O'Hara and a late winner from Liam Buchanan turned the home team's fortunes for all 3 points, 2018 seen the sides meet in the Challenge Cup and it was Alloa who came out on top 3-1 winners that day through a Kevin Cawley brace and lain Flannigan strike. You have to go back to 2010, the year the Binos won the league in dramatic fashion, for the last league fixtures which Stirling won 3 out of the 4 match-ups.









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## THEY STARRED FOR BOTH TEAMS

#### WILLIE IRVINE- STIRLING ALBION 1982-1986, ALLOA 1996-2001

Willie Irvine is the obvious prime option in this list-being an undisputed legend of Alloa Athletic, who built his reputation at Stirling Albion as a young striker. Joining Stirling from Dunipace Juveniles in 1982, his goal record for our neighbours over his four year spell was hugely impressive. During this time, Stirling were regularly finishing in the top half of the Second Division under Alex Smith. and Irvine took his place in the team alongside other excellent local prospects such as John Colguhoun and John Philliben. Irvine finished top scorer for the club in three of his four seasons. He most famously hit five in a 20-0 win over Selkirk in the 1984/85 Scottish Cup- only to be usurped by team mate David Thompson who scored seven

that day. Irvine got his big move to Hibernian in 1986, departing Stirling with a final record of 52 goals in 107 appearances. Irvine found it tough to break into the Hibs first team, and joined Dunfermline the following season having made only 12 appearances. Irvines stay at the Pars was also brief, and the striker looked to kick start his career with a spell in Norwegian football in the late 80s. After spells at Airdrie and Albion Rovers on loan, Irvine rose to prominence again in the 90s. Initially at Meadowbank then at Berwick Rangersbecoming one of Tom Hendries stalwarts at both clubs. Having ioined Alloa in 1996 as manager. Hendrie moved quickly to bring Irvine to the club. His spell at Alloa is well documented- he was the diamond in the Alloa lineup under Hendrie then Terry Christie as Alloa entered the next millenium. The Wasps achieved huge success, winning the

Third Division Championship, the Challenge Cup and three promotions during his spell. Irvine finished his career with almost 600 senior appearances in the Scottish game- more than the likes of Willie Miller, Tom Boyd, Roy Aitken and Dave McPherson. He also scored over 200 senior goals, with more than half of that tally in the colours of the two clubs who face each other tonight.

#### ANDY GRAHAM- STIRLING ALBION 2005–2010, ALLOA 2016–PRESENT

Andy Grahams inclusion draws almost eerie comparisons to Willie Irvine despite starring at the other end of the pitch. Andy started his senior career at Albion, before achieving legendary status at Alloa and is also universally popular amongst both sets of supporters. Andy made his debut for Albion in the Challenge Cup against Ayr United in

July 2005. Ironically he notched his first goal for the club against Alloa Athletic at Forthbank-but this was a late consolation as Alloa took the points home from Forthbank in a 2-1 win. He achieved promotion with Stirling in the following season and the step up to Division 1 proved to be no problem for Andy. In his final season at Stirling, he won the Second Division championship- and weighed in with a hefty goalscoring contribution-scoring 7 of his 10 Stirling goals in one season. This included a header against Alloa in a pivotal championship match at Recreation Park, although again Alloa edged that match by two goals to one. Andy moved to Hamilton that summer. and eventually made his way to Wasps in 2016 following spells at Morton, Dumbarton and Ayr. Again, Andys performances for Alloa need no documentation. His leadership and inspiration is felt all over the Alloa dressing room and beyond. Achieving promotion in 2018 and consolidating in the Championship for three successive seasons. Andv has been the beating heart of those successes. Andy has picked up numerous Player of the Year awards, and the majority of Alloa supporters are hopeful his current pathway eventually leads to the managers job.

#### GREIG SPENCE- ALLOA 2008-2010, 2014-2015, 2016-2017, 2018-2019. STIRLING ALBION 2023-PRESENT

On the other side of the coin, Greig Spence will be hoping to replicate the status of both Irvine and Graham- but in reverse. Greig made his first senior appearances for Alloa in the 2008/09 season- scoring his first goal at the National Stadium against Queens Park and also notching a vital late equaliser at

Somerset Park against Ayr United to ensure Alloas consolidation in the Second Division on the final day of the campaign. This goal also handed the championship to future employers Raith Rovers. Greig had formed a brief but fruitful partnership with Brian Carrigan before being snapped up early the following season by Celtic. He failed to break into the first team, but had a successful loan spell at Hamilton before signing for First Division club Raith Rovers. Greig rejoined The Wasps in 2014, scoring 13 goals for the club the following season. This tally included a double against Stirling Albion in the early rounds of the Challenge Cupwhere he famously went on to score a double against Rangers as Alloa reached the final of the competition. Incoming Alloa boss Danny Lennon overhauled the team in 2015, paving the way for Greig to join Cowdenbeath. After scoring 19 goals in the third tier in season 2015/16, Jack

Ross signed Greig up to a third spell at the club. Greig scored 26 goals for Alloa that season- the best tally for a player at the club since Charlie Lytwyn in season 1988/89. He then returned to full time football with Raith Rovers. before Iim Goodwin signed Greig for his fourth spell at the club as Alloa looked to consolidate in the Championship. They achieved this, but Greig found his opportunities in the starting 11 fairly limited. Spells at Arbroath, Stenhousemuir, East Fife as well as as Inverkeithing Swifts followed before Greig joined Stirling Albion in January 2023. He made 14 appearances, scoring 3 goals as Stirling were promoted as League 2 champions. Greig will no doubt receive some light hearted stick tonight from the Alloa support, and indeed across the league fixtures. But his status at Alloa is set in stone. Still only 31. he has ample time to ensure an equally successful spell at our close neighbours.

## **HT QUIZ**

- 1. STEVEN HETHERINGTON HAS PLAYED FOR WHICH 2 SCOTTISH CLUBS ON LOAN DURING HIS CAREER?
- 2. WHO SCORED ALLOAS LATE WINNER ON THE LAST OCCASION THEY MET STIRLING ALBION IN THE LEAGUE CUP IN 2019
- 3. MANCHESTER CITY ACHIEVED A UNIQUE TREBLE OF PREMIER-SHIP, FA CUP AND CHAMPIONS LEAGUE LAST SEASON. NAME THE OTHER SEVEN EUROPEAN CLUBS TO ACHIEVE THIS FEAT OF WINNING THE DOMESTIC LEAGUE, MAIN DOMESTIC CUP AND CHAMPIONS LEAGUE/EUROPEAN CUP.
- 4. JAMIE CARRAGHER DID IT IN 1999, MICHAEL PROCTOR DID IT IN 2003 AND JONATHAN WALTERS DID IT IN 2013. WHO DID "IT" IN THE ENGLISH PREMIERSHIP LAST SEASON?
- 5. WHO IS THE ONLY PLAYER TO WIN THE WORLD CUP GOLDEN BOOT DESPITE THEIR NATION BEING ELIMINATED IN GROUP PHASE (ROUND 1)?
- 6. WHICH TWO CLUBS OUT WITH THE TOP TIER REACHED THE QUAR-TER FINALS OF LAST SEASON'S VIAPLAY CUP? ANSWERS PAGE 37

## **ALLOA ATHLETIC F.C.**

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







# CINCH LEAGUE 1 23/24 PROPERTY OPPOSITION HOME/AWAY

EDINBURGH CITY H
QUEEN OF THE SOUTH A
FALKIRK H

ANNAN ATHLETIC A
STIRLING ALBION H
COVE RANGERS H

HAMILTON ACADEMICAL A

MONTROSE A
KELTY HEARTS H
EDINBURGH CITY A
QUEEN OF THE SOUTH H

STIRLING ALBION A

MONTROSE H

COVE RANGERS A

**ANNAN ATHLETIC** 

HAMILTON ACADEMICAL H

FALKIRK A

ALLOA ATHLETIC FC



QUIZ ANWERS

1. AIRDRIE, ARBROATH

2. LIAM BUCHANAN

3. BARCELONA (2009, 2015), BAYERN MUNICH (2013, 2020), AJAX (1972), INTER (2010), MANCHESTER UNITED (1999), PSV EINDHOVEN (1988), CELTIC (1967)

4. WOUT FAES- SCORED 2 OWN GOALS IN A SINGLE MATCH (FOR LEICESTER VS LIVER-POOL IN DECEMBER)

5. OLEG SALENKO (RUSSIA) IN 1994 TOURNA-MENT

**6. PARTICK THISTLE AND DUNDEE** 





#### **ALLOA ATHLETIC**



#### **STIRLING ALBION**



| کند! خرا              | #        | POS |                  | ⊛ |   |
|-----------------------|----------|-----|------------------|---|---|
| $\times$              | 1        |     | BLAIR CURRIE     |   |   |
| $\boldsymbol{\times}$ | 17       |     | CALLUM LAW       |   |   |
| $\times$              | 27       |     | MARK WEIR        |   |   |
| $\boldsymbol{\times}$ | 2        |     | ROSS MCGEACHIE   |   |   |
| ×                     | 3        |     | CAMERON CLARK    |   |   |
| ${f \times}$          | 4        |     | PAUL MCLEAN      |   |   |
| ×                     | 5        |     | JORDAN MCGREGOR  |   |   |
| +                     | 6        |     | ADAM CUMMINS     |   |   |
| ×                     | 7        |     | AARON DUNSMORE   |   |   |
| $\times$              | 8        |     | ROSS DAVIDSON    |   |   |
| ×                     | 9        |     | DALE CARRICK     |   |   |
| $\mathbf{\times}$     | 10       |     | JACK LEITCH      |   |   |
| ×                     | 11       |     | KIERAN MOORE     |   |   |
| $\times$              | 12       |     | KYLE BANNER      |   |   |
| ×                     | 21       |     | JOSH COOPER      |   |   |
| $\times$              | 22       |     | GREIG SPENCE     |   |   |
| $\times$              | 23       |     | ROBERT THOMSON   |   |   |
| ×                     | 24       |     | LEWIS MILNE      |   |   |
| $\times$              | 25       |     | DALE HILSON      |   | Ц |
| ×                     | <b>M</b> | ANA | GER DARREN YOUNG |   |   |

**REFEREE:** Alastair Grieve

**ASST:** George King & Stuart Broadfoot

#### **ALLOA'S NEXT FIVE**

29.07.23, SOMERSET PARK, 15:00

22.07.23. INDODRILL STADIUM. 15:00



ALLOA ATHLETIC

ST JOHNSTONE

05.08.23, PALMERSTON PARK, 15:00 QUEEN OF THE SOUTH ALLOA ATHLETIC 12.08.23, INDODRILL STADIUM, 15:00

**STENHOUSEMUIR** 



ALLOA ATHLETIC



AYR UNITED



STIRLING ALBION



# PROUDLY SUPPORTING ALLOA ATHLETIC FC

