









26th August 2023 Indodrill Stadium, Alloa 5:30pm KO

#### **ALLOA ATHLETIC**

1:4

#### **FALKIRK**



	(0:2)	
	SCORERS	
	0:1 32	<b>2′</b> Miller
	0:2 45	<b>5′</b> Agyeman
	0:3 64	<b>1</b> ′ Maclver
Rodden 8	5′ 1:3	







STARTING XI			STARTING XI
1 MORRISON			1 LONG
27 DEBAYO	SUBS	SUBS	2 LANG
23 DEVINE	41 OGAYI	31 HOGARTH	3 MCCANN
6 NEILL	3 DEVENEY	10 NESBITT	5 HENDERSON
2 TAGGART	5 GRAHAM	9 ALLAN	6 DONALDSON
4 HETHERINGTON	7 CAWLEY	18 OLIVER	7 MORRISON
8 ROBERTS	10 RODDEN	21 LAWAL	8 SPENCER
12 SCOUGALL	15 MCKAY	27 HAYWARD	11 AGYEMAN
26 COULSON	17 CANNON	30 HONEYMAN	14 YEATS
18 SAMMON	19 BUCHANAN	32 WALKER	17 MACIVER
11 STEVEN	24 RANKIN	33 SINCLAIR	29 MILLER

**REFEREE:** Callum Scott

# 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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**Email:** fcadmin@alloathletic.co.uk **Web:** alloaathletic.co.uk

#### 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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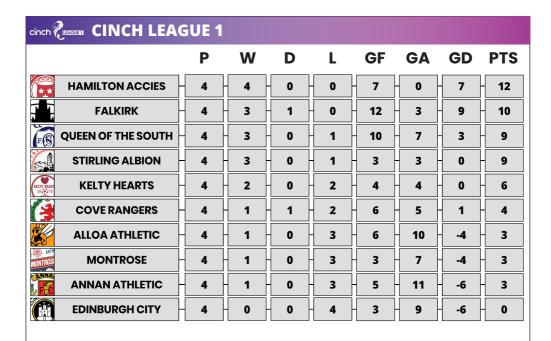
AAFC Supporters Club Brian Roach - 07775764831

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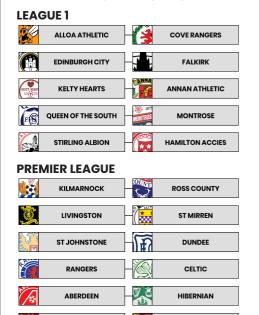
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<sup>\*</sup>includes equivalent competitions



CHAMPIONSHIP



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HEART OF MIDLOTHIAN

**WEEKEND'S FIXTURES** 





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### PJ MORRISON 27/02/1998





#### Euan DEVENEY



#### Morgyn NEILL







Andy GRAHAM



David MCKAY



Paul MCLAREN



Tochukwu OGAYI



David DEVINE



Josh DEBAYO



ANIAGED

#### **BRIAN RICE**











### AFTER FALKIRK'S WIN ON BBC ALBA

Falkirk won the game and deserved to win it but I wish we'd have gotten the chances that Falkirk got. I wish their defence would give away the goals we gave away. The four goals today are absolutely embarrassing.

We're just shooting ourselves in the foot all the time and I've had a go at the boys in the dressing room for it.

We've talked about it and talked about it but talk is cheap. We could play with seven defenders and still lose goals just now.

It's not about formations, it's about boys putting their bodies on the line and dying for the club. Putting their head where it hurts and taking responsibility. Putting our heart and soul into the games.

Next week we're going to have eleven warriors and go to war. Those that are jumping out of tackles, giving the ball away and not chasing back will be sitting beside me.

Scougall's taking knocks, Taggs is still not fully fit and we've got injuries just now but it is what it is and there's no excuses.

Don't make mistakes, be strong against your opponent, be quicker or at least match them at the minute there's four or five on the park not doing that. Next week it'll be different.



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### **NEWSDESK**

Welcome back to the Indodrill Stadium for our first fixture this season against Cove Rangers, welcome to Cove Rangers FC manager Paul Hartley and his management tea m Gordon Young, Tam Ritchie and Derek Soutar, the players, officials, and directors of Cove Rangers FC.

Manager Brian Rice continues to strengthen his side with the signing of forward Taylor Steven on a season long loan from St. Johnstone. The 18-year-old forward has previous loan spells with Civil Service Strollers and East Fife making 23 appearances at Bayview last term. Highly thought of in Perth, he's already made 5 appearances for St lohnstone's first team this season. He adds more depth with his ability at either wing or centre forward and made his "Wasps" debut v. Falkirk last

Saturday.

Last Saturday Stefan Scougall who recently made his 100th appearances for "The Wasps" against one of his former clubs St. Iohnstone. Stefan was signed by Peter Grant from Carlisle United in October, 2020. A player with fantastic ability and work rate who thrives on having the ball where he can best influence a game. Stefan has now made 105 appearances for Alloa Athletic scoring 10 goals. Club Chairman Andrew Allan made the presentation from the club of a Silver salver.

Nathan Cannon becomes the latest player to advance along the player pathway into the first team. He made his first substitute appearance for the first team against Stirling Albion recently and has been awarded a

professional contract to continue his development. Nathan, 17, has previously caught the eye to represent the Scottish Schools FA in international competition and has been training with the first team since last season. The hard work starts now as Nathan will need to work hard to become an Alloa regular. Well done Nathan and welcome to the first team!

A date to note for Football Programme and Memorabilia collectors, Sunday 17th September, Capital Football Fair, Bainfield Bowling & Social Club, Edinburgh EH14 1RU, from 11am – 2.00pm, admission free.

The latest chapter in the oldest rivalry in World football will be written, when Scotland take on England in a special 150th Anniversary Heritage match to mark

the first meeting between the two sides in 1872. To be played at Hampden Park, Glasgow on Tuesday 12th September, 2023, kick-off 7.45pm

Wasps 2000 Draw - Week 34 28th August,2023

£ 100 0280 R.Deighan £ 50 0012 J.Cocking £ 25 0938 S.Scougall £ 25 0647 S.Calder £ 25 1451 D.Robertson

After the success of the History of Alloa Athletic book last season, the club have produced a second book "Diary of a Season 2022/23" which is now available to purchase. The book will retail at £ 19.99 in Waterstones online, but at a discounted price of £ 14.99 from the club. Diary of

a Season 2022/23 continues where the History book ends. It covers what has happened at the club over the course of last 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, Ionathan Markwell has also added some of his brilliant articles which are always worth reading. As with the history book, all profits will go to the club. Now on sale at Lime Tree House, Alloa and on matchdays at the club shop for £14.99.





Football Memories Group

#### Indodrill Stadium Alloa

Monday 11th September 2023

11.30 - 13.00

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





### STEPPING STONE TO FULL-TIME FOOTBALL

This summer has seen three Alloa players from last season depart the club for full-time football. Whilst initially and naturally disappointing to see Ross MacIver, George Stranger and Daniel Church all leave the Wasps, upon further reflection it is actually a very encouraging sign that the processes put in place at Alloa over a decade ago are still working well and will help the club in the coming years too.

For over a decade now, Alloa as a club have in my opinion fully embraced their role in the food-chain of Scottish football. We are realistic enough to know that until a multi-millionaire

benefactor comes along we're never going to be able to be a full-time club, so instead creating the best conditions possible to attract the finest players at part-time level has been key, with a particular focus on young talent discarded by the biggest teams in the country. This is in the era of the club which began with relegation to the fourth tier in 2011, leading to the ripping up of virtually the whole playing squad and heralding a mini revolution at the club with the appointment of then rookie manager Paul Hartley bringing about a seismic shift in approach and outlook. Hartley, who we again welcome back to

the Recs 12 years on today as manager of Cove, was undoubtedly well-backed in Alloa's march back up the leagues, but he also raised standards with his experiences from the top levels of the game, with a focus on player recruitment of young hungry players who wanted to utilise Alloa as a step back into full-time football.

The benefits are clear to see for all. The player puts themselves in the shop window to full-time suitors, playing at a good level and knowing that if they make a positive impression, the scouts of full-time teams will be circling. For Alloa as a team and for the support-

ers we get the benefit of seeing a quality of player who perhaps in the decades previously would be just that little bit out of reach of being attracted to the club, lighting up the Recs with their performances, enjoying the ride in the process and pocketing a reasonable development or transfer fee when the player duly gets their move. That model is then repeated and as the Wasps' reputation of being a springboard for players to get back to being day-to-day professionals grows, it becomes easier to attract those sorts of players in the first instance and in-turn increases the success rates along the way. Speaking to the Alloa Advertiser early in pre-season, Brian Rice essentially confirmed that process, commenting, "I wanted to keep the three lads that went on but it's a great thing for the boys. That's my goal: put a team on the pitch, improve them and see if I can get them full time and then replace them".

Simultaneously, the bigger clubs learn of Alloa's reputation as a breeding ground for aspiring full-time players and are more likely to take a chance on a player given past successes. As a result, the model grows in strength and snowballs at both ends, to the benefit of all hopefully. At a somewhat higher level of the game all clubs tend to want to excel at this 'buy them cheap, sell them high' formula, with the data and scouting driven approaches of clubs such as Brighton and Brentford down south being much heralded - the Wasps are arguably performing a similar role albeit on a much smaller scale.

Another factor is that the Wasps traditionally are relatively simple to deal with, never (out-

wardly at least) blocking moves for players to full-time clubs and instead realising that this is all part of the process, taking our slice of the cake, thanking the player for their efforts (parting on good terms, as some may return in the future) and moving onto the next step of the cycle. Reputation wise that can only help breed trust from the full-time suitors, knowing that they won't be frustrated with long drawn out negotiations and can instead get their business done efficiently and effectively. For potential Alloa signings too, knowing that a club won't block you from bettering yourself if you perform well will be a factor in attracting you to the Recs in the first place.

At the other end of the process the Wasps themselves are required to have a good eye for a player too, those that fit the mould of players who perhaps need to take a step back to take two steps forward in the game, or those who for whatever reason have had to drop numerous levels but are now on their way back up. Fortunately in Brian Rice the Wasps have a manager with a good reputation for nurturing young players and having a keen eye for the rough diamonds he

can work with to develop into gems. More than a few opposing managers have publicly praised Rice for this since joining the club. meaning his reputation inside the game is obviously high. Getting Stanger and MacIver moves back to full-time and rebuilding Church's confidence to see him blossom last season will have all been used by Rice in attracting summer signings such as PI Morrison, David Devine and Euan Deveney amongst others to the club. Part of Rice's sales pitch will be to illustrate these examples of players who have advanced their careers after starring for the Wasps, with that hopefully being persuasive in helping attract a good standard of player to the club for years to come.

I also think that full-time teams are increasingly looking at the lower leagues for players more than they used to a decade ago. Instead of relying on bigger named experienced players on their way down or seeking one final full-time contract, clubs' more limited finances have seen them increasingly scouring the lower leagues for players who themselves could have a higher ceiling and sell-on value to clubs even higher up the food chain in



due course. Looking back a decade, I think it's actually incredible that after winning successive promotions under Paul Hartley, the only players Alloa lost to the full-time game were Kevin Moon and Calum Elliot to Raith, who only joined the Wasps on short-term deals in the final few months of the previous season in any event. It is a wonder how Alloa managed to hang onto young starlets like Scott Bain (then aged 21), Michael Doyle (21), Ryan McCord (24) and Kevin Cawley (24), who for the previous two seasons had performed heroics for the club. I would boldly claim that had the Wasps won back-to-back promotions in the last two seasons with a handful of players in their early 20's the queue of full time suitors would have been from the ground to Alloa train station! The pathway now appears to be clearer for players to make the step up, which means getting a sprinkling of young talented players into every Alloa side has never been more important.

Looking at things outside the Alloa bubble a bit further, the summer example of Kevin Nisbet's career trajectory is another signal to this growing trend. From not breaking through at Partick and so taking



a step down to join Raith, Nisbet then made gradual steps up the leagues to Dunfermline, Hibernian and now the relative riches of the English Championship at Millwall for a seven-figure fee. It wouldn't surprise me if both the Lions and Nisbet have an understanding that his move to the New Den is just another steppingstone on that conveyor-belt to the very top riches of the game for the striker.

In addition, the above doesn't even take into account the number of loan players the Wasps have helped gain full-time deals elsewhere. Some of Alloa's loanees in the past decade have joined the club knowing it is more than likely that they won't break through at their parent clubs (e.g. in recent seasons players like Jamie McCart, Robbie Deas and last season Murray Miller and Luke Strachan) but

use a spell with the Wasps to prove to potential full-time suitors that they can thrive in the lower leagues if given the chance. Having a combination of hungry young players looking towards a full-time move, loanees trying to impress to continue playing full-time football and a backbone of established and experienced part-time players has served Alloa well in recent years.

Returning to the list of Alloa players who went onto full-time football after playing for the Wasps in the past decade, it is interesting to reference that approaching half of those players have actually returned to the club later in their careers, either on loan (Ben Gordon, Michael Doyle and Jordan Kirkpatrick) or permanently (Liam Buchanan, Daryll Meggatt, Scott Gallacher, Greig Spence and Stevie Hetherington). That would suggest to me that they still had a genuine fondness for the club and that they left the Recs on good terms in the first instance. It is a therefore a good reflection on the club as a whole. So whilst some Alloa supporters may be frustrated when good players move onto full-time contracts elsewhere. such as MacIver, Stanger and Church this summer, this recent history suggests that it may not actually be the last time we see some of those players lining up in Alloa colours.







ALLOA F.COfficial Fixtures, 1922-1923.	A STATE OF STATE AND A STATE OF STATE O	Goals.
DATE. * CLUB. Won. Lost. Pts	P. W. L. D.	F. A. Pts
Aug. 15 Rangers (A) (B) (B) (B) (B) (B) (B) (B) (B) (B) (B	King's Park 3 2 1 0 Cowdenbeath 3 1 0 2 St. Johnstone 2 1 0 1 Albion Rovers 2 1 0 1	4 2 4 4 5 4 4 2 1 3 3 3 3 4 4 4 3 5 4 3
18   Dundee   (A)	Dundee Hibs.       2       1       0       1         Forfar Athletic       2       1       0       1         East Fife       3       1       2       0         Alloa       3       1       1       1         Lochgelly United       2       1       1       0         Vale of Leven       2       1       1       0         Dunfermline Ath       3       0       1       2         Stenhcusemuir       2       0       2       0       2         Bythgate       2       0       1       1       1         Arbroath       2       0       2       0       0         Broxburn       2       0       2       0       0	1 0 3 3 3 4 2 4 4 4 3 4 4 2 2 2 0 1 1 5 5 0 0 0 6 0

## CRAFT OR GRAFT IN 1923/24

How would the new look Wasps fare in the league opener at Dunfermline? That was the big question in the Wee County 100 years ago as Alloa prepared to kick off the new season in Fife. Relegation from the top flight in April 1923 had been a sore blow, the Wasps failing to preserve their hard won status among Scotland's elite. Several key players had moved on with the committee spending the summer attempting to rebuild the team in preparation for another crack at promotion. The Sunday Post had been impressed with a 3-0 pre-season win over a Clackmannanshire

XI, opining 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". Not so taken was the Devon Valley Tribune, who described the football in Alloa's final friendly against Alva Albion Rangers as "not of a brilliant nature", while young striker Daniel Craig was derided as "hopeless". The unfortunate Craig "missed chances galore and the spectators had little patience with him". The paper

also quoted one unimpressed Wasp as saying: "If Alloa's gaun to play like thon 'a this season, there'll be no room for them in the Second Division, in fac' they'll need a Division tae themsel's!" A rather harsh take on an occasion which saw Alva open their new pavillion and clear their debt with a bumper crowd. One player who had impressed for Alloa was trialist half-back George Wallace who had previously played for Fallin. The 33 year old was added to the squad for the new season.

The visiting fans were hoping for a better performance as Alloa took to the field at East End Park amidst driving rain. For all the new faces it was a player who had arrived at the Recs during the First Division season who notched the first goal of the new campaign, Mick Connaboy's effort giving Alloa a deserved 1-0 lead. The game would turn on two goals on either side of the break. Just as Alloa seemed likely to go in ahead, new keeper Crawford - who had been memorably described as a "hefty Stirling juvenile" – dropped a shot which was promply turned into the net by Dunfermline's Campbell. The second-half was just underway when Reid scored from distance to put the Pars into the lead. A spirited Alloa kept on battling and Alexander, the new centre-forward from Dumbarton, levelled things up at 2-2. "On the sodden ground the players had little chance of serving up dainty football", said the Post and in the circumstances a draw was a solid enough start, McGregor and Headrick were praised for a good defensive display, Gilmour did well in the middle, while Alexander impressed on his debut up front with support from Connaboy, Quinn and Halleron. "Alloa, with only half of last season's eleven available, played the better and sounder game", said the Athletic News.

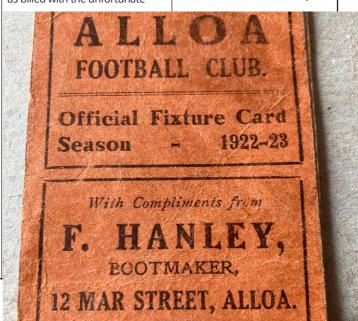
Attention now turned to the home curtain raiser against Dundee Hibs. The Tannadice men had exited the Second Division at the bottom with Clackmannan just as Alloa had gone up as champions in 1922 but now they were back and aiming high. The Hibs were in the process of changing their name and some reports surrounding the game against Alloa referred to them as Dundee City. This was the preferred new name of the club but one not favoured

by their neighbours over the road at Dens. The papers had jumped the gun and the club started the season as Dundee Hibs with a 0-0 draw against Cowdenbeath, a match described as a "thriller" despite the scoreline, the press suggesting that the Hibs would be "big guns" in the Second Division in the months ahead. A special train had been laid on to ferry their fans to the Wee County: "There is great enthusiasm in the Tannadice camp and a huge crowd is expected to travel to see the Dundee team win", said the local Evening Telegraph. There was a good turnout of home fans as well in a crowd of almost 4000. After a nervy start the game settled, Dundee Hibs favouring a direct approach while Alloa played a possession game. The visiting approach was more effective and a goal from Cottingham put them ahead. The impressive Alexander seemed to have levelled for the Wasps only for his effort to be ruled out for offside. Alloa's efforts were then handicapped following a collision between home goalkeeper Crawford and defender Headrick. Crawford was clearly just as hefty as billed with the unfortunate

Headrick "carried unconscious to the pavillion". Alloa battled on with ten men before

Headrick re-appeared in the closing stages. While match reports suggested a draw would have been fair the home team were unable to find an equaliser. The game also marked the last occasion that Alloa would face Dundee Hibs for the Tannadice men would indeed have a new title the next time they played the Wasps, albeit not the one they originally sought.

Alloa had an immediate chance to bounce back and kick-start their season when East Fife visited the Recs on Tuesday 28th August. A smaller crowd of 2000 was present to see the visitors take the lead. Weir sending a "rocket shot" past Crawford. Alloa rallied and Alexander headed home a cross from Ouinn to level the match. The winner came from another of the new faces. Halleron taking advantage of a mistake in the East Fife defence to steer the ball into the empty net. The Wasps were up and running and were now set for a trip to early pacesetters Armadale. More in the next edition of The Wasp.



### **APPEARANCES**

		LEA	AGUE	С	UP	TO	ΓAL	ALLOA CAREER LGE		
	POS	APP	GOAL	APP	GOAL	APP	GOAL	APP	GOAL	
MORRISON	GOAL	3 (1)	- o	3 (0)	- 0	6 (1)	0	3 (1)	9	
BURT	GOAL	0 (0)	- o	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (1)	0	
OGAYI	GOAL	1 (0)	0	1 (0)	0	2 (0)	0	1 (0)	0	
TAGGART	DEF	2 (2)	- o	0 (0)	0	2 (2)	0	231 (2)	11	
GRAHAM	DEF	0 (1)	0	1 (0)	- 0	1 (1)	0	189 (8)	14	
MCLAREN	DEF -	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	1 (2)	0	
DEVINE	DEF	3 (1)	0	2 (1)	0	5 (2)	0	13 (1)	0	
NEILL	DEF	4 (0)	0	3 (1)	1	7 (1)	1	4 (0)	0	
DEVENEY	DEF -	1 (2)	- o	2 (1)	0	3 (3)	0	1 (2)	0	
МСКАУ	DEF	2 (1)	1	2 (2)	0	4 (3)	1	2 (1)	1	
DEBAYO	DEF	2 (0)	0	3 (0)	0	5 (0)	0	2 (0)	0	
ROBERTSON	MID	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	175 (30)	2	
SCOUGALL	MID	4 (0)	0	3 (1)	0	7 (1)	0	63 (18)	8	
O'DONNELL	MID	2 (1)	1	2 (0)	0	4 (1)	1	18 (35)	10	
CAWLEY	MID	3 (1)	- o	1 (2)	0	4 (3)	0	327 (48)	63	
HETHERINGTON	MID	3 (0)	- o	3 (1)	0	6 (1)	0	140 (30)	6	
VIRTANEN	MID	1 (0)	- o	3 (1)	0	4 (1)	0	1 (0)	0	
ROBERTS	MID	4 (0)	- o	3 (1)	0	7 (1)	0	4 (0)	0	
DONNELLY	FWD	1 (1)	0	0 (0)	0	1 (1)	0	13 (20)	7	
SAMMON	FWD	3 (1)	1	4 (0)	1	7 (1)	2	54 (23)	20	
RODDEN	FWD	2 (2)	3	3 (0)	0	5 (2)	- 3	9 (10)	8	
BUCHANAN	FWD	0 (0)	0	3 (0)	1	3 (0)	1	0 (11)	0	
RANKIN	FWD	0 (0)	0	0 (2)	- 0	0 (2)	0	0 (11)	1	
COULSON	FWD	2 (2)	- o	2 (2)	1	4 (4)	1	14 (6)	1	
CANNON	FWD	0 (1)	- o	0 (0)	- 0	0 (1)	0	0 (1)	0	
STEVEN	FWD -	1 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	1 (0)	0	1 (0)	0	





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54 (2)	1	243 (10)	15	JOYCE & THE PIE HUT	-
2 (2)	0	3 (4)	0	IMO SCOTLAND, HAMILTON	MORTGAGE ADVICE BUREAU, STEPPS
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2 (1)	0	3 (3)	0	DAVIS DISTRIBUTION	-
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3 (0)	0	5 (0)	0	WORLDWIDE WASPS	-
44 (5)	2	219 (35)	4	THE JOLLY BOYS	-
17 (8)	2	80 (26)	10	STUART LATHAM	MCCALLUM ENGINEERING
7 (1)	0	25 (36)	10	ROBERTSON CARPET & FLOORING	-
67 (11)	11	394 (59)	74	AIMEE BURGESS	THE JOLLY BOYS
30 (9)	1	170 (39)	7	WASP NEST PODCAST	DOUGIE CRAIG
3 (1)	0	4 (1)	0	MP TYRES, SOUTHAMPTON	ANDREW WILSON
3 (1)	0	7 (1)	0	KATHLEEN ORR	-
3 (3)	2	16 (23)	9	CRAIG CAMPBELL SEO	CRAIG CAMPBELL SEO
16 (3)	7	70 (26)	27	THE BRAIN DAMAGED BARON	S SMITH VEHICLE REPAIRS
8 (2)	1	17 (12)	9	RUARI & BRIAN CUTHBERT-IMRIE	FREEBETTINGTIPS.COM
5 (3)	1	5 (14)	1	BETTING.BET	-
0 (6)	0	0 (17)	1	SMS, ALLOA	CALLUM MCTAGGART
2 (2)	1	16 (8)	2	NEIL PARRY ALLOA SUPPORTERS CLUB	DEREK YULE
0 (0)	0	0 (1)	0	LANDMARK SERVICES GROUNDCARE	LANDMARK SERVICES GROUNDCARE
0 (0)	0	1 (0)	0	-	-

#### **BRIAN ROACH**



#### **A FAN'S VIEW**

With such little time having passed since last week's match, I don't really have any other option than to predominantly look back at the Falkirk defeat. Firstly. I don't think losing to Falkirk is anything to be particularly ashamed of. As Alloa supporters we have definitely enjoyed our spell out performing them on the pitch in recent times, and taking up the moniker of "best team in Forth Valley" in the process. We've also enjoyed some excellent wins both here and over at Grangemouth. It's a stadium I attended for seemingly many years without seeing an Alloa victory. So it's been great to see 2 or 3 wins there and a

few in our backyard too. But the size of their club and fanbase made it fairly inevitable that fun would eventually cease at some point. Of course its early days this season, but they've started well and there doesn't appear to be much hangover from their summer play-off disaster. So losing to Falkirk is no problemno reason to lock vourself in the house with the curtains closed for the rest of the weekend. And given form going into the game, Alloa were indeed the underdogs with an outside chance of winning. Defeat was something I could live with- it was the manner of the defeat which was really disappointing, where the

players didn't do themselves justice.

Unfortunately a bout of covid meant I had to utilise the live television option on BBC Alba to see the match. It was a shame that Luke Donnelly and Marko Virtanen were both unavailable for selection. I think both would have had a role to play in that starting 11. I thought Alloa were still in the game first half, and came very close to scoring through Stefan Scougall's header. But going forward the visitors had frequently let the Alloa defence know they were in for a tough afternoon. Falkirk's Callumn Morrison was causing



all sorts of problems. He was almost playing a free role at times, picking the ball up in pockets of space and creating pressure moments for Alloa's backline. Never the less, the manner of the two first half Falkirk goals were a big disappointment. Debayo lost his footing for the first goal and that can be forgiven. But the second goal right before the break was a real body blow- Falkirk simply walked the ball into the net to give Alloa a real second half mountain to climb. Any hope of a second half revival quickly evaporated as Falkirk always looked more likely to add to their lead. Alloa did look to change the shape of the team and gamble a bit more. But it was a blow when Scougall picked up a knock and had to leave the field. He was the one Alloa player who had looked capable of piercing the Falkirk rearguard. The change of shape inevitably left Alloa more open. A defensive mix-up led to Falkirk's Calvin Miller hitting the woodwork. Again like the first half that should have been a warning sign. But moments later ex Wasp Ross MacIver was clean through on goal to score Falkirk's third. It was a lack of concentration from a fairly standard long ball. I'm aware Ross MacIver has started his Falkirk career well. and former players excelling

at full time level is good for the Alloa's long term recruitment drive. But it was a source of real frustration that it was laid out on a plate to him, after he had been kept relatively quiet for much of the game.

Bradley Rodden scored a late consolation goal- I'm always pleased to see Brad score because he works so hard every game. But even that crumb of comfort vanished in a gust of wind as Lawal was allowed to drive from deep like Carlos Alberto in the 1970 Brazil World Cup team to net a fourth in stoppage time-compounding what had already been a fairly disastrous day. The manager's post-match interview raised a few eyebrows but I had no problem with it. He felt the way we all did at time up.

The squad is a lot better than it showed on Saturday. I won't mention formations, but I do think any formation is easy to pick apart in hindsight when it doesn't work. As a supporter I don't see what goes on in training and in the dressing room- and I'm happy to leave that to the relevant personnel, I'm sure all concerned are in a far better position than me when it comes to finding solutions to turn the teams form around. The solution can be what it needs to be-ultimately it just has to ensure we get the best out of the players we have. The manager has put together a good squad- Alloa don't look inferior matching up to other clubs in the league man for man. The current satiation is definitely fixable but it would be beneficial to blast away any cobwebs remaining from last week in this afternoon's game. Personally I would be looking to solidifying the defensive unit in the first instance- whatever players or formation it takes to do so. I'd honestly be happy with a clean sheet and a goal less draw today which would give the team something to build on. On Wednesday I'm in the fortunate position of heading over to Cyprus in international week for the match, so hopefully I'm sunning it in the Mediterranean following a good result today.







### LOOKING BACK 1ST SEPTEMBER 1990

In The Premier Division, Aberdeen led the way, thanks to a 3-0 victory at Celtic, which also maintained The Dons 100% start to the new league season. But Aberdeen's advantage was purely on goal difference over Dundee United, who went second after a 1-0 win v Motherwell at Tannadice, while Rangers point from a 0-0 draw at Hibs nudged them into third spot. Motherwell occupied fourth place, while Dunfermline were fifth, after a 2-0 home success v Hearts, Celtic rather uncharacteristically propped up the table, still without a goal or point to

their credit so far, while Edinburgh rivals Hibs and Hearts lay immediately above The Celts.

Airdrie topped The First Division, after they won a thrilling clash at newly-promoted Kilmarnock by 4-3. Clydebank were second after a 3-1 home win v Falkirk, Raith, despite being held 1-1 at home by Clyde, occupied third place, Forfar's 3-2 home victory v Meadowbank moved them into fourth spot, while demoted Dundee, no doubt seeking an immediate return to The Premier Division, were fifth, after a 1-0 success at Morton. The Ton thus slipped to bottom

place, winless and goalless so far, while Falkirk also Kilmarnock, also both yet to taste victory, occupied thirteenth and twelfth place respectively.

Down in The Second, Montrose headed the table, after a second successive 1-0 win, this time at home v Queen's Park, while The Gable Endues fierce local rivals Arbroath were second, after collecting a point from a 1-1 draw at Dumbarton. Stirling Albion, held 0-0 at home by Queen Of The South, still held third place, while East Fife, who also had to settle for a share of the spoils, when they

#### 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



shared four goals at Stranraer, lay in fourth position, 2-2 was also the outcome at Firs Park, in the clash between East Stirling and local rivals Stenhousemuir. but the point was still enough to move The Shire into fifth spot. Newly-relegated Alloa had begun their bid for an instant return "upstairs" in a positive manner, with a 1-0 home win v relegation counterparts Albion Rovers, and now they visited Berwick, who were no doubt seeking a positive response to a 2-4 defeat at Arbroath, in their opening fixture. And Alloa lined up at Shielfield as follows: Lowrie, Newbigging, R. Lee, Wilcox, McCulloch, McEntegart (Moffat), Grant, Smith (Ramsay), Black, Irvine, Ormond.

Alas, a first-half effort from Berwick's Sokoluk proved decisive, and meant that Berwick moved up to ninth, & that Alloa slipped to eight place in the table, while Cowdenbeath, 1-3 losers at Albion Rovers, occupied bottom spot.

South of the border, Champions Liverpool topped The First Division, and also maintained their 100% start to the new campaign, after a 2-1 win v previous season's runners-up Aston Villa at Anfield. The Anfield Reds displaced Arsenal, who dropped to third after they were held 0-0 at home by north London rivals Spurs, newly-promoted Leeds were second after

a 3-0 home victory v Norwich, while Everton, still pointless after a 0-1 defeat at Manchester City, remained in bottom place.

Oldham retained leadership of The Second Division, and at the same time made it three wins out of three, after a 3-1 home win v Portsmouth. Relegated Sheffield Wednesday, doubtless seeking a quick return to the top flight. were now second. & also with a 100% record so far, after they hammered Hull 5-1 at Hillsborough, while another demoted side, Millwall, were third, after a 4-1 victory v Barnsley at The Den, a result which meant they too had taken maximum points to date.





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Scottish League 1 Winners 2021-22

Scottish League 2 Winners 2019-20

Highland League Winners (7)

Highland Cup Winners (6)

Aberdeenshire Cup Winners (3)

This afternoon we welcome Cove Rangers to the Indodrill for another difficult task in Cinch League 1. Following Cove's triumphant season a few seasons back in the division. their promotion to the Championship did not go to plan. Following a summer of changes, they were ultimately relegated after a solitary season in the second flight. However, since their return to the division, they have their eves firmly set on returning to where they have come from. With Paul Hartley back in charge from the

summer, there have been plenty of changes both on and off the park. Most notably off the park was the club's decision to begin transitioning into a full-time model, something they feel will benefit them in the long term as they look towards their objectives. On the pitch, it has been a relatively similar start to the Wasps, with a single victory to their name, but do sit a point and place ahead of Alloa with a draw also.

#### THE BOSS - PAUL HARTLEY

Alloa welcomes back

a former Wasp manager, Paul Hartley, once again to the Indodrill. After a glittered playing career with Celtic. Aberdeen, Hearts, and Scotland, to name a few, Hartley hung up the boots in 2012 to take up his first managerial gig at Alloa. With only 1 player signed to the club when he joined, Hartley created the foundations of arguably the club's most successful ever team, that included the likes of Soctt Bain, Ben Gordon, Rvan McCord. Stevie May, and of course, Kevin Cawley. That side would go onto win the Division 3 title



\*includes equivalent competitions



at the first time of asking and back that up the following year with another promotion through the play-offs. Hartley had remarkably took this squad to the Championship and when he left during that season had the club sitting in 4th place. It was the lure of Dundee that took him away from Alloa but nobody can take away the memories of that fantastic side. A spell at Falkirk would follow Dundee before moving to Cove. Similar to here, he immediately guided the club to win promotion to League 1, and then at the 2nd season in that division would win another title for Cove. Hartlepool would attract him away for a short spell before returning to the Balmoral Stadium to hopefully replicate more success.

#### THE CAPTAIN – MITCH MEGGINSON

Another familiar face in Mitch Megginson captains Cove. Megginson began his career at Aberdeen before a few loan spells would eventually bring him to Alloa in 2012/13 under Paul Hartley. After departing Aberdeen in 2013, it was Dumbarton who snapped up the young striker and he would go on to score 16 goals in his 2 years. A brief spell at Alloa would follow once more, however, didn't last too long in 2016 before he moved to Cove. It seemed a match made in heaven with his father, Mike, playing for the club in the late 1990's and early 2000's. That would prove to

be the case as he has cemented himself as one of the club's, if not thee, best ever player. With over 200 goals and 3 title winning squads, he takes his place not only in Cove history but SPFL goal-scoring history. This season began injured for Megginson, however, he has returned to the squad in the last 2 games and most recently got on the scoresheet in the club's only league victory against Montrose.

#### NEW BOY -PAUL MCGOWAN

With 19 new arrivals to the Balmoral Stadium, this section became the hardest to select just 1. However, the arrival of Paul McGowan certainly caught the attention of many. Having spent time out on loan at Dunfermline last season from Dundee, he was released in the summer from the Dees. It felt like a return to East End Park was on the cards, especially after McGowan featured in a friendly for them here against Alloa. However, a change of narrative occurred

#### **CONTINUED ON P32**





**BY KIEREN MOONEY** 

when he signed at Cove at the end of July. A signing that brings great experience to the football club having played for Celtic, St Mirren, and Dundee in the topflight. As well as that, he has won titles at Greenock Morton and Dunfermline, as well as domestic cup success with St Mirren. Despite being sent off in the opening game against Hamilton Accies, McGowan has featured in every game bar his suspended one in the heart of the Cove midfield.

#### ONE TO WATCH - RUMARN BURRELL

This afternoon, Alloa will have to be wary of striker, Rumarn Burrell, once again. Burrell caused the Wasps problems last season in the kit of Falkirk before making the switch up North this summer, where he has continued to bag goals. The Englishman, still only 22 years old, began his career at Grimsby before moving to Middlesbrough in 2019. It was there that he would make his first flurry across the border with a short loan spell at Kilmarnock. At Falkirk last season, he managed to find the back of the net 12 times for the Bairns. including a winner against Alloa in the Scottish Cup. This season, he is already well on his way to matching or beating that tally. With 5 goals in his opening 8 games, Burrell is in fine form coming into this one. Out of those 5 goals, he did manage to net one against his former club in a 2-2 draw.

#### THE CONNECTION

As well as former manager great, Hartley, and Megginson returning, he also brings with him a few ex-Wasp players. The most recent of those is left-

back, Luke Strachan. The Englishman spent time on loan at Alloa last season and following his release from Dundee in the summer made the move to Cove on a permanent basis. Strachan has yet to make a squad this season. Another returning Alloa player is midfielder, come to defender, Mohammed Niang. Better known as 'Sena' spent time on loan at the club under Barry Ferguson and latterly Brian Rice. Known for his combative midfield style, Sena certainly made an impression against Cove when he was sent off just 19 seconds into the game. He was a fan favourite during his time at the club though for a player who could be relied upon to give his all. Sena has featured in all 8 games for Cove this season. In the Alloa ranks, Brian Rice signed 2 of Cove's players from last season. Morgyn Neill was the first of those and was due to join Alloa in January before it fell through at the last minute due to managerial changes at the Balmoral. Following that, Miko Virtanen, spent time at Cove last

season and will be hoping he is

edging a return to play against his former side.

#### **PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

It was the season before last that the sides came up against each other 4 times. A fixture that the visitors had the advantage in having won 3 out of the 4 games. Both the games at the Balmoral Stadium ended 3-0 to Cove and the first game here at the Indodrill saw Cove win by 3 goals to 1. The most recent fixture here was a much more positive performance from Alloa and one of the first games of current boss, Brian Rice. Andy Grahm opened the scoring for the Wasps just 5 minutes in before Steven Boyd would double the hosts lead before half-time. The fortunes of the game turned when Jon Robertson was sent off and it would take until the 81st minute for Ola Adeyomo to bring his side back into the game. A cruel finish for the 10men of Alloa would come when Rory McAllister would equalize 5 minutes from the end to see the game finish 2-2.



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### ALLOA VS COVE – THE FORGOTTEN GAME

Today we welcome back Cove Rangers after a brief spell for our opponents in the Scottish Championship, Supporters will recall Alloa's tussles with Cove in season 2021/22- particularly the two games that took place here at Recreation Park. Who could forget the red card of Sena-then at Alloa now returning today for Cove- almost half a minute into the game, likely the quickest red card any of us will ever see in a match. Also Brian Rice's first match as Alloa manager- when Alloa started like a house on fire with a quick 2 goal lead. Another red card-this time a rather unfortunate one for Ion Robertsonturned the game in the visitor's favour, and they pegged Alloa back with two late goals- thus showing their championship credentials as they eventually swept to the League One title. Supporters might even recall

watching the January 2021 Scottish Cup tie in their homes with the nation on lockdown. Alloa, a Championship club during the pandemic, faced League One Cove in an exciting encounter. A Ryan Strachan free kick won it for the visitors with the last kick of the game, pulling off an upset in a 3-2 win.

Add in a couple of 3-0 reverses up north, and Alloa go into today's match with no wins over the opposition in the last five. But they did manage a victory over Cove back in the July 2016-and it kickstarted a memorable purple patch of form for The Wasps.

In the summer of 2016 Alloa were in the process of rebuilding. After a disastrous start to the 2015/16 Championship, manager Danny Lennon had left the club, and while new manager Jack Ross had shown signs of real improvement he was unable to rescue the club from their fate of relegation. Cove had won the Highland League the previous season, but the pyramid play-offs saw them lose out to Edinburgh City- who in turn beat East Stirlingshire in the final to win a place in the following seasons League 2. The start of 2016/17 saw the resurrection of the League Cup group phase. Alloa were drawn in a group with cup holders Ross County, Championship Raith Rovers, League 2 Montrose and Highland League champions Cove. Cove arrived at Alloa with confidence having already played their first group game. The match ended in defeat, but they had ran Raith Rovers very close losing narrowly 2-1.

On a very sunny Tuesday evening on the 19th July 2016, Alloa's starting eleven contained seven players making their competitive debuts for the club- Neil Parry, Scott Taggart, Callum Waters, Andy Graham, Jim Goodwin, Jon Robertson and Jordan Kirkpatrick, Greig Spence scored to give Alloa an early advantage. Alloa increased their lead when Andy Graham scored right after half time. The visitors were floored having put so much into their match with Raith just 3 days previously. Star striker Mitch Megginson cut a largely isolated figure all afternoon as Alloa continued to pile on the pressure. They added a third through Jordan Kirkpatrick before substitute Isaac Layne concluded the scoring late on.

Alloa Team:

Neil Parry, Scott Taggart, Callum Waters, Andy Graham, Jason Marr, Jim Goodwin, Kevin Cawley (Isaac Layne 65), Jon Robertson (Graeme Holmes 72), Greig Spence (Jamie Longworth 78), Iain Flannigan, Jordan Kirkpatrick

Goals: Greig Spence 23, Andy Graham 51, Jordan Kirkpatrick 64, Isaac Layne 83 Cove Rangers Team:

Stuart McKenzie, Stuart Walker, Harry Milne, Eric Watson (Murray McCulloch 71), Darryn Kelly, Stuart Duff, Conor Scully (still at club) (Kevin Buchan 62), Sam Burnett, Daniel Park (Ryan Stott 54), Mitch Megginson, Jonathan Smith

This comfortable victory laid the foundations for Alloa's perfect group performance. Spence and Layne were on the scoresheet again as Alloa won their next game at Montrose. It was back to Alloa in midweek where they eliminated the holders Ross County-beating them 3-2 in a brilliant back and forth encounter. Early goals by Kirkpatrick and Jon Robertson were pegged back by Countys Brian Graham and Alex Schalk before the break. But Callum Waters struck a second half winner to put Alloa on the brink of qualification to the last 16. A Greig Spence winner against Raith Rovers at Starks Park gave Alloa a perfect record as they qualified as group winners and seeds for the last 16 draw. Cove Rangers recovered from their Alloa defeat with an impressive 3-0 win over Montrose- Stuart Walker, Mitch Megginson and Daniel Park the scorers. Against Premiership Ross County they were a solitary goal behind at the break and had competed well. But unfortunately a rash challenge by Megginson had saw him receive an instant red card and with it Coves hopes of taking anything from the game. The floodgates opened in the second half as County notched up another six goals to win 7-0. Alloa went onto beat another Premiership club in the last 16- Countys rivals

Inverness Caley Thistle. An early Jason Marr goal was enough to seal their passageway into the Quarter Finals. They were handed the toughest possible task in the last 8- drawn to face Celtic at Parkhead. On the night they were predictably under the cosh for much of the game, but were very unfortunate to see Celtic goalkeeper Craig Gordon stay on the pitch after he launched a karate kick at onrushing Alloa striker Spence. With extra time looming, Alloa finally succumbed to late goals by James Forrest and Moussa Dembele. This was Celtics "invincible" season under Brendan Rodgers and Alloa gave them as good a game as anyone that season.

Both clubs were to end their season in agonising fashion. Alloa's early season league form had emulated their League Cup campaign. This caught the attention of potential suitors to the manager, and Jack Ross left

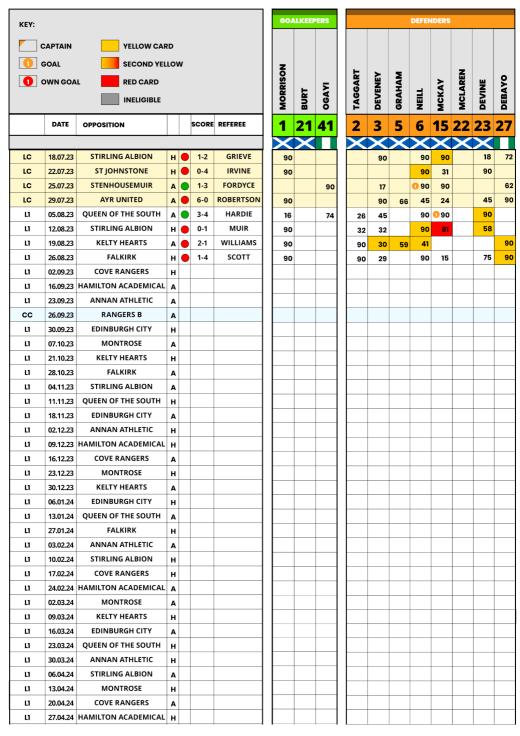
the club in October to become the manager of St Mirren. lim Goodwin had replaced Ross and Alloa made the Championship Play-Off Final, only to lose to Brechin City on penalties. Cove Rangers were pipped to the Highland League Championship by Buckie Thistle on goal difference. But they regained their title in the following two seasons- eventually winning the Pyramid Play-Offs with an emphatic 7-0 aggregate victory over Berwick Rangersthus beginning their rise through the leagues to compete in last season's Championship.

There are six survivors in today's lineups from that July 2016 game. Scott Taggart, Andy Graham, Kevin Cawley and Jon Robertson for Alloa, whilst Cove still have the mercurial Megginson and Conor Scully within their ranks. As Alloa supporters we would love to see a repeat of that afternoon today.

#### **HT QUIZ**

- 1. WHICH PLAYER GOT THE FIRST GOAL IN BRIAN RICE'S TEN-URE AS ALLOA MANAGER BY SCORING A 6TH MINUTE OPENER AGAINST COVE RANGERS HERE IN FEBRUARY 2022?
- 2. CONTROVERSIAL SPANISH FA PRESIDENT LUIS RUBIALES HAD A BRIEF STINT AS A PLAYER AT WHICH SCOTTISH CLUB?
- 3. NAME THE 4 SCOTTISH CLUBS WHO HAVE REACHED THE EUROPEAN CUP SEMI FINALS
- 4. THE MATCHES BETWEEN SCOTLAND AND ENGLAND IN 2016 AND 2017 WERE THE ONLY FIXTURES BETWEEN THE TWO WHERE ONE NATION WORE THEIR CHANGE KIT. WHICH COLOURS DID EACH COUNTRY WEAR IN THE RESPECTIVE GAMES?
- 5. IN THE CURRENT ENGLISH PREMIERSHIP, NAME THE SEVEN CLUBS WHOSE CLUB CREST DOES NOT CONTAIN AN ANIMAL?
- 6. WHICH SEVEN SCOTSMEN SCORED IN THE ENGLISH PREMIER-SHIP LAST SEASON?

**ANSWERS PAGE 37** 



MIDFIELDERS											FORV	VARDS			
HETHERINGTON	CAWLEY	ROBERTS	SCOUGALL	VIRTANEN	O'DONNELL	ROBERTSON		DONNELLY	RODDEN	STEVEN	CANNON	SAMMON	BUCHANAN	RANKIN	COULSON
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#### QUIZ ANWERS

- 1. ANDY GRAHAM
- 2. HAMILTON ACCIES
- 3. HIBS (1956), RANGERS (1960), DUNDEE (1963), CELTIC (1967, 1970, 1972, 1974)
- 4. SCOTLAND- PINK AND NAVY. ENG-LAND- ALL RED
- 5. ARSENAL, BOURNEMOUTH, EVER-TON, FULHAM, MANCHESTER CITY, NOTTINGHAM FOREST, SHEFFIELD UNITED
- 6. JOHN MCGINN (ASTON VILLA), RYAN CHRISTIE (BOURNEMOUTH), TOM CAIRNEY (FULHAM), LIAM COOPER (LEEDS UNITED), SCOTT MCTOMINAY (MANCHESTER UNITED), STUART ARMSTRONG, CHE ADAMS (BOTH SOUTHAMPTON)





#### **ALLOA ATHLETIC**



#### **COVE RANGERS**



	#	POS		⊛	
**	1		NICHOLAS SUMAN		
34	2		JACOB JONES		
$\times$	4		CONNOR SCULLY		
*	5		MOUHAMED NIANG		
$\times$	6		WILL GILLINGHAM		
$\boldsymbol{\times}$	7		PAUL MCGOWAN		
$\times$	8		BLAIR YULE		
$\boldsymbol{\times}$	9		MITCH MEGGINSON		
+	10		RUMARN BURRELL		
$\times$	11		KYLE CONNELL		
	12		MILOSZ OCHMANSKI		
$\times$	14		LUKE STRACHAN		
$\times$	15		ARRON DARGE		
$\times$	16		IAIN VIGURS		
$\times$	17		JOSH KERR		
$\times$	18		TYLER MYKYTA		
+	19		DAYSHONNE GOLDING		
	21		BALINT DEMUS		
$\times$	22		MARK GALLAGHER		
$\times$	23		JACK ROBERTSON		
$\times$	24		FRASER FYVIE		
${f \times}$	26		MARK REYNOLDS		
<del>-</del> ‡	27		CAMERON STEWART		
+	28		RIO DAVIDSON-PHIPPS		
X	29		SCOTT WILLIAMSON		
×	< M	IANA	GER PAUL HARTLEY		

**REFEREE:** Colin Whyte

**ASST:** Calum Doyle & Chris McLaughlin

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

RANGERS B



ALLOA ATHLETIC

16.09.23. NEW DOUGLAS PARK, 15:00

23.09.23, GALABANK, 15:00

HAMILTON ACCIES



ALLOA ATHLETIC

07.10.23, LINKS PARK, 15:00

30.09.23, INDODRILL STADIUM, 15:00

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