



THE WASP

OFFICIAL MATCHDAY
PROGRAMME



VS ANNAN ATHLETIC
2ND DECEMBER 2023



NORTHERN
GAS AND POWER
THE SMARTER ENERGY CHOICE





25th November 2023
 New Countess Park, Dunbar
 3:00 pm KO

DUNBAR UNITED

1:2

ALLOA ATHLETIC



(1:2)

SCORERS

Morrison (OG) 13'	1:0
	1:1 31' Cawley
	1:2 45' Sammon



STARTING XI

- 1 DOWIE**
- 8 BERRY**
- 5 THOMSON**
- 4 WHITSON**
- 3 REDPATH**
- 20 CONGALTON**
- 6 BARFOOT**
- 11 GREGORY**
- 10 HANDLING**
- 19 SOMERS**
- 14 HENDRY**

SUBS

- 2 HARE**
- 12 BATHGATE**
- 13 BRENNAN**
- 15 HARRIS**
- 16 HALL**
- 23 STEWART**
- 24 TAIT**

SUBS

- 21 BURT**
- 3 DEVENEY**
- 5 GRAHAM**
- 10 RODDEN**
- 14 VIRTANEN**
- 19 BUCHANAN**

STARTING XI

- 1 MORRISON**
- 2 TAGGART**
- 15 MCKAY**
- 6 NEILL**
- 20 O'DONNELL**
- 7 CAWLEY**
- 8 ROBERTS**
- 12 SCOUGALL**
- 26 COULSON**
- 18 SAMMON**
- 16 ROY**

REFEREE: Lloyd Wilson

ALLOA ATHLETIC FOOTBALL CLUB



SCOTTISH CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS

1921/22

RUNNERS UP

1938/39

SCOTTISH LEAGUE 1 RUNNERS UP

1976/77 1981/82

1984/85 1988/89 1999/00

2001/02 2009/10 2012/13

2016/17

SCOTTISH LEAGUE 2 WINNERS

1997/1998 2011/2012

CHALLENGE CUP WINNERS

1999/2000

RUNNERS-UP

2001/02 2014/15

STIRLINGSHIRE CUP WINNERS

1904/5 1907/8 1908/9

1912/13 1920/21 1924/25

1933/34 1946/47 1955/56

1957/58 1959/60 1965/66

1981/82 1996/97

MOST CAPPED PLAYER

Jock Hepburn, 1 Cap
(Scotland v Wales 1891)

*includes equivalent competitions

Club Information

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Clackmannan Road,
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Club Officials

Honorary Directors

Pat Lawlor

Ewen Cameron

Mike Mulraney

Directors

Andrew Allan (Chairman)

Martin Ross (Vice Chairman)

Steven Lynch

Dr Robert McElroy

Secretary

Carol Edgar

Head of Media

Lewis Russell

Child Protection Officer

Bill Anderson

Management

Brian Rice (Manager)

Paddy Connolly (Assistant)

Kenny Brannigan (Assistant)

Sebastian Panczyk (Physiotherapist)

Andrew Deeley (Club Doctor)

Derek Nicholson (Head of Youth)

Robert Glen (Goalkeeping Coach)

Ground Staff

Alan Petrie

Kit Manager

Pat Dunne

Safety Officers

Robert Wilson, Carol Edgar

Wasp 2000 Manager

Malcolm Gordon

Club Shop

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	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
FALKIRK	14	10	4	0	31	9	22	34
HAMILTON ACCIES	14	10	3	1	29	7	22	33
COVE RANGERS	14	7	4	3	22	15	7	25
KELTY HEARTS	14	6	3	5	22	21	1	21
MONTROSE	14	6	2	6	22	21	1	20
ALLOA ATHLETIC	14	5	2	7	17	23	-6	17
STIRLING	14	4	2	8	10	24	-14	14
QUEEN OF THE SOUTH	14	4	1	9	17	23	-6	13
ANNAN ATHLETIC	14	2	4	8	18	30	-12	10
EDINBURGH CITY	14	2	3	9	18	33	-15	9

WEEKEND'S FIXTURES

LEAGUE 1

ALLOA ATHLETIC	ANNAN ATHLETIC
FALKIRK	COVE RANGERS
HAMILTON ACCIES	QUEEN OF THE SOUTH
KELTY HEARTS	EDINBURGH CITY
STIRLING ALBION	MONTROSE

CHAMPIONSHIP

AYR UNITED	ARBROATH
DUNFERMLINE	QUEEN'S PARK
GREENOCK MORTON	DUNDEE UNITED
INVERNESS CT	RAITH ROVERS
PARTICK THISTLE	AIRDRIEONIANS

PREMIER LEAGUE

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

LEAGUE 2

EAST FIFE	SPARTANS
ELGIN CITY	CLYDE
FORFAR ATHLETIC	STRANRAER
PETERHEAD	DUMBARTON
STENHOUSEMUIR	BONNYRIGG ROSE

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every success for the coming season!**



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GOALKEEPERS

PJ MORRISON

27/02/1998

CM KG



DEFENDERS

Scott TAGGART

27/12/1991

183 CM 75 KG



Euan DEVENEY

16/11/2002

CM KG



Morgyn NEILL

10/03/1996

CM KG



Keir BURT

09/09/2004

175 CM 69 KG



Andy GRAHAM

22/09/1983

188 CM 85 KG



David MCKAY

17/06/1998

CM KG



Paul MCLAREN

01/04/2004

185 CM 76 KG



Tochukwu OGAYI

10/10/1996

CM KG



David DEVINE

20/06/2001

CM KG



Josh DEBAYO

17/10/1996

CM KG



MANAGER

ANDY GRAHAM



MIDFIELDERS

Steven HETHERINGTON

09/03/1993



Kevin CAWLEY

17/03/1989



Kurtis ROBERTS

06/09/1994



Stefan SCOUGALL

07/12/1992

170 cm 63 kg



Miko VIRTANEN

29/01/1999



Cameron O'DONNELL

29/09/2001

183 cm 70 kg



Jon ROBERTSON

25/04/1989

183 cm 70 kg



FORWARDS

Luke DONNELLY

20/01/1996



Bradley RODDEN

21/08/1996

178 cm 68 kg



Taylor STEVEN

17/09/2004



Alistair ROY

26/05/1997



Conor SAMMON

06/11/1986

188 cm 91 kg



Steven BUCHANAN

26/03/2003

178 cm 70 kg



Quinn COULSON

01/09/2003



Bobby WALES

23/06/2005



ANDY GRAHAM



ON BEING APPOINTED & VICTORY AGAINST DUNBAR

I'm delighted and privileged that the club have decided to offer me the manager position. I'd like to thank Brian Rice for how he allowed me to get more of an insight into a coaching role in his time here. "The support I have had in my time at Alloa has been outstanding and they will have a big part to play moving forward. I'm looking forward to working with the players as well as the rest of the staff at the club to try and make my time at the club a successful one."

AFTER ADVANCING TO THE FOURTH ROUND OF THE SCOTTISH GAS SCOTTISH CUP

"I'm delighted with that, Credit to Dunbar, they were excellent and they really went for it in the last 10 minutes.

"We spoke at half time about going onto get that third goal to try to kill it off – I thought we had it with Sammon's, I'll need to see it back.

"We knew that they'd put us under pressure in the last 10 minutes but fair play to the

boys, they stood up to it and stood strong.

"At the end of the day, the objective was to get into the next round and that's exactly what we've done."

"A few players missing were enforced with Steven and Wales not being eligible to play from their parent club.

"Hetherington and Devine had picked up knocks. Nothing serious but enough to keep them out of today so unfortunately I had to stand on the

bench.

“Hopefully, I won’t need to go on the pitch and that proved the case today.”

“I’ll take anything you’ve got in the next round. Everyone will always say a home tie but I’ll take anything you’ve got.”

“The Scottish Cup is brilliant. Coming here today was a great experience, pitch was fantastic and it’s a new ground, new venue, great crowd today.

“That’s what the Scottish Cup is all about, games like today. It’s great to get through, there’s loads of things we can improve on, we’ll work on that but the objective was to get through and we’ve done it.”

“I think there was a bit of hullabaloo last week about me

getting the job and there was always going to be a bit of a comedown from that.

“Football has got a way of doing that – everything seems rosy then bang, straight back down to earth.

“I thought last week we were very unfortunate to lose by the

scoreline we did and then today we’ve won 2-1.

“I try not to get too high and too low, it’s about being objective and working out how we can improve as a team for the next game.”



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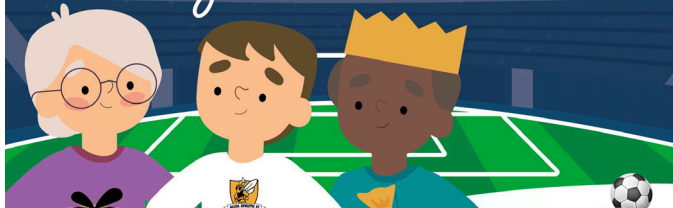
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JOHN GLENCROSS

Festive Friends

Coming home for Christmas



NEWSDESK

Welcome back to the Indodrill Stadium for our first home fixture this season against Annan Athletic FC, welcome to their manager Peter Murphy and his assistant manager Colin McMenamin, the players, officials, and directors of Annan Athletic FC.

Since our last home programme v. QOS, manager Brian Rice has left to take up a position along with David Martindale at Livingston. The club would like to thank Brian for his outstanding service since joining Alloa Athletic in February, 2022. Brian in his first full season with the club, only missed out on promotion after losing to Hamilton Accies 5-3 over the two legs, having been 3-0 ahead, before sadly running out of legs, with latterly players having to cover in unconventional positions. We wish Brian all the best for the

future as he returns to the SPFL Premiership.

Andy Allan, Alloa Athletic chairman and the board, appointed club captain Andy Graham as the new manager, saying "In Andy Graham, we've got a man who knows the club very well, it's inner workings, the players we currently have and their strengths, and shares the expectations we have for the club."

Today will be Andy's first home game in his new position as manager, as a player and leader, he has been an integral part of the team since joining in the summer of 2016 .

On Saturday 18th November, Scott Taggart made his 300th appearance for the club when he lined up against Edinburgh City. Scott joined the club at the

start of Season 2016-17 when Jim Goodwin brought him to the club from Dumbarton. At the time in the Pen-Pics used in the programme, I believe we did not give Scott the credit he deserved. "Scott, has played the majority of his career in the Championship and is still only 24, he can play anywhere across the back four although predominately at right back, his versatility is a great attraction to the squad." Later in the programme Jonathan Markwell looks back on Scott's three hundred appearances and recalls just how good a player he has been for the club.

After defeating Dunbar United last Saturday, "The Wasps" on Sunday night learned of their opponents in the fourth round of the Scottish Gas Cup, drawing Motherwell at Fir Park Stadium, a ground the last time we played at in the League Cup on 13th August, 1996, Tom Hendrie's side then in the Third Division, were the first Third Division side to defeat a Premiership side in a competitive match. The game went to penalties, with Jimmy Gilmour scoring the winning penalty to put Alex McLeish's side out. The last time the club's met in the Scottish Cup was at Recreation Park on 5th March, 1986 also in the fourth round, Motherwell managed a 2-1 victory, with Player/manager Dom Sullivan scoring "The Wasps" goal.

The Club has recently been notified that Charles Dignan and his assistant Gregg McSwiggan are to leave their management and coaching roles with the



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Alloa**

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December 2023**

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Alloa Athletic Women's 1st Team. The club would like to thank Charles for his focus and dedication in professionalising the squad which has shown continuous improvement under his management.

Charles cited the time and distances travelling every week from his home in the East of Fife as a significant factor in deciding to leave the club for a new position with Dunfermline FC. Both Charles and Gregg leave with the club's very best wishes for the future. The selection of a new management team will begin immediately with a view to having them in place for the first competitive game in mid-January 2024.

A special mention to Alloa Athletic fan, Tom Paterson who is celebrating his 71st birthday today and hopes Andy Graham can win the points today for him to celebrate. Tom and David Findlay have been friends going back to school days at Sunnyside School and have followed "The Wasps" going to the matches home and away since the early sixties.

On Monday 11th December

we will hold our ninth Football Memories Group in conjunction with Alzheimer Scotland and Football Memories Scotland part of the Memories Scotland network. The football reminiscence group is to be enjoyed by anyone living with Dementia, having trouble with memory, and is open to all including football supporters, family and friends. At all the meetings we have had good turnouts, thanks to the 25 people who attended the November meeting, who enjoyed looking back on football through the ages and looking at old programmes, team lines, and photographs. Our next Football Memories meeting will take place on Monday 11th December at Indodrill stadium, at 11.30 - 2.00 O'clock, slightly longer due to the Festive Theme for this month all are welcome, the Guest Speakers on the day will be ex Alloa Athletic players Arthur Grant & Chris Townsley.

The Wasps Community Club are taking part in Festive Friends! This festive period, we will welcome older people who may be feeling lonely or isolated to the Recs to enjoy a hot Christmas lunch, fun and games, and

importantly, companionship. Learn more: spfltrust.org.uk/festivefriends

Just the present every Alloa Athletic fan will want for Christmas - The History of Alloa Athletic book, which celebrates the club's 100 years in the Scottish League, Over 660 pages in A4 size covering League Tables, Results, and 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 can be ordered direct from the club for £ 29.95. Orders can be placed directly on the club website alloaathletic.co.uk or visiting the club shop and placing order. Also available is "Diary of a Season 2022/23". This book is £ 14.99, Diary of a Season 2022/23 continues where the History of club book ends.

WASPS 2000 DRAW - WEEK

47 25th November, 2023

£ 100 0592 C.Meighan

£ 50 0166 I.Kennedy

£ 25 0605 J.Frew

£ 25 0223 J.McLatchie

£ 25 0541 D.Glencross



JONATHAN MARKWELL



SCOTT TAGGART'S TRIPLE CENTURY

Loyalty in football is increasingly in short supply, particularly in the lower leagues where year-to-year contracts mean players move clubs on a regular basis. Happily, there are always exceptions to the norms, with Alloa's Scott Taggart being one such shining light. The Wasps captain made his landmark 300th Alloa appearance a fortnight ago, providing an ideal opportunity to reflect on a highly successful seven and a half years as an integral part of the Wasps backline.

Signed by Jack Ross in the summer of 2016, a fresh-faced 24-year-old Taggart played every minute of every game in his

first season at the club, as the Wasps agonisingly missed out on promotion after losing out to Brechin in a sudden-death play-off penalty shoot-out. Taggart was Alloa's out-ball down the right-wing, regularly whipping in crosses for Greig Spence and co to feast on. He also scored three goals (a 15 yard volley away at Airdrie was his first and arguably his most spectacular) and was also part of a backline which kept 16 clean sheets. The following season Alloa could not be denied in the play-offs, revenging the previous season on a memorable afternoon back at his former club Dumbarton. Taggart only missed a single

game that successful season and was equally at home at right-back or centre-back, with Jim Goodwin's tactical switches after the first quarter of the season proving a master-stroke. Taggart's fine form didn't go unnoticed amongst his peers, being named in the end-of-season League One Team of the Year.

Back in the Championship for the 2018/19 season, Taggart was ever-present (alongside Neil Parry and Andy Graham), playing a full-role in Alloa's successful battle against the drop in an otherwise full-time division. Whilst predominantly employed at his established right-back

position, come the business end of the season an injury to young loanee Sam Roscoe saw Taggart once again seamlessly move across into the centre alongside Graham to see the Wasps hit form at the exact right time to finish 8th. The following season under Peter Grant, Taggart was once again ever-present as the Wasps beat the drop again in the Covid-curtailed 2019/20 season. Taggart spent the latter half of that season in the heart of Alloa's defence, covering for injured skipper Graham. His partnership with another young loanee, Robbie Deas, was crucial in Alloa's successes, with two standout performances against Lawrence Shankland and Dundee United being particular highlights.

In the Covid-shortened 2020/21 season Taggart was once again one of the first names on the team sheet until an injury at Arbroath saw him miss two months of the campaign. It is no surprise that Taggart's return to the team in February saw the Wasps pick up a rare win in an otherwise disappointing season which finished in relegation back to League One. Taggart scored the first goal of Barry Ferguson's short tenure as Alloa manager in 2021/22, waltzing through the Livingston backline to fire home at the Clackmannan Road end. Scott was once again a regular feature in the Alloa side, almost exclusively at right-back under Ferguson before playing in a variety of roles once Brian Rice came in. I personally thought Scott was Alloa's star performer that season, although the official award went to fellow defender Mark Durnan.

Last season, Taggart deservedly won Alloa's Player of the

Year award. The defender was consistently excellent throughout, proving to be invaluable at both ends of the pitch. Taggart also showcased his versatility throughout the campaign, with his starting position in matches encompassing no fewer than eight separate positions based on my calculations. It begins with a conventional right-back in a back four system (11 games), to the right-wing-back role (2 games), the right-sided central defender (RCB) in a back three (9 games), RCB in a back four (1 game), a left-sided central defender (LCB) in a back three (9 games), LCB in a back four (5 games) and all the way through to a conventional left-back (4 games) and left-wing back (2 games). Moreover, it was commonplace for Taggart to play in three separate positions during the course of a single games as Brian Rice tinkered with his formations throughout matches. Taggart's intelligence meant none of this phased him and he performed admirably in every role asked of him – put simply,

Taggart is Alloa's finest defender whichever position he plays! Some stand out performances came in the early season home wins over Peterhead and Airdrie (twice), while the away games in consecutive weeks against OG Broomhill and Montrose also saw Taggart excel. Taggs also added goals to his game last season, finishing with a career high 6 goals. Four of those did come from the penalty spot, but nevertheless it was a fine return. Those goals included a well-worked and neatly finished opener at Peterhead (together with a full-length body slide to celebrate!), an ice-cool last minute winner from the spot see Alloa past Simon Ferry's Open Goal side, and that amusing spot-kick which crashed off the bar and was adjudged to have crossed the line past his former teammate Parry at Clyde.

However, it is probably when Taggart was (rarely) missing from the side that you appreciate his consistently impressive performances the most. There is always a tendency for support-



ers to take a player's level of performances for granted after a period of time, but when that regular starter is absent it re-emphasises the valuable role they play. First time spectators of Alloa would probably pinpoint Taggart as a key man based on any single game, whereas the hardcore support expect that to be a normal level of performance going by 'the Taggart standard'. The Wasps certainly missed Taggart when he was forced off in the play-off second leg at Hamilton, with everything conspiring to go against the Wasps that day.

This season, Taggart missed pre-season and the League Cup games still recovering from injury, with it understandably taking him a few games to get back up to his usual standards in the opening month of the league season. In recent weeks, Scott's form has been back to normal, with Taggart now permanently taking the skipper's armband - another signal of his value to the club. Watching

Taggart more closely this season, his role in the side has evolved yet again. Whether it is in either full-back position, or on the right or left side of a back three, Taggart's role has been crucial in Alloa's systems of play. Increasingly, Taggart has been inverting himself into a Pep Guardiola style defender who steps into midfield when attacks are being built, often being the link man at moving the ball through the thirds of the pitch by popping up in spaces where you don't expect to see him and driving forward to create space and accurately play the ball (most often along the floor) into the strikers or wide attackers. Taggart's comfort on the ball, intelligence in reading the game and tenacity to push the play forward, together with his undoubted stamina, means I would go as far to say that he's arguably the most important member of the team from both an attacking and defensive point of view. That sweetest spot is probably on the right-hand side of a back three, where pockets

of space open up and a high proportion of Alloa's attacks come through getting Scott on the ball and him running through the channels. That was probably most evidently seen in the home encounter against Edinburgh City a couple of months ago, with Montrose certainly spotting that when the Wasps travelled to Links Park the following week, as Taggart was targeted by the Mo' press at every opportunity after the successes it brought the previous week.

Another clear indicator of Taggart's value to Alloa is shown through a comparison of the Wasps' clean sheet rate when Taggart plays versus those rare occasions when he's absent. The clean sheet rate is 23% with Taggart in the team (70 clean sheets in 301 games now), but drops down to just 12.5% (3 shut-outs in 24 matches) without Taggart playing, meaning it is almost half as likely that the Wasps won't concede without Scott on the pitch than when he is. Obviously football is a team game, so Taggart can't take full credit for this, but nevertheless I consider it an interesting signal of his importance to the Alloa backline.

Another proud feature of Taggart's triple century has been that the overwhelming majority have been full appearances, with 297 of the 300 being part of the Wasps starting XI. That fact hasn't been lost on the man himself, with Taggart remarking to the Alloa Advertiser's Chris Faulds "I'm proud more than anything. Out of those 300 games, I don't know the exact stats but at least 290 of them would be full 90 minute appearances which is pretty good". Well, Taggs wasn't far off, with actually 289 of those appearances being full games, with the 11 instances being few and far between. Taggart actually



didn't miss a single minute with the Wasps until his 81st match, when injury at Ayr finished an amazing stretch of 7,323 continuous minutes on the pitch. Injury was also the reason for Taggart not completing the full 90 minutes at Arbroath in 2020, at East Fife and versus Clyde towards the end of the 2021/22 season and at Kelty and Hamilton at the end of last season. The other instances were Taggart's two substitute appearances as he returned from injury at the start of this season, a late cameo from the bench in the Challenge Cup during Barry Ferguson's tenure and two occasions when Ferguson's tactical nous saw Taggart subbed off!

In-fact, Taggart's durability is legendary, with him only missing a single game in his first four seasons at the club, playing every single minute of every single game in three of those seasons in the process (51 matches in 2016/17, 46 in 2018/19 and 36 in the curtailed 2019/20 campaign). His appearances for the Wasps have included consecutive stretches of first 92 and then 94 starts for the club. Peter Grant decided to rest Taggs for

the Betfred Cup Group Stage win over Stenhousemuir in November 2020 to end that second run, which was the longest run of starting appearances by any Alloa player for at least a quarter of a century (beating goalkeeper Mark Cairns 93 game run at the turn of the millennium), which also involved 8,490 consecutive minutes on the pitch! With Taggart approaching his 32nd birthday later this month, there's still hopefully plenty left in the tank for Alloa's popular defender. Taggart himself seems satisfied with life at the Recs, reflecting to Chris Faulds at the Alloa Advertiser after reaching 300 games "Ever since I've joined, from the get-go when Jack Ross brought me in, I've loved it, I've loved the club, I've loved everything about it.

It works great for me personally with my work and my family so I absolutely love it and I don't plan on going anywhere".

Looking forward, as well as hopeful future successes with the Wasps, Taggart will have one eye on a couple of personal milestones on the horizon too. In January, Taggart could break into the top 10 appearance makers for the club since WW2. Scott is

presently 12th on that particular list, but is scheduled to go ahead of 1950/1960s stalwarts Peter Smith (303 games) and Jimmy Docherty (307) in the coming weeks. In the opening month of next season (or the end of this season depending on the length of Alloa's Scottish Cup run and if the Wasps are involved in the end of season play-offs – both fitness permitting of course) Taggs could reach the considerable feat of 500 career appearances, with that tally, I think, presently at 474 - 3 for Hibernian, 18 on loan at Ayr, 31 on loan at Stranraer, 76 for Morton, 55 for Dumbarton and 301 so far for Alloa. In addition, now in his 8th season with the Wasps, another couple of seasons could see Taggart earn himself what would be a richly deserved testimonial. Each and every Alloa supporter knows how fortunate the club have been to retain Taggart's services for such a sustained period of time and here's hoping, now under his 6th manager in the form of long-time team-mate Andy Graham, there's a few more chapters in Scott's successful Wasps career story still to be written.

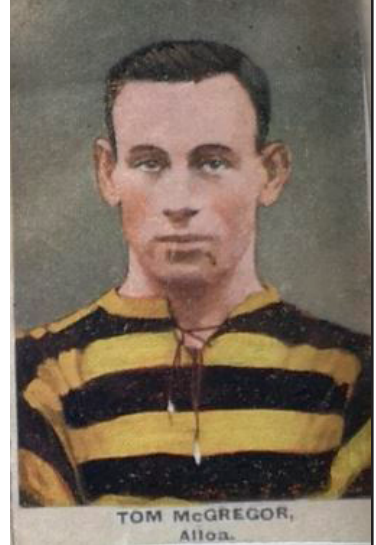




DONALD POLLOCK

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	Pts.
King's Park	15	9	3	3	29	13	21
St Johnstone	14	8	2	4	21	8	20
Cowdenbeath	15	6	2	7	23	13	19
Armadale	14	8	4	2	20	18	18
Albion Rovers	14	7	4	3	27	18	17
Bo'ness	15	6	5	4	24	23	16
Bathgate	14	5	3	6	16	15	16
Dundee United	14	5	4	4	15	15	16
Stenhousemuir	14	4	3	7	19	13	15
Johnstone	13	6	4	3	19	14	15
Dunfermline Ath.,	15	6	6	3	16	17	15
East Fife	15	6	7	2	14	17	14
Dumbarton	14	6	6	2	16	18	14
Forfar Athletic	14	4	5	5	14	18	13
Alloa	14	5	7	2	14	17	12
Broxburn United..	14	4	7	3	14	22	11
St Bernards	14	3	6	5	17	22	11
Val of Leven	14	4	8	2	13	23	10
Arbroath	14	3	10	1	13	20	7
Lochgelly United..	14	1	11	2	5	25	4

[The Armadale-Johnstone and Alloa-St Bernards matches, which were abandoned, are not included.]



WASPS LOOK UP DESPITE FRENCH LEAVE

The words of an unknown Italian have been immortalised on a wall at the Ellis Island Museum of Immigration in New York: "I came to America because I heard the streets were paved with gold. When I got here, I found out three things: First, the streets weren't paved with gold; second, they weren't paved at all; and third, I was expected to pave them." Alloa strikers of 100 years ago were only aware of the first line, it would appear, for as November 1923 approached, the Wasps were dealing with the second defection of an America bound attacker in just six months. The Alloa commit-

tee had spent the early part of the season trying to replace Willie Crilley, the one time Recs goal machine who had sailed for New York in April. The latest candidate was R.McIntyre of Burnbank Juniors, who had signed after scoring as a trialist against Arbroath. And yet just a fortnight after putting pen to paper at the Recs, McIntyre had packed his bags and headed for America on the eve of the visit of Second Division leaders St Johnstone - and without even telling the directors. Little wonder that Alloa were said to be "somewhat disorganised" in the early stages against the Saints. But in front

of a big crowd boosted by a large travelling contingent from Perth, the Wasps put the loss of McIntyre behind them and began to pin the visitors back. Wood came close before an effort from Stirling hit both the bar and post before bouncing out. St Johnstone held on but with just ten minutes remaining, Alloa made the breakthrough with an outstanding goal from Danny Paterson, who had been introduced as a trialist in the previous game against Bo'ness. The former Cowdenbeath, King's Park and Hamilton player slomed past two defenders before lifting the ball over the

keeper and into the net. "It was a beautifully taken goal, with the cool, calculating head at work" enthused the Perthshire Advertiser, who also graciously concluded that Alloa were worthy winners. It was a shock victory against the league leaders and the perfect response to the unexpected departure of McIntyre.

Next up was a trip to Broxburn where the home team got off to a terrible start with the loss of a player to injury then an OG which put the Wasps ahead. Broxburn levelled with a shot from distance but Alloa were ahead again before the break when Alexander turned in a cross from Paterson. The Wasps had Crawford to thank for a second-half penalty save and while it was reported that the Alloa players and officials accepted that they had been "very lucky", it finished 2-1 for very welcome back to back wins.

The Wasps were now in fine fettle for another big match at the Recs with Cowdenbeath making the short trip to the Wee County. The Miners were

sitting joint top of the table with King's Park and brought 1000 fans to the Recs. With a fine turnout of home supporters joined by 200 interested King's Parks fans who had come through from Stirling, a crowd of over 5000 watched a thrilling encounter. The impressive Paterson drilled an effort against the post early on before Crawford in the Alloa goal made an outstanding stop when a Cowden goal seemed certain. As the game progressed the visitors began to take control and Crawford again came to Alloa's rescue with a string of fine stops. With time running out, Alloa struck. Mick Connaboy made a fine run down the flank before curling a shot from a tight angle which went in off the far post. All of a sudden Alloa had three wins in a row, two of them against high-flying opposition. The Sunday Post had labelled Paterson as "easily the best forward on the field" against Cowden and the directors moved quickly after the match to get him signed up on the conclusion of his one month trial.

Alloa were looking up rather than down - just six points off the second promotion place - as St

Bernards arrived at the Recs. The Wasps were clearly growing in confidence as Danny Paterson and Jock Stirling tortured the Edinburgh Saints on the flanks, with Alloa unfortunately unable to convert the resulting chances. As heavy snowfall began to engulf the Recs, it was the visitors who went ahead through Young, with Alloa immediately missing a golden chance to equalise. Conditions quickly worsened and after consulting with both skippers, the referee promptly abandoned the match with half an hour remaining.

The Wasps would have to try again if they were to maintain their fine run, but they still hadn't forgotten about the manner of McIntyre's departure and had raised the matter with the authorities: "Alloa, like other clubs, are finding that although the power of the SFA is pretty strong, when it comes to players leaving for America, the Scottish Association is powerless", reported the Dundee Evening Telegraph. "Player R.M'Intyre, whom Alloa had signed, left for the States on the eve of an important game, and the club was anxious to know if they could get any redress.

"The SFA's reply was that although they might think the conduct of players not very satisfactory, it was left to the clubs to take any steps they think fit. This will not be good news to a few clubs whose players have taken French leave".

The Wasps could only hope that no further strikers would get wanderlust, and while the streets of the Wee County might not be paved with gold, the recent burst up the table was certainly a good way to keep the troops happy at home. Alloa were aiming to build on that as they prepared for the busy festive schedule. More in the next edition of The Wasp.



APPEARANCES

	POS	LEAGUE		CUP		TOTAL		ALLOA CAREER LGE	
		APP	GOAL	APP	GOAL	APP	GOAL	APP	GOAL
MORRISON	GOAL	8 (1)	0	4 (0)	0	12 (1)	0	8 (1)	9
BURT	GOAL	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (1)	0
OGAYI	GOAL	6 (1)	0	2 (0)	0	8 (1)	0	6 (1)	0
TAGGART	DEF	12 (2)	1	2 (0)	0	14 (2)	1	241 (2)	12
GRAHAM	DEF	0 (1)	0	1 (1)	0	1 (2)	0	189 (8)	14
MCLAREN	DEF	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	1 (2)	0
DEVINE	DEF	12 (2)	0	2 (1)	0	14 (3)	0	22 (2)	0
NEILL	DEF	11 (0)	0	5 (1)	1	16 (1)	1	11 (0)	0
DEVENEY	DEF	9 (2)	0	3 (2)	0	12 (4)	0	9 (2)	0
MCKAY	DEF	2 (3)	1	4 (2)	0	6 (5)	1	2 (3)	1
DEBAYO	DEF	8 (0)	0	3 (0)	0	11 (0)	0	8 (0)	0
ROBERTSON	MID	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	175 (30)	2
SCOUGALL	MID	6 (1)	0	4 (1)	0	10 (2)	0	65 (19)	8
O'DONNELL	MID	4 (2)	1	3 (1)	0	7 (3)	1	20 (36)	10
CAWLEY	MID	5 (4)	0	1 (2)	1	6 (6)	1	329 (51)	63
HETHERINGTON	MID	13 (0)	0	5 (1)	0	18 (1)	0	150 (30)	6
VIRTANEN	MID	2 (3)	0	3 (2)	0	5 (5)	0	2 (3)	0
ROBERTS	MID	14 (0)	0	5 (1)	0	19 (1)	0	14 (0)	0
DONNELLY	FWD	1 (5)	1	1 (0)	0	2 (5)	1	13 (24)	8
SAMMON	FWD	6 (7)	3	5 (1)	2	11 (8)	5	57 (29)	22
RODDEN	FWD	3 (6)	4	4 (0)	1	7 (6)	5	10 (14)	9
BUCHANAN	FWD	7 (0)	1	4 (1)	1	11 (1)	2	7 (11)	1
RANKIN	FWD	0 (0)	0	0 (2)	0	0 (2)	0	0 (11)	1
COULSON	FWD	3 (5)	0	4 (2)	1	7 (7)	1	15 (9)	1
CANNON	FWD	0 (3)	0	0 (1)	0	0 (4)	0	0 (3)	0
STEVEN	FWD	10 (0)	1	0 (0)	0	10 (0)	1	10 (0)	1
ROY	FWD	5 (0)	4	1 (0)	0	6 (0)	4	5 (0)	4
WALES	FWD	6 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	6 (0)	0	6 (0)	0



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ALLOA CAREER CUP		ALLOA TOTAL	
APP	GOAL	APP	GOAL
4 (0)	0	12 (1)	9
0 (0)	0	0 (1)	0
2 (0)	0	8 (1)	0
57 (1)	3	298 (3)	15
54 (3)	1	243 (11)	15
2 (2)	0	3 (4)	0
2 (1)	0	24 (3)	0
5 (1)	1	16 (1)	1
3 (2)	0	12 (4)	0
4 (2)	0	6 (5)	1
3 (0)	0	11 (0)	0
44 (5)	2	219 (35)	4
18 (8)	2	83 (27)	10
8 (2)	0	28 (38)	10
67 (11)	12	396 (62)	75
32 (9)	1	182 (39)	7
3 (2)	0	5 (5)	0
5 (1)	0	19 (1)	0
4 (3)	2	17 (27)	10
17 (4)	8	74 (33)	30
9 (2)	2	19 (16)	11
6 (4)	1	13 (15)	2
0 (6)	0	0 (17)	1
4 (2)	1	19 (11)	2
0 (1)	0	0 (4)	0
0 (0)	0	10 (0)	1
1 (0)	0	6 (0)	4
0 (0)	0	6 (0)	0

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BRIAN ROACH



A FAN'S VIEW

Since the last edition of the programme it's been a very eventful few weeks at the club. Brian Rice departed as manager to join the Livingston coaching staff right before the previous edition went to print, leaving no time to really address this major announcement in the last match programme. The news came as a major surprise at the time but has likely worked out for both parties. Obviously completely unaware of the opinions within the confines of the boardroom- but prior to that derby match at Forthbank there was mounting pressure in the air on the manager amongst some of the fanbase. Had that match ended in defeat I feel there would have been a vocal backlash from a

section of the supporters. There is an expectation that Alloa should compete for those promotion play-off positions and results in the first quarter of the season were perhaps viewed as disappointing. Although fortunes can turn very quickly in a ten-team decision, Alloa have probably under achieved in terms of results so far based on the squad of players at the club- albeit with a great deal of football still to be played.

We will never know how this season would have developed under Brian Rice following this tricky start, but he was able to sign off at the club with a dominant derby victory and depart with a good record overall as manager. He arrived in February

2022 following Barry Fergusons departure. In Ferguson's final match Alloa lost to basement club East Fife- not only the result but the manner of defeat left me slightly concerned the club were hurtling towards a relegation dogfight. Rice immediately revived the team's fortunes, steadied the ship and led Alloa to a final position of fifth- above near neighbours Falkirk. After a turbulent season this was a fairly credible position and a really good achievement personally for Brian Rice. In Rice's first and only full season at the helm, he guided Alloa to the promotion play-offs- with a steady improvement on the previous campaign. This was achieved with some breathing space too. The play-offs ended badly with a collapse at Hamilton of course, but I don't think that can necessarily fall at the managers' door- Alloa simply ran out of fit players that day. Overall, I thought he was very likeable and I enjoyed his approach and philosophy on the game. The tinkering of the team was perhaps a bit frustrating at times but ultimately, he rescued Alloa from a fairly sticky situation with potentially disastrous ramifications before achieving what was expected last season as a likely target.

Paddy Connolly took temporary charge for the Queen of the South match three weeks ago as Alloa looked for a successor to Rice. By my rough calculations I have this listed as Paddy's sixth spell as caretaker manager- but I'll leave Jonathan Markwell to one day produce his magic when it comes to overall stats, win percentage etc of Alloa's long serving assistant manager/ first team coach. Paddy did

manage to add another win to his caretaker CV though- all the more vital as it was the first occasion this season that Alloa have achieved back-to-back victories. It was a deserved win for despite the narrow result- with Ally Roy grabbing the headlines as the first Alloa player since the 1960s to score in each of his initial four games at the club.

The Queen of the South match provided no real insight of the next man at the helm, even following a half time wander through the main stand to review any interested "spectators". Nevertheless, the popular choice amongst the majority of the support was the man appointed. Andy Graham has been repeatedly touted as a future Alloa manager as far back as Jim Goodwin's time as manager at the club. He's been put forward by the supporters seemingly on every occasion the vacancy has opened since- but in terms of timing it's probably perfect now as he winds down his playing career. Supporters seem universally happy with this appointment- unsurprisingly so. He is a hugely popular figure and based on his leadership skills has the raw tools to give management his best shot. The fans will also provide Andy with a degree of patience through his development process- of course with the hope that he follows the likes of Hartley, Goodwin and Ross to become a success.

Unfortunately, Andy didn't get off to a great start with the defeat at Edinburgh City a fortnight ago. It was undoubtedly a bad day at the office. Andy's post-match interview made me feel a bit better about the outcome. I agreed with his assessment mainly- I thought we started the game really well and Edinburgh's opener was

certainly against the run of play. But ultimately if you can't create too many openings in the final third while conceding at the other end games will be lost. It was a much better experience last week at Dunbar in the Scottish Cup- both on and off the pitch. Dunbar United's facilities were excellent. The rugby and football clubs are situated in the same facility, with a large clubhouse with both bar and food on offer. With the rugby team playing in the morning, there was definitely a core of fans who were keen to see how their football counterparts fared. The clubhouse was pretty packed pre match but remained very welcoming. Their stadium New Countess Park was just as busy. Alloa were their highest ranked opposition ever, and the locals definitely turned up to back their team towards another Scottish Cup upset. Alloa were also affected by injuries to key players such as Stevie Hetherington and David Devine. Hetherington would have undoubtedly be the first name on the team sheet in anticipation of a midfield battle. In addition, Bobby Wales and Taylor Steven were ineligible, so there were plenty of enforced changes for the new manager to consider. The hosts played very well in the game and made Alloa work hard. Had the tie required extra time we really couldn't have had too many complaints. Again, Alloa lost a goal against the run of play in the opening half, but

crucially got themselves back on level terms fairly quickly. A goal on the stroke of half time by Conor Sammon put the onus back in Alloa's favour- and despite some nervy moments towards the end they held on to progress to the next round. Kevin Cawley was a starter for the first time in a while. This was not a vintage team performance by any means, but Cawley was a real standout- it was great to see him playing with the shackles off once again. The introduction of youngster Steven Buchanan gave Alloa an outball as the pressure told towards the end. They had just enough quality to edge out their hosts- and while it was a bit nervy at times, I thoroughly enjoyed the experience at Dunbar last week.

Today we face 9th placed Annan Athletic, who may feel slightly aggrieved they didn't pick up the 3 points the last time the clubs met at Galabank. This is a game where Alloa will be looking to pick up the three points, particularly as it's Andy Graham's home debut as club manager. As I stated in the last programme- although there are no easy games in the division, Alloa's run of fixtures up to the turn of the year presents an opportunity to get points on the board. Andy will be looking to implement his own ideas and philosophy, which may take a bit of time- but let's hope we can kick on with a win after defeat at Edinburgh in the league.





ANDREW COCKBURN



LOOKING BACK 5TH DECEMBER 1992

With Premier Division leaders Rangers gameless due to the cancellation of their home game with fifth-placed Dundee United, second-placed Aberdeen reduced The Gers advantage, at least perhaps temporarily, to three points, thanks to a 3-0 win v St. Johnstone at Pittodrie. Third-placed Celtic were 3-2 winners at sixth-placed Partick, while Hearts retained fourth spot in spite of a 1-3 home reverse v struggling Airdrie. At the other end of the table, a “basement battle” took place at Fir Park between fellow strugglers Motherwell

and Falkirk. But in spite of a welcome 3-1 win, their first for two months, The Well still propped up the table, The Bairns still occupied third-bottom spot, while Airdrie remained sandwiched in between these two clubs, in second-bottom place.

First Division leaders Raith enjoyed an emphatic 5-0 home win v struggling Meadowbank, which meant they retained their five-point advantage over second-placed Kilmarnock who were also victorious v another side in the doldrums, Cowdenbeath, by 3-2 at Central Park. St.

Mirren remained third, despite a 0-2 defeat at Ayr, fourth-placed Dunfermline were 1-0 winners at Dumbarton, while Morton remained in fifth place, despite being held 2-2 at home by Stirling Albion. Cowdenbeath's defeat was their twelfth league game without success, which kept them well adrift at the bottom, looking even at this stage of proceedings booked for an immediate return to The Second Division. Stirling Albion remained in second-bottom spot, despite collecting a welcome point from a 2-2 draw at Morton, while Meadowbank still

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.

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

The purpose of the policy and related procedures is to:

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

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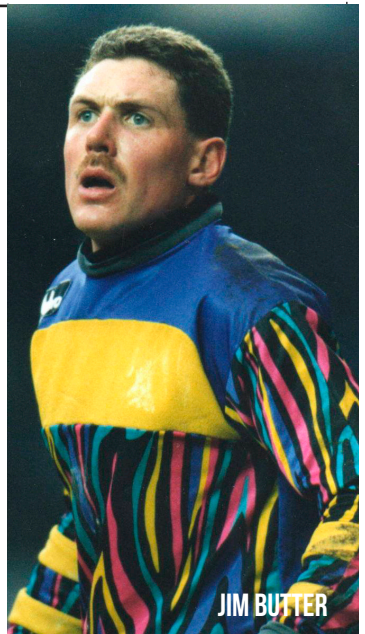
occupied third-bottom position.

In the first round of The Scottish Cup, Highland League outfit Huntly provided a surprise, when they overcame Second Division promotion hopefuls Stranraer by 4-2 at Christie Park. Another non-league side, Spartans, were also up against league opposition in the shape of Queen Of The South at Palmerston, though it was The Doonhamers who emerged triumphant, by 3-0. In the other ties, Inverness Thistle overcame fellow non-leaguer's Civil Service Strollers by 3-1 at Kingsmills, while the all-Second Division clash between Queen's Park and Clyde went the way of The Bully Wee by 1-0. The all-Highland League tie between Cove Rangers and Peterhead, and meeting between Second Division rivals Forfar and Albion Rovers were both postponed, while Alloa had a bye to the second round, where they'd meet Second Division counterparts East Fife. In league "The Wasps" were visitors to Berwick Rangers with both teams sharing four goals, Alloa's

goals were scored by Stevie McCormick and Barrie Moffat, the team lined up as – Jim Butter, Willie Newbigging, Neil Bennett, Dave Wilcox, Neil McAvoy, Colin Campbell, Shaun Smith, John McNiven, Stevie McCormick, Barrie Moffat & Gavin Tait subs: Greig Russell, John Gibson.

South of the border, Premier League leaders Norwich stretched their lead to eight points, thanks to a 2-1 home win v Wimbledon, while Blackburn remained second, in spite of a 2-3 defeat at Middlesbrough. Aston Villa were now third, thanks to a 2-1 win at Sheffield Wednesday, while at the other end of the table, Nottingham Forest, despite winning handsomely by 4-1 at Leeds, continued to prop up the table.

In The First Division, leaders Newcastle restored their twelve-point lead over Tranmere, who'd beaten another of the promotion challengers, West Ham, by 5-2 at home the



previous evening, thanks to a 2-0 win at struggling Notts County. West Ham remained third, while fourth-placed Swindon hosted mid-table Derby the following day.



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1984-85, 1992-93, 2004-05, 2007-08

This afternoon we return to the Indodrill Stadium for Andy Graham's first home game in charge, against Annan Athletic. The side from Galabank are coming off the back of a scintillating Scottish Cup tie with Dumbarton, which unfortunately for them, were on the wrong end of. Despite leading twice in the fixture, Annan lost out 5-4 to the League 2 side after extra-time. This article was written prior to their Tuesday night fixture against Hamilton, however, there is little room for movement on their league position should they

be victorious. Currently sitting 9th in the table, they are on 10 points, 7 points behind the Wasps. As mentioned, this could change with the result on Tuesday playing a potential role. There have been some credible draws in the most recent run of form, including Montrose away and high-flying Kelty, but you do need to go back to September 16th to find their last victory, which was Stirling Albion at home. Being their first season in the division, safety must be the target and they have acquitted themselves well to doing this.

THE BOSS – PETER MURPHY

Now the 3rd longest serving manager in the SPFL, Peter Murphy, will continue to lead his side at the Indodrill. With almost 6 and a half years in post, Murphy has been behind some of the club's most successful times. It was at Carlisle that he spent the majority of his playing career and was a fan favourite at Brunton Park. Winning League 2 and a Football League Trophy in his time, he cemented legendary status with his testimonial year. In total, Murphy spent 12 years at the club before





a brief spell at Ayr United, and then joining Annan as player manager in 2017. A hard task geographically with Annan competing against Central Belt sides, Murphy guided Annan to promotion last season through the play-offs. His side beat Clyde 5-1 on aggregate to secure 3rd tier status for the first time in their history.

THE CAPTAIN- STEVEN SWINGLEHURST

The Galabankies are captained by seasoned pro, Steven Swinglehurst. The 31-year-old defender is another long-serving hero at Galabank, with over 300 appearances across the more than a decade he has been there. Another player who has an affiliation with Carlisle United, Swinglehurst has been a colossus at the back for Annan during his time at the club. He celebrated his testimonial year at Annan last season and although it was a disappointing season in terms of injury, he came back fighting

to play a pivotal role in leading the side to promotion. Similarly this season has been frustrating in terms of availability with only 2 appearances to his name so far.

NEW BOY – JAMES GRAHAM

One player that Murphy has signed this season, who doesn't have that Carlisle link, is on-loan Rangers winger, James Graham. After impressing for the Rangers B team in the Lowland League

last season, there was plenty of potential suitors for his next move to senior football on a temporary basis. With Rangers B not competing in the league this season, it was Galabank he chose to continue his development. Graham has looked lively and impressive across his 9 appearances for the side, however, is still searching for that elusive first goal for the club. Alloa will be wary of him though as he did find the back of the net for the Wee Gers in their 4-1 victory over the Wasps in the Challenge Cup.

ONE TO WATCH – AIDAN SMITH

The man to keep an eye on this afternoon is forward, Aidan Smith. The second half at Galabank was one of Phil Ogay's busiest in an Alloa jersey and much of that threat came from Smith. He bagged the equaliser that day and has continued to impress for the side since. His brace last weekend took him up to 4 goals in the season, just 2 behind the main focal point, Tommy Goss.

CONTINUED ON P32



BY KIEREN MOONEY

Smith has been with the club in 3 separate spells, initially on loan from Queen of the South in 2016, before making that permanent a year later. In 2019, he spent a season at Peterhead before returning to the club in the Covid season and eventually playing his part in securing promotion for the side.

THE CONNECTION

The connections between the two sides are slightly harder to come by compared to other sides in the division. Despite only spending a short time at Alloa Athletic, Ben Armour played for the Galabankies on loan in 2018. One of Alloa's former loanees, David Ferguson, now at East Kilbride, played for Annan on loan in 2015, just a few months after his

spell at the Wasps. Ryan Finnie signed for Annan in 2015. After impressing at the League 2 club, earned a move to Alloa in the Championship, however, after being released following the club's relegation, re-signed for Annan. Mark Docherty had been with Annan Athletic at Galabank before joining "The Wasps" in July, 2011, helping Alloa to consecutive promotions and had a second spell with Alloa in Season 2014-15. Lastly David Cox who had started with Kilmarnock, moved to Annan on a two-year contract at start of 2009, Cox joined Alloa in May, 2012 but left to join Peterhead in November, 2012, after a bust up at training.

PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The sides met earlier this season at the end of September

and played out a competitive 1-1 draw. It was the definition of a game of two halves as both teams had large spells of dominance. The first half went in favour of the visitors as they controlled much of proceedings before Conor Sammon stuck the Wasps ahead on 36 minutes. Peter Murphy gave an inspired team talk to his side at the break though as the Galabankies came out firing in the second half. It seemed that nothing would beat a phenomenal Ogayi that day as he came up with several fantastic saves, including one of real brilliance from a Willie Gibson free kick. He was to be beaten though on 78 minutes as after pulling of the initial save, Smith was quickest to the mark to put in the rebound.



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BRIAN ROACH



SCOTTISH GAS SCOTTISH CUP 4TH ROUND

Alloa's Scottish Cup trip to Dunbar United was a brilliant experience for all who made the journey to New Countess Park last week- it really encapsulated everything appealing when it comes to the early rounds of the Scottish Cup. The hosts provided great hospitality and supporters had the opportunity to visit a ground they would likely never have experienced otherwise. The ground was busy as the locals had high hopes of another major upset, having eliminated East Fife in the previous round. The East of Scotland Premier League club gave Alloa a real game, but in cup competitions the only thing that matters is ensuring your name is in the hat for the next round.

Sundays draw provided Alloa

with a trip to Fir Park in January to face Premiership club Motherwell. This will provide a generation of Alloa supporters with the opportunity to tick Fir Park off their list of grounds visited watching the Wasps. This will be Alloa's first trip to Motherwell in 27 years. Fir Park is one of only three senior grounds where Alloa have not played this century. The others being Motherwell's Premiership counterparts Kilmarnock- the Wasps last visited Rugby Park right before the turn of the millennium- and relative newcomers Bonnyrigg Rose, a more understandable omission.

Older supporters will have fond memories of Alloa's last visit to Fir Park- a record breaking cup upset. On August 13th 1996, Alloa travelled to

Motherwell for a 2nd Round League Cup encounter. In the clubs first competitive match of the season, Alloa had overcome East Stirlingshire 3-1 at Fir Park in round 1- with goals from Neil McAvoy, Willie Irvine and Peter Dwyer against his former club. Managed by Alex McLeish, Motherwell were a fairly formidable force, with a squad containing players such as Tommy Coyne, Owen Coyle, Willie Falconer, Billy Davies and John Philliben (Philliben was to be involved in another memorable Alloa match 2 years later- sent off for Stirling Albion as Alloa were 7-0 victors). Alloa were a Third Division club at the time, and were given next to no chance against their Premier League opposition. But after 120 goal-less minutes of football

Alloa triumphed in the penalty shoot-out- with Jimmy Gilmour scoring the decisive spot kick and goalkeeper Robert Balfour something of an unlikely hero. Alloa's team that night was as follows: Robert Balfour, Craig Valentine, Neil McAvoy (Jimmy Gilmour), Mark Nelson, Mark Cowan, John McCormack, Kevin Kane, Stuart Mackay, Peter Dwyer, Willie Irvine, Barrie Moffat. This was the first time in Scottish football history that a Third Division club defeated a team from the Premier League in a competitive match, with the Third Division newly formed just a few years earlier. Alloa were rewarded with a "home" tie against Celtic in the 3rd Round- the tie was played at Firhill to ensure a larger crowd. Alloa supporters experienced another memorable moment- getting back on level terms early in the second half, when Paul McAneny scrambled home an equaliser to Andreas Thom's first half opener. But sadly and perhaps understandably Celtic's firepower of Jorge Cadete, Pierre Van Hooijdonk and Paulo Di Canio eventually did their damage, and Alloa were beaten 5-1.

Historically, Alloa and Motherwell have sparsely met through the years- only facing each other on 12 occasions spanning over 100 years. This will be only their fourth Scottish Cup meeting- the others came in season 1921/22, a memorable season for the Wasps where they were edged out of the cup by a single goal. Then in the 1953 Scottish Cup Motherwell were 2-0 victors at Recreation Park. And finally in 1986 a Dom Sullivan goal was not enough as Alloa lost again at home 2-1. The clubs have plied their trade in the same league on only 3 occasions- Division 1 in 1922/23 (a season covered brilliantly by fellow columnist



MOTHERWELL

WILL
PLAY



ALLOA ATHLETIC

Donald Pollock) and Division 2 in in 1953/54 and 1968/69. Finally, in League Cup Group Sections in 1983/84, Motherwell repeated their 2-1 scoreline with Lennie McComb scoring for the Wasps. But Alloa did pick up a memorable 2-2 draw at Fir Park in the return game with goals from Davie Houston and Frankie Cole. That result combined with the aforementioned 1996 upset means that Alloa are unbeaten at Fir Park since 1969- 54 years. Alloa only managed one more

draw in the 12 fixtures though, with Motherwell picking up 9 wins. But Alloa will be looking to achieve that first victory over Stuart Kettlewell's men. They will be underdogs of course, but they might just be able to channel some of that character from the 1996 and 1983 visits. One to look forward to in the New Year.

Thanks as always to "The History of Alloa Athletic" book by John Glencross and Stuart Latham for some of the statistics used in this article.

HT QUIZ

1. NAME THE FIRST EVER ALLOA PLAYER TO SCORE AGAINST ANNAN ATHLETIC BACK IN 2011?
2. WHICH SIX SCOTTISH PREMIERSHIP MANAGERS ACHIEVED FULL INTERNATIONAL CAPS AS PLAYERS?
3. IRISH ANNAN MANAGER PETER MURPHY IS ONE OF 5 NON SCOTS WHO MANAGE IN THE LOWER TIERS OF SCOTTISH FOOTBALL (IE CHAMPIONSHIP DOWN)- NAME THE OTHER 4?
4. WHICH 2 NATIONS HAVE SCOTLAND FACED IN EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS TOURNAMENTS ON MULTIPLE OCCASIONS
5. NAME THE 14 ENGLISH CLUBS WHO HAVE LIFTED A EUROPEAN TROPHY?
6. NAME THE FORMER PLAYER OF BOTH ANNAN AND ALLOA FROM THEIR SENIOR CAREER PATH: ST MIRREN-MONTROSE-STIRLING-BRECHIN-ANNAN-ALLOA-STRANRAER-ALLOA-DUMBARTON-EAST FIFE-FORFAR-ANNAN-CLYDE-EDINBURGH CITY-FORFAR

ANSWERS PAGE 37

MIDFIELDERS						
HETHERINGTON	CAWLEY	ROBERTS	SCOUGALL	VIRTANEN	O'DONNELL	ROBERTSON
4	7	8	12	14	20	25
90	30	30	90	60		
90	90	90	9	59	90	
90	28	90	85	28	73	
28	45	90	90	90		
	90	90	90	90	45	
90	58	90	90		58	
90	90	90	90		1 30	
90	36	90	61			
90	90	90	76		24	
90	64	76		14	90	
90		64		90	90	
90		90			14	
90	9	90				
90		90				
83	1	90		7		
90		90		45		
90		90	11	1		
90	1	90				
90						
	1 84	90	90	6	65	

FORWARDS									
DONNELLY	RODDEN	STEVEN	CANNON	SAMMON	BUCHANAN	RANKIN	ROY	COULSON	WALES
9	10	11	17	18	19	24	26	26	28
	60			72	90	18		1 30	
	90			90				90	
	62			1 90	1 90			5	
				71	45	29		45	
	2 90			1 85				5	
20	70		20	70				32	
78	12			30				60	
	2 15	75		90				54	
24		66	14	1 76				14	
1 26		90	14	76					
26		90		1 72				18	
90	80		10	30	76			60	
21	20	85			81		1 90		69
	6	90		20	90		1 83		70
	1 84	1 81		6	90				89
	45	90			90				90
	1			6	1 90		1 84	79	90
	1	89		9	90		1 89		81
		69		21	61		90	29	
				1 90	19		90	71	



QUIZ ANSWERS

1. ANDY SCOTT

2. DEREK MCINNES, STEPHEN ROBINSON, BARRY ROBSON, PHILIPPE CLEMENT, CRAIG LEV-EIN, STEVEN NAISMITH

3. MARVIN BARTLEY (ENGLISH), JIM GOODWIN (IRISH), ROBIN VELDMAN (DUTCH), ROSS DRAPER (ENGLISH)

4. HOLLAND (1992 AND 1996) AND ENGLAND (1996 AND 2021)

5. LIVERPOOL, CHELSEA, MANCHESTER UNITED, NOTTS FOREST, ASTON VILLA, TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR, WEST HAM UNITED, ARSENAL, LEEDS UNITED, NEWCASTLE UNITED, EVERTON, FULHAM

6. MARK DOCHERTY





ALLOA ATHLETIC



ANNAN ATHLETIC

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

#	POS				
			GREG FLEMING		
			ETHAN MITCHELL		
			SAM CAMPBELL		
			MATTY DOUGLAS		
			WILLIE GIBSON		
			SCOTT HOOPER		
			MAX KILSBY		
			RYAN MUIR		
			STEVEN SWINGLEHURST		
			JOSH DIXON		
			DOMINIC DOCHERTY		
			JOSH GALLOWAY		
			MICHAEL GARRITY		
			LEWIS HUNTER		
			BENJAMIN LUISSINT		
			KAI NUGENT		
			FINLAY CROSS-ADAIR		
			TOMMY GOSS		
			JAMES GRAHAM		
			TOMMY MUIR		
			AIDAN SMITH		
			MANAGER PETER MURPHY		

REFEREE: Scott Lambie

ASST: Gordon McCabe & Robin Taylor

ALLOA'S NEXT FIVE

09.12.23, INDODRILL STADIUM, 15:00

	ALLOA ATHLETIC		HAMILTON ACCIES
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16.12.23, BALMORAL STADIUM, 15:00

	COVE RANGERS		ALLOA ATHLETIC
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23.12.23, INDODRILL STADIUM, 15:00

	ALLOA ATHLETIC		MONTROSE
--	-----------------------	--	-----------------

30.12.23, NEW CENTRAL PARK, 15:00

	KELTY HEARTS		ALLOA ATHLETIC
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6.01.24, INDODRILL STADIUM, 15:00

	ALLOA ATHLETIC		EDINBURGH CITY
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