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OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME



**VS EDINBURGH CITY**  
**6TH JANUARY 2024**



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# CHILD PROTECTION AND WELLBEING POLICY

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

We recognise -

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

The purpose of the policy and related procedures is to:

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

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

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# ALLOA ATHLETIC FOOTBALL CLUB



#### SCOTTISH CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS

1921/22

#### RUNNERS UP

1938/39

#### SCOTTISH LEAGUE 1 RUNNERS UP

1976/77 1981/82

1984/85 1988/89 1999/00

2001/02 2009/10 2012/13

2016/17

#### SCOTTISH LEAGUE 2 WINNERS

1997/1998 2011/2012

#### CHALLENGE CUP WINNERS

1999/2000

#### RUNNERS-UP

2001/02 2014/15

#### STIRLINGSHIRE CUP WINNERS

1904/5 1907/8 1908/9

1912/13 1920/21 1924/25

1933/34 1946/47 1955/56

1957/58 1959/60 1965/66

1981/82 1996/97

#### MOST CAPPED PLAYER

Jock Hepburn, 1 Cap  
(Scotland v Wales 1891)

\*includes equivalent competitions

#### Club Information

##### Address:

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Clackmannan Road,  
Alloa, FK10 1RY  
**Telephone:** 01259722695

**Fax:** 01259210886

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

**Web:** alloathletic.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

Andy Graham (Manager)

Paddy Connolly (Assistant)

Niall Marshall (1st Team Coach)

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

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	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
<b>FALKIRK</b>	18	14	4	0	44	11	33	46
<b>HAMILTON ACCIES</b>	19	12	5	2	41	13	28	41
<b>COVE RANGERS</b>	18	9	5	4	34	21	13	32
<b>MONTROSE</b>	18	7	4	7	27	28	-1	25
<b>QUEEN OF THE SOUTH</b>	19	7	2	10	27	32	-5	23
<b>KELTY HEARTS</b>	17	6	4	7	24	25	-1	22
<b>ALLOA ATHLETIC</b>	17	6	4	7	21	26	-5	22
<b>STIRLING</b>	18	5	4	9	15	32	-17	19
<b>ANNAN ATHLETIC</b>	18	2	5	11	21	39	-18	11
<b>EDINBURGH CITY</b>	18	2	3	13	24	51	-27	9

## WEEKEND'S FIXTURES

### LEAGUE 1

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

### LEAGUE 2

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

### CHAMPIONSHIP

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



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**GOALKEEPERS**

**PJ MORRISON**

27/02/1998



**DEFENDERS**

**Scott TAGGART**

27/12/1991

183 CM 75 KG



**Euan DEVENEY**

16/11/2002



**Morgyn NEILL**

10/03/1996



**Keir BURT**

09/09/2004

175 CM 69 KG



**Andy GRAHAM**

22/09/1983

188 CM 85 KG



**David MCKAY**

17/06/1998



**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



## MANAGER'S NOTES

Happy New year to everyone associated with Alloa FC. I hope 2024 is one that brings excitement and enjoyment on and off the football pitch.

We welcome Edinburgh city to the indodrill today. Edinburgh deserved to beat us last time we met and hopefully we can turn that around today. Edinburgh have had a big turn around in recent weeks but still have a good core and will be giving young players an opportunity that they will be desperate to grab so we are under no illusions how tough a game this

will be.

The players have been excellent over the last 3 games and probably a bit unfortunate not to gain more than the 5 points that we did. It was great to see Bobby Wales get his first professional goal but the pleasing point for me was the way the team recovered from losing the two goals to then almost win it at the end. It would have been easy to crumble and lose the game but the team showed a strong mentality.

The postponement at Kelty was frustrating but myself and the

coaching team arrived to a good few inches of snow in Kelty so was the correct decision.

I hope you all had a lovely Christmas and New Year and continue to give your backing to the players as it's always appreciated.

Thanks

Andy



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**JOHN GLENCROSS**



# NEWSDESK

Welcome back to the Indodrill Stadium for our first home fixture of the New Year against Edinburgh City, welcome to their manager Michael McIndoe, backroom Kirk Crighton & Liam Robertson, the players, officials, and directors of Edinburgh City.

Sadly, our Cinch League One game against Kelty Hearts on 30th December, 2023 at New Central Park, Kelty was postponed due to Heavy Snow and frost which made the park unplayable, and a new date will now need to be agreed for this postponed fixture.

Our Cinch League One game against Annan Athletic which

was postponed due to the heavy snow overnight on Saturday 2nd December, 2023, has now been rearranged for Tuesday 13th February, 2024, Kick-Off 7.45pm. Tickets already bought will be valid for the rearranged Annan Athletic fixture, although we can refund those who can't attend. Please note we are also due to play Annan Athletic at Galabank on 3rd February, 2024.

The Tayside Programme Fair 2024, takes place tomorrow, Sunday 7th January from 11 am – 2pm at the Craigie Bowling Club, 55 Dalkeith Road, Dundee, DD4 7JJ in conjunction with Scottish Football Programme and Memorabilia Fairs – Admission

free.

Alloa Athletic will meet Motherwell in the Scottish Gas Scottish Cup 4th Round on Saturday 20th January, 2024. The two clubs last met in the Scottish Cup 4th Round on 4th March, 1986 at Recreation Park, Alloa. Motherwell won the game 2-1 with goals from Andy Harrow and Raymond Blair, the Alloa goal was scored by Dom Sullivan who later that month would take over a player/manager role after Jimmy Thomson resigned, the last time "The Wasps" visited Fir Park, Motherwell was in the League Cup on Tuesday 13th August, 1996, when Alloa were the first Third Division side to

defeat a Premier League club in a competitive game. The game finished 0-0 after extra-time with "The Wasps" winning on penalty kicks, goalkeeper Robert Balfour was the hero to save the Motherwell efforts, leaving Jimmy Gilmore to score the winning penalty kick.

On Monday 11th December we held our ninth Football Memories Group in conjunction with Alzheimer Scotland and Football Memories Scotland part of the Memories Scotland network. This was a Christmas Themed meeting with a visit from

"The Gringe Santa" we had an excellent turnout, thanks to the 35 people who attended, 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 12th February, 2024 at Indodrill stadium, at 11.30 - 1.00 O'clock, please note there is no meeting being held in January, to allow me more time to furnish my Alloa Athletic Football Memorabilia Unit which I hope to have open by Easter 2024.

Wk 52

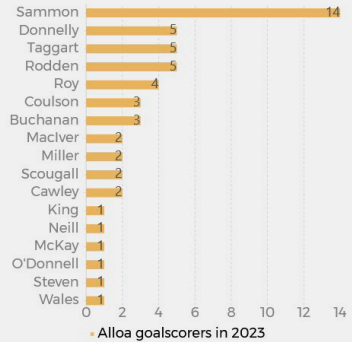
100	E Reid	1309
50	D Macpherson	735
25	I Paterson	452
25	R Black	61
25	M Ross	700

"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. Orders can be placed directly on the club website [alloathletic.co.uk](http://alloathletic.co.uk) or visiting the club shop and placing order.





## JONATHAN MARKWELL



# 2023 – ALLOA'S YEAR IN NUMBERS

2023 was a topsy-turvy year for Alloa, with some memorable, joyful moments interwoven with heartbreaking disappointments. The jubilation of some dramatic late winning goals and being in a good position to reach the end-of-season promotion play-off final were the obvious highs, but the subsequent implosion of losing 4 goals in 8 minutes at Hamilton was a crushing low, that may become infamous in the years to come. The appointment of Andy Graham as manager in November has meant the Wasps have ended the year on an upward trajectory, with the early signs being promising that Alloa's leader on the park

during the past seven years can now translate that undeniable spirit from the sidelines too. The turn of the year provides an opportunity to reflect on the calendar year just past, with this actually being my twentieth successive annual look back at the numbers behind Alloa's year for 'The Wasp'.

### 18 WINS

The Wasps won a total of 18 games during the calendar year, which was the exact same number as in 2022. Alloa actually won more games away from the Recs (10) than at home (8), reversing a trend of the previous 3 years when Alloa enjoyed home comforts more. The tally of ten

away wins was actually only eclipsed in promotion winning years of 2012, 2013 and 2018, when 11 away games were won. As such, it was a good year on the road for the club on that basis. Alloa drew half a dozen games in 2023, with 5 of those coming at the Recs and all three from this season falling into the 'could/should have won' category (v Edinburgh, Hamilton and Montrose). A total of 20 games were lost, with 5 of those defeats coming in cup competitions, meaning the overall league record in 2023 was positive, with 16 wins, 6 draws and 15 defeats.

4 successive away wins with



clean sheets

Alloa's superb away form peaked in March and April with a sequence of four successive away victories. That record was made all the more impressive by virtue of clean sheets being recorded in each of the wins too. The run started with a 2-0 success in Edinburgh and was followed up by a 2-0 win in Peterhead and 1-0 victory at Kelty Hearts. When the Wasps then triumphed 4-0 at Montrose, it became the first time Alloa had won 4 away games in a row without conceding since the 1975/76 season!

#### 4 UNBEATEN / 5 WITHOUT A WIN

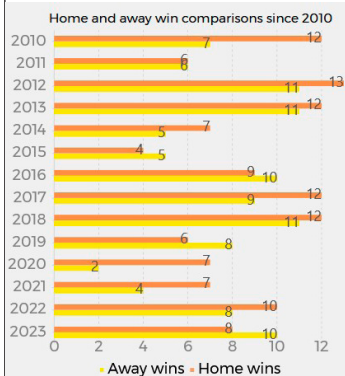
The topsy turvy nature of Alloa's 2023 is typified by not going on any prolonged winless or winning runs. Alloa's longest unbeaten sequence of 4 games actually came at the end of the year under Andy Graham's management, while the longest stretch without a win was the 5 games in September and October sandwiched between home wins over Cove and Kelty. On the one hand the positive momentum an undefeated run brings never really materialised at any point, but at the same time there were no long stretches without a win either. This perhaps signifies more than anything the middle of the table position Alloa found themselves in for large parts of 2023. There is also a mirroring of 2022 here too, where the Wasps also never went on an unbeaten run of more than 5 games and never went without a win for more than 4 games.

The month-by-month guide to Alloa's 2023 also shows the mixed picture throughout the year. The Wasps won at least one game in every month games were played, but only

avoided defeat in one month (December). The best months were arguably March and November, when three victories were secured and only a single defeat was suffered.

#### 14 GOALS

For the second calendar year running, Conor Sammon topped the goalscoring charts. In 2022 Sammon scored a dozen goals, but in 2023 he went two better by notching 14 goals for the Wasps. Highlights included both goals against FC Edinburgh in a 2-1 January victory at the Recs, another four match-winning strikes versus Peterhead, Kelty Hearts (memorably in the 93rd minute), Cove Rangers and Dunbar United, together with a particularly tidy finish to seal a 3-1 win against Clyde. Alloa's reliance on goals from Sammon actually grew in 2023 too, when compared with the previous year. In 2022, Sammon's strikes accounted for 17% of all the Wasps goals, but in 2023 that rate increased to 26%, signifying Sammo's importance to the team. Beyond the former Republic of Ireland internationalist, Alloa's next highest goalscorers in 2023 were Luke Donnelly, Scott Taggart and Bradley Rodden, all with 5 goals each. Alloa's other scorers are seen on this chart, with a total of 53 goals scored



during the year.

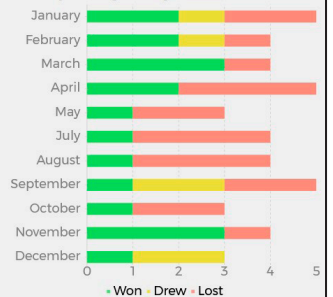
#### 4 IN 4 FOR ROY

In November, Ally Roy became the first Alloa player for 58 years to score in each of his first four games for the club. A debut leveller versus Edinburgh City was followed up with an impressive finish up in Montrose. Roy was actually sidelined with injury for the next two games, but returned where he left off with the clincher in the derby-win at Stirling to make it 3 in 3. The following week, Roy repeated a feat last achieved by David Keddie back in 1965 by scoring in all four of his first four games for the Wasps (thanks to John Glencross for the historical information). That goal was probably the best of the lot, with a sweet strike from outside the box arrowing into the corner of the net to give caretaker manager Paddy Connolly a 1-0 win over Queen of the South.

#### 4 / 5 PENALTIES

Alloa converted 4 of the 5 penalties awarded to the team during 2023. Scott Taggart had a 100% success rate from the spot, netting all three attempts with minimal fuss. Those penalties earned a 95th minute point in a re-arranged midweek encounter with Falkirk, secured a 2-0 win at Peterhead and put Alloa 2-1 ahead in an eventual 3-1 win versus Kelty Hearts in October. Stefan Scougall scored one and

Month by month guide to games won, drawn and lost



missed one, although he did follow up his saved effort away at Hamilton to net the rebound on that fateful play-off day at New Douglas Park.

At the other end of the pitch, the Wasps conceded 6 penalties during 2023, with all these coming in the 2023/24 season. In fact, 5 came in the first 7 games of the season in July and August, with every penalty conceded by the Wasps being converted by the opposition.

### 3/0 – RED CARD COUNT

There was a refreshing lack of red cards during Alloa matches in 2023, with only 3 dismissals during the 44 matches played. Unfortunately, all the early baths were for Alloa players, with George Stanger (at Hamilton), Stevie Hetherington (at Ayr) and David McKay (versus Stirling) being the sinners. In each instance the Wasps lost the match when having a numerical disadvantage. In contrast, Alloa did not enjoy the benefit of playing against 10 men at any point during 2023, with that current run now stretching back 50 games to Stephen Hendrie's 86th minute dismissal in Alloa's 5-1 thrashing of Queen of the South in November 2022.

### 7/1

Despite only rejoining the Wasps in the summer, Stevie Hetherington tops the card

count for the whole of 2023. Hetherington's seven bookings and a red card put him ahead of Cammy O'Donnell (5 yellows) and Mark Durnan, Morgyn Neill, Stefan Scougall and Kevin Cawley (all 4 bookings). To be fair to Stevie, at least a few of his bookings have been questionable this season, with his reputation seemingly preceding him somewhat.

### 12 CLEAN SHEETS

Alloa kept a dozen clean sheets in 2023, which is up from the 10 recorded in 2022. Jay Hogarth kept 8 of those shut-outs, with all four this season being with PJ Morrison between the sticks (including successive clean sheets for the November wins over Stirling and QoS). The Wasps conceded a total of 71 goals during the year, including shipping 6 at Ayr, 5 at Hamilton, 4 versus Falkirk on two separate occasions and 4 to Airdrie, St Johnstone and Rangers B, which account for almost half the total goals lost.

### 6

Alloa showed resilience to fight back from losing positions to win games on 6 separate occasions in 2023. This compares favourably to the opposite scenario, losing games from winning positions, which only occurred 3 times in 2023 (twice in the cup to Falkirk and Stirling and the other occasion being in

the play-offs at Hamilton). 5 of the winning comeback occasions have been during the 2023/24 season and 3 included winning goals in the final 5 minutes of games (Maclver's 86th minute header at QoS, Sammon's 90+3 header at Kely and Taggart's 90+2 winner at Cove), which are always that extra bit joyful. The Wasps have had to suffer some late misery this season too, with 3 of the 4 defeats suffered being during Alloa's 5 game winless run in September and October being late losses (McGlynn 90+3 for Hamilton - 1-2, Curtis, Graham and Lyall 86,88&93 for Rangers B - 1-4 and Watson 90+1 for Montrose - 1-2).

### 42/44

As well as topping the goalscoring charts for a second successive calendar year, Conor Sammon also made more appearances than any other Alloa player for a second year running. The evergreen 37 year old has been in every match-day squad and that's testament to his supreme physical conditioning, which far exceeds many players a decade or more younger than Sammo! Beyond Sammo, captain Scott Taggart has unsurprisingly made the next highest number of appearances with 37, with the third most appearances being made by Quinn Coulson (32).

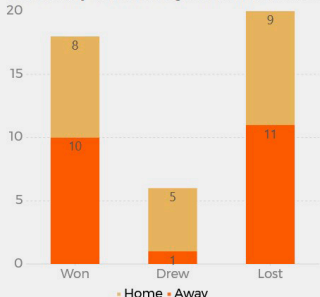
### 49% OF GOALS SCORED IN THE FINAL THIRD OF GAMES

Alloa scored a far higher proportion of goals in the later stages of games, with 49% coming in the final third of games. Although you would perhaps expect the final 10 minutes of matches to account for the greatest number of Alloa goals, that wasn't actually the case with the 60-69th minute mark being the sweet spot for the Wasps scoring goals, with 11 goals in that middle spell of

When goals were scored & conceded during Alloa games



Home & Away breakdown of games won, drawn & lost



the second half. In terms of goals being lost, the raw data shows that the final 10 minutes of matches is when the Wasps have conceded the most goals. If you delve a little deeper, of those 13 goals lost, only 1 came in the 2022/23 season, with a dozen goals having already been given up in the final stages of this season (accounting for a disproportionately high 27% of all goals conceded this season). Last season, Alloa had a tendency to concede late in the first half, with 7 goals conceded in the 41st - 45th minutes of matches between January and May. That issue appears to have been addressed a little this season, with only 3 goals lost in the dying embers of the first half, with that weakness now evidently coming at the end of the second half instead!

#### **PERSONAL MILESTONES**

During the course of 2023 there were a series of personal milestones for various Alloa players. Jon Robertson made his 500th career appearance in the January win at QoS, quickly following that up in March with his 250th game for Alloa in the away win at Peterhead. Andy Graham went one better by making his 600th career appearance in February's 1-0 win over Peterhead, prior to making his 250th Alloa appearance in the May dead-rubber versus Dunfermline. Conor Sammon scored his landmark 100th goal in British football away at QoS in January, before making his century of Alloa appearances in the SPFL Trust Trophy tie versus Rangers B in September. In July, Stefan Scougall joined the 100 club too, against one of his former teams St Johnstone. The league opener in August at QoS also saw Alloa's

record appearance maker Kevin Cawley play his 450th game for the Wasps. Another loyal servant to the club, Scott Taggart, reached the 300th appearance mark on an otherwise forgettable November afternoon against Edinburgh City. Finally, at the other end of the scale, a series of players scored their first career goals in senior football during 2023, namely Quinn Coulson (away at Edinburgh in March), Steven Buchanan (away at Stenhousemuir in July), Taylor Steven (versus Kelty in October) and Bobby Wales (versus Montrose in December).

So, whilst 2023 delivered some memorable moments for the Wasps, my fingers are crossed that Andy Graham's Alloa team can surpass that and produce some unforgettable points in time in 2024.

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## DONALD POLLOCK

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	Pt.
1st Johnstone .....	23	14	3	6	48	20	34
Bathgate .....	23	12	3	8	43	26	32
Cowdenbeath .....	24	11	5	8	46	26	30
Stenhousemuir .....	23	10	4	9	35	19	29
Albion Rovers .....	23	11	5	7	45	30	29
King's Park .....	23	11	7	5	42	32	27
Bo'ness .....	24	9	7	8	34	33	26
Dunfermline Ath. ....	24	9	8	7	32	28	25
Armadale .....	24	10	9	5	32	35	25
Johnstone .....	23	10	9	4	32	30	24
Forfar Athletic .....	23	9	9	5	27	36	23
East Fife .....	24	10	11	3	28	29	23
Dundee United .....	22	7	7	8	23	27	22
Alloa .....	24	9	12	3	29	35	21
Proxburn United ...	23	8	11	4	31	36	20
St Bernards .....	24	6	11	7	31	38	19
Dumbarton .....	23	8	13	2	21	36	18
Vale of Leven .....	23	6	11	6	24	37	18
Arbroath .....	23	6	15	2	27	36	14
Lochgelly United ...	23	2	18	3	9	50	7

## PENALTY DRAMA, CAR PRIZE AND CITY/UNITED

All roads led to the Recs on January 1st 1924 as Dunfermline came to first foot the Wasps. Alloa were probably happy to see the back of 1923, a year in which they had lost their hard earned First Division status and several star players. An extremely mixed start to the new campaign had then left them in the lower half of the Second Division and while a number of additions since the beginning of the season had strengthened the squad and brought some positive results, Alloa found themselves a distant nine points off the second promotion spot at the turn of the year. While it

wasn't quite yet beyond them, the team would have to go on an incredible run if they were to achieve the pre-season aim of an immediate return to the top flight. Their New Year visitors were also in desperate need of points, albeit they were a bit closer to the promotion chasers, and they were looking forward to coming to the Recs too, even if they wasn't quite their first choice venue: "Although Dunfermline Athletic have been denied their 'derby' with Cowdenbeath, a good substitute will be their match at Alloa, where the Athletic are always popular visitors", reported the

Fife Free Press. "Provisional arrangements have been made for the running of three special trains". The home fans were out in good numbers too with a crowd of 6000 inside the Recs to welcome 1924 - and there was also the lure of a very special half-time draw. Striker James Lennie was back in the Alloa team with recent trialist Gordon of Sauchie moving to inside left, while there also a place for another 'Newman', former Hearts and Birmingham winger Peter Neil, who had scored the winner in Alloa's 1-0 success against Armadale three days earlier.

The Wasps started strongly



with some early corners before they had a lucky escape at the other end, Crawford leaving his goal to clear but ultimately driving the ball against a Dunfermline player. Back came Alloa and Danny Paterson was felled in the box. Up stepped the reliable James Headrick with a powerful spot kick and the Wasps were up and running in the New Year. The Pars began to settle into the game now and there was another lucky escape for Crawford before Morris in the Alloa defence fouled Dunfermline's Campbell. Strachan converted the second penalty of the afternoon and the sides were level at the break. Attention now turned to the half-time draw where Alloa were offering the tremendous prize of a car. Provost Henderson was present to make the draw and it was probably something of a disappointment to both Alloa and Dunfermline fans that the winner was a Mr Curle of Falkirk. With his Victoria Street address adjacent to Firs Park perhaps he was a Shire fan. After all that excitement the second-half of the match was something of an anti-climax with no further scoring. The point didn't really suit either team and other than Mr Curle, nobody could be particularly happy with their afternoon's work. Headrick was said to be Alloa's best man in defence while Thackeray did well in the middle, and there was praise too for Neil and Connaboy on the right side of the attack.

There was no rest for the Wasps in the hectic festive schedule with a trip to Tannadice the following day for something of an historic occasion. Alloa had been well acquainted with Dundee Hibs; the clubs had stepped up together from the Central League

to the Scottish League Second Division in 1921. But while the Wasps had won the league at the first attempt, Dundee Hibs had been relegated along with Clackmannan, putting the very existence of the club in question. A new board had lobbied for re-election and when this was achieved for 1923/24, the Tannadice set in place their next plan: a new name to broaden the appeal of the club. Dundee City was the name of choice and was promptly registered with the board of trade – indeed some reports had referred to the team as Dundee City on the occasion of their 1-0 win at the Recs in August. The papers had jumped the gun however, for Dundee had complained about the proposed new moniker, setting in motion a saga which concluded at the end of October with the compromise of United. As such, although it was the second meeting of the season for the sides, it was also Alloa's first match against Dundee United. The home team marked the occasion by turning out in new shirts of black and white stripes and it was reported that both sides wished each other "compliments of the season" before kick-off. Alloa then quickly took control, Paterson and Connaboy coming close in the opening minutes before Wood put the Wasps ahead after just five minutes. The second-half saw the home team rally and Crawford was to the fore with some saves before Morris of Alloa was knocked out by a shot to the face. The brave Morris came around and promptly returned to the action. Veteran Tom McGregor also impressed in defence as Alloa held on for a 1-0 win – "smashing Dundee United's unbeaten home record". There was praise too for Thackeray, who the match referee described as "the best half he has seen in the Second Division". The Wasps had been said to have

done a fine deal when they had picked up Thackeray earlier in the season and it was now reported that a Middlesbrough scout had been greatly impressed by his play at Tannadice – for the first half hour at least. The Evening Telegraph claimed the player had then started to take it easy, the paper suggesting that "this is a bad failing, and both the player and his director know all about it". The paper was more impressed with Alloa defender Sommerville, who was "cool as an icicle and a splendid placer of his kick". There was considerable interest in Sommerville, apparently, but Alloa were said to be planning to hold onto him in the meantime: "With more experience and polish his value can be trebled".

Clearly the Alloa directors still had an eye for a player but the problem was getting them to gel as a team consistently. That was the case again during Alloa's third game in five days as they faced Stenhousemuir at Ochilview. There was an early blow with Thackeray twisting his knee and hobbling off, leaving Alloa down to ten men for a lengthy spell. While Thackeray returned, Alloa fell out of the game badly after the break, the Warriors racing into a two goal lead. Connaboy pulled one back for the Wasps but Stenhousemuir concluded the scoring for a 3-1 win. The Warriors stayed in touch with the promotion chasers while Alloa were now firmly established in the lower half of the table. Next up would be Broxburn and St Bernards followed by a Scottish Cup tie against Buckie. 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	11 (1)	0	4 (0)	0	15 (1)	0	11 (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	15 (2)	2	2 (0)	0	17 (2)	2	244 (2)	13
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	14 (2)	0	2 (1)	0	16 (3)	0	24 (2)	0
NEILL	DEF	14 (0)	0	5 (1)	1	19 (1)	1	14 (0)	0
DEVENEY	DEF	9 (3)	0	3 (2)	0	12 (5)	0	9 (3)	0
MCKAY	DEF	3 (3)	1	4 (2)	0	7 (5)	1	3 (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	9 (1)	0	4 (1)	0	13 (2)	0	68 (19)	8
O'DONNELL	MID	7 (2)	1	3 (1)	0	10 (3)	1	23 (36)	10
CAWLEY	MID	8 (4)	0	1 (2)	1	9 (6)	1	332 (51)	63
HETHERINGTON	MID	15 (0)	0	5 (1)	0	20 (1)	0	152 (30)	6
VIRTANEN	MID	2 (4)	0	3 (2)	0	5 (6)	0	2 (4)	0
ROBERTS	MID	17 (0)	0	5 (1)	0	22 (1)	0	17 (0)	0
DONNELLY	FWD	1 (5)	1	1 (0)	0	2 (5)	1	13 (24)	8
SAMMON	FWD	6 (9)	3	5 (1)	2	11 (10)	5	57 (31)	22
RODDEN	FWD	3 (6)	4	4 (0)	1	7 (6)	5	10 (14)	9
BUCHANAN	FWD	7 (3)	2	4 (1)	1	11 (4)	3	7 (14)	2
RANKIN	FWD	0 (0)	0	0 (2)	0	0 (2)	0	0 (11)	1
COULSON	FWD	6 (5)	1	4 (2)	1	10 (7)	2	18 (9)	2
CANNON	FWD	0 (3)	0	0 (1)	0	0 (4)	0	0 (3)	0
STEVEN	FWD	11 (1)	1	0 (0)	0	11 (1)	1	11 (1)	1
ROY	FWD	5 (1)	4	1 (0)	0	6 (1)	4	5 (1)	4
WALES	FWD	9 (0)	1	0 (0)	0	9 (0)	1	9 (0)	1



## OFFICIAL PROGRAMME DISTRIBUTION PARTNERS

ALLOA CAREER CUP		ALLOA TOTAL	
APP	GOAL	APP	GOAL
4 (0)	0	15 (1)	9
0 (0)	0	0 (1)	0
2 (0)	0	8 (1)	0
57 (1)	3	301 (3)	16
54 (3)	1	243 (11)	15
2 (2)	0	3 (4)	0
2 (1)	0	26 (3)	0
5 (1)	1	19 (1)	1
3 (2)	0	12 (5)	0
4 (2)	0	7 (5)	1
3 (0)	0	11 (0)	0
44 (5)	2	219 (35)	4
18 (8)	2	86 (27)	10
8 (2)	0	31 (38)	10
67 (11)	12	399 (62)	75
32 (9)	1	184 (39)	7
3 (2)	0	5 (6)	0
5 (1)	0	22 (1)	0
4 (3)	2	17 (27)	10
17 (4)	8	74 (35)	30
9 (2)	2	19 (16)	11
6 (4)	1	13 (18)	3
0 (6)	0	0 (17)	1
4 (2)	1	22 (11)	3
0 (1)	0	0 (4)	0
0 (0)	0	11 (1)	1
1 (0)	0	6 (1)	4
0 (0)	0	9 (0)	1

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**BRIAN ROACH**



## A FAN'S VIEW

Happy New Year to all supporters as we kick off 2024 with a home fixture against Edinburgh City this afternoon. With the game snowed off at Kelty last week, Alloa has not played since before Christmas. The Kelty match was called off pretty late after a sudden flurry of snow just before noon. By all accounts, Kely was counting on the sunlight to reach the thin layer of frost on their astro surface. By the time the snow came down, similar to here in Alloa, the fixture had no chance of going ahead. The Montrose match here a fortnight ago ended in disappointment after conceding a 2-goal lead. Still, any clouds forming from the outcome lifted fairly quickly, as there was plenty to enjoy and be encouraged by from an Alloa perspective during the game. In particular,

from the younger players in the team—former academy youth players and loanees. Montrose presented a tough task, and Alloa meant business from the opening seconds—Bobby Wales' cutback deflected just behind Quinn Coulson with the goal gaping before Kevin Cawley forced a quick corner. In the first half, Alloa spent much of it on the front foot without making their goalkeeper work all that much. Montrose was stretched and defended a bit desperately at times, but they held up. However, at halftime, you felt that if Alloa could maintain their momentum, the deadlock would eventually be broken. But it would take the introduction of Steven Buchanan to really turn the game in Alloa's favor. He transformed proceedings, giving Alloa more attacking

impetus and allowing Cawley to move more centrally. When the goal arrived, it couldn't have been more satisfying for a supporter. After Wales was wiped out on the halfway line, Cawley kept play flowing as the referee allowed the advantage. Cameron O'Donnell's pinpoint cross into the area found Buchanan, who headed home. Two former academy players combining with the club's top appearance-maker—it really doesn't get any better than that. But it did. Bobby Wales once again lit up the game every time he received the ball—the youngster is an absolute joy to watch at times, with that raw, fearless approach he seems to adopt. He knocked the door a few times before finally opening his senior account. Again, it was Buchanan with a brilliant turn



and injection of pace to get past his man—he laid it on a plate for Wales to finish intelligently. With the entire team and support celebrating in the Clackmannan Road end, it was a great moment. Nobody could have predicted at that point Montrose would spoil the party. But in a few minutes of madness, they found themselves level. For the first goal, it simply appeared that the defense, who had performed really well all afternoon, switched off for a free kick and allowed a free header in the six-yard box. For Blair Lyons' equalizer, admittedly, if I'm a Montrose fan, I've watched the goal 100 times on the WaspTV highlights this week. But we really shouldn't be letting a player pirouette past four defenders in our penalty area. Overall, though, the positives outweighed the negatives. The influence Andy

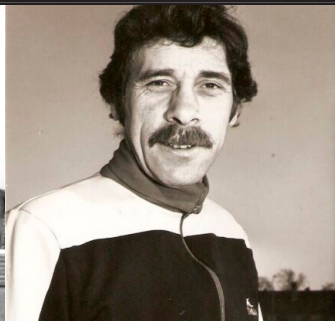
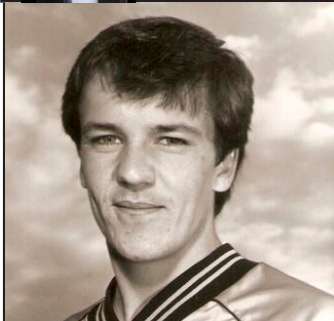
Graham has had on the team continues to progress. The team is performing with more purpose, as a unit, and allowing players to show their best. During the week, I noticed the manager stating he doesn't expect incomings in the January window. That's unsurprising, really, as the squad is pretty large, but it also is of no surprise that the manager is happy with what he has. Having been in the dressing room prior to his appointment, he's built a relationship with these players, which has undoubtedly helped. Retaining our loan players for the season is vital, though, and the retention and extension of Taylor Steven, Ally Roy, and Bobby Wales' agreements. Bobby Wales is a revelation, and holding onto him would make the window a major success regardless of any other activity. We look ahead to 2024 with a great deal of positivity after the last month or so. Kicking

things off today, Alloa faces a very different Edinburgh City team than the one who handed Alloa a defeat on Andy Graham's managerial debut. Circumstances at our opponents currently do not seem pleasant from the outside looking in, and it's hard not to feel sympathy for the club's longstanding supporters who have followed them from the days in the East of Scotland league. But regardless of this, Alloa needs to get business done and pick up the three points today. Of course, it will be a match the Alloa supporters expect to win, but Edinburgh City has produced a few bloody noses in the past so I take absolutely nothing for granted today. Hopefully, the enforced free weekend has allowed a few knocks to clear, and Alloa can field something resembling their strongest starting 11. Enjoy today's game, and best wishes to all for 2024.





ANDREW COCKBURN



## LOOKING BACK 5TH JANUARY 1985

In The Premier Division, leaders Aberdeen's 2-0 home win v struggling Hibs saw them move four points clear of second-placed Celtic, whose own home fixture, v bottom club Morton, was cancelled. Rangers remained in fourth spot, despite having to settle for a point after a 2-2 draw at Dundee, while Dundee United still retained fourth place, in spite of a 0-1 defeat at fifth-placed St. Mirren. At the other end of the table, Morton were eight points adrift of safety, and were looking quite certain to make in immediate return to The First Division. Second-bottom Hibs' position also looked rather perilous, while third-bottom Dumbarton's own relegation worries continued in the shape of a 1-5 hammering at Hearts.

There was no change at the top of The First Division, as leaders Airdrie and second-placed

Clydebank were both gameless. Third-placed Forfar were held 0-0 at home by sixth-placed Falkirk, fourth-placed Hamilton Accies were 2-1 victors at relegation-haunted St. Johnstone, while fifth-placed Motherwell's home clash with Clyde ended in a goalless stalemate. Meadowbank remained in bottom spot, after a 2-4 home defeat v Brechin, second-bottom Partick were gameless, St. Johnstone's defeat saw them remain in third-bottom spot, while Kilmarnock, despite picking up a point from a 1-1 home draw with East Fife, still occupied fourth-bottom position.

In the second round of The Scottish Cup, Alloa progressed after a 2-1 home win v near-neighbours East Stirling, thank to first-half goals from Bobby Barr & Davie Lloyd. And The Wasps had lined up as follows: Ronnie Lowrie, Garry

Thompson, Larry Haggart, Ken Thomson, Bobby Dall, Bobby Barr, Paul Mackie (Bobby Harris), Paul Kelly, Gary Murray, Stuart Sorbie (Graeme Shearer), Davie Lloyd. The Wasps were to lose to Aberdeen in the next round 5-0, however by the end of the season a victory on the last day of the season at Gayfield v. Arbroath saw the Wasps win promotion under the guidance of manager Jimmy Thomson. Cowdenbeath won by the same scoreline against Stirling Albion at Central Park, Queen Of The South 2-1 was also the outcome at Central Park, in favour of Cowdenbeath v Stirling Albion, Queen Of The South were also victorious on home soil, by 3-1 v Montrose, as were Keith, who overcame fellow non-leaguer's Spartans by 2-0. Inverness Caledonian forced a replay v Berwick, after a 1-1 draw at Shielfield, the Inverness Thistle v Spartans clash

also ended all-square at 1-1, while the Queen's Park v Raith & Stranraer v Stenhousemuir ties both failed to produce a single goal.

South of the border, it was FA Cup third round day, and holders Everton had booked a fourth round place, after a 2-0 win at Second Division Leeds the previous evening. The Toffees fierce local rivals Liverpool, another of the favourites, now

also progressed, thanks to a 3-0 win v Aston Villa at Anfield, while 3-0 was also the outcome at Old Trafford, in favour of Manchester United, winners two years previous and fancied to lift the trophy once again, v Third Division Bournemouth. But there was a bit of a surprise at Edgware Road, where Arsenal, seeking their first FA Cup win for six years, were held 1-1 by Fourth Division Hereford.

The first mobile phone network in the UK was launched by Vodafone, a week later the second would be launched by Cellnet, how that was to change times.



**ALLOA ATHLETIC**

**2:2**

**MONTROSE**



(0:0)		
SCORERS		
Buchanan	65'	1:0
Wales	74	2:0
		2:1 77' Hermiston
		2:2 79' Lyons



**1 MORRISON**

**2 TAGGART**

**23 DEVINE**

**6 NEILL**

**20 O'DONNELL**

**8 ROBERTS**

**4 HETHERINGTON**

**26 COULSON**

**7 CAWLEY**

**12 SCOUGALL**

**28 WALES**

**SUBS**

**21 BURT**

**3 DEVENEY**

**14 VIRTANEN**

**19 BUCHANAN**

**16 ROY**

**18 SAMMON**

**11 STEVEN**

**5 GRAHAM**

**SUBS**

**21 MATTHEWS**

**2 WILLIAMSON**

**5 WADDELL**

**6 CRAIG**

**8 WATSON**

**11 LYONS**

**12 HERMISTON**

**15 BRADFORD**

**1 GILL**

**4 QUINN**

**7 WEBSTER**

**9 HESTER**

**10 GARDYNE**

**14 DILLON**

**16 BATCHELOR**

**17 SHRIVE**

**18 GRAHAM**

**19 CALLAGHAN**

**22 BROWN**



**JOHN GLENCROSS**

SCOTTISH LEAGUE—SECOND DIVISION

**ALLOA ATHLETIC**

*versus*

**STENHOUSEMUIR**

# THE GAME THAT NEVER WAS

## **ALLOA ATHLETIC V. STENHOUSEMUIR**

**1ST JANUARY 1959**

**HALF-TIME (2 - 1)**

**ABANDONED AFTER 85 MINUTES AT (3 - 2)**

Let's look at a game which never made the record books as it never finished, January 1st 1959 the game we look at. So to Recreation Park we travel back to Ne'erday 1959 as the teams lined up as follows

Alloa Athletic:- Alex Devannay, Gordon Gilmour and Willie Vint; Jack Wishart, Davie Kidd and Archie Murphy; Pat Foley, Eric Walker, John Gibb, Dennis Gillespie & Jimmy Docherty.

Stenhousemuir:- Newman who was Robert Lowe, who

had played for the Warriors in 1950 until 1952, Dan Watson and Bobby Kennedy; George Samuel, Rab Quinn and Jim Richardson; Jimmy Cousin, Davie Campbell, Peter Stewart, John Kilgannon & Mike McKenna. Referee who was to be the star of the show was Mr W M Syme from Glasgow.

It was the Warriors who took the lead in 20 minutes Peter Stewart netted after the Alloa 'keeper palmed out a Cousin cross, the home side were back on level terms on 32 minutes when from a Foley cross, Docherty headed home. Eight minutes into the second half Gibb, who later played with the Warriors gave Alloa the lead and a further 9 minutes after that Docherty headed home from another Foley cross. The Warriors scored from their next attack after a goal mouth scrimmage Jim Cousin netted on 64 min, by this

time the pitch was in a bit of a mess most of the pitch markings were obliterated as the constant rain made things tricky, the players failing to keep their feet most of the second period. So with only THREE MINUTES to go in a blinding sleet storm and semi- darkness Mr Syme abandoned the match, you can guess the reaction from the home spectators and officials.

Warriors Secretary Jim Weir said after the match, that with the overhead and under foot conditions that the match should have been stopped long before it was. After the game the Alloa press asked the referee why he did not let the match finish with only 3 minutes to go, Mr Syme said he didn't as the game still had 5 minutes and 35 seconds to play on his stop watch. When the game was finally played in April the Warriors won 3-2.





# ALLOAATHLETIC YOUTH TEAMS



ALLOA ATHLETIC





# EDINBURGH CITY

*The Citizens*

## FOUNDED

1986

## GROUND

Meadowbank Sports Centre, Edinburgh

## TOP HONOURS

Scottish League Two\* Runners-up: 2019-20, 2020-21

Lowland Football League Winners: 2014-15, 2015-16

East of Scotland Football League Winners: 2005-06

East of Scotland League Cup Winners (3)

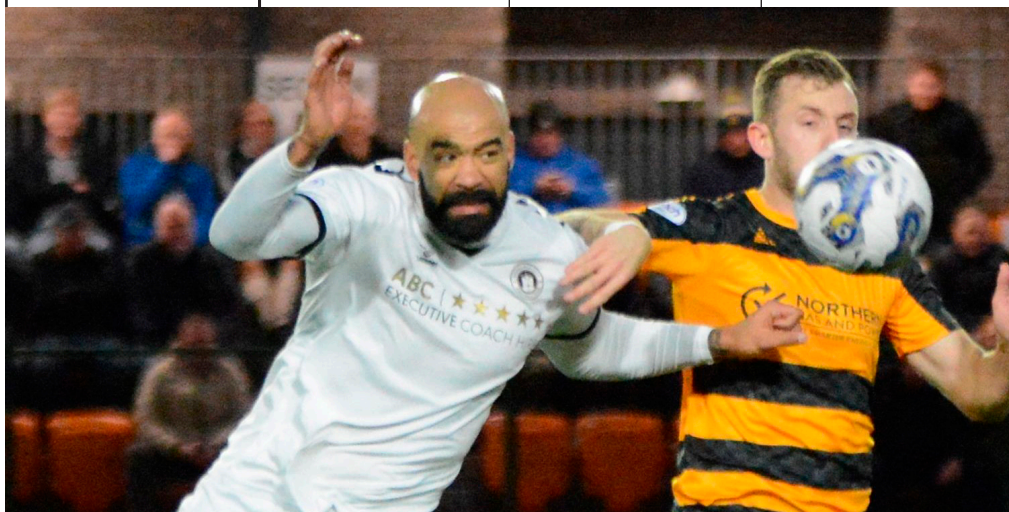
This afternoon we begin 2024 with a Cinch League 1 game against Edinburgh City. The Citizens had an impressive first season in the 3rd tier last campaign, starting strongly but by the end missing out on the play-off spots. Unfortunately, this season has come with its troubles off the club for the side and in the last month we have seen this filter on the park. With plenty of changes to the playing personnel, the visitors have lost their last 5 games, conceding 21 goals in the process. Sitting at the bottom of the table, those involved with the

club must keep the belief that they will be able to turn their fortunes around. They are only 2 points behind their closest rivals Annan Athletic in 9th place.

## THE BOSS – MICHAEL MCINDOE

The opposition are managed by Edinburgh born, Michael McIndoe. The 44-year-old was formerly a midfielder playing the majority of his career South of the border. Beginning at Luton Town in the Second Division, he would climb the ranks to spend several years in the English Cham-

pionship with Derby, Barnsley, Wolverhampton Wanderers, Bristol City, and Coventry City. He finished his career at Stirling Albion and went onto to begin his managerial career 4 years later at Gretna. In May 2022 he was appointed sporting director and assistant manager before a few months later taking charge of the team. In his first season he managed to win more than the previous 3 combined and steered Gretna away from relegation. He has been in charge in the capital since the beginning of October.







**THE CAPTAIN – LIAM FONTAINE**

Experienced defender, Liam Fontaine, remains the skipper of the side despite the wholesale changes. Most known for his time at Hibernian, the centre half played a pivotal role in their Scottish Cup win in 2016 and their Championship title a year later. He would pick up further medals with Ross County, again winning the league in 2019, as well as the Scottish Challenge Cup. Fontaine signed for Edinburgh City last season and was a mainstay in a successful Citizen side. He has 12 appearances this season for the visitors and again is proving an important cog for the team. With plenty of young players being given an opportunity, the experience of the 37-year-old will prove invaluable.

**NEW BOY – OUZY SEE**

With many head the doors of Meadowbank, supporters may have missed the return of

former fan favourite to Edinburgh. Ouzy See returned to the club for their game against Cove Rangers before Christmas. The 29-year-old striker had been at the club since 2020 following successful spells Albion Rovers and Berwick Rangers. However, in the summer someone came calling that wasn't a league rival. See jetted off to sunnier climates to take part in reality TV show, Love Island. Following his success on the show, his time away

from the club extended and he decided to take a career break from the game. With troubles at Edinburgh, the striker returned to help aid his former club and has started strongly on a personal level. A goal in each of his 2 appearances, makes it 2 in 2 for See on his return. Experienced and with an eye for goal, he will no doubt find the back of the net more this campaign.

**ONE TO WATCH – ROBBIE MAHON**

Exciting midfielder, Robbie Mahon, is one Alloa fans will have to be wary of when watching this afternoon's game. On loan from our Scottish Cup opponents, Motherwell, the Irishman has impressed despite the side's form. 7 goals so far this season he has proved that he has the clinical side to his game, that goes along with his race pace and direct playing style. 2 of those strikes came against The Wasps in the last outing, which the visitors won 3-0 at Meadowbank. That brace kick started an extremely

**CONTINUED ON P32**



**BY KIEREN MOONEY**

impressive goal scoring run. Mahon has now scored in his last 5 appearances, playing all bar 15 minutes in the 5 games. His loan spell is due to last the season and although he won't be able to replicate his success on loan with Dunfermline by lifting the league trophy, he certainly will surpass all individual tallies with the Citizens.

### THE CONNECTION

As mentioned several times, the squad in the capital has been decimated in recent weeks. Inness Murray left to join Arbroath in the Championship and Calum Crane has departed for league rivals, Stirling Albion.

Ben Stirling is still contracted to the club but hasn't featured due to injuries. Also remaining at the club is former loanee, Kieran Offord. The striker bagged a goal the last time the sides met in a 3-0 Edinburgh victory. The only former Citizen in the Alloa ranks is defender, David McKay. The 25-year-old spent a loan spell in the capital during the 2021-22 season before earning a move to Queen of the South.

### PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Despite the sides league positions, this is a fixture Alloa have struggled with so far this season. The opener here at the Indodrill ended 1-1 between the closely

fought teams. Ally Roy equalised after Robbie Leitch capitalised on a defensive mistake from Alloa. The following game had a lot of change in the build-up. With the departure of Brian Rice, current boss, Andy Graham, was appointed earlier that week. It seemed to be the perfect storm for Edinburgh as they capitalised on a team experiencing significant change. Alloa lost out 3-0 that day with a brace from Mahon and a late strike from Offord. The scoreline was a cruel, not so reflective, outcome of the game and Alloa will be looking to right some wrongs today at the 3rd attempt.





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**BRIAN ROACH**



## SPOTLIGHT ON MOTHERWELL

Although there are two vital league fixtures to take care of in the first instance, today's match programme is the final edition prior to the Scottish Cup Fourth Round tie where Alloa face Motherwell on January 20th. All Scottish Premiership clubs have just commenced their winter break, so Alloa's visit to Fir Park will be Motherwell's next competitive match. They headed into the winter shutdown in 9th position in the league table, with 20 points amassed from 21 games so far. A fifteen match winless run has seen our Scottish Cup opponents struggle, with manager Stuart Kettlewell under pressure as a result - although they did pick up a 1-1 draw at champions Celtic during that period. They finally put that run to bed in their final match of 2023, with a 3-1

home win over Livingston. They followed that up on January 2nd with a 2-2 draw at Easter Road against Hibs - although they left disappointed after conceding a 91st minute equaliser.

Of course with the January transfer window open, it's impossible to ascertain exactly who Alloa will face later in the month in terms of personnel. The fortnight break arrived at a good time for Motherwell, despite momentum likely gained by recent results. This will allow some knocks to clear in the squad, as they were quite clearly depleted in their last match at Easter Road. Never the less, here's a short profile on their starting eleven for that game to have some indication of what Alloa should expect to face:

**LIAM KELLY (27)** - the goalkeeper is probably the highest

profile player at the club, following his international debut in October against France in Lille. Starting his career on Rangers books, he won the League 2 championship on loan at East Fife back in 2016. A loan spell at Livingston followed before he made the move permanent. Kelly then spent two years at QPR in the English Championship before joining Motherwell. As expected, has been Motherwell's number one goalkeeper all season.

### **STEPHEN O'DONNELL (31)**

- Whilst his international career looks to be in the past, at 31 O'Donnell still has plenty to offer at club level. Signed from Kilmarnock in 2020, O'Donnell will be another familiar face given his appearances for the national team. He has 26 caps to his name and played in all 3 matches in the 2021 European Championships, earning major plaudits for his performance against England in particular.

### **BEVIS MUGABI (28)**

- Motherwell's towering centre half is now in his fourth season at the club, with 110 appearances to date. Another international, he has picked up 16 caps for Uganda. Mugabi is a rock in the air, and Alloa are unlikely to get any real joy from high balls into Motherwell's defence. He is also a threat from set pieces having proven this with a headed goal against Hibs last week.

### **PAUL MCGINN (33)**

- John McGinn's older brother has one cap for Scotland, where he joined his sibling on the pitch against Austria three years ago. McGinn started his career at Queens Park, where he has faced Alloa in the past. McGinn

played in all four league fixtures against the Wasps back in season 2011/12, losing them all as Alloa won the Third Division championship. He had more success a few years later though, joining Dumbarton and beating Alloa on a few occasions including in the Scottish Cup.

**BLAIR SPITTAL (28)** – Another who started his career at Queens Park, Spittal has seemingly been around forever- and has also played for Dundee United, Partick Thistle and Ross County. Spittal is highly rated by the Motherwell fans. Normally more of a central attacking midfielder, Motherwell supporters have been frustrated with Spittal currently being deployed at right wing back. Does that remind you of a similar scenario closer to home?

**GEORGIE GENT (20)** – The left sided player is on loan from Blackburn Rovers, where he is contracted until 2025. An ex Manchester City youth academy player, Gent likes to get forward and will be looking to give Scott Taggart a torrid afternoon.

**HARRY PATON (25)** – Signed from Ross County having previously worked under the manager at Ross County. The midfielder was recently capped by Canada- a 4-1 defeat to Japan where Paton played alongside Celtics Alistair Johnston and Bayern Munichs Alphonso Davies. Has also previously faced Alloa in the Scottish Cup- while on loan at Stenhousemuir in 2017 they faced the Wasps in the Third Round at Ochilview with Alloa winning 2-1.

**DAVOR DRAVKOVSKI (25)** – Signed from Limassol FC, the North Macedonian has made 13 appearances so far this season. He has yet to find the net for the club.

**CALLUM SLATTERY (24)** – The Englishman has 3 goals to his name so far this season. He has been recently deployed in a more advanced position to cover injuries in the squad. A former Southampton youth player.

**THEO BAIR (24)** – Signed from St Johnstone in summer, the Canadian striker will likely be Motherwells most potent threat to Alloas backline. A real presence with strength and mobility, Bair has scored three in his last two matches and will come into the cup tie looking to retain that run of scoring form.

**MIKA BIERETH (20)** – The highly rated youngster is on loan from Arsenal, having previously impressed at under 18 level at Fulham. Born in London, he has Danish citizenship and has recently picked up two caps for the national under 21s. Signed on a season long loan, Biereth has 6 goals so far this season.

Despite a couple of good recent results, Motherwell support-

ers are yet to be fully convinced the corner has been turned. The next couple of weeks should be interesting in terms of Kettlewell's transfer activity. Whilst the team have improved going forward, they look vulnerable at the back when pressured and don't seem to hold their line as a unit with much confidence. However, with Mugabi present, long balls are unlikely to bring much joy. Alloa are more likely to gain success with quick counter attacks and movement to test their backline. Alloas chances may ride on the extension of their current loan agreements. In particular Bobby Wales and his mobility could cause the Motherwell defence some problems. The home crowd will expect their team to win comfortably, so hopefully that dynamic can work for Alloa should they be able to frustrate their opponents. But Motherwell still look very accomplished despite their recent bad run, and it's still a massive task for Alloa to progress to the fifth round of the competition.

## HT QUIZ

- 1. WHO SCORED ALLOA'S FIRST GOAL OF 2023 IN THE OPENING MATCH, A 2-1 VICTORY AT PALMERSTON PARK AGAINST QUEEN OF THE SOUTH?**
- 2. SCOTT MCTOMINAY SCORED SEVEN GOALS FOR SCOTLAND IN THEIR EURO 2024 QUALIFYING CAMPAIGN. CAN YOU NAME THE SEVEN OTHER SCOTLAND SCORERS DURING THE CAMPAIGN?**
- 3. NAME THE THREE CLUBS FROM OUTWITH SCOTLAND'S TOP FOUR LEAGUES THAT ARE COMPETING IN THE FOURTH ROUND OF THE SCOTTISH CUP LATER THIS MONTH.**
- 4. BEFORE JOINING THE CITIZENS, EDINBURGH CITY MANAGER MICHAEL MCINDOE WAS IN CHARGE OF WHICH LOWLAND LEAGUE CLUB?**
- 5. WEMBLEY STADIUM WILL HOST THE CHAMPIONS LEAGUE FINAL IN 2024. CAN YOU NAME THE TWO FINALISTS THAT COMPETED IN THE LAST CHAMPIONS LEAGUE FINAL HELD AT WEMBLEY IN 2013?**
- 6. CAN YOU NAME THE SCOTTISH LEAGUE ONE CLUBS THAT CHANGED THEIR MANAGER IN THE CALENDAR YEAR 2023?**

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	
	70	90	87	3	66	
90	79	90	90		90	
90	80	90	45		90	

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		
		90			3			20	90	87	
					11				1 73	90	
		45		10	1 30			60	1 90		



## QUIZ ANSWERS

1. CONOR SAMMON

2. JOHN MCGINN (2 VS CYPRUS, 1 VS NORWAY), LYNDON DYKES (VS NORWAY), KENNY MCLEAN (VS NORWAY), RYAN PORTEOUS (VS CYPRUS), LAWRENCE SHANKLAND (VS GEORGIA), STUART ARMSTRONG (VS NORWAY), CALLUM MCGREGOR (VS GEORGIA)

3. BRORA RANGERS, BUCKIE THISTLE, BROOMHILL

4. GRETNA 2008

5. BAYERN MUNICH DEFEATED BORUSSIA DORTMUND 2-1

6. QUEEN OF THE SOUTH (MARVIN BARTLEY APPOINTED JANUARY 2023), KELTY HEARTS (MICHAEL TIDSER APPOINTED MAY 2023), EDINBURGH CITY (MICHAEL MCINDOE APPOINTED OCTOBER 2023), ALLOA (ANDY GRAHAM APPOINTED NOVEMBER 2023)





# ALLO ATHLETIC



# EDINBURGH CITY

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

#	POS				
	1		<b>ANDREW MCNEIL</b>		
	3		<b>BRODIE DEVINE</b>		
	4		<b>KELSEY EWEN</b>		
	5		<b>SCOTT MERCER</b>		
	6		<b>CALLUM PITT</b>		
	7		<b>ROBBIE MAHON</b>		
	9		<b>OUZY SEE</b>		
	11		<b>KIERAN OFFORD</b>		
	14		<b>GWONG-RWAD PETER</b>		
	16		<b>GODSWILL OMOJIADIE</b>		
	17		<b>LIAM FONTAINE</b>		
	18		<b>ADAM KHAN</b>		
	20		<b>CAI MCNAMARA</b>		
	21		<b>LIAM ROBERTSON</b>		
	22		<b>STRUAN MAIR</b>		
	23		<b>DANIEL CONAFREY</b>		
	29		<b>ELIJAH ANUKAM</b>		
	30		<b>MOMODOU SAMBOU</b>		
	<b>MANAGER</b>	<b>MICHAEL MCINDOE</b>			

**REFEREE:** Lloyd Wilson

**ASST:** David Dunne & Elliot Husband-Powton


## ALLOA'S NEXT FIVE

13.01.24, PALMERSTON PARK, 15:00

	<b>QUEEN OF THE SOUTH</b>		<b>ALLO ATHLETIC</b>
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20.01.24, FIR PARK, 15:00

	<b>MOTHERWELL</b>		<b>ALLO ATHLETIC</b>
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27.01.24, INDODRILL STADIUM, 15:00

	<b>ALLO ATHLETIC</b>		<b>FALKIRK</b>
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03.02.24, GALABANK, 15:00

	<b>ANNAN ATHLETIC</b>		<b>ALLO ATHLETIC</b>
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10.02.24, INDODRILL STADIUM, 15:00

	<b>ALLO ATHLETIC</b>		<b>STIRLING ALBION</b>
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