

VS STIRLING ALBION



ALLOA ATHLET



NOR

CHILD PROTECTION AND WELLBEING POLICY

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

We recognise -

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

The purpose of the policy and related procedures is to:

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

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

MIKE MULRANEY, CHAIRMAN ALLOA ATHLETIC FC



ALLOA ATHLETIC FOOTBALL CLUB



scottish championship winners 1921/22

1921/22

runners up 1938/39

SCOTTISH LEAGUE I 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

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

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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

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Women's Team Allan Milne (Manager) Ryan Cairney-Smith (Assistant Manager) Shaun McErlane (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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22	17	5	0	56	13	43	- 56
22	14	6	2	46	14	32	- 48
23	9	7	7	38	33	5	- 34
22	8	6	8	32	32	0	- 30
21	8	5	8	28	35	-7	29
21	7	6	8	30	33	-3	27
23	8	3	12	30	36	-6	27
22	7	5	10	23	36	-13	26
22	3	7	12	29	45	-16	- 16
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WEEKEND'S FIXTURES

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	Keir BURT 09/09/2004 175 cr 69 cr 21	Andy GRAHAM 22/09/1983 188 ce 85 cc 5	David MCKAY 17/06/1998	Paul MCLAREN 01/04/2004 185∝ 76∞ 22
	Tochukwu OGAYI 10/10/1996	David DEVINE 20/06/2001	Ethan SUTHERLAND 26/04/2006	
MANAGER ANDY GRAHAM				



ANDY GRAHAM



MANAGER'S NOTES

I want to extend a warm welcome to Darren Young and his staff to the Indodrill Stadiun.

It's been great this season to have Stirling back in League One to have the local derby games back. This season the games between the teams have been tight and I anticipate a similar competitive game today.

Last week's win at Annan was really important 3 points and was great again to see a vocal travelling support watch the players deliver a good performance. I felt the score line didn't reflect the overall game but at this stage of the season, 3 points is what matters most. As always your support is appreciated and over the next week with 3 home games that support will be needed.

All the best

Andy



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JOHN GLENCROSS



NEWSDESK

Welcome back to the Indodrill Stadium as we enter the second half of the season, welcoming near neighbours Stirling Albion FC, welcome to their manager Darren Young, assistant manager James Creaney, Goalkeeping Coach Kevin Budinauckas and Head of Youth Tony McMinn, the players, officials, and directors of Stirling Albion FC.

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 next 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.

Our Cinch League One game against Kelty Hearts which was postponed on Saturday 30th December,2023, has now been rearranged for Tuesday 19th February, 2024, Kick-Off 7.45pm at New Central Park, Kelty.

Alloa Athletic FC are pleased to welcome the return of Kilmarnock loanee Bobby Wales until the end of the season. The Scotland youth striker has appeared 13 times for the Wasps leading the line impressively and had just found his scoring rhythm with 3 consecutive goals before returning to Kilmarnock, last Saturday at Galabank v. Annan Athletic he scored two goals in two minutes to bring his total now up to five goals this season for "The Wasps".

Today's match mascot is elevenyear-old Cameron, son of Club Doctor Andrew Deeley, Cameron attends Riverside Primary School in Stirling. His favourite clubs are Alloa Athletic and Manchester City, he loves playing football and his PlayStation. His favourite Alloa Athletic players are Conor Sammon, Cameron O'Donnell & Stefan Scougall. Cameron is still celebrating his 11th birthday which was on Wednesday 7th February, 2024.

FOOTBALL FOR ALL – free recreational Girls & Women's football, for Eight Weeks, For all ages. Starting from Friday 9th February, 2024 every Friday 5.30 - 6.30pm at Indodrill Stadium. Alloa. Free food after each session, for further information contact - jonny@waspscommunitvclub.com

We have agreed to release Josh Debayo from his contract with Alloa Athletic. Josh is returning to England to be closer to his family. The defender has made 11 appearances for the Wasps since signing in the summer. We would like to thank him for his hard work for Alloa Athletic and wish him the best of luck in the future.

We're pleased to confirm the loan signing of St Mirren youngster Ethan Sutherland. The 17-year-old shone in the Buddies pre-season fixtures terrorising from the left flank and was awarded his first senior appearances against Montrose and Arbroath in the Viaplay Cup group stage. The youth prospect will continue his development with the Wasps for the remainder of the season and made his debut at last Saturday's game against Annan Athletic in 3-2 victory at Galabank, providing an assist for the first Alloa goal. Alloa Athletic Manager Andy Graham said, "We're delighted to have Ethan in to help the group. With the departure of Josh Debayo and a bad injury to Euan Deveney we felt we had to strengthen the squad options on that left side and Ethan will provide that.!" Our next Football Memories

meeting will take place on Monday 12th February, 2024 at the Indodrill Stadium, starting at 11.30 – 1.00 O'clock, the guest speaker, on this occasion is ex Alloa Athletic and Falkirk manager, Alex Totten, Alex also had a spell as a player at Recreation Park before taking over the managers role in April, 1980, when the late Hugh Wilson moved to Cowdenbeath.

Wasps 2000 Draw - Week 5 3rd February 2024

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JONATHAN MARKWELL



BANDAGED UP WASPS

The last derby included one of my niche delights of watching football - seeing players battle on whilst looking ridiculous by wearing ill-fitting and hastily arranged head bandages after taking a head knock during games. Of course, nobody likes to see any player suffer an injury, particularly related to the very serious subject of the implications of head injuries in sport, but the sight of players returning to the pitch with a wide array of bandages affixed to their heads in often weird and wacky styles brings a certain guirk, which never fails to raise a wry smile to me at least.

When the Wasps travelled to Forthbank back in November, Stevie Hetherington and Jack Leitch had a sickening clash of heads midway through the first half amongst the midfield battle. Leitch certainly came off worse, with a 4 ½ minute stoppage ensuing as the medical staff tended to a nasty head cut which drew copious levels of blood and the need for a trusty bright white bandage being spun around the Stirling midfielder's temple. Hetherington meanwhile somehow just bounced up to his feet and was keen to continue with no blood drawn, although the Hartlepool hardman was rightly given the concussion test by the Wasps' physio before being able to continue.

Given Leitch's full head of hair, the blood had to be washed through the former Motherwell youngster's hair from the sidelines before he could rejoin the fray, meaning the home side were down to ten men for a few minutes. When Leitch returned, the blood was soon seeping through and it was a surprise to me that he was allowed to continue with the blood so evident that it almost blurred into the colour of his shirt. To his credit. Leitch did battle on and after having a new dressing on the cut at half-time. Leitch went onto continue the match with his headgear making him stand out even more than his cultured left foot normally does. In-fact. somewhat ironically when the clock ticked over to injury time at the end of the second half Leitch actually unravelled his bandage and flung it onto the Forthbank turf, somewhat symbolic that the game at that point had been lost by the home side, to the delight of the noisy away support!

In terms of style, I'd say Leitch wore his head bandage pretty well, although his mop of hair having to overflow the bandage meant it did add a smidgen of black comedy for me, with the result appearing a little ridiculous and almost akin to an overflowing hanging basket you'd buy from a garden centre! How did Leitch 's style compare with other players who have had to wear head bandages during games down the years?

From an Alloa perspective, there are a few players who immediately spring to mind of playing through head cuts with bandages adorned around their foreheads. One is Andv Graham, who I think has been bandaged up on at least three separate times down the years, all in true braveheart style as you'd expect from Andy. First, away at Livingston in 2016 Andy actually had to be replaced at the interval in Jim Goodwin's second match as manager after suffering a nasty head cut. That day Graham's bandage almost completely filled his entire head, but it couldn't stem the flow of the blood. Andv's withdrawal



meant that the Wasps faithful enjoyed the delights of Pat Scullion's only appearance of his second spell as an Alloa player, although the score changed from 0-0 to 1-3 once the now East Stirling manager replaced the now Alloa manager

Two years later in the Betfred Cup Group Stages, Graham had to get running repairs after another head knock. In the first of Alloa's four separate visits to Tannadice that season, Andy's warrior-like defending saw him suffer a cut close to his eye late in the game, but only a relatively small bandage was required this time. The Wasps picked up a bonus point after a penalty shoot-out victory, with Neil Parry saving two kicks to prevent the need for Andy to step up and take a penalty himself that day, unlike the three other penalty shoot-outs Alloa were involved in during the 2018/19 season.

Once again, the Wasps had a midweek fixture immediately after a game in which Andy suffered a head cut, with Graham fully bandaged up during a long night for the Wasps at Tynecastle. Instead of the traditional bright white headgear, which would have matched Andy's kit that night, Graham sported a cream bandage to no doubt blend in up against Liam Boyce in the Hearts attack! In the pouring rain, the game was effectively over after Hearts went 2-0 up inside 24 first-half minutes, with it being damage limitation thereafter in an eventual 3-0 defeat. My personal recollections were forking out £18 for the Hearts TV stream, only for the co-commentator to be particularly condescending towards the Wasps! First, it was suggested the Jam Tarts should be scoring "3 or 4 goals in the next 10 minutes" after the first goal and then being flabbergasted that Peter Grant's Alloa side had the audacity to play slick passing football, with the exact



quote being, without any hint of irony 'don't Alloa know they are playing at Tynie – they shouldn't be doing this'. It turned out that the Hearts players were handing out some verbal taunts of their own during the game too, which undeniably helped motivate Alloa to historically knock Hearts out of the Betfred Cup just four days later!

To continue with the Hearts theme, later that season another Alloa player suffered a cut head against the Jambos which resulted in running repairs from the physio. Ray Grant was the unfortunate player on this occasion, with a bandage being required to be curled around his torso, albeit somewhat complicated by Grant's tremendous curly locks making that task somewhat difficult. The result was Ray sporting a traditional bandage for the remainder of the game, with his full head of hair being pushed up above the bandage to only add to Grant's particular style!

The other Alloa player I im-

mediately associate with playing with a head bandage is Fraser Forrest. During October 2006, the Wasps won three consecutive matches and in each game old fashioned central defender Forrest looked more like a Rugby Union Lock with his head taped up and gumshield firmly in place! Fraser made exactly 100 starting appearances for the club over two permanent spells and one emergency secondment as a trialist in-between those spells too! As a defender, Forrest was a no-nonsense type, who headed it and kicked it to the more skilful players in the team, but his consistency and reliability were second to none. During his first spell at the club between 2005 and 2009, his manager Allan Maitland openly admitted he might struggle once the artificial surface was installed at the Recs in 2007, with the fast and furious play perhaps seeing Forrest getting exposed. However, Fraser went onto have arguably his finest season for the club. Paul Hartley brought Forrest back to the Recs for the 2011/12 season, but Fraser only managed

a handful of appearances due to a recurring back injury which forced his retirement from the game in January 2012 at the age of 28. Away from the pitch Fraser is a PE teacher and according to LinkedIn he's currently in West Lothian at Sinclair Academy and Winchburgh Academy.

Watching the Wasps win at Annan last weekend, the Galabankies defender Steven Swinglehurst reminded me of Forrest, being a throwback defender who clearly loves defending but didn't appear to be the most comfortable with the ball at his feet. It was really evident to me that Alloa's first half press targetted Swinglehurst, knowing that his distribution didn't match others like Wullie Gibson, so with Annan continuously seeking to build play from the back. it was no coincidence to me that the Alloa attackers were letting Swinglehurst get on the ball, but were pressing the other defenders to stop them progressing the play. It was a tactic which worked well for the Wasps, but made me think that defenders like Swinglehurst and Forrest are now an increasingly



rare breed in today's more technical game. Beyond the head bandaged Alloa players, there are weird and wacky examples of these running repairs across the game. The most famous example is probably still Terry Butcher's blood soaked bandage after an England game in Sweden in 1989. I vividly remember reading aloud as a six year old the Shoot! Magazine headline of 'A bloody mess' and my mum telling me off for swearing! Don't worry, I was still allowed to buy the magazine after the rebuke! Other famous examples include other warhorse defenders like Giorgio Chiellini, who regularly wore headgear to stem the flow of blood from cuts. or the colour coordinated red head bandage worn by Wales striker Kieffer Moore. At the other end of the scale, there was the absurd sight

in Euro 2016 of Croatian defender Vedran Corluka looking like he had a volcano on top of his head, before later in the tournament adapting his style to a water polo cap in the Croatian red and white check pattern! However, saving the worst for last is former Chelsea defender Garv Cahill. who in 2017 sustained a chin injury in the Champions League versus Roma, which required a bandage to be wrapped under his chin and over his head to keep him playing. The result was hilarious and for me even beats the bizarre but effective hairnet / onion bag worn by Ecuador's Christian Noboa at the 2014 World Cup.



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St Johnstone,	27	15	0	9	59	25	39
Cowdenbeath,	28	15	5	8	55	26	38
Bathgate,	27	13	5	9	45	29	35
King's Park,	28	13	8	7	52	38	33
Albion Rovers,	26	12	6	8	43	34	32
Stenhousemuir	26	11	6	9	38	23	31
Bo'ness,	28	11	9	8	38	40	30
Dunfermline Ath.,	28	11	9	8	37	31	30
Johnstone,	27	12	11	4	38	31 37	28
Armadale,	28	11	11	6	37	44	28
Dundee United.	26	8	7	11	28	28	27
Forfar Athletic.	25	10	9	6	29	36	26
East Fife,	27	10	12	5	28	33	25
Alloa,	27	11	13	3	35	37	25
St Bernard,	27	8	12	7	34	41	23
Dumbarton,	26	9	13	4	28	42	22
Broxburn,	26	8	13	5	31	38	21
Vale of Leven,	26	6	14	6	25	46	18
Arbroath,	27	6	15	6	32	41	18
Lochgelly U.,	26	2	21	3	9	58	7
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RETURN TO SCORING MOOD AND TRICKY HIBS TIE

As Alloa's hopes of an immediate return to the topflight faded into the distance, there was a very timely outburst of cup fever in the Wee County. The Wasps of 1923/24 had started the season poorly before hitting form in November, briefly bringing some hope that they might yet catch the promotion chasers and challenge for that coveted spot back in the First Division. The revival was short lived and Alloa were now fated to another season at the lower level. Their Scottish Cup campaign had almost come to an early end too, the Wasps scrambling to a 2-2 draw at home to Buckie Thistle after twice going behind. Progress was ultimately secured at the second attempt with a 3-0 win on the Banffshire coast, setting up a much talked about trip to Easter Road to face Hibs.

Alloa's local rivals King's Park – predecessors of today's opponents Stirling Albion – had arguably fared better in the cup despite not progressing, a very credible 0-0 draw against First Division Hamilton followed up by a narrow 1-0 defeat in the replay. The Forthbank men would have to concentrate on the league where their promotion bid was faltering somewhat after a dynamic start.

The Wasps themselves were back on league business before the Hibs cup tie with the visit of Vale of Leven, a team who had burst Alloa's bubble with a 3-1 win in Alexandria during that pre-Christmas run of form. The Wasps had their revenge at the Recs, Alexander slamming in a hat-trick and recent signing Ross from Muirkirk getting the fourth. "Not since Crilley left have the Wee County team been in such a scoring mood", enthused the Scotsman, noting that but for Ballantyne in the Vale goal that the Wasps would have scored even more. Ross, Paterson, Stirling and Thackeray were said to be the outstanding men on the day which seemed a bit harsh on hat-trick hero Alexander.

It was the perfect tonic ahead of the cup tie in Edinburgh as Alloa prepared to renew acquaintances with Hibs. The Wasps had fared well against the men from Leith in the First Division, winning 2-1 at the Recs and losing rather unluckily by the same scoreline at Easter Road later in the campaign. That only Headrick and Connaboy from the topflight season would line up in the cup tie was a stark illustration of the turnover in players from the year before.

But against a side sitting fifth in the First Division, Alloa's new boys would rise to the occasion. "Seldom have I seen a more vigorous exciting cup-tie than that served up between Hibs and Alloa at Easter Road" purred the columnist from the Sunday Post. It didn't look that way early on, Murray firing Hibs ahead after just five minutes in front of a crowd of 12,000. Gradually however, the Wasps found their feet and Paterson and Ross tested Scotland international Bill Harper in the home goal. Half-time arrived with Hibs 1-0 ahead but Alloa very much in the contest. The emboldened Wasps began to take the game to Hibs and

eventually their attacking play paid off. A break down the left found Lennie in space and the former Arniston Rangers man made no mistake: "Advancing a yard, he let rip before could be tackled, and what a goal! Harper had not the ghost of a chance". Back came Hibs but they couldn't force a winner and the sides would have to do it all again in the Wee County. Crawford in goal and Paterson, Connaboy and Lennie in attack were picked out as Alloa's best men on a day when there were no failures in Black and Gold. Hibs had got "the fright of their lives" claimed the press - just like Alloa against Buckie two weeks earlier. The challenge now was to try and succeed where Buckie had failed by finishing off the giant killing act back on home turf. The Sunday Post recalled Alloa's cup heroics earlier in the decade when the Wasps and "wee Crilley" had forced several draws against higher ranked opposition before ultimately progressing. Might Hibs go the same way as Falkirk and Clydebank? "The replay will answer the question" concluded the paper.

A crowd of 3500 turned up at the Recs on the Tuesday afternoon to see if the Wasps could indeed finish the job and for 25 minutes at least they saw another well contested cup tie. Alloa started well but Hibs weathered the storm and a shot from distance from McColl put the visitors ahead. The Wasps didn't respond so well to going behind this time and headers from Walker and Hannigan before the break pretty much wrapped it up for Hibs. The injured Wood didn't reappear for the second-half but the ten men from Alloa held on at 3-0 until the closing stages when Ritchie and Dunn added late goals to put a gloss on the

scoreline. Alloa had been "very disappointing" said the Dundee Courier. Little did the home fans know as they filed out of the Recs that it would be several decades before the Wasps would again defeat Hibs - although when that elusive next win finally arrived in 2014, it was courtesy of a magnificent lain Flannigan goal which was certainly worth waiting for, albeit perhaps not for 90 years.

Back in 1924 the Wasps were now faced with a Thursday afternoon trip to take on Forfar in the league, a match which had been postponed due to the cup tie at Easter Road on Saturday. Thankfully common sense prevailed, and the match was rearranged for later in the month, sparing Alloa having to play four matches in seven days. They would instead return to league action with games against Bo'ness and Dumbarton before making that trip to Forfar. More in the next edition of The Wasp.





		LEA	LEAGUE		JP	тот	AL	ALLOA CAREER LGE	
	POS	APP	GOAL	APP	GOAL	APP	GOAL	APP	GOAL
MORRISON	GOAL	15 (1)	- 0	5 (0)	0	20 (1)	0	- 15 (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	19 (2)	2	3 (0)	- 0 -	22 (2)	2	248 (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	18 (0)	- 0	6 (1)	1	24 (1)	1	- 18 (0) -	0
DEVENEY	DEF	9 (3)	- 0	3 (3)	0	12 (6)	0	9 (3)	0
МСКАУ	DEF	7 (3)	- 1	5 (2)	- 0 -	12 (5)	- 1	7 (3)	1
SUTHERLAND	DEF	1 (0)	- 0	0 (0)	- 0	1 (0)	- 0	- 1 (0) -	0
ROBERTSON	MID	0 (1)	- 0	0 (0)	- 0 -	0 (1)	- 0	175 (31)	2
SCOUGALL	MID	11 (2)	- 0	5 (1)	- 0	16 (3)	- 0	- 70 (20) -	8
O'DONNELL	MID	10 (2)	- 1	4 (1)	- 0 -	14 (3)	- 1 -	26 (36)	10
CAWLEY	MID	10 (6)	- 1	1 (3)	- 1	11 (9)	2	334 (53)	64
HETHERINGTON	MID	17 (0)	- 0	6 (1)	0	23 (1)	0	- 154 (30) -	6
VIRTANEN	MID	4 (5)	- 0	3 (3)	- 0 -	7 (8)	- 0	4 (5)	0
ROBERTS	MID	21 (0)	- 0	6 (1)	- 0 -	27 (1)	- 0	- 21 (0) -	0.
DONNELLY	FWD	1 (5)	- 1	1 (1)	- 0	2 (6)	- 1	- 13 (24) -	8
SAMMON	FWD	7 (10)	- 3	6 (1)	- 3	13 (11)	6	58 (32)	22
BUCHANAN	FWD	8 (5)	- 2	4 (1)	1	12 (6)	- 3	8 (16)	2
RANKIN	FWD	0 (0)	- 0	0 (2)	- 0 -	0 (2)	- 0 -	0 (11)	1
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BRIAN ROACH



A FAN'S VIEW

After the disastrous second half here against Falkirk a fortnight ago, Alloa were back on track down at Galabank last week- where they defeated Annan to pick up the three points. It really should have been achieved by a more comfortable margin than the final scoreline suggests- but there was still plenty of positives to take out of that game into todays' derby.

With a gap in the squad at left back having Cameron O'Donnell currently injured and Ewan Deveney out for the season, left sided Ethan Sutherland was signed on loan from St Mirren as the winter transfer window closed. As expected, he was thrown right into the starting 11 for last week's game. More renowned for his attacking play, his debut for the club didn't get

off to the best start. Perhaps overly keen to make an impression, a forage up the left flank after four minutes saw Sutherland caught in possession and the hosts produced a counterattack. Admittedly his teammates were a bit slow to react, and Annan took an early lead. It was an early setback for both the debutant and Alloa, but after a messy opening ten minutes they found their groove. Sutherland in particular produced the best possible response to atone for his early error. His mazy run forward and brilliant pass to Bobby Wales left the striker to stab home at the second attempt just after the quarter hour mark. And within seconds Alloa had turned the game on his head. The build-up contained some good passing play, but there was no real finesse in

the finish- more of a battering ram or old fashioned "stramash" as Wales showed some composure amongst the madness by driving the ball diligently into the net. Wales really should have had at least a hat-trick- in reality he could have scored five or six. Nevertheless, we've got to be happy with 5 goals in his last 5 games for Alloa. His return on loan from Kilmarnock could be a pivotal piece of business as Alloa aim for the promotion play-offs.

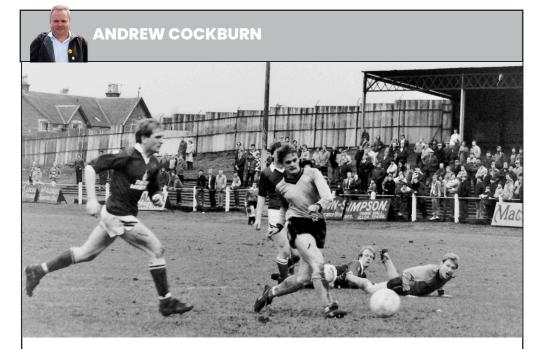
After the break, it appeared a third Alloa goal would kill the game, and it duly arrived when Taylor Steven got in on the act. Annan played some neat and tidy football at times but following that opening spell Alloa dealt fairly comfortably with the majority of pressure applied on them. A second half free kick was well tipped over by Morrison, which was the closest Annan came to getting back into proceedings- although a converted penalty with 2 minutes remaining did give the travelling support a hint of nerves. But Alloa looked more likely to score in the lengthy stoppage time period, so there was little to overly concern as they saw out the game. The win put Alloa into the play-off positions in the league for the first time this season- albeit short lived after Montrose leapfrogged them on Tuesday night with a win over today's opponents Stirling Albion.

Andy Graham's post-match interview was positive as always- I don't recall an Alloa manager who speaks so well after the game. The aforementioned Bobby Wales return really completes that front line. Going forward Alloa are showing plenty of quality, and with Conor Sammon and Ally Roy waiting in the wings- strength in depth. And with a midfield supporting cast of Steven, Cawley, Scougall and Roberts in good form the team are in a pretty good place from middle to front. Although the midfield coped fine last Saturday after that slow start, I still feel Stevie Hetherington's absence with a long term injury is a major blow. The defence was maybe a step out on occasion. but I think that was understandable with Sutherland's inclusion. He obviously likes to go forwardbut hadn't trained with the team yet, and there was probably a bit of time needed there to blend him into that backline, and to judge the timing of his runs etc. That will be something the manager will have worked on this week in training hopefully- because going forward he looks a revelation. I'm really looking forward to seeing how Sutherland performs this afternoon.

It was important to get that reaction after the Falkirk defeat, and it puts everyone in a far better place heading into today's derby. Stirling Albion ended Alloa's long winning streak against them, edging out Alloa twice here with late penalties earlier in the season. Alloa got some level of revenge with a comfortable 2-0 win at Forthbank in Brian Rice's final game as manager. Today it's Andy Graham's first derby as manager against his former club- and of course his opposite number Darren

Young once wore Alloa colours. Congratulations to Darren on his recent new contract at Stirling, although we of course hope he doesn't do too well this afternoon. With both teams still very much in play-off contention this should be an interesting encounter. It should be an entertaining couple of months with the league being so tight- and hopefully Alloa's recent upturn in form (notwithstanding the Falkirk blip) puts them in a good place to keep progressing up the table. This afternoon is the first of three successive home fixtures giving the team a great opportunity to get more points on the board. Enjoy today's game.





LOOKING BACK 11TH FEBRUARY 1984

In The Premier Division, leaders Aberdeen maintained their six-point advantage, thanks to a 4-0 win at bottom club Motherwell, while second-placed Celtic also enjoyed an emphatic win v one of the strugglers, when they crushed St. Johnstone by 5-2 at Celtic Park. Third-placed Dundee United were also victorious on home soil, by 2-0 v Hibs, Rangers remained fourth, despite having to settle for a point from a 2-2 draw at Hearts. who thus dropped one place to sixth, and were replaced in fifth spot by St. Mirren, who hammered Dundee 4-0 at Love Street. At the other end of the table. Motherwell's defeat was

their fourteenth league game without success, and as they also trailed safety by seven points, they were starting to look doomed for the drop. The same was true of St. Johnstone, who were five points adrift of their third-bottom Tayside rivals Dundee, having also played two games more.

First Division leaders Partick went down 1-2 at Glasgow rivals Clyde, which meant that their advantage was now purely on goal difference over second-placed Dumbarton, who shared six goals and the points at struggling Hamilton Accies. Third-placed Morton too had to settle for a share of the spoils, when they drew 1-1 at Meadowbank, while 1-1 was also the outcome at Rugby Park, in the clash between fourth-placed Kilmarnock and fifth-placed Brechin. In the relegation zone, Alloa picked up their first win of The New Year. by 3-1 at Recreation Park v local rivals Falkirk, thanks to first-half efforts from Davie Lloyd (2) & Drew Paterson, The Wasps having lined up as follows: Donald Hunter, Gary Thompson, Larry Haggart, Kenny Thomson, Davie Martin, Davie Houston, Drew Paterson, Lennie McComb (Brvan Purdie), Davie Llovd, Robert Ouinn, Frankie Cole, But despite this welcome success,

Alloa remained in bottom place, six points behind third-bottom Hamilton Accies. And in fact Alloa's next league engagement was a rather critical affair, at second-bottom Raith, whose own relegation worries continued in the shape of a 2-3 home defeat v Airdrie.

Down in The Second, leaders Forfar suffered only their second league defeat of the campaign, though rather surprisingly at lowly East Stirling, though The Loons remained three points clear of second-placed Stirling Albion, who were game less. Queen of the South retained third spot in spite of a 0-1 defeat at rock-bottom Montrose, fourth-placed Arbroath were game less, while East Fife, despite going down 0-1 at Stranraer, still occupied fifth place.

South of the border, there was no change at the top of The First Division. For reigning Champions and league leaders Liverpool remained three points clear, after a 2-1 home win v Arsenal, second-placed Nottingham Forest were 1-0 victors at fifth-placed QPR, while third-placed Manchester United visited Luton the following day. Bottom club Wolves picked up a welcome point from a 0-0 draw at fellow strugglers/Midlands rivals Birmingham, but as The Wanderers were still twelve points from safety, their time in the top flight looked to be coming to an end.

The top of The Second Division was also unchanged, as table-topping Chelsea remained two points clear, thanks to a 1-0 win at seemingly-doomed bottom club Cambridge. Second-placed Sheffield Wednesday crushed Charlton 4-1 at Hillsborough, while third-placed Manchester City were also victorious on home soil, by 2-1 v Portsmouth.









STIRLING ALBION

The Binos

FOUNDED 1945

GROUND

Forthbank Stadium. Stirling

TOP HONOURS

Championship* Winners 1952-53, 1957-58, 1960-61, 1964-65 Runners-up 1948-49. 1950-51 League 1* Winners 1946-47,1976-77. 1990-91.1995-96. 2009-10 Runners up 2006-07 League 2* Winners 2022-23 Runners up 2003-4

This afternoon Alloa hope to continue their positive momentum with another massive game against local rivals, Stirling Albion. Similar to the Wasps, the Binos are coming in a rich vein of form. With a commendable draw against Cove Rangers last week. a 5-0 win against Kelty and 1-0 victory over Montrose preceded that. Those results see the side sit 8th in the table. 10 points ahead of Alloa's previous opponent Annan. However, only sitting 3 points behind the Wasps making this afternoon's affair all the more important. After

clinching the League 2 title last year, survival and consolidation is ultimately the aim, but with the league so tight, nobody can write off anvone in this promotion play-off hunt.

THE BOSS -**DARREN YOUNG**

We welcome back Stirling Albion manager, Darren Young, to the Indodrill Stadium for this evening's derby match. Young enjoyed a successful spell as captain of the Wasps from 2011 to 2014, securing back-to-back promotions, as well as Championship survival.

He departed the club in 2014 but returned only a matter of weeks ago to kit up once more for the Alloa Athletic Legends team for Kevin Cawley's testimonial, where he rolled back the years for 45 minutes in midfield. After he left the club in 2014, he joined Albion Rovers as a player / manager which began in a fitting manner for the success that came. In his first match in charge, he scored the winning penalty as Albion Rovers beat Airdrieonians 4-2 on penalties following a 2–2 draw in the Scottish Challenge Cup on 26 July 2014. Young won the League Two champion-



*may include equivalent competitions



ship and promotion in his first season as a manager. A 4-year spell would follow at East Fife before joining Alloa's rivals in 2021. Last season he returned to success by guiding them to the title and being nominated for Manager of the Year. Recently, Young was awarded with a new deal as Stirling boss which extended his stay for an additional 2-and-a-half years.

THE CAPTAIN -PAUL MCLEAN

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

his first senior contract though at the age of 19. He became a part of the furniture at Glebe Park staving for 10 years and being part of teams that rose all the way up to the Championship. After that spell, he departed in 2019 to sign for only his second senior club with Stirling Albion. Now 33-years old, he is looking forward to hopefully continuing the success they have built last season in Cinch League 1. He has proven that he still has plenty to offer at both ends of the pitch with a brace in their triumph in Perth and the equaliser against Alloa in the opening derby.

NEW BOY - CALLUM CRANE

One of the key players in the transfer window was Edinburgh City, with plenty in's and out's. One of those outgoing and incoming to them Binos was former Wasp, Callum Crane. The left-back spent time out on loan at Alloa in the 2017/18 season where the Wasps clinched promotion. Crane played a key part that season with big goals at Hampden and against Ayr United. Following the challenges at Meadowbank he made the switch to Forthbank in January. Crane has made a solitary appearance since making the move, coming in a 1-0 victory over Montrose.

ONE TO WATCH – DALE CARRICK

A household name in the Scottish lower leagues, Dale Carrick is this afternoon's one to watch. Signing from Championship side, Arbroath, eyebrows were certainly raised as the Binos bolstered their attacking options. It has been a signing that has worked out well though with Carrick hitting the ground running immediately. Wirh already 2 match winners in this fixture alone, his goal scoring exploits have extended across the division. 9 goals and 2 assists already this season are impressive numbers for any frontman, with plenty of the season left to take that into double figures. Carrick has found the back of the net 3 times in his last 3 appearances, making him a key man for Andy Graham's defence to keep an eye on.

THE CONNECTION

The most notable returning faces has already been highlighted in Darren Young. The most notable out of that has to be former striker, Greig Spence. With 3 separate spells at Alloa, he is remembered fondly for big moments, such as the winner against Rangers. Spence has been at Forthbank since last

CONTINUED ON P32



season after helping them clinch the title. Joining Young, Spence, and Crane, there is another returning face at the Binos in Robert Thomson. The 6ft 2 striker had his first spell at Alloa in 2012 on loan before returning for two years in 2019 on a permanent basis. It was at the Wasps where he would score his first professional goals of his career in a brace against Albion Rovers in 2012. For the travelling support, they will be glad to see a legend for both clubs, Andy Graham, take charge of his first derby. The 40-year-old centre back began his career at the Binos and played there for 5 years, ironically with his first

professional goal being for Stirling Albion against Alloa in 2005. He started his career as a central defender but won the Stirling Albion Player of the Year award for the 2009–10 season playing at right back when they won the Second Division title. One of Alloa's key players, Kurtis Roberts, also had a spell at Stirling for 2 years back in 2020.

PREVIOUS MEETINGS

After being starved of the Derby for so long, supporters have been lucky enough to see 3 so far this season. With the teams sharing a league for the first time since 2010, we have seen 2 matchups there, plus a game in the League Cup. That cup game ended 2-1 to Stirling Albion here at the Indodrill, with Carrick's late penalty the winner after goals from McLean and equaliser from Coulson. Carrick again was the match winner from the spot after a late penalty sealed all the points in the league following a McKav red card for Alloa. However, the Wasps would return to winning ways at Forthbank with Brian Rice's last game in charge. A dominant 2-0 victory for Alloa with goals from academy graduate Steven Buchanan and Ally Roy.



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BRIAN ROACH



THE PLAYED FOR BOTH TEAMS

With a plethora of former players who have worn the colours of both Alloa and Stirling Albion over the years- including a few on either side today- I thought I'd revisit three more from more recent times.

SCOT BUIST (ALLOA 2007-2010, STIRLING ALBION 2010-2011, 2016)

In the summer of 2007, towering defender Scot Buist was signed by Alloa manager Allan Maitland from junior side Oakley. As a manager Maitland was renowned for plucking gems from the juniors, and Buist also came with a glowing recommendation from former Wasp Willie Newbigging- in charge of Oakley at the time. Buist was certainly a presence at the back, but also comfortable with the hall at his feet. Alloa embarked on a memorable season in his debut year- reaching the First Division Play-Offs- although an iniury meant Scot played no part as Alloa lost to Clyde in the

semi-finals. Pretty much an ever present in all three seasons at the club, he became known for playing through the pain barrier when required and being a huge character in the dressing room, as well as a solid defender. In his final season, Alloa agonisingly lost the Second Division championship to their local rivals- and it was a real kick in the teeth for Alloa supporters to see Buist controversially make the move to Albion that summer. He made 26 appearances for Allan Moore's Binos in the First Division- who were unable to avoid relegation back to Division 2 in 2011. He then became something of a nomad in the Second Division. with a solid campaign at Brechin before joining Stenhousemuir alongside former Alloa team mate Brown Ferguson. Sadly a horrific knee injury in April 2013 looked to have potentially ended his career in a match at New Bayview. Buist had put Stenny ahead in the game, but his day ended in disaster. He defied the

odds to eventually return to the senior game in 2016, going back to Forthbank for a second spell on a short term contract. He made five appearances across February and March of that year before finishing off his career at East Stirlingshire.

MARTIN GREHAN (STIRLING ALBION 2008-2010, ALLOA 2012-2013)

Having been on Motherwells books after standing out as a youngster in the juniors, striker Martin Grehan signed for Stirling Albion in 2008 after a spell on loan at Forfar. Forming a great partnership with David McKenna, the pair scored 24 goals between them in the league for Stirling-Grehan with 11 of them, including a goal at Recreation Park in a 3-2 Albion victory. Stirling were pipped to the promotion play-offs by Peterhead, but Grehan carried his scoring form into the following seasonscoring seven goals by November. This earned the striker a full time move to Partick Thistle in the lanuary transfer window. After a season and a half at Thistle, Grehan dropped back to part time to join Third Division Stranraer, Grehan faced Alloa that season on numerous occasions, and the Wasps saw off Stranraer's threat to finish the season as champions under Paul Hartley. But Hartley saw enough in Grehan to sign him for Alloa in summer. He started his Alloa career well- scoring eight goals in the opening half of the season including a hat-trick against Albion Rovers. But he fell out of favour slightly as the season drew to a close, with his final outing for the club in the

first leg of the play-off semi-final against Brechin- a mere 4 minute cameo appearance. Alloa gained promotion, but Grehan returned to former club Stranraer. After stints at Stenhousemuir and Arbroath, he made a final notable appearance here at Recreation Park- playing for BSC Glasgow in a televised Scottish Cup tie against Hibs when ground sharing the stadium. At 39 he remains on the pitch- as player-coach at Lowland League Broomhill.

JASON MARR (ALLOA 2012-2017, STIRLING ALBION 2018/19)

Centre half Jason Marr joined Alloa as a fresh faced 22 year old back in 2012- quickly ousting Ryan Harding to join Ben Gordon at the heart of the Alloa backline for the next 5 years. Marr was a key figure that season with 34 appearances as Alloa achieved consecutive promotions to reach the Championship, Although lason picked up a knock in the closing stages of the campaign he recovered to play in the second leg of the play-off final against Dunfermline at East End Park. where the defence stood strong

to defend their 3 goal first leg lead. Surprise package Alloa built up a head of steam in the Championship the following season- only four points off the leaders as December rolled in. Sadly for Jason a bad injury curtailed his season from January onwards. The team struggled in his absence, with manager Paul Hartley departing the club replaced by Barry Smith. Despite a downturn in form, they managed to consolidate in the league for the first time since 1983. Injury again restricted his appearances in 2014/15 campaign, but Jason starred in both trips to Ibrox Stadium in the league where Alloa picked up a share of the spoils on both occasions against Rangers. Jason had more appearances in the following season-scoring memorable goals against St Mirren and Rangers. The Wasps were unfortunately relegated but incoming manager Jack Ross identified Marr as a key man as he rebuilt the squad. In the following League One campaign, lason scored the winner in the League Cup last 16 tie against Inverness Caledonian Thistle which earned Alloa a quarter final clash with Brendan Rodgers

invincibles at Celtic Park. In his last campaign, despite 32 appearances he fell out of favour with manager lim Goodwin and sadly departed the club in 2017. Jason went onto play a season at Albion Rovers before joining Stirling Albion in 2018. He made 24 appearances for the Binos. including a trip to his former club-where he received a good reception as Alloa won the August Challenge Cup tie 3-1. He left Stirling in 2019 where he went onto play at Darvel for a couple of seasons. Work and family commitments having likely put an end to his career at senior level, Jason was a huge fan favourite at Alloa and is still onlv 34.



HT QUIZ

1. WHICH PLAYER SCORED IN THE ALLOA-STIRLING DERBY FIXTURE BACK IN 2007 AND WENT ON TO BE CAPPED 28 TIMES BY HIS COUNTRY?

2. WHICH PLAYER HAS SCORED ON MULTIPLE OCCASIONS IN MATCHES BETWEEN THE CLUBS THIS SEASON?

3. WHICH THREE SCOTSMEN HAVE MANAGED LIVERPOOL FC IN THE LAST CENTURY?

4. HOW MANY PLAYERS CAN YOU NAME FROM SCOTLANDS STARTING 11 IN STEVE CLARKES OPEN-ING GAME AS MANAGER- A 2-1 WIN OVER CYPRUS IN JUNE 2019?

5. WHICH CLUB WERE THE ONLY NON-SCOTTISH TEAM WHO PREVIOUSLY REPLICATED TNS LAST WEEK BY REACHING THE SCOTTISH CHALLENGE CUP FINAL?

6. NAME THE FOUR CLUBS IN TODAYS' SCOTTISH CUP FIFTH ROUND TIES WHO HAVE NEVER PREVIOUSLY WON THE TROPHY

ANSWERS PAGE 37

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LC	29.07.23	AYR UNITED	A		6-0	ROBERTSON
IJ	05.08.23	QUEEN OF THE SOUTH	A		3-4	HARDIE
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 U	19.08.23	KELTY HEARTS	•	-	2-1	WILLIAMS
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MORRISON

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HETHERINGTON	CAWLEY	ROBERTS	SCOUGALL	VIRTANEN	O'DONNELL	ROBERTSON	DONNELLY
4	7	8	12	14	20	25	9
	×	$\mathbf{\times}$	×		×	$\mathbf{\times}$	
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		2
90	90	90	90		0 30		7
90	36	90	61				
90	90	90	76		24		2
90	64	76		14	90		0 2
90		64		90	90		2
90		90			14		9
90	9	90					1
90		90					
83	1	90		7			
90		90		45			
90		90	11	1			
90	1	90					
90							
	0 84	90	90	6	65		
	70	90	87	3	66		
90	79	90	90		90		
90	80	90	45		90		
90	90	90		3	90		
90	064	90	26		90		
45	24	90	90	45	45		2
	11	90	79	64	64	26	-
	21	90	69	90			

			FORWARDS										
	ROBERTSON	DONNELLY	RODDEN	STEVEN	CANNON	SAMMON	BUCHANAN	RANKIN	ROY	COULSON	WALES		
)	25	9	10	11	17	18	19	24	16	26	28		
1	X	\mathbf{X}	X	×			X	×	\mathbf{X}	×	X		
	\frown		60			72	90	18		0 30			
,			90			90				90			
:			62			0 90	0 90			5			
+						71	45	29		45			
5			090			0 85				5			
3		20	70		20	70				32			
,		78	12			30				60			
			2 15	75		90				54			
ł		24		66	14	0 76				14			
, ,		0 26		90	14	76							
,		26		90	.+	10 72				18			
		90	80	30	10	30	76			60			
+		21	20	85	10	- 30	81		090		69		
+		- 21	6	90		20	90		083		70		
+			0 84	0 81		6	90				89		
+			45	90		0					90		
+				90		-	90		084	70	90		
+			1			6	0 90		089	79	90 81		
+			1	89		9	90		90		81		
				69		21	61		90	29			
5						0 90	19			71			
,				90			3		20	90	87		
2						11				0 73	90		
)				45		10	0 30			60	090		
)				23			44		0 46	67	0 90		
•									16	74	0 90		
5		24		79			0 90		11	66			
•	26			72			79		11	26	90		
+				1 82			8			76	<u>0</u> 90		
+													
+		-											
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l													



QUIZ ANWERS

1. ROBERT SNODGRASS

2. DALE CARRICK

3. BILL SHANKLY, KENNY DAL-GLISH, GRAEME SOUNESS

4. DAVID MARSHALL, STEPHEN O'DONNELL, CHARLIE MULGREW, SCOTT MCKENNA, ANDY ROB-ERTSON, JOHN MCGINN, KENNY MCLEAN, CALLUM MCGREGOR, JAMES FORREST, RYAN FRASER, EAMON BROPHY

5. CONNAH'S QUAY NOMADS (2018/19)

6. COVE RANGERS, BONNYRIGG ROSE, AYR UNITED, LIVINGSTON





ALLOA ATHLETIC



STIRLING ALBION

#	POS 🛞 🗌	#
1	PJ MORRISON	1
21	KEIR BURT	2
41	ΤΟCΗUKWU OGAYI	3
2	SCOTT TAGGART	4
	EUAN DEVENEY	5
4	STEPHEN HETHERINGTON	6
5	ANDY GRAHAM	7
6	MORGYN NEILL	8
7 🗙	KEVIN CAWLEY	9
8 🗙	KURTIS ROBERTS	10
9	LUKE DONNELLY	11
X 11	TAYLOR STEVEN	12
12	STEFAN SCOUGALL	14
+ 14	MIKO VIRTANEN	15
X 15	DAVID MCKAY	16
16	ALISTAIR ROY	17
18 📕 📕	CONOR SAMMON	18
X 19	STEVEN BUCHANAN	19
20	CAMMY O'DONNELL	** 20
22	PAUL MCLAREN	21
23	DAVID DEVINE	22
25	JON ROBERSTON	24
26	QUINN COULSON	25
29	REECE MULLEN	27
30	ETHAN SUTHERLAND	30
	NAGER ANDY GRAHAM	
REFER	EE: Ross Hardie	ASST: Ro
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<i>a</i> 7	2			-	_	_
	*	POS		⊛	U	
$\stackrel{\scriptstyle \leftarrow}{\rightarrow}$	1		BLAIR CURRIE			-
\ge	2		ROSS MCGEACHIE			
\mathbf{X}	3		CAMERON CLARK			
$\boldsymbol{\times}$	4		PAUL MCLEAN			
\mathbf{X}	5		JORDAN MCGREGOR			
+-	6		ADAM CUMMINS			
\times	7		AARON DUNSMORE			
imes	8		ROSS DAVIDSON			
\times	9		DALE CARRICK			
\times	10		JACK LEITCH			
\times	11		KIERAN MOORE			
imes	12		KYLE BANNER			
\mathbf{X}	14		JORDAN WYLES			
X	15		KIERAN CURTIS			
\times	16		EWAN WILSON			
\mathbf{X}	17		CALLUM LAW			
+-	18		SAMBIRD			
X	19		KIERAN OFFORD			
₩.	20		MURRAY MILLER			
X	21		JOSH COOPER			
\mathbf{X}	22		GREIG SPENCE			
\times	24		LEWIS MILNE			1
imes	25		DALE HILSON			
X	27		MARK WEIR			
X	30		CALLUM CRANE			
×	M	ANA	SER DARREN YOUNG			

oss Nelson & Alistair Taylor

ALLOA'S NEXT FIVE	24.02.24, NEW DOUGLAS PARK, 15:00
13.02.24, INDODRILL STADIUM, 19:45 ALLOA ATHLETIC ANNAN ATHLETIC	02.03.24, LINKS PARK, 15:00 MONTROSE ALLOA ATHLETIC
17.02.24, INDODRILL STADIUM, 15:00	09.03.24, INDODRILL STADIUM, 15:00



MARSHALLCONSTRUCTION

PROUDLY SUPPORTING

ALLOA ATHLETIC FC

2023 - 2024 SEASON

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