









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

RUNNERS UP

1938/39

SCOTTISH LEAGUE 1 RUNNERS UP

1976/77 1981/82

1984/85 1988/89 1999/00 2001/02 2009/10 2012/13

2016/17

SCOTTISH LEAGUE 2 WINNERS

1997/1998 2011/2012

CHALLENGE CUP WINNERS

1999/2000

RUNNERS-UP

2001/02 2014/15

STIRLINGSHIRE CUP WINNERS

1904/5 1907/8 1908/9 1912/13 1920/21 1924/25 1933/34 1946/47 1955/56 1957/58 1959/60 1965/66 1981/82 1996/97

MOST CAPPED PLAYER

Jock Hepburn, 1 Cap (Scotland v Wales 1891)

Club Information

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Email: fcadmin@alloathletic.co.uk

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Club Officials Honorary Directors

Pat Lawlor

Ewen Cameron Mike Mulranev

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

Men's Team

Andy Graham(Manager)
Paddy Connolly (Assistant)
Niall Marshall (1st Team Coach)
Andrew Deeley (Club Doctor)
Robert Glen (Goalkeeping Coach)

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

ccon nay

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^{*}includes equivalent competitions





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DEFENDERS











David







David



ANDY GRAHAM





Kevin **CAWLEY**

17/03/1989



Luke **DONNELLY**



Taylor STÉVEN

17/09/2004

Alistair ROY

26/05/1997



Kurtis ROBERTS

06/09/1994

Stefan **SCOUGALL**

07/12/1992 170 см 63 kg

Conor SAMMON

06/11/1986 188 си

Steven **BUCHANAN**

26/03/2003 178 cм 70 ка

Quinn COULSON

01/09/2003

Miko **VIRTANEN**

Cameron O'DONNELL

29/09/2001

Bobby WALES





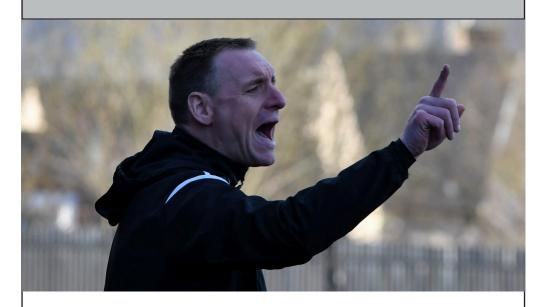
Jon **ROBERTSON**

25/04/1989 183 ∊м





ANDY GRAHAM



MANAGER'S NOTES

Warm welcome to Peter Murphy and his staff to the indodrill.

Last week was a disappointing result but on reflection there wasn't much in the game. The frustration comes from within as we know as a group that we can perform better than we showed.

Every team that we have still to play have

something to play for in terms of playoffs for relegation and promotion which makes every fixture a tough challenge. Annan have been on a great run lately and in all honesty haven't got the points the performances have merited over the season.

Heading into the last 6 games we have given ourselves a chance of getting into the playoffs but it's important we focus on one game at a time starting today.

I hope you can all get behind the team and give us that support when it's needed most. I know the players appreciate the backing.

Hope you enjoy the game



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- √ Child Contact & Residence
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Whitburn,

Alloa. FK10 1HX





NEWSDESK

Welcome back to the Indodrill Stadium as we welcome Annan Athletic FC for our fourth encounter of this season, welcome to their manager Peter Murphy, assistant manager Colin Mc-Menamin the players, officials, and directors of Annan Athletic FC. Last Saturday we lost our second game back to back, having lost in midweek 2-1 at New Central Park, Kelty and looked to bounce back against Queen of the South on the Saturday but were to lose on that occasion 2-0 to a Oueen's side we had not lost to this season, "The Wasps" still sit in a creditable third position in the league but again will face another difficult task against Annan Athletic. Let's get

behind the team and help them to continue as high as possible by the end of the season.

We welcome back to the Indodrill Stadium, Ionathan Markwell and his family, wife Lucy and daughters Faye and Sophie, this will be lonathan's first visit back to the ground since 2018, making the long trip up from Caversham near Reading. While Jonathan is up in the area he will visit my Alloa athletic Football Memorabilia exhibition which Officially opened yesterday Friday 29th March. The unit will be open prior to today's game v. Annan Athletic and tomorrow Easter Sunday 11am - 3pm, admission is free but to cover costs and add to the exhibition

donations would be grateful.

Stuart Latham & I have once again teamed up to write our third book on Alloa Athletic FC, the next book is called "Alloa will always be Alloa", it went to the printers at the beginning of this week, and we hope to have the first copies available in early April. The book on this occasion has been produced as a hard back and will retail at £ 22.99. although it will be discounted if bought through the club at £ 17.99. The book has over 360 pages of interesting snippets on people past and present at the club. All orders placed directly by e mailing myself, John Glencross, e mail jgxalloafc@ aol.com.

Our next Football Memories meeting will take place on Monday 8th April, 2024 at the Indodrill Stadium, starting at 11.30 - 1.00 O'clock, the last event in March was very well attended with 30+ people coming along and meeting and hearing former Alloa Athletic player, coach and manager Gregor Abel. The guest speaker on 8th April will be ex player Lennie McComb who played for "The Wasps" for four season's between 1980 -84. signed by Alex Totten and then played under Willie Garner and Jim Thomson before joining Berwick Rangers at start of Season 1984-85.

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@waspscommunityclub.com

Wasps 2000 Draw - Week 12 23rd March 2024

£ 100 0802 M.Lawson £ 50 1225 S.McMillan £ 25 0171 R.McGrouther £ 25 0351 J.Baird £ 25 1138 A SKelton

The Alloa Athletic Football Memorabilia exhibition was officially opened yesterday, Friday 29th March at 11am. On Saturday 30th March it will be open from 11am prior to the home match v. Annan Athletic, then on Easter Sunday it will be open 11am – 3pm with an Easter Egg Hunt to encourage families to come along together. Ever since having to give up my full-time employment after going into

hospital in December 2020. I have always had a dream that I wanted to be able to showcase all my Alloa Athletic Memorabilia along with other footballing memorabilia I have collected having attended many games for now over fifty plus years.

Time was always an issue previously, but not now, the difference now is just prioritising what is most important to myself and my family. My wife must be delighted to have all this clutter, as she would call it removed from the loft, just as well it was floored and insulated, due to the volume and weight. For me it was all important having been collected over years and I believed in time surely more than me would be glad I had held on to all this stuff.

The collection is full of match programmes going back to the 1940's in my prize Alloa Athletic collection. Also programmes from big games, Internationals, Cup finals, testimonials, European Games, the list goes on. Books, including Scottish Football Annuals by Hugh

Taylor, Clydesdale Bank Football reviews, Rothmans Football yearbooks, Wee Red Books, and numerous biographies. Magazines – Four Four Two, The Punter, Shoot, When Saturday Comes, Match, Nutmeg, Scottish Football weekly, Onside, numerous newspaper supplements.

Football Memorabilia – signed football strips, original worn football strips, tracksuits, jackets, scarfs, club ties, pennants, framed match programmes, Alloa Athletic team pictures, flags, etc the list goes on and on. Also able to view huge number of games through television with the help of videos and DVD's. with seating so you can watch in comfort and with a hot or cold drink.

The room can be used for Football Memory Groups or visiting as a group or individuals.

To book contact – John Glencross, email jgxalloafc@aol.com or phone 07877 530314.

No Admission cost but donations will help keep and build this collection.



Football Memories Group

Indodrill Stadium Alloa

Monday 8th April 2024 11.30 - 13.00

> For more info please conta isoalloafo@sol.com 07877 530314





JONATHAN MARKWELL



PENALTY KINGS

Scott Taggart has ice in his veins when stepping up from twelve yards. Three successful penalties in recent weeks means the Wasps captain has now scored each of his last eight penalties (excluding shoot-outs) and his overall record from the spot for the Wasps is nine out of ten, which in the nerve-wracking world of taking penalties is a formidable success-rate. From injury time winners at OG Broomhill in the cup and injury time equalisers versus Falkirk last season, to the deadlock breaker versus Cove and the momentum shifting equaliser at Edinburgh City a fortnight ago, Taggart's successes from the spot have been pivotal to some big results for the Wasps.

Over the years there are some Alloa penalty takers that I've never been completely convinced with, but when Taggart steps up I have full confidence in him. The main reason. is that I don't know where he's going to put the ball and my logic is that, if I don't know, there's a fairly good chance that the goalkeeper facing the kick doesn't either! Taggart has a great variety in his repertoire, scoring penalties in both bottom corners, both left and right top corners, as well as two kicks straight down the middle (which requires the biggest test of nerve as it is banking on the keeping diving out of the way) and that oh so memorable strike off the underside of Neil

Parry's crossbar at Clyde last season – I'm sure the pair still have debates as to whether that one actually crossed the whole of the goal line!

To have such a variety of finishes is quite rare for a penalty taker, who more often than not has one or two 'go to' penalties that they regularly rely on, which they have such muscle memory for that they could take the kicks in their sleep. In the high-pressure stakes of taking a penalty, following a tried and trusted routine can often help 'control the controllables' of the situation. I'd say I could tell you Taggart's preferred spot kick (although I'm obviously not going to tell the Annan goalkeepers what that is!), but the simple fact

of the matter is that Taggart has seven different locations where his penalties have nestled in the net, so the chances of second guessing Taggart are slim! Scott's run up is virtually identical whichever way he goes, so there are no clues there for goalkeepers who have done their homework on Taggart's previous spot-kicks (and I'd guess that all goalkeepers now do that research - or get others to do it for them!) The only time Taggart has been thwarted from the spot (excluding shoot-outs) was back in September 2017 away at Arbroath, when his future team mate David Hutton (something of a penalty expert) saved Taggart's firmly struck kick.

Taggart's record compares favourably with other Alloa penalty takers since the mid-1990s. My research has established that since 1996 the Wasps have been awarded 164 penalties, with 33 separate players stepping up and 28 of those players being successful at least once, with 129 spot-kicks hitting the back of the net and 35 not being converted. That gives an overall success-rate of 79%. which roughly equates to four out of every five penalties being successful. That rate is actually slightly above the xG (*expected goal metric) for a penalty, which stands at 0.76, which means Alloa are slightly above the average when it comes to scoring penalties.

Taggart is in-fact one of only four players in the past three decades to have taken ten or more spot-kicks for the club, with the others all being masters of the art too. Alloa's record top-goalscorer Willie Irvine was helped by 16 of those 91 strikes being from the penalty spot. Along the way Irvine did miss another four penalties, which



means even the most regular penalty takers are going to see a few saved (just expanding on that topic, I personally have nothing but respect for James Tavernier's penalty record; he does miss a few, but his variety is excellent, especially considering the high frequency of him taking penalties for Rangers!).

Next on the list is Alan Trouten, another famed penalty taker. During Trouten's first season with the Wasps, he scored all seven of his penalties, with precious penalties in two wins versus Morton going a long way to ensuring Alloa's 8th place finish in the otherwise all full-time Championship.

Trouten's most famous penalty came in the cup in November 2020 though. Alan was coolness personified to send Craig Gordon the wrong way and so score the only goal in Alloa's first ever (and only, so far) win versus Heart of Midlothian. Trouten's overall record was 13 successes out of 15 penalties taken, which at 87% is well above the xG average of 0.76. However, towards the end of his Alloa career I felt keepers were beginning to work out Trout's technique of going to the

keeper's bottom right corner, unless they start going that way during Trouten's slow run up (which also includes a deliberate pause), in which case wily Trouten would simply roll it home to the left of the keeper. During the shortened 2020/21 season Trout's missed one at Raith and I vividly remember the screams from the live steam of Rovers keeper coach David McGurn loudly celebrating the research he'd obviously given Jamie McDonald to help make the save! I've just checked up on Trouten's three successful penalties for East Fife this season and he's still using his tried and trusted technique, with keepers not getting close enough to his fine finishes to their postage-stamp bottom right corner on each occasion.

The only other player to have taken more penalties than Taggart in recent years for Alloa is Ryan McCord, who was yet another cool customer when it came to spot-kicks, regularly rolling them home under the managerial reign of Paul Hartley at the Recs. The first penalty McCord missed was a big one, in the play-off semi-final first-leg at Glebe Park versus Brechin,



but happily the rebound went straight back into McCord's path to put the Wasps 1-0 up in a game which eventually ended 2-0 (Kevin Moon with a memorable second goal). In-fact McCord also missed his final Alloa penalty, in a midweek away defeat to Livingston in March 2014, with Liam Buchanan the designated penalty taker in McCord's final season with the Wasps in 2014/15. All-in-all, McCord's record of 12/14 is on a par with Alloa's finest penalty takers.

Beyond the 'big four', special mentions go to Brown 'Bomber' Ferguson who blasted home 8 of his 9 Alloa penalties, with Andy Seaton another who preferred power to precision. At the other end of the scale Stuart Callaghan managed to take nine penalties in his eventful 18 months at the Recs in the mid-2000's, amazingly only just scoring more (5) than he missed (4), with Callaghan too confident by half most of the time! In terms of players who never missed a penalty (during normal time penalties), that exclusive list contains Stevie McKeown, Greig Spence and

lain Flannigan (all 6, but let's not mention that play-off shoot-out defeat to Brechin in 2017, when both Spence and Flannigan were unsuccessful), Liam Buchanan (4/4), Brian Carrigan (3/3) and Mikey McGowan (2/2).

There's also a select band of players to have only ever taken a single spot-kick for the Wasps, but this hit the back of the net. That list comprises Robbie Raeside (to secure a vital midweek win at Berwick during the promotion winning 2001/2 season), Scott Crabbe, Andy Brown, 17 year old Tony Stevenson (to break to deadlock in the inaugural play-off final v Berwick in 2006), Martin Grehan (against former club Stranraer

in 2013) and most recently Isaac Layne at St Mirren. Picking up on teenager Stevenson's high-pressure spot-kick, it also come in the context of Alloa having missed their four previous penalties. In the second half of the 2005/06 season the Wasps pulled off a miraculous escape from relegation in the Second Division under new manager Allan Maitland. However, that run wasn't helped by the missed penalties of Jamie Stevenson (twice), Robert Sloan and Graeme Brown, who were all culpable of seeing their penalties saved. Fortunately in the all-important Play-Offs Stevenson showed the coolness of an experienced professional to set Alloa on route to a 4-0 victory that helped guarantee Second Division football at the Recs for another season.

On the other side of the coin, there's also a collection of players to have taken a single penalty for the Wasps, but it was unsuccessful. That list-of-shame includes player-manager Andy Graham (sorry Andy!) and perhaps most memorably of all Kieran McAnespie, whose spot-kick in the cup victory over Ross County in 2006 is perhaps still on its way to the moon!

Returning back to Taggart though, I sincerely hope that by highlighting his prowess from twelve yards I am not inadvertently putting the kiss of death on his next penalty for the Wasps!



Player	Taken	Scored	Missed	Success rate (%)
Willie Irvine	20	16	4	80
Alan Trouten	15	13	2	87
Ryan McCord	14	12	2	86
Scott Taggart	10	9	1	90
Brown Ferguson	9	8	1	89
Andy Scott	9	7	2	78
Stuart Callaghan	9	5	4	56
Andy Seaton	8	6	2	75
Stevie McKeown, Greig Spence &	6	6	0	100
Iain Flannigan				
Kevin McDonald	6	4	2	67
Robert Sloan	5	4	1	80
Stefan Scougall	5	3	2	60
Liam Buchanan	4	4	0	100
Derek Fleming	4	3	1	75
Jamie Stevenson	4	2	2	50
Brian Carrigan	3	3	0	100
Graeme Brown	3	2	1	67
Ian Little	3	1	2	33
Mikev McGowan	2	2	0	100
Calum Elliot	2	1	1	50
Robbie Raeside, Scott Crabbe,	1	1	0	100
Andy Brown, Tony Stevenson,				
Martin Grehan, Isaac Layne				
Iain Nicolson, Kieran McAnespie,	1	0	1	0
Scott Hynd, Andy Graham, Conor				
Sammon				
	164	129	35	79
				14000
				7

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	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A. I	ts.
Et Johnstone	35	21	3	11	75	30	.53
Cowdenbeath	36	21			72	31	51
Bathgate	35	15		12	54	41	25
Stenhousemuir	34	15	8	11	54	33	41
Albion Rovers	35	14	9	12	62	46	40
King's Park	35	13	10	10	65	50	40
Johnstone	35	15	13	7	55	51	37
Dumbarton	36	16	15	5	47	50	37
Armadale	35	15	14	6	50	56	36
Dunfermline Ath	36	13	13	10	46	41	25
Dundes United	34	10	10	14	35	38	34
Bo'ness	36	12	14	10	41	52	34
East Fife	35	13	15	8	46	46	34
Forfar Athletic	35	13	15	7	39	61	33
Alloa	35	13	17	6	42	52	32
St Bernard	37	10	17	10	46	53	30
Arbroath	35	10	17	8	43	47	23
Broxburn United	35	10	17	8	42	52	28
Vale of Loven	35	10	17	8	36	60	1.8
Lochgelly United	35	4	27	4	18	- 78	12

TEMPERS, TIE AND A TRIALIST

It was Cliftonhill for thrills for the Wasps 100 years ago as Alloa tried to put the emotion of the recent passing of winger Jock Stirling behind them. Stirling's untimely death back in March 1924 at the age of just 37 had cast a shadow over the club. His Alloa teammates had formed the cortege at Alva Cemetery before making their way to the Recs to fulfil a league fixture that

same day. They had raised their game in memory of their friend, defeating high flying Stenhousemuir 2-1 for their first win in seven matches. It was a fitting tribute to Jock but also an important two points to stave off the danger of a calamitous second successive relegation for the Wasps. Alloa now had their eye on finishing a disappointing league season on a high, as well as

the looming Stirlingshire Cup final against East Stirlingshire.

First up was Coatbridge to renew acquaintances with Albion Rovers, the team who had slipped out of the First Division with Alloa 12 months previously. The Wee Rovers had done better in the lower grade but were sitting just below the promotion chasers and fated to another season

in the Second Division. With neither team having much to play for the first half was rather drab, Alloa just about on top but unable to take advantage of some good combination play from Paterson and Ross. They were made to pay just before the break when Geddes put the home team ahead.

The Wee Rovers had the wind in their sails now and took full control of the contest in the second period. Mackie was the star in the home team: "His football display was wonderfully clever" purred the Coatbridge Advertiser. Mackie twice struck the post before finally seeing off the Wasps with the killer second goal, a fine solo effort. Perhaps Alloa were frustrated by the domination of the home team or maybe the emotion of recent weeks was coming to a head, but tempers now boiled over at Cliftonhill. At the heart of it all was lames Headrick, Alloa's combustious back from Alva and no stranger to affray. The Coatbridge Advertiser reported that Kirk of the home team was "aggravated by Headrick kicking him" and "got into grips with that player". The fight that ensued saw both men ordered from

the field just before the final whistle blew on a 2-0 victory for Albion Rovers.

Headrick was banned the following week and perhaps he was missed in the opening period as the visitors from Johnstone raced into an early two goal lead. The Wasps settled and found a way back into the match when a Johnstone defender turned a cross from Quinn into his own net. The visitors stretched their lead early in the second half after Crawford couldn't hold "a rocket shot" but thereafter Alloa took control. The wide players were turning on the style and Alloa's latest trialist centre-forward was grabbing attention in the middle. Morris converted a penalty for the Wasps before Quinn fired in the equaliser. By the end of the 90 minutes lohnstone were relieved to escape with a point, "On their second half display Alloa deserved to win", concluded the Sunday Post. "Newman, who filled the centre berth, proved the best experiment that has been tried there since the days of Crilley, and he is of the same type". Praise indeed - had Alloa really managed to uncover another midget centre?

Home fans would get another look the following Saturday as third placed Bathgate arrived at the Recs for Alloa's final home game of the season. The trialist was unmasked as Herd but it was the more established Gilmour who made an early impact on the game with a goal from 25 yards in the second minute. Alloa had the chance to double their lead before the break but Morris drove his penalty wide, before Herd came close after being set up by Connaboy. The Wasps were unable to add to their lead and it finished 1-0, despite the press concluding that it had been a rather one sided affair. The result also made certain that Bathgate would be unable to catch Cowdenbeath and that the Fifers would go up to the First Division with St Johnstone. It was hard to begrudge Cowden their success for the Central Park men had finished second behind Alloa two years earlier when there was only one promotion place on offer. Persistence had paid off for Cowdenbeath and they had earned their shot at the big time.

Alloa still had two away league fixtures to fulfil but first up was the Stirlingshire Cup final and a chance to rescue some silverware from a pretty miserable campaign. More in the next edition of The Wasp.





APPEARANCES

		LEA	GUE	CUP		T01	TAL	ALLOA CAREER LGE		
	POS	APP	GOAL	APP	GOAL	APP	GOAL	APP	GOAL	
MORRISON	GOAL	23 (1)	0	5 (0)	0	28 (1)	0 -	23 (1)	9	
BURT	GOAL	0 (0)	О -	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (1)	0	
OGAYI	GOAL	7 (1)	0	2 (0)	0	9 (1)	0	7 (1)	0	
TAGGART	DEF	28 (2)	- 6	3 (0)	0	31 (2)	- 6	257 (2)	17	
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	20 (2)	0	2 (1)	0	22 (3)	0	30 (2)	0	
NEILL	DEF	27 (0)	0	6 (1)	1	33 (1)	1	27 (0)	0	
DEVENEY	DEF	9 (3)	0	3 (3)	0	12 (6)	0	9 (3)	0	
МСКАУ	DEF	9 (3)	1	5 (2)	0	14 (5)	1	9 (3)	1	
SUTHERLAND	DEF	9 (1)	1	0 (0)	0	9 (1)	1	9 (1)	1	
ROBERTSON	MID	2 (3)	1	0 (0)	0	2 (3)	1	177 (33)	3	
SCOUGALL	MID	19 (2)	0	5 (1)	0	24 (3)	0	78 (20)	8	
O'DONNELL	MID	15 (3)	2	4 (1)	0	19 (4)	2	31 (37)	11	
CAWLEY	MID	12 (8)	1	1 (3)	1	13 (11)	2	336 (55)	64	
HETHERINGTON	MID	17 (0)	0	6 (1)	0	23 (1)	0	154 (30)	6	
VIRTANEN	MID	8 (10)	0	3 (3)	0	11 (13)	0	8 (10)	0	
ROBERTS	MID	30 (0)	2	6 (1)	0	36 (1)	2	30 (0)	2	
DONNELLY	FWD	5 (7)	2	1 (1)	0	6 (8)	2	17 (26)	9	
SAMMON	FWD	8 (17)	4	6 (1)	3	14 (18)	7	59 (39)	23	
BUCHANAN	FWD	9 (10)	2	4 (1)	1	13 (11)	3	9 (21)	2	
RANKIN	FWD	0 (0)	0	0 (2)	0	0 (2)	0	0 (11)	1	
COULSON	FWD	13 (9)	1	5 (2)	1	18 (11)	2	25 (13)	2	
CANNON	FWD	0 (3)	0	0 (1)	0	0 (4)	0	0 (3)	0	
STEVEN	FWD	22 (2)	- 8	1 (0)	0	23 (2)	- 8	22 (2)	8	
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A FAN'S VIEW

Last week was tough for the Wasps, with a sore loss in Kelty and not laying a glove on the Fife side. A reaction was expected against Queen of the South, a team that is struggling and against whom Alloa has a strong record.

Andy Graham made three changes, with Ally Roy making his first league start since Edinburgh City in November, Steven Buchanan replacing an injured Taylor Steven, and Jon Robertson slotting in at left back for Cameron O'Donnell.

There was almost an instant reaction, with Steven Buchanan

denied by a combination of Harry Stone and the woodwork, and Stefan Scougall trying his luck from outside the box. However, defensive fragilities reared their ugly head again this week, with Morgyn Neill being drawn out to close down Lee Connelly, leaving a gaping hole for Joel Mumbongo to exploit for the opening goal. The forlorn Alloa defenders raised a hopeful arm for offside, but the officials let Mumbongo's low effort past Morrison stand.

To make matters worse, soon after the goal, Morgyn Neill, who had already received treatment, broke down for the final time.

and Alloa were forced to bring on midfielder Miko Virtanen at right back. The first half frustratingly continued uneventful, with Ethan Sutherland completely miscuing his strike inside the box after a clean Alloa attacking move.

After the break, Alloa came out sharp and almost found Steven Buchanan clean through on goal. He looked to have been pushed by Max Kilsby, who was lucky to escape scot-free. Harry Stone was next up to deny Alloa with two tantalizing deliveries low into the box, claimed by the Queen of the South goalkeep-

er. Without the Doonhamers' stoppers' intervention, Ally Roy, who led the line in the absence of Bobby Wales for the first time since Dunbar in November, would surely have leveled the score.

There was more fine goalkeeping as Sutherland's low drive forced a strong hand from Stone, and it was starting to feel inevitable that Alloa's chances would peter out. The substitutions effectively slowed the methodical direction of play from Alloa towards the Queen of the South goal, and the visitors would put the game to bed soon after.

Craig McGuffie took full advantage of consecutive QoS pressure and pounced on a tired clearance from Kurtis Roberts. His solid strike from the edge of the box flew into the bottom corner past PJ Morrison, and Queen of the South had their second win of 2024 in the bag.

The only saving grace for Saturday was that results elsewhere went in our favor. Montrose suffered a late goal conceded at Stirling, and Cove Rangers were beaten handily in the end by Hamilton. It means Alloa remain a point ahead of Montrose and four ahead of Paul Hartley's Cove.

The football doesn't get any easier with the visit of Annan on Saturday either. All season, they seemed to have occupied that playoff position and by sheer grit and determination, they are picking up regular points to make every team above them sweat. Queen of the South must've been cursing their luck to see yet another win for the Dumfriesshire side against Kelty. It means Stirling Albion, Kelty Hearts, and Queen of the South have a four-way tussle to



maneuver in the final six games, with just four points between the four teams.

It's not a team that Alloa has dealt with particularly comfortably either. They managed two wins against the Galabankies in February with just a one-goal margin and were lucky to escape with a draw in the first meeting of the teams, with a superb goal-keeping performance required by Tochukwu Ogayi.

Hopefully, injuries can ease up for Saturday with David McKay failing a fitness test before the game against Queen of the South, Cameron O'Donnell, who struck me as not looking fully fit on Tuesday at Kelty, and Taylor Steven, who picked up a calf strain, will all hopefully recover, as well as the return of Bobby Wales from the unsuccessful Scotland

U19 qualifying campaign. It may well come too soon for Morgyn Neill, which would be a big miss for dealing with the physical presence of Tommy Goss and Tommy Smith, and the incessant throw-in threat of Matty Douglas' Delap-esque launches.

What has changed from the 'Joie de vivre' of Alloa's award-winning streak, I'm not sure, but the Wasps need to find that same inspiration that propelled them to third to hold onto that playoff spot ahead of a hard final month of games against noisy neighbours Stirling and then the top teams in the table. Let's hope Annan is the start of another similar run.

Enjoy the game.





LOOKING BACK 29TH MARCH

2008

Alloa Athletic were chasing a Play-Off spot and Ayr United were battling to stay in the Division, the visitors got off to the best possible start when Gareth Wardlaw put them ahead after only two minutes. Alloa did everything but score before they lost Scott Agnew having received two very soft yellow cards from referee Scott McDonald. The tide changed again with Ayr ending the game the strongest again Alloa's ten men. Eddie Forrest headed home in 78 minutes before John Grant scored with two minutes remaining, Ayr claiming vital

league points. Alloa stayed in fourth place in the league while Ayr United sat in eighth. The Alloa Athletic team was:- Ray Jellema, David McClune, Scot Buist, Sandy Hodge, Chris Townsley, John Grant, Andy Scott, Brown Ferguson, Adam Coakley, Scott Agnew, Kyle MacAulay subs; -Joe Andrew, Kris Steel, Jamie Hay, Alistair Forster, Michael Bruce.

Best for the visitors Ayr United were Ryan Stevenson, Jerome Vareille, Alex Williams and Andy McLaren. Alloa ended the season in fourth position to claim a Play-Off spot behind Champions Ross County. In the two-legged Play-Off semi-Final Alloa played Clyde, the first game at Recreation Park ended 2-1 for "The Wasps" with goals from Andy Scott & Adam Coakley. The second leg at Broadwood was to end in tears, Alloa went into a 3-1 lead just after half time, now leading 5-2 on aggregate all looked fine until John Brown the Clyde manager sent on ex Rangers striker Gary McSwegan, who was to change the game. Indeed it was Gary McSwegan who scored the goal to put Clyde 4-3 ahead on the day and 5-5 each on aggregate with only six minutes left. Alloa's heads were down in disbelief and after 111 minutes Pat Clarke scored the decisive goal to win the game for Clyde.

In the SPL Rangers defeated Celtic 1-0 at Ibrox while St. Mirren defeated SPL newcomers Gretna 2-0. In the English Premiership Birmingham City defeated Manchester City 3 – 1, while rivals Manchester United coasted to a 4 – 0 home victory over Aston Villa. At the foot of the table Sunderland defeated West Ham 2 – 1, sure they would settle for this score again "The Hammers".

1966

March was a period that year in which "The Wasps" were in a rich vein of form as per their results but it was to come at a heavy cost losing two-star players in back to back games. Firstly Bobby St.John sustained a compound fracture of his left leg versus Albion Rovers in which a young 18 vear old trialist from Dundonald Bluebell was to star and score on his debut in a 4-0 victory, his name Tommy Hutchison. Sadly, the following week with scouts from Glasgow Rangers watching from the stand, Alloa's

star winger John Flannagan was stretchered off with a suspected Pott's fracture following a clash with QOS player Billy Collings, later it was reported that Flannagan had suffered a double fracture above the knee! In both matches "The Wasps" were victorious even after having been reduced to only ten men as this was prior to the use of substitutes in the game. At the end of the month "The Wasps" defeated Third Lanark 3-0 at Recreation Park, sadly this was to be Third's penultimate season in the Scottish League. Alloa lined up as :- Adam Hodge, Bobby Gray, Jim Ireland, Junior, Peter Smith, David Baker, Harry Rutherford, David Keddie, Mike Marshall, Bobby Walker & Tommy Hutchison.The Alloa goals were scored by – Peter Smith, Harry Rutherford & David Keddie

Earlier in the season in the League Cup "The Wasps" had topped their section ahead of Dumbarton, East Fife and East Stirlingshire, they were to qualify for the quarter final stages were they were soundly beaten by

Hibernian, losing 0-2 at Recreation Park and 11-2 at Easter Road. In the Scottish Cup Alloa Athletic defeated Raith Rovers 1-0 at Starks Park, before losing 3-5 to Highland League side Ross County in a game the winners were to face Glasgow Rangers. Ayr United didn't play their league game until the 30th March when they defeated Dumbarton 3-1 at Boghead. This was to be a memorable season for Ayr United who went on to win the Second Division Championship, Earlier in season in the League Cup Ayr also topped their section ahead of Brechin City, Forfar Athletic, Montrose and Strenhousemuir. "The Honest Men" then defated Third Lanark in play off 2-1 at Cathkin Park and 1-0 at Somerset, in the quarter finals they were defeated by local rivals Kilmarnock, losing 2-0 at Rugby Park and drawing 2-2 at Somerset Park. In the Scottish Cup Ayr United defeated Fraserburgh 1-0 before then losing to St.Johnstone 1-0 in replay after drawing first game 1-1.







MIKE MARSHALL



ANNAN ATHLETIC

The Galabankies

FOUNDED

1942

GROUND

Galabank, Annan

TOP HONOURS

East of Scotland Football League Winners: 1989-90,1999-00, 2000-01, 2006-07 East of Scotland

LEAGUE CUP

Winners: 1999-00 South of Scotland League Winners: 1984-84, 1986-87 South of Scotland League Cup Winners: 1984-85, 1992-93, 2004-05. 2007-08

This afternoon we welcome Annan Athletic to the Indodrill Stadium as we approach the business end of the season. The visitors come to Alloa in good form, going unbeaten in their last 4 outings. Those games include eye-catching victories over Queen of the South and Kelty, and commendable draws against Falkirk and away to Montrose. That run has seen them close the gap to Oueen of the South above them, they do still sit in that relegation play-off zone but only 3 points behind 8th and ultimate safety. Today marks the

6th last game of the season, so any points will be vital as we go into an action-packed close of the season. Consolidation as a League 1 team had to have been the goal before the season started, and as things stand, they remain in a good position to make that a reality come May.

THE BOSS – PETER MURPHY

The visitors will be led by Peter Murphy. The 6ft3 former defender had a strong playing career for a variety of teams in Britain. Born in Dublin, he then went to play for Blackburn Rovers, before eventually moving to Carlisle, where he enjoyed most of his playing days. Starting over 400 games for the team, he scored the winning goal in the Conference 2005 final to ensure the Cumbrians return to the Football League. Murphy is also capped at international level for Republic of Ireland. Towards the end of his career, he came to Scotland and signed for Ayr United. After Ayr's relegation in 2017, he transitioned into a player/manager role and took up the reigns at Annan Athletic, After impressing and picking up individual awards, he



guided his side to promotion last season via the play-offs.

THE CAPTAIN – STEVEN SWINGLEHURST

The opponent's captain is another defender in Steven Swinglehurst. The skipper enjoyed his testimonial year last season and it was certainly one to remember as he played a pivotal role in earning side's promotion. Unfortunately, it was a season marred with injuries but he did come back in heroic fashion to play his part in the play-offs. That character, leadership, and quality earned him an extension of another season at Galabank. However, this season has been met with the same concerns as he fights his way through injury setbacks. The Englishman has made 8 appearances this season and unfortunately missed out on 23 games of the side's League 1 campaign. Alloa supporters will recognise and be familiar with Swinglehurst though as he has played in the last 2 games between the sides.



ONE TO WATCH - AIDAN SMITH

A man who needs no introduction to his threat and ability is forward, Aidan Smith. The striker sits the club's 2nd top scorer this season with 8 goals, just a solitary strike behind current leader Tommy Goss on 9. However, Smith has excelled in this fixture this season with impressive performances at both Galabank and the Indodrill. Known for his speed, tricky, and all round tenacity up front, Smith has also contributed to goals in this fixture too. The 26-year-old has actually scored in all 3 games against Alloa this season proving himself to be a real nuisance for Andv Graham's men. He will be on redhot confidence also having found the back of the net in their last fixture over Kelty. Alloa will have to keep Smith quiet in order to maximise their chances of taking all the points today.



Due to the geography and league differences for many seasons, there aren't too many names to highlight as a connection for both clubs. This is one of the rarer occasions where no former Alloa players will be returning to play against their former side. An even rarer occurrence is that it is replicated

CONTINUED ON P32



BY KIEREN MOONEY

in the Alloa side, with no current Wasps having plied their trade at Galabank. The only stretch of a current connection is former Alloa player, Jose Quitongo's, son, Rico will be visiting a ground he came to with his father many years ago. Some notable names from the past who have played for both is fan favourite, Mark Docherty, As well as that, Max Wright, David Xox, Ben Armour, Ryan Finnie, and David Ferguson are also names who have pulled on both shirts.

PREVIOUS MEETINGS

This will be the 4th and final time we face one another this season, and so far, it has been a fixture that favours the home side. The fixture began with a 1-1 draw at Galabank with goals from Conor Sammon and Aidan Smith. However, that game will be most remembered for the unbelievable performance of Alloa goalkeeper, Phil Ogayi. The Nigerian pulled off a whole host of 'Hollywood' saves to keep the scoreline level. Alloa went back to Galabank in February and this time took all the points, despite

Smith opening the scoring just 3 minutes in. A 2-minute brace from Bobby Wales, followed up by a Taylor Steven strike put the Wasps 3-1 up before a last-minute Dominic Docherty penalty made the scoreline 3-2 to the Wasps for full-time. The final and most recent fixture between the sides was another Alloa win, with both Wales and Smith again on the scoresheet. With the score locked at 1-1, our Irish forward, Sammon, stepped up with minutes left on the clock to bundle home the winner to give Andy Graham's side a deserved victory.



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GREIG SPENCE SCORES HISTORIC SPFL 8,000 GOAL AT PLACE DREAMS ARE MADE

Greig Spence scores historic SPFL 8,000 goal at place dreams are made

It was fitting that Greig Spence scored the 8,000 SPFL goal for "The Wasps" against Queen's Park, on 18th February, 2017 at Hampden Park, Glasgow a ground where Greig scored on his senior debut for "The Wasps" back on the 14th February, 2009 in a 2-1 victory. Alloa Athletic manager Jim Goodwin said "Greig is so clever around the box as he is always anticipating things happening; he showed a lot of quality with the finish for the goal as well".

Greig at the time commented on his first senior goal in his full senior debut "My dream like lots of other young boys is to play

professional football and I have to say that playing at Hampden Park in my first full senior debut for Alloa Athletic is something I could not have dreamed for at the start of this season. Today's game I really enjoyed and I felt as the game went on I got more into the game and more involved and obviously happy to score my first goal in such an important game for the club, at an important time in the match. As the game wore on I got more tired but the goal near the end of the match from Stuart Noble gave everyone a great lift and a 2-1 victory. no more than we deserved because we had worked hard for this result. Asked about his recollection of the goal, his first in the senior game. Greig said

"David Crawford palmed away a shot which came towards me, and I only had one thought and leathered it", let's hope there are still more of Greig's goals to help "The Wasps" in the future. By the end of that season Greig was already proving his worth to the club, scoring at Somerset Park against Ayr United to clinch a 1-1 to secure "The Wasps" place that season in the division.

No Alloa Athletic fan will ever forget Greig's double strike against Rangers in the Petrofac Cup Semi-final at Alloa, Rangers under manager Ally McCoist having went 2-0 ahead with goals from Kenny Miller and Dean Shiels after 64 minutes, Greig struck his first goal after 72 minutes, Ryan McCord scored the equaliser after 75

minutes and Greig scored his second goal of the evening after 89 minutes to secure a dramatic and historic winner.

At that time, Greig had three spells with Alloa Athletic and was approaching his 100th appearance for "The Wasps", on Saturday at Hampden he made his 96th first team appearance for the club scoring 37 goals, 19 of which have been this season which have been instrumental in the club's push for promotion.

Greig wanted the last word "It's a great achievement to claim the 8,000 SPFL Goal at the National Stadium, it's the kind of stuff that dreams are made of, it was a great result for us and we have said all along we need to put pressure on the team above us. I also think it is easier to hunt than be hunted, so if Livingston drop points then the pressure will show."

He again joined "The Wasps" for the fourth time at the start of Season 2018-19 and went on to make another 20 appearances for the club before moving to Arbroath, when at the same time Jack Aitchison was joining the Alloa Athletic squad, Greig



Spence moved to Arbroath FC having been frustrated at lack of first team action that season with "The Wasps", Greig had made only 14 starts that season and scored three goals his last being in 3-0 William Hill Scottish Cup victory versus Brechin City on 24th November, 2018.

Greig will always be a favourite with the Alloa Athletic support, having so many good memories to remember in a career which saw him make 132 first team appearances for "The Wasps" scoring 47 goals. Greig has now played for Alloa Athletic 4 times, Raith Rovers twice, along with periods with Celtic, Hamilton Accies, Cowdenbeath, Arbroath, Stenhousemuir, East Fife, Inverkeithing Hillend Swifts and he is currently on the books of Stirling Albion having signed an 18-month contract on 6th January, 2023.

Greig has now made over 350 appearances in the Scottish League scoring now a total of 114 goals.

HT QUIZ

- 1. ANNAN ATHLETIC HAVE ONLY BEEN BEATEN BY TWO SIDES IN THEIR LAST 10 GAMES ONE OF THEM IS ALLOA. CAN YOU NAME THE OTHER?
- 2. SCOTT TAGGART HAS BEEN CLINICAL FROM THE SPOT. HOW MANY PENALTIES HAS HE SCORED IN A ROW? (HINT: CHECK OUT THE PENALY KINGS ARTICLE)
- 3.TNS WERE BEATEN BY AIRDRIEONIANS IN THE SPFL TROPHY. WHAT UNLIKELY RIVALRY WAS CELEBRATED WITH THE WELSH SIDE'S DEFEAT?
- 4. THE SCOTLAND U19'S MANAGED THREE GOALS IN THEIR QUALIFICATION CAMPAIGN? CAN YOU NAME THE SCORERS?
- 5. CHAMPIONS LEAGUE QUARTER FINALS ARE BACK ON THE 9TH AND 10TH APRIL. NAME THE 8 TEAMS REMAINING IN THIS YEARS COMPETITION.



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90	80	90	45		90				45		10	0 30			60	0 90
90	90	90		3	90				23			44		0 46	67	0 90
90	064	90	26		90									16	74	0 90
45	24	90	90	45	45		24		79		1 90			11	66	
	11	90	79	64	64	26			72		79	18		11	26	90
	21	90	69	90					0 82		8	14			76	0 90
		90	73	90	27	90	6		084		17	17		6	73	90
		90	67	90	90		23		84		0 6	6		14		0 84
	7	90	83	90	58				2 90		35	7			55	0 83
	76	1 90		45	90	0 45			90		24	14			4	86
	59	90	82	8	67				0 90		23					0 90
		90	88	2			70		084		20	20		6	70	90
		0 90	79	11	24	4	0 66		090		24			10	66	90
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QUIZ ANWERS

- 1. COVE RANGERS 2-1 WIN ON 24TH FEBRUARY
- 2.8 PENALTIES IN A ROW (EXCLUDING SHOOTOUTS)
- 3. TNS WERE BEATEN TO STOP THEM EQUALING THEIR OWNCONSECUTIVE 27 WIN RECORD AND END ANY HOPE OF CATCHING AL-HILAL, SAUDI ARABIA - WHO ARE CURRENTLY 29 UNBEATEN
- 4. BOBBY WALES, DAVID WATSON AND RORY WILSON
- 5. ARSENAL, BAYERN MUNICH, REAL MADRID, MAN CITY, PARIS SAINT GERMAIN, BARCELONA, ATHLETICO MADRID,BORUSSIA DORTMUND





ALLOA ATHLETIC



ANNAN ATHLETIC



	#	POS		⊛	
\times			GREG FLEMING		
\mathbf{X}			JACQUES HERAGHTY		
+			MATTY DOUGLAS		
X			WILLIE GIBSON		
X			SCOTT HOOPER		
\times			OSCAR MACINTYRE		
X			RYAN MUIR		
+			STEVEN SWINGLEHURST		
X			RICO QUITONGO		
+			JOSH DIXON		
\times			DOMINIC DOCHERTY		
X			JOSH GALLOWAY		
X			LEWIS HUNTER		
+++			BENJAMIN LUISSINT		
X			CHARLIE MAXWELL		
+			KAI NUGENT		
X			JOSH WALKER		
X			AARON BROWN		
\times			TOMMY GOSS		
\times			TOMMY MUIR		
+			MICHAEL NDIWENI		
\times			AIDAN SMITH		
			GER PETER MUPRHY		

REFEREE: Lloyd Wilson

ASST: David Dunne & Rhys Struthers

ALLOA'S NEXT FIVE

20.04.24, BALMORAL STADIUM, 17:30

27.04.24, INDODRILL STADIUM, 15:00

COVE RANGERS



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HAMILTON ACCIES

06.04.24, FORTHBANK STADIUM. 15:00

13.04.24, INDODRILL STADIUM, 15:00



STIRLING ALBION



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04.05.24, THE FALKIRK STADIUM, 15:00





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MONTROSE

FALKIRK

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PROUDLY SUPPORTING ALLOA ATHLETIC FC

