

# THE WASP

OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME



VS HAMILTON 27TH APRIL 2024





#### 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

Address:

Indodrill Stadium. Clackmannan Road, Alloa, FK10 1RY Telephone: 01259722695

Fax: 01259210886

Email: fcadmin@alloathletic.co.uk

Web: alloaathletic.co.uk

#### 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

Programme Editor

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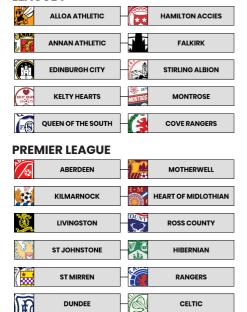
34 **TEAM LINEUPS** 



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



#### WEEKEND'S FIXTURES LEAGUE 1



#### CHAMPIONSHIP

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David







David





#### **ANDY GRAHAM**











#### **ANDY GRAHAM**



### MANAGER'S NOTES

I'd like to welcome John Rankin and everyone from Hamilton to the indodrill, we will be seeing each other quite a bit in the coming weeks.

I'd like to thank the support for coming out in tough conditions in our last home game and also to the travelling support up at cove. The players feed off the energy that is created by the support and we continue to ask for your backing.

The players deserve credit for securing 3rd

spot in a very competitive league but that's only part one achieved. The next part is to give everything we have to try and get through the playoffs. We are under no illusion as to how tough that will be but as always the players will give everything they have.

Enjoy the game

Andy



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in association with Alloa Athletic FC

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- √ Financial Settlements
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Whitburn,

Alloa. FK10 1HX



#### JOHN GLENCROSS





Football Memories Group

Indodrill Stadium Alloa

Monday 13th May 2024 11.30 - 13.00

For more info please contact igoalloafc@aol.com

#### **NEWSDESK**

Welcome back to the Indodrill Stadium as we welcome Hamilton Accies FC for our fourth encounter of this season, welcome to their First Team Coach John Rankin, Assistant First Team coach Dairan McKinnon, U18's coaches Shaun Fagan and Sean Crichton, Gerry Strain Director of Football, directors, and supporters of Hamilton Accies FC, however we will meet again before the end of the season in the Play-Offs.

Alloa Athletic defeated Cove Rangers 3-2 at Balmoral Stadium last Saturday to seal third place in Cinch League One. Goals from Miko Virtanen and Bobby Wales to give Alloa a 2-0 lead but this was pegged back to 2-2 before Bobby Wales struck his second of the game in the final minute to secure a dramatic win. The on-loan Kilmarnock striker has caught fire at the right time for the Wasps - he has scored 12 times in his last 15 games. Alloa won all four league matches against Paul Hartley's side Cove Rangers this season, which has proved vital as both teams battled it out for a play-off spot. The Wasps will face Hamilton Academical in the semi-finals a repeat of the same play Off pairings at the same stage last season.

Congratulations to Bobby Wales who was named Star Player in the Cinch SPFL team of the Week for Week 34 after his double strike against Cove Rangers in "The Wasps" 3-2 victory on last Saturday's Live BBC Alba televised match.

50 years to the day Sam Harris and his son David Harris attended their very first Alloa Athletic match. Sam Harris was Alloa Athletic Programme Editor between 1979-80 and has remained a loval supporter over the past 50 years. On this day on 27th April, 1974, Alloa Athletic v. Hamilton Accies. Recreation Park, Alloa Crowd - 817 Lost 0 - 1, it was a very eventful day, Accies had the ball in the net in the opening minute for a foul on keeper McNeil, on 18m Paul Hegarty's effort struck the crossbar before Neil Hood

got the winning goal in 23m after a James Brand header had also came back of the crossbar. Sadly, that was all the football as the 2nd half became a battle. 2mins from time when lames Brand was being substituted a bottle was thrown from the main stand. The referee Arthur McDonald booked 4 Accies. while "The Wasps" had 2 booked and in the final minute, left back Alex Totten was shown the red card for an infringement on John McInally. Alloa team:- Neil McNeil, George Caldwell, Alex Totten, Andy Campbell, George Brown, Brian McGarry, Rab Russell. Kevin Low. Donnie Wilson. Denis Stanton & Brian Ness Subs :- Billy Simpson & Douglas Hay. Hamilton Accies team:-Graham MacLean, James Frew, Arthur McMillan, James O'Reilly, Gordon Hamilton, Ian Campbell, John McInally, Drew Young, Paul Hegarty, James Brand & Neil Hood Subs:- Angus McLeod & George Hunter, Let's hope to go one better today.

Visitor at our last home game v. QOS was Glyn Jones, Programme Co-ordinator for North West Counties Football League who stays in St.Helens, he tries to take in two Scottish Games over his weekend visits, he had been at Morton v. Dundee United on Friday night before his first visit to the Indodrill Stadium. He was impressed with the Alloa Athletic Programme "The Wasp" and confirmed he has been at so called bigger clubs and not received the warmth of welcome he received visiting Alloa Athletic, after the game before he headed south, he took time to visit the Alloa Athletic Football Memorabilia exhibition and was blown away. He will be back!

The Alloa Athletic Walking Football Team Over 65's won

the Glasgow trophy a fortnight ago at Torryglen, Glasgow. They won their group of six teams, before winning their quarter-final, semi-final and final to collect the trophy from ex Celtic player Tom Boyd. The Alloa Athletic squad was – Jim Kean, Andy Preston, Owen Kelly jnr, Mitchell Paterson, Owen Kelly, Brian Lynn, Robert Bowman, Ralph Gillespie, Geoff Kay and Richard Sinclair.

"Alloa will always be Alloa", the most recent release after "The History of Alloa Athletic" and "Diary of a Season" The book has over 360 pages of interesting snippets on people past and present at the club. All orders can be placed directly by e mailing myself, John Glencross, e mail jgxalloafc@aol.com or visiting Alloa Athletic Football Memorabilia Exhibition.

Our next Football Memories meeting will take place on Monday 13th May, 2024 at the Indodrill Stadium, starting at 11.30 – 1.00 O'clock, the guest speaker on this occasion will be Ronnie Lowrie who is the goal-keeper who has made the most appearances between the sticks for Alloa Athletic since the World War, making 269 appearances between 1984- 1991.

The Alloa Athletic FC Supporters end of Season Awards night, will be held on Saturday 4th May, 2024 at Tillicoultry Golf Club. Meet the players, buffet & Disco, Top raffle prizes Including Super Car Driving Experience, Tickets £ 10 available from Club Shop.

Wasps 2000 Draw - Week 16 20th April 2024

£ 100 1393 T.Sinclair £ 50 0177 A.Prentice £ 25 0463 K.Bright £ 25 1028 R.Ferguson £ 25 1424 D.MacGregor

The Alloa Athletic Football Memorabilia exhibition was officially opened on, Friday 29th March at 11am. 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. Alloa Athletic Football Memoribilia, Glasstown House, Unit 2, Castle Street, Alloa FK101EU - Open Every Friday 11am – 3pm and Saturday's from 11am – 2pm.





### COVE CLEAN SWEEP COMPLETED

Last weekend, the Wasps completed a clean sweep of victories this season against Cove Rangers, with the dramatic last minute 3-2 win at Balmoral Stadium supplementing the 1-0, 2-1 and 4-1 successes earlier in the season. This whitewashing of the Toonsers was just the third time in the past decade that Alloa have beaten an opponent in each of the four regular league meetings during a season.

Bearing in mind that Cove were a Championship side last season and are now largely full-time, it is an outstanding achievement for the Wasps to prevail in each head-to-head encounter this season. The last time the Aberdeen based club were in League One, during the 2021-22 season, Alloa could only muster a single draw in the four matches between the sides, with Cove coming out on top 3-1 (not helped by Mouhamed Niang's first minute red-card) and Alloa suffering successive 3-0 away defeats. As such, the 1-0 victory last September was Alloa's first ever league victory over Cove. It was also Alloa's first win against a side managed by Paul Hartley, who had always come out victorious against the Wasps for Dundee and in the Scottish Cup in 2021 with Cove. That early season game was by no means a classic, but the Wasps stopped the rot after three successive early season defeats thanks to Conor Sammon's close range

first half finish.

In December, the Wasps ticked off another record with a first ever victory at Balmoral Stadium (and first goals and first points for that matter too!), thanks to Scott Taggart's injury time winner, which led to some memorable celebrations with some Alloa supporters wearing fancy dress for the final away game prior to Christmas. It was also Andy Graham's maiden league victory, with the team showing the type of resilience, which was a trademark of Andy's playing career, recovering from a 1-0 deficit at half-time to win, with Ouinn Coulson grabbing the equaliser before Taggart slid in the winner deep

into injury time to cue those joyful celebrations.

February's 4-1 success sounds like a plain-sailing victory for the Wasps on paper, but in reality, it was far less comfortable. Cove should have been ahead in the first half, but it was the Wasps who went into the break a goal up after Taylor Steven turned on the afterburners to draw a foul in the penalty box, which Scott Taggart dispatched in the exemplary manner Alloa fans have come to expect from their captain. When Bobby Wales capitalised on a defensive error to run through and calmly finish early in the second half, it looked as if it would be Alloa's day, but when Cove pulled one back the game looked to be in the balance once again. Fortunately, the electric Taylor Steven put the game out of reach with a guick-fire late double, the first

being what has quickly become a trademark curling finish into the far top corner.

Last weekend, after an hour, I was thinking that Alloa were firmly in control and putting on an almost perfect away performance, with Miko Virtanen's welcome first goal for the club being doubled early in the second half by deadly combination play between Steven and Wales, after a fine midfield interception from the tireless Kurtis Roberts. Cove, for all their possession, were carrying little threat or potency in the final third and Alloa looked to be heading for a comfortable three points. However, the momentum soon shifted when former Wasp Mitch Megginson nipped in to halve the deficit and the game was turned on its head minutes later when Rumarn Burrell levelled things up. Yet again, the character of this Alloa side

shone through, getting a foothold back into the game late on and then creating another moment of joy for Wasps supporters, with Ethan Sutherland's tantalising far post delivery headed back across the keeper and into the net in spectacular fashion, with Wales using all his neck muscle strength to cue yet more scenes of happiness for Alloa in Cove. It really is part of Alloa's DNA in 2024 to fight to the very last minute, with other late winners so far this year also coming against Edinburgh City (Kevin Cawley's deflected strike & then the cherry on the icing of the cake being added by Ally Roy), Annan (Conor Sammon doing what Conor Sammon does in the six-yard box) and Hamilton (Jon Robertson's first goal for 2,479 days was worth the wait!).

It is fair to say those two late winners in Aberdeenshire went a long way in securing Alloa's highly

s Alloa have	whitewashed in a singl	le season since leag	ue reorganisation in	1994.				
Season	Opponents	Game 1	Game 2	Game 3	Game 4	Alloa lge pos	Opponents pos	Div.
94/95	Albion Rov	4-0 (A)	1-0 (H)	1-0 (A)	5-0 (H)	5	10	3
94/95	Cowdenbeath	3-1 (A)	1-0 (H)	3-1 (A)	0-1 (H)	5	9	3
96/97	Montrose	2-1 (A)	3-1 (H)	3-2 (A)	0-1 (H)	4	6	3
97/98	Montrose	5-1 (H)	2-0 (A)	3-2 (H)	3-0 (A)	1	9	3
97/98	Cowdenbeath	1-0 (H)	3-0 (A)	2-0 (H)	3-1 (A)	1	8	3
06/07	Forfar	2-0 (A)	2-0 (H)	2-0 (A)	2-0 (H)	7	10	2
07/08	Berwick	3-0 (A)	2-1 (H)	2-1 (A)	2-1 (H)	4	10	2
09/10	Stirling	1-0 (H)	1-0 (A)	3-0 (A)	2-1 (H)	2	1	2
11/12	Stranraer	3-2 (A)	1-0 (H)	4-0 (A)	3-1 (H)	1	3	3
11/12	Queen's Park	3-1 (A)	1-0 (H)	2-1 (A)	4-0 (H)	1	2	3
12/13	Albion Rov	3-0 (A)	5-1 (H)	5-1 (A)	4-1 (H)	2	10	2
12/13	Forfar	3-2 (A)	2-1 (H)	1-0 (A)	1-0 (H)	2	4	2
13/14	Morton	2-0 (A)	2-0 (H)	1-0 (A)	2-0 (H)	8	10	1
17/18	Forfar	2-1 (H)	2-0 (A)	1-0 (H)	1-0 (A)	4	8	Lge 1
22/23	Peterhead	5-0 (H)	2-0 (A)	1-0 (H)	2-0 (A)	4	10	Lge 1
23/24	Cove	1-0 (H)	2-1 (A)	4-1 (H)	3-2 (A)	3	5	Lge 1





credible third place finish in the league this season. The four extra points gained by Alloa and two dropped by Cove means the Wasps are an unassailable nine points clear of the Toonsers, rather than by three points had Alloa not secured those late wins. Obviously, all teams can point to ifs and buts, or what might have been throughout a long season, but for Alloa to whitewash a Cove side who were frontrunners for at least a play-off spot before a ball was kicked has ultimately been decisive.

Beating the same side in all four league meetings takes a monumental effort, as by the time the teams meet for a third or fourth time during a season, both sides know how to counteract one another, with there being little scope for major tactical switches or surprises unless there has been a change of management or significant alterations in formation or players. That often means that a side that has already lost two or three games to the same side should normally be able to come up with a tactical plan to prevent a clean sweep or have that extra bit of motivation and

professional pride to stop a side whitewashing you.

To illustrate this further, since league reconstruction 30 years ago (which introduced four games versus each side) the Wasps have only had a clean sweep of victories on just 16 occasions, equating to it occurring roughly once every other season. Most recently, the Wasps whitewashed a very poor Peterhead side last season, not conceding a goal in the process either. However, the only other time Alloa have prevailed in all four games against the same side in the past decade was versus Forfar in the promotion winning 2017/18 season. The first of those games was perhaps the most memorable, as Kris Renton's first goal for the Wasps in the 94th minute secured a comeback win for Jim Goodwin's misfiring (at the time) side. Alloa's adventures in the Championship during the past decade help explain why recent occurrences of clean sweeps have not materialised, as put simply victories are significantly more difficult to achieve for Alloa in the second tier! Typically though, the Wasps tend to whitewash teams towards the bottom of the league, making the clean

sweep against a fellow top half of the table side in Cove all the more impressive.

Other trends include these sequences of wins being more likely to occur the lower the division the Wasps are playing in, with seven instances being at fourthtier level in just the five seasons Alloa have been in the basement league. Furthermore, in all bar two occasions, the Wasps' final league position has been in the top half of the table. However, these are altogether less surprising facts, as generally you would expect Alloa to achieve clean sweeps in seasons when the Wasps were towards the top of the table, against teams towards the foot of the table!

Teams Alloa have whitewashed in a single season since league reorganisation in 1994.

To expand on this topic a little bit further, to compare Alloa's season with the previous campaign, head-to-head results against the same teams can be a useful yardstick to mark progress. This season's Cinch League One has had a certain freshness to it, with two teams both promoted and relegated



last season, meaning there have been only six survivors from the past two campaigns. Against those five other sides, Alloa have this season gained two more points in matches against Queen of the South and have been a single point better off against Edinburgh City. However, the Wasps' points haul has nosedived versus Montrose this time around, with the Wasps failing to beat the Gable Endies and suffering two defeats at Links Park, despite Alloa arguably deserving something out of both games after turning in fine performances even in defeat. Kelty Hearts is another team who have performed better against the Wasps this season rather than last, in point tally terms at least, with Alloa earning two fewer points against Kelty this season. In terms of the overall points tally, the Wasps are now just

two points off the 57 achieved last time around, but the final league position will be one better than last season. The victory at Cove didn't just secure a play-off position (with today therefore becoming a dress rehearsal of sorts, as we welcome Hamilton for part one of a trilogy in the next fortnight) but a third-place finish, thereby improving on the fourth place finish last season.

Finally, to turn the subject matter on its head, Alloa will travel to the Falkirk Stadium next weekend to play the deserved Champions, hoping to avoid a whitewash of defeats against the invincible-seeking Falkirk. Historically though, the Wasps quite enjoy spoiling a title winning celebration (just ask Raith Rovers on the final day of the 2017/18 season), so my overly optimistic prediction next weekend is for Stevie Hetherington to score a trademark goal from a corner to earn Alloa at least a point and stop Falkirk from achieving a clean sweep of victories over the Wasps this season!

2022/23 results & points	Alloa's points total comparison with last season	2023/24 results & points
LLWW (6)	Edinburgh City (+1)	DLWW (7)
LDLL (1)	Falkirk (-1 so far)	LLL (0)
WDDW (8)	Kelty Hearts (-2)	LWWL (6)
WDWW (10)	Montrose (-8)	LDLD (2)
DWDL (5)	Queen of the South (+2)	WWDL (7)

# IF YOU DON'T HAVE A GOAL, HOW CAN YOU SCORE?

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	P.	W.	L	D.	F.	A.	Pts.
St Johnstone	38	22	4	12	79	33	56
Cowdenbeath		23	6	9	78	33	55
Bathgate	38	16	10	12	58	49	. 44
Stenhousemuir	38	16	11	11	58	45	43
Albion Rovers	38	15	11	12 -	67	53	42
King's Park	38	16	12	20 WHE	•67	56	42
Dunfermline Ath.	38	14	13	11	52	45	
Johnstone	38	16	15		- 60	56	39
Dundee United	38	12	11	15	41	42	
Dumbarton	38	17	16	5	55	57	39
Armadale	39	16	-16	16.	56		. 39
East Fife	32	14	15	9.	54	63	38
Bo'ness	38	13	14	11		47	37
Forfar Athletic	30	14	17	1977 (177)	45	52	37
Broxburn United	20	- 13	15750	7	43	- 68	35
Alloa	70		17	1000	50	55	
Ct Damas J	30	14	18	6	44	. 53	- 34
St Bernards		11	17	10	49	54	. 32
Arbroath	58		.18	- 8	49	51	32
Vale of Leven	38	11	18:	. 9	41	67	31
Lochgelly United	. 38	4:4:	30	4	20	86	12
	1	777			1. 500		

### SECURING SECOND DIVISION STATUS

As a disappointing season drew to a close, what better for the Alloa faithful than a trip to the seaside to face Arbroath? The Angus town has always been a popular away day for the Wasps and in the early years of the 20th century Arbroath business folk were even known to post adverts in the Alloa Advertiser in an attempt to attract the day trippers. But the visitors from the Wee County in April 1924 weren't looking for "First Class Fish or Meat Tea", but rather the crucial point that would secure their Second Division status. Alloa had never looked like achieving their pre-season

ambition of returning to the topflight at the first attempt and although they had spent most of the campaign above the sides battling it out at the bottom to avoid the drop to the dreaded Third Division, the Wasps had frustrated their followers by never quite doing enough to put the matter to bed. The result was that Alloa now found themselves sleepwalking into a fiveteam battle for safety with just two games remaining. A bitterly disappointing Stirlingshire Cup final defeat to East Stirlingshire on the Monday afternoon before the trip to Gayfield hadn't helped morale either.

"Anxiety is centered in the fate of clubs clinging dangerously near the bottom rungs of the Second League ladder" reported the local Arboath Guide on the morning of the big game. One thing was sure: Lochgelly United were cut adrift at the bottom and already consigned to the abyss. The big question was who would join them. The Red Lichties occupied the unwanted second relegation spot, sitting on 28 points with Vale of Leven but behind on goal average. lust ahead on 30 points were St Bernard's and Broxburn. with the Edinburgh side only having 1 game left. Then came the Wasps on 32 – almost safe - but not quite. The Arbroath Guide acknowledged as much in their preview, focussing on the other four sides before concluding that "it is not uninteresting to note Alloa's position in the league table. While better than the clubs fighting at the moment to ensure themselves against relegation Alloa have no points to spare....they are none too safe". But Alloa at least knew their task: a draw or a win at Gayfield would keep them up, as would anything but a Vale of Leven win against Armadale.

Alas for the Alloa fans, the Wasps turned in yet another insipid display, an all too regular feature of the ill-fated 1923/24 season. The Evening Telegraph had called the match "do or die" for Arbroath and the home team responded accordingly. While Alloa could point to bad luck with an early injury to James Headrick reducing them to 10 men, Arbroath were the better side from start to finish. Alloa had the man of the match in keeper Crawford whose "saving"

was brilliant throughout", but he was eventually beaten in the second half as the Lichties collected a vital 2 points. A bad day got significantly worse for the Wasps as the results from the other games filtered through. Vale of Leven were still alive after defeating Armadale 3-2 while Broxburn had prevailed by the same scoreline against Lochgelly. The relegation battle would go to the final day.

Once again it was simple enough for the Wasps: a draw would secure their status. The fixtures had been kind for Alloa would visit already condemned Lochgelly. While Alloa had only managed 2 wins from their previous 13 matches, they could hardly complain about their fate if they couldn't beat a side who had only managed 4 wins all season. And even if Alloa were to lose, it would still take wins for Arbroath, Vale of Leven and St Bernard's to send the Wasps through the trapdoor. Surely not...

Alloa's final day opponents had started the season with great optimism after the appointment of John Brown as full-time manager. Brown was a well kent face for Alloa fans, the Clackmannan born winger having started his senior career with the Wasps many years before. He had played with distinction in the Scottish Consolation Cup winning Alloa team with his brother, the late William, in 1908, before going on to have a fine career with Falkirk, Celtic and Chelsea. He had ultimately returned home to play with Dunfermline, Clackmannan, and then Lochgelly, where he ran a local shop. As it had turned out, his first steps as a manager had been extremely challenging. But despite their dire season, there were no favours from Brown and Lochgelly for the Wasps with the Fifers starting strongly on their home patch, leaving the traveling support perhaps beginning to wonder if they were indeed fated to the third tier and trips to Dykehead and Galston, so soon after being in with the elite in the First

Division. Alloa were in need of inspiration and it came from Lindsay, his effort catching out Muir in the home goal to put the Wasps ahead against the run of play. An energized Alloa went straight back on the attack and Lennie quickly fired home a second. The Wasps were happy to sit on their lead thereafter, their defense "tenacious and determined". It finished 2-0 for the visitors and safety was finally secured. "Alloa breathe freely" was the apt headline in the Sunday Post.

Elsewhere Arbroath had completed their great escape by trouncing a faltering King's Park 5-1 at Gayfield. St Bernard's had saved their skins too with a fine 2-0 win away at Johnstone. That only left Vale of Leven, who came mighty close to a late winner at Bo'ness but were ultimately held 1-1. The Alexandria men would go down with Lochgelly, but it had been far too close for comfort for Alloa. What had gone so badly wrong? More in the next edition of The Wasp.







### **APPEARANCES**

		LEAGUE		CI	JP	T01	Γ <b>AL</b>	ALLOA CAREER LGE		
	POS	APP	GOAL	APP	GOAL	APP	GOAL	APP	GOAL	
MORRISON	GOAL	27 (1)	0	5 (0)	0	32 (1)	0	27 (1)	0	
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	32 (2)	- 5	3 (0)	0	35 (2)	- 5	261 (2)	16	
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	22 (2)	0	2 (1)	0	24 (3)	0	32 (2)	0	
NEILL	DEF	31 (0)	0	6 (1)	1	37 (1)	1	31 (0)	0	
DEVENEY	DEF	9 (3)	0	3 (3)	0	12 (6)	0	9 (3)	0	
МСКАУ	DEF	11 (4)	1	5 (2)	0	16 (6)	1	11 (4)	1	
SUTHERLAND	DEF	13 (1)	2	0 (0)	0	13 (1)	2	13 (1)	2	
ROBERTSON	MID	2 (5)	1	0 (0)	0	2 (5)	1	177 (35)	3	
SCOUGALL	MID	20 (3)	0	5 (1)	0	25 (4)	0	79 (21)	8	
O'DONNELL	MID	16 (4)	2	4 (1)	0	20 (5)	2	32 (38)	11	
CAWLEY	MID	12 (9)	1	1 (3)	1	13 (12)	2	336 (56)	64	
HETHERINGTON	MID	17 (2)	0	6 (1)	0	23 (3)	0	154 (32)	6	
VIRTANEN	MID	12 (10)	1	3 (3)	0	15 (13)	1	12 (10)	1	
ROBERTS	MID	34 (0)	3	6 (1)	0	40 (1)	3	34 (0)	3	
DONNELLY	FWD	6 (7)	2	1 (1)	0	7 (8)	2	18 (26)	9	
SAMMON	FWD	10 (19)	5	6 (1)	3	16 (20)	- 8	61 (41)	24	
BUCHANAN	FWD	9 (14)	2	4 (1)	1	13 (15)	3	9 (25)	2	
RANKIN	FWD	0 (0)	0	0 (2)	0	0 (2)	0	0 (11)	1	
COULSON	- FWD	16 (10)	1	5 (2)	1	21 (12)	2	28 (14)	2	
CANNON	FWD	0 (3)	0	0 (1)	0	0 (4)	0	0 (3)	0	
STEVEN	FWD	26 (2)	9	1 (0)	0	27 (2)	9	26 (2)	9	
ROY	- FWD	6 (9)	- 5	1 (1)	0	7 (10)	- 5	6 (9)	5	
WALES	- FWD	24 (0)	12	0 (0)	0	24 (0)	12	24 (0)	12	



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19 (8)	- 98 (29) - 10	STUART LATHAM	MCCALLUM ENGINEERING
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67 (12) - 12	- 403 (68) - 76	AIMEE BURGESS	THE JOLLY BOYS
33 (9) - 1	- 187 (41) - 7	WASP NEST PODCAST	DOUGIE CRAIG
3 (3) - 0	- 15 (13) - 1	MP TYRES, SOUTHAMPTON	ANDREW WILSON
6 (1) - 0	- 40 (1) - 3	KATHLEEN ORR	-
4 (4) - 2	- 22 (30) - 11	CRAIG CAMPBELL SEO	CRAIG CAMPBELL SEO
18 (4) - 9	- 79 (45) - 33	THE BRAIN DAMAGED BARON	S SMITH VEHICLE REPAIRS
6 (4) - 1	- 15 (29) - 3	BETTING.BET	-
0 (6) - 0	- 0 (17) - 1	SMS, ALLOA	CALLUM MCTAGGART
5 (2) - 1	- 33 (16) - 3	NEIL PARRY ALLOA SUPPORTERS CLUB	DEREK YULE
0 (1)	- 0 (4) - 0	LANDMARK SERVICES GROUNDCARE	LANDMARK SERVICES GROUNDCARE
- 1 (0) - 0	- 27 (2) - 9	-	-
- 1 (1) - 0	7 (10) - 5	-	-
0 (0)	- 24 (0) - 12	-	-



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

Alloa Athletic looked to have the worst run-in to playoff qualification out of the three playoff contenders but secured it with two results against their direct rivals.

First Montrose visited the Indodrill Stadium, with the Angus side just 5 points behind the Wasps. Honestly, from a fan's perspective there wasn't much to talk about in this game. Both sides struggled with the swirling wind and changeable conditions on

the day and despite a few decent chances both sides seemed happy to escape with a point and a clean sheet.

For Alloa then there was a bit of pressure with their final games coming against the runaway second place Hamilton, and further than that still unbeaten Falkirk on the final day. Full time Cove Rangers were the only side yet to have secured a point against the Wasps and as it stood being the late kickoff on BBC Alba had a golden

opportunity to climb above Montrose who had earlier been dispatched by Hamilton. However, Alloa continued their good form in the north-east with a first ever goal against a professional team (although he did score for Hamilton against Hearts B in a Challenge Cup tie.) Ethan Sutherland's delivery was converted masterfully from the Finn's diving header, generating enough power to make it past the Cove keeper Suman despite the strong palm he managed to get on it.

After the break the Wasps doubled the lead with a driving run from Taylor Steven resulting in a Bobby Wales tap-in at the back post to give the youngster 11 goals this season in just 24 appearances.

A Cove reaction was inevitable and some lovely goalkeeping from PJ Morrison kept his sheet clean but eventually a scrappy ball in the box fell for Reynolds and the Alloa goalkeeper failed to hold the ball, leaving it to Cove hitman Mitch Megginson to poke home from 6 yards.

Momentum was firmly with the home side and one poor touch from a searching Cove long ball by Morgyn Neill allowed substiture Kyle Connell to lay off Rumarn Burrell who powered into the box and rattled the ball into the top corner to level up the game.

Andy Graham's sides have almost always finished strongly and they almost managed that late on with Bobby Wales showing the Cove defenders a clean set of heels and crossed low across the box. Taylor Steven air swiped at the ball but it left a chance on a plate for substitute Steven Buchanan. The Alloa academy graduate snatched at the chance and only could find the blue defender in front of him with the goal seemingly gaping. With



under ten minutes there was a real danger that time would slip away or worse Cove would find a late sucker punch but instead a precise delivery from Ethan Sutherland and a placed header from the on-loan Kilmarnock striker secured a deserved all three points at the Balmoral Stadium.

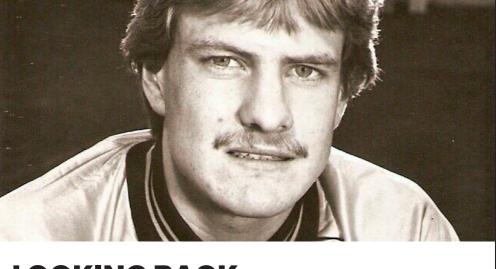
Alloa showed bags of resilience and character to secure third spot and playoffs for another season and are now rewarded with two 'dead rubbers' to play out against Hamilton and Falkirk. Andy Graham has suggested he will rotate to have as many players match fit as possible and it seems this year unlike last the Alloa squad will be at almost full strength come the Hamilton semi-final and with

the youngsters leading the attack this year could herald another special promotion from the most successful playoff team in Scotland. Bobby Wales received the plaudits as player of the match and the SPFL's Team of the Week star man, while Ethan Sutherland was sensationally linked with Manchester City, Chelsea and Crystal Palace by the Daily Record's Scott Burns.

Make sure to make your vote for player of the season and goal of the season online or in person today. Prizes will be presented on the 4th May after the Falkirk game at the Supporters Player of the year night at Tillicoultry Golf Club from 6:45pm and enjoy today's game!







### LOOKING BACK 28<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 1984

In The Premier Division, leaders Aberdeen enjoyed a fourth straight league win, this time by 1-0 at struggling Dundee, as they remained two points clear of second-placed Celtic who were 3-2 home winners v Hibs. But as The Dons had four games in hand over their nearest title rivals, it seemed likely that the Championship trophy was bound for Pittodrie. Thirdplaced Dundee United were 3-1 victors at doomed bottom club Motherwell, Rangers, despite being held 1-1 at sixth-placed St. Mirren, remained in fourth spot. while fifth-placed Hearts also had to be content with a point, after they shared four goals with relegation-threatened St. Johnstone at Tynecastle. It was now a straight fight between Dundee and St. Johnstone to avoid joining Motherwell in the drop to The First Division, and Dundee's defeat meant they remained in third-bottom spot, now just two points ahead of St. Johnstone, after the latter's vital point v Hearts. And the two Tayside rivals would actually meet at Dens Park on the season's final day, in what looked like being a crucial relegation decider.

First Division leaders Morton, already assured of an immediate return to the top flight, remained a point clear, after a 1-1 draw at fourth-placed Clydebank, whose own promotion challenge was now over, while Dumbarton, who also drew, 2-2 at home with Clyde, were also assured of promotion, and a first-ever spell in The Premier Division. Partick, who like Clydebank were now out of the promotion reckoning, remained in third place, despite being held 1-1 at home by Brechin, who still occupied fifth spot. At the other end of the table, bottom club Alloa's 0-2 defeat at Kilmarnock sealed their relegation fate, and The Wasps had lined up at Rugby Park as follows: Donald Hunter, Bobby Harris, Larry Haggart, Davie Martin (Graeme Shearer), Bobby Dall,

David Houston, Drew Paterson, Garry Thompson, Davie Lloyd, Robert Quinn, Frankie Cole (Ken Thomson). It was a topsy turvy season for "The Wasps" which they found difficult against so many of the other teams being full-time. Who can ever forget Alloa going to Kilbowie Park to play Clydebank and winning 7-2, the loss of Stuart Munro to Glasgow Rangers, Stuart played his last game for "The Wasps" v. Hamilton Accies at Douglas Park on 10th Sept. 1983 when lock Wallace took Stuart to Rangers, for one of Rangers best value signings. Alloa Athletic fans however will remember a midweek game against Partick Thistle at Firhill, Alloa had been reduced to ten men after Larry Haggart saw red, but Lennie McComb equalized before Stuart Munro scored the winner with a long-range effort that people still talk about today. Although "The Wasps" went down they bounced right back up the following Season when Manager Jimmy Thomson clinched promotion at Arbroath, winning 1-0 in the final game with an early goal from the late Garry Thompson. So, it was

now left to third-bottom Avr and second-bottom Raith to battle it out to avoid the remaining relegation place, and Ayr went down 1-2 at home v Falkirk, but they still held a three-point advantage over Raith, who were 0-2 losers in a vital home clash v todav's visitors Hamilton. Dougie Somner with a brace was on target for The Accies, who remained in tenth place, though they were now safe from relegation worries.

Down in The Second, runaway Champions Forfar were 3-0 home victors v fellow front-runners Queen Of The South, whose own promotion ambitions thus suffered a setback. But second-placed East Fife boosted their own hopes of First Division football, thanks to a 1-0 win in another vital top-of-the-table clash, at Arbroath. Berwick were now third, thanks to an emphatic 6-1 home win v Stenhousemuir, Queen of The South dropped from third to fourth, while Stirling Albion in turn slipped from fourth to fifth, after a 1-3 defeat at Oueen's Park. Arbroath's own defeat saw them slip from fifth to sixth, while there was no joy either for bottom club Albion

Rovers, who were crushed 0-5 at Dunfermline.

South of the border, First Division leaders/reigning Champions Liverpool had to settle for a point from a 2-2 home draw with relegation-haunted Ipswich, though with second-placed Manchester United also held at home, 0-0 by West Ham, The Anfield Reds still held their two-point lead. OPR remained third, thanks to a 2-1 home win v London rivals Spurs, while doomed bottom club Wolves salvaged some pride, with a point from a 0-0 draw v near-neighbours WBA at Molineux. Sheffield Wednesday and Chelsea both clinched promotion from The Second Division. Wednesday thanks to a 1-0 win v Crystal Palace at Hillsborough, which also saw them remain top/ two points clear of Chelsea, who sealed a return to the top flight in style, by hammering Leeds 5-0 at Stamford Bridge, Third-placed Newcastle suffered a rather surprise 0-1 defeat at doomed bottom club Cambridge, but still looked more or less certain to also be playing First Division football, in the 1984-85 campaign.



TEAM PHOTOGRAPH

Back row — S. Munro, D. Martin, D. Hunter, W. Garner, D. Lloyd, L. McComb, J. Weir. Front row — A. Paterson, F. Cole, L. Haggart, G. Thomson, R. Harris, D. Houston.



#### **HAMILTON ACADEMICAL**

#### The Accies

#### **FOUNDED**

1874

#### **GROUND**

New Douglas Park, Hamilton

#### **TOP HONOURS**

Scottish Championship\*: Winners: 1985-86, 1987-88, 2007-08 Runners-up (3) Scottish League 1\*: Winners 1903-04 Runners Up (2) Scottish League 2\*: Winners: 2000-01 Scottish Cup Runners Up (2) Challenge Cup Winners (3)

This afternoon we welcome Hamilton Academical to the Indodrill Stadium for the final home league game of the season. However, with Alloa's last gasp winner at Cove Rangers last weekend. we all know that this is going to be repeated in the coming weeks in the Championship playoff semi-finals. Accies currently sit 13 points ahead of the Wasps in comfortable 2nd place but have failed to make a significant impact in the title race against Falkirk. In fact, in the last 10 games, Accies have only lost to Falkirk and today's host's. Alloa. With both team's having

concluded where they will finish this season. todav will be an interesting day to see how both managers approach the fixture. In the coming weeks, we will have a repeat of last season's semi-final, which was packed with action and ultimately, a Hamilton victory. However, after losing the final, they will be looking to make those wrongs right and return to the Championship at the first time of asking.

#### THE BOSS – JOHN RANKIN

The visitors are managed by 40-year-old, John Rankin. The

Belshill-born manager began his playing career South of the border with Manchester United, before an interesting career move to Brazil on loan at Corinthians. However, it was his permanent move to Ross County in 2003 that kickstarted a successful playing career in Scotland, with clubs such as, Inverness, Hibernian, Dundee United, Falkirk. Queen of the South, and Clyde. It was at Dundee United he had most time, coming runner up in both domestic cup competitions. Towards the end of his playing career Ranking took a vouth coaching position at Hearts, before



\*may include equivalent competitions



moving to assistant manager at Hamilton in 2021. Following Stuart Taylor's departure just a few months later, Rankin was promoted. It has been a mixed set of results with the triumph of the Challenge Cup last season, however, also a relegation to Airdrie in the play-off final. With promotion still very much in his hands, he, like Andy Graham, will be desperate to guide their sides to the Championship.

#### THE CAPTAIN SCOTT MARTIN

Accies are captained by combative midfielder, Scott Martin. At 27-years old, Martin began his senior career at Easter Road with Hibernian, before loan spells at Forfar and Arbroath helped establish himself a senior professional. In 2018, he signed for Hamilton and has gone on to play a crucial role in the team since. Having won the Challenge Cup with his current side

in 2023, he also has a Scottish Championship title with Hibernian in the 2016-17 season. This season has been an unfortunate one for the midfielder. Having played every minute, bar 3, his season took a bad turn on the 16th December against Falkirk with a serious hamstring injury. That has seen him sidelined until only recently. Martin made his return against Falkirk a few weeks ago, with a 10-minute cameo appearance. He then followed that up with 45 minutes against Montrose last week. Rankin will look to continue to get vital minutes in Martin's legs in the hope that he can be fit and firing for the play-offs coming up.

#### ONE TO WATCH -KEVIN O'HARA

The full-time outfit have several players that Alloa will have to be wary of but this edition of The Wasp wishes to highlight the threat of Kevin O'Hara. Alloa fans

will be well clued up on O'Hara following his successful spell with the club in 2019-20, where he finished top scorer with 14 goals and also notched 10 assists for Alloa in the Championship. That stat was a remarkable 50% of his side's total goals that year and that was picked up on with individual accolade, like SPFL Championship Player of the Month award in January. This season for Accies he also sits on 14 goals, however, will be looking to push that tally higher with the final games of the season. O'Hara made his return from injury last week against Montrose with 45 minutes under his belt. Similar to Martin, it is integral for Rankin that he has minutes before the big games come.

#### THE CONNECTION

As mentioned, O'Hara is a key connection between the two clubs. Another former loanee

**CONTINUED ON P32** 



BY KIEREN MOONEY

leading the line for Accies is Euan Henderson. He had similar numbers at Alloa with 17 strikes in the League 1 season under Barry Ferguson and Brian Rice. This season he sits on 10 goals, including one against Alloa, recent others were lake Hastie & Dario Zanatta who has returned to Canada to play for Pacific FC. On the Wasps side, our current manager, similar to our former, also has Hamilton connections. Andy Graham spent a season with the visitors in 2010-11. On top of that, Miko Virtanen also had a short stint in 2021-2023, under John Rankin. After scoring his first goal for "The Wasps" last weekend, he

will be looking to continue that against his former side.

#### **PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

This will be the sides 4th meeting out of 6 this season. The opening fixture of the season was a win for Hamilton at their ground. Euan Henderson opened the scoring for the home side before Luke Donnelly brought the sides level. It was a late heartbreak for the Wasps when Joe McGlynn bagged the winner with only seconds on the clock, the game finished 2-1. The return fixture at the Indodrill was a hard-fought battle between the sides but after no goals, the points were shared in a 0-0. The

third and most exciting for Alloa fans was the last fixture, which Alloa won 2-1 at Hamilton. Euan Henderson, again, opened the scoring to haunt his former side. However, in spectacular fashion Kurtis Roberts got his first goal for the club with a goal of the season contender. It was another unlikely goal scorer who secured the 3 points for Alloa as Ion Robertson stabbed home at the back post with 5 minutes to go. Despite the points tally, as that demonstrated, the fixtures have been closely contested between the sides, which bodes well for the final 3 fixtures between the sides this season.



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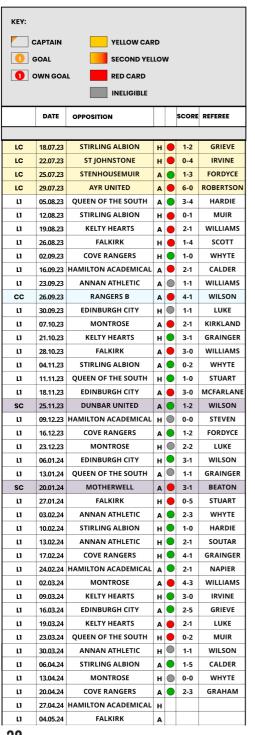




#### **HT QUIZ**

- 1. ALLOA'S CLEAN SWEEP OF VICTORIES OVER COVE WAS COMPLETED WITH BOBBY WALES LAST MINUTE WINNER. WHICH SIDE LAST SEASON DID ALLOA COMPLETE A CLEAN SWEEP AGAINST?
- 2. ALLOA WILL AGAIN PLAY HOST TO HAMILTON IN THE PLAYOFF SEMI FINAL. WHICH STRIKER SCORED THE ONLY GOAL OF THE GAME IN LAST SEASON'S PLAYOFF SEMI-FINAL FIRST LEG?
- 3. KEVIN O'HARA LOOKS SET TO BE HAMILTON'S TOP SCORER THIS SEASON. A FEAT HE MATCHED WITH ALLOA IN 2019–20. WHICH TEAM DID HE SCORE HIS FIRST ALLOA GOAL AGAINST?
- 4. THE OLD FIRM WILL CONTEST ANOTHER SCOTTISH CUP FINAL THIS YEAR. ONLY 3 FINALS IN THE LAST DECADE HAVE FEATURED NEITHER GLASGOW SIDE. NAME THE TEAMS IN THE FINAL
- 5. ANOTHER YEAR AND ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY FOR THE LOWLAND/HIGHLAND LEAGUE CHAMPIONS TO JOIN THE 42 SPFL TEAMS THROUGH THE PLAYOFFS BUT IT WASN'T SO LONG AGO A TEAM COMING UP WAS RARE. CAN YOU NAME THE EIGHT TEAMS WHO JOINED THE SFL FROM 1990–2010?

  ANSWERS PAGE 33



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	<b>1</b> 84	90	90	6	65						<u>0</u> 90	19		90	71	
	70	90	87	3	66				90			3		20	90	87
90	79	90	90		90						11				0 73	90
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	0 64	90	26		90									16	74	0 90
45	24	90	90	45	45		24		79		<u>1</u> 90			11	66	
	11	90	79	64	64	26			72		79	18		11	26	90
	21	90	69	90					<b>0</b> 82		8	14			76	<b>2</b> 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				<u>o</u> 90		35	7			55	0 83
	76	<u>0</u> 90		45	90	<b>0</b> 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
		90	74	26	084		64		90		84	6		16	6	
	19	90	90	67		65	70				20	90		70	25	
	7	90	67	83	72	18			83		7	23			18	0 90
15		<b>0</b> 90		78	12	12			090		075	15			75	0 90
		90		90					90		18	16			90	90
2		90	23	<b>1</b> 90			67		90		2	23				<b>2</b> 90



#### QUIZ ANWERS

- 1. PETERHEAD
- 2. LUKE DONNELLY
- 3. STIRLING ALBION
- 4.ST JOHNSTONE VS HIBS 2020-21, INVERNESS VS FALKIRK 2014-15, ST JOHN-STONE VS DUNDEE UNITED 2013-14
- 5. INVERNESS CT, ROSS COUNTY, LIVINGSTON, ELGIN, PETERHEAD, AIRDRIEONIANS, GRETNA, ANNAN ATHLETIC

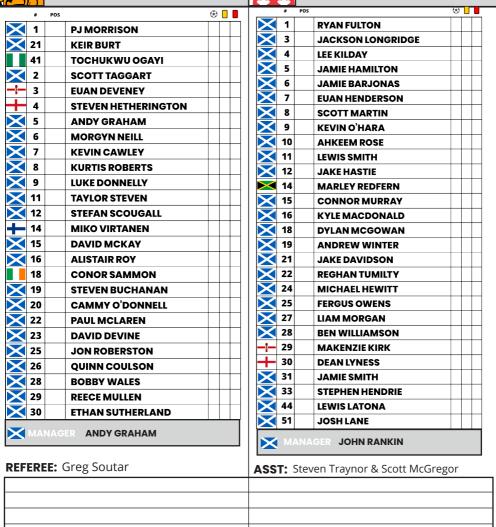




#### **ALLOA ATHLETIC**



#### **HAMILTON ACADEMICAL**



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

04.05.24. THE FALKIRK STADIUM. 15:00

11.05.24, NEW DOUGLAS PARK, 15:00

**HAMILTON ACCIES** 



14/15.05.24, TBD



ALLOA ATHLETIC

SPFL PLAYOFF FINAL

SPFL PLAYOFF SEMI-FINAL

07.05.24. INDODRILL STADIUM, 19:45



**HAMILTON ACCIES** 



SPFL PLAYOFF SEMI-FINAL

ALLOA ATHLETIC





### PROUDLY SUPPORTING ALLOA ATHLETIC FC

