



16TH JULY 2024

7:45PM



CHILD PROTECTION AND WELLBEING POLICY

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

We recognise -

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

The purpose of the policy and related procedures is to:

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

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

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)

*includes equivalent competitions

Club Information

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Email: fcadmin@alloathletic.co.uk
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Club Officials

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Niall Marshall (Assistant
Graeme Holmes (Coach)
Andrew Deeley (Club Doctor)
Neil Parry (Goalkeeping Coach)

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Allan Milne (Manager)
Ryan Cairney-Smith (Assistant Manager)
Shaun McErlane (Coach)

Ground Staff

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Club Shop

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Programme Contributors

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PREMIER SPORTS CUP TABLE & FIXTURES

GROUP F

	ALLOA ATHLETIC
	GREENOCK MORTON

	EAST FIFE
	BRECHIN CITY

	EAST FIFE	1	1	0	0	3	0	3	3
	ST. JOHNSTONE	1	1	0	0	2	1	1	3
	ALLOA ATHLETIC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	BRECHIN CITY	1	0	0	1	1	2	-1	0
	GREENOCK MORTON	1	0	0	1	0	3	-3	0

GROUP A

	QUEEN OF THE SOUTH
	AIRDRIEONIANS

	DUMBARTON
	EAST KILBRIDE

	ABERDEEN	1	1	0	0	3	0	3	3
	EAST KILBRIDE	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	2
	DUMBARTON	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1
	AIRDRIEONIANS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	QUEEN OF THE SOUTH	1	0	0	1	0	3	-3	0

GROUP B

	DUNDEE UNITED
	AYR UNITED

	STENHOUSEMUIR
	FALKIRK

	STENHOUSEMUIR	1	1	0	0	4	0	4	3
	FALKIRK	1	1	0	0	2	0	2	3
	AYR UNITED	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	DUNDEE UNITED	1	0	0	1	0	2	-2	0
	BUCKIE THISTLE	1	0	0	1	0	4	-4	0

GROUP C

	HIBERNIAN
	ELGIN CITY

	QUEEN'S PARK
	KELTY HEARTS

	HIBERNIAN	1	1	0	0	5	0	5	3
	QUEEN'S PARK	1	1	0	0	5	0	5	3
	KELTY HEARTS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	ELGIN CITY	1	0	0	1	0	5	-5	0
	PETERHEAD	1	0	0	1	0	5	-5	0

GROUP D

	ANNAN ATHLETIC
	ARBROATH

	BONNYRIGG ROSE
	DUNDEE

	DUNDEE	1	1	0	0	7	1	6	3
	ANNAN ATHLETIC	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	3
	ARBROATH	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	INVERNESS CT	1	0	0	1	0	1	-1	0
	BONNYRIGG ROSE	1	0	0	1	1	7	-6	0

GROUP E

	DUNFERMLINE
	COVE RANGERS

	FORFAR ATHLETIC
	SPARTANS

	DUNFERMLINE	1	1	0	0	3	0	3	3
	LIVINGSTON	1	1	0	0	2	0	2	3
	COVE RANGERS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	FORFAR ATHLETIC	1	0	0	1	0	2	-2	0
	SPARTANS	1	0	0	1	0	3	-3	0

GROUP G

	MONTROSE
	EDINBURGH CITY

	MOTHERWELL
	CLYDE

	MOTHERWELL	1	1	0	0	3	0	3	3
	PARTICK THISTLE	1	1	0	0	3	2	1	3
	CLYDE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	MONTROSE	1	0	0	1	2	3	-1	0
	EDINBURGH CITY	1	0	0	1	0	3	-3	0

GROUP H

	RAITH ROVERS
	HAMILTON ACCIES

	STRANRAER
	STIRLING ALBION

	RAITH ROVERS	1	1	0	0	3	0	3	3
	ROSS COUNTY	1	1	0	0	3	1	2	3
	HAMILTON	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	STRANRAER	1	0	0	1	1	3	-2	0
	STIRLING ALBION	1	0	0	1	0	3	-3	0



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GOALKEEPERS

PJ MORRISON

27/02/1998



31

DEFENDERS

Scott TAGGART

27/12/1991

183 cm 75 kg



2

Calum WATERS

10/03/1996



3

Morgyn NEILL

10/03/1996



6

Neil PARRY

08/11/1985



21

Andy GRAHAM

22/09/1983

188 cm 85 kg



5

David MCKAY

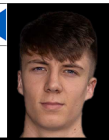
17/06/1998



15

Kane THOMSON

22/03/2004



17

Tochukwu OGAYI

10/10/1996



1

David DEVINE

20/06/2001



23

MANAGER

ANDY GRAHAM



MIDFIELDERS

Steven HETHERINGTON

09/03/1993



Kevin CAWLEY

17/03/1989



Kurtis ROBERTS

06/09/1994



Shay NEVANS

23/05/2006



Stefan SCOUGALL

07/12/1992

170 CM 63 KG



Miko VIRTANEN

29/01/1999



Cameron O'DONNELL

29/09/2001

183 CM 70 KG



Reece MULLEN

26/03/2006



FORWARDS

Luke DONNELLY

20/01/1996



Conor SAMMON

06/11/1986

188 CM 91 KG



Steven BUCHANAN

26/03/2003

178 CM 70 KG



Luke RANKIN

27/11/2004



ANDY GRAHAM



THE GAFFER'S THOUGHTS

Welcome back to the Indodrill for the 2024/25 season!

I'd like to extend a warm welcome to Dick Campbell and his staff at East Fife. They must have been delighted to kick off the League Cup campaign with a resounding 3-0 victory over Morton, with a familiar face, Alan Trouten, scoring a hat trick.

There have been a few changes over the summer that won't have gone unnoticed. Neil Parry has joined as goalkeeping coach and brings a wealth of experience, which he will be able to share with all of the goalkeepers.

After 13 years, Paddy Connelly has decided to step away from coaching. This wasn't a decision Paddy reached lightly, and he will be greatly missed by everyone at Alloa, including myself. From the moment I was

given the opportunity to manage Alloa, Paddy was a great support, and I thank him on behalf of everyone associated with Alloa for his loyalty and service.

In his place, I have brought in Graeme Holmes, who needs no introduction to Alloa supporters. Homer is a level-headed coach who will be a positive influence on the squad, and I look forward to working with him.

Preseason has gone well. We did pick up a few knocks, but nothing too serious.

Thanks for your continued support, and hopefully this season we can encourage as many fans as possible to come out and support the team.

Enjoy the game!

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LEWIS RUSSELL



NEWSDESK

Welcome back to Alloa Athletic for the 2024/25 season. Tonight we kick off our season against Dick Campbell's East Fife.

Alloa had the opening Saturday as a rest week as the other teams in Group F contested matches at Methil and Brechin. There was plenty of shocks last year for St Johnstone but Craig Levein's side navigated a tightly contested win with Graham Carey's first half stoppage time penalty and Kyle Cameron's rocket into the top corner. Spencer Moreland pulled one back for Brechin

in the dying embers but the Saints left Brechin with three points and no banana skins this year. That was unlike Greenock Morton's visit to East Fife. Former Wasp Alan Trouton picked up a hat-trick as Dick Campbell's Fifers produced one of the shocks of the opening day with a commanding performance against a side two divisions higher.

Alloa have seen plenty old faces return to the club in the summer with coaching returns for Graeme Holmes and Neill Parry, while left back Calum Waters

has returned after leaving Greenock Morton in the Summer. Alloa completed the signing of former Motherwell forward Shay Nevans and ex Queen's Park full-back Kane Thomson who had both been handed a trial off the back of stand-out performances in the PFA Scotland exit trials and have made influential appearances in the preseason friendlies. Midfielder Reece Mullen has also made his mark with assured performances in the middle of the park earning him a first professional contract with the Wasps.

Paddy Connolly, unfortunately called time on his 13 year stint at Alloa. The assistant manager has coached under 9 different managers at Alloa. While he'll be missed at Recreation Park, he's hopefully enjoyed some football in his free time with his son Aidan Connolly producing his own hat-trick in Raith Rovers 3-0 win at Stirling Albion on Saturday.

The Wasp 2000 Prize pool has been reduced further to reflect player numbers. As such one of the £25 weekly prizes has been removed from the pool. Player numbers have reduced in recent years especially after Covid

and we no longer have a 50/50 lottery on matchdays to cover any deficit in the main draw.

If player numbers increase we can return the pot to previous levels and help contribute to the running expenses of Alloa Athletic so if you would like to participate in the Wasp 2000 draw please contact fcadmin@alloathletic.co.uk.

WEEK 28 WINNERS

Prize	Name	Number
100	R Black	61
50	S Armitage	1042
25	J Gray	707



PREMIER SPORTS CUP RESULTS

Home Team	Score	Away Team	Outcome
Annan Athletic	1-0	Inverness CT	FT
Bonnyrigg Rose	1-7	Dundee	FT
Brechin City	1-2	St. Johnstone	FT
Dumbarton	1-1	East Kilbride	East Kilbride win 4-2 on penalties
East Fife	3-0	Morton	FT
Elgin City	0-5	Hibernian	FT
Falkirk	2-0	Dundee United	FT
Forfar Athletic	0-2	Livingston	FT
Motherwell	3-0	Edinburgh City	FT
Partick Thistle	3-2	Montrose	FT
Peterhead	0-5	Queen's Park	FT
Spartans	0-3	Dunfermline Athletic	FT
Stenhousemuir	4-0	Buckie	FT
Stirling Albion	0-3	Raith Rovers	FT
Stranraer	1-3	Ross County	FT
Queen Of The South	0-3	Aberdeen	FT



JONATHAN MARKWELL



APPEARANCE MILESTONES

As the first whistle blows on Alloa's 2024/2025 season this evening, two players could be in line to celebrate career appearance milestones. Selection permitting, Scott Taggart could by my calculations be playing the 500th game of his senior career, with team-mate Stefan Scougall in line for his 400th this evening too. Some players don't make it to a century or even half a century of senior appearances given the cut throat nature of the

game, so to reach the 500 and 400 appearance marks respectfully is something to be recognised and praised.

Captain Taggart arrives at the 500 appearance mark in double quick time, averaging 35 games a season as he enters the fifteenth season of his career. Usually, when you see players reach this considerable landmark, they are in the twilight of their careers but at the age of 32 Scott hopefully still has plen-

ty of years ahead of him. It is testament to Taggart's durability and passion for the game that he is so rarely injured, whilst his consistency is such that he's one of the first names on the team-sheet.

In-fact, Taggart was the only Wasp last season to appear in every single league match. This time a year ago Scott was still returning from an injury suffered in the first play-off exit at Hamilton and

didn't play a minute of the Viaplay Cup Group Stages, but the opening day of the league season victory saw him get his first minutes of action as a second half sub in that eventful 4-3 victory in Dumfries. Taggs was again eased back into the fold in the second league game of the season from the bench but in typical style didn't look back thereafter, starting every subsequent match for the rest of the season. Yet again Taggart proved his worth at both ends of the pitch, being dependable at the back and adding notably more variety to his attacking play by being his usual threat from the wing with his fine whipped deliveries, but increasingly (as is the modern-day phenomenon) moving inside in an inverted role to occasionally dictate attacks from a more central role and help create overloads in some areas and extra space in other areas of the pitch. I've noticed some debate online over the summer as to whether it's time for Taggart to focus on playing a central defensive role, rather than his traditional full-back position. Equally at home in both roles, Taggart has filled in to cover injuries in a central role on numerous occasions over the years, but I personally don't see him moving from his right-back berth anytime soon. It is telling that since Andy Graham became Alloa manager, Taggart has only

started one match in central defence, with Graham's clear preference for Taggart to be his right-back in a back four.

Furthermore, last season Taggart also once again showcased his prowess from the penalty spot, with four of his six goals being from twelve yards. Taggart's presently on a sequence of eight successive spot-kicks, which means he must be taking tips off the penalty king Alan Trouten! Everyone connected with the Wasps naturally offer a warm welcome back to the Recs for the evergreen Trouten this evening. Whilst Alan's penalty technique of a slow run up waiting for the keeper to move and then tucking the ball home into the opposite corner at the last second (and if the keeper doesn't move Trouten typically goes low

to the keeper's right) is well established, Taggart mixes up his technique and finishes to keep the increasingly savvy goalies guessing!

Returning to Taggart's appearance record, he has amazingly started every league game in three of his eight seasons as a Wasp, and in-fact only missed one game in his first four seasons (for what looked like a very strategic end of season one match suspension ahead of the play-offs)! His current tally of 326 games for the club means playing tonight will see him go level with 1990s stalwart Keith McCulloch, as the joint 7th highest post-WW2 Alloa record appearance makers. All going well, at some point this season, Taggart's ninth with the Wasps, Scott should rise to 2nd on that acclaimed appearance list, only behind



his long-term team-mate Kevin Cawley. However, this evening Taggart's scheduled 500th senior career appearance is a wider personal milestone for the defender. With 3 appearances for boy-hood club Hibernian in the Premier League, 8 on loan at Ayr, 31 on loan at Stranraer (coming up against Third Division Champions Alloa that season), 76 with Morton, 55 at Dumbarton and 326 with the Wasps, Taggart has played in all four divisions and reaching the 500 appearance mark represents a fine personal milestone – congratulations Taggs!

Being a year younger than Taggart, it is perhaps no surprise that Stefan Scougall's club career appearance tally is slightly behind his captain. Having first burst onto the scene as a teenager at Livingston, Scougall earned a big move down south playing for Sheffield United in League One for three and a half seasons (picking up a League winners medal in his final season and scoring at Wembley in an FA Cup semi-final in his first season), before an injury-hit year with St Johnstone and almost two seasons back on the other side of Hadrian's Wall at Carlisle. Since signing for Alloa in October 2020 Scougall has played 130 games and is now beginning his fifth season in Clackmannanshire, meaning he's been with Wasps longer and played

more games for the club than any other in his career.

For that, Alloa supporters should be thankful, as ability-wise Scougall's natural talent belongs at a far higher level of the game. His close control and skill on the ball is a joy to behold at times, whilst also being tenacious in winning back possession, despite his diminutive

stature. Scougall's quickness over the first five yards is one of his key strengths, but that often inadvertently works against him as he's often the recipient of lots of late tackles as a result of this. Whether it is in his preferred more advanced central-midfield role, or a deeper-lying central midfielder, Scougall is a key member of the team. Ironically however, during



the 2021/22 season under Barry Ferguson, Scougall was moved out to a less preferred wide role and that coincided with his most productive season in terms of goal and assist contributions. His 5 goals and 14 assists easily eclipsed his output in his other Alloa seasons combined, with him somehow not registering a single goal last season (Scougall did register 4 assists though, to complement 3 goals and 2 assists in 2022/23 and 2 goals during 2020/21). Stefan will undoubtedly be keen to break his goalscoring dry spell as soon as possible!

Online, Alloa supporters clearly value Scougall's best

attributes, but many have a perception that the midfielder is injury prone. Whilst it is not uncommon to see Stefan pick up knocks during games and occasional miss some matches, the statistics show that in the past three seasons he's made 40, 36 and 32 appearances, which to me represents a more than respectable output of appearances. I would hazard a guess that there have been plenty of times when Scougall has played through the pain barrier for the good of the team and is far tougher than his diminutive stature suggests. With a young family and turning 32 in December, Scougall's got to the stage of his career where he'll be

looking to create some more memories to rival his early career promotions with Livingston and Sheffield United, including hopefully in a few years matching the 500 career appearance milestone his captain is reaching this evening.

Congratulations to both players on these personal landmarks, with both players both having plenty left in the tank to seek to catch up with the career game totals of some of their Alloa teammates who have made even more appearances, such as Kevin Cawley (583), Andy Graham (609) and Conor Sammon (671).

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APPEARANCES

	POS	LEAGUE		CUP		TOTAL		ALLOA CAREER LGE	
		APP	GOAL	APP	GOAL	APP	GOAL	APP	GOAL
OGAYI	GOAL	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	8 (1)	0
PARRY	GOAL	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	138 (0)	0
MORRISON	GOAL	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	30 (1)	0
TAGGART	DEF	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	265 (2)	16
WATERS	DEF	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	40 (0)	1
GRAHAM	DEF	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	190 (8)	14
NEILL	DEF	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	34 (0)	0
MCKAY	DEF	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	14 (5)	1
THOMSON	DEF	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0
DEVINE	DEF	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	33 (3)	0
HETHERINGTON	MID	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	157 (33)	6
CAWLEY	MID	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	338 (56)	64
ROBERTS	MID	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	36 (0)	4
NEVANS	MID	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0
SCOUGALL	MID	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	82 (22)	8
VIRTANEN	MID	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	13 (11)	1
O'DONNELL	MID	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	33 (40)	11
MULLEN	MID	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0
DONNELLY	FWD	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	18 (27)	9
SAMMON	FWD	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	62 (44)	27
BUCHANAN	FWD	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	10 (27)	2
RANKIN	FWD	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (11)	1



ALLOA CAREER CUP		ALLOA TOTAL	
APP	GOAL	APP	GOAL

2 (0)	0	10 (1)	0
35 (0)	0	0 (0)	0
14 (0)	0	44 (1)	0
58 (1)	3	323 (3)	19
11 (0)	1	51 (0)	2
54 (3)	1	244 (11)	15
6 (1)	1	40 (1)	1
5 (2)	0	19 (7)	1
0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0
2 (1)	0	35 (4)	0
33 (9)	1	190 (42)	7
67 (12)	12	405 (68)	76
6 (1)	0	42 (1)	4
0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0
19 (8)	2	101 (30)	10
3 (3)	0	16 (14)	1
9 (2)	0	42 (42)	11
0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0
4 (4)	2	22 (31)	11
18 (4)	9	80 (48)	36
6 (4)	1	16 (31)	3
0 (6)	0	0 (17)	1



-	-
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FANS VIEW

Every season, fans try to extrapolate how their team will fare based on a spattering of preseason fixtures. Every season, expectations are wildly dashed after a 'good preseason.' While everyone could use the reminder from tapping the sign, which absolutely holds true every season, I'm about to predict Alloa's fortunes based wholly on the Wasps' opening five games against Livingston, Clyde, Greenock Morton, Falkirk, and

Cumbernauld.

LIVINGSTON 2-1 ALLOA

First up were the recently relegated Championship hopefuls Livingston at Almondvale. The hosts ran out 2-1 winners with Alloa's consolation goal scored by Luke Rankin. I can't give any concrete opinions about this game as I was still in Germany with profound optimism for Scotland's chances of finally qualifying

from the group stages, but the review I got was that we never really troubled Livi, and they were comfortable winners without really getting out of second or third gear. However, Luke Rankin's goal was wonderfully taken.

ALLOA 3-1 CLYDE

Next was Clyde, an early kickoff behind closed doors. A first-half set piece was the only dent Clyde could make

in the summer sun as Alloa won a penalty after Luke Rankin was brought down, which he then went on to score himself. Cameron O'Donnell, finally allowed to play in a more advanced role with the signing of Calum Waters, set up Conor Sammon with a deft through ball perfectly weighted for the Irishman to run onto and slot home past the goalkeeper. Reece Mullen set up a third, although the officials seemed to have made a mistake as Rankin was beyond the last man in the 18-yard box. Still, he made no mistake, producing another incisive finish to make it 3 for the Wasps.

GREENOCK MORTON 1-0 ALLOA

Greenock Morton on the following Tuesday looked interesting with the sides due to meet competitively in the Premier Sports Cup in just a few weeks. However, with that in mind, both teams produced very muted performances. Luke Rankin was again the Alloa man to watch but passed up numerous first-half chances as the Morton goalkeeper kept the sides level. Unfortunately, early in the second half, a defensive lapse from Scott Taggart let Morton's winger charge unopposed into the box and slot under Morrison. It was a genuine nothing ball forward—Taggart seemed to lose the flight

of the ball and awareness of the striker or thought Morrison was much further off his line than he was—but it created the only real incident of the half in a really nothing game. Alloa rang the changes soon after, with a pretty young squad playing the remaining minutes. Morton also rotated, but it was such a dull game that when a Morton player got injured in the second period, they decided not to sub on a replacement and played with 10 men for the duration. Neither side really seemed to want to show their hand with real competition looming, and the game soon fizzled out.

FALKIRK 2-2 ALLOA

Next was a venue where Alloa has seemingly struggled in recent years. Despite a 2-0

lead before the summer, Alloa couldn't hold off Falkirk, who sealed an invincible tag after going an entire league season unbeaten (and dishing out a couple of demoralising losses to the Wasps en route). However, the youthful Alloa side broke the deadlock. Cameron O'Donnell's corner found Rankin, who controlled the ball down for Kurtis Roberts to open the scoring after weathering some early Falkirk pressure. The home side equalised when Morgyn Neill unluckily deflected an effort past Tochukwu Ogayi. Steven Buchanan could have scored one of the goals of preseason after controlling a sensational crossfield ball but couldn't find the back of the net past Hogarth as the first half drew to a close. In the second half, Alloa exploited the right wing again but got the break of the



ball from Kane Thomson, who won the ball high and knocked it inside for Rankin. The youngster masterfully directed the ball into the bottom corner in his old East Stirlingshire haunt. Falkirk grabbed a late equaliser through former Alloa forward Ross MacIver, but overall it was a really pleasing display from the Wasps, who will be hoping to replicate the league-winning exploits of their hosts in a League 1 without any massive favourites.

ALLOA 3-0 CUMBERNAULD

Alloa rounded off their final preparations with the visit of Graeme Holmes' old side, Cumbernauld. Alloa were short on strikers, with Luke Rankin rested after feeling his hamstring after 60 minutes in the Saturday game at Falkirk. Steven Buchanan led the line with the support of Nevans and O'Donnell. The Lowland League outfit was on the back foot for much of the first half but almost broke the deadlock after hitting the post. After the break, Alloa converted from a corner, with Morgyn Neill firing a powerful header in from O'Donnell's delivery. Cameron O'Donnell then produced a bit of brilliance, with youth player Cunningham cutting a ball back to the young midfielder. Eat your heart out, Lamine Yamal—O'Donnell produced

a seamless left-footed backheel to direct the ball into the bottom corner. Kane Thomson, showing off some pace on his unfavoured left side, dribbled into the box, drew a foul, and earned a penalty for Scott Taggart to finish, rounding off a comfortable win for the Wasps.

THINGS WE CAN LEARN

Luke Rankin will score goals! If his unbelievable Lowland League form wasn't enough evidence, he's been the main focal point of Alloa goals this preseason, looking lively and showing excellent precision when finishing. It would not surprise me to see him start as the main striker in the 4-3-3 formation Andy Graham favours, with Conor Sammon again deployed as a super sub to exploit tired legs

and bodies.

Steven Buchanan's pace is a genuine threat to any defender in the league. At times last season, Buchanan could call himself unlucky. Taylor Steven cemented his place at right wing, edging out the young Alloa forward onto the bench with some tremendous displays. While the paper talk focused on Bobby Wales and Ethan Sutherland, Alloa's fortunes were often more decided by how good Taylor Steven was feeling on a given day. Still, when Buchanan did get involved off the bench, he frequently contributed driving runs and assists and probably should have had more goals than he did. I think Steven, as a player, if he went on loan, would quickly have become a mainstay of a Lowland



League team, but he was just on the verge of being too valuable to Alloa as a super sub targeting tired defenders with his electric pace. This season, at least currently, I can see a need and the likelihood that Buchanan steps out of that substitute role and becomes a focal point for Alloa's attack. While undoubtedly he'll provide for someone like Luke Rankin, this extra playing time and responsibility will hopefully also be reflected in his goalscoring tally.

A competent left-back has been the bane of Alloa's previous season, with what I would call makeshift yet satisfactory performances

from O'Donnell and Sutherland. This season, the signing of Calum Waters looks inspired already. While expecting a season of the calibre of his breakout Alloa season might be too much to ask, he's looked like he's never been away, providing an excellent basis for the lively Shay Nevans and Cameron O'Donnell to focus on their attacking strengths.

Continuity is key. While Brian Rice had to oversee a big overhaul between seasons, Andy Graham has trusted most of the players who narrowly lost out to Hamilton in the playoffs after securing a comfortable third-place finish in League 1. This team

has been playing together for a season, and with familiarity, Alloa will surely contest at the top end of the table again this season. While there is scope for a couple of loans to add their talents to the squad, the core of the squad continuing this season can only be a good sign. Perhaps unlike last season, we've seen a genuine attacking threat in the friendlies, a comfortable familiarity, and hopefully, that's what we carry into the competitive games. Don't make me tap the sign—if Alloa performs as they've shown in preseason, friendlies might mean something after all.





EAST FIFE

The Fifers

FOUNDED

1903

GROUND

Bayview Stadium,
Methil

TOP HONOURS

Scottish Cup
Winners: 1938

Runners Up: 1927,
1950

Scottish League
Cup Winners: (3)
1948, 1950, 1954

Scottish Championship*
Winners: 1948

Scottish League Two*
Winners: 2008, 2016

This evening Alloa begin the 2024/25 campaign by welcoming League 2 side, East Fife, to the Indodrill for our League Cup group stage fixture. Last season ended strongly for the visitors after what looked like a relegation battle looming turned into a late push for the promotion play-off spots. A change in manager did see an upturn in form for the Methil side and they rose to 5th in the table by the end of the season. That left that 8-points clear of the dreaded 10th spot and very much clear of a nail-biting end to the season with the play-offs. With multiple

signings in the door and Dick Campbell taking the team from day 1 of the season, they will very much have their sights set on trying to return to League 1. Although this is Alloa's first fixture in the competition, the visitors will have opened their account at home to Greenock Morton 3 days prior.

THE BOSS – DICK CAMPBELL

The man in-charge of this evening's opponents need no introduction to anybody who follows Scottish football. 70-year-old, Dick Campbell, continues his impressive

managerial career at the helm of this East Fife side, where he has been since February 2024. In a managerial career that began in 1987 with Cowdenbeath, Campbell has amassed over 1,300 games in the dugout and has won 4 Manager of the Year awards and over 40 Manager of the Months. His most recent club was the one most of note as he took Arbroath from 8th in League 2 to the historic title battle at the top of the Championship against Kilmarnock. The Lichties painfully lost out that season and following that struggled to maintain those lofty heights of pushing at



*may include equivalent competitions



the top end. He left Arbroath on 25 November 2023, following a Scottish Cup defeat by The Spartans. Campbell subsequently returned to management with East Fife where has proven already that he still has so much to offer in the Scottish lower leagues.

THE CAPTAIN – STEWART MURDOCH

Tonight's skipper for the visitors is Aberdeen-born, Stewart Murdoch. Beginning his career at Falkirk in 2007, he went on to play 88 times for the Bairns over a 6-year period. During that time at Falkirk as he established himself as a first team player, he would spend time at Bayview on loan in 2010, where he would return 9 years later. Between his spells at the club, Murdoch enjoyed a stint down South with Fleetwood Town and Northampton Town. It was at Fleetwood where he would taste

Wembley success with a League 2 Play-Off win in 2014. Returning to Scotland would mean spells with both Ross County and Dundee United before joining back at East Fife in 2019. The right-back made 34 appearances for his side last campaign and will now be looking to guide his side to promotion in the upcoming campaign.

NEW BOY – ANDY MUNRO

Dick Campbell has bolstered his options at the back with the signing of experienced defender, Andy Munro. The 31-year old has been plying his trade at Forfar Athletic where he made 162 appearances for the Loons. Munro is a seasoned pro when it comes to Scottish lower leagues having played key roles with sides such as Stenhousemuir, Clyde, and Arbroath, where he worked under Dick Campbell. His manager once again will be hoping that by adding his experience and quality at the back, his side can improve

on their defensive record from last season.

ONE TO WATCH – ALAN TROUTEN

This segment has multiple candidates, including red-hot striker, Nathan Austin. However, this edition of The Wasp can't look past an Alloa legend in Alan Trouten as the dangerman. The 38-year-old doesn't show any signs of slowing down as he continues to thrive in League 2 and provide East Fife with crucial goals and performances. Alloa fans will remember Trouten's fondly for his contribution to the club in both the Championship and League 1, one of his most memorable moments being that penalty winner in the club's only ever victory against Hearts. The striker has managed to shake off injuries that plagued the end of his Alloa career and return to be a mainstay of a team. 12 goals

CONTINUED ON P32



BY KIEREN MOONEY

in the last campaign and 11 in the season prior shows that finding the back of the net is a trait that never leaves you. Alloa have succumbed to ex-players scoring against them in this round of the cup in previous years with Adam Brown at Stenhousemuir and Liam Buchanan against Cowdenbeath being examples. Andy Graham and co will be aware of the need to stop Trouten to prevent this.

THE CONNECTION

As mentioned, the most notable connection is of course Alan Trouten. The 2018/19 season of Trouten lives long in the memory with his 19 goals and perfect record from the spot, with 7 finding the back of

the net. Also returning is former loanee, Connor McManus. The midfielder spent time with Alloa in 2015/16 from Celtic on loan and has been with East Fife since 2021. Dick Campell made the move for another former Alloa player with Reiss Peggie signing up for 2024/25. The left-back had a brief spell at the Indodrill in 2018/19. The only current Alloa player who has played at Bayview is centre back, David Devine. The 23-year-old spent time on loan at East Fife in 2021, however, an injury with the Methil outfit meant that he was unable to play for the club.

PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The last time the sides met was almost 2-years-ago to the

day in the League Cup group stages. Alloa drew 1-1 with East Fife on the 12th of July 2022. An own goal from Aaron Steele gave the Wasps an early lead before Scott Shepherd pegged it back to 1-1 near the end of the game. It was Alloa who picked up the bonus point that day winning 6-5 on penalties; Taggart, Scougall, Sammon and O'Donnell, who could play tonight were on the scoresheet in that shoot-out. Prior to that we faced off 4 times in the Fifers last campaign in League 1. The Wasps won 2 of the fixtures, East Fife notched a single victory, and the remaining was a draw. The final game of the quartet was a 3-0 victory for Alloa with goals from Cawley, Scougall and Euan Henderson being the difference.



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ANDREW COCKBURN



LOOKING BACK 1983-84

After demotion from The First Division at the end of the 1983-84 season, following a rather brief two-season experience of life at the higher level, no doubt all connected with Alloa Athletic would hope that the club would gain recompense, by achieving instant promotion. And that's exactly what The Wasps achieved, though in the end, it was rather touch-and-go as to whether they'd make an instant return to The First Division.

However, Alloa started their bid for immediate promotion in rather convincing fashion, with a thirteen-match unbeaten league run. This sequence was ended at fellow promotion contenders Montrose in early November, but The Wasps responded in the best possible fashion, with a 4-0 home win v Albion Rovers, followed by a 2-1 victory at struggling Queen Of The South. Back-to-back 1-2 defeats

v Stranraer and Cowdenbeath perhaps served as a warning against complacency, though they bounced back in splendid fashion, with a 3-0 win at local rivals/fellow promotion hopefuls Stenhousemuir, which began an unbeaten run of eight league games. This was ended in late February, with a 1-3 home defeat v another of the front runners, Dunfermline, and while their form during March and part of April was rather patchy, Alloa still retained top spot, due to their earlier strong league form.

But The Second Division promotion battle turned out to be more or less a three-way tie between Alloa, Dunfermline and Montrose. And Saturday, May 4th was a rather pivotal day, when Alloa and Dunfermline met in a crunch promotion four-pointer, in front of a crowd of just over 4,000 at Recreation

Park, with The Wasps in third place/a point ahead of the second-placed Pars, while Montrose were three points clear at the top, and looking certain to take the title. A win would have guaranteed Alloa promotion, but a 0-0 draw meant their promotion hopes now hinged on their final game of the 1984-85 season, at bottom club Arbroath. But Alloa got the win they needed, thanks to a first-half Thompson effort, which meant that Dunfermline's 2-1 home win v Berwick was in vain.

So Alloa accompanied Champions Montrose into the First Division, no doubt hoping for a longer stay. The Wasps cup experiences in the 1984-85 season were rather brief, with Kilmarnock ending their Skol Cup hopes in the first round. While in The Scottish Cup, and after having had a bye in the first round, Alloa accounted for

local rivals East Stirling in the second, before Premier Division Champions-elect perhaps not surprisingly proved to be too strong at the third round stage. Though all connected with Alloa may possibly have been happy to forego any possible cup runs/ success in the 1984-85 campaign, in exchange for a return to The First Division, while one bonus of their 1984-85 promotion success, was their "treble" v fierce local rivals Stirling Albion. It had been a rather memorable season for "The Wasps."

Pos		PL	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Montrose	39	22	9	8	57	40	53
2	Alloa Athletic	39	20	10	9	58	40	50

3	Dunfermline Athletic	39	17	15	7	61	36	49
4	Cowdenbeath	39	18	11	10	68	39	47
5	Stenhousemuir	39	15	15	9	45	43	45
6	Stirling Albion	39	15	13	11	62	47	43
7	Raith Rovers	39	18	6	15	69	57	42
8	Queen Of The South	39	10	14	15	42	56	34
9	Albion Rovers	39	13	8	18	49	72	34
10	Queen's Park	39	12	9	18	48	54	33
11	Stranraer	39	13	6	20	52	66	32
12	East Stirling	39	8	15	16	38	53	31
13	Berwick Rangers	39	8	12	19	36	49	28
14	Arbroath	39	9	7	23	35	66	25

SECOND DIVISION

Team	Home	Away
Albion Rovers	4-0	1-4 / 1-0
Arbroath	3-0	1-0 / 0-0
Berwick Rangers	0-0 / 1-0	0-0
Cowdenbeath	1-1 / 3-0	1-2
Dunfermline Athletic	0-0 / 1-3	2-2
East Stirling	1-3 / 2-1	2-1
Montrose	3-1	0-2 / 1-2
Queen Of The South	1-1	2-0 / 2-1
Queen's Park	2-1 / 2-0	0-0
Raith Rovers	1-1	0-2 / 2-1
Stenhousemuir	0-0	4-2 / 3-0
Stirling Albion	2-1	3-2 / 1-0
Stranraer	1-2 / 1-2	3-2

GOALSCORERS 1984-85 LEAGUE

Lloyd: 16 (4 pens)
 Murray: 8
 Paterson: 7
 Sorbie: 5
 Shearer: 4
 Thompson: 4
 Harris: 3
 Houston: 3
 Barr: 2
 Martin: 2
 Cole: 1
 Haggart: 1
 Kelly: 1
 1 OG

HT QUIZ EURO 24 SPECIAL

1. SCOTLAND JOINED ALBANIA, CROATIA, CZECH REPUBLIC, DENMARK, POLAND, SERBIA AND SLOVENIA WITH WHICH UNWANTED RECORD?
2. LAMINE YAMAL BECAME THE YOUNGEST GOALSCORER IN EUROS HISTORY. WHO BECAME THE OLDEST GOALSCORER IN EUROS HISTORY?
3. ENGLAND PRODUCED SOME PRETTY QUESTIONABLE DISPLAYS IN THE TOURNAMENT. OLLIE WATKINS SUMMARISED THIS WITH A MAN OF THE MATCH PERFORMANCE AGAINST THE NETHERLANDS. HOW MANY TOUCHES OF THE BALL DID HE HAVE IN THE GAME?
4. GARETH SOUTHGATE IS THE ONLY MANAGER TO LOSE TWO EURO FINALS. WHICH OTHER MANAGERS HAVE TAKEN THEIR TEAM TO TWO FINALS?
5. SPAIN WERE CROWNED CHAMPIONS AFTER DISPATCHING ENGLAND 2-1 IN SUNDAY'S FINAL. THEY COMPLETED THE TOURNAMENT HAVING WON EVERY SINGLE ONE OF THEIR GAMES. WHO WERE THE ONLY TEAM TO BEAT THEM IN THE WHOLE OF THE EURO 2024 PROCESS?



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Man Night Club



QUIZ ANSWERS

1. THEY JOINED THE THIRD OF TEAMS WHO NEVER WON A GAME AT THE EUROS
2. LUKA MODRIC, WHO WILL BE 39 IN SEPTEMBER, SCORED FOR CROATIA AGAINST ITALY. HIS OLD REAL MADRID TEAMMATE, PEPE, ALSO SET A NEW RECORD AT THE TOURNAMENT. THE BIG CENTRE-BACK IS THE OLDEST PLAYER TO HAVE APPEARED IN A EUROS MATCH. HE WAS 41 YEARS AND 130 DAYS OLD WHEN PORTUGAL TOOK TO THE FIELD AGAINST FRANCE IN THE QUARTER-FINALS. THERE'S TIME FOR ANDY GRAHAM'S PLAYING CAREER YET.
3. JUST 4 TOUCHES YET WAS AWARDED PLAYER OF THE MATCH
4. HELMUT SCHÖN AND BERTI VOGTS ALTHOUGH THEY BOTH DID IT WITH GERMANY AND THEY BOTH WON ONE AND LOST ONE.
5. SPAIN 0-2 SCOTLAND. COURTESY OF SCOTT MCTOMINAY'S DOUBLE IN QUALIFYING



ALLOA ATHLETIC



EAST FIFE

#	POS				
	1		TOCHUKWU OGAYI		
	21		NEIL PARRY		
	31		PJ MORRISON		
	2		SCOTT TAGGART		
	3		CALUM WATERS		
	5		ANDY GRAHAM		
	6		MORGYN NEILL		
	15		DAVID MCKAY		
	17		KANE THOMSON		
	23		DAVID DEVINE		
	4		STEVEN HETHERINGTON		
	7		KEVIN CAWLEY		
	8		KURTIS ROBERTS		
	11		SHAY NEVANS		
	12		STEFAN SCOUGALL		
	14		MIKO VIRTANEN		
	20		CAMERON O'DONNELL		
	22		REECE MULLEN		
	9		LUKE DONNELLY		
	18		CONOR SAMMON		
	19		STEVEN BUCHANAN		
	24		LUKE RANKIN		
		MANAGER ANDY GRAHAM			

#	POS				
			ALLAN FLEMING		
			STEWART MURDOCH		
			LIAM NEWTON		
			KIERAN MILLAR		
			BRIAN EASTON		
			CONNOR MCMANUS		
			JESS NOREY		
			PATRICK SLATTERY		
			SCOTT SHEPHERD		
			ALAN TROUTEN		
			JACK HEALY		
			GREGOR NICOL		
			NATHAN AUSTIN		
			REIS PEGGIE		
			SEAN DOCHERTY		
			CHARLIE MURRAY		
			LIAM MCFARLANE		
			ANDY MUNRO		
			BRENDAN RAMSAY		
			MATTHEW ROLLO		
		MANAGER DICK CAMPBELL			

REFEREE: Ian Snedden

ASST: Craig Macrae & Luke McCauley

ALLOA'S NEXT FIVE

20.07.24, GLEBE PARK, 15:00



23.07.24, INDODRILL STADIUM, 19:45



27.07.24, CAPPIELOW PARK, 15:00



03.08.24, INDODRILL STADIUM, 15:00



10.05.24, DUMBARTON, 15:00





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