



17TH AUGUST 2024

3:00PM | £3



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 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.

**ALLOA AFC CHAIRMAN
ANDY ALLAN**



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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Clackmannan Road,
Alloa, FK10 1RY

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Email: fcadmin@alloathletic.co.uk

Web: alloathletic.co.uk

Club Officials

Honorary Directors

Ewen Cameron
Mike Mulraney

Directors

Andrew Allan (Chairman)
Martin Ross (Vice Chairman)
Steven Lynch
Dr Robert McElroy

Secretary

Carol Edgar

Head of Media

Lewis Russell

Child Protection Officer

Bill Anderson

Men's Team

Andy Graham (Manager)
Niall Marshall (Assistant
Graeme Holmes (Coach)
Andrew Deeley (Club Doctor)
Neil Parry (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

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Club Shop

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Programme Contributors

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D. Pollock, A Cockburn

Club Photographer

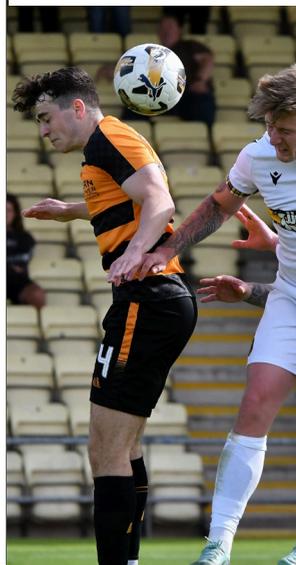
David Glencross

AAFC Supporters Club

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CONTENTS

LEAGUE TABLE AND FIXTURES	4
THE ALLOA SQUAD	6
THE GAFFER'S THOUGHTS	8
NEWSDESK	10
PLAYING AGAINST 10 MEN	12
FANS VIEW	16
APPEARANCES	20
PLAYED FOR BOTH TEAMS	22
THE OPPOSITION	24
LOOKING BACK	28
CAPPED FOR SCOTLAND	30
TEAM LINEUPS	34



	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
ANNAN ATHLETIC	2	2	0	0	4	1	3	6
KELTY HEARTS	2	1	1	0	3	1	2	4
QUEEN OF THE SOUTH	2	1	1	0	2	1	1	4
STENHOUSEMUIR	2	1	0	1	2	3	-1	3
DUMBARTON	2	0	2	0	4	4	0	2
ALLOA ATHLETIC	2	0	2	0	3	3	0	2
MONTROSE	2	0	2	0	1	1	0	2
ARBROATH	2	0	1	1	1	2	-1	1
INVERNESS	2	0	1	1	1	2	-1	1
COVE RANGERS	2	0	0	2	2	5	-3	0

WEEKEND'S FIXTURES

LEAGUE 1

ALLOA ATHLETIC	STENHOUSEMUIR
ARBROATH	KELTY HEARTS
COVE RANGERS	DUMBARTON
INVERNESS CT	MONTROSE
QUEEN OF THE SOUTH	ANNAN ATHLETIC

CHAMPIONSHIP

AYR UNITED	HAMILTON ACCIES
------------	-----------------

LEAGUE 2

CLYDE	STIRLING ALBION
EAST FIFE	FORFAR ATHLETIC
EDINBURGH CITY	BONNYRIGG ROSE
PETERHEAD	STRANRAER

PREMIER SPORTS CUP

ABERDEEN	QUEEN'S PARK
DUNDEE	AIRDRIEONANS
FALKIRK	HEART OF MIDLOTHIAN
SPARTANS	ROSS COUNTY
RANGERS	ST JOHNSTONE
DUNDEE UNITED	ST MIRREN
MOTHERWELL	KILMARNOCK
CELTIC	HIBERNIAN

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GOALKEEPERS

PJ MORRISON

27/02/1998



DEFENDERS

Scott TAGGART

27/12/1991

183 CM 75 KG



Calum WATERS

10/03/1996



Morgyn NEILL

10/03/1996



Neil PARRY

08/11/1985



Andy GRAHAM

22/09/1983

188 CM 85 KG



David MCKAY

17/06/1998



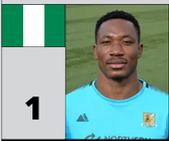
Kane THOMSON

22/03/2004



Tochukwu OGAYI

10/10/1996



David DEVINE

20/06/2001



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





THE GAFFER'S THOUGHTS

Warm welcome to Gary Naysmith and his staff for today's game.

Gary did a great job winning league 2 with plenty games to spare. A real moment of history for stenhousmuir winning their first ever league title and congratulations to them.

We have had a frustrating start with 2 draws so far but both games

especially the home one are games we had opportunities to win. One thing is for sure we will always play to win games and today will be no different. As a manager I would rather lose a game trying to win it than settle for a draw.

Hope you enjoy the game

All the best

Andy

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- ✓ **Financial Settlements**
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LEWIS RUSSELL



NEWSDESK

Today we welcome our closest league opponents with the visit of Stenhousemuir. Stenny are the reigning League 2 champions and kicked off flag day with a win over Arbroath before a defeat to Kelty which leaves them one point ahead of the Wasps in 4th spot at this early juncture.

The Wasps were without Scougall and Roberts last week and there's a good possibility of a Scougall return while Kurtis is awaiting the results of scan. David Devine remains injured but

it's a much less serious injury to his hamstring than first feared.

Alloa will learn their opponents in the SPFL Trust Trophy on Monday with the draw for the Third Round taking place on Youtube from 1pm.

WASP 2000 DRAW

Wk 32

100	E Ramsey	684
50	J Reekie	1267
25	C Fraser	138

CLUB DOC'S RUNNING

Our Club Doctor Andrew Deeley is doing the Great North Run on 8th September and Great Scottish run on 6th October for Borne charity. Let's hope he's not got to show a turn of pace on the pitch anytime soon.

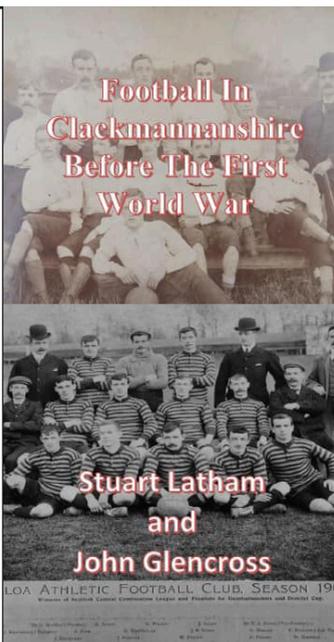
If you would like to donate you can do so by following the qr code:



ATHLETIC FOOTBALL MEMORIBILIA EXHIBITION

Just to say thanks to all who messaged me (John Glencross) while I was recently back in hospital, now back and have reopened my Alloa Athletic Football Memorabilia Exhibition in Castle Street on Friday's & Saturday's, between 11am - 2pm, Admission is free but any donations help to build this exhibition and make it even larger.

I've produced a new book that's now available - Football in Clackmannanshire before First World War £ 15 and also new Alloa Athletic Football Memorabilia mugs now available.



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JONATHAN MARKWELL



PLAYING AGAINST 10 MEN

Alloa's excellent Premier Sports Cup victory over St Johnstone last month saw a fair few records tumble. It was the Wasps first victory over the Saints at the Recs since 1958 (in that time Alloa had triumphed in Perth in 2004, 1987 and 1977 respectively, but the Saints were undefeated in their previous 15 visits to Clackmannanshire), the fourth time Alloa had beaten top tier opposition since the introduction of the group stages in 2016 (adding to successes over Ross County and Inverness CT in 2016 and Livingston in 2021) and a maiden cup upset in the fledgling managerial career

of Andy Graham. Another less obvious record was also broken that night, as for the first time in seventy-three matches that the Wasps enjoyed the benefits of playing against a side reduced to ten men.

Prior to Aaron Essel's needless dismissal for stamping on Steven Buchanan, which undoubtedly boosted the Wasps chances of victory over Craig Levein's side, you have to go all the way back to November 2022 for the last time Alloa had a numerical advantage on the pitch. In the subsequent twenty months the opposition

have somehow always retained a full compliment of players on the pitch. For context, in that same timespan Alloa were reduced to ten men on seven separate occasions (specifically, Cammy O'Donnell at Edinburgh in November 2022 and George Stanger in the final game of the 2022/3 season, together with last seasons dismissals of Stevie Hetherington at Ayr, David McKay versus both Stirling and Cove, Kevin Cawley at Montrose and Morgyn Neill at Hamilton).

That seventy-three match sequence is in-fact the longest stretch of games the Wasps

have gone without playing against ten men for at least 28 years. I cannot confirm the exact length of time of that particular statistic, as my own personal records only go back to 1996!

My research has established that in recent years the Wasps have played against ten men on far fewer occasions than in years gone by, which was a surprising outcome and one which I was not anticipating. The ever changing laws of the game, in particular the crackdowns on tackling and dissent, means that my perception is that there is an ever increasing amount of red cards being issued in games. That may be so, but it hasn't been reflected in Alloa's opposition at least, who only rarely give the Wasps the benefit of playing against ten men.

In the previous 10 seasons Alloa's opposition have been reduced to ten men on only 15 occasions, with only a single instance of Alloa playing against nine men (Rhys McCabe joining Ayo Obileye for an early bath in the Wasps 3-2 victory over Queen of the South in March 2021). In contrast, in the ten previous seasons before the last decade (between 2004/05 and 2013/14) opposition players were dismissed on 48 occasions (three times more often than in the past decade), with 45 seeing red in the 8 seasons prior to that too (1996/97 – 2003/04). Accordingly, there has been a significant reduction in red-cards for opposing players in Alloa games in recent years.

In addition to the just ended seventy-three match hiatus, there have also been other recent spells of over a year when the opposition didn't see red in games involving Alloa.

Most recently, there was a run of 54 games between January 2019 (when current Kilmarnock midfielder Brad Lyons debut in Scottish football only lasted 28 minutes for St Mirren) and October 2020 (Josh McPake's dismissal for Morton in the league opener of the shortened 2020/21 season). Just prior to that, Alloa went 52 matches without playing against ten men, running from Graeme Smith's dismissal for Brechin in April 2017 (in a match Alloa went onto win 6-1, after being 3-1 ahead when the keeper was ordered off) to Iain Davidson's red-card in May 2018 during Alloa's 2-0 play-off win over Raith. In contrast, between ten and twenty years ago the Wasps regularly played against ten men, with there only being one stretch

of games longer than 30 matches without that occurring.

My perception has always been that Alloa are reduced to ten men far more often than the opposition. That has certainly been the case in the past decade, with 38 sending-offs in that time (more than double the number of opposing players seeing red). In-fact, in nine of the past ten seasons Alloa have been reduced to ten men on more occasions than our opponents. That overall total of 38 is however far reduced compared with the previous decade, when 47 Wasps were ordered-off (which was actually one fewer than opposing players). Things have turned full circle from around the Millennium, when the Wasps were masters of



opposing players being sent-off more frequently than Tom Hendrie's and Terry Christie's Alloa sides of the time. In-fact, for eight seasons in a row between 1996 and 2004 the opposition received more red cards in games against Alloa than the Wasps did!

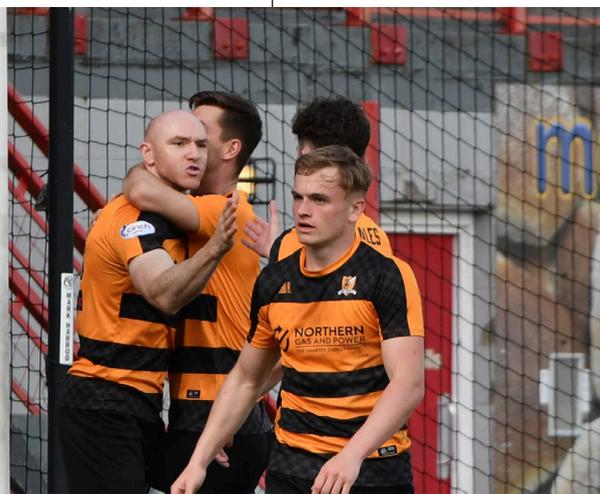
Games are typically a completely different spectacle once a sending-off occurs. The traditional plan of action for the team a player down is to retreat into a defensive shape if they have something to protect, performing a low block and trying to hit the opposition on swift counter attacks or relying on scoring from set-pieces. For the attacking team, it is all about making the pitch as big as possible and shifting the ball quickly, trying to move the opposition around and creating overloads in the final third of the pitch in order to pepper the goalmouth with attacks.

There have been some tactical revolutions of late which have seen teams approach things slightly differently though. For example, Ange Postecoglou raised plenty of eyebrows



down south last season after Spurs played a high line despite being down to nine men versus Chelsea. I would also contend that Andy Graham found an effective way of playing with ten men last season too. This was first showcased in the eventual 4-3 defeat at Montrose in March, with Andy switching to a 4-2-2-1 formation, which conceded possession on the flanks but kept the team strong and dangerous in the middle of the pitch. With the Wasps 3-2 down in the game, but playing well (on the back of five successive victories in February) there was little point in defending, so a tactical tweak kept Alloa in the game despite the numerical disadvantage. Conor Sammon was brought on

to act as a fulcrum at the top of the pitch, with teenagers Bobby Wales and Taylor Steven (together the combined age of Sammon!) effectively playing as two 'number 10's', getting through a power of work by tracking back on the wings, before springing to life when the Wasps did get the ball and surging forward with fearless running to relieve some of the pressure and keep Alloa a potent force going forward. That day Kurtis Roberts and Stefan Scougall were the two deep lying midfielders, who broke up the attacks before supplying the passes for the young loanees to cause havoc higher up the pitch. The width the Wasps did have came solely from the full backs, with Scott Taggart and



Ethan Sutherland having to perform dual roles of defensive full-backs, before doubling up as deep lying wingers to offer Alloa another attacking outlet.

That day Montrose didn't appear to have an answer to Alloa's enterprising play with ten men, with Bobby Wales equalising and it only looking like it was the Wasps who would go onto win the match with a succession of chances being created. Alas, a late set-piece proved Alloa's undoing on the day, with keeper PJ Morrison even seeing two goal-bound headers cleared to prevent an unlikely point being gained. Although the Wasps ultimately came out on the wrong side of the scoreline, the efforts from the players was outstanding and an enterprising way of playing with ten men was shown, which meant I couldn't

have been prouder in defeat that day. Andy probably learnt more from his players in defeat that afternoon, with each standing up and being counted in the face of adversity and it almost proving a textbook example of how to play with ten men.

In the play-offs at Hamilton the Wasps tried to repeat the trick during the final forty five minutes of the second leg, once again introducing Sammon as the lone frontman, ably supported by the swashbuckling presence of Steven and Wales in a 4-2-2-1 formation. Again, the tactics worked really well, with Sammon levelling the tie on aggregate and Alloa arguably asking more questions than a laboured Accies outfit. Again though, the Wasps ultimately fell short, as the concession of the wide areas eventually proved the Wasps undoing. Lewis

Smith's tricky wing-play teed up the winner for Akheem Rose and the Accies triumphed against the Wasps for a second successive season in the play-offs. It did however again demonstrate the Wasps had a fresh plan which so nearly paid off, and certainly made for a much more exciting contest than playing a 4-5-0 formation and going out with a whimper after inevitably conceding like you so see so often with a 10-man team. While it did mean that the team's promotion dream had once again ended, the manner of defeat felt so much more positive than twelve months earlier. As such, if Alloa are reduced to ten men this season, write the Wasps off at your peril!

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LEWIS RUSSELL



FAN'S VIEW

Alloa's opening two games have yielded positives with the one glaring negative of both games being draws!

We opened the season with Queen of the South who were the bookies favourites for the League 1 title before a ball had been kicked. While Queen of the South had players out through injury and could only muster 4 players on the bench, it was expected to be a tough test for Alloa.

The game, however, turned into a bit of a damp squib 0-0. Queen of the South mustered just three attempts on target at

PJ Morrison's goal while Alloa lacked that needed quality and luck to open the scoring. Kevin Cawley passed up a massive early opportunity after Buchanan cut back to him on the six yard box only for the veteran midfielder to lift the ball over the expectant goal. Luke Rankin did smash the cross-bar with a second half header and Alloa were potentially denied a fairly objective penalty with an outstretched Queen of the South arm stopping the ball reaching Steven Buchanan on the edge of the six yard box. Late on Shay Nevans did miss

the target as Alloa scrambled to find the right option in the box but in the end the Wasps were frustrated. Queen of the South's gameplan was to have numbers behind the ball and clearly focused on maintaining their defensive workrate through the game at the expense of throwing men forward in the hopes of an opening day win. I think the average positions of both sets of players shows the outlook of both teams with Alloa's full backs both high up and just in general the ball being played much deeper in Queen of the South's half. Docherty and

Craik did offer more of an outlet as the game reached the dying embers but they were delighted to get a point on a day they didn't cause Alloa an awful lot of problems.

Thankfully the second game away to Dumbarton was not characterised by a lack of goals. Unfortunately it was dominated by the strong easterly wind blowing from Alloa to Dumbarton's goal in the first half. A less than perfect time then for Steven Hetherington to make a backpass - which fell short for the anticipating Michael Ruth to run onto and beat PJ Morrison open his league tally for 2024/25. He bagged 9 in 33 appearances in last year's League 2.

Alloa's disastrous opening five minutes was met with no fear as Kane Thomson making his second appearance for the Wasps had a shot saved. He'd then turn provider a few minutes later delivering a cross to the back post - Dumbarton managed to head directly upwards but quickest to react was Luke Donnelly who lifted his gangly leg and audaciously flicked the ball to the bottom corner. Steven Hetherington almost set up Finlay Gray for a carbon copy of Dumbarton's opener but this time good work from Morrison, McKay and Virtanen stamped out any danger.

Alloa would then take the lead with a lofted diagonal landing expertly on Donnelly's touch - it seemed like all he had to do was touch in toward goal and finish but instead Luke took two defenders out of the equation by a single touch backward to lay off Kevin Cawley and the Alloa number seven continued what has been a renaissance start to the season by drilling into

the bottom corner. Ruth would pass up a wonderful cross from Orsi to equalise and Alloa would excruciatingly waste a massive opportunity to extend the lead before half time as Buchanan was picked out perfectly from Rankin's crossfield delivery. One vs one with the Dumbarton goalkeeper though the youngster drilled his shot into the ground and at the keeper and failed to claim the ball from the resulting scramble.

The Wasps managed to maneuver the first half with the advantage but the sides were about to switch with wind advantage in the favour of the hosts. The first chance of the second did fall for Rankin as Waters' ball up the channel wasn't dealt with by Mikey Miller and Alloa's young finisher robbed the centre half and set himself for what looked like a sure goal. Placed in the bottom corner though Brett Long produced a strong palm to deny the Wasps striker his 4th goal of the season. Rankin would have another massive opportunity with Buchanan's cutback finding

him in the centre and knocking the ball beyond a defender to give him a clear shot at goal. Brett Long though stayed big for the first shot to ricochet and the return effort from Rankin could only ripple the side netting.

Dumbarton would benefit from a corner and a partial clearance from Buchanan dropping perfectly for James Hilton to take one touch out his feet and rattle an unstoppable finish into the bottom corner to draw the home side level. From there the viewing from an Alloa perspective became ominous as for almost 20 minutes Dumbarton peppered the Alloa goal with opportunities. Michael Ruth, Joel Mumbongo and Mark Durnan all having incisive moments that had Alloa hearts racing. Finlay Gray would finally decisively cut the Wasps open with Dave McKay closing down and leaving Ruth to run in behind and lift the ball over Morrison's trailing leg.

However, the Sons might have shot themselves in the foot with Mark Durnan calling for two banks of four and shutting up



shop for a hard fought three points. Alloa finally strung some passes together and were rewarded with a free-kick in shooting range for substitute Cameron O'Donnell. He directed a strong effort on target only for Long to punch away. Alloa reacted first to the punch with Cawley taking the ball and swinging a delivery across the box for Scott Taggart to glance wide from 6 yards. The captain though would be the man to drag Alloa back six minutes from the end with a 30 yard effort finding the top corner. Whether it was luckily looped over the goalkeeper by Mark Durman's glancing contact or would've naturally found the back of the net we will never know but regardless the Wasps again dug deep in the face of adversity to avoid defeat. Andy Graham later remarking how easy it would have been in the windy conditions down a goal with limited time remaining to make an excuse and say it wasn't our day but the Wasps fought admirably.

Personally reflecting on the game I was delighted to have escaped with a point but Andy Graham was disappointed at the continual breakdown of Alloa's passing game and focused his disappointment on what could have been if we implemented more of it. However that being said the quality of the goals for Alloa was really enjoyable.

Luke Donnelly may always look languid and labored in his movements but was back to his genius best with some quality touches at the dangerous end of the field. If we can regularly get that from him without succumbing to another injury blighted season like the last we'll have ample firepower with Luke



Rankin and Conor Sammon up front.

Kevin Cawley's great start to the season also continues full steam ahead with another influential performance. While last year there was an embarrassment of riches on the channels and playing time was at a premium, he's playing the most important role for the Wasps that I think he's done in the last five years. While father time remains undefeated and his pace has diminished his anticipation and execution remains one of Alloa's most potent threats with his footwork already sending a few players to the cleaners.

Would be harsh not to highlight the impact of Kane Thomson in his two first full 90 minutes. Defensively has had no qualms and has been a real outlet going forward - again something I've highlighted again and again is how much of an engine and dynamism he's bringing to the right side - it's been an

easy task to forget the attacking strengths that Scott Taggart has showcased throughout his Alloa career on that right side as he's pushed inside to the role of centre half instead.

Finally, though, while I was very comfortable in the Queen of the South game with our defence and impressed with our goals against Dumbarton - we need to improve in the most vital tally - winning games. The league so far has shown very little between the teams and it could well be that 6-7 teams are vying for promotion playoffs or even the title. While last year fortress Recreation Park was substituted for well-traveling Alloa as the Wasps gained more points away than at home lets hope that Saturday we can return to winning ways with all the best bits we've displayed so far this season on show against League 2 champions Stenhousemuir.



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	2 (0)	0	4 (0)	0	6 (0)	0	32 (1)	0
TAGGART	DEF	2 (0)	1	4 (0)	1	6 (0)	2	267 (2)	17
WATERS	DEF	2 (0)	0	4 (0)	0	6 (0)	0	42 (0)	1
GRAHAM	DEF	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	190 (8)	14
NEILL	DEF	0 (0)	0	3 (0)	1	3 (0)	1	34 (0)	0
MCKAY	DEF	2 (0)	0	4 (0)	0	6 (0)	0	16 (5)	1
THOMSON	DEF	2 (0)	0	0 (2)	0	2 (2)	0	2 (0)	0
DEVINE	DEF	0 (0)	0	1 (0)	0	1 (0)	0	33 (3)	0
HETHERINGTON	MID	2 (0)	0	2 (0)	0	4 (0)	0	159 (33)	6
CAWLEY	MID	2 (0)	1	4 (0)	1	6 (0)	2	340 (56)	65
ROBERTS	MID	1 (0)	0	4 (0)	0	5 (0)	0	37 (0)	4
NEVANS	MID	0 (1)	0	0 (2)	0	0 (3)	0	0 (1)	0
SCOUGALL	MID	1 (0)	0	3 (0)	0	4 (0)	0	83 (22)	8
VIRTANEN	MID	1 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	1 (0)	0	14 (11)	1
O'DONNELL	MID	0 (2)	0	1 (1)	0	1 (3)	0	33 (42)	11
MULLEN	MID	0 (0)	0	1 (3)	0	1 (3)	0	0 (0)	0
DONNELLY	FWD	1 (1)	1	0 (3)	0	1 (4)	1	19 (28)	10
SAMMON	FWD	0 (1)	0	1 (1)	1	1 (2)	1	62 (45)	27
BUCHANAN	FWD	2 (0)	0	4 (0)	0	6 (0)	0	12 (27)	2
RANKIN	FWD	2 (0)	0	3 (0)	3	5 (0)	3	2 (11)	1





**ARMSTRONG
PRINTING
(ALLOA) LTD**

ALLOA CAREER CUP		ALLOA TOTAL	
APP	GOAL	APP	GOAL
2 (0)	0	10 (1)	0
35 (0)	0	0 (0)	0
18 (0)	0	50 (1)	0
62 (1)	4	329 (3)	21
15 (0)	1	57 (0)	2
54 (3)	1	244 (11)	15
9 (1)	2	43 (1)	2
9 (2)	0	25 (7)	1
0 (2)	0	2 (2)	0
3 (1)	0	36 (4)	0
35 (9)	1	194 (42)	7
71 (12)	13	411 (68)	78
10 (1)	0	47 (1)	4
0 (2)	0	0 (3)	0
22 (8)	2	105 (30)	10
3 (3)	0	17 (14)	1
10 (3)	0	43 (45)	11
1 (3)	0	1 (3)	0
4 (7)	2	23 (35)	12
19 (5)	10	81 (50)	37
10 (4)	1	22 (31)	3
3 (6)	3	5 (17)	4

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JOHN GLENCROSS



PLAYED FOR BOTH TEAMS - ROSS HAMILTON

ROSS HAMILTON HE PLAYED FOR BOTH TEAMS

BORN: 17.06.80

HEIGHT: 5.10 WEIGHT: 11.00

SIGNED: STENHOUSEMUIR, JULY, 2000

OTHER CLUBS:- STENHOUSEMUIR AND GRAHAMSTON B.C.

Club's most expensive signing, reportedly costing £ 26,000, which was disputed by the Alloa directors when bought from local rivals Stenhousemuir at start of season 2000/2001 ending up top scorer in first season with eleven goals, four of these in

one game against Airdrie which was pleasing in first season in First Division. Following season in Second Division Ross managed eight goals to add to his goal tally for club. Ross was a regular scorer since joining the club from Stenhousemuir in the summer of 2000.

The PE teacher's most prolific season was in 2003-4 when he finished top goal scorer with fourteen strikes. That included one purple patch that saw Ross score eight goals in ten games. This was coincidentally immediately after Tom Hendrie began his second spell in charge of the club. During this run

Hamilton notched up a hat-trick against Forfar at Recreation Park, Ross's second for the club. The first came during his first season at the club during a 6-0 thrashing of Airdrieonians when he scored four that night thanks to a header, a close range finish and two strikes after receiving passes from Gareth Evans. Ross would have fancied his chances of making it a hat-trick of hat-tricks during the Scottish Cup tie against Selkirk which Alloa won 9-0. However, he was withdrawn at the interval after scoring twice during the first half.

Arguably one of Ross's best goals came in his first season at the club, during the home defeat of local rivals Falkirk. Ross picked up a loose ball within his own half and set off on a mazy run that took him past three or four defenders. Hammy then finished well with a low strike that went into the corner of the net having dribbled 70 yards with the ball. Another of Ross's finest strikes came away at Morton in March 2004. This time he ran from the halfway line, sidestepping a defender before firing home from the edge of the box. This included his first goals for the club, in a Bell's Challenge Cup tie against Inverness CT on 15th August 2000, putting Alloa 2-0 ahead after only 7 minutes, Ross

scored in the opening minute and then doubled his tally after 7 minutes, Alloa had started Season 2000-01 on fire, being unbeaten in their opening three matches – defeating Raith Rovers 2-1 (A), defeating Clydebank 2-0 (A) and drawing 1-1 (H) with Ayr United. The team was full of confidence and should never have let Inverness CT back into the game, Alloa lost the drive of mark Wilson after only 25 minutes to be replaced with Richard Huxford who was a more defensive player, Terry Christie then put on young Charlie Brigain up front leaving Willie Irvine on the bench. Caley scored a goal back through Ian Stewart and then he notched a 2nd with eight minutes left, only as Terry decided it was time for Willie

Irvine who should have been on earlier. Three minutes later the comeback was complete when Martin Bavidge scored the winner in an inexcusable defeat for "The Wasps".

Ross went on to make 268 appearances for "The Wasps" Scoring 57 goals in his time at Alloa, making him one of the top ten goal scorers at the club since 1945-46.

Ross then returned to Stenhousemuir before moving to Bonnyrigg Rose in 2013-14. Ross continues to be a PE Teacher at Larbert High School where he joined after graduating from University of Edinburgh in 2002, having been a pupil at Larbert High School 1992-98.





STENHOUSEMUIR

The Warriors

FOUNDED

1884

GROUND

Ochilview Park, Stenhousemuir

TOP HONOURS

SCOTTISH LEAGUE TWO

Winners 2023-24

Runners up 1998-99

CHALLENGE CUP

Winners 1995-96

STIRLINGSHIRE CUP

Winners: 1899-1900, 1901-02, 1921-22, 1932-33, 1936-37, 1962-63, 1970-71, 1975-76, 1986-87, 2001-02, 2014-15

This afternoon we welcome Stenhousemuir to the Indodrill Stadium as we continue the League 1 campaign and seek our first victory. It is the second game in a row where we will take on a team who have come up last season from League 2, however, this time it is the champions, Stenhousemuir. It was a historic season at Ochilview last year as the club stormed to their first ever league title win and returned to League 1. After a 12-game winning run in the middle of the season, Stenny strolled the title finishing 8 points ahead of closest

challengers, Peterhead. A tough run in the League Cup began their campaign before they started the league in perfect fashion. A tricky tie against Arbroath was successfully overcome 2-1 on the opening day, before they fell to a 2-0 defeat to Kelty Hearts a week later. Sitting a point ahead of the Wasps, both clubs will be looking to return to winning ways this afternoon.

THE BOSS – GARY NAYSMITH

Having written his name in Stenhousemuir history forevermore, Gary Naysmith contin-

ues to be at the helm of the visitors. The former left-back is most known in his playing days for spells at Hearts, where he won the 1998 Scottish Cup, and Everton, where he spent 7 years. Naysmith also earned 46 caps for Scotland and was part of the 2006 Kirin Cup winning team. In what started as a player assistant role at East Fife, he took his first flurries into management at Bayview in 2013. After winning League 2 in 2016, he departed for full-time football at Queen of the South and subsequently had a spell at Edinburgh City for a year before departing for Stenhousemuir in





2023. Doubling his League 2 medal tally this year at Ochilview, he will be looking to continue his success with the club now they are back in League 1.

THE CAPTAIN – GREGOR BUCHANAN

6ft3 towering defender, Gregor Buchanan, is the skipper for the opposition this afternoon. The 34-year-old has had a long and illustrious career, playing for Airdrie, Dunfermline, Dumbarton, St Mirren, Livingston, Morton, Falkirk, Queen of the South, and eventually Stenhousemuir where he has been since 2023. During that time, he has been a stalwart of the Scottish lower leagues with his commanding nature in the box and leadership qualities. Last season he contributed at both ends with 7 goals across his 35 appearances

in the league. He will likely need to be as consistent defensively in the league above should his side have success this season.

NEW BOY – BLAIR ALSTON

Stenhousemuir's latest signing is experienced midfielder, Blair Alston. The Falkirk-born 32-year-old began his career at his boyhood club where he spent 6 years and was part of the Challenge Cup winning team of 2012. Since then, he went on to have successful spells at St Johnstone, Hamilton, Kilmarnock, where he won the Scottish Championship, and most recently Partick Thistle. Alston caught the eye and reminded everyone of his talent in the latest Premiership Play-offs with his 3 strikes in the two legs of the semi finals against Raith Rovers. With over 450 appearances in his career and 60 goals,

he will add a 'new dimension' to the League 2 champions and be a real asset for the season ahead. He made his debut in the 2-0 defeat to Kelty Hearts last weekend as he now looks to build up fitness and sharpness for the season ahead.

ONE TO WATCH – MATTY AITKEN

The man to watch this afternoon is one of the visitor's potent threats up front, Matty Aitken. Formerly of Forfar and Albion Rovers, Aitken joined Stenhousemuir in July 2023 and has been a roaring success since. Aitken played a crucial role in his sides promotion scoring 14 goals across the season, most of them coming in that superb winning streak in the middle of the season. As the season pro-

CONTINUED ON P32



BY KIEREN MOONEY

gressed and the league became wrapped up, the goals dried up as his side experienced 7 draws in a row, however, his work and impressive numbers was already enough to put them on the top of the table. Aitken grabbed his first strike of the season in the opening League Cup game against Buckie Thistle but hasn't found the back of the net since. It did mean a place on the bench in the most recent fixture against Kelty, however, with his track record, Alloa will have to be wary of him should he play.

THE CONNECTION

There will be 2 former faces returning to the club today. Firstly, we welcome Nicky Jamieson back to the Indodrill. The centre half joined the club in 2020 during Peter Grant's COVID season in the Championship. After not getting as

many minutes as he desired, he made the switch to Ochilview a year later and has been a mainstay in the Stenhousemuir defence ever since. Secondly, Adam Brown returns to Alloa. We have seen Brown since after his appearance and goal for the Wasps Legends team in the Kevin Cawley Testimonial Match and he has done well at Stenhousemuir to earn a place in their equivalent team should they ever have one. Brown had a 3-year stint at the Wasps from 2018 to 2021 and will be remembered fondly for some eye-catching long-range goals, particularly against Dunfermline. In the Alloa ranks, Morgyn Neill is one of the players playing against his former side. Another commanding centre half, Neill played for Stenny for a season in 2018/19.

PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The teams most recently met in the League Cup last season with the Wasps coming out 3-1 victors at Ochilview. Adam Brown opened the scoring against his former side before a Steven Buchanan strike before half-time meant the sides went in level. 2nd half strikes from Conor Sammon and Morgyn Neill gave Alloa all the points. Prior to that, it was another League Cup game, this time here in Alloa, where the sides met. Again, Alloa took the spoils that day 4-2. The Wasps did find themselves 2-0 down at the break with goals from Cameron Graham and a familiar face, Greig Spence. However, veteran striker, Liam Buchanan notched a 2nd half hat-trick before a Stevie Hetherington late strike put the cherry on the cake for Alloa.





William **HILL**

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MUNGO MCALLUM

LOOKING BACK 19TH AUGUST 1989

Celtic led the way in The Premier Division, after a 1-0 home win over newcomers Dunfermline maintained The Celts 100% start to the new season, while they'd also yet to have a goal scored against them. Aberdeen, also still yet to concede after a 0-0 draw at Motherwell, were second, while Hibs, 2-1 home winners v reigning Champions Rangers were third. Dundee, who overcame local rivals Dundee United by 4-3 in a thrilling contest at Dens Park, moved into fourth spot, while Dunfermline lay one place behind The Dee. Rangers defeat meant that they were pointless

so far in the defence of their title, and they rather uncharacteristically propped up the table. Dundee United lay just one place above The Gers, while Hearts success moved them up off the bottom, up to eighth.

In The First Division, Partick, seeking a return to The Premier League after an eight-season absence, had made a sound start in their bid for promotion, and they topped the table, after defeating promoted Albion Rovers by 4-0 at Firhill. Raith occupied second place after a second successive 2-0 victory, this time at Falkirk, St. Johnstone, also boasting a 100% record so

far, were third, after a 2-1 home victory v Clydebank, were third, while Clyde, also with a maximum points return so far, following their second consecutive 1-0 win, at Morton, lay in fourth place. Alloa, back in The First for the first time since 1986, had made a bad start, losing their opening fixture by 0-1 at home v St. Johnstone. However, The Wasps now got off the winning mark, when they came from behind to win 3-1 at Meadowbank, thanks to a second-half hat-trick from Mungo McCallum. Alloa had lined up at Meadowbank Stadium as follows: Ronnie Lowrie, Larry Haggart, Robert Lee,

Bobby Robertson, Harry Erwin, John Gibson, Billy Blackie, Billy Paxton (Stevie Ramsay), Mungo McCallum, Iain Lee, Charlie Lytwyn (Peter Lamont). Mungo McCallum had signed for Alloa from Larkhall Thistle as a prolific goal scorer in January, 1989 he went on to play 58 games for "The Wasps" scoring 22 goals in a career plagued by injury, on his day when fit he was a player to win any game, he later played with Stenhousemuir, Stirling Albion and East Stirlingshire before having to give up game in 1996 due to injury, sadly he died in 2003 at a young age of 48. Meadowbank thus occupied bottom spot, while Morton and Clydebank, also both still pointless so far, lay immediately above Thistle.

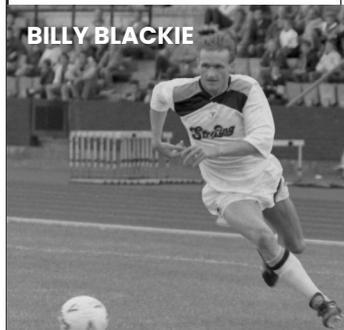
Brechin, having narrowly missed out on promotion from The Second Division the previous season, had made a positive start to make amends this time round. And their 4-0 home success v Dumbarton meant they'd taken a maximum points haul so far, and without conceding

a single goal, as they led the table. Queen's Park, also with a 100% record after two games, thanks to a 3-2 home win v East Stirling, were second, Arbroath, despite being held 1-1 at home by relegated Kilmarnock, still occupied third spot, while The Red Litchties fierce local rivals Montrose were fourth, after a 1-0 win at Cowdenbeath. The other demoted side, Queen Of The South, lay in fifth place, after their initial win of the season, by 4-2 at home v Berwick, while today's visitors Stenhousemuir, also registered their first success of the 1989-90 campaign, 3-2 at East Fife, thanks to goals from Walker (2) & Yardley. The Warriors thus occupied ninth place, but Cowdenbeath, pointless so far after their defeat, propped up the table.

South of the border, it was the opening day of the English league season. And First Division Champions Arsenal made a bad start to their defence of their title, when they went down 1-4 v Manchester United in front of just over 47,000 onlookers at

Old Trafford, ex-Celt Brian McClair netting one of United's goals. But runners-up Liverpool fared much better, defeating newly-promoted Manchester City by 3-1 at Anfield, while Spurs, another side with title ambitions, were also victorious on home soil, when they overcame Luton 2-1 at White Hart Lane.

BILLY BLACKIE



BILLY PAXTON



HALF TIME QUIZ

- 1. WHICH STENNY PLAYER IS THE LONGEST SERVING MEMBER AT THE CLUB AFTER BEING ANNOUNCED ON THE 15TH MAY 2021?**
- 2. WHICH MONTY PYTHON ACTOR SUPPORTS STENHOUSEMUIR?**
- 3. THE SPFL TRUST TROPHY SECOND ROUND WENT AHEAD THIS WEEK WITH JUST 4 OF EVERYONE'S FAVOURITE PREMIER LEAGUE B TEAMS LEFT IN THE COMPETITION. WHOSE B TEAMS MADE IT OUT THE FIRST ROUND?**
- 4. RANGERS WENT OUT OF THE CHAMPIONS LEAGUE QUALIFICATION LAST NIGHT WITH A 2-0 DEFEAT TO DYNAMO KYIV AT HAMPDEN. HOW MUCH ACCORDING TO ESTIMATES IS A SHOT IN THE CHAMPIONS LEAGUE GROUP STAGES WORTH?**
- 5. ST MIRREN AND KILMARNOCK TRAVEL TO NORWAY TO DECIDE THEIR EUROPA CONFERENCE FATES. WHICH SIDES ARE EACH TAKING ON RESPECTIVELY?**



CAPPED BY SCOTLAND

James Hepburn is a name Alloa Athletic FC fans can recall when asked "Have any players which while playing for your club ever been capped at international level".

James Hepburn was capped for Scotland v. Wales (A) on 21st March, 1891, playing in defence in a 4-3 victory.

However, it would be totally remiss, if the name of James Ritchie was not added to this list. James signed for Alloa Athletic FC from Giffnock Juniors in Glasgow choosing to join "The Wasps" although he had opportunities to go down south with Blackpool very keen on gaining

his signature.

"Big Jim" was an impressive Goalkeeper and was a great signing for the Recreation Park side where he could stay part-time as an amateur rather than choosing to go full time, Hibernian were also keeping a close eye on his progress.

In 1909 a band of men associated with Queen's Park FC, the Glasgow and District Former pupils League and the Scottish Association, decided that the furtherance of the code of Amateurism would benefit from direct control of Amateur Football. The Scottish Amateur

Football Association came into being with three main ideas.

- 1.The promotion and control of the code of Amateurism in Football

- 2.The operation of a National Cup Competition

- 3.The inauguration of international matches.

The initial membership was about 20 clubs and membership was voluntary, this state existed until 1912 with very little increase in membership.

After the First World War the Association re-started with a limited membership, but by 1922 there were around 200

members.

The association then became affiliated to the Scottish Football Association with representation on that body and a mandate for the responsibility of all amateur football in Scotland.

Season 1926-27 saw the fulfilment of the third objective and the commencement of Amateur Football Internationals by the SFA. Again, the advent of the Second World War saw the association continue on a modified scale and the disbandment of many clubs.

The full activities recommenced in 1945-46, but there was no amateur Internationals which lasted to 1948. It might be stated that all Amateur Football was dependent on financial outcome of the association as it never set out to accumulate funds, there were no paid officials full time or not. Soon the Association had grown in

strength and numbers with 55 different Leagues and over 1,000 clubs in membership shortly after the end of World War Two.

James Ritchie signed for Alloa Athletic on 4th August, 1951 having ended Season 1950-51 as a "Trialist" with Alloa Athletic. He had already played on three occasions for the Scotland International Amateur side making his debut v. Wales on 17th February, 1951, v. England on 7th April, 1951 and Northern Ireland on 19th May, 1951.

In season 1951-52 he represented a Scottish Division Two select side against the Irish on 15th April, 1952. At club level with Alloa Athletic he made 35 appearances during Season 1951-52 as the club finished 7th in the "B" Division behind Champions Clyde. In the Scottish Cup, Ritchie was in goals as Alloa Athletic visited New Hawthorn Park in Duns, winning 2-1, in the

next round they drew 0-0 with Berwick Rangers, before losing the replay 4-1 in front of 7,000 supporters. While with Alloa Athletic James Ritchie was to make another four international appearances – 1st March, 1952 v. Wales, 15th March, 1952 v. England at Wembley, 12th April, 1952 v. Northern Ireland & 24th May, 1952 v. Eire.

James then moved to Douglas Park on 14th July 1952 to join Hamilton Accies where he made 47 appearances and was capped another twice v. Northern Ireland 14th February 1953 and v. Wales on 7th March, 1953. He made 47 appearances for Hamilton Accies before a short move to Third Lanark.

His final club was Dumbarton where he made 47 appearances in season 1955-56.

...inspiring, his young team and the team was playing their best game for a long time.

○ ○ ○
Syme scored after 15 minutes from a foul kick. Oakbank equalised after 20 minutes and were battling hard. Fox crossed and Dawson dived and headed a great goal.



QUIZ ANSWERS

1. FORMER ALLOA MIDFIELDER ADAM BROWN, HE'S BEEN AT STENNY FOR THREE SEASONS AFTER LEAVING THE WASPS
2. MICHAEL PALIN, SENT HIS CONGRATULATIONS AT THE END OF LAST SEASON AND SAID HE LOOKS OUT FOR THE SCORES AFTER EXPLORING MAKING A FILM AT STENHOUSEMUIR.
3. ST JOHNSTONE, DUNDEE, DUNDEE UNITED, RANGERS
4. £37,000,000 BEFORE TICKET SALES
5. SK BRANN AND TROMSO IL



24-25

WILLIAM HILL

LEAGUE 1

FIXTURES



AUGUST

03	QUEEN OF THE SOUTH	HOME
10	DUMBARTON	AWAY
17	STENHOUSEMUIR	HOME
24	ANNAN ATHLETIC	AWAY
31	ARBROATH	AWAY

SEPTEMBER

14	INVERNESS CT	HOME
21	KELTY HEARTS	HOME
28	MONTROSE	AWAY

OCTOBER

05	COVE RANGERS	HOME
19	STENHOUSEMUIR	AWAY
26	ARBROATH	HOME

NOVEMBER

02	ANNAN ATHLETIC	HOME
09	QUEEN OF THE SOUTH	AWAY
16	INVERNESS CT	AWAY
23	DUMBARTON	HOME

DECEMBER

07	KELTY HEARTS	AWAY
14	MONTROSE	HOME
21	COVE RANGERS	AWAY
28	STENHOUSEMUIR	HOME

JANUARY

04	ARBROATH	AWAY
11	QUEEN OF THE SOUTH	HOME
25	INVERNESS CT	HOME

FEBRUARY

01	DUMBARTON	AWAY
08	MONTROSE	AWAY
15	KELTY HEARTS	HOME
22	ANNAN ATHLETIC	AWAY

MARCH

01	COVE RANGERS	HOME
08	ARBROATH	HOME
15	QUEEN OF THE SOUTH	AWAY
22	INVERNESS CT	AWAY
29	DUMBARTON	HOME

APRIL

05	STENHOUSEMUIR	AWAY
12	ANNAN ATHLETIC	HOME
19	COVE RANGERS	AWAY
26	MONTROSE	HOME

MAY

03	KELTY HEARTS	AWAY
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ALLO ATHLETIC



STENHOUSEMUIR

#	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				
	1		DARREN JAMIESON		
	2		ROSS MEECHAN		
	4		GREGOR BUCHANAN		
	5		NICKY JAMIESON		
	6		NAT WEDDERBURN		
	7		EUAN O'REILLY		
	8		JAMES BERRY		
	9		MATTHEW AITKEN		
	10		MATTY YATES		
	11		ADAM BROWN		
	12		ROSS TAYLOR		
	14		KINLAY BILHAM		
	15		KYLE BANNER		
	17		MICHAEL ANDERSON		
	18		COREY O'DONNELL		
	20		KYLE JACOBS		
	21		KELSEY EWEN		
	23		FINLAY ALLAN		
	24		BLAIR ALSTON		
	34		CURTIS LYLE		
		MANAGER	GARY NAYSMITH		

REFEREE: Lloyd Wilson

ASST: Dougie Potter & Alastair Taylor

ALLOA'S NEXT FIVE

24.08.24, GALABANK, 15:00

	ANNAN ATHLETIC		ALLOA ATHLETIC
--	-----------------------	--	-----------------------

31.08.24, GAYFIELD, 15:00

	ARBROATH		ALLOA ATHLETIC
--	-----------------	--	-----------------------

14.09.24, INDO DRILL STADIUM, 15:00

	ALLOA ATHLETIC		INVERNESS CT
--	-----------------------	--	---------------------

21.09.24, INDO DRILL STADIUM, 15:00

	ALLOA ATHLETIC		KELTY HEARTS
--	-----------------------	--	---------------------

28.09.24, LINKS PARK, 15:00

	MONTROSE		ALLOA ATHLETIC
--	-----------------	--	-----------------------



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