



8TH MARCH 2025
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 of 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.

**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,

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Fax: 01259210886

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

Malcolm Gordon

Club Shop

Geoff Kay

Programme Contributors

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Cockburn

Club Photographer

David Glencross

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| | P | W | D | L | GF | GA | GD | PTS |
|--------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|
| ARBROATH | 27 | 15 | 4 | 8 | 45 | 29 | 16 | 49 |
| STENHOUSEMUIR | 26 | 13 | 5 | 8 | 39 | 26 | 13 | 44 |
| COVE RANGERS | 26 | 12 | 5 | 9 | 43 | 31 | 12 | 41 |
| ALLOA ATHLETIC | 27 | 10 | 10 | 7 | 39 | 32 | 7 | 40 |
| QUEEN OF THE SOUTH | 27 | 10 | 5 | 12 | 28 | 32 | -4 | 35 |
| KELTY HEARTS | 26 | 9 | 7 | 10 | 31 | 27 | 4 | 34 |
| MONTROSE | 27 | 7 | 10 | 10 | 28 | 35 | -7 | 31 |
| ANNAN ATHLETIC | 27 | 7 | 6 | 14 | 29 | 51 | -22 | 27 |
| INVERNESS | 26 | 11 | 8 | 7 | 29 | 28 | 1 | 26 |
| DUMBARTON | 27 | 5 | 8 | 14 | 34 | 54 | -20 | 8 |

WEEKEND'S FIXTURES

LEAGUE 1

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

CHAMPIONSHIP

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| AIRDRIEONIANS | HAMILTON ACCIES |
| FALKIRK | DUNFERMLINE |
| GREENOCK MORTON | AYR UNITED |

LEAGUE 2

| | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| BONNYRIGG ROSE | EDINBURGH CITY |
| CLYDE | EAST FIFE |
| ELGIN CITY | FORFAR ATHLETIC |
| SPARTANS | STIRLING ALBION |
| STRANRAER | PETERHEAD |

SCOTTISH CUP

| | |
|---------------------|--------------|
| HEART OF MIDLOTHIAN | DUNDEE |
| ABERDEEN | QUEEN'S PARK |
| CELTIC | HIBERNIAN |
| LIVINGSTON | ST JOHNSTONE |

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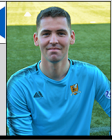
9 Coalgate, Alloa, Clackmannanshire, FK10 1EH
bookings@baraldos.uk
01259 729 243



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

Charlie DEWAR

12/03/2007



16

Tochukwu OGAYI

10/10/1996



1

Kane THOMSON

12/09/2004



17

David DEVINE

20/06/2001



23

Magnus MACKENZIE

03/05/2005



27

MANAGER

ANDY GRAHAM



MIDFIELDERS

Steven HETHERINGTON

09/03/1993



Kevin CAWLEY

17/03/1989



Kurtis ROBERTS

06/09/1994



Luke DONNELLY

20/01/1996



Conor SAMMON

06/11/1986



Scott HONEYMAN

19/11/2005



Stefan SCOUGALL

07/12/1992

170 CM 63 KG



Miko VIRTANEN

29/01/1999



Steven BUCHANAN

26/03/2003

178 CM 70 KG



Luke RANKIN

27/11/2004



Cameron O'DONNELL

29/09/2001

183 CM 70 KG



Reece MULLEN

26/03/2006



Josh GENTLES

26/07/2007



ANDY GRAHAM



THE GAFFER'S THOUGHTS

Welcome to David Gold, Colin Hamilton, Jimmy Boyle, and everyone from Arbroath for today's match.

Goldy and Hammy have done a great job since taking over the reins early in the season. Today will be a tough game, as Arbroath have recruited well in January and are in good form.

Last week's game against Cove got off to the worst possible start, with us conceding a goal within the opening ten minutes. That gave Cove a lift and dented our confidence. However, one thing that cannot be faulted in this group of players is their resilience

and ability to bounce back. When we got the game to 1-1, the momentum shifted, and credit to the players for staying positive and scoring a very well-worked winning goal. Saturday showed how important it is to stay in the game, even when you aren't at your best.

With a quarter of the season to go, I hope we can produce some big performances and, more importantly, big results. To achieve that, we need everyone to give as much backing and support as they can.

Enjoy the game!
Andy

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LEWIS RUSSELL



NEWSDESK

With the closing of the loan window Alloa welcomed the loan signing of left-back Magnus Mackenzie from Queen's Park until the end of the season.

The 19-year-old, who came through Celtic's youth academy before joining Queen's Park in 2024, makes the move to the Indodrill Stadium following the conclusion of the loan window.

Unfortunately, due to injury Tyrece McDonnell's loan has been cut short and he has returned to Queen's Park. We'd

like to thank Tyrece for his efforts for the black and gold and wish him well for the future.

Alloa extended their unbeaten run in February and moved closer to the top of the table with last week's 2-1 win over Cove Rangers. In a typically slow start, the Wasps found themselves behind after just seven minutes when Adam Emslie slotted home following some chaotic defending.

Cove Rangers might have been well out of sight if not for a series of poor finishes—none more glaring than Emslie's, who squandered an open goal by clearing the bar from just four yards out.

Alloa, who had created more chances since the half-time break, eventually found the breakthrough after Luke Donnelly's introduction. He rifled home from the edge of the area with power to bring Alloa level.

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He would soon turn provider, as a buoyed Alloa worked the ball across the eighteen-yard box from a throw-in, allowing Stefan Scougall to smash a top-corner finish beyond the rooted Cove goalkeeper, Nicholas Suman.

The win leaves Alloa with a five-point gap over fifth-placed Queen of the South and a chance to push themselves into the title race—if they can play spoiler today against Arbroath.

We'd like to welcome a lifelong football fan, David has followed The Wasps from afar since he was 8 or 9 years old—originally choosing the club after wondering why the Scottish League had a team from Hawaii! Usually found at The Valley as a Charlton Athletic season ticket holder, today marks a special occasion on his 50th birthday as he attends his first ever Alloa Athletic match in person.

David is joined by his three younger brothers for this memorable birthday trip, and we hope they all have a fantastic day at the Indodrill Stadium and

Happy Birthday from everyone at Alloa Athletic!

Alloa Athletic FC, in conjunction with its community partner, Wasp Community Club, is thrilled to announce the launch of our brand-new Club Lotto, designed to raise vital funds to support the continued development of our youth and women's and girls' pathways, and other community projects with a massive **JACKPOT OF £2000** up for grabs with weekly draws which take place on Wednesdays at 8.15PM, with £50 being added to the jackpot each week.

Buy your tickets and enter the draw here:

[HTTPS://BIT.LY/WASPSLOTTO](https://bit.ly/waspslotto)

WASP 2000 WINNERS

Week 8

| | | |
|-----|-------------|------|
| 100 | M Peggie | 214 |
| 50 | D Jenkins | 984 |
| 25 | J Glencross | 1321 |

Week 9

| | | |
|-----|-------------|------|
| 100 | M Watson | 41 |
| 50 | C Hughes | 1106 |
| 25 | D Glencross | 547 |



Football Memories Group

Indodrill Stadium Alloa

Monday 10th March 2025

11.30-13.00

For more info please contact info@indodrill.com 07877 530314





JONATHAN MARKWELL



ANOTHER MILESTONE FOR SCOTT TAGGART

Last weekend, Scott Taggart made his 360th appearance for the Wasps, meaning only his longtime teammate Kevin Cawley has now played more games for the club since World War Two. So far this season, Scott's name has quietly been rising on the appearances chart, beginning the campaign in eighth position, but the Wasps captain has now passed some of the most notable ever Alloa alumni to rise to second place on my imaginary podium!

Taggart began the season just behind the total appearances of Keith McCulloch, who represent-

ed the club with such distinction in the late 1980's and throughout the 1990's. If it hadn't have been for injuries in his latter years with the club, the centre-back would have been far higher on the list. Taggart next went beyond 1980's stalwart Larry Haggart, with both players being dependable full-backs. Both McCulloch and Haggart enjoyed testimonial games to mark their tremendous long service for the club, against Rangers and Celtic XI's respectfully. Whisper it quietly, but in a years' time after 10 full seasons of unblemished performances in the black and gold, surely it

will be time to honour Taggart with a testimonial too? If that does materialise he will become, as far as I am aware, only the fifth recipient in the club's history, with Cawley's 2023 event and that in the 1920's to honour Bobby Orrock being the others.

Taggart next passed Jimmy Thomson, who has the distinction of being the only player on the list who would later go on to manage the club too. 5th on the list is lionheart captain Craig Valentine, who was worth every penny of the £24,000 the club were made to pay by tribunal for his signing from Berwick

Most Appearances in an Alloa Shirt Since WW2

| RANK | PLAYER | YEARS | APPEARANCES |
|------|----------------------|--------------------------|-------------|
| 1 | Kevin Cawley | 2011-2015 & 2016 onwards | 501+ |
| 2 | Scott Taggart | 2016 onwards | 360+ |
| 3 | Bobby Gray | 1962-1971 | 359 |
| 4 | Andy Campbell | 1968-1977 | 351 |
| 5 | Craig Valentine | 1996-2004 | 342 |
| 6 | Jimmy Thomson | 1968-1977 | 341 |
| 7 | Larry Haggart | 1980-1990 | 339 |
| 8 | Keith McCulloch | 1987-1999 | 327 |
| 9 | George Brown | 1967-1974 | 316 |
| 10 | Brian McGarry | 1970-1979 | 309 |
| 11 | Jimmy Docherty | 1955-1964 | 307 |
| 12 | Peter Smith | 1960-1969 | 303 |

Rangers in the summer of 1996. For eight seasons, Valentine was a mainstay of the Alloa backline, rising from the Third to First Divisions and lifting the Challenge Cup as Alloa captain too. It was great to see Vali and his cup winning teammates back at the Recs last weekend to celebrate the 25th anniversary of that tremendous victory. Above Valentine is late 1960's and 1970's defender Andy Campbell, one of only four men to play more than 350 games for the Wasps. The early years of Campbell's Alloa career overlapped with Bobby Gray, who until 2021 had for over 50 years been Alloa's record appearance maker. Gray has, however, now been unsurped by both Kevin Cawley (in the lockdown home defeat to Hearts in January 2021, which the wee man was given the captain's armband and appropriately scored Alloa's goal that day) and now last weekend by Scott Taggart. Alloa's number 2 for the past 8 ¾ seasons is now number 2 on the top appearances chart too!

Taggart returned to the side

seven days ago having missed his first game for 18 months at Annan the previous weekend. He was back to dependable best, playing four different roles in the comeback victory over Cove. Having started at right centre-back in a three-man defence (the first time this season Andy Graham has begun a game with such a formation), Scott then switched to his conventional right-back berth towards the end of the first half. After the interval Scott's next move was to left-back, before reverting to right-back for the final twenty minutes and playing

a part in the build-up to Stefan Scougall's winning strike – all in a day's work for the Alloa captain! Taggart missed the ding-dong encounter down at Galabank owing to suspension, having received the first red-card of his Alloa career in the dying embers of the 2-0 home victory over Kelty Hearts. From my vantage point it looked a harsh second booking, coming just a minute after his first booking for shoving Scott Allen to the ground by the touchline. It all seemed a little unnecessary on the part of both Taggart (for making the challenges in the first instance,



when the game was effectively already won, thereby giving the referee a decision to make – in hindsight perhaps Taggs could have just stood his ground?) and the referee for so stringently applying the rules of the game for what were minor tactical fouls, seen up and down the country every Saturday without the same punishment being given. Looking back through the record books, it is only Taggart's second dismissal of his 533 (yes, I have been counting!) senior game career. Ironically, his other dismissal came in injury time at the end of the game too, with that occasion being in an eventual 4-0 Scottish Cup defeat in Inverness whilst Scott was playing for Morton – it appeared to be a straight red on that occasion, for a foul to concede a penalty rather than two yellows.

Missing that game at Annan brought to an end Taggart's run of 72 consecutive starting appearances for the Wasps (not including Stirlingshire Cup games, when a largely youthful Alloa side was selected). Taggart has something of a tradition in going on long unbroken stints in the Alloa side, having started his Alloa career with a sequence of 92 successive starts (until a tallying up of bookings saw him miss a meaningless end of season game prior to the all important playoffs in 2018) and then following that up with a stretch of 94 consecutive starting appearances until Peter Grant rested him for a Betfred Cup Group Stage game against Stenhousemuir in November 2020. I was hoping that on this occasion Taggart would make it all the way to a century of successive starts, but alas that ordering-off has sadly prevented that happening.

Those long sequences of never missing a game reflect well on Taggart's fitness, form and longevity. Scott has in-fact only missed a total of 25 matches since joining the club in 2016, with only three injuries in nine years preventing Taggart from lining up in the Alloa defence. That is a quite remarkable record given the physical demands placed on players in today's game. I would hazard a guess that Taggart has played through the pain barrier on plenty of occasions for the good of the team, which is testament to his character and commitment. Scott's presence in the team is undoubtedly positive, with that clearly evidence through the Wasps clean sheet rate when he plays being 23% (84 clean sheets in 359 games), but almost halving to 12% (3 clean sheets in 25 games) when he doesn't.

Now 33, Taggart is reaching the veteran stage of his career, albeit in my eyes there has been little drop off in his all-action displays from full-back throughout his Alloa career. I've heard a wee bit of criticism on The Wasps Nest Podcast this season about Taggart perhaps losing half a yard of pace, which I personally don't necessarily agree with, instead considering that wingers are simply getting faster and they tend to go down easier and easier in an attempt to con the referee into awarding fouls! My viewpoint is that Taggart's high performance levels are perhaps taken for granted a little by some, with any casual observer watching the Wasps for the first time being sure to pinpoint Taggart as one of Alloa's finest performers. It is perhaps a backhanded compliment to Taggart that his bar is so high, that when he does slip a little (I have for example

noticed that Tagg's is using his arms to jostle and fend off pesky attackers far more than he once did, which is a dangerous game to play!) that it is noticeable to the Alloa diehards, but in overall terms his contribution to both Alloa's defensive and attacking play is still fantastic in my eyes. The pace, whip and accuracy of Taggart's deliveries from wide areas remains one of his key strengths, whilst I was also half-relieved that the Wasps didn't gain a penalty in the game Taggart missed at Annan, with his record from the spot (13 out of 14 in normal time, including 12 successes in a row in the past three seasons) being exemplary. Moreover, in the past few seasons the trend of inverted full-backs joining the midfield to create an overload and build the attacking play has been fully embraced by Taggart, with him actively stepping out of his full-back berth, finding space to get on the ball and causing havoc by moving forward with purpose (most recently seen in setting up Cammy O'Donnell's goal of the season contender at Montrose).

Given there are only a dozen players to represent the club in the past 80 years who have reached a triple century of appearances, it is consequently a very select clan of individuals. Therefore, Alloa supporters should feel fortunate that they are now watching Taggart and Alloa's all-time appearance maker Cawley, the two men at the very top of that list, in the same Alloa side. Players with this sort of longevity typically only come about once a decade, so to enjoy watching two simultaneously is a real treat. We know that neither of these generational players can go on forever, so let's enjoy them fully whilst we can!

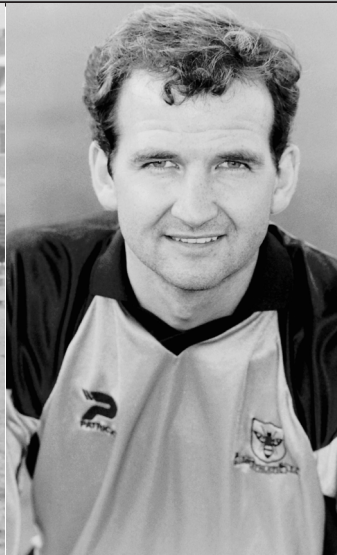


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6

2

JOHN GLENCROSS



STEVIE CADDEN

BORN: 26TH NOVEMBER 1968
AGE – 56

Stevie grew up in Calderbank and his first club was playing for Wishaw, then he signed as a youth at Motherwell and reached the final of the BP Youth Cup in Season 1986-87 but lost to Celtic in the final 2-1. Tommy Gemmell then signed Stevie on 10th February 1988 for Albion Rovers, he was then put out on loan to Sligo Rovers, but returned in season 1988-89 with new manager Davie Provan, a successful season ended up Second Division Champions with Alloa Athletic runners up. Having made 193 appearances and scoring 13 goals for "The Wee

Rovers" Billy Lamont signed him for Alloa Athletic on 4th March 1994.

Stevie made his debut for Alloa Athletic at Gayfield against Arbroath on 12th March 1994 in 0-0 draw, two weeks later Stevie scored his first goal for "The Wasps" at Recreation Park v. Stranraer in 1-1 draw. The season ended badly for Wasps missing staying in the Second Division losing out to East Fife on goal difference drawing 1-1 in the final league match ironically against "The Fifers." This was due to League reconstruction with Season 1994-95 starting with four League of ten.

Stevie Cadden (1988-89) and

his son Chris Cadden (2015-16) have both won the Second Division title both with Albion Rovers which is quite unique for a father and son combination.

Terry Christie and his son Max Christie of course both won the Bell's Challenge Cup in 1999, Terry as the manager and Max as a player.

Joe Craig won the First Division title with Partick Thistle (1975-76) and later his son Steven Craig won the same title also with Partick Thistle (2012-13)

In total Stevie Cadden made 58 games for Alloa Athletic scoring 3 goals





DONNELL

9

GeoSonic

10

HILL



THE
Royal Oak

 THE ROYAL OAK

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| FIXTURE | VENUE | COMPETITION | RESULT | WIN/DRAW/LOSS | OGAYI | PARRY | MORRISON | TAGGART | WATERS | GRAHAM | NEILL | MCKAY | DEWAR | THOMSON | DEVINE | MACKENZIE |
|--------------------|-------|-------------|-----------|---------------|-------|-------|----------|---------|--------|--------|-------|-------|-------|---------|--------|-----------|
| East Fife | Home | LC | 0(5)-(4)0 | Draw | | | 90 | 90 | 90 | | | 90 | | 20 | 90 | |
| Brechin | Away | LC | 1-3 | Win | | | 90 | 90 | 90 | | 90 | 90 | | 10 | | |
| St Johnstone | Home | LC | 3-2 | Win | | | 90 | 90 | 90 | | 90 | 90 | | | | |
| Greenock Morton | Away | LC | 2-1 | Loss | | | 90 | 90 | 90 | | 90 | 90 | | | | |
| Queen of the South | Home | L1 | 0-0 | Draw | | | 90 | 90 | 90 | | | | | 90 | | |
| Dumbarton | Away | L1 | 3-3 | Draw | | | 90 | 90 | 90 | | | 90 | | 90 | | |
| Stenhousemuir | Home | L1 | 1-0 | Win | | | 90 | 90 | 90 | | 29 | 90 | | 61 | | |
| Annan Athletic | Away | L1 | 0-1 | Win | | | 90 | 90 | 90 | | | 90 | | 90 | | |
| Arbroath | Away | L1 | 0-0 | Draw | | | 90 | 90 | 90 | | | 90 | | 6 | | |
| Partick Thistle | Away | CC | 1-3 | Win | 90 | | | 90 | 90 | | | 90 | | 2 | | |
| Inverness | Home | L1 | 2-2 | Draw | | | 90 | 90 | | | 90 | 90 | | 90 | | |
| Kelty | Home | L1 | 1-0 | Win | | | 90 | 90 | | | 90 | 90 | | 90 | | |
| Montrose | Away | L1 | 2-2 | Draw | | | 90 | 90 | | | 90 | 90 | | 90 | | |
| Cove Rangers | Home | L1 | 0-2 | Loss | | | 90 | 90 | 90 | | 45 | 78 | | 12 | 41 | |
| Arbroath | Home | CC | 1-0 | Win | 90 | | | 90 | 90 | | | 90 | | 90 | | |
| Stenhousemuir | Away | L1 | 1-0 | Win | | | 90 | 90 | 90 | | | 90 | | 90 | | |
| Arbroath | Home | L1 | 0-1 | Loss | | | 90 | 90 | 46 | | 42 | 90 | | 90 | | |
| Annan Athletic | Home | L1 | 5-0 | Win | | | 90 | 90 | | | 90 | 90 | | 90 | | |
| Queen of the South | Away | L1 | 1-1 | Draw | | | 90 | 90 | 90 | | | 90 | | 90 | | |
| Dunfermline | Away | CC | 1-0 | Loss | 90 | | | 90 | | | 90 | 90 | | 90 | | |
| Inverness | Away | L1 | 1-0 | Loss | | | 90 | 90 | 90 | | | 90 | | 90 | | |
| Dumbarton | Away | SC | 3-2 | Loss | | | 90 | 90 | 90 | | | 90 | | 90 | | |
| Dumbarton | Home | L1 | 2-2 | Draw | | | 90 | 90 | 90 | | | 90 | | 90 | | |
| Kelty | Away | L1 | 0-2 | Win | | | 90 | 90 | 75 | | | 90 | | 90 | | |
| Montrose | Home | L1 | 1-2 | Loss | | | 90 | 90 | | | 90 | 90 | | 90 | | |
| Cove Rangers | Away | L1 | 2-0 | Loss | | | 90 | 90 | | | 90 | 90 | | 90 | | |
| Stenhousemuir | Home | L1 | 1-3 | Loss | | | 90 | 90 | | | 90 | 90 | | 45 | | |
| Arbroath | Away | L1 | 1-3 | Win | | | 90 | 90 | | | 90 | 90 | | 90 | | |
| Queen of the South | Home | L1 | 1-1 | Draw | | | 90 | 90 | | | 90 | 86 | | 68 | | |
| Inverness | Home | L1 | 1-2 | Loss | | | 90 | 90 | | | 90 | | 90 | 90 | | |
| Dumbarton | Away | L1 | 1-1 | Draw | | | 90 | 90 | | | 90 | | 90 | 90 | | |
| Montrose | Away | L1 | 2-2 | Draw | | | 90 | 90 | 90 | | | 90 | | 90 | | |
| Kelty | Home | L1 | 2-0 | Win | | | 90 | 90 | | | 90 | 90 | | 90 | | |
| Annan Athletic | Away | L1 | 3-4 | Win | | | 90 | | 45 | 45 | 90 | 90 | | 90 | | |
| Cove Rangers | Home | L1 | 2-1 | Win | | | 90 | 90 | | | 90 | 90 | | 90 | | 21 |
| Arbroath | Home | L1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Queen of the South | Away | L1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Inverness | Away | L1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Dumbarton | Home | L1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Stenhousemuir | Away | L1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Annan Athletic | Home | L1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cove Rangers | Away | L1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Montrose | Home | L1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Kelty | Away | L1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |



| HETHERINGTON | BRUIN | CAWLEY | ROBERTS | HONEYMAN | NEVANS | SCOUGALL | VIRTANEN | O'DONNELL | MULLEN | MCDONNELL | DONNELLY | SAMMON | BUCHANAN | RANKIN | GENTLES |
|--------------|-------|--------|---------|----------|--------|----------|----------|-----------|--------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|--------|---------|
| | | 61 | 90 | | 9 | 76 | | 61 | 29 | | 76 | 90 | 90 | | |
| 80 | | 90 | 80 | | | 71 | | 13 | 10 | | 19 | 9 | 81 | 77 | |
| 90 | | 90 | 90 | | | 86 | | | 4 | | 10 | | 90 | 90 | |
| | | 90 | 90 | | 30 | | | | 60 | | 90 | 30 | 60 | 90 | |
| 90 | | 77 | 77 | | 13 | 90 | | | | | 13 | 5 | 85 | 90 | |
| 90 | | 90 | | | | | 65 | 25 | | | 90 | 25 | 65 | 90 | |
| 90 | | 61 | 90 | | | 29 | | 29 | | | 61 | 90 | 90 | | |
| 90 | | 73 | 75 | | | 63 | 15 | 17 | | | 27 | 90 | 90 | | |
| 90 | | 84 | | | 6 | 79 | 75 | 11 | | | 15 | 90 | 84 | | |
| 90 | | 88 | | | 2 | 90 | 90 | 28 | | | 88 | 62 | 90 | | |
| 90 | | 63 | | | | 27 | 63 | 90 | | | 90 | 27 | 90 | | |
| 90 | | 58 | | | | 85 | 5 | 90 | | | 90 | 32 | 90 | | |
| 90 | | 66 | | | | 90 | | | | 24 | 66 | 90 | 90 | 24 | |
| 90 | | 45 | | | | 90 | 6 | | | 45 | 28 | 45 | 45 | 90 | |
| 90 | | 86 | | | 4 | 77 | 13 | | | | 90 | 19 | 90 | 71 | |
| 90 | | 69 | | | | 90 | 69 | 21 | | 5 | 21 | 21 | 90 | 85 | |
| | | 48 | | | | 73 | 61 | 29 | | 17 | | 16 | 74 | 90 | |
| | | 26 | | 26 | 15 | 75 | 90 | 64 | 15 | | 75 | 26 | 64 | 64 | |
| 15 | | | | 20 | | 90 | 90 | 70 | | 20 | 90 | 5 | 70 | 85 | |
| 28 | | 28 | | 13 | | 90 | 62 | 77 | | | 90 | 13 | 62 | 77 | |
| 32 | | 32 | | | | 82 | 58 | 82 | | 8 | 90 | 8 | 58 | 90 | |
| 90 | | 59 | | 90 | | 90 | | | | | 90 | 90 | | 90 | |
| 86 | | 64 | | 26 | | 45 | 4 | 90 | | 36 | 90 | 13 | | 77 | |
| | | 24 | | | | 90 | | 90 | | 90 | 90 | 6 | 90 | 86 | |
| | | 14 | | 14 | | | | 90 | 90 | 87 | 90 | 3 | 76 | 90 | |
| | | 21 | | | | | | 90 | | 63 | 90 | 27 | 69 | 90 | |
| | | | | 59 | | 45 | 90 | 90 | | 66 | 90 | 24 | 31 | 90 | |
| 90 | | 15 | | 15 | | 90 | 15 | 90 | | | 90 | 90 | | 90 | |
| | 4 | 52 | | | | 77 | 38 | 90 | | | 90 | 90 | 22 | 90 | |
| | | | | | | 90 | 90 | 86 | | 4 | 90 | 86 | 4 | 67 | |
| | | | 72 | 3 | | 90 | 90 | | 45 | | 87 | 18 | 45 | 3 | 87 |
| | | | 75 | | | 90 | | 90 | 15 | | 45 | | 90 | 45 | 90 |
| | | | 90 | 71 | | 78 | 19 | 90 | | | | | 90 | 12 | 90 |
| | | | 90 | 45 | | 81 | | 90 | | | | 45 | 90 | 9 | 90 |
| | | | 90 | | | 88 | 2 | 90 | 3 | | 69 | 21 | 90 | | 90 |



APPEARANCES

| | POS | LEAGUE | | CUP | | TOTAL | | ALLOA CAREER LGE | |
|--------------|------|--------|------|-------|------|---------|------|------------------|------|
| | | APP | GOAL | APP | GOAL | APP | GOAL | APP | GOAL |
| OGAYI | GOAL | 0 (0) | 0 | 3 (0) | 0 | 3 (0) | 0 | 8 (1) | 0 |
| PARRY | GOAL | 0 (0) | 0 | 0 (0) | 0 | 0 (0) | 0 | 138 (0) | 0 |
| MORRISON | GOAL | 27 (0) | 0 | 5 (0) | 0 | 32 (0) | 0 | 57 (1) | 0 |
| TAGGART | DEF | 26 (0) | 3 | 8 (0) | 2 | 34 (0) | 5 | 291 (2) | 19 |
| WATERS | DEF | 15 (0) | 1 | 7 (0) | 0 | 22 (0) | 1 | 55 (0) | 2 |
| GRAHAM | DEF | 0 (1) | 1 | 0 (0) | 0 | 0 (1) | 1 | 190 (9) | 15 |
| NEILL | DEF | 23 (2) | 2 | 6 (0) | 1 | 29 (2) | 3 | 57 (2) | 2 |
| DEWAR | DEF | 6 (0) | 0 | 0 (0) | 0 | 6 (0) | 0 | 6 (0) | 0 |
| MCKAY | DEF | 21 (0) | 1 | 8 (0) | 0 | 29 (0) | 1 | 35 (5) | 2 |
| MACKENZIE | DEF | 0 (1) | 0 | 0 (0) | 0 | 0 (1) | 0 | 0 (1) | 0 |
| THOMSON | DEF | 17 (3) | 2 | 2 (3) | 0 | 19 (6) | 2 | 17 (3) | 2 |
| DEVINE | DEF | 0 (1) | 0 | 1 (0) | 0 | 1 (1) | 0 | 33 (4) | 0 |
| HETHERINGTON | MID | 13 (2) | 0 | 5 (1) | 0 | 18 (3) | 0 | 170 (35) | 6 |
| CAWLEY | MID | 12 (7) | 1 | 7 (1) | 3 | 19 (8) | 4 | 352 (62) | 65 |
| ROBERTS | MID | 8 (0) | 0 | 4 (0) | 0 | 12 (0) | 0 | 44 (0) | 4 |
| NEVANS | MID | 0 (3) | 0 | 0 (4) | 0 | 0 (7) | 0 | 0 (3) | 0 |
| SCOUGALL | MID | 20 (3) | 3 | 6 (0) | 1 | 26 (3) | 4 | 102 (25) | 11 |
| VIRTANEN | MID | 12 (6) | 0 | 2 (1) | 0 | 14 (7) | 0 | 25 (17) | 1 |
| O'DONNELL | MID | 18 (7) | 3 | 2 (2) | 0 | 20 (9) | 3 | 51 (48) | 6 |
| MULLEN | MID | 3 (3) | 0 | 1 (3) | 0 | 4 (6) | 0 | 3 (3) | 0 |
| MCDONNELL | MID | 4 (8) | 0 | 0 (1) | 0 | 4 (9) | 0 | 4 (8) | 0 |
| HONEYMAN | MID | 3 (6) | 0 | 0 (1) | 0 | 3 (7) | 0 | 3 (6) | 0 |
| DONNELLY | FWD | 19 (4) | 7 | 5 (3) | 2 | 24 (7) | 9 | 37 (31) | 16 |
| SAMMON | FWD | 8 (16) | 5 | 3 (3) | 1 | 11 (19) | 6 | 70 (60) | 32 |
| BUCHANAN | FWD | 21 (6) | 2 | 7 (0) | 0 | 28 (6) | 2 | 31 (33) | 4 |
| RANKIN | FWD | 16 (5) | 5 | 6 (0) | 3 | 22 (5) | 8 | 16 (16) | 6 |
| GENTLES | FWD | 5 (1) | 2 | 0 (0) | 0 | 5 (1) | 2 | 5 (1) | 2 |



| ALLOA CAREER CUP | | ALLOA TOTAL | |
|------------------|------|-------------|------|
| APP | GOAL | APP | GOAL |

| | | | |
|---------|----|----------|----|
| 5 (0) | 0 | 13 (1) | 0 |
| 35 (0) | 0 | 173 (0) | 0 |
| 19 (0) | 0 | 76 (1) | 0 |
| 66 (1) | 5 | 357 (3) | 24 |
| 18 (0) | 1 | 73 (0) | 3 |
| 54 (3) | 1 | 244 (12) | 16 |
| 12 (1) | 2 | 69 (3) | 4 |
| 0 (0) | 0 | 6 (0) | 0 |
| 13 (2) | 0 | 48 (7) | 2 |
| 0 (0) | 0 | 0 (1) | 0 |
| 2 (3) | 0 | 19 (6) | 2 |
| 3 (1) | 0 | 36 (5) | 0 |
| 38 (10) | 1 | 208 (45) | 7 |
| 74 (13) | 15 | 426 (75) | 80 |
| 10 (1) | 0 | 54 (1) | 4 |
| 0 (4) | 0 | 0 (7) | 0 |
| 25 (8) | 3 | 127 (33) | 14 |
| 5 (4) | 0 | 30 (21) | 1 |
| 14 (7) | 1 | 65 (55) | 7 |
| 1 (3) | 0 | 4 (6) | 0 |
| 0 (1) | 0 | 4 (9) | 0 |
| 0 (1) | 0 | 3 (7) | 0 |
| 9 (7) | 4 | 46 (38) | 20 |
| 21 (7) | 10 | 91 (67) | 42 |
| 13 (4) | 1 | 44 (37) | 5 |
| 6 (6) | 3 | 22 (22) | 9 |
| 0 (0) | 0 | 5 (1) | 2 |



| | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| - | - |
| RUARI & BRIAN CUTHBERT-IMRIE | NEIL PARRY ALLOA SUPPORTERS CLUB |
| DEREK YULE | - |
| BEN WOODRUFF | THE JOLLY BOYS |
| DAVIS DISTRIBUTION | - |
| JOYCE & THE PIE HUT | - |
| THE WEE FITBA PODCAST | - |
| PROTECT365 | - |
| GLENN SAUNDERS | - |
| - | - |
| JOHN SPENCE | - |
| JON CARRUTHERS | - |
| THE JOLLY BOYS | MCCALLUM ENGINEERING |
| AIMEE BURGESS | BEES ON THE PRIMROSE |
| BRAIN DAMAGED BARON | ANDREW WILSON |
| MAYFIELD MOTORS | - |
| STUART LATHAM | JOHN SPENCE |
| ANDY@MAGNAFIBRE | - |
| ROBERTSON CARPET & FLOORING | GARAGEGYMREVISITED.COM |
| - | - |
| - | - |
| - | - |
| CRAIG CAMPBELL SEO | CRAIG CAMPBELL SEO |
| S SMITH VEHICLE REPAIRS | S SMITH VEHICLE REPAIRS |
| HAMISH COMRIE | - |
| CALLUM MCTAGGART | CRAIG GRACE |
| - | - |



ARBROATH

The Red Lichties

FOUNDED:
1878

GROUND:
Gayfield Park, Arbroath

TOP HONOURS
SCOTTISH CHAMPIONSHIP*:
Runners-up: 1934-35, 1958-59, 1967-68, 1971-72, 2021-22
SCOTTISH LEAGUE 1*:
Runners-up: 2000-01, 2011-12
SCOTTISH LEAGUE 2*:
Winners:
2010-11, 2016-17
Runners-up:
1997-98,
Play-off winners 2007-08
SCOTTISH CUP:
Semi-Finalists: 1946-47
SCOTTISH LEAGUE CUP:
emi-Finalists: 1959-60
CHALLENGE CUP:
Semi-Finalists: 2012-13

THE OPPOSITION - ARBROATH

For the second week in a row, we welcome the team who currently sit top of the division to the Indodrill. This time it is Arbroath who sit at the top of the tree following their successive victories at the weekend and throughout the week. The Lichties bounced back from disappointment live on BBC Alba against Stenhousemuir with wins over Annan Athletic last Saturday and Dumbar-ton on Tuesday night. It marks the games in hand played, which have always looked pivotal for the visitors,

and now means they find themselves five points clear at the top. Following relegation last season from Scotland's second tier, the side from Gayfield are certainly in a good place to make an immediate return should current form continue.

THE BOSSES - DAVID GOLD AND COLIN HAMILTON

Becoming a slight trend in lower leagues of Scottish football, the visitors are led by not one but two managers. David Gold and Colin Hamilton currently co-manage the Lichties following the departure

of Jim McIntyre earlier in the season. Hamilton, who returned for his second spell at Arbroath in 2016, and Gold - who joined the club in 2015 - have more than 500 combined appearances for the Angus side. With Hamilton injured for the season, he has taken a role in the dugout. However, Gold still plays a key role in the midfield for his side offering that leadership and quality on the park too. It has proven to be a shrewd appointment so far with the team sitting well in the league. That form was recognised in December when both Hamilton and Gold won the Manager of the Month award.

THE CAPTAIN - THOMAS O'BRIEN

With both of the managers currently registered as players, it would take a strong leader from the playing staff to captain the side. Thankfully for Arbroath they have that in abundance in Thomas O'Brien. Highly regarded as one of the best part-time centre backs in the country, O'Brien has been at the club since





ONE TO WATCH – FRASER TAYLOR

The one to watch this weekend is not only one of the best Arbroath players this season but arguably one of the best across the whole division. Fraser Taylor joined Arbroath on loan from St Mirren in the summer and has been a revelation in the middle of the park with his tenacity and creativity. Arguably more important than any new signings in the January window, Arbroath made the coup to extend Taylor's loan for the remainder of the season which is a massive boost for their promotion hopes. The 22-year-old has six goals across the season but more impressively has notched 11 assists in the league, 13 in total, making him the best provider in the country. Those statistics came to life in the sides most recent win as he laid off Winter to assist the equaliser on Tuesday night before putting his side ahead with a goal of his own. Taylor is one of the hottest properties in ten division and Alloa will have to be wary of the threat he poses.

THE CONNECTION

Colin Hamilton who leads out the visitors this afternoon is one of the prominent connections between the clubs. The left-back spent a season at Alloa under Danny Lennon in 2016, a spell that sat in between two more successful spells at Arbroath where he is regarded in much higher esteem. Also returning to the Indodrill are two former loanees in Calum Gallagher and

CONTINUED ON P26

2017. During that time he has played his part in winning this division in the past, as well as the heroic Championship season that they pushed Kilmarnock all the way. A testament to the importance of O'Brien is the fact that he has been included in League Team of the Years in every lower league division across his time at Arbroath and the latter end of his Forfar career. Following an injury, O'Brien made his first start in over a month on Tuesday night in the win over Dumbarton.

NEW BOY – ANDY WINTER

One of the reasons that Arbroath have propelled up the division and in the pundits eyes as title favourites is because of their strong January window. Billy King, Sam Stanton and

the return of Aaron Steele all caught the eye. However, it is the firepower up front that The Wasp is highlighting. Andy Winter made the loan switch from Livingston, where he had struggled to find the back of net, to bolster Gold and Hamilton's options in the lead-up. Despite having a barren spell in the Championship, this has certainly not been the case for his new club. Winter has been in scintillating form since joining bagging five goals in just seven appearances. His crucial goals have proved match winners as he has contributed massively every time he steps on the park in maroon. Quickly becoming a fan favourite, Lichtie fans will be hoping this form can continue and his stay at Gayfield becomes permanent.

BY KIEREN MOONEY



Innes Murray. Both spells brief, however, Gallagher was part of Paul Hartley's League One promotion side in 2013 and Murray played a small part under Peter Grant Championship side during the Covid season. There are two former Arbroath players in the Alloa squad who will watch the game from the stands this afternoon. Stevie Hetherington enjoyed a short stint at Gayfield on loan in 2023 but will miss today through injury. Miko Virtanen will join him in the stand following his late red card in the win against Cove, he spent two loan spells at Gayfield from 2019 to 2021. One former

Lichtie, now a Wasp, who will be looking to make another impact against his former team is Luke Donnelly.

PREVIOUS MEETINGS

This is the sides fourth meeting so far this season. The most recent of those came at Gayfield at the beginning of the year and will go down as one of Alloa's strongest performances of the season so far. Gavin Reilly's early opener was quickly cancelled out by a Stefan Scougall strike. Luke Rankin and David McKay both unleashed superb strikes to put Alloa 3-1 up and take all

the points from the form side in the division. Before that, the teams met back-to-back at the Indodrill in both the league and the Challenge Cup. The Wasps triumphed in the cup game thanks to Luke Donnelly's fine goal. Arbroath would take their revenge a few weeks later in the league with a Calum Gallagher goal being the difference between the sides, however, Alloa were reduced to nine men following Calum Waters early red card and a late red card from former loanee, Tyrece McDonnell.





William **HILL**

SPFL

Proper Supporter
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LOOKING BACK 9TH MARCH 1991

In The Premier Division, the leaders Rangers recovered from their 0-1 reverse at fellow title hopefuls Aberdeen the previous week, to defeat Hearts by 2-1 at Ibrox. And this result moved The Gers four points clear of the second-placed Dons, whose home game with lowly Dunfermline was cancelled. Third-placed Dundee United and fourth-placed Celtic were both victorious by 2-0 at two of the other strugglers, St. Mirren and Hibs respectively, while St. Johnstone retained fifth spot, in spite of a 1-4 home loss v Motherwell. At the bottom, St. Mirren's defeat was their ninth league

game without success, which meant they continued to prop up the table. Hibs still occupied second-bottom position, though Motherwell's victory lifted them up one place, The Well were replaced in second-bottom spot by Dunfermline.

Dundee remained a point clear at the top of The First Division, in spite of a rather shock 0-1 home reverse v relegation-haunted Brechin, a result which ended a run of four straight league wins for The Dee. Second-placed Falkirk were gameless due to the postponement of their game at struggling

Forfar, though third-placed Airdrie were 3-1 winners at Clydebank. Kilmarnock's point from a 1-1 draw at Morton was enough to nudge them into fourth spot, in place of Raith, who slipped to seventh, after a 1-5 home thrashing v another of the promotion challengers, Partick, who thus moved up to fifth. While Hamilton Accies, despite being held 1-1 at home by Meadowbank, remained in sixth place. In the relegation zone, Clyde were 1-0 home winners v Ayr, though in spite of this success, The Bully Wee still propped up the table. But Brechin's own win moved them up one place from

second-bottom position, which was now occupied by City's local rivals/fellow strugglers Forfar.

Runaway Second Division leaders Stirling Albion suffered only their third league defeat of the season, and rather surprisingly at home 0-1 by lowly Dumbarton. Though in spite of this setback, The Binos still held a comfortable ten-point lead over second-placed Queen's Park, who were held 1-1 at bottom club East Stirling. Stenhousemuir remained third despite losing 0-1 at East Fife, fourth-placed Stranraer were gameless following the cancellation of their game at Montrose, while Berwick's point from a 1-1 draw at Cowdenbeath was still enough to nudge them up into fifth position in place of Montrose, who dropped to sixth. Queen Of The South and Alloa had not enjoyed the most productive of league campaigns so far, and were placed thirteenth and ninth respectively, ahead of their clash at Palmerston, where The Wasps lined up as follows:

Ronnie Lowrie, Willie Newbigging, Jim Thomson, Dave Wilcox, Keith McCulloch, Tom McEntegart, John Irvine, Stevie Ramsay, Ian Black (Barrie Moffat (John Grant), Gus Smith, John Gibson. And the game produced a 0-0 draw, which meant no positional change for The Doonhamers or their visitors. Today's visitors Arbroath had also not enjoyed the best of times in the 1990-91 season. Though they ended a winless run of seven league games, with a 3-1 win at fellow strugglers Albion Rovers, thanks to goals from Stuart Sorbie (A name well known to Alloa fans having had two spells previously with "The Wasps", Stuart played with Arbroath between 1990-94 then had a spell as assistant manager in Season 2004/05), Paul Roberts & James Morton, the win moving The Red Lichties up one place to eleventh.

South of the border, it was FA Cup quarter-final day. And fancied Arsenal remained on course for a possible league/cup "double", when they overcame

the last surviving Third Division side, Cambridge, by 2-1 at Highbury. Nottingham Forest also booked a semi-final place thanks to a 1-0 win at Norwich, while the Spurs v Notts County and West Ham v Everton ties took place the following Sunday & Monday respectively.

In the First Division, Liverpool moved level on points with Arsenal at the top of the table, thanks to a 3-0 win at Manchester City, though The Gunners still held pole position on goal difference. Third-placed Crystal Palace were 2-1 home winners v Southampton, while bottom club Derby were gameless.

With Second Division leaders West Ham gameless, Oldham took advantage to regain top spot, albeit it on goal difference, after a 2-0 home win v Bristol Rovers. The Hammers thus dropped to second, while third-placed Sheffield Wednesday maintained their own promotion bid, with a 1-0 win v WBA at Hillsborough.



HALF TIME QUIZ

- 1. ALLOA ARE STRONG FINISHERS. WHAT PERCENTAGE GOALS COME IN THE FINAL 15 MINUTES OF GAMES?**
- 2. ARBROATH POLISHED OFF DUMBARTON ON TUESDAY TO EXTEND THEIR LEAD AT THE TOP. WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME THE SONS WON A GAME?**
- 3. ALLOA AND ARBROATH WERE BOTH PROMOTED IN 1998. NAME EACH OF THEIR TOP SCORERS IN THE LEAGUE?**
- 4. UNBEATABLE HIBS WON A SECOND SUCCESSIVE EDINBURGH DERBY AT THE WEEKEND. WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME THEY MANAGED THE FEAT?**
- 5. JOSE MOURINHO'S FERNEBAHCE TAKE ON RANGERS THIS WEEK - BUT RECENTLY THE PORTUGUESE MANAGER LAUNCHED HIS OWN WINE BRAND. WHAT DID HE CALL IT?**



THE MATCH PROGRAMME

“Match programmes – get your match programmes here!” It has been an integral part of the match-day experience for supporters.

A pie, a pint and programme had always been traditional fare for any fan attending a football match, but some clubs have ditched the match programme altogether. Rising print costs and a lack of demand at some clubs has seen an end to this football must. The matchday programme is one of football’s great traditions.

A lack of demand has been cited as one of the main reasons why some teams have pulled the plug on this important tradition according to club sources, alongside the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

However, despite programmes no longer being as profitable, most teams still view them as a key part of the match-day experience, there are no

half-time scoreboards in football grounds now.

Fans are being urged to keep buying programmes - otherwise the sight of sellers outside the grounds or inside will become a thing of the past. Who needs a programme when most teams hand out printed team sheets with the actual team lines, sometimes even quicker the teams are announced on social media before the manager has even got to the dressing room to tell the players his line-up.

A timely feature in a recent issue of *Nutmeg*, the Scottish football periodical, focuses on these pieces of art, described by Greg Gordon, author of the piece, as an “ongoing monologue with the club’s fans”. These fortnightly musings remain an incredible resource for historians and students of the game.

Worse is the fact that match programmes are available on-

line at some clubs to read and download prior to a matchday, surely this is an own goal, and this facility should only be available after the match has been played?

Jim Thomson once sold Stirling Albion programmes outside Annfield Park, the old home of “The Beans” and now contributes to the same publication, sales of which were given a boost by the club’s League Two title triumph last season. Now 50, he runs Scottish football programme fairs all over the country having re-engaged with his old interest. “I was lost to the hobby for years,” Thomson says. “I always collected when I was younger. “During lockdown I fell back into it. I was clearing out my loft and I found all my old programmes, and wondered if it was still a thing. Much to my surprise, as much as social media had killed a lot of it, it was also helping keeping it alive. On Facebook there’s pages devoted to Scottish football programmes, mostly buying and selling.” But fresh input is needed. “Clubs need to be innovative if they want a younger generation to buy the programme,” stresses Thomson. He mentions the routinely excellent Aberdeen programme, among the biggest sellers in Scotland, for imaginative ideas, such as giving stickers away with each issue.

Something else programme editors are careful about is abuse. It’s not a fanzine. All contributors to a match programme must make the commitment to the club that they are not going to be abusive

about the club – or our opponents for that matter. Every club's match day programme gets sent to the Scottish League, where they scrutinise each issue and will contact clubs if they believe something in print is in bad taste or derogatory and the club's get their knuckles knocked.

Stuart Curtis, the owner of Curtis Sport, is not a fan of digital programmes, though he will work with clubs who decide to go down that route. "What was the last digital programme you bought or read?" he asks. "Not many people will say, 'Well actually, I have a library of about 12,000 of them!'"

His company produces programmes for over 40 teams north and south of the Border. He implores clubs to put the effort into maintaining them – and stresses that it really isn't hard to make them economically viable. "Even if you don't use Curtis Sport, that's fine," he says. "But please, have a programme, whether 40 buy them or 40,000. It's important to keep it going."

Curtis is putting his money where his mouth is. His

company is now sponsoring the Scottish Programme and Memorabilia Fair, with the next event taking place on Sunday 2nd June 2024 at the McAlpine Pavilion within Lesser Hampden in Glasgow, from 10.30am – 2.00pm.

This Season 2023-24 in the Scottish Football League clubs who now do not issue a match day programme – Hibernian (Although there is a fans issue), Ross County, Kilmarnock (Monthly Magazine), Airdrie, Inverness CT, Queens Park (Only Digital), Hamilton Accies, Kelty Hearts, Annan Athletic, Forfar Athletic, Stranraer, Peterhead (Only Digital) which is worrying, the list grows every season.

Also, we have 15 clubs in the Scottish Football League all now using the one printer – Curtis Sports. Aberdeen, Celtic, Dundee, Hearts, Livingston, Motherwell, St. Mirren, Dundee United (Only by Mail order), Dunfermline Athletic, Partick Thistle, Falkirk, Clyde, Dumbarton, Elgin City and The Spartans.

I took over the editor's job producing the Alloa Athletic FC Matchday Programme

"The Wasp" in Season 1989-90, some 35 years ago now and still find it a honour and privilege to still be allowed to edit the Match Magazine which has through time increased from eight pages to now thirty six pages, but this couldn't be possible without the help of Jonathan Markwell, Donald Pollock, Brian Roach, Andrew Cockburn, Kieren Mooney and Lewis Russell in the Media department to produce a programme the club can be proud of, it would be remiss of me not to mention my brother David who travels all over the country to make sure we have action shots from every match the club plays either the Men's First team or the Women's team which he also gives an unbelievable support.

"Match programmes – get your match programmes here!" It has been an integral part of the match-day experience for supporters over the years, please keep buying and supporting the "The Wasp" and make sure we have a match programme to take home and cherish for all these special memories, when we can say "I was there".

QUIZ ANSWERS

- 1. 33% OF LEAGUE GOALS CAME IN THE FINAL 15 MINUTES OF MATCHES SO FAR THIS SEASON**
- 2. 28TH DECEMBER AGAINST KELTY HEARTS. RELEGATION CALLING.**
- 3. WILLIE IRVINE 18 – ALLOA AND BILLY SPENCE 16 – ALTHOUGH BOTH BEATEN TO THE GOLDEN BOOT WITH COLIN MCGLASHAN SCORING 20.**
- 4. 2009 – WHEN MIXU PAATELEINEN OVERSAW TWO 1-0 WINS COURTESY OF STEVEN FLETCHER AND FORMER ALLOA STRIKER DEREK RIORDAN**
- 5. THE SPECIAL ONE!**



BELL'S CHALLENGE CUP 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

After the celebration due to take place in November being cancelled I was delighted that the celebrations took place last Saturday, having won the Bell's Challenge Cup on Sunday 21st November 1999, a day I will never forget.

Originally intended to go ahead in November during the weekend closest to the 25th anniversary, the event was postponed due to adverse weather from Storm Bert. The squad met at the Alloa Athletic Football Memorabilia Exhibition in Glasstown House before making their way back to Recreation Park. Fresh from an appear-

ance on BBC's A View from the Terrace, I was delighted with the response from the players and supporters. "The reaction from the players, the fans and everyone who came along was so enthusiastic".

"When the players came to the museum, they could not believe what was inside and how it had old programmes, pictures of them and so much more, which they were delighted to see".

"They wanted to pass some of the memorabilia on to their sons, grandsons and that's what it's all about - bringing the game alive. "You can't buy that, and I

do this through the love of football and especially Alloa Athletic FC. As long as I'm able to, I'll be coming along to the games and showcasing what I have collected in my museum, people have been great bringing more memorabilia down to hand into the museum."

"A special mention to David Beaton who gifted me his Bell's Challenge Cup Winners Medal to put on display and Mark Wilson who scored a goal to help "The Wasps" win the trophy on the day, gifted me his No. 11 shirt from the match." John Glencross

REACTIONS FROM SOME OF THE PLAYERS

Really appreciate all the hard work you put in for me and team John.

It was an honour and pleasure to see great players and teammates after so many years. Cheers Paul McAneny.

I want to thank you for your wonderful contribution to our reunion yesterday. I was the first to arrive yesterday and was so impressed with how the room looked & the work that had gone in to prepare for the day.

I would also ask that you pass on my gratitude to your wife & daughter who looked after us so well. I thoroughly enjoyed my day, including the result, & that was down to the wonderful organisation & hospitality. Brian Fairley

Delighted to be invited back to Alloa where it all began!
Looking back over memories

of winning the Bells Challenge Cup 25 years ago. It was a great turn out and I had an amazing day. Many thanks to John Glencross for organising and making it such a special day Martin Cameron

Really good to catch up with all the players, supporters and fans after 25 years. I think about that day all the time when you see games in the Challenge Cup, and you always look back on the day in 1999 with fond memories. What a day it was for everyone - for players, fans, supporters and the town of Alloa. Derek Clark

What a fantastic day, a huge thanks to John Glencross for making it happen. I have won Three Challenge Cup medals, two with Hamilton Accies and the one with Alloa Athletic. Great credit to Alloa Athletic for marking the occasion which sadly Hamilton Accies never did, had it not taken place I might not have met all these

amazing players and people who most of them I had not seen in 25 years. Gary Clark

The atmosphere at the ground on Saturday was special, the reception the players received from the fans when taking the Bell's Challenge Cup round for them to see and it brought a feel-good factor back within the stadium. Who is to say it didn't inspire the current team as well and helped them lift their game in the second half to secure sure a vital victory.

Last words from the day came from Alloa Athletic Chairman at the time Willie McKie, "Brilliant day on Saturday, thanks for all your help and support, how good it was to catch up with old friends, great stories recalled from that time, a day which lifted me and so many more people here to witness another special occasion." Willie McKie.





ALLOA ATHLETIC



ARBROATH

| # | 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 | | | |
| | 16 | CHARLIE DEWAR | | | |
| | 17 | KANE THOMSON | | | |
| | 23 | DAVID DEVINE | | | |
| | 27 | MAGNUS MACKENZIE | | | |
| | 4 | STEVEN HETHERINGTON | | | |
| | 7 | KEVIN CAWLEY | | | |
| | 8 | KURTIS ROBERTS | | | |
| | 10 | SCOTT HONEYMAN | | | |
| | 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 | | | |
| | 25 | JOSH GENTLES | | | |
| | MANAGER ANDY GRAHAM | | | | |

| # | POS | | | | |
|---|--|------------------|--|--|--|
| | 2 | AARON STEELE | | | |
| | 3 | COLIN HAMILTON | | | |
| | 4 | JACK WILKIE | | | |
| | 5 | THOMAS O'BRIEN | | | |
| | 6 | SAM STANTON | | | |
| | 7 | DAVID GOLD | | | |
| | 9 | CALUM GALLAGHER | | | |
| | 10 | GAVIN REILLY | | | |
| | 11 | RYAN DOW | | | |
| | 12 | SCOTT STEWART | | | |
| | 14 | FRASER TAYLOR | | | |
| | 15 | KEITH WATSON | | | |
| | 17 | BILLY KING | | | |
| | 19 | CALLUM PENMAN | | | |
| | 20 | RYAN FLYNN | | | |
| | 21 | AIDAN MCADAMS | | | |
| | 22 | INNES MURRAY | | | |
| | 24 | KIERAN MCKECHNIE | | | |
| | 25 | ANDY WINTER | | | |
| | 26 | JASON THOMSON | | | |
| | 27 | AARON MUIRHEAD | | | |
| | 31 | JACK MCCONNELL | | | |
| | 32 | ALI SPALDING | | | |
| | MANAGER DAVID GOLD & COLIN HAMILTON | | | | |

REFEREE: SEAN MURDOCH

ASST: COLIN DRUMMOND & CAMERON TELFER

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ALLOA'S NEXT FIVE

15.03.25, PALMERSTON PARK, 15:00

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| | QUEEN OF THE SOUTH | | ALLOA ATHLETIC |
|--|--------------------|--|----------------|

22.03.25, CALEDONIAN STADIUM, 15:00

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| | INVERNESS CT | | ALLOA ATHLETIC |
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29.03.25, INDODRILL STADIUM, 15:00

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| | ALLOA ATHLETIC | | DUMBARTON |
|--|----------------|--|-----------|

05.04.25, OCHILVIEW PARK, 15:00

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| | STENHOUSEMUIR | | ALLOA ATHLETIC |
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12.04.25, INDODRILL STADIUM, 15:00

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| | ALLOA ATHLETIC | | ANNAN ATHLETIC |
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