

29TH MARCH 2025 3:00PM | £3



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CHILD PROTECTION AND WELLBEING POLICY

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

We recognise -

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

The purpose of the policy and related procedures is to:

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

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

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 Address: Indodrill Stadium, Clackmannan Road, Alloa, FK10 1RY Telephone: 01259722695 Fax: 01259210886 Email: fcadmin@alloathletic.co.uk Web: alloaathletic.co.uk

Club Officials *Honorary Directors* 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 Alan McGregor

Safety Officers Robert Wilson, Carol Edgar

Wasp 2000 Manager Malcolm Gordon

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WILLIAM HILL LEAGUE 1

	Ρ	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
ARBROATH	30	16	6	8	50	33	17	54
COVE RANGERS	30	14	7	9	52	34	18	49
	30	14	7	9	42	30	12	49
ALLOA ATHLETIC	30	10	11	9	44	39	5	41
QUEEN OF THE SOUTH	30	11	6	13	32	37	-5	39
KELTY HEARTS	30	9	10	11	32	32	0	37
MONTROSE	30	8	12	10	33	38	-5	36
INVERNESS	30	13	9	8	35	31	4	33
ANNAN ATHLETIC	30	8	6	16	31	56	-25	30
	30	5	10	15	35	56	-21	10

WEEKEND'S FIXTURES

LEAGUE 1



PREMIERSHIP





LEAGUE 2 BONNYRIGG ROSE - W ELGIN CITY EAST FIFE - SPARTANS FORFAR ATHLETIC - PETERHEAD

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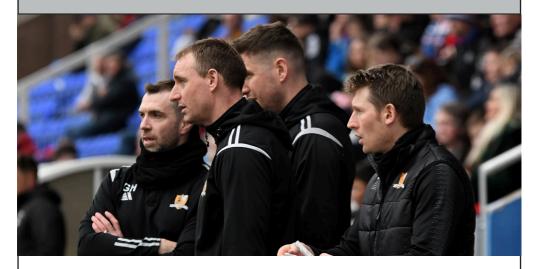
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ANDY GRAHAM



THE GAFFER'S THOUGHTS

Good afternoon and a warm welcome to everyone from Dumbarton FC for today's match.

Firstly, I want to take this opportunity to thank our Kitman, Pat Dunne, for his many years of loyal service to Alloa FC. After experiencing some health issues earlier in the season, Pat has decided to retire and spend more time with his children and grandchildren. Since I joined Alloa nine years ago, Pat has been an invaluable asset to the club and a tremendous support to me since I took on the manager's role. I can't thank him enough for that.

The past few weeks have been tough, with two 3-2 losses and a hard-fought point up at Inverness. At this stage of the season, it's important that everyone stays positive and gives everything we have to secure a place in the playoffs.

I've been gutted to see how this season has unfolded for Dumbarton, with offthe-field troubles resulting in a 15-point deduction. The staff and players at the club can hold their heads high and deserve huge credit for the way they've handled this adversity.

A big thank you to all the supporters who made the long journeys to Dumfries and Inverness, and to all of you for your continued support.

I hope you all enjoy today's game



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LEWIS RUSSELL



NEWSDESK

We've had three rough results since our last programme edition. The last home game against Arbroath secured the Angus side a 3-2 win. Ryan Dow and Aaron Muirhead had put the Lichties 2-0 up before Alloa snapped back with a quickfire double from Luke Rankin and Stefan Scougall but all their hard work was to be undone as in the dving minutes a looping ball over the Alloa defence was pounced on by Calum Gallagher to take Arbroath to victory and hold a commanding lead in the

title race.

After that defeat Alloa have been on the road to the far corners of Scotland. First up was the trip to the borders to face Queen of the South - who remained the closest chasers to the final playoff spot that Alloa hold. Unfortunately game plan's again could be thrown out the window as the Wasps looked shell shocked in the first 20 minutes. Queen of the South scored after 11 minutes through Lewis O'Donnell and doubled their lead through Liam Smith

before signs of life from the Wasps saw Rankin tap in from a squared pass by Josh Gentles. After the break Alloa again came out fighting but were undone by a quick counter for Kai Kennedy to convert a third for the borders side and deflate the visitors. Luke Rankin would force home a second goal of the game to set up the final 20 minutes for a comeback story but Queen of the South through a combination of gamesmanship and robust defending limited any notable opportunities and

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held on to the victory to narrow the gap to the playoff places to just two points.

Finally in the opposite direction. Alloa made the trip to the highlands to face Inverness. In what seems a familiar story the opposition came out all guns blazing early doors and converted through Alfie Stewart. Again Alloa after about 30 minutes seemed to come alive and began to pepper the Inverness emergency goalkeeper Aidan Rice. It would take to the second half for Alloa's pressure to tell when Kurtis Robert's swung in a cross to captain Scott Taggart to loop a header into the corner of the goal and bring Alloa level. The game embarked on a rollercoaster after that. Inverness were denied only by the post as Alfie Stewart missed out on a second - Keith Brav won a penalty which required a fine double save from PJ Morrison to keep the Wasps in the game and then Conor Sammon would draw a second vellow for Remi Savage. The 10 men of Inverness continued to push for victory but that almost left them exposed when Alloa launched

a counter. Rankin cracked the bar and saw his follow up saved before Conor Sammon had the ball in the back of the net only to have it ruled out for offside.

Today's mascot is Ryan is 13 years old and is in S2 at Alloa Academy. He supports Alloa Athletic and Tottenham Hotspur. His favourite players are Scott Taggart and Son Heung-Min. Ryan also enjoys playing tennis and has his green tags in Taekwon Do.

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 currently with a massive **JACKPOT OF** £2650 up for grabs with weekly draws which take place on Wednesdays at 8.15PM, with £50 being added to the jackpot each week.

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Football Memories Group

Indodrill Stadium Alloa

Monday 10th March 2025



igalicatc@aol.com 07877 530314 JONATHAN MARKWELL



10 GOALS AND COUNTING FOR LUKE RANKIN

Few strikers would admit it. but their first ambition each season is to reach double figures for goals. Although goalscorers are becoming increasingly coy about the number of goals they want to score in a season, instead typically deflecting such discussions by saying "it's all about the team", deep down they have their personal targets, absolutely love scoring goals and the first target is always to get at least ten goals, before pushing on and aiming to become that much coveted "20 goals a season striker" (which so far this season only former Wasp Alan Trout-pen has managed in Scotland, with 10 of his 25 goals being from the penalty spot - fair play Trouts!). In Alloa's last home match. Luke Rankin's coolly lobbed finish beyond Arbroath keeper Aidan McAdams meant the young Wasps striker reached that first double figure target. Luke followed that up with a brace at Palmerston Park a fortnight ago, taking his return to a dozen goals and he was only the width of a crossbar and a full stretch save away from making it a bakers dozen for the season in injury time last weekend in Inverness. That illustrates that Rankin has his sights firmly set on finishing the season

strongly and getting as close as possible to that landmark 20 goal mark.

In overall terms it has so far been a pleasing maiden full season as a first team starter for 20 year old Luke. After getting off the mark in his first appearance of the season away at Brechin,with an emphatic half-volley finish drilled back across the keeper and into the far corner, Rankin really announced himself with his double in the victory over Craig Levein's St Johnstone at the Recs. His first saw him nip ahead of Saints keeper Josh Rae and coolly finish into an empty net with his left foot from an acute angle. The second strike, the eventual matchwinner, was also into an unguarded net, as Rae saved Rankin's initial effort, but the ball bounced wide and Luke struck the ball as sweetly as Liam Buchanan's famous strike from around the same spot in the play-offs versus Forfar in 2015, with the ball nestling high into the net to mark a sublime finish from the then teenager.

After such a strong start to the season, it was disappointing for everyone that Luke was soon ruled out for 6 weeks with an ankle injury picked up in training. On his return at the end of September, he was straight back amongst the goals, being in the right place at the right time to tap in a 90th minute equaliser away at Montrose. Rankin's next goal also came away from the Recs, in the televised single goal victory at Stenhousemuir, where his fine finishing came to the fore again, deceiving keeper Darren Jamieson with an early and precisely struck low finish into the very corner of the net from 20 yards. That goal began a run of three goals in four games, with a fiercely struck left-foot finish into the roof of the net during Alloa's 5-0 win over Annan being followed up at Queen of the South, where some clever movement to peel off his marker and apply a cool low finish from Steven Buchanan's cutback broke the deadlock for Alloa that evening.

Rankin then endured a bit of a dip in form, as many of his teammates did too during November and December. Temporary declines can be half expected for any young player in their first season in League One, especially in the physically demanding lone frontman role which Luke

was manfully playing in a team which wasn't really fully clicking at the time. To help build Luke's confidence, he played the first 45 minutes of the Stirlingshire Cup tie against Stirling and duly forced the Binos into an early own goal before driving another low finish into the bottom corner for his 8th goal of the season. I sometimes feel sorry for strikers these days, as they have to put in a phenomenal shift off the ball, often acting as a foil for the wide forwards to take the glory in a 4-2-3-1 system! With Rankin's physicality and backto-goal play still developing, it is often easier for a striker to play

as part of a striking pair and I'm sure if you asked most strikers, they prefer to play alongside another frontman rather than being the sole frontman. It was therefore no coincidence to me that when the Wasps switched tactics for the first game of 2025 away at Arbroath, by playing a pair of strikers, it saw Rankin back on the scoresheet, with another firmly struck low finish, this time from 12 yards.

Thereafter, the January signing of Josh Gentles on loan from Rangers has seen Luke dip out of the side again, but instead making an impact from

Player	Age when scoring 10th goal of the season for Alloa	Details of 10th goal	Total goals that season
Bobby Wales	18 years & 289 days	In the 5-1 demolition of Stirling	
Stevie May	19 years & 123 days	During win at Annan in March '12	19
Taylor Steven	19 years & 234 days	In the play-offs v Accies	10
Euan Henderson	21 years & 159 days	In the Dec 2021 draw at East Fife	
Ross Stewart	21 years & 307 days	Crucial play-off final equaliser at	10



the bench. That superbly taken lobbed finish against Arbroath three weeks ago, Rankin's 10th of the season, saw him return to the starting XI down at Palmerston Park the following week, with another two goals making it a positive day personally for Luke, albeit less so for the team as a whole. I've particularly noticed that Rankin is unusually calm in front of goal for a player of his age; his technique of cleanly striking the ball and always trying to hit the target must have been developed in his formative years. That's borne out in the statistics too, with the BBC Stats page for League One's top goalscorers providing additional context by measuring shot accuracy, which translates into the amount of shots which are on target by any particular

player. Amongst all players with 7 or more goals in the league so far this season, Rankin's 66% shot accuracy puts him ahead of any of the 14 top scorers in the division, to his credit. Although such BBC stats come with a health warning (for example, there was no reference in the live text last week to Rankin's injury-time effort which agonisingly rebounded from the crossbar, or the follow up effort which looked set to give Alloa all three points until Caley's emergency loan keeper Aidan Rice strained every sinew to keep the ball out - meaning neither of those would have counted in his shot count), it still backs up my initial thought that Rankin makes every effort to ensure his shots are on target. That clinical edge and cool head in front of goal can only bode well for the future.

To put Rankin's goalscoring talents into some sort of perspective, by reaching double figures earlier this month the former Falkirk youth-team player become the youngest permanent Alloa signing to do so since Barrie Moffat, all the way back in 1993. Luke was younger to reach double figures than either Martin Cameron, record signing Ross Hamilton (with that £26,000 transfer fee paid out of the £100.000 received for the sale of Cameron to Bristol Rovers in 2000 not looking to be broken any time soon), late 80's goal-getter Paul Rutherford or 21 year olds Kevin O'Hara (in 2020) and lamie Stevenson (in 2006). Going back further in time, trawling through the excellent 'The History of Alloa Athletic' book by John Glencross,



no teenager permanently signed to Alloa has scored ten goals in a single season since Joe McCallan managed it in 1968/69 (John still ranks Joe as one of his favourite Alloa players!).

There have been some other players to notch double figures for the Wasps younger than Luke, but those players have been on loan at the Recs. which diminishes the achievement a little for me! You could analyse that in two ways, with one perspective being that the Wasps have missed a generation of nurturing our own goalscorers and are too reliant on loanees. but the narrative I prefer is that it reflects tremendously on Luke that he's managed to break through and make such a telling contribution to Alloa's goal tally this campaign, against the trend of recent times at the club. Goalscoring is the most difficult element of the game of football and that's why a natural finisher is the most highly prized asset for any manager's squad.

Of those young loanees who have reached double figures for the Wasps, none other than last season's golden boy Bobby 'Goals' Wales was the youngest, being the only 18 year old to score 10 goals in a season for the Wasps in at least the past 50 years! It is tremendous to watch Wales flourishing this season back at Kilmarnock and also scoring for Scotland U21's last weekend too. Fellow teenage prodigy's Stevie May and Taylor Steven were both 19 years old when they notched double figures for the Wasps, while Euan Henderson and Ross Stewart were a couple of years older at 21 when they got amongst the goals for Alloa.

Returning to focus on Rankin, significant credit must go to manager Andy Graham for giving his young striker a sustained chance in the team. Andy has also been carefully managing Luke's workload by dipping him in and out of the starting XI when required this season. Credit too to the player himself, with it evident that he has a determined work ethic to improve himself. The BBC Alba feature during half-time of the televised game at Queen of the South illustrated that, together with the value he is gaining from playing alongside and learning from the experienced Conor Sammon. It is evident that Rankin's profitable loan spell at East Stirling (23 goals in 30 appearances) has toughened him up for the rigours of the senior game, with Luke not shy in outlining that his ultimate ambition is to find a route into full-time football. That should rightly be the ambition of every young part-time player in the lower leagues and if he continues to regularly find the back of the net as he has been doing, Rankin may become the latest player to graduate off Alloa's production line into fulltime football.

Player	Age when scoring 10th goal of the season	Details of 10th goal	Total goals that season
Barrie Moffat	20 years & 31 days	Goal during win v Montrose in Jan 1993	21
Luke Rankin	20 years & 102 days	Lobbed finish v Arbroath at the Recs	12 so far
Martin Cameron	20 years & 166 days	10th goal of season v QoS in Nov 1998	20
Ross Hamilton	20 years & 284 days	Hat-trick strike en route to 4 goal haul in 6-0 win v Airdrie in 2000	11
Paul Rutherford	21 years & 12 days	Goal in 4-1 loss at Annfield in March '88	14
Martin Cameron	21 years & 144 days	Goal in 4-4 v Stirling in November 1999	26
Kevin O'Hara	21 years & 164 days	Goal in January 2020 win v Arbroath	14
Jamie Stevenson	21 years & 256 days	Goal in defeat at Gretna in March 2006	13

JOHN GLENCROSS



ANDY WILLOCK -HE PLAYED FOR BOTH TEAMS

Andy Willock was born on 13th January 1964 and began his footballing career at Barrhead Boys Club before making the move to Coventry City. He then played for the Rangers Youths during the 1982-1983 season. Following that, he ventured to Mount Wellington in New Zealand, where he continued his footballing journey.

Willock's professional career in Scotland started with Clyde in 1983, where he played for six seasons under the management of Craig Brown. This was the beginning of a solid career in Scottish football, and Willock established himself as a reliable player during his time at Clyde. After his spell at Clyde, Willock moved to Ayr United in 1989, playing for three seasons under the management of Ally MacLeod. He contributed significantly to the team before moving to Dumbarton in 1991.

In October 1993, Willock signed for Alloa Athletic, joining from Dumbarton to continue working under Lamont and latterly Pat McAulay. His two seasons at Alloa Athletic were marked by some memorable moments, including his debut on 9th October 1993 against Forfar Athletic, where Alloa won 3-0. Willock scored his first goal for the club on 16th October 1993 in a 3-2 victory over Arbroath. Another key moment came on 18th lanuary 1994, when he played in a 2-2 draw with East Fife. He also made an appearance

as a substitute in a 2-2 draw against Montrose on 23rd April 1994. Willock's time at Alloa also included a challenging Scottish Cup match against Rangers on 15th January 1994, where the team lost 0-4. His last game for Alloa came on 11th March 1995, in a 1-2 loss to Queen's Park.

Following his time at Alloa, Willock moved to Albion Rovers for the 1995-1996 season under Jimmy Crease, before playing briefly at Shotts Bon Accord. In 1996, Willock transitioned to a staff role, becoming the assistant manager at Neilston for the 1996-1997 season, marking a new chapter in his football career, this time on the sidelines.







FIXTURE	VENUE	COMPETITION	RESULT	WIN/DRAW/LOSS	OGAYI	PARRY	MORRISON	TAGGART	WATERS	GRAHAM	NEILL	MCKAY	DEWAR	THOMSON	DEVINE
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		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		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	90		6	
Partick Thistle	Away	СС	1-3	Win	90			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	69	
Arbroath	Home	L1	2-3	Loss			90	90			90	80	10		
Queen of the South	Away	L1	3-2	Loss			90	90	82		45	90			45
Inverness	Away	L1	1-1	Draw			90	90	3	90		45	45		90
Dumbarton		L1													
Stenhousemuir	Away	L1													
Annan Athletic	Home	L1													
Cove Rangers	Away	L1													
Montrose	Home	L1													
Kelty	Away	L1													



MACKENZIE	HETHERINGTON	BRUIN	CAWLEY	ROBERTS	HONEYMAN	NEVANS	SCOUGALL	VIRTANEN	O'DONNELL	MULLEN	MCDONNELL	DONNELLY	SAMMON	BUCHANAN	RANKIN	GENTLES
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	86		64		26		45	4	90		36	90 🛞	13		77	
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			14		14				76	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	23
				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@
21				90			88 🛞	2	90	3		69 🛞	21	90		90
90				84	6		90		90			90		65	25 🛞	90
8				82			90		90			45 🛞	8	45	90 🕀 🕀	90
87			7	90	63		82		90			82	8	37	90	





		LEA	GUE	C	UP	то	TAL	ALLOA CAREER LGE		
	POS	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	- 30 (0)	- 0 -	5 (0)	0	35 (0)	0	60 (1)	0	
TAGGART	DEF	29 (0)	4	8 (0)	2	37 (0)	6	294 (2)	20	
WATERS	DEF	17 (0)	- 1 -	7 (0)	- 0	24 (0)	- 1	57 (0)	2	
GRAHAM	DEF	0 (1)	- 1 -	0 (0)	- 0	0 (1)	- 1	190 (9)	- 15 -	
NEILL	DEF	25 (2)	2	6 (0)	- 1	31 (2)	- 3 -	59 (2)	2	
DEWAR	DEF	6 (2)	- 0 -	0 (0)	- 0	6 (2)	- 0 -	6 (2)	- 0 -	
МСКАУ	DEF	24 (0)	- 1 -	8 (0)	- 0	32 (0)	- 1 -	- 38 (5) -	2	
MACKENZIE	DEF	1 (3)	- 0 -	0 (0)	- 0	1 (3)	- 0 -	1 (3)	0	
THOMSON	DEF	17 (3)	- 2	2 (3)	- 0	19 (6)	2	17 (3)	2	
DEVINE	DEF	1 (2)	- 0 -	1 (0)	- 0	2 (2)	0	34 (5)	0	
HETHERINGTON	MID	13 (2)	- 0 -	5 (1)	- 0	18 (3)	- 0 -	170 (35)	6	
CAWLEY	MID	12 (8)	- 1 -	7 (1)	- 3	- 19 (9)	- 4 -	352 (63)	- 65 -	
ROBERTS	MID	11 (0)	- 0 -	4 (0)	- 0	15 (0)	- 0 -	47 (0)	4	
NEVANS	MID	0 (3)	- 0 -	0 (4)	- 0	0 (7)	- 0 -	- 0 (3) -	- 0 -	
SCOUGALL	MID	23 (3)	- 4	6 (0)	- 1	29 (3)	5	105 (25)	12	
VIRTANEN	MID	12 (6)	- 0 -	2 (1)	- 0	14 (7)	- 0 -	25 (17)	1	
O'DONNELL	MID	21 (7)	- 3 -	2 (2)	- 0	23 (9)	- 3 -	54 (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	4 (7)	- 0 -	0 (1)	- 0	4 (8)	0	4 (7)	0	
DONNELLY	FWD	22 (4)	- 7 -	5 (3)	2	27 (7)	9	40 (31)	- 16 -	
SAMMON	FWD	8 (18)	- 5 -	3 (3)	- 1	11 (21)	6	- 70 (62) -	32	
BUCHANAN	FWD	22 (8)	- 2 -	7 (0)	- 0	29 (8)	2	- 32 (35) -	4	
RANKIN	FWD	18 (6)	- 8 -	6 (0)	- 3 -	24 (6)	- 11 -	- 18 (17) -	9	
GENTLES	FWD	7 (1)	- 2 -	0 (0)	- 0	7 (1)	2	- 7 (1) -	2	

ARMSTRONG PRINTING (ALLOA) LTD

ALLOA CA	REER CUP	ALLOA	TOTAL
APP	GOAL	APP	GOAL
5 (0)	0	- 13 (1)	- 0
35 (0)	0	173 (0)	- 0
19 (0)	0	79 (1)	- 0
66 (1)	5	360 (3)	- 25
18 (0)	1	75 (0)	- 3
54 (3)	1	244 (12)	- 16
12 (1)	2	71 (3)	- 4
0 (0)	0	6 (2)	- 0
13 (2)	0	51 (7)	- 2
0 (0)	0	1 (3)	- 0
2 (3)	0	19 (6)	- 2
3 (1)	0	37 (6)	- 0
38 (10)	1	208 (45)	- 7
74 (13)	15	426 (76)	- 80
10 (1)	0	57 (1)	- 4
0 (4)	0	0 (7)	- 0
25 (8)	3	130 (33)	- 15
5 (4)	- 0	30 (21)	- 1
14 (7)	1	68 (55)	- 7
1 (3)	0	4 (6)	- 0
0 (1)	0	4 (9)	- 0
0 (1)	0	4 (8)	- 0
9 (7)	4	49 (38)	- 20
21 (7)	- 10	91 (69)	- 42
13 (4)	1	45 (39)	- 5
6 (6)	3	- 24 (23)	- 12
0 (0)	0	7 (1)	- 2

	(ALLUA) LID
SPONSORS	Y//
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CALLUM MCTAGGART	CRAIG GRACE



DUMBARTON

The Sons

FOUNDED: 1872

GROUND: Dumbarton Football Stadium

TOP HONOURS

SCOTTISH PREMIERSHIP* WINNERS: 1890-91, 1891-92

SCOTTISH CHAMPION-SHIP* WINNERS 1910-11, 1971-72

SCOTTISH LEAGUE ONE* WINNERS: 1910-11. 1971-72

SCOTTISH LEAGUE 2* WINNERS: 2008-09

SCOTTISH CUP WINNERS 1882-83

This afternoon Alloa return to the Indodrill Stadium to face Dumbarton as they look to return to winning ways. The visitors Dumbarton became the first team in the SPFL to suffer relegation this season as they played out a 0-0 draw at The Rock last Saturday. The Sons now sit 20 points behind their closest challengers, with 18 left to play for. However, the table only paints half the picture as the club have been rocked with financial trouble this season and in turn impacted on the park. Dumbarton would only have been five points behind without their

15-point administration penalty back in November. Despite the season being done, there will be a matter of plaving for pride and new contracts for the remainder of the season. With the burden of the possibility now leaving the squad, perhaps Alloa will face a team playing with a freedom.

THE BOSS -**STEPHEN FARRELL**

Into his fourth year managing the Sons, Stephen Farrell continues to lead the way for the visitors. After beginning his career at Stoke City, he returned North of the border with St

Mirren before having an impressive career in the Junior ranks with teams such as Glenafton. Kilwinning Rangers and Cumnock Juniors. It was at the latter of those he began his managerial career as the successor to Campbell Money at Cumnock. Farrell then began to continue learning his trade as the able assistant to Steve Aitken's successful Stranraer and Dumbarton sides, before taking up the position again as the main man in 2017 at Stair Park. Farrell managed Stranraeer for four years before moving to The Rock in 2021, where he has been ever since. It was his third season in





charge that will be remembered the most fondly as they won promotion back to Scottish League with a dramatic 4-3 aggregrate win over The Spartans.

THE CAPTAIN - MARK DURNAN

A familiar face in Mark Durnan is the skipper of the Sons. Durnan on the most part had a successful period at Alloa after signing for Barry Ferguson in 2021. Making over 50 appearances for the club, the centre half was a formidable force in the heart of defence. The Wasps did miss his presence in the all-important play-off games in what could have capped a fantastic season. Following his departure that summer in 2023, Durnan made the switch to the Sons where in his first season captained the club to promotion from League 2. With all of Dumbarton's injury concerns, Durnan has been one of the 'mainstays', missing only four league games and playing the full duration in the majority of his appearances. He has also chipped in four goals in his 26 appearances

ONE TO WATCH -MICHAEL RUTH

A shining light in a hard season for the Sons is fan favourite, Michael Ruth. No matter the outcome of the season, the young striker will still collect plaudits from Dumbarton fans and those out with too. Ruth has found the back of the net nine times this season, but his all-round work ethic and play has continued to catch the eye of many clubs across the pyramid. One man who no doubt speaks on behalf of the majority of Dumbarton fans, Fraser Clarke, suggested he would be a modern-day legend of the club for his efforts this season. An evening Alloa fans may have forgotten was his reasoning as Ruth grabbed the winner in a 3-2 Scottish Cup game, which was the club's first game after going into administration. That result granted Dumbarton a major cash boost in their bid for survival.

THE CONNECTION

The two clubs have been known in the past to exchange players in the past and these squads are similar. Alloa are

CONTINUED ON P26



led of course by a Dumbarton hero in Andy Graham but the connections move further into the playing squad too. Scott Taggart, Calum Waters, Morgyn Neill and Kevin Cawley have all plied their trade at The Rock. As well the highlighted Mark Durnan, there are two further connections. Aron Lynas spent a short spell at the club in 2016, as well as Mouhammed 'Sena' Niang who spent a season on loan under Barry Ferguson in 2022.

PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Despite Dumbarton being bottom of the league, it is one team that the Wasps have failed to beat this season. As well as the defeat in the cup, Alloa and Dumbarton have faced each other three times this season in the league with every one of those games playing out a draw. The first of those had the most goals as a topsy-turvy affair ended 3-3 at Dumbarton. A late Scott Taggart belter snatched a point that day as Dumbarton thought they were on course to take all three. The home game in December was 2-2 as Luke Donnelly's early strike was cancelled out by a Tony Wallace double either side of half-time. Again, Alloa would not give up as Calum Waters drew the sides level with 15 minutes left to play. The most recent clash was at the Rock and this time it was one goal apiece. James Hilton opened the scoring for the hosts in the opening two minutes before Rangers loanee, Joshua Gentles, equalised in the second half.





SPFL

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JOHN GLENCROSS



FIFESHIRE CHALLENGE CUP SUCCESS AND EXPANSION

The Fifeshire Challenge Cup had proved a great success, and at the AGM of the association, an application from representatives of clubs in the neighbouring "Wee Counties," Kinross and Clackmannan, to join the Fife FA was accepted. The clubs that then joined were: Alloa Athletic, Lochleven Rangers (Kinross), Dunfermline Our Boys Club, Halbeath, Kingseat, and Wellington (Alloa). Dunfermline United had withdrawn, leaving 13 clubs to compete in the Cup.

1883-84 SEASON

Dunfermline once again reached the final after setting a record score for the competition when they beat Wellington (Alloa) in the 1st round. Alloa Athletic then became the first non-Fife team to reach the final by overcoming St. Leonard's, Kirkcaldy Wanderers, and Burntisland Thistle.

On 22nd March 1884, Alloa Athletic traveled to Lady's Mill to take on Dunfermline. The home team was shocked by the play of the Alloa side, and by halftime, Dan Hunter had scored twice to put Alloa 2–0 ahead. In the second half, Toddie pulled a goal back, but in the 70th minute, an own goal by Willie Brown restored Alloa's two-goal lead. Dunfermline refused to give up lightly, and David Brown scored twice to end the game level at 3–3.

In the replay, Toddie and Willie Brown scored in a 2–0 victory for Dunfermline.

Dunfermline's winning side:

Irvine, Reynolds, Campbell, Westwood, Donald, Toddie, W. Brown, Addie, Lennox, Ballingall, and D. Brown.

1885-86 SEASON

In the 1885-86 season, the number of teams increased to 14, which included Dunfermline Athletic (a splinter group that had broken away from Dunfermline FC) and Vale of Forth (Alloa). St. Leonards did not enter this year.

This season marked the fated time when the Cup would leave Fifeshire, as the final was contested between Cowdenbeath and Alloa Athletic. The final was played at East End Park, Dunfermline, and produced a keenly fought match with six goals, as both teams finished 3–3. Alloa Athletic's star man was outside-right Walker, who scored two goals.

The replay took place two weeks later at Lady's Mill, Dunfermline, where a record crowd gathered. By 4 pm (kickoff time), the road outside was completely blocked, and the gatekeeper was overpowered in a stampede as hundreds of spectators broke in for free. This caused great concern, although fortunately, no one was injured.

Alloa was in top form from the outset and swamped Cowdenbeath 4–0 to be crowned champions. The Alloa goals were scored by Ferguson (2), Jock Hepburn (Alloa's only player to be capped for Scotland), and an own goal by Harry Hogg.

The Cup was handed over at the St. Margaret's Hotel, and Alloa Athletic returned home to Clackmannanshire in triumph, receiving a gala reception.

The Alloa Athletic team that won the Fife Cup:

Bowie, Sharkey, Rennie, Hepburn, Addison, Walker, Hunter, Ferguson, Cleminson, Beveridge, and Dodds.

This was Alloa Athletic's only victory in the Fife Cup.

CLACKMANNAN'S SUCCESS

However, Clackmannan won the Fife Cup in 1894-95 when they defeated Cowdenbeath in the final. The match was played on Monday, 3rd June 1895, at Deer Park, Sauchie, with Clackmannan winning 1–0 thanks to a goal from right-half Willie Reid.

In the following season, 1895-96, Clackmannan once again reached the final, where they were scheduled to play Alloa Athletic at East End Park, Dunfermline. However, Alloa declined to fulfill the fixture, and Clackmannan retained the Cup by default.



HALF TIME QUIZ

1. WHICH SIDE HAS THE LONGEST UNBEATEN RUN THIS SEASON IN WILLIAM HILL LEAGUE 1?

2. TODAY'S OPPOSITION DUMBARTON ARE CONFIRMED RELEGATED BUT MANAGED TO ESCAPE THE IGNOMINY OF BEING THE EARLIER RECORDED RELEGATION IN SPFL HISTORY. WHICH SIDE HOLDS THAT RECORD?

3. VICTOR WANYAMA MADE A SENSATIONAL RETURN TO SCOT-LAND AS HE SIGNED FOR DUNFERMLINE ON WEDNESDAY. HOW LONG AGO DID HE LAST PLAY IN SCOTLAND

4. SCOTLAND WERE HIT BY A SORE 3-0 DEFEAT BY GREECE TO KNOCK THEM OUT THE TOP NATIONS LEAGUE GROUPS BUT THE FUTURE IS BRIGHT FOR GREECE. WHAT MILESTONE DID GOALSCORER KONSTANTINOS KARETSAS MANAGE?

5. WHAT TECHNOLOGICAL MALFUNCTION AMUSINGLY DELAYED FRANCE VS CROATIA THIS WEEK?

JIM THOMSON



SCOTTISH FOOTBALL PROGRAMME & MEMORABILIA FAIRS

Over the past month, the Scottish Football Programme & Memorabilia page has welcomed over 50 new members, including people from Alloa and the surrounding area. The group is now approaching 2,400 members, with 1,784 of them active in the last month.

We've had over 250 posts (up 20%), 561 comments (up 32%), and more than 5.4 thousand reactions (up 35%). In the past, programme collectors were primarily men who attended matches, but today, collecting football programmes has gained interest across all age groups. Interestingly, 5.6% of our members are now female collectors — a figure that is steadily rising. Additionally, 40% of our membership is under the age of 45. We're also fortunate to have several former players as members, some of whom have caught the collecting bug

themselves.

The number of seasoned collectors visiting programme shops, both inside and outside football grounds, has increased significantly this season. These visitors love rummaging through boxes of old programmes, searching for that one elusive item they still need for their collection. Interest in collecting programmes is on the rise again, and despite occasional setbacks, the hobby is thriving. Fans and teams selling programmes agree that supporters are still eager to buy them.

However, some collectors have noted that clubs don't always make match programmes readily available to both sets of fans. Where club shops are well-stocked with current and old programmes, sales have noticeably increased. Speaking to other collectors, it's clear that the clubs that don't promote or make match programmes easily accessible are the ones expressing negativity. Simply making the programmes available encourages fans to continue buying.

Jim Thomson from Scottish Football Programme & Memorabilia Fairs said:

"I just made the platform, the collecting community has done the rest. Not bad for a hobby that is supposed to be dead."

Thank you to all our members for your continued interest and contributions. I hope to see many of you at our next Programme & Memorabilia Fair, which will be held at:

Hampden Park, in the Hampden Hall of Fame, on Sunday, 6th July 2025, 10:30 am – 2:00 pm. Admission is free.



QUIZ ANSWERS

1. ALLOA ATHLETIC! 8 GAMES UNBEATEN IS THE LONGEST UNBEATEN SEQUENCE SO FAR THIS SEASON.

2. MARCH 12, 2016, WHEN EAST STIRLINGSHIRE WERE RELEGATED FROM SCOTTISH LEAGUE TWO AND SUBSEQUENTLY LOST THE PLAYOFF AGAINST EDINBURGH CITY

3. 2013! 33 YEAR OLD WANYAMA WOULD SIGN FOR SOUTHAMPTON AND THEN SPURS BEFORE MOVING TO CANADA TO PLAY FOR CF MONTREAL.

4. KARETSAS THE YOUNGEST GOAL SCORER IN BOTH GREECE'S HISTORY AND THE NATIONS LEAGUE, ACHIEVING THIS FEAT AT JUST 17 YEARS, 4 MONTHS, AND 4 DAYS OLD.

5. A REMOTE-CONTROLLED CAR MALFUNCTIONED ON THE PITCH WHILE DELIVERING THE MATCH BALL, CAUSING A BRIEF DELAY. FRANCE'S CAPTAIN, KYLIAN MBAPPE, REMOVED THE CAR TO RESUME PLAY. FRANCE WENT ON TO WIN THE MATCH AND ADVANCE TO THE SEMI-FINALS



FANS VIEW

David Devine said in this week's interview with the Alloa Advertiser:

"We're fourth, teams are chasing us, we just need to win six cup finals and we're in the playoffs. Anything can happen from there."

And it certainly feels like anything can happen in this rollercoaster season. Alloa have comfortably beaten higher-league opposition in St Johnstone and Partick Thistle. Yet, they have only managed to beat Annan out of League 1's current bottom four teams, and we've gone from title doomers to playoff hopefuls to very precarious—all in a matter of weeks.

If there's one thing the run-in needs now, it's a bit of confidence. The consistent story in recent weeks has been sluggish starts to games. Devine admitted as much after completing his first full 90 minutes with the team.

"The last couple of months, we've not started games well, and we've conceded a lot of early goals.

"We're on a bit of a bad spell with that, but once we get rid of it, we've shown in the second half—even in the last 25 minutes today—that we can be a really good team.

"I don't know what it is, but we just need to get going quicker. Once we do that, we'll hopefully have a good end to the season."

Litigating mistakes from recent weeks would leave you prematurely balding from the stress, as it seems like a new player or a freak circumstance pegs us back every week. But on a positive note, here are three things I'd like to see in the final six games:

Movement. Movement. Movement.

If there's one thing Inver-

ness do better than any other team in the league, it's their movement in attack. Rather than sticking to rigid shapes and roles, each player has the license to create overloads in areas where they can cause problems. Indeed, the first goal against us came from Ben Brannan, who was nominally plaving as a right full-back but found himself furthest forward as centre-back Remi Savage picked him out with a huge diagonal pass. Even in the short game, Adam Mackinnon makes devilish little runs to open passing lanes.

This movement allows Inverness to utilize quick, short passes with the occasional direct ball to mix things up. In contrast, Alloa have felt more rigid as the season has progressed. Players look up, see everyone marked in their positions, and opt for the safe pass—often back to a centre-half—which slows the game down and discourages further effort to run off markers and show for the ball.

We need more consistency from our wingers. Whether it's Steven Buchanan, Scott Honevman, or Kevin Cawley, we've struggled to find a reliable outlet in the channels. The reasons vary. Kevin Cawley, in the twilight of his career, doesn't have the same burst of pace as he once did, but he possesses the wherewithal that younger players need to develop. A pressing example came on Saturday when Honeyman was played through, but Nolan put an arm across him and outmuscled the young winger.

When playing against more physical defenders, creating separation is key—whether through a burst of pace or a change of direction. Defenders often get leeway with using their hands, which makes it even more important to gain that yard of space. Buchanan, especially with his speed, sometimes just needs to chip and chase down the outside, forcing defenders to burn a match



to keep up. Unfortunately, our wingers are too often shepherded inside, where they are easier to pick off. Worse still is the fear of making your full-back commit, resulting in a tame back pass that leads to hopeful deep crosses. While a high volume of balls may enter the box this way, they tend to be low-percentage scoring chances. Cutbacks from the byline, please—no defender likes to defend while running toward their own goal.

Once we improve movement and establish consistent outlets, we can eliminate my biggest frustration: forcing our centre-backs to be the main playmakers. Long passes are inherently more difficult to aim, weight, and control, making them easier to intercept. Yet too often, this becomes the default when Alloa's patient approach runs into early cul-de-sacs against motivated teams who get numbers behind the ball.

Both Devine and Dewar showed great confidence on Saturday with their ball-carrying, which commits at least one striker to the press and hopefully opens up a numerical advantage elsewhere on the pitch. Movement from central midfielders to offer their centre-backs a short option is key. This doesn't mean eliminating long passes entirely—after all. circling back to the start, Remi Savage's perfect switch from left centre-back to the right wing was executed brilliantly. But having extra options makes that long ball all the more deadly.

Alloa hold pole position in the race for the playoffs. Let's stay positive and put the opposition on the back foot from the very first whistle.



ALLOA ATHLETIC



DUMBARTON

	#	POS		۲	
	1		TOCHUKWU OGAYI		
X	21		NEIL PARRY		
\mathbf{X}	31		PJ MORRISON		
\mathbf{X}	2		SCOTT TAGGART		
X	3		CALUM WATERS		
\times	5		ANDY GRAHAM		
X	6		MORGYN NEILL		
\mathbf{X}	15		DAVID MCKAY		
-	16		CHARLIE DEWAR		
X	17		KANE THOMSON		
\times	23		DAVID DEVINE		
\times	27		MAGNUS MACKENZIE		
-	4		STEVEN HETHERINGTON		
X	7		KEVIN CAWLEY		
\times	8		KURTIS ROBERTS		
Х	10		SCOTT HONEYMAN		
Х	12		STEFAN SCOUGALL		
+	14		MIKO VIRTANEN		
Х	20		CAMERON O'DONNELL		
\times	22		REECE MULLEN		
X	9		LUKE DONNELLY		
	18		CONOR SAMMON		
\mathbf{X}	19		STEVEN BUCHANAN		
\mathbf{X}	24		LUKE RANKIN		
	25		JOSH GENTLES		
$\mathbf{ imes}$	МА	NAG	ER ANDY GRAHAM		

	#	POS		⊕	
	1		MILOSZ SLIWINSKI		
imes	2		ARON LYNAS		
imes	3		GREIG YOUNG		
imes	5		MARK DURNAN		
\times	6		RYAN BLAIR		
\times	7		KALVIN ORSI		
imes	8		DAVID WILSON		
_	9		JOEL MUMBONGO		
\times	10		FINLAY GRAY		
\times	11		TONY WALLACE		
X	12		CARLO PIGNATIELLO		
Х	13		LUKE SMALLWOOD		
X	14		AEDAN GILFEDDER		
Ł	15		PANOS GRIVAS		
Х	16		MURRAY NICOL		
\times	17		JAMES HILTON		
\times	18		KRISTIAN WEBSTER		
*	20		MOUHAMED NIANG		
\times	21		CRAIG MCGUFFIE		
X	22		MATTHEW SHIELS		
\times	23		MICHAEL RUTH		
\times	24		CAMMY CLARK		
\times	28		SHAY KELLY		
\times	31		MICHAEL MILLER		
×	MA		GER STEPHEN FARRELL		

REFEREE: JOEL KENNEDY

ASST: GORDON CRAWFORD & LIAM DUNCAN

ALLOA'S NEXT FIVE	19.04.25, BALMORAL STADIUM, 15:00
05.04.25, OCHILVIEW PARK, 15:00	26.04.25, INDODRILL STADIUM, 15:00
12.04.25, INDODRILL STADIUM, 15:00	03.05.25, NEW CENTRAL PARK, 15:00



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