



12TH APRIL 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

### Address:

Indodrill Stadium,  
Clackmannan Road,

Alloa, FK10 1RY

**Telephone:** 01259722695

**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

Alan McGregor

### Safety Officers

Robert Wilson, Carol Edgar

### Wasp 2000 Manager

Malcolm Gordon

### Club Shop

Geoff Kay

### Programme Contributors

J. Glencross, J. Markwell, K. Mooney, A  
Cockburn

### Club Photographer

David Glencross

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	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
ARBROATH	32	18	6	8	52	33	19	60
COVE RANGERS	32	14	7	11	52	38	14	49
STENHOUSEMUIR	32	14	7	11	45	37	8	49
QUEEN OF THE SOUTH	32	13	6	13	38	38	0	45
ALLOA ATHLETIC	32	11	11	10	50	43	7	44
MONTROSE	32	9	12	11	36	41	-5	39
KELTY HEARTS	32	9	10	13	33	40	-7	37
INVERNESS	32	14	9	9	39	35	4	36
ANNAN ATHLETIC	32	9	6	17	33	59	-26	33
DUMBARTON	32	7	10	15	44	58	-14	16

## WEEKEND'S FIXTURES

### LEAGUE 1

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

### PREMIERSHIP

CELTIC	KILMARNOCK
DUNDEE UNITED	ST JOHNSTONE
MOTHERWELL	HEART OF MIDLOTHIAN
ST MIRREN	ROSS COUNTY
ABERDEEN	RANGERS
HIBERNIAN	DUNDEE

### CHAMPIONSHIP

AYR UNITED	FALKIRK
GREENOCK MORTON	LIVINGSTON
PARTICK THISTLE	HAMILTON ACCIES
QUEEN'S PARK	DUNFERMLINE
RAITH ROVERS	AIRDRIEONIANS

### LEAGUE 2

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

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every success for the coming season!**



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**GOALKEEPERS**

**PJ MORRISON**

27/02/1998



**DEFENDERS**

**Scott TAGGART**

27/12/1991

183 cm 75 kg



**Calum WATERS**

10/03/1996



**Morgyn NEILL**

10/03/1996



**Neil PARRY**

08/11/1985



**Andy GRAHAM**

22/09/1983

188 cm 85 kg



**David MCKAY**

17/06/1998



**Charlie DEWAR**

12/03/2007



**Tochukwu OGAYI**

10/10/1996



**Kane THOMSON**

12/09/2004



**David DEVINE**

20/06/2001



**Magnus MACKENZIE**

03/05/2005



**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

A warm welcome to Willie Gibson and all the staff from Annan for today's match.

Last week brought a welcome derby win against Stenhousemuir, but the most pleasing aspect was the performance. We registered 25 shots on goal and looked a threat throughout the game. After the disappointment of the Dumbarton match, I was delighted with the players' response. The work rate off the ball gave us the platform to secure the victory.

For today and the remaining four games, the challenge I've set for myself and the players is to find more consistency in our performances.

This is the time of the season when the players need your support more than ever, so please give them your full backing again today.

Best wishes,  
Andy



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LEWIS RUSSELL



## NEWSDESK

Alloa resurrected their playoff hopes with a convincing win over Stenhousemuir. Despite the hosts hitting the bar early Alloa took full control before half time with Luke Donnelly forcing a thunderous effort in at the near post. In the second Stefan Scougall doubled the advantage after a Buchanan cutback, Josh Gentles would not be denied as he was denied by Jamieson at the first attempt but it bounced back to him to rattle in off the post. Matt Yates would give Stenny a lifeline with a header

15 minutes from the end but Alloa would reassert dominance as Stefan Scougall added a second after Josh Gentles burst to the byline to set him up. Indeed it was a day where any Alloa player could have been picked as man of the match but the SPFL opted to name two-goal Scougall as the representative player in the team of the week after the emphatic performance.

Alloa still need fortune elsewhere but the gap to 4th place remains at just a point, and now

Cove and Stenhousemuir are looking catchable.

Arbroath vs Stenhousemuir which is today's featured game on BBC Alba may secure the Lichties the League One title tonight at 5:30.

Fan's Alloa Player of the Year Awards 2024/25 will be after the final home game against Montrose on 26th April. Will take place at Alba (Claremont Hotel) 6.15pm for a 6.30pm start.

Tickets cost £20 / £10, includes buffet, raffle and disco.

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Today's mascot is Wyatt, a lively 9-year-old pupil at St. Mungo's Primary School. He enjoys dancing at Forefront Stage School in Alloa and looks forward to Cubs every Friday. A dedicated Alloa Athletic fan, he follows the team home and if he can away, even recreating the club on FC 25 for Xbox. His favourite players are PJ Morrison and Conor Sammon, and he's often at the stadium by 2pm to watch the goalkeepers warm up.

The next Football Memories Meeting is scheduled for Monday, 14th April, from 11:30am to 1:00pm at the Indodrill Stadium,

Alloa. The guest speaker will be Jon Attenborough, who will share his experiences of visiting football grounds and the challenges faced by partially sighted supporters. Sadly, since the last meeting, Jon's guide dog, Sam, passed away unexpectedly. As a gesture of support, attendees are invited to make a small, optional donation at the meeting. All contributions will go to Guide Dogs for the Blind in memory of Sam.

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 £2700** 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:

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Football Memories Group

Indodrill Stadium  
Alloa

Monday 14th  
April 2025

11.30-13.00

For more info please contact  
[info@fm-scotland.com](mailto:info@fm-scotland.com)  
07877 530314



JONATHAN MARKWELL



# DONNELLY'S FINEST GOALSCORING SEASON

It's fair to say that Luke Donnelly has not been renowned for being a prolific goalscorer in his career so far; instead, Alloa's supremely talented forward is better known for being the scorer of great goals, with it often being a case of quality over quantity for Luke. However, by reaching double figures for goals this season in Alloa's last home game a fortnight ago, and making it eleven for the season in the victory at Stenhousemuir last weekend, we may need to re-evaluate matters. Donnelly's prowess in front of goal this campaign signifies the best goal return of his senior career to

date (eclipsing the 10 he scored in 2022/23, with 1 for Arbroath and 9 for the Wasps).

Whilst taking a deeper dive into Donnelly's Alloa goals, one fact began to stand out: Luke specialises in scoring goals which break the deadlock in games. With football typically being a low scoring game, it is something of a cliché to state that the first goal in any match is crucial, setting a team on the road to victory (or at least having a far better chance of avoiding defeat). It is often the most difficult goal to get and undoubtedly plays a key role in the final

outcome of a game. Of Luke's 23 goals for Alloa, an astonishing 13 have been deadlock breakers! Taking into account his two braces, only 21 could qualify as being the opening goal of a match, which makes that ratio even greater. Alloa's record when LD strikes first reads WWWLWWWWWWDWLW, which in real terms is 10 wins, 1 draw and 2 defeats, equating to a very positive correlation.

In Luke's first season as a permanent Alloa player in 2022/23 under Brian Rice, a phenomenal 7 of his 9 goals were deadlock-breakers. His

looping header v Airdrie (Won 2-0), a left foot deflected strike at the Railway End versus Clyde (Won 2-1), a glancing header low into the net at Open Goal Broomhill (Won 2-1), his tap in v Falkirk in the Scottish Cup (Lost 2-1), a right foot strike in at the near post after being sent clear at Edinburgh (Won 2-0), the back post header back across the goal and into the far corner up in Peterhead (Won 2-0) and the 12 yard curled effort into the corner in the play-offs v Hamilton all made it one-nil to Alloa. With six of those seven goals helping the Wasps to eventual victories, Donnelly's role in opening the scoring should be applauded.

Only his 93rd minute winner past Neil Parry (sorry Neilly!) in a 2-1 win over Clyde (in which Luke had already opened the scoring, before Kurtis Roberts scored a long-range equaliser for the Bully Wee – a long range goal from Roberts in Alloa colours surely isn't far away after his numerous attempts in the past few weeks!) and his early header to make it Edinburgh 0 Alloa 2 (in that infamous game which will never be spoken about again from an Alloa perspective!) were not opening goals that season by LD.

Last season injury disrupted Donnelly's campaign, with him only getting on the scoresheet twice; somewhat inevitably, one of those strikes was a deadlock breaker, as he coolly volleyed a Taylor Steven cross into the far corner to set Alloa en-route to an eventual 5-2 win at Edinburgh. Donnelly's other strike last season was another volley, slammed into the top corner away at Hamilton Accies, after a Cammy O'Donnell free-kick whacked off the crossbar and the ball bounced around the

penalty box before Donnelly simply rifled it home like it was the easiest thing in the world to do, when it clearly wasn't, but for Luke it really was!

This season, 5 of Donnelly's career high 11 goals (so far) have broken the deadlock in games. These strikes comprised the beautifully executed near-post header looped into the far top corner to knock his former employers Arbroath out of the SPFL Trust Trophy, a tap in at the back post after being teed up by Luke Rankin in the home draw versus Dumbarton, the low finish from 8 yards at Kelty after some penalty box pinball and the goals in Alloa's last two matches. First, the controlled low finish into the bottom corner from Magnus MacKenzie's excellent cut-back versus Dumbarton really showcased Donnelly's supreme technique, with his smooth connection having let the ball run across his body absolutely

perfectly. Meanwhile, his opener last weekend at Stenhousemuir was altogether different. Luke showed his eye for the unusual by taking his shot on early and going for the near post when many others would have aimed for the bigger target into the far corner, with that perhaps surprising Darren Jamieson, who could only parry LD's fierce strike into the roof of the net – despite being in the senior game for a decade, Luke's ability to deceive keepers remains alive and well!

Donnelly's goals which haven't opened the scoring this season have included some real highlight reel strikes. Plucking the ball out of the air with an outstretched toe to outrageously roll the ball back over his head and into the far corner at Dumbarton in August was a special strike. His looped volley into the far corner from Scott Taggart's long-throw and Conor Sammon's flick on to equalise



versus Inverness in September wasn't bad either.

However, both those strikes pale into insignificance when you recall his double the last time Alloa hosted Annan at the Recs in November. It was a real day to remember for Luke, with his two sublime finishes widely replayed in the media throughout the following week, with him compared to Dimitar Berbatov in the process! His first saw him instantly control a lofted Taggart cross, before turning his man and firing into the top corner all in quick-fire single motion. I recall letting out an involuntary "Whoa" noise when seeing it, a sign of a special goal! However, LD somehow managed to better that when he showcased his exemplary control by bringing down Taggart's 50-yard long pass with the outside of his foot, before seeing the keeper no more than 1 yard off his line and still having the talent to lob him from the edge of the

box – a truly wonderful goal and epitomising what Donnelly has in his locker. LD's other strikes which didn't break the deadlock this season were away in the cup at Dumbarton (chesting down a Morgyn Neill cross before applying a fierce left-foot low finish) and the equaliser at the start of March which inspired a comeback win versus Cove (another strong shot which flashed past the keeper from the edge of the box, with Donnelly's cameo from the bench that day helping turn the game in Alloa's favour).

Just to put Donnelly's opening goal prowess into a little more context, by comparison Luke Rankin has 2 deadlock breakers in his 13 goals for Alloa (15%), Conor Sammon has 12 openers in his 43 goals for the Wasps (28%) and the old master Kevin Cawley has 36 deadlock breakers in his 80 Alloa goals (45%). That means that Donnelly's rate of 57% of his goals being the openers in matches is far greater than

the norm (although Cawley's strike rate is deeply impressive too!) and should be praised.

Donnelly's game is of course so much more than just scoring goals. From my vantage point, without knowing Luke at all personally, he looks like a player who takes just as much pleasure, if not more, from being the creator of goals for his team-mates than being the one who is actually finishing the chances himself. I keep records of assists and pre-assists (the pass before the assist) and this season LD has 5 assists (only bettered by Cammy O'Donnell's 8 and Steven Buchanan's 6) and 6 pre-assists (only bettered by Stefan Scougall's 7). Donnelly's game is all about knitting the play together, finding space and committing defenders to create room for others (either as a 'number 10' between midfield and attack or as a second striker as at Ochilview Park last weekend), taking care of the ball and



regularly showcasing a range of talents which are seldom seen in the third tier of the Scottish game. Instead, some of the outrageous skills, turns and touches wouldn't look out of place at the top of the game in this country or beyond.

His low-key celebrations after scoring (his index finger gently rising just above his head in a nonchalant style being his trademark) signify to me a slight reluctance and perhaps even a slight embarrassment to be the centre of attention, often heading straight to the team-mate who set him up for the goal to demonstrate his appreciation of the move which he finished off, rather than trying to hog the limelight himself. I would say that's not archetypal of a striker, who normally has it in their DNA to live and breathe goals, goals and nothing but goals and let everyone know about it, but Donnelly is not your typical striker – in a good way.

For some, the 29 year old can on occasion be infuriating to watch – his naturally languid style means that when things aren't going his way it can be misinterpreted as a lack of effort by some on the sidelines, but you simply don't have a decade long career in the senior leagues without putting in the hard yards, so personally I'd suggest that criticism levelled at Donnelly from some supporters from time to time throughout his career is harsh. Donnelly's tall frame and rolled down socks all adds to the fact that for observers there's no hiding place for him on the pitch and I'd personally say that once Luke has a regular run of games under his belt and is free from minor injuries that he may sometimes play through (which of course will not be known about by many) that there's no issue whatsoever with his application. Sometimes for players of Donnelly's ilk, in that link-role between the midfield and attack, can only ever be as

good as the service they receive from their team-mates. Put bluntly, if you're not given the ball, it's nigh on impossible to conjure some magic on every Saturday afternoon.

Returning to my original point, although Luke is more renowned for being the scorer of great goals than being a great goalscorer per se, he is now only one goal away from a career milestone. His overall senior tally, as far as I have ascertained from various sources, presently stands at 49 (East Stirling loan 1; Alloa loan 1; Queen's Park 8; Stranraer 5; Arbroath 12; Alloa second spell 22). Fingers crossed Luke can reach a half-century of goals as soon as possible. I boldly predict it will be another spectacular strike from Alloa's super-talented number 9 and more than likely a deadlock breaker too!



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		10	
St Johnstone	Home	LC	3-2	Win			90	90	90			90			
Greenock Morton	Away	LC	2-1	Loss			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	CC	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	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	45	
Stenhousemuir	Home	L1	1-3	Loss			90	90				90	90	90	
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	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	Home	L1	2-3	Loss			90	90				16	90		74
Stenhousemuir	Away	L1	1-4	Win			90	90				90	9	90	
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
			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	38	45	45	90	
	90		86			4	77	13				90		19	90	71
	90		69				90	69	21			5		21	90	85
			48				73	61	29					16	74	90
			26			26	15	75	90	64				26	64	
	15					20		90	70		15	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
	86		64		26		45	4	90			36	90	13		77
			24					90	90			90	90	6	90	86
			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
					72	3	90	90	90		45		87	18	45	3
					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					65	25	90
	8				82		90		90			45	8	45	90	90
	87		7	90	63		82		90			82	8	37	90	
	90				90		90		81			90	9	24	66	90
	90						90		81			74	16	90		90





A large advertisement for Pepe's food is displayed on a red background. The ad features several food items: a burger with a cheese patty, a side of golden french fries, a large roasted chicken, and a sandwich. In the bottom right corner of the ad, there is a smartphone icon with the text "ORDER DIRECTLY FROM OUR APP!" and logos for Google Play and the App Store. The website address "pepes.co.uk" is printed at the bottom of the ad.

A black advertisement for R. Brown is shown. It features a circular logo with the text "R. BROWN" around the top edge and "EST. 1877" around the bottom edge. In the center of the logo is a stylized "R" and "B" intertwined. Below the logo, the website address "WWW.RBROWN.CO.UK" is printed in white capital letters.





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Quality Butchers

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# APPEARANCES

	POS	LEAGUE		CUP		TOTAL		ALLOA CAREER LGE	
		APP	GOAL	APP	GOAL	APP	GOAL	APP	GOAL
OGAYI	GOAL	0 (0)	0	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	32 (0)	0	5 (0)	0	37 (0)	0	62 (1)	0
TAGGART	DEF	31 (0)	4	8 (0)	2	39 (0)	6	296 (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	26 (2)	2	6 (0)	1	32 (2)	3	60 (2)	2
DEWAR	DEF	8 (2)	0	0 (0)	0	8 (2)	0	8 (2)	0
MCKAY	DEF	24 (2)	1	8 (0)	0	32 (2)	1	38 (7)	2
MACKENZIE	DEF	3 (3)	0	0 (0)	0	3 (3)	0	3 (3)	0
THOMSON	DEF	17 (3)	2	2 (3)	0	19 (6)	2	17 (3)	2
DEVINE	DEF	2 (2)	0	1 (0)	0	3 (2)	0	35 (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	13 (0)	0	4 (0)	0	17 (0)	0	49 (0)	4
NEVANS	MID	0 (3)	0	0 (4)	0	0 (7)	0	0 (3)	0
SCOUGALL	MID	25 (3)	6	6 (0)	1	31 (3)	7	107 (25)	14
VIRTANEN	MID	12 (6)	0	2 (1)	0	14 (7)	0	25 (17)	1
O'DONNELL	MID	23 (7)	3	2 (2)	0	25 (9)	3	56 (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	24 (4)	9	5 (3)	2	29 (7)	11	42 (31)	18
SAMMON	FWD	8 (20)	6	3 (3)	1	11 (23)	7	70 (64)	33
BUCHANAN	FWD	23 (9)	2	7 (0)	0	30 (9)	2	33 (36)	4
RANKIN	FWD	19 (6)	8	6 (0)	3	25 (6)	11	19 (17)	9
GENTLES	FWD	9 (1)	3	0 (0)	0	9 (1)	3	9 (1)	3



**ARMSTRONG  
PRINTING  
(ALLOA) LTD**

ALLOA CAREER CUP		ALLOA TOTAL	
APP	GOAL	APP	GOAL
5 (0)	0	13 (1)	0
35 (0)	0	173 (0)	0
19 (0)	0	81 (1)	0
66 (1)	5	362 (3)	25
18 (0)	1	75 (0)	3
54 (3)	1	244 (12)	16
12 (1)	2	72 (3)	4
0 (0)	0	8 (2)	0
13 (2)	0	51 (9)	2
0 (0)	0	3 (3)	0
2 (3)	0	19 (6)	2
3 (1)	0	38 (6)	0
38 (10)	1	208 (45)	7
74 (13)	15	426 (76)	80
10 (1)	0	59 (1)	4
0 (4)	0	0 (7)	0
25 (8)	3	132 (33)	17
5 (4)	0	30 (21)	1
14 (7)	1	70 (55)	7
1 (3)	0	4 (6)	0
0 (1)	0	4 (9)	0
0 (1)	0	4 (8)	0
9 (7)	4	51 (38)	22
21 (7)	10	91 (71)	43
13 (4)	1	46 (40)	5
6 (6)	3	25 (23)	12
0 (0)	0	9 (1)	3



-	-
RUARI & BRIAN CUTHBERT-IMRIE	NEIL PARRY ALLOA SUPPORTERS CLUB
DEREK YULE	-
BEN WOODRUFF	THE JOLLY BOYS
DAVIS DISTRIBUTION	-
JOYCE & THE PIE HUT	GORDON SHAND
THE WEE FITBA PODCAST	-
PROTECT365	-
GLENN SAUNDERS	-
-	-
JOHN SPENCE	-
JON CARRUTHERS	-
THE JOLLY BOYS	MCCALLUM ENGINEERING
AIMEE BURGESS	BEEES 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
CLELLAND SHAND	GRAHAM GENTLES



# ANNAN ATHLETIC

*The Galabankies*

**FOUNDED:**  
1942

**GROUND:**  
Galabank, Annan

**TOP HONOURS**  
Carlisle and District  
League Winners:  
1952–53  
Cumberland Senior  
Cup Winners (3):  
1952–53, 1968–69,  
1971–72  
Runners up (1):  
1954–55  
East of Scotland Foot-  
ball League Winners (4)  
Runners up (3)  
East of Scotland  
League Cup Winners:  
1999–00  
Runners up: 2006–07

This afternoon we continue our bid to return into the play-off positions with the visit of Annan Athletic to the Indodrill Stadium. The Galabankies currently occupy the opposite play-off position as they sit in 9th place, ahead of already relegated Dumbarton. The gap between them and Inverness, who are set for safety in 8th position, is only three points making every game extremely important. With Kelty Hearts currently on a poor run of form and searching for a new manager, they may also be catchable with only four points of a difference between

themselves and Annan. The visitors have beaten both Inverness and Kelty Hearts in their last four games to claw them back into the discussion, however, lost out in the derby last weekend to Queen of the South 2-0 at Galabank.

## **THE BOSS – WULLIE GIBSON**

Annan will be led out by player-manager, Wullie Gibson, this afternoon. Gibson has had an impressive playing career in Scotland before venturing into management in 2022 with Queen of the South. Following a premature departure from

the club, he returned to solely playing duties at Annan Athletic under Peter Murphy. After he then left to take over his old post at Palmerston, Gibson stepped up to player manager at Galabank. He still plays a very important role in his own team with four goals and four assists in a season where he has only missed one match. Playing in a variety of positions, Gibson has deployed himself in every position across the backline, most recently at centre back.

## **THE CAPTAIN – TOMMY MUIR**

The visitor's skipper





is experienced versatility player, Tommy Muir. Recently becoming the first player of the squad to commit his future beyond next season, Muir extended his contract with Annan for the next two seasons. Having already played for the club for the last five campaigns, Muir is very much part of the core group of players who have been pivotal to their recent success. This contract will take him over the 200 appearances for the club, cementing himself a modern-day hero. Beginning the first half of the season in his natural centre back role, Muir moved to occupy the focal point of the attack up front following the injury to teammate, Tommy Goss. Since his positional change, he has been a revelation scoring eight times and laying off a couple of assists for his

teammates too.

### ONE TO WATCH – AIDAN SMITH

A man who always catches our attention when the Wasps face Annan is forward, Aidan Smith. Last season is mostly where this comes from as Smith grabbed a goal in all bar one of the matches between the sides, proving himself a constant threat to Brian Rice and latterly, Andy Graham's men. The last campaign saw him notch 11 goals across the year, however, this season has proven slightly more challenging in front of goal. Smith currently sits on four goals this season, as well as the same number of assists. Smith's last goal came in the middle of December in a 5-1 victory over Dumbarton, so the wait con-

tinues this year to break his goal duct. Despite that goal drought, Smith will no doubt prove himself a constant menace and nuisance for the Alloa defence.

### THE CONNECTION

The geographical distance between the clubs and the rise of the Galabank side means there is not any current players who have played for both clubs. A rare occurrence in the Scottish lower leagues. However, if you turn the clocks back and look in the past there a few familiar faces that both sets of supporters will remember fondly. Ben Armour, Ryan Finnie and David Ferguson are a trio that come to the fore in more recent times. As do Max

**CONTINUED ON P26**



**BY KIEREN MOONEY**

Wright and David Cox. The most iconic is most likely Mark 'Sparky' Docherty, who is now at East Stirlingshire. The Wasps first signed Sparky in 2011/12, the season that they clinched the League 2 title. However, he had already had a spell at Annan at the point the previous season. He would go on to feature in the historic Alloa team that triumphed over Rangers and punched above their weight in the Championship. Sparky then had a second spell at Annan in the COVID season.

### PREVIOUS MEETINGS

There have been some incredible encounters between the sides this season, with Alloa

enjoying some fantastic moments. The first of those opened at Galabank with a 1-0 victory for the Wasps. Stefan Scougall's early goal was the only strike in the lowest scoring game between the teams. Alloa punished the Galabankies in November in the last game at the Indodrill with a five-star performance in front of the home fans. Cammy O'Donnell, Luke Rankin, Luke Donnelly and Conor Sammon's goals seen Alloa dominate their way to a 5-0 victory. The most recent game at the end of February is a contender for the game of the season. Gibson opened the scoring from the spot to take his side ahead by a goal at half-time. Kane Thomson then equalised for the Wasps before falling

behind 2-1 to Aaron Brown. Just four minutes later, Gibson's opposing manager, Andy Graham, headed the sides level again in a strike where he also became this season's oldest SPFL scorer. Josh Gentles then smashed Alloa 3-2 ahead on the 82nd minute in a goal that looked to have won the game. Aaron Brown had other ideas when he equalised once more on the 91st minute. Surely by then the drama would have ceased, however, there was to be another twist in the tale as Morgyn Neill secured the victory in the 95th minute to give Alloa all three points. A 4-3 victory in a game that tossed and turned was a sweet ending for the Wasps.







*William* **HILL**

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18+

## JOHN GLENCROSS



## GORDON FORREST

3rd September 1952, Edinburgh

Position: Forward

### CAREER SUMMARY

Gordon Forrest began his football career by signing "S" forms with Celtic during the 1968-69 and 1969-70 seasons. He then spent the 1969-70 season with Broxburn Athletic before moving on to Livingston United for the 1971-72 season.

In 1972, he joined Berwick Rangers, making 2 appearances under manager Harry Melrose.

Later that year, Forrest signed for Dunfermline Athletic, managed by George Miller. He remained at East End Park until 1975, making 14 starts and 4 substitute appearances, and scoring 5 goals.

### ALLOA ATHLETIC (1975-1978)

In 1975, Forrest signed for Alloa Athletic under manager Hugh Wilson. He made his debut on 9th August 1975 in a League Cup match against Cowdenbeath at home, which ended in a 3-1 defeat. His first goal came four days later, on 13th August, away to Forfar Athletic in another League Cup tie. His first league goal followed on 8th November 1975 in a 1-0 win away to Cowdenbeath.

He scored in a 2–2 draw against Berwick Rangers in the Spring Cup on 20th March 1976. One of his most important contributions came on 27th April 1977, when he scored the only goal in a 1–0 win over East Stirlingshire at Firs Park, Falkirk – a result that secured Alloa's first promotion since 1938–39. In the final match of the season, Alloa drew 2–2 with Albion Rovers, confirming promotion ahead of Dunfermline Athletic by a single point.

After promotion, Forrest was offered a trial with Sheffield United along with teammates Frank Liddell and Hugh McCann. Unfortunately, an injury sustained in the final game against Albion Rovers meant he was unable to attend the trial.

During his time at Alloa, Forrest played a total of 106 matches – 88 starts and 18 from the bench – and scored 30 goals. His season breakdown was: 1975–76 (24 +10) with 5 goals, 1976–77 (45 +5) with 22 goals, and 1977–78 (19 +3) with 3 goals.

#### **RAITH ROVERS (1978–1980)**

Forrest joined Raith Rovers on 11th January 1978, signed by manager Andy Matthew. He played under three managers during his time at Starks Park – Andy Matthew, Willie McLean and Gordon Wallace. Over three seasons, he made 23 starts and 35 substitute appearances, scoring 13 goals. His season breakdown was: 1977–78 (6 +7) with 5 goals, 1978–79 (14 +19) with 8 goals, and 1979–80 (3 +9) with no goals.

#### **COWDENBEATH (1980–1983)**

On 8th February 1980, Forrest joined Cowdenbeath, signed by

Pat Wilson. Over four seasons at Central Park, he also played under Pat Stanton, Andy Rolland and Hugh Wilson. He made 94 starts and 12 substitute appearances, scoring a total of 43 goals. His season-by-season record was: 1979–80 (10 +2) with 3 goals, 1980–81 (33 +6) with 12 goals, 1981–82 (37) with 24 goals, and 1982–83 (14) with 4 goals.

#### **FALKIRK (1982–1983)**

Forrest signed for Falkirk on 10th December 1982, brought in by John Haggart and later managed by Alex Totten. He made 13 appearances and came off the bench twice, scoring 3 goals.

#### **EAST FIFE (1983)**

He joined East Fife on 2nd June 1983, signed by Dave Clarke. His spell was short, playing 5 matches and coming on as a substitute 4 times, scoring 2 goals.

#### **EAST STIRLINGSHIRE (1983)**

On 15th October 1983, Forrest appeared once as a trialist for East Stirlingshire under Billy Little.

#### **STENHOUSEMUIR (1983–1985)**

He signed for Stenhousemuir on 10th November 1983, brought in by Jim Black and later played under Archie Rose. He spent two seasons at Ochilview, scoring 14 goals in 26 appearances during 1983–84, and added 2 goals in 8 appearances (plus 1 from the bench) in 1984–85. His total at the club was 34 starts and 1 substitute appearance, with 16 goals scored.

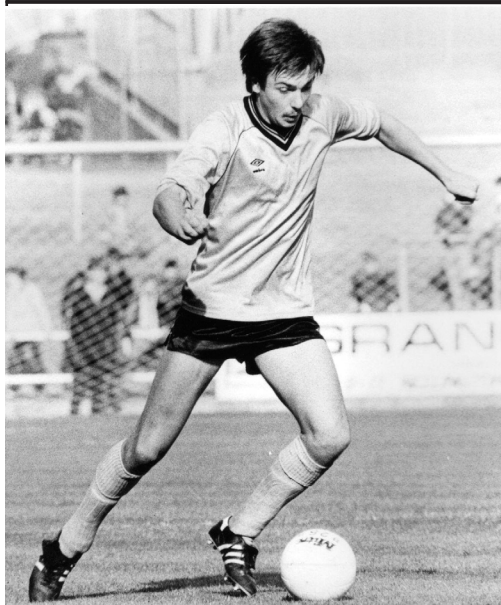
#### **CAREER TOTALS**

Gordon Forrest made 274 senior starts and 76 appearances from the bench, giving him a total of 350 senior appearances and 114 goals scored.

## **HALF TIME QUIZ**

- 1. ALLOA'S VICTORY AGAINST STENHOUSEMUIR EXTENDED A LONG UNBEATEN RECORD. WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME THE WASPS LOST AT OCHILVIEW?**
- 2. HOW MANY GAMES HAS WILLIE GIBSON FEATURED IN AS PLAYER MANAGER OF ANNAN THIS YEAR?**
- 3. CHARLIE MULGREW RESIGNED AS MANAGER FROM KELTY, HOW MANY GAMES DID HE PRESIDE OVER AND HOW MANY DID KELTY WIN?**
- 4. DECLAN RICE SCORED TWO FREE-KICKS IN AN EMPHATIC WIN FOR ARSENAL AGAINST MADRID. HE JOINS AN ELITE CLUB WHO'VE SCORED A FREEKICK BRACE IN A SINGLE CHAMPIONS LEAGUE GAME. NAME THE OTHER PLAYERS TO HAVE COMPLETED THE FEAT.**
- 5. WHILE VISITING LONDON, EVAN JOHNSTON, A STUDENT FROM ARIZONA, ACCIDENTALLY ENDED UP ON A BOAT FULL OF FANS FROM WHICH ENGLISH FOOTBALL CLUB?**

**ANSWERS PAGE 31**



## LOOKING BACK 14TH APRIL 1984

In the semi-finals of The Scottish Cup, Aberdeen reached the final for the third successive year, after a 1-0 win v Dundee at Tynecastle. In the other tie at Hampden Park, Celtic, seeking their first Scottish Cup success for four years, also made it to the final, after they overcame St. Mirren by the odd goal in five.

Just one game took place in The Premier Division, this was at Tannadice, where Dundee United defeated their relegation-haunted Tayside rivals St. Johnstone by 3-0. United thus retained third place behind leaders Aberdeen and sec-

ond-placed Celtic, who were taking a break from league action due to their Scottish Cup involvement, while fourth-placed Rangers and fifth-placed Hearts were two other inactive sides. In the relegation zone, bottom club Motherwell were another gameless side, and as The Well had just five games left to play, & as they trailed safety by seven points, their survival chances appeared somewhat slender. St. Johnstone's defeat kept them in second-bottom spot, and while they only trailed their other local rivals, third-bottom Dundee, who were another inactive side, on goal difference, The Dee held

a precious game in hand.

The First Division's top game was undoubtedly at Cappielow, where second-placed Morton hosted leaders Dumbarton in a crucial clash. And a 2-0 win for The Ton enabled them to swap places with their promotion rivals. But third-placed Partick's own hopes of Premier Division football in 1984-85 suffered a setback, after a 1-2 home reverse v Kilmarnock. For as The Jags were five points worse off than second-placed Dumbarton, and with just four games left to play, it seemed their own promotion ambitions were

looking slim. Everybody will tell you football is a very funny game, on 17th September 1983 Alloa had went to Kilbowie Park and pulled off a 7-2 victory over Clydebank and in the return game at Clydebank on 14th April 1984, "The Bankies" turned it round winning 1-0 at home win against relegation-haunted Alloa, who'd lined up at Kilbowie as follows: Donald Hunter, Davie Martin, Larry Haggart, Bryan Purdie, Bobby Dall, Davie Houston, Drew Paterson, Bobby Harris, Graeme Shearer (Frankie Cole), Garry Thompson, Davie Lloyd. Brechin retained fifth spot in spite of a 2-3 loss at Hamilton Accies, while sixth-placed Falkirk were 1-0 home winners v another side in danger of the drop, Raith. The Rovers thus remained in second-bottom spot, while Alloa still propped up the table, and as The Wasps were six points adrift of safety with just four games left, their survival chances looked rather bleak.

Down in The Second, the day's stand-out clash took place at Annfield, where third-placed Stirling Albion hosted runaway

Champions Forfar. The game ended all-square at 1-1, which meant that The Loons still stretched their lead to fourteen points over second-placed Queen Of The South, whose own promotion ambitions suffered a setback, after a rather surprise 0-2 home reverse v lowly Cowdenbeath. Stirling Albion's own position remained unchanged, while East Fife's 2-0 home success v struggling East Stirling moved them into fourth position, while Berwick remained fifth despite being held 0-0 at home v another of the strugglers, Albion Rovers. Cowdenbeath's success moved them up one place off the bottom, they were replaced in bottom spot by Albion Rovers.

South of the border, it was also cup semi-final day. And Everton booked their first FA Cup Final appearance since they'd won the trophy in 1966, when they defeated Southampton by 1-0 at Highbury. 1-0 was also the outcome at Villa Park, in favour of Watford, who thus reached the final for the first time ever, against Plymouth, who were making their first-ever appearance in

the semi-finals.

In The First Division, there were surprise defeats for the top two clubs, v sides in the relegation zone. For leaders Liverpool were beaten 0-2 at Stoke, though they still remained two points clear of second-placed Manchester United, who were beaten 0-1 at another side in danger of the drop, Notts County. But there was no joy for rock-bottom Wolves, whose fate now looked just about sealed, after they went down 1-2 at Midlands rivals Coventry, who themselves were not completely out of relegation danger.

There was no positional change at the top of The Second Division. But leaders Sheffield Wednesday maintained their three-point advantage, thanks to a 1-0 win v their third-placed promotion rivals Newcastle, in a crucial clash at St. James Park. While second-placed Chelsea also remained on course for The First Division, after they too were victorious by 1-0 on their travels, at their struggling London rivals Crystal Palace.

## QUIZ ANSWERS

1. 19TH SEPTEMBER 2009 – A KEVIN MOTION GOAL SECURED THE WIN FOR STENNY INA 1-0 WIN
2. SO FAR WILLIE GIBSON HAS ONLY MISSED ONE GAME THIS SEASON – A 2-0 LOSS TO ARBROATH
3. 11 GAMES – 1 SINGLE WIN OVER QUEEN OF THE SOUTH
4. CRISTIANO RONALDO, RIVALDO, NEYMAR
5. EVAN JOHNSTON OF TEMPE, ARIZONA BOARDED A THAMES CRUISER, THINKING HE WAS ON A SIGHTSEEING HOP-ON HOP-OFF CRUISE IN LONDON ON SATURDAY, APRIL 5 THE BOAT WAS ACTUALLY FILLED WITH 150 SOUTHEND UNITED SUPPORTERS ON THEIR WAY TO WATCH THE TEAM'S GAME AGAINST SUTTON UNITED – NEED TO REMEMBER THIS MODE OF TRANSPORT FOR OUR NEXT TRIP ALONG THE FORTH



## A FANS VIEW OF THE FINAL FOUR GAMES

With just four matches remaining in the 2024/25 Scottish League One season, Alloa Athletic find themselves in the heart of the playoff race but reliant on their rivals dropping points. It's a tense, four-way scrap for the final playoff spots, with Cove Rangers, Stenhousemuir, and Queen of the South all looking to keep the Wasps out.

### **APRIL 12 – HOME VS. ANNAN ATHLETIC**

Alloa start this decisive

stretch at home against Annan Athletic, a side struggling to stay afloat in League One. On paper, it's the softest of their four remaining games. Alloa may have maximum points against Annan so far with their biggest win of the season coming on their last visit to the Recs but Annan are a wounded animal. Last year they were all but buried but rallied a late run to pip a freefalling Stirling Albion to clear relegation playoff safety. The Wasps don't want to

fall victim this year.

### **APRIL 19 – AWAY VS. COVE RANGERS**

This is the big one. A direct six-pointer against a playoff rival. Alloa beat Cove 2–1 at the beginning of March, and they'll be full of belief heading into the rematch. But the Balmoral Stadium is a tough place to visit. Cove's attack has real threat and the aforementioned Alloa win relied on some heinous Cove finishing with Adam Emslie somehow going over from 4 yards into an open

goal. If results go Alloa's way this weekend it might even see the Wasps climb above the Northeast coast side.

**APRIL 26 – HOME  
VS. MONTROSE**

Montrose have spent much of the season hovering harmlessly in mid-table but there's been one consistent thing that they've produced all season. Points from Alloa fixtures. It's becoming a bogey fixture for the Wasps and surely a horrific winless run against Montrose will not drag into a third season and ultimately sink our playoff hopes. Montrose are the dark horses not mentioned for the playoffs as they sit 5 points behind the Wasps currently but it may be that they have dragged themselves back into the mix by this penultimate fixture - a

worrying thought.

**MAY 3 – AWAY  
VS. KELTY HEARTS**

Obviously, the final fixture may well end up being the make or break. Alloa have managed full points against Kelty this season and the short trip to Fife for the final day may well see the maroon machine having a pointless outing on the final day of the season but also it may be the difference between relegation playoffs and safety. Charlie Mulgrew's tenure has been cut short after never getting going and if Kelty remain in freefall Annan and Inverness may have already leapfrogged them. Confidence seems low just now which may bode well for the Wasps but a new manager bounce - maybe a return of Michael Tidser who was

also summarily dismissed from Dunfermline after leaving Kelty earlier in the season resurrects the early season performances where they showed early title threat.

But even if Alloa win all 4 remaining games it may not be enough. Out of the rivals

**QUEEN OF THE SOUTH**

have the least margin for error and may also need a perfect finish to secure what at times has looked an unlikely playoff spot.

**APRIL 12 – HOME  
VS. MONTROSE**

Most recently Montrose were battered at home 3-0 to the Dumfries side so confidence should be high when they host the Gable Endies at Pamerston. There's been no love lost between the sides this season though as both teams have taken wins in the other meetings which featured red cards. Harry Cochrane was sent off in August as Queen's lost 1-0 and Michael Gardyne and Terry Masson were both dismissed in the last defeat down south for Montrose.

**APRIL 19 – AWAY  
VS. KELTY HEARTS**

Again all the same caveats that we've ran through for Alloa's meeting with Kelty with perhaps the added spice that this game is a sticky one for the Doonhamers. Kelty have lost just one of the last 12 league meetings with only



two draws in that sequence. A real banana skin opportunity for everyone else.

### **APRIL 26 – HOME VS. STENHOUSEMUIR**

Two direct playoff rivals meeting together? Stenhousemuir are in some horrible form just now with no wins in their last 5 currently. They might be looking down the barrel of a gun come this fixture against Queen of the South - for Alloa they can't both win so there's a golden opportunity somewhere but 3 wins and a loss here for Stenhousemuir and a perfect end to the season would still see Queen of the South and Stenhousemuir exclude Alloa from possible promotion.

### **MAY 3 – AWAY VS. ARBROATH**

On paper the strongest team of this season... but Arbroath may well have secured the title weeks before this outing. If they've lost their competitive edge by then this may well be an easy tap in for Queen of the South to secure the playoff spot.

While Queen of the South's form is peaking, **STENHOUSEMUIR** are in crisis. They thought they would be battling for the title but in recent weeks a five game winless run has seen their position become ever so tenuous and have become many peoples picks for dropping out of the playoff spots. They have the hardest run-in to my eye:

### **APRIL 12 – AWAY VS. ARBROATH**

This is as tough as it gets.

Arbroath are the runaway league leaders, and they've already beaten Stenny at Gayfield Park this season. To add to the motivation for a Lichtie victory this game which is live on BBC Alba is the one that mathematically seals the title for Arbroath - a frightening prospect for the floundering Stenny side. They have beaten Arbroath in both games at Ochilview though so not all hope may be lost.

### **APRIL 19 – HOME VS. INVERNESS CT**

Inverness handed them a 4-1 defeat just a few weeks ago. Even at home, this fixture carries major danger. Inverness slipped back from what was at one point title winning form hindered by their 15 point deduction from administration. It means the highland side's survival looks precarious still as we enter this final run of games and there'll be no letup from Inverness as they look to avoid a second successive relegation.

### **APRIL 26 – AWAY VS. QUEEN OF THE SOUTH**

Again both teams can't win, Although Stenhousemuir will be hurting from their 3 defeats against the borders side in the five meetings this year. The Warriors won the last game in February between the sides but have been comfortably beaten or failed to score in the other meetings.





## MAY 3 – HOME VS. DUMBARTON

On paper, this is Stenhousemuir's easiest fixture. But tell that to Dumbarton who've just drawn against Arbroath and Queen of the South beaten Alloa, and then handed out the biggest drubbing of the season 6-0 to Kelty Hearts. Apparently someone forgot to tell the West coast side that they are already relegated but with players playing with a new sense of freedom after a season of uncertainty with administration you couldn't count out Dumbarton to play a vital part on the final day and dash FK2's collective hopes.

Last of our playoff hopefuls is **COVE RANGERS**. Both Cove and Arbroath have recovered from disastrous starts with Cove not managing it as emphatically as their Angus competitors but still looking like a solid pick to make the promotion playoffs.

## APRIL 12 – AWAY VS. DUMBARTON

Despite waxing lyrical about the Dumbarton chances just a paragraph ago, Cove are yet to taste defeat against the Sons this season. Cove have won 2 and drawn one in their encounters so far but will have the tricky patchy pitch at Dumbarton to manoeuvre. A third consecutive Dumbarton win looks a tough prospect but will the feel



good factor wane with Paul Hartley's visit to the Rock?

## APRIL 19 – HOME VS. ALLOA

This match may be crucial. Lose, and Alloa may leapfrog them. Win, and Cove take a big step toward sealing their place. Expect a tight, tactical game.

## APRIL 26 – HOME VS. KELTY HEARTS

Everyone has to tackle Kelty in the run-in but it's 7-1 on aggregate to Cove this season with 2 wins and a draw. Not one that they'll be looking with any great trepidation.

## MAY 3 – AWAY VS. ANNAN ATHLETIC

Annan kept fighting until

the final day last season and it saw them sneak through ahead of the atrocious goal difference accumulated by Stirling Albion. It may well be the same story this year with Cove Rangers their final day victims as they fight tooth and nail for League 1 survival.

Alloa's 4-1 win at Stenny has set us up to dream of what may happen in the final four games but we need to bring that level of performance and a hefty bit of luck if Alloa want to again navigate promotion the hard way to earn a place in the hallowed turf of the Scottish Championship next season.



# ALLO ATHLETIC



# ANNAN ATHLETIC

#	POS				
	1		<b>TOCHUKWU OGAYI</b>		
	21		<b>NEIL PARRY</b>		
	31		<b>PJ MORRISON</b>		
	2		<b>SCOTT TAGGART</b>		
	3		<b>CALUM WATERS</b>		
	5		<b>ANDY GRAHAM</b>		
	6		<b>MORGYN NEILL</b>		
	15		<b>DAVID MCKAY</b>		
	16		<b>CHARLIE DEWAR</b>		
	17		<b>KANE THOMSON</b>		
	23		<b>DAVID DEVINE</b>		
	27		<b>MAGNUS MACKENZIE</b>		
	4		<b>STEVEN HETHERINGTON</b>		
	7		<b>KEVIN CAWLEY</b>		
	8		<b>KURTIS ROBERTS</b>		
	10		<b>SCOTT HONEYMAN</b>		
	12		<b>STEFAN SCOUGALL</b>		
	14		<b>MIKO VIRTANEN</b>		
	20		<b>CAMERON O'DONNELL</b>		
	22		<b>REECE MULLEN</b>		
	9		<b>LUKE DONNELLY</b>		
	18		<b>CONOR SAMMON</b>		
	19		<b>STEVEN BUCHANAN</b>		
	24		<b>LUKE RANKIN</b>		
	25		<b>JOSH GENTLES</b>		
		<b>MANAGER ANDY GRAHAM</b>			

#	POS				
	1		<b>JAMIE SMITH</b>		
	2		<b>SCOTT HOOPER</b>		
	3		<b>RICO QUITONGO</b>		
	4		<b>JOSH DIXON</b>		
	5		<b>TOMMY MUIR</b>		
	6		<b>RHYS BREEN</b>		
	7		<b>PAUL MCGOWAN</b>		
	8		<b>JOSH TODD</b>		
	9		<b>AIDAN SMITH</b>		
	10		<b>TOMMY GOSS</b>		
	11		<b>DAN CARMICHAEL</b>		
	12		<b>GREG FLEMING</b>		
	14		<b>RYAN MUIR</b>		
	15		<b>MAX KILSBY</b>		
	16		<b>PAUL SMITH</b>		
	17		<b>AARON BROWN</b>		
	19		<b>CHARLIE MAXWELL</b>		
	20		<b>MACKENZIE STRACHAN</b>		
	22		<b>LAYTON BISLAND</b>		
	23		<b>LUCA ROSS</b>		
	33		<b>WILLIE GIBSON</b>		
		<b>MANAGER WILLIE GIBSON</b>			

REFEREE:


ASST:


## ALLOA'S FINAL THREE

19.04.25, BALMORAL STADIUM, 15:00



COVE RANGERS



ALLOA ATHLETIC

26.04.25, INDODRILL STADIUM, 15:00



ALLOA ATHLETIC



MONTROSE

03.05.25, NEW CENTRAL PARK, 15:00



KELTY HEARTS



ALLOA ATHLETIC



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