



26TH 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

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Clackmannan Road,
Alloa, FK10 1RY

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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

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	34	19	6	9	57	38	19	63
 COVE RANGERS	34	15	8	11	56	40	16	53
 QUEEN OF THE SOUTH	34	15	6	13	43	40	3	51
 STENHOUSEMUIR	34	14	8	12	46	42	4	50
 ALLOA ATHLETIC	34	12	12	10	52	44	8	48
 MONTROSE	34	9	13	12	39	45	-6	40
 KELTY HEARTS	34	10	10	14	36	43	-7	40
 INVERNESS	34	14	10	10	40	38	2	37
 ANNAN ATHLETIC	34	10	6	18	38	61	-23	36
 DUMBARTON	34	7	11	16	47	63	-16	17

WEEKEND'S FIXTURES











LEAGUE 1

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






PREMIERSHIP

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

CHAMPIONSHIP

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

LEAGUE 2

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



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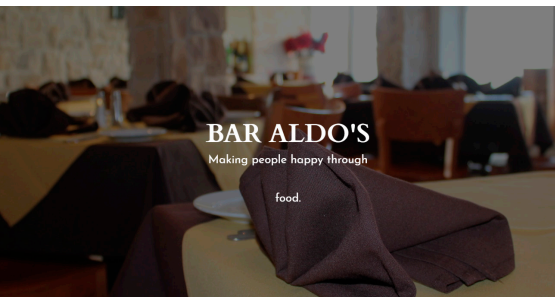
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GOALKEEPERS

PJ MORRISON

27/02/1998



31



DEFENDERS

Scott TAGGART

27/12/1991

183 CM 75 KG



2



Calum WATERS

10/03/1996



3



Morgyn NEILL

10/03/1996



6



Neil PARRY

08/11/1985



21



Andy GRAHAM

22/09/1983

188 CM 85 KG



5



David MCKAY

17/06/1998



15



Charlie DEWAR

12/03/2007



16



Tochukwu OGAYI

10/10/1996



1



Kane THOMSON

12/09/2004



17



David DEVINE

20/06/2001



23



Magnus MACKENZIE

03/05/2005



27



MANAGER

ANDY GRAHAM



MIDFIELDERS

**Steven
HETHERINGTON**

09/03/1993



**Kevin
CAWLEY**

17/03/1989



**Kurtis
ROBERTS**

06/09/1994



FORWARDS

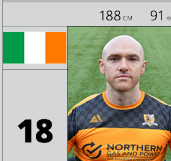
**Luke
DONNELLY**

20/01/1996



**Conor
SAMMON**

06/11/1986



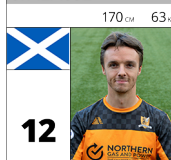
**Scott
HONEYMAN**

19/11/2005



**Stefan
SCOUGALL**

07/12/1992



**Miko
VIRTANEN**

29/01/1999



**Steven
BUCHANAN**

26/03/2003



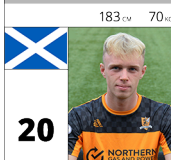
**Luke
RANKIN**

27/11/2004



**Cameron
O'DONNELL**

29/09/2001



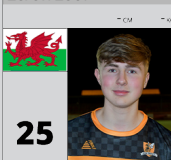
**Reece
MULLEN**

26/03/2006



**Josh
GENTLES**

26/07/2007





THE GAFFER'S THOUGHTS

A warm welcome to Stewart Petrie and all his staff from Montrose.

Before kick-off today, we will acknowledge Kevin Cawley for reaching the incredible milestone of 500 games for Alloa Athletic. Kev has given the Alloa supporters many happy moments throughout his career, and I hope you all take the opportunity to show your appreciation for what a fantastic player and person he has been for Alloa over the years.

A big thanks to all the supporters who travelled to Cove last week to see us earn what was a hard-fought point. The players had to work hard for it, and Cove are a strong side.

The previous week against Annan, I thought we were comfortable and fully deserving of the three points. One thing we lacked was the ruthlessness we had shown at Ochilview.

Today's game will be a tough one, as Montrose have always proven to be strong opponents. But with two games to go, everything is in our hands—it's down to us as a group to go out there and take it.

I hope you give the players great backing and help drive them on to secure the three points.

Thanks,
Andy

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- ✓ **Grandparents' Contact**
- ✓ **Divorce & Separation**
- ✓ **Financial Settlements**
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NEWSDesk

Alloa continue to be in the playoff push with two big results since our last programme.

First at home Alloa dispatched Annan Athletic courtesy of a first professional goal from Magnus Mackenzie. Alloa made a plethora of chances but couldn't convert more as Annan kept things in the balance until late but the Wasps maintained PJ Morrison's clean sheet to take all three points.

Last week was a stiff test up in the north-east against Cove Rangers. Alloa have had

their struggles against Cove with many agreeing that Alloa snatched a victory, their only win over Cove this season, courtesy of some horrendous Cove finishing. Alloa though on a high were tested more in the first half as the home side curled many deliveries into the box. All but one was dealt with as an unfortunate Cameron O'Donnell deflected one effort into the top corner on the stroke of half time.

Second half though Alloa rallied and got their own slice

of fortune with an attempted one-two with Magnus Mackenzie and Luke Donnelly being completed with the help of a deflection of two Cove defenders. The pass left Magnus Mackenzie free with only the goalkeeper to beat and despite Suman landing a foot on the ball Magnus' shot forced it's way into the net for his second consecutive goal.

Fan's Alloa Player of the Year Awards 2024/25 will be after the final home game today against Montrose on 26th April. Will take place at Alba (Claremont

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

Today's mascots are Sophia (age 9) and Louisa (age 7). Both girls attend Larbert Village School and are passionate about football. Sophia's favourite player is Cammy O'Donnell, while Louisa's is Kane Thomson although they weren't allowed to pick their dad - our very own Conor Sammon. They support Alloa Athletic, Manchester United, and Kilmarnock. When they're not cheering on their teams, they love dancing, gymnastics, and, of course, playing football themselves.

The latest Football Memories Group meeting took place at Indodrill Stadium, Alloa, on Monday 14th April 2025. The event featured two guest speakers. Brian Leishman MP, who has served as the Member of Parliament for Alloa & Grangemouth since 4th July 2024, spoke about his support for the Football Memories initiative and its role in enhancing the wellbeing of individuals affected by dementia and loneliness by encouraging social connection and memory

recall.

The main speaker was Jon Attenborough, who, despite being partially sighted, undertook a remarkable journey with his guide dog Sam across Scotland, visiting all 42 Scottish Football League clubs, as well as many clubs in England. Sadly, Sam passed away unexpectedly on Sunday 16th March, before they were able to complete their 150th game together. Jon's book, *Following Sam*, which recounts their journey, is set to be published on 1st May 2025. The book is 216 pages and will be available for purchase on Amazon for £14.99.

In memory of Sam, donations are being collected for Guide Dogs for the Blind. Contributions will be accepted until the end of the 2024-25 football season and subsequently forwarded to the Guide Dogs Training Centre in Forfar. Those interested in donating can contact igxalloafc@aol.com for details.

The next Football Memories Group meeting is scheduled for Monday 12th May 2025, from 11:30am to 1:00pm at Indodrill Stadium, Alloa. Attendees can expect another engaging guest

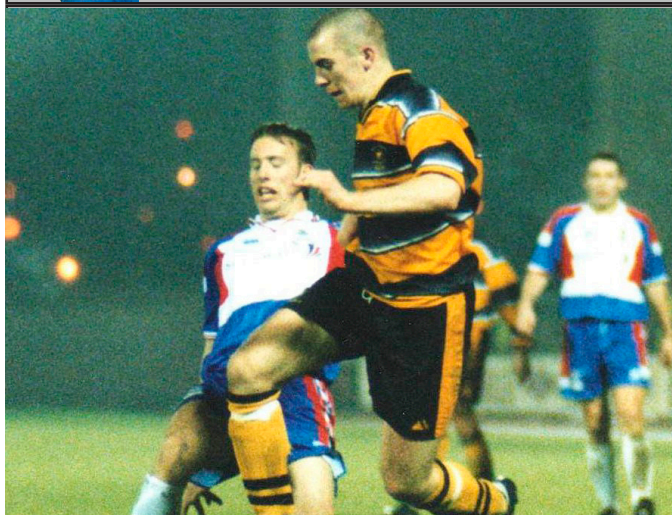
speaker.

Additionally, a new publication, *A History Between Two Clubs: Stirling Albion v. Alloa Athletic* (455 pages, hardback edition), co-authored with Stuart Latham, is now available. Copies can be purchased from the Alloa Athletic Football Memorabilia Exhibition, open Fridays and Saturdays from 11am to 2pm. The official retail price is £25.99, with a discounted pre-order price of £20. Orders can be placed by emailing igxalloafc@aol.com.

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 £2800** 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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25 YEARS ON FROM ALLOA'S TRIUMPHANT 1999/2000 SEASON

Last Tuesday marked the 25th anniversary of the Wasps' pivotal 2-1 victory over Clyde at the Recs, which clinched promotion to the old First Division (now the Championship). Coupled with Alloa's triumph in that season's Challenge Cup, the 1999/2000 season still ranks to me as one of the finest in Alloa's proud history. It is therefore only fitting to take a deep dive into that marvellous season – if you were lucky enough to be watching the Wasps at the time, hopefully it brings back some fond memories. If you are lucky enough to be too young to remember it, hopefully you'll learn

something from it!

It was always going to be a slightly different season, with the ensuing expansion of the Premier League from 10 to 12 clubs allowing two new clubs to join the Third Division (Peterhead and Elgin City) the following summer. The net result for Alloa was that in the Second Division, three teams would be promoted and only one would be relegated. Alloa were not certainly favourites for a promotion spot going into the season though, with the likes of Hamilton Accies, Queen of the South and Partick Thistle expected to

be challenging. But with the wily Terry Christie six months into his reign, Alloa had a chance having finished mid-table in 1998/99 – Alloa's first season back after winning the Third Division under Tom Hendrie's guidance. The fan-base was galvanised by events off the pitch, with newly installed Chairman Willie McKie bringing back a hooped Wasps shirt for the first time for a quarter of a century. Club shop manager Peter Gibson was inundated with requests for the popular shirt, including mine all the way from Ipswich where I was growing up!

Christie had had a clear-out at the end of the previous season, releasing legendary club captain Keith McCulloch, together with Third Division league winners Lloyd Haddow, Stuart MacKay, John McCormack, Davie Pew, Paul Simpson and Stuart Wilson. With the club not operating a reserve team that season, Christie ran with a tighter squad, with only the experienced trio Gary Clark, Jimmy Boyle and Mark Donaghy, alongside youngsters David Menelaws and Stewart Bovill, arriving.

The Wasps started the season on fire with five straight victories, with the first four being secured with trademark Christie clean sheets. That included single goal league wins over Clyde (Willie Irvine the scorer) and Partick (Martin Cameron on the scoresheet). The fifth victory saw the Wasps beat First Division Morton in the CIS Insurance League Cup. I was in attendance that night in the Wee Dublin End as an Irvine masterclass (1 of his 2 goals a 20

yard lob into the very top corner) saw the Wasps triumph 3-1. August finished with two draws, sandwiched between reaching the Challenge Cup Quarter-Finals for the very first time after beating First Division Airdrie on their own ground, with new loan signing Ian Little scoring the winner hours after joining from Livingston. Cameron also won the Bell's Young Player of the Month after his impressive start to the season.

September began with a draw at leaders Arbroath and a heavy defeat in the Stirlingshire Cup final to Falkirk, with Christie playing a fringe/youth side after Alloa's hectic start to the campaign and Falkirk playing their first team. That decision was vindicated as the Wasps bounced back with two wins in four days against Ross County. First, Davie Beaton finished Mark Hateley's career by bossing him at the Recs in Alloa's 2-0 win. The Wasps then travelled to Dingwall in midweek and came away with an extra-time 2-1 win to reach the Challenge Cup final. Donaghy's 25 yard equaliser forced the additional 30 minutes, with Irvine coming up trumps to win the game for the Wasps. Back on league business Alloa won the first derby of the season 1-0 at Forthbank, thanks to Gary Clark's first goal for the club. After such a positive start to the season (12 games unbeaten excluding the Stirlingshire Cup), there was then a surprising 4-1 home defeat to Stenhousemuir. Perhaps the Wasps had one eye on the mid-week cup semi-final at Stirling? That night Alloa recovered from being a goal down to spectacularly reach the final thanks to late goals from new loanee Scott Bannerman and the ever-reliable Irvine from the penalty spot.

Things don't get much better than reaching a cup final after beating your local rivals on their own ground.

October saw Alloa winless for three games, with two league draws sandwiched between a CIS Cup defeat to Premier Division Dundee. Although Cameron put the Wasps ahead after 35 seconds, there'd be no repeat of the previous season's victory over the Dee, as the visitors ran out 3-1 winners. The month finished with a 90th minute 1-0 win over Clyde (a fourth successive 1-0 victory over the Bully Wee, with Little bagging the winner that day) and 1-0 defeat at Ross County. After a dozen games, the Wasps were 2nd in the league, four points behind leaders Arbroath and two ahead of 4th place Stenhousemuir in the quest for promotion.

November saw the Wasps go unbeaten, albeit 3 draws in 4 league matches meant a fall to 3rd in the table. The month started with a sensational 4-4 home game against Stirling Albion, with the Wasps 2-0 down, 3-2 down, 4-3 up and then Ally Graham scoring a late leveller for the Binos. Things went back to normal for Christie the following week with a goalless draw against Arbroath! The Wasps were then building up for the Challenge Cup final versus Inverness, but in the midweek before that game visited Firhill to play Hamilton Accies. The Wasps triumphed 2-1, with a rare Irvine headed winner being a perfect tonic ahead of the cup final. Obviously that day at the Shyberry Excelsior Stadium in Airdrie was a magical one for the club, with the 25th anniversary celebrations excellently organised by John Glencross earlier this season showcasing what

it meant, and still means, to so many. Seldom has a cup final had as much drama as the 4-4 draw with Caley, followed by the 5-4 penalty success that Alloa enjoyed that day.

December was a start-stop month, as postponements meant only two games were played. Alloa got revenge over Stenny with a 3-1 win at Ochilview, with Cameron grabbing his 15th and 16th goals of the season and Irvine his 12th. The Butcher' was hot property at the time, with scouts from Sheffield Wednesday, Stoke City, Manchester City, Liverpool, Everton and Wolves all said to have been keeping tabs on Alloa's prized asset. With 18 months left on his contract, a fee of £250,000 was swirling above Cameron's head, but was having no impact on the 21 year old. The week before Christmas saw Alloa reach the mid-point of the league season, with a drab goalless draw at leaders Clyde meaning the Wasps were tucked in behind in second place.

The Millennium came and went, but it was the same old story for Alloa in January, with a 10th draw in 19 league games in the first foot match at Stirling. Only two more games were possible in January, with Alloa held by East of Scotland heavyweights Whitehill Welfare in the Scottish Cup (current The Spartans manager Dougie Samuel scoring a late equaliser for the Ferguson Park club) and the replay being called-off no fewer than five times (due to a frozen Recs pitch). The end of the month finally saw Alloa through to face Kilmarnock after a comfortable 2-0 replay win. Christie took the opportunity to refresh his squad around the turn of the year, with the additions of Aird-



rie defender Frank Conway and veteran ex-international striker Andy Walker.

February was all about the Scottish Cup, with a trip to Rugby Park seeing the Wasps battle hard for a goalless draw against the Premier Division strugglers. Keeper Mark Cairns pulled off a series of great saves from Jerome Vareille and Gus McPherson, with the Killie fans booing their team off. Back under the lights at the Recs four days later, it went from bad to worse for Kilmarnock as Irvine played through Cameron for his 18th of the season after just five minutes of play, with the Wasps holding on thereafter for a giant-killie-ing! Christie said his team played their hearts out, pinpointing keeper Cairns and captain Craig Valentine for special praise. Ten days later, Dundee United visited the Recs for the last sixteen tie and it was another memorable occasion. Alloa went into an early lead

thanks to a 25 yard rocket of a free-kick from the sweet left-boot of Beaton and just after the half-hour mark were in dream-land after Cameron made it 2-0. However, things then transpired against the Wasps, with United pulling one back and with 20 minutes to go keeper Cairns was stretchered off with an injury, with midfielder Gary Clark going in goal. United equalised with ten minutes to go and then prevailed in the replay at Tannadice 4-0, helped by two late strikes from a young Steven Thompson, scored past Alloa's teenage reserve keeper Martin Parkyn.

Given the weather and cup commitments, it meant Alloa did not play a league game from 3rd January until 26th February. That hiatus saw the Wasps fall to 5th in the table, but with between 3 and 5 games in hand of the competition. After a draw with Partick Thistle, with Killie loan keeper Colin Stewart making his debut, the Wasps then embarked

on a season-defining run of 12 games in 6 weeks, playing Saturday-Tuesday 6 successive times. That daunting schedule began with a defeat in Dumfries, which saw Alloa drop to 6th in the table, but a midweek comeback 3-1 win over Stenhousemuir (Irvine's 15th, Cameron's 20th and Walker's 1st goals of the season) and then a monumental 4-3 away win in Dingwall saw the Wasps jump back up to 2nd within the space of 5 days. Alloa recovered from being 2-0 and 3-1 down at Victoria Park, with a double from Irvine and strikes in the final ten minutes from Gary Clark and star-man Cameron (who his manager said had missed 4 earlier chances!) earning a crucial 3 points against full-time promotion rivals County.

Three days later it was back to the Recs for another meeting with County, who gained revenge with a 2-1 victory. Manager Christie was continually shuffling his team in order to keep everyone fresh, together with new signings 'Wee' Gerry Farrell from Airdrie and raw teenage striker Colin Nish on loan from Dunfermline. Alloa re-took 2nd spot at the weekend when Nish played in Cameron to score his 50th goal for the club to earn a 1-0 win over Stirling, in a derby match where only the score mattered. At that point Alloa were 7 points behind leaders Clyde (but with 2 games in hand) and one point ahead of Ross County (2 games in hand) and Partick (3 games in hand) in the race for promotion.

Alloa then went on a bit of a sticky run of three games without a win, drawing at Stranraer and at home with Hamilton (with Derek Clark red-carded after 33 minutes for an attempted head-butt and Cameron subbed at the

break after suffering an allergic reaction to pills treating a painful stomach ulcer) and losing under the Gayfield lights, as all the midweek games began to catch up on the team. The beginning of April saw the Wasps back on track, with a late Nish winner seeing Alloa triumph in the second part of a double header versus Arbroath. That was followed up by a remarkable home midweek win over Hamilton Accies. Goals in either half from young strikers Cameron and Nish only told half the story, as with the score at 1-0 Accies saw two separate penalties saved by Colin Stewart. Accies were in disarray, having returned from being on strike the previous weekend over unpaid wages. They wouldn't know it at the time of facing Alloa, but they

would later be docked 15 points and be relegated as a result. Alloa were only looking up though, with nine points required from the final six games to secure promotion.

After throwing away three points by conceding two late goals at Stenny to lose 2-1, the final midweek game of a marathon run saw bottom of the table QoS dispatched 3-1, with a Nish double and another Cameron strike (his 24th of the campaign) earning a priceless three points. The Wasps were in the groove now and were 3-0 up at half-time the following Saturday against Stranraer, eventually winning 4-0. Only a last minute equaliser by Partick against Stirling denied the Wasps promotion that day, although a 9 point lead and superior

goal difference of 11 with three games remaining meant it was all but done.

The following week already promoted Clyde visited the Recs and in-front of a bumper crowd of 1739, with the Bully Wee looking to secure the title and Alloa needing a point to guarantee promotion. Irvine set up Cameron in the first minute to put Alloa ahead, only for Pat Keogh to score Clyde's first goal against the Wasps at the fourth attempt in the 5th minute of the game. A strong battle ensued, but it was fitting for the old master Irvine to deliver the winner with 8 minutes to go. Willie drilled a shot low into the net off the post from the edge of the box and then celebrated wildly around the perimeter of the pitch, with a fabulous promotion secured and Clyde's title party put on hold. A pitch invasion and champagne followed after the final whistle, with Irvine remarking "When I came to this club they were second bottom of the Third Division, and look where we are now. This ranks amongst one of the best achievements of my career".

The Wasps finished the season with a 1-0 win at Partick and a 6-1 thrashing of QoS (2 goals on his final career appearance for Andy Walker), to deservedly finish runners-up to Clyde. While the Bully Wee's Allan Maitland and Brian Carrigan (both future Wasps) picked up the divisional Manager and Player of the Year awards, had it not been for Alloa's cup exploits and resultant fixture backlog, it might have been the Wasps who had lifted the title and the individual gongs. However, the whole squad deserved tremendous credit for what was an outstanding season full of joy!



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	Home	LC	3-2	Win			90	90	90		90	90			
Greenock Morton	Away	LC	2-1	Loss			90	90	90		90	90			
Queen of the South	Home	L1	0-0	Draw			90	90	90		90			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	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	5C	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	
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	
Cove Rangers	Home	L1	2-1	Win			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	1-0	Win			90	90			90	4	90	4	
Cove Rangers	Away	L1	1-1	Draw			90	90			90		90		
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	36	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		17		16	74	90	
			26													
	15				26	15	75	90	64	15		75	26	64	64	
	28				20		75	90	70		20	90	5	70	85	
	32		28		13		90	62	77			90	13	62	77	
			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			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		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	
90				90			90		81			90	9	24	66	90
90				90			90		81			74	16	90		90
90				90			90		72			86		86	18	90
90				90			90	1	90			90	15	75		90





JILLAN
FACING

TARMAC
CONTRACTORS
01259 215767
0774 777 6410



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	34 (0)	0	5 (0)	0	39 (0)	0	64 (1)	0
TAGGART	DEF	33 (0)	4	8 (0)	2	41 (0)	6	298 (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	28 (2)	2	6 (0)	1	34 (2)	3	62 (2)	2
DEWAR	DEF	10 (2)	0	0 (0)	0	10 (2)	0	10 (2)	0
MCKAY	DEF	24 (3)	1	8 (0)	0	32 (3)	1	38 (8)	2
MACKENZIE	DEF	5 (3)	2	0 (0)	0	5 (3)	2	5 (3)	2
THOMSON	DEF	17 (4)	2	2 (3)	0	19 (7)	2	17 (4)	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	15 (0)	0	4 (0)	0	19 (0)	0	51 (0)	4
NEVANS	MID	0 (3)	0	0 (4)	0	0 (7)	0	0 (3)	0
SCOUGALL	MID	27 (3)	6	6 (0)	1	33 (3)	7	109 (25)	14
VIRTANEN	MID	12 (7)	0	2 (1)	0	14 (8)	0	25 (18)	1
O'DONNELL	MID	25 (7)	3	2 (2)	0	27 (9)	3	58 (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	26 (4)	9	5 (3)	2	31 (7)	11	44 (31)	18
SAMMON	FWD	8 (22)	6	3 (3)	1	11 (25)	7	70 (66)	33
BUCHANAN	FWD	25 (9)	2	7 (0)	0	32 (9)	2	35 (36)	4
RANKIN	FWD	19 (7)	8	6 (0)	3	25 (7)	11	19 (18)	9
GENTLES	FWD	11 (1)	3	0 (0)	0	11 (1)	3	11 (1)	3

ALLOA CAREER CUP		ALLOA TOTAL	
APP	GOAL	APP	GOAL

5 (0)	0	13 (1)	0
35 (0)	0	173 (0)	0
19 (0)	0	83 (1)	0
66 (1)	5	364 (3)	25
18 (0)	1	75 (0)	3
54 (3)	1	244 (12)	16
12 (1)	2	74 (3)	4
0 (0)	0	10 (2)	0
13 (2)	0	51 (10)	2
0 (0)	0	5 (3)	2
2 (3)	0	19 (7)	2
3 (1)	0	38 (6)	0
38 (10)	1	208 (45)	7
74 (13)	15	426 (76)	80
10 (1)	0	61 (1)	4
0 (4)	0	0 (7)	0
25 (8)	3	134 (33)	17
5 (4)	0	30 (22)	1
14 (7)	1	72 (55)	7
1 (3)	0	4 (6)	0
0 (1)	0	4 (9)	0
0 (1)	0	4 (8)	0
9 (7)	4	53 (38)	22
21 (7)	10	91 (73)	43
13 (4)	1	48 (40)	5
6 (6)	3	25 (24)	12
0 (0)	0	11 (1)	3

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MONTROSE

The Gable Endies

FOUNDED

1879

GROUND

Links Park,
Montrose

TOP HONOURS

Scottish League One*

Winners: 1984-85

Runners Up: 1990-91

Scottish League 2*

Winners: 2017-18

Runners-up: 1994-95

Forfarshire Cup

Winners: 10

This afternoon the race for the play-off intensifies as Montrose visit the Indodrill Stadium in the penultimate game of the season. The goal to return to the play-off for the Mo hasn't come true as they sit 10 points off the elusive final spot, however, for the Wasps, they know that a win might see them leap-frog Queen of the South or Stenhousemuir by this evening. The visitors maintained an outside shot of securing a place in the second half of the season but with three games without a win, they have fallen out of the battle. A draw to Dumbarton came after

defeats to both Arbroath and Queen of the South, meaning they are now playing for safety in the division. Although they sit in the driving seat, the opposition have plenty to play for with a result today ensuring safety in the division. Montrose currently sit on 40-points, which is four ahead of relegation play-off spot holders, Annan Athletic.

THE BOSS – STEWART PETRIE

The Mo will be led out once again by experienced manager, Stewart Petrie. After an impressive playing career, that saw him travel

the world, he retired in 2008, being remember mostly for his 10 years at Dunfermline Athletic. His coaching career began shortly after his playing days in 2009 when he was appointed assistant coach of new A-League franchise North Queensland Fury. After Dick Campbell was sacked from Forfar in 2015, Petrie made his Scottish football return taking over as interim before joining Montrose a year later in 2016. Having held the position since then, Petrie is the second longest serving manager in the country, behind Spartan's boss, Dougie Samuel, and has cemented his spot in





Montrose history. Leading his side to the League 2 title in 2018, he has then made them a very competitive team in Scotland's third tier.

THE CAPTAIN – PAUL WATSON

The visitors will be led out for the final time at Alloa by club legend, Paul Watson. Following 387 appearances for the club, making him the 7th highest appearance holder, the defender will retire at the end of the season. His journey with the club began in 2012 when he signed from St Andrews. Thrown into the deep end, Watson played an integral part in ensuring the club remained a SPFL side, before then leading his team, alongside Petrie, to the title in 2018.

As mentioned, the competitive in League 1 was something he played his hand in as they made the play-offs in five consecutive seasons. Watson still played a key role in his last campaign, however, since the turn of the year has been unable to make a match day squad. Prior to that he had made 20 appearances for the club. All hope that Watson can end on a high and receive the recognition he deserves for his incredible service to the Mo.

ONE TO WATCH – OWEN STIRTON

A man who has caught the eye since his move in January is young forward, Owen Stirton. The 18-year-old joined the club on loan from Dundee United in January and immediately hit the

ground running. Alloa fans will remember him well from the side's previous meeting back in February when he bagged a brace in a 2-2 draw. That is by far his only strike of the season as he has notched an impressive eight goals in his 12 appearances, including a solitary assist too. He temporarily departed Tannadice after signing a new deal that would see him stay at his boyhood club till 2027, however, after catching the eye of many in his short time at Links Park, he will no doubt have plenty of suitors come the summer. The Wasps will have to be on their A-game to combat Stirton's pace, directness and ruthlessness in front of goal.

CONTINUED ON P26



BY KIEREN MOONEY

THE CONNECTION

A rare sight in the lower leagues of Scottish football as there is not a single former Wasp returning to the Indodrill this afternoon. Similarly, the same can be said within the Alloa ranks. The clubs have shared players in the past, most notably in the loanee market. Mouhammed 'Sena' Niang played for Montrose in 2019/20, before making the temporary switch to the Wasps the season after. He was not alone in doing so as Euan Henderson also followed the same pattern. Henderson, who now plays up front for recently relegated Hamilton Accies, finished top scorer in his season at Alloa and

goes down as one of the Wasps many success stories in the loan market.

PREVIOUS MEETINGS

This is the fourth and final encounter between the sides as we approach the end of the season. The most recent of those was the 2-2 draw at Links Park, where as previously mentioned, Owen Stirton grabbed both goals for the Mo. On the scoresheet for Alloa that day was Cameron O'Donnell, with the potential goal of the season, and fellow academy graduate, Steven Buchanan. Prior to that, Montrose have enjoyed this fixture with another 2-2 draw at Links Park to start the season

and victory last time out here in Alloa. Blair Lyons had opened the scoring in the fixture at Alloa in December, before Kane Thomson equalised just minutes later. It was late heartbreak for Andy Graham's side as Kane Hester scored the winner, to make it 1-2, with a minute to play. The late heartbreak acted as revenge in some way as Alloa had scored on the 90th minute in the September fixture. Ali Shrive and Kane Hester scored for the hosts, as well as Morgynn Neill's first half header for the visitors. With seconds on the clock, young Alloa striker, Luke Rankin, found the back of the net to take a point back down the road.





William **HILL**

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COLLECTOR'S CORNER

Following the recent trip to the Stirling Programme Fair, Collectors' Corner was back on the road again—this time to visit a wee gem of a place: the Alloa Athletic Football Memorabilia Exhibition Museum. Tucked away in an industrial estate next to the UG Glassworks, I discovered this Aladdin's Cave of football history.

On entering the museum, I was immediately dazzled by the

bright gold of all things Alloa FC. Every wall was adorned with a feast of souvenirs—flags, photographs, match tickets, programmes, and countless mementos.

I was met with a warm welcome by John Glencross, Alloa FC Historian, accompanied by a couple of museum volunteers. All of them proved to have extensive knowledge of Scottish football, as well as their own

team.

Over mugs of tea and sausage rolls, John explained that the museum—open now for exactly a year—had been his lifelong dream. A devoted Alloa Athletic fan since childhood, John had always collected football memorabilia. When his wife's complaints increased over the years as their family home became overrun, John finally took the decision to make his dream a reality. The museum officially opened on March 29th, 2024.

The project has attracted considerable interest, both locally and nationally. Shortly before my visit, BBC's View from the Terrace paid a visit, and the museum was featured in a recent episode.

Naturally, conversation turned to the Diamonds' links with Alloa. John challenged me to name the number of players who had played for both clubs during their careers. I had no idea—but John immediately handed me a prepared list containing no fewer than 71 names. Can anyone out there beat that? He spoke fondly of many of them, from Willie McCulloch to the ever-present Bryan Prunty.

I had brought with me a copy of an Airdrie-produced video called 2 in a Row, featuring the Diamonds' consecutive Challenge Cup wins—against Livingston in 2000, and then against Alloa the following season. Credit to John, who sat through the highlights of Airdrie's win over his club, still waiting for Terry Christie to bring on Willie Irvine (which, of course, didn't happen). He did, however,

complain that an Alloa shot that cannoned off the bar had been excluded—but I explained that it was the editor's prerogative! For the record, Airdrie's goals came from Mark Roberts and Owen Coyle, while Alloa's goal came from ex-Diamond Gareth Evans.

In addition to establishing the museum, John is a prolific writer. He has now written—if I counted correctly—nine books about his beloved team, including one to commemorate the 25th anniversary of Alloa lifting the Challenge Cup after beating Inverness in 1999 at our own home ground, New Broomfield.

My fondest memory of tussles at Recreation Park will always be our 1–0 victory over Alloa in the second-last game of the 2003/04 season. An otherwise unremarkable fixture for the team in gold and black, it proved decisive for the Diamonds, who went on to gain promotion from Division Two. I remember my grandson persuading me it was okay to run onto the pitch after the game!

John also spoke fondly of his prized possession: his John White collection, which includes an autographed photograph of the late, great player. White, whose life was tragically cut short in an accident, began his senior career with Alloa in the 1956–57 season before moving to Tottenham, after a brief spell at Falkirk. He earned 22 caps for Scotland before his untimely death in 1964 at the age of just 27.

Sadly, time was against us—and due to domestic duties (namely, walking my dog!) I had to leave earlier than I wanted. But that only means there's more to see next time. Before I left, John kindly gifted me

some mementos: complimentary ticket stubs from the old Broomfield stand and even an autograph from former Airdrie manager Jackie Stewart.

Congratulations to John for realising his dream. I would encourage all Diamonds fans to take a trip to Alloa to visit the museum. It's well worth it—and you'll be warmly welcomed by John and his team. Entry is free,

and opening times are Fridays and Saturdays, 11 am to 2 pm. (You can call 07877 530314 for more information.)

Big thanks to John for his time, hospitality, and encyclopedic knowledge. I'm looking forward to a return trip.

Andy Locke
Broomfield Bulletin

FOOTBALL MEMORIES SCOTLAND

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Indodrill Stadium Alloa

**Monday 12th
May 2025**

11.30-13.00

HALF TIME QUIZ

- 1. OWEN STIRTON HAS BEEN ON FIRE SINCE HIS ARRIVAL AT LINKS PARK. HOW MANY GOALS HAS HE SCORED IN HIS 13 APPEARANCES?**
- 2. THE PFA TEAM OF THE YEAR IS SELECTED BY THE PLAYERS ACROSS THE LEAGUE EVERY YEAR. ONLY FOUR ALLOA PLAYERS HAVE BEEN NAMED TWICE TO THE TEAM – CAN YOU NAME THEM ALL?**
- 3. WHICH NIGERIAN INTERNATIONAL NATHANIEL NWOSU CAPPED IN 2022 PLAYS FOR WHICH SCOTTISH TEAM?**
- 4. IN THE RECENT TOTTENHAM – NOTTM FOREST GAME VAR WAS OUT OF USE UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE – CAN YOU GUESS WHY?**
- 5. RANGERS WERE THE LAST REPRESENTATIVE IN EUROPEAN FOOTBALL THIS YEAR. THEY'RE NOW RANKED 25TH IN THE CO-EFFICIENT RANKINGS. WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME THEY RANKED SO HIGHLY?**

ANSWERS PAGE 31

ANDREW COCKBURN



LOOKING BACK

There was a reduced programme of matches in The Premier Division, due to Scotland's World Cup qualifying fixture v Portugal, the following mid-week. Thus, matters were largely unchanged at both ends of the table. As leaders Rangers still held a ten-point lead, and as such, only required one point from their remaining three games, to be crowned Champions of Scotland for the fifth successive year. Then came Aberdeen, Celtic, Dundee United & Hearts, while Falkirk propped up the table, and Airdrie lay just one place above them. And as The Diamonds and The Bairns trailed safety by three and four

points respectively, and with just three games left to play, their survival chances were looking slim. But Motherwell edged a step closer to safety, as they moved up one place to ninth after a 0-0 draw at St. Johnstone, in the division's only game.

Runaway First Division Champions Raith made fourteen league games unbeaten, after they hammered their doomed local rivals Cowdenbeath by 4-1 at Starks Park. One of Rovers other near-neighbours, Dunfermline, moved into second spot thanks to a 1-0 win at relegation-haunted Meadowbank, The Pars displaced Kilmarnock,

whose own promotion ambitions suffered a setback after they lost a crucial clash at another of the challengers, St. Mirren, Killie slipping one place to third. St. Mirren's win kept them handily placed in fourth position, while fifth-placed Hamilton Accies were 2-1 home winners v Morton. Luckless bottom club Cowdenbeath's fate had long been sealed, and battle to avoid the second relegation place now appeared to be a straight fight between Meadowbank and Stirling Albion. And Thistle's defeat kept them in second-bottom spot, though only on goal difference from third-bottom Stirling Albion, whose own rele-

gation worries continued in the shape of a 2-3 home reverse v Clydebank.

The Second Division promotion battle was still undecided but now appeared to be a three-horse race. Leaders Clyde moved three points clear, despite being held 1-1 at home by another of the front-runners, Alloa, for whom Mike Hendry was on target. And The Wasps had lined up at Recreation Park as follows: Jim Butter, Lawrence Crombie, Neil Bennett, Davie Wilcox, Keith McCulloch, Colin Campbell, John Gibson (Gavin Tait), Stevie Ramsay, Mike Hendry (Stevie McCormick), Barrie Moffat, Neil McAvoy. Lawrence Crombie had been signed from Lochend Football Academy in Edinburgh, he was to make 21 appearances for "The Wasps" and scored one goal v. East Stirlingshire at Firs Park in 2-0 victory. Wherever he played he was often barracked by many away supporters due to his father being Bill Crombie who had been a highly respected referee for over 29 years before retiring due to leg and back injuries. Bill, most famously was the referee at Dens Park on 8th May 1986 when

Hearts only needed a point to be Premier League Champions, however Bill Crombie turned down the Hearts supporters cry for a penalty when Sandy Clark was fouled in the box and with only eight minutes left Albert Kidd scored two goals for Dundee to end Hearts title hopes on goal difference with Celtic having won 5-0 at Paisley against St. Mirren. Brechin, despite a 0-1 home reverse v local rivals and fellow challengers Forfar, still retained second spot, while third-placed Stranraer maintained their own promotion bid with a 4-1 win at sixth-placed Arbroath, a result which finally ended The Red Lichties own promotion bid. Forfar's point kept them in fourth place, though their own promotion challenge now appeared all but over, while the same was true of fifth-placed Alloa. Today's visitors Montrose experienced a disappointing 1992-93 league campaign, and The Gable Endies remained in twelfth place after 0-0 draw at East Fife. While bottom club Albion Rovers suffered a third straight defeat, this time by 0-2 at home v Stenhousemuir.

Down in England, there were no games in The Premier League, because of England's World Cup qualifying clash v Holland at Wembley, four days hence. So it was as-you-were re the most important positions, with Manchester United four points clear at the top, and needing just one win from their final two games, to take the first-ever Premier League title/ to be crowned Champions of England for the first time since 1967. Aston Villa, Norwich and Blackburn remained immediately behind United, while Middlesbrough occupied bottom spot.

Portsmouth's 2-0 home win v Wolves saw them take over leadership of The First Division, in place of game less Newcastle, who dropped to second. But The Magpies had the chance to reclaim top spot the following day, when they hosted their relegation-threatened Northeast rivals Sunderland. Third-placed West Ham maintained their own promotion push, with a 2-1 home win v the Bristol Rovers' bottom club, a result which condemned The Pirates to the drop.

QUIZ ANSWERS

1. 8 GOALS – JUST THREE BEHIND TOP SCORER BLAIR LYONS, WHO’S PLAYED 39 GAMES THIS YEAR.

2. RYAN MCCORD 2011–12,12–13 – NEIL PARRY 2016,17 – ANDY GRAHAM, 2016–17, 2018–19 – SCOTT TAGGART 2017–18 AND NOW 2024–25.

3. TAYPORT IN THE MIDLANDS LEAGUE (THE SIXTH TIER OF SCOTTISH FOOTBALL)

4. DUE TO A FIRE ALARM AT THE VAR HUB AT STOCKLEY PARK THE REFEREE’S OPERATING THE VAR SYSTEM FOR THE PREMIER LEAGUE HAD TO EVACUATE

5.HIGHEST COEFFICIENT RANKING SINCE 2008 – WHEN THEY MADE IT TO THE UEFA CUP FINAL. IF THEY’D HAVE MANAGED A DRAW AGAINST BILBAO IN THE SECOND LEG THEY’D HAVE RISE TO 24TH – THEY’VE NOT BEEN RANKED AS HIGHLY SINCE 1994.



FANS VIEW

With just two games remaining, Alloa are right in the mix for making the playoffs. Wins in the final two matches will very likely see the Wasps advance into the two-legged knockout competition ahead of either Queen of the South or Stenhousemuir, despite currently sitting fifth.

While that's relatively straightforward, historically, after the final home game of the regular season (today!), the Player of the Year is presented to the squad by

the directors — and later by the fans. It's struck me as an incredibly hard year to pick a Player of the Year. It might even need to be rescinded and re-awarded depending on whether the Wasps can mastermind another heroic playoff campaign and who steps up when it matters. But I've been thinking about who I could make a case for as Alloa Athletic's Player of the Year.

First up is the man who's appeared most this season — in fact, by my count, he's

only missed one game — captain Scott Taggart. He's been voted into the PFA Team of the Year by fellow professionals, showing his continued high level of performance. He's the team's designated penalty taker and has missed just once from the spot this season. He's contributed six goals from defence, including those penalties. It's been another standout year personally for Taggart, as he became just the fourth player since WWII to make more

than 350 appearances for the club.

But as a unit, Alloa have conceded 44 goals so far. Only three teams have conceded more: Montrose (45), Annan (61), and Dumbarton (63). Defensively, it doesn't feel like a standout year — despite Arbroath, as league winners, conceding 38 (though they didn't help my point by shipping five to Annan last week after clinching the title against Stenny).

Still, you could argue that without PJ Morrison, Alloa would've been on the hook for many more goals. He's kept 10 League One clean sheets this season, with

countless crucial contributions that have kept us in games. There have been very few occasions where you could point the finger at the goalkeeper for dropped points. He's given us a solid foundation — and if we make the playoffs (and maybe even win promotion), PJ Morrison will have been a massive factor in that success.

Only two teams have outscored the Wasps this season — unsurprisingly, it's the top two: Arbroath (57) and full-time Cove Rangers (56). Alloa have notched 52 goals. It's been the best goalscoring season of Luke Donnelly's career, with 11 goals to his name.

He's made 38 appearances, including 31 starts. When he's on form and fully fit, he's a magnificent footballer. But the one criticism might be that, when Alloa aren't finding him with passes, his defensive contributions can lack bite, and he sometimes looks out of place. Still, while this list isn't in any particular order, my personal vote goes to PJ Morrison — and Donnelly is a very close second.

Speaking of goalscorers, Donnelly isn't the only one to hit double digits this year. Luke Rankin has stepped into a regular role and scored 11 goals in 33 appearances, giving him the best goals-per-game



ratio at the club. It's been a strong development year for the youngster, who impressed during his loan at East Stirlingshire last season by finishing as top scorer in the Lowland League. It's been a tough campaign for strikers in general — defences have reigned supreme — and Rankin doesn't quite offer the same hold-up play as his more experienced peers. But he's found the net more than anyone else, and, as the cliché goes, that's the hardest thing in football. If we keep him over the summer and he continues to round out his game, he'll be an excellent striker for years to come. Still, it feels just a bit too early for him to claim Player of the Year.

Stefan Scougall also falls into the category of “best-ever goalscoring season” — seven goals so far, bringing him to 42 career league goals. A common criticism of Scougall has been a lack of end product, but that's a respectable tally for a midfielder, especially considering he's often been used in a holding role. At 32, he's been overlooked for the Team of the Year but arguably can outperform many of this year's nominees. On muddy pitches, he's often looked like he's gliding on a different surface altogether — a joy to watch at his best. But has he produced enough magic moments this season to earn the award? Not quite for me — though I'd give

him a podium finish ahead of Scott Taggart.

Cameron O'Donnell has been an integral part of the side, making more appearances this season than in any other in his career. He's tallied three league goals and five assists and is the designated taker for free kicks and corners. He's capable of producing match-winning moments — like his stunning strike against Montrose from 25 yards — and that might just earn him Goal of the Season. But for me, his performances have been just a touch too inconsistent to merit the Player of the Year crown. He's a strong contender for Young Player of the Year, though, if he





still qualifies as U23.

Steven Buchanan also deserves mention. He's made 41 appearances in all competitions, and although we're going back a bit, his performance against Partick Thistle's Harry Milne — where he absolutely ran the show — remains a season highlight. He's scored twice and registered four assists, though that seems low for someone with Buchanan's pace. Still, it's his first season as a true first-choice player, having previously been a bit-part option. If he can develop a bit more

nuance in his dribbling and consistently put defenders on the back foot, he'll be a terrific asset for years to come.

Unfortunately, I think the loanees — Charlie Dewar, Magnus Mackenzie, and Josh Gentles — are just a bit too early in their Alloa journeys to be serious contenders. Dewar, especially, could've been a mainstay had he arrived in August. Mackenzie has been a strong outlet in his limited appearances, and Gentles is

a literal menace to defenders with his dribbling. With more time and a bigger sample size, I think we'll see even more from all three.

So, who's your Player of the Season? Hopefully, you've taken part in the fan vote — and if you've got tickets (available from the club shop today) join the players at Alba at the Claremont Lodge to join the players as the fans present their awards and celebrate another memorable season for Alloa Athletic.



ALLOA ATHLETIC



MONTROSE

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

#	POS			
	1	CAMMY GILL		
	2	RYAN WILLIAMSON		
	3	ANDREW STEEVES		
	4	AIDAN QUINN		
	5	KERR WADDELL		
	6	TERRY MASSON		
	7	GRAHAM WEBSTER		
	8	PAUL WATSON		
	9	OWEN STIRTON		
	10	MICHAEL GARDYNE		
	11	BLAIR LYONS		
	12	KIERAN FREEMAN		
	14	SEÁN DILLON		
	15	BEN MACIVER-REDWOOD		
	16	CALLUM SANDILANDS		
	19	BLAIR MCKENZIE		
	20	KEIR BERTIE		
	21	ROSS MATTHEWS		
	22	CRAIG BROWN		
	23	MATHEUS MACHADO		
	24	LANCELOT POLLARD		
	25	AULAY MARTIN		
	26	CRAIG WIGHTON		
	MANAGER STEWART PETRIE			

REFEREE:

ASST:

ALLOA'S FINAL GAMES

26.04.25, INDODRILL STADIUM, 15:00



ALLOA ATHLETIC



MONTROSE

03.05.25, NEW CENTRAL PARK, 15:00



KELTY HEARTS



ALLOA ATHLETIC

6TH, 10TH, 14TH, 17TH



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