

AUFC

Ayr United FC Unofficial Programme

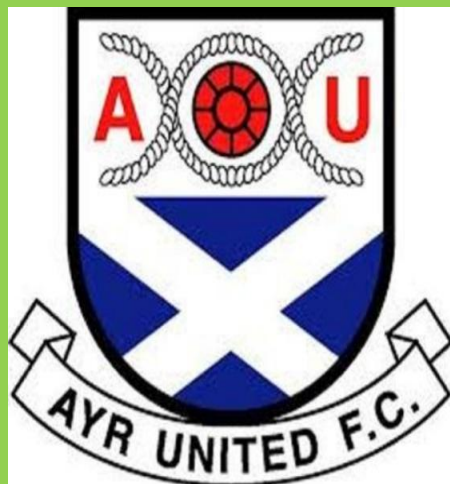
SPFL Cinch Championship

Saturday 7th August, 2021.

Kick-off 3pm

Somerset Park

Ayr United versus Arbroath



CHIT-CHAT

This unofficial programme comes to you as a one-off although it may be an idea to produce it on an occasional basis. Watch this space. Or rather don't watch this space. Please keep reading! The visit of Arbroath will see many of you visiting Somerset Park for the first time in about seventeen months. It just goes to show that in football as in life we never know what is in front of us. A century from now football researchers will be incredulous about the privations suffered between 2020 and 2021. Pay-per-view : no paying spectators at the match : drinks breaks : temporary dressing rooms : two team buses for away games – with a little thought the list of eccentricities could be extended but it would be a dreary exercise. The global pandemic wreaked havoc but now we can get back to admitting fans into Somerset Park. Fans are an essential ingredient if we are to enjoy football. Ayr United fans are particularly partisan and we can look forward to the volume being raised from the Somerset Road end, the north terrace and the Stand. The reliability, or otherwise, of live streams can be banished into the past. At least that is the hope. It is a bit worrying when medical professionals appear on TV with prophecies of a further wave of Covid.

We are now in our fourth Championship season since emerging from League One. In season one we reached the promotion play-offs. A premature end to season two meant finishing in a promotion play-off spot once more only to be denied a crack at it due to the play-offs being scrapped. Last season a loss of momentum resulted in a narrow escape from the play-offs at the wrong end. Who will ever forget that Friday night when we needed a draw at Inverness? Hopes are high for a good season ahead. Summer transfer activity was brisk to put it mildly.

It was a disappointment to lose the opening league game but even neutral opinion agreed that the result at Kilmarnock turned on a penalty which should have been given but wasn't and a penalty which was given but shouldn't have been. Fear not! There is plenty of time to atone.

Duncan Carmichael

Our new signings

Sean McGinty

Sean is a defender who was born in Maidstone on 11th August, 1993, albeit that he has Irish nationality. Career to date: Manchester United, Morecambe (loan), Oxford United (loan), Carlisle United (loan), Tranmere Rovers (loan), Sheffield United, Northampton Town (loan), Rochdale, Halifax Town (loan), Aldershot Town (loan), Torquay United, Partick Thistle and Morton.

Markus Fjortoft

Markus is a defender who was born in Swindon on 12th January, 1994, albeit that he has Norwegian nationality. His father was a Norwegian internationalist. Career to date: Baerum S.K., Duke Blue Devils (college), New York Red Bulls under-23, Southern United (USA), Seattle Sounders, Hamilton Accies and Morton.

Nick McAllister

Nick is a midfielder who was born on 17th January, 2001. He joined from St.Mirren who gave him loan experience at Albion Rovers then Dumbarton.

Aidan McAdams

Aidan is a goalkeeper whose previous clubs are Celtic, Rangers, Annan Athletic (loan), Edinburgh City (loan) then Morton. He was born on 23rd March, 1999. Last season he had a clean sweep of the Player of The Year awards at Morton.

Tomi Adeloye

Tomi is a striker who was born on 17th February, 1996. His former clubs are Charlton Athletic, Millwall, Stoke City, Macclesfield (loan), Chelmsford City, Leatherhead, Dover Athletic, Welling United, Altrincham, FC United of Manchester, Hartlepool United, St.Albans City, Whitehawk, Dagenham and Redbridge, East Kilbride and Barnet.

Charlie Albinson

Charlie was born in Bolton on 15th October, 1996. He is a goalkeeper who was more recently with Warrington Town. His other clubs have been Manchester City, Rossendale United, Bury, Blackburn Rovers and Southport.

James Maxwell

James is a left-back. He was originally with the Ayr United Youth Academy. His next clubs were Falkirk and Rangers. Last season Rangers loaned him to Queen of the South and he is now on a season-long loan at Ayr. He was born on 9th December, 2001.

Daire O'Connor

Daire was born in Arklow on 15th April, 1997. He is an attacking midfielder who has played for the Republic of Ireland at youth level. Originally he played for University College Dublin and subsequently he has played for Cork City then Cliftonville.

Jonathan Afolabi

Jonathan was born in Dublin on 14th January, 2000. He is a striker who played at youth level for Shamrock Rovers and St. Joseph's Boys before progressing to Southampton. His next club was Celtic and he has also had loan experience at Dunfermline Athletic and Dundee. Celtic have permitted him further loan experience at Ayr. He has played for the Republic of Ireland at under-19 and under-21 levels.

It would be remiss to omit mention of the new members of our coaching team. **Jim Duffy**, of course, is a very well known name in Scottish football. In his playing career he served Celtic, Morton, Dundee and Partick Thistle. In a managerial capacity he served Falkirk, Dundee, Hibs, Norwich City, Brechin City, Clyde, Morton and Dumbarton. He was also a youth coach at Chelsea, assistant manager at Portsmouth and director of football at Hearts. **John Joyce** has been assistant manager at Clyde and Annan Athletic as well as occupying a youth development role at Dumbarton.

We all wish David Hopkin and his team well in the season ahead. Clearly much work has been done in the matter of recruitment in the summer months.

Opening day record up to and including 2021/22

| Played | Won | Drawn | Lost | Goals for | Goals against |
|--------|-----|-------|------|-----------|---------------|
| 107 | 42 | 26 | 39 | 167 | 167 |

The abandoned league programme of 1939/40 has been included but not the resultant Regional League. It is extraordinary that since the foundation of the club we have scored and conceded the same number of goals in opening league fixtures.

Memories Are Made of This



The above photo was taken on 23rd September, 1972. It was Arbroath versus Ayr United in the First Division. When the First Division actually was the First Division! John Doyle has just opened the scoring from a tight angle in the 76th minute. Kenny Payne equalised for the home team two minutes later and it ended 1-1.

Ayr United: McLean, Filippi, Murphy, McAnespie, McFadzean, Fleming, Doyle, Graham, Ingram, McGovern and Stevenson; substitute – McGregor.

Arbroath: Marshall, Milne, McAlpine, Cargill, Waddell, Winchester, Sellars, Cant, Pirie, Rylance and Payne; substitute – Robertson.

On This Day : 7th August

7th August 1975

Falkirk 2 Ayr United 2 : 3-4 aggregate : (Anglo Scottish Cup)

Team: Sproat, Wells, Murphy, Fleming, McAnespie, McSherry, Doyle, Graham, Ingram, Phillips and Dickson; substitutes – McCulloch and McDonald.

Falkirk – Donaldson, Kennedy, Cameron, Fowler, Gibson, David Whiteford, Wheatley, Markie, Lawson, John Whiteford and Mitchell; substitutes – Moffat and McCaig.

This second leg tie took place at Brockville on a Thursday night. The first leg had been a cliffhanger on the previous Saturday. On that occasion Falkirk had taken a lead through a Jim Fowler goal early in the second half. Davy McCulloch (83) and Alex Ingram (88) turned it around for a 2-1 home win.



John Whiteford (10) and Stuart Wheatley (55) tilted it in favour of Falkirk in the return match. Gerry Phillips (65 and 76) made it 2-2 on the night for an aggregate win. With our Premier League status it had been much tougher than anticipated. At the next stage we had a 3-0 aggregate defeat against Mansfield Town.

Gerry Phillips

7th August 1991

Maybole Juniors 0 Ayr United reserves 10 (Carrick Speakers Cup)

Glenafton Athletic were beaten 5-1 in the semi-final and we returned to Ladywell Stadium two nights later for the final. Steve Vincent (14), Alan McTurk (19) then Greg Shaw made it 3-0 at the break. The second half goals came from Alan McTurk (51), Andy Willock (55), Alan McTurk (67 and 68), Ian McAllister (72), Stafford (75, own goal) and Alan McTurk (79). Alan McTurk's personal haul was five. Here we see the team with the trophy.



7th August 1999

St.Mirren 1 Ayr United 1 (League). Crowd 3,311

Team: Gill, Prenderville, Rogers, Duffy, Traynor, Lennon, Reynolds (Bowman 82), Davies, Bradford (Kelly 32), Bone (Scally 62) and Lindau.

St.Mirren: Roy, Nicolson, Kerr, Turner, McLaughlin, Walker (Drew 65), Murray, Ross, McGarry, Brown and Baltacha (Yardley 61); unused substitute – Rudden.

Despite it being the season's opening league game we had an injury crisis. Missing through injury were Gary Teale, Andy Lyons, David Craig, Mark Campbell and Stevie Cooper who was destined not to recover. Compounding the situation was the fact that Glynn Hurst and Marvyn Wilson were suspended. We took to the field under the captaincy of Dave Rogers. In the 48th minute Alex Bone met a low cross from John Davies to fire the opening goal. This was Ayr United's 5,000th league goal of all time. In the 62nd minute Hugh Murray felled Barry Prenderville with a vicious tackle from behind. Prenderville got sent off for retaliating with a shove. Murray got a yellow card! Tom Brown levelled it for St.Mirren in the 69th minute. Of our ten opening



league games in the 1990s there were six 1-1 draws therefore this result could have been forecast. The sending-off also created a trend. We had a red card in each of the first three league games of the season. What a day! Five injured, two suspended and one sent off!. We also had a milestone goal at the ground where Ayr United had played the club's 3,000th league fixture earlier that year (30th January).

Alex Bone – scorer of the landmark goal

7th August 2001

St.Mirren 1 Ayr United 3 (Challenge Cup). Crowd 2,072.

Team: Nelson, Robertson, Lovering, Duffy, Hughes, Craig, Teale, McGinlay, Annand, Grady (McEwan 26) and Sheerin (Wilson 56); unused substitutes – Sharp, Bradford and Dodds.

St.Mirren: Roy, Baltacha, Kerr, Turner, McLaughlin, Walker, McKnight (Gillies 56), Murray, McGarry (Yardley 47), Bowman (Quitongo 47) and Burns; unused substitutes – MacKenzie and Scrimgeour.

In the 16th minute Eddie Annand released Paul Lovering down the left and the resultant cross was touched into the net by the onrushing Gary Teale. Mark Yardley was sent on in the 47th minute and he immediately equalised with a looping header from a Sergei Baltacha cross. Parity only lasted for a minute. After tearing straight

upfield from the re-centre there were loud penalty claims when Eddie Annand went down in the box but Paul Sheerin paid no heed and swept home a low drive. In the 72nd minute Gary Teale backheeled the ball to Craig McEwan who crossed for Eddie Annand to score with a quite spectacular volley. It very nearly went to 4-1 when Gary Teale's run set up Marvyn Wilson who checked inside before firing a shot that Ludovic Roy only just managed to tip past.



Gary Teale

Our All Time League Record Against Arbroath

| | Played | Won | Drawn | Lost | For | Against |
|---------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|
| At Ayr | 52 | 34 | 5 | 13 | 122 | 57 |
| At Arbroath | 51 | 21 | 14 | 16 | 90 | 81 |
| Totals | 103 | 55 | 19 | 29 | 212 | 138 |

The tabulation is heavily in our favour but we must proceed cautiously. On their last four league visits to Somerset Park Arbroath have numbered three wins and a draw. It has to be admitted that we were fortunate even to get that draw. In the 90th minute of that fixture Ross Doohan had a quite stunning save from Steven Doris. Seconds later a Thomas O'Brien shot rattled off the post. These closing minutes were tense in the extreme.

Our recent away league record against Arbroath has also been lacking. Our most recent meeting there was a 4-0 defeat. This equalled our biggest ever margin of defeat at Gayfield Park. The comparisons were Arbroath 4 Ayr United 0 on 29th August, 1937, and Arbroath 5 Ayr United 1 on 19th March, 1955.

Throughout our history the club has been involved in eleven abandoned matches. All except two of these matches got replayed. The first one was a home league match with Airdrie on 27th April, 2002. This was abandoned after twenty-one minutes due to crowd disorder. We had a 1-0 lead which was permitted to stand. The second occasion was at Arbroath on 22nd February, 2020, again in the league. With the score at 1-1 the match was abandoned at half-time due to high winds. The match could not be rescheduled due to the onset of Covid 19 and the resultant curtailment of the league programme. The overall series has seen some very high scoring



matches. On 25th February, 1928, the result was Ayr United 7 Arbroath 3 and on 11th October, 1952, the result at Somerset Park was 7-2 in our favour. Coincidentally Arbroath had a 5-3 league win at Ayr in consecutive seasons. These matches were played on 24th March, 1962, and 2nd March, 1963.

Jim Fleeting in action during Arbroath's league visit on 20th October, 1979.

RANDOM FACTS

- When Steve Bowey made his Ayr United debut on 16th February, 2010, it was on the ground of one of his former clubs – Queen of the South.
- Willie Wallace was appointed as Ayr United physio in 1966 and remained in the role for seventeen years.
- In season 2007/08 Ayr United recovered from a troubled spell to win six consecutive away league games out of seven. Seven would have equalled the club record.
- In 1910 Somerset Park had only one trackside advertising board. It was for Fry's Cocoa.
- Jimmy Robertson made his Ayr United debut on 25th November, 1911. He had played for Chelsea in their inaugural season of 1905/06 and was the scorer of their second ever FA Cup goal.
- Our abandonment at Arbroath in 2020 was the eleventh in the history of Ayr United.

AT A GLANCE 2021/22

AT A GLANCE 2021/22

| Name | Previous Club | Date of signing | 21/22 | | Ayr career | |
|------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------|-------|------------|-------|
| | | | Apps | Goals | Apps | Goals |
| Tomi Adeloye | Barnet | 01-07-21 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 2 |
| Jonathan Afolabi | Celtic | Loan | 0(1) | 0 | 0(1) | 0 |
| Charlie Albinson | Warrington Town | 08-07-21 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| Jack Baird | St.Mirren | 04-09-20 | 4 | 0 | 38 | 1 |
| Joe Chalmers | Ross County | 15-09-20 | 0(1) | 0 | 28(4) | 1 |
| Finn Ecrepont | Youth Academy | 29-05-18 | 0(2) | 0 | 0(4) | 0 |
| Markus Fjortoft | Morton | 27-05-21 | 0(1) | 0 | 0(1) | 0 |
| Michael Hewitt | Rangers | 01-05-19 | 3 | 0 | 5(6) | 0 |
| Jordan Houston | Rangers | 23-01-20 | 4 | 0 | 44(8) | 0 |
| James Maxwell | Rangers | Loan | 0(1) | 0 | 0(1) | 0 |
| Aidan McAdams | Morton | 21-06-21 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Sean McGinty | Morton | 27-05-21 | 4 | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| Mark McKenzie | Youth Academy | 01-07-19 | 4 | 0 | 13(29) | 2 |
| Michael Miller | Raith Rovers | 06-08-20 | 1(2) | 0 | 22(8) | 3 |
| Aaron Muirhead | Falkirk | 24-01-19 | 4 | 0 | 68(5) | 5 |
| Andy Murdoch | Morton | 12-07-18 | 4 | 1 | 79(4) | 4 |
| Daire O'Connor | Cliftonville | 28-07-21 | 0(1) | 0 | 0(1) | 0 |
| Patrick Reading | Stevenage Borough | 21-07-20 | 4 | 0 | 28 | 1 |
| Cameron Salkeld | Morton | 25-05-21 | 4 | 1 | 4 | 1 |
| Paul Smith | Youth Academy | 03-07-19 | 0(1) | 0 | 0(4) | 0 |

Up to and including match played on 2nd August, 2021. Includes League, Scottish Cup, League Cup, Challenge Cup and play-offs. Brackets indicate player going on as a substitute but excludes substitute listings where the player has remained unused.

AYR UNITED FC RESULTS AND IMMEDIATE FIXTURES 2021/22 Home Games and Goalscorers in bold

| Date | Opponents | Score | Comp | Crowd | Squad |
|----------------|-----------------------|-------|---------|-------|--|
| 10-July | Albion Rovers | 0-0 | Lge Cup | 150 | McAdams Muirhead Baird McGinty Houston Salkeld Miller Murdoch Reading McKenzie Adeloye Hewitt Ecrepont Jeanes Smith Shootout lost 4-2 |
| 13-July | Edinburgh City | 3-0 | Lge Cup | 500 | Albinson Muirhead Baird McGinty Houston Salkeld Hewitt Murdoch Reading McKenzie Adeloye2 Ecrepont Jeanes Miller Bilham Smith McAdams |
| 20-July | Hamilton Accies | 1-0 | Lge Cup | 801 | Albinson Houston Baird McGinty Reading Salkeld Murdoch Muirhead Hewitt McKenzie Adeloye Miller Chalmers Fjortoft Ecrepont Bilham Jeanes Smith McAdams |
| 24-July | Falkirk | (3-0) | Lge Cup | | Forfeited in our favour |
| 02-Aug | Kilmarnock | 0-2 | League | 3,692 | Albinson Houston Baird McGinty Reading Salkeld Murdoch Muirhead Hewitt McKenzie Adeloye Moffat O'Connor Maxwell Chalmers Fjortoft Afolabi McAdams |
| 07-Aug | Arbroath | | League | | |
| 14-Aug | Dundee United | | Lge Cup | | |
| 21-Aug | Inverness CT | | League | | |

Ayr United squad

21 Charlie Albinson
1 Aidan McAdams
9 Tomi Adeloye
24 Jonathan Afolabi
30 Jack Baird
18 Joe Chalmers
25 Finn Ecrepont
23 Markus Fjortoft

Arbroath squad

1 Derek Gaston
21 Calum Antell
16 Harrison Clark
28 James Craigen
15 Luke Donnelly
7 David Gold
18 Chris Hamilton
3 Colin Hamilton

20 Michael Hewitt

2 Jordan Houston

14 James Maxwell

5 Sean McGinty

22 Mark McKenzie

8 Michael Miller

7 Michael Moffat

4 Aaron Muirhead

6 Andy Murdoch

10 Daire O'Connor

3 Patrick Reading

11 Cameron Salkeld

31 Paul Smith

22 Liam Henderson

9 Dale Hilson

11 Bobby Linn

4 Ricky Little

6 Nicky Low

8 Michael McKenna

17 Joel Nouble

14 Dylan Paterson

12 Scott Stewart

10 Gavin Swankie



Referee: Colin Steven

Assistant: Graeme Leckie

Assistant: Kevin McElhinney

SUMMARY

That brings this issue to a conclusion. Please spread the word by forwarding it to the world and beyond.

Jilly Milly Crafts

e: jilnymillycrafts@outlook.com



