



VS



SCOTTISH LOWLAND LEAGUE
ALLIANCE PARK
SAT 31ST OCT 2020 |
3.00PM

JOHN
GUTHRIE



MESSAGE FROM

THE GAFFER

Good afternoon everyone,

A warm welcome to the players and staff of Kelty Hearts. We look forward to hosting the Jambos today, as it is a game that might not have happened given the circumstances!

Fair play to them, as they have just got on with things and looked to progress. Everyones at the Braves admires that mentality, as we have come through many challenges ourselves.

As a squad we have been happy with increasingly good performances.

On another day we could have been sitting with a healthy amount of points but some things haven't gone our way.

I was delighted with our result against a stubborn Dalbeattie Star side and it has given the lads a boost going into the Kelty game.

We are now looking to kick on and we have the positive of getting some players back slowly.

We didn't ourselves justice last season against Kelty so we will be looking for better results this term!

I hope everyone enjoys the match.

RICKY WADDELL

MANAGER



MEET A PLAYER

JACK SMITH

AGE:

25

POSITION:

STRIKER

NATIONALITY:



PREVIOUS CLUBS:

St Mirren, East Fife, Morton, Arbroath, East Kilbride, Stenhousemuir, BSC Glasgow, Spartans

KEY INFO:

Son of former Airdrieoanians and Dunfermline striker Andy, Jack was born two days after Christmas in 1994.

He started at St Mirren, making two brief appearances before departing for East Fife.

The striker continued his search for first team football at Morton and Arbroath, before joining Lowland League side East Kilbride in 2015.

He impressed in his season at K-Park, joining League One's Stenhousemuir, but it was short-lived and he signed with BSC Glasgow a year after.

Jack then drove to the other end of the M8, signing for Spartans and scoring 17 goals for the Ainslie Park team.

However, after an injury-plagued time, he headed home to the West and signed for the Braves this summer.

He scored his first competitive Braves goal through the week, against Dalbeattie Star.





TODAY'S

OPPONENTS



FOUNDED:

1975

LOCATION:

KELTY, FIFE

STADIUM:

NEW CENTRAL PARK

MANAGER:

BARRY FERGUSON

LEAGUE POSTION:

1ST

CURRENT FORM:

W L W W W

PREVIOUS RESULT:



Today sees the current Lowland League champions, Kelty Hearts, make the visit from Fife to Alliance Park.

Barry Ferguson's team are showing no hangover from the disappointment of missing out on SPFL League 2 football, after reconstruction talks failed, which would have included Kelty and Brora Rangers into League 2.

Winning the East Region Super League for the second time in 2017, they were then accepted into the East of Scotland League for the 2018-19 season, promptly winning it.

Hearts then won promotion to the Lowland League by beating Threave Rovers 10-0 on aggregate in the play-off.

They started this season with a 4-0 win at home against Edinburgh University, followed up by 3-2 away win over Civil Service Strollers.

Their last two games have seen them run out 2-0 winners over Dalbeattie Star and 4-0 winners over Vale of Leithen.

Hearts have added nine new players to their squad, one of which, Kallum Higginbotham, has started the season well, scoring four goals so far in the league.

The 31-year-old Englishman signed from Indian side Real Kashmir and has enjoyed spells in Scotland with Falkirk, Motherwell, Partick Thistle, Kilmarnock and Dunfermline.



BRAVES NEWS

SINCLAIR FREE-KICK CEMENTS FIRST WIN OF THE SEASON

Can they do it on a cold, wet night at Alliance Park? The Braves answered that question resoundingly, with a 3-1 win over Dalbeattie Star on Tuesday night.

Jack Smith, David Winters and David Sinclair got the goals as Ricky Waddell's side got their first points of the season.

It didn't take long for the hosts to go ahead, with summer signing Smith played in behind after three minutes. He shimmied onto his right, slotting it past the keeper with a composed, natural finish into the corner.

The sigh of relief from the Braves bench was noticeable - probably due to the freezing conditions - and the first-half continued to show what the side is capable of.

Jamie Walker went close with a header before Smith was played in behind the defence again. The goalkeeper was well off his line and the striker looped a shot over him - only to see it smack the bar.

More good play down the left threatened a second - before the



offside flag stopped premature celebrations. Winters jinked it off the box on the left, before cutting back to John Guthrie who poked towards goal. A great save denied the midfielder - only for Smith to poke home, but the linesman was on the spot.

Seven minutes later, the Braves had their second. The Star failed to clear their lines, allowing Smith and Guthrie to combine before the latter put it on a silver plate for Winters, and the veteran striker finished calmly to double the lead.

The second-half came and Dalbeattie proved determined, scoring a goal against the run of play. The visitors picked up in Braves half, and sub Jack Steele slipped it through to Steven Degnan, who managed to squeeze it through Alex Marshall and bring the Star right back into the game.

It got scrappy after that, with both sides feeling the pressure.

However, it would be the hosts who killed it off.

After another foul on the edge of the box, David Sinclair stepped up. Similar to his goal against East Fife in pre-season, he caught the goalie out - curling into the corner and killing the game with five minutes to go.

Sinclair had another effort saved just a minute later - which saw the goalie spill it into his six yard box, but the trialist was able to hang on before Smith got there.

Braves: Marshall; Reid, Dowie, Forrester; Docherty, J. Guthrie, Sinclair, Walker; Bouchentouf, Winters, Smith
Subs: Chardon, McDowall, C. Guthrie, Watson

Star: Trialist; Brotherston, Black, Dickinson, Thorburn; Sloan, Graham, Wells, Trialist; Degnan, Orsi

Subs: Steele, Cowie, Kerr, Thomson, Potts, Wilson, Park



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