

04

OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME



VS



SCOTTISH LOWLAND LEAGUE  
ALLIANCE PARK  
TUES 10TH NOV 2020 |  
7.45PM

BLAIR

DOCHERTY

macron

PEOPLE  
MAKE  
GLASGOW

ALBA  
COLA

NL  
LEISURE





## MESSAGE FROM

# THE GAFFER

Good evening to all Braves fans!

Tonight we host Gretna 2008 in a match both teams will be hoping to win, to get their first consecutive wins of the season.

I feel our form is ever improving and on Saturday we were resilient when we had to be, and managed to get a well deserved three points.

Tonight, we face a tough challenge in Gretna who are led by an experienced manager in Rowan Alexander.

Rowan has seen it and done it all before and will be hoping for a performance in the game.

For us I feel we are in a positive frame of mind.

With players getting back to fitness and the squad size increasing, it gives me options and different styles of players to choose from - something in our first games I didn't have the luxury of.

We need to make sure we're at top form for this game to build the ever important momentum.

Thanks once again for your support. I hope everyone is safe and well. Enjoy the game!

**RICKY WADDELL**  
MANAGER



## MEET A PLAYER

# ALAN REID

AGE:

**32**

POSITION:

**DEFENCE**

NATIONALITY:



**PREVIOUS CLUBS:**

Hibernian, Albion Rovers, Hamilton, Stenhousemuir

**KEY INFO:**

Alan is one of the most experienced player at the Braves, having been brought into the club in the summer of 2019.

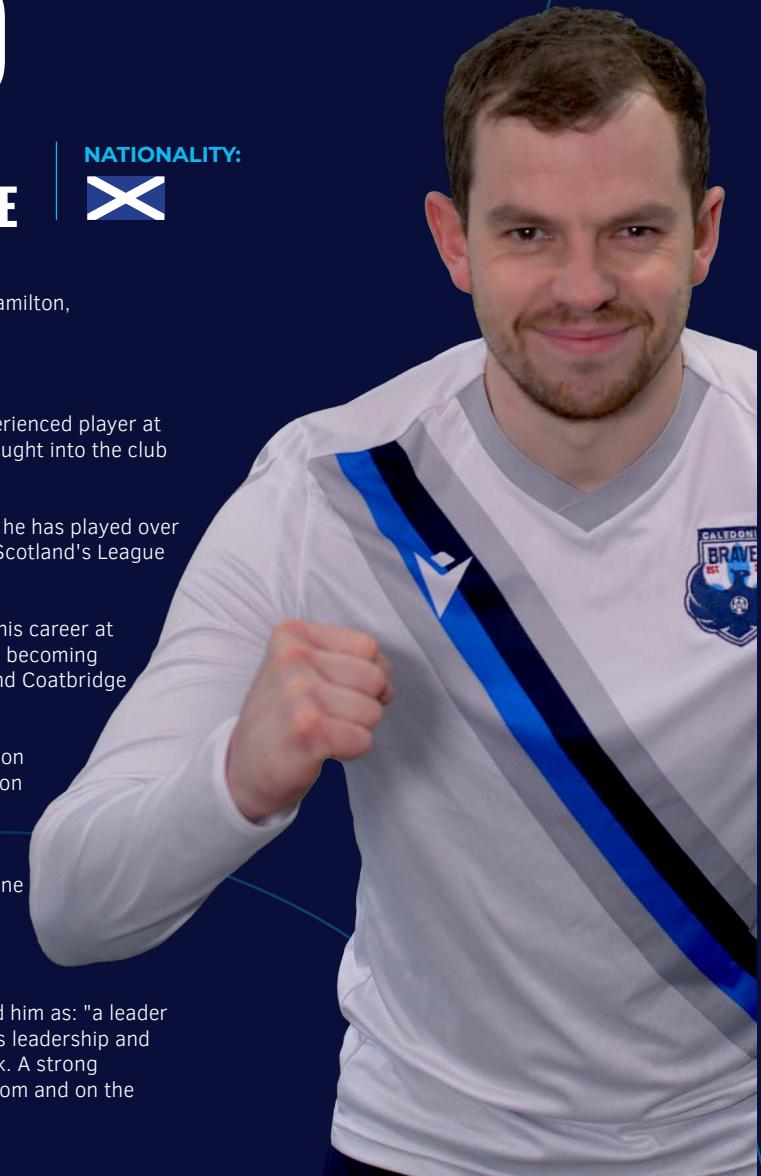
Predominantly a right back, he has played over 350 professional games in Scotland's League One and League Two.

Alan played the majority of his career at Cliftonhill for Albion Rovers, becoming somewhat of a legend around Coatbridge with 12 years of service.

He was part of teams that won promotion in 2010-11 season and gained a League Two winners' medal in 2014-15.

Following this, 'Reidy' had one year at League 2 side Stenhousemuir during the 2018/19 season.

Ricky Waddell has described him as: "a leader in the group, [who] provides leadership and game knowledge at the back. A strong character in the dressing room and on the pitch."





# TODAY'S OPPONENTS



FOUNDED:

**2008**

LOCATION:

**GRETNA**

STADIUM:

**RAYDALE PARK**

MANAGER:

**ROWAN ALEXANDER**

LEAGUE POSITION:

**13TH**

CURRENT FORM:



PREVIOUS RESULT:



One a few 'phoenix clubs' in Scotland, the '08 side rose from the ashes of the previous Gretna FC club - who were originally formed in 1946.

That club ceased to exist in 2008 when their main financial backer, Brooks Milesen, withdrew funds due to his poor health and the club - which had famously risen to the top flight - folded.

A supporters trust got together, appointing a chairman and a board of directors, and they were quickly accepted into the East of Scotland League First Division, gathering a squad from nearby English side Workington - now managed by former Gretna left-back, Danny Grainger.

In 2009, they were allowed to once more play home games at the old ground - Raydale Park and in 2011, the Raydale Community Partnership bought their old home back.

In that same year, the Anvils won promotion to the East of Scotland Premier Division and in 2013, they were accepted as one of the founder members of the Lowland League.

In 2014-15, they achieved a record high of third place in the league, finishing behind East Kilbride and Edinburgh City.

However since then, they have dropped down the table to finish in the bottom half.



## BRAVES NEWS

### BRAVES BATTLE UNI FOR ALL THREE POINTS

The Braves held strong on a clear Edinburgh night against a dogged Edinburgh University side at East Peffermill.

An early header from Andy Dowie and an Alex Hamilton own goal secured all three points for Ricky Waddell's side.

It was the perfect start for the Braves, scoring with their first two forays into the box.

Neil McLaughlin - making his first start of the season since returning from Coronavirus - chipped a sumptuous corner into the box, where Dowie powered a header in at the back post.

Their second came seven minutes later. Jamie Walker made a good run down the flank and played a low cross into the corridor of uncertainty. Uni defender Alex Hamilton got a toe to it, wrong footing his keeper as the ball trickled into the net.

With two early goals, Jack Smith smelt blood and peeled off his man to fire a shot into the bottom corner - only for the offside flag to rule his effort out. He soon flashed another long distance drive just wide, before Uni had their best chance.



Nice link up play from Patrick Baird and Max Condie on the left ultimately found David Maskrey at the back-post, but the Uni's no. 9 saw his strike tipped round the post by Marshall.

Smith had another chance before the half, when he was played through by a lovely looping ball from McLaughlin. The striker shifted it onto his right and drilled low, but the ball was met by the outstretched foot of Connor Barnes.

Half-time came and went, and the sun set over Corstorphine Hill as the game became dogged. Braves had fewer chances in this half as the Uni went searching.

Ahmed Bouchentouf had a fantastic chance to make it three for the visitors after he was picked out from a right-hand cross. The big Belgian was totally free in the box, but prodded a

tame effort towards Barnes - a shot which summed up his frustrating afternoon.

The Uni then pulled one back, and in some style too. Scott Forrester squandered on the edge of the area, allowing Maskrey to send a fierce left-footed effort flying past Marshall and into the net. 2-1. Game on.

Both teams pushed for the next goal, with Jack Smith sending a volley inches over the bar before the Braves cleared a spilled corner off the line.

Calum McDonald would go close with the final touch of the game - sending a 30-yard drive inches over the bar - but ultimately, the Braves travelled back up the M8 with all three points.

**Braves:** Marshall, Reid, Dowie, Forrester, Walker, Docherty, Guthrie, Lachlan, McLaughlin, Bouchentouf, Smith.





# BRAVES NEWS

**There** was a new name on the teamsheet on Saturday - although most fans won't have known about it.

That's because brand new signing Derek Esplin - known as 'Del' - was suspended for the fixture against Edinburgh University.

However, the midfielder goes straight into tonight's squad for the visit of Gretna 2008.

Signed from Pollok on a season-long loan, the 29-year-old adds more depth to Ricky Waddell's squad - which has already been hit by injuries this season.

Summer signing Gavin Lachlan has only just returned from a hamstring injury, whilst David Sinclair is set to miss all of November with a fractured metacarpal in his hand.

Del began his career at Glasgow side Fulham Boys Club and had

# DEL BOY SIGNS DEAL

spells with Eastfield United and Blantyre Victoria YFC before beginning a long-running connection with Rutherglen Glencairn - with a brief spell at Cumnock Juniors.

The Cambuslang-born centre-mid signed for Pollok in 2019, but has been left to look for a club this season as the Shawlands-based side have withdrawn from this season's West of Scotland League.

Pollok are far from the only side to have taken this decision, due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

Many clubs have decided they would be unable to participate due to the economic difficulties of playing this season, including title contenders Auchinleck Talbot.

As a result, players from many sides in the West have been on the lookout for a side this year.



## McLAUGHLIN ON COVID SCARE

A few weeks ago, the Coronavirus pandemic hit much closer to home when Neil McLaughlin tested positive for the virus. Having already been isolating, no other members of the squad were at risk, but it was still a big loss to Ricky Waddell's early season plans.

Having now recovered, Neily spoke to BravesTV: "[I'm] much better. [It's] just good to be back and out the house.

"I just lost my sense of smell and my taste but thankfully everything is all good now and I feel much better."

Having just scored a hat-trick in pre-season, it couldn't have come at a worse time.

"I was getting fitter and back to my old self, after coming through pre-season - but these things happen.

"Hopefully I can just get back to that level."

He's already shown that he can - recording an assist after only four minutes last weekend.



# EDUSPORT NEWS

## GOALS GALORE AS EDUSPORT RECORD FIRST WIN

The Edusport Academy picked up an incredible win over Nithsdale Wanderers with an almost unbelievable scoreline.

The eleven-goal game was split 7-4 to the Academy, with six goalscorers for the home side. Theo Ferrerboeuf opened the scoring in the 19th minute - and the score would somehow remain 1-0 until half-time.

Leo Banga got the first of ten second-half goals in the 47th minute, with Amaury Testa adding a third on the hour.

Dario De Barros made it four in the 74th minute, before three goals in the final ten minutes handed the points to the Academy.

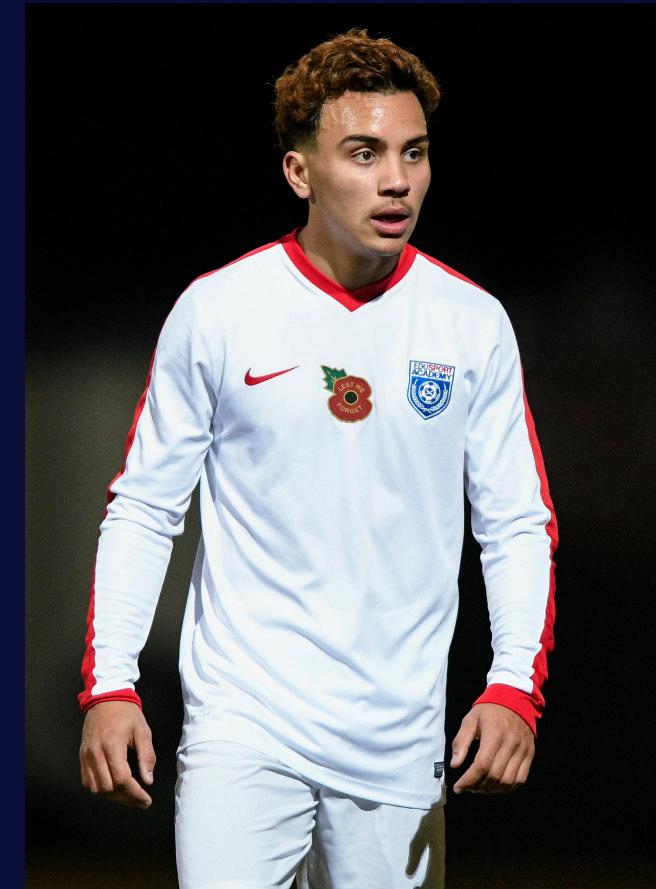
Hugo Gouyou got the fifth, before a Mehdi Belkacemi double put the cherry on the cake.

It was a perfect response from Simon Mensing's men, who lost 2-1 to Upper Annandale the weekend previously.

Sean and Cameron McKenzie got two each for Nithsdale Wanderers, in a match that was certainly better for the strikers than the goalkeepers.

The result leaves the Academy 11th in the South of Scotland League table.

However, most sides have played either four or five games, as they kicked off their league campaigns earlier.



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