

ALBANIA 2018



Saturday 17th November 20:45 Loro Boriçi Stadium, Shkodër #ALBSCO

Albania vs Scotland

Following a poor result in Israel Scotland have two crucial Nations League matches in November starting with our first ever visit to Albania. Our destiny is in our own hands: avoiding defeat in Albania will mean that any win at home to Israel will be enough to top the group and even if we lose in Shkoder we can still win the group by beating Israel, see the table below for what we will need to do. UEFA rankings are decided based on the results of all the Nations League games so a win in Albania can improve our ranking and the qualification pot for next year's qualifiers.

After winning their first Nations League game at home to Israel Albania lost both away fixtures 2-0 so they must beat Scotland and hope the result in the other game is kind to them. Finishing second in the group could get an easier draw for next years qualifiers and might still be enough to reach the play offs so still lots to play for. For both teams the possibility of finishing bottom of the group and the potential of relegation to League D looms large so both will be deperate to win. Albania have been playing international football since 1946, they have never qualified for a World Cup but took advantage of the increase in the number of teams in the Euros to qualify for their first major tournament in France 2016. After losing to Switzerland and hosts France Albania did salvage some pride by beating Romania 1-0 to finish 3rd in Group A but it wasn't enough to qualify for the second stage. Their head coach is Italian Christian Panucci who you may remember is the man that scored the winning goal in injury time at Hampden to end our hopes for Euro 2008, that is the closest we have come to qualification in recent times but Alex McLeish will be hoping that a win in this game can help us get at least a play off so we will be there when Hampden hosts games in Euro 2020.



Getting There

The main airport is Mother Teresa International airport in Albania in Tirana and Durrës is the major port of the country. Hekurudha Shqiptare or HSH isthe national railway of Albania but it is an old and unreliable service with only 1 train per day between Tirana (departs 1310 Kashar station located 10 km west of the capital) and Shkoder (departs 0540). The Adriatic-Ionian motorway which connects Greece in the south to Durrës then on up to Shkoder in the North before crossing the border to the Montenegran capital of Podgorica. The A1 motorway connects with Kosovo to the North east and road can also take you to Macedonia and Bulgaria. Albanian Starte Road 1 (SH1) is the main road between Tirana and Shkoder, it is mostly single carriageway with lots of slow-moving vehicles and uncontrolled access points. Most people in Albania travel by public bus or by private minibuses (called "furgons"). Furgons have no timetable (they depart when they are full). Furgon stations aren't always in obvious locations, keep an eye out for groups of white or red minivans gathered together. Destination place names are generally displayed on the dashboard; prices are never posted. Furgons are loosely regulated and provide a real "Albanian" experience.

British citizens can enter and remain in Albania for a maximum of 90 days in every 6-month period without a visa, passport should be valid for a minimum period of 3 months.

Emergency Services – call 112 / Police – call 129 / Ambulance – call 127 / Fire – call 128

British Embassy Rruga Skenderbeg 12, Tirana +355 4 223 4973 Telephone:

Email: british.embassytirana@fco.gov.uk

Opening hours: Monday to Thursday, 8.30am to 1pm and 2-5pm

Friday 8am to 2:30pm

Average Temperature in Shkoder in November is 13°C Time zone CET Central European Time GMT + 1

CET Central European Time GMT + 1 Lek (ALL) - Closed currency (only bought or sold in Albania) LOSE 2-1 3-2 4-3...

Scotland record against Albania

10.09.2018 Hampden NL2018 Scotland 2 Albania 0

How Scotland win Group C1

Albania vs Scotland WIN BY ANY SCORE DRAW BY ANY SCORE LOSE BY 2+ GOALS

Scotland vs Israel WIN BY ANY SCORE
WIN BY ANY SCORE
WIN BY ANY SCORE
WIN BY AT LEAST SAME
NUMBER OF GOALS
WIN BY ANY SCORE
WIN 1-0 OR BY 2+ GOALS

LOSE 1-0

WIN 2-1* Decided by disciplinary record currently 6-5. If still tied Scotland will be top as higher ranking



facebook.com/AssocTAClubs







AT THE MATCH



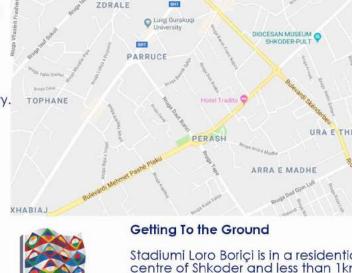
RUS KATOLIK

Stadium

Stadiumi Loro Boriçi is a 16,000 all seater stadium in Shkodër, the home of KF Vllaznia Shkodër. It is being used to host Albania national team matches after the Stadiumi Qemal Stafa in Tirana was demolished to make way for the new Arena Kombëtare. This was originally planned to be ready during the summer but not completed in time for the Nations League. Stadiumi Loro Boriçi has hosted 8 Albania matches, 3 wins, 3 defeats and 2 0-0 draws. The last was a 1-0 home defeat to Italy last year.

It was the scene of the Scottish Women's National teams victory that sent them into next years World Cup. I'm sure the men would love to repeat the women's 2-0 victory.

It also hosted the 5 Kosovo home qualifiers for the 2018 World Cup, they lost all 5 including their first ever competitive 'home fixture, 6-0 to Croatia.









Ticket Pickup

The game is now 100% ticket pickup with collection points in Tirana on Friday and during the day on Saturday. Then at the stadium from 6.15pm until Kick Off in the ticket booth located next to the entrance of section E5.

Tickets must be collected in person by each individual member. You will need a previous or current membership card to uplift your ticket or alternative photo ID.



Stadiumi Loro Boriçi is in a residential area close to the centre of Shkoder and less than 1km (10 minute walk) north west of Sheshi Demokracia.

There is no designated bus or transport service directly to the stadium and it is surrounded by narrow streets.

It is advised on match day that supporters arrive early (gates open 3 hrs prior to kick-off). There will be two body searches and a ticket check before and the stadium authorities have intimated that supporters must be in their seat at kick-off or otherwise run the risk of being refused entry.

The Scotland support will be located in South stands, sections E1-E5. Five separate stands behind the goal.













LEAGUE C



After Match Day 4 of the Nations League there are 2 sets of fixtures left and lots to play for. Top of the group is still within our reach but we can't afford any more slip ups as both results will decide our overall ranking.

If the league stopped now Scotland would be the 6th team in League C giving us an overall ranking of 30 (started 27) for UEFA. This would be enough to put us in the 3rd pot of seeds for the Euro 2020 qualifiers but would mean we would remain in League C for the next Nations League.

Finland, Israel, Norway and Serbia would be guaranteed at least a play off in 2020 and we would need 2 of them to qualify directly to promote us into a League C play off place. It would still be likely that we would end up in the play offs for League A or League B but with potentially harder opponents.

Full League C rankings are below and the options for Scotland are detailed on the right hand side.

Rnk	Team	Pld	Pts
25	+ Finland	2	6
26	■ Israel	3	6
27	H Norway	3	6
28	Serbia	3	5
29	Bulgaria	3	6
30	Scotland	2	3
31	Greece	3	3
32	Montenegro	2	1
33	Romania	3	3
34	Hungary	3	3
35	▼ Albania	3	3
36		2	0
37	Slovenia	4	1
38	Estonia	4	1
39	Lithuania	4	0

SCOTLAND WIN GROUP C1

Scotland will be promoted to League B for the next Nations League competition

Scotland will be guaranteed a play off for Euro 2020 if they fail to finish top 2 in qualification in 2019

The 4 group winners in League C will be ranked 25 - 28 in UEFA rankings depending on the results against the top 3 in each group

Scotland will be in pot 3 for the Euro 2020 qualification draw in December

SCOTLAND FINISH 2ND IN GROUP C1

Scotland will remain in League C for the next Nations League competition

The 4 second placed teams will be ranked 29 - 32 in UEFA rankings depending on the results against the top 3 in each group

Scotland will be in pot 3 for the Euro 2020 qualification draw in December if they are ranked 29 or 30 in UEFA

If Scotland are ranked 31 or 32 after the Nations League games they will be in pot 4 for Euro 2020 qualification

Scotland will have a chance of a play off for Euro 2020 but it could be in League A or B if they fail to finish top 2 in qualification

SCOTLAND FINISH 3RD IN GROUP C1

The 4 third placed teams in League C will be ranked 33 - 36 in UEFA rankings depending on the results against the top 3 in each group

Scotland will be relegated to League D if they are ranked 36th in UEFA, i.e. the worst 3rd placed team

If Scotland are ranked 33-35 they will remain in League C for the next Nations League campaign

Scotland will have an outside (and unlikely) chance of a play off for Euro 2020 if they fail to finish top 2 in qualification and 5 or more teams from League C qualify

Scotland will be in pot 4 for the Euro 2020 qualification draw in December

Nations League Group C1 P W D L F A GD Points

3 1 0 2 1 4 -3

3

 Israel
 3 2 0 1 4 2 2 6

 ❖ Scotland
 2 1 0 1 3 2 1 3



www.associationoftartanarmyclubs.com



Albania







WINNING WORDS



Hello Goodbye How are you? Well, thanks. What is your name? My name is_ Please You're Welcome. Thank you. Yes. No. Excuse me. I'm sorry.

Do you speak English?

Good morning. Good afternoon/Good day. Good evening. Good night.

I don't understand. Where is the toilet? I'm lost.

A table for one person/two people, please. Where is the train/bus to ?

How do I get to....The Pub

....The HotelThe Hospital

....The Police stationThe Train StationThe British Consulate Përshëndetje / Çkemi / Tungjatjeta. (toon-jah-TYEH-tah) Mirupafshim (meer-oo-PAHF-sheem)

Si jeni? (see YEH-nee?) Jam mirë, faleminderit. (yahm-MEER, fah-lehm-meen-DEH-reet) Si e ke emrin? (see keh EHM-reen?)

Quhem_____. (CHYOO-hem__ Ju lutem. (yoo LOO-tehm) Quhem

S'ka përse. (skah purr-SEH)

Faleminderit. (fah-lehm-meen-DEH-reet)

Po. (poh) Jo. (yoh)

Më falni. (mah FAHL-nee)

Më vjen keq. (mah VYEHN ketch) A flisni Anglisht? (ah FLEES-nee ahn-GLEESHT)

Ndihmë! (ndeem!)

Mirëmëngjes. (meer-muhn-JEHS)

Mirëdita. (meer-DEE-tah)

Mirëmbrëma. (meerm-BRUH-mah) Natën e mirë. (NAH-tehn eh MEER)

Nuk kuptoj. (nook koop-TOY)

Ku është nevojtorja? (koo uhsht neh-voy-TOHR-yah?) Kam humbur rrugën. (kam HOOM-boor RROO-guhn) Një tavolinë për një person/dy njerëz, ju lutem.

(nyah tah-voh-lee-NAH pehr nyah pehr-SOHN/dew nyeh-RAHZ, yoo loo-TEHM) Ku është treni/autobusi për _____? (koo ehsht treh-NIH/c Si mund të shkoj te _____? (seh moond tuh sh-koy teh?) ? (koo ehsht treh-NIH/ow-toh-boo-SEE pehr?)

Si mund të shkoj te_

...Pabi ... tek hoteli _____? (tehk hohs-teh-LEE?)

...Spitali

...Stacioni policor

...tek stacioni i trenit? (tehk stah-tsyoh-NEE ee treh-NEET?)

Konsullata e Britanisë





Police! One ticket to ____, please.

Where are there a lot of...

...restaurants?

...bars? Can you show me on the map?

Taxi! Take me to ____, please.

Do you serve alcohol?

A beer/two beers, please.

A glass of red/white wine, please.

whiskey

It was a misunderstanding. Where are you taking me? Scotland Skoci

Common signs

HAPUR (HAH-poor) OPEN HYRJA (HEWR-yah) SHTYJE (SHTEW-yeh) TUALET (twah-LEHT) GRATË (GRA-tuh) ENTRANCE PUSH TOILET WOMEN

Policia! (poh-lee-TSEE-yah) Një biletë për në ____, ju lutem. (nyeh bee-LEHT pehr neh, yoo loo-TEHM)

Ku ka shumë.... (koo kuh shoom)
...restorante? (rehs-toh-rahn-TEH)
...bare? (bah-REH)
A mund të më tregoni në hartë? (ah moond tuh
mah treh-goh-NEE nuh hahrt)

Taksi! (tahk-SEE)

ju lutem. (mah choh-NEE Më çoni tek_

tehk...,yoo loo-TEHM)
A shërbeni alkool? (ah shahr-beh-NEE ahl-KOHHL?)

Një birre/dy birra , ju lutem. (nyah beer-RAH/ dew beer-RAH, yoo loo-TEHM)

Një gotë vere e kuqe/e bardhë, ju lutem (nyah goh-TAH veh-RAH eh koo-CHEH/eh bahr-THAH, yoo loo-TEHM)

Uiski (wees-KEE)

Ishte keqkuptim. (eesh-TEH kehch-koop-TEEM) Ku po më çoni? (koo poh mah choh-NEE?)

Albania Shqipëri

CLOSED

MBYLLUR (MBEW-lloor) EXIT DALJE (DAH-Iyeh)
PULL NDUKJE (NDOO-kyeh)
MEN BURRA (BOO-rrah)
FORBIDDEN NDALUAR (ndah-LOO-ahr)











SHKODËR



Shkodër or Shkodra is the gateway to the Albanian Alps in the north of the country not too far from the border with Montenegro. The city is one of the most ancient cities in the Balkans and the fourth most populous city in the country and exerts strong influences in culture, religion, arts and entertainment of northern Albania. The main tourist attraction is the Rozafa Castle (pictured) and the renewed Marubi National Museum of Photography famous for its big and rare collection of photos of Albanian history or just take a tour at Pedonalja so called Kole Idromeno street that is the old center of Shkodra, very mediterranean taste passing through mosques and churches. The lake of Shkodra is also worth a visit, to bath, or to eat some of the best dishes of Albanian cuisine like Krap ne tave typical for this region. Bulevardi Skenderbeu is the main boulevard connecting the city center, named after Skanderberg, Albania's most important hero, who led a rebellion against the Ottoman Empire. At the



hero, who led a rebellion against the Ottoman Empire. At the end of the Boulevard, before reaching the roundabout, you can find a statue of the Albanian icon Mother Teresa, who despite being born in Macedonia and having lived for many decades in India considered herself Albanian. The statue marks the beginning of the pedestrian street Rruga Kole Idromeno, housing many restaurants, cafes and shops. Here you'll also find Ebu Meker Mosque, the city's largest mosque, and the Marubi National Museum of Photography.

Restaurants and Bars

Fishart Restaurant (4000, Sheshi 2 Prilli)
Meridian Bar Restorant (4001, Sheshi 2 Prilli)
Vila Bekteshi (Rruga Hasa Hasan Riza Pasha 33)
Restorant Sofra (Rruga Kole Idromeno)
Shega e Eger (Rruga Gjuhadol)
Peja Grill (Bulevardi Skenderbeu)
Bar Fontana (Rruga Kole Idromeno)
Bar Vegas (Rruga Studenti)
Colonial Albania (Sheshi Dugajet e reja)

Green Tavern Bar and Grill (Pedonale Rruga Kole Idromeno)

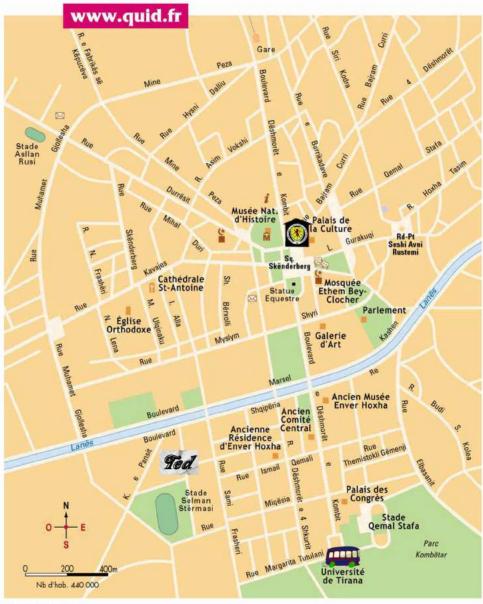








TA IN TIRANA





THIS MATCH IS 100% TICKET PICKUP



Tirana International Hotel Scanderbeg Square, Tirana

Friday, 16 November: 9pm to 11pm Saturday, 17 November: 10am to 2.30pm

The Tirana Intenational Hotel is in the main square in central Tirana. There is also ticket pickup available at the Loro Boriçi Stadium in Shkoder from 6.15pm until kick off on match day. You will need a previous or current membership card to uplift your ticket or alternative photo ID.

Tickets must be collected in person by each individual member.



DAVY BUS from Tirana straight to Shkoder leaves from Mother Teresa Square (Sheshi Nënë Tereza) at about 2pm, see the facebook page for more details. Note seats on the bus had to be purchased in advance.

TED CHRISTOPHER will be playing at the following venues

Friday 16th November at Urgjenca Garage Rr Gjin Bue Shpata 1010, Tirana 1800 - 2200 Admission will be £4

Saturday 17th November at Ingliz Tower, Shkodër, (English Clock Tower 400 yards from the stadium]

Tickets from ted@tedchristopher.scot

The **Tartan Army Childrens Charity** will be donating £5000 to the ARSIS charity in Albania. The mission of ARSIS is to offer services and sustainable solutions to marginalized groups; specifically children and youths facing social exclusion and deprivation. The TACC donation will aid the personal development of 60 Roma and Egyptian youth through the provision of computers and associated equipment, TACC will meet the ARIS team the day before the match in Albania.

The TA Select play the TKZ (Albanian Fans Organisation) at Stadiumi Kamëz in Kamëz, on Friday 16th November, 19:00 kick off. For those wishing to go along and support the team, the stadium is located around 9km outside of central Tirana, around 15 mins in a taxi.

The Tartan Army Sunshine Appeal presentation will take place about 11am on match day. The recipient of the 70th donation will be to Qendra Xhonatan / Jonathan Center in Tirana. Jonathan Center is a nonprofit organization, with the purpose of helping children with Down's syndrome, autism and with other similar special needs, while at the same time to increase the awareness of their families to achieve the best for their life.

















TIRANA





Tirana is a mixture of Western Europe and the old Russia, interspersed with influences of the Middle East. The modern Tirana is full of restaurants, nightlife and hotels and hasrediscovered itself and become an energetic, vibrant and cosmopolitan city that it is worth exploring. A city that seemingly never sleeps, full of friendly faces and featuring surprises hidden around every corner, Albania's compact capital draws an abundance of visitors from budget backpackers looking for pastures new to entrepreneurs with an eye on the city's emerging investment opportunities.

Old Communist Regime relics have become popular tourist attractions and are a severe reminder of the recent past. Street signs are still up and coming as tourism develops here. If you ask a local for directions they are given in terms of landmarks. The addresses listed are often street names only – building numbers do not exist universally here.

SKANDERBEG SQUARE - Skanderbeg Square is the social and cultural center of Tirana, this is an excellent place for people watching. This is where the TiranaInternational Hotel is, the SSC base and the location of the ticket pickup. NATIONAL MUSEUM OF HISTORY - The largest museum in Albania and holds most of the country's treasures. There is a gallery on the top door dedicated to the severe miseries of the communistera. Address: Skanderbeg Square BUNKART 2 - This top-secret nuclear bunker is now a museum in the very center of Tirana, with aim to show visitors how Communist-era police persecuted the regime's opponents. Near the Ministry of Public Order In front of National Theater.

SARAJET - Serves traditional home-cooked food in an inspiring environment that gives you the feeling of having travelled back in time. Address: Rr. Abdi Toptani, Tirana

ERA - One of the most popular restaurants of the capital, with a rich menu of traditional Albanian and Mediterranean

cuisine, Era offers taste for everyone. Address: Ismail Qemali Street, p. 13/2 Tirana, Albania ERA VILA - For traditional food lovers, here you can find authentic Albanian cuisine incredibly tasty. This great restaurant is located in a beautiful villa in the heart of Tirana. There also is a terrace upstairs. Address: Rr. Papa Gjon Pali II, Vila nr. 11

BARS/PUBS IN TIRANA

BRIGADA - Located in trendy area of Tirana, "Blloku" district. Address: Brigada e VIII KOMITETI – KAFE MUSEUM - A museum where you can have a drink. This is the first coffee-bar furnished with museum objects from the collection of Albanian communism era. Address: Rr. Papa Gjon Pali

MEDUZA'S IRISH PUB - An insanely popular Irish pub. The terrace has the propensity to keep you glued to your seat until

well after bedtime. Address: Rr.Mustafa Matchiti

MUMA BISTRO BAR - Great beer selection, delicious food! Address: Rr.Mustafa Matohiti
BRAUHAUS - Located just at the entrance of district, "Blloku", A loud and cheerful German-themed brewery restaurant and pub, with three unfiltered and unpasteurised beers made on the premises. Address: Shallvare, RR. Reshit Collaku 38 HEMINGWAY - Located in a quieter part of town not far from Skanderberg Square, with old-fashioned décor reminiscent of the 1970s and '80s in Albania. Friday evenings herald a weekly live music event which tends to attract big crowds. Address: Rr. Kont Urani 1, Tirana.

NOUVELLE VAGUE - This popular establishment isn't marked by a sign. Hammocks decorate the ceilings, and the bar has a great selection of shakes cocktailsto a backdrop of interesting music. Address: Rr. Pjetër Bogdani

BLA BLA - A hugely popular drinking hole in a great location. Sports on large screens and a host of live music events. Recommended are their cocktails, offering colour and creativity whilst packing a good punch.

Address: Rr. Sami Frasheri.

The bustling BLLOKU area is the place to be in the early hours. As is the case in many Balkan cities, there's a fine line between cafés, bars and clubs in Albania. Tirana's relatively compact size and busy nightlife scene mean there's an awful lot of variety within easy walking distance.

URGJENCA GARAGE is a nice and cozy place where you can chill and drink very tasty cocktails. This is where Ted Christopher will be playing on Friday evening Address: Rr.Gjin Bue Shpata, Tirana 1010.













INFORMATION



The UK Government website has a page specifically for travel advice for the game. https://www.gov.uk/government/news/albania-v-scotland-uefa-nations-league-football-match-travel-advice You can also subscribe to travel advice updates so you are notified by email if anything changes.

Your European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) is not valid in Albania so travel insurance is essential even if you are only going for one night – it could save you a lot of money if you get into difficulties. Visits to A&E will not be charged for, but any other medical assistance will be required to be paid, and doctors and medical practises will take payment in cash.

The local currency is Albanian Lek - 1,000 LEK is worth roughly £7. Many places in Albania will also take Euro, however you'll not get as good a rate. As is common with currency exchanges at the airport, you won't get as good a rate.

Nena Tereza (Mother Theresa) airport lies 26 km northwest of the city in the town of Rinasi. Between 6am and 6pm there is a bus from the airport to the national Museum in the city centre of Tirana. It leaves every hour. A taxi from the airport to the city centre takes about 20-25 minutes. Be certain to fix a price before you get into the taxi. Should be charged at a fixed rate of €19 (ATEX) Airport Taxi Express is the approved provider.

Albania use the standard Euro (Type C) plugs

Be aware of your mobile phone providers charges for Albania, as the country is not included in the roaming packages offered by the main mobile providers (O2, EE, Vodafone, Three). Roaming can cost upwards of £6 per MB, and calls per minute costing £1.80/£2+

As is pretty much the same throughout the Balkans, the local firewater of choice in Albania comes in the form of a fruit-based brandy known as raki (or rakia). Distilled using anything from grapes to plums and even mulberries, commercially produced rakicontains around 40% alcohol, although you may well encounter illicit moonshine containing at least twice as much as this. Be careful! At the other end of the scale, Albania's beer (birra) production is dominated by the two national brands Birra Tirana and Birra Korça, of which both are lager-type concoctions that are absolutely fine to drink but that are unlikely to win any awards. Alcoholism and drunkenness in the streets are minor problems compared to many other countries in Eastern Europe with similar histories.

Tap water in Albania is not drinkable - bottled water is available very cheaply in local shops.

Thanks

ATAC would like to thank Ardita Pemaj of Tifozat Kuq e Zi for their assistance putting this together and the following web sites and organisations for information in this Sporran Guide.

www.scottishfa.co.uk www.uefa.com www.gov.uk en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2018%E2%80%9319_UEFA_Nations_League wikitravel.org/en/albania www.tasunshineappeal.co.uk www.tartanarmychildrenscharity.org.uk www.power-plugs-sockets.com/gb/albania www.quid.fr

We hope that you have found this useful, if you have any feeback or information you think would be useful for upcoming matches then get in contact with us via one of the social media channels on the foot of this page or by email to

info@associationoftartanarmyclubs.com

It's a massive weekend for Scotland with the Nations League progress in the balance but still within our own control. The competition was introduced to give games against teams of a similar standard and give new opportunities to progress. Will it be typical Scotland finding new ways to fail or can the boys prove everyone wrong and end the year on a high and a potential double header to look forward to in 2020? Here's hoping it's the later. Have a great time.



ATAC Committee







