

Lafferty's Killie departure turns sour

This morning, Kilmarnock released a statement regarding remarks made by their ex-striker Kyle Lafferty in Saturday's Daily Record.

Following their playoff defeat to Dundee, Kilmarnock released a statement announcing the departure of four players, one of which was the Northern Irishman.



All is not as it seems, however.

Lafferty admitted: "I was with the Northern Ireland squad in Ukraine when I read that I'd decided to move on from Kilmarnock, it was extremely disappointing. It just isn't true that I've walked away, the opposite is true. I loved the time I had there and wanted to stay."

“Contract talks are all about negotiation but there was none of that, we heard nothing, just an announcement on the official club website that I and several other players had decided to move on.”

“It’s a disingenuous statement, the fans deserve to know what the situation is as it’s not right to have players thrown under the bus because of the relegation.

“My aim was to be a part of the bid to bounce straight back to the Premiership next season, but the club have announced that won’t be happening. The club spoke to my agent, he told them what I was looking for and I wasn’t asking for the earth or to give the boss Tommy Wright a heart attack.

“My aim is stay at Killie and help the club come straight back from the Championship next season, but the club have now said I’ve moved on. I’d like the Killie fans to know it’s not the case that I have rejected the chance to stay at the club. The truth is that I wanted to be part of the plans for next season.”

Kilmarnock this morning hit back at the forward in a statement which claimed he had asked for his wages to be quadrupled, despite their relegation.

The statement read:

“We wish to clarify remarks made by Kyle Lafferty in the Daily Record on Saturday, June 5, 2021.

The club is not in the habit of making public statements on matters around player contracts, preferring instead to conduct our business in private, however Kyle’s comments to the newspaper require us to make our position clear.

Following the conclusion of the play off against Dundee, we entered into negotiations with players we wished to retain for the 2021/22 season which included Kyle.

We received a series of figures from his representatives which were four times higher than the sum he received towards the end of the 2020/21 campaign.

At this point, we informed Kyle and his representatives that there was no possibility of agreeing to those terms, which would have had a monumental impact on the allocated first team budget for the season.

Following further discussions and both parties remaining miles apart, it was clear that no deal could be struck and in order to continue our planning for 2021/22, talks were brought to a close.

Kyle told the newspaper: "that contracts were offered to individuals and given a few hours to make a decision."

This is simply not true.

Every player offered a contract for 2021/22 was given a period of several days in line with a deadline set by the club to decide whether they wished to accept our offer. Some of those players opted to turn down a new deal, which they are perfectly entitled to do.

While disappointed to read Kyle's remarks, we reiterate our thanks to him for his contribution to the club and wish him well for the future.

As the club continues to rebuild for next season, it is important that our supporters know that we're doing everything to support Tommy Wright in building the strongest group possible to win promotion back to the Premiership and we thank the fans for their fantastic response in the first week of season ticket sales, which provide vital funds for the manager."

Lafferty, now 33 had previously enjoyed two stints at Ibrox, either side of a successful season at Hearts, his next

destination is unclear, but reports have suggested Motherwell are interested in acquiring the striker's services.