

WILLIAM HILL SCOTTISH CUP SEMI FINAL DUNDEE UTD v CELTIC

Sunday 14th April 2013

Kick-Off 12.45pm : Hampden Park



Official Programme £3.00



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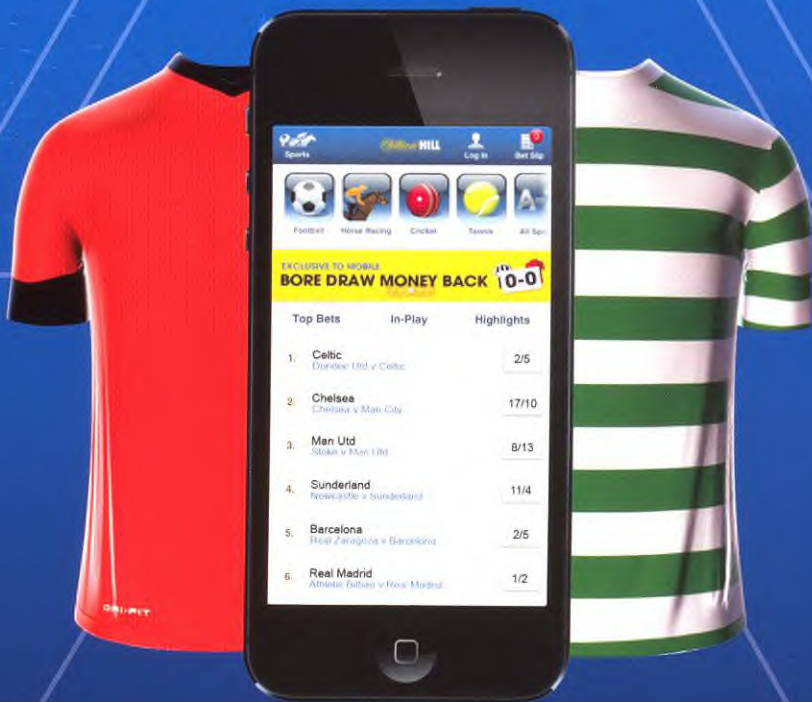
The Scottish Cup

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Cup Foes Meet Again

Andy Mitchell looks back at Celtic and
Dundee United's Scottish Cup meetings
and their semi-final records



Dundee United and Celtic are regular opponents when silverware is up for grabs, but it wasn't always so.

Celtic have dominated the Scottish Cup ever since they reached the final in their inaugural season of 1888-89, playing an extraordinary total of 71 semi-finals and winning most of them. But it has been a different story for United, who managed just one semi in their first 50 years – and that was a disappointing defeat to Rangers in 1963.

There is also a growing history of rivalry between the two clubs, who met just twice in the cup before the 1970s. In 1931, Celtic scored three to win the tie, but a similar scoring record was not good enough to win the next time, in front of an all-ticket crowd at Tannadice in 1949. In a major shock, a Dundee United side who were mid-table in the Second Division overcame the Glasgow giants, albeit a mediocre Celtic who had flirted with relegation the previous season.

It was quite a game. United went two up but Celtic brought it level. United regained the advantage and again Celtic equalised. Nine minutes from time George Cruickshank ran through the Celtic defence to give United a sensational 4-3 victory. Unfortunately they were themselves victims of a shock in the next round, dumped by Dumbarton who were right at the basement of the division.

They would not meet again in the Scottish Cup until 1970, but since then the clashes have come thick and fast, often in the later stages of the competition, as befits two of Scotland's top sides.

Four cup finals have gone Celtic's way, but Dundee United fans of a certain age will still smile at the memory of the 1981 Scottish Cup run, when Jim McLean's team of Terrors was on the verge of greatness. Having already won the League Cup that season, beating

Celtic convincingly at Parkhead along the way, United were losing their sense of intimidation at travelling to Glasgow for big matches. Nonetheless, it was a daunting prospect to face up to a Celtic team that had won no less than 13 consecutive Scottish Cup semi-finals and were running away with the league that season.

United confounded the critics and came away with a 0-0 draw at Hampden, then four days later returned to the national stadium to go one better. Celtic took an early lead through a Charlie Nicholas penalty, but goals from Paul Hegarty and Eamonn Bannon gave United the advantage until Nicholas scored again just before the break. The second half was compelling stuff and team captain Hegarty earned his side a cup final place with his second in 76 minutes. The final itself was an anti-climax, ending in a replay defeat to Rangers, but Dundee United would bounce back to win the league title the following year.

1981: Dundee United's Ralph Milne (left) is challenged by Celtic's Mark Reid



Mark Viduka celebrates his goal for Celtic in the 1999 semi-final



This remains United's only semi-final victory over Celtic, but they are no strangers to success against other clubs at this stage. One sweet occasion came in 1987 against local rivals Dundee. In a rip-roaring tie played at Tynecastle, United were 2-1 down at the break but goals from Iain Ferguson and Paul Sturrock sealed a place in the final where they lost to St Mirren. The cup final hoodoo was finally broken in 1994, and on the way there United had to dispense with Aberdeen in a replayed semi-final, with less than 14,000 fans at Hampden to see Jim McNally get the only goal of the game – in fact his only goal of that season.

Dundee United's second and most recent cup success was just three years ago,

when a goal in each half from David Goodwillie and Andy Webster ensured a comfortable 2-0 win over Raith Rovers, and a place in the final against Ross County, who had shocked the football world with their own triumph over Celtic. There was no chance of a repeat in the final once United broke the deadlock on the hour, and a 3-0 scoreline meant the cup was heading for Tayside.

Celtic can be proud of an astonishing Scottish Cup record, in that the first nine times they played a semi-final they won the tie and progressed to the final. They even bettered that run with 13 consecutive victories through the 1960s and 1970s. And although their copybook has been blotted at this stage a few times

in recent years, they remain Scotland's most successful cup side.

Against Dundee United, the sides have met twice in semi-finals since the Tannadice men snatched victory in 1981. In 1999, two first-half goals from Regi Blinker and Mark Viduka sent Celtic into the final, and two years later it was equally emphatic. Henrik Larsson scored with a diving header after half an hour, and although there was little sign of United getting back into the game it was only in the final 15 minutes that Celtic made sure. Larsson scored the second from the penalty spot and, two minutes later, Jackie McNamara – on the opposition bench today – fired a third into the net. Although Derek Lilley got a

Dundee United fans of a certain age will still smile at the memory of the 1981 Scottish Cup run

Among other celebrated semi-final victories, Celtic fans will fondly reminisce about the 1988 late, late show against Hearts

late consolation to make the score more respectable, it was a one-sided contest and it was the same story in the final as Celtic won the cup with a 3-0 thumping of Hibs.

Among other celebrated semi-final victories, Celtic fans will fondly reminisce about the 1988 late, late show against Hearts, when two goals in the last three minutes from Mark McGhee and Andy Walker turned the match on its head. Waiting for them in the final were none other than Dundee United, who were also defeated in the dying seconds after taking the lead, thanks to Frank McAvennie's double.

Then there was the five-goal demolition of George Best's Hibs in 1980, with each strike coming from a different player: Bobby Lennox (his last goal for the club), Davie Provan, Johnny Doyle, Murdo MacLeod and Tom McAdam. Victory again awaited the Hoops in the final, thanks to George McCluskey's extra-time winner over Rangers, although the celebrations were overshadowed by the notorious post-match riot.

Recent semi-final victories have been less dramatic but none the less welcome, the most impressive being the 4-0 demolition of Aberdeen two years ago. Celtic even had the luxury of missing a first-half penalty which saw Andrew Considine sent off, but overran their opponents in the second half. Charlie Mulgrew's free-kick evaded everyone on its way into the net, Joe Ledley turned in an Anthony Stokes cross, Kris Commons was successful with the game's second spot-kick, and Shaun Maloney nabbed the fourth. The performance in the final was equally impressive, with Motherwell unable to contain a rampant Celtic side who won the national cup competition for a record 35th time.

What is clear today is that we have two sides with a great Scottish Cup tradition, and anything is possible.

Andy Walker (left) and Anton Rogan celebrate winning the Scottish Cup in 1988



Dundee Utd's David Goodwillie (left) and Craig Conway celebrate winning the Scottish Cup in 2010





Semi-Final Records



CELTIC (71 semis, 54 wins)

40-year record:

- 1974 Dundee 1-0
- 1975 Dundee 1-0
- 1977 Dundee 2-0
- 1980 Hibernian 5-0
- 1981 Dundee Utd 0-0 and 2-3
- 1983 Aberdeen 0-1
- 1984 St Mirren 2-1
- 1985 Motherwell 1-1 and 3-0
- 1988 Hearts 2-1
- 1989 Hibernian 3-1
- 1990 Clydebank 2-0
- 1991 Motherwell 0-0 and 2-4
- 1992 Rangers 0-1
- 1995 Hibernian 0-0 and 3-1
- 1996 Rangers 1-2
- 1997 Falkirk 1-1 and 0-1
- 1998 Rangers 1-2
- 1999 Dundee United 2-0
- 2001 Dundee United 3-1
- 2002 Ayr United 3-0
- 2004 Livingston 3-1

- 2005 Hearts 2-1
- 2007 St Johnstone 2-1
- 2010 Ross County 0-2
- 2011 Aberdeen 4-0
- 2012 Hearts 1-2

DUNDEE UNITED (16 semis, 9 wins)

- 1963 Rangers 2-5
- 1974 Hearts 1-1 and 4-2
- 1978 Rangers 0-2
- 1981 Celtic 0-0 and 3-2
- 1985 Aberdeen 0-0 and 2-1
- 1986 Hearts 0-1
- 1987 Dundee 3-2
- 1988 Aberdeen 0-0, 1-1, and 1-0
- 1990 Aberdeen 0-4
- 1991 St Johnstone 2-1
- 1994 Aberdeen 1-1 and 1-0
- 1997 Kilmarnock 0-0 and 0-1
- 1999 Celtic 0-2
- 2001 Celtic 1-3
- 2005 Hibernian 2-1
- 2010 Raith Rovers 2-0

Previous Meetings in the Scottish Cup

(Celtic won 12, Dundee United won 2)

- 1931 Dundee United 2 Celtic 3
- 1949 Dundee United 4 Celtic 3
- 1970 Celtic 4 Dundee United 0
- 1974 Celtic 3 Dundee United 0 (final)
- 1981 Dundee United 3 Celtic 2 (semi, after 0-0)
- 1985 Celtic 2 Dundee United 1 (final)
- 1988 Celtic 2 Dundee United 1 (final)
- 1992 Celtic 2 Dundee United 1
- 1996 Celtic 2 Dundee United 1
- 1998 Dundee United 2 Celtic 3
- 1999 Celtic 2 Dundee United 0 (semi)
- 2001 Celtic 3 Dundee United 1 (semi)
- 2005 Celtic 1 Dundee United 0 (final)
- 2012 Dundee United 0 Celtic 4

