



WILLIAM HILL
SCOTTISH CUP SEMI FINAL

UNRIVALLED



**RANGERS
v CELTIC**
HAMPDEN PARK

SUNDAY 17 APRIL 2016
KICK-OFF 12 NOON



Official Match Programme £3

William HILL SEMI-FINAL SPECIALS

RANGERS TO WIN
IN 90 MINS & BOTH
TEAMS TO SCORE

6/1

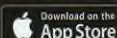
CELTIC TO WIN
IN 90 MINS & BOTH
TEAMS TO SCORE

12/5



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WILLIAM HILL
SCOTTISH CUP
SEMI FINAL 2016
RANGERS V
CELTIC

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Scottish FA President
Alan McRae
welcomes both clubs
and their fans to the
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Cup semi-final at
Hampden Park



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Collins claims his
playing experiences
against Rangers
were unbeatable



PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

GOOD AFTERNOON AND WELCOME TO HAMPDEN PARK FOR A WILLIAM HILL SCOTTISH CUP SEMI-FINAL THAT HAS CAPTURED WORLDWIDE ATTENTION.

Firstly, I would like to congratulate Rangers on winning the SPFL Championship and the Petrofac Training Cup in recent weeks. Their promotion to the Premiership next season will, I am sure, stimulate yet more competition, supporter interest and commercial value in the Scottish game at the top level.

Celtic remain on course for a domestic league and cup double and with so much at stake for both teams, the resumption of one of the greatest club rivalries in the game is a mouth-watering prospect and one that could have sold out the national stadium several times over.

Today is an opportunity for the teams and the fans to showcase Scottish football in the best possible light and demonstrate why the Old Firm derby is truly an

Unrivalled experience; a match that perfectly encapsulates this season's Scottish Cup campaign slogan.

The road to Hampden for both teams has certainly been eventful. Rangers beat Cowdenbeath in the fourth round and then had to overcome Premiership opposition. An injury-time winner from Nicky Clark helped the Ibrox club defeat Kilmarnock 2-1 in a replay at Rugby Park and they followed up with an emphatic 4-0 home victory against Dundee.

Celtic, meantime, enjoyed a more eclectic journey, defeating Stranraer at Stair Park before being drawn with the Scottish Lowland Football League surprise packages from East Kilbride. Victory at the Excelsior Stadium teed up a tie against Jim Duffy's Morton and a comfortable 3-0 victory



culminated in the 1985 Scottish Cup final goalscorer, Frank McGarvey, pairing Rangers and Celtic in the semi-final draw.

The eyes of the football world will once again be focused on Scottish football and we are all mindful of the responsibilities of that interest. I would encourage supporters of both teams to savour the occasion and the opportunity that lies ahead for the respective clubs; to be proud of demonstrating that commitment and helping to create a thrilling atmosphere but to do so in a manner that respects and enhances this unique rivalry and does not diminish it.

I wish both teams the best of luck and I hope you enjoy the game.

ALAN McRAE
PRESIDENT | SCOTTISH FA



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PREMIERE LEAGUE

TODAY'S WILLIAM HILL SCOTTISH CUP
SEMI-FINAL HAS ALL THE HALLMARKS
OF A CLASSIC

By Hugh MacDonald, The Herald

Celtic fans at Hampden last year



IT IS THE BIG PICTURE, EVEN IF IT FILLS THE SUNDAY MATINEE SLOT.

It is the movie that has reduced the mits of industrious Scottish sports reporters to bloodied stumps, the like of which have only previously been seen in a Wes Craven movie, as they seek to fill supplements so large they would do justice to the signing of ET as a contender in the Tour de France.

It is a contest that needs no build-up yet has been subjected to the sort of hot air that would float the balloon in *Around in the World in 80 Days*. Indeed, it would inflate 80 balloons every day since the draw paired the Glasgow rivals in what seems another epoch, way, way back on March 6.

It is, finally, here.

It needs no further introduction. But it will receive one, not least from the throats of more than

50,000 inside Hampden and from the uncountable and probably incoherent mass in front of the telly.

If this was a rugby match – and the odd Scottish Cup semi-final has not been conspicuously distinguishable from the oval ball game – then there would be the unleashing of flames, the firing of cannon as the teams marched out. There would be more pipes than at a Highland plumbers' convention. Instead, the Scottish FA could have been forgiven for hiring Russell Crowe as referee with him showing the whistle to opposing captains while growling: "At my signal, unleash hell."

The first encounters of these matches normally resemble the opening scenes of *Saving Private Ryan*, though with significantly more bloodshed. But there is the merest hint in the trailers for today's action that this just might be a semi-final that is fresh, original and enterprising. Such

hopes are normally the prelude to shuddering disappointment for the Scottish football fan but there is the promise of intrigue and the certainty of almost reckless strategy from both sides in today's main feature.

The directors of the action are bold, unusual and come with the sort of back story that makes Robert Duvall and *A Shot of Glory* seem the acme of plausibility. Mark Warburton, a former City trader, has taken the helm at Rangers and such is the oddness of Scottish football he can talk about the time he had \$2million around his body without anyone murmuring at such an unlikely plot development. Scottish football has recently endured such improbable twists that Warburton could extract a rabbit from his famously magic hat without even Roger Moore raising an eyebrow.

Ronny Deila at Celtic has similarly entertained the press with his decency and honesty even as he



faced the sort of fire that marked the final scene of Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid. He has, though, proved resilient, even quietly defiant.

Their previous posts at Brentford and Stromsgodset are, of course, no rehearsal for life in Glasgow, but it is difficult to say what would prepare one for tenure at Celtic Park or Ibrox. Even Gordon Strachan – a credible character for the lead role in a Scottish production of *I Am Legend* – admitted that he was surprised at the level of scrutiny and the number of press conferences he faced as manager of Celtic.

Warburton enters new territory today but there is no need to fear he will be overwhelmed. The Englishman wears his certainty of purpose as armour and he shares this trait with his counterpart in the Celtic dugout. If Deila and Warburton were facing the final charge in *Zulu*, they would be urging their troops to keep their



Mark Warburton during his time as Brentford manager.