



*Martyr Macgovern*



# RANGERS VS CELTIC



*Scott Sinclair*

**2016/17 BETFRED CUP  
SEMI-FINAL**  
SUNDAY 23 OCTOBER, 2016  
KICK-OFF 2.15PM  
HAMPDEN PARK

OFFICIAL MATCHDAY  
PROGRAMME / £5

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# WELCOME

On behalf of the Scottish Professional Football League, welcome to this afternoon's Betfred Cup semi-final at Hampden Park

**T**his is the first season of the revamped competition and we are very grateful for the backing of Betfred, in what is year one of a three-year partnership.

The new-look tournament began back on Friday 15 July and has provided plenty of thrills and spills along the way. The feedback we have received from supporters,

that began back in 1946/47. On Saturday, Championship side Morton are bidding to reach the final for only the second time in their history and are up against an Aberdeen team who lifted the trophy as recently as 2013/14. On Sunday, Rangers – who have won this tournament more than anyone else – face city rivals Celtic, who

## “IT PROMISES TO BE A THRILLING WEEKEND OF FOOTBALL, WITH A PLACE IN THE FINAL ON SUNDAY 27 NOVEMBER THE PRIZE AT STAKE”

broadcasters and managers has been largely positive – the innovative penalty shoot-outs to settle drawn games provided some early excitement while results have been more unpredictable than perhaps many expected.

Holders Ross County failed to progress from the group stage – beaten by an impressive Alloa Athletic side who also accounted for Inverness Caledonian Thistle as they reached the quarter-finals, with Morton and Peterhead also upsetting the odds to top their respective sections.

A total of 40 clubs – including Highland League champions Cove Rangers and Lowland League representatives East Stirlingshire – took part in July's 80-game group stage, with the European qualifiers entering in the last 16.

Now only four teams have a chance of achieving glory next month, in what is the 71st season of a competition

beat Dundee United in the 2014/15 final.

It promises to be a thrilling weekend of football, both for the fans in the stadium and those watching on TV at home and abroad. BT Sport are in the first of a four-year deal that allows them to show up to 13 ties live each season and we have been delighted with their coverage and clear passion for Scottish football.

I would like to thank Peter Dallas and his staff here at Hampden Park for their assistance in putting on two games in two days and, of course, to all of the supporters who have made the journey to today's match from both far and near.

Enjoy the action and good luck to the four semi-finalists – a place in the Betfred Cup Final on Sunday 27 November is the prize at stake.

Best wishes,

**Neil Doncaster**  
SPFL Chief Executive



### BETFRED WELCOME

It has always been one of my philosophies in business that success is all about working with people... people who have talent, people who have knowledge, and people who are just prepared to work hard on everything they do.

In the short time Betfred have worked with the Scottish Professional Football League, it soon became apparent that we would be dealing with a body who shared that belief and so sponsoring the Betfred Cup competition was, for me, a perfect fit.

Whilst 'experimental' during the group stages, I loved the fact that, in addition to the traditional three points for a win and one point for a draw, drawn matches had the added excitement of going straight to a penalty shoot-out for that added bonus point. Life is all about trying different things – some work and some don't but we felt the new format was a real winner and the shoot-out added significantly to the drama of some of the early matches in this year's Betfred Cup.

We acquired the Betfred Cup as we thought it could really complement our flourishing sponsorship portfolio, which includes the Betfred World Snooker Championship, the recently-announced Betfred Super League, in addition to being UK horse racing's biggest sponsor, and we have certainly not been disappointed with the reaction from fans and clubs alike.

Topping the list of the North West's Top 200 Businesses for the fourth year running, Betfred – the biggest independent bookmaker in the world with a thriving online business and an ever-growing retail estate of over 1,350 retail branches throughout the UK, and already over 100 in Scotland alone, has enabled us to commit to these terrific sponsorships and we certainly have high hopes of further deals in the very near future.

The semi-finals of this year's Betfred Cup have provided us with matches of terrific contrast and uncertainty, just as a knock-out competition should.

Whilst I realise you can't all go home happy this afternoon as there can be only two finalists, let's hope we all leave having witnessed some terrific action where football has been the real winner.

Enjoy the match and thanks for all of your support throughout this year's Betfred Cup.



MEET THE PROGRAMME TEAM:

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IT'S HISTORY IN THE MAKING

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**UNACCEPTABLE CONDUCT**

The Scottish Professional Football League will not tolerate unacceptable conduct at Hampden Park or any of the stadiums where its matches are played.

Unacceptable conduct is conduct which is violent or disorderly. Violent conduct includes any actual, attempted or threatened physical violence against any person, or intentional damage to property.

Disorderly conduct includes: Conduct which stirs up or sustains, or is likely or is designed to stir up or sustain, hatred or ill will against or towards individuals or groups of people based on their membership of presumed membership of the following categories:

- Gender, colour, race, nationality or ethnic or national origin
- Membership, or presumed membership, of a religious group or of a social or cultural group with perceived religious affiliation
- Sexual orientation
- Transgender identity
- Disability

Or against an individual who is or is presumed to be a member of such group using threatening, abusive or insulting words or conduct; displaying writing or any other thing which is threatening, abusive or insulting; using words or conduct or displaying any writing or other thing which indicates support for, or affiliation to, or celebration of, or opposition to an organisation or group proscribed in terms of the Terrorism Act 2000.

"Presumed" above means presumed by the person or persons engaged in the conduct.

"Religious group" above means a group of persons defined by reference to their religious belief or lack of religious belief, membership of or adherence to a church or religious organisation, support for the culture and traditions of a church or religious organisation and/or participation in activities associated with such a culture or such traditions.

"Transgender identity" means any one or more of transvestism, transsexualism, inter-sexuality or change of gender.

"Disability" means physical or mental impairment of any kind.

Any person engaging in unacceptable conduct may be subject to removal from the Stadium, report to the police and possible criminal proceedings.

# UP FOR THE CUP

Today's Glasgow derby marks the eighth time that Rangers and Celtic have met in the League Cup semi-finals. How will this game be remembered?

**T**his afternoon marks the 49th League Cup meeting of Rangers and Celtic, with a place in the Betfred Cup final on Sunday November 27 up for grabs.

It is the eighth occasion the teams have met at this stage of the competition and Rangers lead that particular series 4-3 but it was Celtic who came out on top the last time, in February 2015, thanks to goals from Leigh Griffiths and Kris Commons.

Much has changed for both teams since then. Mark Warburton has restored Rangers to the top flight of Scottish football and only Lee Wallace and Kenny Miller remain at Ibrox from

the 18 players listed by Kenny McDowall that afternoon at Hampden Park.

Warburton, who replaced Stuart McCall in the summer of 2015 after moving north from Brentford, has brought in 11 new players since the end of last season, including Accrington Stanley duo Matt Crooks and Josh Windass and strikers Joe Dodoo (Leicester City) and Joe Garner (Preston).

Only two of the new boys – Clint Hill and Niko Kranjcar – started at Inverness last weekend but Jordan Rossiter, who was brought in from Liverpool, could be fit to return to the squad today.

Celtic have been through less change in personnel since the last semi-final,

with 10 of the 18 still at Parkhead, but Brendan Rodgers replaced Ronny Deila in the summer and has added some high-quality signings, not least Kolo Toure, Moussa Dembele and Scott Sinclair.

It was Dembele, now a France U21 internationalist, who bagged a hat-trick in the 5-1 win when the sides met at Celtic Park last month. It was the first derby treble since Ally McCoist scored all three of Rangers' goals in the final of the 1983/84 League Cup and the former Fulham forward has made a massive impact, with 13 goals so far – including a double in the thrilling 3-3 draw with Manchester City.

Celtic were back in Champions

