



# TENNENT'S SCOTTISH CUP SEMI-FINAL

**ST JOHNSTONE  
VS CELTIC**

THE NATIONAL STADIUM, HAMPDEN PARK  
SATURDAY 14 APRIL 2007 KICK-OFF 12.30PM  
OFFICIAL PROGRAMME £3





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**ST JOHNSTONE V CELTIC**



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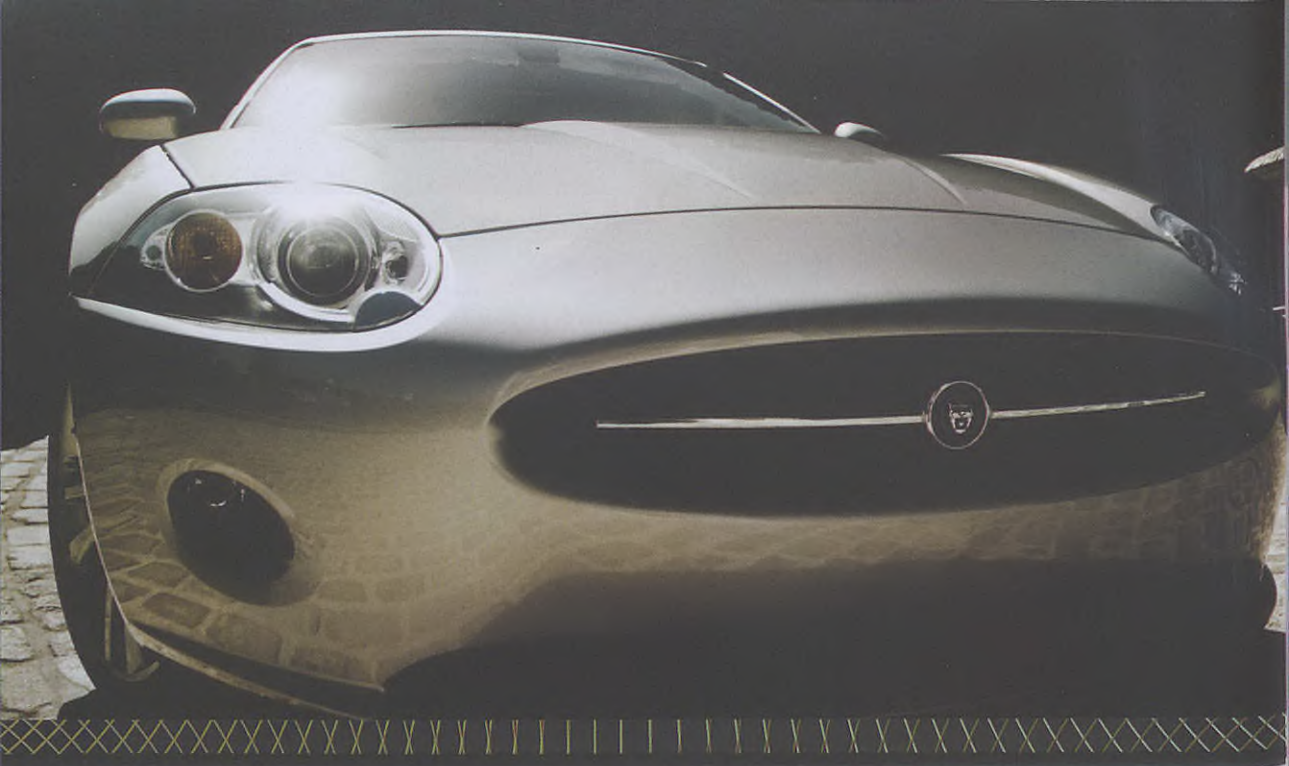
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Programme designed and published for the Scottish Football Association by PPL Sport & Leisure, Tel: 01372 743377 © SFA.

Edited by Andy Mitchell, written by David Ogilvie except where stated. Photographs by SNS Group, printed by Buchanan

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## WELCOME TO THE 2006/07 TENNENT'S SCOTTISH CUP SEMI-FINALS

Along with all Scottish football supporters and as official sponsors of the Scotland National Team, we at Tennent's are enjoying the renewed sense of optimism surrounding Scottish Football while preparing to celebrate 18 years of Tennent's association with the Scottish Cup.

This year's competition has been full of passion, excitement and shocks. We have two cracking semi-finals to look forward to here at our national stadium, Hampden Park.

On Saturday we see a great cup story as St Johnstone reach their first Tennent's Scottish Cup semi-final since 1999. The Saints have enjoyed their road to Hampden having taken two impressive SPL scalps in Falkirk and Motherwell. St Johnstone manager, Owen Coyle, will be hoping that his team can go for a third and continue their cup fairytale.

Standing in their way is the formidable opposition of Celtic who last lifted the silverware in 2005. Gordon Strachan's team will be wary of First Division opposition as he leads them into his first Tennent's Scottish Cup semi-final as a manager. This David and Goliath story has the makings of a great contest.

Sunday will then witness Hibernian and Dunfermline Athletic take their place on the Hampden stage. Hibernian will be looking to improve on last season's semi-final visit to the national stadium under the leadership of John Collins. The Edinburgh side already has one piece of silverware this season and will be hoping this can spur them on to more success.

Their opponents, Dunfermline Athletic could be described as 'cup specialists' this season. The Pars, who reached the final in 2004, trod a difficult road to the semi-finals and had to overcome SPL opposition including Rangers and the cup holders Hearts. With league form going out the window both teams will feel like they have a chance.

There is no doubt that all four teams know what's at stake; the honour of being at the showpiece occasion of the Scottish football calendar, the Tennent's Scottish Cup Final on the 26th May, and the chance to have the world's oldest domestic silverware take pride of place in their club's trophy cabinet.

*Best wishes to all four of our semi-finalists!*

George Kyle  
*Head of Sponsorship*

*Tennent's. Supporting Scottish Football.*



# ROAD TO THE SEMIS

Third round

Saturday January 6, 2007

## ST JOHNSTONE 0 Ayr UNITED 0

St Johnstone: Cuthbert, Lawrie, Dyer (McLaren 80), Mensing, McManus, Anderson, Sheerin, McInnes, Milne (Jackson 69), Scotland (MacDonald 46), Stanic.

Ayr Utd: McGeown, Caddis, Lowing, Forrest, Campbell, Robertson, Strain (Hyslop 90), Casey, Vareille (Friels 85), Wardlaw, Dunn.

Attendance: 2,173

Referee: Mike Tumlity

Saints were favourites to see off Second Division Ayr but their poor record in this competition – just one win since they reached the semi-finals in 1999 – continued with a dour draw.

Steven Milne tested Ayr keeper Mark McGeown in a drab first half but the visitors threatened after the break and Kevin Cuthbert thwarted David Dunn before Jerome Vareille missed a good chance to send the Honest Men into the fourth round. Saints hadn't impressed but they were still alive and Somerset Park was hardly a fortress.

Third round replay

Tuesday January 16, 2007

## AYR UNITED 1

Stevenson 66

## ST JOHNSTONE 2

Scotland 5

MacDonald 116

Ayr: McGeown, Forrest, Campbell (Weaver 46), Robertson (Pettigrew 36), Lowing, Caddis, Casey, Dunn, Stevenson, Vareille (Strain 95), Wardlaw.

St Johnstone: Cuthbert, James, Mensing, McManus, Lawrie, Hardie (Jackson 95), McInnes, Sheerin (McLaren 73), Stanic, MacDonald, Scotland.

Attendance: 1,948

Referee: Mike Tumlity

High winds and high drama as Saints left it late to squeeze through to a last-16 meeting with Falkirk.

Jason Scotland put the Perth outfit in front after just five minutes when he hammered a free-kick into the bottom corner and, given Ayr's lack of goals this season, it looked as if it would be enough.



*Peter MacDonald (left) unleashes an unstoppable shot to snatch victory for St Johnstone*

But the Honest Men hit back midway through the second half when former Saint Ryan Stevenson thumped in a superb equaliser. Extra time followed during which the visitors were on top but we were just four minutes from penalties when Mark McGeown was finally beaten by Peter MacDonald's shot on the turn.

Fourth round

Saturday February 3, 2007

## FALKIRK 0

## ST JOHNSTONE 3

Hardie 27, James 38

MacDonald 69

Falkirk: Schmeichel, Ross (Holden 45), Twaddle, Barr, Milne, Latapy, Cregg, Thomson, O'Donnell (Moutinho 64), Gow, Finnigan.

St Johnstone: Cuthbert, Lawrie, Stanic (Dyer 68), James, Anderson, Mensing, Hardie, McInnes, Sheerin, Scotland (McLaren 88), MacDonald (Jackson 90).

Attendance: 3,908

Referee: Dougie McDonald

Both sides had gone out of the CIS Cup at the semi-final stage in midweek – St Johnstone unlucky to lose to Hibernian and Falkirk comprehensively beaten by Kilmarnock.



# TENNENT'S SCOTTISH CUP SEMI FINAL



*St Johnstone's Simon Mensing (right) tackles Falkirk's Kenny Milne*

It was Saints who dealt better with the hangover, producing a terrific display to add the Bairns to a list of SPL scalps that already included Dundee United and Rangers from their CIS exploits.

Home boss John Hughes was furious with this players but this was a day to remember for Owen Coyle's troops and sweet revenge for a defeat by the same score when the clubs had last met in the Scottish Cup in 1998.

Falkirk's inability to deal with former Bairn Kevin James was a major factor in their undoing. The giant defender won a header to allow Martin Hardie to force home the opening goal and before half-time James connected with another Paul Sheerin corner to make it 2-0.

Saints piled on the misery with a third goal 20 minutes from time. Hardie flicked Andy Lawrie's free-kick into the path of Peter MacDonald and the striker ran clear to beat Kasper Schmeichel.

Quarter-final

Wednesday February 28, 2007

**MOTHERWELL 1**

McCormack 85

**ST JOHNSTONE 2**

MacDonald 21

Scotland 72

Motherwell: Smith, Corrigan, Craigan, Reynolds, Murphy (Clarkson 73), McGarry (Molloy 58), Kerr, Fitzpatrick (Keegan 82), Paterson, McCormack, McDonald.

St Johnstone: Cuthbert, Lawrie, McManus, Mensing, James, Stanic, McLaren (Morais 83), Hardie, Sheerin, MacDonald (Milne 90), Scotland (Jackson 89).

Attendance: 5,788

Referee: Mike McCurry

Another glorious night for Owen Coyle and the St Johnstone players. Forget the scoreline, it would have been a travesty had Motherwell nicked a replay.

"I felt we tried to attack at every opportunity," said a delighted Coyle. "I don't think anyone could argue we deserved to win. I thought it was a tremendous team performance."

St Johnstone were up for it from the start. The opening goal was long overdue when it arrived after 21 minutes. Willie McLaren sent over a cross from the right and Peter MacDonald stuck out a boot to direct a measured shot over Graeme Smith and under the crossbar.

The second Saints goal came via the other flank in 72 minutes. Goran Stanic provided the perfect delivery for Jason Scotland to head home from six yards, right in front of the jubilant travelling support.

Saints missed chances to increase their lead and were instead hanging on after Ross McCormack scrambled his first goal for Motherwell with five minutes left.

*Jason Scotland rises above the defence to score the winner for St Johnstone*



Third round

Saturday January 6, 2007

**CELTIC 4**

**DUMBARTON 0**

Zurawski 4, 9

Vennegoor of Hesselink 43

Riordan 69

**Celtic:** Boruc, Telfer, Pressley, O'Dea, Naylor, Nakamura (Riordan 45), Lennon (Gravesen 72), Sno, McGeady, Zurawski, Vennegoor of Hesselink (Miller 78).

**Dumbarton:** Grindlay, Geggan, Canning, Craig, Brittain, Borris (Gemmell 76), Gentile (Hamilton 45), Bagan, Winter, Boyle, McQuilken (McNaught 63).

Attendance: 18,685

Referee: Willie Collum

Having suffered against Clyde at this stage 12 months earlier, Celtic boss Gordon Strachan must have hoped for a kind draw, and a home tie with Third Division opponents was just the thing.

Dumbarton had lost only 2-0 when the sides crossed paths in the Scottish Cup in 1989 but Gerry McCabe's men were down and out inside nine minutes here, although it might have been different had Paul McQuilken not scorned an early chance for the visitors.

Polish hitman Maciej Zurawski took a pass from Shunsuke Nakamura and coolly lobbed the advancing Stephen Grindlay after four minutes and the same pair combined again as Zurawski thumped a shot high into the net to ensure a comfortable afternoon for the hosts.

Jan Vennegoor of Hesselink netted his first Tennent's Scottish Cup goal from close range before the interval and Derek Riordan rounded things off with 20 minutes remaining.

Fourth round

Sunday, February 4, 2007

**LIVINGSTON 1**

**CELTIC 4**

Mackay 18

O'Dea 30

Riordan 45, 59

Vennegoor of Hesselink 61

**Livingston:** Stewart, MacKay, McPake, Tweed, Golabek, Fox (Hamill 57), Mitchell, Walker, Craig (Smylie 82), Makel (Dorrans 63), Teggart.

**Celtic:** Boruc, Telfer, McManus, O'Dea, Naylor, Nakamura, Hartley, Lennon (Sno 76), Jarosik (Gravesen 68), Vennegoor of Hesselink, Riordan.

Attendance: 7,281

Referee: Charlie Richmond

A Sunday stroll in the end for Celtic as Japan midfielder Shunsuke Nakamura ran

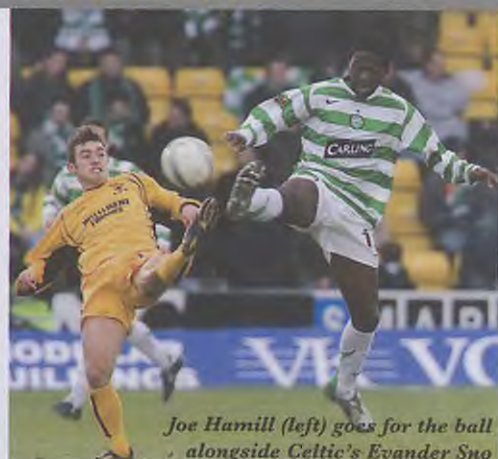


Dumbarton defenders Mark Canning (centre) and Steven Grindlay (left) prevent Darren O'Dea adding to Celtic's goal tally





# TENNENT'S SCOTTISH CUP SEMI FINAL



Joe Hamill (left) goes for the ball alongside Celtic's Evander Sno

## the show at Almondvale.

There was a fright for the Hoops, though, as John Robertson's First Division Livingston were briefly in front before the visitors showed their class and rattled in four goals.

Livi stunned the SPL leaders when they took the lead after 18 minutes. Lee Makel tossed a free-kick into the box and Dave Mackay had time and space to glance a header past Artur Boruc.

Celtic responded, as they have done so often this season, and central defender Darren O'Dea smashed the equaliser past Colin Stewart before Derek Riordan conjured up a fine finish in first-half injury time.

Livi pressed hard at the start of the second half but Celtic wrapped up their quarter-final place in the 59th minute when some Nakamura magic allowed Riordan to drive home the third goal.

Paul Hartley was making his debut for the visitors and came close to a goal but it was ex-PSV Eindhoven striker Jan Vennegoor of Hesselink who bagged the fourth with a powerful finish.

Quarter-final  
Sunday, February 25, 2007

### INVERNESS CT 1

Bayne 18

### CELTIC 2

Pressley 89

Miller 90

Inverness CT: Fraser, Tokely, Dods, Munro, Hastings, Wilson (McAllister 86), Black (McSwegan 77), Duncan, Rankin, McBain (Hart 45), Bayne.

Celtic: Boruc, Wilson (Sheridan 73), Pressley, McManus, Naylor, Hartley, Lennon, Sno (Gravesen 78), Nakamura, Jarosik (McGeady 65), Miller.

Attendance: 7,119

Referee: Dougie McDonald

## A tasty treat for a Sunday lunchtime as Inverness sought a hat-trick of recent Scottish Cup successes against Celtic.

They very nearly achieved it, but were downed by the comeback kings as Gordon Strachan's men once again proved they didn't know how to lose. There were Caley Thistle players in tears at the end, and they deserved a replay, but you had to admire Celtic's spirit.

Kenny Miller missed a good early chance for the Hoops and Inverness stole in front with their first meaningful attack. A sweeping move ended with Barry Wilson crossing for Graham Bayne who planted the ball past Artur Boruc.

Bayne had a second goal disallowed for offside before half-time but it looked as if one would be enough for Inverness, particularly when Shunsuke Nakamura saw his spectacular effort crack off the bar.

But Celtic would not be denied. With a minute left, Nakamura's corner was met at the back post by Stephen McManus and his header was forced home by Steven Pressley from just a couple of yards.

Worse was to follow for Inverness. Cillian Sheridan, on as a substitute and making his debut, teed up Miller who curled a perfect shot beyond the reach of Michael Fraser from 20 yards.

"I had to make changes near the end, some of them desperate," said Strachan. "But desperate times call for desperate measures. With five minutes to go, I was happy to settle for a replay but the players said no and I'm just glad they are on my side."

## Steven Pressley (right) brings Celtic level towards the end

