



OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME



THE SCOTTISH LEAGUE CUP

# FINAL

PRESENTED BY QTS

Dundee United v Celtic  
Sunday 15 March 2015

Kick-Off 3.00pm, Hampden Park







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# WELCOME

SPFL Chief Executive Neil Doncaster looks forward to what promises to be a memorable Scottish League Cup Final at Hampden Park

**I**t is my pleasure to welcome you to Hampden Park and to this, the final tie of the Scottish League Cup for season 2014/15, presented by QTS.

This is the 69th time the Scottish League Cup has been run since its inception in season 1946/47 – but only the second time under the auspices of the Scottish Professional Football League, following the merger of the SPL and SFL in 2013. This is however, the SPFL's first cup final to take place at Hampden Park.

With the 2014 Glasgow Commonwealth Games meaning that Hampden was unavailable to us, last season's final took place at Celtic Park. There, in front of a crowd of 51,143, Aberdeen triumphed on penalties over Inverness Caledonian Thistle to win their first trophy in nearly 20 years.

Back at Hampden Park, over the weekend of 31 January and 1 February, the Scottish League Cup semi-finals, presented by QTS, saw Dundee United come from behind to beat Aberdeen 2-1; while Celtic triumphed 2-0 against city rivals Rangers. Both games took place on

a surface that had only been laid last November. Regrettably, the pitch broke up badly during both matches, affecting both the quality of play and the spectacle for the millions of viewers around the world. We are therefore pleased that Hampden Park Limited have replaced the pitch for today's game. Hopefully, we will see a surface befitting the final of a national cup competition.

Dundee United have won the trophy twice, both times under Jim McLean, and most recently in 1980/81 when they beat Dundee at Dens Park – a goal from Davie Dodds and a double from Paul Sturrock delivering a 3-0 derby triumph. Their other Scottish League Cup final victory was against Alex Ferguson's Aberdeen in 1979/80. A goalless draw on December 8, 1979 was followed four days later by another 3-0 cup final victory, with Willie Pettigrew netting twice to seal the win. Today is Dundee United's seventh Scottish League Cup final appearance – and their first since 2007/08, when they lost out to Rangers on penalties after a 2-2 draw.

For Celtic, today is their 30th appearance

in a Scottish League Cup final and they are seeking their 15th victory. Their last appearance at this stage ended in a 1-0 defeat to Kenny Shiels' Kilmarnock in 2011/12. Their most recent success was in season 2008/09, when extra-time goals from Darren O'Dea and Aiden McGeady earned a 2-0 victory over Rangers, with Dundee United beaten in an epic penalty shoot-out in the semi-final.

We were delighted that QTS stepped forward as the Presenting Partner for this season's Scottish League Cup. Alan McLeish and his team have built a fantastic business in QTS – rightly renowned as the UK's most innovative railway contracting company. We hope that they benefit hugely from their association with this historic football competition and enjoy their day at Hampden.

Finally, whoever you support, I hope that you have a tremendous day out at Hampden Park for the 69th Scottish League Cup final, presented by QTS.

**Enjoy the match!**

**Neil Doncaster, SPFL Chief Executive**





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# INSIDE YOUR PROGRAMME...



## 08 SETTING THE SCENE

We get you prepared for today's highly anticipated League Cup Final

## 10 ROAD TO THE FINAL

How Celtic and Dundee United made it to Hampden Park for today's final

## 14 JACKIE McNAMARA

The Dundee United boss is looking to claim his first silverware as a manager

## 21 RYAN McGOWAN

The Aussie defender talks about his past success in cup finals

## 26 RONNY DEILA

The Celtic manager is looking to lift his first piece of silverware with the Hoops

## 33 SCOTT BROWN

The Celtic captain talks about his time with the club and what it would mean to win another League Cup

## 38 MEET THE SQUAD: DUFC

Get to know the members of the Dundee United squad

## 42 MEET THE SQUAD: CELTIC

Introducing the Celtic squad ahead of today's final

## 46 DENS PARK DELIGHT

Paul Sturrock looks back at United's last League Cup win in 1980/81

## 50 A DEFINING MOMENT

Relive the 1997/98 League Cup Final between Celtic and Dundee United

## 55 A LONG NIGHT

Former Celtic captain Gary Caldwell recalls the memorable 2008/09 League Cup semi-final which went to penalties



## 60 FACTS AND FIGURES

Everything you need to know about Celtic and Dundee United's past meetings

## 62 O'DEA'S BIGGEST DAY

The former defender and unlikely hero of Celtic's last League Cup win in 2008/09 recalls his heroics

## 66 THE BEST OF TIMES

Looking back at the 1979 League Cup Final and the most successful period in Dundee United's history





74

## 68 PREVIOUS LEAGUE CUP MEETINGS

Recapping the previous 25 League Cup meetings between today's finalists

## 70 PICTURE PERFECT

An image gallery of previous meetings between Celtic and Dundee United

## 74 CELTIC'S LEAGUE CUP TRIUMPHS

Looking back at Celtic's 14 previous League Cup wins

## 78 EMOTIONAL ROLLERCOASTER

Former captain Lee Wilkie recalls Dundee United's inspiring run to the League Cup Final seven years ago

## 82 KEEPING IT IN THE COMMUNITY

Find out how Celtic and Dundee United give back to the community

## 84 THIS SEASON'S MEETINGS

All the action from Dundee United and Celtic's meetings this term

## 88 LEAGUE CUP IN NUMBERS

Key stats from previous finals

## 93 PAST WINNERS

Complete list of winners from 1946/47

## 94 MATCH OFFICIALS

Introducing the referee and his assistants for today's game

## 97 QUIZ

Test your League Cup knowledge

## 98 SQUAD LISTS

Complete squads for today's teams



78



70



84

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