



OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

**THE SCOTTISH LEAGUE CUP SEMI-FINAL
PRESENTED BY QTS**

Celtic v Rangers
Sunday 1 February 2015
Kick-Off 1.30pm
Hampden Park

£5





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WELCOME

SPFL Chief Executive Neil Doncaster looks ahead to what promises to be a memorable weekend of Scottish League Cup football at Hampden Park

On behalf of the Scottish Professional Football League, welcome to Hampden Park for this Scottish League Cup semi-final, presented by QTS.

Due to last summer's Commonwealth Games, Hampden was unavailable to us. As a result, we took our cup matches to Celtic Park, Easter Road and Tynecastle. On behalf of the SPFL, I would like to record my thanks to the directors and staff at Celtic FC, Hibernian FC and Heart of Midlothian FC for their excellent hosting of our matches last season.

Given that the SPFL was only formed in summer 2013, this is the first occasion that the new League will have taken cup games to the National Stadium – and we could not have hoped for two better semi-final ties than we have before us this weekend.

Aberdeen FC are the current holders of the League Cup, winning the trophy last season in the most dramatic of circumstances. A penalty shoot-out triumph against Inverness Caledonian Thistle FC in the final ensured the Dons' first trophy in nearly 20 years.

That victory was achieved without conceding a goal in normal time throughout the whole competition – a record they also boast to date in this season's League Cup campaign. Aberdeen FC have won the League Cup six times over their history.

Dundee United FC first won the League Cup in 1979/80, beating New Firm rivals Aberdeen FC following a replay. The Terrors retained the trophy in 1980/81, this time against local rivals Dundee FC, but have not won the competition since.

Celtic FC have won the Scottish League Cup on 14 previous occasions, most recently in 2008/09, when they beat Old Firm rivals and current semi-final opponents Rangers FC.

Rangers FC have lifted the trophy on a record 27 occasions, most recently in 2010/11. Their semi-final appearance this season will be the first occasion that they will face Celtic FC since April 2012.

I am delighted that QTS have joined us as Presenting Partner for this season's League Cup.

QTS are an ambitious and growing Scottish business, with a proud history

of successful sport sponsorship. I hope that they, their staff and directors enjoy the experience of being at Hampden for these historic matches.

I would also like to pay tribute to our broadcast partners, who continue to do a sterling job of bringing the League Cup to television audiences from East Kilbride to East Timor. BBC Scotland and MP & Silva will together ensure that this weekend's sporting action will be witnessed by millions of people across the globe.

Wherever I travel, Scottish football has a proud and enviable reputation for passion, drama and excitement. I am sure that this reputation will be further enhanced today. Football is all about hopes, dreams and memories. And I hope that, whatever the result this afternoon, you take away some great memories from Hampden.

Enjoy the match!

Neil Doncaster, SPFL Chief Executive



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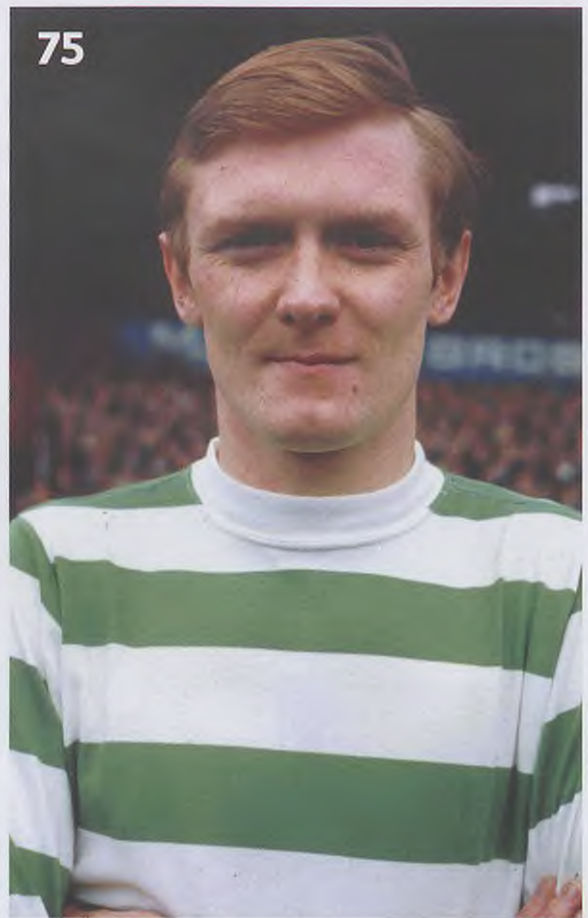
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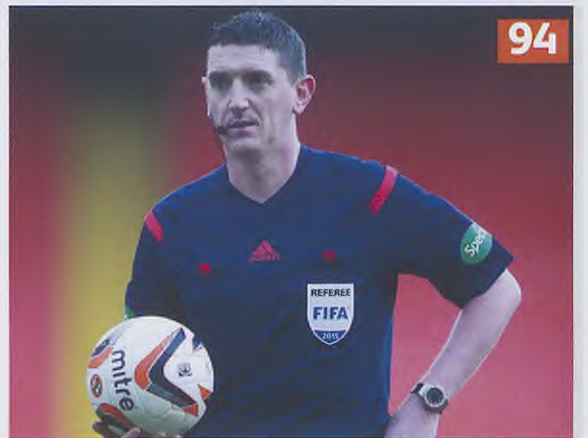
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EDITOR: Garry Hayes
ART DIRECTOR: Matt Alabaster
ART EDITOR: Mark Jardine
IMAGES: SNS, Celtic FC, Rangers FC, Jeff Holmes
HEAD OF PRODUCTION: Paul Smith
SALES TEAM: Mark Bloomfield, Darren Mills, Alex Rowe
MANAGING DIRECTOR: Lee Berry
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