



WILLIAM HILL SCOTTISH CUP SEMI FINAL
CELTIC FC v RANGERS FC
HAMPDEN PARK

Sunday, 23 April 2017

Kick Off 12.00pm



UNRIVALLED

Official Match Programme £3.00

Celtic to win in
90 mins & both
teams to score

2/1



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CELTIC V RANGERS

WILLIAM HILL
SCOTTISH CUP
SEMI FINAL

SUNDAY 23 APRIL 2017
HAMPDEN PARK • KO 12NOON

TODAY'S OFFICIALS

Referee:
William Collum
Assistant Referees:
Frank Connor, Douglas Ross
Fourth Official:
Craig Thomson
AAR1: Don Robertson
AAR2: Nick Walsh

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04 WELCOME

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OFFICE BEARERS:

President
Alan McRae
Chief Executive
Stewart M Regan
Vice-president
Rod Petrie

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PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

Good afternoon and welcome to Hampden Park for a William Hill Scottish Cup semi-final that promises to deliver another fascinating chapter in one of world football's greatest club rivalries.

Firstly, I would like to congratulate Celtic on what has been a truly remarkable season for the club thus far. They not only deserve plaudits for winning both the League Cup and the Premiership already this season, but for doing so in such style.

To reach the end of April unbeaten in domestic football is a wonderful achievement and I am sure Celtic will be determined to remain undefeated for the rest of the season and complete the domestic treble.

Though Rangers have experienced a more turbulent season, their supporters will be excited by the appointment of their new management team. I am sure they will be determined to cap off their first season after being promoted to the Premiership by lifting the Scottish Cup in May.

The road to Hampden for both teams has seen them overcome Premiership opponents in emphatic style. A Kenny Miller double helped Rangers come from behind to defeat Motherwell in the fourth round at Ibrox, before a 2-1 victory over Championship side Greenock Morton booked their place in the quarter-final. Once there, a resounding 6-0 win over Hamilton secured today's trip to Hampden.

Celtic, meanwhile, began their journey defeating League One Albion Rovers at the Excelsior Stadium, before a hat-trick from one of this season's outstanding players, Moussa Dembele, helped them ease to a 6-0 victory over Inverness Caledonian Thistle. A subsequent 4-1 victory against St Mirren at Celtic Park in the quarter-finals kept them on track to add to the club's 36 Scottish Cup trophies.

Today's match sees a repeat of last season's semi-final and if we witness anything like the drama that ensued in that game then we are in for a real treat. An Old Firm tie is always a special occasion and one that perfectly encapsulates the Unrivalled experience of the Scottish Cup.

On occasions such as this, with the eyes of the world upon Scottish football, it behoves us to be mindful of the responsibilities that come with that interest. I encourage supporters of both sets of teams to revel in the atmosphere of the tie, but to do so in a respectful manner – one that enhances this famous rivalry and showcases the best of Scottish football to a worldwide audience.

I wish both teams the best of luck and I hope we have a memorable and enjoyable game.

ALAN McRAE
President, Scottish FA





WORDS: MICHAEL GRANT, THE TIMES

THE CURRENT CELTIC SQUAD
ARE UNLIKELY TO TAKE NOTE OF
A LONG WAIT FOR LAST-FOUR
BRAGGING RIGHTS

SEMI-CONSCIOUS





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Ot was the year in which John Logie Baird first transmitted images on a primitive form of television.

Stanley Baldwin was the Prime Minister and Calvin Coolidge was sworn in as President of the United States. F Scott Fitzgerald published *The Great Gatsby* and Adolf Hitler the first volume of *Mein Kampf*.

Closer to home, in the narrower context of Scottish football, something else of note happened in 1925, although none of the 101,000 witnesses at Hampden Park could have anticipated the lasting significance at the time.

There was nothing exceptional in the fact Celtic beat Rangers in the Scottish Cup semi-final that year, even if their 5-0 rout was startling given that Rangers won the championship and finished 16 points ahead of them in the league table. What connects the 1925 Old Firm meeting at Hampden to today's clash, 92 years later, is that it remains the last time Celtic were drawn against Rangers in a Scottish Cup semi-final and managed to beat them.

The Scottish Football Association has grown used to all the jokes and cynical conspiracy theories which allege that, when the country's two biggest clubs reach the last four of the cup, everything is done to keep them apart in the draw (it being more attractive and rewarding in terms of sponsorship and viewing figures for them to potentially meet in the final). "Hot" and "cold" balls in the draw ceremony is the most widely-circulated myth about how those deciding the semi-final outcome were able to keep them separate. If that really was the case the SFA must be guilty of



"WHAT CONNECTS THE 1925 OLD FIRM MEETING AT HAMPDEN TO TODAY'S CLASH, 92 YEARS LATER, IS THAT IT REMAINS THE LAST TIME CELTIC WERE DRAWN AGAINST RANGERS IN A SCOTTISH CUP SEMI-FINAL AND MANAGED TO BEAT THEM."

