

*William* **HILL**   
SCOTTISH CUP

WILLIAM HILL SCOTTISH CUP FINAL

**UNRIVALLED**



**CELTIC v ABERDEEN**

**HAMPDEN PARK**

**SATURDAY 27 MAY 2017 / KICK OFF 3PM**





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## CELTIC V ABERDEEN

WILLIAM HILL  
SCOTTISH CUP FINAL

SATURDAY 27 MAY 2017

HAMPDEN PARK • KO 3PM

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# PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

Good afternoon and welcome to Hampden Park for the season's showpiece event, the William Hill Scottish Cup final

Firstly, I would like to congratulate both Celtic and Aberdeen for reaching today's final at the national stadium. It is a fitting bookend to the season to have the two teams that have proven themselves to be the best in the country contest today's final.

The stadium is in fine fettle with the grounds staff having worked tirelessly to ensure that the pitch is in excellent condition. Today also marks the first time the new larger video screens will be in use, having recently been installed as part of the improvements made around Hampden to prepare it for its role as one of the Euro 2020 host venues.

Both teams today have extra incentive to lift the oldest cup trophy in world football: Aberdeen will be looking to add to their seven trophies in the competition, the last of which came 27 years ago, while Celtic will aim to secure an historic treble and complete a remarkable unbeaten domestic season.

Celtic have of course won the competition on a record 36 occasions, the last of which came in 2013 with a 3-0 victory over Hibs in the final, and their quest to lift the trophy again has been conducted with more than an element of flair and panache.

They began at the Excelsior Stadium with a 3-0 victory over League One

Albion Rovers and subsequently secured their place in the quarter-finals with a comprehensive 6-0 victory over Inverness Caledonian Thistle.

The goals continued to flow in the quarter-finals with a 4-1 victory against St. Mirren at Celtic Park, a result that set up a repeat of last season's semi-final tie against old rivals Rangers at Hampden. Celtic made sure there would be no repeat of last season's result, however, with a 2-0 victory that was far more comfortable than the scoreline suggests.

Aberdeen's journey to the final began with a 4-0 rout of Stranraer followed by a trip to Dingwall, where a late Shay Logan strike saw off a resolute Ross County side. The result teed up another tie against Premiership opposition in the form of Partick Thistle, where a 1-0 victory was enough to send the Dons into the semi-finals at Hampden to face last season's Scottish Cup winners Hibernian.

A pulsating tie saw Aberdeen let slip a two-goal lead – with their first goal coming after only 12 seconds – before ultimately triumphing thanks to a late own goal and sealing their first Scottish Cup final place in 17 years.

Indeed, Hampden has borne witness to some dramatic late winners in

recent years, with the last two William Hill Scottish Cup finals both being settled late in the day. If today's match lives up to the Unrivalled drama from those occasions, then we have a real treat in store for ourselves.

With so much at stake today this promises to be an extraordinary occasion and I would like to thank both sets of supporters for contributing to what I am sure will be a colourful carnival atmosphere at our national stadium.

I would also like to thank William Hill for their commitment to Scottish football and their assistance in helping to create a memorable experience for fans of all teams that have competed in this season's competition, and in particular both sets of fans today. I am sure we will enjoy a spectacle that is befitting of such a special occasion.

I would also like to thank Celtic legends Willie Wallace and John Clark, Aberdeen legends Tommy McMillan and Jim Whyte, and Gareth Davis, Chairman of William Hill, who will present the medals and trophy today.

I wish both teams the best of luck and I hope that you enjoy the game.

**ALAN McRAE**  
President, Scottish FA



Celtic to win  
both halves

7/2

Was 3/1



*William* **HILL**

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