



BETFRED CUP FINAL

£5

OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME



CELTIC vs ABERDEEN



3pm. SUNDAY DECEMBER 2nd 2018
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WELCOME

Welcome to this afternoon's
Betfred Cup final at Hampden Park

Today's game is a repeat of the 2016 decider, which Celtic won 3-0, and Brendan Rodgers' side are aiming to lift the trophy for the third year in a row, having also beaten Motherwell here 12 months ago. Celtic have claimed this piece of silverware on 17 previous occasions and have knocked out Partick Thistle (3-1), St Johnstone (1-0) and Heart of Midlothian (3-0) to reach this stage.

Aberdeen are six-time winners and were most recently successful in 2013/14 when they beat Inverness Caledonian Thistle on penalties after a 0-0 draw at Celtic Park. Derek McInnes is bidding to create history by becoming the first Pittodrie manager to win the trophy twice.

The Dons are yet to concede a goal in this season's Betfred Cup. They beat St Mirren 4-0 in the last 16, then defeated Hibernian in a shoot-out at Easter Road in the quarter-finals before Lewis Ferguson's header settled a tight semi-final against Rangers five weeks ago.

The two semi-finals at the end of October, staged at BT Murrayfield and Hampden Park, were watched by an incredible total of 107,347 supporters. I would like to thank everyone for their continued backing of Scottish football and for coming along to this afternoon's final, which will be

watched by a crowd of around 50,000.

We were delighted to recently announce that Betfred will continue to support the League Cup until at least the end of season 2019/20, and on improved terms. They have fully embraced the new competition format since its inception in the summer of 2016 and we look forward to working with Betfred for at least another season beyond this one.

I would also like to thank our broadcaster partner BT Sport for their excellent showcasing of this season's Betfred Cup, and SPFL football in general. Their coverage of the 2018/19 Betfred Cup began with the first game between Kilmarnock and St Mirren at Rugby Park on Friday 13 July and today marks their 12th live broadcast in the competition this season.

Finally, my thanks as always to Peter Dallas and his staff at Hampden Park for their assistance in staging today's showpiece fixture, which is the 73rd final in a competition that began in 1946/47.

Best of luck to the players and management of Celtic and Aberdeen and, to the winners, enjoy the celebrations that follow.

Best wishes

Neil Doncaster
SPFL Chief Executive



FROM OUR SPONSOR

Firstly a very warm welcome to Hampden Park for this year's Betfred Cup final.

Today sees the culmination of what has once again been a terrific tournament and, as always, a big thanks to our friends at the Scottish Professional Football League and also the clubs, players and fans who have helped to make this year's competition both an enjoyable and successful one, albeit despite a few challenges along the way.

This year's Betfred Cup final sees a repeat of the 2016 final (and my first trip to Hampden) between Celtic and Aberdeen when Celtic came out on top with a 3-0 victory and brought Brendan Rodgers' first major trophy to the Glasgow club. Derek McInnes' side will no doubt be looking to avenge that defeat whilst at the same time halting Celtic's unbeaten run of domestic trophies under Rodgers.

Both finalists arrive at Hampden today following tough semi-finals a little more than a month ago. A great second-half display by Celtic gave them a 3-0 victory against an in-form Hearts side at Murrayfield whilst Aberdeen held out against a persistent Rangers effort before Lewis Ferguson snatched a 79th-minute winner.

My guys tell me that Aberdeen have yet to concede a goal in this season's Betfred Cup despite extra time in their quarter-final against Hibs and Celtic have only conceded one goal in this year's competition, and that was back in the second round at Partick Thistle.

This would suggest we may be in for a very tight match this afternoon that may be decided by the odd goal and that is mirrored by the amount of cash we have taken on a 1-0 outcome for either side. Despite the stats men, I am going to predict a 3-2 goal fest and a thrilling final!

As always, it will be a great honour to be handing over the iconic trophy to the winning captain today and whether the trophy bears red ribbons or green ribbons let's hope we all look back once again on a terrific final where football has been the real winner.

Enjoy the final and a big thank you to everyone for your support for this year's Betfred Cup.



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IT'S HISTORY IN THE MAKING



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UNACCEPTABLE CONDUCT

The Scottish Professional Football League will not tolerate unacceptable conduct at Hampden Park or any of the stadiums where its matches are played.

Unacceptable conduct is conduct which is violent or disorderly. Violent conduct includes any actual, attempted or threatened physical violence against any person, or intentional damage to property.

Disorderly conduct includes: Conduct which stirs up or sustains, or is likely or is designed to stir up or sustain, hatred or ill will against or towards individuals or groups of people based on their membership of presumed membership of the following categories:

- Gender, colour, race, nationality or ethnic or national origin

- Membership, or presumed membership, of a religious group or of a social or cultural group with perceived religious affiliation
- Sexual orientation
- Transgender identity
- Disability

Or against an individual who is or is presumed to be a member of such group using threatening, abusive or insulting words or conduct; displaying writing or any other thing which is threatening, abusive or insulting; using words or conduct or displaying any writing or other thing which indicates support for, or affiliation to, or celebration of, or opposition to an organisation or group proscribed in terms of the Terrorism Act 2000.

"Presumed" above means presumed by the person or

persons engaged in the conduct.

"Religious group" above means a group of persons defined by reference to their religious belief or lack of religious belief, membership of or adherence to a church or religious organisation, support for the culture and traditions of a church or religious organisation and/or participation in activities associated with such a culture or such traditions. "Transgender identity" means any one or more of transvestism, transsexualism, inter-sexuality or change of gender.

"Disability" means physical or mental impairment of any kind.

Any person engaging in unacceptable conduct may be subject to removal from the Stadium, report to the police and possible criminal proceedings.