

£5



# HIBERNIAN

Betfred Cup Semi-Final

VS

Official Matchday Programme

# CELTIC



## HAMPDEN PARK 2019/20

Saturday 2nd November - 17:30





ARSENAL DEFENDER  
KIERAN TIERNEY



SHEFFIELD UTD FORWARD  
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## FROM OUR SPONSOR

Welcome to Hampden Park for the first of this weekend's Betfred Cup semi-finals, and I'm sure we're in for a terrific contest under the lights at Scotland's most iconic stadium. There's always something extra special about a big cup tie when the floodlights are on.

What can I say about Celtic's success in the Betfred Cup? Under our sponsorship, I've handed the trophy to a winning Celtic manager every time.

While the manager will be different – on those three occasions Brendan Rodgers was in charge – the goal for the Bhoys will be the same under Neil Lennon, a man who lifted this trophy twice as a player. Neil will have an added incentive, not that he needs one, because this is the only domestic trophy he didn't get his hands on in his first spell in the dug-out at Celtic Park.

There is a club steeped in success throughout their history, and they're in the midst of an unprecedented run of trophies even by their standards.

Last year's success was Celtic's 18th in this competition. They've won each of the last nine available trophies, three league titles, three Betfred Cups and three Scottish Cups. They're also the favourites this season again – though today's opponents from the capital might have something to say about the destiny of the 2019 Betfred Cup.

Hibernian know a thing or two about big wins at Hampden. They ended their Scottish Cup hoodoo here in 2016 with a stunning injury-time win over Rangers – a first success in the competition in 114 years. You don't have to go back quite as far as that for their last success in this tournament – they last got their hands on this trophy in 2007 by thumping Kilmarnock 5-1.

The men from Easter Road have proved recently that they know how to make life tough for Celtic. The pair met in the Premiership along the M8 just before the recent international break and Hibs held Celtic to a 1-1 draw. That game was end-to-end and packed with drama. Let's hope for more of the same tonight at Hampden Park.

# WELCOME

Good afternoon and welcome to today's Betfred Cup semi-final at Hampden Park.

When the draw for the last four of the competition was made at the end of September, it threw up two fascinating 'east meets west' ties, and we are very much looking forward to an exciting weekend of football here at the National Stadium.

Hibernian take on Celtic on Saturday evening, followed by Rangers versus Heart of Midlothian on Sunday afternoon, with both matches live on BT Sport. We thank our broadcast partner and tournament sponsor Betfred for their continued support.

This is the fourth season of the revamped competition and the 74th overall of a tournament that began back in 1946/47.

Celtic are the current holders, having won the iconic trophy in each of the last three years, while Hibernian are three-time winners of the silverware, most recently in 2006/07.

Rangers have lifted the League Cup a record 27 times and are seeking their first triumph since 2010/11, while Heart of Midlothian have got their hands on the

trophy four times, but not since back in season 1962/63.

I would like to thank Peter Dallas and his colleagues at Hampden Park for their assistance in staging two such high-profile fixtures in the space of 24 hours, and to SPFL Competitions Manager Anton Fagan and his team for all their hard work in the build-up to the games.

Thanks also to the supporters who have made the effort to come along to Hampden Park for today's game.

When I took on this role 10 years ago, I was immediately struck by the passion for football in this country, and I know how much it means to so many people. Semi-finals can often be tense and nervous occasions, but I hope you enjoy the 90 minutes, or more!

Best of luck to the four managers – Steven Gerrard, Paul Heckingbottom, Neil Lennon and Craig Levein – and their players. We look forward to welcoming the two winning semi-finalists back to Hampden Park for the final next month.

**Neil Doncaster**  
SPFL Chief Executive


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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:

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

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

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

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