

# nifootballdaily



Danske Bank Premiership

## League Split

2014



Publication / Photos by Kevin Scott

## Fixtures

DANSKE BANK PREMIERSHIP (SECTION A) MATCHDAY 34 – 29.03.14		
Linfield	V	Cliftonville
Crusaders	V	Portadown
Glenavon	V	Glenavon
DANSKE BANK PREMIERSHIP (SECTION B) MATCHDAY 34 – 29.03.14		
Ballymena United	V	Dungannon Swifts
Ballinamallard United	V	Coleraine
Ards	V	Warrenpoint Town
DANSKE BANK PREMIERSHIP (SECTION A) MATCHDAY 35 – 12.04.14		
Crusaders	V	Linfield
Cliftonville	V	Glenavon
Portadown	V	Glenavon
DANSKE BANK PREMIERSHIP (SECTION B) MATCHDAY 35 – 12.04.14		
Coleraine	V	Ballymena United
Dungannon Swifts	V	Warrenpoint Town
Ards	V	Ballinamallard United
DANSKE BANK PREMIERSHIP (SECTION A) MATCHDAY 36 – 19.04.14		
Linfield	V	Portadown
Cliftonville	V	Glenavon
Glenavon	V	Crusaders
DANSKE BANK PREMIERSHIP (SECTION B) MATCHDAY 36 – 19.04.14		
Ballinamallard United	V	Ballymena United
Dungannon Swifts	V	Ards
Warrenpoint Town	V	Coleraine

DANSKE BANK PREMIERSHIP (SECTION A) MATCHDAY 37 – 22.04.14 (EASTER TUESDAY – 2:30PM)		
Linfield	V	Glenavon
Portadown	V	Cliftonville
Glenavon	V	Crusaders
DANSKE BANK PREMIERSHIP (SECTION A) MATCHDAY 37 – 22.04.14 (EASTER TUESDAY – 2:30PM)		
Warrenpoint Town	V	Ballymena United
Ballinamallard United	V	Dungannon Swifts
Ards	V	Coleraine
DANSKE BANK PREMIERSHIP (SECTION A) MATCHDAY 38 – 26.04.14		
Glenavon	V	Linfield
Crusaders	V	Cliftonville
Portadown	V	Glenavon
DANSKE BANK PREMIERSHIP (SECTION B) MATCHDAY 38 – 26.04.14		
Ballymena United	V	Ards
Coleraine	V	Dungannon Swifts
Warrenpoint Town	V	Ballinamallard United

Fixture list courtesy of NI Football League



## Split Views

The most exciting time of the football year in Northern Ireland has arrived ! Will it be Linfield or Cliftonville, will David get one final Gibson Cup before leaving the Blues or will Tommy do the double.



A furious David Jeffrey on the side lines of Windsor Park in his final year managing the record breaking Linfield.

Split time has arrived. This time last season a jubilant Cliftonville were weeks from lifting the Gibson Cup for the first time since the 97-98 season. The cup has sat in the directors office in Solitude this year but could a change of home be on the cards ? The title race is on as Cliftonville and Linfield go head to head at a 90 minuet thriller at Windsor Park. The game has been dubbed as the biggest game of the season with both teams set to lock horns for one

final time. David Jeffrey has seen red and is determined to squeeze one more cup under his belt before departing as the manager of Linfield Football Club at the end of the season. David lead his team to a recent win of the County Antrim Shield but his main focus all season has been on the Gibson cup. Tommy Breslin is seeing double after winning the League cup he believes that his inspired strike force can deliver one last stand at Windsor park in order

to keep the Gibson Cup for another year the the North Belfast Club. One thing is for certain, as the clock strikes 1pm on Saturday 29th March football fans from across the province will be descending on the city of Belfast to whiteness "Bel' Clas-sico" in action and as 5.15pm comes it is almost certain we will have our league winner of 2014. Linfield would lift the cup away to Glenavon or the Reds would lift the cup at their rivals ground Seaview.



Cliftonville and Linfield are due to lock horns in the real Bel Classico that will almost certainly crown one team as the victor and one left to pick up the pieces.





Its all smiles at Solitude, Liam Boyce tickles Joe Gormley during a training session on Tuesday night as Cliftonville show they are confident in the task ahead.



Linfield are up to the task at home, Andrew Waterworth is seen to be a key figure in the game and he is hoping to slot the ball past an inform Conor Devlin during the game.





# The Belfast Divide

10 points currently separate a frustrated Glentoran and Crusaders as the split begins.

Points often mean prizes however it is clear for some time that Crusaders and Glentoran are now out of the title race. Crusaders and Glentoran went head to head on Tuesday night in Belfast but the game was noting more than a match of pride, fan numbers dwindled and the tensions ran high as a frustrated Glentoran suffered another blow in their disastrous season. Crusaders had taken the lead thanks to a goal by Paul Heatley before super striker Jordan Owens

took the scores level as halftime loomed. An inspired Crusaders returned to their home surface in the second half seeing Paul Heatley slot home his second of the night to prolong the Glens suffering. As both teams watch their rivals go head to head for the glory of the Gibson Cup it will be interesting to see the team line-ups in the games to come.



Main Picture - Paul Heatley celebrates as he leads Crusaders to victory as Seaview on Tuesday Night. Below Jordan Stewart Celebrates in the First Half as he Equalises for Glentoran.







## Champions League Positions

With the title crowning looming questions will be turning to the main competition, the Champions League. Cliftonville caught a dream draw the previous season when they welcomed Celtic to Solitude in one of the biggest games in the clubs history. The stars of Celtic Football Club descended on Solitude during a

summers evening to a crowd of thousands before heading to Glasgow for the second leg. Linfield and the Reds will be hoping for a draw that may give them a chance to progress in the league however a high profile game would see fan numbers rise and the possibility of a televised game. Cliftonville made healthy profits from the



Celtic clash but players and coaches will argue that the main earning from the clash was the memories of winning the Gibson cup before being bussed around the city like heroes then off to play a Champions League Fixture in Celtic Park. "Its the stuff of dreams"







The Bearded Hero - Conor Devlin photographs his beard during a team photoshoot

## A bearded hero could be needed to save the Reds ?

Conor Devlin has debatably been the best goalkeeper this season in the Irish League, Conor proved to be the team saviour when he held his nerve against North Belfast rivals Crusaders in the League Cup Final. Conor managed to make save after save during the game before holding his nerve during the penalty shootout to lead the reds to victory. Conor can be described as the Ballotelli of

Cliftonville. "Conor brings a bit of controversy and character to the team, he's a character in training and he proves popular with the fans, his beard has become a much loved member of the Cliftonville team and many fans believe that it holds the answers to winning the Gibson Cup for a second year." This weekend all eyes will be on Conor and his beard to see if he will deliver for the Reds.







**WHO IS NEXT**