

Hearts U20s Handed Away Tie in Irn Bru Cup

Hearts Under 20s team have been handed an away tie in the first round of the Irn Bru Cup. The young Maroons will face Stirling Albion at Forthbank Stadium on either 2nd or 3rd of August.

The Irn Bru Cup – formerly the Scottish Challenge Cup – has a new look this season. Previously, the competition was for clubs outside the top flight of Scottish football. For season 2016/17, Ladbrokes Premiership clubs will see their Under 20 sides take part.

SPFL newcomers Edinburgh City are away to Motherwell to face the Premiership club's Under 20s while Lowland League side Spartans face a trip to Berwick Rangers.

The 14 winners from the First Round will be joined by East Fife, Elgin City and the clubs from last season's Ladbrokes League 1 (minus Dunfermline Athletic and Ayr United) for the Second Round. Ladbrokes Championship clubs, including Hibernian, join the competition in the Third Round along with Dunfermline Athletic and Ayr United.

Two clubs from the Northern Ireland Football League (Crusaders and Linfield) and the Welsh Premier League (Bala Town and The New Saints) will enter the competition in the Fourth Round.