

Steven Whittaker recalled to Scotland squad for World Cup Qualifying double-header



Gordon Strachan has named his Scotland squad for the vital FIFA World Cup Qualifying double-header against Lithuania and Malta.

Steven Whittaker has been recalled to the squad and will join team mate John McGinn and Hearts Christophe Berra.

Whittaker earned his first call-up in August 2009, making 31 appearances for Scotland in total, and will be aiming to add to his tally.

Midfielder John McGinn will be looking to win his fourth cap for Scotland after an impressive year for the 22-year-old who has been a regular fixture in Gordon Strachan's squads since making his debut against Denmark in March 2016.

Former Hibs' striker Leigh Griffiths is one of six Celtic players included in the squad after his two majestic free kicks earned Scotland a point against England in their last match.

Newcastle winger Matt Ritchie and Matt Phillips are recalled after being unfit to feature against England, although West Bromwich Albion midfielder James Morrison misses out due to injury.

Millwall goalkeeper Jordan Archer earns a first call-up for the senior squad having previously featured for the under-19, under-20 and under-21 squads.

Scotland will be aiming to build on the momentum gathered in

their last two matches and make up for the two points dropped to Lithuania when the teams met at Hampden last year.

Scotland squad

Goalkeepers

Jordan Archer (Millwall)

Craig Gordon (Celtic)

Allan McGregor (Hull City)

Defenders

Ikechi Anya (Derby County)

Christophe Berra (Heart of Midlothian)

Grant Hanley (Newcastle United)

Russell Martin (Norwich City)

Charlie Mulgrew (Blackburn Rovers)

Andrew Robertson (Liverpool)

Kieran Tierney (Celtic)

Steven Whittaker (Hibernian)

Midfielders

Stuart Armstrong (Celtic)

Barry Bannan (Sheffield Wednesday)

Scott Brown (Celtic)

Tom Cairney (Fulham)

Darren Fletcher (Stoke City)

Ryan Fraser (Bournemouth)

James Forrest (Celtic)

James McArthur (Crystal Palace)

John McGinn (Hibernian)

Matt Phillips (West Bromwich Albion)

Matt Ritchie (Newcastle United)

Robert Snodgrass (West Ham United)

Forwards

Steven Fletcher (Sheffield Wednesday)

Leigh Griffiths (Celtic)

Chris Martin (Derby County)

Steven Naismith (Norwich City)

First up for Scotland is a trip to Lithuania on Friday 1 September before the side host Malta at Hampden Park on Monday 4 September.