

Scottish Cup semi-finals could be played this year

With Hearts chances of playing top-flight football next season looking less and less likely, the potential for at least one Edinburgh derby to be played in this calendar year remains.

The pair were drawn together in the Scottish Cup semi-final but after football was suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the hugely anticipated match was called off.

The SFA have always insisted that the Scottish Cup games would be played and whilst the desire remains to have fans in attendance at the national stadium, chief executive Ian Maxwell is wary that both semi-finals may have to be played in front of reduced crowds or perhaps behind closed doors.



Ladbrokes Scottish Premiership – Heart of Midlothian v Hibernian. Tynecastle Park, Edinburgh, Midlothian, UK. 26/12/2019. Pic shows: Hibs' left midfielder, Daryl Horgan, tries to break through the home defence as Hearts go down 0-2 to Hibernian in the Ladbrokes Scottish Premiereship, Edinburgh Boxing Day derby at Tynecastle Park, Edinburgh. Credit: Ian Jacobs

He told Sky Sports: “Ideally we want to play them in front of supporters.

“If it becomes apparent that we are not going to be able to get significant numbers of supporters into stadiums for a period of time then we’re going to have to make a decision on playing matches because the matches are important.

“It’s our flagship event and we want to finish it.

“It’s unknown, if we thought we could wait until later on in the year and that would guarantee us a number of supporters in

the stadium then great, everybody would look forward to that. If that's not going to be the case then I'm sure we will get the games played somehow."