

# Saints fan Derek is off to Wembley

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OH WHEN the Saints go marching in - Huntly fan Derek Lowe will be there to cheer them on at the home of English football this weekend.

Derek (23) will make the pilgrimage to Wembley this Sunday to watch Southampton play Manchester Utd in the final of the EFL Cup.

The black and golds fan has become a paid-up member of the Saints' Scottish fan club after being introduced to the club a few years ago by his Auntie Jennifer, who lives near Southampton and is a season ticket holder at their St Mary's stadium. Derek will be among 40,000 Saints fans cheering their team on this Sunday at Wembley.

He said: "It will be a great atmosphere and hopefully we can get the win. Man Utd are a massive club."

Derek's first visit to St Mary's was in



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2008 and he has been a regular visitor ever since. He was at Wembley in 2010 when Southampton beat Carlisle Utd 4-1 in the Johnstone's Paint Trophy final.

"Seeing over 40,000 Southampton supporters march up Wembley way towards the stadium was brilliant and started off a fabulous day in the capital. This was the first time I had ever been to a Saints cup final and the memories will stay with me."

Derek, who is a regular at Christie Park and away games, is a contributor to the Huntly Express sports coverage with match photos. He has seen Southampton in the Premier League on several occasions, including the home game with Everton earlier this season.

Derek was over the moon when the Saints beat Liverpool in a two-legged semi final to book their big day at Wembley.

While Derek is used to watching his beloved Huntly in front of a few hundred fans each week, there will be close to 90,000 at Wembley on Sunday for the game against Jose Mourinho's side.

Derek, who works at Safelift in Inverurie, one of Huntly's main sponsors, has made lots of good friends at Southampton, including the St Mary's kitman, Mark Forbes. He always makes a point of taking Dean's Shortbread with him when he visits the club.

Win or lose on Sunday, Derek is sure to have a fantastic day out at Wembley.



Saints big day out: Derek Lowe (left) with Southampton assistant manager Eric Black. Derek is looking forward to a big day at Wembley this Sunday.

## Wembley dream and despair for Derek



Huntly fan Derek Lowe enjoyed the thrill of a lifetime when he was part of a near 90,000 crowd at Wembley last Sunday to watch his second favourite team Southampton take on Manchester United in the EFL Cup final. The Huntly Express contributor has been a Saints fan for a number of years after being introduced to the club by his aunt, who lives near the city. Derek had a great weekend, although he was left disappointed as his team lost 3-2.