

***** Pick of the day. This opener sets the scene nicely, introducing us to a host of supporting characters who look set to bicker their way through the rest of the season... There are no household names here, which adds a deliberately makeshift feel to the proceedings. Gently funny and worth your concentration."

Heat magazine, 16th August 2008

"I'm not sure the [Football Association] will entirely approve of **The Cup**, but for the next six weeks, they may, like the rest of us, enjoy the bittersweet ride."

Radio Times, 16th August 2008

"A nice idea which benefits from the *Office*-style pseudo-documentary format."

The Guardian, 16th August 2008

"You might have thought the mockumentary genre had reached its apotheosis with *The Office*... But **The Cup**... uses all the conventions of the genre to nice comic effect, keeping the characters safely on the right side of caricature and relying on their lack of self-knowledge in the deadpan, straight-to-camera interviews to supply the comedy... There are some lovely touches. Malky (Ceallach Spellman) wants to please his dad, but his real passion is Mediterranean cooking, a talent he has to hide. When he hears Terry coming home from work, he quickly swaps the apron with his mum and dashes outside to kick a ball while Terry's wife Janice (Jennifer Hennessy) pretends the meal is all her doing. 'What's for dinner?' Terry asks, glancing at the pan. 'Er... tomato... pie?' she falters. It's de rigueur for this kind of comedy to provide moments of pathos, and the triangle of resentment, guilt and frustration that exists between Terry, Janice and Terry's boss Steve (Billy

Geraghty) looks set to provide all the potential poignancy for the series. ***The Cup*** is smartly scripted by long-term writing partners Moray Hunter and Jack Docherty and anyone who has ever had any contact with children's sports and the parents that go with them will find plenty to laugh and wince at."

The Observer, 17th August 2008