

**FANTASY CHALLENGE
CHAMPIONS LEAGUE
FINAL
2023**

19th Final



Martyn Dewick

V

Dave Rogers

GAMEWEEK 38 (28th May)

OFFICIAL FC MATCH PREVIEW

INTRODUCTION

The Champions League closer to its second decade with this its 19th final.

The prestigious competition for the managers competing in Super20 Leagues Premier to the Conference is widely regarded as the third most coveted trophy in the FC World, behind the Premier League and Overall-League.

Whist the group stage gives managers the chance of losing a game and still having a chance of getting through it is still as intensive a cup competition that exists in the FC World.

If a manager is successful enough to navigate the Group Stage they then take on the difficult knock-out phase with matches taking place over two legs. Not sudden death with first leg defeats that can be overturned, testing managers and their match play skills.

Today's finalists have shown that Midas touch to navigate 18 matches to get through to today's final.

Both of our finalists have a wealth of experience which you can see in their player profiles all their achievements and the fact they have reached major finals before.

Martyn Dewick is trying to win his first major Trophy having lost the 2020 New Life Cup final, victory here today will help cement his already growing reputation in the FC World after several promotions and reaching that New Life Cup final. Dewick will obviously be hoping to crown off his run to the final after three seasons in the Champions League it is the first time, he has got out of the Group Stage.

Dewick's opponent is Dave Rogers who has already written his name into the history books of the Champions League by winning the trophy in 2021 today he is trying to be the Third manager to have win the trophy twice. Rogers is only the fifth manager in the history of the game to make two Champions League finals. Alongside that victory in 2021 Rogers has two Overall League titles and a Pyramid Cup victory to his name, victory today would secure his fifth major trophies which would make him the most successful manager in the FC World history alongside Adam Pemberton, James Dwinfour and Steve Shew.

Yet another intriguing final in the history of the Champions League can Martyn Dewick stop Dave Rogers attempt to not only write himself into the history of the Champions League but also become one of the most decorated managers in its history.

All will be revealed on Sunday 22nd May. Where the Gameweek will take place on 1 day something that doesn't happen often during a normal season. This scenario always makes these finals interesting and of course there is the potential of a Penalty Shoot-Out which has never yet happened in a major final.

Over the next few pages, we will profile the two managers and the FC expert gives his opinion on the final.

Before I sign off, I want to apologise for any spelling and or grammatical mistakes in this preview the timeframes are just getting tighter every season the alternative is no preview.

I hope you enjoy this Champions League Final Preview Edition.

I wish both managers all the best in this final.

Paul Richardson

Fantasy Challenge Founder

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PLAYER PROFILES

Martyn Dewick

Joined Fantasy Challenge 2017

Career Honours	2017 Pyramid Two 5 th Promoted	2019 Pyramid Premier 3 rd Promoted
	2018 Pyramid One 3 rd Promoted	2022 League Two 4 th Promoted
Honourable Mention	2020 New Life Cup Runner-Up	
	2021 Conference 8 th Lucky Promotion	

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE HISTORY		PYRAMID CUP HISTORY		NEW LIFE CUP HISTORY	
2017		Second Round			
2018		Group Stage		Second Round	
2019		Second Round			
2020	Group Stage			Runner-Up	
2021	Group Stage				
2022	Group Stage			Second Round	

STAT ATTACK

(After Gameweek 37 – Champions League Average does not include 0-0 draw week)

AVERAGE GAMEWEEK SCORE	67.08	GAMEWEEKS SCORE OVER 49	30
HIGHEST GAMEWEEK SCORE	132	GAMEWEEKS SCORE UNDER 50	7
LOWEST GAMEWEEK SCORE	34	CHAMPIONS LEAGUE AVERAGE	68.05

ROAD TO THE FINAL

1st Round Group Stage

Group N

Michael Lynn	77	-	64
Dave Hansell	57	-	53
Katherine Beer	75	-	64
Hakan Bedir	81	-	85
David Pewtner	34	-	52
Michael Lynn	0	-	0
Dave Hansell	47	-	45
Katherine Beer	75	-	62
Hakan Bedir	60	-	55
David Pewtner	55	-	35

FINAL TABLE

POS	TEAM	PLD	WON	DRW	LST	FOR	AGST	+/-	PTS
1	Martyn Dewick	10	7	1	2	561	515	46	22
2	David Pewtner	10	4	4	2	556	520	36	16
3	Michael Lynn	10	4	3	3	544	557	-13	15
4	Dave Hansell	10	4	1	5	562	512	50	13
5	Hakan Bedir	10	3	2	5	538	593	-55	11
6	Katherine beer	10	2	1	7	503	567	-64	7

KNOCKOUT STAGE

		1 st Leg			2 nd Leg			Aggregate	
2 nd Round	Alvar Chambers	98	-	76	52	-	58	150	- 134
3 rd Round	Miki Mielonen	69	-	91	77	-	53	146	- 144
Quarter-Final	Martin Stuart	80	-	41	63	-	62	143	- 103
Semi-Final	Cormac Connaughton	43	-	46	114	-	90	157	- 136

PLAYER PROFILES

Dave Rogers

Joined Fantasy Challenge 2016

Career Honours	2016 Pyramid Two 4 th Promoted	2021 League Two Champion
	2017 Pyramid One 3 rd Promoted	2021 Champions League Winner
	2019 Overall League Champion	2022 Overall League Champion
	2019 Pyramid Premier Champion	2022 League One Champion
	2020 Conference Champion	
Honourable Mention	2017 Pyramid Cup Quarter-Final	2021 Overall League Runner-Up
	2019 Pyramid Cup Runner-Up	
	2020 Overall League 5 th Place	

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE HISTORY		PYRAMID CUP HISTORY		NEW LIFE CUP HISTORY	
2016		Group Stage			
2017		Quarter-Final			
2018		Second Round			
2019		Runner-Up			
2020	Group Stage			Third Round	
2021	Runner-Up				
2022	Second Round				

STAT ATTACK

(After Gameweek 37 – Champions League Average does not include 0-0 draw week))

AVERAGE GAMEWEEK SCORE	68.54	GAMEWEEKS SCORE OVER 49	30
HIGHEST GAMEWEEK SCORE	141	GAMEWEEKS SCORE UNDER 50	7
LOWEST GAMEWEEK SCORE	39	CHAMPIONS LEAGUE AVERAGE	70.52

ROAD TO THE FINAL

1st Round Group Stage

Group F

Matt Hansell	71	-	62
Ellie Turner	49	-	49
Daragh Prendergast	80	-	68
Daniel Hansen	79	-	52
Darren Cullen	47	-	60
Matt Hansell	0	-	0
Ellie Turner	62	-	51
Daragh Prendergast	80	-	59
Daniel Hansen	77	-	53
Darren Cullen	50	-	60

FINAL TABLE

POS	TEAM	PLD	WON	DRW	LST	FOR	AGST	+/-	PTS
1	Daniel Hansen	10	7	1	2	550	513	37	22
2	Dave Rogers	10	6	2	2	595	514	81	20
3	Matt Hansell	10	5	1	4	458	515	33	16
4	Darren Cullen	10	4	1	5	455	560	-16	13
5	Ellie Turner	10	3	2	5	485	534	-49	11
6	Daragh Prendergast	10	1	1	8	477	563	-86	4

KNOCKOUT STAGE

		1 st Leg		2 nd Leg		Aggregate	
2 nd Round	Mark Freear	90	- 70	57	- 52	147	- 122
3 rd Round	Amanteer Singh	103	- 82	56	- 63	159	- 145
Quarter-Final	Rio McLister	61	- 30	73	- 54	134	- 84
Semi-Final	Sanj Joshi	43	- 39	121	- 83	164	- 122



FC EXPERT MATCH ANALYSIS

We asked the Fantasy Challenge Expert to give us his thoughts on this year's Champions League Final. We have managed to give the FC Expert the two team line-ups from Gameweek 37.

MARTYN DEWICK

DAVE ROGERS

Gameweek 37

Squad List

52 Average **80** Points 128 Highest →

Gameweek 37

Squad List

52 Average **65** Points 128 Highest →



STAT ATTACK

76 **	SCORE	65
22	CAPTAIN	12
24	DEFENCE	25
40	MIDFIELD	25
16	ATTACK	15
2 (-4 pts)	TRANSFERS	1
3-4-3	FORMATION	3-5-3
NONE	CHIP PLAYED	NONE
NONE	CHIPS LEFT	NONE

** Score adjusted due to 2 Transfers so minus 4 points

THE ANALYSIS

Yet another final preview where I have been asked by Fantasy Challenge founder to do analysis of the two teams on a Friday before the final gameweek. Paul likes for these previews to be out on a Friday due to most managers using their work emails so they can see them before the weekend.

This does put extra pressure on the analysis and once more I have stripped it down to what I believe will be the key areas, due to these time constraints.

When you look at the teams pictured on the previous page it looked like an easy victory for Martyn Dewick winning 76-65. A decent victory also considering he lost 4 points due to extra transfers. As I look into the team's from gameweek 37 key factors are already giving me an indication of this final. Firstly, both managers have played all their chips so these will not be a factor in this final and in my point of view it makes it a pure final and one to really look forward to. The other factor is that both managers made transfers they have not stored anything for this final.

As mentioned, many times over the years the part of this season makes these finals so intriguing as we know who the Premier league Champions are who has qualified for Champions League football and who has Cup finals to play, meaning that potentially two Premier League teams could be resting players, Manchester City and Manchester United (Alphabetically before anyone queries) will be thinking about next week's FA Cup Final.

I am going to go through three categories that I think will decide this final.

FINANCE / TRANSFERS / OPTIONS

MARTIN DEWICK		DAVE ROGERS	
FINANCE	TRANSFERS	FINANCE	TRANSFERS
£102	1	£104.5	1

Whilst I have outlined the money Dewick's £102 million is all in the team there are no extra funds for investment. Rogers however has £0.3 in the bank. Both managers only have 1 free transfer and you would think they would not risk losing 4 points for an extra transfer. I feel that both managers will make that single transfer who they bring and for who could be key. Dewick has both Erling Haaland and Julian Alvarez upfront from Manchester City. He brought in Alvarez for Newcastle's Callum Wilson for this gameweek. Knowing that City had two games he gambled on one of them playing all the time or knowing that Haaland and Alvarez would share minutes this paid off with a 15-point return. I can't help but feel he is going to have to take one of these out, but trying to guess who Pep Guardiola is going to rest is always a difficult game. It would not shock me that Alveraz starts the FA Cup final but Haaland starts the Champions League final which could well mean Haaland playing the last league match but this is so difficult to predict. A real conundrum for Dewick. For Rogers, I can see him leaving Erling Haaland in his team but will be looking at City's Grealish or his two Manchester United stars Luke Shaw and Marcus Rashford. Luke Shaw potentially forcing Rogers into the transfer as the England international picked up an injury and surely will not be risked before that FA Cup final now that Champions League football has been secured for next season. This can potentially help Rogers as he will know what to do but he might well feel like simply putting in Kieran Trippier from Newcastle into the starting 11 and look elsewhere for the key transfer. I am convinced Marcus Rashford will be rested this week. As you can see both managers have a real task to guess what Pep Guardiola and Erik ten Hag will do this could be a real key area for both.

SQUAD SAME – LOOKING FOR THE DIFFERENTIALS

MARTYN DEWICK

De Gea (Manchester United)
Kieran Trippier (Newcastle United)
Alexander-Arnold (Liverpool)
Estupian (Brighton & Hove Albion)
Salah (Liverpool)
Mitoma (Brighton & Hove Albion)
Mac Allister (Brighton & Hove Albion)
Haaland (Manchester City)
Isak (Newcastle United)

DAVE ROGERS

De Gea (Manchester United)
Kieran Trippier (Newcastle United)
Alexander-Arnold (Liverpool)
Estupian (Brighton & Hove Albion)
Salah (Liverpool)
Mitoma (Brighton & Hove Albion)
Mac Allister (Brighton & Hove Albion)
Haaland (Manchester City)
Isak (Newcastle United)

In a squad of 15 these manager shave 9 of the same players over 50% the same setup. I would also add a similar selection also from Manchester United, Dewick has Fernandes and Rogers has Rashford. So basically 10 players the same. I keep going on about the upcoming FA Cup final both managers have 5 players from the Manchester clubs. With the two squads so similar where can the differentials be found. I can see Dewick gambling on keeping Haaland in the team but taking out Alvarez but this will only give him a war chest of £61 million and there is not much value in the market at this level, He can't go for Brighton's new scoring sensation Evan Ferguson but what about Nottingham Forest Taiwo Awoniyi who has found form recently and although Forest away form is not great a final match away to Crystal Palace could just see a free flowing match between two teams just a happy that they have stayed up so it could well prove to be a goal fest. Of course he could cash in on Haaland and go for a Harry Kane or basically he could pick any centre forward but of course he runs the risk that Haaland does play and score and his opponent Rogers keeping Haaland in his team. Rogers I think will look to cash in on City's Grealish wondering if the England star will continue to be rested or would Pep put him back in to keep him match tight for that Final, as you can see so many questions. I think the Grealish transfer is where a differential can be found alternatively Rogers could remove De Gea his goalkeeper the only issue with the transfer it is not easy to see where a clean sheet will come from in this final gameweek.

CAPTAIN – (Points for the Could have selected have been doubled)

MARTIN DEWICK

Fernandes (Manchester United) 22 Points

DAVE ROGERS

Haaland (Manchester City) 12 Points

COULD HAVE SELECTED

De Gea (Manchester United)) 10 Points
Shaw (Manchester United)) 10 Points
Rashford (Manchester United)) 7 Points
Mitoma (Brighton & Hove Albion) 7 Points
Trippier (Newcastle) 9 Points (On Bench)

A quick look at the team's from Gameweek 37 tells us that Dewick got his captain pick spot an and in fact his captain scored 10 points more than Rogers captain. That captain pick would have been crucial in Gameweek 37 as Dewick would have won by 9 points. Which shows the importance on the captain pick. This final it is going to be so difficult as we have mentioned so many times surely City and United are going to rest players so will either of these managers be brave enough to go with one of their Manchester stars or move away. They both have Salah and might decide that this is the safest pick and guess their opponent does the same so the captain score does not become the decisive factor in this match. Could they go with the double bluff and say select Haaland in the hope that he plays but then select a vice captain who is not from either of the Manchester Clubs. If they are to brave you have to see the potential pitiful that the captain could make a substitutes appearance of just a few minutes and not score. The question is will they play it safe or gamble.

Both managers will need to take a look at the fixtures below of the final day of the season to try and figure out who will be really trying and whose season is over. The selection of captain could be vital to gaining success in this final.

THE FIXTURES FOR GAMEWEEK 38

Sunday 28th May

Arsenal	V	Wolverhampton Wanderers
Aston Villa	V	Brighton & Hove Albion
Brentford	V	Manchester City
Chelsea	V	Newcastle United
Crystal Palace	V	Nottingham Forest
Everton	V	Bournemouth
Leeds United	V	Tottenham Hotspur
Leicester City	V	West Ham United
Manchester United	V	Fulham
Southampton	V	Liverpool

THE VERDICT

It is amazing that this fixture seemingly is going to rely so much on what Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola and Manchester United manager Erik ten Hag are going to do with their final day selections. For both Dewick and Rogers they face the virtually impossible task of trying to guess what these two managers are going to do.

I just feel that this final is going to come down to that old adage fortune favours the brave. As I analyse the Gameweek 37 teams I feel that Dewick's the more conservative of the two managers which served him well in Gameweek 37 whilst I think Rogers is going to roll the dice knowing that if he gets it right he is going to take the trophy but it could also cost.

This final to be about that Captain pick, Dewick to go safe with Salah or another of his non Manchester based players whilst I see Rogers selecting Haaland and using his vice-captain pick for a non-based Manchester player.

Either way this is an intriguing final and one I am really looking forward to.

FINAL VERDICT: -

Dave Rogers to win

I believe this is going to be a very close final but feel that Rogers is going to go for a very brave captain pick and this time I think he is going to be rewarded.

IN THE EVENT OF A DRAW

In the event of a draw the match will go into a penalty Shoot-Out. A penalty shoot-out will take place, each team's top five-point scorers will go head-to-head to produce a result. If the best five scorers in the two teams cannot produce a result sudden death will take place with the next highest point scorers being next.

HISTORY

PREVIOUS FINALS

YEAR	WINNER	MATCH SCORE	RUNNER-UP
2005	Omid Afzalalghom	33 - 28	Paul Dwinfour
2006	Adam Pemberton	68 - 57	Jeff Aldersea
2007	Andy McLaren	65 - 56	Andrew Hilliard
2008	Nigel Finch	59 - 55	Dave Sinclair
2009	Oliver Shanks	62 - 32	Tim Walters
2010	Omid Afzalalghom	71 - 65	Joe Higgins
2011	Michael Carleton	38 - 36	Steve Shew
2012	Mark Angliss	56 - 44	Adam Pemberton
2013	Kojo Amofa	53 - 50	Kaska Porczyk
2014	Matt Hansell	59 - 48	Michael Lynn
2015	Andreas Themistocleous	56 - 43	Alistair Shields
2016	Tony Collins	61 - 27	Dan Varrow
2017	Hans Hayrynen	97 - 90	Tony Collins
2018	Darren Cullen	111 - 91	Sam Shew
2019	Pasquale Egisto	74 - 50	Steve Clarricoats
2020	Hans Hayrynen	69 - 63	Andrew Ogden
2021	Dave Rogers	55 - 51	James Bloomer
2022	Owen Gredley	79 - 77	Tracy Thompsom

WINNERS

Hans Hayrynen	2
Omid Afzalalghom	2
Adam Pemberton	1
Andreas Themistocleous	1
Andy McLaren	1
Darren Cullen	1
Dave Rogers	1
Kojo Amofa	1
Mark Angliss	1
Matt Hansell	1
Michael Carleton	1
Nigel Finch	1
Oliver Shanks	1
Owen Gredley	1
Pasquale Egisto	1
Tony Collins	1

FINALISTS

Adam Pemberton	2	Kojo Amofa	1
Dave Rogers	2	Mark Angliss	1
Hans Hayrynen	2	Martyn Dewick	1
Omid Afzalalghom	2	Matt Hansell	1
Tony Collins	2	Michael Carleton	1
Alistair Shields	1	Michael Lynn	1
Andreas Themistocleous	1	Nigel Finch	1
Andrew Hilliard	1	Oliver Shanks	1
Andrew Ogden	1	Owen Gredley	1
Andy McLaren	1	Paul Dwinfour	1
Dan Varrow	1	Pasquale Egisto	1
Darren Cullen	1	Sam Shew	1
Dave Sinclair	1	Steve Clarricoats	1
James Bloomer	1	Steve Shew	1
Jeff Aldersea	1	Tim Walters	1
Joe Higgins	1	Tracy Thompson	1
Kaska Porczyk	1		