

**FANTASY CHALLENGE  
CHAMPIONS LEAGUE  
FINAL  
2022**

*18<sup>th</sup> Final*



*Owen Gredley*

v

*Tracy Thompson*

**GAMEWEEK 38 (22<sup>nd</sup> May)**

**OFFICIAL FC MATCH PREVIEW**

# INTRODUCTION

The 18<sup>th</sup> season of this major competition the Champions league has the managers competing in it from the top 5 divisions in the Super20 leagues. With the Group stage and then two-legged knock out stage it is the competition that has the most matches for a manager to get through to the final, 18 matches are required to get through to this prestigious final

The history of this competition tells us that managers that make the final have used a lot of skill to get here and if not already a name in the FC World they are going to be from now on.

Today we see two debutants in the final and so once more we will have a new name on the trophy showing the depth of the FC World.

For both it also represents a chance of a first major trophy and to take their place amongst the legends of the game and become one of the very few managers in the history of Fantasy Challenge to have won a major trophy.

Owen Gredley who started his career in the FC World four consecutive promotions and was considered a rising star of the FC World shocked everyone when he dropped out of the game in 2015 only to return three years later. Amazingly once more claiming several promotions since his return and has secured promotion from League Two this season so he is once more on the radar as a manager to be taken seriously claiming a Major trophy will cement his place in the history books of the FC World.

Tracy joined the Fantasy Challenge the season that Owen dropped out and has been catching the eye ever since. Two consecutive promotions in her first two seasons and a 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish in the Overall League got the attention of all in the FC World after two seasons another two promotions were secured and this season promotion from League One into the Championship has been secured keeping her one division above Owen. Like Owen victory today will cement her name into the history books of the FC World.

After 18 matches it all boils down to this one gameweek which 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.

All will be revealed on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> May.

A difficult season is coming to an end and the chance of glory awaits both these managers let's hope it will be a final to remember.

This has been a short introduction and the FC Expert's analysis has also been cut down a bit but with the current time constraints it does get harder to keep producing fresh content for these final previews.

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

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

## Owen Gredley

**Joined Fantasy Challenge** 2011 – Dropped out 2015 Re-joined 2018

**Career Honours** 2011 Pyramid One 6<sup>th</sup> Lucky Promoted 2018 Pyramid One 4<sup>th</sup> Promoted  
 2012 Pyramid Premier Runner-Up Promoted 2019 Pyramid Premier 9<sup>th</sup> Lucky Promotion  
 2013 Conference Runner-Up Promoted 2021 Conference Runner-Up Promoted  
 2014 League Two 4<sup>th</sup> Promoted

### STAT ATTACK

(After Gameweek 37)

#### THIS SEASON

AVERAGE GAMEWEEK SCORE	67.81
HIGHEST GAMEWEEK SCORE	142
LOWEST GAMEWEEK SCORE	24
GAMEWEEKS SCORE OVER 49	29
GAMEWEEKS SCORE UNDER 50	7
CHAMPIONS LEAGUE AVERAGE	68.94

#### CHAMPIONS LEAGUE HISTORY

2013	2 <sup>nd</sup> Round
2014	2 <sup>nd</sup> Round
2021	Group Stage

#### PYRAMID CUP HISTORY

2011	Group Stage
2012	Quarter-Final
2018	Group Stage
2019	Group Stage
2020	2 <sup>nd</sup> Round

### ROAD TO THE FINAL

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Round Group Stage

##### Group B

Paul Dwinfour	88	-	48
Marcus Hogwood	79	-	68
Jospeh Shalome	77	-	53
Dan Wyatt	62	-	38
James Bastow	57	-	58
Paul Dwinfour	37	-	62
Marcus Hogwood	64	-	57
Jospeh Shalome	96	-	50
Dan Wyatt	51	-	29
James Bastow	50	-	62

### FINAL TABLE

POS	TEAM	PLD	WON	DRW	LST	FOR	AGST	+/-	PTS
1	Owen Gredley	10	7	0	3	661	525	136	21
2	Paul dwinfour	10	6	0	4	616	549	67	18
3	James Bastow	10	6	0	4	598	567	31	18
4	Marcus Hogwood	10	4	0	6	486	556	-70	12
5	Joseph Shalome	10	4	0	6	488	568	-80	12
6	Dan Wyatt	10	3	0	7	502	586	-84	9

### KNOCKOUT STAGE

		1 <sup>st</sup> Leg		2 <sup>nd</sup> Leg			Aggregate	
2 <sup>nd</sup> Round	Jatin Joshi	40	- 31	82	- 70	122	- 101	
3 <sup>rd</sup> Round	Michael Carleton	46	- 40	126	- 73	172	- 113	
Quarter-Final	Robert Gurney	46	- 43	56	- 52	102	- 95	
Semi-Final	Joe Higgins	67	- 47	117	- 100	184	- 147	

# Tracy Thompson

Joined Fantasy Challenge 2015

## Career Honours

2015 Pyramid Two 3<sup>rd</sup> Promoted  
 2016 Overall League 3<sup>rd</sup> Place  
 2016 Pyramid Premier 3<sup>rd</sup> Promoted

2018 Conference 6<sup>th</sup> Lucky Promotion  
 2019 League Two Champion Promoted

## STAT ATTACK

(After Gameweek 37)

### THIS SEASON

AVERAGE GAMEWEEK SCORE	64.13
HIGHEST GAMEWEEK SCORE	118
LOWEST GAMEWEEK SCORE	25
GAMEWEEKS SCORE OVER 49	27
GAMEWEEKS SCORE UNDER 50	10
CHAMPIONS LEAGUE AVERAGE	65.61

### CHAMPIONS LEAGUE HISTORY

2017	Quarter-Final
2018	2 <sup>nd</sup> Round
2019	2 <sup>nd</sup> Round
2020	Group Stage
2021	Group Stage

### PYRAMID CUP HISTORY

2015	Quarter-Final
2016	2 <sup>nd</sup> Round

## ROAD TO THE FINAL

### 1<sup>st</sup> Round Group Stage

#### Group C

Nick Preston	79	-	45
Jonathan Kelly	75	-	66
Maris Cars	63	-	65
Martyn Dewick	72	-	56
Sandeep Chohan	54	-	38
Nick Preston	47	-	31
Jonathan Kelly	69	-	53
Maris Cars	90	-	109
Martyn Dewick	37	-	73
Sandeep Chohan	63	-	45

## FINAL TABLE

POS	TEAM	PLD	WON	DRW	LST	FOR	AGST	+/-	PTS
1	Maris Cars	10	9	0	1	595	554	41	27
2	Tracy Thompson	10	7	0	3	649	581	68	21
3	Martyn Dewick	10	5	0	5	638	554	84	15
4	Jonathan Kelly	10	4	0	6	611	634	-23	12
5	Nick Preston	10	4	0	6	449	527	-78	12
6	Sandeep Chohan	10	1	0	9	492	584	-92	3

## KNOCKOUT STAGE

		1 <sup>st</sup> Leg			2 <sup>nd</sup> Leg			Aggregate		
2 <sup>nd</sup> Round	Ian Gredley	25	-	36	80	-	63	105	-	99
3 <sup>rd</sup> Round	Jonathan Strack	64	-	54	81	-	62	145	-	116
Quarter-Final	Joseph Greenwood	56	-	50	81	-	52	137	-	102
Semi-Final	Adrian Comer	27	-	61	118	-	69	145	-	130



# 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.

**OWEN GREDLEY**

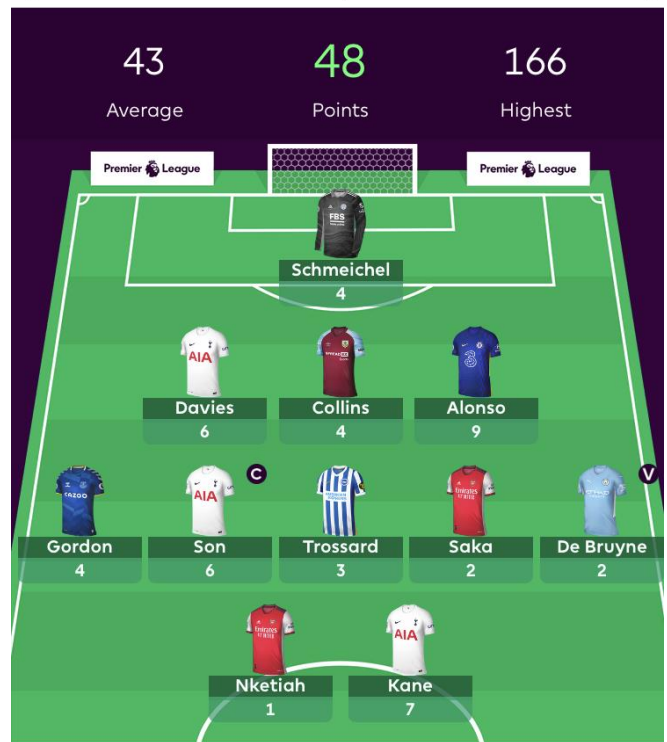
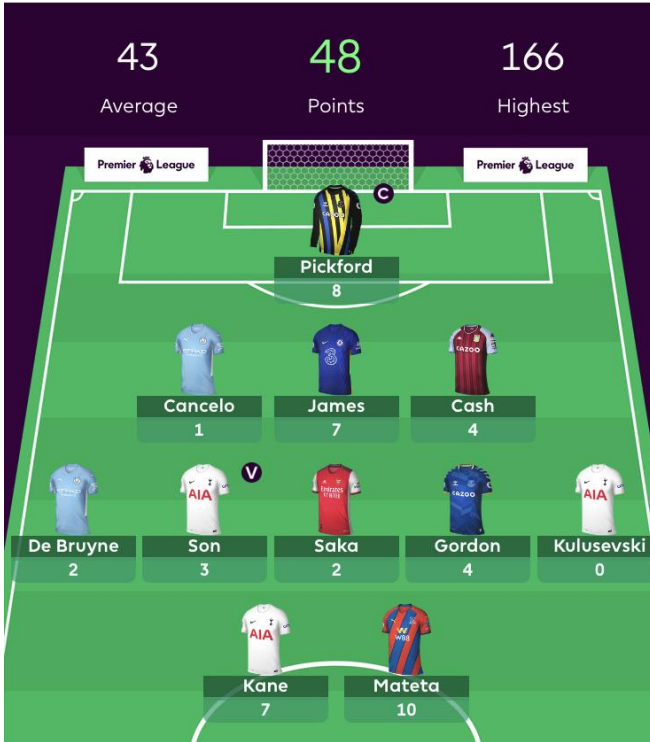
**TRACY THOMPSON**

< **Gameweek 37** >

< **Gameweek 37** >

Squad List

Squad List



## STAT ATTACK

40 **	SCORE	32 ***
8	CAPTAIN	6
20	DEFENCE	23
11	MIDFIELD	17
17	ATTACK	8
3 (-8 pts)	TRANSFERS	5 (-16 Pts)
3-5-2	FORMATION	3-5-2
NONE	CHIP PLAYED	NONE
NONE	CHIPS LEFT	TRIPLE CAPTAIN

\*\* Score adjusted due to 3 Transfers so minus 8 points

\*\*\* Score adjusted due to 5 Transfers so minus 16 points

## THE ANALYSIS

Due to time constraints, this is going to be a shortened version of what I normally do for a cup final.

When you look at the teams pictured on the previous page you think wow a 48 all draw it would have gone to a penalty Shoot-Out something that hasn't happened in a final. Then though you realise both managers made several transfer costing them points so in Gameweek 37 Owen Gredley would have come out on top 40-32. One thing does tell you is that both managers had an eye on this final surely making transfers in advance and shedding those transfer points early.

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

### SQUAD SAME

#### OWEN GREDLEY

##### SAME PLAYERS

Cancelo (Manchester City)  
De Bruyne (Manchester City)  
Son (Tottenham Hotspur)  
Saka (Arsenal)  
Gordon (Everton)  
Kane (Tottenham Hotspur)  
Foster (Watford)

#### TRACY THOMPSON

##### SIMILAR PLAYERS

ASTON VILLA  
Cash – Collins  
CHELSEA  
James - Alonso  
LIVERPOOL  
Robertson - Alexander-Arnold

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Seven players the same in a squad of Fifteen represents virtually 50% of the two squads being the same. The we look at the players from different all defenders so clean sheets will be cancelled out you are looking at one of your defenders as opposed to your opponent grabbing a vital goal or assist. Looking at the squad you are asking yourself where is the differential here?

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

#### OWEN GREDLEY

Pickford (Everton) 8 Points

##### COULD HAVE SELECTED

Ait Nouri (Wolves) 11 Points (on Bench)  
Mateta (Crystal Palace) 10 Points  
James (Chelsea) 7 Points  
Kane (Tottenham) 7 Points

#### TRACY THOMPSON

Son (Tottenham) 6 Points

##### COULD HAVE SELECTED

Alonso (Chelsea) 9 Points  
Kane (Tottenham) 7 Points  
Davies (Tottenham) 6 Points  
Gelhardy (Leeds) 5 Points (On Bench)  
Schmeichel (Leicester) 4 Points  
Collins (Aston Villa) 4 Points  
Gordon (Everton) 4 Points

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Both managers got their Captain picks wrong which is unusual for two managers of such high calibre, more shocking was how many other players in their team scored higher and in fact both had a player on the bench who would have done better. What is very interesting is after assessing the two squads and seeing how many players they have that are the same that we got two completely different captain picks. Tracy will be looking and thinking that an incredible 7 players would have been better than her current pick whilst Owen will be left to reflect that he had 4 other players that would have been a better selection. That said with so much in the balance on the final day I can't see them straying away from their Tottenham players on the final day and for this final. Tottenham are away to already relegated Norwich needing a win to secure Champions League football surely, they are going to do this and in style where you would have to say Son and Kane looking the ideal candidate for captain. They might consider going left field and select their Chelsea players who are at home to Watford also relegated but Chelsea don't have anything to play for now and are also very inconsistent it could be a goal fest but it could easily be a drab low scoring win for Chelsea. Look below for more in this in the Chip section.

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## CHIPS

**OWEN GREDLEY**  
**CHIPS**  
NONE

**TRACY THOMPSON**  
**CHIPS**  
TRIPLE CAPTAIN

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Tracy has done well to hold onto a chip going into this final, it is going to give her a major advantage. Get that Captain pick right and surely the trophy is hers. So surely this final is going to come down to that Captain pick as we have just assessed the captain picks it looks like Tracy will be going for either Son or Kane. Now Son didn't perform for her in Gameweek 37 will she double down on the South Korean who is chasing the golden boot or go for England captain Kane. The big decision here is if Son does score, he gets extra as a midfielder but Kane could easily outscore Son. For Owen surely, he is going to try and pick the same captain to nullify those extra points or will he think I have to gamble on Son in the hope that Tracy goes for Kane and Son can get those extra midfield points. It is a game of poker, with us left to wonder who will blink first.

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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 22<sup>nd</sup> May**

Arsenal	V	Everton
Brentford	V	Leeds United
Brighton & Hove Albion	V	West Ham United
Burnley	V	Newcastle United
Chelsea	V	Watford
Crystal Palace	V	Manchester United
Leicester City	V	Southampton
Liverpool	V	Wolverhampton Wanderers
Manchester City	V	Aston Villa
Norwich City	V	Tottenham Hotspur

## THE VERDICT

Ordinarily you would be thinking about Liverpool in a Champions League and resting players but not on this occasion as they have to win to take the Premier League title there is so much happening on the last day the two managers have to try and find that sweet spot of a player with something to play for and chance of real points. As already suggested I can't see past Tottenham away to Norwich yes there are some potential left field choices but this fixture is the closest thing to a banker.

It is going to come down to that Captain pick with the two squads being so similar. Tracy has that Chip and having gone against a chip before already this season and being proven wrong I just can't see Owen combating that Chip.

That said I have a feeling that Owen is going to move away from the Tottenham players and pull something special out form his squad in the hope of finding that differential against the Chip, A big gamble but a selection of Manchester City's De Bruyne or Chelsea's James to try and combat those triple points.

**FINAL VERDICT: - Tracy to get that Captain Pick right and Owen's left field choice to surprise us all and make it close but ultimately not enough. A Tracy Thompson victory.**

## 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

### 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
Pasquale Egisto	1
Tony Collins	1

### FINALISTS

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