Gameweek 37



James Bloomer V Glen Hogwood

GAMEWEEK 37 (Tuesday 18th May – Wednesday 19th May)

OFFICIAL FC MATCH PREVIEW

18th Final

Introduction FC Cup 2021

Welcome to this season's FC Cup Final preview.

I have kept the FC World banner for this preview although we did not do the coverage of the FC Cup as had been done in previous seasons. Unfortunately, similar to last season with the season being condensed due to Covid-19 it was at times virtually impossible to keep up just doing the results let alone doing more featured items on the game.

It is getting harder to continue the feature stuff so not sure will ever return to doing the FC Cup coverage as in previous seasons.

Looking at this preview last season I mentioned that it must have been the craziest season ever with the pandemic going on for a lot longer than any of us imagined I am not sure that this season has not taken that mantle.

It was interesting that last season's final took place in July and I made mention of the fact that I was writing the foreword with gameweek 36 still taking place and that there was one remaining fixture to take place. This season I am writing this before Gameweek 36 has started but am concerned that Gameweek 36 starts on Friday 14th May finishing on Sunday 16th May with the final starting just two days later.

The fantasy premier league website normally is updated the lunchtime after the last day of the gameweek all which means the FC Expert will only have few hours to do his/her analysis which will actually be two more than last season. Be interesting to see what format the FC Expert comes up with.

Once more we have a historic FC Cup final a common theme in the last few seasons. This season Last seasons winner Glen Hogwood has reached the final once more and has cemented himself as the most successful manager in FC Cup history, see the last page to see his achievements in this competition.

Hogwood is trying to become the first manager to ever win the competition back-to-back in fact he is the only manager to have made a final after winning the competition the previous season. He is also trying to be the first manager to win the FC Cup three times.

Standing in Glen Hogwood's way is James Bloomer a manager who has never been beyond the 4th Round previously, James though does himself have experience of a major final making the Pyramid Cup Final in 2017 on that occasion he lost so once more he is on the hunt for his first major trophy.

The final will take place over two days this season similar to last season all matches will be live on TV with the games being covered by Sky Sports and BT Sport. Several matches taking at the same time though. With the last two fixtures of the gameweek kicking off at 20:15 lets hope we have a high scoring match and for both managers they still have a chance of claiming this coveted trophy as we go into the last two matches, surely it can't be as close as last seasons final with Hogwood claiming victory by a single point.

I hope you enjoy this preview of the FC Cup final, all that is left to do is wish both Managers the best of luck.

Paul Richardson Fantasy Challenge Founder Paul.Richardson@Fantasy-Challenge.co.uk

Player Profiles

(All statistics correct after Gameweek 36)

JAMES BLOOMER

CTAT ATTACK

SEASON JOINED FANTASY CHALLNGE	2015
BEST FC CUP RUN (Before this Season)	4 th Round
HONOURS	HONOURABLE MENTION
	2017 Pyramid Premier 4 th Place Promoted
	2017 Pyramid Cup Runner-Up

21/	ATATACK	
A١	/ERAGE GAMEWEEK SCORE	62.55
HI	GHEST GAMEWEEK SCORE	131
LC	OWEST GAMEWEEK SCORE	34
G/	AMEWEEKS SCORE OVER 50 POINTS	28
G	AMEWEEKS SCORE BELOW 50 POINTS	8
FC	CUP AVERAGE	57.57

ROAD TO THE FINAL

ROUND	OPPONENT			
Qualifying Round	Adam Gill	64	-	58
1 st Round	Roger Wyatt	53	-	39
2 nd Round	Jonathan Strack	56	-	50
3 rd Round	Alfie Harris	55	-	45
4 th Round	Kieran Hogwood	69	-	62
Quarter-Final	Scott Smith	47	-	38
Semi Final	Andy Taylor	59	-	48

Coming through to the final from the Qualifying Round which started against Adam Gill of the Conference in the Qualifying Round securing a 6-point victory. Next up was Pyramid Three manager Roger Wyatt, Bloomer eased through with 14-point victory. In the 2nd Round was Premier League manager Jonathan Strack in a tough encounter Bloomer securing for the second time in this cup run a 6-point victory. League Two Alfie Harris was next up once more a relatively easy victory was Secord with a 10-point margin on this occasion, this victory equalled Bloomer's best ever cup run. Then it was an all-Conference clash against Kieran Hogwood with a Quarter-Final place up for grabs a tougher game but a score of 69 was enough to claim victory by 7 points saw Bloomer secure his best ever FC Cup run and put him into unknown territory. A Semi-Final place and prize money up for grabs Scott Smith of Pyramid Three stood in the way the coveted Semi-Final spot secured by 9 points. Another Premier League Manager stood in the way of a place in the final Andy Taylor, Bloomer running out a winner by 11 points to secure his first FC Cup final.

Player Profiles

(All statistics correct after Gameweek 36)

GLEN HOGWOOD

SEASON JOINED FANTASY CHALLNGE BEST FC CUP RUN (Before this Season) HONOURS 2009 FC Cup Winner 2009 League One Champion 2012 Championship Champion 2020 FC Cup Winner 2008 Winner (Twice) HONOURABLE MENTION 2008 Overall League 7th Place 2008 League Two Runner-Up Promoted 2011 FC Cup Semi-Finalist 2013 Premier League 3rd Place S20 Cup Qualification 2014 FC Cup Semi-Finalist 2014 Super20 Cup Semi-Finalist 2015 Overall League 5th Place 2016 Championship 5th Place Promoted 2018 Premier League 4th Place S20 Cup Qualification 2019 FC Cup Semi-Finalist 2019 S20 Cup Semi-Finalist

STAT ATTACK

AVERAGE GAMEWEEK SCORE	58.16
HIGHEST GAMEWEEK SCORE	99
LOWEST GAMEWEEK SCORE	21
GAMEWEEKS SCORE OVER 50 POINTS	23
GAMEWEEKS SCORE BELOW 50 POINTS	13
FC CUP AVERAGE	67.28

ROAD TO THE FINAL RESULTS AND STORY

ROUND	OPPONENT			
Qualifying Round	Sam Shew	57	-	55
1 st Round	Neil Williams	68	-	51
2 nd Round	Steve Rogers	52	-	32
3 rd Round	Kin Chau	92	-	41
4 th Round	Stephen Nicolaides	80	-	74
Quarter-Final	Mike Davies	60	-	56
Semi Final	Dave Hansell	62	-	55

For the second season running Glen has managed to get to the final after failing to qualify for the First Round so he had to start n the Qualifying Round. Last Season he had one replay on his way to the final this time he didn't require any extra matches. In fact, in the main it looks like a relatively smooth path to the final his closest match coming in the Qualifying Round against fellow Premier League manager Sam Shew winning by just 2 points. Neil Williams of Pyramid One was dispatched with a 17-point winning margin his next victory was Steve Rogers winning by 20 points this time to overcome the Pyramid Two manager. Kin Chau was next up but the Conference manager did not mount a challenge with Glen winning by 51 points. Things were to get tighter form this point forward. In the 4th Round was another Pyramid Two manager in the form of Stephen NIcolaisdes who put a decent battle going down by just 6 points. Onto the Quarter-Finals and Mike Davies also of Pyramid Two was next and the margin of victory was even closer just 4 points this time, that victory creating FC Cup history as Glen progressed to his sixth semi-final. Dave Hansell of League Two was not going to deny Glen another appearance in a final as he won by 7 points.

FC Expert Match Analysis

The below teams were given to the FC Expert at 19:00 the day before the final starts.



STAT ATTACK

63	SCORE	41
20	CAPTAIN	4
27	DEFENCE	11
25	MIDFIELD	12
15	ATTACK	18
2 (-4 Points)	TRANSFERS	1
4-3-3	FORMATION	3-4-3
	CHIPS PLAYED	
NONE		NONE

FC Expert Match Analysis

THE ANALYSIS

I started last season's preview with this sentence "Well very difficult this season as I have an hour to do the analysis". It is the same this season the only difference is that last season the gameweek was not finished as I started to look at the two teams. At least the above teams are the final scores. As we can see if the final had taken place in Gameweek 36 James Bloomer would have come out on top 63-41 a massive 22 point winning advantage, a quick glance tells you that Bloomer got his captain pick right a 13-point return from Crystal Palace defender Tyrick Mitchell making all the difference. Gameweek 36 was also difficult to judge due to the FA Cup final which meant various players didn't play both Hogwood and Bloomer having no point son their bench and ended with players in their starting elevens who didn't play.

As you will know with previous finals, I have delved into both teams and broken them down to do an in-depth analysis. Like last season however it is going to be difficult to do for this final with the time constraints. So, I am going to look at the components which are key in these matches looking at what chips the managers have left if any, what captain pick options they have and the finances and the amount and potential transfers options they have.

CHIPS

JAMES BLOOMER	GLEN HOGWOOD
CHIPS	CHIPS
NONE	TRIPLE CAPTAIN

You could say that this played a vital part in Hogwood's victory last season he played Wolves Raul Jimenez as his triple captain who managed an assit to gain 15 points in total as a Triple Captain seeing as Hogwod won by a single point the contribution was highly significant. Last Season Hogwood was up against a manager who had a Free Hit this Season his opponent James Bloomer has no chips available to him. Surely Hogwood can take a big advantage here. However, if you look at the two scores from Gameweek 36 if Hogwood had of played his Triple Cpatain Calvert-Lewin he would still have lost by 14 points instead of 22. If Hogwood had got his captain pick right and selected Liverpool's Mo Salah it would have been an extra 18 points (Salah's extra 20 points minus Calvert-Lewins 2 extra points) which would not have been enough either but remember those special circumstances in Gameweek 36 Hogwood went into the gameweek knowing that only 10 of his starting eleven would play. So, add Salah's extra points, Hogwood would have been 4 points behind the extra player being a midfielder being a midfielder would reduce that deficit to 2 and potentially 1 with a clean sheet, then he would have just needed an assist or goal to have actually won the game. A lot of its and buts but you can see how a Triple Captain can put a completely different complexion on a game. There is no wavering in mind that this Triple Captain selection is going to be significant in this final. So what are Hogwood's options in Gameweek 36 Bloomer selected Salah he looks favourite again as Liverpool go away to Burnley, Liverpool needing victory to keep alive their Champions League qualification hopes and Burnley are playing on the back of a damaging four nil defeat to Leeds. Other options for Bloomer Mason Greenwood at home to Fulham or his Tottenham players who face a difficult home match against Aston Villa. Hogwood has two choices try and determine who Bloomer will play as Captain Neutralise that threat and gain an extra set of points or alternatively go all out on his own pick.

FC Expert Match Analysis

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

Have included this as interesting to see how their selection panned out in Gameweek 36.

JAMES BLOOMER Mo Salah (Liverpool) 20 Points COULD HAVE SELECTED Tyrick Mitchell (Crystal Palace) 26 Points GLEN HOGWOOD Calvert-Lewin (Everton) 4 Points COULD HAVE SELECTED Mo Salah (Liverpool) 20 Points Che Adams (Southampton 18 Points

Neither manager got their captain picks correct although James Bloomer certainly got a better return and his captain was surpassed by one of the shock players of the gameweek Tyrick Mitchell (Crystal Palace), whilst Hogwood got it horribly wrong in Gameweek 36 with the selection of Calvert-Lewin, Hogwood had four other players who all out scored Calvert-Lewin. When it comes to the final Bloomer has many good options, he has Salah again and Liverpool team mate Trent Alexander-Arnold away to Burnley chasing that Champions League spot, he has Manchester Uniteds Mason Greenwood at home to Fulham, United though have that Europa League final coming up will Solskjaer rest players or want to get one more win on the board to confirm second place. Then he has to West Ham Players Antonio and Lingaard away to already relegated West Bromwich Albion. Hogwood could cover Salah and Lingaard or go with a risky Che Adams punt as the Southampton forward sees the Saints host Leeds in a game which you feel could be an end of season goal fest. All that said logically Salah looks to be the sensible pick for both managers Bloomer sensing that Salah's recent return to form will see good points return and hope that Hogwood covers this with his Triple Captain and the rest of his other good options come up trumps to make the difference. Hogwood looking to cover the Bloomer move and ensure he gets the top scorer and hope that Liverpool cruise to a victory in a revenge victory making up for that defeat to Burnley Anfield early in the season, with Salah getting big score to really make a difference with those triple captain points.

FINANCE / TRANSFERS / OPTIONS

JAMES BLOOMER		GLEN HOGWOODd	
FINANCE	TRANSFERS	FINANCE	TRANSFERS
£103.4	1	£101.4	1
So interacting to see these t	two managors use their transfe	rs in gamawaak 26 as hath h	ave other frents to battle on

So interesting to see these two managers use their transfers in gameweek 36 as both have other fronts to battle on. Hogwood is embroiled in a relegation battle in the Premier league 4 points form safety and was involved in the New Life Cup Semi-Final losing out on aggregate. Bloomer won in the Conference to keep alive his promotion chance she is 5 points off promotion with two to play but like Hogwood he was also involved in a cup semi-final making the Champions League final. Both managers will want to win this final but will not be going all in on the transfer front as in losing points unless the feel they are happy to sacrifice this match for a greater good but both have to think about those vital league games. As you can see both managers have good bank balances but can only see them making one transfer each.

FC Expert Match Analysis

THE CHIP EFFECT

СНІР	EXPLANATION	
Wildcard	The Wildcard chip can be used twice a season, once in the first half of the	
	season and once in the second half of the season. The Wildcard chip is played	
	when confirming transfers that cost points and can't be cancelled once played.	
Bench Boost	All the Players on your Substitute Bench score points for that gameweek	
Free Hit	You can make unlimited transfers in the gameweek you play your free hit.	
	When the gameweek finishes your team will revert to how it was setup the	
	previous gameweek. You will lose any saved transfers so will only have 1 free	
	transfer after a free hit has been played.	
Triple Captain	Instead of the normal double points your Captains Points are tripled	
OTHER INFORMATION	Can I Play More than One Chip in a Gameweek	
	Only one chip may be active in a Gameweek. For example, it is not possible to	
	make transfers with your Wildcard chip and then use your Bench Boost chip	
	in the same Gameweek	
	The following chips can only be played once per season	
	Bench Boost, Free Hit and triple Captain	
	What happens to my Triple Captain chip if my captain doesn't play	
	The triple point's bonus will be passed to your vice-captain. If your vice-	
	captain doesn't play either then the bonus is lost, the chip isn't returned.	

THE FIXTURES FOR GAMEWEEK 37

Tuesday 18 th May			
Manchester United	18:00	Fulham	
	Sky Sports		
Southampton	18:00	Leeds	
	Sky Sports		
Brighton	19:00	Manchester City	
	BT Sport		
Chelsea	20:15	Leicester City	
	Sky Sports		
We	dnesday 19 th	May	
Everton	18:00	Wolves	
	Sky Sports		
Newcastle United	18:00	Sheffield United	
	Sky Sports		
Tottenham Hotspur	18:00	Aston Villa	
	Sky Sports		
Crystal Palace	19:00	Arsenal	
	BT Sport		
Burnley	20:15	Liverpool	
	Sky Sports		
West Bromwich Albion	20:15	West Ham United	
	Sky Sports		

In the Event of A Draw

The FC Cup is the only Major cup competition in which if the final is drawn the match will go to a replay. The replay will be held in Gameweek 38. If the replayed final ends in a draw the match will go into a penalty Shoot-Out. A penalty shoot-means 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.

FC Expert Match Analysis

THE VERDICT

Each season I get to this point and try to refrain from talking about options but in the end, any match especially for Fantasy games it is all about the options in front of the two managers. The biggest option available to these two managers is the single chip that is on offer to Glan Hogwood, now this Triple Captain Chip is asking Hogwood two questions, do you want to neutralise what seems to be his opponents best captain option or do you go with what represents the most points on offer to him, of course the answer could be the same. When you look at the two current squads it does appear that Bloomer has more scoring opportunities but a lot of the major hitters are offset by Hogwood, for example Bloomer has Liverpool's Trent Alexander-Arnold Hogwood as Liverpool's other full back Andy Robertson in recent weeks you would say that Alexander-Arnold is scoring more points through assists but Robertson will negate any clean sheets. These head-to-head battles are seen throughout the two squads, in my opinion whilst Hogwood wins a couple of these battles Bloomer comes out on top. Even after taking this into account, you circle back to that Triple Captain and the question is will Hogwood get that selection right and make it the difference in this match.

FINAL VERDICT Last season I knew it was going to be a close final I was an awe of the two managers both with successful histories big hitters in the FC World and both had Chips on offer. This season Glen Hogwood is back and has already made history but is looking to make more. His opponent has one major final under his belt and this season he has made two finals. Bloomer has to pick his best eleven and get his one transfer right I back him to do this Hogwood has to do the same and then get that Triple Captain selection right. It would be a brave pundit to go against Hogwood on that and in this competition so not sur eit will as close or go down to the wire of the final bonus points like it did last season but this is goig to be another close affair but I can't escape that Triple Captain pick. **HOGWOOD to win**.

HOW GOOD IS THAT VERDICT?

THE FC Expert like todays two finalists is feeling the pressure as he has failed to predict the correct winner of the last two finals. However last season he did predict a close encounter selected wrong but the final was decided by just a single point with the FC Expert predicting that the managers would be within 4 points of each other.

Previous FC Cup Final predictions below: -

YEAR	FC EXPERT PREDICTION	WINNER	✓ / X
2009	Glen Hogwood	Glen Hogwood	✓
2010	Sandeep Chohan	Sandeep Chohan	✓
2011	Charlie Thrussell	Charlie Thrussell	~
2012	Steve Shew	Steve Shew	✓
2013	Dave Perrett	Dave Perrett	✓
2014	Hans Hayrynen	Hans Hayrynen	✓
2015	Michael Lynn	James Dwinfour	×
2016	Bill Hill	Daragh Prendergast	×
2017	Omid Afzalalghom	Omid Afzalalghom	✓
2018	David Noel	David Noel	✓
2019	Anthony Lobo	Omid Afzalalghom	×
2020	Steve Haley	Glen Hogwood	×

History

PREVIOUS FINALS

ul Kelly
Philp
o Gurney
ve Shew
dy Gurney
ad Pereira
nid Afzalalghom
Hatch
ry Edwards
oastian Logan
njamin Alexander
chael Lynn
ragh Prendergast
niel Sherry
niel Sherry
ott Smith
thony Lobo
ve Haley

Glen Hogwood Omid Afzalalghom Steve Shew Bill Hill Cedric Ayres Charlie Thrussell

Dave Perrett

WINNERS 2 David Noel

- 2 Hans Hayrynen
- 2 Ian Philp
- 1 James Dwinfour
- 1 Paul Dwinfour
- 1 Rob Gurney
- 1 Sandeep Chohan

FINALISTS

1	Glen Hogwood	3	Charlie Thrussell	1
1	Steve Shew	3	Chad Pereira	1
1	Omid Afzalalghom	3	Daniel Sherry	1
1	Andy Gurney	2	Hans Hayrynen	1
1	Ian Philp	2	James Bloomer	1
1	Rob Gurney	2	James Dwinfour	1
1	Anthony Lobo	1	Joe Hatch	1
	Barry Edwards	1	Paul Dwinfour	1
	Benjamin Alexander	1	Paul Kelly	1
	Bill Hill	1	Sandeep Chohan	1
	Cedric Ayres	1	Scott Smith	1
	Daragh Prendgast	1	Sebastian Logan	1
	Dave Perrett	1	Steve Haley	1
	David Noel	1	Michael Lynn	1

SEMI-FINALISTS

1	Hakan Bedir
1	Hans Hayrynen
1	Harrison Bath
1	James Bloomer
1	James Dwinfour
1	James Watson
1	Jeff Aldersea
1	Jim Burrows
1	Joe Hatch
1	Kelvin Walker
1	Lee Pepper
1	Marin Stuart
1	Mark Freear

- 1 Martin Trew
- 1 Matt Hansell Michael Carleton 1 Nigel Rose 1 Paul Cullen 1 Paul Dwinfour 1 1 Paul Kelly **Richard Munroe** 1 Rob Lynn 1 Scott Smith 1 Sebastian Logan 1 1 Steve Martin 1 1

Omid Afzalalghom Rob Gurney Steve Shew Ben Alexander Ian Philp James O'Leary Jean-Pierre Clegg Michael Lynn Sandeep Chohan Steve Haley Andreas Themistocleous Andy Gurney Andy Taylor

Glen Hogwood

- 6 Anthony Lobo 4 **Barry Edwards** 3 Bill Hill 3 Cedric Ayres 2 Chad Pereira 2 2 2 2 2 2 1 1
 - David Curran David Noel 1
- Daniel Hansen
- Daniel Silcock
- Daragh Prendgast
- Charlie Thrussell
- - Dave Hansell
 - Dave Perrett

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- Daniel Sherry

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FC CUP LEGENDS

GLEN HOGWOOD FC CUP LEGEND

- first manager ever to make an FC Cup Final after winning the competition the previous season.
- First Manager to make 6 Semi-Finals
- Holds the record for most amount of Victories with Omid Afzalalghom and Steve Shew
- Holds the record for most final appearances with Omid Afzalalghom and Steve Shew

MOST FC CUP VICTORIES

2	Glen Hogwood
2	Omid Afzalalghom
2	Steve Shew

MOST FC CUP FINAL APPEARANCES

3	Glen Hogwood
3	Omid Afzalalghom
3	Steve Shew

MOST FC CUP SEMI-FINAL APPEARANCES

6	Glen Hogwood
4	Omid Afzalalghom
3	Steve Shew

THREE LEGENDS OF THE FC CUP

	WINNER	FINALIST	SEMI-FINALIST
RECORD	2	3	6
GLEN HOGWOOD	2	3	6
OMID AFZALALGHOM	2	3	4
STEVE SHEW	2	3	3

THE LEGENDS FINAL RECORD

Last Season Glen Hogwood's victory in the final saw him equal Steve Shew and Omid Afzalalghom record of two victories.

STEVE SHEW FINAL RECORD 2005 Steve Shew 84 40 Ian Philp 2007 98 Steve Shew **Rob Gurney** 93 Steve Shew 55 **Barry Edwards** 2012 61 **OMID AFZALALGHOM FINAL RECORD** 2010 Sandeep Chohan 80 67 **Omid Afzalalghom Omid Afzalaghom** 149 149 2017 Daniel Sherry _ REPLAY **Omid Afzalaghom** 104 82 **Daniel Sherry** 2019 **Omid Afzalaghom** 74 42 Anthony Lobo **GLEN HOGWOOD FINAL RECORD** 2009 Glen Hogwood 57 53 **Chad Pereira** 2020 Glen Hogwood 53 52 **Steve Haley** -