

THE FC WORLD

Gameweek 37

FANTASY CHALLENGE CUP



FINAL

2018

David Noel V Scott Smith

GAMEWEEK 37 (4th May – 10th May)

OFFICIAL FC MATCH PREVIEW

15th Final

THE FC WORLD

Introduction FC Cup 2018

Welcome to this seasons FC Cup Final preview.

This will be the second FC Cup preview which will feature the distinctive Red Top Banner of the FC World, the FC World have not given the competition the same coverage as it did last season but remains dedicated to this the longest running cup competition in the Fantasy Challenge history.

This preview could not be done without mentioning last season's competition as the FC World gave it great coverage and was then rewarded by the greatest FC Cup Final so far in the history of Fantasy Challenge, that final will be remembered in the final page of this preview and we will look at the contrasting fortunes of last season's finalists.

We are pleased to announce that like last season's final the FC World will cover it with a minute by minute report which will run through the long gameweek.

Does all that mention of last season's amazing final put this year's contestants under extra pressure, whilst everyone will want to see another great high scoring final for both of today's managers they will only have one thought in the mind adding their name onto this illustrious trophy.

It is amazing how the FC Cup Final creates a story and this season is no difference as our two finalists are both from the Conference, no manager from the Conference has ever won the FC Cup so history will be made at the end of this final regardless of who wins.

The two managers taking part in this season's final are David Noel and Scott Smith. Noel is in his 4th season within the game and is taking his place in his second major final. He will be hoping to add to the success of his first major final when he won last seasons Pyramid Cup.

His opponent Scott Smith is in his 3rd Season and is in his first major final, Smith though is gaining a reputation throughout the FC World, he was the first manager to be promoted this season and has since claimed the Conference title he is also sitting top of the FC League so has the potential to win two major trophies this season.

Last season the final had an extra 5 fixtures and would finish on a Thursday evening. This season there is 6 extra fixtures with the gameweek also finishing on a Thursday. both managers will be hoping that they either secured the final by that point or are still in with a chance of victory.

It is hoped that with the extra fixtures that the 2018 final will also be a high scoring affair. Of course, no one expects it to match last seasons final for both managers the most important thing is to win the FC Cup for the first time.

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 in this final.

Paul Richardson

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Player Profiles

(All statistics correct after Gameweek 36)

DAVID NOEL

SEASON JOINED FANTASY CHALLENGE 2015
BEST FC CUP RUN (Before this Season) 4th Round 2017

STAT ATTACK

AVERAGE GAMEWEEK SCORE	56.58
HIGHEST GAMEWEEK SCORE	94
LOWEST GAMEWEEK SCORE	26
GAMEWEEKS SCORE OVER 50 POINTS	25
GAMEWEEKS SCORE BELOW 50 POINTS	11
FC CUP AVERAGE	53

ROAD TO THE FINAL

ROUND	OPPONENT			
Qualifying Round	Rob Wills	64	-	48
1 st Round	Dave Rogers	47	-	30
2 nd Round	Omid Afzalalghom	35	-	32
3 rd Round	Karman Bansi	60	-	41
4 th Round	Hans Hayrynen	49	-	48
Quarter-Final	Andreas Themistocleous	63	-	45
Semi Final	Steve Haley	53	-	37

Noel missed out on going straight into the First Round by 3 points. Lying in 101st in the overall league at the end of Gameweek 10 which meant he went into the Qualifying Round to face Rob Wills a fellow conference manager. Noel despatched Wills with relative ease winning with a 16 point victory.

Into the First Round he took on Dave Rogers of Pyramid Premier another easy victory winning by 17 points.

The 2nd Round would see Noel take on last season victorious manager Omid Afzalalghom of the Premier League. A tough encounter saw Noel victorious 35 -32 knocking out Afzalalghom by 3points denying the him the chance of becoming the first manager to defend the FC Cup

The 3rd Round would see Noel face Karman Bansi a rookie manager in Pyramid Three, Noel had his easiest victory of the campaign a 19 point winning margin.

Hans Hayrynen of League Two would give Noel his biggest scare with Noel coming through a tense encounter 49-48 a single point winning margin. Would this be the victory that had Noel dreaming of FC Cup success.

The Quarter-Finals would see Noel face another manager from the Premier league Andreas Themistocleous Noel would dominate Themistocleous winning by 18 points.

A Third Premier league manager would be waiting in the Semi-Finals Steve Haley, once more Noel would show his class hitting over 50 points to win with ease by 16 points.

The cup run started with a match against fellow Conference manager and will end with one Scott Smith. Smith has already gained promotion Noel will need to beat Smith to gain a second major trophy and might have to beat him again in Gameweek 38 to secure promotion.

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Player Profiles

(All statistics correct after Gameweek 36)

SCOTT SMITH

SEASON JOINED FANTASY CHALLENGE 2016
BEST FC CUP RUN (Before this Season) 2nd Round 2017

STAT ATTACK

AVERAGE GAMEWEEK SCORE	63.75
HIGHEST GAMEWEEK SCORE	108
LOWEST GAMEWEEK SCORE	30
GAMEWEEKS SCORE OVER 50 POINTS	27
GAMEWEEKS SCORE BELOW 50 POINTS	9
FC CUP AVERAGE	55.16

ROAD TO THE FINAL

ROUND	OPPONENT			
1 st Round	Peter Cuckson	49	-	42
2 nd Round	Thomas Lusty	59	-	35
3 rd Round	Jonathan Chew	60	-	44
4 th Round	Ryan Perrett	59	-	48
Quarter-Final	Alvar Chambers	57	-	56
Semi Final	Matt Hansell	47	-	38

Scott Smith avoided the Qualifying Round by lying 2nd in the overall league. His reward was a match against League One manager Peter Cuckson, it was to be a close encounter with Smith coming out on top by 7 points.

The 2nd Round Smith faced another manager from League One Thomas Lusty this was a straight forward victory for Smith running out the winner by 24 points.

Third Round draw saw Smith face a rookie manager in Jonathan Chew from Pyramid Three. It was to be another relatively easy victory for Smith winning by 16 points.

As in the first two rounds Smith would be drawn against a manager from the same division as the last round this time Ryan Perrett another rookie manager from Pyramid Three. Not as big a winning margin but a match which was not in doubt as Smith won by 11 points.

The Quarter-Final against Alvar Chambers of League Two was a close encounter with Smith coming through by the single point. The biggest scare of his run to the final.

A third manager from League One lied in wait at the Semi-Final stage a close match but Smith had enough to knock out Matt Hansell by 9 points.

Smith in his 3rd season will take his place in his first major final. He has two promotions in the Super20 League and has added a third this season becoming the first manager to be promoted. He has beaten his final opponent David Noel in Gameweek 19 in the league 90-70 and will be hoping to repeat that success in this final.

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STORY OF THE CUP – QUALIFYING ROUND

Gameweek 12



FC CUP QUALIFYING ROUND RESULTS



Kyle Berry	75	61	Harrison Birch
Stelios Andreou	41	49	Adrian Comer
Solomon Amos	59	35	Lee Pepper
Cedric Ayres	67	67	Peter Ward
Hakan Bedir	71	69	Andy Polloway
Dipesh Gamanlal	52	69	Steve Haley
Kevin Doyle	39	39	Lee Champion
Martin Eyre	39	60	Dave Perrett
Oliver Shanks	36	49	Adam Galley
Steve Shew	70	60	Daniel Sherry
Don Heisser	47	51	Andrew Ogden
David Noel	64	48	Rob Wills
Danzel D'Costa	65	44	Aubrey Davis
Andy Gurney	65	65	Stephen Overy
Stephen Loss	52	54	Omid Afzalalghom
Martyn Dewick	72	55	Roari Fox
Maris Cars	56	73	Paul Richardson
Martin Stuart	54	40	Ellie Turner
Gary Dodds	53	38	Pasquale Egisto
Graham Price	38	31	Sammy Abbey
Marcus Hogwood	51	44	Wesley Willetts
Owen Gredley	63	31	Neil Williams
Kris Noble	63	73	Thomas Lusty
Joseph Lawrence	54	60	Tony Collins
Daniel Turner	38	70	Anthony Suhan
Dan Calder	49	73	Heath Cram
Harrison Bath	54	65	Kieran Hogwood
Sandeep Chohan	61	66	Rio Mclister
Chad Pereira	52	49	David Bardon
Eoin Mooney	48	60	Steve Clarricoats
Dan Couch	75	89	Adam Pemberton
Jonas Silva	65	50	Lakshmen Thirumoorthy
Lee Irons	51	89	Miki Mielonen
Adam Gill	57	69	Michael Carleton
Dan Wyatt	56	41	Sean Conneely
Adrian Taylor	51	61	Darrell Jenkins
Steven Mcintosh	60	80	Neil Dawson
Randy Ricker	48	70	Sanj Joshi

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STORY OF THE CUP- QUALIFYING ROUND / FIRST ROUND

Gameweek 13 / 14



FC CUP QUALIFYING ROUND REPLAY RESULTS



Peter Ward	52	44	Cedric Ayres
Lee Champion	49	39	Kevin Doyle
Stephen Overy	36	42	Andy Gurney



FC CUP FIRST ROUND RESULTS



Hans Hayrynen	40	33	Lee Champion
Kyle Berry	43	40	Bill Hill
Rob Gurney	52	47	Kieran Hogwood
Paul Richardson	52	47	Ian Baldwin
Anthony Nicolaides	47	57	Tracy Thompson
Michael Carleton	33	54	Matt Hansell
Karman Bansi	45	32	Solomon Amos
Wendy Parker	43	45	Steve Haley
Daniel Varrow	50	56	David Mahoney
Thomas Lusty	64	32	Andy Taylor
Jonathon Kelly	41	42	Sanj Joshi
Joe Higgins	62	33	Alex Kam
Nick Balancy	40	47	Drona Nandoe
David Pewtner	67	42	Amanteer Singh
Michael Smith	41	46	Mark Angliss
Stephen Wilson	45	43	Dan Jopp
Steve Martin	41	33	Martin Stuart
James Bloomer	30	69	Sebastian Logan
Ryan Perrett	44	38	Paren Arzoomanian
Clifford Delaney	16	54	Owen Gredley
Chad Pereira	50	57	Alvar Chambers
Bernard Aspell	35	39	Andy McLaren
Peter Ward	44	56	Joe Derby
James Dwinfour	31	43	Richard Munroe
Gary Osbrey	69	43	Daragh Prendergast
David Dinh	52	55	Dan Wyatt

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STORY OF THE CUP- FIRST ROUND

Gameweek 14



FC CUP FIRST ROUND RESULTS contd



Callum Hogwood	61	47	Jeff Aldersea
Dave Perrett	32	65	Rebecca Nicolaides
Andrew Ogden	39	50	Ben Alexander
Anthony Suhan	57	40	Steve Shew
Joseph Shalome	35	58	Peter Hayward
Jonathan Strack	26	60	Darren Cullen
George Ferridge	38	34	Marc Bolton
Stuart Shepherd	37	53	Omid Afzalalghom
Ryan Hill	61	30	Dave Sinclair
Pete Cuckson	42	49	Scott Smith
Heath Cram	51	44	Hakan Bedir
Andy Gurney	38	50	Chris Yu
Steve Clarricoats	54	71	Paul Dwinfour
Joseph Nicolaides	25	23	James Bastow
Jack Roberts	43	34	Lee Ferridge
Jim Burrows	52	68	Nick Preston
Ian Gredley	34	40	Darrell Jenkins
Steve Whitely	52	44	Andrew Burchell
Kin Chau	57	50	Adam Pemberton
Jonas Silva	26	48	Matt Earley
Neil Dawson	54	49	Cormac Connaughton
Graham Price	59	55	Dee Patel
Dave Hansell	62	43	Kojo Amofa
Sam Shew	34	53	Daniel Silcock
Jonathan Chew	59	46	Nurul Hussain
Dean Santoro	50	59	Alistair Shields
Jatin Joshi	33	55	Amine Haddad
Matt Coe	59	43	Adrian Comer
Glen Hogwood	68	37	Martyn Dewick
David Noel	47	30	Dave Rogers
Michael Lynn	51	59	Rio Mclister
Marcus Hogwood	30	50	Gareth Grant
Raymond Turp	61	39	Alfie Harris
Tommy Mccarthy	30	38	Miki Mielonen
Adam Galley	22	37	Andreas Themistocleous
Nikki Ogden	42	27	Gary Dodds
Rilwan Dawodu	34	30	Danzel D'Costa
Tony Collins	31	38	Daniel Hansen

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STORY OF THE CUP- SECOND ROUND

Gameweek 16



FC CUP SECOND ROUND RESULTS



George Ferridge	36	72	Rio Mclister
Andy McLaren	32	54	Paul Dwinfour
Miki Mielonen	74	45	Dave Hansell
David Noel	35	32	Omid Afzalalghom
Darren Cullen	71	59	Heath Cram
Gareth Grant	44	58	Alvar Chambers
Ryan Hill	31	37	Steve Whitely
Callum Hogwood	57	71	Paul Richardson
Alistair Shields	69	70	Mark Angliss
Joe Derby	47	72	Sanj Joshi
Andreas Themistocleous	65	63	Nikki Ogden
Neil Dawson	36	60	Drona Nandoe
David Mahoney	51	63	Joseph Nicolaides
Kyle Berry	55	51	Daniel Hansen
Tracy Thompson	25	37	Jack Roberts
Anthony Suhan	51	60	Karman Bansi
Matt Hansell	45	27	Stephen Wilson
Rebecca Nicolaides	53	39	Matt Earley
Daniel Silcock	52	55	Graham Price
Hans Hayrynen	76	34	Nick Preston
Rilwan Dawodu	59	37	Glen Hogwood
Raymond Turp	61	61	Ryan Perrett
Gary Osbrey	46	50	David Pewtner
Joe Higgins	49	40	Peter Hayward
Chris Yu	57	58	Ben Alexander
Richard Munroe	55	57	Kin Chau
Amine Haddad	41	60	Jonathan Chew
Matt Coe	54	49	Dan Wyatt
Steve Haley	61	40	Steve Martin
Rob Gurney	61	59	Sebastian Logan
Owen Gredley	40	59	Darrell Jenkins
Scott Smith	59	35	Thomas Lusty

REPLAY

Ryan Perrett	64	39	Raymond Turp
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STORY OF THE CUP- THIRD ROUND

Gameweek 22



FC CUP THIRD ROUND RESULTS

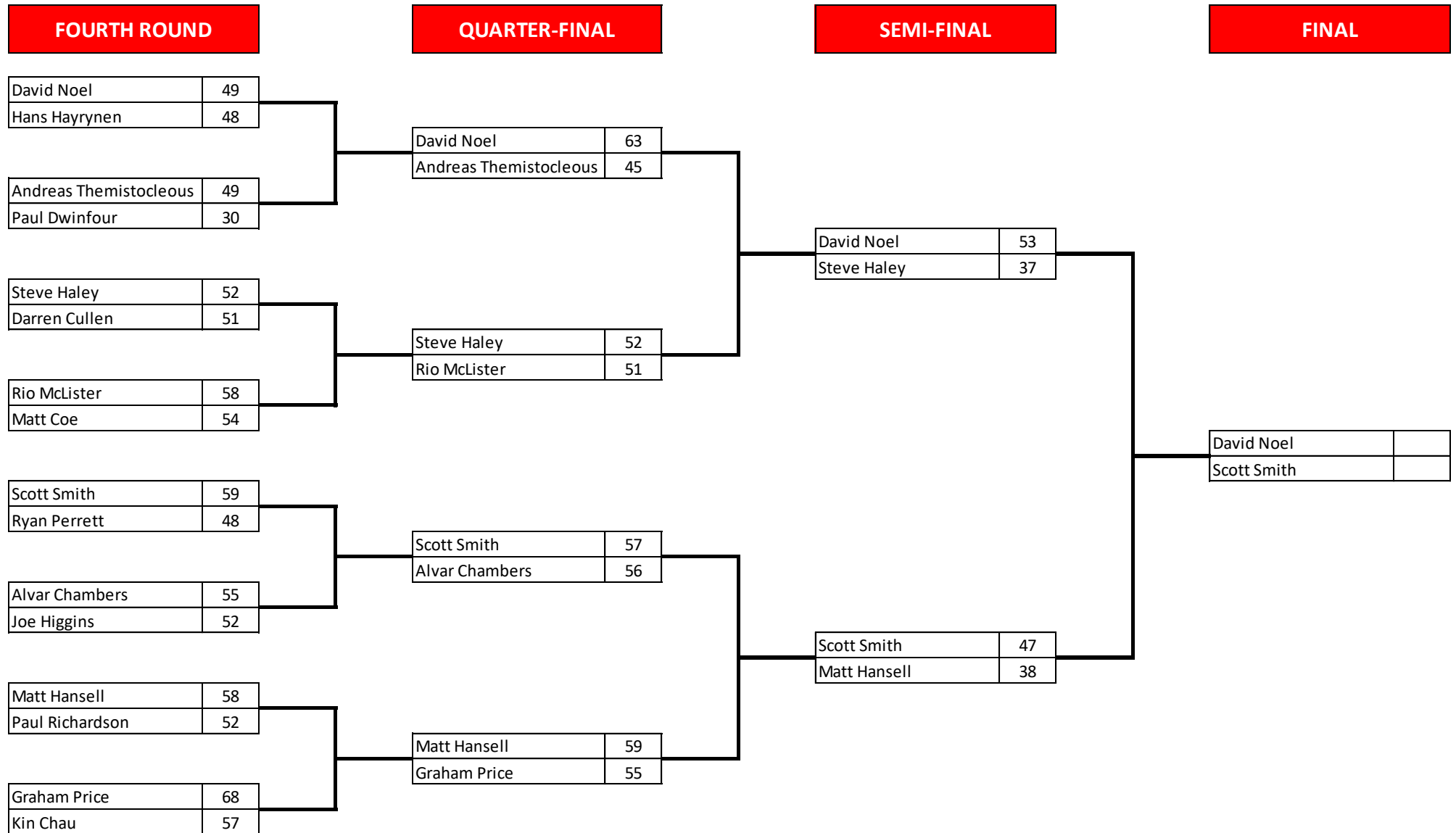


Ryan Perrett	60	52	Ben Alexander
Drona Nandoe	35	47	Andreas Themistocleous
David Noel	60	41	Karman Bansi
David Pewtner	43	53	Alvar Chambers
Darren Cullen	58	53	Miki Mielonen
Jonathan Chew	44	60	Scott Smith
Jack Roberts	38	54	Hans Hayrynen
Kyle Berry	47	58	Matt Hansell
Joe Higgins	56	37	Joseph Nicolaides
Graham Price	60	53	Steve Whitely
Paul Richardson	63	62	Mark Angliss
Sanj Joshi	44	56	Matt Coe
Darrell Jenkins	57	76	Paul Dwinfour
Steve Haley	52	49	Rob Gurney
Rio Mclister	76	43	Rilwan Dawodu
Kin Chau	67	40	Rebecca Nicolaides

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STORY OF THE CUP- FOURTH ROUND / QUARTER-FINALS / SEMI FINALS RESULTS

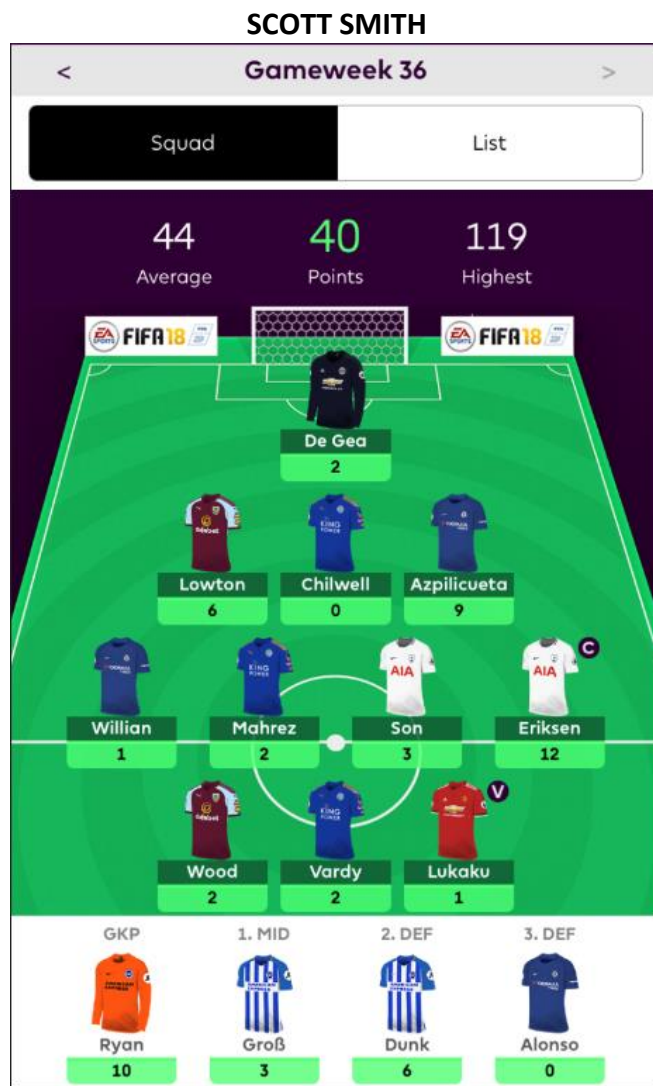
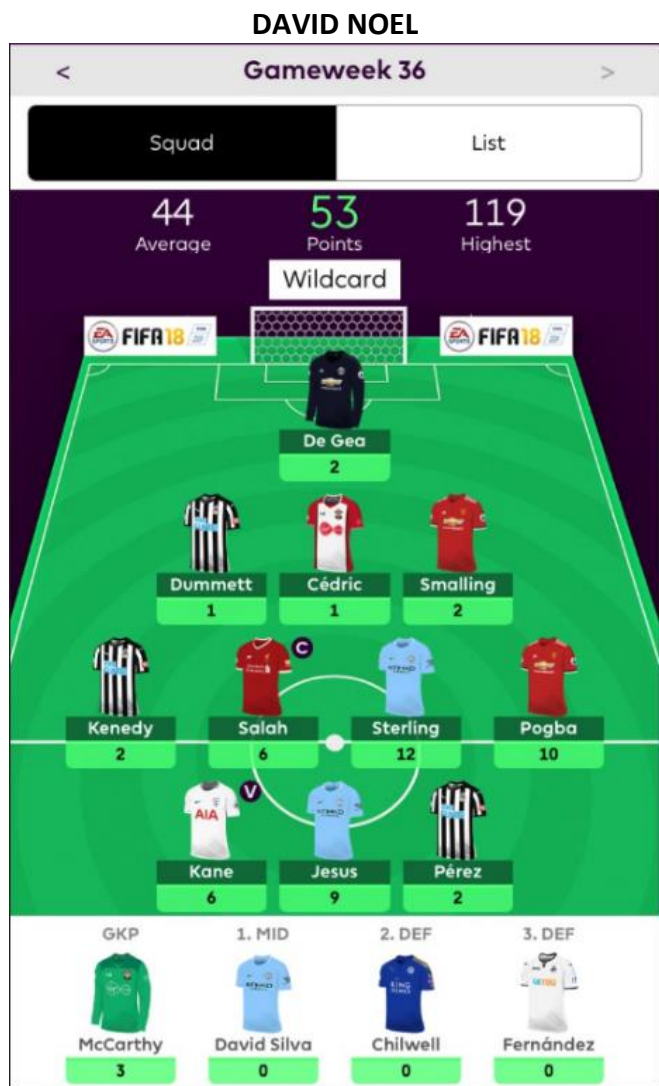
Gameweeks 25 / 29 / 33/



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FC Expert Match Analysis

As usual we gave the FC Expert the two manager's teams from the Gameweek before the final.



STAT ATTACK

53	SCORE	40
6	CAPTAIN	12
6	DEFENCE	17
30	MIDFIELD	18
17	ATTACK	5
Wildcard Played	TRANSFERS	0
3-4-3	FORMATION	3-4-3
Bench Boost	CHIPS LEFT	

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FC Expert Match Analysis

THE ANALYSIS

It is now the third season that the FA Premier League Fantasy game has employed the Chips there is no doubt the chips have had a major effect in all of the Fantasy Challenge Cup finals. Many Managers have stored their chips for such key moments in the season like cup finals and today's contest is no different and with one manager having a Chip left once again they will come into play.

This season as I take a look at the two managers team from Gameweek 36 I am going to structure the analysis a little differently. Going through the key components of each manager's team. As you can see from above if the two teams had met in Gameweek 36 David Noel would have come out on top 53-40.

DEFENCE

Scott Smith

(De Gea, Lowton, Chillwell, Azpilicueta – On the Bench Ryan, Dunk, Alonso)

A decent return from Scott's defence with two of the four players gaining a clean sheet. But the overall score being let down by De Gea just 2 points and Chillwell of Leicester suffering from the 5-0 drubbing by Crystal Palace. What is interesting Scott had 16 points on his bench from Dunk and Ryan, so he did not select the best defensive unit for this gameweek.

David Noel

(De Gea, Dummett, Cedric, Smalling – On the Bench McCarthy, Chilwell, Fernandez)

No Clean sheets a very poor return for Noel from his defence in fact only two of the four defenders scoring 2 points. Unlike Scott Noel would not have been looking at his bench and wishing he had made significant changes. McCarthy his substitute goalkeeper would have added an extra point if he had been selected.

Comparison

Both managers deployed a back 3 in Gameweek 36. Interestingly there is lots of differences between the two defences with only De Gea & Chillwell being in both teams. Interestingly Scott's defence outscored Noel's and he had not selected the correct defence for this gameweek. Does this point to him have better options or simply it worked out on that Gameweek.

For The Final

Whilst Scott's bench scored heavily in Gameweek 36 I do not see major changes, in fact I only really see him bringing in Alonso for Chillwell, Alonso who didn't score in gameweek 36. The Brighton defenders in the bench Ryan (Goalkeeper) and Dunk will face both Manchester clubs at home to United then away to City doubtful Scott will risk them with those fixtures. I feel he is sure to play De Gea, who will have two away games Brighton and West Ham in recent weeks you would have say a good chance of two clean sheets. Alonso and Azpilicueta of Chelsea who face a tough fixture at home to Liverpool which is one of those really difficult ones to read as surely Liverpool will want to rest players but 4th spot is still up for grabs if Chelsea were to win so can Liverpool afford to rest players. Chelsea's second fixture of the gameweek is at home to Huddersfield you would think a clean sheet banker with Scott hoping that Alonso could pop up with a goal in this match. So far the defence picks itself now is the real decision does he take Lowton over Chillwell. Lowton's Burnley only have the one fixture away to Arsenal Arsene Wenger's last fixture and as I write this we do not know if Arsenal have made the Europa League Final, this could have a massive affect in what decision Scott makes. Chillwell for Leicester have two fixtures which could make his mind up. A home game to West Ham which on paper looks like a clean sheet but West Ham are now desperate for points to stay up then they go to Arsenal on Wednesday evening once more that Europa League Semi-Final which will take place tonight will have a significant impact on this decision. If Arsenal lose surely Arsenal's players will want to win their last league games for their departing manager if they manage to win the semi-final surely players are going to be rested. Decision time for Scott.

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FC Expert Match Analysis

For Noel it is simple he has that Bench boost I think all of his defence will play. Noel will be looking at this and hoping for big points two player form Manchester United De Gea and Smalling whilst they are away for two matches opponents Brighton and West Ham surely United can negotiate these with clean sheets. Southampton also provide two players in the bench boosted defence goalkeeper McCarthy and Cedric, Saints fighting relegation have two away fixtures at Everton then fellow relegation strugglers Swansea would not like to bet on clean sheets in these two fixtures. He has Chillwell of Leicester who fixtures we have mentioned in the Soctt's defence and Swansea's Fernandez, Fernandez currently has a 75% chance of playing, Swansea are away to Bournemouth then have that 6-point relegation battle against Southampton. That leaves one defender Dummett of Newcastle who are away to Watford, who seem to be on the beach, then Tottenham. Noel will look at the fixtures his defence has and see many difficult ones but he will love the fact that with his bench boost he has 7 players taking the field and all have two fixtures so will be hoping for a decent return from this part of his team.

MIDFIELD

Scott Smith

(Willian, Mahrez, Son, Eriksen – On the Bench Gross)

A bad week for Scott's midfield they cannot afford to be so bad in the final. Only Eriksen did something with an assist. The rest of the midfield scored 6 points between them what Eriksen scored on his own. Gross on the bench only bagged 3 himself so not a great option from the bench.

David Noel

(Kennedy (Automatic Substitute), Salah, Sterling, Pogba – On the Bench David Silva (Was selected but automatically Substituted.))

This was the area that if the final had been played in Gameweek 36 scoring heavier than his final opponent. Sterling hitting 12 points and Pogba hitting 10. He also has the player of the season Salah although he only bagged 3 points maybe his focus is now on the Champions League. Noel actually selected David Silva but he didn't play so Kennedy came off the bench for 2 points.

Comparison

What I absolutely love about this is the fact that there is not one player that both manager have in midfield. Both managers are playing 4 across midfield an area which is proving key in these fixtures. At first glance Noel's midfield seems so much stronger with two of the big hitters this season Salah and Sterling the top two scoring midfielders but if you look down the list Scott's has Eriksen and Mahrez who are 4th and 5th respectively on the list and Son who is 6th.

For The Final

Without taking into account transfers I do not see Scott changing his 4 that were selected in Gameweek 36 the good news is that they all play twice. Looking at the fixtures Willian, one tough fixture against Liverpool, we have already addressed the top 4 question, but then Huddersfield at home you would expect a Chelsea victory. He will then be looking at his Tottenham duo Son and Eriksen who have what look like two winnable fixtures away to the much-improved West Bromwich Albion and then at home to the now safe Newcastle United. Noel once again is smiling and looking at his bench boost his whole midfield will be playing and all have two fixtures. He will be hoping that David Silva plays now as alongside Sterling City's fixtures look they could be a source of many points and Pogba 's two fixtures also look like they could be very profitable one for Noel.

What of the decisions for the two managers for Scott it looks like he really has to cover Sterling and Pogba somehow. He has two free transfers and this is where I thin he has to use one. He should be confident in Eriksen and Son but I would suggest purchasing of Sterling to negate his points scoring ability in this final or maybe Sane in the hope that the young German outscores the young Englishman, would be brave but could sway this final as he is already up against that Bench Boost. For Noel there is one decision to make and at the outset it looks like a controversial one, Salah only has one fixture

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this gameweek and with Liverpool in the Champions League final I would suggest that he should cash in on Salah and bring in Eriksen to counter his opponents current biggest threat in midfield.

ATTACK

Scott Smith

(Wood, Vardy, Lukaku)

An appalling week up front for Scott, highest score of 2 points, Vardy's Leicester suffering that hammering from Crystal Palace and Lukaku getting injured and being substituted on 49 minutes in his game. Wood also gaining an injury and not being able to play the full 90 minutes.

David Noel

(Kane, Jesus, Perez)

Oh, how Noel will be hoping that this final was played in Gameweek 36 his forward line outscoring Scott's by just over three times. Jesus scoring and gaining 3 bonus points hitting 9 points, Harry Kane getting back on the scoresheet to hot 6 the only forward who did not perform was Perez with just 2 points.

Comparison

Completely different line-ups which once more makes this final a very interesting one. Noel has Kane the highest scoring forward so far this season and has Jesus who is now playing for City who seem to be enjoying already being crowned and are going after the records with real vigour. Scott's forward line were completely outplayed in Gameweek 36 but he has two of the top five points scorers this season in Lukaku and Jamie Vardy. Both have a budget forward Noel with Perez who has had a decent run recently and Scott with Burnley's Wood who picked up that injury.

For The Final

Once more it looks like it is all for Scott to do here and he will be worried as two of his front three have a 75% chance of playing. As we have mentioned in the analysis of the Midfield he must make a change here to compete he has two transfers and it is looking increasingly likely that he actually has to cash in on Lukaku to make that change in midfield and potentially he could bring in Jesus to once again negate one of Noel's players but with Noel having that Bench boost and if he keeps negating players of his opponent does he enough elsewhere to pick up the points to win this final. Noel I think will be happy with his forward line both Manchester City and Tottenham look like they have two fixtures where they can score goals Perez is there to make up the numbers and hopefully add to the points total.

CAPTAIN

Scott Smith

(Eriksen)

Scott didn't quite get this selection correct picking one of two players who were the second highest scorers for his team in this gameweek. It was actually Chelsea defender Azpilcueta who scored 9 points who should have been captain which would have given the team an extra 6 points.

David Noel

(Salah)

At times as I write this analysis it seems that this was Noel's only poor decision in Gameweek 36 Salah being outscored by four other players in his team worryingly 3 of them actually outscored Salah after his point had been doubled with the 4th player equalling his doubled tally of 6. Those players Kane 6 points, Jesus 9 points, Pogba 10 points and Sterling 12 points. If Noel had selected Sterling as captain the team would have gained an extra 18 points.

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Comparison

In gameweek 36 this looks very worrying for Scott as not only did he not select the correct captain but there were not lots of other options Scott may well point to it just being a poor gameweek. As for Noel he got it horribly wrong but he had loads of other options to really benefit from the doubled captain points.

For The Final

Looking at Gameweek 36 it does not look good for Scott, that said he will be expecting much more from many of his players he will point to the rest of the season where Mahrez and Vardy have scored well that unfortunate injury for Lukaku and Willian can pop up with goals. he will feel he has options. As we have mentioned though these options could well change as he has two free transfers once more the he has to think about the question does he guess what Noel is going to do and match it. Noel on the other hand will feel he has many options but I think when he looks closely at the two fixtures Manchester City have and the fact they are trying desperately to break the goalscoring record and gain 100 points home matches against Huddersfield and Brighton surely Noel is going to pick one from Sterling, David Silva and Jesus.

THAT IS INTERESTING

So apart from all the above what are the other interesting decisions that the two managers have already made or are going to make in this final. I am going to start with David Noel and a decision he has already made a very interesting one, he chose to play his last wildcard in Gameweek 36 why gameweek 36 and not for the actual week of the final well he still has his Bench Boost, you can't play two chips in one gameweek. Noel obviously took his time on his wildcard making a staggering 20 transfers over 6 days from Sunday April 22nd right up to the transfer deadline on Saturday 28th April his last transfers being times at 11:24 just 6 minutes before the deadline. It looks like Noel has had an eye on this final for a while even though he is chasing promotion also. In those 20 transfers he brought player in and then moved them out obviously looking at the money and using all resources available to him. This decision from Noel as I have already mentioned means that he has his Bench Boost available for the final and added to that he played the wildcard wisely with only one of his 15 players only playing once. For Scott he made the decision to not make any transfers in Gameweek 36 which meant he has two free transfers for the final All these decisions show the two managers were already giving a lot of thought to this final in Gameweek 36.

After doing the analysis of the two teams in Gameweek 36 it is clear that David Noel would come out on top if the final had been played in this Gameweek, his Midfield and forward line completely dominating the gameweek. Giving the impression that Noel will be the favourite for the final.

As the years have taught us though cup finals are about match play which is about options so read on to see if the verdict is that easy to predict.

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THE CHIP EFFECT

CHIP	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

Friday 4th May

Brighton V Manchester United

Saturday 5th May

Stoke City V Crystal Palace

Bournemouth V Swansea City

Leicester City V West Ham United

Watford V Newcastle United

West Bromwich Albion V Tottenham Hotspur

Everton V Southampton

Sunday 6th May

Manchester City V Huddersfield

Arsenal V Burnley

Chelsea V Liverpool

Tuesday 8th May

Swansea City V Southampton

Wednesday 9th May

Chelsea V Huddersfield

Leicester City V Arsenal

Manchester City V Brighton

Tottenham Hotspur V Newcastle United

Thursday 10th May

West Ham United V Manchester United

THE FC WORLD

FC Expert Match Analysis

THE VERDICT

You probably get tired of reading but yes again I am going to say that this final comes down to the amount options available to the two managers. If you read the analysis of the two managers selections and decision making in Gamweek 36 it is obvious that we are dealing with two highly talented managers who have already been making decisions for this final. What has become apparent though is that Noel had more resources at his disposal with that Wildcard and still having his Bench Boost for me has given him the bet options in this final.

The final will be played in a mammoth Gamweek which will have 16 fixtures Noel has ensured that not only does he have that bench boost that of the 15 players who can play this final 14 of them have two fixtures in which to amass points. Scott Smith does not have the luxury of a Bench Boost so will have to select 11 players in his current squad of 15, 13 of them have two fixtures so not a big disadvantage against Noel he can field 11 players that will have 2 fixtures each.

Normally at this point I look at Captain options as this is often a key factor in any final, strangely for Noel I do not feel the captain pick is that important has e has many options and as stated in the analysis I am sure he will pick one of his three Manchester City players. Even if he doesn't get it right his bench boost should cover this.

What about the transfer options for the two managers as already mentioned it might sound radical but I can see Noel cashing in on Liverpool's Salah and going for Eriksen or Son (As his opponent has both) or maybe Deli Alli of Tottenham to then ensure that everyone of his players are playing twice and at the same time negating Scott's biggest threat in his current squad.

You may have noticed that when I spoke about captain picks I did not talk about Scott's options as I feel his captain pick will be made in tandem with his transfers. Scott has managed to save two transfers for the final but he has two injured players Wood and Lukaku both currently showing a 75% chance of playing. Scott has a big decision to make in the transfer market. I can't get away from the thought that he has to get Manchester City players in and probably make them captain also. There is a scenario where if he was to cash in on Lukaku he could bring in Sterling and Jesus which will negate their points in this match he could also try and guess what captain Noel will play and negate those points as well.

They say fortune favours the brave Scott does have the option to go for a different Manchester City player in the hope that he can score more points and potentially nick this final he has to find the points to negate that bench boost.

It is a final where all the best options appear to be with Noel but Smith is currently top of the FC Overall League and was the first manager to be promoted and claim his super20 league championship this season. He has already finished in the top five of the FC Overall league in his two completed seasons in the game and has a Pyramid One Championship to his name and promotion from Pyramid Premier last season, you count out a manager with that kind of pedigree at your peril.

Also these two manager s have already met once this season in Gamweek 19 where Soctt Smith ran out a comfortable winner over David Noel 90-70.

. **THE VERDICT** David Noel to win this final by saving that Bench Boost and the options up front and Midfield I just feel he has the better options and ultimately that will see him prevail.

HOW GOOD IS THAT VERDICT?

After two seasons of not getting the predictions correct the FC Expert returned to successful prediction last season. That prediction saw the FC Experts FC Cup Final percentage raise from 75% to 77.78%. The FC Expert has now predicted correctly 7 out of 9 FC Cup finals.

THE FC WORLD

History

PREVIOUS FINALS

2004	Paul Dwinfour	51	-	42	Paul Kelly
2005	Steve Shew	84	-	40	Ian Philp
2006	Ian Philp	95	-	74	Rob Gurney
2007	Rob Gurney	98	-	93	Steve Shew
2008	Cedric Ayres	70	-	68	Andy Gurney
2009	Glen Hogwood	57	-	53	Chad Pereira
2010	Sandeep Chohan	80	-	67	Omid Afzalalghom
2011	Charlie Thrussell	60	-	53	Joe Hatch
2012	Steve Shew	61	-	55	Barry Edwards
2013	Dave Perrett	44	-	36	Sebastian Logan
2014	Hans Hayrynen	99	-	83	Benjamin Alexander
2015	James Dwinfour	55	-	42	Michael Lynn
2016	Bill Hill	73	-	68	Daragh Prendergast
2017	Omid Afzalalghom	149	-	149	Daniel Sherry
REPLAY	Omid Afzalalghom	104	-	82	Daniel Sherry

WINNERS

Steve Shew	2
Bill Hill	1
Cedric Ayres	1
Charlie Thrussell	1
Dave Perrett	1
Glen Hogwood	1
Hans Hayrynen	1
Ian Philp	1
James Dwinfour	1
Omid Afzalalghom	1
Paul Dwinfour	1
Rob Gurney	1
Sandeep Chohan	1

FINALISTS

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

SEMI-FINALISTS

Glen Hogwood	3	Bill Hill	1	James Dwinfour	1	Paul Kelly	1
Rob Gurney	3	Cedric Ayres	1	James Watson	1	Richard Munroe	1
Steve Shew	3	Chad Pereira	1	Jeff Aldersea	1	Rob Lynn	1
Omid Afzalalghom	3	Charlie Thrussell	1	Jim Burrows	1	Scott Smith	1
Ben Alexander	2	Daniel Sherry	1	Joe Hatch	1	Sebastian Logan	1
Ian Philp	2	Daniel Silcock	1	Kelvin Walker	1	Steve Haley	1
James O'Leary	2	Daragh Prendergast	1	Lee Pepper	1	Steve Martin	1
Jean-Pierre Clegg	2	Dave Perrett	1	Martin Trew	1		
Michael Lynn	2	David Curran	1	Matt Hansell	1		
Sandeep Chohan	2	David Noel	1	Michael Carleton	1		
Andreas Themistocleous	1	Hakan Bedir	1	Nigel Rose	1		
Andy Gurney	1	Hans Hayrynen	1	Paul Cullen	1		
Barry Edwards	1	Harrison Bath	1	Paul Dwinfour	1		

THE FC WORLD

A YEAR ON FROM THE GREATEST FINAL EVER

You can't preview the 2018 final without looking back at last seasons final in fact last seasons competition. The FC World focused on the whole competition last season producing match reports for featured matches in each round and for the first time ever a minute by minute report was produced for the final. No one realised what was to happen next. The 2017 final broke all records it was the highest scoring final by a whopping 107 points, it was the first where a manager had scored over 100 points to make it even better it was the first final that both managers had scored over 100 points. It was the first final to go to a replay after a 149 all draw. The replay was 3rd highest scoring final after the first match and the winning manager once again scored over 100 points. The 2017 final will be one that will live on in the memories of the FC World forever.

A season on from that final we take look at how the two managers have fared since.

Omid Afzalghom

The victorious manager in that amazing final. For Omid the victory was his 3rd major trophy and in such a magnificent final cemented his name at the very top of the FC World. Omid was known as the only manager to have won the Champions League Twice, he was also only one of two managers to be ever present in the top league of the super230 leagues a Premier league manager for 11 seasons, this season being his 12th. More remarkably he was the only manager who had qualified for the Super20 Cup every season meaning he had finished in the top 8 of the Premier League every season, a phenomenal achievement. A fantastic history in the game but a season on from that amazing Final it has gone horribly wrong for Omid. Finishing 4th in his Champions League group and getting knocked out in the 2nd Round of the FC Cup to one of today's finalists David Noel. The real disaster though is that Omid has been relegated from the Premier League.

Daniel Sherry

Last seasons final was a hell of a way to announce your arrival in the FC World as it was Sherry's rookie season. Taking on Omid in that final with all of his history and standing in the game. Many said after that final what ever Sherry goes on to do he will have played part in the greatest final ever and one which will be remembered for ever. Sherry secured promotion from Pyramid Two last season alongside the FC Cup final appearance finishing as runner-up. So, what of Sherry's second season in the FC World. Sherry has pushed on although he could not repeat the FC Cup success as he went out in the qualifying round to Steve 'Shewy' Shew the premier league manager also the only manager to have won the FC Cup twice. He finished 3rd in his Pyramid Cup group qualifying for the New Life Cup and has once again gone on a cup run in that competition going onto the Semi-Final just missing out on a second major final. Sherry has secured promotion from Pyramid One a successive promotion so Sherry has galvanised the memory of last seasons FC Cup Final where he mixed it with the very best in the FC World and has added a great second season to a fantastic rookie season and has become a manager that everyone within the FC World is watching.

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-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.