

**FANTASY CHALLENGE
NEW LIFE CUP
FINAL
2018**



Peter
WARD

VERSUS

Dan
JOPP

5th Final

GAMEWEEK 38 (13th May)

OFFICIAL FC MATCH PREVIEW

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INTRODUCTION

The newest cup competition in the history of the FC World the New Life Cup is now in its 5th final and will be looking at the Pyramid Cup which this season hits its 10th Anniversary will see how that competition has grown in stature and is a competition of real significance.

The New Life cup is gaining that reputation and a final like this season shows its real strength as we have representatives from both of the competitions Champions League and the Pyramid Cup.

Also, this final show the differing histories of managers todays final sees two managers with completely different histories Peter Ward is in his rookie season competing in Pyramid Two faces Dan Jopp who is in his 7th season and is a League 1 manager.

Jopp will be in the Championship next season but this final is his first ever major final and gives him a chance of winning his first ever major trophy.

Peter Ward is fighting for promotion from Pyramid Two this is his chance to win a major trophy in his rookie season.

Dan Jopp came from the Champions League competition might feel the pressure as so far in the history of the competition the Champions League has been the dominant competition. The Champions League has provided 6 out of the 8 finalists in this competition and they have come out winners on 3 occasions.

Peter Ward is representing the Pyramid Cup managers and will be hoping to gain the second success for the Pyramid Cup.

Having managers from the two competition helps with the stature of the New Life Cup. The Fc World always takes an interest to see how the managers from the two competitions fare as often the Pyramid Cup has the new stars in it but those rising stars normally are doing well in the Pyramid Cup. You wonder if there is the same depth of strength in the competition with the managers who finish 3rd in the two competitions group phase qualifying for this competition.

The second Round sees all the Champions League managers take on all the Pyramid Cup managers maybe a statistic to look at to see who has come out on top in these 5 seasons. Like all of our competitions the main focus is the final.

Today will be no different with the experience of these two managers so contrasting but both in with a chance of winning a major trophy and taking their place at the very top of the FC World.

As I have done previously in the introduction to the New Life Cup preview I will make mention of Thomas Lusty (Former Premier League manager now in League One) joking one evening that the FC World needed a Europa League competition for the managers that got knocked out of the Champions League. After the re-structuring of the game with the increased entrance fee and Prize it was great to introduce such a competition for Champions League managers and Pyramid Cup managers that did not get out of the Group Stage.

The competition is named after the Sunday Football team that Fantasy Challenge has been sponsoring New Life United. As chairman of New Life United there is an update on the club at the end of this preview.

I hope you enjoy this preview of the Fourth New Life Cup Final.

I of course wish both Managers all the best in this final.

Paul Richardson

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PLAYER PROFILES

Peter WARD

Joined Fantasy Challenge
Career Honours

2018

STAT ATTACK

(After Gameweek 36)

THIS SEASON

AVERAGE GAMEWEEK SCORE	57.21
HIGHEST GAMEWEEK SCORE	88
LOWEST GAMEWEEK SCORE	30
GAMEWEEKS SCORE OVER 49	28
GAMEWEEKS SCORE UNDER 50	9
COMPETITION AVERAGE	57.12

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE HISTORY

No History

PYRAMID CUP HISTORY

No History

NEW LIFE CUP

No History

ROAD TO THE FINAL

PYRAMID CUP

1st Round Group Stage

Group E

Karman Bansi	32	-	53
Harrison Bath	51	-	43
Kyle Berry	56	-	41
Davbid Dinh	66	-	57
Karman Bansi	55	-	56
Harrison Bath	55	-	66
Kyle Berry	30	-	46
Davbid Dinh	58	-	39

FINAL TABLE

POS	TEAM	PLD	WON	DRW	LST	FOR	AGST	+/-	PTS
1	Karman Bansi	8	5	0	3	423	365	58	15
2	Kyle Berry	8	4	1	3	394	390	4	13
3	Peter Ward	8	4	0	4	403	401	2	12
4	Harrison Bath	8	3	1	4	393	420	-27	10
5	David Dinh	8	3	0	5	397	434	-37	9

NEW LIFE CUP

		1 st Leg			2 nd Leg			Aggregate		
1 st Round	Alistair Shields	61	-	51	68	-	39	129	-	90
2 nd Round	Nick Balancy	88	-	77	72	-	67	160	-	144
Quarter-Final	Neil Williams	51	-	60	71	-	31	122	-	91
Semi-Final	Daniel Sherry	31	-	27	69	-	58	100	-	85

PROFILE

A rookie season to remember. A decent showing in the FC Overall League, Ward is lying 37th currently. In the FC Cup Ward went into the qualifying round and survived a replay but went out in the 1st Round. In Pyramid Two Ward is currently 6th one place outside of the promotion places he is on the same points as 5th he has final fixture against Champions Ian Baldwin who is in the Pyramid Cup final to try and secure promotion. He finished 3rd in his Pyramid Cup group to qualify and then put on a run to this final and have a chance of winning a major trophy in his rookie season.

Dan JOPP

Joined Fantasy Challenge
Career Honours

2012
2012 Pyramid Two Lucky Promotion
2013 Pyramid One Promotion Runner-Up
2014 Pyramid Premier Champion
2015 Conference Promoted Runner-Up
2017 League Two Promoted 3rd

STAT ATTACK

(After Gameweek 36)

THIS SEASON

AVERAGE GAMEWEEK SCORE	58.27
HIGHEST GAMEWEEK SCORE	100
LOWEST GAMEWEEK SCORE	24
GAMEWEEKS SCORE OVER 49	24
GAMEWEEKS SCORE UNDER 50	13
COMPETITION AVERAGE	59.22

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE HISTORY

2016 2nd Round
2017 Group Stage

PYRAMID CUP HISTORY

2012 2nd Round
2013 Group Stage
2014 Quarter-Final
2015 Semi-Final

NEW LIFE CUP

2017 1st Round

ROAD TO THE FINAL

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

1st Round Group Stage

Group J

Clifford Delaney	32	-	45
Andy Gurney	49	-	36
James Bloomer	47	-	45
Jeff Aldersea	60	-	48
Graham Price	69	-	52
Clifford Delaney	60	-	65
Andy Gurney	47	-	36
James Bloomer	45	-	67
Jeff Aldersea	61	-	46
Graham Price	50	-	53

FINAL TABLE

POS	TEAM	PLD	WON	DRW	LST	FOR	AGST	+/-	PTS
1	Clifford Delaney	10	7	1	2	566	494	72	22
2	James Bloomer	10	6	0	4	520	472	48	18
3	Dan Jopp	10	6	0	4	520	493	27	18
4	Graham Price	10	4	1	5	497	549	-52	13
5	Jeff Aldersea	10	4	0	6	499	522	-23	12
6	Andy Gurney	10	2	0	8	467	539	-72	6

NEW LIFE CUP

		1 st Leg		2 nd Leg		Aggregate				
1 st Round	Danzel D'Costa	80	-	64	55	-	55	135	-	119
2 nd Round	Paul Dwinfour	81	-	75	48	-	47	129	-	122
Quarter-Final	David Noel	99	-	87	60	-	51	159	-	138
Semi-Final	Mark Angliss	55	-	50	68	-	42	123	-	92

PROFILE

Seven seasons in the game you can see Dan Jopp's class he has 4 promotions to his name and a lucky Promotion. He actually has 5 promotions as he has secured promotion from League One this season. He has gone from Pyramid Two to the Championship in 7 seasons. This might be his first major final, he has had a couple of good cup runs. Getting to the Quarterfinal and Semi-Final of the Pyramid Cup in 2014 and 2015 respectively. Interesting as he is now representing the Champions League in this final. Last season he was knocked out in the 1st Round of the New Life Cup can he go all the way this season and claim that first major trophy.



FC EXPERT MATCH ANALYSIS

We asked the Fantasy Challenge Expert to give us his thoughts on the New Life Cup Final. We have managed to give the FC Expert the two team line-ups from Gameweek 37.

Peter WARD

Dan JOPP



STAT ATTACK

61
16
25
21
23
3 (-8 Points)
3-4-3

Bench Boost

NONE

SCORE
CAPTAIN
DEFENCE
MIDFIELD
ATTACK
TRANSFERS
FORMATION
CHIP PLAYED

CHIPS LEFT

65
9
26
23
16
2
3-4-3

Triple Captain

NONE

THE ANALYSIS

The gameweek had an incredible 15 fixtures so it is difficult to compare to what is going to happen in this final but it does allow me to take a look at the two sides in actions.

Important to mention that neither manager has any chips left to play in this final.

DEFENCE

Peter Ward

(De Gea, Ward, Laporte Rudiger – Bench Boost Played: - Pope, Lejeune, Robertson)

25 points with the bench boost but looking at the defenders selected Ward scoring a blank and Laporte only gaining two points is of a concern.

Dan Jopp

(Ederson, Alonso, Lowton, Fernandez – On the Bench : - Ryan, Kiko Ferrenia, Monreal)

Alonso saved the defence with a goal which took him to 15 points. Ederson scoring 8 points also contributing to a decent total from the defence 26 points. Interestingly though that goalkeeper Ryan of Brighton on the bench scored 10 points so outscored Ederson.

Comparison

Completely different defences not even one player the same. Without the bench boost Peter Ward's defence would have struggled in this match.

For The Final

Ward has to look at his defence and has questions does Laporte and Robertson play in this final gameweek. Liverpool chasing the Champions League qualification but also have the final Clyne would be more than capable of coming in for Robertson if Klopp was to rest him for the final. Do we know who Guardiola will play in defence for the last match. Jopp will look at the return from Gameweek 37 and be hoping for something similar in Gameweek 38. The only potential change could see Monreal come in.

MIDFIELD

Peter Ward

(Pogba, Alli, Willian, Kenedy – Bench Boost Played: - Zaha)

21 points from a full midfield in such a big gameweek I think Ward would have expected more.

Dan Jopp

(Sterling (Captain), Arnautovic, Salah, Zaha – On the Bench: - Gudmundsson)

Sterling was a big disappointment not playing second game but that will be covered in Captain section. Arnautovic weighed in with 8 points and Zaha gaining an assist put 5 on the board Salah was looking tired with just 1 point. Not the best return in such a big gameweek.

Comparison

Both managers have Zaha. Interestingly Ward has Kenedy who can't play in the last gameweek.

For The Final

Ward will be looking to Willian Chelsea have something to play for, Pogba remains an enigma, Alli has not had the best season but does score points and was involved again in the week. Zaha on the bench will surely come into the side. Jopp will be disappointed with Sterling's return but pleased with Arnautovic and will be looking at Salah this will be a big decision if he transfers him out it gives him money to play with but the question is does Salah have one last thing to say in an amazing season for Liverpool. He will stick with Zaha. Will he transfer Kenedy out or gamble on the Salah sale for money.

ATTACK

Peter Ward

(Jesus, Kane (Captain, Rashford))

Kane came up with the goods in the second game but returns of 4 and 3 from Jesus and Rashford would be a worry. More worrying is Jose Mourinho's attitude to Rashford at the moment.

Dan Jopp

(Kane, Jesus, Jordan-Ayew)

As with Ward Kane delivered for Jopp. Jesus was disappointing. But Jopp will be really disappointed with his budget forward Jordan-Ayew it was a massive week for Swansea and you would be hoping he would have found the goals to fire Swansea to safety and points for Jopp that did not materialise.

Comparison

Two players the same Kane and Jesus, both managers will be concerned about their third striker for different reasons. Ward for the Jose factor already mentioned. Jopp worried that Jordan-Ayew has lost form at the wrong time.

For The Final

The third strikers could be the transfers that the two managers need to make for the final gameweek. Ward might be concerned by the press conferences from Jose Mourinho but Lukaku is not available so surely Rashford will play but Jose did put Sanchez down the middle in the last match. Jopp might want to look to see where the changes need to be made in his team Ayew is one he should think about.

CAPTAIN

Peter Ward

(Kane)

16 points only his keeper De Gea would have scored more as captain, Defender Rudiger would have equalled that total. A good captain pick

Dan Jopp

(Sterling Triple Captain)

Sterling has had a great season but this was disappointing he missed the second match and only scored 9 points as a triple captain nothing special in that. Alonso in defence scoring 15 points if he had been captain with triple points would have been massive. Arnautovic or Kane would have given much better value and 15 more points. hit 11 and would have scored 6 more than Kane. The wrong captain selection.

Comparison

Peter Ward came out massively on top in this selection if you consider his captains scored 7 more points and Jopp had played his triple captain chip.

For The Final

Will Ward worry about Manchester United being in the cup final could Jose rest players. Would he risk selecting a defender Chelsea away to Newcastle needing points to gain the Champions league place. Kane and Jesus other potential captains, without discounting Willian and Alli. Jopp could not have got his triple captain's selection more wrong, like his opponent would he gamble on a Chelsea defender Alonso as we know the full-back has a goal in him. If he was captain and scored with a clean sheet would be a fantastic return. He has Kane upfront Jesus also and then Arnautovic and Zaha who are playing free of relegation now. Will Sterling play will Salah play. Many options for Jopp.

THAT IS INTERESTING

Dan Jopp played his triple captain before the final and made 2 transfers both decisions meant that he doesn't have a chip for the final and only one free transfer. With promotion already secured those decision do not make sense with this final coming up.

Peter Ward played his bench boost but didn't have a match in Pyramid Two this week with promotion still in the balance another decision that does not make much sense he also made 3 transfers meaning that he also no longer has a chip for the final and only has 1 free transfer.

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 13th May

Burnley	V	AFC Bournemouth
Crystal Palace	V	West Bromwich Albion
Huddersfield Town	V	Arsenal
Liverpool	V	Brighton & Hove Albion
Manchester United	V	Watford
Newcastle United	V	Chelsea
Southampton	V	Manchester City
Tottenham Hotspur	V	Leicester City
Swansea	V	Stoke City
West Ham United	V	Everton

THE VERDICT

After typing "That is Interetsing" I am really questioning these two managers decisions before this final. Both had the potential of leaving a chip for this final which could well have swung the match there way and helped them claim a major trophy.

Looking at last gameweeks decisions Peter Wards Bench boost gave him an extra 11 points whilst Dan Jopp's triple captain only gained him an extra 3 points.

What of the options surely Ward has to either transfer out Kenedy or just replace with Zaha leaving the transfer option to be used elsewhere in the team. Options for captain I would stay away from the Manchester United players and be looking at Kane, Jesus, Alli or gamble on Rudiger at the back.

Jopp needs to bring in a defender or cash in on Salah and look to potentially neutralise Willian or Alli from his opponent's team or go big and bring a Sane from Manchester City and say City are going to sign off in style. Or should he address the Jordan-Ayew lack of points up front.

Then there is that captain pick Alonso, Arnautovic, Sterling, Jesus or Kane are the many options for him.

Final Verdict: - Dan Jopp to show his experience make that transfer bringing in Sane and make him captain and watch his midfield take this final for him. Although Ward could also bring in Sane and neutralise that, could be a very close and interesting final. Dan Jopp victory.

HISTORY

PREVIOUS FINALS

2014	Steve Haley	62 – 50	Dan Smith
2015	Hakan Bedir	53 – 44	Andrew Burchell
2016	Jonathan Strack	42 – 33	Steve Shew
2017	Kin Chau	110 – 74	Jonathan Strack

WINNERS

Hakan Bedir	1
Jonathan Strack	1
Kin Chau	1
Steve Haley	1

FINALISTS

Jonathan Strack	2	Kin Chau	1
Andrew Burchell	1	Peter Ward	1
Dan Jopp	1	Steve Haley	1
Dan Smith	1	Steve Shew	1
Hakan Bedir	1		

WHAT COMPETITION DID THEY COME FROM?

WINNERS

Champions League	3
Pyramid Cup	1

RUNNER-UP

Champions League	3
Pyramid Cup	1

Just when the competition was looking like it had complete dominance from Champions League managers a manager from the Pyramid Cup won last season. The first victory for a manager from the Pyramid Cup.

This season we have a manager's from both of the competitions that feed the New Life Cup. So can the Pyramid Cup close the gap on the Champions League.

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 scorer's in the two teams cannot produce a result sudden death will take place with the next highest point scorers being next.



NEW LIFE UNITED FC UPDATE



Last season it was a very brief update on New Life United as the club suffered our first ever relegation from the top league.

Unfortunately, a year on it is not great news the club struggled to keep hold of players and bring in new players the turnover was too high and after struggling to field teams for matches and a poor sign up rate in the summer the decision was made to drop out of the league and fold New Life United.

The bank account still exists but currently the club is not active.

The club had very quick success unfortunately the downfall was as fast.

We will remember the great victories and at Fantasy Challenge be grateful for the use of its name for this cup competition.

Ultimately to ruin a Sunday team takes a lot of dedication and time and this is something that as Chairman I was unable to give our manager Nicky Balancy did an amazing job and probably got an extra season for the club just through his own sheer determination.

I would like to take this chance to thank Nicky for his hard work and will never forget his drive and determination and dedication to New Life United, if other had half of his dedication the club would not only still be running but would be competing in the top division.