

**FANTASY CHALLENGE**  
**NEW LIFE CUP**  
**FINAL**  
**2021**



**Kin**  
**CHAU**

VERSUS

**Steven**  
**McINTOSH**

*8<sup>th</sup> Final*

GAMEWEEK 38 (23<sup>rd</sup> May)

OFFICIAL FC MATCH PREVIEW

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# INTRODUCTION

They say time flies when you are having fun, well maybe we all are in the FC World, the proof I hear you ask, can you believe that we are in the 8<sup>th</sup> season of the Fantasy Challenge newest coemption the New Life Cup.

Once more 180 managers registered for Fantasy Challenge seeing a full Pyramid Three League and full Champions League and Pyramid Cup competitions. The two cup competitions which feed this great cup competition.

Once more we extend thanks to Thomas Lusty, relegated from League Two (Mention Tom as a friend he keeps getting relegated and nice to document it. 😊), joking one evening that the FC World needed a Europa League competition for the managers that got knocked out of the Champions League. The expansion of the game has helped make the New Life Cup a coveted major trophy and welcome competition to the FC World.

The New Life Cup starts with the managers who finish 3<sup>rd</sup> in their groups in the Champions League and Pyramid Cup. The second Round sees all the Champions League managers take on all the Pyramid Cup managers. After that it is an open draw with no seedings.

This season sees the fifth consecutive final where a managers from both competitions have made it to the final

Check out the last page of this preview to see how the two competitions fair against each other on the Cup.

This season our finalist from the Champions League is Steven McIntosh who joined in season 2016 has secured four promotions in five seasons which has catapulted him into the Champions League competition. This final represents McIntosh first chance at winning a major trophy to add to those promotions but as his first major final he has already added to his growing reputation within the FC World.

His opponent Kin Chau joined a season earlier than McIntosh and only has one lucky promotion to his name until this season where he has secured promotion form the Conference. Kin in his five seasons in the game has not had the same meteoric rise as McIntosh but he has claimed a major trophy and is also hoping to create history in this final becoming the only manager to have won the New Life Cup twice.

This final shows what status the New Life Cup now plays in the FC World as with these two finalists who have an established reputation victory could propel them even further into the history of the FC World.

As you may be aware that this competition was named after the Sunday Football team that Fantasy Challenge had sponsored New Life United. Last we broke the news that New Life United had reformed, it has not been an easy ride with the pandemic the update is on the last page.

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

All that is left for me to do is wish both Manages all the best in this final.

*Paul Richardson*

Fantasy Challenge Founder

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# PLAYER PROFILES

## Kin Chau

Joined Fantasy Challenge  
Career Honours

2015  
2017 New Life Cup Winner  
2020 Pyramid Premier 6<sup>th</sup> Lucky Promotion

## STAT ATTACK

(After Gameweek 37)

### THIS SEASON

AVERAGE GAMEWEEK SCORE	63.83
HIGHEST GAMEWEEK SCORE	156
LOWEST GAMEWEEK SCORE	38
GAMEWEEKS SCORE OVER 49	27
GAMEWEEKS SCORE UNDER 50	10
COMPETITION AVERAGE	66.5

### PYRAMID CUP HISTORY

2015	Group Stage
2016	Group Stage
2017	Group Stage
2018	2 <sup>nd</sup> Round
2019	Group Stage
2020	Group Stage
<b>NEW LIFE CUP</b>	
2017	Winner

## ROAD TO THE FINAL

### PYRAMID CUP

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

#### Group J

Joe Rudd	67	-	68
Cameron Wong	52	-	52
Sammy Abbey	56	-	64
Stephen Cullen	58	-	52
Joe Rudd	60	-	46
Cameron Wong	73	-	58
Sammy Abbey	43	-	34
Stephen Cullen	54	-	92

### FINAL TABLE

POS	TEAM	PLD	WON	DRW	LST	FOR	AGST	+/-	PTS
1	Joe Rudd	10	6	0	2	495	427	68	18
2	Cameron Wong	10	4	1	3	455	449	6	13
3	Kin Chau	10	4	1	3	463	466	-3	13
4	Sammy Abbey	10	3	0	5	448	474	-26	9
5	Stephen Cullen	10	2	0	6	429	474	-45	6

### NEW LIFE CUP

		1 <sup>st</sup> Leg		2 <sup>nd</sup> Leg		Aggregate				
1 <sup>st</sup> Round	Michael Carleton	67	-	48	88	-	81	155	-	129
2 <sup>nd</sup> Round	James MacLeod	70	-	43	50	-	50	120	-	93
Quarter-Final	David Mahoney	52	-	45	80	-	71	132	-	116
Semi-Final	Brett Peake	156	-	110	38	-	49	194	-	159

# Steven McIntosh

Joined Fantasy Challenge

Career Honours

2016

2016 Pyramid One Runner-Up Promoted

2018 Conference 5<sup>th</sup> Promoted

2019 League Two Promoted

2020 League One Runner-Up Promoted

## STAT ATTACK

(After Gameweek 37)

### THIS SEASON

AVERAGE GAMEWEEK SCORE	60.81
HIGHEST GAMEWEEK SCORE	119
LOWEST GAMEWEEK SCORE	28
GAMEWEEKS SCORE OVER 49	26
GAMEWEEKS SCORE UNDER 50	11
COMPETITION AVERAGE	

### CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

2019 Group Stage

2020 Group Stage

### PYRAMID CUP

2016 Group Stage

2017 3<sup>rd</sup> Round

2018 Group Stage

### NEW LIFE CUP

2016 2<sup>nd</sup> Round

## ROAD TO THE FINAL

### CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

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

##### Group P

Lee Ferridge	28	-	49
Bill Hill	31	-	30
Dave Hansell	59	-	75
Jim Burrows	78	-	56
Steve Haley	42	-	43
Lee Ferridge	65	-	66
Bill Hill	76	-	36
Dave Hansell	55	-	44
Jim Burrows	47	-	43
Steve Haley	60	-	70

### FINAL TABLE

POS	TEAM	PLD	WON	DRW	LST	FOR	AGST	+/-	PTS
1	Steve Haley	8	10	0	0	640	516	124	30
2	Dave Hansell	8	6	0	4	591	537	54	18
3	Steven McIntosh	8	5	0	5	541	512	29	15
4	Lee Ferridge	8	5	0	5	571	563	8	15
5	Jim Burrows	8	2	0	8	474	560	-86	6
6	Bill Hill	8	2	0	8	448	577	-129	6

### NEW LIFE CUP

		1 <sup>st</sup> Leg		2 <sup>nd</sup> Leg		Aggregate				
1 <sup>st</sup> Round	Craig Lewis	69	-	61	83	-	56	152	-	117
2 <sup>nd</sup> Round	Sam Shew	103	-	53	40	-	65	143	-	118
Quarter-Final	Sam Moffatt	54	-	60	71	-	64	125	-	124
Semi-Final	Glen Hogwood	119	-	86	45	-	41	164	-	127



# FC EXPERT MATCH ANALYSIS

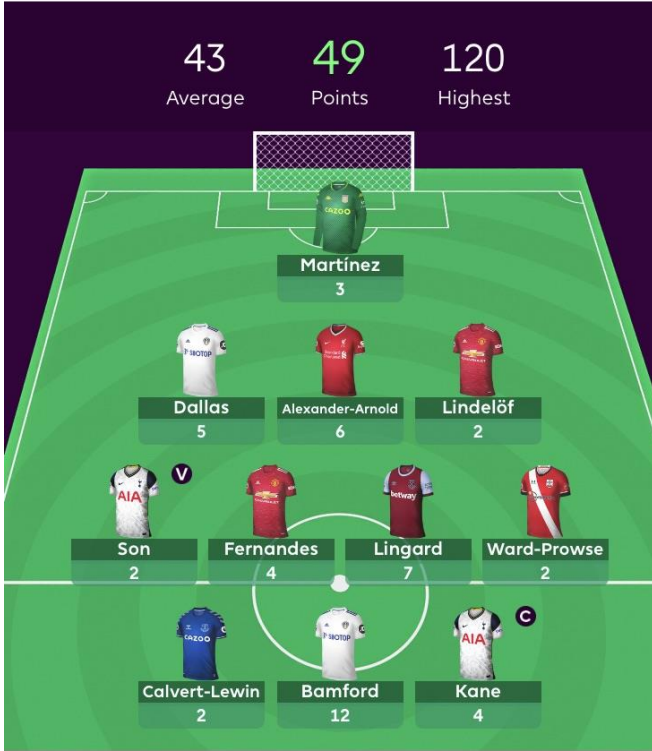
We asked the Fantasy Challenge Expert to give us his thoughts on the New Life Cup Final. We have managed to give the FC Expert the two team line-ups from Gameweek 37.

**KIN CHAU**

**STEVEN MCINTOSH**

< **Gameweek 37** >

Squad List



GKP: Mendy (1)

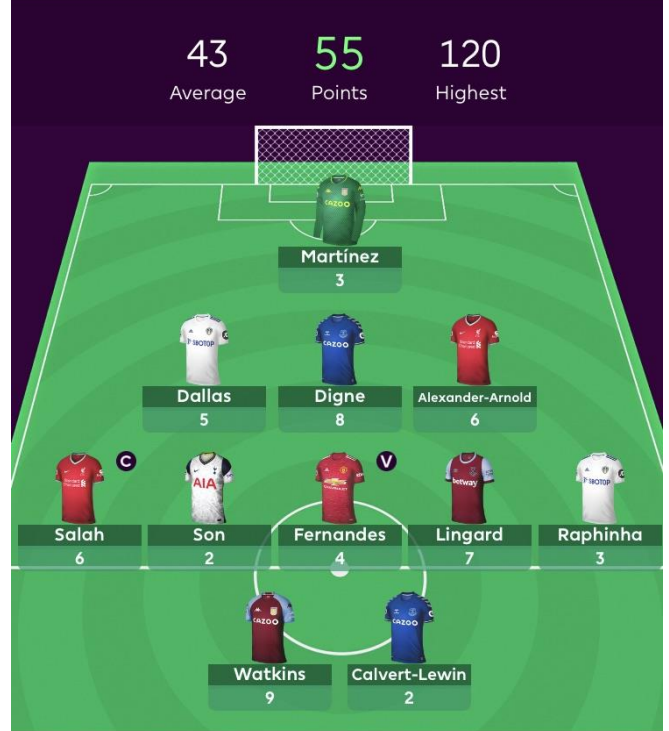
1. DEF: Digne (8)

2. DEF: Christensen (0)

3. MID: Jota (0)

< **Gameweek 37** >

Squad List



GKP: Forster (0)

1. FWD: Iheanacho (6)

2. DEF: Coufal (2)

3. DEF: Konsa (2)

## STAT ATTACK

49	SCORE	51
4	CAPTAIN	6
16	DEFENCE	22
15	MIDFIELD	22
18	ATTACK	11
0	TRANSFERS	2 (-4 Points)
3-4-3	FORMATION	3-5-2
NONE	CHIP PLAYED	NONE
NONE	CHIPS LEFT	BENCH BOOST

Steven McIntosh points adjusted to 51 after deducting 4 points for transfers

# THE ANALYSIS

Onto the final furlong for me this season, hopefully you have read my other Analysis of the Champions League and Pyramid Cup Final now onto this the last final of the season.

Once more due to time constraints I have ditched the full analysis of the entire team. This is also another final where a chip will come into play.

It is interesting to note that these two experienced managers have certainly had an eye on this final with Kin not making any transfers ensuring he has two for this final and Steven McIntosh leaving a chip to be used.

In gameweek 37 Steven McIntosh would have come out on top even after losing 4 points for making extra transfers 51-49.

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

## KIN CHAU

Kane (Tottenham) 4 Points

### COULD HAVE SELECTED

Bamford (Leeds United) 12 Points

Digne (Everton) 8 Points (On Bench)

Lingard (West Ham) 7 Points

Alexander-Arnold (Liverpool) 6 Points

Dallas (Leeds United) 5 Points

## STEVEN MCINTOSH

Salah (Liverpool) 6 Points

### COULD HAVE SELECTED

Watkins (Aston Villa) 9 Points

Digne (Everton) 8 Points

Lingard (West Ham) 7 Points

Alexander-Arnold (Liverpool) 6 Points

Iheanacho (Leicester City) 6 Points (On Bench)

Dallas (Leeds United) 5 Points

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Both managers got their captain picks wrong. At first glance it interesting to note both had several other players who would have done better and both managers had players on their bench who scored more than their captain. Kin went for Tottenham's Kane who as I am sure you all know by now has requested to leave Tottenham and it seems to have affected them. The glaring mistake for Kin was not selecting Leeds Patrick Bamford also leaving Everton's Digne on the bench. For McIntosh he went for quite a popular captain selection in Gameweek 37 with Liverpool's Mo Salah but he was outscored by several of McIntosh's squad. For the final though I do not see McIntosh straying from Salah as Liverpool try to seal that Champions League spot.

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## CHIPS

### KIN CHAU

NONE

### STEVEN MCINTOSH

BENCH BOOST

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Kin would have been feeling really pleased with himself by not making any transfers in Gameweek 37 but now he sees his opponent has Bench boost he will be very concerned. McIntosh knows that if he can get a full bench on the field he will have a four player advantage in this final surely it should be a difference maker.

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## FINANCE / TRANSFERS / OPTIONS

### KIN CHAU

#### FINANCE

£106.1

#### TRANSFERS

2

### STEVEN MCINTOSH

#### FINANCE

£105.6

#### TRANSFERS

1

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Both managers have a healthy bank balance. Kin has those two transfers being up against a bench boost he is really going to have to get them right. He has two Manchester United players Fernandes and Lindelof he must be worried if they will play or be rested for Wednesdays Europa League final. He also has two Tottenham players who have a lot to play for but Spurs seem to be running out of steam big questions will Kane sign off with a big score or will Tottenham chairman force him to stay and Kane sulk on the final day. These for me are the main questions and I do feel he has one transfer forced on him surely, he will have to replace Fernandes for Liverpool's Salah to cover McIntosh selection of the Egyptian star. For McIntosh the inclusion of a bench boost sees him looking at two players Manchester United's Fernandes will he be rested or reserve keeper Southampton's Forster who has not played in recent weeks. Personally, I feel he will gamble on leaving Fernandes in and look to getting another clean sheet on that Bench boost

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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
<b>OTHER INFORMATION</b>	<p><b>Can I Play More than One Chip in a Gameweek</b> 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</p> <p><b>The following chips can only be played once per season</b> Bench Boost, Free Hit and triple Captain</p> <p><b>What happens to my Triple Captain chip if my captain doesn't play</b> 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.</p>

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 23<sup>rd</sup> May

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

## THE VERDICT

Another final where you just can't ignore the Chip affect. That Bench Boost is going to be pivotal in this final and I back McIntosh to get his bench boost right. Kin though is a canny manager and as we know he has a love affair with this competition and he could easily get those two transfers correct and get close to McIntosh.

**FINAL VERDICT: - Steven McIntosh to stop Kin from making history and take the trophy. The bench boost proving to be vital in the outcome of this final**



# 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

2014	Steve Haley (CL)	62	-	50	Dan Smith (PC)
2015	Hakan Bedir (CL)	53	-	44	Andrew Burchell (CL)
2016	Jonathan Strack (CL)	42	-	33	Steve Shew (CL)
2017	Kin Chau (PC)	110	-	74	Jonathan Strack (CL)
2018	Dan Jopp (CL)	83	-	72	Peter Ward (PC)
2019	Joe Higgins (CL)	61	-	55	Martin Stuart (PC)
2020	Martyn Dewick (CL)	73	-	61	Triona Reilly (PC)

*The CL by a manager's name means he was in that seasons Champions League competition. The PC by a manager's name means he was in that seasons Pyramid Cup competition*

WINNERS		FINALISTS	
Dan Jopp	1	Jonathan Strack	2
Hakan Bedir	1	Kin Chau	2
Joe Higgins	1	Andrew Burchell	1
Jonathan Strack	1	Dan Jopp	1
Kin Chau	1	Dan Smith	1
Martyn Dewick	1	Hakan Bedir	1
Steve Haley	1	Joe Higgins	1
		Martin Dewick	1
		Martin Stuart	1
		Peter Ward	1
		Steve Haley	1
		Steven McIntosh	1
		Steve Shew	1
		Triona Reilly	1

## WHAT COMPETITION DID THEY COME FROM?

	WINNERS		RUNNER-UP
Champions League	6	Champions League	3
Pyramid Cup	1	Pyramid Cup	4

- The Champions League is still showing its dominance in this competition having won 6 out of the 7 finals.
- The Last 3 Winners have been from the Champions League
- For the fifth season in succession, we have managers from The Champions League and Pyramid Cup.
- Today's finalist Kin Chau was the last Pyramid Cup manager to win the competition in 2017

## NEW LIFE UNITED FC

Last season we broke the exciting news that New Life United FC had formed.

Unfortunately, it has not been a smooth path with the pandemic cutting the season short.

In truth the season had not been going well for New Life United, without a league victory and the club began to struggle to get a team out at the end.

Myself and manager Nicky Balancy (Pyramid Three) and Club captain Ollie Black (Pyramid Three) are making every effort to keep the club going but it is an uphill struggle.

Hopefully we will still have a club and better news next season.

