

The Football Association Challenge

The Cup Final

Cup Final Facts

- The match is widely known as just the **Cup Final**.
- It is the last match in the **Football Association (FA) Challenge Cup**.
- It has about **86 000** spectators and millions of TV viewers.
- The trophy (winner's cup) is only on loan to the winning side.
- It is the oldest cup competition in the world, first played in the **1871 - 72** season.

Who Can Enter?

The Challenge Cup competition is open to any club in the top ten levels of the English Football League. Once clubs have registered to play, the tournament is organised into 12 randomly drawn rounds, followed by the semi-finals and finals. The higher ranked teams join the competition in later rounds when some of the lower ranked teams have been knocked out.

What Do the Winners Receive?

The winners of the final match receive the Football Association Cup, the FA Cup. It comes in three parts; the base, the cup and a lid. Over the years, there have been two designs of trophy and five cups have been made. The first cup, known as the 'little tin idol', was stolen in 1895 and never returned. An exact replica was made and used until 1910. From 1911, a new design was made. In 1992, another copy was made as the cup was wearing out from being handled, and another replacement was made in 2014. The cup is presented at the end of the match, giving the engraver just five minutes to engrave the winning team on the silver band on the base. The cup has ribbons from both teams decorating it during the final. The loser's ribbon is removed before the presentation. Each club in the final match is given 30 winners or runners-up medals. These are given to players, staff and officials.



Fantastic Final Facts

Most wins:

Arsenal and Manchester United (12)

Most appearances in a final:

Arsenal (20)

Most defeats:

Everton (8)

Biggest winning margin:

6 goals (Bury v Derby County, 6-0)

Most goals in a final:

7 goals (Blackburn Rovers v Sheffield Wednesday, 6-1 and Blackpool v Bolton Wanderers, 4-3.)

Most appearances without losing:

Wanderers (5)

Most appearances without winning:

Leicester City (4)

Youngest FA Cup finalist:

Curtis Weston of Millwall (17 years 119 days.)

Oldest FA Cup finalist:

Billy Hampson of Newcastle United (41 years and 257 days.)

Did You Know?

- The first winners of the cup in 1872 were Wanderers, who also won it the following year.
- The Challenge Cup was suspended in 1915 - 1919 because of the First World War.
- In 1923, the final was played at the newly opened Wembley Stadium.
- The Challenge Cup was suspended again between 1939 - 1945 because of the Second World War.



The Football Association Challenge: The Cup Final

Questions

1. What competition ends in the Cup Final?

2. What year was the Cup Final first played?

3. Give a reason why the top ranked teams join the competition in round three.

4. **Find** and **copy** a word that means that the teams were recorded to play in the competition.

5. Put the following information in the order it is found in the text. The first one has been done for you.

An exact replica was made.

The losers ribbon is removed before the presentation.

The 'little tin idol', was stolen.

The cup was wearing out from being handled.

6. Mark your choice from the answers below.

a. Which team has had the most appearances in a final?

Stafford

Wigan

Arsenal

Wanderers

b. How old was the youngest FA Cup finalist?

41 years 257 days

17 years 119 days

17 years 257 days

41 years 119 days

c. Which Club has had the most FA Cup wins?

Everton

Arsenal

Manchester United and Arsenal

Manchester United

7. Why was the FA Cup suspended during the First and Second World Wars?

8. In what years did Wanderers win the FA Cup?

9. How is the information text organised? List two ways.

10. Do you think it is better to watch a football match in the stadium, or at home? Explain your opinion.
