

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**.
- From 2015 to 2018 it was also known as the **Emirates FA Cup**.
- The first televised final in 1937 had about **10 000 viewers**.
- Today's final has about **88 600 stadium spectators** and over **10 million TV viewers** tune in to the BBC Sport channel.
- **875 million** viewers watched the 2016 final worldwide.
- A women's tournament is held at the same time, the **FA Women's Cup**.
- The **FA 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**.
- The 2016 champions are **Manchester United**.

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 round three.

Clubs Entering the FA Cup

1871 - 72	15
1921 - 22	656
2004 - 05	660
2006 - 07	687
2007 - 08	731
2014 - 15	736



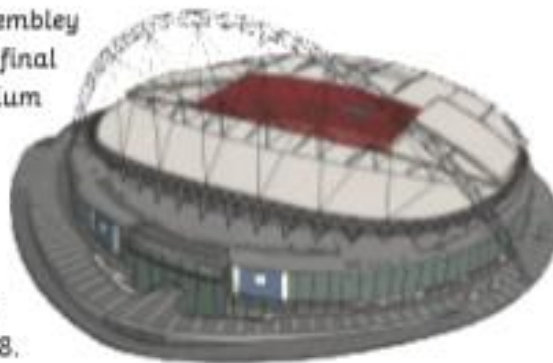
The Football Association Challenge

Where Are the Matches Held?

The first 12 round matches will usually be played at the home ground of one of the two teams. From 1923 to 2000, the old Wembley Stadium hosted the finals. The only exception was in 1970, when the replay between Leeds and Chelsea was held at Old Trafford, Manchester.

Between 2001-2006, whilst Wembley Stadium was being rebuilt, the final was held at the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff.

The final match has been played at the rebuilt Wembley Stadium since 2007 and the semi-final and final matches have been played there since 2008.



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. In 1958, a criminal by the name of Henry James Burge claimed to have carried out the robbery, but the police reports did not match his account of events and the case was closed. The FA fined Aston Villa £25 to pay for a replacement as it was stolen whilst they had it in their care. An exact replica was made and used until 1910. In 2005, this version was sold at auction and made £42 000. It was bought by David Gold, chairman of Birmingham City, and presented to the National Football Museum for public display. From 1911, a new design was made. It was larger than the previous trophy.

The Football Association Challenge

standing 61.5cm high. In 1992, another copy was made as the cup was wearing out from being handled, and another replacement was made in 2014. This took over 250 hours to make and weighs 6.3kg of solid silver. 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. In 1914, Burnley won the cup and received medals struck in error, as "English Cup Winners".

Fantastic Final Facts

Most wins:

Arsenal and Manchester United (12)

Most appearances in a final:

Arsenal (20)

Number of spectators at first final:

2000, at Kennington Oval in 1872

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.)

Most individual wins:

Ashley Cole (7)

Most individual appearances:

Arthur Kinnaird (9)

Cost of old Wembley (Empire) Stadium:

£750 000 (1923)

Cost of new Wembley Stadium:

Over £750 000 000 (2007)

The Football Association Challenge

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.
- Since the creation of the Football League, Tottenham Hotspur is the only non-league club to win the Cup (against league runners-up, Sheffield United in 1901).
- 4 FA finals have finished goalless.
- In 1971, Alvechurch and Oxford City had to play 6 games to eventually produce a winner – the first five being drawn matches; an amazing 11 hours of football!
- The FA Cup has only been won by a non-English team once, by Cardiff City in 1927. In the same season, they won the Welsh Cup.



Questions

1. During which year did the Cup Final have 10 000 TV viewers?

2. What is the women's competition called?

3. How many rounds of football are there in the competition?

4. How many fewer entries were there in 1921 - 22 than in 2014 - 15?

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

In 2005, this version was sold at auction and made £42 000.

The FA fined Aston Villa £25.

The losers ribbon is removed before the presentation.

In 1914, Burnley won the cup.

The 'little tin idol', was stolen.

Standing 61.5cm high.

Henry James Burge claimed to have carried out the robbery.

Giving the engraver just five minutes.

6. Circle your choice from the answers below.

- a. Number of spectators at the first final?

7500

200

2000

750 000

b. Who had the most individual appearances in a Cup Final?

Alan Shearer

Henry Kinnaird

Ashley Cole

Arthur Kinnaird

c. How many times more expensive was the new Wembley Stadium compared with the old one?

100

10

10 000

1000

7. **Find** and **copy** a word that means postponed or put off until another time.

8. In the matches against Alvechurch and Oxford City, if each half was 45 minutes long, how long was each interval?

9. How is this information text organised? List as many features as you can.

10. Do you think the team winning the FA Cup should be able to keep the trophy? Explain your opinion.
