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**.
- It has about **86 000 stadium spectators** and millions of TV viewers on the BBC Sport channel.
- 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 were **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 later rounds.

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 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 different cups. The first cup, known as the 'little tin idol', was stolen in 1895 and never returned. 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. From 1911, a new design was made. It was larger than the previous trophy, 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.

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.)

Most individual wins:
Ashley Cole (7)

Most individual appearances:
Arthur Kinnaird (9)

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.
- 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!

Questions

1. What was the Challenge Cup known as in 2015 - 2018?

_____

2. How can television viewers watch the match?

_____

3. How many rounds of the competition are played?

_____

4. **Find** and **copy** a word that means that the teams are chosen to play against no particular side.

_____

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

An exact replica was made.

The FA fined Aston Villa £25.

The losers ribbon is removed before the presentation.

The 'little tin idol', was stolen.

Standing 61.5cm high.

The cup was wearing out from being handled.

6. Mark your choice from the answers below.

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

Stafford

Wigan

Everton

Wanderers

b. How old was the oldest 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. How could a winner be found if a match ended in a goalless draw?

_____

8. In what year did Tottenham Hotspur (as a non-league club) win the FA Cup?

_____

9. What is the purpose of using a table for some of the information?

_____

10. Do you think the team winning the FA Cup should be prevented from entering the competition the following year? Explain your opinion.

_____

_____

_____

_____

Answers

1. What was the Challenge Cup known as in 2015 - 2018?
   The Challenge Cup was known as the Emirates FA Cup in 2015 - 2018.

2. How can television viewers watch the match?
   Television viewers can watch the match on BBC Sport channel.

3. How many rounds of the competition are played?
   Twelve first rounds and the semi-final and final matches are played, making 14 in all.

4. Find and copy a word that means that the teams are chosen to play against no particular side.
   Teams chosen to play against no particular side are chosen <u>randomly</u>.

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 FA fined Aston Villa £25.

   The losers ribbon is removed before the presentation.

   The 'little tin idol', was stolen.

   Standing 61.5cm high.

   The cup was wearing out from being handled.

6. Mark your choice from the answers below.

a. Which team has had the most defeats in a final?
   Everton

b. How old was the oldest FA Cup finalist?
   41 years 257 days

c. Which Club has had the most FA Cup wins?
   Manchester United and Arsenal

7. How could a winner be found if a match ended in a goalless draw?
   Winners of drawn matches could be found by tossing a coin, playing the match again until one team wins, taking penalty kicks (or any other plausible idea).

8. In what year did Tottenham Hotspur win the FA Cup?
   Tottenham Hotspur won the FA Cup in 1901.

9. What is the purpose of using a table for some of the information?
   Using a table for some of the information helps to keep the facts organised and easy to find for the reader.

10. Do you think the team winning the FA Cup should be prevented from entering the competition the following year? Explain your opinion.
    Various answers that could include the opinions;
    I think that teams should be prevented from entering the competition the year after they win so that other teams can have a chance to win.
    Or,
    I do not think that teams should be prevented from entering the competition the year after they win as the players may be different the following year and it would be exciting for the fans to be able to watch a 'double' win if they were successful again.