

# History of the FA Cup Final

The FA Cup, the world's oldest association football competition, launched in 1871 as the *Challenge Cup*. Staged at the iconic Wembley Stadium since 1923 – with a brief hiatus at the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff – the final evokes memories of triumph and tragedy, famous upsets and the birth of legends, raucous support and royal acclaim, earning worldwide affection

## FA CUP FINAL BY NUMBERS

## FA CUP 2025

**44** Teams winning FA Cup, with 13 more reaching final

**745** Teams (653 in qualifying rounds, 92 main tournament)

**07** Most titles by player: **Ashley Cole** (Arsenal/Chelsea)

**374** Goals scored (122 matches, excluding qualifying)

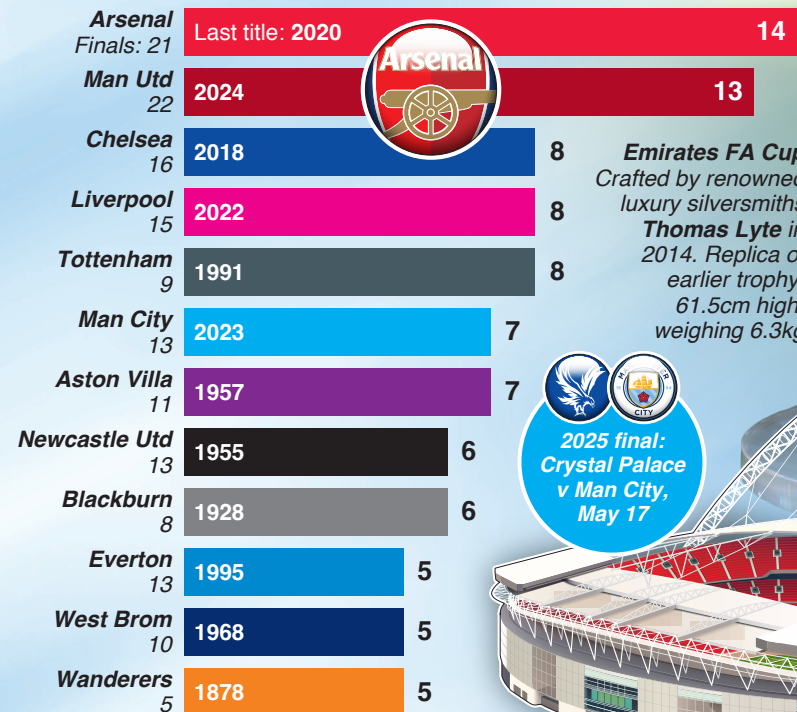
**07** Most titles by coach: **Arsene Wenger** (Arsenal)

**14** Rounds of competition, qualifying to final

**05** Most goals in final: **Ian Rush** (Liverpool)

**02** Non-league teams in **Third Round** (Dag & Red, Tamworth)

## MOST FA CUP TITLES: 1872-2024



**Emirates FA Cup** ▶  
Crafted by renowned luxury silversmiths **Thomas Lyte** in 2014. Replica of earlier trophy, 61.5cm high, weighing 6.3kg

**2025 final:**  
Crystal Palace  
v Man City,  
May 17

Wanderers, from London, win first ever FA Cup in 1872 – beating Royal Engineers at Kennington Oval

**Other winners:** Sheffield Utd, Bolton, Wolves (4), Sheffield Wednesday, West Ham Utd (3), Six teams with two wins, 21 teams with one win

## RECENT FA CUP FINALS

2024	Man Utd	bt	Man City	2-1	2019	Man City	bt	Watford	6-0
2023	Man City		Man Utd	2-1	2018	Chelsea		Man Utd	1-0
2022	Liverpool		Chelsea	*0-0	2017	Arsenal		Chelsea	2-1
2021	Leicester		Chelsea	1-0	2016	Man Utd		C. Palace	†2-1
2020	Arsenal		Chelsea	2-1	2015	Arsenal		Aston Villa	4-0

Source: FA Cup

\*Penalties 6-5, †After extra time

Picture: Getty Images

## Wembley Stadium

**Capacity: 90,000**

New stadium opened 2007 on site of original, famous twin towers and boasts 315m curving arch. Set to host matches at **UEFA Euro 2028**



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