

= 1969 FA Cup Final =

The 1969 FA Cup Final was the final match of the 1968 ? 69 staging of English football 's primary cup competition , the Football Association Challenge Cup , better known as the FA Cup . The match was contested between Leicester City and Manchester City at Wembley Stadium in London on Saturday 26 April 1969 . This was the first FA Cup final since 1951 to take place in the month of April . Three @-@ time winners Manchester City were appearing in their seventh final , whereas Leicester City were seeking to win the competition for the first time , having lost three previous finals .

Each team won six ties to reach the final , and overcame one of the 1968 finalists ( West Bromwich Albion and Everton ) at the semi @-@ final stage . As Manchester City were reigning league champions and Leicester City were battling to avoid relegation , the Manchester club were strong favourites . The match finished 1 ? 0 to Manchester City . The goal came in the 24th minute , scored by Neil Young . The victory was Manchester City 's fourth FA Cup win .

= = Route to the final = =

As both Leicester City and Manchester City were First Division clubs , they entered the competition in the third round .

Leicester City started their cup run against Barnsley , but required a replay to overcome their Third Division opponents 2 ? 1 . The first Leicester goal was controversial , as the referee overruled his linesman , who had flagged for a foul . Barnsley equalised with a penalty , but Leicester quickly retook the lead . Later in the second half Leicester claimed a third goal , but the referee adjudged that the ball had not crossed the line . A 1 ? 0 win at Millwall followed .

In the fifth round , Leicester City faced Liverpool . The match was postponed six times before it eventually took place on 1 March . A 0 ? 0 draw meant a replay at Anfield . Andy Lochhead gave the Foxes the lead on 34 minutes . Five minutes later McArthurs 's handball gave Liverpool a penalty , but Peter Shilton saved Tommy Smith 's spot @-@ kick . Liverpool attacked for much of the second half , but Leicester held out to win 1 ? 0 . The quarter final saw a trip to Mansfield Town , who had knocked out clubs from five different divisions . On a pitch described by The Times ' Geoffrey Green as " resembling a glutinous swamp " , Leicester won 1 ? 0 . The goal was a header by Rodney Fern from a Len Glover cross . The semi @-@ final , played at Hillsborough Stadium , was against cup @-@ holders West Bromwich Albion . In a game of few chances , Allan Clarke scored from an Andy Lochhead knockdown with four minutes remaining . Leicester City gained their fourth 1 ? 0 win of the competition and reached the final .

Manchester City 's first tie was against Luton Town of the Third Division , which City won 1 ? 0 , Francis Lee the scorer . In the fourth round , the club were drawn away to Newcastle United , one of only two top @-@ flight clubs with an away draw . The match finished 0 ? 0 , and so was replayed at Maine Road . Manchester City won 2 ? 0 , but had to play much of the match with 10 men after Mike Summerbee was sent off . Like Leicester 's fifth round tie , Manchester City 's match at Blackburn Rovers ' Ewood Park was delayed multiple times due to poor weather . When it was eventually played Manchester City were comfortable 4 ? 1 winners . In the sixth round , Manchester City were drawn at home to Tottenham Hotspur . The match was closely contested ; in his autobiography , City 's Mike Doyle described it as the hardest match of the whole cup run . As in the third round , City won 1 ? 0 thanks to a Francis Lee goal .

The semi @-@ final , against Everton , was played at Villa Park . Everton were renowned for their powerful midfield of Ball , Harvey and Kendall , but opted to play more defensively than usual . Manchester City nevertheless paid special attention to this area , and instructed David Connor to man @-@ mark Ball . Mike Doyle suffered an injury in the first half , and spent 20 minutes off the field . City had the better of the game , but goalscoring chances were missed by Lee and Young . With little time remaining , Young forced a corner . Young took the corner himself , from which teenager Tommy Booth scored the game 's only goal .

= = Build @-@ up = =

Manchester City were appearing in the final for the seventh time . They had won the cup three times previously ( in 1904 , 1934 and 1956 ) , and had been beaten in the final three times ( in 1926 , 1933 and 1955 ) . Leicester City were making their fourth cup final appearance , and their third of the decade , having lost on all three previous occasions ( in 1949 , 1961 and 1963 ) . The clubs had met in the FA Cup in each of the preceding three seasons . In 1966 Manchester City won a fifth round tie 1 ? 0 after a replay , and won again in the third round in 1967 . In the 1967 ? 68 season Leicester finally prevailed . After a 0 ? 0 draw at Maine Road , Leicester City came back from 2 ? 0 down at Filbert Street to win 4 ? 3 .

Manchester City manager Joe Mercer named his team for the final several days in advance . Glyn Pardoe missed training on Monday 21st with a leg injury , but after the fitness of Pardoe , Tony Coleman and Alan Oakes was tested in a practice match , all three were passed fit . Leicester City named a 14 @-@ man squad before travelling to a training camp in Bisham on the Tuesday . Manchester City travelled south on the Thursday , staying in Weybridge . Leicester had fitness doubts over Dave Gibson , Len Glover and John Sjoberg , but initially expected all three to be available for the final . However , in a practice match against Brentford , Sjoberg had to leave the field with a groin injury . His place in the team was taken by Alan Woollett .

Each club received 16 @,@ 000 tickets for the final from the Football Association . The match was televised live by the BBC and ITV . Both broadcasters devoted several hours to match build @-@ up , incorporating FA Cup @-@ themed versions of other programmes , such as Cup Final It 's a Knockout .

As the previous season 's league champions , Manchester City were strong favourites , particularly as Leicester were embroiled in a struggle to avoid relegation from the First Division . The Times correspondent anticipated that the condition of the pitch would influence the match , stating that " if ? as it is said ? it is in a good , lush state Manchester will be happy . If , on the other hand , it proves to be heavy , then it could suit Leicester the better . " On the day before the game Joe Mercer criticised the pitch , likening it to a cabbage patch .

= = Match = =

At 21 , Leicester 's David Nish became the youngest ever captain of a cup finalist . His opposite number Tony Book became the third oldest at 35 . Book had missed a large part of season through injury , but upon returning his impact was so great that he shared the award for the 1969 FWA Footballer of the Year .

As the teams prepared to leave their dressing rooms , Manchester City deliberately delayed their exit by a short period to play on any nerves the Leicester City players may have had . Manchester City coach Malcolm Allison was not permitted to take his place on the bench , as he was serving a touchline ban . Instead , he had to sit in the stand behind the dugout . Before kick @-@ off , the players were introduced to the guest of honour , Princess Anne .

Fears that the contest would be a mismatch proved to be unfounded , with Leicester playing in a more attacking manner than anticipated . The Observer 's Hugh McIlvanney wrote that " Suggestions that Leicester would attempt to minimise the discrepancy in talents by a concentration on defensive spoiling were exposed as unjust ... offering the deceptively languid dribbles of Clarke , the thoughtful passes of Roberts and Gibson and the thrustful running of Lochhead as proof that the skills were not all on one side " . Neil Young and Tony Coleman both had early scoring chances for Manchester City , but missed the target . For Leicester City , a dribbling run by Clarke ended in a shot that was saved by Dowd , and a mishit shot by Len Glover was cleared off the goal @-@ line by a defender . Manchester City scored midway through the first half . Mike Summerbee crossed the ball from wide on the right , and Young hit a left footed shot high into Peter Shilton 's net . Few further chances occurred in the first half .

Just after half @-@ time , Leicester City had their strongest scoring chance , when Andy Lochhead received a headed knockdown from Allan Clarke , but Lochhead 's shot went high above the goal . A

dominant period by Manchester City then followed , which included a chance for Colin Bell from a free @-@ kick . Len Glover was forced to move into defence with his team under pressure , but was injured shortly afterward and had to be substituted . Defender Malcolm Manley came on in his place .

A poll of journalists named Allan Clarke as man of the match .

= = = Summary = = =

= = Post @-@ match = =

The Manchester City team returned to Manchester the following evening . They travelled by train to Wilmslow , from where they undertook a 13 @-@ mile parade in an open @-@ topped bus . 25 @,@ 000 people lined the route , with a further 3 @,@ 000 people in Albert Square , where the parade finished . Three days later , the team paraded the cup in front of their supporters before their match against West Ham United at Maine Road .

The good conduct of the supporters of both teams was praised in Parliament by MPs Barnett Janner and Tom Boardman .

Manchester City 's cup was their fourth . In winning the trophy , Joe Mercer became the first person to win the league championship and FA Cup as both a captain and a manager . By winning the competition , Manchester City earned the right to compete in the 1969 ? 70 European Cup Winners ' Cup . City went on to win the Cup Winners ' Cup , beating Górnik Zabrze 2 ? 1 in the final . Leicester City continued to struggle in their remaining league matches and were relegated to the Second Division . Leicester became only the second club to reach a cup final and suffer relegation in the same season . By coincidence , the other club to have done so was Manchester City , who were subject to the same fate in 1926 .