

= 1998 UEFA Cup Winners ' Cup Final =

The 1998 UEFA Cup Winners ' Cup Final was a football match that took place on 13 May 1998 at Råsunda Stadium in Stockholm , Sweden to determine the winner of the 1997 ? 98 UEFA Cup Winners ' Cup . It was contested by Chelsea of England and Stuttgart of Germany and was the 38th final of what was then Europe 's second largest football competition , the UEFA Cup Winners ' Cup .

Both clubs played a total of eight games in four stages to advance to the final . Chelsea had the upper hand in all but one of their encounters , defeating Tromsø with an accumulative score of 9 ? 4 in a two @-@ legged match and edging Vicenza by one goal . Stuttgart also enjoyed an advantage in all but two of their meetings , beating ÍBV 5 ? 2 on aggregate and winning over Slavia Prague and Lokomotiv Moscow by two goals .

A crowd of 30 @, @ 216 were in attendance to witness Chelsea win the match 1 ? 0 , with Gianfranco Zola scoring the winning goal in the second half . As a result , the English club claimed the double , having previously won the League Cup earlier in the campaign . It was Chelsea 's second conquest of the Cup Winners ' Cup , adding to their 1971 victory . By winning the tournament , they also gained qualification for the 1998 UEFA Super Cup .

= = Route to the final = =

= = = Chelsea = = =

Chelsea earned automatic qualification as the 1996 ? 97 season winners of England 's yearly competition , the FA Cup . In the first round of the event , they were drawn against Slovan Bratislava . Both matches resulted in 2 ? 0 wins for the English outfit ; the first leg took place at Stamford Bridge , and the second at Tehelné pole , as they won 4 ? 0 in total .

Chelsea then faced Tromsø in the second round . They lost the first leg by 2 ? 3 which took place at Alfheim Stadion , with Gianluca Vialli registering a brace . In the home leg , Chelsea thrashed Tromsø with a 7 ? 1 victory , during which Vialli scored a hat @-@ trick ; the other goals were scored by Dan Petrescu , who contributed with a double , Gianfranco Zola and Frank Leboeuf to ensure an amassed score of 9 ? 4 .

In the quarter @-@ finals , Chelsea clashed with Real Betis . The opening game at Estadio Manuel Ruíz de Lopera was won with 2 ? 1 after a Tore André Flo double , before a 3 ? 1 win at home with goals signed by Frank Sinclair , Roberto Di Matteo and Zola were enough to hand Chelsea an overall 5 ? 2 victory . The final opposition in the semi @-@ finals was Vicenza . Chelsea lost the away fixture 0 ? 1 , at Stadio Romeo Menti . They ended the round with a 3 ? 1 home victory , following goals by Gus Poyet , Zola and Mark Hughes to send them through to their second final .

= = = Stuttgart = = =

Stuttgart received a place in the tournament , following their celebrations in the 1996 ? 97 campaign , of the German Cup , Germany 's annually contest . Starting in the round of 32 , the Germans were pitted against ÍBV . They rounded off the first tie , by completing a 3 ? 1 win at Hásteinsvöllur , before a 2 ? 1 victory at the Gottlieb @-@ Daimler @-@ Stadion was enough to see them through with 5 ? 2 .

As Stuttgart entered the second round , they were up against Germinal Ekeren . They won the first leg 4 ? 0 at Veltwijckstadion with Fredi Bobic and Jonathan Akpoborie each scoring twice . In the return game , Stuttgart suffered a 2 ? 4 loss , but regardless of this , goals from Frank Verlaat and Gerhard Poschner ensured they won the stage 6 ? 4 .

In the quarter @-@ finals , Slavia Prague were Stuttgart 's next opponents . The away leg at Stadion Ev?ena Ro?ického ended in a 1 ? 1 draw following a Poschner goal . Back on German soil , Stuttgart won 2 ? 0 after Krasimir Balakov scored two goals , giving them a 3 ? 1 overall win . In the semi @-@ finals , Stuttgart were drawn against Lokomotiv Moscow . The first home leg ended 2 ? 1

to the German side , with Bobic finding the winning goal late ; the first was netted by Akpoborie . At Lokomotiv Stadium , Bobic once again managed to score , during the first half , which proved to be decisive as Stuttgart won 1 ? 0 and the concluding tie 3 ? 1 to proceed to the final .

= = Pre @-@ match = =

= = = Background = = =

Both Chelsea and Stuttgart ended their seasons in fourth place of their respective leagues , the FA Premier League and the Bundesliga . Chelsea beat Bolton Wanderers 2 ? 0 on the last matchday , while Stuttgart oversaw a 1 ? 0 win over Werder Bremen . Both sides also progressed in their cup competitions ? Chelsea lost against Manchester United with three to five in the 1997 ? 98 FA Cup third round , but found success with a 2 ? 0 victory over Middlesbrough in the 1998 Football League Cup Final . Stuttgart saw themselves overrun 0 ? 2 by Bayern Munich in the 1997 German League Cup Final , only to succumb to Bayern again with a 0 ? 3 deficit in the 1997 ? 98 German Cup semi @-@ final .

Chelsea and Stuttgart faced each other for the first time in European football . The English side were appearing in their second Cup Winners ' Cup final , having won the tournament in 1971 , while Stuttgart made their debut . Chelsea had met German clubs once , in the 1965 ? 66 season of the Inter @-@ Cities Fairs Cup against 1860 Munich ? Chelsea advanced to the next round after managing a 2 ? 2 stalemate at the Grünwalder Stadion , and a 1 ? 0 home win .

Stuttgart had been pitted against English clubs on two meetings of the same competition , the former over Burnley in the following season . The Germans were knocked out in the opening stage , after being held 1 ? 1 , in the first game at Neckarstadion , before following up with a 0 ? 2 loss at Turf Moor . The latter was opposite Leeds United , in the 1992 ? 93 season of the UEFA Champions League ; the club saw themselves be eliminated in the same fashion , as they won 3 ? 0 at home , before losing the second leg 4 ? 1 . However , Leeds were awarded an automatic 3 ? 0 win , after Stuttgart were found to have fielded an ineligible player . A play @-@ off in Camp Nou was required to decide the round , which Stuttgart fell with 1 ? 2 .

= = = Ticketing = = =

Both teams were each given 12 @,@ 000 tickets ? the remaining 6 @,@ 000 tickets were released , for purchase to the Swedish people . However , Stuttgart decided to send 11 @,@ 000 of their 12 @,@ 000 tickets back to UEFA , due to the German club 's supporters finding it difficult to make their way to the country , as well as the absence of air flights available . Subsequently , none of the unsold tickets were granted for Chelsea and its followers ; the consequences proved worse , when the side announced that they had issued tickets alone for those , who had ordered the more higher @-@ priced package .

= = = Venue = = =

Råsunda Stadium was revealed as the official venue of the final in December 1997 . Located in Solna , Stockholm , the stadium opened its doors to the public in 1937 , and was used by the Sweden national team for their games in the 1958 FIFA World Cup , including the final , as well as most of their general ties . Råsunda also held four of the national team 's fixtures , in the 1992 European Championship , and the 1995 FIFA Women 's World Cup Final ; it was also the home base of AIK 's matches , until demolishment plans began in 2012 . For the final , Råsunda had a capacity of generally 35 @,@ 000 .

= = = Match ball = = =

Adidas Tricolore was the match ball of the final . It was the sixteenth edition in the Adidas football series ; the name " Tricolore " translates to " three @-@ coloured " and contains a tricolour crest and a cockerel , along with French classic themes which were used as influences , for the ball 's construction , to illustrate the nation 's flag . The Tricolore became the first ball available in different colours and was later introduced at that year 's World Cup . It was the last ball to carry the vintage Tango layout .

= = = Match officials = = =

Stefano Braschi from the Italian Football Federation , was appointed to officiate the final , making it his first time to decide a closing match in a European contest . He was regonised as a professional Serie A referee in 1992 . The Italian took charge of his first European fixture in a 1996 UEFA Intertoto Cup group stage meeting between Lierse and Groningen . The same year , Braschi made FIFA 's international referees list ; he debuted in February 1997 in a Israel ? Germany friendly . Before the final , he had been the match official in four Champions League and two UEFA Cup matches ( including one qualifier ) , as well as four international friendlies . Braschi was accompanied by an all @-@ Italian team , which was made up of assistant referees Gennaro Mazzei and Pietro Contento ? the reserve referee was unveiled as Livio Bazzoli .

= = Broadcasting = =

The final was screened in 144 countries worldwide , with over 250 million viewers expected to follow the game . In the United Kingdom , the event was covered by BBC One , after winning the television rights over Channel 5 . In German television , ARD were committed to the final ; viewer figures were reported to be an estimate 8 @.@ 9 million . In Sweden , SVT1 and SVT2 , the two channels of the television network Sveriges Television , jointly televised the match .

= = Match = =

= = = Team selection = = =

Chelsea centre back Frank Sinclair and left back Graeme Le Saux were both sidelined for the final due to their calf injuries , causing player @-@ manager Vialli to swap them with Michael Duberry , and Danny Granville , who had recovered from an abscess pain . Central midfielder Poyet was also included in the starting line @-@ up to join captain Dennis Wise , after returning from a damaged cruciate ligament . Together with forward and lead goalscorer Vialli , Flo began in the attack , instead of Zola , who was named as a substitute , despite making an improvement from his damaged groin , sustained in a league fixture against Liverpool in April .

Stuttgart suffered from no player injuries , but defenders Frank Verlaat and Martin Spanring 's bans , prevented them from taking part in the game , leading to manager Joachim Löw to replace Verlaat , with midfielder Murat Yakin as libero , and Thomas Berthold taking over Spanring 's role in the middle .

= = = Summary = = =

= = = First half = = =

Chelsea 's goalscoring chance came in the fifth minute when Poyet found Di Matteo , who fumbled his opportunity as it went over the goal . Stuttgart almost took the lead through Bobic , who took advantage of Steve Clarke 's poor clearance but Bobic 's attempt went just past the right goalpost . The Germans continued to push forward , as Balakov had a chance on goal , after being found by

Poschner , but his shot was kept out by Ed de Goey to mark the first save of the match . Chelsea held on however ; a few minutes later , Poyet ran towards the ball to direct a powerful volley on goal following a weak clearing header from Berthold , but a well @-@ placed Franz Wohlfahrt dived to read the attempt . Chelsea had another chance before half time , which saw Wise from a Di Matteo free kick launch another volley , with the successive effort going just off the target .

= = = Second half = = =

Prior to the first half , Chelsea continued to dominate possession and round @-@ up more opportunities ? the ball was given to Wise , after cooperation between Petrescu and Vialli , whose shot went just across the left goal . It did not take long , before Granville generated another endeavor for Chelsea to make Wohlfahrt throw himself to the right in order to prevent the shot . The club made its first substitute change in the 71st minute , which saw Flo being replaced by Zola . He made an effect immediately , picking up the ball after a well @-@ timed pass by Wise , and finishing with a half volley in the penalty box , past Wohlfahrt , which found its way straight in the top right corner . As the match went on , Petrescu was sent off for an illegal tackle on Yakin . It did not affect Chelsea as Stuttgart failed to produce anything to turn the final in their favour . Stuttgart 's situation proved worse when they were also reduced to ten men , as Poschner was dismissed after quarrels with referee Braschi .

= = = Details = = =

= = = Statistics = = =

= = Post @-@ match = =

Following Chelsea 's victory , player @-@ manager Vialli was satisfied with his club 's performance , commending the substitution of Zola by assistant manager Graham Rix : " He decided he had a feeling and he was right " . Vialli also praised Zola , but felt that the honours had to be shared by all the players including Vialli himself , who took part in the match : " It was a great first touch ? he put the ball in the net and we won the cup . But the credit has to be shared between all the chaps ? and I am over the moon . " The Italian further added that their goal now was to win the league championship : " The next step will be the Premier League , fingers crossed . I am still the player @-@ manager and I have to be one next season . We are very happy to win , but we do not want to stop here . We want to keep improving and next season we will start trying to win the Premier League , which is our aim now . "

Zola himself was happy with his achievements to the Chelsea side , but when asked if his substitution was all projected , he denied it , stating : " It wasn 't planned . In the moment , I used my positive strength and I got a reward for the passion , the work not only I , but the masseur Mimmo Pezza did together in Rimini . The injury should take one month to heal , Mimmo Pezza helped me be fit in less than half that . I thank this man for a beautiful moment which will be in my heart for as long as I can remember . " Their victory meant Aston Villa gained a place in the 1998 ? 99 UEFA Cup .

Stuttgart manager Joachim Löw was disappointed with the defeat , but remained confident about his future at the team , as well as the season : " I 'm calmly looking forward to the discussion . The club has to approach me . I have a contract until 1999 . There must be some tough words . For me , the season has been positive " . His word was also shared by Bobic who felt that his team were treated unfairly to the goal , also taking time to defend Löw : " We need to talk about mistakes and learn from them , it does not mean that it is necessary to change the manager " . He added : " It is bitter to lose by such a goal " . However , Verlaat dissented , and criticised Stuttgart 's campaign : " The club has to make up its mind finally . We could have done better this season . We carelessly

squandered about eight games " . Yakin agreed and offered his own comments : " You have to talk about many things , you cannot work together in the way it was this year . "

The two teams were drawn against each other again in two legs in the first knockout round of the 2003 ? 04 UEFA Champions League knockout stage . The first match was held in Stuttgart on 25 February 2004 at Gottlieb @-@ Daimler @-@ Stadion , which Chelsea also won 1 ? 0 after an own goal scored by Fernando Meira , while a scoreless draw played on 9 March 2004 in Stamford Bridge was enough for Chelsea to advance to the quarter @-@ finals with a 1 ? 0 aggregate win .