



FAQ - ROAD TO EUROPE



Who'll be celebrating this year?

The road to Europe

By Jerry Newman. Wednesday, 10 March 2004.

With the season about to reach its conclusion, we clear-up for you how the European places are awarded.

The Champions League

Number of places available: 4

Eligibility

The UEFA Champions League is open to each national association's domestic champions, as well as clubs who finish just behind them in the domestic championship table.

The number of clubs that can be entered by an association and their entry point in the competition depends on the association's position in UEFA's coefficient ranking list.

Who's in?

The top two Premiership sides will qualify for the competition automatically, while the third and fourth placed teams will enter initially into the qualification rounds, as Chelsea and Newcastle United did this season.

What if?

Should Arsenal or Chelsea win the Champions League, they will automatically qualify for next season's competition but England will not gain an extra Champions League place, even if they finish outside of the top four in the Premiership.

In that scenario the fourth-placed team in the Premiership will play in next season's UEFA Cup.

The UEFA Cup

Number of places available: 3

The UEFA Cup is open to teams finishing in leading positions behind the champions in their domestic top divisions, the winners of the national Cup competition, the winners of the League Cup competition in certain countries, the three winners of the final matches in the UEFA Intertoto Cup, and three clubs from UEFA's annual Fair Play assessment.

Who's in?

National Cup Place (The FA Cup)

There is one UEFA Cup place for the winners of The FA Cup. If the winners have already qualified for Europe through the League, the UEFA Cup slot reverts to the runners-up. So, whatever the result in Cardiff, with one of either Arsenal or Manchester United definitely going to appear in the Cup Final, and almost certain to have already qualified for Europe through the Premiership, it looks pretty sure that a Football League team (Sunderland, Tranmere or Millwall) will be in Europe next season.

League Cup Place (Carling Cup)

As Middlesbrough have won the Carling Cup they are automatically allocated this place.

League Place (The FA Premier League)

As The Football Association are entitled to four UEFA Champions League places the UEFA League place will go to the team that finishes 5th in the Premier League.

Fair Play Position

UEFA's Fair Play ranking only takes into account national associations that have played what UEFA class as "reasonable" number of games. For the purposes of the list, a cut-off point of 22 matches has been applied.

The Fair Play coefficient is based on criteria such as positive play, respect for opponents and the referee, the behaviour of team officials and supporters as well as cautions and dismissals (For more details please [click here](#)).

The Intertoto Cup

Number of places available: 2 (*One entry into the 3rd round and one entry into the 2nd round*)

Eligibility

The UEFA Intertoto Cup is UEFA's summer competition, which allows clubs, which do not qualify for the UEFA Champions League or UEFA Cup to sample the unique atmosphere of European club football – with three participants actually going on to take part in the UEFA Cup.

Who's in?

We have currently informed UEFA that we will only take a position in the 3rd round.

In the mean time we have requested that clubs confirm their interest in the competition. This will be confirmed by the end of the month (March '04)

If you have a question that you would like answered by TheFA.com, drop us

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10 March 2004

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