

**Q5: If you would prefer to see a return to a 48-team competition exclusively for clubs in League 1 & 2, what suggestions do you have to make the competition more viable, and generate income to replace the £1.95 million prize money, an increase from £478k during the 2015/16 season?**

The question seems to imply that the L1 & L2 teams only format is not viable - if this is so, then it is probably time to scrap the competition. If that should happen I would advocate a return to reserve teams - could a reserve team competition be sponsored by a small portion of the Premier League's wealth?

3/21/2017 10:48 PM

its you who gets paid handsomely to provide solutions. Do your job or resign and let a competent person do the job

3/21/2017 7:23 PM

Golden Goal 5 mins each way before Pens

3/14/2017 1:15 PM

The money is insignificant when you compare the gate receipts from the old format to the new. I have missed 10 home games at Brunton Park since 1964 and it was hard not going to the games but a stand had to be made against the spoiling of a great competition this year.

3/13/2017 7:50 PM

Perhaps a more lucrative main sponsor would be the answer ??.

3/13/2017 7:43 PM

Matches go straight to pens more live TV games play it earlier at night £5 for all people to go to games

3/13/2017 7:42 PM

Away goals to count double if game end in draw

3/13/2017 3:00 PM

?

3/12/2017 11:27 PM

Leave the competition as it was before this season as there was nothing wrong with it and the crowds got better in the later rounds.

3/12/2017 12:09 AM

Avoid game is clashing with Champions League football.

3/11/2017 10:54 AM

Are you seriously asking how we think you should do your job? That is up to you to work out. Try getting some of the FA executives to earn their bloody salaries and come up with the answers.

3/11/2017 10:31 AM

It shouldn't be about the money.

3/10/2017 10:38 PM

Have one competition for division 1 teams and another for division 2 teams with a double header final at Wembley

3/10/2017 9:41 PM

Regionalised in a better format, North, Midlands South. Groups with 2 x L1 & 2 x L2 teams. Better pricing structure for attendance, make it viable for youngsters to attend with a realistic price.

3/10/2017 10:14 AM

Keep regionalised. Incentives for winning games by more goals. Reduced entry fees.

3/9/2017 8:50 PM

make the premier league clubs pay a levy on transfer fees to fund the competition

3/9/2017 8:20 PM

This is a very poor question as it is throwing the issue back into the face of supporters who do not believe including premier league based players is fair, the issue of the prize money is for those in the game who get paid a wage to come up with a more viable way to generate income, the question is almost like your toys are being thrown out of the pram because you don't like the fact supporters don't agree with the changes trialed.

3/9/2017 6:16 PM

Try to find a better sponsor and seek more tv coverage and revenue

3/9/2017 6:08 PM

I feel that the prize money is less vital due to clubs generating more revenue from the matches in previous years therefore the prize money is irrelevant

3/9/2017 3:01 PM

Higher profile needed.Emphasis on clubs' homegrown talent at the expense of loan players to encourage youth/academy players.Perhaps a quota system to enforce this principle.Continuing with U21 sides will not generate increased crowds

3/9/2017 12:54 PM

The competition seemed perfectly viable in its old format, the increased prize money was a distraction to make palatable unpopular changes. This 'loaded' question seems to suggest a bias in the setting of this survey.

3/9/2017 12:50 PM

It's not all about the money, it's the pride of your club at Wembley.

3/9/2017 11:33 AM

Instead of the single game format why not stick to Leagues 1 and 2 but preserve the group format with home and away ties with the top 2 teams going through to the next stage

3/9/2017 11:27 AM

if level at full time have a golden goal then when someone scores the games finished like when we played birminigham in then the autowindscreen shield final as it was then

3/9/2017 11:02 AM

This question is leading and only provides supporters with one side of the problem facing clubs. If the quid pro quo for the prize money was permitting the bleeding of Cat 1 clubs' youth players, then the competition was a dismal failure. As the competition stands, it is not clear what the value to the Cat 1 clubs is in the long-run or the FA and it's not clear they would support this continued transfer of resources to lower league clubs in the future. What's more, if this prize money increase was shared equally among only the 48 L1/L2 EFL clubs, the prize money increase is only worth just over £40,000 per club per season. Assuming £10/ticket, this is only enough to replace a loss of 4,000 ticket sales in the competition. The damage to the gates caused by reducing this competition's status will have outweighed this prize money increase. Restoring the Trophy to a meaningful competition would help replace the prize money. Instead, I would use the Trophy to experiment with aggressive ticket pricing, different kick-off times throughout the week. Possibly experiment with selling basic live internet video streaming packages for all games in the early rounds, keeping production costs down by making the coverage extremely basic and limited to fixed/automatic camera positions. I doubt there are many opportunities to dramatically increase revenue; it's about making marginal games. I understand increasing the income from the Trophy is important but benefits from the Trophy must not be accounted for narrowly in terms of gate receipts within a single season. A key part of building a fanbase's attachment to a club is giving them opportunities to experience a meaningful cup run. They come along rarely but remain in the memory for a long time. If the only opportunities to support a team on a cup run

or in a wembley final are in the upper leagues, we'll see further atrophy of the lower leagues in the pyramid. The lower league clubs might have to see the EFL as an investment.

3/8/2017 5:28 PM

I have absolutely no idea. I do not work in Marketing and do not have knowledge of the inner workings of the football league, such as whether tv rights could be sold at a more attractive price to generate more interest, etc. I would however sooner see the competition dissolved rather than having to 'get into bed ' with premier b and under 21 teams. I and the majority of lower league fans will never want to watch their club play a b-team or youth team.

3/8/2017 5:11 PM

Get entrance fees to games more affordable and a loyalty scheme for anyone going to early round games this being increased for those who go to the away games. Giving them discounts and first choices of seats for the Wembley final.

3/8/2017 4:47 PM

Move the fixtures to Saturdays. This gives people less of an excuse to miss games due to televised European fixtures.

3/8/2017 12:50 PM

The group stage was a good idea. Bigger prize money for clubs as they progress. U21's was the WORST and most INSULTING idea ever. Imagine if both finalists were Championship/PL U21 teams... it would be a very empty stadium. Not good for sponsors....

3/5/2017 2:42 PM

Try to start games a little earlier so youngsters can attend on school nights. Try to advertise it as a good competition then get to Wembley which our players may never get the chance the chance to do

3/5/2017 11:20 AM

More funding from the Fa to promote lower league football. Games on television

3/4/2017 9:03 AM

This is a rather loaded question. Given the the value of the premier league tv deal, asking for 0.5m from them wouldn't be too much to ask

3/3/2017 11:09 PM

Not important. Competition for lower clubs with chance of Wembley final.

3/3/2017 10:55 PM

Be happy with the income as it is. No need to pander for more money. Was ok before this change

3/3/2017 5:59 PM

Take the money from the ridiculous parachute payment on being relegated from the premier league. It is an insult to all teams that win promotion that a relegated team gets so much.

3/3/2017 5:51 PM

Reduce admission prices,

3/3/2017 2:44 PM

Cheerleaders should get their tits out at half time

3/3/2017 1:55 PM

Reduce salaries of Football League executives. Abolish group stages. £1.95m is a drop in the ocean to British football. The corrupt and bloated FA and Premier League should be obliged to fund it.

3/3/2017 1:54 PM

Siphon off more TV money from the Premier League cash cow. Allow clubs to play whichever team they would like to choose.

3/3/2017 1:36 PM

To play as local a games as possible i.e. Carlisle play Blackpool or Hartlepool or Manchester teams not Mansfield or anywhere miles away

3/3/2017 12:28 PM

It's not always about the money. I do not support my local team because they are particularly successful. Of course money is a big factor, it's naive to think otherwise. Having said that, the competition should be used for lower league teams to get to Wembley and that should be the "carrot" not what owners can make the club. Lower league team supporters tend to be more realistic on what's achievable and realistic for them. With regards to under 21 category teams playing, that's why English football is so far behind in Europe. The academy football isn't on the same level, many of these loan players are wasting away in under 21 leagues, many been over age 21. Some getting out at the age of 23 or 24. In my humble opinion that's far too late, it's a tough game. Particularly with English football it's fast, aggressive and from what I've seen many academy teams can't stand the pace or quality against teams in league 1 or 2 which is massively worrisome if a "big club" have put in X amount of money and they're getting pasted by lower opposition because that will hinder the chance of first team progression for them. If they wanna play football, it would be for them as an individual to try and step up from academy to first team football, in their club or loan or make name by leaving and working way upwards. Many examples currently playing top level football, again not exclusively in the British game. My overall opinion is that lower league team supporters care more about a trip to Wembley than they may do about what the club can make, the attendance at many games horrific and soul destroying. The under 21's playing, it's not enough for them to develop into good players, or certainly not allowing enough players to make it. The gulf in money from a top top player and what a lower league player is ridiculous and I believe many young players sit on a good contract and they've got know where to turn by the time they've reached 22/23. At the end of the day it's like employment in any industry, experience counts for a massive amount. More than often regardless of where you've come from or what you've achieved on paper. My advice would be scrape the current format, it's killing the soul of lower league clubs (we would rather leave that to overseas investors who have a club as an ego boost or Napoleon complex) lower league supporters tend to love the club a lot more than fickle top tier teams as a general rule particularly over a certain age. However that's a different argument for a different day I suppose.

3/3/2017 9:52 AM

Attendance money added to a prize money pot after expenses taken out.

3/3/2017 8:43 AM

Have two legs

3/3/2017 8:24 AM

That is the job of the FA

3/3/2017 8:17 AM

Wish people at our club would realise, It's not all about prize money! For me it's about Wembley memories. Two legged semi final memories, beating Burnley 5-0...

3/3/2017 8:05 AM

The trophy was fine the way it was, it gave the lower league teams a greater chance of going to wembley/ millennium stadium. A chance that some of us have never had before

3/3/2017 7:13 AM

Fans attending the matches again next season due to the competition not being devalued by the so called EFL suits, will more than cover each clubs loss of prize money through the additional gate money. Clubs lost money this year unless you win it.

3/3/2017 6:53 AM

The premier league should meet the difference in return for how many PL clubs use the loan system from the lower leagues.

3/3/2017 2:22 AM

Definatley keep it regional final at Wembley maybe approach one of the smaller TV companies for sponsoring and to show some games live

3/3/2017 1:22 AM

keep the mini league first stages as introduced this season.

3/3/2017 12:53 AM

Not bothered about the money, the game shouldn't be all about money.

3/3/2017 12:45 AM

Prize money v attractive match ? What's the priority, ok the clubs say the bottom line is the extra money. But you will put off fans from coming if its Blackburn U23 coming instead of Fleetwood 1st team. Viable, but to whom.

3/2/2017 11:19 PM

Rather than meaningless friendly games, play the completion in the 4 weeks prior to start of the season when the weather is good and the enthusiasm is high. Crowds would be higher and it would be easier to attract TV coverage and hence sponsors because it would be the only competitive football being played.

3/2/2017 11:07 PM

Premier League Ranson money!

3/2/2017 10:57 PM

Money is ruining football - I'd argue this isn't necessary. After all those years why is it unviable now?

3/2/2017 10:57 PM

Play home and away

3/2/2017 10:51 PM

More affordable match prices for families and groups.

3/2/2017 10:37 PM

It's a chance for lower league clubs to get to play at Wembley. Perhaps better sponsorship. No to B teams. Also a chance for youth to blend in ?? Why fine lower league clubs for fielding weakened sides including youngsters. One rule for all!!

3/2/2017 10:36 PM

Give the competition more advertisement and publicity, broadcast more of the cup ties instead of just the final.

3/2/2017 10:14 PM

Not sure

3/2/2017 9:53 PM

I felt the competition was viable as it stood - maybe I'm weird but I've always enjoyed it. However, a straight knockout format is better than a first round group format, and perhaps drawing all L2 clubs at home to L1 clubs in the first round would give more interest as it would mean no league fixtures were being repeated - albeit the mandation of L1 sides as the away side would reduce the overall gate of the tournament at this stage. Not sure why additional income needs to be generated unless a return to the 'old' format means no sponsorship would be forthcoming, which seems an unnecessarily pessimistic view. Personally I'd like to see at least one round made 'pay what you want' or free admission, and no more than £5 for any round up to the area finals - with clubs seeking to make some of the 'lost' income back by fanzones with competitively priced food and drink, plus of course the goodwill/return customer angle if the match is a good one.

3/2/2017 9:22 PM

Ha! No idea. Good luck.

3/2/2017 9:19 PM

Nothing springs to mind. If income could be increased by including National League sides I would not have an issue with that.

3/2/2017 8:56 PM

Ask for a substantial contribution from the fat cat premier league clubs!

3/2/2017 8:21 PM

Make all teams play first team

3/2/2017 8:21 PM

I wasn't aware this wasn't viable. Why does the prize money need to be so high? Maybe because the rich clubs are destroying smaller clubs.

3/2/2017 8:11 PM

Home & Away, straight knock out from the start, with away goals counting as double, and regional finals over 2 legs home and away.

3/2/2017 8:05 PM

This is a stupid biased question that confirms everything the fans think about the new format. Let's sell the rest of our souls to the PL and give away all the lower league football should mean.

3/2/2017 8:01 PM

The competition was never about the greed of the football clubs, but down to trying to let clubs like Carlisle get a chance of wembley and win a trophy.....something our club seems to have forgotten is we would NEVER have got to Oldor new wembley, or the Millenium stadium, but for this competition. for once clubs could take a small hit and just enjoy a chance of a big final than as per usual think of their greed and self financial interest and thus end up denying many clubs that opportunity in the future.

3/2/2017 8:00 PM

The EFL should do it's job and actively seek either a good sponsor and let more of the T V money filter down to the lower leagues

3/2/2017 7:54 PM

The owners of the 48 league 1 & 2 clubs should demand the FA double the £1.95 million. This is the league's 1 & 2 fan's FA Cup. We want to know why billions of £' s are pumped into the premier league when us lower league fans have no interest in that league. The north south divide is excellent and should be adopted into the league and FA Cup. We need to stand up to greed and start demanding more form the not fit for purpose FA feeling very angry about a year waisted on the joke checker trade trophy ??????

3/2/2017 7:48 PM

Semi-Finals to be one leg at a big established ground on a weekend

3/2/2017 7:44 PM

Pre season games

3/2/2017 7:39 PM

Get in a better sponsor. If possible football related.

3/2/2017 7:39 PM

Group games, area semi finals to be two legged.area final to be played at a premiersip ground, eg North = old Trafford, southern = Stamford bridge. North v south = Wembley

3/2/2017 7:32 PM

Look to play later rounds on a Saturday 3pm increasing gate revenue.

3/2/2017 7:28 PM

All money made goes into the pot and not some directors back pocket

3/2/2017 7:27 PM

Get rid of groups and make it a straight knockout. Could have either two leg semis or semis at a neutral location e.g. championship or premiersip ground.

3/2/2017 7:25 PM

Another sponsor

3/2/2017 7:13 PM

Lower prices to encourage for fans to go

3/2/2017 7:05 PM

It's not about the money. It's about a chance to see wembley as a lower league fan.

3/2/2017 7:04 PM

Take the money off the prem

3/2/2017 7:00 PM

Clubs to play full strength teams, not an excuse for squad players ( as seen by premier ship / championship clubs in FA + League cup ) League 1+2 clubs cannot complain when they employ same tactics in their own competition !!

3/2/2017 6:58 PM

Have more sponsors.

3/2/2017 6:46 PM

I think due costs of tickets etc of attending League games, it will always be tough to generate big crowds and excitement in early rounds. However an extra £1.5m between 48 clubs on average just £29,000 per club. This could easily be recouped by clubs through larger gates as it cannot be argued that gates haven't been hit by the changes made this season. The enjoyment of early round games previously has been that it is a knockout and you can see your team progress there and then, which is something only cup football can offer. This years format not only made each of the early games have less importance, but the inclusion of U23 teams to help the national team as bigger teams fielded numerous players over 23, used the competition to help bring players back from injury and played foreign players, whilst lower league clubs were fined for fielding young British players. In my eyes this years competition has been a complete joke, with no incentive whatsoever for me to attend the games over. From the outset it was a terrible idea widely rejected by fans nationwide but was put in motion anyways, even without Buy in from the biggest clubs in the Premier League. The fact that officials hadn't even thought to consult the clubs that they wanted to submit teams before gaining approval of the plans shows just how poorly thought out the plan was. A lot of fans may choose to stay away from a Tuesday night tie vs Blackburn if they don't have a huge amount of disposable income on top of league games and 2 other cups, so why would they want to spend hard earned money to watch a game vs Blackburn Under 23s. A shocking idea, terribly planned out and shows just how detached the Football League are from the fans. If the competition includes B teams/u23s again this year I'll be saving my money to go to away League games.

3/2/2017 6:44 PM

does it need to be a &1.95 million prize fund. That increase was just an incentive to allow the premiership to get their greases paws in EVERYTHING!

3/2/2017 6:42 PM

That's your problem.... I won't attend any format that allows higher leagues to use it as a training cup for them .

3/2/2017 6:40 PM

Teams to put out their strongest teams. If they don't take it seriously why would you expect fans to turn up?

3/2/2017 6:36 PM

Hold the regional finals at premier league grounds or Wembley. Ask local businesses to subsidise ticket prices.

3/2/2017 6:35 PM

Just have an open draw

3/2/2017 6:28 PM

Stop with the B teams / under 23 teams. Put the games on a weekend instead of random midweeks if possible

3/2/2017 6:27 PM

Clubs should reduce entry fees

3/2/2017 6:25 PM

Reduced ticket prices to entice more in or subsidise price with the purchase of a league match ticket. Play semi finals at neutral premier league ground to increase interest and possibly attendance.

3/2/2017 6:14 PM

Clubs and fans were happy to play in a competition with 478k prize money. Why is prize money so important?

3/2/2017 6:13 PM

Money isn't everything !

3/2/2017 5:41 PM

I supported the idea of reducing the number of teams in each division, creating an additional division of the football league, and using the reduced number of games to allow FLT games to be scheduled for Saturday's. This would see an increase in attendance, in my opinion. As this now seems to be off the table, I would suggest that there has to be acceptance that attendances will be lower during early rounds than for other competitions, but that these will increase as clubs progress closer to the final. Clubs should look to have ticket promotions to increase crowds at these games. Keeping rounds regionalised until the final will reduce distances to travel for midweek games and therefore impact on numbers of away fans. It should also be remembered that the extra prize money has only been in place for this season, and the negative impact the changes have had on crowd sizes has certainly counteracted some of the benefit of the extra prize money. I can't comment on the viability of the competition before the changes, but Shaun Harvey described it as having 'flourished' during the period Johnstones Paints was sponsor, so I can't help but wonder whether the description of it as 'unviable' was partly in place to justify the controversial changes.

3/2/2017 5:33 PM

Split the competition into smaller areas instead of just North and South. Split the Country (inc Wales) into 8 sub divisions of 6. Each sub-division team plays 1 game against each of the other teams in their group with only the winner of the group getting through to the last 8. The last 8 is then drawn randomly with winners progressing to semis (home and away) and a final.

3/2/2017 5:09 PM

Insist clubs play at least 8 genuine first teamers

3/2/2017 5:04 PM

historically the competition hasn't been well supported until the latter rounds, with the latter rounds drawing bigger crowds. This is the incentive for clubs to do well in the competition, and the latter rounds gates would provide the clubs income, rather than the larger prize fund

3/2/2017 5:00 PM

Regional again

3/2/2017 4:55 PM

Money should not be the overriding factor Seek new sponsors

3/2/2017 4:43 PM

Play matches on a Sunday with match off on Saturday try get family's in the ground to make it a family fun day

3/2/2017 4:42 PM

Look for additional sponsors

3/2/2017 4:39 PM



Not bothered about the prize money. It's a huge chance for lower league clubs and their fans to go to Wembley and play.

3/2/2017 4:37 PM

If this competition is to be judged purely on a financial basis then it should be scrapped forthwith. The dream of watching your team play at Wembley is priceless.

3/2/2017 4:37 PM

levy a pound for attendance of All trophy games

3/2/2017 4:24 PM

This is primarily a lower league competition and has proved very popular and competitive to those teams and therefore an important, supportive sponsor/s should be found to retain this superb competition.

3/2/2017 4:22 PM

It's not all about prize money. The competition this season was a farce

3/2/2017 4:12 PM

What kind of question is that? Admitting Harvey sold the soul out of lower league football for £478k?! About 2 weeks of Paul Pogba's salary. The game is dead.

3/2/2017 4:00 PM

Regionally based and also move to mid-weeks and Saturdays when League and FA Cup fixtures traditionally take place as let's face it most League 1&2 sides are out of these competitions in v early rounds

3/2/2017 3:55 PM

Increased gate revenue by promotional offers kids for free if accompanied by a adult £5 admission for away fans £10 admission for home fans Reduce the number of players premier ship teams have signed on stop the loan system These players would then be playing in the lower leagues and any money from transfers etc would go to the lower league clubs. Divide the sky TVs money fairly Stop the parachute payment to teams relegated from the premier ship this gives them an unfair advantage when in the championship this would allow more teams to be competitive. Reduce the number of foreign players in this country. A salary cap on each league. Clubs accounts should be audited and signed off by a governing body no club should be allowed debts over a predetermined level.

3/2/2017 3:43 PM

TV Money

3/2/2017 3:42 PM

Retuning to the previous format would increase attendances compared to the present season which many supporters boycotted. A suggestion is that the two finalists could enter the following season's League Cup one round later than they would normally. I would have suggested this for the FA Cup but that may not be for the EFL to decide.

3/2/2017 3:32 PM

Free entry for all schoolkids under 16, they will buy hotdogs drinks etc and pester mams and dads to go with them, they in turn will have to pay to get in, also perhaps involve c4 or c5 with a highlights package for tv. So people can watch them for free on tv not on pay only tv, It should be called the Peoples cup

3/2/2017 3:22 PM

nothing keep as was as was fine the way it was before the fa decided to change it for a season

3/2/2017 3:18 PM

this is not about the money it was a prestigious competition before the EFL decided to stick its grubby hands in it too much

3/2/2017 3:11 PM

north and south winners receive bye to third round of league cup with eventual winners receiving bye to third round of fa cup

3/2/2017 3:10 PM

Have more sponsorships in the contest which will make it more worthy and advertise the contest more

3/2/2017 3:07 PM

Winners a European preliminary round chance

3/2/2017 3:06 PM

Knockout through the whole competition

3/2/2017 2:53 PM

Just return to the old format

3/2/2017 2:42 PM

Why is everything about money? Going to Wembley was the thing the fans liked. Perhaps get sky/bt to focus on lower league more and show that you don't need players earning £200k per week to give a good show on tv. Make it a lower league fa cup and big it up more

3/2/2017 2:40 PM

More prize money , allow teams to play youth players

3/2/2017 2:39 PM

Make it a spring competition when most clubs will have no cup involvement and for some little to play for in the league

3/2/2017 2:37 PM

Straight knockout, no extra time, pens after 90mins. TV deal with terrestrial TV which opens up lower league football to general public which is not available in other comps (prem league, FL Cup, etc.). Prize pot doesn't need to be £1.95m

3/2/2017 2:35 PM

I'm Not bothered about how to make more money, it's about lower league teams having the opportunity of winning silver ware and a day out to Wembley, not some premier league youth team coming in and ruining for the fans

3/2/2017 2:30 PM

Tighten the regionalization element in the early rounds to provide more genuine local derbies and reduce travel costs etc. For example, Carlisle United could only be drawn against teams from the North East or North West and not teams from the North or East Midlands as at the moment. Carlisle United v Hartlepool or Bolton Wanderers has far more appeal than Port Vale or Mansfield, for example.

3/2/2017 2:28 PM

£478k prize money is fine, revert back

3/2/2017 2:26 PM

North South split world cup format .

3/2/2017 2:24 PM

Find a sponsor that is willing to contribute without including the other clubs this should not be difficult with all the contacts EFL have.

3/2/2017 2:23 PM

Need to attract more sponsorship, North/South format to encourage fans to attend, possibly group teams in terms of geography to engage fans.

3/2/2017 2:17 PM

Why does it always have to be about money? Do it for the fans

3/2/2017 2:15 PM

Publicise the competition and try to attract more sponsors. If all clubs paid to take part they may take it more seriously and make it a more competitive competition. Perhaps the football league could do more.

3/2/2017 2:15 PM

The EFL should be looking to get a much higher share of TV money from Sky & BT on a permanent basis.

3/2/2017 2:14 PM

It's not all about money

3/2/2017 2:11 PM

More games on TV, reduce round-robin element to straight knock-out (early games have lower crowds). Remove rule about having to play 6 first-team players, which means that clubs make early substitutions (if clubs don't take it seriously then why should fans)?

3/2/2017 2:09 PM

This competition isn't about the money. The prospect of a big day out at Wembley should be the main draw. £1.5 million is hardly small change and I for one would prefer the smaller prize fund and get rid of the embarrassing 'under 23' teams.

3/2/2017 2:06 PM

It's all about the money this article .you can't put your true opinion across.i attended the home games but wouldn't attend away games apart from the final . My suggestion would be to regionalise the whole comp North west North East ,Midlands,South west ,south East where applicable.quarter finals onwards North and South .no u21or u23s . How about if a game is 0-0 at seventy minutes.the golden goal rule applies next goal wins just a thought

3/2/2017 2:06 PM

Have a North, Midlands and South East and South West draws so cutting down on travel expenses for teams and fans.Have all games on a Wednesday night, cut price entry for fans. As for making more prize money, do that job yourselves, it's what you are paid for.

3/2/2017 2:05 PM

buy 1 ticket get 1 free, children in for free and adult ticket price £10 on night , £8 if ordered online.

3/2/2017 2:03 PM

Reduce ticket pices

3/2/2017 2:00 PM

The importance of the trophy isn't because it is a cash cow- though it can be in later rounds - but because it gives lower league clubs a chance of winning a trophy and a day out at Wembley. It is important to keep it regionalised until the Final (CUFC could have had a midweek trip to Plymouth) and to have the 2 legged semi-final. I didn't boycott games unlike many supporters but that shouldn't be taken to mean that I was happy with us playing Blackburn Rovers reserves - I wasn't.

3/2/2017 2:00 PM

This is about fans' experience and memories that last forever. Trips to Wembley and the Millennium Stadium are a highlight of most supporters. I appreciate the need to take finances into consideration but suggesting it needs to be the same prize money doesn't make sense given we managed ok for previous years.

3/2/2017 2:00 PM

Football isn't all about the money.

3/2/2017 1:55 PM

Nobody ever said it was now viable prior to the vote for changes! No one said it wasn't viable when CUFC was going on cup runs. This question is badly worded and misleading. If the trophy stays the same, attendances will drop and it will die - then we will lose all prize money. This question makes it sounds as if the club is trying to justify its previous support of changes (that was made without any discussion of options).

3/2/2017 1:53 PM

I didn't know about that. Ask the clubs to compare finances against previous seasons

3/2/2017 1:51 PM

Additional sponsorship, EFL should also negotiate additional funding from Premier League as if lower league clubs perish then the game begins to die at EFL level

3/2/2017 1:50 PM

The changes have made the competition less viable as attendances are too low.

3/2/2017 1:49 PM

The winner of the competition should be able to enter the Fa cup at the 3Rd Round stage, potentially a lucrative draw. Have the competition televised.

3/2/2017 1:49 PM

As far as I know the prize money was £10,000 per win in the group stages. Assuming that the average ticket price is about £10 the crowds were at least 1,000 higher in the old format. I would like to see a return to the groups of 3 as this would guarantee every team home income from their own gate receipts. Once in the knockout rounds half the gate money. For the northern and southern finals use a neutral ground like the old FA Cups Semi-finals and have a cup for the northern & southern finals. The neutral venue should be decided by geographical location the the expected size of the crowd. For example if there was a northern final to be played between Hartlepool and Carlisle play the northern final at St James Park or Sunderland. Make the Northern & Southern finals on a weekend to give it a Cup Final feel allowing families to travel and increase interest in the knockout stages.

3/2/2017 1:49 PM

The competition must be based on a regional basis right through to the final which would be between north and south group winners.

3/2/2017 1:46 PM

I am a fan of the football Club , and a fan of football in general , it is not my place to tell the people how to make this financially viable . That is for either a Marketing Manager or FD.

3/2/2017 1:44 PM

The EFL are missing the point of this competition. It is an opportunity for lower league fans to realise their dream of watching their club play at Wembley. A competition should be a simple knock out competition with the winner going through.

3/2/2017 1:43 PM

Let the mega rich premier league donate the money as they benefit from loaning out players to gain experience.

3/2/2017 1:43 PM

advertise increase.

3/2/2017 1:39 PM

EFL's job to come up with that.

3/2/2017 1:39 PM

Surely only the £478k would be taken account of and this sum has to be compared to what was lost in gate receipts (which could be reasonably estimated)

3/2/2017 1:31 PM

The format for this year's tournament worked but the inclusion of supposed U21/U23 teams detracted from the quality of the tournament. The rules and regulations also punished League 1 & 2 clubs for electing to rest players or rotate. Baffling.

3/2/2017 1:27 PM

none, If it cannot be made viable in this format it should be scrapped

3/2/2017 1:21 PM

Alternative sponsorship. Has the increase in prize money been enough to replace the money lost in attendance and loss of trust in football clubs and the EFL?

3/2/2017 1:21 PM

Clubs need to offer lower priced tickets or offer incentives for attending these games such as discount on league tickets. No extra time, just straight to pens

3/2/2017 1:18 PM

The fans that would return to watch fixtures would cover the cost

3/2/2017 1:16 PM

Straight knockout, no 2nd legs.

3/2/2017 1:14 PM

Regionalised games to considered. Some north and south divides were laughable at times. Reduced prices will bring more people in. Vouchers for money off next league with ticket stub from cup game. Priority access to later rounds dependent on the more ticket stubs you have from earlier rounds

3/2/2017 1:14 PM

n/a

3/2/2017 1:09 PM

Competitive ticketing policy to counter the poor attendances experienced during the (current) competitions tenure.

3/2/2017 1:09 PM

Nothing, knockout competitive matches should attract supporters, sponsors, TV coverage.

3/2/2017 1:09 PM

Could use progression in the competition as a way to decide EFL league position if goal difference is the same at the end of the season. Or instead of goal difference if a more extreme shake up required. If group stage is used offer bonus points for goals scored. Mandatory penalties at end of each game for bonus point. Reduce the amount of players on the pitch 9v9 or 10v10 to help smaller squads from resting too many players. Rolling substitutions.

3/2/2017 1:08 PM

Group stage round. 4 teams in a group with 12 groups. split 6 in North and South. Groups should be regionalised e.g North West, North East, etc Group winners go through with the best 4 second placed teams (2 from each the Northern and Southern sections). Teams play each other once. In the final round of games dead rubbers would not have to be played if they have no effect on the group. Penalties to settle draws and the winner gain a bonus point! Group stage round ticket prices should be at least half price too.

3/2/2017 1:07 PM

This question is loaded. The increased prize money was not worth the damage the changed format inflicted on the standing and status of lower-league clubs and their supporters. Shaun Harvey said in March 2016 that the competition had "flourished" during the Johnstone's Paint 10-year sponsorship. This contradicts recent claims the competition was broken and desperately needed the extra prize money. Some honesty and integrity from Harvey and his organisation ought to come before any "viable" suggestions from fans.

3/2/2017 1:06 PM

Advertise the game more. Television rights to the BBC so the games get coverage from the early rounds as people will want to watch football on network channels!! And returning to the old format will bring more money into the stadiums

3/2/2017 1:02 PM

I think naming the trophy after the sponsor makes it sound less important to a little of fans then it is. It should just be referred to as the EFL Trophy.

3/2/2017 1:02 PM

The money should not be important the value of playing in a cup final at Wembley outweighs any financial benefits.

3/2/2017 1:01 PM

Look for a bigger sponsor. Dare I suggest an overseas billionaire!

3/2/2017 12:58 PM

That's your fucking job not mine

3/2/2017 12:55 PM

I'd rather have £478k and the old format back than £1.95m playing against under 21 teams which are supposed to promote youth but feature such good young prospects as Wes Brown while league clubs are hit with massive fines for making too many changes to promote their youngsters - it has been an absolute farce.

3/2/2017 12:54 PM

I don't know. It's not really about the money it's about the chance to see your club play at Wembley against without the competition being devalued by B teams

3/2/2017 12:54 PM

Ensure that the rules make FL Clubs play youngsters, many of whom will be on loan from PL clubs. This was the basis of the change this season ie give youngsters game time. In that way the prize fund could stay the same.

3/2/2017 12:54 PM

Play the final in a more central location in the country. Northern based fans like myself (Carlisle) would have to spend and have spent a lot to get to Wembley. Although a trip to Wembley is nice, more fans from the northern clubs would be able to attend if the final was at Villa Park or Old Trafford, Anfield Etc

3/2/2017 12:52 PM

I don't care what is done as long as it doesn't involve B teams. If it's only viable with B teams then I'd rather it was scrapped. I will never attend any Carlisle United first team match in a competition that involves B teams.

3/2/2017 12:52 PM

Don't televise football 24/7!!!!!!!

3/2/2017 12:51 PM

A higher profile sponsor

3/2/2017 12:50 PM