

*Waiting game:  
Manchester  
City will find  
out today  
if they will  
compete in the  
Champions  
League next  
season*



Raheem Sterling of Manchester City scores his team's fifth goal

# Man City 'deserve' Champions League return, says Guardiola

AFP | London

Pep Guardiola believes Manchester City deserve their place in the Champions League next season as the club wait to find out whether their two-season ban against playing in European competitions will be overturned.

City were handed the two-season saction by UEFA in February over alleged breaches of financial fair play rules, but appealed that decision to the Court of Arbitration for Sport which will deliver its verdict today.

On the field, City ensured they will finish in the Premier League's top four with Raheem Sterling scoring a hat-trick in a 5-0 win over Brighton on Saturday.

"Today we achieved one incredible challenge, which is qualification for the Champions League mathematically," said Guardiola.

"We deserve to be there because we won it on the pitch. Hopefully today UEFA can allow us to play like this team and these players deserve to."

For the fourth time in their last six league games, City scored four or more goals in another performance that belied the 21-point gap between them and champions Liverpool.

However, they could still end the season with a treble of trophies as they face Arsenal in the semi-finals of the FA Cup next weekend before recommencing their Champions League campaign



Manchester City's Spanish manager Pep Guardiola jokingly takes the match ball from Manchester City's English midfielder Raheem Sterling

in August.

"I have the feeling all the team is ready to play good for what we have ahead of us," added Guardiola.

"The levels we've had since the restart, even the games we lost, have been

really good."

Too often City have been found wanting for failing to take their chances and punished for defensive lapses at the other end.

However, there was never any chance



**City made 93 million euros from UEFA prize money and TV rights from last season's Champions League, with gate receipts and extra sponsorship revenue from Europe's premier club competition added to that tally**

of Brighton adding to their nine league defeats this season once Sterling curled home his 25th goal of the season with unerring accuracy into the far corner.

"I think the problem we've had this season is we've created a lot of chances and not taken them whereas last season and the season before we'd finish them and bury games early on," said Sterling. "This season we haven't had that slight bit of luck."

Gabriel Jesus could have the responsibility of leading the line when City's bid to win the Champions League for the first time gets back underway with Sergio Aguero facing a race against time

to be fit after knee surgery.

The Brazilian has not always been the most prolific finisher, but showed striker's instincts to tap Rodrigo's flick-on for a corner to make it 2-0 just before half-time with his 20th goal of the season.

Sterling notched his second of the night in unusual fashion by crashing home a header from Mahrez's teasing cross.

Brighton did themselves no favours for the fourth as Mat Ryan spiled a Bernardo Silva shot he should have held and Jesus teed up the Portuguese midfielder to roll into an unguarded net at the second attempt.

Sterling was left on as Kevin De Bruyne and Jesus made way to give him the chance of securing a hat-trick and he did so with a hint of fortune as the ball ricocheted off his head after he had fallen to the floor inside the area and Dan Burn failed to clear the ball off the line.

Brighton are still not mathematically safe as they remain eight points above the relegation zone, but Graham Potter's men should already have enough points on the board as third-bottom Bournemouth face the daunting task of being City's next opponents on Wednesday.

"We were well beaten by the better team," admitted Potter.

"They beat Liverpool 4-0 at the Etihad so better teams than us will find it difficult."

## Confusion as drivers miss knee protest before second Spielberg race

AFP | Spielberg

After a week of debate as to whether Formula One drivers should take a united stance on racism and all kneel before races, several seemed to miss a protest ahead of yesterday's Styrian Grand Prix.

Working out who knelt was made more difficult because the television images from the Red Bull Ring, where spectators are banned and the movement of journalists is restricted, switched from filming the grid to focusing on an overhead para-glider before the protest had finished, but it seemed several

drivers were absent.

As they did last Sunday before the season-opening Grand Prix, 19 of the 20 drivers were wearing black 'End Racism' t-shirts, while Lewis Hamilton wore a 'Black Lives Matter' shirt when six of the paddock did not take a knee.

This time the majority again knelt as Max Verstappen of Red Bull, Charles Leclerc of Ferrari, Kimi Raikkonen of Alfa Romeo and Daniil Kvyat of Alpha Tauri stood.

But two of last week's hold-outs, Antonio Giovinazzi of Alfa Romeo and Carlos Sainz



Some of the F1 drivers take a knee on the grid in support of the Black Lives Matter movement



**As they did last Sunday, 19 of the 20 drivers were wearing black 'End Racism' t-shirts, while Lewis Hamilton wore a 'Black Lives Matter' shirt when six of the paddock did not take a knee**

of McLaren could not be seen on TV standing, but that might have been because they were not there.

Hamilton had said in advance he understood some of his colleagues might not take a knee, but on Thursday had made clear also Formula One had failed to follow the example of other major sports in demonstrating unity in the global anti-racism campaign.

Formula One's top drivers were divided again yesterday when several chose not take a knee ahead of the Styrian Grand Prix.