

## **Tony Barrett**

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Liverpool are facing another summer of change after Jürgen Klopp was given the green light to overhaul a squad that has fallen short of expectations again.

While defeat by Manchester City in the Capital One Cup final on Sunday did not seal the fate of anyone, the setback is one of a number of triggers that will result in Liverpool refreshing their playing staff, with the strong likelihood that a number of high-profile stars are now on borrowed time.

Christian Benteke, who rejected overtures from China Super League clubs in January, is among those who will be made available for transfer unless he is able to force his way back into the starting line-up after falling out of favour to such an extent that he was an unused substitute in Liverpool's penalty shoot-out loss to City.

After becoming the second most expensive player in Liverpool's history last summer when he signed from Aston Villa for £32.5 million at Brendan Rodgers's request, Benteke must prove his worth to a manager who did not recruit him and who is showing mounting reluctance to select him.

Simon Mignolet's first-choice status is also not guaranteed despite the Belgium player recently signing a five-year contract. Liverpool are looking to sign a goalkeeper who will put his place under pressure with Adam Bogdan also expected to depart at the end of this season. Mignolet's latest costly error allowed City to take the lead at Wembley and, while the goalkeeper also made a number of good saves in the final, the 27-year-old appears increasingly vulnerable.

Publicly, Klopp remains committed to his squad in the hope that they will help Liverpool to have a strong finish to the season, with the Europa League now the main target.

Privately, though, work is under way to revitalise their fortunes with Liverpool continuing to show an interest in Mario Götze, the Bayern Munich attacking midfielder, Piotr Zielinski, the Udinese midfielder, and Ben Chilwell, the Leicester City left back.

With Marko Grujic and Joel Matip confirmed to sign, Klopp is hoping to have the bulk of his new-look squad available for pre-season.