



# Wellingborough Challenge Cup 1895-96

**Winners:** Rushen and Walsall (joint)  
**Runners-Up:** n/a  
**No. of entries:** 7

Leicestershire were represented by two clubs – Leicester Fosse and Leicester YMCA – both were eliminated in the first round.

Rushden and Walsall shared the Cup after drawing in the final. The Competition Committee decided to give both teams gold medals and that Walsall should hold the cup for the first 6 months and the Rushden XI for the later period of the year.

## Round 1

#	Date	Home	Away		Match Details
1	27.1.1896	Kettering McMain Dixon (2) Scrimmage Draper	5 (3)	0 (0)	Finedon  At Kettering. 600 spectators.
2	?	Rushden	W		Leicester YMCA
3	13.1.1896	Walsall Taylor (20 min) Copeland (25 min) Brocksop	3 (2)	0 (0)	Leicester Fosse [Holders]  At Walsall. 1,500 spectators.

Wellingborough, a bye

## Semi-Final

#	Date	Home	Away		Match Details
4	23.3.1896	Kettering	0 (0)	2 (2)	Walsall Aston (2)  Town Ground, Wellingborough. Very large crowd, c. 3,000.
5		Rushden	1	0	Wellingborough

## Final

#	Date	Home	Away		Match Details
6	27.4.1896	Rushden Baker Clarke	2 (2)	2 (0)	Walsall Holmes Copeland  Town Ground, Kettering [Easter Tuesday]. Two trains conveyed the Walsall supporters to Wellingborough. At 5 pm the advertised kick off time- there were no signs of the Walsall team owing to the lateness of the excursion. They arrived at 5.29 and a start was made at 5.40 pm.

## Match Reports

### #3 WELLINGBOROUGH CUP

**Walsall v Leicester Fosse** — At Walsall yesterday before 1,500 spectators. Both sides had their full strength. The visitors started with the wind, but were soon forced back, and Thraves had to clear. Taylor scored for Walsall after twenty minutes, and Copeland added a second five minutes later. Changing ends Leicester allowed to more advantage but were weak round goal. Walsall eventually scored again through Brocksopp. Final: Walsall, 3; Fosse, nil.

*York Herald* – 14 January 1896

## WELLINGBOROUGH CUP.

### First Semi-Final.

#### KETTERING v. WALSALL.

The first semi-final for the Wellingboro' Challenge Cup took place on the Town Ground, Wellingborough, yesterday, the competing teams being Kettering and Walsall. Kettering, it will be remembered, gained their entry to this stage of the competition by defeating Finedon by five goals to nil; whilst Walsall, in their first round tie, unexpectedly defeated Leicester Fosse, the holders of the cup, by three goals to one. The match yesterday had been looked forward to with considerable interest, as Kettering and Walsall have met twice this season in the Midland League with a singular result—five goals to two in favour of the home team on each occasion. Teams:—

Kettering. — Perkins, goal; Wallis and Draper, backs; Pell, Ball, and Mablestone, half-backs; Whitehouse and Panter, right wing; McMain, centre; Miller and Dixon, left wing.

Walsall. — Hawkins, goal; Lewis and Pinches, backs; Holmes, Taylor, and C. L. Aston, half-backs; Horobin and J. Aston, right wing; Copeland, centre; E. H. Brocksopp and A. Brocksopp, left wing.

Referee: Mr. A. Kingscott.

The delightful weather had secured a very large attendance, there being quite 3,000 spectators, and Kettering having won the toss, naturally elected to play with the powerful sun at their backs, they also being favoured with the fairly strong breeze. Kettering went off smartly with a characteristic rush, and were only prevented from scoring by a strong kick by Lewis. The fast play of Ball helped Kettering considerably, and the Walsallites were loudly cheered for extremely pretty passing by the forward division.

Dixon headed in magnificently, but the resultant save by the opposing goalkeeper was a very brilliant piece of work. Then the Kettering men, having been given a free but a few yards from their opponents' goal, swarmed round the line, and looked terribly dangerous, but eventually Lewis headed away. Copeland had a good try with a nice high shot, which went over the bar, and a minute later the same player sent in a fast, low shot, which grazed the upright. Walsall were given a corner, the ball having been headed just over by Draper, but the ball was cleared, and almost immediately after Draper stood for this with a shot which just missed scoring. Panter headed in a fast shot from the back, but Hawkins fisted out, and in less than two minutes he cleared another lovely shot, and threw out a third. Perkins cleared in the midst of a warm onslaught Walsall were making upon the Kettering goal, but this lasted a very few minutes, Kettering resuming the aggressive and giving Walsall some hot defensive work, which was accomplished admirably. Kettering were still attacking, but their shooting was very wild, when the referee's whistle announced half-time, the scores reading—

Kettering .....	0
Walsall .....	0

Upon resuming after the interval, the Walsall front rank kept the Kettering custodian busily engaged for the first few minutes. The Walsall goal was in considerable danger when Kettering were given a free for a foul a yard or two from goal, but the sphere was kicked by without touching anyone. Perkins saved a number of stinging shots, and Walsall were now playing a much better game and having by far the best of the match. Lewis was in grand form, and his play was really a feature of the game. A trio of corners were given Walsall, and from the concluding one Dixon went the length of the field with the ball, a corner at the following end being the result. Horobin sent in a fast grounder, which Perkins only just managed to keep the right side of the upright. Less than ten minutes before the close Aston sent in a beauty, and scored the first goal for his side, this being followed by a second from the same player a minute later, which Perkins had no chance of saving. From now until the finish the game was wonderfully fast, and when Kettering were given a free a yard or two from their opponents' goal it seemed as though they must score. Draper took the kick, and placed it splendidly, but it went through without being touched. Play was in mid-field when Referee King-scott's whistle announced time, and a most fast, exciting, and grand game ended—

WALSALL .....	2
KETTERING .....	0

## #6 WELLINGBOROUGH CUP

### The Final

#### RUSHDEN v. WALSALL

The final for the Wellingborough Challenge Cup took place last evening on the Town Ground, the competitors being Rushden and Walsall. In the first round of the competition Rushden disposed of Leicester YMCA and in their semi-final tie they beat Wellingborough by goal to nil; whilst Walsall qualified for the final by respectively beating Leicester Fosse (holders) and Kettering. The teams chosen for yesterday were:

Walsall. Hawkins, goal; Lewis and Pinches, backs; Holmes (captain), Taylor. and C. L. Aston, half-backs; Horobin and J. Aston, right wing; Copeland. centre; K. H. Brocksopp and A. Brocksopp, left wing.  
Rushden: Baldry, goal; Attley and Lilley, backs; Minney, Bailey (captain), and Clarke, half-backs; Denton and Lewis, right wing; Baker, centre; Pendered and Dunkley, left wing.

Referee: Mr. J. Fox (Sheffield). Linesmen Messrs. A. Peters (Kettering) and F. Moore.

The weather was threatening all the afternoon but a high wind kept off the rain, and at kicking-off time there were 4,000 persons present, two trains having been necessary to convey the Walsall supporters from

Birmingham and district. At five o'clock —the announced time to kick off—there were no signs of the Walsall team, which was accounted for by the lateness of the excursions. They put in an appearance at 5.29 (the same team that was victorious over Sheffield United), and a start was made at 5.40, Rushden having choice of sides, and of course took advantage of the wind, which blew straight from the gas works to the furnaces. Rushden were quickly within range, and Bailey shot into Hawkins' hands. The ground being dry, play ruled very fast. Rushden had three frees near the Walsall goal, which had a couple of narrow escapes. The Walsall forwards forced a corner, which, like couple of their rivals, proved of no avail. The Northamptonshire men were having the best of the play, and it took the Walsall backs and goalkeeper all their time to keep out the shots. Lewis (Rushden placed wide at a good opportunity. and Clark then had to leave to recover from a collision. After Walsall had unsuccessfully tried a corner, he returned, apparently none the worse. During the next few minutes the most noteworthy events were a corner for Walsall and a free kick for Rushden in promising position. Neither assisted either party directly after Bailey got the leather at a fair distance from the Walsall goal, and with a grand shot elicited great cheering by beating Hawkins. Good as this was for Rushden, better was to follow. Lewis appeared to have a capital chance if he could have retained the ball, but he atoned for what fault there was by immediately passing Baker, enabling him to elude the Walsall goalkeeper, Rushden then two goals ahead within twenty-five minutes of the start. The Rushden forwards showed some capital passing, and beyond the help they had from the wind there is no doubt that they were much encouraged by their success, and Walsall had probably been over-confident. Rushden's quarters had unvisited for some time: then, in rapid succession, Horobin and A. Brocksopp made good runs, the former finishing with a pretty shot just over, and the latter centred, Copeland, with a weak shot, causing Baldrey to clear for the first time. The furnace end again became the scene of hostilities, and the leading team gave Hawkins a lot of trouble. Just before half-time Walsall made a desperate effort, but the whistle blew with the score—

Rushden 2  
Walsall 0

On re-tarting it was evident the crowd was great excited, and the play did not tend to diminish it. Walsall's dash, with the wind behind it, had to be met by Rushden's determined defence, which proved equal to all calls. Baldry, in fact, although kept on the alert, had little to do. He well saved a likely shot from Pinches, the result of a foul near his charge, and again distinguished himself later, but about twenty-five minutes from the start a long kick by Lewis (Walsall) was put past him by Holmes, bringing the reckoning to Rushden 2, Walsall 1. Rushden seldom got over the centre line, and were naturally the defensive. Walsall, seeing the necessity of adding to the score unless they were go home defeated, pressed heavily, but Baldry made some grand saves, a splendid high shot in the corner from Copeland requiring his finest effort. Dunkley at length shifted the scene, and Bailey, after a smart run, put a good shot. Other shots followed from Dunkley and Lewis. When the ball was transferred, Lewis (Walsall), with a well-judged shot and a header from Copeland, drew level, and the Walsall supporters could scarcely contain themselves for joy. This was about five minutes from the finish. The remainder of the game was of the most exciting description, and Rushden made several good tries to again take the lead, but time arrived with the score:

RUSHDEN 2  
WALSALL 2

At the conclusion of the match the teams, officials and friends sat down to an excellent tea provided at the Hind Hotel, and during the proceedings Mr. Hilton, member of the Competition Committee informed the gathering that a meeting had just held, and representatives both teams had expresses the opinion that the matter should left for the executive to deal with. As the result of this this committee had decided to give each team gold medals of exactly the same pattern and value—(loud cheers) —and that the Walsall team should hold the cup for the first six months, and the Rushden XI for the latter period of the year. The gold medals that had been prepared for the winners would be presented to Rushden that night, whilst the Walsall players would receive theirs' soon as they could prepared.

Mr. Herbert Dullely. who presided, then presented the cup to Mr. Bull, on behalf the Walsall team the latter expressing the appreciation of the visitor the generous and magnanimous way in which the matter had been decided. The gold medals were then presented the Rushden team, and Mr. F. Newman on behalf of the club, returned thanks. Hearty vote of thanks were accorded the referee, linesmen, and Mr. Dullely.

*Gloucester Citizen - 28 April 1895*