



# Wellingborough & District Challenge Cup 1882-83

**Winner:** Newport Pagnell  
**Runner-up:** Wellingborough  
**No. of entries:** 9

The inaugural Wellingborough and District Challenge Cup competition.

Market Harborough became the first Leicestershire football club to enter an Association football competition. Unfortunately, the only information currently known about this momentous milestone in Leicestershire football history is that they were beaten in the opening round by Rushden.

The following is an account of the matches played: **FIRST ROUND**– Newport v Kettering a draw. Rushden beat Market Harborough. High Ferrers beat Bedford. Wellingborough beat Earls Barton. The Revellers a bye. Newport Pagnell beat Kettering. **SECOND ROUND** – Newport Pagnell v Rushden a draw, afterwards Rushden retired in favour of Newport. The Revellers beat Higham Ferrers. Wellingborough a bye. **SEMI-FINAL** – Wellingborough beat the Revellers. **FINAL** – Newport Pagnell beat Wellingborough.

*Croydon Weekly Standard – 24 March 1883*

## Results & Match Details

### Round 1

	Date	Home	Away		Match Details
1	20.1.1883	Earl's Barton Wanderers	1 (0)	2 (2)	Wellingborough Town At Earl's Barton.
2	13.1.1893	Higham Ferrers Rooksby AN Others	4	0	Bedford
3	9.12.1882	Kettering Church Institute	2 (0)	2 (1)	Newport Pagnell
4		Rushden	W		Market Harborough

Wellingborough Revellers, a bye.

### Round 1 replay

	Date	Home	Away		Match Details
5	13.1.1883	Newport Pagnell	3	0	Kettering Church Institute Bury Field, Newport Pagnell. Heavy rain in the morning made the turf slippery. Good attendance.

### Round 2

	Date	Home	Away		Match Details
6	3.2.1883	Higham Ferrers	0	1	Wellingborough Revellers Recreation Ground, Higham Ferrers. 12 mins before time the ball burst and there not being another on the ground, the game was delayed until one was found.
7	10.2.1883	Newport Pagnell	W		Rushden Bury Field, Newport Pagnell. Inclement weather. Five minutes before half-time the game terminated rather abruptly owing to the Rushden captain walking off the field of play, accompanied by

						two team mates. The rest of the team soon followed suit, leaving the Newport in sole possession of the ground. The excuse was the wet and the bad state of the ground. Rushden retired from the competition.
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Wellingborough Town, bye

### Semi-Final

Date	Home		Away	Match Details	
8	?	Wellingborough Town	W	Wellingborough Revellers	

Newport Pagnell, bye

### Final

Date	Home		Away	Match Details		
9	17.3.1883	Newport Pagnell Maul (70 min)	1 (0)	0 (0)	Wellingborough Town	District Ground, Wellingborough. Unfavourable weather- snowstorms. Game commenced at 3.05 pm. When the winners they arrived home at around 10 pm they received "quiet an ovation from the inhabitants of their town."

## Match Reports

**#1 FOOTBALL**—A match was played at Earl's Barton, on Saturday, between the Barton Wanderers and the Wellingborough Town Clubs. The match was one in the first round for the challenge cup, and two good teams opposed each other. In the first half-time two goals were scored by Wellingborough, and in the second, one goal by Earl's Barton, thus leaving the visitors winners two goals to one. The following were the players for Earl's Barton: —J. Whyman (goal), J. Underwood and T. Craddock {backs}, F. Copson, captain, and A. Cook (halfbacks), H. Freeman, S. Tompkins J. Ingram, V. Flowers, H. Biggs, and A. Smart (forwards).  
*Northampton Mercury - 27 January 1883*

**#2 FOOTBALL** —On Saturday last match was played on the recreation ground, between eleven of H.F.F.C., and eleven of Bedford, for the first round of the counties' Challenge Cup (Association rules). The match was witnessed by large company. Bedford won the toss, and elected to kick towards the road; and as soon as the ball was kicked off it was taken into the visitors' bounds, and in two minutes Rooksby rushed a goal in splendid form. This was followed by a post kick, for which they had corner kick, but failed score. After this the visitors worked the ball well into their opponents' ground, and some good play followed: but although they made several byes, they failed to get one through. The pace soon began to tell on the visitors, and another goal was scored by Higham Ferrers, and at half-time it was seen the Bedford team had no chance. The game ended by four goals to Higham to nil. The playing of the winners was very good, especially that of Rooksby and W. Evans. Thorn, goal keeper for the visitors, played excellently, as did one of the forwards. The following were the players:— Ferrers : Rooksby, W. Evans, R. Evans, T. Draper, O. Draper, T. Parker, W. Miller, C. Bates, C. Horrell, E. Willmott, G. Cawell. Bedford : Thorn, Green, Hayward, Swannell, Wilkes, Barker, Litchfield, Stokes, Carrington, Simms. After the match the teams sat down to tea at the Green Dragon Inn. Afterwards they were joined by a large number of friends, and very harmonious evening was spent.  
*Northampton Mercury - 20 January 1883*

**#3?**

**#4?**

**#5 FOOTBALL** – The first of the matches in connection with the Wellingborough and District Association Challenge Cup Competition came off on Saturday at Kettering, in the presence of a large number of spectators, the teams opposing each other being the Kettering Church institute and Newport Pagnell. The

weather was fine, but the state of the ground was anything but good, being completely covered with snow, rendering good play almost impracticable. The merits of the clubs being unknown to each other, great interest was centred in the game, and the result was looked forward to with great eagerness by the promotion of the association. The following were the names and positions of the teams:-Newport – Backs, T Garratt, Bull; half-backs, B Garratt, W Brown; goal, E Mapley; left wing, G Pearce (captain), C Daniels; right wing, J Minnell, T Meadows; centre, C Holland, C Mills. Kettering – Back, Rev Thurston; half-backs, Lindsay, Hart; goal, F Spence; left wing, York, Cole; right wing, E Ayres, Ginns; centre, H Bayes, Woolstone, C Bayes. Pearce won the toss for Newport leaving Kettering to kick off against a slight wind. It soon became evident that the Newportonians were to be the attacking party, and right well pressed their opponents back, while shot after shot was put into their goal line, requiring all the skill of their goalkeeper, Spence (who it must be remarked performed that office admirably) to keep their goal intact. Now and again the game was enlivened by the runs of the Kettering forwards into the Newport territory, only to be returned by the kicking powers of Garratt and Bull. Newport still continuing the offensive gave plenty of work and made it rather warm for their opponents' backs, but although the enemies goal was constantly endangered, they still failed to score. Corner kick after corner kick, placed splendidly by Garratt, met with the same result. But the long looked for event came at last, and the fortress that had so gallantly resisted all their attacks had to succumb at last to a well-directed shot, causing the goalkeeper to use his hands, and before he could make his kick, was charged, together with the ball, through the tape. This the enemy appeared in no way to relish, and they make strenuous efforts to alter the state of affairs, but this however up to the call of half-time they failed to do so. After half-time the game became more even, and some good runs were made on both sides and matters were soon equalised, owing to a mishap on the part of the goalkeeper, for in attempting to stop an apparently easy shot he owing to the slippery state of the ground, missed his footing and the ball being immediately pounced upon by the Kettering forwards was sent between the posts. The ball was again kicked off and before Newport had thoroughly recovered the offsets of their opponents' good luck, the ball was a second time sent home, amid ringing cheers from the spectators. With one goal to the bad and only ten minutes until the call of time, things looked anything but healthy for the Newportonians but their spirits were soon revived by seeing their captain by a neat run obtain a full front and sending the ball once more through the tape. Encouraged by their success they made another onslaught on their opponents' goal, and their efforts were rewarded, just before the call of time by Minnell securing another goal. This however was not allowed, on the plea of off side. Thus, a very pleasant and meet enjoyable game ended in a draw, two gads each. The tie will be played off on some Saturday afternoon this season, in Bury Field.

*Croydon's Weekly Standard - 16 October 1882*

**#6 FOOTBALL - Higham Ferrers v. Wellingborough Revellers.** —The draw for the second round of the Counties Challenge Cup was played on the Recreation Ground at Higham Ferrers. The Higham captain won the toss and elected to play down hill with wind and sun in his favour. The play was commenced at a rattling pace, and the ball was soon pushed towards the visitors' goal post, and although several byes were kicked neither team scored. The ball was got into the centre again, but the home team soon passed the post of their opponents again; this was repeated several times, and appeals to the referee were frequent. Just before half time, at which period neither team had scored at all, it was thought the chances were in favour of the home players, but play being resumed the ball was taken to the Wellingborough ground, and they very rapidly returned it, and from a long kick a goal was scored for Wellingborough. Some sharp play ensued, and another goal was claimed by the visitors, but upon appeal it was given that the ball was played after it had been past the post of the Higham players and not kicked out, so that they were not playing on the ball, and also appeared that Denton was playing off side, that the second goal was disallowed by the referee. Play proceeded with varying success until twelve minutes before time, when the ball burst, and there not being another on the ground a stoppage occurred until one was fetched, after which play was resumed faster than ever. The visitors obtained corner kick but did not improve upon it, and the match which had been very evenly contested, ended in favour of the Revellers by one goal to nil. The following were the players :—Wellingborough—goal: C. Kemshed; backs: C. Denton, F. Ingram, and A. Thompson; forwards: F. Coles, | G. Mason, W. Sisman, A. Bounds, F. Ingram, A. Owen, and W. Foscutt. Silk, umpire. Higham— goal: G. Carver; backs, E. Wilmott and C. Bates; half backs: R. Evans and C. Draper; forwards: C. Horrell, J. Draper, T. Horrell A. Lawrence, W. Miller. W. Evans, captain.

*Northampton Mercury 10 February 1883*

**#7 FOOTBALL – NEWPORT PAGNELL V RUSHDEN** - Under the auspices of the Wellingborough and District Football Association, these clubs met on Saturday last Bury Field Newport Pagnell, in most inclement weather, to try conclusions in the second round for the Challenge Cup. Rushden having won the toss, availed themselves the use of the wind, which was blowing rather strong. A goal each was quickly obtained. In spite of the wind in their face, the Newportonians appeared to more than hold their own, as the ball was kept too close their opponents' goal to be at all pleasant for them. After playing within five minutes of half-time, the game terminated rather prematurely, owing to the Rushden captain leaving, accompanied by to other players. The remainder, seeing their captain had fled, instantly followed suit, leaving the Newportonians in sole possession of the ground. The excuse for their so doing was the wet and the bad state of the ground. Newport was anxiously waiting for the call of half-time, when they would be favoured by the wind, but when that time arrived Rushden had made its exit, leaving Newport victors on the field.  
*Northampton Mercury – 17 February 1883*

**#8?**

**#9 FOOTBALL. —WELLINGBOROUGH AND DISTRICT FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION CHALLENGE CUP.**—The fifth match of the above trophy came off on Saturday, on the district ground, Wellingborough, in rather unfavourable weather. The teams opposed to each other were the Newport Pagnell and Wellingborough Town Clubs, and a great deal of interest was taken in the game. Wellingborough having won the toss, elected to play with the wind; Newport Pagnell kicking off about half-past three. From the commencement, up to half-time, the ball was worked rapidly from one end of the ground to the other, and, with the exception of two or three corner kicks falling to Newport Pagnell, they failed to improve upon, no advantage was gained on either side. On change of ends the same equal play was observable, the pace being very fast, until about ten minutes before call time, when, amidst the greatest excitement, the first and only goal during this match was obtained by Maul, for Newport Pagnell, after some splendid passing, and combined rush on part of their forwards. Thus, Newport Pagnell have the honour of being the first winners of the Wellingborough and District Football Association Challenge Cup. The following were the players :— Wellingborough : Metcalf (goal), Brist and Carroll (backs), Mattinson (half-back), and Daniel (three quarter-backs), Spooner, Parkinson, Brazier (captain), Marriot, and Dorman (forwards). Newport Pagnell: Mapley (goal), Bull and Garratt (backs), Brown and B. Garratt (half backs), Pearce (captain), Maul, Minnell, Holland, Daniells, Meadows (forwards).  
*Northampton Mercury -24 March 1883*

**#9 FOOTBALL – FINAL TIE FOR THE CHALLENGE CUP** -That the game of football is becoming more important with the inhabitants of Newport Pagnell and its vicinity every year is a fact beyond dispute. But the interest attached to the game is not alone confined to the small circle of players of which our town boasts, as is evinced by the large number of spectators that assemble in Bury Field on an afternoon when there is a match in connection with the club. This fact was further demonstrated by the crowd of people congregated to witness the departure of the Newport Parnell football team to Wellingborough on Saturday last, to try conclusions with the town club in the final tie for the challenge cup of the Wellingborough and District Football Association. The interest which is usually excited in a football match at Newport Pagnell was greatly intensified by the knowledge that this match was to prove and decide the supremacy of football clubs in this district, playing Association rules. Never before had a football match created anything like the excitement among our townsmen, and when the train left their head-quarters (the Anchor Hotel) in a brake drawn by four splendid greys, driven by Mr. T. Hawley, of by Stoney Stratford, loud were the cheers sent forth and many the wishes that they would be successful in the task they had set themselves—that of winning the challenge cup ; and when a few hours later, it became known that the blue and white had been victorious, great was the rejoicing of all admirers of this sport in the town. Newport was never better represented, as a glance at the names will show, and the team is perhaps the strongest which has been put in the field, the result proving that the men were fully equal to the expectations required of them. The journey down was pleasant enough until Bozeat was reached, when a heavy snowstorm greatly marred the pleasure of the remainder of the ride. This had the effect of making the ground in a sloppy condition, and also of keeping a large number of people from witnessing the match. Those spectators, however, who braved the inclemency of the weather, were amply rewarded by observing a very exciting, and perhaps one of the most evenly contested, games ever played, each team being equally matched in all points. Pearce had his usual luck in losing the toss, and started the ball with a slight wind against him. The game from start

to finish was a very fast and hard one, and at no time did its interest relax, first one goal being in jeopardy and then the other, and only kept intact by splendid play on the part their respective goal-keepers. This state of affairs was kept up almost entirely throughout the game, and shot after shot at each goal was saved as if by a miracle. The ball travelled from goal line to goal line in quick succession, and each player seemed to be straining every sinew, and exerting his utmost, to wear his opponent down; but it was not until ten minutes to the call of time that the first and only goal scored in the match was obtained for Newport Pagnell from the foot of S. D. Maul. Wellingborough tried hard, and fought gamely, to make things equal, but, in spite of all their efforts they were unable to lower the colours of their opponents, and at the call of time Newport were declared the winners by one goal to nil. We were not sufficiently cognisant of the names of the Wellingborough team to be able to give a detailed account of each individual's performance, and with the Newport side such an act would be invidious, as each member played well and did his utmost for the success of his side. The game throughout was watched by an eager and enthusiastic number of spectators, who were loud in their plaudits whenever a player distinguished himself. Thus, Newport have the honour of being the first winners of the Wellingborough and district challenge cup, a feat of which they may well be proud. When they returned home about ten o'clock, they received quite an ovation from the inhabitants of their town. The following are the names and positions of the teams :—Newport Pagnell—E. Mapley, goal-keeper; T. Garrett and W. Bull, backs; B. Garnet and W. Brown, half-backs; I. Maul and C. Daniels, right wing; G. W. Pearce (captain) and T. Meadows, left wing ; and J. Minnell and O. Holland, centres. *Croydon's Weekly Standard* – 24 March 1883