



# Wellingborough & District Challenge Cup 1883-84

**Winner:** Kettering Town  
**Runner-up:** Wellingborough Town  
**No. of entries:** 7 (?)

No draws have been found for this competition. It appears that 7 clubs entered the second Wellingborough & District Challenge Cup competition.

Leicestershire were again represented by Market Harborough, who were slaughtered 10-0 in the first round by Wellingborough.

Cup holders [Newport Pagnell] were knocked out by Higham Ferrers in Round 1.

Kettering beat Wellingborough Town at Wellingborough in the final. No results for cup ties involving Kettering have been found until the semi-finals.

## Round 1

	Date	Home	Away		Match Details
1	10.11.1883	Earls Barton	0 (0)	1 (1)	Bedford Town Played in Barton on a field lent to them by Messrs J and E Earl.
2	24.11.1883	Higham Ferrers Rovers Parker (5 min) Scrimmage	2 (2)	1 (0)	Newport Pagnell [Holders] Recreation Ground, Higham. Game commenced at 3 pm.
3	10.11.1883	Wellingborough	10	0	Market Harborough

## Round 2

	Date	Home	Away		Match Details
4	21.1.1884	Rushden	0	0	Higham Ferrers Rovers At Rushden [Monday]. Large gathering of spectators. The ground was in very match condition.#

## Round 2 Replay

	Date	Home	Away		Match Details
5	23.2.1884	Higham Ferrers	0	3	Rushden W Evans AN Other Recreation Ground, Higham Ferrers 1,000 spectators. Higham Ferrers disputed all three goals - they claimed the first and third were offside and that the ball hit the tape and went over. After the second disputed goal, the crowd occupied the pitch and broke one of the goal posts.

## Semi-Final

	Date	Home	Away		Match Details
6	22.3.1884	Higham Ferrers	1	1	Kettering Wellingborough Football Field. Large number of spectators.

## Final

	Date	Home	Away		Match Details
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7	5.4.1884	Wellingborough	1	2	Kettering	At Wellingborough. Large attendance. Unfavourable weather.
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## Match Reports

### #1 EARL'S BARTON. FOOTBALL

**EARL'S BARTON v. BEDFORD.**—This match, in the first round for the Wellingborough and District Challenge Cup, took place on Saturday at Barton, in field kindly lent by Messrs J. and E. Earl. Bedford mustered their full strength, while Barton were weakened by the absence of one of their best players. Bedford winning the toss elected to play with the sun and a strong breeze at their backs; consequently, up to half-time they had the best of the play, and a few minutes before the call of halftime succeeded in scoring, while two of the Barton backs looked on, each waiting for the other to kick the ball out of the goal mouth. On the change of ends the sun had sunk, and the wind considerably settled; still it was expected that Barton would be able to score. Some good shots were made, and the attack maintained up to the call of time, but they were unable to force the ball through the posts, and the game finished in favour of Bedford by one goal to love, amid much excitement, and after an evenly contested game. Barton team: Messrs. A. Dayton, Stephenson, J. C. Bailey, E. Copson, W. Copson, G. Dunkley, S. Smart, S. Tebbutt, T. Craddock, F. Copson (captain), and another.

*Northampton Mercury - 17 November 1883*

**#2 HIGHAM FERRERS v NEWPORT PAGNELL** - On Saturday a match was played on the Recreation Ground, Higham, for the first round, the challenge cup competition, under Association Rules. This match was looked forward to with much interest, Newport being holders of the cup for last year's competition, were well represented, as were the home team. Play commenced at three o'clock, and after about five minutes' fast play the Rovers obtained their first goal, got from a well-judged kick from the field by Parker. This was soon followed by another, obtained by a scrimmage near the goal line, no more goals being scored on either side until half-time was called, when play again commenced very fast, the Rovers keeping very close to their opponents' goal, but were often forced back by the remarkable kicking of Garrett and Goodman on the Newport side. A hard struggle ensued for some time, when free kick was claimed by the Rovers, but the Newport men still played on the ball, and scored their first goal, which was very easy one, the Higham backs leaving off play until they obtained it. The Rovers still played very plucky, and when time was called had won a good match two goals to one.

*Northampton Mercury - 1 December 1883*

**#3 FOOTBALL** - On Saturday the Harborough Football Club played a match at Wellingborough against the club of that town, the contest being for the possession of the challenge cup. The game resulted in a victory for Wellingborough by ten goals to none.  
Leicester Chronicle - 17 November 1883

#4

HIGHAM FERREBS v. RUSHDEN.—Association Challenge Cup.—The second round for this cup was played at Rushden, on Monday last. The weather being fine, and

a spirit of ambitious rivalry existing between the clubs and their friends, a very large gathering attended to witness the game. The toss was won by Higham, who elected to play against the wind and down hill for the first half. As soon as the ball was kicked it was apparent that both teams meant work, and that the game would be a fast one. After about ten minutes of very smart play a corner was obtained by Rushden, but nothing came of it. The ball was centred, and again a near chance was made by Rushden. This was followed by two more corners for Rushden in quick succession. Burgess then distinguished himself by a fine kick; a poster was credited to Chettle, and up to this time the visitors had to defend their ground with much energy. This roused the visitors, and Parker, by some good play, carried the ball past the home team's goal line for the first time. Soon after Evans gained a corner, but again nothing was scored. The leather was worked back to the other end of the ground, and twice in succession the ball passed just outside the Higham post, after which Rushden obtained another corner but failed to score. Half time was called, and no point gained by either side. Play being resumed, Evans soon got the leather, and by a good run and some capital passing the ball was put into Rushden territory, and sent past their mark. Play now became exceedingly fast, and Higham got another corner, some excellent play then took the leather across the ground and past the Higham post. The ball was quickly carried back, and past the post at the Rushden end. This was repeated several times, the ball being taken from one goal to the other with a rush that appeared irresistible. At this time, Evans and Parker, by the finest play in the match, took the ball past the whole of the Rushden backs, and it appeared any odds on a goal, but Evans, in the final, kicked just outside the post. After some good play by both sides, Mayes, by a good kick, sent the leather to Hanger, who had again to handle it; the ball was more on the Rushden ground, and another corner was obtained by Higham, but they could not score. Rushden now put on a spurt, and aided by a fine run from Wagstaff and some good passing, Miller had his work cut out, and he handled the ball very cleverly. Rushden seemed determined to force the play at the bottom end, and after some more hard play the ball was kicked over the tape. The Higham players pluckily took the ball into their opponent's ground, and forced Hanger again to handle the leather to save a goal, after which Higham got another corner, and after some more fast play time was called, the ball being on the centre mark and no point being scored by either side. The players were—Rushden: forwards, Cox and Wagstaff; right wing, Denton and Burgess; centre, Claridge (captain) and Freeman; left wing; half-back, Chettle and J. Denton; full back, S. Denton and Mackness; goal, Hanger. Higham Ferrers: forwards, Horrell and Richardson; left wing, R. Evans and T. Draper; centre, W. Evans (captain) and T. Parker, right wing; half-back, C. Draper and T. Mayes; full back, S. Middleton and C. Bates, goal, Miller. Umpires, Horn and Ward. Referee, Brazer.

*Northampton Mercury - 26 January 1884*

**#5 HIGHAM FERRERS v. RUSHDEN** (Association Rules). The second tie match for the County Challenge Cup between the above clubs was played on the Recreation Ground, Higham Ferrers, on Saturday last. Having played a tie at Rushden, great interest was manifested in the game, and almost a thousand people assembled. Rushden won the toss, and started with the wind at their backs and down-hill. Play was very lively. The ball was brought into the visitors' territory, and as soon returned across the ground (which was in fine condition), and after five minutes' play, a free kick was obtained for Higham about ten yards from the Rushden goal line. Mayes kicked it up, and W. Evans passed it through goal. This was objected to by the Rushden players, who alleged that Evans was off-side, but the objection was disallowed. The play now was well in the home ground, the forwards being kept hard at it. The ball was no sooner in play than the wind took it out at the bottom side. Some splendid play here took place, and Rushden, off a very fine kick by Burgess, scored a goal. Denton and Mayes did some fine kicking for both sides, and at half-an-hour's play

another goal was claimed for the Higham team, and objected to by Rushden, they alleging the ball hit the tape, and went over. Play was stopped for a quarter of an hour, the spectators entering the ground and taking part with their teams. The scene was very lively. Play being resumed Higham obtained two corners quick succession, but failed to score. The ball was then taken front of the Rushden goal, and a free-kick for "hands," within three yards, was allowed. This was exciting, but the visitors warded the ball off, although the goal-post was broken. Half-time was, now called. On changing play the ball was taken from one to the other in quick succession. After corner kicks had been obtained by both sides, a fine kick was allowed for Rushden, and fine kick by Denton took the ball just over the tape. Some fine play ensued Burgess, Claridge, and Denton, Packer, T. Draper, and Horrell being conspicuous. Play was now very exciting, charges and falls being the order. Evans made fine shot for goal, and was cleverly stopped by Hanger. Some good passing by the Rushden forwards followed, and, the ball going out at the Rushden 25, R. Evans made a fine kick, and T. Draper headed the ball through, and again the goal was objected to by Rushden, Draper being, they said, off-side. This was allowed as a goal, and after some fairly good play time was called, and Higham claimed a win "by three goals to one. The Rushden captain gave Evans a note objecting to all three goals, for the reasons above stated. Players :—Rushden: Hanger (goal), 8. Denton, S. Mackness (three-quarter backs), C. Denton, W. Cox (half backs), C. Denton, A. Cave, F. Chettle, W. Burgess, C. Claridge, captain, H. Denton (forwards). Higham: Miller (goal), Middleton, Bates, Mayes, R. Evans, T. Draper, C. Draper, T. Parker, W. Evans (captain), Richardson, Horrell. Umpires, G. Horn and C. Wagstaff. Referee, T. Mattinson.

*Northampton Mercury – 1 March 1884*

**#6 HIGHAM FERRERS v. KETTERING TOWN**—These clubs met on the Wellingborough Football Field on Saturday last, to contest the semi-final for the County Challenge Cup—Association rules. The weather being fine the match was witnessed by a large number of people. The ball was kicked off by Higham, and very soon returned to their territory, the Kettering team having the wind, which was fresh, in their favour. The ball was soon taken to the Higham ground, and their opponents obtained a corner kick in two minutes play, but notwithstanding a splendid kick by the Rev. Mr. Thurston, nothing came of it. This was followed by a good attempt by one of the Kettering forwards to take the ball on, but he was as well stopped by Miller. The Higham forwards now showed well, and some good play ensued, which resulted in a free kick for Kettering in the Higham 25, but nothing came of it. Parker for Kettering, and Horrell for Higham now showed some fine play. Another free kick by Kettering was allowed and an excellent shot was made, but Miller was equal to the task, and put it past the post. Shortly after from a corner kick by Kettering, Thurston, by a magnificent kick, hit the bar on the inside, the ball bounded, and Parker, by a capital move, passed through, scoring the first goal for Kettering after twenty minutes play. Two more corners followed in quick succession. These were followed by "hands off Higham," and the free kick resulted in another corner. The wind was very much in favour of Kettering. Horrell now showed splendid play, and took the ball into the Kettering ground, where he was capitally charged by Mobbs. Some very good play ensued, and the ball was again in Kettering's 25, and Thurston had to come to the rescue. Lindsay made good shot, but Miller was at home, and finely played the ball. Parker and Horrell were again at it, when half-time was called. On play being resumed the scales were soon turned, Higham having the advantage of the wind. The play was principally on the Kettering ground. Horrell and Parker acquitted themselves admirably, and the first corner was obtained for Higham, but Evans, kicking, sent it behind the bar. Mayes here made a fine shot for goal but failed. Dickson did a good turn for Kettering, but was stopped by Bates, and the ball was sent to the Kettering goal, and Spence had his work cut out to keep it back. Parker was the next to show for Higham, and a free kick for that club in their opponents' twenty-five was obtained, but again failed. Some fast play ensued, and the Kettering backs had all their time occupied, and it was only the excellent form of the Kettering goal that the ball was kept from passing through. Two corners followed rapid succession, but no good. These were followed by a poster being kicked from the ground. Mobbs now did good service for Kettering, and by some splendid dribbling, took the ball the ground, and it looked dangerous for the Higham goal. The latter were equal to the emergency, and the leather was soon taken to the Kettering fortress, and corner was the result; but again, the kick was behind. W. Evans for Higham did good service now, as did Bates and Richardson; while Mobbs, Lindsay, and Parker were especially active for Kettering. The ball was taken past the Kettering line twice in quick succession, and this was followed by a fine shot for goal by W. Evans, but this was too high, the ball going over the bar. Two more corners in rapid succession were obtained by Higham, who were now playing better than at any time during the game. Mobbs again tried to take possession of the Higham territory, was capitally stopped by Bates and Draper, and the leather was soon on the return journey. Mayes and W. Parker now did service for their respective sides. The ball being

passed to T. Parker, he made a fine shot for goal for the Higham, but failed; and the Kettering made a rush up the ground, but were stopped in their opponents' 25, and the ball was capitally taken back, and a piece of fine play by Rooksby and Richardson, the latter passed the leather through about two minutes before time was called, amidst the cheers of those present. No other point was scored, and the game ended a draw—one goal each having been scored. Players: —Kettering: W. Spence, goal; Thurston (captain), H. W. Mobbs, and J. Lindsay, three-quarter backs ; R. Lindsay and G. Mobbs, right wing; W. H. Parker and H. Bayes, left wing; Houghton, G. Dickson, and J. Woolston, centre. Higham: Miller, goal; S. Middleton, and C. Bates, backs; T. Mayes and R. Evans, half-backs ; T. Parker, and C. Horrell, left wing; W. Evans (captain) and W. Richardson, right wing; Rooksby and C. Draper, centre.

*Northampton Mercury - 29 March 1884*

**#7 FOOTBALL. FINAL OF THE WELLINGBOROUGH AND DISTRICT FOOTBALL CHALLENGE CUP** —The final match (Association) for this cup, which is open to clubs within a of 20 miles of Wellingborough, was played on Saturday afternoon at Wellingborough, the competitors being Wellingborough Town Club and Kettering. Although the weather was most unpropitious there was a large attendance of spectators, who evinced great interest in the game. Wellingborough won the toss and kicked off with the wind their favour. Kettering showed good form, and after 20 minutes play, during which time the ball was principally within their opponents' territory the visitors obtained their first goal, thanks the efforts of H. and Dickson. Wellingborough now exerted themselves, and the ball was taken into the ground of the Kettering team, whose citadel was several times in danger, two corner kicks being obtained but without any result. Fast play followed, the leather passing from one side to the other, but when half-time was called no further advantage had been gained by either side. On recommencing the home team played up pluckily, and again the visitors' goal was in jeopardy, but Dickson gallantly relieved his side, which was once more placed on equal footing. Kettering, however, soon afterwards showed their superiority, a splendid corner kick by the Rev. G. Thurston resulting in the ball being sent flying through the posts. This put Wellingborough on their mettle, and about quarter of hour before play ceased they obtained their first and, as events proved, only goal. "Hands" was called about two yards front of the goal, and the ball having been started the Rev. R. E. Brazier cleverly succeeded in sending it home. Play now became very exciting, Wellingborough making several good but ineffectual attempts to score another goal, and when time was called victory remained with the Kettering team by two goals to one. The cup has to be won two years in succession, and was last year secured by Newport Pagnell. Teams—Kettering :W. Spencer (goal), . L. Lindsay (back), W. Newman and H. Mobbs ! (half-backs), Rev. G. Thurston (captain, three-quarter back), J. Woolston, C. Dickson, S. Mobbs. W. Hart, S. Lindsay, and W. Parker (forwards). Wellingborough: ' Brightwell (goal), Rev. W. A. W. Evans and Britt (backs), Spooner and Mattinson (half-backs), Brazier, Parkinson, Tomalin, Marriott, Southern, Rev. R. E. Goldingham, captain (forwards).

*Northampton Mercury - 12 April 1884*