



# Wellingborough & District Challenge Cup 1884-85

**Winner:** Rushden  
**Runner-Up:** Market Harborough  
**No. of entries:** 8

Market Harborough by beating Bedford in round 1 became the first Leicestershire club to win a cup tie. They overcame Wellingborough in the second round to reach the final (another Leicestershire footballing first) where they lost to Rushden. Leicestershire's first-ever football special train took 80 Harborough supporters to Wellingborough to watch the final.

## Round 1

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
1	18.10.1884	Market Harborough	3	0	Bedford	Mr Goward's field. "Great interest was shown in the match inasmuch as the Bedford team was a strong one, the holders of the cup [Wellingborough] having drawn two games with them last!"
2	1.11.1884	Higham Ferrers Rovers Horrell (2) Draper Cotton	4	0	Earls Barton	
3	1.11.1884	Wellingborough Revellers	1	2	Kettering Town [Holders] Parker	Bassett's Close, Wellingborough.
4	1.11.1884	Wellingborough Town	3	1	Finedon	

## Semi-Finals

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
5	17.1.1885	Wellingborough Town	0	2	Market Harborough	At Wellingborough. Hard and exciting game.
6	14.2.1885	Rushden S Denton Evans Maddams	3 (2)	0 (0)	Higham Ferrers	1,000-2,000 spectators. Game commenced at 3.30pm

## Final

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
7	7.3.1885	Rushden Chettle Smith (og) AN Others	4	0	Market Harborough	Town Ground, Wellingborough. Large number of spectators. A special train conveyed 80 spectators from Harborough. The game commenced at 3.30 pm.

## Match Reports

### #1 MARKET HARBOROUGH

**MARKET HARBOROUGH v BEDFORD** – A football match between the above teams (in connection with the Wellingborough District Challenge Cup Competition), came off her on Saturday last, and resulted in a victory for the home team.

*Leicester Journal – 24 October 1884*

**#1 FOOTBALL** – The Harborough and Bedford teams which were drawn against each other in the first round of the Wellingborough district challenge cup competition met to decide their tie on Saturday, in Mr R. Goward's field. Great interest was felt in the match inasmuch as the Bedford team was a strong one, the holders of the cup (Wellingborough) having drawn two games with them last season. There was some capital play on both sides, but the home team proved too strong for their opponents, and were victorious by three goals to nil.

*Leicester Chronicle – 25 October 1884*

**#2 HIGHAM FERRERS ROVERS v EARL'S BARTON** —This match was for the first round of the Wellingborough and District Challenge Cup, and took place on Saturday last. The Barton captain winning the toss elected to play with the wind. The ball was started by Draper and both sides seemed well on their mettle. The ground being very rough made it very bad for the back men to judge ball. The Higham forwards got possession of the leather and took it down the ground, being passed to Horrell, who took it nicely through goals, after about ten minutes' play. Shortly afterwards a second goal was scored by Horrell. The ball was again started, still the Barton "goals seemed in danger, corner kicks being the order of the day. The Bartonians made some long kicks for goals but Miller seemed quite equal to the task. Runs were frequently made by Draper and Jeyes, still the game seemed slow. Stevenson obtained the leather once or twice, but was well stopped Mayes. The Rovers again began to play hard, find a good run was made Howell and Parker on the right wing, and centered to Blundell, who put it nicely through, gaining the third goal for the Rovers. After half time was called, no other point was scored till just before time, when Draper made a good run and obtained a goal. This was not allowed, "hands" being given. The Bartonians now got the ball against their opponents' goal, and sent it through, but was not allowed, the man being off side. The ball being kicked off Jeyes and Cotton got the leather, and made a good run, the former sending the ball nicely through the posts. The whistle being blown, the Rovers were declared the winners by four goals to nil. Teams:—Earl's Barton: Wyman, goal; Dayton and Berrill, backs; Abbott and Craddock, half backs; Stevenson and Abbott, right wing; Tompkins and Cross, left wing; Dunkley and Copson, centre. Higham: Miller, goal; Willmer and Middleton, backs; Mayes and Bates, half backs: C. Horrell and T. Parker, right wing; J. Jeyes and Colton, left wing; S. Draper (captain) and A. Blundell, centre. Umpires, Willmer and Smart; referee, Jones.

*Northampton Mercury – 8 November 1884*

**#3 KETTERING** – The first round for the Wellingborough and District Challenge Cup Association Rules came off at Wellingborough between Kettering Football club and the Wellingborough Revellers, resulting in a victory of the former by two goals to one.

*Stamford Mercury – 7 November 1884*

**#3 #4 WELLINGBOROUGH AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION CHALLENGE CUP** – On Saturday last two contests took place at Wellingborough, Kettering beating Wellingborough Revellers, and Wellingborough Town Finedon by three goals (one disputed) to one.

*The Sportsman – 4 November 1884*

**#5 FOOTBALL** – The second round Cup tie, Harborough v Wellingborough was played on Saturday last at the latter place; and resulted after a very hard and exciting game in a victory for the visitors by two goals to nil. The teams were composed as follows; Harborough: Goal, R M Weldon; backs, G Nixon and G O Nicholson; half-backs, C B Fisher, J L Douglass and C Lawrence; centre, R Howett; left wing, C H Woodford and T Underwood; right wing, A Moore, C Burditt. Wellingborough: Goal, Mattinson; backs, Jones and Brett; half-backs, Lightwood, Daniels and Brightwell; centre, Whitehouse; left wing, Bobb and Viccars; right wing, Tomlin and Sykes.

*Leicester Journal – 23 January 1885*

**#6 WELLINGBOROUGH AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION CHALLENGE CUP.—SEMI-FINAL.**

RUSHDEN V. HIGHAM FERRERS—When it became known that these clubs were drawn to play together, speculation was rife as to which should enter the final with Market Harborough, which club had a bye in the last drawing. Both clubs have very good record, and, the teams living so close to each other, the result of the match has been the theme of conversation for some time past. Both teams had very strong partisans,

and the match on Saturday was played amid much enthusiasm, though it was robbed of excitement from its very one-sided nature. It is computed that between 1,000 and 2,000 spectators were present. Claridge beat Draper with the coin, and the latter set the ball in motion at 3.30. Rushden at once assumed the aggressive, the ball being worked into the Higham 25, where a claim of "hands" was given in favour of Rushden. S. Denton was entrusted with the kick, which Miller failed to stop, and Rushden were accredited with the first goal, after about two minutes' play. On the ball being re-started, it was for time in the centre, but Wagstaffe, getting possession directly afterwards, made a splendid run, his men in fine style. Nothing came of it; however, the ball being well returned. Splendid play the Rushden half backs ensued, Claridge putting in a shot that went just over the bar. Knight for Higham hereabouts was prominent, but Burgess getting possession some fine passing by the Rushden forwards followed, and the ball was taken close on to the line. Maddams and Evans here put in some fine play, and the latter scored second goal for Rushden. From the kick-off the ball was again worked into the Higham territory, and it remained there during nearly the whole of the remaining half. On crossing over Higham put on a spurt, but they could not break through the Rushden defence, the half backs always being on the alert. The Rushden forwards splendid combined play, gradually worked the ball to the Higham line, and hereabouts Miller saved splendidly. Burgess put in a shot that it seemed impossible to stop, but Miller cleared away in fine style. A shot soon afterwards by was similarly treated, as was also another by Evans. Wagstaffe soon afterwards made another fine run, and finished up a splendid centre. Nothing, however, came of it, and the ball was sent into the 25, a long kick by Mayes being the immediate cause. The Rushden "halves" cleared as usual, and Wagstaffe, getting possession, again made a good run, finishing with good pass to Burgess, who, turn, passed to the left wing, and Maddams, eluding the backs, sent in shot that Miller failed to stop. From now to the finish the game was all in favour of Rushden, though Horrell and Knight played pluckily. Burgess sent in a shot that only just escaped going through, and a good run just afterward- by Claridge, who, when close on the line passed to Evans, which gave that player chance, but the kick went wide. Nothing further was obtained, and so the match ended in favour of Rushden by three goals to nt.'. would be unfair to particularise where all played so well, as was certainly the case with the team. The forwards played unselfishly to each other, and throughout played good style, whilst the defence was undeniably strong, the trickling of the half backs and the kicking of the backs being excellent. Knight and Horrell were the best of the Higham forwards. Draper seemed to be far from well. Mayes and Cotton were the pick of the backs. Too much praise cannot be given to Miller for his splendid defence, and it was certainly owing to the fine form he was in that Rushden did not score more. The following were the teams:—Rushden: A. Button, goal; S. Denton and G. Mackness, backs; C. Denton, W. Cox, C. Claridge (captain), half backs; G. R. Wagstaffe and F. Chettle, right wing; P. and W. B. Evans, left wing; W. Burgess, centre. Ferrers: W. Miller, goal; W. Bates and Middleton, backs: Cotton, W. Mayes, and T. Parker, half backs: C. W. Horrell and A. Knight, right wing; J. Jeyes and H. Daveys, left T. Draper (captain), centre. Umpires, Rev. R. E. Goldingham and Mr. T. Mattinson referee, Mr. J. Brazier.

*Northampton Mercury - 21 February 1885*

**#7 FOOTBALL** - The final tie for the Wellingborough challenge cup between the Market Harborough and Rushden clubs took place at Wellingborough on Saturday, a special train conveying eighty persons, from Harborough to witness the match. Harborough won the toss, and elected to kick with the sun and wind, Rushden kicking off punctually at 3.30. At first the former seemed to have a slight advantage, but in about five minutes Rushden seized "a corner," from which no score was made. Harborough after this kept the ball on Rushden ground for some time, and Evans for Rushden made a good run, which resulted in another corner from which no score was made. Underwood, Coales, and Douglass shortly afterwards made a good run towards the Rushden goal, and a good shot was made by the latter which passed just on the left of the posts. Rushden then ran the ball up; and a good shot at goal was saved by Weldon, but immediately afterwards Chettle kicked the first goal for Rushden. Harborough for some time afterwards had the best of it, but Rushden got the ball in front of the Harborough goal, when "hands" were claimed by the latter, but not allowed, and a second goal, accidentally knocked through by Smith (Harborough) was scored for Rushden. Harborough afterwards secured a corner, but no score resulted, and the Harborough team began to play rather loosely, a number of "mulls" being made by several of the players. Rushden played well together, and having secured two more goals remained the victors by four goals to nil. The following comprised the Harborough team: — Messrs. C. B. Fisher (captain), F. R. Smith, H. G. Coales, J. L. Douglass, C. Burditt, R. M. Weldon, R. Howett, A. Moore, T. Underwood, and C. Lawrence.

*Leicester Chronicle - 14 March 1885*

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