



# Kettering & District Charity Cup 1888-89

**Winner:** Grantham Town  
**Runner-Up:** Cambridge Grata  
**No. of entries:** 12

Twelve clubs entered the inaugural competition - [Bedford Town](#), Cambridge Grata, Cambridge Swifts, Finedon Revellers, [Grantham Town](#), Kettering Town, Loughborough, Wellingborough and [Wolverton](#) - from five counties (Cambridgeshire, Bedfordshire, Lincolnshire, Leicestershire and Northamptonshire). Eventual winners Grantham Town knocked out both Leicestershire clubs, Mill Hill House in the first round and Loughborough (who had received a bye in the first round and beat Kettering in the second) in the semi-final.

The cup and medals were presented by Mr J W Dryland Association President] after a tea a la farchette [high tea] at the Dalkeith-place Coffee Tavern in Kettering. The trophy was of an 'approved pattern' , weighed 860oz and had a value of 30 guineas. The engraved medals presented to the winners and runners-up were valued at 14s and 9s each, respectively.

## Round 1

#	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
1	26.12.1888	Hitchin Town	3	0	Cambridge Swifts	500 spectators
2	27.12.1888	Higham Ferrier Rovers		W	Finedon Revellers	
3	22.12.1888	Kettering Town	3	1	Wellingborough	
4	15.12.1888	Mill Hill House	0	5	Grantham Town Geeson (2) Watson Sefton Turtill	Aylestone-round Ground, Leecicester. Game stopped 30 mins early due to poor visibility (fog).
5	1.12.1888	Wolverton	2	4	Cambridge Granta	The Park, Wolverton 1,000 spectators

Bye - Loughborough, Bedford Town

## Round 2

#	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
6	2.2.1889	Cambridge Granta	7	0	Higham Ferrier Rovers	
7	19.1.1889	Grantham Town	4 (1)	1 (0)	Kettering Town	London-road, Grantham Fair sprinkling of spectators
8	19.1.1889	Hitchin Town	2	0	Bedford Town	
9	2.2.1889	Kettering Town	0	2	Loughborough Bailey (2)	The result—a win for Loughborough was in accordance with general expectation. The losers had a strong wind against them at the commencement, and certainly did well in keeping the score down to 2-0. In the second half Kettering had much the best of the play, but were not fortunate enough to score. The decisions of the Loughborough umpire gave much dissatisfaction, and in the latter part of the game the "abuse and chaff " showered upon him were so strong that the referee had to call attention to the conduct from the fourpenny" side. leaving the field accompanied by the players, the umpire was hooted until he reached his destination. The gate realised £5 16s. 2d.

## Semi-Finals

#	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
10	5.3.1889	Grantham Town	3	0	Loughborough	Kettering Town's ground. Large and enthusiastic body of spectators.
11	25.2.1889	Cambridge Granta Hudson (3) Lias	4	0	Hitchin Town	Kettering Town's round. Several hundred spectators Hitchin played with 10 men throughout the game. Play commenced at 2.35 pm.

## Final

#	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
12	23.3.1889	Cambridge Granta	0 (0)	1 (0)	Grantham Town Geeson	Kettering Town ground. 2,500-3,000 spectators. Diver - Grantham's goal keeper carried off the "palm of the day." Time after time he repelled the dangerous onslaughts with the greatest ease, and the tremendous cheers which greeted him during the game, and on leaving the field, showed what the spectators thought of him.

## Match Reports

A selection of published match reports

**#4 MILL HILL HOUSE v GRANTHAM** - These team met on the Aylestone-road Ground on Saturday, to play their tie In the first round of the Kettering Charity Cup. Very early the visitors pressed, but were as speedily repulsed, and Atter took a shot at his opponents goal, but kicked too strongly, the leather flying over the cross bar. The ball was soon in the home quarter, but with a free kick for "hands" in the centre of the ground, McAlpin eased. Grantham retaliated more than once to the last-named player's long kicks, and then Wright fouled the ball when in Mill House territory. Sutton brought the ball well up from midfield and took a shot at goal, which Biggs succeeded in stopping, but it was put through by Geeson after the goal-keeper had been charged down. For some time after this Mill hill were penned into their quarter, and when the visitors looked like scoring, the ball being right in the mouth of the home goal, a free kick for a foul was conceded to the Mill-hillians, which relieved their position. From some scrambling work in front of the school goal Watson headed the another through, and a third point was scored before halftime by Sefton. In the second half Geeson and Turtill each succeeded in augmenting the score by goals, the game thus ending by five goals to none in favour of Grantham. The referee stopped the game before the expiration of the regulation time on account of the fog. The following were the names of the players House: Rev. H. S. Biggs, goal; McAlpin and K. H. Pearce, backs; F. J. Whitworth (captain), G. Pochin, and S. W. R. Stretton, half backs J. Atter and W. H. Sturges, left wing; E. White, centre; F. Wright and A. S. Miley, right wing, forwards. Umpire, Mr. Frith. Gainsborough Trinity F.C. Grantham: Broadbent, goal; Seeger (captain) and Britton, backs; Parker, Street, and Sutton, half-backs; Simpson and Watson, left wing; Turtill, centre; Mater and Geeson, right wing, forwards. Umpire, Mr. Strickson. Referee, Mr. Hutchings, Kettering.  
*Leicester Daily Post -17 December 1888*

### #9 KETTERING AND DISTRICT CHARITY COMPETITION LOUGHBOROUGH v. KETTERING

In spite of the cold snowy weather on Saturday, there was a good attendance of highly-interested spectators on the Kettering ground to witness a match between the above teams, forming one of the ties in the second round of the newly arranged competition. The home captain was without the services of Dixon, his place being taken by Newman, and the visitors did not place their full strength in the field, their usual goal-keeper being a noticeable absentee. The result was according to expectation, Loughborough winning by two goals to love. The winners were a good all-round team, and though by no means brilliant, one or two of the forwards were very active. The play of the home side was not so good as on the previous Saturday, a

remarkable difference being noticed in the back play, which was several times at fault. The halves were good, but the forwards were not on the best of understanding, still it must be said that the losers worked hard from start to finish and were generally considered to have done well. Having lost the toss Lilley kicked off against a strong wind, and with the sun in front of them. The visitors pressed, and some neat passing by the forwards enabled Bailey to open the score with a well-placed shot. Both teams played hard for a time and shots were tried at both ends. A corner for Loughborough was not entirely managed, and at the opposite end Piggott nullified a good centre from Wilson by shooting over. An immediate invasion took place by the visitors and Bailey put well across, but Cross could not quite get through. Some good play by Wright was much applauded, but Kettering found it impossible to make headway against the strong wind. After 20 minutes play Bailey again beat Palmer and this proved to be the last point in the match. Loughborough still kept up the attack and in a short time Cross dribbled round Pardee and cleverly centred, but the effort went for nothing, as did some good play by Bailey and Kellham. The Loughborough forwards caused Palmer to concede a corner; this was admirably placed out of danger by Panter and Newman transferred. The leather was however at once returned, and another corner proved a blank. Lilley was the neat to figure with a good run, and then for a short time Kettering kept in visiting quarters. From a free kick the ball was beautifully placed in the teeth of the goal by Wright, but was, by defence, kept clear, and half time found the score Loughborough two, Kettering nil. Snow fell somewhat heavily about this time, and a long interval was indulged in. On resuming Bates started well, dribbling some distance, and capital play was several times shown by the home men. With but a trifling variation the ball remained well in Loughborough ground. A very fine long kick by Foster just as his opponents were getting dangerous placed the leather in close proximity to the visitors' citadel, and strenuous efforts were made by the Kettering forwards to force a goal. A corner was the only result, and getting possession Bailey broke away, but his career was bravely stopped by Foster. Kettering continued to severely test their rivals' defence, but the goal-keeper did his work well, although that individual came for scarcely any applause, the very partial behaviour of the spectators doubtless being mainly due to the aggravating decisions of the visiting umpire, who came in for torrents of abuse from those who ought to have known better. A likely move on Loughborough's left was brought up by Foster and Panter, the latter placing the ball well forward, and directly afterwards a very good shot was tried by Wilson, and Piggott narrowly missed scoring. The visitors' left wing became active and made a few rushes, but found the opposing defence too sound to break through. Some fast play by both sides ensued up to the conclusion, two corners from Kettering being the only things of importance, and the game ended as before stated in a victory for Loughborough by two goals to nil. Teams : Loughborough —H. Gadsby, goal G. Sparby and H. Griffin, backs; W. Cockayne. A. Peters and F. Gibbs, half-backs; A. Smith, centre; H. Bailey and W. Gibson. right wing W. Benham and W. Cross, left wing. Kettering – F. Palmer, goal; H. O. Foster and A. J. Jenkins, backs; A. B. Panter, J. Langford, and G. Wright, half-backs ; W. Lilley, centre ; C. Piggott and H. Newman, right wing ; G. Wilson G. Batas, left wing. Umpires: Messrs. H. Hickling and H. T. Favell. Referee W. Proctor, sen., vice-president Notts Association. *Northampton Chronicle & Echo - 4 February 1889*

## **#12 KETTERING DISTRICT CHARITY CUP**

### **FINAL TIE**

#### **CAMBRIDGE GRANTA v. GRANTHAM**

The success attending the efforts of the Kettering Football Club in promoting cup competition in aid of charitable institutions in the county has been most marked. Clubs from considerable distance have entered, and when Grantham Town met the Cambridge Granta in the final stage Saturday, at Kettering, a tremendous crowd, numbering between 2,500 and 3,000, lined both sides of the field. Partisans of both teams turned up in force. The Cambridge men won the toss, naturally electing to play with the wind; and punctually to the minute the Lincolnshire men set the ball in motion. At the outset Grantham established themselves favourites, their short passing on the Scotch model, and the steady play of the rear division being excellent; but the game progressed they hardly sustained the good opinion formed of them. On either side the forwards were not so smart in front of goal as they should have been, several tolerably easy chance being allowed to pass. In this respect Cambridge were the greatest sinners, some excuse must be made for Grantham, with such a magnificent defender between the posts as Diver, who carried off the palm of the day. Time after time he repelled the dangerous onslaughts with the greatest ease, and the tremendous cheers which greeted him during the game, and on leaving the field, showed what the spectators thought of him. For the first half of play was of a fairly give and take character Grantham having somewhat the best matters, on changing over, with the wind to help them, they pressed a good deal. It

looked very much if a drawn game would be the result, until within five minutes of time Geeson put the ball through for Grantham out of loose scrimmage, amid wild cheering. The all-round play in the second half was not so good as at the commencement. The committee deserve to be thanked for providing suitable accommodation for the press. Teams:—

The Grantham: R J Diver, goal W. B. Westcott, backs; Wale and F Sinker, right wing; F Poole, centre; A Challand W J Lias, left wing.

Grantham Town – J Broadbent, goal; J Segar and W Britten, backs; J Parker, W Street and G Sutton, half-backs; A E Slater and F Geeson, right wing; W Wood, centre; F Turtill and C Watson, left wing.

Umpires: Messrs. T Maycock and H T Favell. Referee: Mr S W Widdowson (Nottingham)

*Northampton Mercury – 30 March 1889*

### **Additional Information**

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>MIDLAND RAILWAY.</b> <b>FOOTBALL MATCH AT KETTERING.</b> <b>GRANTHAM V. CAMBRIDGE.</b></p> <p><b>O</b>N SATURDAY, MARCH 23, a Cheap Special Train for KETTERING, at Excursion Fares, will leave NORTHAMPTON 2.0 p.m. ; returning at 5.18, 6.52, and 8.46 p.m. same day.</p> <p>For fares and further particulars see handbills, to be had at the stations.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>JOHN NOBLE, General Manager.</b></p> <p>Derby, March, 1889. <span style="float: right;">838</span></p>
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*Northampton Mercury – 23 March 1889*