



Grantham Minor Cup 1891-92

Winner: Newark Reserves
Runner-Up: Bottesford
No. of entries: 13

Leicestershire were represented by Melton Swifts, who after destroying Harlaxton 14-0 were surprisingly eliminated in Round 2 by Bottesford. Melton Swifts lodged a protest against Bottesford – on the basis that the Bottesford player Norton resided out of the district and that several of the Bottesford players wore different colours. This was dismissed as Norton was found to live in Bottesford and that the competition rules did not require teams to declare their colours. Furthermore, Melton forfeited their protest fee as it was deemed “frivolous.”

Protests embraced the whole of the second round. Grantham Rovers Reserve protested against their tie with Sleaford being considered final, inasmuch as the spectators, they alleged encroached upon the field of play. A letter was read out at the Grantham Minor Cup Association meeting to discuss this from Mr Martin which stated that the Referee (Mr Marton) informed him that the spectators prevented him from seeing a foul, as he was engaged in trying to keep the public back. The game was ordered to be replayed by 5-4 votes.

Boston protested against Newark on the ground that Mr A Wilson had played in the English Cup, but Mr Wilson who was present said that this was not the case. The committee overruled the protest without seeking any proof.

Newark Reserve won the Cup beating Bottesford 2-1 in the final. It is worth noting that Newark staged both a semi-final tie and the final.

Note: There is a Bottesford in both Leicestershire and Lincolnshire. It is assumed here that the Bottesford team which participated this cup competition were from Lincolnshire.

Round 1

Date	Home	Away	Match Details
7.11.1891	Grantham Rovers Reserves	W	Sleaford Town Grantham Rovers Reserves scratched – tie awarded to Sleaford Town.
7.11.1891	Grantham Town Reserve	1 3	Newark Reserves
7.11.1891	Lincoln Amateurs	W	Grantham Rovers Colts Lincoln scratched.
7.11.1891	Melton Swifts Tyler (2) Plant Smith (3) Bexon (2) Slawson (2) Wakerley (2) AN Others	14 (8) 0 (0)	Harlaxton Leicester-rad Ground, Melton. Large crowd.
7.11.1891	Spittlegate Institute	4 (2) 2 (2)	Bottesford Prior to this game Bottesford had won every match, with the exception of a drawn game so far this season – scoring 34 and conceding 9.
7.11.1891	Sleaford Ramblers	W	Grantham Herald

Boston Rovers, a bye

Round 1 Replay

Date	Home	Away		Match Details
21.11.1891	Bottesford	7	3	Spittlegate Institute Winterbeck Field, Bottesford.

Round 2

Date	Home	Away		Match Details
19.12.1891	Bottesford	4 (0)	3 (3)	Melton Swifts Surprise result. Melton led by three goals at half-time, and then, in the second half, "they let, or rather helped, Bottesford score four, which gave the latter the right to enter the semi-final. Three or four goals, I am told, were the results mistakes on the part of the Swifts, who had actually strengthened their back division". – Grantham Journal 24 December 1891
19.12.1891	Newark Reserves	2	1	Boston Rovers
19.12.1891	Sleaford Town	2	1	Grantham Rovers Colts At Sleaford. "There was quite a little sensation on the ground, the spectators 'going for' the referee and playing the idiot generally". The game was ordered to be replayed by the Cup Committee. The Colts withdrew from the competition following a dispute about the time and location of the replay.

Lincoln Amateurs, a bye

Semi-Finals

Date	Home	Away		Match Details
19.3.1892	Bottesford J Jackson Scrimmage Winn AN Others	5 (3)	0 (0)	Sleaford Town London-road, Grantham. Fair number of spectators.
30.1.1892	Newark Reserves Wilson AN Other	2	0	Lincoln Amateur At Newark. Newark agreed to pay Lincoln Amateurs travelling expenses and not to charge the association for the use of the ground as a 'neutral' venue.

Final

Date	Home	Away		Match Details
16.4.1892	Newark Reserves Daft AN Other	2 (0)	1 (0)	Bottesford AN Other At Newark.

Match Reports

MELTON SWIFTS V. HARLAXTON.—The meeting between these teams in the first round of the Grantham Minor Cup attracted a very large company to the Leicester-road Ground, Melton, on Saturday last. Nothing was known of the calibre of the visitors, but was thought they might turn out a species of "dark horse," and, therefore, considerable interest was centred in the match. As events turned out, however, the Meltonians were not only able to dispose of them, but did so in a which left no ground for complaint against anything or anybody on the part of the vanquished. The weather was all that could be desired, but the ground was trifle heavy. The game needs but the briefest description, as it was for the greater part conducted the visitors' half of the field. Harlaxton won the toss, and defended the Leicester-road goal. Slawson starting the ball punctually to time. The home team at once commenced strong attack, and within very short period Wakerley opened the Swifts' account from a long drop by Tyler. Several corners fell to Melton after this, and from one of them, taken by Plant, a second goal came. A brief interval occurred before a third point was added, and then Smith did the trick. Bexon added a couple more, Tyler with a long shot put on the sixth point. Plant obtained a seventh,

while Smith was instrumental in a further goal before half-time, the score the interval being eight to none in favour of Melton. The same order of things prevailed in the second portion: indeed, the visitors had quite given up 'ere this. Smith placed the ninth goal to Melton's credit, Barnes, after a dribble half the length of the field, got the tenth, then Slawson obtained two in succession. Smith put on the thirteenth, and Wakerley the fourteenth, and at this point scoring ceased. The visitors in the last few minutes of the game got into closer proximity to the home goal than they had hitherto been able, and a corner was conceded them, but nothing came of it. Teams:— Melton Swifts: R. Marshall, goal; A. Goodacre and Barnes, hack* ; W. Tyler, J. Richardson, and R. Dunmore, half-backs; H. Smith and J. Wakerley, right wing; W. Slawson, centre: H. Plant and W. Bexon, left wing. Harlaxton: T. E. Smith, goal; J. Snell and F. Challands, backs; C. Challands, A. Sentance, and W. Kirk, half-backs; C. Bailey and F. Sentance, right wing; F. Ward, centre ; H. Johnson and W. Whalley, left wing. Linesmen, Messrs. R. Warner and Howitt. Referee, Mr. F. J. Geeson.
Grantham Journal – 14 November 1891

GRANTHAM MINOR CUP.

FINAL TIE

Newark Reserve v. Bottesford.—Played at Newark. Bottesford won the toss, and kicked with the wind slightly in their favour. Newark were the first to press, and secured a corner which was . unproductive. No scoring took place half-time; Newark having had somewhat the best of the exchanges. Within three minutes of restarting Daft scored for Newark, and later on added another. Shortly before time the visitors scored, the game ending :-Newark, two ; Bottesford, one.

Nottingham Evening Post – 23 April 1892