



Birmingham Senior Cup 1895-96

Winner: Aston Villa
Runner-up: Sheffield United
No. of entries: 26

Fixture congestion meant that 6 out of the 8 round 1 ties were played on Monday afternoons. Most of the ties went with form, the one surprise seeing Stourbridge, who progressed from the Qualifying Competition, overcome Second Division strugglers Burslem Port Vale at Amblecote. Two non-Football League clubs met at West Bromwich Road, Walsall edging past the Birmingham and District League club, Singers. There was an unusual fixture clash in Burton, where, despite it being a Monday afternoon, Burton Swifts' clash with Leicester Fosse at Peel Croft kicked off at 12.15 in order that spectators could also take in the Second Division fixture between Burton Wanderers and Loughborough at Derby Turn later the same afternoon. Derby found themselves paired with Burton Wanderers for the third successive season, and fielded their first XI and were comfortable winners against the Second Division opponents, who had conceded home advantage for a cash inducement of £25 plus half the gate. As this amounted to £143 it proved to be a financially sound move. County reinstated their reserve team for the Round 2 tie with Stourbridge and a respectable turnout of 2,000 saw a straightforward 4-1 victory.

Leicester Fosse lost to Burton in their first-ever match in the competition. Two other newcomers Sheffield Wednesday and United won their Round 1 ties against Small Heath and Wolverhampton Wanderers, respectively. Wednesday took Aston Villa to extra time in Round 2, before losing out to an odd goal in seven. Sheffield United's visit to Walsall attracted a gate of 5,000, yet later the same week barely 200 people attended the game between Second division rivals Loughborough and Walsall on a Wednesday afternoon.

Both semi-finals ended 2-0 with Sheffield United overcoming Derby County at a neutral Olive Grove in front of 4,000 spectators, with Villa's win over Burton Swifts barely attracting 1,000 at Wellington-road.

The Final at Wellington-road was blighted by dreadful weather, with Aston Villa comfortably overcoming Sheffield United 3-0, with the Blades England goalkeeper "Fatty" Foules playing a splendid game.

Qualifying Competition

Qualifying Round 1

Date	Home			Away	Match Details
5.10.1895	Berwick Rangers	3	2	Redditch Town	Barbourne Athletic Club. c. 1,000 spectators.
5.10.1895	Brierley Hill Alliance	0	1	Stourbridge	Cottage-street, Brierley Hill c. 4,000 spectators
5.10.1895	Hereford Thistle	3	2	Hereford Town	Barrack Ground, Hereford. c. 2,400 spectators.
5.10.1895	Kidderminster Harriers	3	0	Ironbridge	Aggborough. Kidderminster.
5.10.1895	Oldbury Town	1	2e	Wellington St George's	
5.10.1895	Stafford Rangers	2	3e	Halesowen	Lammascotes, Stafford.
5.10.1895	Worcester Rovers	1	1e	Singers	Thornloe
5.10.1895	Wrockwardine Wood	3	4	Wellington Town	The Trench.

Qualifying R1 replay

Date	Home			Away	Match Details
14.10.1895	Singers	2	1	Worcester Rovers	Stokes Road, Coventry

Qualifying R2

Date	Home	Away		Match Details
26.10.1895	Halesowen	0	2	Stourbridge Cricket Field< Halesowen. c. 1,500 spectators.
26.10.1895	Kidderminster Harriers	2	4	Hereford Thistle Aggborough, Kidderminster. c. 1,500 spectators
26.10.1895	Singers	1	0	Berwick Rangers Stoke-road c. 1,000 spectators.
26.10.1895	Welling St George's	7	1	Wellington Town

Qualifying R3

Date	Home	Away		Match Details
2.12.1895	Stourbridge	2	1e	Wellington St George's Amblecote, Sturbridge
7.12.1895	Hereford Thistle	1	3	Singers Barrack Ground. Hereford.

Singers and Stourbridge both qualified for the Competition Proper

Competition Proper

Round 1

Date	Home	Away		Match Details
20.1.1896	Aston Villa Campbell Devey Rideout	3 (2)	0 (0)	West Bromwich Albion Perry Barr. 7,000 spectators.,
20.1.1896	Burton Swifts	2 (0)	1 (0)	Leicester Fosse At Burton.
?1.1.1896	Derby County Paul (2) McQueen Bloomer Stevenson	5 (0)	0 (0)	Burton Wanderers At Derby, Birmingham 6,000 spectators.
11.1.1896	Loughborough W Ward (10 mins)	1 (1)	0 (0)	Long Eaton Rangers Athletic Grounds, Loughborough. 1,500 spectators
13.1.1896	Sheffield Wednesday	2 (1)	1 (0)	Small Heath Olive Grove, Sheffield 3,000 spectators. Soft ground, strong wind.
20.1.1896	Sheffield United	2	0	Wolverhampton Wanderers Bramall Lane 2,000 spectators
20.1.1896	Stourbridge [Qualifier]	3	2	Burslem Port Vale Amblecote.
20.1.1896	Walsall Copeland AN Other Horobin	3	2	Singers (Coventry) [Qualifier] Bird AN Other At Walsall 500 spectators

Round 2

Date	Home	Away		Match Details
10.2.1896	Derby County McMillan (2) AN Others	4 (2)	1 (0)	Stourbridge Boucher Baseball Ground, Derby. 2,000 spectators. Derby fielded their second XI.
10.2.1896	Loughborough	0	2 aet	Burton Swifts Poor attendance c. 200 spectators. Goal-less at full-time. Burton scored twice in the first period of extra time.
10.2.1896	Sheffield Wednesday	3	5	Aston Villa Olive Grove, Sheffield. 8,000 spectators
10.2.1896	Walsall Town	2 (0)	5 (2)	Sheffield United Hammond Egan At Walsall. 5,000 spectators.

					Walsall defence was very unsteady in the second half.
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Semi-Finals

Date	Home			Away	Match Details
11.3.1896	Aston Villa	2	0	Burton Swifts	Perry Barr, Birmingham. 1,000 spectators
9.3.1896	Sheffield United Egan (2)	2 (1)	0 (0)	Derby County	Olive Grove, Sheffield. 4,000 spectators

Final

Date	Home			Away	Match Details
28.3.1896	Aston Villa John Cowan Cain (og) AN Other	3 (3)	0 (0)	Sheffield United	Perry Bar, Birmingham. 5,000 spectators. Appalling weather, which saw gale force winds interspersed with showers of rain, hail, and snow at various time,.

Notes

Aston Villa were crowned First Division Champions.

Small Heath and West Bromwich Albion were relegated from the First Division

Burslem Port Vale lost their Football League status after 4 seasons after failing to be re-elected having finished third from bottom of the Second Division. They joined the Midland League.

Match Reports

A selection of published match reports.

BIRMINGHAM CUP MATCH AT LOUGHBOROUGH

Loughborough played off their tie in the first round of the Birmingham Senior Cup with Long Eaton Rangers at Loughborough on Saturday, before about 2,000 spectators. Swift, the captain, took his place in the team after three weeks' rest, but he was not thoroughly fit to play, and before the game was many minutes old, he limped badly. For some time, matters were even, each side working very hard. The superiority of the home men manifested itself, and Ward scored a good goal, other openings being thrown away through weak and erratic kicking. Long Eaton played very pluckily indeed, and were worthy foemen of the "Luffs", but their shooting was at fault and at the interval Loughborough led by a goal to none. The play in the second half was of a poor description all round. Loughborough pressed immediately upon the resumption, and Clark put in a grand shot, Fulwood clearing, while his return struck the post, and another from Smith was well kept out. This proved the best bit of play in the game, the forwards giving a very miserable display afterwards. The result was a narrow victory for Loughborough by one goal to none. The most conspicuous feature of the game was the persistent rough play of Dakin, the visitors' right half-back. Geary and Fairbrother played well for Long Eaton, and Ward was the best forward on the Loughborough side.

Athletic News - 20 January 1896

Burton Swifts v Leicester Fosse - On Peel Coft yesterday. The Swifts left out Sorley and Dewey, and Fosse made experiments. No goals were scored in the ordinary time, and an extra half-hour was played. the Swifts then played a wonderfully improved game, scoring twice in five minutes. The Fosse scored on the stroke of time from a free kick. Result: Swifts, 2; Fosse 1.

North Star (Darlington) - 21 January 1896

THE BIRMINGHAM CUP.

WEST BROMWICH ALBION v. WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS.—Played at Perry Barr, in the presence of a large attendance. Though the Albion had the best of the play, Miller scored early for the Wolves, and Tonks putting on another, the Wanderers led at half-time by 2 goals to nil. On resuming Wolverhampton put on a third point, and the final result was: Wolverhampton Wanderers, 3 goals; West Bromwich Albion, nil.

WALSALL v. DERBY COUNTY.—Played at Leicester. Griffin scored for Walsall five minutes after the commencement, while Taggart registered a second, and at half-time Walsall led by 2 goals to nil. On resuming play was even, and each side scored once, the final result being: Walsall, 3 goals; Derby County, 1.

Morning Leader - 23 February 1897

BIRMINGHAM CUP FINAL.

ASTON VILLA v. SHEFFIELD UNITED.

At Perry Barr. Aston Villa kicked off before about 5000 spectators. The opening exchanges were all in favour of the Villa, John Cowan scoring after twelve minutes' play. From a good centre by John Cowan, Cain put the ball through his own goal. The game continued in favour of the home team, Foulkes saving several attacks finely. At half time the Villa led by 3 goals to nil. In the second half the Villa continued to have the best of the play, but the game deteriorated greatly in quality, and there was some very scrambling work on both sides. A blinding storm of sleet swept over the ground and made good play out of the question. An offside goal fell to the United, but there was no doubt as to its illegitimacy. Result—Aston Villa, 3 goals; Sheffield United, nil.

Liverpool Mercury - 30 March 1896