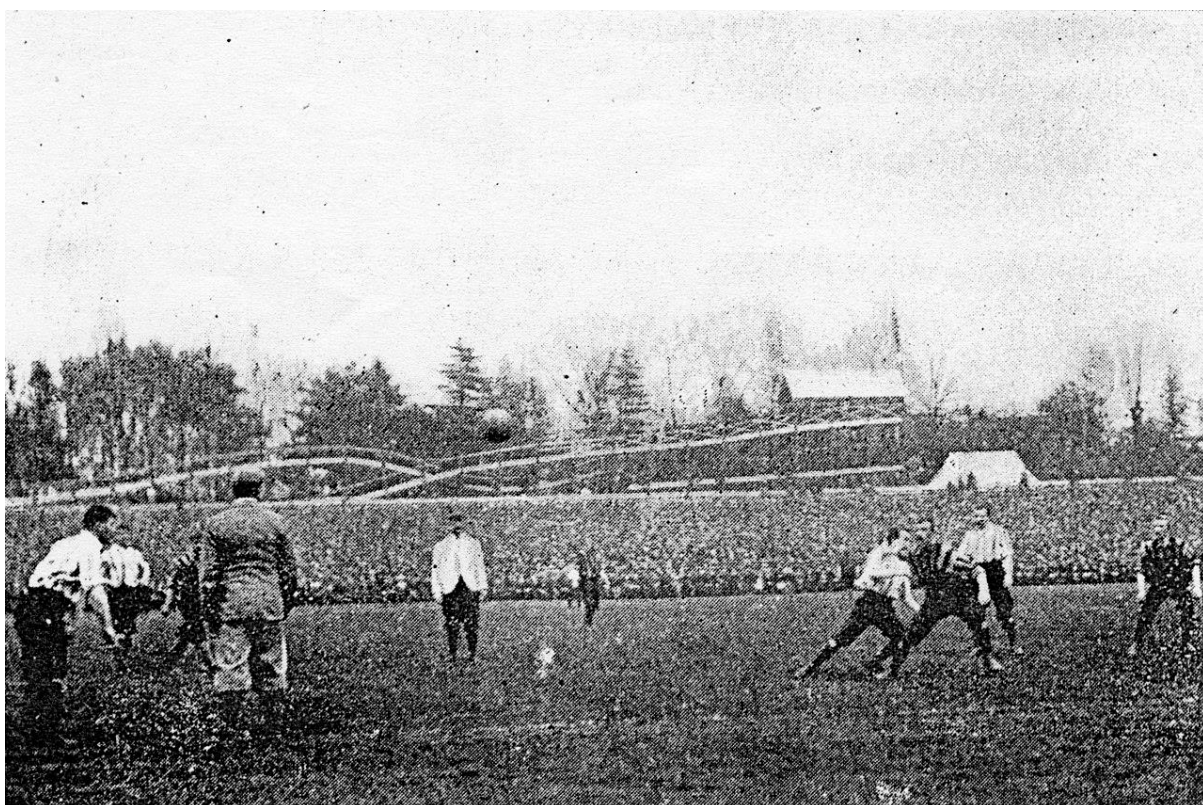




English Challenge (FA) Cup 1895-96



1896 FA Cup Final at Crystal Palace

Winner: The Wednesday
Runner-Up: Wolverhampton Wanderers

Clubs competed for a new trophy, which remains the oldest surviving FA Cup trophy, although it was retired from use in 1910

No less than 5 Leicestershire teams – Coalville Town, Hinckley Town, Leicester Fosse, Leicester YMCA and Loughborough – entered the 1895-96 FA cup competition.



Coalville Town were drawn away to Notts Wanderers in the preliminary qualifying round. After negotiations the Wanderers agreed to play the cup tie at Coalville. Kick off was delayed until 4 pm due to the late arrival of the visitors. Coalville won easily and were drawn at home against Leicester YMCA in the first qualifying round. Unfortunately due to a knee injury to one of their forwards, YMCA were down to 10 men after just 10 minutes in their tie at the Wagon and Horses Ground, Coalville. Perhaps not surprisingly given both home advantage and an extra player, Coalville went through to the Second Qualifying Round. Again drawn at home, they were well beaten by Kettering in front of 1,000 spectators.

Kettering eliminated both Loughborough, in the third qualifying round, and Leicester Fosse, who had easily overcome Hinckley Town, in the fourth and final qualifying round. Newton Heath beat Kettering 2-1 at home in the First Round.

The final took place on Saturday, 18 April 1896 at Crystal Palace. Less than 50,000 supporters attended the match. The match finished 2-1 to The Wednesday, through two early goals from Fred Spiksley. Between the two goals, David Black had equalised for Wolves.

Results and Match Details

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
Prelimin	5.10.1895	Coalville Town Benistone Dicken Orton Cliff	4 (3)	1 (0)	Notts Wanderers AN Other	Wagon and Horses Ground, Coalville. Notts had the choice of venue having been drawn out of the hat first. However, after negotiations Wanderers indicated their willingness to visit Coalville. Fair number of spectators. Rain fell heavily. Notts arrived late delaying kick off until after 4 pm. Coalville were leading 3-0 at half-time
1QR	12.10.1895	Coalville Town C Benistone Gibblin	2	0	Leicester YMCA	Wagon and Horses Ground, Coalville. Gate lower than expected due to excursion trains being run to the fair in Leicester. Within the first few minutes YMCA down to 10 men as forward Tyler retired with a twisted knee
1QR	12.10.1895	Leicester Fosse McArthur Trainer (2) Bishop	4	0	Hinckley Town	Played on "Fair Saturday." "Small" crowd - c.2,500 A one-sided encounter - with "no small amusement caused by the helpless way in which some of the visitors allowed themselves to be tricked."
1QR	12.10.1895	Loughborough AFC	5	2	Bulwell United	
2QR	2.11.1895	Coalville Town	0	4	Kettering Town McMain (pen) Dickson AN Others	Wagon and Horses Ground, Coalville/ C 1,000 spectators Coalville were without Bunting, who had missed his train at Burton. F Hardner (referee)
2QR	2.11.1895	Leicester Fosse Manson Trainer Hibberd	3	1	Hucknall St Johns AN Other	Hucknall arrived late - kick-off was delayed until 3.15 pm.
2QR	2.11.1895	Loughborough	0	0	Newstead Byron	Athletic Grounds, Loughborough. Very small gate.
2QRRep	6.11.1895	Newstead Byron	0	1	Loughborough Rose	
3QR	23.11.1895	Kettering Town AN Other McMain	2	1	Loughborough Ward	Kettering led 2-0 at half-time. Having had one goal disallowed for offside
3QR	23.11.1895	Kimberley Lilley	1	3	Leicester Fosse MacArthur (2) AN Other	A "fairly large continent" of Fosse supporters made the journey. Game played on a "village field."
4QR	14.12.1896	Leicester Fosse Dorrell	1	2	Kettering Town Whitehouse (5 mins) AN Other	Kettering were unbeaten all season. Ground was very heavy. Game kicked-off at 2.15 pm.

Match Reports

ENGLISH ASSOCIATION CUP.

QUALIFYING ROUND.

COALVILLE v. NOTTS. AMATEURS.

Played on the "Waggon and Horses" ground, Coalville, before a fair number of spectators, and in a pouring rain. The Town scored soon after the start, quickly added a second, and subsequently a third. Notts. scored just before half-time. The second half was rather slow. Coalville scored once.

Result:

COALVILLE 4
NOTTS..... 1

Burton Chronicle - 10 October 1895

LEICESTER FOSSE BEAT HINCKLEY TOWN.—With the result of this match a foregone conclusion, scarcely more than 2,000 spectators attended the Leicester enclosure, to witness this game. At half-time Fosse led by two goals, and the second stage of the game was all in favour of the Fosse, the ball being seldom out of the Hinckley half. The Fosse repeatedly attacked, but by packing their goal the visitors for a time kept their opponents out. Hands against Hinckley in front of their goal led up to Bishop rushing the ball through, whilst in the last five minutes a pretty stroke of play between Trainer and M'Arthur resulted in the latter bundling the ball past Chariton. Fosse won the match by 4 goals to nothing, a score which very much underrated their superiority over their opponents.

Sporting Life - 14 October 1895

Y.M.C.A. v. COALVILLE TOWN.

Having defeated Notts Amateurs a week ago by four goals to one in the preliminary round of the English Cup, Coalville Town have made good their claim to enter the qualifying competition proper, and on Saturday met the Y.M.C.A. on the former's ground at Coalville. Both teams are of about the same class, and it was generally anticipated that the match would be a close and somewhat exciting one. There was not a very large attendance, owing chiefly to the fact that a great number of people had taken advantage of the excursion run to Leicester for the fair. Both teams had their best elevens in the field. The Y.M.C.A. won the toss, but chose to play against the slope in the first half. There was rather a strong breeze, but it blew almost straight across the ground. Coalville were the first to act on the aggressive, and in the first two or three minutes the ball was sent behind twice. Maurice Tyler was hurt and had to leave the field, his place in the forward rank being taken by Jones. Although they had now only ten men, for the next few minutes the visitors had decidedly the best of matters, and the Coalville goal had a rather narrow escape. Tyler then returned to the field, and some pretty passing was seen by the Y.M.C.A. forwards, but on each occasion they were pulled up by the Coalville backs, who were playing a strong game. By means of a free kick, the home team placed the Reds on the defensive, and some warm scrimmaging was witnessed in the vicinity of the Y.M.C.A. goal. Twice the Whites looked

almost certain to score with excellent hard shots, but Picken proved equal to the occasion, and cleared his charge in a masterly manner. At last the Young Men's forwards got away, and soon reached their opponents goal, where they were conceded a couple of corners, both of which, however, proved fruitless. The Y.M.C.A. kept up the attack for some time, but their efforts were unrewarded. From a long kick from one of the backs, E. Bennison got away, and after running down the wing centred the ball to C. Bennison. The latter sent in a rather soft shot, which Picken kicked at, but missed in an unaccountable manner, and the ball rolled into the net. This success had the effect of greatly encouraging the Coalville team, and they struggled hard to increase their lead, but were met with stubborn opposition. Maurice Tyler's knee once more gave way, and he had to leave the field again. After a long spell of midfield play, Y.M.C.A. seemed to have an opportunity of scoring, but at the critical moment the chance was lost through a "foul." Coalville now appeared tired somewhat, and the Reds, although they were so heavily handicapped, kept up a strong pressure on the Coalville goal, but they found the defence very strong, while their play in front of the sticks was rather weak. Soon afterwards half-time arrived with the score:

COALVILLE, one goal;

Y.M.C.A., nothing.

(In the second half the Reds had again only ten men. Playing now with the slope in their favour, they at once began to press, and Bunting was obliged to concede a corner to clear the first shot.

away, and transferred play to midfield, where it remained for some time. The game was fast, and at times exciting, but neither team seemed to be able to get anywhere near the vicinity of their opponents' goal. At last Coalville got away, and soon reached the Reds' citadel, and after some warm work in front of the goal Gibling put the ball into the net. Going on again, Gibling put in another shot, which Picken fisted away. With two goals against them, the chance of the visitors winning now looked rather dim, but they struggled on manfully, and at any rate gave their opponents a good game. The whole combination of the forwards was spoiled by the absence of Tyler, and they could hardly be expected to keep their opponents out with a man short. However, they did not miss many chances, and at times found the Coalville defenders plenty of work to do. For some time matters were very slow, the game being almost devoid of interesting or exciting episodes. Eventually Coalville enlivened matters a little by making a strong attack on the Reds' goal. Picken jumped up, and fisted out, one shot just as the ball was entering the goal at the corner, and a minute later he was called upon to save another hot shot. Coalville however, still kept up the pressure, and McAlpin, Dexter, and Picken had their work fully cut out to prevent the home team from adding a third goal. Coalville kept their attack up right to the finish, but they did not succeed in adding any more goals, and the game ended:

COALVILLE, two goals;

Y.M.C.A., none.

Teams:—

Y.M.C.A.: W. Picken, goal; J. McAlpin and A. Dexter, backs; E. J. Jones, S. Bailey, and C. J. B. Wood, half-backs; A. Turner, M. Tyler, G. King, A. E. Knight, and T. Brown, forwards.

Coalville Town: Bunting, goal; Picketing and Nichols, backs; Cliff, Bradshaw, and Brownlow, half-backs; Doken, Gibling, Orton, C. Bennison, and E. Bennison, forwards.

Referee, Mr. Peters, of Kettering.

Leicester Daily Post - 14 October 1895

A LOOSE GAME AT LOUGHBOROUGH.

Loughborough had for their opponents Bulwell United, a Notts League club, the match taking place on the Loughborough ground, before only a moderate gate. The home team's forward rank had been re-arranged, Cotterill being placed in the centre and Gordon outside right. Loughborough had the advantage of the wind, and scored in a couple of minutes. The play then became very loose and uninteresting, Loughborough taking matters as easily as possible, with the result that the United crossed over on equal terms, each side having scored twice. Bulwell went off with a rush after the interval, and then Loughborough had all the play, but were rather lax in shooting. Three more goals were scored by the home team, who won by five goals to two. Bulwell have a capable custodian and some very smart forwards, who were keen on the ball. Loughborough's forwards were disorganised, and the inside men rather erratic. Gordon and Bull played well, while the halves were very good.

Athletic News - Monday 14 October 1895

COALVILLE v. KETTERING.—At Coalville. The homeside attacked first without success, and after Picken had saved twice in succession M' Main scored from a penalty for Kettering. Directly afterwards Dickson headed through for a second goal, then Coalville missed easy chances of opening their account from corners. At the interval the visitors led by two goals, and going on they at once pressed—Nichols saving a warm shot. From a corner the ball was headed through for Kettering, then from a centre from Dickson visitors obtained a further point. The visitors had the best of the closing stages of the match, which they won by four goals to nothing.

Sporting Life - 4 November 1895

LEICESTER FOSSE v. HUCKNALL ST. JOHN'S.—On the Walnut-street Ground, Leicester. Owing to accidents the home club was without Skea, Gallacher, and Baird, whose places were occupied by reserve team men. After each in turn had pressed, Fosse made repeated attacks upon the visitors' citadel with considerable vigour. Hunt effected several really clever saves, but eventually James sprinted down the wing before passing to Trainer. The latter took up the running and centred for Manson to score a very fine goal. Fosse returned to the attack, and just before the rest was taken Hilberd received a pass from Manson, and scored with a shot with which the St. John's custodian had no chance of dealing with. Resuming, the Fosse went away with a rattle, Manson all but scoring in the first minute with a fast shot which grazed the side of the net. The Fosse forced four corners in quick succession and a spell of exciting play ensued in front of the Hucknall goal. The backs successfully dealt with the attack, but a little later Trainer received a correct centre from Bishop, and headed into the net. Afterwards the St. John's forwards came again, and Murphy scored. The remainder of the play was greatly in favour of the Fosse, who won the match by three goals to one.

Sporting Life - 4 November 1895

LOUGHBOROUGH v. NEWSTEAD BYRON.—Only a moderate company witnessed this match, on the Athletic Grounds, Loughborough. The home side forced the game at the outset, but failed to get past the Newstead defence, and by a series of long kicks worked their way down, but Butler shot out. The Luffs then attacked vigorously, and the Newstead backs defended in brilliant fashion, and prevented several excellent shots from taking effect. Although continuing to have much the best of the game, the Luffs were unable to open their account up to the interval. After crossing over the home side took up the attack, but Boot shot wide. Bull sent in a beauty which beat the Newstead custodian, but the left back rushed up and headed away in the nick of time. The home side continued to have much the best of the play, but displayed remarkable weakness in front of goal. In order, if possible, to stall off defeat, the St. John's frequently kicked out, and, to the evident surprise of the Loughborough partisans, the end came with the result a draw. No score.

Sporting Life - 4 November 1895

KETTERING v. LOUGHBOROUGH

Played at Kettering before 3,000 spectators in indifferent weather. All the scoring was done in the first half. M' Main obtained Kettering's first goal three minutes from the start, the same player being responsible for the second half an hour later. Just on the interval Ward got by the home backs and scored Loughborough's one and only goal. The second half was hotly contested, but no point was registered, time being called just as Loughborough had forced a corner. Kettering now have to meet Leicester Fosse. Referee, Mr. Tillotson, Birmingham. Teams:—

KETTERING.—Perkins (goal), Toseland and Draper (backs), Pell, Ball, and Mablestone (half-backs), Whitehouse and Ashworth (right), M' Main (centre), Miller and Dixon (left).

LOUGHBOROUGH.—Monteith (goal), Berry and Swift (backs), Rose, Middleton, and Hamilton (half-backs), Mellors and Dickson (right), Clark (centre), Bull and W. Ward (left).

Sporting Life - 25 November 1895

KIMBERLEY v. LEICESTER FOSSE.

At Kimberley, before 2,000 spectators. Leicester early displayed superior form, but they failed to break through the home defence until near the close of the first half. Then M'Arthur charged Kimberley's goal keeper through, but the home players immediately equalised. M'Arthur obtained a second goal for the visitors, who led at half-time by two to one. In the second half Leicester Fosse had much the best of matters, and gained another point, Rowley putting the ball through his own goal, and the result was—Leicester Fosse, three goals; Kimberley, none.

Sporting Life - 25 November 1895

LEICESTER FOSSE v. KETTERING.

Although this cup match at Leicester on Saturday was considered to be little short of a certainty for the Fosse Club, but so well did the Kettering representatives acquit themselves, that, after a hard game the visitors obtained their first entry into the cup competition proper, and likewise maintained their this season's unbroken record of successes. Some 3,000 spectators witnessed the game, the outcome of which furnished the greatest surprise ever experienced in connection with football in the Leicester district. What is the more valuable feature is the fact that Kettering owe their victory to no fluke, for on the ninety minutes' play, they were undoubtedly tons in front of their opponents, who on their own ground have never been seen to worse advantage. Both clubs were represented by their full strength. Kettering winning the toss, had the advantage of the wind in the first half, and before play had been in progress five minutes, Whitehouse beat the home custodian with a clever shot. Thus early the visitors were displaying combination much superior to that of the home side, whose movements were frequently exceedingly faulty. Davies, however, having kicked well down, Trainer took up the running and equalised with a fine shot, which Perkins had no chance of saving. The visitors, however, would not be denied; they attacked with renewed vigour, and with a pass from Dixon, Ashworth got the ball past Thraves. The interval was called with Kettering leading by two goals to one. Play again settled down fast, and frequent fouls against the Fosse led up to a smart attack on their goal. Then another combined effort on the part of the Fosse all but brought about the downfall of the Kettering goal, for it was marvellous how Perkins stopped a terrible shot from McArthur. All their efforts to draw level, however, were futile against the safe defensive operations of the visiting backs, and the result remained: Kettering, two goals; Leicester Fosse, one.

Sporting Life - 16 December 1895