



Rushden Cup 1897-98

Winner: Wellingborough
Runner-Up: Leicester Fosse
No. of entries: ?

Given that Leicester Fosse were given a bye into the semi-finals – it may be assumed that there was an earlier round(s), but no draws/results have been found to date.

The score in both semi-finals and the final was 1-0 – three ties, three goals.

Wellingborough beat cup holders, Leicester Fosse in the final.

Competition rules were changed – *“Any club winning the cup three years in succession or 5 times in all were allowed to retain the trophy.”*

Round 1

Date	Home	Away		Match Details

Leicester Fosse, bye

Semi-Finals

Date	Home	Away		Match Details	
11.10.1897	Rushden	0 (0)	1 (0)	Leicester Fosse Gillies	At Rushden [Monday]. Dull weather. Large and enthusiastic crowd. The game was keenly contested, the science of the Fosse being opposed on the part of the home team by resolute and fearless tackling. Gillies scored a few minutes before the whistle blew for time.
28.10.1897	Wellingborough Dartnell	1 (1)	0 (0)	Finedon	At Rushden.

Final

Date	Home	Away		Match Details	
1.11.1897	Wellingborough	1	0	Leicester Fosse	At Rushden. Large and enthusiastic crowd, Fosse left for Rushden on the 12.50 train. Beautifully fine weather. The only goal was scored 5 mins from time. Game full of fouls and excitement. “The Northants team won because they were more accustomed to the rushing tactics which too often render these games valueless as exhibitions of real football..... After the game the cup was presented to Wellingborough by Mr A F Newman, and a tea to the players followed but for the Fosse the subsequent proceedings interested them no more.”

Match Reports

RUSHDEN CHARITY CUP LEICESTER FOSSE v RUSHDEN

This semi-final tie was played Rushden, yesterday (Monday) afternoon, before a fairly large crowd, in dull weather. Rushden kicked off, and once made for the Fosse goal, but Dunkley hit the post. Then Baldrey, at the opposite end, had to save. Walker a little later putting in some good defensive work for the visitors. Freebairn effected a good run, but shot badly, King trying to remedy matters. Fosse attacked, but when the interval arrived, there was no score. In the last half Rushden had to face the sun. but were not long before they attacked again, and it looked as though they must score, the spectators loudly cheering the home team in their rushes. Freebairn next tried the home custodian, and then Clarke came to the rescue. Fast play continued, the game being very even. Just before time, however, Gillies scored for Leicester, and as Rushden were unable to draw level, the visitors won, the final score being. Leicester Fosse, one goal; Rushden, nil.

Sporting Life – 12 October 1897

WELLINGBORO' v. FINEDON —This, the first semi-final of the above competition, was brought off Tuesday. Wellingboro', who lost the services Lewis, one their backs, through sprained ankle, won by a goal to nothing. The point was obtained Dartnell just before the interval.

Stamford Mercury – 10 October 1897

Cup tie football is proverbially productive of surprises, as was seen in more than one instance in the national competition matches played last Saturday, but seldom have local followers of the game had their anticipations more completely upset than last Monday, when the Fosse had the elegant Rushden Cup wrested from them by Wellingborough. A typical Cup tie it was, too, full of fouls and excitement, and the Northants team won because they were more accustomed to the rushing tactics which too often render these games valueless as exhibitions of real football. For all that, Fosse did a tremendous lot of attacking, but it was too wild and unmethodical to bear any resemblance to their Second League form; indeed, they were so disconcerted in trying to descend to the level of their opponents that much of their work went for nothing. One of the best features in the match was the splendid back play of Wellingborough, Lewis and Gates being two of the best men on the field. Fosse were exceedingly weak on the wings, neither Freebairn nor King showing anything like their true form, but McMillan once more played a hard-working and successful game, taking more than his full share of the knocks and hard work. Jones was most successful of the halves, playing Wellingborough at their own game, and Ball was weakest, while Walker was not in the same street as Swift for back play. Wellingborough are entitled to all credit for what on the face of it is a most creditable performance, but though the style they adopt may come off occasionally, and generally would give a reputedly cleverer team a fright, it is the reverse of class football, and reduces the game to a series of big kicks and rushes, which may be exciting, but not spectatorial football.

Leicester Chronicle – 6 November 1897