



# Leicestershire Shield 1897-98

**Winner:** Oakham Rovers  
**Runner-Up:** Leicester Ferndale  
**No. of entries:** 43

Teams divided into Divisions for at least the first threerounds.

The decision of the Leicestershire Football Association Executive in the selection to stage the final of Shield competition at Rutland seems "a most extraordinary one and totally unfair to one of the contesting clubs" [Oakham Rovers]. As the press reported, "there is not much neutrality about this, the Rovers actually playing on their own ground."

The final between Oakham Rovers and Leicester Ferndale at Oakham ended in a goal-less draw. The decision of the Leicestershire Football Association Executive in the selection to stage the final of Shield competition at Rutland seems "a most extraordinary one and totally unfair to one of the contesting clubs" [Oakham Rovers]. As the press reported, "there is not much neutrality about this, the Rovers actually playing on their own ground." Melton staged the replay. Despite a gale force wind there was a good attendance. Ferndale led 2-0 at the interval. Oakham clawed a goal back. Two players were sent off and the game finished 10 minutes early, with the agreement of both teams due to a storm which had increased in severity,

## Round 1

### Division I

Date	Home	Away	Match Details
1	Ashby Trinity	Markfield Albion	
2	Bagworth Rovers	Packington Rising Star	

Barlestone Rovers, Barlestone United, Nailstone Albion and Whitwick White Cross, byes.

### Division II

Date	Home	Away	Match Details
3	Loughborough Corinthians	Sileby Rangers	
4	Sileby Villa	Barrow Victoria	

Anstey Albion, Mountsorrel Castle and Quorn Havelock, byes

### Division III

Date	Home	Away	Match Details		
5	2.10.1897	Earl Shilton Excelsior	W	Earl Shilton Victor	Under Shield Rule No.6 - Earl Shilton Excelsior FC were fined 2s 6d for falling to scratch their Shield match in accordance with Rule 12.
6	?	Hinckley Volunteers		Burbage United	

### Division IV

Date	Home	Away	Match Details		
7	2.10.1897	Ashby Swifts		Syston Rangers	

Belgrave St Michael's. Melton Rovers, Oakham Rovers and Thurmaston Rovers

### Division V

Fleckney, Market Harborough and Wigston Wesleyans all byes

### Division VI

Date	Home	Away	Match Details
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8	2.10.1897	Belgrave Nonconformists Roberts (3) Hilton (2)	5	2	Leicester Old Boys AN Others	
9	2.10.1897	Belgrave United	0	5	Leicester Rutland	
10	?	Leicester Ferndale			St Mary's Victor	
11	?	Leicester Granby			Aylestone United	
12	2.10.1897	St Paul's Church	2	5	Oxford Victoria	

All Saints, Clarendon Park Congregational, St Matthew's. St Saviour's and YMCA, byes.

## Round 2

### Division I

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
13	30.10.1897	Bagworth Rovers	1	0	Barlestone United	
14	30.10.1897	Barlestone Rovers	2	3	Nailstone Wood Albion	
15	30.10.1897	Markfield Rovers J Notts	1	5	Whitwick White Cross AN Other Middleton Parker Dunleavy	Match commenced at 3.20 pm.

### Division II

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
16	30.10.1897	Anstey Albions	3	2	Quorn Havelock	
17	30.10.1897	Mountsorrel Castle	2	1	Belgrave St Michael's	
18	30.10.1897	Sileby Villa	2	2	Loughborough Corinthians	

### Division III

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
19	30.10.1897	Hinckley Volunteer	0	2	Earl Shilton Victor	

### Division IV

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
20	30.10.1897	Oakham Rovers	3	0	Ashfordby Swifts	
21	?	Thurmaston Rovers		W	Melton Rovers	

### Division V

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
22	30.10.1897	Fleckney		W	Wigston Wesleyan	
23	13.11.1897	Leicester Ferndale	D	D	Market Harborough	Market Harborough were fined 2s 6d for arriving 35 minutes late

### Division VI

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
24	30.10.1897	All Saints	1	2	Leicester Rutland	
25	30.10.1897	Clarendon Park Congregational Fell (2)	2	1	St Saviour's Smith	Victoria Park, Leicester.
26	30.10.1897	Granby	2	0	Cumberland	
27	30.10.1897	Oxford Victoria	W		Belgrave Nonconformists	

28	30.10.1897	YMCA	1	3	St Matthew's Vicarage	
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### Round 2 Replays

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
29	13.11.1897	Loughborough Corinthians	3	1	Sileby Villa	
30	13.11.1897	Market Harborough	6	2	Leicester Ferndale	

### Round 3

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
31	8.1.1898	Bagworth Rovers	2	0	Anstey Albion	
32	8.1.1898	Clarendon Park Congregational Iliffe (2) Fell	3	1	Leicester Rutland AN Other	Victoria Park, Leicester.
33	8.1.1898	Granby	8 (6)	1 (0)	YMCA	Victoria Park, Leicester.
34	8.1.1898	Loughborough Corinthians Palmer (15 mins)	1 (1)	0 (0)	Mountsorrel Castle	Forest-road Ground, Loughborough.
35	8.1.1898	Melton Rovers	1	2	Oakham Rovers	
36	8.1.1898	Oxford Victoria	6	2	Earl Shilton Victoria	
37	8.1.1898	Wigston Wesleyans	0	1	Leicester Ferndale	Stopped 15 mins before time.
38	8.1.1898	Whitwick White Cross	6	1	Nailstone Wood Albion	

### Round 4

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
39	5.2.1898	Leicester Granby	5	0	Leicester Clarendon Park	Victoria Park, Leicester.
40	5.2.1898	Loughborough Corinthians	0 (0)	0 (0)	Leicester Ferndale	The crossbar was struck three times in the last few minutes.
41	5.2.1898	Oakham Rovers			Oxford Victoria	
42	5.2.1898	Whitwick White Cross Parker AN Others	3	0	Bagworth Rovers	"The match was played under protest" – the ground was not of sufficient length. Small gate

### Round 4 Replay

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
43	19.2.1898	Loughborough Corinthians	0	2	Leicester Ferndale	

### Semi-Finals

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
44	19.2.1898	Oakham Rovers	1	0	Whitwick White Cross	At Barrow.
45	?	Leicester Ferndale			Leicester Granby	

### Final

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
46	12.3.1898	Oakham Rovers	0	0	Leicester Ferndale	At Oakham.

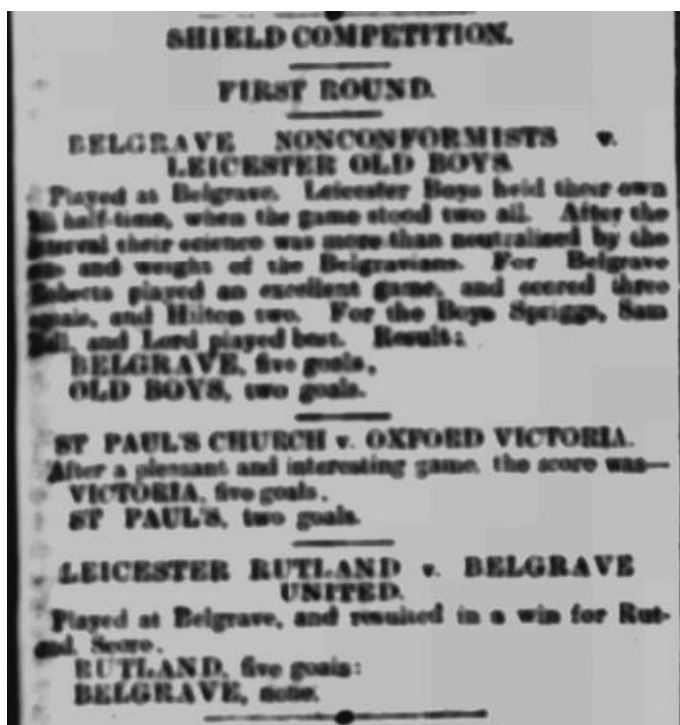
### Final- Replay

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
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47	26.3.1898	Oakham	1 (0)	2 (2)	Leicester Ferndale	At Melton. Good attendance despite wretched weather (gale force wind). Two players sent off. Game finished 10 minutes early, with the agreement of both teams due to the storm which had increased in severity,
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## Match Reports

A selection of published match reports.



*Leicester Daily Post - 4 October 1897*

### #8 BELGRAVE NONCONFORMISTS v LEICESTER OLD BOYS

Played at Belgrave. Leicester Boys held their own at half-time, when the game stood at two all. After the interval their science was more than neutralised by the size and weight of the Belgravians. For the Belgrave, Roberts played an excellent game and scored three again and Hilton two. For the Boys Spriggs, Sam Ball and Lord played best. Result:

BELGRAVE, five goals;  
OLD BOYS, two goals.

*Leicester Daily Post - 4 October 1897*

### #9 LEICESTER RUTLAND v BELGRAVE UNITED

Played at Belgrave, and resulted in a win for Rutland. Score.

RUTLAND, five goals;  
BELGRAVE, none.

*Leicester Daily Post - 4 October 1897*

### #12 ST PAUL'S CHURCH v OXFORD VICTORIA

After a pleasant and interesting game the score was -

VICTORIA, five goals;  
ST PAUL'S, two goals.

*Leicester Daily Post - 4 October 1897*

**#13 BAGWORTH ROVERS v BARLESTONE UNITED**

At Barlestone. Result:

BAGWORTH, one goal  
BARLESTONE, none.

*Leicester Daily Post - 1 November 1897*

**#14 BARLESTONE ROVERS v NAILSTONE WOOD ALBION**

At Nailstone. Result:

NAILSTONE, three goals;  
BARLESTONE, two goals.

*Leicester Daily Post - 1 November 1897*

**LEICESTERSHIRE SHIELD COMPETITION SECOND ROUND.**

**#15 MARKFIELD v. WHITWICK WHITE CROSS.**

These clubs met in the second round of the Shield Competition at Markfield on Saturday. The home side won the toss and elected to play downhill. The kick-off was at 3-20. The game began very fast the White Cross at once began to press. In a few minutes they forced a corner, which, however, proved abortive, but soon after some good passing on the right wing by McCarthy and Dunleavy first blood was drawn by the White Cross. Starting again, three corners in succession were forced, Markfield managed to keep the ball out but soon after by a long shot Middleton scored again for the visitors. Markfield now began in their turn to press and gave considerable trouble for a while, securing two corners. Once more the ball was brought to the centre of the field by sturdy play on the part of Springthorpe at back and Waterfield at half-back. There was on further score when the whistle blew at half time. On resuming. Markfield played with more dash and would have scored twice but for the cool play of the Whitwick goalkeeper. Then becoming disorganised the White Cross soon brought the ball to the other end and Parker scored the third goal to which, after a clear run, Dunleavy soon added a fourth. The play now began to be rather rough, Springthorpe who had been playing with great pluck, being lamed. However, the White Cross still continued to play as though the game was yet undecided and by a long shot scored once more. In a scrimmage before goal, J. Notts put the ball into the for the home side shortly before the whistle blew, leaving the White Cross winners by 5 goals to 1.

*Coalville Times - 5 November 1897*

**#16 ANSTEY ALBION v QUORN HAVELOCK**

At Anstey. Result:

ANSTEY, three goals;  
QUOEN, two goals.

*Leicester Daily Post - 1 November 1897*

**#17 MOUNTSORREL CASTLE v BELGRAVE ST MICHAEL'S**

At Mountsorrel. Result:

MOUNTSORREL, two goals;  
BELGRAVE, one goal.

*Leicester Daily Post - 1 November 1897*

**#18 SILBEY VILLA v LOUGHBOROUGH CORINTHIANS**

At Sileby. Result:

A DRAW - two goals each.

*Leicester Daily Post - 1 November 1897*

**#19 HINCKLEY VOLUNTEERS v EARL SHILTON VICTOR**

At Hinckley. Result:

EARL SHILTON, two goals;  
VOLUNTEERS, none.

*Leicester Daily Post - 1 November 1897*

#### **#20 OAKHAM ROVERS v ASHFORDT SWIFTS**

At Oakham. Result:

OAKHAM, three goals;

ASHFORDBY, none

*Leicester Daily Post - 1 November 1897*

#### **#24 ALL SAINTS v LEICESTER RUTLAND**

On the former's ground, a very fast game resulting in a win for Rutland by the following:

LEICESTER RUTLAND, two goals;

ALL SAINTS, one goal.

*Leicester Daily Post - 1 November 1897*

#### **#25 ST SAVIOUR'S v CLARENDON PARK**

On the Victoria Park. An even game took place, Fell scoring two goals for the Park and Smith for St Saviour's, the result being.

CLARENDON PARK, two goals;

ST SAVIOUR'S, one goal.

*Leicester Daily Post - 1 November 1897*

#### **#26 GRANBY v CUMBERLAND**

Result:

GRANBY, two goals;

CUMBERLAND, none.

*Leicester Daily Post - 1 November 1897*

#### **#28 YMCA v ST MATTHEW'S**

On the Victoria Park. Result.

ST MATTHEW'S, three goals;

YMCA, one.

*Leicester Daily Post - 1 November 1897*

#### **#32 CLARENDON PARK CONGREGATIONAL v RUTLAND**

On the Victoria Park. This was a capital game. For the winners T Iliffe scored two goals and Fell one, the result, being:

CLARENDON PARK, three goals;

RUTLAND, one goal.

*Leicester Daily Post - 10 January 1898*

#### **#33 GRANBY v YMCA**

On the Victoria Park. Granby had matters pretty much their own way in the first half, and put on six goals. The second half was more evenly fought out, but still Granby put on two more goals, the Young Men replying with one. Result:

GRANBY, eight goals;

YMCA, one goal.

*Leicester Daily Post - 10 January 1898*

#### **#34 LOUGHBOROUGH CORINTHIANS v MOUNTSORREL CASTLE RESERVES**

The match was played on the Corinthians ground, Forest-road ground, on Saturday. The home captain lost the toss, and was set to defend the Redmoor goal. From the kick off the Corinthians forwards worked the ball into the visitors' half, but were driven back. Midfield play followed, but after about 15 minutes, Palmer receiving a pass from Harrison, ran through, and scored the first goal for the Corinthians. From this point up to half-time the home side continued to press, but failed to increase their score. Upon resuming, the Corinthians pressed continuously, and it had not been for the grand defence of the Mountsorrel club a large score would have been run up against them. Result: One to none. Every member of the Corinthians

team played a good game, and on present form they should stand an excellent chance of winning the Shield.

*Melton Mowbray Mercury and Oakham and Uppingham News - 13 January 1898*

#### **#37 WIGSTON WESELEYANS v FERNDALE**

Stopped fifteen minutes before time, when the score was:

FERNDALE, one goal;

WIGSTON, none.

*Leicester Daily Post - 10 January 1898*

**#39** Leicester Granby and Clarendon Park Congregational met on the Victoria Park, Leicester, the Granby being beaten by five goals to none.

*Leicester Daily Post - 10 January 1898`*

#### **#40 LOUGHBOROUGH CORINTHIANS v LEICESTER FERNDALE**

Played on the former's ground. Both sides were strongly represented. The game was fast, exciting, and even, the teams appearing well balanced. At the interval neither side had scored. Matters were pretty much the same for some time after crossing over, but the Corinthians eventually pressed, and it was only determined defence of the Ferndale that prevented several; goals from being scored. The Corinthians had the hardest luck imaginable, the crossbar being struck thrice in the last few minutes, and time came with a clear sheet.

*Melton Mowbray Mercury and Oakham and Uppingham News -10 February 1898*

#### **#42 BAGWORTH v WHITWICK WHITE CROSS**

Whitwick White Cross having sustained their protest against Nailstone, met Bagworth, at Whitwick and were victorious by three goals to none. The match was played under protest. Middleton and Stacey made a grand wing, and Springthorpe played a magnificent game. Parker scored the only goal in the first half. Bagworth had, if anything, the best of the game, but the superior combination of the Whitwick players, and the weak shooting of Bagworth accounts for the result, which was: Whitwick, three goals; Bagworth none.

*Melton Mowbray Mercury and Oakham and Uppingham News -10 February 1898*

#### **#43 RE-PLAYED TIE**

##### **LOUGHBOROUGH CORINTHIANS v LEICESTER FERNDALE**

At Loughborough. Result:

FERNDALE, two goals;

CORINTHIANS, none

*Leicester Daily Post - 21 February 1898*

#### **#46 OAKHAM ROVERS v LEICESTER FERNDALE**

Oakham was selected for this match, and a really good game was witnessed, full time arriving with

NO SCORE

*Leicester Daily Post - 14 March 1898*

#### **LEICESTERSHIRE SHIELD**

##### **#47 REPLAYED FINAL**

##### **OAKHAM ROVERS v LEICESTER FERNDALE**

These teams met at Melton for the second time on Saturday to contest the right to hold this trophy. Despite the wretched weather there was a very good attendance. Leicester Ferndale had the advantage of a strong gale in the first half and put on two goals. Crossing over the Oakham team, assisted by an increasing gale, kept the Leicester team very much on the defence, and after a very effective round of passing scored. The result put a great deal of spirit into the match, and two of the players were ordered off the field. After this Oakham pressed continuously. The storm, however, increased in its severity, and the referee consulted the linesman, but still an attempt was made to finish the game, but with 10 minutes to go, after consulting both sides, the referee stopped the match, the score at that time reading

LEICESTER FERNDALE, two goals;

OAKHAM ROVERS, one goal.

Referee, Mr Alan Lovell (Leicestershire F.A.)  
*Leicester Daily Post – 28 March 1898*

### **Additional Information**

#### **SHIELD**

The decision of the Leicestershire Executive in the selection of the ground for the final of this competition in a most extraordinary one, and totally unfair to one of the contesting clubs, who had considerable cause for complaint. The tie, which is to be played on March 12<sup>th</sup> has been fixed to take place at Oakham, and when it is pointed out that one of the contestants are Oakham Rovers the unfairness of the location of the match will be obvious. There is not much neutrality about this, the Rovers actually playing on their own ground.

*Melton Mowbray Mercury and Oakham and Uppingham News – 3 March 1898*