



## Bass Charity Vase 1894-95

**Winner:** Burton Wanderers  
**Runner-up:** Leicester Fosse  
**No. of entries:** 4

All games were played at Peel Croft, the home of Burton Swifts.

In the semi-finals Fosse were drawn against the mighty Aston Villa who were riding high in the First Division under the management of Gordon Ramsey. They would end the season in third position and win the FA Cup for the second time. A fair number of Fosse supporters took advantage of a Midland Railway excursion tickets leaving Leicester at 2.30 pm. When Burton was reached it was found that rain had been falling for some hours rendering the ground heavy. The game kicked off nearly ten minutes before the advertised time of 5.15 pm. Fosse fielded a full strength side whilst Villa sent a weakened side. McArthur headed the first goal for the Fosse after just four minutes play. Billy Dorrell, who would later become Fosse legend equalised with "one of his patent goals." Towards the end of the first half the Fossils backs cleared to Gallacher, who ran up the wing and centred to the other side, where McArthur, urged on by the shouts of a Fosse official on the stand, tried a long shot. The ball travelled just underneath the bar, and beat Dunning all the way, striking the bar on the underside and bounding into the net. Villa tried desperately to equalise during the second half, missing several good chances, with Fosse's custodian making several key saves.

Burton Wanderers overcame the Swifts in the other semi-final.

The final, between Fosse and Wanderers, was eagerly awaited and carefully prepared for by both sides. Fosse left 'no stone was turned to place the men on the field in the best possible condition for the final'. Special training was organised in Matlock prior to travelling to Peel Croft on the Wednesday morning, in time for the final that evening.

The kick-off was arranged for 5.30pm to ensure a good attendance. A sizeable contingent of Fosse fans travelled by rail to the game, which was watched by a record Peel Croft crowd of up to 10,000. The ex-Mayor of Burton kicked off for Fosse, who despite winning the toss, elected to defend the railway end of the ground with the sun behind them and facing quite a strong wind!

In the goalless first half, Burton Wanderers initially had the upper hand, but Fosse defended well, with goalkeeper Jimmy Thraves being particularly impressive, but towards the end of the half, which ended goalless. Despite laying into the wind, in the second half Wanderers moved the ball well and hit both the bar and the post. Then the heavens opened. So heavy that the Daily Leicester Mercury reporter which made it impossible for him to continue providing a detailed description of the game. Just five minutes from the restart David Skea 'raced through and scored an exceedingly clever goal amid loud cheers from the Fosse supporters. However, eight minutes later, with the storm having abated, Wanderers equalised, making the score 1-1 at full time. According to previous arrangements it was agreed to play a quarter-of-an-hour each way, and within five minutes the Wanderers, who continued to have the best of game. Fossils' goalkeeper Jimmy Thraves unfortunately lost his footing on the greasy surface, enabling Burton to take the lead. Wanderers then changed their tactics to a more defensive formation, but despite having more of the game, Fosse couldn't score an equaliser, enabling Burton Wanderers to win the trophy for the first time.

### Semi-Finals

#	Date	Home	Away		Match Details
1	20.3.1895	Burton Swifts	0 (0)	1 (1)	Burton Wanders 5,000 spectators
2	25,3.1895	Aston Villa Dorrell	1 (1)	2 (2)	Leicester McArthur (2) Game commenced at 5.07 pm. Heavy ground.

## Final

#	Date	Home		Away	Match Details
3	24.4.1895	Burton Wanderers	2	1 Leicester Fosse Skea	10,000 spectators. The teams had recently met in the final of Kettering Cup which the Wanderers won 1-0. 1-1 after 90 mins. Extra-time played. The gate was a record one, the amount taken being £155 18s.

## Match Reports

### #1 BURTON SWIFTS v BURTON WANDERERS

Played on the ground of the former last night before five thousand spectators. Play was fast and exciting; a good deal of feeling being introduced into the game. After thirty minutes the Wanderers scored and led by one goal to none at half-time. The second half was stubbornly contested, but neither side scored. Result: Buton Wanderers 1; Burton Swifts, nil.

*Western daily Mercury - 21 March 1895*

### #2 BASS CHARITY CUP COMPETITION

#### LEICESTER FOSSE v ASTON VILLA

#### A GRAND WIN FOR THE FOSSE

Among the various cup competitions participated in by the Fosse in the course of a season the Bass Charity Cup contest stands out with a singular individuality, conducted as it is on lines so different to the commoner class of cup fights. This year, for instance, only four clubs were allowed to enter, so that the point of "class" Fosse are placed in a most select company. The two Burton clubs, the Swifts and the Wanderers, with Aston Villa and the Fosse are the only teams concerned in the competition, so that the first round consisted of the two semi-finals. Last March, it may be remembered, it fell to the lot of the Fosse to encounter the Villa at Perry Barr in a Bass Cup match, and after Fosse obtained a lead through Miller the Villians had matters all their own way, and scored five goals, afterwards carrying off the handsome cup. The match of Monday was the first of the three in the present series. Again Fosse were drawn against the Birmingham brigade, and the rules governing the competition having been altered so as to enact that all matches should be played at Burton, the ground of the Swifts at Peel Croft was decided upon as the scene of operations. Excursion tickets were issued for the 2.30 ordinary train to Burton, and fair number journeyed from Leicester to witness the form of the English Cup finalists. The kick-off was arranged to take place at 5.15. In the Fosse team Whitelaw was again included, Smith being yet unable to take his place, and at forward the executive of the club, bearing in mind Priestman's recent disappointing displays, left him out in favour of Hill, full strength, except, of course, Seymour, being otherwise available. When Burton was reached it was found that rain had been falling for some hours, and the ground was on the heavy side, but not sufficiently saturated to render the going so slippery as to interfere with the game. To guard as much as possible against the match being finished in darkness - it was a dull day - the teams entered the field before the advertised time, and the game was commenced about seven minutes past five. Brown for once in a way lost the toss, but there was little gained by the Villa in the advantage of atmospheric conditions. Fosse defended the railway end, and Gordon having passed out to McArthur the latter's transference back to the centre was annexed by Kinsey and the Villa forwards, by nice football, got down to the Fosse end, where Whitelaw was bound to give a corner. from Hodgett's flag-kick a hot bully ensued in the Fosse goal, and many thought a goal had been scored thus early, but it transpired that the ball went a few inches wide of the goal. This was followed by a run down by the Fosse forwards, and Gordon's attention to Baird caused a corner to be given, from which McArthur headed the first goal for the Fosse after about four minutes play - a circumstances which invested the match with additional interest to Fosse spectators by reason of the stronger efforts the Villa would have to put forward to secure a win. The game continued to be contested in a wonderfully fast and even manner, the football shown being of the highest order of merit. At the Fosse end Dorrell missed a good opening, and with play going on the Fosse wing the referee blew his whistle for off-side before Hill touched the ball, but finding out his mistake he at once adjudged a throw up. Skea, hard pressed, shot over, and then, in clearing a long kick forward Whitelaw shot the ball hard on to Bailey's head, and Dorrell rushing up to it from the rebound had a clear opening, and equalised with one of his patent goals. The match went on slightly in favour of the Villa, whose forwards were playing hard and determined game. Hill, Hughes and Gallacher were in turn prominent with capable movements, and Field shot over. At the other end Skea was give off-side when in a fine position,

and Podmore for the Villa sent in to the net. Henry's played splendidly in the course of a bully round the Fosse goal, twice saving his side when a point was imminent, and Dorrell. Field and Burton had to be specially attended to. A free to the Fosse brough relief, and McArthur took a low, long shot at goal, which went wide. Villa having got back again, play on the left wing was followed by a free for a foul on Podmore in front of goal, and the ball being passed to Baird, he shot towards goal, Dorrell, with a back kick, diverting it over the line. Hill. MacArthur and Brown caused the game to be taken again to the Villa goal, and Gordon passing out to Gallacher the latter shot splendidly at Dunning, the custodian just tipping the ball over the bar for a corner. For some time now Fosse more than held their own, and Gordon was working for an opening when Burton held him off the ball. A bad kick by bailey let down the Villa forwards, and Trueman had a fine, long shot from the line, which brought out Thraves to pick up and kick away. Hill was given off-side - wrongly he evidently thought - and Skea foolishly passed straight to Welford. A bad foul by Kinsey on McArthur led to the ball being shot towards the Villa goal, continued to display fine football, and Skea lost a chance by getting off-side. Having pressed for five minutes or more the Fosse were now sent back, a strong run being put in by Dennis Hodgetts, who forced a corner of Whitelaw's side of the ground. This came to nought, and the next item was brilliant performance on the part of Hill, who tracked one man after another and centred from the goal line. A goal ought certainly to have been scored, but both Gordon and Skea missed the ball when standing close at goal, and the leather coming to Gallacher he shot over. It was splendid piece of work by Hill and ought to have been more suitably rewarded. Still the Villa were allowed to liberties, and the game went on for the most part on their side of the field. Once more Skea was said to be off-side (one of the Villa backs was persistently standing forward), and Hill gained more applause by gamely tackling the big Villa backs. Now the Brum men had a little more of the game, and Whitelaw was compelled to stave off further danger by shooting out, while a long kick from Burton went wide. Bailey and Henrys robbed Field, and the latter Fossil gave to Gallacher, who ran up the wing and centred to the other side, where McArthur, urged on by the shouts of a Fosse official on the stand, tried a long shot, which came off. The ball travelled just underneath the bar, and beat Dunning all the way, striking the bar on the underside and bounding into the net. Hill again centred extremely well into the goal, and then Villa racing away again Field threatened to score from close in, and though palpably off-side was allowed to go on, but Whitelaw rushed up just in time; though afterwards Mr Shelton recognised Field's infringement. Adain Field raced up to take a long pass, but this time he was not quick enough, and play of an even nature followed. The game up to now had been fast and intensely interesting, both sides playing an exceedingly pretty game. Gallacher unfortunately ran the ball out when he had chance to centre and Hill with a good try sent on to the side of the net. Gordon in the centre strive hard and was capably supported by the wings. Just before half-time the Villa broke away through Field, who, though hampered by Skea, dribbled splendidly down he wing and just as Whitelaw diverted his final shot the whistle went, the score at the interval being

FOSSE, two goals;

ASTON VILLA, one

The atmosphere was becoming very dull and misty when, after a short interval, the men entered the enclosure for the second half. Play opened with an initial rush by Dorrell. who had altered his position from inside right to outside left. playing with Hodgson. From this Whitelaw cleared, and the Fosse started by Hill running down to Dunning. where the Fosse forwards played with very good judgment, but Gordon shot out. Gordon just afterwards proved useful in tackling Hodgetts successfully, and after another period of play in the Fosse quarters the Leicester left went down, but Gallacher was given offside. Podmore headed towards the Fosse goal and Bailey kicked out for a comer, which no harm resulted, and Thraves saved an overhead kick from Hodgetts. Still on defence, Fosse played a fine saving game, many of the men showing dashes of beautiful play. Having eased their lines, Hughes directed a well-judged shot. which brought out Dunning, and attacking in earnest the Leicester players gave any amount of trouble to the Villa backs. Gallacher being especially conspicuous, and the match still went on in the most spirited fashion. Skea arid other of the Fosse forwards were rather unlucky in being placed off-side through the ball rebounding. but as it happened into Dunnings hands. Next Gordon grazed the bar with a magnificent shot, and what In the twilight appeared to be a certain goal by Skea turned out to be a shot which had gone a few inches wide. Some laughter was caused by the style in which Hill bowled over a big Villa back, and then Skea put in another shot which was about as close as his previous effort. Through the ball being charged down Hodgetts found himself with a nice opening but shot high over the goal, and Skea for the third time in a very short space fast missed the mark. Bailey, after Hughes and McArthur had both misdirected the ball, stopped Field in good style, but still the Villa, though putting forth great efforts were unable to get a substantial foothold in the Fosse half. Twice Gallacher essayed runs down the field. but the second time was given off-side, and from the free kick Danny

Hodgetts missed a very easy chance right in front of the fosse goal. In another breakaway McArthur, in the following up got off-side and assisted by the free kick, the Perry Barr brigade initiated another attack, off-side spoiling their effort also. Try as they would Villa could not get on anything like even terms, and the game continued actually in favour of the fosse, the Birmingham backs being repeatedly called upon to ward off serious attacks. when near goal Hill was given off-side, and sea shot over. at length hands against the fosse, following close on a run by the Villa, threatened danger to the Leicester citadel. Hodgetts shooting right into Thraves hands. A long kick from Baird went over the Fosse line, and taking advantage of the goal-kick Leicester made a further onslaught, but this time their forward play showed some deterioration. Dorrell, who had been idle for the greater part of the second half, then came into possession, and in characteristic style tricked several opponents before passing to Russell, who ought to have scored, but shot over. Hodgetts directed the ball towards Thraves, who from a scrimmage saved well; and in the deepening gloom the game went on in a most spirited manner. In the last ten minutes Villa introduced much more sting into their aggressive tactics and Thraves was considerably put about to get away a couple of shots sent in from close play near goal. At the other end Dunning appeared to let the ball go over the line before saving a grand low shot from McArthur and next Vila made three or four most determined rushes, Thraves getting the ball away each time in a marvellous manner. Just on time Fosse broke away, but nothing more of importance was done and the game ended in a well-earned victory for the Fosse, the score being:

FOSSE, two goals

ASTON VILLA, one goal

The following were the teams:

Fosse: Thraves, goal; Whitelaw and Bailey, backs; Henrys, Hughes and Brown (captain), half-backs; Hill, McArthur, Gordon, Skea and Gallacher, forwards.

Aston Villa: Dunning, goal; Welford and Baird, backs; Russell, Kinsey and Burton, half-backs; Trueman. Hodgetts, Podmore, Dorrell and Field, forwards.

Referee, Mr Shelton, Nottingham.

*Leicester Daily Post - 28 March 1895*

**#3 WANDERERS v. LEICESTER FOSSE.** Probably the most exciting match played this season in Burton was the one which took place this afternoon on Peel Croft, when those two old rivals of the Midland League, and now rivals and the Second League Leicester Fosse and Burton Wanderers—met to play in the final tie of that beautiful trophy called the "Bass" Chanty Vase. The teams have met before three times that season and each game has been of a very exciting character. At Leicester in the first League match the Wanderers were successful, but in the return match at Burton the Fosse played the Wanderers a draw, while on the Abbey Park ground, at Kettering, in the final for the Kettering Chanty Cup, the Wanderers were again successful (after one of the stiffest, fights witnessed in the shoemaking town) by the narrow margin of a goal to nothing; besides this both clubs have done marvellously well in their new sphere, and only last Saturday the Fosse defeated the champions of the Second League, Bury. In the semi-final of the present cup the Fosse defeated Aston Villa (who played a weak team) and the Wanderers got the best of the Burton Swifts. Both teams had had a special preparation for this important event, the Fosse taking their exercise at Matlock. The weather during the afternoon did not give much promise of a fine evening, and thus no doubt, kept a host of spectators away; but, nevertheless, when Mr. Fox, of Sheffield, lined the men up shortly after 5.30 there must have been fully 5,000 spectators present. The following are the names and positions of the players :

WANDERERS.	FOSSE.	
Watts .....	(goal) .....	Thraves.
Cunningham .....	(right back) .....	Smith.
Oraper .....	(left back) .....	Bailey.
Draycott .....	(right half) .....	Gordon.
Ward .....	(centre half) .....	Brown.
Lowe .....	(left half) .....	Lord.
Rose .....	(outside right) .....	Hill.
Brown .....	(inside right) .....	McArthur.
Ade Capes .....	(centre) .....	Miller.
Arthur Capes .....	(inside left) .....	Skea.
Garfield .....	(outside left) .....	Gallacher.
<b>Linesmen, Mr. Owen and Mr. Waring.</b>		

For half-an-hour prior to the kick-off the Burton band (under the direction of Mr. W. Twells) played selections of music.

At the time of the kick-off the sun came out brilliantly, and on the Leicester men appearing on the ground they were loudly applauded, but this was nothing to the cheering that ensued as the Wanderers followed them on the ground. Mr. A. E. Coxon kicked off for the Wanderers, the Fosse having won the toss and he kicked straight to the Fosse centre half, but the Wanderers got possession and some good play by Capes nearly had the desired effect in the first run down. The Wanderers still had the best of the exchanges and sent in several shots, one by Rose just going outside. Several times the Burton men got close, in, and then the Wanderers were fouled for pushing Hill, but nothing came of this. A lot of midfield ploy followed, and after a foul to the Wanderers Watts punched away a shot from Brown, and from this Garfield travelled down his wing and passed over to Rose, but his shot went over. The Fosse men went up in a body, and were close to Watts. Gallacher fouled the ball, which cleared the goal. The Fosse returned to the attack, and Hill shot into Watts's hands and he fumbled with the ball, dropped it, but cleared at the second attempt. The younger Capes beat Gordon for the ball, but the latter was fouled for pushing. This was cleared, but a splendid centre by Garfield was fouled close to Thraves, and then cleared. A splendid bit of play by Brown and Draycott, gave the Wanderers another chance, but Bailey cleared. The Fosse went away from this and two corners fell to them, both being cleared, and the Wanderers were soon round Thraves, and they headed in front of goal. At length Thraves caught the ball and threw away. A good run down by Brown and Rose was forced out. A foul against the Wanderers transferred play into their half, but the ball was quickly brought back, and Thraves pushed out a shot from Brown, and directly after threw one away from Capes. After pressing some time a foul was given against the Wanderers but the leather was brought back, only to be kicked outside. A corner from a long kick by Ward was given the Wanderers, and from this Hill and McArthur raced to the other end, but Draper cleared well. The game was very fast and exciting, every bit of good play being cheered to the echo. A regular scrimmage in front of goal was headed over by Garfield, and then Thraves saved splendidly from a fast shot by Garfield at the expense of a corner, which was safely got away. Twice in as many seconds Thraves saved grand, but still the Wanderers pressed, and a foul close in was at length awarded them, and this also was cleared. It was rarely that the Fosse got away, and when they did the backs of the Wanderers repulsed them. A foul against Garfield was safely negotiated, but Miller and Skea worked the back, when Gallacher missed a somewhat easy chance. A lot of long kicking took place on both sides, and then Hill raced along, and, beating his back, shot over. The Fosse played up a lot better after this, and Watts had to run out and clear. From a foul for tripping against the Fosse the ball was brought further down the field for another, but the final shot went outside. A splendid centre by Rose was cleared by Smith, and from this Gallacher ran away, but Draper caught him up and cleared. Brown (Fosse) robbed Rose, but the Wanderers returned again by the aid of Capes and Brown, but they could not beat down the Fosse defence, which was of the finest description, Brown showing up marvellously. A foul to the Fosse relieved the pressure, but this only for a time, as the Wanderers attacked hard and fast. A foul to the Burtonians was kicked over by Draycott, and the Wanderers were half-time arrive, the score sheet being clear

WANDERERS	0
FOSSE	0

Soon after half-time was entered upon a sharp shower of rain fell. Five minutes from the restart the Fosse scored the first goal, and a minute or two later the home team, who had pressed throughout the latter portion of the game equalised. Nothing further had occurred when the whistle blew, and time arrived with the score one each. According to previous arrangements it was agreed to play a quarter-of-an-hour each way, and within five minutes the Wanderers, who continued to have the best of game placed their second goal, and eventually ran out the winners, the final score reading:

WANDERERS	2
FOSSE	1

At the conclusion of the game the ceremony of presenting the cup took place.—Mr. Walters introduced the ex-Mayor (Alderman A. J. Coxon and apologised for the absence of Lord and Lady Burton, Mrs. Hamar Bass, and the Messrs Thornewill. The ex-Mayor then presented the handsome trophy in congratulatory sentences, and the captain (Ad Capes) received it on behalf of the club. Briefly replying with Mr. Cockayne (chairman of the Wanderers Committee). During the interesting proceedings the greatest enthusiasm prevailed. Through the kindness of Col Lord Burton and the officers of the 2nd V.B. T.B. Regiment the Burton Band played from five to half past and during the half-time Interval. The gate was a record one, the amount taken being £155 18s. The previous record was £139 10s. 10d— and this was secured on the visit of Aston Villa and Derby County.

*Burton Chronicle* – 25 April 1895

Additional Information

**BASS CHARITY FOOTBALL  
ASSOCIATION.**

—

**GRAND FINAL.**

—

**LEICESTER FOSSE**

—

**BURTON WANDERERS,**

ON PEEL CROFT, BURTON,  
**ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24th.**

—

Kick-off at 5-30 prompt.  
ADMISSION, 1s. and 6d. Grand Stand, 1s. extra.

—

SPECIAL BOOKINGS from Leicester,  
Woodville, &c. See Small Bills.

—

All must pay according to Rule.

*Burton Chronicle - 18 April 1895*

MIDLAND RAILWAY.  
**COOK'S EXCURSIONS FROM LEICESTER:—**

QUORN HUNT STEEPLECHASES.  
MONDAY, April 22nd, to LOUGHBOROUGH, 11  
a.m.

EPSOM RACES, APRIL 23RD AND 24TH.  
TUESDAY, April 23rd, to LONDON (St. Pancras),  
for 1 or 5 days; also PARIS, BELGUIM, &c., 7.50  
a.m.

WEDNESDAY, April 24th, to BURTON (for Foot-  
ball Match, Leicester Fosse v. Burton Wanderers,  
Final Tie Bass Charity Cup Competition), see Bills.

SATURDAY, April 27th, to LINCOLN, for Fair  
and Show, 1.35 p.m.

For Details see Bills. Tickets at the Station,  
and at COOK'S Railway and Steamship Passenger  
Booking Office, Gallowtree-gate.

GEO. H. TURNER, General Manager, Derby.

*Leicester Daily Mercury - 20 April 1895*