



# Birmingham Senior Cup 1896-97

**Winner:** Walsall  
**Runner-Up:** Wolverhampton  
**No. of entries:** 14 (main competition)

Derby County and WBA were awarded byes until the quarter-finals. All Round 1 games were played on Mondays. Leicester were trounced 8-1 at Hilary-street, Walsall, barely a week after the Second Division rivals met in a League fixture which the Fosse came out victorious 4-1. In another all Second Division tie, Burton Swifts shared 4 goals with Small Heath. In the replay 5 weeks later, the Heathens romped home 7-1. At the Athletic Grounds, Loughborough, the Luffs and Burton Wanderers drew. The replay at Burton which Wanderers won 6-0 was demoted to a friendly due the non-appearance of the officials. To add insult to injury Loughborough won the replay 2-0. Villa travelled to Worcester where they easily overcame Berwick Rangers.

The quarter-final ties were played over a 5 week period. Brierley Hill and Walsall drew after 90 minutes. Walsall refused to play extra time and Brierley Hill took to the pitch and scored an unopposed goal to claim the match. The Cup committee disagreed and ordered a replay, with Brierley again having home advantage, but this time Walsall easily won 4-1. Albion beat Aston Villa 2-1 in front of 5,000 spectators on a Monday afternoon, and were the only club too beat the Villa twice in their double-winning season. In the remaining two ties, First Division clubs overcame Second Division clubs.

Walsall were surprise winners at Filbert-street, beating favourites Derby County, to set up a final against Wolverhampton Wanderers who had comfortably beaten WBA 3-0 at Wellington-street, Perry Barr. Walsall beat Wolverhampton Wanderers the final, also staged at Perry Barr, 2-1.

## Qualifying Competition

### Qualifying Round 1

Date	Home			Away	Match Details
3.10.1896	Brierley Hill Alliance	2	2	Wellington Town	Cottage-street
3.10.1896	Ironbridge	2	3	Hereford Thistle	Hill top Ground.
3.10.1896	Kidderminster Harriers	1	1	Hereford Town	Aggborough
3.10.1896	Market Drayton	4	3e	Halesowen	
3.10.1896	Oldbury Town	1	0	Oldbury Town	
3.10.1896	Singers	2	1	Wellington St George's	Stoke-road,
3.10.1896	Worcester Rovers	2	2	Berwick Rangers	c. 4,000 spectators.
3.10.1896	Wrockwardine Wood	3	1	Redditch Town	The Trench. 700 spectators.

### Qualifying Round 1 replay

Date	Home			Away	Match Details
3.10.1896	Hereford Town	4	0	Kidderminster Harriers	Edgar-street, Hereford. c. 1,000 spectators.
12.10.1896	Wellington Town	2	3e	Brierley Hill Alliance	
17.10.1896	Berwick Rangers	3	2	Worcester Rovers	Barbourne Athletic Ground.

### Qualifying Round 2

Date	Home			Away	Match Details
22.10.1896	Hereford Town	4	1	Oldbury Town	Edgar-street, Hereford.
24.10.1896	Berwick Rangers	5	1	Singers	Barbourne Athletic Ground.
24.10.1896	Brierley Hill Alliance	3	1	Hereford thistle	Cottage-street
26.10.1896	Wrockwardine Wood	4	0	Market Drayton	The Trench

### Qualifying Round 3

Date	Home			Away	Match Details
14.11.1896	Berwick Rangers	1	0	Wrockwardine Wood	
14.11.1896	Hereford Town (3 <sup>rd</sup> XI)	1	9	Brierley Hill Alliance	Edgar-street

Berwick Rangers and Brierley Hill Alliance qualified for the Competition Proper

### Competition Proper

#### Round 1

#	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
1	14.12.1896	Berwick Rangers	1	5	Aston Villa	Harborne Athletic Ground, Worcester. 2,000 spectators.
2	14.12.1896	Burslem Port Vale	1	2	Brierley Hill Alliance	<a href="#">Cobridge Athletic Ground.</a>
3	14.12.1896	Burton Swifts Leigh Yardley	2	2	Small Heath Haddon AN Other	<a href="#">Peel Croft</a> , Burton. Fair weather. Moderate gate.
4	14.12.1896	Long Eaton	4	2	Wolverhampton Wanderers	
5	14.12.1896	Loughborough Andrews	1 aet	1	Burton Wanderers Lumsden	Athletic Grounds, Loughborough.
6	7.12	Walsall	8 (5)	3 (2)	Leicester Fosse	<a href="#">Hilary-street, Walsall</a> Shocking weather. Fosse scored twice in the opening few minutes.

West Bromwich Albion and Derby County, byes

#### Round 1 Replays

Date	Home			Away	Match Details	
7	28.12.1896	Burton Wanderers Flanagan Arkesden Lumsden (2) Thompson og	6	0	Loughborough	The referee did not turn up – so it was decided to play a friendly instead.
8	18.1.1897	Small Heath	7 (4)	1 (1)	Burton Swifts	<a href="#">Muntz-street</a> , Small Heath. Small attendance, c.1,000 spectators.

#### Round 1 2<sup>nd</sup> Replay

Date	Home			Away	Match Details	
9	20.1.1897	Burton Wanderers	0	2	Loughborough Andrews (2)	<a href="#">Derby Turn</a> , Burton.

#### Round 2

#	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
10	2.1.1897	Brierley Hill Alliance	4	3	Walsall	Cottage-street. Game ended 3-3. The referee ordered extra time as the light was good enough to permit 30 mins plat. Walsall had had enough and refused to comply. The "Lions" remained on the field and Neale kicked a goal, to claim the match. The game was ordered to be replayed.
11	27.1,1897	Derby County	4	0	Loughborough	Rosehill ground, Derby. Cold and seasonal weather. Big crowd.
12	25.1.1897	West Bromwich	2	0	Aston Villa	Heavy frost and snowfalls. Poor game as players were afraid of accidents.
13	6.1.1897	Wolverhampton	8	2	Small Heath	Molineux.

## Round 2 Replay

#	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
14	20.1.1897	Brierley Hill Alliance	1	4	Walsall	Cottage-street.

## Semi-Finals

#	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
15	20.2.1897	Walsall	3	1	Derby County	Played at Filbert-street, Leicester. Derby weakened by the absence of Bloomer and Robinson who were playing for England.
16	20.2.1897	Wolverhampton	3 (2)	0 (0)	West Bromwich Albion	Perry Barr, Birmingham. 7,000 spectators.

## Final

#	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
17	27.3.1897	Walsall	2 (0)	1 (0)	Wolverhampton Wanderers	Perry Barr, Birmingham. 5,000 spectators. Smith [Wolves] was ordered off the field in the first half for striking Peers [Walsall- back].

## Match Reports

A selection of published match reports.

**#5 LOUGHBOROUGH v BURTON WANDERERS** – Played at Loughborough. Through a mischance Berry let in Lumdsen, who scored in the first ten minutes. After leading at the interval Buton conceded a corner, which finely placed by Hardy, enabled Loughborough to equalise. The teams were evenly matched. Result: Loughborough 1 goal; Burton Wanderers 1 goal.

*South Wales News – 15 December 1896*

**#6 WALSALL v LEICESTER FOSSE** – This contest in the first round of the Birmingham cup was played in shocking weather at Walsall. Both teams put in their full strength. The visitors made an excellent start, scoring twice in the first three minutes. Then Walsall played up and keeping their opponents continuously at work, were leading at half-time by five goals to two. Continuing to hold the advantage, Walsall in the second half increased their score by three goals, whilst Leicester beat the home custodian once, the final result being: Walsall, eight goals; Leicester Fosse, three.

*London Evening Standard – 8 December 1896*

**#9 BURTON WANDERERS v LOUGHBOROUGH** – Played at Burton yesterday before a good attendance. Owing to the absence of the referee it was decided to play a friendly game. In the first half Flannagan, Arkesden and Lumdsen (twice) scored for the Wanderers, Thompson giving his opponents another by putting it through his own goal. After the interval Loughborough improved but Flannagan added another, Burton Wanderers winning by 6 goals to Loughborough none.

*Yorkshire Post and Leeds Intelligencer – 29 December 1897*

**#11 DERBY COUNTY v. LOUGHBOROUGH.** This match played on the Rosehill Ground yesterday in cold and seasonable weather, and in the presence of a big crowd. The home club had a fairly strong side. The ground was rather dangerous in consequence of the frost. Derby won the toss, and once made tracks for the visitors' goal, which was captured early in the game. After this the match was splendidly contested, but the stubborn play of the Rams told its tale, and they succeeded in notching a second point. Midfield play followed after this, but Derby were the aggressors and Goodall once more led the van. The visitors beat them back, but it was only momentarily, the homesters came again and added a further point. The fast going of Derby was such as to completely run the Luffs off their feet and after a further bombardment the fourth point came to the Peakites. The Loughborough strove hard to notch a point, but failure resulted, and Derby won somewhat easily four goals to nil.

*Sporting Life - 28 January 1897*

**BIRMINGHAM CUP.**

**WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS V. WALSALL.**  
—These teams met at Perry Barr in the final. There was a very strong wind blowing, and this spoiled the combination. In the first half Smith, of the Wolves, was ordered off the field for striking at Peers, the Walsall back. Interval: No goals. In the second half Walsall scored twice and the Wolves once. Result: Walsall, 2; Wolverhampton, 1.

*Morning Leader - 29 March 1897*

### **Additional Information**

**F**OOTBALL.—BIRMINGHAM CUP, Second Round. BASEBALL GROUND, WEDNESDAY NEXT, Jan. 27, COUNTY v. LOUGHBOROUGH Admission 6d.; Stands extra. Kick-off 3 p.m.

*Derby Daily Telegraph - 26 January 1897*