



Birmingham Senior Cup 1894-95

Winner: West Bromwich Albion
Runner-up: Aston Villa
No. of entries: 25

25 entries, 10 clubs were exempt until the "Competition Proper", with the remaining 15 'junior' clubs entering a qualifying competition for the remaining two places.

As the competition proceeded the Football League clubs struggled to accommodate Birmingham Senior League games on Saturdays. Small Heath, now in the First Division, won by the odd goal in nine against Burton Swifts from the Second Division. West Bromwich Albion won another First Division v Second Division encounter by a convincing 6-2 scoreline. On the face of it Stafford Rangers 7-0 win over Football League newcomers Burton Wanderers seems a giant-killing, but the Wanderers had opted to play Crewe Alexandra in a Second Division fixture. While they were romping to a 4-0 win, their reserve side were on the receiving end of a thumping. Burton appealed against the state of the field which was a mixture of water and mud but was ruled playable by the referee. Fielding their full strength side at the same venue 9 days later on a snow covered field Burton recorded a comfortable 3-0 win. Berwick Rangers found that home advantage counted little against First Division opposition, as they went down 0-7 to Stoke.

Leicestershire was represented by Loughborough, champions-elect of the Midland League, who were granted a first round bye, and unexpectedly overcame Burslem Port Vale at Cobridge in the following round. Championship-chasing Aston villa overcame struggling Stoke. Burton Wanderers drew with West Bromwich Albion. However, Albion were unable to accommodate a replay and decided to retire from the competition. In the remaining quarter-final tie Small Heath and Wolves shared 6 goals in the scheduled 90 minutes. Wolves declined to play extra time, but were ultimately ordered to replay the game at the same venue, which they lost.

Loughborough and Aston Villa were paired in the semi-finals. Looking to repeat their famous victory of the previous season the Luffs led 2-1 at half-time but Villa made no mistake in the second half, romping home 6-2. In the second semi-final WBA added to their Football League double with a 3-2 extra time win against Small Heath, which set up an enticing final against arch rivals Aston Villa.



West Bromwich Albion beat the pre-tournament favourites 1-0 after a replay. Just nine days before the final Aston Villa and West Bromwich Albion contested the FA Cup Final at Crystal Palace. Aston Villa won 1-0, with Bob Chatt (see photo) being credited with scoring the fastest goal in FA Cup Final history, scored after just 30 seconds. This record would stand for 114 years before being broken by Louis Saha of Everton in the 2009 FA Cup Final with a goal after 25 seconds.

Qualifying Competition

Qualifying Round 1

Date	Home			Away	Match Details
29.9.1894	Berwick Rangers	1	0	Redditch	New Road c. 2,000 spectators
29.9.1894	Brierley Hill Alliance	2	1	Worcester Rovers	Cottage street, Brierley Hill.
29.9.1894	Hereford	4	1	Oldbury	Edgar-street, Hereford
29.9.1894	Kidderminster Harriers	W		Shrewsbury	Shrewsbury scratched. Tie awarded to Kidderminster
29.9.1894	Ironbridge	3	2	Halesowen	
29.9.1894	Wellington Town	2	2	Stourbridge	
29.9.1894	Wellington St. George's	3	1	Old Hill Wanderers	

Stafford Rangers, bye.

Qualifying Round 1 replay

Date	Home			Away	Match Details
?10.1894	Stourbridge	W		Wellington Town	

Qualifying Round 2

Date	Home			Away	Match Details
20.10.1894	Berwick Rangers	7	0	Kidderminster Harriers	New-road
20.10.1894	Brierley Hill Alliance	1	2	Stourbridge	Cottage-street, Brierley Hill. c. 5,000 spectators.
20.10.1894	Ironbridge	0	2	Hereford	Hill Top ground, Ironbridge.
20.10.1894	Stafford Rangers	3	0	Wellington St George's	Lammascotes.

Qualifying Round 3

Date	Home			Away	Match Details
8.12.1894	Berwick Rangers	3	1	Stourbridge	New-road. 4,000 spectators.
	Stafford Rangers	2	1	Hereford	Lammascotes

Berwick Rangers and Stafford Rangers both qualified for the Competition Proper

Proper Competition

Round 1

Date	Home			Away	Match Details
19.1.1895	Berwick Rangers	0	7	Stoke	Bromyard road 2,000 spectators.
19.1.1895	Small Heath	5	4	Burton Swifts	Muntz-road, Small Heath.. Ground was sodden and heavy. 4,000 spectators.
19.1.1895	Stafford Rangers	7	0	Burton Wanderers	At Stafford. Very good gate, c.2,000 spectators. Ground was a quagmire and in several places there were large holes full of water. Wanderers sent a weak team, preferring to play their first eleven in a League game against Crewe. The game was ordered to be replayed.
19.1.1895	West Bromwich Albion Williams (pen) Hutchinson Richards Bassett C Perry	6 (4)	2 (0)	Walsall A Roberts W Roberts	Storey-lane enclosure. 1,000 spectators. Miserable weather.

Aston Villa, Burslem Port Vale, Loughborough, and Wolverhampton Wanderers, byes

Round 1 Replays

Date	Home			Away	Match Details
28.1.1895	Stafford Rangers	0	3	Burton Wanderers	

Round 2

Date	Home			Away	Match Details
11.2.1895	Aston Villa AN Others Hodgetts	3 (2)	1 (0)	Stoke Brookfield	Perry Barr, Birmingham. The full league team of Villa played a poor eleven of Stoke.
9.2.1895	Burslem Port Vale	0 (0)	1 (1)	Loughborough	At Cobridge.

					Loughborough were champions-elect of the Midland League, whilst Burslem were struggling near the bottom of Division 2.
11.2.1895	Burton Wanderers Capes	1 (0)	1 (1)	West Bromwich Albion Hutchinson	Derby Turn, Burton. Game commenced at 12.30 pm on a Monday afternoon to enable the town's brewery workers to attend. Capes equalised for the home team just minutes before time. Due to other commitments Burton were unable to accommodate a replay and withdrew from the competition.
25.2.1895	Small Heath Hallam Mobley Wheldon	3	3	Wolverhampton Wanderers Wykes (2) Fleming	The referee ordered extra time to be played, but the Wanderers declined, and Small Heath claimed the match.

Round 2 Replays

Date	Home			Away	Match Details
6.3.1895	Small Heath	3	2	Wolverhampton Wanderers	Muntz-street
	West Bromwich Albion	W		Burton Wanderers	Burton were scratched; WBA walkover.

Semi-Finals

Date	Home			Away	Match Details
9.3.1895	Aston Villa	6	2	Loughborough	Walnut-street ground. "The Luffs played with great spirit while they held the lead, but fell off lamentably when derived of it."
18.3.1895	West Bromwich Albion Hutchinson (2) AN Other	3 (2)	2 (0) aet	Small Heath AN Others	At Wolverhampton. Good attendance. Beautiful weather. 2-2 at full-time; extra-time players

Final

Date	Home			Away	Match Details
30.3.1895	Aston Villa	0	0	West Bromwich Albion	Muntz-street – the first time the Final was staged in Small Heath. Gigantic crowd -c.15,000 spectators. "The crowd waited for 5 mins, expecting that extra time would be played; but both teams had had quite enough of it, and did not again turn out."

Final Replay

Date	Home			Away	Match Details
29.4.1895	Aston Villa	0 (0)	1 (1)	West Bromwich Albion Hutchinson	At Aston [Monday evening]. Albion played their FA Cup Final team. Villa played Dorrell and Elliott instead of Hodgetts and Russell. This was Albion's third in in the competition, each one had required a replay.

Both Burton clubs were in the Second Division along with Leicester Fosse who finished the season in 4th place, missing out a test match play-off place on goal average from Newton Heath, who would later change their name to Manchester United.

Match Reports

BIRMINGHAM SENIOR CUP

SECOND ROUND

LOUGHBOROUGH v BURSLEM PORT VALE

Middleton played in place of Berry, Smith going half-back. The gate was poor indeed, and the ground though covered with peat was terribly hard. Loughborough lost the toss and had to face the wind. The visitors were the first to press, Baddeley having to save a dangerous shot from Saxton. The game was remarkably even, each goal visited in turn with surprising quickness. Good play, however, was out of the question rush. Rose saved a determined rush, and after twenty minutes' play Loughborough pressed severely. Loughborough got the first corner, which was taken by Mills, but Rose's shot was backed out, and Owen's return being a bit wide, a spirited attack on the Loughborough goal followed, but Rose cleared magnificently. The visitors then assumed a determined attitude, and Baddeley having cleared from Edge, Owen returned, and scored the first goal. A few minutes later Saxton scored, but the goal was not allowed, off-side being alleged:

LOUGHBOROUGH, one goal;

BURSLEM, none.

Resuming, Burslem pressed very hard, Rose saving grandly from Beats, while Hurdley just shot over. Loughborough at length changed the venue, and Baddeley had to clear from Owen. The home custodian having saved again, the Loughborough goal-keeper next had his work cut out. He cleared nicely, while Smith and Middleton also defended well. Burslem again pressed hotly, and after being repulsed several times they managed to get the ball through in a scrimmage, but as a foul had previously taken place no goal was allowed. Loughboro' then attacked. Mills putting in some fine centres, and being assisted by a foul scored nearly scored again. Burslem again pressed hard, and seemed determined to get level, but the Loughborough defence was too good for them, and after Loughborough had had another spell of attacking, time was called with the score:

LOUGHBOROUGH one goal;

BURSLEM, none.

Leicester Daily Mercury - 9 February 1895

BIRMINGHAM CUP - Semi-Final

LOUGHBOROUGH v ASTON VILLA

At Leicester, in a drizzling rain, before 6,000 spectators, his semi-final of the Birmingham Cup was played. The game opened at half-past three by Podmore, kicking off. Loughborough, having had a look-in, a flying shot from Dorrell gained a corner, but Burton kicked out. Rose saved a difficult shot. Welford cursing his kick, Bull shot magnificently, the ball skimming the bar. The game was very even, and from a smart attack Dewey scored for Loughborough in fifteen minutes. Two minutes later the Villa had a narrow escape from a miskick, and Loughborough while pressing forced an unfruitful corner. The Villa forwards shot frequently but inaccurately, the Loughborough defence being very good and making the game even. A foul in midfield was taken capitally by Swift, and Dewey passing to Mills he shot the ball, screwing round Wilkes and passing through a second goal for Loughborough in thirty minutes. Owen having badly fouled Chatt, the referee gave a penalty, and Athersmith taking the kick, a goal resulted. Nothing further ensued until half-time when Loughborough led by two to one. Restarting, the Villa lost no time in getting down to the Loughborough goal, and Athersmith had exceedingly hard lines in not scoring. Rose was repeatedly called upon to save, which he frequently did in marvellous fashion. Rough tactics were loudly hooted by the crowd, but the referee was very lenient. A free-kick for hands gave the Villa a chance, but Loughborough packed their goal effectively, and nothing came of it. The Loughborough forwards now made a strong incursion, and Mills had an opportunity, but Welford robbed him, and clever work by the Villa left wing transferred operations to the other half, where Burton essayed a shot which went just outside. The struggle continued in the immediate proximity of the Loughborough goal, and at length Smith got in a beautiful low shot, which completely beat Rose, the score now being equal. Less than two minutes afterwards Villa were again attacking, and from a scrimmage in front of the Loughborough goal the ball was rushed through for the Villa's third point. It was evident that Loughborough were now a beaten team. The Villa did nearly all the attacking, and a grand shot by Athersmith registered a fourth goal, while Dorrell added a fifth only a minute later. Loughborough made feeble efforts to withstand the onslaughts now made upon their goal, but just before time Dorrell scored again after exciting play around the Loughborough goal. Result:

Aston Villa 6
Loughborough 2

Loughborough: W C Rose, goal Berry and Swift, backs; Rose, Owen, and Middleton, half-backs; Mills, Dewey, Saxton, Edge and Bull, forwards.

Aston Villa – Wilkes, goal; Elliott and Welford, backs; Burton, Cowan and Russell, half-backs; Chatt, Athersmith, Podmore and Smith, forwards.

Nottingham Journal – 11 March 1895

BIRMINGHAM CUP.—FINAL

ASTON VILLA V. WEST BUOMWICH ALBION— The finalists for the Cup met in the last round of the Birmingham Cup, Small Heath, before 10,000 spectators. The Albion won the toss, and John Devey started the leather for the Villa, who were the first to attack, their forwards playing capital style. The Villa had by far the best of the exchanges the opening stages of the game, and on one or two occasions were within an ace of scoring, but were unable penetrate the defence of Horton and Crone, who were playing sound game. The game was fiercely contested right up to the call of time, neither side, however, being able to notch a point. A splendid match therefore ended in draw.

Yorkshire Post and Leeds Intelligencer – 1 April 1895

Birmingham Cup

FINAL

ASTON VILLA v WEST BROMWICH

At Aston on Monday before 15,000 spectators. Hutchinson scored after five minutes play, and although the Villa had the best of the game afterwards, they could not get past the Albion defence, the game ending:

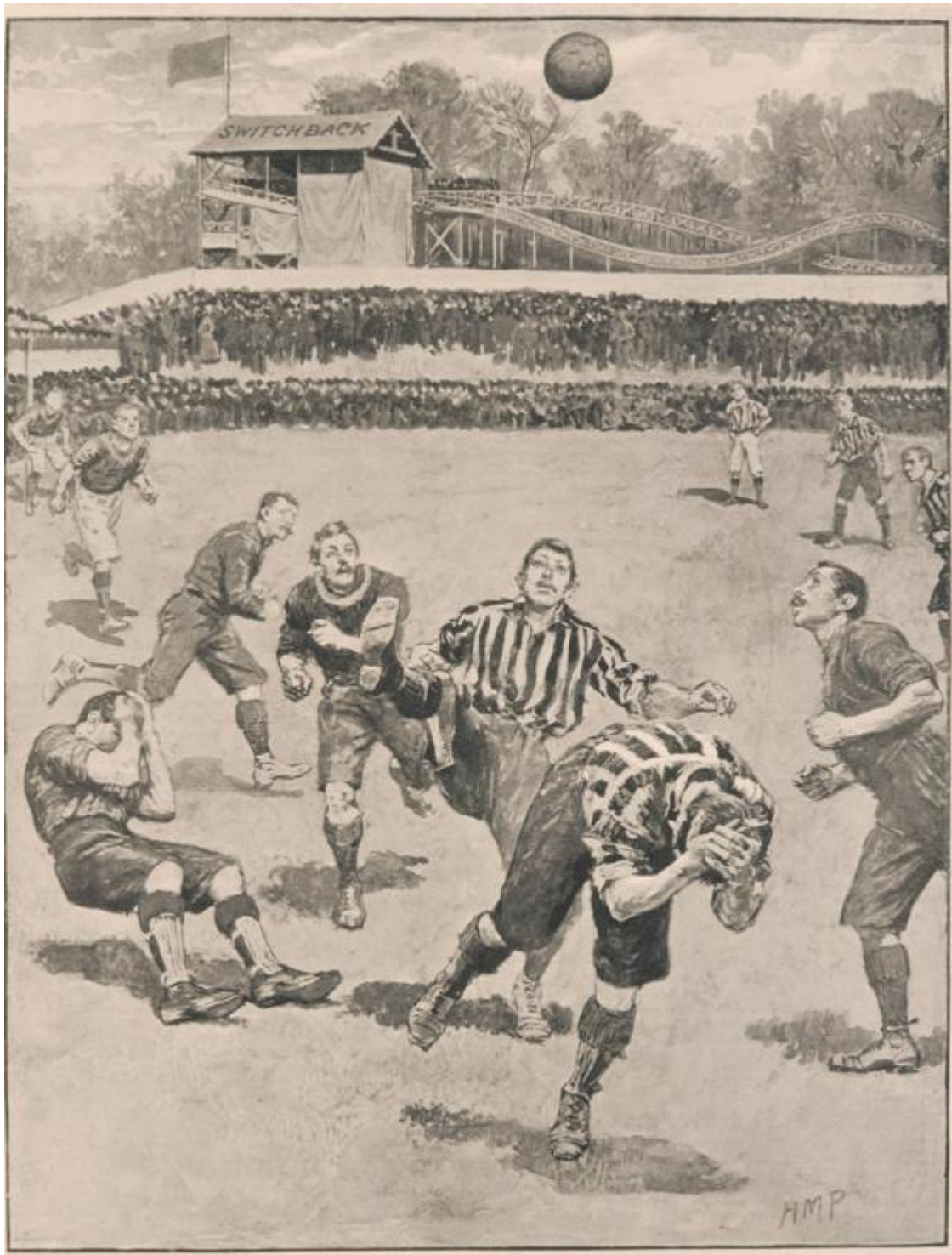
Albion 1
Villa 0

Coalville Times – 3 May 1895

Additional Information



Leicester Daily Mercury – 8 March 1895



Black and white print from an unknown newspaper of the 1895 FA Cup final, Aston Villa v West Bromwich Albion at Crystal Palace, showing Devey of Villa and Higgins of West Brom.