



Birmingham Senior Cup 1893-94

Winner: West Bromwich Albion/ Wolverhampton joint winners
Runner-Up: n/a
No. of entries: 24 (12 qualifying competition)

Redditch Town and Brierley Hill Alliance were the winners, and runners-up respectively of the 12-team qualifying competition.

Loughborough were the surprise package of the competition. Entering the Cup competition for the first time, the Midland League club were drawn with the reigning Division 2 champions Small Heath who, having been denied promotion a year earlier, were to make amend this time by finishing runners-up and successfully negotiating the test match process. Although effectively a division lower than the Heathens, Loughborough easily won the tie 4-1 to earn a home game with Football League leaders Aston Villa. Nearly 5,000 poured into the Athletic Grounds to witness probably the greatest upset in the competition's history as the Luffs beat the eventual League Champions 2-1 after extra-time. The meeting between Loughborough and Villa was delayed by one week owing to the Birmingham club's progress in the FA Cup. So just one week after their triumphant win, Loughborough faced First Division West Bromwich Albion at the Lower Grounds. Unfortunately, the Luffs were unable to produce another shock as they were easily beaten 6-1.

The other semi-final was equally one-sided after Burton lost the toss for the choice of grounds, which resulted in their meeting with Wolves being switched from neutral Stoney Lane to Molineux. The guarantee of £10 plus 50% of the gate no doubt helped lessen the blow of the 8-2 thrashing that ensued.

Albion and Wolves, who finished 8th and 9th, respectively in the Football League, with just a single point between them, contested the Final. At the final whistle the players left the field with the score at 3-3. It was ruled that extra time should be played but Albion officials refused since they only had 10 men. It was suggested that given the circumstances that Albion be allowed a substitute but Wolverhampton objected. . In the meantime, the Albion players were dressed, whilst Wolverhampton players returned to the field and kicked a goal to claim the tie. Geddes, in the confusion went home, without the referee's permission reducing West Bromwich to 9 men. A meeting was held 4 days later heard evidence from all parties. WBA argued that the competition rules did not insist on extra-time being played for semi-final and final tis and that neither the referee or players were aware that extra time was supposed to be played. A replay at Molineux was suggested by WBA, but the Wolverhampton contingent unexpectedly suggested that the trophy be shared, a proposal that was readily accepted.

Notes:

Aston Villa were crowned First Division champions. Derby finished third.
 Small Heath were promoted to the First Division

Qualifying Competition

Round 1

Date	Home			Away	Match Details
7.10.1893	Ironbridge	1	3	Halesowen Town	Madeley Wood
7.10.1893	Old Hill Wanderers	3	0	Shrewsbury Town	Halesowen-road. 3,000 spectators.
7.10.1893	Redditch Town	5	2	Wellington Town	Red Lane
7.10.1893	Wellington St George's	1	4	Brierley Hill Alliance	

Hereford, Kidderminster Harriers, Singers, Stourbridge, byes

Round 2

Date	Home			Away	Match Details
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28.10.1893	Halesowen Town	0	1	Singers FC	The Grove, Halesowen.
28.10.1893	Old Hill Wanderers	0	3	Brierley Hill Alliance	Halesowen-road, Old Hill. 3,000 spectators.
28.10.1893	Redditch Town	3	0	Hereford	Red Lane, Redditch. 600 spectators.
28.10.1893	Stourbridge	3	3	Kidderminster Harriers	Amblecote, Stourbridge.

Round 1 Replay

Date	Home			Away	Match Details
2.12.1893	Kidderminster Harriers	1	2	Stourbridge	Aggborough, Kidderminster

Semi-Finals

Date	Home			Away	Match Details
2.12.1893	Singers	1	3	Brierley Hill Alliance	Stoke Road, Coventry
9.12.1893	Redditch Town	2	2	Stourbridge	Red Lane, Redditch.

Semi-Final replay

Date	Home			Away	Match Details
23.12.1893	Stourbridge	1	1	Redditch Town	Amblecote.

Semi-Final 2nd replay

Date	Home			Away	Match Details
8.1.1894	Stourbridge	1	3	Redditch Town	Amblecote.

Final

Date	Home			Away	Match Details
13.1.189	Brierley Hill Alliance	1	3	Redditch Town	Wellington Road Ordered t be replayed after a protest.

Final Replay

Date	Home			Away	Match Details
13.1.189	Brierley Hill Alliance	1	4	Redditch Town	Wellington Road.

Both finalists qualified for the Competition Proper.

Exemptions to Competition proper: Aston Villa, Burslem Port Vale, Burton Swifts, Burton Wanderers, Derby County, Hednesford, Loughborough, Small Hath, Stoke, Walsall, West Bromwich Albion and Wolverhampton Wanderers

Competition Proper

Round 1

Date	Home			Away	Match Details
20.1.1894	Burton Wanderers	4 (2)	0 (0)	Burton Swifts	Derby Turn, Burton. 3,000 spectators. Wanderers finished the season as undefeated Midland League champions, whilst Swifts finished in the top half of the Second Division.
20.1.1894	Derby Town Leigh (3) A H Francis P O Francis	5 (1)	0 (0)	Brierley Hill Alliance (Runners-up of the qualifying series)	Racecourse ground, Derby. Derby, who fielded a reserve team played against a strong wind in the first half. Derby scored 3 goals in 10 mins in the second half.

					On the same day Derby's first XI beat Wolves in the Football league at the Molineux.
20.1.1894	Loughborough AN Others	4 (1)	1 (1)	Small Heath AN Other	Athletic Ground, Loughborough. Small Heath were second in Division II of the Birmingham League. "A heavy storm during the first half almost cleared the ropes of spectators."
20.1.1894	Redditch Town (Winners of the qualifying series)	2	4	Burslem Port Vale	Red-lane, Redditch. 1,350 spectators- the largest attendance for a football game in the town up to that time.
29.1.1894	Walsall Town Swifts	0	1	West Bromwich Albion	West Bromwich-road, Walsall 4,000 spectators.
12.2.1894	Wolverhampton Wanderers Griffin AN Others	3 (1)	1 (0)	Stoke	Molineux , Wolverhampton. Fine but windy weather. Good attendance.

Astion Villa, Hednesford, byes

Round 2

Date	Home			Away	Match Details
17.2.1894	Burton Wanderers	8	1	Derby County	Derby Turn, Burton. Derby again fielded a reserve team.
10.3.1894	Loughborough Weightman Carnelley	2 (1)	1 (1) aet	Aston Villa Dey	Athletic Grounds, Loughborough. 5,000 spectators. Beautifully fine weather, strong wind. First time Villa has played in Loughborough. Extra time played as the game ended 1-1 after 90 mins.27
12.2.1894	West Bromwich Albion McLeod Pearson Bostock	3 (2)	1 (0)	Burslem Port Vale Wood	At West Bromwich. Poor "muster" of spectators. (c. 1,000) Game was played in a gale.
?	Wolverhampton Wanderers	W		Hednesford	Hednesford scratched.

Semi-Finals

Date	Home			Away	Match Details
17.3.1894	West Bromwich Albion	6	1	Loughborough Town Weightman	Lower Grounds, Aston. 4,500 spectators
19.3.1894	Wolverhampton	8	2	Small Heath Alliance	Molineux, Wolverhampton.

Final

Date	Home			Away	Match Details
21.4.1894	Wolverhampton Wanderers Edge Malpass Kinsey	3 (0)	3 (2)	West Bromwich Albion Baston (8 min) Bassett (2)	Perry Barr, Birmingham. 7,500 spectators. Albion were down to 10 men after Nicholls left the field with a twisted knee. The Birmingham FA Committee decided to have joint winners of the trophy for the 1893-94 season.

Match Reports

A selection of published match reports.

BIRMINGHAM CUP

LOUGHBOROUGH v SMALL HEATH

The Loughborough club being fortunate in securing a place in this round, also in having the benefit of the draw, the match took place this afternoon on the Athletic Ground. A shower of rain caused the ground to be rather greasy, but did not prevent a goodly number of spectators from assembling, there being some 2,000. Loughborough played their full strength, Stokes being seen for the first time wearing the club colours, and playing full back. The ground was very greasy, and just after the whistle sounded for the start, rain began to fall and continued to do so very smartly for half an hour. Losing the toss, Loughborough had to play against a strong wind. For all that they soon began to show much better combination than we have seen lately. The visitors, too, were soon in line and making tracks with serious design. Before long Wheldon scored with a fast shot., the referee giving the visitors the benefit of the doubt concerning off-side. This was succeeded by the home team pressing, a capital shot from Carnelly causing Hollies to fist over the bar. Twenty minutes from the start the "Heathens" left back not being up, Mills ran through, and though pressed centred well. A corner resulted, and Mills placing this bang under the cross-bar it was in the scrimmage passed over the line. Rose roused the spectators up to high enthusiasm by fine tackling, but Farmer made a very bad shot, when, the home forwards passing finely, he had the goal completely at his mercy, and yet shot outside. Then the visitors had a look in from a foul, near the goal mouth, when Jenkyns shot through without touching. At the interval the score was one goal each. On resuming, there was a doubt over a goal which was sent through by Sharpe, the referee giving the visitors the benefit of the doubt. The home team now having advantage of the wind showed it by pressing, but a smart pass by Carnelly was placed outside by Sharpe. A corner to Loughborough was easily got away, and Carnelly was seen making a splendid shot at goal, which was met plump by the custodian. Farmer also put in a stinger, and the home backs kept up the game by smartly tackling. Rose and Carnelly put in similar shots, and the home team were playing grandly, Hollies being tested to his capacity, while the visitors' backs could not meet the attacks, and when their forwards had a chance the wind while the visitors' backs could not meet the attacks, and when their forwards had a chance the wind played havoc with them. Stokes and Rose were the pick of the home defence. Farmer, having been fouled badly, caused a slight cessation of play. A dangerous looking attack from the visitors right, in which Jackson shone, was at length got away. Mills again caused the custodian trouble, and Carnelly, who was playing grandly, shot the return ball fast but wide. Still Loughborough held their own well, Weightman being the weak man of the team. Continuing the pressure with one goal each, the hopes of the Loughborough men ran high. Some of the old time enthusiasm of the spectators was manifested as, after pressure, Plackett put in a neat shot which skimmed under the bar, and Mills in the nick of time charging the custodian the ball passed through. Three minutes had not elapsed before Loughborough were again pressing, and Weightman with a clinker added a third goal. This roused the enthusiasm of the spectators more. From the restart the visitors could do nothing, and before long the ball was seen travelling down again towards the visitors' goal, and Weightman added a fourth. Shortly after the whistle blew, and thus ended one of the finest exhibitions made by Loughborough in the annals of football, whilst their opponents' combination gradually collapsed from the commencement of the second half.

RESULT:

Loughborough	4
Small Heath	1

Loughborough.—H. Storer, goal; Stokes and W. Storer, hacks; Flocked, and Smith, halt-backs; ICUs, Farmer, Carnelley, Weightman, and Sharpe, forwards.

Small Heath.—Hollies, goal; Reynolds and Littleford, backs; Dewey, Jenkyns, and half-backs; Hands, Whedon, Morley, Walton, and Hallam, forwards. Referee: Mr. Lowies, Derby.

Football News (Nottingham) - 20 January 1894

BIRMINGHAM CUP

ASTON VILLA v. LOUGHBOROUGH

Played Loughborough to-day before about 4,000 spectators. Loughborough kicked off, and the ball was taken well into visitors' quarters, several capital attempts to score being made. Devey got hold, and an attack was made on the Loughborough goal, which, however, proved futile. Returning, to the other end Weightman notched the first goal for Loughborough, within ten minutes of the start, by a clever, oblique shot. Midfield play ruled for a while, until a foul against the home team gave the visitors a slight chance, but the ball was got away. Loughborough continued to press, but to little purpose. Devey equalised in easy style before the game had progressed half an hour. Storer had then to fist away some difficult shots, and the game became very spirited, Carnelley playing brilliantly. The passing the visitors was grand this stage. A corner to the Villa was unproductive, and Smith having received an injury, the game was temporarily suspended. When half-time arrived the score was:—Aston Villa one, Loughborough one. On changing ends Loughborough had the advantage of the wind, and for some time maintained the upper hand. The defence was good, and the Villa broke away. They obtained a corner, which, however, came nothing. Coming well down Rose had to throw away, and couple of corners were conceded to Loughborough. No further score was made, and the match ended in a draw of one goal each.

The extra half hour's play opened lively, setting the ball going. Villa attacked with spirit, having a hard task to save many difficult shot. Excitement during the last fifteen minutes ran high, and some erratic kicking was shown by the players. Corners were about equally distributed. As the result a capital run up from one to Carnelley put on the winning point. Result: —Loughborough, two goals; Aston Villa, one.

Nottingham Evening Post – 10 March 1894

BIRMINGHAM CUP

SEMI-FINAL TIE

LOUGHBOROUGH v WEST BROMWICH ALBION

By their magnificent victories over Small Heath Aston Villa Loughborough have fairly come into prominence this year, and although the task of facing the "Throstles" on neutral ground at Aston appeared an almost hopeless one, the Leicestershire men could point the more impossible tasks which they had already accomplished, and they left for Birmingham this morning accompanied a large number of followers, and determined make a bold fight with the Albion. There was large number of spectators. The Loughborough team were minus one half back, and was thus at a disadvantage. The Albion players got the ball through minutes from the start, and directly afterwards, the result of clever play by Sharpe, Weightman scored grandly. A penalty kick was afterwards awarded to West Bromwich, and McLeod put the ball through. The Albion players were certainly superior to their opponents, but the defence was really very stubborn and at times lucky. The League representatives kept peppering away at the Loughborough goal for 10 minutes without attaining their object. Pearson was injured, and had to leave the field, so that the men were equal numerically. At the interval: West Bromwich two, Loughborough one. Albion had all the play in second half scoring four more. Result: Albion six, Loughborough one.

Players: Albion.—Reader (goal); Nicholson, Crone (backs), T. Perry, C. Percy. Taggart (half-backs), Basset, McLeod, Bostock, Pearson, and Geddes (forwards).

Loughborough Town.—H. Storer (goal), Stokes, W. Storer (backs), Rose, Plackett, (half-backs), Mills, Farmer (right wing), (centre), Weightman, and Sharpe (left wing).

Nottingham Evening Post – 17 March 1894

BIRMINGHAM CUP FINAL

WEST BROMWICH ALBION v WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS

About 7,000 spectators at Perry Bar, in beautiful weather, to witness this match. Albion played uphill. Bostock scoring from a pass by Bassett in the first few minutes. Nichols then had to leave the field, Albion playing ten men. The pace was very fast, Albion being pressed. Bassett then broke away, scoring a brilliant goal. Up to the interval Albion quite held their own. Half-time, Albion, two; Wanderers, one. The Wanderers opened strongly in the second half, but the Albion were safe. Griffin then scored for the Wanderers, and Geddes for the Albion, but Malpass and Kinsey scored again for the Wanderers. Result —Albion, three; Wanderers, three.

After the finish of the Wolverhampton and Albion game it was found that the Football Association during the week had provided for extra time in case of emergency. The Albion declined to play with 10 men, and the Wanderers claimed the match.

Nottingham Evening Post – 24 April 1894