



Burford Cup 1897-98

Winner: Nottingham Forest
Runner-Up: Leicester Fosse
No. of entries: 3

Only three teams – Leicester Fosse [Holders], Notts County and Nottingham Forest – entered the second Burford Cup competition.

Leicester Fosse again reached the final after overcoming Notts County at Filbert-street, where they lost 1-0 to Notts Forest, who twelve days earlier met Derby County in the FA Cup Final at Crystal Palace. Derby County and Nottingham Forest were both appearing in their first final. As members of the Football League First Division, they were exempt from the competition's qualifying phase and each joined the competition in the first round proper, progressing through four rounds to the final. The final was watched by a crowd of 62,017 and Forest, leading 2-1 at half-time, won the match 3-1 with goals by Arthur Capes (2) and John McPherson.

Semi-Finals

#	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
1	26.4.1898	Leicester Fosse [Holders] Rowell Coulson	2	1	Notts County Maconnochie	Filbert-street [Monday evening] The Fosse had been beaten at the first time of asking in every cup competition they had entered this season. 6.00 pm kick off. Small crowd, c1,000 spectators Neither side were fully represented. Rowell opened the scoring with a shot from the half-way line. At half-time a collection was made for the Whitwick Collier Relief Fund.

Nottingham Forest, a bye.

Final

#	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
2	28.4.1898	Nottingham Forest "Sailor" Capes	1 (0)	0 (0)	Leicester Fosse	City ground, Nottingham [Thursday afternoon]. Forest were holders of the English Cup. Awful weather – very few Fosse followers "cared to undertake the continual discomfort of a continual downpour of rain to witness the match." – c, 2,000 spectators. Game commenced at 5.30 pm. Ground was unfit for fast football. Forest fielded a strong team – all but two of their cup winning team.

Match Reports

#1 LEICESTER FOSSE (HOLDERS) v. NOTTS COUNTY

At Leicester, before 1.000 spectators, and cold but fine weather. The play was fairly even in the opening portion, but not particularly fast. Rowell scored for the Fosse 20 minutes from the start, and after spell of improved form by the County, Maconnochie brought the scores level. On restarting, considerable interest was imparted into the game. Leicester scored through Coulson, the result of a good game being:—

LEICESTER FOSSE 2 goals.
 NOTTS COUNTY 1 goal.

Sheffield Daily Telegraph – 26 April 1898

#2 BURFORD CHARITY CUP

FINAL TIE

FOREST v LEICESTER FOSSE

Forest: Allsop, goal; Iremonger and Scott, backs; McCracken, McPherson and [F Forman](#), halfbacks; Bradshaw and Richards, right wing; Benbow, centre; Capes and Spouncer, left wing.

Leicester Fosse: Saer, goal; J Walker and G Swift, backs; T Rowell, J Brown and R Jones, half-backs; W Dorrell and Coulson, right wing; W Keech, centre; McMillan and A Witkin, left wing.

Referee: Mr A Hall

The Burford Charity Cup competition was instituted last season, when the winners of this handsome trophy were Leicester Fosse. This season there were only three clubs entered, these being the Forest, Leicester Fosse and Notts. The last-named journeyed Leicester on Monday to play the semi-final, the Fosse winning a good game two goals to one. This left the final the hands of the Fosse and the Forest, who met yesterday on the City Ground. Both teams were well represented, McCracken finding place the Forest ranks. Before the match commenced, the successful English Cup-tie team were photographed by Mr. A. Shields. Much rain had fallen during the day and the ground was in a sodden condition, while, as the weather continued to be very unsettled, rain threatening to fall any minute, the attendance was much less than would otherwise have been the case. At the time of the kick-off, about quarter to six, there were only about 1,000 spectators present. Leicester won the toss, and Benbow started the ball towards the Trent goal. At the outset play settled the centre until a pretty combined run on the part of Capes, Benbow, and Spouncer caused the Forest to attack, and Spouncer putting the ball across, Bradshaw was just too late to accept a fine chance. McCracken made capital shot from long range, while a corner kick was taken by Spouncer, and from this a foul was given against the visitors, though it was questionable whether Forman, considering the good position in which he was placed, would not have been able to score had the referee not blown his whistle. Watkins and McMillan at length took the ball along towards Allsop, but Iremonger made an effective clearance, and moment or two later Spouncer was seen travelling along towards the Leicester goal. Then Watkins gave Forman some trouble, though the international had his way in the end, and Swift distinguished himself when the Forest got into very dangerous territory Iremonger again had to cheek the visiting left, while Walker spoiled pretty piece combination between Benbow and Capes. Keech sent the ball well out to Dorrell, but the latter was unable get off with it, Scott being too clever for him, though just afterwards Fosse took a corner kick. Watkins made an attempt to centre, but his shot was exceedingly weak. After twenty-five minutes' play Spouncer, getting well down, made long dropping shot, which nearly did mischief, and a moment later Forman sent one in low down, Saer clearing his charge in neat style. The Leicester half-backs were proving themselves be a strong trio, showing capital form in opposition to the lively home forwards. After some clever work McCracken, Richards, getting possession, shot hard, but was just wide of the mark. Forest were making most of the running, and play ruled for some time in the Leicester half. Presently, however, Watkins and McMillan got away to the other end, only be beaten back by Scott, while Bradshaw applauded for clever play in mid-field. In the later stages of the first half the play was slow, the only conspicuous features being a capital run Watkins and McMillan, who were, however, stopped by Iremonger, and a sprint on the part Bradshaw. Half-time

Forest	0
Leicester Fosse	0

When the second half was commenced the attendance had increased 1,500. The Forest attacked, and Richards made a magnificent shot, which went just over the bar. This was followed by a combined run of the Leicester forwards, who had got into very close quarters, but the shot was sent wide. Iremonger fouling McMillan Leicester took a free kick, and Watkins was given splendid chance, but he shot over the bar. The referee gave Fosse a free kick within a yard or two of the Forest goal on account of Allsop having carried the ball. This was cleared at the expense of corner, which also proved fruitless to the visitors, and Bradshaw dashed down his wing until brought down by Jones. Richards, getting possession, approached the Leicester citadel, and passing to Benbow the latter sent the bell just wide. Forest pressed for several minutes, but were unable to break through the visiting defence. Richards took the ball from the right wing across to the other side, and giving to Capes the latter, having tricked his man, shot a beautiful goal, Saer being quite unable to deal with the shot which went past him on the ground. Restarting the Forest went away again great pace, and the Leicester goal suffered severe pressure, while Spouncer made an excellent long shot, the Fosse custodian being just able to reach the ball in time. Although the second portion of the game was only half way through the light had faded considerably, and this, with the heavy state of the ground, lessened the interest in the game. The Foresters, however, were having the best of matters, the Leicester

forwards being only seldom able to get past the home backs. At length Dorrell got well down into the home half, and sending across to Coulson the last named looked like scoring when was given off-side. Saer, from a corner kick taken by Bradshaw, fisted away, and then Forman took a free kick for a foul given against the visitors, Brown clearing. The game had lost much of its interest, and there was little incident to speak of, though the Forest kept continually in the Leicester half. It was now almost impossible to follow the play at the opposite side of the field. Forest had all the best of matters up to the finish, the game ending:—

Forest	1
Fosse	0

At the close of the match the Cup and medals were presented by Lord Burford.

Nottingham Journal - 29 April 1898