



# Kettering & District Charity Cup 1889-90

**Winner:** Grantham Rovers  
**Runner-up:** Luton Town  
**No. of entries:** 20

The twenty clubs entered the second Kettering & District Charity Cup were split into three divisions for the first two rounds.

The two Leicestershire clubs – Leicester Fosse and Shepshed were placed in Division 2 along with Grantham Rovers, Grantham Town, and Newark.

Leicester Fosse who demolished Shepshed 6-1 in Round 1, were awarded a bye into Round 3 where they were knocked out by Kettering, who lost to Luton Town in the semi-finals.

Grantham Rovers drew with Luton Town in the final and won the replay 3-0. Both matches attracted large gates. During the competition Grantham Rovers scored 26 goals, conceding just 2.

## Round 1

### Division 1

Date	Home			Away	Match Details
9.11.1889	Luton Montrose	2	4	Cambridge Swifts	Several hundred spectators.
9.11.1889	Hitchin	0	0	Luton Town	Luton had 3 goals disallowed and lodged a protest with the Kettering committee against the referee.

### Replay

Date	Home			Away	Match Details
30.11.1889	<a href="#">Luton Town</a> J C Lomax (2) Deacon AN Others	5	0	<a href="#">Hitchin</a>	Dallo-lane, Luton

### Division 2

Date	Home			Away	Match Details
30.11.1889	Leicester Fosse	6	1	Shepshed	Mill-lane, Leicester. 400 spectators. Play was rough - Murdoch the powerful Fosse centre temporarily retired in the second half having received kick which cut a hole clean through his leg-guard. Shepshed objected to playing the match owing to two ugly ridges which ran parallel along the touch lines.
30.11.1889	<a href="#">Grantham Rovers</a>	2	1	<a href="#">Newark Town</a>	Harlaxton-road, Grantham. Grantham started with 10 men, Smith not arriving in time. 3,000 spectators lined the ropes.

Grantham Town, bye

### Division 3

Date	Home			Away	Match Details
16.11.1889	Kettering Hawks	4	0	Raunds unity	

16.11.1889	Northampton	2	2	<a href="#">Wellingborough Town</a>	County ground, Northampton "splendid game"
26.10.1889	<a href="#">Kettering Town</a> Bates West AN Others	5 (3)	2 (0)	Hingham Rovers AN Others	Unfavourable weather.
?	Irthlingborough A Keech (3) AN Others	5 (1)	0	Wellingborough All Saints	
	<a href="#">Wolverton LNWR</a>	W		Finedon Revellers	Game awarded to Wolverton

### Replay

Date	Home			Away	Match Details
30.11.1889	Wellingborough Town	4	2	Northampton Town	Town Ground, Wellingborough

### Round 2 (all ties to be played on or before 4 January)

#### Division 1

Cambridge Swifts and Luton Town, byes

#### Division 2

Date	Home			Away	Match Details
	Grantham Rovers	6	0	Grantham Town	

Leicester Fosse, bye

#### Division 3

Date	Home			Away	Match Details
4.1.1890	Wolverton L and NWR	4 (2)	3 (0)	Wellingborough Town	Big Field, Wolverton. Large number of spectators

Kettering Town, Irthlingborough and Kettering Hawks, byes

### Round 3

Date	Home			Away	Match Details
8.2.1890	Wolverton London and North Western Railway	4	2	Cambridge Swifts	Big Field, Wolverton. Large number of spectators.
8.2.1890	Grantham Rovers	10 (4)	0 (0)	Kettering Hawks	2,000 spectators. The Hawks were unfortunate to lose Propps, Sumpter, Newman and Tebbutt through influenza and had to plat reserve men.
8.2.1890	Luton Town	W		Irthlingborough	
8.2.1890	Kettering	3	1	Leicester Fosse	

### Semi-Finals

Date	Home			Away	Match Details
22.2.1890	Grantham Rovers Southwell (2) Flinders (2)	4 (2)	0 (0)	Wolverton London and North Western Railway	At Kettering. 1,600 spectators. Game commenced at 2.30 pm
22.3.1890	Kettering Town Bates	1	2	Luton Town Deacon J Clomax	

## Final

Date	Home			Away	Match Details
22.3.1890	Grantham Rovers AN Other	1	1	Luton Town Salew	Kettering Town ground. Midland Railway Co ran a special excursion train from Grantham which was extensively patronised, as many as 600, while a large number had accompanied the members of the team earlier in the day. 4,000 - a record gate for the "nice little town" - including a "goodly" number of ladies. After the match, members of the teams with about 200 visitors took tea in the Victoria Hall.

## Final- Replay

Date	Home			Away	Match Details
19.4.1890	Grantham Rovers Chamberlain Flinders (2) Read	3 (1)	0 (0)	Luton Town	Kettering Town ground. 5,000 spectators - 600 travelled from Luton. After the match a public tea was provided in the Kettering Corn-exchange. Mrs Dryland presenting the cups and medals to the winning team.

## Match Reports

### Leicester Fosse v Shepshed

For the second time in its existence the Kettering Charity Cup was competed for in Leicester on Saturday last. The combatants the Fosse and Shepshed and the venue the Mill-lane Ground. In view of the importance attached to the meeting, I suppose about 400 spectators congregated. They were rewarded by witnessing a rough and tough encounter with mixture of fast and loose tactics thrown in. The Fossils distinctly held the upper hand over the Scarlet Runners and when play ceased possessed an advantage of half dozen to one. Some capital though it must be said not friendly play, was the order; instances however going for your man instead of the ball and gross offside were too prevalent. The referee had a thankless task in deciding the incessant appeals but he got through it in some mysterious way. Five minutes before "ne-side " arrived, the Fosse cornered Shepshed, and quite half-a-dozen attempts were made to affect a point, but each was fruitless, and the match ended still in that corner. I have said the play was rough. As illustration of this, I may remark that Murdoch the powerful Fosse centre temporarily retired in the second half having received kick from \_\_\_\_\_ (name not known) which actually cut a hole clean through his leg-guard and I think carried away a little of the bark. A sprinkling of visitors from Shepshed supported their favourites and were decidedly partial, naturally enough in advocating emphasising Red points. The villagers objected to playing match on the ground owing to two ugly ridges which run parallel along the touch lines. They are certainly detrimental to accurate football. As Mr Proctor directed the game to proceed, his opinion may be taken as unfavourable to the protest.

*Leicester Advertiser - 7 December 1890*

### Kettering v Leicester Fosse

Kettering won their District Cup tie with Leicester Fosse three goals to one. For Kettering, Bates, Pantar, Knight, and Wilson did some wonderful, good work in the front rank, and the half-backs and backs played splendid game, Silby in goal defended well, what little he had to do. Kettering arc now in the semi-final.

*Athletic News - 10 February 1890*

## KETTERING CHARITY CUP FINAL TIE

**LUTON TOWN v GRANTHAM ROVERS** – These teams met on the Town ground, Kettering, on Saturday, in the presence of a good attendance to decide which of the two teams should be the likely holders of the above cup. Both clubs were strongly represented and a very even game was witnessed. Luton won the toss and kicked with the wind their favour. The Grantham forwards broke away and nearly scored. After 15 minutes' play Luton beat Bennett with a swift shot. Some give and take play followed, and after 25 minutes Salew scored the first goal for the Grantham team. On resulting, the Rovers kept up the attack but the Luton defence could not be broken into. At last, the Luton forwards broke away but were driven back by Britain. The Rovers then broke away corner resulted, but nothing came of it. Although the Rovers were now playing faster game than their opponents, the Luton defence could not be broken into and the game ended : Grantham Rovers, 1 goal; Luton Town, 1 goal.

*Sheffield Daily Telegraph – 24 March 1890*

### **KETTERING AND DISTRICT CHARITY CUP COMPETITION FINAL ROUND AND PRESENTATION**

#### **Grantham Rovers v. Luton Town.**

This match, at Kettering, Saturday, was the second between these teams, and although the previous encounter ended draw of a goal each, Grantham were looked upon as certain winners. They played exactly as before, and were beyond doubt a better eleven than their opponents. Smart play was the order throughout the team. L. Freeman being especially noticeable for fine back work. They displayed a fair amount of combination, which necessary feature was almost entirely absent from the Luton men, whose defence was far from reliable. L. C. R. Thring took the place of Moody and kicked with much judgment, and Moore was substituted for Deacon. The weather was favourable, and there was no wind. The attendance was again exceptionally good, over 4,000 being present, 600 journeying from Luton. Five minutes after three Grantham, who were located at the town end, kicked-off, and attacks were made on each goal in turn, a very good combined assault by the Rovers resulting in a fruitless corner. Luton responded good style, but Grantham were too quick for them, and at once pressed another corner. Luton in turn attacked and Miller tried a fine shot, which was soon followed by a well-kicked corner by Thring. A similar unproductive point fell to the other side, and one following this was very nearly turned to account. After some play in Grantham ground Chamberlain took the ball near to the Luton posts, and might have scored. For a time there was nothing at all noticeable in the play, and the end of the first-half was drawing near before Read was obliged to concede a corner in saving a shot from Southwell. Directly after, however, he failed to reach a splendidly placed shot by Chamberlain, who recorded the first goal for Grantham 45min. from the start, several minutes having been hindered by an injury to Humphrey. The teams crossed at one to nil, and immediately a corner fell to the Grantham lads, which Read only saved at the expense another, Grantham narrowly missed scoring, and their superior powers were now apparent, but for a long time play was of a moderate character, and quite uneventful. Later on Whitting tried a long shot, which was not far off the Grantham upright, and then the Rovers' left headed an invasion well into the Bedfordshire team's territory. Humphrey checked the rush, but a vigorous attack followed, and Flinders beat Read, appeals for off-side not being upheld. The leading side now swarmed their opponents' fortress, and Salew headed just over—a very near go. Further shots were put in, and spirited play resulted in Flinders, who was close up, putting on goal No. 3 with beauty. The game was now to all intents and purposes over, and although several minutes of uninteresting play followed the spectators began to leave the field, quite convinced that the best team had won three to nil. Humphrey was again injured before the finish and had to be taken off field. Teams:—*Grantham Rovers*: J C Bennett, goal; W. Brittan and L. Freeman, backs; A. Archer, F. Smith, and W. Freeman, half-backs; T. Flinders, centre; G. Broughton and T. Southwell, right wing; W. Salew and J. Chamberlain, left wing.

*Luton Town*: T. Read, goal; A Sanders and G. Humphrey, backs; L. O. R. Turing, E. H. Lomax. and A. H. Taylor, half-backs; G. W. Moore, centre; H. Whitby and F. Whitby, right wing J. C. Lomax W. Miller, left wing. Umpires, Messrs. T. Maycock and W. H. Parker. Kettering; referee. Mr. A. R. Hill. hon. sec. Cambs. Association.

*Northampton Mercury – 26 April 1890*