



Kettering & District Charity Cup 1896-97

Winner: Luton Town
Runner-Up: Rushden
Entries: 8

Entry was again restricted to 8 teams, split into two divisions.

The two Leicester clubs were in different divisions.

Loughborough were knocked out in R1 by Rushden. The Fosse took three attempts to overcome Burton Wanderers, scoring the winning goal during the first period of extra time in the second replay. Unfortunately due to fixture congestion, Leicester were only able to send a reserve team to Kettering meet Luton Town in the semi-final. Perhaps not surprisingly Luton won the tie and went on to lift the trophy.

Round 1

Division I

#	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
1	1.2.1897	Luton Town Gallacher Coupar Finlay	4 (3)	1 (0)	Kettering Whitehead	Heavy ground.
2	24.10.1896	Rushden Dunkley Clarke (2) Pendered	4	0	Loughborough	At Rushden.

Division II

#	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
3	4.2.1897	Leicester Fosse	2 (0)	2 (2)	Burton Wanderers	At one point Burton led 2-0. Fosse equalised with just seconds remaining.
4	24.1896	Walsall T Johnson Griffiths Copeland	3 (1)	0 (0)	Lincoln City	At Walsall. Small gate (c. 200). Dull weather.

Round 1 Replays

#	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
5	8.2	Burton Wanderers	0	0	Leicester Fosse	Fair attendance. The game was marred by "foul tactics." After changing ends the Wanderers lost Handley, who was injured
6	15.2	Leicester Fosse Dorrell Trainer	2 (1)	1 (1)	Burton Wanderers AN Other	Neutral ground. North Park, Kettering Fosse travelled by the 12.50 train. Game commenced at 3.00 pm. Score was tied at 1-1 after 90 mins. Ten mins extra time each way was agreed. Fosse scored the winning goal in the first period.

Semi-Finals

#	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
7	5.3.1897	Leicester Fosse	0 (0)	3 (1)	Luton Town Coupar Ekins	North Park, Kettering. 2,000 spectators

					McInnes	Due to fixture congestion Fosse sent their reserve team.
8	1.3.1897	Rushden Barker Bailey	2 (1)	1 (1)	Walsall Aston	At Kettering. 2,000 spectators. Showery weather.

Final

#	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
9	21.3.1897	Luton Town Gallacher	1	0	Rushden	North Park, Kettering 70 supporters travelled by train with the Luton players.

Match Reports

#1



Sporting Life – 2 February 1897

#2 RUSHDEN v. LOUGHBOROUGH—Played at Rushden Monday. Dunkley scored for the homesters the first half. In the second portion had matters very well they liked, and Clarke scoring twice and once the game ended; Rushden four goals, Loughborough none.

Stamford Mercury – 30 October 1896

#3 THE KETTERING CUP – LEICESTER FOSSE v BURTON WANDERERS – The tie between these clubs was decided at Leicester yesterday in cold weather, before 2,000 spectators. The ground was in a very bad condition, and now fell in the early portion of the game. The visitors opened the scoring after seven minutes play, and shortly before the interval T Arkesden improved their position. After changing ends Leicester played up better and McMillan scored for them, but it was not until a few seconds from the finish that they succeeded in equalising and the match ended in a draw of two goals each.

London Evening Standard – 5 February 1897

#4 WALSALL v. LINCOLN CITY. At Walsall. Each side played its full team, and the game was keenly fought out. Walsall, playing uphill in the first half, scored once through T. Johnson, subsequently Griffiths and Copeland added to their total. Lincoln tried hard, but were weak round the goal and shot recklessly. The game ended—Walsall 3, Lincoln 0.

Evening Star 27 October 1896

#5 The undecided tie in the Kettering Cup between these teams took place—Burton Wanderers and Leicester Fosse—on February 8, at Burton. There was a fair attendance, and a keen game was witnessed, the play at times being rather rough. The teams were well matched, and nothing was scored in the first half.

After changing ends the Wanderers lost Handley, who was injured, but they still managed to hold their own. No goals were scored, and the match ended in a draw.

Croydon Weekly Standard - 12 February 1897

#6 LEICESTER FOSSE v BURTON WANDERERS - The third meeting of these clubs in the above competition took place yesterday, at Kettering, before 1,500 spectators. Early in the first half Flannagan scored for Burton, and after changing ends Dorrell equalised. Extra time was played with the result that Trainer placed the winning goal to the credit of Leicester who will meet Luton in the semi-final.

London Evening Standard - 16 February 1897

#7 KETTERING CUP SEMI-FINAL

LUTON v LEICESTER FOSSE - Two thousand spectators witnessed this tie at Kettering. Luton put a full team into the field, but the visitors only sent their reserve eleven. Playing against the wind Luton scored the only point recorded in the opening half through Coupar. The straw plaiters further increased their lead five minutes after the interval from a corner kick, whilst a weak shot from McInnes notched a third point. The home club continued to have the best of the game to the finish, but nothing further was scored, and Luton thus won by three goals to none.

London Evening Standard - 12 March 1897

#8 WALSALL v. RUSHDEN

Played at Kettering in showery weather, before 2,000 spectators. Aston scored for Walsall in the first ten minutes, and Barker equalised before the interval. Early in the second half Bailey put Rushden ahead. Walsall found the net again, but Aston had handled, and the referee disallowed it. Each side attacked in turn, but play became very uninteresting, Rushden winning a poor match. Result:

RUSHDEN	2 goals.
WALSALL	1 goal

Litchfield Independent - 2 March 1897