



Leicester & District League 1895-96

Leicester & District League 1895-96

Nr	Team	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
1	Anstey Town	16	11	2	3	44	26	25
2	South Wigston	16	11	3	2	57	19	24
3	St Mary's	16	7	6	3	40	28	17
4	Belgrave St Michael's*	16	7	4	5	39	33	17
5	Craven	16	6	5	5	29	39	17
6	King Richard's-Road	16	6	5	5	40	32	15
7	North End	16	3	8	5	28	41	11
8	Carr Brothers	16	3	11	2	28	40	8
9	Oxford Rovers	16	3	12	0	18	56	6

*Two points deducted for playing ineligible men.

Winner:	Anstey Town
Runner-up:	South Wigston
Games played:	70
Missing Results:	41
Goals scored:	315 (4.5 goals per game)
Biggest Home win:	South Wigston 12-0 Oxford Rovers
Biggest Away win:	Carr Bros 2-7 St Mary's Rovers
Highest Scoring:	12: South Wigston 12-0 Oxford Rovers

Twelve teams - Anstey Town, Belgrave Granville, Belgrave St Michael's, Carr Brothers, Craven, King Richard's Road, Leicester Wanderers, London-Road, North End, Oxford Rovers, South Wigston and St Mary's Rovers - entered the inaugural Leicester & District League competition. All but two teams – Anstey Town and South Wigston – were based in Leicester.

The full fixture list, published by the Leicester Chronicle in July 1895, is given below:

LEICESTER AND DISTRICT FOOTBALL LEAGUE. FIXTURES FOR 1895-6.

The matches are played on the ground of the club first-named.

Sept. 7: North End v. Belgrave St. Michael's, Anstey Town v. Carr Bros., Belgrave Granville v. Craven.
 Sept. 14: Anstey Town v. North End, Belgrave Granville v. King Richards-road, South Wigston v. Oxford Rovers, Belgrave St. Michael's v. Carr Bros.
 Sept. 21: South Wigston v. Belgrave St. Michael's, King Richards-road v. Wanderers, Carr Bros. v. North End, Anstey Town v. Oxford Rovers, Belgrave Granville v. St. Mary's Rovers.
 Sept. 28: South Wigston v. North End, St. Mary's Rovers v. Wanderers, Belgrave St. Michael's v. Belgrave Granville, Craven v. Anstey Town, Carr Bros. v. London-road.
 Oct. 5: Wanderers v. Belgrave St. Michael's, London-road v. Anstey Town, North End v. Carr Bros., Oxford Rovers v. Craven, St. Mary's Rovers v. King Richards -road.
 October 19: Craven v. St. Mary's Rovers, Bel-grave Granville v. London-road, Oxford Rovers v. King Richards-road, Belgrave St. Michael's v. Anstey Town, South Wigston v. Carr Bros.
 Oct. 26: North End v. Belgrave St. Michael's, Anstey Town v. Wanderers, London-road v. King Richards-road, St. Mary's Rovers v. South Wigston, Craven v. Belgrave Granville.
 Nov. 2: Belgrave St. Michael's v. Craven, Wanderer's v. St. Mary's Rovers, London-road v. North End, King Richards-road v. Carr Bros., Oxford Rovers v. South Wigston.
 Nov. 16: Craven v. Wanderers, Oxford Rovers v. Belgrave St. Michael's, Anstey Town v. St. Mary's Rovers, King Richards-road v. South Wigston, London-road v. Carr Bros.
 Nov. 23: Belgrave St. Michael's v. King Richard's road, St. Mary's Rovers v. London-road, Carr Bros. v. Craven, Oxford Rovers v. North End, South Wigston v. Belgrave Granville.
 Nov. 30: South Wigston v. Craven, Belgrave Granville v. Carr Bros., Oxford Rovers v. Wanderers, King Richards-road v. Anstey Town, Bel- grave St. Michael's v. St. Mary's Rovers.

Dec. 7: King Richards-road v. Belgrave Granville. St. Mary's Rovers v. Craven. Oxford Rovers v. Anstey Town, Wanderers v. South Wigston, North End v. London-road.

Dec. 14: Anstey Town v. Belgrave St Michael's, Wanderers v. Belgrave Granville, London-road v. South Wigston, North-End v. St. Mary's Rovers, Craven v. King Richards-road.

Dec. 21: Anstey Town v. Belgrave Granville, Craven v. Carr Bros', King Richards-road v. St. Mary's Rovers, Oxford Rovers v. London-road, Bel-grave St. Michael's v. South Wigston.

Dec. 26: London -road v. Craven, Oxford Rovers v. St. Mary's Rovers.

Dec 28: North-End v. Belgrave Granville, St. Mary's Rovers v. Carr Bros. South Wigston v. Anstey Town, London-road v. Wanderers.

Jan 4: Carr Bros', v. Wanderers, London-road v. Belgrave St. Michael's, King Richard's-road v. North-End, Belgrave Granville v. South Wigston, St. Mary's Rovers v. Oxford Rovers.

Jan. 11: Oxford Rovers v. Belgrave Granville. Jan. 25: Anstey Town v. Craven. Carr Bros', v. St. Mary's Rovers, Wanderers v. Oxford Rovers, North- End v. South Wigston.

Feb. 1: Belgrave St. Michael's v. Wanderers, South Wigston v. London-road, Carr Bros. v. King Richards-road, Craven v. Oxford Rovers.

Feb. 8: Belgrave Granville v. Oxford Rovers, Craven v. Belgrave St. Michael's, North-End v. King Richards-road.

Feb. 15: Carr Bros', v. Belgrave St. Michael's, Wanderers v. Anstey Town, London-road v. St. Mary's Rovers. North-End v. Craven, King Richard's- road v. Oxford Rovers.

Feb. 22: South Wigston v. St. Mary's Rovers, North-End v. Oxford Rovers. King Richards-road v. Belgrave St. Michael's, Anstey Town v. Loudon-road, Wanderers v. Carr Bros.

Feb. 29: Wanderers v. King Richards-road, Carr Bros', v. Anstey Town. March T: St. Mary's Rovers v. Belgrave Granville, Belgrave St. Michael's v. Oxford Rovers, North-End v. Wanderers.

March 14: Wanderers v. Craven, London-rand v. Oxford Rovers, Belgrave Granville v. Anstey Town, St. Mary's Rovers v. North-End, South Wigston v. King Richards-road.

March 21: Craven v. North-End, Wanderers v. London-road.

March 23: King Richard's-road v. London-road, St. Mary's Rovers v. Belgrave St. Michael's, South Wigston v. Wanderers. Carr Bros', v. Anstey Town, King Richard's-road v. Craven.

April 4: Belgrave Granville v. Wanderers, Craven v. London-road, Carr Bros', v. South Wigston, Anstey Town v. King Richards-road.

April 11: Belgrave Granville v. Belgrave St. Michael. Carr Bros', v. Oxford Rovers, Anstey Town v. South Wigston.

April 18: Belgrave Granville v. North-End, Belgrave St. Michael's v. London-road.

The first matches took place on Saturday 7 September.

All games in December were ordered to commence no later than 2.45 pm.

Several teams – Belgrave Granville, London-road, and Leicester Wanderers withdrew from the competition before the end of the season.

Press coverage was poor. In a typical week only one or two results were published, along with brief reports of league committee meetings, which in general were concerned with rearranging games, fining teams for non-attendance, organising replays and announcing the appointment of referees.

The League was dominated by two clubs – Anstey Town and South Wigston – with only a single point separating them at the end of the season. It therefore seems fitting that Anstey Town clinched the title on the final day of the season after beating South Wigston at home in the “Championship decider”. At the start of the day South Wigston headed the table on 24 points, just one point ahead of Anstey. Given that South Wigston had a far superior goal average (3.7 cf. 1.6), they only had to avoid defeat to clinch the championship. It is also worth noting that prior to this game South Wigston had only conceded 15 goals in 15 games The match report is given below:

SOUTH WIGSTON v ANSTEY TOWN

Considerable interest was attached to this match, the result of which settled the championship of the League. There was a large attendance of spectators, a large number

South Wigston	2-0	7-0	5-0	5-0		5-0	12-0		2-1
St Mary's Rovers	1-1		1-1			5-1			

Home win
 Away Win
 Draw
 Result Not Known/Game not played

League Match Results and Details

Date	Home			Away	Match Details
7.9.1895	Anstey Town	1	4	Carr Bros	
7.9.1895	Belgrave Granville Adcock AN Other	3	4	Craven Tyler Warner AN Other Della	Birstall-lane, Belgrave. Craven scored the winning goal in the last few minutes of the game.
7.9.1895	Belgrave St Michael's	1 (1)	1 (1)	North End	
14.9.1895	Anstey Town	3	0	North End	
14.9.1895	Belgrave St Michael's	2	0	Carr Bros	
14.9.1895	South Wigston	12	0	Oxford Rovers	
21.9.1895	Anstey Town	3	1	Oxford Rovers	
21.9.1895	Belgrave Granville			St Mary's Rovers	
21.9.1895	Carr Bros	2	3	North End	
21.9.1895	King Richard's-road	5	2	Leicester Wanderers	
21.9.1895	South Wigston	7	0	Belgrave St Michael's	
28.9.1895	Anstey Town	3	2	Craven	
28.9.1895	South Wigston	5	0	North End	
28.9.1895	St Mary's Rovers	3	0	Leicester Wanderers	
5.10.1895	London-road Pares Halliday	2	2	Anstey Town Thomas Smart	Victoria Park, Leicester. London-road led 2-0 at half-time.
19.10.1895	Belgrave Granville			London-road	Score not known. But 30 mins short time was played owing to the ball bursting. The League decided that the result should stand.
26.10.1895	Anstey Town	P	P	Leicester Wanderers	Leicester Wanderers did not fulfil the fixture and were fined 2s 6d and suspended on 7 November until this fine and a previous one had been paid.
26.10.1895	London-road Booth Halliday Allen	3	1	King Richard's-road Powdrill	Victoria Park, Leicester. London-road played he whole game with 10 men.
26.10.1895	North End	3	3	Belgrave St Michael's	
16.11.1895	Anstey Town	2	3	St Mary's Rovers	
16.11.1895	King Richard's-road	5	2	South Wigston	
16.11.1895	London-road	A	A	Carr Bros	Victoria Park, Leicester. Abandoned after 30minutes owing to the "vagaries of the wind" - impossible to keep the ball in play
23.11.1895	Carr Bro's	5	0	Craven	
23.11.1895	Oxford Rovers	2	1	North End	North end reported Oxford Rovers for not making sufficient arrangements to keep the spectators off the playing field. The match was ordered to be replayed on 14 December
23.11.1895	St Mary's			London-road	12 mins short time was played. League allowed the result [not known] to stand.
30.11.1895	Belgrave St Michael's AN Others	2	2	St Mary's Rovers AN Other Heathcote	Rovers started the game with 9 men

30.11.1895	King Richard's Road	4	4	Anstey Town	
30.11.1895	South Wigston	5	0	Craven	
7.12.1895	Oxford Rovers	A	A	Anstey Town	Match abandoned due to the poor state of the ground. Oxford were required by the League to pay Anstey Town 6s as a share of the expenses incurred
14.12.1895	London-road	0	1	South Wigston Onions	Victoria Park, Leicester.
1.12.1895	Oxford Rovers			North End	Replayed match.
21.12.1895	King Richard's-road	3	2	St Mary's Rovers	
28.12.1895	Carr Brothers	2	7	St Mary's Rovers	
28.12.1895	South Wigston	2	0	Anstey Town	
4.1.1896	Belgrave St Michael's Curtis Tucker Baxter	3	0	London-road	
4.1.1896	Oxford Rovers	1	4	St Mary's Rovers Emms (3) Wood	
18.1.1896	St Mary's Rovers	1	1	Anstey Town	
25.1.1896	Leicester Craven	3	3	Anstey Town	
25.1.1895	St Mary's Rovers	1	1	Carr Brothers	
1.2.1896	South Wigston	4	0	London-road	
8.2.1896	Ashby & District League	2	0	Leicester & District league	At Moira. Large gate.
15.2.1896	South Wigston			Anstey Town	Result not found. Match ordered to be replayed. Reason unknown,
22.2.1896	Anstey Town	P	P	London-road	London-road failed to turn up. They were fined 2s 6d and required to pay Anstey 2s 6d.
22.2.1896	North End	2	3	Oxford Rovers	
22.2.1896	South Wigston	2	1	St Mary's Rovers	
29.2.1896	Carr Bros			Anstey Town	Referee [Mr Costello] failed to turn up. The League allowed the result [not known] to stand.
14.3.1896	St Mary's Rovers	5	1	North End	
11.4.1896	Anstey Town Thomas (3) Willet	4	1	South Wigston Onions	Large attendance Championship decider
27.4.1896	Anstey Town	0	3	Rest of the League	Filbert-street, Leicester. Anstey players were presented with Championship medals at the end of the game.

The matches without results were all listed in weekend fixtures by newspapers. It is not currently known whether they took place or not.

Match Reports

ASHBY AND DISTRICT v LEICESTER AND DISTRICT

Teams chosen from the two leagues met at Moira before a large gate. Leicester started with a strong wind behind them and pressed. The home contingent retaliated and play ruled even. An offside against the home team prevented a score. Ridgway, for the home team, scored after 25 minutes. The visitor's' left wing was dangerous, but Holbrooke cleared well, and soon after the same player was penalised, for carrying. After the interval the home side pressed, and forced two corners, which were cleared. The visiting backs were working hard, and kept the home forwards from scoring. Harrison for the visitors, was fouled for carrying, but cleared well. The home side continued the pressure, but failed to get through. Lenton scored

from a foul, but the ball went through without being played the second time. Just before time Dennis scored from a centre by Coe. Result:

ASHBY LEAGUE, two goals

LEICESTER LEAGUE, none.

Leicester Daily Post - 10 February 1896

Anstey Town, the Champions of the Leicester and District League, met the Rest of the League on the Fosse ground on Saturday. Anstey were soon placed on the defensive, their opponents playing a spirited but none too scientific game. Gradually the game became more even, but the backs on both sides were too keen on the ball to allow much shooting. Tomlin for the Rest, got in one splendid centre, and later was rather unlucky in being fouled just as he repeated this feat. Half-time came with no score. The scratch team displayed a little more combination in the second half, and, after several minutes; pressure, Harrison, who was playing none too confidently in goal, unnecessarily gave a corner, from which Bridgford scored. Shortly afterwards from a free kick, Smith placed the ball through his own goal, and not far from the finish, Bridgford again scored from a corner. Nothing else of importance occurred, and a moderate game ended in a victory for the league by three goal to none.

Champion medals were presented to: Harrison (goal); Smith and Wolse (backs); J Cresswell, W Cresswell and Cufflin (half-backs); Smart, Inglesant, North and Willett and another (forwards). Rest of the League: Ward (goals); j Monk, and J Sibson (backs); Baxter, H Bolsover and Hunt (half-backs), Curtis, Burton, Buswell, Bridgford and Tomlin (forwards). Referee, Mr F Gardner.

Melton Mowbray News and Oakham and Uppingham News - 30 April 1896

Additional Information

FORMATION OF LEAGUES.—The Association proceeded to consider the report of the committee re the proposed North Leicestershire League, Ashby and District League, and Leicester Junior League. — The Secretary stated that the committee had gone carefully through the rules, and subject to certain alterations they recommended the Association to give their sanction to their formation. The chief alterations were in regard to the radius of the Leagues, as the committee had to guard against any clubs being left out in the cold by being sandwiched between the areas covered by leagues. In the North Leicestershire League there were eight clubs entered, and the committee recommended that the radius be 10 miles from Loughborough instead of nine. In the Ashby and District League, which had 10 clubs entered, the committee recommended that the radius be extended to eight miles.—The Association gave their sanction to the formation of these Leagues, with these and certain other minor alterations.—The Leicester Junior League proposed to include 13 clubs, amongst which were Enderby, Anstey, and South Wigston.—The committee felt that 13 clubs were too many, and that the League should be confined to purely town clubs. If the three country clubs named were admitted clubs in the Hinckley district which have had fixtures with them up to the present time would have a difficulty in future seasons in arranging matches. If there was a desire on the part of Anstey, South Wigston, and Enderby to have a League there was nothing to prevent them throwing in their lot with the clubs in the Hinckley district for that purpose.—The Association by 11 votes to five endorsed the committee's opinion, and confined the League to Leicester clubs only.

Leicester Daily Post - 26 April 1895

LEICESTER AND DISTRICT FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION.

A meeting of the Emergency Committee was held at the Victoria Coffee House on Monday evening, Mr. F. Gardner presiding. There were also present Mr. T. Sampson, H. Bramley, and F. Jordan, hon. sec.—London-road v. Carr Bros. match was ordered to be played on March 7th. In the match St. Mary's Rovers v. London-road, on November 23rd, 12 minutes' short time was played, but it was ordered to stand as a League match. Leicester Craven reported Belgrave St. Michael's for playing J. Johnson, he being a professional for Hinckley Town. Sufficient evidence not being forthcoming, the hon. secretary of the League was instructed to make further inquiries into the matter.—Carr Brothers, Belgrave St. Michael's, and St. Mary's Rovers were fined 1s. for not starting their games according to the rules of the League. It was decided that all League matches for December start at 2.45.—North End reported Oxford Rovers for not making sufficient arrangements to keep the spectators off the playing field in their match last Saturday and the match was ordered to be re-played on Dec. 14. Referee, Mr. G. G. Broughton.

Leicester Daily Post - 27 November 1895

LEICESTER AND DISTRICT FOOTBALL LEAGUE.

The Emergency Committee of this League held their monthly meeting at the Victoria Coffee House, Leicester, on Tuesday evening. Mr. F. Gardner presided, and Messrs. T. Sampson, H. Bramley, and F. Jordan (hon. sec.) were also present. The Leicester Wanderers and Belgrave Granville clubs having been disbanded, their resignations were accepted, and their names struck off the League list. Carr Bros. protested against their match with St. Mary's Rovers last Saturday counting as a League match on the ground that the appointed referee failed to officiate. It transpired that the clubs mutually agreed upon Mr. Curtis, who acted, and the match was ordered to stand. Belgrave St. Michael's, for playing an ineligible man in J. Johnson, who at that time was a professional for Hinckley, had two points deducted. Belgrave St. Michael's were reported by St. Mary's Rovers for the late hour at which they started their match on December 21. Both clubs, however, were severely censured, and the committee decided that all such cases in the future should be most severely dealt with. Mr. F. Gardner, referee in the match between South Wigston and Anstey Town last Saturday, reported that he was compelled to abandon the game owing to the bad weather and ground. The match to be replayed on Feb. 15, and the gate divided. For similar reasons the match between the Oxford Rovers and Anstey Town, on December 7, was stopped, and the clubs concerned were requested to mutually agree upon a date to replay the match. Carr Bros., St. Mary's Rovers, and Belgrave St. Michael's were ordered to pay their fines by January 7, or the same to be doubled. Oxford Rovers and North End were ordered to play their match on February 29. The referees for January were appointed as under:—

Jan. 4.—London-road v. Belgrave St. Michael's, F. Jordan; King Richard's-road v. North End, J. W. Bailey; St. Mary's Rovers v. Oxford Rovers, E. B. Smithson.

Jan. 25.—Craven v. Anstey, W. Holland; Carr Bros. v. St. Mary's, T. B. Fuller; North End v. South Wigston, W. James.

LEICESTER AND DISTRICT FOOTBALL LEAGUE

The Emergency Committee of this League had a meeting on Tuesday evening at the Victoria Coffee House. Mr. F. Gardner presided, and Messrs. H. Weston and H. Bramley were also present.—Mr. Gardner pointed out that the fine imposed on Anstey Town (viz., 5s.) was in excess of what the committee were empowered to levy by Rule 8, and the fine was reduced to 2s. 6d., the same to be paid by March 11, or the club to be further dealt with. Anstey Town reported Belgrave Granville for non-fulfilment of fixture on December 31, and London-road for non-fulfilment on February 22. Owing to the length of time allowed to elapse before reporting the Granville case, this matter was not entered into, but London-road were ordered to pay Anstey 2s. 6d., and fined 2s. 6d., both to be paid by March 11.—The match Carr Bros v. Anstey, on February 29, in which the appointed referee (Mr. Costello) failed to put in an appearance, was ordered to stand as a League match, as the clubs mutually agreed to an official, as per Rule 11, and the committee decided that if a match is played it must count as a League match.—Oxford Rovers and North End were ordered to play their match on April 1, and Oxford Rovers and Anstey ordered to meet at Leicester on March 14.—Referees for March were appointed as under:—

- March 7.—Belgrave St. Michael's v. Oxford Rovers, S. Hipwell.
- March 14.—St. Mary's v. North End, W. Holland.
- March 14.—South Wigeton v. King Richard's-road, J. W. Bailey.
- March 14.—Oxford Rovers v. Anstey, A. Blot.
- March 21.—Craven v. North End, R. H. James.
- March 28.—North End v. Anstey, T. B. Fuller.
- March 28.—King Richard's-road v. Craven, J. E. Linthwaite.
- March 28.—St. Mary's v. Belgrave St. Michael's, G. H. Geeson.

LEICESTER AND DISTRICT FOOTBALL LEAGUE.

An Emergency Committee meeting of the above League was held at the Victoria Coffee House on Monday evening. There were present: Mr. F. Gardner (chairman), Mr. H. Weston, and Mr. T. Simpson. Apologies for non-attendance were received from Mr. Jordan (secretary) and Mr. H. Bramley.—A letter from Carr Bros.' F.C., re the decision of the Emergency Committee in ordering their match v. Anstey Town to stand as a League match, was read, and, after consideration, referred to the next general meeting of the League.—Mr. H. Bray (late secretary London-road F.C.) wrote stating that the club had been disbanded.—The League having received information to the effect that the Belgrave Granville had been reformed, that club was requested to furnish an explanation of their action.—The transfer of A. Bradshaw from King Richard's-road to South Wigston was confirmed. It was decided to play a match, Champions v. Rest of League.—Referees for April were appointed as below:—

April 4.—Oxford Rovers v. North End, J. H. Linthwaite.

April 4.—Carr Bros. v. South Wigston, W. Holland.

April 4.—Anstey v. King Richard's-road, J. W. Bailey.

April 6.—Oxford Rovers v. Anstey, A. Blora.

April 11.—Carr Bros. v. Oxford Rovers, W. J. Jones.

April 11.—Anstey v. South Wigston, F. Gardner.

Leicester Daily Mercury - March 31 1896

LEICESTER AND DISTRICT FOOTBALL LEAGUE.

The first annual meeting of the above was held on Wednesday evening at the Victoria Coffee-house, Leicester, presided over by Mr. F. Gardiner, when most encouraging reports were given of the past season's work. The secretary's and treasurer's reports were read and adopted, there being a small balance in hand for next season. Votes of thanks were passed to the Fosse Club for their generosity on the occasion of the championship match, also to Mr. Seddon for his offer of a flag to the champion team (Anstey). It was decided that the League shall consist of twelve clubs for next season, namely, Anstey, South Wigston, Craven, Belgrave St. Michael's, King Richard's-road, Oxford Rovers, Leicester North End, St. Mary's, who were all re-elected; Syston Switta, Enderby Granite, and Leicester Emmanuel were also elected as new members, leaving one vacancy to be filled up next Tuesday, when the fixtures for next season will be arranged. It was decided to invite Leicester Richmond, Belvoir-street, and Waverley to the next meeting with a view to filling the twelfth place. The election of officers resulted as follows:—President, Mr. Thomas Seddon; chairman and treasurer, Mr. F. Gardiner; hon. secretary, Mr. W. H. Harris; emergency committee, Messrs. Gardiner, Weston, Bramley, Sampson, and Harris, hon. sec.; rules sub-committee, Messrs. Lassett, Sampson, Linthwaite, chairman, and sec.; auditors, Messrs. Lythall and Wood.

Leicester Journal - 15 May 1896