



Leicester Schools' Football League 1893-94

Winner: Alderman Newton's School
Runner-Up: Hazel-street School

The first Leicester Schools Football League competition began in September 1893.

League President: Mr Alfred Jones (member of the Leicester School Board), vice-presidents included Mr G Neighbour, Mr G Dixon, and Mr Cholerton. Hon. secretary Mr W E Jones, Willow-street Board School.

The formation of the League was initiated following the Board School boys of Sheffield beating Leicester Boys 8-0 in February 1893, in a match arranged by the Leicestershire Scholastic Association to popularise Association football amongst scholars.

Boys were aged 12 and 13 (Year 8).

The School teams were divided into 4 districts. All district games were played on Saturday mornings.

District 1	District 2	District 3	District 4
Clarendon Park	Granby-road	Alderman Newton's	Bridge-street
Holy Trinity	Hazel-street	Elbow-lane	Curzon-street
Medway-street	King Richard's-road	Slater-street	Overton-road
Melbourne -road	Lansdowne-road	St Martin's	Syston-street
St John's	Oxford-street		St Saviour's

The champions of each district went through to a knockout competition.

The Leicester Daily Post requested that all match results should be forwarded to them as soon the games finished for inclusion in the Monday edition of the newspaper.

Although Alderman Newton's won the final against Hazel-street staged at Walnut-street prior to a Leicester Fosse rivers match, they were later disqualified for fielding over-aged players.

Hazel-street were presented with a banner (provided by Leicester Fosse FC), and a cup at the end of the Fosse game following the Rest of the League game at Walnut-street. Each of the Hazel-street players were given a handsome silver medal with a gold centre.

The cup and medals were provided by Messrs Seddon and McRobie.

After paying expenses and sending a £5 donation to the Teachers' Orphanages, the School' Football League had a surplus of £11 14s 4d.

District 1

1	Melbourne-road	6	6	0	0	35	5	12
2	Medway-street	6	4	0	2	39	8	8
3	Holy Trinity	6	1	1	4	2	30	3
4	Clarendon Park	6	0	1	5	1	34	1

District 1 Results and Match Details

Date	Home			Away	Match Details
9.10.1893	Melbourne-road	6	1	Bridge-street	

9.10.1893	Bridge-street School	1	0	Medway-street	
28.10.1893	Holy Trinity	1	0	Clarendon Park S	
28.10.1893	Melbourne-road	5	4	Medway-street	Welford-road Ground
4.11.1893	Ald, Newton's School	1	0	Elbow-lane Board school	Elbow-lane left the ground owing to a dispute and the referee awarded the game to Ald. Newton's.
4.11.1893	Clarendon Park			St John's	
4.11.1893	Medway-street Wood (2) Shaw	3 (2)	0 (0)	Holy Trinity	Welford-road Ground
4.11.1893	St Martin's	5	0	Slater-street	
11.11.1893	Holy Trinity	0	10	Melbourne-road	Welford-road Ground
11.11.1893	Medway-street	5	0	Clarendon Park	Welford-road Ground
11.11.1893	Melbourne-road	3	1	Medway-street	
18.11.1893	Clarendon Park			Melbourne-road	Welford-road Ground
25.11.1893	Holy Trinity	1	1	Clarendon Park	
2.12.1893	Melbourne-road	12	0	Clarendon Park	
9.12.1893	Medway-street	12	0	Holy Trinity	
16.12.1893	Clarendon Park	0	14	Medway-street	Welford-road Recreation Ground
16.12.1893	Melbourne-road	4	0	Holy Trinity	Welford-road Recreation Ground

District 2 Results and Match Details

Date	Home			Away	Match Details
4.11.1893	King Richard's-road	2	0	Lansdowne-road	Bedehouse Meadow
4.11.1893	Hazel-street	9	1	Oxford-street	Welford-road Recreation Ground
11.11.1893	Granby-street	2	1	Lansdowne-road	Welford-road Ground
11.11.1893	Hazel-street	4	1	King Richard's-road	Bedehouse Meadow
18.11.1893	King Richard's-road			Oxford-street,	Welford-road Ground
25.11.1893	Oxford-street Mortimer Halford	2	0	Granby-street	Welford-road Ground.
25.11.1893	Hazel-street	12	2	Lansdowne-road	
2.12.1893	King Richard's-road	2	1	Oxford-street	
9.12.1893	Oxford-street	7	2	Lansdowne-road	
9.12.1893	Granby-street	4	2	King Richard's-road	
16.12.1893	Hazel-street	6	3	King Richard's-road	Welford-road Recreation Ground
16.12.1893	Lansdowne-road			Granby-road	Welford-road Recreation Ground
27.1.1894	Granby-road	1	0	Oxford-street	

District 3 Results and Match Details

Date	Home			Away	Match Details
4.11.1893	Slater-street			St Martin's	St Margaret's pasture
18.11.1893	Ald. Newton's			Slater-street	
	St Martin's			Elbow-lane	Bedehouse Meadow
25.11.1893	Slater-street	1	1	St Martin's	
2.12.1893	Elbow-lane	3	0	Slater-street	
9.12.1893	St Martin's	4	0	Elbow-lane	
16.12.1893	Ald. Newton's			Elbow-lane	St Margaret's Pasture

District 4

Nr	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Bridge-street	8	8	0	0	33	3	16
2	Overtown-road	8	5	3	2	21	9	11
3	Syston-street	8	2	4	2	18	26	6
4	St Saviour's	5	2	2	1	4	9	5

5	Curzon-street	8	1	7	8	3	38	2
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St Saviour's withdrew from the competition on 3rd January 1894. All fixtures not completed by them are counted as wins by their opponents by order of the committee.

Results and Match Details

Date	Home			Away	Match Details
4.11.1893	Overton-road	5	0	Curzon-street	Welford-road Recreation Ground
4.11.1893	St Saviour's			Syston-street	
11.11.1893	Bridge-street			St Saviour's	
11.11.1893	Curzon-street			Syston-street	
18.11.1893	Bridge-street			Curzon-street	
18.11.1883	St Saviour's			Overton-road	
25.11.1893	Bridge-street	3	0	Overton-road	
2.12.1893	Bridge-street	7	1	Syston-street	
2.12.1893	St Saviour's	4	0	Curzon-street	
9.12.1893	Overton-road	3	0	St Saviour's	
9.12.1893	Syston-street	3	2	Curzon-street	
16.12.1893	Curzon-street			Bridge -street	
16.12.1893	Syston-street			Overton-road	Belgrave-road Grounds
3.2.1894	Bridge-street	3	0	Curzon-street	
3.2.1894	Overton-road	7	0	Syston-street	

Semi-Finals

Date	Home			Away	Match Details
24.2.1894	Ald. Newton's C Cotterill (2) Harwar	4 (0)	0 (0)	Melbourne-road	Welford-road Ground. Heavy ground, stiff breeze Newton's missed a second-half penalty.
24.2.1894	Hazel-street Woodcock (4) Gibbons (2) Adcock	7 (1)	1 (1)	Bridge-street Sellears	Belgrave-road Grounds.

Final

Date	Home			Away	Match Details
3.3.1894	Ald. Newton's AN Other Hawar	2 (1)	1 (0)	Hazel-street AN Other	Walnut-street. Played prior to the Fosse Rovers game. Newton's first goal resulted when goal-keeper Stevenson [Hazel- street] was charged after catching the ball. Hazel-street lodged a protest against Ald. Newton's on the ground that two of the players - Wardle and Bailey - were over age.

Champions v Rest of League

Date	Home			Away	Match Details
21.4.1894	Hazel-street [Champions]	4 (3)	1 (1)	Rest of the League	Walnut-street Ground. Played prior to the Fosse v Rotherham match. Presentation of the cup and medals took place at the end of the Fosse game.

Inter-League Match

Date	Home			Away	Match Details
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20.1.1894	Leicester Schools' League Districts 1 and 2	8	1	Leicester Schools' League Districts 3 and 4	
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Date	Home	Away		Match Details
6.2.1894	Leicester Boys	0	7	Sheffield Boys Walnut-street [Fosse ground]. Large attendance.

Match Reports

A selection of published match reports.

MEDWAY-STREET v LANSDOWNE-ROAD BOARD SCHOOL

Played on the Welford-road Recreation Ground, and ended in an easy victory for Medway-street, whose points were scored by Spawton (2) and Shaw (2). Score:

MEDWAY-STREET, four goals;
LANSDOWNE-ROAD, nil

Leicester Daily Post - 16 October 1893

SCHOOLS' LEAGUE

MELBOURNE-ROAD v MEDWAY-STREET

Played in the morning on the Welford-road Ground. A well-contested and exciting scoring game ended:

MELBOURNE-ROAD, five goals;
MEDWAY-STREET, four.

Leicester Daily Post - 30 October 1893

SCHOOLS' LEAGUE

MEDWAY-STREET v HOLY TRINITY

On the Welford-road Ground. Wood and Shaw scored for Medway-street in the first half and West again in the second portion, and as Trinity failed to score, the game ended:

MEDWAY-STREET, three goals
HOLY TRINITY, nil.

Leicester Daily Post - 6 November 1893

MEDWAY-STREET v CLARENDON PARK

Played on Welford-road Recreation ground. In the first half of the game Medway-street had all the play, and scored three goals. In the second half play was more even, but Medway-street added two more goals - one from a penalty. The goals were scored by Shaw, Seville, Spawton, Tomlinson and Perry.

RESULT:

MEDWAY-STREET, five goals;
CLARENDON PARK, none.

GRANBY-ROAD v LANSDOWNE-ROAD (AYLESTONE) BOARD SCHOOL

On the Welford-road Ground. Result:

GRANBY-ROAD, two goals
LANSDOWNE-ROAD, one

Leicester Daily Post - 13 November 1893

SCHOOLS' LEAGUE

OXFORD-STREET v GRANBY-ROAD

On the Welford-road Gound. Mortimer and Halford each scored for Oxford-street. Result.

OXFORD-STREET, two goals;
GRANBY-ROAD, none

Leicester Daily Post – 27 November 1893

LEICESTER SCHOOLS' LEAGUE

SEMI-FINAL TIES

HAZEL-STREET v BRIDGE-STREET

This match was played on the Belgrave-road grounds, Mr Exton officiating as referee. The Hazel-street boys displayed the best combination, and held their opponents at bay during the first half, when Bridge-street had the wind, the score at the interval being one goal each, e having scored for Bridge-street and Woodcock for Hazel-street. In the second half Hazel-street had matters all their own way. With the exception of Griffiths, who made a woefully weak centre, their forwards played capitally together. Woodcock and Adcock on the left and Gibbons and Barrett (right wing) showing excellent football. Woodcock and Gibbons were the pick of the basket and whereas the first named kicked three more goals (one penalty), Gibbons scored twice, and Adcock once, the result being:

HAZEL-STREET, seven goal;

BRIDGE-STREET, one goal.

Leicester Daily Post – 26 February 1894

ALD. NEWTON'S v MELBOURNE-ROAD

These champions of their respective Districts met to decide their semi-final on the Welford-road ground, before a fair sprinkling of their schoolmates. After Friday's rain the ground was rather heavy, and the going toll so severely on more than one player before the match finished. There was a brisk breeze blowing from the Welford-road end of the ground and of this Ald. Newton's had the benefit in the first portion, but even then, though they possessed the advantage in weight, they could not score, and when halftime had arrived no score had been registered on either side. Then came the opportunity to Ald. Newton's boys. In spite of the fact that they were playing against the wind, they pressed most in the second portion and quickly commenced scoring C Cotterill put on two points, as also did Harwar, a stylish young player, who once dribbled the whole length of the field before shooting past the Melbourne-road custodian. A penalty kick against Melbourne-road was well saved by the goal-keeper, and no further scoring taking place, the unexpected result was:

ALD. NEWTON'S, four goals;

MELBOURNE-ROAD, none.

Leicester Daily Post – 26 February 1894

THE SCHOOLS' LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP

ALD NEWTON'S v HAZEL-STREET

The final tie of the School's League was played this afternoon, before a large attendance, composed chiefly of lads, who appeared to take a keen interest in the game, on the Walnut-street enclosure, previous to the Fosse Rover's match. It will be seen from the team published below that the boys from Ald. Newton's school were rather older than their opponents, and they were also much stronger and heavier, and it was consequently expected that they would have a rather easy task. There was a very strong wind, but the ground was in excellent condition. In the first half Ald. Newton's had the benefit of the wind, while their opponents had also the sun in their eyes. For all this Hazel-street played a very plucky game, and managed to keep them out until nearly the finish of the first half, when a shot was sent in which was caught by Stevenson, the goal-keeper. The later was starting to throw away when he was charged by Bailey, a boy almost as big again and Stevenson and the ball were both sent through the goal. Soon after the commencement of the second half Ald. Newton's were conceded a corner, from which Harwar scored. Hazel-street played much prettier football than their opponents, their passing at times being very neat, but as they were beaten by the heavier weight of Ald. Newton's against whom several free kicks were given for tripping and foul charging. Hazel-street had rather the best of the rest of the half, and just before the finish scored a pretty goal. Nothing further was scored, and the game ENDED:

ALD. NEWTON'S, two goals

HAZEL-STREET, one goal.

After the match was over Hazel-street lodged a protest against Ald. Newton's on the ground that two of the players – Wardle and Bailey – were over age. The protest will be heard at a committee meeting on Saturday. The teams and officials were as follows:

Ald. Newton's School: Goal, E McInnes (13); backs, W Wardle (13), J Jebbett (12); half-backs, H Healey (13), G Harwar (11), B Adams (13); forwards, H Powdrill (13), H Bailey (13), A Goodrich (13), A Hawar (13) and C Cotterill (13).

Hazel-street School: Goal, H Stevenson (13); backs, H Burrows (12), L Bentley (12); half-backs, S Ball (13), F Ellis (12), E Woodcock (12); forwards, G Griffiths (13), P Woodcock (captain) (13), T Adcock (12), G Barratt (10), E Gibbons (11).

Referee, Mr W G Jones (Fosse FC); linesmen. Messrs H. Morey (Holy Trinity) and F D Preston (Melbourne-road).

Leicester Daily Post - 5 March 1894

SCHOOLS LEAGUE

HAZEL-STREET (Champions) v REST OF THE LEAGUE

Prior to the Fosse v Rotherham match, the pick of the lads in the Leicester School League disported themselves on the Walnut-street ground. The champions soon proved themselves the better team, and playing a more accurate and telling forward game, led at the interval by a good majority. Gibbons (outside right) opened the scoring for the School, and was followed by Adcock for the opposite wing, Gibbins adding the third point. Just before half-time Marvin notched a point for the scratch team, and when breathing time came the score showed:

HAZEL-STREET, three;
REST, one.

Though the champions had the sun in their eye during the second portion of the game it was evident they had the complete measure of their opponents. After Swinfield had saved smartly from Ellis P Woodcock scored the fourth point, and the fifth was put on by Barratt from a corner kick. Notwithstanding the one-sided state of the score, the game continued to be of a thoroughly and interesting character, and some very pretty pieces of combined and individual football were witnessed, Gibbins, a youngster greatly resembling Carnelly, coming in for special notice. The Rest left wing working energetically once carried the ball down the field and Marvin scored again for them. After this both goals underwent attack, but nothing more was scored, and the game ended:

Rest of the League: F Swinfield (St Martin's), goal; R North (Trinity) and Winters (Melbourne-road), backs; J Dagley (Bridge-street), H Favell (Melbourne-road), and Seville (Medway-street), half-backs; J Cornell (Bridge-street), W Marvin (King Richard's-road), R Wood (Medway-street), Price (Melbourne-road) and Wheeler (Slate-street), forwards.

Hazel-street: W Perkins, goal; Bentley and Burrows, backs; Ball, Ellis and WE Woodcock, half-backs; Gibbins, Barrett, Borman, Woodcock and Adcock, forwards.

Referee: Mr G Jones (Fosse)

At the conclusion of the Fosse match the presentation of the banner, cup and medals to the champions team took place. Mr F Ashwell, president of the Fosse club made the presentation of the banner, which had been presented by the Fosse club, and on behalf of the winners Mr A Jones, a member of the School Board and President of the League, accepted the trophies which he handed over to the captain of the winning team, Bowman - Mr Seddon next gave to each of the players connected with Hazel-street School, a handsome silver medal with a gold centre - A vote of thanks to the president, committee and member of the Fosse Club for their gifts was proposed by Mr J F L Rolleston and carried with acclamation, Messrs. Ashwell and Seddon responding.

Leicester Daily Post - 23 April 1894

LEICESTER SCHOOLS' INTER-DISTRICT

An inter district match was played to enable the executive to choose a team to represent Leicester in the forthcoming game against Sheffield. Several of the lads showed more than average form, the final score being:

DISTRICTS 1 and 2, eight goals;
Ditto 3 and 4, one goal

Leicester Daily Post - 22 January 1894

LEICESTER BOYS v SHEFFIELD BOYS

This match in aid of the fund of the Teachers' Charities, was played on the Walnut-street ground this afternoon. A similar match was played last year when we were badly beaten by seven goals to nil, but at that time the home team were novices at the game, and their defeat was expected. This season however through the instrumentality of Schools' League, each school had its own team, so that the boys chosen to represent Leicester have had an excellent and are now in a much better condition to meet the famous Sheffield club than they were last year, and was confidently hoped the defeat they sustained in 1893 would be avenged.

The weather proved fine but dull, a strong wind blowing down the ground, which was in a very fair condition. There was a large semblance of spectators, mostly composed of boys, who appeared to take great interest in the game. The police band played several selections during the afternoon. In the first half the locals had the benefit of the wind, but nevertheless the game was exceedingly even, each side pressing in turn, so that both goals had narrow escapes. Some of the play was exceptionally smart and several boys gave promise of becoming good footballers. At half-time neither side had scored.

With the wind in their favour, the visitors once began to press in the second half, and the ball was twice put through the players in each instance being apparently several yards off-side. Both points were allowed. During the last quarter of an hour Sheffield showed much better form, their combinations being much superior to that of the home side. They attacked vigorously and added six more goals, the scorers being Simpson (3), Whittaker (3) and Whitaker, while the other goal was obtained from one of the home backs kicking the ball through his own goal. The final result was:

SHEFFIELD, eight goals

LEICESTER, nil.

Leicester: Goal, Cotterill (Ald. Newton's) (Capt.); backs, W Lowe (King Richard-roads) and E Chadwick (Melbourne-road); half-backs, H Greenwood (Granby-road), H Flavell (Melbourne-road) and W Wardle (Ald. Newton's), R Wood (Medway-street), W Borman (Hazel-street), E Barrett (Hazel-street) and Ellis (Hazel-street). Sheffield: W. Green (Dovers-hill Church School), goal; J Housley (St Mary's National) and E Saxby (Walkey National), backs; W Parker (Central Board), A Batty (All Saints' National), and T Marrison (All Saints' National). Half-backs; R Jones (St Mary's National), A Needham (Sharrow-lane Board), J A Simpson (Darnell Board), A Whittaker (Carlise-street Board), W Binney (St Mary's National), forwards
Referee, Mr W J Cooper (Fosse FC)

Leicester Daily Mercury - 6 February 1894