

# LFA Northamptonshire & District Challenge Cup 1885-86

**Winner:** Rushden Wanderers  
**Runner-Up:** Bedford  
**No. of entries:** 10

Arrangements for the inaugural Northamptonshire & District Challenge Cup were made at the Midland Hotel, Wellingborough on Monday 14 September. It was decided that - the cup draw should be so arranged that no club can have a bye, except in the first round. Since there were 10 clubs in the Northamptonshire & District Football Association, to carry out this plan only four clubs would play in the first round, the rest receiving a bye. The four drawn out were Bedford, Market Harborough, Wellingborough Town and Leicester, the first two and the last of two being drawn to play together. The second round was then drawn: - Winners of Market Harborough and Bedford play Wellingborough Britons; Kettering play Northampton; Higham Ferrers play Earl's Barton. The first round has to be played on or before November 14<sup>th</sup>, and the 2nd on or before January 16<sup>th</sup>. It was decided to play the North v South match on September 26<sup>th</sup>, at Rushden, and Mr CB Fisher (Market Harborough), and Mr C Claridge (Rushden), were chosen to get up and captain the teams. - *Northampton Mercury 19 September 1885*

Leicestershire were represented by two clubs - Leicester Town and Market Harborough. The latter were knocked out by Bedford in the first round. Leicester Town became the first Leicester-based club not only to enter an association football competition, but also to win a cup tie, when they overcame Wellingborough away from home. The second-round tie against Bedford was played at Victoria Park in front of approximately 1,000 spectators- probably the largest crowd ever assembled in Leicester at that time to watch a game of association football. It seemed that the home team appeared to be outclassed, but after Oclee had neatly placed the ball through, and thus secured the first point for Bedford, they played up considerably better, and no further score was made during the first half. After the change the Leicester team had the best of the game, and three times narrowly escaped scoring, and the well-contested match resulted narrowly in favour of Bedford.

## Round 1

#	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
1	24.10.1885	Bedford	3	0	Market Harborough	
2	7.11.1885	Wellingborough Town	0	1	Leicester Town Alington	

## Round 2

#	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
3	9.1.1886	Earls Barton		W	Higham Ferrers	
4	9.1.1886	Kettering	W		Northampton	
5	19.12.1885	Leicester Town	0	1	Bedford Oclee	Victoria Park, Leicester. 1,000 spectators.
6	16.1.1886	Rushden Wanderers [Cup Holders] Evans (3) Burgess (2) Chettle AN Other	7 (4)	0 (0)	Wellingborough Britons	At Rushden

## Semi-Finals

#	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
7	20.1.1886	Rushden Wanderers	2	0	Kettering	At Wellingborough
8	27.2.1886	Higham Ferrers Rovers	1	4	Bedford	At Wellingborough. Owing to a contest in adjoining field, between the Grammar School and Rushden, the attendance first was

						<p>somewhat meagre, but soon as that game was finished the number was considerably increased. Several hundreds who had been witnessing the Grammar School match, cleared the fence, and totally oblivious (or apparently so) of the fact that any gate money had to be paid, rushed on to the field and took their position with the other spectators.</p>
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### Final

#	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
9	27.3.1886	Rushden Wanderers	1	0	Bedford	Town Cricket Ground, Wellingborough. Large number of spectators who lined both sides of the field.

### Match Reports

**#1 FOOTBALL —Market Harborough v. Bedford** — One of the first matches in the first round of the contests for the Northamptonshire and District Challenge Cup was played at Bedford on Saturday between the above teams. A strong wind blow across the ground and rain fell incessantly. During the first half of the game, the Harboro' team had the best of it, and the Bedford goal was frequently in danger Soon after half-time, however, Bedford scored their first goal, which they afterwards supplemented with two others. The most noticeable feature of the Harboro' team was the excellent goalkeeping of Mr. B. M. Weldon.

*Nuneaton Advertiser - 31 October 1885*

**#2 LEICESTER TOWN v WELLINGBROUGH TOWN** - The cup tie of the Northamptonshire and District Association Cup (first round) was played off on Saturday on the Wellingborough ground. Taking into consideration the recent heavy rains, the ground, though soft, was in excellent condition. Th clubs were strongly represented, and this induced a good number of spectators to witness one of the most exciting matches played in Wellingborough. Britt won the toss for the home team and took advantage of a slight hill and wind. They pressed the visitors for a short time, and then the Leicester men settled down, causing the game to be very fast. Each goal was alternatively threatened, but the back divisions refused to allow a point to be scored. Just before half-time Alington got well in front, but being tackled, his shot was spoiled; still the goal-keeper was almost beaten. Half-time was called with Leicester round their opponents' goal. On restarting it was evident Wellingborough were getting worn out. It was not, however, till after another 20 minutes' play that Alington succeeded in scoring the only point with a high, fast shot. Wellingborough tried hard to make a tie, but in vain. It would be impossible to mention any players with the exception of Knight (Leicester) and Evans (Wellingborough): L H Tomlin (goal), W G Britt (captain), Rev W W Evans (backs), J Daniel, S Whitehouse, R Marriott (half-backs), W Vickers, S Whitehouse, R Marriott, E Watson, E Page (forwards); umpire, Mr C Topham). Leicester Town (A): G J Randles (goal), A E Wright, D McAlpin (backs), G Bankart, J H Bankart, G A Knight (half-backs), J Wright, W Bates, Rev E H Alington, W H Horner, W E Chadwick (forwards); umpire, Mr W Simms. Referees, Mr W Claridge, Rushden Wanderers. Leicester will now meet Bedford for the second round, and the local club has the choice of grounds.

*Leicester Daily Mercury - 9 November 1885*

**#3?**

**#4?**

### **#5 NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ASSOCIATION CHALLENGE CUP LEICESTER v BEDFORD**

This match in the second round of this competition was played on the Victoria Park, Leicester last Saturday afternoon. But little local interest is generally evinced in Association football, but on the occasion under notice fully a thousand spectators assembled to witness the game. Both clubs were strongly represented, and shortly before three o'clock A G Forth started the ball for Leicester. During the early part of the game

the home team appeared to be overmatched, but after Oclee had neatly placed the ball through, and thus secured the first point for Bedford they played up considerably better, and no further score was made during the first half. After the change the Leicester team had the best of the game, and three times narrowly escaped scoring, and the well-contested match resulted in favour of Bedford by one goal to 0.

Umpire, Mr J H E Fisher; referee, Mr Hayes, Kettering. The teams were:

LEICESTER – G Randle (goal), D McAlpin and K H Pearce (backs), A Smith, G Knight and J H Bankart (half-backs), A G Forth, W Horner, W Chadwick, W Bates and J Wright.

BEDFORD – A J Smith (goal), E G Capon, and G Haywood (backs), A H Taylor (captain) and E Morris (half-backs), F H Ferraday, G Bullock, H W Oclee, J Jones, H Whitshed and C Lichfield.

Sporting Life -23 December 1885

#### **#6 RUSHDEN WANDERERS v WELLINGBOROUGH BRITONS**

This match, in the second round of the Northamptonshire and District Cup Competition, was played at Rushden, on Saturday last, in the presence of good number of spectators. Both teams were well represented, though for Rushden neither Claridge nor Wagstaffe took part the match. The latter, we understand, by rule of the Association, is debarred from playing in cup tie matches, through having played for the London Cup. His loss will be much felt, though if the home team show the same combination subsequent matches as on Saturday will take strong team to lower their colours. Play commenced shortly after three, Burgess kicking off for Rushden from the town end. The ball was gradually worked into the visitors' 25, chiefly by excellent combined play by Burgess and Evans, and about five minutes from the start splendid shot by Burgess resulted in goal for the home team. On resuming, even play for a short time resulted, but again the ball was sent in dangerous proximity to the visitors' goal, and Burgess again sent in a hot shot, but Broughton saved. The ball time was confined to the visitors' 25, but Knight and Yorke took it to the centre, and it was gradually worked into the home 25. Allen, how. ever, staved off danger, and Evans, getting possession, successfully eluded the visitors' backs, and scored goal No. 2 for Rushden. On re-starting, Chettle and Denton did some very pretty passing, the former making good shot for goal, which, however, just failed. By judicious passing by the home forwards a chance was given to Evans to shoot for goal, which he made the best use of, thus scoring goal No. 3 for the home team. On re-starting, Negus, Yorke, and Cobb brought hostilities to the other end of the ground, but the Rushden backs saved, and the ball was soon at the opposite end of the ground. Here Burgess, Denton, and Evans had shots for goal, but were unsuccessful. Shortly afterwards the visitors' forwards took the ball into the home 25, and for the first time the visitors had a shot for goal, the ball going over. Knight and Cobb got possession again soon after, and Button had to save. Rushden added two goals in quick succession—the last from a splendid shot by Chettle. Half-time was directly afterwards called. On resuming, Burgess sent in fine shot, which struck the post. The ball was afterwards taken to the centre, but it remained here for short time only, the ball for the rest of the game being principally in the visitors' 25. Hereabouts, C. Denton, who had received nasty kick, left the field, and the home team had play one short for the rest of the game. Knight and Amos Cobb did their best, and chiefly by their efforts, a corner was given them, but this was of avail. Cox put lot of work hereabouts, and indeed all through the game, and the ball was transferred to the other end the ground. Good passing by the home forwards enabled Chettle shortly afterwards pass to Burgess, and that player again did the needful, example shortly afterwards followed by Evans. Though the home team had shot after shot for goal afterwards, nothing further resulted, and the game ended in favour of Rushden by seven goals to nil.

Teams : Rushden. —Goal, A. Button ; backs, G. Mackness and C. Allen ; half-backs, C Denton, W. Cox, and S. Allen; right wing, F. Chettell and J. T. Denton; left wing, W. B. Evans and F. Maddams; centre, W. Burgess.

Wellingborough. —Goal, W. Broughton ; backs, A. Luck and T. Maycock; half-backs, W. Berrill, H. Forscutt, and W. Dickens; right wing, W. Knight and J. York; left wing, Amos Cobb and Alfred Cobb; centre, H. Negus.

Umpires : H. Clayson (Rushden) and F. H. Tomlin (Wellingborough). Referee: Mr. T. Mattinson.

*Northampton Mercury - 23 January 1886*

#### **#7 NORTHAMPTONSHIRE AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION CHALLENGE CUP**

##### **RUSHDEN v KETTERING**

The semi-final tie in this Challenge Cup competition was decided at Wellingborough, on Saturday, between Rushden Wanderers—the present holders—and Kettering. Great interest always centres these matches, and in anticipation of a close contest, a large number of spectators assembled on the town ground, a special train from Kettering bringing in many supporters of that club. Intense excitement was manifested,

and both teams received loyal support from their partisans. For while Kettering had slightly the advantage, and should have scored several times if the shooting had been better, but after half time superior staying powers of the Rushden men became apparent, and they were ultimately adjudged the victors by two goals to nil. It cannot, however, be said that the losers were disastrously defeated, as play was of a very even character, and for over threequarters of hour it looked as if a draw was inevitable. Kettering was strongly represented, their back division being excellent. The forwards also worked hard, and some fine individual play was witnessed. This would probably have been more effective if passing had been more freely indulged in. Rushden lacked the services of G. R. Wagstaffe and S. Denton, the former man being ineligible in consequence of his having taken part in the competition for the London Challenge Cup. Their forwards showed good combination and exhibited excellent stamina, while Button, in goal, and Mackness, Claridge and Cox were extremely useful among the backs. There is thus every probability of Rushden once more securing the coveted trophy, their opponents in the final having to be either Higham Ferrers or Bedford—whichever may win the match on Saturday next. Dixon won the toss for Kettering, but, as there was hardly any wind, it mattered little which goal was taken. Shortly after three o'clock Burgess set the ball in motion, and Rushden immediately crossed the line into their opponents' quarters. This aggression was not, however, of long duration, for Dixon, securing the leather, went for the enemy's goal, and sent in a somewhat feeble shot, C. Allen and Mackness troubling him a good deal in the attempt. Shortly after Wilson ran in, and placed over the bar instead of under. On the kick-out, Burgess was away, and continued his career until met by Westley, who prevented any mischief. Play was extremely fast, and before long Evans had worked his way into Kettering 25. Here he was met by Dixon, who proved more than his match, and again the struggle took place the centre of the field, Claridge and Cox on the one side, and Panter and Hart on the other, showing prominently. At last, Chettle and Denton gained possession, and the latter put in a beautiful shot, which put Spencer's defensive powers to the test. Wilson and Woolston put different aspect on the game sprinting sharply along the right, and getting in dangerous proximity to the Rushden citadel. C. Allen length managed to give relief, and Burgess, pouncing on the ball effected a pretty run until brought to standstill Tunnicliffe, and Wilson once more became the aggressor. His shot goal was weak, and Cox, putting in a nice bit of dribbling, gave Maddams the opportunity of forcing the play into neutral ground from whence was shortly sent into the Rushden quarters by Platt. The game continued to grow still faster, and the excitement amongst the spectators became commensurately great. A useful combination on the part of Burgess, Deaton, and gave Hart and Westley a lot to do, but Coleman and Maycock, aided by (at half) changed the scene. "Hands" were claimed by Kettering and allowed, but nothing occurred, another attack by Coleman being frustrated by S. Allen and Claridge. Denton and Burgess next became busy in their opponents' ground, and for a few minutes Tunnicliffe and Westley were kept busily employed. Pauter went to their assistance and with pretty kicks, judiciously placed, gave the Kettering forwards once more the desired opportunity of endangering the Rushden goal. Play continued to be of a very give-and-take description up half-time, both teams making tremendous exertions to obtain the advantage, and the ball travelled rapidly from one end another. When ends were changed the rapid pace seemed to have told somewhat on the Kettering men, while their opponents appeared to have been carefully trained. Dixon re-started the leather, and his men at once went for the Rushden posts. Chettle speedily returned and got past the centre before Panter brought him to earth. This was loudly cheered by the on-lookers, the backers of Kettering appearing by the shouts to predominate. The Rushden men now assumed the aggressive, the right wing made a gallant attempt to score. Platt and Hart were, however, on the alert, but were unable to prevent Maddams shooting. Spence punched out well, C. Allen, at half, repeated the attempt, again unsuccessfully. Wilson, Woolston, and Dixon, by good combination, effected a division until stopped by Claridge and Cox, who enabled Chettle to make a useful run, which he ended with a futile shot. The Kettering back division became extremely. Hard pressed and repeated onslaughts were made by the opposing forwards. At last, the long-looked for opportunity occurred. Wilson and Dixon rushed the field, but Mackness passed back to Claridge, who from centre put in beautiful shot, and Evans rushing Spence gave Burgess the chance of scoring the first goal. Great excitement was exhibited, and this was intensified when, less than a minute, Denton shot again, and Evans, putting his running powers into force, obtained a second major point. From the evenness of the game before it was pretty evident that the Kettering men had but little chance of equalising matters, and the sequel proved, for nothing farther was scored. The teams were as follows : Rushden. —A. Button, goal; G. Mackness and C. Allen, backs ; W. Cox, C. Claridge, and S. Allen, half-backs ; W. Burgess, centre ; F. Chettle and J. T. Denton, right wing ; F. Maddams and W. Evans, left wing. Kettering.— W. Spence, goal; G. Tunnicliffe and J. Westley, backs; A. B. Panter, A. E. Platt, and J. Hart, half-backs; T. Maycock and Josh Coleman, right wing; J. Woolston and G. Wilson, left wing ; 0.

Dixon, centre. Mr. T. Mattinson, hon. sec. of the Association, and Mr. H. Bayes, of Kettering, umpired, and the Rev. R. E. Goldingham was referee.

*Northampton Mercury - 27 February 1886*

#### **#8 NORTHAMPTONSHIRE AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION CHALLENGE CUP HIGHAM FERRERS v BEDFORD**

The second match in the semi-final was played Wellingborough on Saturday, between Higham Ferrers Rovers and Bedford, and eventually resulted victory for the latter, who were undoubtedly the better team, by four goals to one. Owing to a contest in adjoining field, between the Grammar School and Rushden, the attendance first was somewhat meagre, but soon as that game was finished the number was considerably increased. Several hundreds who had been witnessing the Grammar School match, cleared the fence, and totally oblivious (or apparently so) of the fact that any gate money had to be paid, rushed on to the field and took their position with the other spectators. At no time was the excitement so great that manifested the previous week, when Rushden met Kettering, and the play throughout was not of first class a character. Both clubs were well represented, but it is only fair to mention that soon after the commencement T. Draper damaged his knee, and was of little service afterwards, while on the other side Jones was not up to his usual form owing to slight indisposition. Taylor, the Bedford captain, was successful with the coin and chose the goal, which would allow the sun to be at the backs his men. About 3.30 the leather was set in motion by a Higham forward, and Parker and Draper immediately assumed the aggressive. A mild shot was mullied by Smith but excellent opportunity of scoring was not taken advantage of by Higham, the shot being placed too high. Jones retaliated and by judicious play contrived to get into the Higham 25, where he was stopped Middleton, who gave Horrell the opportunity of making run. Bullock went to the rescue, but Wright, being on the alert, Coulton returned and compelled a Bedford back to put behind. After the corner hands were claimed Higham and allowed, and for a minute it looked as if they had scored. The ball went between the posts and was touched by someone, but the umpires held that this was not done until had passed through. The Northamptonshire men continued to press their opponents, and playing a fast game, looked like having it all their own way. In short time hands were given off Capon close into goal, and the ball being lifted well into the centre, Cross was enabled to head it through. Spurred on this reverse Bedford worked hard, and quickly attacked their opponents' citadel. C. Draper and Bates were equal to the occasion, and the onslaught was frustrated. Horrell, Parker, and Cross, with good combination, went into Bedford's 25, but A. Taylor and Capon proved to too much for them, and Whitbread going down the field, made Miller put forth all his energies. Being taken back again, Bullock dribbled beautifully down the field, and, shooting, the leather was thrown out by Miller. Whitbread secured, and expeditiously passing to Oclee, that man, notwithstanding that he was hard pressed by Bates, used his opportunity to advantage, and equalised matters. After this, for a time the game was anybody's, and the ball rapidly changed ends. Half - time was called without any material advantage having been gained, and on re-commencing partisans of Higham were cheered up by seeing that team going to work with redoubled vigour. This was, however, only temporary, and Mace and Wright soon had to bring all their kicking and tackling powers into requisition. A fine shot by A. Taylor was prettily turned Mace, and the Higham left broke away only to be stopped Haywood and Morris. Several times Miller was forced to handle, and at last after fisting out a shot by Taylor, the ball rebounded through the posts, off one of the Higham backs. Cheered on this advantage, shortly after, Morris dribbled nicely down the middle, passed to Jones, and he turn transferred to Oclee, who scored third major point. Things now looked bad for the Northamptonshire team, but worse was yet to come. Hands were claimed by Bedford near the centre, and A. Taylor kicking well a scrimmage ensued within a few yards from the posts. Out of this Whitbread was enabled secure a fourth goal for his side. Play was tolerably fast from then to the finish, but Higham was unable to improve matters, and the game at the call of time wa3 left as above stated. The teams were— Higham Ferrers :W. Miller, goal; W. Mace and A. Wright, backs ; C. Bates, C. Draper, and B. Middleton, half-backs ;C. Horrell and Cross, right wing; T. Parker and T. Draper, left wing; and C. Coulton, centre. Bedford : A. J. Smith, goal ; E. 'J. Capon and G. Haywood, backs ; A. H. Taylor, and E. Morris, half-backs ; H. Oclee and R. C. Wilks, centre ; S. Bullock and G. H. Taylor, left wing; E. H. Whitbread and J. B. Jones, right wing. Umpires: Mr. T. Mattinson and Mr. F. H. Toman, and referee Mr. Bayes.

*Northampton Mercury - 6 March 1886*

#### **#9 NORTHAMPTONSHIRE AND DISTRICT CHALLENGE CUP RUSHDEN v. BEDFORD—FINAL TIE**

Once more the Rushden Wanderers have become possessors of this Challenge Cup. After beating Wellingborough Britons by 7 to 0 and Kettering by to 0 they met Bedford who had previously gained victories over Market Harborough by 3 0, Leicester by 1 to 0, and Higham Ferrers by to 1. The deciding match was played on the Town Cricket ground, at Wellingborough, Saturday in the presence of large numbers of spectators, who lined both sides of the field. A fast and intensely exciting game finally resulted victory for the Northamptonshire men one goal to nil. In 1884, Kettering, it will remembered, won the trophy, but last year they were knocked out somewhat early, and in the end Rushden gained easy triumph over Market Harborough, who were in way equal the task assigned them. It was generally anticipated that the fight on Saturday would be tough one, although the chances of the Rushden men were looked upon as being rather the best. Both elevens were confident of success, and the hopes of Bedford were enhanced when it was rumoured that Burgess would be unable to play on account injuries received earlier in the week. This, however, did not prove to be correct, and when the Rushden men came on the field attired in their neat dark red jerseys looked in the very pink of condition, and a typical football team. Button was absent owing to his having strained his arm the match against the Grammar School on Wednesday, but with that exception the club was fully represented. Their opponents, dressed white, were also about the best eleven that could be procured, and, from their appearance, looked like forcing the pace at a great rate. The contest was very fast, and few minutes after the commencement Rushden secured goal, which was the only point secured. For the winners, Burgess was in grand form, and as usual played most unselfishly throughout. His dribbles were excellent and his shooting good. Evans and Freeman extremely fast, and when once they got on the ball it took a lot to catch them. The three halves were very sure, and Mackness and Allen at back did some rare kicking. Jones showed up finely for Bedford, and his long shots from the side are worthy of great commendation. Ferraby might have worked harder, but when he got the leather it was not taken away from him until he had made considerable progress down the ground. Morris and Taylor made two heavy and most useful half backs, while Bullock did a great amount of work. The goal keeping of Smith also calls for special praise. Although some excellent individual form was displayed by the Bedford men, they did not have the combination of who, if anything, showed better the second half, when - the wind was against them Claridge won the toss, and naturally selected the goal that gave his men a great advantage from the wind. Shortly after 3.30 Oclee kicked off for Bedford, and Rushden immediately attacking, gained " hands twice succession close to the goal. Good head work by Taylor afforded Ferraby the opportunity of bringing relief his side, but this was only of a temporary character, once more the leather was taken back. Bollock attempting to kick did not catch the ball fully, and unfortunately cantered close in. This mistake was fatal, Freeman, dashing forward, at once sent between the posts, and scored the only point that was made during the afternoon, within five minutes of the commencement. After being re-started, Jones and Whitbread rushed up a little away, and passing over to Ferraby that man was enabled to invade the Rushden territory. This was soon stopped by Mackness and Burgess effecting a pretty dribble down the centre. Evans put in a long shot, which proved fruitless. Whitbread retaliated with a useful run, and the Bedford men became the aggressors. Wilkes gave Ellis some work do. He was quite equal to it and fisted out, but repeated the attempt, and earned loud applause sending the ball just over the cross-bar, Chettle and Freeman travelling rapidly to the other end gave Burgess the opportunity of forcing a corner. Nothing resulted from the kick, but Burgess getting in close proximity to the posts, danger was only averted by good play on the part of Capon and Haywood, who, with the aid of Bullock and Morrin, sent to Jones. That man speedily rushed down the field, and did not pull up until grounded by Mackness. Extremely fast play followed, two shots were put in by Burgess and Freeman, supported by Cox, and the Bedford back division was kept busily employed until Oclee afforded relief. Claridge - stopped him, and an attack by Jones, and a counter-attack bread by Denton, were the next most features. Whitbread striving to get away, Allen went for him and frustrated his efforts. Again play was transferred to the Bedford 25 and again Ferraby, Wilkes and Jones changed the venue. A foul was claimed by Bedford and allowed near to the goal, and for a minute or two they looked to have a chance of scoring, but Claridge, getting the ball on his head, butted out, and Evans, bringing his running powers into requisition, sprinted down the field at great pace. Once more the Bedford forwards made a determined rush, and were within an ace of equalising matters. This was not to be, however, and Chettle, assisted by his colleague Freeman speedily transferred play into their opponents' and the latter made Smith show his excellent defensive ability. Taylor now dribbled finely down the centre, but his efforts were unavailing, as Mackness stopped him, and Maddams went back with the leather. Two corners for Rushden succeeded one another, and shots by Maddams and Claridge- both difficult to stop—were well sent out by Smith. third corner" resulted in consequence, and Wilkes, Ferraby, and Taylor transferred the game into neutral ground. Half-time was then gladly welcomed by Bedford men,

and with only one goal against them their chances did not look at all good. On re-starting, however, the team pulled themselves together, and, although not attacking much, showed better form than in the first portion. The leather in this half travelled rapidly from end to end, and some fine play was witnessed, notwithstanding the fact that it was necessarily slower. The Rushden forwards at once went into the Bedford territory, but Jones and retaliated, and Oclee shot slightly wide of the post. Morris now made a useful dribble, which was shanked by Clarridge collaring the man and Allen taking the kick. In spite of this Ferraby renewed the attack, and sent the ball just over the cross-bar. Freeman running down his wing allowed Chettle centre beautifully, but their side could get forward enough Morris had kicked off play. Allen and Mackness had more given them to do, and Burgess on one side and Jones and Oclee on the other hand, showed up well. A corner was obtained by Bedford, but Burgess rushing out dribbled the length of field, and secured a like advantage at the other end. This was succeeded by another, but Ferraby and Wilkes to the rescue took the leather behind the Rushden goal line, it touching one of the defenders in doing so. This corner kick, like its predecessors, was not improved upon, but Morris put fine shot which was as finely headed out. Maddams and Evans invaded the Bedford ground until Bullock proving to nibble for them, passed to Whitbread and Jones, who narrowly missed the "sticks." For few minutes the Rushden men were penned in, and but for beautiful bit of play on the part of Ellis, Bedford, would have saved defeat. This was not to be, however, and "hands" being claimed and allowed, relief was thus afforded. Several unsuccessful shots were put by both sides, and at call of time, Bedford left the field defeated though not disgraced. The teams were Rushden: F Ellis, goal; Mackness and S. Allen, backs; C. Claridge, C. Denton, half-backs; W. Burgess, centre; F. Chettle and W. Freeman, right wing; W. B. Evans and F. Maddams, left wing. Bedford: A. J. Smith, goal E. G. Capon and G. Haywood, backs; E. Morris, A. H. Taylor and S. Bullock, halfbacks; H. W. Oclee, centre ; E. H. Whitbread and J. Jones, R.C. Wilkes, and F. H. Ferraby, left wing.— Umpires. Mr. T. Mattinson and Mr. H. Bayes Referee, J. Holleyhead, Burton-on-Trent.

*Northampton Mercury - 27 March 1886*