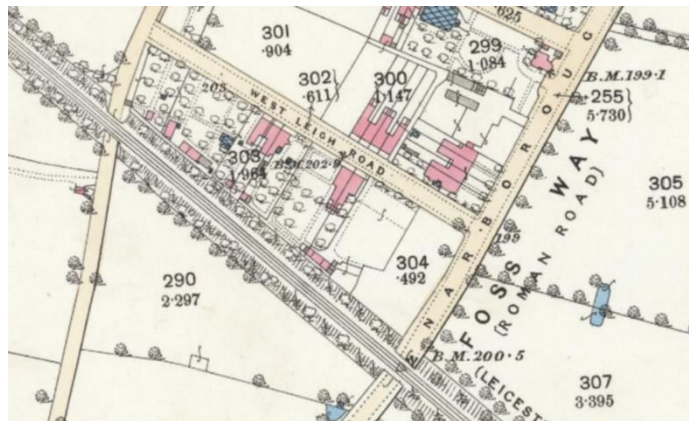


~1884-85~

Leicester Fosse Football Club was formed during the spring of 1884, by a number of Old Wyggestonians and members of a bible class run by Reverend Llewellyn Parsons at the now demolished Emmanuel Church in New Parks Street. *Queen Victoria was in the 47th year of her glorious reign, Gladstone was at the zenith of his political power, and although manifold troubles beset our great empire beyond the seas, England was a green and pleasant land slumbering in the lap of plenty* [From Fosse to City – Leicester Mail]. The club's first meeting took place in a shed in the garden of 2 Fosse Road Central. The house which belonged to William Ashby who had a boot and shoe factory near Gwendolen Road, is still there, but not the shed. It is on the corner of Fosse Road Central and King Richards Road. Seventeen-year Frank Gardner was elected as club secretary and treasurer of the Fosse. Since they resided principally in the West End of the town and in the neighbourhood of the old Roman Fosse Road, they decided on a club name possessing local significance and were persuaded by Frank Gardner, who argued that as *"The fosse was known throughout the length and breadth of the land, so should the new football club be known in the future"*. The ancient and historical neighbourhood also being responsible, not only for the formal name of the club, but also for the sobriquet of "Ancients" and "Fossils", which the leading sports writers of the town applied to its members. The driving force behind the club, Gardner came up with the name Leicester Fosse, was instrumental in forming the Leicestershire Football Association in 1887, bought in the era of fee paying spectators, helped sign the clubs first professional player as well as playing in the team that won the Leicestershire Senior Cup in 1890. By the time his 8-year stint as secretary had ended, Leicester Fosse were playing Midland League, had 12 professional players and had moved Walnut Street (Filbert Street). It can be safely said that without Frank Gardner there would not be Leicester City FC.

When the Fosse were formed there were very few Association Football clubs in Leicester, which was a Rugby stronghold. This can be readily illustrated by the fact that when the Midland Railway Company organised a trip from Leicester to Derby for the English Challenge Cup semi-final between Queens Park and Blackburn Olympic, there was hardly sufficient supporters to fill a single carriage. However, in the county towns of Loughborough, Coalville, Sheepshed and Ashby football flourished, presumably due the close proximity of Nottingham a stronghold of Association /Sheffield Rules game.

Leicester Fosse's first game on 1 November 1884 against Syston Fosse was played on a field close to where the Midland Railway's Leicester to Burton line crossed, what is now Fosse Road South, where it meets West Leigh Road. The venue was close to where most of the team, all aged around 16-17 lived. Members paid nine pence (9d) each towards a ball and the same amount as subscriptions. A carpenter was paid 14s for a set of roughly-finished goals and side posts that were gaily decorated in amber and black colours. Fosse led by captain W Johnstone wore black jerseys with a blue diagonal sash. This has since been confirmed



in a letter Leicester City archivist John Hutchinson came across several years ago written by a lady called Gillian Ashby, granddaughter of Arthur Douglas-Ashby, one of the members of that first Fosse team. Her grandmother kept Arthur's shirt from that first game, using it as a duster for 40 years! Fosse won the match 5-0 with goals from Hilton Johnson (2), Arthur West (2) and Sam Dingley. Although the match was not reported in Leicester newspapers, the Melton Mercury Oakham and Uppingham News covered the game.

Several historical pieces written about Fosse's first-ever game state the game against Syston Fosse was a 12-a-side affair. This information has been repeated in various historical pieces written about the game, but the newspaper report clearly indicates that it was, in fact, an 11 a side game. The published positions of the players

illustrate the influence of rugby on team formation and tactics. It is likely that a rope was stretched between the goalposts which acted as a cross bar. Although crossbars were sanctioned by the Football Association in 1875, a print showing play in the 1887 FA Cup final shows that crossbars were yet to be generally adopted.

What do we know about the first Leicester Fosse side? Research undertaken by John Hutchinson, from a range of online sources, we know that goalkeeper E. Smith and left winger Dingley both lived on Norfolk Street, just behind Fosse Road. Both of these houses have been demolished as has the house on nearby Noble Street, where half-back F. Burdett lived. West, the son of a boot and shoe manufacturer and A. Ashby, whose garden shed was where the Club was born, lived on Fosse Road itself, as did the three Johnson brothers whose father was the well-known women's and children's footwear manufacturer Joseph Johnson, who served as the club's treasurer until he resigned due to "failing health" in 1892. Joseph "provided funds for the club's requirements". Forwards F. Bromwich and B. Lewitt, two more of the original team, lived on King Richard's Road, close to its junction with Fosse Road. Half-back Frank Gardner lived on Hinckley Road. The house has been demolished and is now the site of the Chef and Spice Restaurant. In addition to playing in Fosse's first match, Frank also held the vital post of Secretary for eight years. In this role he guided the Club through its crucial formative years, taking it from a small Club playing friendly games on Victoria Park to a Club on the verge of joining the Football League.

The following week, Fosse played their second game, a 1-1 draw against Wyggeston School played on Victoria Park, which became their home ground after the Fosse Road field was taken over for road development and a building scheme. Used as a racecourse from 1806 to 1883, Victoria Park formally opened as a public park in 1882 and was laid out in 1883 with wide expanses of grass, crossed by mainly straight paths lined with trees, small play areas and ornamental shrubbery, and with trees along the outer boundaries. Most of the mature trees were planted between 1884 and 1904. In 1887 the park was enclosed by ornamental iron railings, which mostly brought to an end the practice of grazing animals, although horses, cows, and sheep were regularly seen until the early 1890s. The Italianate style racecourse grandstand, located where the Granville Road public car park currently stands at the southern end of Regent Road, which could hold 800 spectators, became a changing pavilion for cricket, rugby union and football teams. Sadly, it was badly damaged during World War II by a landmine and had to be demolished.

The Fosse shared the park with a host of other sporting clubs. Victoria Park became the Fosse's home ground for the next three seasons (1884-1887). It was perhaps in keeping with Leicester's sporting traditions that Victoria Park played an early part in the history of the Fosse, since it was here that the great W. G. Grace "smote lusty sixes", Fred Archer rode many winners, and heavyweight champion Jem Mace fought in a boxing booth. Up to 2,000 spectators would congregate on Victoria Park on a Saturday afternoon to watch a variety of games of both football codes. Although it has to be said that the vast majority watched rugby, with football attracting just a handful of loyal spectators.

Leicester Fosse used the West Bridge Coffee House, and later the East Gate Coffee House overlooking the clock tower in the centre of Leicester for team selection and tactics.

The list of friendlies included encounters against Mill Hill House, St Marys, Syston St Peters, and Melbourne House. The two games against Syston St Peters are thought to have been 12-a-side and a further game. In January 1885 Fosse made the journey to Syston for the return match against Syston Fosse. Rain stopped play when the Fosse were winning 1-0. On the park Fosse beat St Marys in late January. After losing 1-0 to Wyggeston Boys School in March it was discovered that the school team was composed of thirteen players. To show their keenness and versatility they agreed to play Trinity under rugby rules. A man short they won the day. Johnson, West and Smith scored tries two of which Johnson converted. This was the one and only ruggie game the Fosse ever played.

A cumulative record for the 1884-5 season of played 15, won 8, drawn 4 and lost 3, indicates that the Fosse played an additional untraced game. It maybe that the game was arranged and not played or that it was played but not reported. The local press had very little time or space for the "kicking game". If the match was reported, then it was brief and then not until the following Thursday or Saturday. Nevertheless, newspaper reports have been found for more than half of Fosse's games played in their inaugural season.

At the end of the season, the new club made a surplus of 1 shilling and tuppence. The Leicester Chronicle reported that the Fosse beat Mill Hill House in a cricket match staged at Victoria Park in July 1885, by 54 to 47 runs.



Pavilion, Victoria Park.

**FOSSE FOOTBALL CLUB
REPORT – Season 1884-5**

Secretary and Treasurer: F. Gardner

Officers Captain: W JOHNSON

Committee: A. WEST, F.S. ASHBY, F. BROWMWICH

Matches played: 15. Won 8. Lost 3. Drawn 4.

FINANCIAL REPORT

23 Members (5 Honorary, 18 Playing)

RECEIPTS	£	s	d	EXPENDITURE	£	s	d
By subscriptions	1	14	3	To one new ball	0	9	6
				" Goal and side Posts	0	14	0
				" Flags, paint and screws	0	1	8
				" One new bladder	0	2	0
				"Repairing old ball, bladder and posts	0	2	6
				"Blowing up ball five times	0	1	3
				" Stationery and stamps	0	0	10
				"Sundries (boy laces and dubbing)	0	0	8
				Balance in hand	0	1	10
	<u>1</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>3</u>		<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>10</u>

Leicester Fosse 1884-85

#	Date	Opposition	Result	Score	Scorers	Match Details
1	01.11.1884	Syston Fosse (Fosse Rd)	W	5-0	H Johnson (2) West (2), Dingley	
2	08.11.1884	Wyggeston Boys School (VP)	D	1-1 (0-1)	AN Other/ W Smith	
3	15.11.1884	Mill Hill House (VP)	L	1-2 (0-1)	Johnson/ Marriott (2)	
4	22.11.1884	Syston St Peters (A)	W	2-1 (0-1)	An Other W Johnson/ Keeling	
5	29.11.1884	Mill Hill House (VP)	D	0-0		
6	06.12.1884	Belgrave 2 nd Team (A)	L	0-2	/ A Smith G Walton	
7	03.01.1885	Melbourne Hall	W	2-0	West Lewitt	
8	10.01.1885	Syston Fosse (A)	W	1-0	Johnson	Abandoned - rain
9	27.01.1885	St Mary's (VP)	W	1-0	Johnson	
10	31.01.1885	Mill Hill House (VP)	D	1-1		
11	07.02.1885	Syston St Peters (VP)	W	2-0	H Johnson	

					Coleman	
12	07.03.1885	Wyggeston Boys School (VP)	L	0-1		It was discovered at half-time that he the school team had fielded 13 players.
13	14.03.1885	Mill Hill House (VP)	W	2-0 (2-0)	A West H Johnson	
14	21.03.1885	St Mary's (VP)	W	1-0		

Leicester Fosse 1884-85

			Venue	E Smith	F Burdett	E Johnson	W Johnson	F Gardner	H Johnson	B Lewitt	A West	F Bromwich	A Ashby	S Dingley	J Johnson	F S Ashby	T Cope	C Burdett	R Dingley	W G Coleman	A Faulkner	E John
1	01.11.1884	Syston Fosse	FR	G	TQB	HB	HB	HB	RW	RW	C	C	LW	LW								
2	08.11.1884	Wyggeston Sch	VP	G	TQB	HB	HB	F	F	F	F	F			HB	F						
3	15.11.1884	Mill Hill House	VP	G	TQB	HB	RW	TQB	HB		C	LW	RW	RW	HB							
4	22.11.1884	Syston St Peters ^b	A	G	TQB	HB	HB	HB	C	RW	C			LW			LW	RW	LW			
5	29.11.1884	Mill Hill House	VP	G	HB	F	TQB	F	HB	F	F	F	F		HB							
6	06.12.1884	Belgrave	A	G	HB	F	B	HB	HB	F	F		F		F			F				
7	03.01.1885	Melbourne Hall	VP	G	TQB		TQB		HB	F	F	F			F						F	F
8	10.01.1885	Syston Fosse	A	G	TQB	F	TQB	HB	HB		F				F		F		F			
9	24.01.1885	St Marys	VP	G	HB	R	TQB		HB	R	HB		L		L		C			C		
10	31.01.1885	Mill Hill House	VP	G	TQB	F	TQB	HB	HB	F	F		F		F		F					
11	07.02.1885	Syston St Peters ^b	VP	G	TQB	RW	B	HB	HB		C				LW	LW	C		C	RW		
12	07.03.1885	Wyggeston School	VP		TQB	F	HB	HB	HB	F	F		F		F		G			F		
13	14.03.1885	Mill Hill House ^c	VP	G	TQB		HB	HB	HB	F	F				F					F		
14	21.03.1885	St Marys (VP)	VP	G	TQB	F	HB	HB	HB	F	F		F		F				F			

Notes:

A – away, FR – Fosse Road, VP – Victoria Park

- The name of one player cannot be deciphered from a Leicester Fosse report. No positions are given.
- 12-a-side game
- The name if two players cannot be identified from newspaper reports

Positions

- B Back
 C Centre
 F Forward
 G Goalkeeper
 HB Half-back
 L Left
 R Right
 TQB Three Quarter-back

Match Reports

#1 FOSSE (LEICESTER) v. SYSTON FOSSE – This match was played, under Association rules on Saturday, on the private ground of the Fosse F.C. Syston won the toss and chose to play downhill. The first half of the game the play was pretty even, but the home team had the best of it, some near shots for goal being made, and before half-time A West put the ball through for the Fosse F.C. After half-time the Fosse played up well again, and despite the resistance of the Fosse backs, west again scored. Some sharp play followed the kick-off, S Dingley scoring another goal for the home team. Soon after H Johnson, ably assisted by the Fosse forwards, scored a goal. Afterwards several more shots were made but did not succeed; until just before time H Johnson sent the ball through the Syston goal once more, leaving the Fosse victorious by five goals to nil. For the Syston team, T S Rowley, A E Simpson, F Belshaw and Clarke rendered good service. While H Johnson, A West and Lewitt in the forwards, and W and E Johnson in the backs showed up well for the Fosse. Sides: Fosse: E Smith (goal), F Burdett (three-quarters-back); E Johnson, W Johnson, F Gardner (half-backs); forwards, H Johnson, Lewitt (right wing), A West, F Bromwich (centre), A Ashby, S Dingley (left wing). – Syston Fosse: T S Rowley, A E Simpson, F Belshaw, W Belshaw, Clarke, Walton, C Burdett, J Toone, B Toone, F Noon and J Plant.

Melton Mowbray Mercury and Oakham and Uppingham News –6 November 1884

#2 FOSSE v. WYGGESTON – This match was played on Victoria Park on Saturday. The first half the Fosse had the advantage of a strong wind, and the play was mostly in the Wyggeston territory, with the exception one or two good rushes made by their forwards. However, before half-time the Fosse forward put the ball through their opponent's goal. After changing ends, the Wyggestonians, having the advantage of the wind, kept the ball rather dangerously near the Fosse goal; but by the good play of the Fosse backs the invaders were unable to score; until by good play by W. Smith kicked a goal for the Wyggeston. After kick-off the Fosse forwards made several good rushes, but the wind against them they were unsuccessful. At the of call time the game was drawn, each side scoring a goal. For the Wyggeston, A. S. Pearce, W. Smith, J. Staines and Harrapp, played well. For the Fosse, A. West, H. Johnson, Bromwich, W. and J. Johnson rendered good service. Sides: Wyggeston: A.S. Pearce (captain), A.W. Staines, J. Staines, . Curtis, W. Smith, C. Smith, J. Harrapp, Clarke, Turner, Arnall and Pinching – Fosse: E. Smith (goal), F. Burdett (three-quarters back), E. Johnson, W. Johnson (captain, J. Johnson (half-backs); forwards, F. Burdett, H. Johnson, A. West, F. Bromwich, F.S Ashby and F. Gardner.

Leicester Chronicle: Saturday 15 November 1884

#3 FOSSE v. MILL HILL HOUSE - This match was played on the Racecourse on Saturday, and after a well contested game Mill Hill House won by two goals to one. The first half of the play was very even until just before half time, when from a scrimmage in front of the Fosse goal Marriott scored for the Mill Hill House. After changing ends both sides showed good form, and Marriott scored again. Soon afterwards W. Johnson, backed up by the Fosse forwards, ran the ball up the field, and scored for his side. But for the play of Davis and F. Whitworth the Fosse would no doubt have added to their score. Sides: Mill Hill House: Tyler (captain), F. McAlpin, Davis, H. Clifford, Nuttall, Sturgess, C. McAlpin, Pilsbury, F. Thornton, Marriott, and Brown. Fosse: E. Smith (goal), F. Burdett, F. Gardner (three-quarter backs), E. Johnston, J. Johnson, H. Johnson (half-backs), W. Johnson (captain), A. Ashby(right wing), A. West (centre), S. Dingley, and F. Bromwich) (left wing).

Leicester Chronicle – 22 November 1884

#4 FOSSE v. SYSTON ST. PETER'S – This match was played at Syston on Saturday and resulted in a well-earned victory for the Fosse by two goals to one. Both sides did their utmost, and before half-time Keeling scored for the home team. After changing ends the Fosse played up even better, and the ball scrimmaged through by their forwards. Soon after W. Johnson, by a splendid shot, again added to the score. Keeling, Lewin, Frisby, and Potter played well for Syston, while W. and E. Johnson, A. West, and H. Johnson rendered good service for the Fosse. Sides: - Fosse: E. Smith (goal), F. Burdett (three-quarter-back), E. Johnson, W. Johnson (captain), F. Gardner (half-backs), Lewitt, . Burdett (right wing), A. West, H. Johnson (centre), S. Dingley, R. Dingley, and T. Cope (left wing) (forwards). Syston: T. Frisby (captain), Kirk, Brown, E. Potter, J.T. Potter, Keeling, Hall, Hubbard, Lewin, Walton, Squires and Sarson.

Melton Mowbray and Oakham and Uppingham News – 27 November 1884

#5 FOSSE v MILL-HILL HOUSE - This match was played on the Racecourse on Saturday, and resulted in a draw, neither side having scored. Some good play was shown, the long-kicking of Whitworth being especially good. The game was well-contested and exciting throughout, and on the call of time was left stated. Sides:- Fosse: E Smith

(goal), W Johnson (captain, three-quarter back), F Burdett, J Johnson, H Johnson (half-backs); forwards, B Lewitt, E Johnson (right wing), A West, F Bromwich (centre), F S Ashby and F Gardner (left wing). Mill-hill House: F Tyler (captain), H Clifford, F Whitworth, Davis, N Donisthorpe, H Donisthorpe, Nuttall, Pilsbury, McAlpin, Browne and F Thornton.

Leicester Daily Mercury - 2 December 1884

#6 BELGRAVE (2ND TEAM) v. FOSSE-ROAD F.C. - A match between these teams was played at Belgrave on Saturday. In the first half of the game a goal was kicked for Belgrave by A. Smith, and after change of ends another was obtained by G. Walton. Just before the call of time the home team again put the ball between the posts, but the visitors claimed a foul and the goal was not allowed. The visitors not being able to score, won by two goals to nil. Sides: Fosse-road: E. Smith (goal), W. Johnson, captain (back), F. Burdett, F. Gardner, H. Johnson (half-backs), A. Lewitt, A. Ashby, F.S. Ashby, E. Johnson, A. West and C. Burdett (forwards). Belgrave: W. Pole (goal), J. Edgley, S. Pole (backs), F.A. Angrave, W. Harris, W. Garner, A. Smith, G. Graves, G. Walton, T. Plimmer (captain), and H. Hobson (forwards).

Leicester Chronicle - 13 December 1884

FOSSE v MELBOURNE HALL - This match was played on the Victoria Park on Saturday. Melbourne Hall kicked off, but the ball was soon brought into their ground, most of the play being there throughout the game; and before half-time the Fosse were rewarded by West scoring a goal for them. On the ball being restarted the Melbourne Hall made one or two rushes towards their opponents' goal, but the Fosse backs were on the alert, and frustrated their efforts, while their forwards, playing well together, were again successful, Lewitt scoring the second goal. Soon after time was called, leaving the Fosse victorious by two goals to nil. Fosse:- E. Smith (goals), W. Johnson (captain), F. Burdett (three-quarter backs), F. Gardner, H. Johnson (half-backs), J. Johnson, F. Bromwich, A. West, A. Faulkner, E. Johnson, and B. Lewitt (forwards)

Leicester Daily Mercury - 5 January 1885

#8 FOSSE v SYSTON FOSSE - This match was played at Syston on Saturday in very unfavourable weather. Syston kicked off, but the ball was soon returned to their territory, where the play mostly was. Notwithstanding, the Syston forwards made a rush or two towards the visitors' goal, and Belshaw put in a good shot, which was well thrown out by Smith. The Fosse forwards now tried hard to score, several good shots being made, and J. Johnson followed up a good run by sending the ball through the posts. Soon after the game had to be stopped, owing to rain, leaving the Fosse victorious by one goal to none. Fosse:- E. Smith (goal), W. Johnson (captain), F. Burdett (three-quarter-backs), H. Johnson, F. Gardner (half-backs), E. Johnson, F. Burdett, jun., J. Johnson, A. West, R. Dingley and T. Cope, forwards.

Leicester Chronicle - 17 January 1885

#9 FOSSE v ST MARY'S - This match was played on the Racecourse on Saturday. The Fosse had the best of the game throughout, most of the play being on the St Mary's territory, and from a free kick near their goal, A. Johnson had the honour of scoring for the Fosse. Notwithstanding this, the St Mary's forwards made several plucky rushes, but the good play of the Fosse backs rendered their efforts unsuccessful. No other score was made, leaving the Fosse victorious by one goal to nil. Sides - Fosse: E. Smith (goal), W. Johnson, captain (three-quarter back); F. Burdett, H. Johnson, A. West (half-backs); forwards, B. Lewitt, E. Johnson (right), W. G. Coleman, T. Cope (centre), J. Johnson and A. Ashby (left). St Mary's: Coxedge, Robinson, (three-quarter backs); Day, Tanner (half-backs); Jones, Wood, Aldwinkle, Richardson, Bentley, Hollies, and Percival (forwards).

Leicester Daily Mercury -27 January 1885

#10 FOSSE v MILL HILL HOUSE - This match was played on the Racecourse on Saturday in very unpleasant weather, as it rained hard a great part of the time. The School kicked off against a slight wind, which carried the ball time after time out of ground. Several dangerous shots were made, but by half-time neither had any advantage. After re-starting the Fosse forwards pulled themselves together more, J Johnson in particular playing well. He worked the ball up the field in good style, and passed to Lewitt, who sent it well between the posts. The School, thus put on their mettle, tried hard to equalise matters. The forwards ran the ball down the ground, and one of them put in a shot, which struck the tape and passed under. Soon after time was called, leaving the game drawn, each side scoring a goal. Sides: - Fosse: E. Smith (goal), W. Johnson (captain), F. Burdett (three-quarter backs), H. Johnson, F. Gardner (half-backs), E. Johnson, B. Lewitt, A. West, T. Cope, J Johnson and S.

Ashby(forwards). Mill Hill House: Tyler (captain), F Whitworth, F Davis, N Donisthorpe, H Donisthorpe, H Clifford, Browne, Thorton, Pilsbury, McAlpin, and Sturgess.

Leicester Daily Mercury - 3 February 1885

#11 FOSSE v. SYSTON ST PETER'S: This football match was it played on the Race Course on Saturday. Syston kicked off against a strong wind, but the ball was at once returned to their ground, where all the play was the first half. From a well-placed free kick H. Johnson scored the first goal for the Fosse. The Syston backs had a warm time of it throughout, and though they worked hard the Fosse scored again, Coleman putting in the successful shot. At half time Syston had the wind, and play was more even, but when time was called no alteration had been made in the score, and the first one by two goals to nothing. – Fosse: : E. Smith (goal), F. Burdett (three quarter back), W. Johnson, captain (back), F. Gardner, H. Johnson (half-backs); forwards, F.S. Ashby, J. Johnson (left), A. West, R. Dingley, T. Cope(centre), W.G. Coleman and E. Johnson (right).

Leicester Journal – 13 February 1885

#12 FOSSE v WYGGESTON BOYS' SCHOOL – Played on the Victoria Park on Saturday last, the School kicked off against the wind, but the ball was on brought back into their ground. The School backs had plenty of work to do, Austin also having to handle the ball repeatedly to save his charge. Just before half-time it was discovered that the School were playing 13 men, which in a great measure account for the Fosse not scoring. On re-starting both sides made good runs, but with the help of the wind and ground, and the fine kicking of Whitworth at back, the School managed to send the ball through. No further score was made, leaving the School winners by one goal to nil. Fosse: T. Cope (goal), F. Burdett (three-quarter back), H. Johnson, W. Johnson (captain), F. Gardner (half-backs), S. Ashby, J Johnson, A. West, W Coleman, B. Lewitt and E. Johnson (forwards). Wyggeston School: T. Austin (goal), A. Pearce, F. Whitworth (three-quarter-backs), Staines, Curtis (half-backs), W. Smith, Robinson Burdett, Mills, Starkey and Arnall (forwards).

Leicester Daily Mercury – 10 March 1885

#13 FOSSE v MILL HILL HOUSE – This match was played on the Victoria Park on Saturday, and after a well-contested game resulted in a win for the Fosse by two goals to nil. The Fosse kicked off with a very slight wind, and play was mostly in the school ground during the first half. A. West made a dashing run up the field, and put in a good shot, which secured the first goal for the Fosse. Soon afterwards a free kick was claimed by the Fosse almost in the school goal. A general scrimmage ensued and H Johnson scored the second goal for his side. After half-time Mill Hill House tried hard to equalise matters, but were unsuccessful. Whitworth, at the back, was a great help to his side, while A. West, in the forwards, and W. and H. Johnson, the backs, worked hard for their side. The teams were:- Fosse: E. Smith (goal), F. Burdett (three-quarter back), H. Johnson, W. Johnson (captain), F. Gardner (half-backs), E. Johnson. E. Lewitt, A. West, W. G. Coleman, J. Johnson, and A. Ashby (forwards). Mill Hill Houe: Pilsbury (goal), F. Whitworth, F. Davis, N. Donisthorpe (backs), Tyler (captain), H. Clifford, McAlpin, Thornton, Harris, Sturgess and Browne (forwards).

Leicester Daily Mercury – 17 March 1885

#14 FOSSE v ST MARY'S – This football match was played on the Victoria Park on Saturday last. The St Mary's won the toss, and chose to play with the wind, which was blowing strongly. The Fosse consequently kicked off, but though the St Mary's had the advantage above stated the good play of their opponents prevented them from scoring. After changing ends the St Mary's were put on the defensive, all the play being near their goal, with the exception of a run up the field, by on or two of their forwards. A number of shots at goal were made by the Fosse, but they were unsuccessful until about five minutes before time when S Ashby sent the ball through for them. Time was called soon afterwards. Fosse: E. Smith (goal), F. Burdett (three-quarter back), H. Johnson, W. Johnson (captain), F. Gardner (half-backs), H. Lewitt, E Johnson, A. West, W. G. Coleman, J. Johnson and S. Ashby (forwards). St Mary's: J. Flavel (goal), W. Wilksinson (captain), F. Percival, Sampson (backs), E. Percival, Aldwinkle, Benley, Wood, H. Boulds, A. Jebbett and Mason (forwards)

Leicester Daily Mercury – 24 March 1885