

~1886-87~

Leicester Fosse F.C. by now had got over its teething stage, indeed membership had grown to an extent that it became possible to fix up a few fixtures for a reserve team. William Johnson was elected club captain for the third consecutive season. The winter of 1886-87, with a continuous deep biting frost stopped play for many weeks. There were the first signs that a little more interest was being taken in the Association game, mainly because of the glamour of the English Challenge Cup competition. However, the Leicester Rugby Club was still the dominant attraction in the county town with a strong healthy following, the encounter against Coventry was witnessed by a crowd of over 5,000.

On 23 October 1886 the Fosse went to Barwell and on a ground which was very uneven and covered in long grass, they made a draw, West scoring for the away side. The team at this stage was E Smith, A Cooper, F Burdett – W Johnson, Simpson, F Gardner – W Johnson, G C Smith, A West, J Johnson, E Johnson - the Johnson family still very much in evidence. They next week they played Leicester Wanderers, a strong side of repute, comprised mainly from Stafford Rangers. Fosse held their own in a keen game until they went down to 10-men after right winger Hassall received severe kick to the knee. Wanderers then scored a couple of goals to win the game.

The first-ever Leicester Fosse reserve team match was played on 6 November 1886 on Victoria Park, against Wyggeston School, which they comfortably won 5-0. On the same day the first team travelled to Coalville. The players blamed the extreme length and breadth of the pitch for not scoring! Just before time was called the game was abandoned with the score at 0-0 after the Coalville team walked off the field of play before time was called following a disagreement over an umpiring decision. Fosse then went on to beat Wyggeston School Present and Present 5-0 and Belgrave 2-0. Fosse arrived at Belgrave one man short and had to play a substitute from the spectators.

In late January 1887, Wigston did not arrive until at Victoria Park until 4:00pm. Given that it would have been almost dark before the game was even kicked off, it is hard to believe that the game was played. But played it was, with the Fosse winning handsomely, 6-0.

The next game was the first-ever against Loughborough, the forerunner of many exciting battles between the clubs, who would become arch-rivals. Fosse were beaten 4-1 at the Athletic Ground, Loughborough and in the reverse fixture, they gained revenge, winning 3-0, Knight scoring a hat-trick.

Fosse dispatched Barwell 2-0 on the park on 20 February 1887. On the following Saturday the Fosse, minus several of their best men played their first match outside of the county, when they faced Notts St Saviour's, losing 3-0. St Saviour's were by far the strongest team the Fosse had faced to date. The splendid passing of the Notts forwards, completely baffled the Fosse half-backs. Although defeated the local press were suitably impressed.

At the Annual General Meeting, held in the Eastghates Coffee House, Church Gate corner, Frank Gardner, the secretary announced that receipts increased to £8 14 s 4d against an expenditure of \$6 8s 6 ½ d, giving a credit balance of 32 s 9 ½ d. Membership was nearing fifty and the attractive football of the past season had been rewarded with 13 victories and three draws from 20 matches played [*The Life and Times of Leicester Fosse 1884-1915 – Finney*]. It is worth noting that this is at odds with the 1893 *Leicester Fosse FC: its Rise and Progress*, which states that they played 21 matches, winning 13, losing 5 and drawing 3, scoring 56 goals and conceding just 14. Foxes and Fossils list 19 games; the Notts St Saviour's score incorrectly given as a draw both in this and the Finney history of the Fosse. No mention is made of Fosse "2nd Team" fixtures in any of the aforementioned texts. Finally, it is also worth noting that the match against St Matthews which the Fosse lost, listed below as a 2nd team fixture, on account of the fact that the first team played against Belgrave on the same day, may account for the anomaly highlighted.

Leicester Fosse 1886-87

#	Date	Opposition	Result	Score	Scorers	Match Details
1	16.10.1886	Leicester Association (VP)	W	2-1	Bates Simpson	Fosse goalkeeper was "encumbered with a large overcoat" – his restricted movement led to the Association scoring the first goal.
2	23.10.1886	Barwell (A)	D	1-1	West	Ground was not in first-class condition - uneven and having a long grass over a great part of it.
3	30.10.1886	Leicester Wanderers (VP)	L	0-2 (0-0)		The Wanderers were composed principally of players from the famous Staffordshire Rangers. Fosse lost Hassel due to a knee injury in the first half and played the remainder of the game with 10 men.
4	06.11.1886	Coalville (A)	D	0-0		The ground was in bad condition, pools of water being visible in various parts of the field. The stopped a few minutes earlier than was arranged owing to the Coalville disagreeing with the umpire's decision of a foul in front of goal. One of the reasons given by Fosse for not scoring was the extreme length and breadth of the field.`
5	13.11.1886	Wyggeston School Past and Present (VP)	W	5-0	E Johnson Brain Knight (3)	Brain sprained his leg just before half-time and the Fosse played the rest of the game with 10 men.
6	20.11.1886	Belgrave (A)	W	2-0 (1-0)	J Johnson Roberts	As one of the Fosse players failed turn up, they had to get a substitute from amongst the spectators
7	27.11.1886	Leicester Association (A)	L	0-1		
8	04.12.1886	St Marks (VP)	D	2-2		St Mark's played one man short.
9	11.12.1886	Leicester Wanderers (VP)	W	3-0	og J Johnson AN Other	
10	22.01.1887	Coalville (VP)	W	3-0 (2-0)	Knight AN Other Brown	Coalville arrived late – only an hour's play possible.
11	29.01.1887	Wigston (VP)	W	6-0 (2-0)	J Johnson (2) Taylor (2) Bankart (2)	Owing to the late arrival of the visitors, the game commenced at four o'clock. Fosse scored three times in the first 8 mins of the second half.
12	05.02.1887	Loughborough (A)	L	1-4		One-sided game. The Cockaynes played well for the winners. Some reports state that the final score was 4-0
13	12.02.1887	Belgrave (VP)	W	5-0 (4-0)	Knight (3) Bankart Staines	Belgrave arrived very late and one man short. J Johnson had a goal disallowed for offside.
14	19.02.1887	Barwell (VP)	W	2-0 (0-0)	J Johnson Knight	
15	26.02.1887	Notts St Saviour's (A)	L	0-3		"The chief feature of the game was the splendid passing of the Notts forwards, who completely baffled the Fosse half-backs."
16	05.03.1887	Market Harborough (VP)	L	0-1 (0-0)		35 mins each way was played.
17	19.03.1887	Wyggeston School Past and Present (VP)	W	9-0 (3-0)	Bankart (2) James T Johnson Knight AN Others	Splendid weather. Fosse played in "chocolate and blue"
18	26.03.1887	Loughborough (VP)	W	3-0	Knight (3)	

				(2-0)		
19	09.04.1887	Mill Hill House Past and Present (VP)	W	1-0		

Fosse "2nd Team" Matches

#	Date	Opposition	Result	Score	Scorers	Match Details
20	06.11.1886	Wyggeston School (VP)	W	5-0 (1-0)	W Cooper (3) W Brown A Ashby	Fosse 'A' team. Fosse played the whole game two men short
21	13.11.1886	Mill Hill House (VP)	W	1-0	Cooper	
22	20.11.1886	St Matthew's (VP)	L	1-4		Game commenced at 3.30 pm Fosse "2 nd Team"
23	22.1.1887	St Saviour's (SHP)	L	0-3		Fosse "2 nd Team" St Saviour's played 10 men, Fosse nine.
24	29.1.1887	Wyggeston School	D	0-0		

Notes: A - Away; VP - Victoria Park, Leicester; SHP = Spinney Hill Park, Leicester

Leicester Fosse Reserves 1886-87

			Venue	A Ashby	F Burdett	H Hurndal	Curtis	W Cooper	W Bown	R Dingley	S Ashby	W Lloyd	H Johnson	G S Smith
20	06.11.1886	Wyggeston School	VP	G	B	HB	HB	C	R	R	L	L		
21	13.11.1886	Mill Hill House	VP											
22	20.11.1886	St Matthew's	VP											
23	22.1.18887	St Saviour's	SHP	G	x	x				x	x	x	x	x
24	29.1.1887	Wyggeston School	VP											

Notes:

Venues

A - Away

SHP - Spinney Hill Park

VP - Victoria Park, Leicester

Positions

B - Back

F - Forward

G - Goalkeeper

HB - Half-Back

L - left

R - Right

x - Oldfield Player

Match Reports

#1 LEICESTER ASSOCIATION v. THE FOSSE. The contest between these two clubs took place on Saturday afternoon on the Victoria Park. The clouds hung threateningly overhead, but refused to pour their contents upon the opposing teams and the meagre assemblage of spectators gathered there to witness what proved an interesting match. The fight was delayed for some time owing to the failure on the part of some of the Leicester men to present themselves on the scene of the action. Bates, the captain of the Leicester team, however, determined to commence play while two of his best men, Rev. Alington and Ashmole were still away. In their absence De Ville, who should have kept goal, was put amongst the backs, and a substitute placed in front of the posts. Almost immediately after the game had commenced the ball was taken dangerously near to the Leicester goal. Here a confused scrimmage took place, and the ball was kicked (apparently by accident) very slowly through the posts, the goalkeeper, encumbered with a large overcoat, being quite unable to put forth any exertion to stop it. This should have been enough to assure Bates of his mistake by not playing De Ville in his favourite spot. Hey, however, fearing that the backs would then be too weak, adhered to his original plan, which in the end proved a disastrous one for Leicester. When the ball had again been sent rolling Ashmole appeared upon the field, and soon became distinguished for his dashing and useful play. The fight was now carried into the Fosse territory, and several good shots were made. All attempts, however, proved vain, for the vigilance and skill of the goalkeeper prevented the Leicester from scoring. When the teams had changed ends, and the force turn that faces towards the pavilion, some very pretty play by both teams was witnessed. The Fosse fought hard to maintain the advantage they have gained, and Leicester struggled equally hard to make things equal. The ball was eventually rushed up the field by Horner, and passed to Bates, who, by means of a well-judged kick, put it between the bars. This equalised matters, and the players on each side now played up with capital spirit and determination. The honour and fame of each team were at stake, and every man seemed resolved to do his duty well. After some fierce struggles in various parts of the field, a rush was made towards the Leicester goal, and Simpson succeeded in scoring for the Fosse. A few minutes more and time was called, leaving the Fosse victors by two goals to one. The defeat of the Leicester team was undoubtedly owing to the absence of the Rev Ellington and the employment of a wretchedly inefficient goalkeeper. For the Fosse Knight played well and with great care. Simpson showed very good form, and was exceedingly useful. Braine also made some good runs. The chief feature of the game, however, what's the clever dribbling of C. MacAlpin, of the Leicester team, who frequently evoked rounds of applause. Thornton, on the left wing, played a very good game.

Leicester Chronicle – 23 October 1886

#2 THE FOSSE v BARWELL. On Saturday a team of the former club travelled to Barwell to try conclusions with the local men. The ground was not in first-class order, been uneven and having a long grass over a great part of it. W. Johnson won the toss for the visitors, and chose to play up hill first half, the ball being started by the Barwellites. For a short time neither side had any advantage, but after settling down to work the Fosse forwards ran the ball up-hill and attacked their opponents' goal, the result being a corner kick, which, however, went behind. The game having been restarted another attack was made by the visitors' forwards, who got the ball well into the front of the Barwell goal, and after a determined resistance by the opposing backs West succeeded in placing it between the post, thus scoring for the Fosse. This prompted the home team to retaliate on starting, and they rushed the ball dangerously near the opposite goal, Smith got it safely away, and the forwards on getting hold of it took it up the hill, the Barwell goal being the centre of attraction, but that backs proved equal to the occasion. After this another corner kick was given to the Fosse, but the longer grass destroyed the kick, and it was of no use. The home man at this point again tried hard to equalise matters and although the Fosse backs (Cooper especially putting in some good play) stopped several rushes, they were at last successful, as from a scrimmage in front of goal one of their forwards scored. Half time having been called the teams reversed, and from then until the finish the Barwellites had a warm time of it. Time after time the visitors were within an ace of scoring, but the good goal-keeping of Tomlinson, assisted by the defending backs, kept the goal intact. No less than six corner kicks fell to the Fosse, but although they were placed well were of no avail. Indeed, the ball was once forced between the posts, but a claim for "hands" having been made the latter had the preference. Nothing came of the free kick, and call up time the score remained unaltered, leaving the game drawn. Sides – The Fosse: E. Smith, goal; A. Cooper, F. Burdett, backs, W. Johnson, A. Simpson, F. Gardner, half-backs; H. Johnson (centre), G.C. Smith, A. West (right), J. Johnson, E. Johnson (left), forwards. Barwell:- H. Tomlinson (goal); E. Jarvis, W. Peace, backs; W. Smith, J. Smith, W. Place, half backs; "Johnnie" (centre), A. Grewcock, T. Smith (right), J. Timpson, J. Herbert (left), forwards.

Leicester Chronicle – 30 October 1886

#3 FOSSE v. WANDERERS – These teams met on Saturday, on the Victoria Park, to try conclusions under Association rules. The Wanderers are a club composed principally of players from the famous Staffordshire Rangers, and as this was the first time they had played each other both clubs put their strongest teams into the field, and a very good game resulted. The ball was started by the Wanderers, who carried it towards their opponent's goal: but it was soon returned, and an attack was made on their goal, the Fosse right-wing making a shot, which was well handled Allen. The play, which was very fast, was kept in the Wanderers quarter by the Fosse and several shots were made, one in particular by Hassel striking the crossbar, but rebounding into play. Several corner kicks also fell to the Fosse, but their opponents defended their goal splendidly. The ball was put through once more by Brain making a rush, though the point was disallowed on account of a foul just on the goal-line. The game was continued up to half time with varying success, and at the interval neither side had scored, although Smith had to handle one or twice to save his charge. On the ball being restarted, it was again taken into that Wanderers territory by the Fosse left wing, but the attack proved futile, and about that time, Hassel who had been playing splendidly on the right, received a nasty kick on the knee, which compelled him to retire from the field, so that the Fosse having to play one man short, were now at a disadvantage. The Wanderers played with great vigour, but for a long time the Fosse backs kept their goal intact. At length by some good passing, the Wanderers forwards managed to get by, and scored the first goal. The Fosse still continued to fight gamely, and made several attacks on their opponents' goal, which, however, proved vain owing to the remarkably clever play of the Wanderers goal-keeper, and, although corner kicks still continued to fall to them, the Fosse forwards, without Hassel, were not strong enough to profit by them. A few minutes before time the Wanderers again scored, owing to Cooper slipping down. However, when time was called, the Fosse again had the ball in their opponents' quarter, and within six yards of their goal. The defeat of the Fosse was in was largely owing to the injury to Hassel. Knight and Brain played well, the former in particular eliciting applause from spectators by his good dribbling and passing. Cooper and Johnson also, at the back, by their good defence play, gave their opponents a lot of trouble. Taylor played well for club Wanderers left wing, and their backs seemed impregnable, Holford doing good service. The teams were Wanderers: - Allen, goal; Buckley and Follows, backs; Holford, Humble, and Bailey, half-backs; Cade, centre; James and Narraway, right-wing, Taylor and Atkinson, left-wing forwards. Fosse:- Smith, goal, Cooper and W. Johnson, backs; Staines, Simpson, and Gardner, half-backs; Brain, centre, Knight, and E. Johnson, left-wing, Hassel and J. Johnson, right-wing forwards. Umpires: Messrs. Chadwick and Holmes.

Leicester Chronicle 6 November 1886

#4 Coalville— The first team of the Fosse travelled to Coalville on Saturday to meet the local eleven. Owing to the wet weather experienced lately the ground was in bad condition, pools of water being visible in various parts of the field, but in spite of the game was both fast and good, the passing on several occasions being very efficient by both sides. The Coalville started the leather, and the Fosse, having chosen to play with a slight breeze in their favour, soon began to make inroads on their opponents' territory, but the Coalville backs defended their charge well, and although giving no less than nine corner kicks to the visitors, yet they managed to keep their goal intact. Their forwards rushed the ball several times up field and Smith had to handle once or twice, but the Fosse soon returned it. After half-time the Leicester representative, having now to play with wind and hill against them adopted different tactics and commenced dribbling - Knight being conspicuous for his clever play - and thus still kept the game in their opponents' quarter. Time after time the ball passed behind the Coalville goal, and although several times kicked right in, yet the vigilance and skill of goal-keeper prevented the Fosse from scoring and the match had to be left drawn. The stopped a few minutes earlier than was arranged owing to the Coalville disagreeing with the umpire's decision of a foul in front of goal. Undoubtedly one of the reasons for not scoring the extreme length and breadth of the field of play, the Fosse not used to playing on so large ground. Amongst the Coalville forwards Judge showed best form dribbling and passing being very good. Stableford also played well, and Stevens defended his post vigorously. The teams were: Coalville: T Stevens, G Goacher, backs; W Moore, R Taberner, an T Tranter; half-backs; Judge, centre; Stableford and Allen, right wing; J Freeman, J Breward, forwards. Fosse: Smith, goal; Cooper and Staines, backs; Gardner, Simpson and H Johnson, half-backs; West, centre; Knight and E Johnson, left Bankart and J Johnson right wing forwards. Next Saturday the Fosse played the Wyggeston School past and present on the Victoria Park.

Leicester Daily Mercury – 8 November 1886

#5 FOSSE v WYGGESTON SCHOOL PAST AND PRESENT –This match was played on Saturday under Association rules on the Victoria Park. The Wyggeston put a fairly representative team into field and although the Fosse in the end proved so much the stronger they played game a very good game, several of the forwards passing in good style. The ball was started by the Fosse with a slight breeze in their favour, but they gained no advantage from kick off, as the school forwards worked it towards their goal, and the Fosse backs had to defend .For first 15 minutes the game appeared fairly equal, being confined to the centre of the ground but after this the superior stamina of the Fosse began to show itself. The left wing and Brain ran the ball down field and the latter kicking it against the crossbar, E Johnson succeeding in getting it through, thus scoring the first goal for the Fosse. The school backs, although playing well could not resist repeated attacks of the Fosse, and from a scrimmage in front of their goal Brain again scored. The school tried hard to retrieve the game, and Dalley, on the right, made one or two runs, but was always stopped before getting dangerous. A few minutes before the interval the Fosse lost the valuable services of Brain, he having the misfortune to sprain a guide in his leg and had to be helped off the field. W Johnson came forward to fill up the vacancy, leaving Cooper to defend at alone which did in faultless style all the second half. On the ball being started after the change of ends, the school obtained a slight advantage, giving the Fosse some trouble ere could clear their lines; but it was not for long, and the forwards by a combined rush took the ball into school quarter, where Pearce and Law could do to keep them from scoring, E Johnson Knight making some good shots and Hudson having to use his pretty freely. They at length got it away, however, and Dalley made a pretty run down the field, but although he tried his utmost he could not get through the Fosse defence. From thence up to the finish the game seemed to be a continuous attack on the school goal, the ball being sent again and again just over the crossbar. After Knight scored a third goal for the Fosse, the school seemed to tire considerably and although Pearce and his fellow back played well they could not prevent Knight from scoring fourth goal from a good side shot. Law and C Dalley tried to instil fresh spirit amongst their forwards by making some rushes and the school gained some advantage, but Smith who had to handle from a long shot by Brodie, had plenty of time to kick the ball away again. Several more corner kicks fell to the Fosse and West and E Johnson each made some good shots, but the fifth goal was again obtained by Knight, the right centering to him and after very cleverly baffling the school backs, sent in a shot which would have in beaten a much better goal-keeper than the Wyggeston. Soon after time was called, leaving the Fosse victorious by five goals to nil. The sides were sides: Wyggeston School: Hudson, goal; K Pearce and E E Law, backs; C Dalley, Thorpe and Daniels, half-backs; Brodie, centre; emery and Underwood, left; A Dalley and Bunney, right forwards. Fosse: Smith, goal; Cooper and W Johnson, backs; Gardner, Staines, and Simpson, halfbacks; Brain, centre; Knight and E Johnson, left; West and J Johnson, right, forwards. Umpires: w E Taylor and Elligot.

Leicester Daily Mercury – 15 November 1886

#6 FOSSE v BELGRAVE— The Fosse first team played Belgrave on Saturday on the latter's private ground at Belgrave. As one of the Fosse players failed turn up, they had to get a substitute from amongst the spectators. The game commenced by the Belgrave kicking off, the Fosse, who won the toss, playing with the wind. The home team at the start gained some advantage by passing, but the Fosse backs returned the ball, and the forwards nearly succeeded in scoring, the Belgrave having to kick off from goal. Both sides now warmed into their work, some fast and exciting play being witnessed, and although the Belgrave were the heavier team the Fosse by their quick play kept the ball in their opponents' territory during the first half, several shots being made and one or two corner kicks falling to them, but resulting in nothing as the Belgrave backs played up well, Bennett and Blockley doing good service. It was not until the end of the first half that any point was scored, when the Fosse were rewarded for their repeated attacks which obtained by J Johnson from a scrimmage in front of goal. After the change of ends the game was very equal, the Belgrave playing with energy, but they could make no impression on the Fosse defence. At length Knight and E Johnson got away on the left, and the latter centring in good style Roberts scored another goal for the Fosse. When time was called the Fosse were victors by two goals to nil. The teams were – Belgrave: H Capewell, goal; Blockley and J Pole, backs; Bennett, Carr and Chapman, half-backs; Hobson, centre; Walton and Haris right; G Pole and Hargraves, left forwards. Fosse: Smith, goal; Cooper and W Johnson, backs; Hurndall, Simpson and Gardner, half-backs; centre, J Johnson, Roberts, and substitute, right; Knight and Johnson, left forwards.

Leicester Daily Mercury – 22 November 1886

#8 ST MARK'S v FOSSE – Played on the Victoria Park on Saturday, and resulted in a dead heat, both sides scoring two goals. St Mark's played one man short.

Leicester Daily Mercury – 6 December 1886

#9 THE FOSSE v. LEICESTER WANDERERS F.C. – On Saturday these strong local teams met on the Victoria Park to decide a match under Association rules. This is the second time they have met this season, and on the former occasion the Wanderers defeated their opponents, the Fosse being a man short when winning points were scored. On the present occasion when both clubs were well represented and as expected, a fast and well contested game was the result, the Fosse, who had the best of the game all through, winning a well-earned victory by three goals to nil. W Johnson won the toss, and decided to take advantage of the slight wind blowing, and faced the Pavilion goal. The ball, having been started by the Wanderers, was passed to their left wing and Taylor, getting possession, took it down the field, but was soon dispossessed of it by the Fosse backs, who handed it over to Knight and E. Johnson; the two, by judicious passing, worked it to the opposite end of the ground. Here play continued for some time, Buckley and his fellow back having plenty of work to do, and Allen had to handle several shots sent in. A corner kick was given to the Fosse, but the wind getting under the ball carried it over the cross-bar. From the goal- kick the ball was placed to one of the Wanderers' half-backs, who, in attempting to kick it over his head, sent the ball back through his own goal, thus giving the Fosse their first point. This roused the Wanderers, and they made a determined rush to-wards their opponents' goal. The final shot, however, was sent behind, the ball just grazing the post. Directly after a corner was given to them, which was well placed, but Brain headed the ball away in good style, and the Fosse forwards, by a combined piece of passing, took it to the opposite end of the ground, where they gave the defending backs a good deal of trouble. A pass from the left wing gave Hassel an easy chance of scoring, but he failed to utilise it. Another "corner" fell to the Fosse, but the ball was placed too far out, and was got away, only to be brought back however, and several shots were put in, but none were effectual. On changing ends at half-time, the Fosse forwards shewed to advantage, and commenced a vigorous attack on the Wanderers' goal, the ball being continually sent behind. From a centre by Knight a loose scrimmage took place in the mouth of the goal, and J. Johnson scored a second point. This was objected to on the ground that one of the Wanderers had handled the ball, but as no foul was claimed by the Fosse the former eventually consented to the goal. On restarting, Knight made a pretty run up the field, but the final shot went behind. Directly after a "corner" was given to the Fosse, which West (who had changed with Hassel) placed to a nicety, and the ball, striking a player, rebounded through the goal, making the third point for the Fosse. Near the end of the game the Wanderers worked the ball down to the other end of the ground, where play continued for some minutes, and from a free kick they nearly scored. The good play of Cooper and W. Johnson, however, relieved their lines, and no alteration was made at the call of time, leaving the wearers of the chocolate and blue victorious by three goals to nil. Sides— Fosse: A. West, goal; A. Cooper, W. Johnson (captain), backs: J. Staines, A. Simpson. F. Gardner, half-backs; A. Brain, centre ; F. Hassel and J. Johnson, right ; A. Knight and E. Johnson, left. Wanderers : Allen, goal ; Hubble and Folks, backs; Holford (captain), Buckley, Narraway, half- backs; Atkinson, centre ; Cade and James, right; Taylor and Tillsley, left.

Leicester Chronicle – 18 December 1886

#10 FOSSE v COALVILLE: After five weeks of inaction, owing to the recent frosts, the Fosse reappeared upon the field on Saturday last to play off their second fixture with Coalville on the Victoria Park. In the previous match the Fosse, although having considerably the best of the game, were unable to claim a winning point. On Saturday, however, despite the fact that the ground was exceedingly greasy, and rendered accurate play difficult, they gained a well-earned victory by three goals to nil. Coalville are arrived late, and only an hour's play was practicable. W. Johnson, having won the toss for the home team, chose to kick towards the pavilion, and Coalville put the ball in motion. Their left wing getting possession they attempted a run up the field, but the opposing backs returned the ball to the centre, and it was promptly dribbled up to the Coalville goal, Knight putting in an effective shot, which scored the first point for the Fosse. Coalville kicked off from the centre, and after some uneventful play the ball was worked down to their goal again, and corner-kick was given to the Fosse, but the ball was placed too far out and got safely away. It was at once returned, however, and another kick was given, with the same result; but immediately afterwards the home forwards made a combined rush, and from a scrimmage in front of the goal a second point was scored. These repeated attacks seemed to put the Coalville men on their mettle, and their left wing showed a pretty bit of passing. The ball was dribbled up the ground and centred nicely, but West was on the alert and sent it well out of danger. Half-time was called and the teams crossed over. During the second half the game was carried on mostly in

Coalville territory. The home forwards worked hard to secure another point (Knight and conspicuous), but for a time they were unsuccessful. A couple of "corners" fell to them one being sent behind, while the other was headed away. A rush was now made into the Fosse "25", but Johnson and Hassel averted the danger, and returned the ball up field; the forwards worked it to the opposite end, and from a centre from the left Brown scored a third point for the Fosse. Play still continued near the Coalville goal, two more "corners" being given, but nothing came of them, although several shots were sent in, one from Knight grazing the cross-bar. Just before time was called a rush was made to the Fosse goal, and the slight scrimmage the ball was sent behind. No further alteration was made, having the game as stated. Coalville: A Pool, goal W. Wharmby, T. Hibbit, backs ; T. Goacher G. Lock, and J. Lakin, half-backs ; T. Bresley (centre), W. G. Stableford and J. Greasley (right), F. Judge and G. Morris (left), forwards. Fosse: A. West, goal; W. Johnson, F. Hassel, backs; J. Staines, W. Curtis and F Gardner, half-back; G. A. Knight (centre), J. Johnson and W. Brown (right), W. Chadwick and E. Johnson (left), forwards. Umpire, Mr W. E. Taylor, referee, Mr J.C. Coleman.
Melton Mowbray, Oakham and Uppingham News - 27 January 1887

#11 FOSSE v WIGSTON - These two teams met on Saturday last on the Victoria Park. Owing to the late arrival of the visitors, play was not commenced till nearly four o'clock. The Fosse, winning the toss, chose to play with the wind. The visitors kicking off, the ball was returned by the Fosse backs, whose forwards took it into their opponents' territory, when J Johnson, having had the ball passed to him, put in a shot, which the Wigston goal-keeper was unable to stop. Soon after the ball had been kicked off a throw in fell to the Fosse; Bankart obtaining the ball, centred it and E Johnson made a shot which hit the crossbar, and rebounded into play, and Taylor, meeting it, put in a shot which went between the posts. A dispute arose about Taylor being offside, but eventually the Wigston gave in to the decision of the umpire. Nothing more of interest occurred during the first half except a splendid shot put in by Taylor from the left wing, which the Wigston goal-keeper saved in good style. After half-time the Fosse again played well up and three goals were got in less than eight minutes, Taylor, J Johnson and Bankart scoring one each. A few minutes before time Bankart scored another goal for the Fosse, who were evidently having it all their own way, the visitors being thoroughly fagged out. Thus, after a very uneven game, the Fosse were victorious by six goals to nil.
Leicester Daily Mercury - 31 January 1887

#12 LOUGHBOROUGH TOWN v LEICESTER FOSSE - Played at Loughborough on Saturday, and after a one-sided game the home team won by four goals to none. The brothers Cockaynes played well for the winners.
The Sportsman - 9 February 1887

#13 FOSSE v BELGRAVE - On Saturday the return match between the above teams played on the Victoria Park. Belgrave who were a man short were very late in putting in an appearance For the first half Fosse the wind in their favour, and play was, with one or two exceptions entirely in Belgrave territory, the Fosse backs having literally no work, and for some time West assisted the "halves." Soon after kick-off Knight, by an effective shot registered the first point for the Fosse ten minutes, and ten minutes after from a slight scrimmage he scored again. Belgrave now caused a diversion and ran the ball down into their opponents' "25" but Hassel averted the danger, and the ball returned up the field, and being passed to Knight he shot another goal. This was disallowed on the ground that he fouled the ball. Three corner kicks fell to the Fosse in rapid succession they not improved upon. Knight was enabled to make another point, however, soon after, making the third goal. From the kick-off from the centre, the ball was returned to right wing and Bankart centred to J Johnson, who repassed, and Bankart headed the ball through. Belgrave disputed this on the ground that Johnson was offside. A little before half-time Staines put in a high shot which secured another goal for the Fosse. On reversing, play for some time in the Fosse ground and Belgrave, from long shot, nearly scored, but West fisted out. A couple of corners fell to Belgrave but both were sent behind and from the goal-kick the Fosse forwards got possession and took the ball down the field, but it returned, and a hot shot sent in, which West stopped in good style. For some time the Fosse pressed their opponents, and worked hard to score, a good shot from Knight just missing. Close upon time ball was taken up the field by Pole (who had worked hard all through) and a corner resulted kick was well aimed but the ball struck the cross-bar and went behind. "Time" was now called, leaving victorious by four goals disputed to nil.
Leicester Daily Mercury - 15 February 1887

#14 FOSSE v BARWELL - The return match between these clubs was played on the Victoria Park on Saturday. A start was not made until late, the Fosse defending pavilion goal. Barwell kicked off, but the ball

was at once returned and taken up the field towards their goal where the play continued for the first half. One or two attempts were made by Barwell to transfer the play to opposite end, but the Fosse back division were to not to be passed (Bankart, Ashmole being especially useful) and during first half West only to handle once. Several corner-kicks fell to the Fosse, but although some good openings were given they were not taken advantage of. Knight, however, made numerous shots, and the Barwell goal-keeper saved times very neatly. At half-time, however, neither side had scored. The teams crossed over, and Knight restarted, but for some minutes Barwell held a slight advantage, and couple of corners fell to them, but the Fosse backs were able to clear their lines, and the forwards in turn took the ball to the opposite end of the ground, but for some time were unable to score until a shot by J Johnson from the left gained the first point. Play still continued round the Barwell goal, the ball repeatedly sent behind, and a couple corners were given, but not improved upon. Barwell now made an invasion, but the final shot went over, and West returned the ball to the forwards, who continued their attack, and Knight sent in a good shot which scored a second goal. Time was called soon after, the Fosse winners by two goals to none.

Leicester Daily Mercury – 21 February 1887

#15 FOSSE v NOTTS ST SAVIOUR'S - The Fosse suffered a reverse on Saturday at the hands of the Notts St Saviour's under Association Rules. The match was played on the Victoria Park, the Notts playing their "cup" team while Fosse were minus some of their best backs. The chief feature of the game was the splendid passing of the Notts forwards, who completely baffled the Fosse half-backs. The Fosse forwards worked well together but being badly supported did give much trouble to their opponents' goal-keeper, but still had to handle several times. This is one of the strongest matches the Fosse play, and, although defeated, they are to be congratulated on the plucky fight they made against such formidable foes, the St Saviour's having a good reputation amongst the football fraternity of Nottingham. The play which was rather rough at times, lasted an hour and a half, two goals being scored in the first and one in the second, the Fosse having to retire losers by three goals to nil.

Leicester Daily Mercury – 4 April 1887

#16 FOSSE V. MARKET HARBOROUGH - These teams met in the Victoria Park, Leicester, on Saturday for the first time this season, the former match having to been "scratched" owing to frost. Both clubs were strongly represented, and a good game was the result. The ball was started towards the pavilion goal by Knight, for the home team, who passed it to the left, and it was carried to the Harborough goal, but the opposing backs relieved their side, and returned the ball up the field, where the play became general. Harborough forward played well together, and by judicious passing made several attacks on the Fosse goal, giving the backs considerable trouble, and causing De Ville to handle. The lines were, however, cleared, and the home forwards retaliated by a raid on the Harborough goal. The game was continued with varying success until half-time, each side alternately having the advantaged, but no score was made. The visitors played in good style, Fisher in the back division being repeatedly noticeable. The Fosse also showed up well, but one or two were decidedly "off colour". After change of ends the game became more lively, Harborough changed their back division, putting Price back, and also playing two centre forwards. This proved effective, as about 10 minutes after the interval, Fisher made a grand shot from the left, which, just grazing the crossbar, scored for Harborough. This reverse put more spirit into the Fosse men, and they played open determinedly, from now to the finish having much the best of the game, De Ville having literally nothing to do. Numerous shots were made at the Harborough fortress, and the home team experienced very hard lines in not scoring; Several shots, mostly from Knight, just going over the bar. The Harborough men, playing the defensive game, were enabled to save their position, under no doubt the Fosse were beaten by not putting more spirit into their play at the commencement of the game, which was of short duration, being only 35 minutes each way.

Northampton Chronicle and Echo – 7 March 1887

#17 FOSSE FC v WYGGESTON SCHOOL (PAST AND PRESENT) On Saturday these teams opposed each other on Victoria Park and being favoured with splendid football weather, a very pleasant game was the result. The representatives of the "chocolate and blues" played a determined game all through, and retired victorious by goals nine goals to nil. The ball was started by Bankart towards the Asylum goal, round which the Fosse men were soon very busy. The good play of Wright, however, for some time frustrated efforts from their efforts, but at length from a centre from the right Bankart scored for the Fosse. The ball restarted, and "Jones" on school left, made some way down the field, but was soon dispossessed by the backs, who returned ball into Wyggeston territory, Mr Law goal having all his work cut. Two more points

were registered for Fosse and the ball was continually having to be kicked off from goal, the score at half-time being 3 to 0 in favour of Fosse. After changing ends continued in the school half, and their opponents forcing the play scored in rapid succession. James, Bankart, T Johnson, Knight were "doing the needful." "Jones and Mr Brodie in the school left wing made several invasions into Fosse ground, but being indifferently supported were never really dangerous, in fact De Ville and the Fosse backs had scarcely any work. Up to call of half-time the Fosse continued to press but for excellent play of Wright and Mr Law would have scored more heavily.

Leicester Daily Mercury – 21 March 1887

#18 FOSSE v LOUGHBOROUGH – This fixture was decided on Saturday last on the Victoria-park. On the occasion of their first meeting at Loughborough the Fosse were poorly represented and were beaten by four goals to one. On Saturday however, both clubs put their strongest teams into the field, and a very fast and well-contested game was the result. The Fosse maintained the form shown last week, and won by three goals to nil. Loughborough won the toss and chose to take advantage of the wind blowing down the field. Knight started the ball towards the Asylum goal. The play for some time was of an even description, but at length the Fosse left wing effected a pretty run and being well supported, the Loughborough goal was placed in considerable danger. This was averted however, through good play of Gibbs and Griffiths and Loughborough in turn were in the ascendant, but by the strenuous exertions of the Fosse halves and backs, the play was forced into the centre; E Johnson went away on the left and finished by passing to Knight, who by a fast shot scored the first point for the home team. The Fosse continued to force the play, but a foul to Loughborough near to the centre relieved the latter. The ball was well placed into the front of goal, and Ashmole, attempting to head out, nearly sent it through, but De Ville fisted away, and after some hard play in the centre, the home forwards attacked, a grand centre by Knight nearly scoring, and James rushing up shot over the bar. Soon after, half-time was called and the teams crossed over. On re-starting, the ball was passed into the Loughborough right wing, and for a time they looked dangerous, but the backs relieved, and the ball was taken into the centre. Hard play on both sides resulted in favour of the Fosse and from the centre from the right Knight again lowered the Loughborough colours. The visitors now played with great vigour and pressed their opponents considerably, the Fosse backs for some time having a warm time of it. In spite of their efforts, Loughborough failed to score, and the home forwards getting possession went way headed by Knight. After some all-round passing, the same player sent in a shot which Tyler failed to stop, thus making the third point. Varied play followed the kick-off, a "corner" falling to each side.

Melton Mowbray Mercury and Oakham and Uppingham News – 31 March 1887

#20 FOSSE (2nd Team) v WYGGESTON SCHOOL – This match was played on Saturday on the Victoria Park. The Fosse played two short but in spite of this disadvantage they ultimately the winners by five to none. Hurndal won toss and chose to play uphill and against the wind. During first half play was fairly even, but the School forwards unable to score owing to good play of their opponents' backs, who, although there were only three of them defended their admirably. The Fosse forwards on other hand, successfully attacked the School goal and before half-time had scored the first point. On changing ends after the interval, the Fosse players had much best of the game, the opposite goal being repeatedly attacked and four goals were placed to credit, besides which three corner kicks fell to them. Mr Law made two plucky runs up the field but lacked efficient support called, and when time was called the score remained unaltered. The goals were kicked by W Cooper (three), W Brown and A Ashby (one each). For the winners Brown and Cooper among the forwards, and Curtis, Hurndal and Burdett backs, played best. Mr Law worked hard for School and did his best to avert defeat; but for him the score would doubtless have been heavier. Sides – Fosse: A Ashby (goal); F Burdett (back); H Hurndal and Curtis (half-backs); W Cooper (centre); W Brown and R Dingley (right) and S Ashby, and Lloyd (left). Wyggeston: Underwood (goal); Mr Hudson (backs); Daniels, Thorpe and G Atkins (half-backs); Emery (centre); Roberts and Core (right); Mr Innes, and Bunney (left). Next Saturday the 2nd Eleven meet Mill Hill House.

Leicester Daily Mercury – 8 November 1886

#21 FOSSE 2nd Team v MILL HILL HOUSE – On Saturday these teams met on the Victoria-park, and after a well-contested game both side playing up well, the Fosse gained a well-earned victory by three goals to nil. For some time, the School played two short, but eventually the vacancies were filled up. The Fosse however played only ten men throughout the game. Shortly after three o'clock the leather was started by the school, who were defending the Asylum goal, and for some time the game was of a pretty even nature. At last

Smith, on the Fosse right wing, ran the ball up the ground and by some good dribbling worked it dangerously near the school goal. He then centred it to W Cooper, who with a first-rate shot scored first goal for his side. After changing the school made some determined attacks on the Fosse goal, but they found it difficult to get through the defending backs, amongst whom H Johnson and F were most conspicuous. After the kick off the school goal was again besieged, and a third goal was added by Smith. No further alteration was made game, leaving the game as above stated. For the school, Davis worked very hard back and Burdett among the forwards played well. The Fosse team was as follows : Ashby (goal), F Burdett (back), Hurndall, H Johnson, and A Curtis (half-backs), W Cooper (centre), C Smith, C Burdett (right), S Ashby T Rowley (left).

Leicester Daily Mercury – 15 November 1886

#22 ST MATTHEW'S v FOSSE FC - This match was played on Saturday last on the Victoria Park. The St Matthew's winning the toss took of the wind. The ball was started by the Fosse about 3.30 pm but immediately the St Matthew's forwards ran the ball up the left wing with no result. After the goal kick by the Fosse the ball was taken back to the Fosse goal and after a little play was put through by A. Keith. The ball was kicked off by Fosse, and after some general play a second goal was scored for the St Matthew's by J H Bailey just at half-time. Upon the resumption of play the Fosse began to play a desperate game playing seven forwards, and after a plucky and strong run they obtained a goal, carrying the St Matthew's goalkeeper through with them. The St Matthew's forwards were playing well together, ably seconded by half-backs, as immediately afterwards Bailey again put the ball through the Fosse. After one or two good runs were made by the Fosse A. Keith scored for St Matthew's just at the call of time. St Matthew's thus won a very pleasant game by four goals to one.

Leicester Daily Mercury – 24 November 1886

#23 ST SAVIOUR'S v FOSSE (second team) – These teams met on Saturday on the Spinney-hill Park, the game ending in favour of the former by three goals (one disputed) to none. St Saviour's played 10 men, Fosse nine. Teams: St Saviour's: Hollowell, goal; Marston and C Hopkins, backs; H Hopkins and Skelhorn. Half-backs; Ellis, Flint, Small (captain), Hill and Bowers, forwards Fosse: A Ashby, H Hurndall, H Johnson, S Ashby, G S Smith, F Burdett, R Dingley, C Burdett and W Lloyd.

Leicester Daily Mercury – 24 January 1887

#24 FOSSE "A" TEAM v WYGGESTON SCHOOL – This match was played on Saturday on the Victoria Park. From kick-off to the call of "time" the game was very even, and at the finish neither side had any advantage, the match ending in a draw. The Fosse started the game, and for a few minutes play was in the centre, but the school forwards, assisted by Sturges, soon had the ball near their opponents' goal; the Fosse backs, however, returned the ball up the field, and it was taken to the opposite end, where it remained a short time, Austin several times having to handle. Thus, the game continued, each side striving to score but were unable to do so, although some close shots were made. A corner kick was given to the school, but was sent behind. After half-time the play was more in the Wyggeston ground, but the good play of Pilsbury and Mr Law kept their goal secure. A corner was given to each side in succession, but nothing came of them. just before time a rush was made by the school left wing, and Mr Brodie looked like scoring, but the danger was averted.

Leicester Daily Mercury – 31 January 1887