



Football League Second Division 1899-00

Winner:	The Wednesday
Runners-Up:	Bolton Wanderers
Wooden spoon:	Loughborough
Promoted:	The Wednesday, Bolton Wanderers
Relegated:	Luton Town, Loughborough
Matches played:	306
Goals scored:	984 (3.22 per match)
Top goalscorer:	Jocky Wright(24 goals)
Biggest home win:	Woolwich Arsenal 12-0 Loughborough
Biggest away win:	Grimsby Town 0-7 Newton Heath
Highest scoring:	Woolwich Arsenal 12-0 Loughborough
Longest winning run:	7 matches; Bolton Wanderers
Longest unbeaten run:	14;The Wednesday
Longest losing run:	13; Loughborough

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		P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Aver	Pts
1	The Wednesday	34	17	0	0	61	7	8	4	5	23	15	3.82	54
2	Bolton Wanderers	34	14	2	1	47	7	8	6	3	32	18	3.16	52
3	Small Heath	34	15	1	1	57	13	5	5	7	20	26	1.97	46
4	Newton Heath	34	15	1	1	44	11	5	3	9	19	16	2.33	44
5	Leicester Fosse	34	11	5	1	34	8	6	4	7	19	28	1.47	43
6	Grimsby Town	34	10	3	4	46	24	7	3	7	21	22	1.46	40
7	Chesterfield Town	34	10	4	3	35	24	6	2	9	30	36	1.08	38
8	Woolwich Arsenal	34	13	1	3	47	12	3	3	11	15	31	1.44	36
9	Lincoln City	34	11	5	1	31	9	3	3	11	16	34	1.09	36
10	New Brighton Tower	34	9	4	4	44	22	4	5	8	22	36	1.14	35
11	Burslem Port Vale	34	11	2	4	26	17	3	4	10	13	33	0.78	34
12	Walsall	34	10	5	2	35	18	2	3	12	15	37	0.91	32
13	Gainsborough Trinity	34	8	4	5	37	24	1	3	13	10	51	0.63	25
14	Middlesbrough	34	8	4	5	28	15	0	4	13	11	53	0.57	24
15	Burton Swifts	34	8	5	4	31	24	1	1	15	12	60	0.51	24
16	Barnsley	34	8	5	4	36	23	0	2	15	10	56	0.58	23
17	Luton Town	34	5	3	9	25	25	0	5	12	15	50	0.53	18
18	Loughborough	34	1	6	10	12	26	0	0	17	6	74	0.18	8

Election for League Membership

Luton Town did not seek Re-Election so the other bottom two clubs were required to seek re-election to the League. They were joined in the vote for League membership by 5 non-league clubs.

Votes	Club	End Result
29	Barnsley	Re-elected to the League
28	Stockport County	Elected to the League
24	Blackpool	Elected to the League
5	Doncaster Rovers	Not Elected to the League
3	Loughborough	Not Re-Elected to the League
2	Kettering	Not Elected to the League
1	Stalybridge	Not Elected to the League

Results Grid

	BAR	BOL	BPV	BRS	CHF	GAI	GRI	LEI	LIN	LOU	LUT	MID	NBR	NWH	SMH	WAL	WED	WOO
Barnsley		1-6	3-0	4-1	0-0	5-0	0-1	1-2	0-4	7-0	2-1	5-2	1-1	0-0	1-1	2-2	1-0	3-2
Bolton Wanderers	2-0		5-0	5-0	3-0	3-0	1-2	2-2	4-0	7-0	3-0	3-0	2-1	2-1	1-1	2-0	1-0	1-0
Burslem Port Vale	3-1	0-2		2-1	2-0	1-0	2-3	0-2	2-0	3-1	1-0	3-1	1-1	1-0	3-0	1-0	0-3	1-1
Burton Swifts	4-0	2-5	2-2		2-1	1-1	1-2	2-0	0-0	3-1	3-1	5-0	2-2	0-0	0-3	2-1	0-5	2-0
Chesterfield	2-1	3-3	0-4	0-4		3-1	3-1	0-0	2-2	1-0	2-0	7-1	5-2	2-1	0-0	1-3	1-0	3-1
Gainsborough Trinity	1-0	1-1	4-0	4-1	3-5		2-3	3-0	3-1	4-2	2-2	5-0	1-1	0-1	1-4	2-0	0-2	1-1
Grimsby Town	8-1	0-0	1-1	6-0	0-3	3-0		6-1	5-2	3-0	3-3	2-0	1-2	0-7	2-0	4-2	1-2	1-0
Leicester Fosse	1-0	0-0	2-0	1-0	2-2	5-0	3-0		2-0	5-0	2-2	4-1	1-2	2-0	2-0	2-1	0-0	0-0
Lincoln City	1-1	1-0	1-1	3-0	2-0	2-1	1-1	2-0		3-2	2-0	3-0	0-0	1-0	0-0	3-1	1-2	5-0
Loughborough	0-0	2-3	1-2	2-1	0-4	1-2	0-0	0-2	0-1		1-1	1-1	1-2	0-2	1-2	0-0	0-0	2-3
Luton Town	3-0	0-2	1-1	5-2	0-3	4-0	0-4	0-0	0-2	4-0		1-1	1-4	0-1	1-2	4-0	0-1	1-2
Middlesbrough	3-0	0-3	1-0	8-1	0-1	0-0	1-0	0-1	1-1	3-0	0-0		5-2	2-0	1-3	1-1	1-2	1-0
New Brighton Tower	6-2	3-1	2-0	5-0	2-3	5-0	2-1	2-2	3-0	3-0	5-1	1-1		1-4	2-2	0-1	2-2	0-2
Newton Heath	3-0	1-2	3-0	4-0	2-1	2-2	1-0	3-2	1-0	4-0	5-0	2-1	2-1		3-2	5-0	1-0	2-0
Small Heath	5-0	0-0	2-1	2-0	5-3	8-1	0-1	4-1	5-0	6-0	3-0	5-1	2-0	1-0		3-2	4-1	3-1
Walsall	4-2	2-2	0-1	2-0	6-3	1-0	1-1	1-2	3-1	1-0	7-3	1-1	2-1	0-0	1-0		1-1	2-0
The Wednesday	5-1	2-1	4-0	6-0	5-1	5-1	2-1	2-0	1-0	5-0	6-0	3-0	4-0	2-1	4-0	2-0		3-1
Woolwich Arsenal	5-1	0-1	1-0	1-1	2-0	2-1	2-0	0-2	2-1	12-0	3-1	3-0	5-0	2-1	3-0	3-1	1-2	

The final season of the nineteenth century would sadly be the last for Leicestershire Football League derby games. Loughborough started the 1890s as the Champions of Leicester, but as it ended, they had reached rock bottom, and would shortly become extinct. But again, we are getting ahead of ourselves.

Fosse made only two additions to its squad for the start of the turn of the century season – centre-half Herbert Dainty, and centre-forward Tommy Brown. The centre-half signed from Kettering made over 50 appearances for the Fossils during two spells. He became somewhat of a Dundee legend as a player and even returned there as a player-manager during World War 1. Brown who came south from Glenbuck Cherrypickers, Third Lanark was a goal machine and was Fosse's top-scorer for three consecutive seasons, scoring 38 goals from 72 league appearances and three goals in five English Challenge Cup outings - quite a record! One notable difference was a change in playing strip, out went white shirts and black breeches and in came "Cambridge" blue shirts and dark blue shorts. There was also a name change as Fosse's home ground became officially known as Filbert Street.

Loughborough retained their former goalkeeper and versatile player, Mr Albert Mumford as trainer for the 1899-1900 season, and amongst the principal players signed were: - Francis Stubbs (goal), Walter Hardy, Frederick Bailey and Arthur Roulston (backs), William Hodgkin, Walter Rose, Charles Rose, Josiah Adcock (halves), Parker, George Wileman, Thomas Harrison, George Clifford, Arthur Earl and John Tebbs (forwards) - the Committee believed that a "fairly good team" should be available, which would be improved if supporters turned up in sufficient numbers. Stubbs was a giant of a man in the "Wille Foulke" mould, attracted the attention of the Luffs after helping Coalville Albion win the Leicestershire Senior League. The team was inexperienced with the exception of the Rose brothers who were past their best and Roulston, who was the only player to appear in each of the Luffs five (5) seasons in the Football League. Nevertheless, the Luffs Committee felt upbeat. Much of the optimism was based on the performance of Hardy, Hodgkin, Parker and Tebbs in trial matches. John Tebbs, a local outside left in particular shone in match between the first team defence (stripes) and the first team forwards (blues), scoring twice for the stripes and setting up a third, all before half-time. Loughborough, although undoubtedly short of funds, which handicapped efforts in securing players, started the season with both spirit and enthusiasm. As the club's Committee Chair Mr Fearn in a press statement a couple of days before the new season, said, "*over enthusiasm has compelled us to play our first home match at Leicester owing to the suspension of the Loughborough ground and hence on September 2 Loughborough will engage Bolton Wanderers, who have descended from the higher region, on the Fosse Ground, for which we are indebted to the Fosse committee. The kick-off is timed for 3:45, and prior to that the Fosse Reserves are engaged in a friendly with Barrow Rising Star. As it is the opening match both Fosse and Loughborough spectators should turn up in great numbers.*" More than 5,000 spectators turned out on a showery autumn afternoon to watch what turned out to be a close and exciting fixture. Luffs twice equalised through Tebbs and Clifford before Jack scored the winner for the Trotters. The following fixture was against another side relegated from the First Division, Burton Wanderers, which resulted in a 3-1 loss. They managed a 0-0 draw at home against would-be champions Sheffield Wednesday. From then onwards it was clear from quite early on that the team assembled on a shoestring in the summer, including the return of former Dolly Rose and

George Ward were simply not up to the task. In the first 10 games, they accumulated just 3 points conceding 20 and scoring just 7 goals.

The difference on fortunes between the two giants of Leicestershire football could not be starker. Whilst Loughborough were firmly rooted to the bottom of the table, Leicester Fosse on the other hand, were flying high. The Fosse started with three straight victories at Woolwich Arsenal, and against Barnsley and Burton Swifts at home, although on the latter two occasions the Fosse attack was poor, and the winning goals in each instance were scored by a defender. At Luton, a disjointed game resulted in a disappointing draw, but the following Monday, 23 September 1899, a victory over Walsall was particularly pleasing on account of Beardsley being unable to play, and a shift having to be made for a goalkeeper, at practically the last moment. A draw at home with Burslem Port Vale the previous season was this time converted into a win and one of the newcomers to the League, Middlesbrough went down heavily at Filbert Street, in spite of scoring first. At Chesterfield, another goalless draw ensued, and an undecided meeting (2-2) was the result of the Fosse's visit to Bolton Wanderers, where the former gave a praiseworthy display.

Next came the first Leicestershire 'derby day' of the season. Although the weather was dreadful throughout the morning the game was witnessed by a good crowd of 4,000 at the Athletic Grounds. Loughborough's chances seemed poor given that they were stuck at the bottom of the table. Nevertheless, Luffs fans came out in numbers eagerly awaiting the "supreme delight of taking it out of the county town once again as in the old days." Allan reappeared for the Luffs and Fosse included Beardsley and Swift, ex- Luffs players - the former a Loughborough native. Swift attracted shouts of derision from the Luffs fans each time he kicked the ball. Instead of putting him off his game, it seemed to spur him on, and he even saved Fosse from disaster. From a free kick, the home forwards got right through to within a couple of yards of the goal. The ball was at the feet of two Luffs forwards and while they stopped to think, Swift gyrated on his heel and effected an incredibly lucky clearance, Loughborough having thrown away the softest of soft chances. There was little between the sides. Stubbs made two outstanding saves, but to the obvious disappointment of the majority of the crowd, he then allowed a shot to pass through his fingers and between his legs into the back of the net. The goal was accredited to Wragg whose shot should have required little effort to clear. Fosse encouraged by this fluke bombarded the Loughborough goal. One of Fosse forwards charged Stubbs right in the mouth of the goal, one of the backs stepping back to clear close to the goal line. No penalty was given. Stubbs tipped a shot over the bar and then made series of impressive stops resulting of consecutive corners. Loughborough felt aggrieved to go into the break one down, as they had missed a sitter and conceded a soft goal. During the interval, a brass band played "Soldiers of the Queen" and other "inspiring" tunes. Luck remained with the Fosse in the second half, with Beardsley tipping a stinging shot onto the crossbar and Swift yet again coming to the rescue to prevent a certain goal, with a last second clearance. The home team continued to press, Beardsley charging down a number of shots and safely negotiating long efforts that rained in on him. To rub salt into Loughborough's wound, Fosse doubled their lead with yet another lucky goal. As Stubbs kicked away a shot, the ball accidentally struck Brown, and it rolled into the back of the net. The game ended with a 2-0 victory to the Fosse.

A rare fast fight with Sheffield Wednesday the following Saturday in front of record 12,000 crowd at Filbert Street produced yet another goalless draw. The Fosse had gone the first 11 games unbeaten, conceding just 4 goals in the process. Then, on 2 December came the first defeat - at Lincoln, the Fosse forwards being very disappointing. A point was picked up at New Brighton, followed by three wins at home against Grimsby, Loughborough, and Walsall and just a point from Woolwich Arsenal.

It somehow seems fitting that the final Leicestershire Derby Day took place on the last Christmas Day of the nineteenth century. One week later was the first day of the twentieth century and within a period of just a few months Loughborough FC would no longer exist, and Leicester supporters would have to seek out new arch-rivals. Played at Filbert Street, it came as no surprise to anyone with an ounce of football knowledge that the Fosse won the game with ease, given that the Luffs were even by Christmas dead and buried, having gained just two points from their opening 13 games. There appeared to be no lack of interest amongst the Fosse faithful, as about 7,000 witnessed the game. It is difficult gauge the major attraction of the fixture, the fact it was played on Christmas Day, or that it was against the 'auld enemy' or that a Fosse win seemed a certainty or most likely a mixture of all three. As predicted from the outset there was only one team in it and the Leicester keeper, a former Luff, Beardsley had nothing to do. Even if there had been no Fosse goalkeeper

on the field, they would still have won the game with ease. Stubbs, the Luffs "custodian", although making some excellent saves, made a number of costly errors. The visitors halves and backs were poor as they had been all season. "Dolly" Rose, who led the Loughborough side was run ragged. George Swift, another former Luff, Leicester's skipper, was by far best player on the pitch. It must have hurt the Luffs fans to be thrashed 4-0 by a team whose backbone was composed of former Loughborough talent.

The Loughborough's first win of the season eventually did arrive but until the first League fixture of the new century with a 2-1 home win against Burton Swifts. Attendances plummeted as the season progressed, with only 400 diehards present for the Luffs first two pointer. This victory proved to be the only highlight of a dreadful season. Loughborough only picked up one more point in the remaining 18 games of the season as defeat followed defeat. They suffered their record loss, 12-0 at Woolwich Arsenal on Monday 12 March 1900, after the original game on Boxing Day was abandoned after 75 minutes due to fog. Arsenal had forwarded the necessary travel expenses to transport the players to London. The eleven players only included four regular players, the others being amateurs who had played for the Reserve team in the Leicestershire Football League. Two of the players had not even played for several weeks. Loughborough were never in it, with Arsenal scoring four times in front of 800 onlookers at Plumstead in the first half and 8 times in the second. Things did not improve as Bolton and Barnsley both put 7 past the hapless Luffs. Loughborough conceded their 99th and 100th League goals of the season against Gainsborough in their final ever competitive game on 28 April 1900, witnessed by only 100 spectators.

At the end of March 1900, the Athletic Grounds was closed for the third time in a short period of time for crowd trouble. At the home game against Woolwich Arsenal on 3 March, the crowd hotly disputed Arsenal's winning goal by Logan, in an exciting 2-3 encounter, with the referee Mr Price, "receiving a hostile demonstration" from the 800 spectators present. Loughborough were found guilty and were required to close the Athletic Grounds for a month and the club were not allowed to play within a radius of 6 miles. A further charge was made by Mr Wallis, the linesmen against Mr H. T. Dunn, secretary of Loughborough FC for "making observations reflecting upon him as a linesman". Mr Henry Dunn was found guilty and suspended for a month from taking part in football or football management.

Loughborough's committee virtually collapsed with the loss of Henry Dunn who had worked tirelessly to keep the club afloat. Players took charge of the club, selecting the team, organising matchdays and paying themselves through the meagre home game gate receipts. Rooted firmly to the bottom of the League, the club haemorrhaged support, with gates rapidly diminishing from 800 for the Middlesbrough game down to 500 for the following week's fixture against Luton. Loughborough finished bottom of the League winning only a single game and collecting only 8 points from a possible 68, arguably the worst record in the history of the Football League - only Doncaster Rovers have an equally low points record, set in 1904-05, but they had a somewhat better goal average. Loughborough conceded 100 goals in 34 League games, scoring just 18. Loughborough born John Tebbs finished as the club's top scorer with just 3 goals. William Hodgkin has the dubious honour of scoring the Luffs last-ever goal in the club's swansong Football League fixture, a 1-2 defeat, at home to Gainsborough Trinity. Despite shipping in 97 goals Francis Stubbs moved to First Division Sheffield Wednesday in a £50. He would later become Mayor of Loughborough during the early 1940s.

On a miserable January afternoon at Barnsley - where one end was steadily qualifying as a duckpond - the Fosse won and promotion to the top tier of English Football seemed to be a distinct possibility. But at Burton the following week disaster awaited the Fosse, the Swifts being victorious by 2-0. The Fosse victory over Burslem Port Vale at Cobridge, of the previous season was repeated by exactly the same score (2-0), Eaton getting both goals. 17 February was a date to be remembered for it was the occasion of the Middlesbrough match, at the Linthorpe Road Ground, where the pitch was more like a ploughed field. A great storm had raged that week, paralysing telegraphic, the Fosse fans having to be content with the bare result, which was good news, instead of a full press report. Fosse won 1-0. Although the result was fully deserved it was a lucky goal, Brown, who scored it, was offside just previously, only a Middlesbrough man happened to touch it on the way into the net, making Brown onside. Chesterfield, who had proved such a tough opponent, were as challenging at home, in another drawn game. A visit to Gainsborough was pointless, losing by 0-3. "Wild" football was played by both sides when Fosse hosted Bolton Wanderers. Waller, the Richmond amateur - the "Richmond gem" - was nevertheless, excellent in goal for the Trotters, as he made a series of outstanding saves, one in particular from King in the last 10 minutes was one of the best things seen at the ground. The

game ending goal-less. Newton Heath again went under, 2-0 at Filbert Street and Fosse were even by late March still in with a shout for a promotion place. Sadly, a clear 2-0 defeat at Hillsborough, then known as the Owlerton Stadium, by Sheffield Wednesday finally ended the "great fight for promotion".

Although the players were crushed, Fosse managed to pull themselves together and beat Lincoln City (2-0) the following Saturday. They then had a punishing schedule, playing four League games in just five days. They lost twice in two days, both away from home at Newton Heath (2-3) and Small Heath (1-4), on Friday 13 and Saturday 14 April respectively, before destroying Gainsborough 5-0 on the Monday. The following day Fosse beat Small Heath (2-0) at Filbert Street. But on the last Saturday of the season – Fosse lost on their own ground for the first time in two seasons, New Brighton (1-2) doing the damage. In the final game, at Grimsby, Leicester sustained their worst League defeat (1-6). Rab King finished Fosse's top scorer with 14, followed by Johnny McMillan with 12 and new boy Tommy Brown with 9 goals. The best two home gates of the season were against Sheffield Wednesday (£291 4s 6d) and Bolton Wanderers (£288 8s 3d). The record gate for a League match was against Manchester City the previous season when the attendance yielded £344. Leicester finished in 5th place, 9 points from runners-up Bolton Wanderers and 11 points from Wednesday, who were both automatically promoted to the First Division. The gulf between Fosse and Loughborough was an astonishing 35 points.

Leicester Advertiser, Saturday 17 February 1900:

**ACTION AGAINST THE LOUGHBOROUGH FOOTBALL CLUB.
A QUESTION OF LIABILITY**

At the Loughborough County Court, on Friday, before his Honour Judge Wightman Wood, an action of interest to football clubs was heard, involving the question of the personal liability of the secretaries and committee of the Loughborough Club for debts contracted by the club. Wm. Hall, landlord of the Prince Blucher Hotel, Wellington-street, Leicester, formerly of the Greyhound Hotel, Loughborough, sued the following secretaries and members of the Loughborough Football Club for £40 13s 1d., rent and other items, viz.: Henry Thomas Dunn, tobacconist; Charles Harrison, cycle maker; W. A. Thompson, solicitor's clerk; Wm. Tempest Cockain, publican; Harry Louis Dormer, butcher; Wm. Clarke, painter; Herbert Rudkin, hosiery-hand; John Hy. Vickers, baker; Edward Fearn, engineer; George Holmes, hosiery-hand; Allen Moss, plumber, all of Loughborough; and W. A. Turner, formerly publican, of Quorn; Frank Facer, coffee-housekeeper, Quorn; and Fredk. A. Stenson, brewer's traveller, Sileby. The case had been remitted from the High Court. The items of claim were as under: - Rent of Athletic Ground, Loughborough, from September 1, 1898, to April 1899, £30; November 11, 1898, tripe supper and refreshments, £1 12s.; November 19, money lent, £3; refreshments during football season, £3 9s 3d.; three players' beds, suppers and breakfasts, 10s.; drinks, 1s 4d., coal and oil during season, £2; total £40 13s 1d. The defendants Harriman and Moss admitted the claim for the supper and refreshments and paid £1 12s. into court; Dunn admitted the 10s., but all the defendants denied liability for the rest of the claim. Defendant Thompson entered a counterclaim for £8 10s., money agreed to be paid by plaintiff for the sale of refreshments on the ground at the Whitsuntide sports promoted by the Football Club. Mr H. Bray, of Leicester, appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr McCurdy, barrister, instructed by Messrs. Moss and Taylor represented all the defendants. Mr Bray said that plaintiff was tenant of the Greyhound Hotel and Athletic Ground from April 1898, to May 1899, under the Midland Brewery Company, and at a rental of £165 a year. The defendants were the secretaries and committee of the Loughborough Football Club. Since the action had been commenced it had been found that George Holmes was not on the committee and so far, as he was concerned the action against him was abandoned. Turner had not been served, so that he, too, was not included in the present action. Just before the football season began in 1898 Mr Harriman, who was then a member of the committee, came to the plaintiff as to getting the ground and dressing room ready, and told him he would be paid the usual rent as paid to previous tenants. On that plaintiff gave up the keys of the dressing rooms, and the season was commenced. The committee managed the club, received the gate-money, and paid all liabilities, so they were personally liable. As to the rent, there was a peculiar fact that one portion of the ground was not used to play on, and on one occasion plaintiff had the opportunity of letting it for a circus for £10 if a piece of the football ground could have been used for stakes. Plaintiff went to Harriman, and asked permission for the stakes being driven into the ground, but he declined to allow it being done. Another fact in support of the claim was that on April 8, 1899, the defendants granted the use of the

ground to the Loughborough Charity Association, and if they were not the tenants of the ground what authority had they to grant the use of it to the Charity Association? The item for money lent arose under these circumstances. The second team players were going to play Barwell, and they came to plaintiff and told him Harriman had gone away with the first team and had left no money for the railway expenses. They said they could not find a committee man, and the railway company would not trust them as before, so they asked plaintiff to lend them £3. Plaintiff lent the money, and on the following Monday Harriman thanked him for doing so, and he was to put it on the bill, and it would be paid at the end of the season. The circumstances of the supplying of refreshments, for which £3 9s. 9d. was claimed, were that the secretary, first Mr Dunn, then Mr Harriman, and then Mr Dunn again, gave orders for the trainer to be supplied on match days with a gallon to a gallon and a half of tea, or lemonade and sherry. Then the committee used to go into the rooms and have whiskies and brandies, and treat the referee, and when asked to pay they would tell him to put it on the bill. Mr Bray knew of the forthcoming Whit Tuesday sports and knew the club would be in funds from those sports, and so there was a chance of his being paid. When he found he could not get the gate-money he asked two or three members to make themselves personally responsible, showing clearly that in his mind there was no personal liability. They declined to personally guarantee, and he consented to wait. On this point, therefore, Mr McCurdy submitted that plaintiff was looking to the funds of the club or some corporate liability of the committee as a whole, and that position was not tenable in law. Then Mr McCurdy cited the case of *Todd v Emery*, in which it was held that a tradesman supplying goods on the order of a member of a committee could not recover from the other members without proving either that the defendants were privy to the contract or that the contract was in furtherance of the common purpose of the association. - Mr Bray remarked that that case supported him. - Mr McCurdy submitted a member of a committee could only be made liable by showing that he personally entered into the contract on the terms of his personal credit or authorised some other person to do so on those terms on his behalf. - His Honour said if those members of the club were not liable who were privy to the contract, it was a question of evidence who were, unless it could be proved that the dealings were in furtherance of the purpose for which the committee was appointed. Was not the common object of the football club to play football? If so, they must have a ground to play it on. - Mr McCurdy said they were the trustees of funds entrusted to their charge. It was not part of their business to pledge the club's credit on their own. - His Honour: But they had authority to deal on credit in respect of matters which were in furtherance of the purpose for which they were appointed - Mr McCurdy said they could not be sued as a committee, and he maintained that as to the rent and the money lent there was no evidence that any of them were privy to the contract, of which the only evidence was an isolated conversation. - The Judge: They must have known they had a ground, for they used and occupied it. - Mr McCurdy: But there is no evidence that they authorised Harriman to enter into a contract for the hire of the ground on the terms that they should be personally liable for it. He submitted that with the exception of Harriman none of the defendants had a case to answer. As to the money lent, he contended that the plaintiff had failed to make out his case. It was a loan to a certain number of players unnamed, and the subsequent promise to answer for the debt was no good. The money was not lent to any of the defendants. -The Judge: The loan was intended for the club for the purposes of the club. -Mr McCurdy: Then plaintiff should look to the club funds for repayment. -The Judge: The players were in the service of the club, and the loan was made to them as servants of the club.-Mr McCurdy said there was no evidence of that. Mr Bray then cited cases in answer to defendants' counsel and maintained that the members of the committee were responsible for the debts incurred by the committee. His Honour asked how many witnesses there were for the defence, and Mr McCurdy replied that he proposed to call all the defendants to deny most of the allegations. They would simply say they knew nothing about them. His Honour said he must adjourn the case to the next sitting of the court, and meantime he would consider the cases mentioned. If he came to the conclusion that he would not want to hear the evidence of the defendants, he would communicate with the counsel and solicitors. Whatever his decision might be he thought the case ought to be settled between the parties. It was a club for sport, and ought to be carried on in a sportsmanlike way -Mr McCurdy asked his Honour to reserve his remarks till he had heard the defence -His Honour remarked, as he rose, that it seemed to him this paying of players was utterly destructive of true sport. The case was then adjourned.

At the end of the season the Loughborough Committee, with Mr Dunn, back at the helm after his ban, formally sought re-election along with Barnsley and Luton, the three teams that made up the bottom three. Given the number of issues both on and off the pitch Loughborough only received the support of three clubs at the annual meeting of the Football League held on 21 May 1900 and failed to be re-elected along with Luton. The

clubs elected were Blackpool, Barnsley, and Stockport County. A week later Loughborough were elected back to the Midland League. Preparations were made to establish a new club committee to run the club. Sadly, there was not the interest within the town to save the club.

On 29 June 1900 at a meeting held in Loughborough it was decided that the club was defunct. In one final attempt to save the club, Henry Dunn called an "*important general meeting*" on 3 July 1900 at the Greyhound Hotel. Few people attended and as there seemed no prospect of a satisfactory meeting, no attempt was made to hold one. Not a single member of the club committee put in an appearance. Mr Dunn stated to the small gathering present that the Midland League were anxious to know whether the club would fulfil their 1900-01 fixtures that had already been published. They wanted to know by the end of that week, so that arrangements could be made with other clubs as to the fixtures. Mr Dunn unfortunately had little choice but to decline the offer to join the Midland League. The local press reporting that. "It seems that Loughborough Football Club is dead" – indeed an incredibly sad end to a once proud club. The final debt was just £200 which was much lower than it had been in previous years.

It is difficult to say with any degree of certainty what killed Loughborough FC. There was some bad luck and occasional mismanagement, but it was probably the lack of support and a limited catchment area that ultimately brought the club to an untimely end. Although by comparison with Leicester Fosse and other local Football League clubs, attendances at the Athletic Grounds were low, it must be remembered that that in the late nineteenth century Loughborough had a population of around 25,000, so to attract crowds of up to 10,000 was a remarkable achievement. The running costs, in particular the wage bill, spiralled out of control as the club rapidly rose from regional football to the second tier of professional football in England. Loughborough FC will never be forgotten. Although Loughborough were only in existence for less than 20 years, they were the first Leicestershire club to complete in the English Challenge Cup and in a league competition; they inflicted the worst ever Football League defeat on the mighty Arsenal 8-0 in 1896 and last but by no means least, Leicester Fosse versus Loughborough 'derby day' encounters provided hitherto unknown intense interest and excitement to football supporters across the county throughout the 1880s and 1890s.

Leicester Fosse Results

Date	Opposition	Result	Score	Scorer	Attendance
02.09.1899	Woolwich Arsenal (A)	W	2 - 0	King, Brown	10,000
09.09.1899	Barnsley (H)	W	1 - 0	Wragg	6,000
16.09.1899	Burton Swifts (H)	W	1 - 0	Ball	5,000
23.09.1899	Luton Town (A)	D	0 - 0		4,000
25.09.1899	Walsall (A)	W	2 - 1	Bradshaw, Brown	2,500
30.09.1899	Burslem Port Vale (H)	W	2 - 0	Bradshaw, McMillan	5,000
14.10.1899	Middlesbrough (H)	W	4 - 1	Brown, King (2), McMillan	8,000
21.10.1899	Chesterfield (A)	D	0 - 0		7,000
28.10.1899	Wellingborough (H)	W	3 - 1	McMillan, Bishop, Brown	4,000
04.11.1899	Bolton Wanderers (A)	D	2 - 2	McMillan, Dainty	5,000
11.11.1899	Loughborough (A)	W	2 - 0	Wragg, Brown	5,000
25.11.1899	Sheffield Wednesday (H)	D	0 - 0		12,000
27.11.1899	Burton Swifts (A)	W	3 - 1	Brown (2), Swift	2,000
02.12.1899	Lincoln City (A)	L	0 - 2		4,000
09.12.1899	Hucknall Portland (A)	W	6 - 1	King, Bradshaw, McMillan (2), Lyon	2,000
16.12.1899	New Brighton Tower (A)	D	2 - 2	McMillan, Bradshaw	2,000
23.12.1899	Grimsby Town (H)	W	3 - 0	McMillan (2), OG	
25.12.1899	Loughborough (H)	W	5 - 0	Bradshaw, King (2), Galbraith, Allen	7,000
27.12.1899	Walsall (H)	W	2 - 1	McMillan, King	7,500
30.12.1899	Woolwich Arsenal (H)	D	0 - 0		8,500
06.01.1900	Barnsley (A)	W	2 - 1	King, Dainty	1,000
13.01.1900	Burton Swifts (A)	L	0 - 2		2,000

20.01.1900	Luton Town (H)	D	2 - 2	Allen, McMillan	6,000
27.01.1900	Sheffield United (A)	L	0 - 1		
03.02.1900	Burslem Port Vale (A)	W	2 - 0		600
17.02.1900	Middlesbrough (A)	W	1 - 0	Brown	8,000
24.02.1900	Chesterfield (H)	D	2 - 2	McMillan, King	5,000
03.03.1900	Gainsborough Trinity (A)	L	0 - 3		2,000
10.03.1900	Bolton Wanderers (H)	D	0 - 0		10,000
24.03.1900	Newton Heath (H)	W	2 - 0	King, Brown	8,000
31.03.1900	Sheffield Wednesday (A)	L	0 - 2		12,000
07.04.1900	Lincoln City (H)	W	2 - 0	Mercer, King	4,000
13.04.1900	Newton Heath (A)	L	2 - 3	Mercer, Wragg	10,000
14.04.1900	Small Heath (A)	L	1 - 4	Lyon	6,000
16.04.1900	Gainsborough Trinity (H)	W	5 - 0	Wragg (2), Lyon, Dainty, King	1,500
17.04.1900	Small Heath (H)	W	2 - 0	Bradshaw, Lyon	6,000
21.04.1900	New Brighton Tower (H)	L	1 - 2	King	3,000
28.04.1900	Grimsby Town (A)	L	1 - 6	King	3,000

Loughborough FC Results

Date	Opposition	Result	Score	Scorers	Attendance
02.09.1899	Bolton Wanderers (H)*	L	2-3	Tebbs, Clifford	5,000
09.09.1899	Burton Swifts (A)	L	1-3	Harrison	
16.09.1899	Newton Heath (A)	L	0-4		6,000
23.09.1899	Sheffield Wednesday (H)	D	0-0		4,000
28.10.1899	Hinckley Town	L	1-2	Parker	
30.09.1899	Lincoln City (A)	L	2-3	Clifford, Tebbs	3,000
07.10.1899	Small Heath (H)	L	1-2	Brown	2,500
21.10.1899	Grimsby Town (H)	D	0-0		2,000
04.11.1899	Barnsley (H)	D	0-0		1,000
11.11.1899	Leicester Fosse (H)	L	0-2		6,000
25.11.1899	Burslem Port Vale (A)	L	1-3	Allen	500
02.12.1899	Walsall (H)	D	0-0		2,000
09.12.1899	Middlesbrough (A)	L	0-3		3,000
23.12.1899	Gainsborough Trinity (A)	L	2-4	Brown, Allen	
25.12.1899	Leicester Fosse (A)	L	0-5		7,000
26.12.1899	Woolwich Arsenal (A)	Aban	0-4	Abandoned after 75 mins due to fog	7,000
30.12.1899	Bolton Wanderers (A)	L	0-7		3,000
06.01.1900	Burton Swifts (H)	W	2-1	Bailey, Tebbs	400
13.01.1900	Newton Heath (H)	L	0-2		600
20.01.1900	Sheffield Wednesday (A)	L	0-5		
27.01.1900	New Brighton Tower (A)	L	0-3		
10.02.1900	Small Heath (A)	L	0-6		2,000
17.02.1900	New Brighton Town (H)	L	1-2	Rose	
24.02.1900	Grimsby Town (A)	L	0-2		2,500
03.03.1900	Woolwich Arsenal (H)	L	2-3	Tebbs, Rose	800
10.03.1900	Barnsley (A)	L	0-7		
12.03.1900	Woolwich Arsenal (A)	L	0-12		600
24.03.1900	Luton Town (A)	L	0-4		
31.03.1900	Burslem Port Vale (H)**	L	1-2	Rose	1,000
07.04.1900	Walsall (A)	L	0-1		2,000
13.04.1900	Chesterfield (A)	L	0-1		2,000
14.04.1900	Middlesbrough (H)	D	1-1	Hazard	800

16.04.1900	Chesterfield (H)	L	0-4		500
17.04.1900	Luton Town (H)	D	1-1	AN Other	300
23.04.1900	Lincoln City (H)	L	0-1		100
28.04.1900	Gainsborough Trinity (H)	L	1-2	Hodgkin	100

* Played at Filbert Street, Leicester

** Played at the Vicarage Ground, Whitwick - home of Whitwick White Cross FC

Top Goal Scorers 1899-1900

Leicester Fosse		Loughborough	
Tommy Brown	9	John Tebbs	4
Tommy Bradshaw	6	Allen	2
Herbert Dainty	3	James Brown	2
		George Clifford	2
		Charles Rose	2