

Midland League 1898-99

		P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Doncaster Rovers	26	14	5	7	56	47	33
2	Ilkeston Town	26	15	2	9	55	37	32
3	Kettering	26	12	7	7	47	32	31
4	Chesterfield	26	14	3	9	59	42	31
5	Wellingborough	26	11	6	9	49	34	28
6	Burton Wanderers	26	11	5	10	49	38	27
7	Rushden Town	26	12	3	11	44	43	27
8	Derby County Reserves	26	10	5	11	61	47	25
9	Sheffield United Reserves	26	9	7	10	45	45	25
10	The Wednesday Reserves	26	10	5	11	42	52	25
11	Heanor Town	26	8	5	13	36	53	21
12	Leicester Fosse Reserves	26	9	2	15	34	58	20
13	Long Eaton Rangers	26	9	2	15	38	65	20
14	Mexborough	26	8	3	15	33	55	19

Winner:	Doncaster Rovers
Runner-Up:	Ilkeston Town
Wooden-spoon:	Mexborough
Games Played:	182
Missing Results:	0
Goals scored:	599
Biggest home win:	Derby County Reserves 9-1 Doncaster Rovers
Biggest away win:	Mexborough 0-5 Chesterfield Town
Highest scoring:	10: Derby County Reserves 9-1 Doncaster Rovers

A fresh influx of clubs saw the Midland League return to 14 clubs. The three clubs that left the ML at the end of last season were all elected to the Football League. The clubs replacing them – Derby County Reserves, Heanor Town, Leicester Fosse Reserves, The Wednesday and Sheffield United Reserves - were mainly the reserve teams of established Football League clubs. All of the 'reserve' clubs had competed in the nine-team United Counties League in 1897-98 season, which was won by The Wednesday Reserves. The two Sheffield clubs had also competed in the Yorkshire League in 1897-98, with United finishing champions and Wednesday fifth. Heanor Town were accepted back into the Midland League after a one year absence.

Home Grounds

Home Ground 1898-99	
Burton Wanderers	Derby Turn, Burton-on-Trent
Chesterfield Town	New Recreation Ground, Saltergate
Derby County Reserves	Baseball round, Derby
Doncaster Rovers	Intake Ground, Doncaster
Heanor Town	Town Ground, Heanor
Ilkeston Town	Manor Ground, Ilkeston
Kettering	Rockingham Rad, Kettering
Lincoln City Reserves	Sincil Bank, Lincoln
Leicester Fosse Reserves	Filbert Street, Leicester
Long Eaton Rangers	Recreation Ground, Long Eaton
Mexborough	Town round, Mexborough
Rushden Town	Newton Road Ground, Rushden

Sheffield United Reserves	Bramall Lane, Sheffield
The Wednesday	Olive rove, Sheffield
Wellingborough	Thomas Field, Union Lane. Wellingborough

The team that set the pace from the outset was Ilkeston Town, with just one defeat in their first 10 games. By early November they had a 4 point lead, with former Fosse and Loughborough striker, Albert Carnelly, and Sam Raybould, regularly among the goals. Outside of their Midland League commitments, Ilkeston suffered fixture congestion, but were still favourites to win the title when they drew with Doncaster Rovers in their final home game of the season on the first Saturday in March. The result left them with four away games and a 4 point lead over Chesterfield, Kettering, and Doncaster Rovers, all of whom stood a chance of winning the title.

Both Kettering and Chesterfield lost twice in the second half of March. Meanwhile Doncaster lost heavily at struggling Long Eaton Rangers, whilst Ilkeston were defeated on the same day at Sheffield United. On Good Friday Ilkeston lost again, this time at Heanor, just as Doncaster closed the gap with successive wins. The following day Ilkeston lost their final Midland League game of the season at Leicester. Remarkably, they retained top spot, with Chesterfield who had also played all their games, in second place. The new favourites were now Kettering, who along with Doncaster, still had 2 games to play. Kettering were 2 points adrift of Ilkeston, with Doncaster a further point behind. In a season full of surprises, Mexborough won only their second away point of the season at Kettering and two weeks later beat Kettering at home. Doncaster won their penultimate game on the season, making them level with Kettering and one point behind Ilkeston with one game left to play. In the final match, against Rushden, Kettering raced to a five goal lead by half-time , eventually winning both the game and the Midland league title for the second time.

Results Grid

Midland League 1898-99	Burton Wanderers	Chesterfield Town	Derby Couy Res	Doncaster Rovers	Heanor Town	Ilkeston Town	Kettering	Leicester Fosse Res	Long Eaton Rangers	Mexborough	Rushden Town	Sheffield United Res	The Wednesday	Wellingborough
Burton Wanderers		4-1	0-4	2-3	4-0	3-1	1-1	5-0	3-0	2-2	2-1	4-2	5-1	1-1
Chesterfield Town	3-1		4-3	2-0	5-1	2-3	2-1	1-0	5-1	1-1	3-1	4-0	1-0	2-0
Derby County Res	0-1	6-1		9-1	2-3	2-2	0-2	3-2	5-0	3-0	0-1	2-2	0-0	4-0
Doncaster Rovers	3-2	3-2	1-1		3-2	2-0	3-1	5-1	4-0	3-0	6-0	2-1	4-2	2-0
Heanor Town	0-0	3-1	1-3	2-1		3-0	1-2	1-3	2-1	2-0	1-2	1-1	2-4	0-2
Ilkeston Town	5-4	2-0	7-1	2-2	2-0		2-0	5-0	2-0	2-0	3-0	2-0	4-1	2-0
Kettering	2-0	2-2	3-3	2-1	3-1	4-1		3-0	1-0	1-1	2-1	1-0	2-0	0-0
Leicester Fosse Res	1-0	2-1	1-2	1-1	0-3	1-0	3-0		3-0	2-1	1-2	4-0	1-3	1-3
Long Eaton Rangers	2-1	2-2	2-0	4-0	1-3	2-4	0-7	4-0		4-1	2-0	3-2	1-1	1-0
Mexborough	1-0	0-5	3-0	1-1	5-0	0-1	2-1	3-2	2-4		2-0	3-1	3-2	1-2
Rushden Town	1-1	2-0	3-4	0-0	4-0	3-1	1-0	3-0	5-1	5-2		0-5	6-0	0-3
Sheffield United Res	1-1	2-1	2-1	1-3	2-2	3-1	3-3	2-2	4-1	3-0	1-1		2-0	3-1
The Wednesday	0-2	0-4	3-2	5-2	1-1	1-0	2-1	2-3	2-1	5-0	3-1	1-0		2-2
Wellingborough	3-0	2-4	2-1	5-0	1-1	3-1	2-2	5-0	6-1	3-0	0-1	1-2	2-2	

Leicester Fosse Reserves

Date		Opposition	Result	Score	Scorers	Attend.	Notes
1.9.1898	H	Burton Wanderers	W	1-0	Eaton		Leicester Fosse Reserves' first ML fixture.

3.9.1898	A	Chesterfield Town	L	0-1			22 year old Herbert Munday scored the only goal of the game.
10.9.1898	H	Wellingborough	L	1-3	Dorrell / Raby (3)		
17.9.1898	A	Sheffield Wednesday Reserves	W	3-2	Fletcher (2), Coulson		Sheffield's third consecutive 3-2 scoreline - winning one and losing two.
24.9.1898	H	Kettering	W	3-0	Eaton (2), Parry		
1.10.1898	H	Long Eaton Rangers	W	3-0	Coulson (2), Fulwood		
15.10.1898	H	Sheffield Wednesday Reserves	L	1-3	Fulwood/ Beech (2), Crawshaw		Sheffield went into the game having lost 4 consecutive ML games.
22.10.1898	A	Kettering	L	0-3	/Woodward, Winterhalder, Wallis		
5.11.1898	A	Ilkeston Town	L	0-5	/Carnelly (3), Peace, Dunn		
26.11.1898	H	Heanor Town	L	0-3	/Hopkins, Allen, Hollingworth		Both sides had lost their 3 previous ML games.
17.12.1898	A	Mexborough	L	2-3	Coulson, AN Other/Parkin, Harrison, Hollin		After claiming just 1 point from 8 ML games, Mexborough condemned the Fosse to their 5 th consecutive defeat.
26.12.1898	A	Long Eaton Rangers	L	0-4	/Lowe (2), Geary, Hancock		
7.1.1899	A	Rushden	L	0-3	/Sale, Dunkley, Hingerty		Leicester's 7 th consecutive ML defeat
14.1.1899	H	Doncaster Rovers	D	1-1	Keech/Gall		
21.1.1899	A	Doncaster Rovers	L	1-5	Coulson/ Gladwin (2), Langton, Linward, Oxspring		Leicester's 9 th ML game without a win
4.2.1899	H	Mexborough	W	2-1	Coulson, Fulwood/ Parkin		Mexborough played with just 10 men, and lost their 6 th consecutive ML game.
14.2.1899	A	Sheffield United Reserves	D	2-2	Lyon, Fletcher		Game should have taken place at Bramall Lane, but due to a waterlogging, it was played at Sheaf House, Sheffield.
18.2.1899	H	Rushden	L	1-2	Brown/Denton, Hingerty		Fulwood retired injured before Rushden scored their first goal.
4.3.1899	A	Wellingborough	L	0-5	/Williams, Walker, Raby, Hyde, Scrivens		All 5 of Wellingborough's forwards scored.
18.3.1899	H	Derby County Reserves	L	1-2	Bishop/ Hunt, McQueen		
23.3.1899	H	Chesterfield Town	W	2-1	McMillan (2)		Replayed game. First team player McMillan's goals dented Chesterfield's title hopes.
31.3.1899	A	Burton Wanderers	L	0-5	/Cooper (3), Capes (2)		
3.4.1899	A	Derby County Reserves	L	2-3	Coulson (2)		Fosse failed to win their 10 th ML away game.
4.4.1899	H	Ilkeston Town	W	1-0	Bishop		Leicester fielded several first team players. Disastrous result for the League leaders.
8.4.1899	A	Heanor Town	W	3-1	Coulson, Galbraith, Fitzpatrick		Snowstorm and strong wind.
15.4.1899	H	Sheffield United Reserves	W	4-0	Galbraith (2). Lyon (2)		Third consecutive victory for Leicester which took them off the bottom of the ML on the same day Sheffield United first team won the FA Cup.