



Belvoir District Football League 1896-97

Winner: Not Known
Runner-Up: Not Known

Little is currently known about this village football competition apart from the information given below

The League, open to Village Clubs within a 7 mile radius of Belvoir, was formed at meeting was held at the Peacock Hotel in Belvoir on 21 October 1896. The following clubs were represented – Woolsthorpe, Denton, Muston, Knipton and Stathern.

Stathern withdrew from the League in April.

It is not known whether the League was completed.

Results and Match Details

Date	Home			Away	Match Details
14.11.1896	Bottesford	0 (0)	5 (2)	Stathern Olympic	Mr Sherwin's field, Belvoir-road, Bottesford. First game played by Bottesford.
14.11.1896	Woolsthorpe Rovers	7	1	Knipton Wanderers	
28.11.1896	Bottesford	5	1	Knipton Wanderers	Bottesford second Belvoir League mach.
26.12.1896	Woolsthorpe Rovers	0	2	Bottesford	Game was accidentally ended 10 mins early by the referee.
9.1.1897	Stathern Olympic	0	4	Bottesford	
6.2.1897	Denton Wanderers	1	1	Woolsthorpe Rovers	
13.2.1897	Stathern Olympics	8 (6)	1 (1)	Knipton Wanderers	Moderate number of spectators. Knipton fielded just 9 players.
27.2.1897	Denton Wanderers Lane Bailey (2) Chailands	4	1	Knipton Wanderers og (Newman)	At Denton. Denton missed a penalty
6.3.1897	Woolsthorpe Rovers	3 (2)	0 (0)	Stathern Olympic	Brewer's Grave ground, Woolsthorpe. Considerable interest centred on the match. This result sent Woolsthorpe to the top of the League
13.3.1897	Bottesford	3	0	Denton Wanderers	
20.3.1897	Bottesford	4 (2)	1 (0)	Woolsthorpe Rovers	Grand weather. Bottesford fifth consecutive League win.
20.3.1897	Knipton Wanderers	2	3	Stathern Olympic	

Match Reports

FOOTBALL.—The new Bottesford club played their first match—a Belvoir League one—on Saturday last. The venue was Mr. Sherwin's field on the Belvoir-road, and Bottesford's opponents were Stathern—or, perhaps more correctly, Harby and Stathern. The visitors were returned the victors, obtaining three goals in the first half of the game and two in the second. For Bottesford, the backs played a good game, particularly Captain Hollingsworth, but the rest of the team did not appear to be particularly dangerous. Considering that it was their first game together, however, the players may feel fairly satisfied. Furmidge (outside right) played a good game for Stathern.

Grantham Journal - Saturday 21 November 1896

FOOTBALL.—Bottesford played their second Belvoir League match on Saturday last. Their opponents were Knipton, the match being played at Bottesford. The home team scored an easy win by five goals to one.

Grantham Journal - Saturday 5 December 1896

STATHERN OLYMPICS V. KNIPTON WANDERERS.—After five weeks' rest, the Olympics were engaged, on Saturday last, in a League match under the Belvoir and District Rules, their opponents coming from Knipton. A moderate number of spectators witnessed the contest, the home team being under the captaincy of B. P. Bird. Winning the toss, the visitors, who played nine men, decided to face the town end goal. Jackson, for homesters, set the ball going, and before play had proceeded far an account was opened for Olympics, who before half-time had registered no less than 6 goals to opponents 1. On resuming play, the homesters took matters more leisurely, but their opponents played throughout a plucky and cool game. However, they had to be content by being beaten 8 to 1. The home team was represented by—T. Bend, goal; J. Hallam and H. Furmidge, backs; E. Green, A. Singleton, and H. Skinner, half-backs; T. Reeves and H. Hall, right wing; B. P. Bird and R. Baker, left wing; J. J. Jackson, centre. Linesman, Mr. H. Osborne, Eastwell. Referee, Mr. S. Pierce, of Woolsthorpe.

Grantham Journal - Saturday 20 February 1897

BELVOIR AND DISTRICT LEAGUE.

DENTON MANOR V. KNIPTON WANDERERS.—Played on Saturday last, at Denton. The visitors won the toss, and elected to play with the wind and sun at their backs, but from the kick-off the home team began to press, and forced two corners. Then the visitors played up better, and soon after came the first goal of the day, Newman, in attempting to clear, kicking through his own goal. On re-starting the home front rank worked their way in the visitors' half again, and Lane, who was playing hard up to now, equalised. A penalty was allowed the home team, but came to nothing, and half-time arrived with the score one goal each. After change of ends, the home team kept their opponents on the defensive, and scored three more goals—two by Bailey and Challands one—and thus ran out winners by four goals to one. *Denton Manor*: Hawley, goal; Newman and Goobey, backs; Challands, Bee, and H. Johnson, half-backs; Lane and Scofield, left wing; Bailey, centre; Hill and Kirk, right wing.

Grantham Journal - Saturday 6 March 1897

WOOLSTHORPE-BY-BELVOIR.

FOOTBALL.—The home team played Stathern Olympics at Woolsthorpe on Saturday. Considerable interest centred in the match, it being a Belvoir League fixture. Woolsthorpe had shown such poor form against Bottesford the week before, that their supporters felt very dubious as to the result of Saturday's encounter. The Blues, however, played up in their true form, and, after a capital game, ran out winners by three goals to none. This victory placed Woolsthorpe once more at the top of the League.

FOOTBALL.—A meeting of the Belvoir and District League was held at the Chequers Inn, Woolsthorpe, on the 4th inst. Amongst those present, besides Club representatives, were Dr. Macdonald, in the chair, and the Rev. E. E. Farmer (Bottesford). The principal business was the appointment of referees for March, and the arrangement of postponed fixtures. Bottesford agreed to play Woolsthorpe the return match on the 20th inst., and Stathern at home on April 10th, and away 24th prox. Woolsthorpe and Knipton arranged their postponed fixture for Good Friday. A scheme for obtaining medals for the champions was also discussed, and it is hoped that the winners in the competition will play the pick of the League a match for the benefit of the League.

Grantham Journal - Saturday 13 March 1897

BELVOIR AND DISTRICT LEAGUE.

STATHERN OLYMPICS v. WOOLSTHORPE ROVERS.—Played on the ground of the latter, on Saturday last. The visitors were complete strangers to the "Brewer's Grave" ground, and were without the valuable services of Jackson and Edwards. The Rovers won the toss, and play ruled even for a time, but before the interval the Rovers had scored 2 to the Olympics 0. On changing over, hopes of equalising were entertained by the visitors, but the homesters proved too much for them, and just before the call of time another goal was credited, victory thus resting with them by 3 to 0. *Olympic Team:* T. Bend, goal; R. Baker and J. Hallam, backs; E. Green, H. Furnidge, senr., and H. Skinner, half-backs; P. Bird and H. Hall, left wing; E. Brown and T. Reeves, right wing; H. Furnidge, junr., centre. Linesman, Mr. H. Osborne.

Grantham Journal - Saturday 13 March 1897

BOTTESFORD.

FOOTBALL.—Bottesford played their second Belvoir League fixture with Denton, at Bottesford, on Saturday last, and, after a good game, the homesters were returned the winners by 3 goals to 0.

Grantham Journal - Saturday 20 March 1897

Additional Information

BELVOIR.

FOOTBALL LEAGUE.—The adjourned meeting of the Belvoir District League was duly held at the Peacock Hotel on Tuesday evening. All the officers were present, viz., Dr. Macdonald, president; Rev. E. E. Farmer, vice-president; Messrs. W. R. Barber and F. Bonshor, treasurer and secretary respectively; and, in addition, the following clubs were represented, viz., Muston, Bottesford, Woolsthorpe, Knipton, Denton, and Stathern. The minutes of the first meeting were read over and confirmed, and other rules were made. It was decided that, as the season was already somewhat advanced, the half-dozen clubs mentioned above would be quite sufficient for a League this year, though it was hoped the number of clubs would be raised to nine or ten another season. Fixtures were then arranged, Saturday, Nov. 7th, being the date of the first match.

Grantham Journal - 31 October 1896

FOOTBALL.—Referring to the meeting of the Committee of the Belvoir Football League, held at Belvoir, on Tuesday evening last, to consider the protest raised by Woolsthorpe against the result of their match with Bottesford on Boxing-day, a correspondent writes:—Our readers may remember that the game ended in a victory for Bottesford by 2 goals to 0, but unfortunately the Referee, through some mistake, closed the game seven minutes to time. After some discussion, the voting for and against the re-playing of the match was equal, and Mr. Bonshor, the hon. secretary of the Woolsthorpe Club, who presided in the absence of Dr. Macdonald, the president, was placed in the unenviable position of having to give a casting vote. Of course, he did what his Club expected him to do, in spite of the fact that the Referee stated as his opinion that Woolsthorpe would never have scored had the additional time been played. The Committee of the Bottesford Club have decided, owing to such unfair treatment, to withdraw from the League, and in future play only "friendly" matches. The League system in village football is undoubtedly the cause of a lot of wrangling and squabbling, which cannot conduce to the welfare of the game.

Grantham Journal - Saturday 9 January 1897

FOOTBALL.—A meeting of the Belvoir and District League was held at the Chequers Inn, Woolsthorpe, on Tuesday evening, 19th inst. The following representatives were present, viz.:—Messrs. Barber and Heald (Woolsthorpe), Daybell and Hollingsworth (Bottesford), Cunnington and Smart (Knipton), Geo. Pearce, Newman, and F. Scofield (Denton), and F. Bonshor, hon. secretary of the League. In the absence of Dr. Macdonald (President of the League), Mr. Geo. Pearce was unanimously voted to the chair. The first business was the consideration of a protest by Stathern Olympics *re* their match with Bottesford, on 9th inst. Stathern alleged that, in consequence of the Bottesford secretary stating at the last League meeting that because the protest *re* Boxing-day match with Woolsthorpe was decided against them Bottesford F. C. would withdraw from the League, they only prepared for a friendly match on the 9th inst. Several of the men they played were not registered, and, under all the circumstances, they did not think the match ought to stand good as a League fixture. After some discussion, Bottesford intimated their willingness to re-play the match, which satisfactorily disposed of the protest. Muston having sent a very insulting post-card to the Secretary of the League, immediately after the last League meeting, wherein they signified their withdrawal from the League, it was decided that their resignation be not accepted till they had given satisfactory reasons for not carrying out their fixtures. This resolution debars their players from joining any other Club in the League for the time being. Bottesford wished to re-open the question of their match with Woolsthorpe on Boxing-day, which at the last League meeting was ordered to be re-played. By a substantial majority, the decision of the last meeting was upheld. Bottesford then arranged to re-play the match on a date in February. A proposition by Bottesford, that in future a protest shall be accompanied by the sum of 10s. instead of 2s. 6d. as hitherto, was carried by five votes to four. The appointment of referees for February concluded the business of the meeting. On the motion of Mr. D. R. Daybell, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. G. Pearce for presiding.