



# Loughborough & District League 1896-97

## Loughborough and District League 1896-97

		P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Barrow Excelsior	6	5	1	0	28	7	11
2	Markfield Albion	10	4	3	3	20	19	11
3	Mountsorrel Castle	5	5	0	0	21	4	10
4	Rothley Swifts	7	4	1	2	17	8	9
5	Loughborough Victoria	6	3	2	1	18	12	8
6	Mountsorrel St Peters	7	3	2	2	13	9	8
7	Hathern Victoria*	5	4	1	0	20	8	7
8	Loughborough Emmanuel	8	3	0	5	18	21	6
9	Loughborough Park	4	2	0	2	9	8	4
10	Woodhouse Rovers	6	1	0	5	6	14	2
11	Bardon Wanderers	8	0	0	8	6	27	0
12	Belton Villa	6	0	0	6	6	40	0

\*Two points deducted for playing an ineligible.  
Last known table - 5 November 1896

**Winner:** Hathern Victoria  
**Runner-Up:** ?  
**Wooden spoon:** ?

Twelve clubs competed for the inaugural Loughborough & District League.

At the request of several clubs a Leicestershire Football Association commission of inquiry was held into the conduct of the Loughborough and District League in November 1896. They found that the League was being conducted in a questionable manner and they recommended the removal the secretary of the League, Mr G H Newton, who was also secretary of Loughborough Emmanuel FC, from his office. The commission recommended the following alterations to the League to remedy many of the causes of the complaints:

- Full meetings of the League to be held once a month to select referees and to transact any League business.
- "Proper" minute book to be kept of the League and the Emergency Committee and all transactions entered therein and signed by the chairman at each following meeting
- That the League should not permit any referee to officiate in matches of clubs of which he is or has been a member.
- That the League shall insist on clubs paying the referee's fees according to rule and any referee receiving anything in excess of this, and the club paying it, shall be deemed guilty of a serious breach of rules and dealt with accordingly.
- That the League shall give clubs protested against on any point whatever an opportunity of attending or stating in writing their defence, before any decision is arrived ay.
- That the Emergency Committee if the League should at once see that a proper set of books are precured and that registration and acknowledgment of registration of players, according to rule, is strictly adhered to.



Winners Medal

George Newton (21), secretary of both Loughborough Emmanuel and the League was convicted of fraud and sentenced to 6 months hard labour. Newspaper reports such as the one given below provides a fascinating insight into the role of football club secretaries:

### FORGERY BY A FOOTBALL CLUB SECRETARY

George Harry Newton (21) clerk, Loughborough, was indicted for forging a receipt for the payment of £1 15s., with intent to defraud, and to a second indictment charging him with forging a receipt for 9s. 6d., with intent to defraud, he pleaded guilty. In the first case he denied the intention to defraud. — Mr. Magee, who appeared to prosecute, explained that prisoner had acted as secretary to a football club at Loughborough, and part of his duty was to hire brakes to convey the team when they had matches to play out of town. A charge of 1s each person was made, and the deficiency was made good out of the club funds. Prisoner had forged a receipt for 30s. due to the owner of the brake, but by pleading that he had no intent to defraud, Newton probably meant that he intended to pay the money at some future time. — Newton intimated that he desired to be tried by the jury, and the plea was taken as one of not guilty. — Evidence in support of the charge was given by Thomas Webster, printer's apprentice, Loughborough, present secretary and treasurer of the Loughborough Emmanuel Football Club. Last October the team went to Hathern, and 10s. was collected from the members. In the following week they went to Bardon, and on each occasion witness, as treasurer, paid prisoner a sum of money from the club funds to make up the charge for the brake, which each week was 17s. 6d. At a subsequent meeting of the club Newton produced a bill from Messrs. John Moss and Son for £1 15s., purporting to have been receipted by "P. Moss." but at an inquiry into certain alleged irregularities prisoner admitted to witness that he had written the name himself. — Percy John Moss was called to prove that he did not sign the receipt produced. — Prisoner said he was guilty of the forgery, but he had no intention to defraud, as he had arranged with Mr. John Moss to pay the money back again. He had been out of work for 18 months, with a spell of illness, and he was really driven to take the money. — His Lordship, in his summing up, remarked that it was a very sad case, as prisoner was a young man. and so far as it was known, of good character. What he had said did not exonerate him, for he undoubtedly did forge the receipt and put the money into his own pocket. — The jury found him guilty, with a recommendation to mercy. — His Lordship said he was very sorry to see prisoner in this position, because it really seemed that he had borne a good character. But although the jury had recommended him to mercy, it would be very wrong of him (the Judge) to pass over these offences with a merely nominal penalty, because prisoner had been placed in a position of trust, which he had betrayed. He would be sentenced to six calendar months' hard labour on each indictment, the sentences to run concurrently. *Leicester Chronicle – Saturday 20 February 1897*

Following disorderly conduct by spectators in the League match between Woodhouse and Mountsorrel Castle at Woodhouse, on 20 March 1897, Leicester Football Association passed the following ruling: The ground of the Woodhouse Club was closed until 13 September 1897. Raynor (Woodhouse) was suspended until 8 October for abusive conduct towards the referee. The Woodhouse Club was ordered to pay the expenses of the referee and the Leicestershire Football Association Commission of Inquiry.

Loughborough & District League 1897-7	Bardon Wanderers	Barrow Excelsior	Belton Villa	Hathern Victoria	Loughborough Emmanuel	Loughborough Park	Loughborough Victoria	Markfield Albion	Mountsorrel Castle	Mountsorrel St Peter's	Rothley Swifts	Woodhouse Rovers
Bardon Wanderers					2-6	1-2	2-5	1-3	0-2	0-1		4-3
Barrow Excelsior	6-0		11-1	3-3	6-0	4-2	0-2	4-1		3-1	4-1	
Belton Villa				2-6		1-1	2-5			1-7		1-2
Hathern Victoria		3-1	11-0		4-2	1-0	7-1	8-0	6-1	4-2	7-0	
Loughborough Emmanuel			7-0	2-4		6-0	3-?	2-1				4-1
Loughborough Park		1-1			2-0		2-1	1-3		2-2		3-0
Loughborough Victoria				0-3	3-1	3-0		1-1	3-1		4-1	7-0
Markfield Albion	2-1	1-3	5-2	0-0		2-1	2-1		1-4	1-0	2-2	2-2
Mountsorrel Castle			7-1	0-1	5-1		2-0					
Mountsorrel St Peter's		1-1		0-2			1-1	1-1	1-1		4-2	

Rothley Swifts	3-0		8-0		1-0	1-4		3-3	0-4			
Woodhouse Rovers	2-4						2-2	2-3	1-1	1-2	0-1	

Home win
  Away Win
  Draw
  Result Not Known

Most of the information in the table above was derived from the Melton Mowbray and Uppingham and Oakham News. However, I have only be able to access editions of this publication from September to December 1896.

### Match Results and Details

Date	Home			Away	Match Details
5.9.1896	Loughborough Emmanuel Russell Bramley	2	1	Markfield Albion AN Other	6s gate receipts Bramley (Emanuel) retired hurt towards the end of the game
5.9.1896	Rothley Swifts Baker Lole Haynes	3	0	Bardon Wanderers	13s gate receipts
12.9.1896	Bardon Wanderers	0	1	Mountsorrel St Peter's	
12.9.1896	Barrow Excelsior	4	2	Loughborough Park	
12.9.1896	Loughborough Emmanuel	2	4	Hathern Victoria	
12.9.1896	Loughborough Victoria	7	0	Woodhouse Rovers	
12.9.1896	Markfield	2	2	Rothley Swifts	
19.9.1896	Bardon Wanderers Morris	1	2	Loughborough Park AN Other og (Harris)	
19.9.1896	Belton Villa AN Other	1	7	Mountsorrel St Peter's Turner (3) Newbold (2) Sutton Hallam	Turner scored direct from the kick-off. His hat-trick was completed in "short time".
19.9.1896	Hathern Victoria	7	1	Loughborough Victoria	
19.9.1896	Markfield Albion Whitby	1	3	Barrow Excelsior AN Other og (Brewin) og (Spence)	120 spectators At the start of the second half, Spence scored an own goal and then hit a Barrow player with such force that he had to retire.
19.9.1896	Rothley Swifts Lole	1	0	Loughborough Emmanuel	100 spectators
26.9.1896	Bardon Wanderers AN Other (pen)	2	5	Loughborough Victoria Mounteney (3) AN Other Woodcock	Mounteney hat-trick for Loughborough Victoria
26.9.1896	Barrow	11	1	Belton	
26.9.1896	Mountsorrel Castle Hewitt Holmes Wykes Tansley Wesley	5	1	Loughborough Emmanuel Webster	Emanuel due to illness were only able to field 10 players. Emmanuel took the lead after 30 mins. Webster in scoring twisted his thigh so badly that he was little use after. Castle scored 4 goals in less than 20 mins in the second half.
26.9.1896	Mountsorrel St Peter's	0	2	Hathern Victoria	
26.9.1896	Loughborough Park AN Other	1	3	Markfield Albion Chapman Jordan Mee	
26.9.1896	Woodhouse Rovers	0	1	Rothley Swifts	Woodhouse too 'good support' with them
1.10.1896	Barrow Excelsior	6	0	Bardon Wanderers	

	AN Others Tommy (3) Frier				
1.10.1896	Markfield Albion Mee	1	4	Mountsorrel Castle Hewitt (3) Wesley	Field Head Ground Castle played much of the game with 10 men after Dodge strained himself in trying to reach for the ball. Albion players repeatedly kicked the ball out of the field,
1.10.1896	Rothley Swifts AN Other	1	4	Loughborough Park Cripps (3) AN Other	Rothley's first defeat of the season – which they took "very badly"
1.10.1896	Loughborough Victoria	3	1	Loughborough Emmanuel	Bootle Acre Ground
1.10.1896	Woodhouse Rovers AN Other	1	2	Mountsorrel St Peter's Turner Cotton	St Peter's – youngest team in the League, with an average age of 19 years
10.10.1896	Loughborough Emmanuel Webster (2) Russell Keightley Thomas	4	1	Woodhouse Rovers AN Other	
10.10.1896	Markfield Albion AN Others Jordan Waldram Cave	5	2	Belton Villa	100 spectators Belton scored within a minute of the game starting
10.10.1896	Mountsorrel St Peter's Turner (pen)	1	1	Loughborough Victoria AN Other	The two youngest teams in the league
12.10.1896	Markfield Albion	2	1	Bardon Wanderers	Good gate
17.10.1896	Barrow Excelsior AN Others	3	1	Mountsorrel St Peter's Turner	Spectators did not "behave themselves towards the referee."
17.10.1896	Hathern Victoria AN Others	4	2	Loughborough Emmanuel Russell (2)	
17.10.1896	Mountsorrel Castle Wykes Hewitt (2) Holmes (3) Bowler	7	1	Belton Villa AN Other	
17.10.1896	Loughborough Victoria AN Other	1	1	Markfield Albion Mee	
24.10.1896	Bardon Villa AN Others	2	6	Loughborough Emmanuel Webster Gould (3) Simmons Thomas	Emmanuel were late in arriving and a storm of unusual severity kept the teams off the field until a few minutes to four o'clock. Field was in a "shocking state." Game was very rushed, and the referee caused much amusement by some of his decisions. Referee Orgill of Markfield stopped the game 20 minutes from time, owing to darkness. The clubs were ordered by the League. Should Emanuel fail to attend the match would be awarded to Bardon.
24.10.1896	Belton Villa AN Other	1	2	Woodhouse "Nipper" AN Other	

24.10.1896	Mountsorrel Castle Hewitt Bilson	3	2	Loughborough Victoria (Park?) AN Other og (Shuttlewood)	
24.10.1896	Mountsorrel St Peter's AN Other	1	1	Markfield Albion Mee	
24.10.1896	Rothley Swifts AN Other	1	2	Barrow Excelsior AN Others	Swifts had a weak team, 5 reserve players being included, while Barrow played their full strength side. A sharp shower drove the payers from the field for 10 minutes
31.10.896	Bardon Wanderers	0	2	Mountsorrel Castle Bowler Tansley	The Castle goalkeeper only had to make one save throughout the whole game. Score was kept low owing to the many times the Castle were caught offside.
31.10.896	Barrow Excelsior Paxton Frier AN Other	3	3	Hathern Victoria AN Others	Owing to the late arrival of the visitors, the game did not commence until four o'clock
31.10.896	Rothley Swifts Baker (2) Wells West Lole (2) Palmer Sleath	8	0	Belton Villa	
31.10.896	Woodhouse Rovers AN Others	2	3	Markfield Albion Walton (2) Jordan	Poor attendance. A Markfield correspondent reported that the Woodhouse spectators "behaved more like heathens than human beings," After a League investigation the Woodhouse ground was closed until 10 December and the club not allowed to play matches within a 4 mile radius
7.11.1896	Bardon Wanderers	4	3	Woodhouse Rovers	Rovers took the field with 10 men. The last 20 minutes was played in 'perfect darkness.'
7.11.1896	Hathern Vitoria	8	0	Markfield Albion	
7.11.1896	Loughborough Park Savage	1	1	Barrow Excelsior AN Other	Athletic Grounds, Loughborough Vile weather, rain falling heavily nearly all the time.
7.11.1896	Mountsorrel Castle	A	A	Rothley Swifts	Abandoned at half -time with Castle leading 3-0. Heavy rain made the bottom end impracticable.
14.11.1896	Loughborough Emmanuel Russell Webster (3) Thomas Gould Stevens	7	0	Belton Villa	Two players started to fight just 2 minutes from time. One of them had to visit the dispensary shortly after.
14.11.1896	Loughborough Park AN Others	2	2	Mountsorrel St Peter's Whitehouse Baum	Saints goal keeper scored with a huge kick from the half-way line
14.11.1896	Loughborough Victoria	3	1	Mountsorrel Castle	
14.11.1896	Woodhouse Rovers	2	4	Bardon Wanderers	
21.11.1896	Barrow Excelsior	0	2	Loughborough Victoria Mounteney (2)	The brake in which the Loughborough journeyed to Barrow broke down before

					they reached the borough boundary and had to walk the remainder of the distance. The game commenced at 3.10. Deep into the second half as darkness came on apace the referee consulted the captains, five minutes before time as to the advisability of continuing the game. They agreed to finish it, but on the Excelsior terms, penalised for some offence, they left the field the field, the game being stopped 3 minutes before time
21.11.1896	Markfield Albion Mee AN Other	2	2	Woodhouse Rovers AN Other Wainwright	Stockwell (Markfield) suffered a nasty cut under the eye after colliding with an opponent. After Rovers equalised for the second tie, the spectators became excited and the local reported commented that "heathen and Fiji islanders would be jealous of the pandemonium the folk created.
21.11.1896	Mountsorrel St Peter's Kirchen	1	1	Mountsorrel Castle Bowler	Short time played. Good crowd.
28.11.1896	Hathern Victoria Taylor Thompson (2) Randon (2) Burrows	6	1	Mountsorrel Castle AN Other	
28.11.1896	Loughborough Emmanuel Gould Stevens Webster (4)	6	0	Loughborough Park	Webster scored 4 goals
28.11.1896	Loughborough Victoria og Mounteney	2	1	Rothley Swifts AN Other	Referee reported that owing to an error 8 mins short tie was played, but it would have been impossible to have finished the game, a start not being made until 3.20, Rothley arriving late. The match was ordered to be replayed, Rothley to have half the gate
28.11.1896	Markfield Albion Mee	1	0	Mountsorrel St Peter's	Albion were top of the League.
7.12.1896	Belton Villa	1	1	Loughborough Park	Park had one of their players was sent off as soon as the game started for having a "protector" on his boots. He remedied this, but the referee refused to allow him to take part. Consequently, Park played the whole game with 10 men.
7.12.1896	Loughborough Victoria	0	3	Hathern Victoria	Bottleacre Ground Best Victoria home gate of the season to date.
7.12.1896	Mountsorrel St Peter's	1	1	Barrow Excelsior	
7.12.1896	Rothley Swifts AN Others	3	3	Markfield Massey og AN Other	
12.12.1896	Loughborough Victoria	3	0	Loughborough Park	
12.12.1896	Loughborough Emmanuel Brooks	A	A	Mountsorrel St Peter's	Short time played. Mountsorrel players left the field 15 mins from time after Brooks scored for Emmanuel. Although requested to finish

					the game, they refused and the match was abandoned. The League decided that the result should stand.
12.12.1896	Rothley	0	4	Mountsorrel Castle Holmes Billson (3)	Replayed match, after 7 Nov was abandoned owing to rain. Weather was again unfavourable. Short time played. After half-time only 4 of the Rothley players turned out and the game was again abandoned. The result stood.
19.12.1896	Bardon Wanderers AN Other	1	3	Markfield Albion Jordan Clapham (2)	
19.12.1896	Barrow Excelsior	6	0	Loughborough Emanuel	
19.12.1896	Belton Villa AN Other	2	6	Hathern Victoria Randon (2) Thompson (2) Vickers	Hathern scored 5 goals in a little over 20 minutes.
19.12.1896	Loughborough Park Hibbins Unwin (2)	3	0	Woodhouse Rovers	Woodhouse adopted rough tactics. Referee stopped the game to issue cautions.
19.12.1896	Mountsorrel Castle Mounteney Billson	2	0	Loughborough Victoria	Two of Vic's regular first team players failed to appear and substitutes were utilised. Mee (Loughborough) left the field injured after 10 minutes.
25.12.1896	Mountsorrel St Peter's	4	2	Rothley	
26.12.1896	Belton Villa	2	5	Loughborough Victoria	Referee failed to attend, result classified as a 'friendly' rather than a League match.
26.12.1896	Hathern Victoria	4	2	Mountsorrel St Peter's	This result firmly planted Hathern at the top of league
26.12.1896	Loughborough Emmanuel	P	P	Bardon Wanderers	Bardon sent word at the very last moment that they could not raise a team and therefore would not make the journey. Emmanuel now had 3 fixtures to rearrange.
2.1.1897	Hathern Victoria	1	0	Loughborough Park	
2.1.1897	Woodhouse Rovers	2	1	Rothley Swifts	
9.1.1897	Hathern Victoria	11	0	Belton Villa	Belton arrived late. Short time played.
9.1.1897	Loughborough Park	2	0	Loughborough Emmanuel	
16.1.1897	Hathern Victoria	7	0	Rothley Swifts	
16.1.1897	Woodhouse Rovers	2	2	Loughborough Victoria	
23.1.1897	Loughborough Park	2	1	Loughborough Victoria	
30.1.1897	Loughborough Park	A	A	Belton	Only 4 Belton players turned up.
30.1.1897	Loughborough Emmanel	3	?	Loughborough Victoria	
6.2.1897	Mountsorrel Castle	A	A	Barrow Excelsior	Ground flooded
27.2.1897	Markfield	2	1	Loughborough Victoria	
27.2.1897	Mountsorrel St peter's	5	0	Loughborough Emmanuel	
27.2.1897	Woodhouse Rovers	5	0	Loughborough Park	
13.3.1897	Barrow Excelsior	4	1	Rothley Swifts	
13.3.1897	Hathern [Champions] J Vickers T Randon	2 (1)	0 (0)	Rest of the League	Athletic Grounds, Loughborough 600 spectators
13.3.1897	Markfield Albion	2	1	Loughborough Park	
20.3.1897	Markfield Albion	0	0	Hathern Victoria	

	Woodhouse Rovers	1	1	Mountsorrel Castle	Crowd trouble.
27.3.1897	Barrow Excelsior	4	1	Markfield Albion	
3.4.1897	Hathern Victoria	3	1	Barrow Excelsior	This victory gave Hathern the League Championship
3.4.1897	Loughborough Victoria	4	1	Rothley Swifts	
10.4.1897	Mountsorrel Castle	0	1	Hathern Victoria	

### Match Reports

A selection of published match reports.

**LOUGHBOROUGH AND DISTRICT LEAGUE.**

**SATURDAY'S RESULTS :-**

At Bardon—Mountsorrel Castle two, Bardon none.  
 At Rothley—Rothley eight, Belton none.  
 At Barrow—Barrow three, Hathern three.  
 At Woodhouse—Markfield three, Woodhouse two.

**RESULTS UP TO DATE :-**

	Pld.	Won.	Lst.	Drn.	For	Agst.	Pts.
Barrow Excelsior	6	5	0	1	28	7	11
Markfield ...	10	4	3	3	20	19	11
Mountsorrel Castle	5	5	0	0	21	4	10
Rothley Swifts ...	7	4	2	1	17	8	9
Loughboro' Vict.	6	3	1	2	18	12	8
Mountsorrel St Pts	7	3	2	2	13	9	8
Hathern ...	5	4	0	1	20	8	7
Loughboro' Emi.	8	3	5	0	18	21	6
Loughboro' Park	4	2	2	0	9	8	4
Woodhouse ...	6	1	5	0	6	14	2
Bardon Hill ...	8	0	8	0	6	27	0
Belton Villa ...	6	0	6	0	6	40	0

a Two points deducted for playing an ineligible player.

Melton Mowbray Mercury and Oakham and Uppingham News – 5 November 1896

**LOUGHBOROUGH AND DISTRICT LEAGUE.**

**LOUGHBOROUGH PARK v. BELTON VILLA.**  
 These teams were to have met at Loughborough, but only four of the Belton team turned up, and no match took place.

Leicester Daily Mercury – 30 January 1897



## LOUGHBOROUGH AND DISTRICT LEAGUE.

### CHAMPIONSHIP MATCH.

On Saturday next, on the Athletic grounds, Loughborough, the match between Hathern Victoria (champions) and an eleven representing the Loughborough and District League takes place. The League numbers eleven clubs, all of which are run on amateur lines. The organisation has done much to stimulate the game in the district, and more than one player has found his way into the reserve eleven of the Town Club. Hathern are a very good team, and an excellent game is anticipated. Dr. Phelps will kick off, and Mr. Beale, of Kegworth, will be the referee, while the teams are expected to face each other as below:

. League: W. H. Baum (Mountsorrel St. Peter's), goal; W. Sutton (Loughborough Victoria), J. Bishop (Mountsorrel St. Peter's), backs; G. R. Thomas (Loughborough Emmanuel), C. Limbert (Loughborough Victoria), R. Hibbins (Loughborough Park), half-backs; T. Webster (Loughborough Emmanuel), F. Haynes (Rothley), G. Clapham (Markfield), F. Holmes (Mountsorrel Castle), H. James (Barrow Excelsior), forwards.

Hathern: J. Berrington, goal; A. Hunt, W. Mitchell, backs; W. Berrington, R. Vickers, and A. Taylor, half-backs; B. Warren, E. Thompson, T. Randon, E. Randon, and J. Burrows, forwards.

*Melton Mowbray Mercury and Oakham and Uppingham News - 11 March 1897*

### LOUGHBOROUGH AND DISTRICT LEAGUE HATHERN (CHAMPIONS) v REST OF LEAGUE

Played on the Athletic Ground, Loughborough, before about 600 spectators. Dr Phelps kicked off, and Hathern scored by J Vickers after three minutes, the ball striking the bar and going through. The game was very even for a while but eventually the League attacked. They were, however, weak in front of goal, and Hathern failed in a similar respect, several openings not being taken advantage of, though Baum made one or two nice shots. Half-time, Hathern one, Rest of League, none.

Curiously the second half opened in precisely similar fashion to the first, Hathern scoring in three minutes through T Randon after which they continued to press for a time Sutton defending well, kept his lines clear. The League had the best of matters, but the forwards did not combine well, and the Hathern backs had little difficulty to prevent them scoring. Close on time the League ought to have scored, a shot by Thomas just going outside. Result:

HATHERN, two goals;

REST OF LEAGUE, none.

*Leicester Daily Post - 15 March 1897*