

# LFA Northamptonshire & District Challenge Cup 1886-87

**Winner:** Wellingborough  
**Runner-up:** Rushden  
**No. of entries:** 7

Two Leicestershire clubs entered the competition in 1886 – Leicester Town and Market Harborough. They were drawn against each other in the first round. The victors, Leicester Town were knocked out at the semi-final stage, by the eventual winners, Wellingborough.

## Round 1

No.	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
1	4.12.1886	Bedford Town	2	0	Higham Ferrers	
2	4.12.1886	Market Harborough	0	1	Leicester Town	
3	11.12.1886	Kettering Town	2	4	Wellingborough Town	Large number of spectators. An unusual amount of interest was centred in the game. Game commenced at 2.30 pm. The ground was extremely slippery and accurate passing was almost out of the question.

Rushden, a bye.

## Semi-Finals

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
4	12.2.1887	Wellingborough Town AN Others	6 (2)	3 (1)	Leicester Town Exton AN Others	Played at Wellingborough Grammar School. 800 spectators. Officials chosen by Northamptonshire and District Football Association committee. Leicester took the lead. Exton had a goal disallowed which would have given Leicester a 2 goal advantage. Leicester strongly objected to two of Wellingborough's goals. "General opinion was that four goals each was the correct score."
5	5.2.1887	Rushden	4	0	Higham Ferrers	Wellingborough.

## Final

No.	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
6	19.3.1887	Wellingborough Town	1 (1)	0 (0)	Rushden	At Wellingborough. 3,000 spectators. Winning goal scored after 5 mins.

## Match Reports

#1?

**#2 NORTHAMPTON AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION CHALLENGE CUP** – The match at Leicester v Market Harborough was played at Market Harborough on Saturday, and resulted in a win for Leicester by one goal to nil. The teams were well matched and a good though rough game was witnessed. The Leicester forwards might have been a little more combined in their play, which in some instances was too slow. For Harborough A. Moore played

a very fine game on the right wing. Rev Alington, Horner, and Ashmole were the pick of the Leicester team. Leicester: Goal. De Ville; backs, D McAlpin and Whitworth; half-backs, Ashmole. Pearce and Horner; forwards, C McAlpin, Bates (captain), Rev Allington, Wilkinson, and Jones. Market Harborough: Goal Price; backs Smith and Whitbred; half-backs. Lawrence, Fisher (captain) and Dr Ray; forwards, A E Moore, C Burdett, J C Flint, W Carter and T Underwood.

*Leicester Daily Mercury - 6 November 1886*

### **#3 NORTHAMPTONSHIRE AND DISTRICT CUP COMPETITION**

#### **KETTERING v WELLINGBOROUGH**

The last match in the first round for the above Challenge Cup, which is now under the management of the Northants and Beds Association, was played at Kettering on Saturday, between that town and Wellingborough. An unusual amount of interest was centred in the game, both teams were known to be fairly evenly matched, and this was enhanced by the fact that on the previous Saturday Kettering made a draw with Rushden—the present holders the Cup. In consequence of this, there was a large concourse of spectators. Wellingborough furnishing its quota, and great excitement prevailed, the supporters of Kettering, however, naturally preponderating. The home team was fully representative, and first looked like coming off victorious. For it Panter played grand form, Piggott was particularly good, and the back division was strong, Coltman fully justifying his selection. During the last few days it was found that W. Delton would be unable to take his place with the visitors. Consequently, Knight was put forward, and his position at half occupied by Maycock. Marriott showed up finely, and most of the other forwards played a dashing game. The backs did excellent service. The half backs though doing a lot individually—for which they deserve commendation — might have followed the forwards little more. For the first half the struggle was very even. Kettering then leading by a goal. Afterwards, Wellingborough pulled themselves together and scored three more points, thus winning by four to two. One of these Kettering claimed to be disallowed on the grounds of off-side, but the referee did not concede this. Owing to rain following frost without being sufficient to cause thaw, the ground was extremely slippery, and accurate passing was almost out of the question. Under these circumstances the contest was far better than could have been anticipated— Leicester having beaten Market Harborough, and Higham Ferrers, Bedford, while Rushden obtained a bye. These three clubs, with Wellingborough, will have to draw for the second round. Kettering having won the toss, Marriott shortly after 2.30 started the leather for Wellingborough, and passed to Coles, who made for 25. He, however, handled, and relief was thus afforded. Piggott and Dixon altered the state of affairs, and long shot by Panter gave Luck some employment. Wilson went for the latter man, but Knight obtained possession and dribbled up the field, when he transferred to Coles, who shot hard and just missed the posts. Very pretty passing on the part of Piggott, Dixon, Norman, and Woolston caused Owen to play in his well-known style. Hereabouts "hands" was allowed, and Tunnicliffe placed well in where Marriott secured the leather and saved well. Directly after this Dixon shot in sharply, and Hacksley fisted out. The same forward, however, returned to the attack, and the registered the first goal for Kettering amid cheers. Somewhat mixed play followed until Cobb successfully got away, and a smart rush was made by the Wellingborough forwards with the result that Coles, passing to Tomlin, enabled that man to make matters equal. When the ball was started Kettering secured "hands" twice in succession in their opponents' territory. Danger was averted by Styles, who used his head to advantage, and with a sprint Tomlin made the centre of the field the place of combat. A pass by Tomlin to Cobb should have been converted into goal, the chance was somewhat easy, but a corner was the only advantage that accrued. Knight took the place, and sent the leather well into the centre, but a fine kick by Westley afforded welcome relief. Woolston by little. Piggott headed in finely, and for the second time Hacksley sent away. This time, however, Piggott put in a second beautiful shot, which was far too sharp for any goalkeeper to stop. When ends were changed Kettering still defended well, but the fine play of their opponents was not to be denied. Twice Wellingborough got free kicks for "hands," and after the last one, from a little desultory scrummaging, Tomlin lifted the leather prettily over his head into the middle of the posts, and Hart in endeavouring to save put through. This spurred both teams on to renewed exertions, and fine runs were made, Kettering once getting the ball between the posts but were given off side. In about ten minutes the ball was passed to Cobb, who ran down and placed through the goal, the Kettering men standing still and claiming off side. This was disputed by the other side, and the referee gave in favour of Wellingborough. Shortly after this, Marriott dribbled beautifully down the centre, and skilfully evading the backs, placed matters beyond a doubt by kicking another goal for the visitors. Nothing further of importance was done. Teams: Wellingborough. —J. G. Hacksley, goal; F. Styles (captain) and J. Owen, backs ; A. Luck, G. Craddock, and T. May, half backs; R. Marriott, centre; F. Coles and W. Knight, right wing; F. H. Tomlin and A. A. Cobb, left wing. Kettering.— Spence, goal; J. Westley and A. Coltman, backs; A. Tunnicliffe (captain), A. B. Panter, and W. Hart, half backs; W. Norman, centre; C. Piggott and C. Dixon, right wing; J. Woolston and G. Wilson, left wing.

Umpires.—Mr. C. Topham, Wellingborough, and Mr. W. Parker, Kettering. Referee.—Mr. L. C. R. Turing, Wellingborough Grammar School.

*Northampton Mercury - 11 December 1886*

**#4 NORTHAMPTONSHIRE AND DISTRICT FOOTBALL CHALLENGE CUP** – The semi-final tie was decided last Saturday at Wellingborough before 800 spectators, the contesting clubs being Leicester and Wellingborough Town. The referee and umpires were chosen by the committee of the association. Bates won the toss, and the home team started against the wind. Wellingborough immediately to play a rough game, but Exton scored for Leicester in the first fifteen minutes. This reverse caused the home team to adopt a very questionable style play and although appeals made they were invariably ignored. Brain caused the goal-keeper to handle and immediately after Exton shot through from rebound; an appeal for offside allowed to chagrin Leicester men. A rush was made at De Ville's goal low, and a fast low shot took effect, equalising the game. Within few minutes to half-time Wellingborough took the lead, Cruikshank's kick being charged down. At half-time the score was two goals to one against Leicester. A great change came over the game in the next ten minutes, Wright was unlucky enough to send the ball through his own goal, and the home team by series rushes put on three more goals, two of which visitors objected to, as in one case a Wellingborough player crossed the goal line before centring, and the other was glaring case of offside. The spectators showed their dissatisfaction at the referee decision by hooting. Thus, the score at six to one against them, the local team had little hope of winning, but played up with such determination that frequently elicited rounds applause, and succeeded in placing three more goals to their credit (Cruikshank Wilkinson) though one disallowed. The game finished – Wellingborough, six, Leicester, three and two disallowed, although the opinion pretty general four goals each correct result.

*Leicester Daily Mercury - 15 February 1887*

**#5 NORTHAMPTON AN DISTRICT CHALLENGE CUP - RUSHDEN v HIGHAM FERRERS** – These teams met at Wellingborough on Saturday afternoon in the semi-final, when, as was generally expected, the Rushden men won easily by four goals to none.

*Leicester Daily Mercury - 15 February 1887*

**#6 WELLINGBOROUGH v RUSHDEN** (Northampton and District Challenge Cup final tie) – This match was played at Wellingborough ground in fine weather and before upwards of three thousand spectators. Rushden and holders of the cup, played without Burgess, their best centre, and were rather unluckily beaten by one goal to nil, the point having been scored five minutes after the start. The victory of the home team aroused the greatest enthusiasm.

*Empire News & The Umpire - 20 March 1887*