



THE FINAL TIE OF THE ASSOCIATION CUP COMPETITION AT KENNINGTON OVAL

*Illustration of the match by Stephen Dadd*

**Winner:** West Bromwich Albion  
**Runner-Up:** Aston Villa

160 clubs entered the first qualifying of the 1891-92 Football Association Cup competition. Leicestershire were again represented by two clubs – Leicester Fosse and Loughborough AFC.

Matches were scheduled to be played at the stadium of the team named first on the date specified for each round, which was always a Saturday. Some matches, however, could be rescheduled for other days if there were clashes with games for other competitions or the weather was inclement. If scores were level after 90 minutes had been played, a replay would take place at the stadium of the second-named team later the same week. If the replayed match was drawn further replays would be held until a winner was determined. If scores were level after 90 minutes had been played in a replay, a 30-minute period of extra time would be played.

In their second Football Association Challenge Cup competition the Fosse were drawn at home against Small Heath of the Football Alliance. Few spectators were present at the Aylestone-road cricket ground to witness this one-sided encounter. Small Heath scored 5 before half-time. The Fosse rallied in the second period, managing to score twice – through Nuttall and Herrod – but were heavily defeated 6-2.

Loughborough were given a bye in the first qualifying round. In the second they easily overcame Hereford at the Athletic Ground, Loughborough in front of 2,000 spectators. Albert Carnelly scored 5 times for the Luffs. The third qualifying round away at Brierley Hill Alliance clashed with Loughborough's Midland League

encounter with the Fosse. Prioritising the Midland League, they sent the "Athletic" their reserve team, who were slaughtered 7-0.

The 1892 FA Cup final was contested by West Bromwich Albion and Aston Villa at the Kennington Oval on 19 March 1892. This was the last FA Cup Final to be played at Kennington Oval due to the Surrey Cricket authorities becoming increasingly alarmed at the large crowds now being attracted to the main game in the footballing calendar. Albions form throughout the league season had been erratic and Villa supporters felt that all they had to do was turn up and the cup was theirs for the taking. West Bromwich Albion won 3-0, with goals by Alfred Geddes, Sammy Nicholls, and Jack Reynolds. Villa began brightly on a warm, sunny day which helped swell the attendance to almost 33,000, but Albion had an early surprise in store and after just 4 minutes took the lead. Villa fought back hard but they found the Albion keeper Joe Reader in tremendous form. Albion then made it 2-0 on the 27 minute mark and 10 minutes into the 2nd half, Villa's last hopes disappeared when Albion went 3 up. Albion defended resolutely to see out the game with a clean-sheet and return with the cup to their Stoney Lane home. This was the first FA Cup Final in which goal-nets were used.

### Match Results and Details

	Date	Home	Away	Match Details			
1	1QR	3.10.1891	Leicester Fosse Nuttall Herrod	2 (0)	6 (5)	Small Heath Hands Millard AN Others Wheldon (2)	Aylestone -road Ground (Grace-road). Crowd was small given the importance of the game. Game commenced at 3.10 pm Fosse were outplayed and outclassed. Small Heath [Birmingham City] were elected to the Second Division of the Football League at the end of the season having finished 3 <sup>rd</sup> in the Football Alliance.
2	2QR	24.10.1891	Loughborough Carnelly (5) Smith Freestone	7	0	Hereford	Athletic Grounds, Loughborough 2,000 spectators. Albert Carnelly scored 5 goals for the Luffs. Hereford player carried off the ground following an accident late into the second half.
3	3QR	14.11.1891	Brierley Hill Alliance	7 (2)	0 (0)	Loughborough	The match was contested by Loughborough Athletic, as the first team played Leicester Fosse in the Midland League. Alliance goal-keeper was not troubled at all during the first half. Loughborough's goal-keeper made a number of spectacular saves. "The Loughborough team were overplayed at every point of the game, and have a lot to learn before they can hope to tank as a first class football club."

Loughborough given a bye in the 1QR

### Match Reports

**ASSOCIATION.**  
**ENGLISH CUP TIES.**  
**QUALIFYING ROUND.**  
**FOSSE v. SMALL HEATH.**

The Fosse Club having been drawn to play against Small Heath in the qualifying round of the English Cup competition, the match came off on the Aylestone-road Ground. Considering the importance of the event, the attendance of spectators was not so large as might be expected. The visitors brought a very strong team, and the home club also played their full strength. As had been expected, the visitors were a far stronger team than the Fosse, who were outmatched all along. At the same time they gave the visitors a good game, and played pluckily against heavy odds. In the first half Small Heath, playing with the wind, pressed almost continuously, and scored five goals, the home team being unable to get a look in. After the ends had been changed the game was more even, but quieter. The Fosse succeeded in obtaining two goals, and the visitors were only able to add another to their previous total. Details:—

The visitors won the toss, and chose to start with the wind. Bennett started the game at ten minutes past three, and Small Heath attacked very speedily. Hells headed in cleverly, but Old saved without difficulty. The visitors returned again, and Old twice saved in good style, conceding a corner the second time. The ball was taken up the Fosse left wing, and Johnson shot. Charsley caught the ball, and threw it clear away. The home centre forwards pressed, and got through, but had very hard lines. Johnson's shot was kept out by the goal-keeper, who also stopped a kick from Herred, and Webb struck the cross-bar. The visitors transferred the play to the other end, and Old, in his anxiety to defend his charge, ran out into the field some distance, and before he could return to the posts Hands scored easily. Wheldon was nearly scoring directly afterwards, and from the

goal-kick Atter got up. The backs' defence was too good, however, and the ball was cleared. Small Heath continued to press most of the time, and the home team were compelled to act almost wholly on the defensive. The visitors obtained two corners. The first went behind, but the second was neatly dropped before the posts, and in the scrimmage which followed Millard put the leather through. In less than two minutes from the kick-off the visitors were on the spot again, and a hot shot struck the crossbar, and from the rebound Millard scored the third goal. On re-starting there was a little play on the left of the Small Heath ground, and the ball was then taken up the centre to the home goal. Hallam passed all the defence, and had no difficulty in evading Old. After a short delay, through Old receiving an injury to his hand in stopping a hard shot, Atter got away up the left, but Taylor cleared with a long kick. Hallam ran down, and sent in a splendid shot, which Old barely saved, conceding a corner in order to do so. From a long kick by Merris, a warm piece of play took place round the home goal. Three sharp shots were sent into goal in quick succession, but two were well stopped, and the third struck the bar. Directly afterwards from a fine centre by Hands, Wheldon scored the fifth goal for the visitors. After two more shots, which went over the home bar, another corner was obtained, but nothing further took place before half-time. Score:

SMALL HEATH, five goals;  
FOSSE, none.

Hallam led off the second half of the game, and with the wind now in their favour the Fosse improved in their play. In a few minutes they obtained a corner, and pressed for a bit. The ball was then taken along the Small Heath left, and centred. Wheldon took it and put it through. It was disputed on the ground of off-side, but the referee allowed the point. From a long kick by Bailey E. Johnson passed well to Webb, and a good chance seemed open, but the shot was not equal to the occasion. Play quieted down somewhat in mid-field

for a time. The home team then pressed along the right wing, and Webb's play produced a corner. Herrod took the kick, and placed the ball well in the centre. Nuttall put in a well-judged shot, and the ball passed through just below the bar. After more general play the Small Heath right wing ran up, and got on to the home goal line, but good defence by Bailey prevented further disaster. The home team returned to the attack, and obtained a corner off Jenkins. Webb sent in a straight shot, but Charley saved easily. Hands then received a nasty cut on the nose from a misjudged back-kick, and had to leave the field for a few minutes. Fosse had another corner, which Herrod dropped just before the goal. A fierce but short scrimmage ensued, but no score was effected. The Fosse were pressed heavily for a bit, and another goal was almost scored through Old leaving his position too far. Bailey was fortunately on the spot, and cleared in time. The visitors then had to assume the defensive, and a long shot from Herrod was missed by Charley. Bailey created a little diversion when, having the ball to himself, he cleverly lodged it in a tree, and a small boy had to ascend to dislodge it. Play was tamer for the remainder of the game with the exception of a brief attack by the Fosse, in which Hufton put in a long shot, which struck the cross bar. The whistle blew for time directly afterwards. Final score :

SMALL HEATH, six goals ;

FOSSE, two goals.

Fosse team : S. Old, goal ; S. Rowson, W. H. Bailey, backs ; J. Lord, S. Hufton, E. Nuttall, half-backs ; E. Herrod, H. Webb, right ; A. Bennett, centre ; C. Johnson, J. A. Atter, left, forwards. Small Heath : C. Charley, goal ; Taylor, Speller, backs ; Hollis, Jenkins, Devey, half-backs ; Morris, Millard, right ; Hallam, centre ; Whelden, Hands, left, forwards. Referee, Mr. Lowles ; linesmen, Beazley and Horner.

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## ENGLISH CUP TIES.

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### SECOND QUALIFYING ROUND.

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#### LOUGHBOROUGH v. HEREFORD.

Played on the Athletic Grounds, Loughborough, in the presence of about 2,000 spectators. A very fast game. Thomas, for Hereford, kicked off, and after exciting play Carnelley kicked a goal for Loughborough. A few minutes later Carnelley got a clear space, and shot a goal, while in another minute Val Smith, from a pass from Lowe, put another goal to the score of the home team. The visitors attacked vigorously, and Carnelley kicked the fourth goal. After a passing run by the whole of the Loughborough forwards, Carnelley received the ball from the right wing, and shot clean through. The Hereford forwards dribbled up, and Thomas shot wide. Lowe crossed over from the right to Carnelley from the left, and he shot wide. Hereford dribbled up again, and Tomlinson handled for the first time in the match. The ball was immediately taken back into the visitors' quarters, where it remained for some time, the play being quite uneventful until Plackett handled the ball, and a free kick was conceded. Hereford then worked the ball up, and Mereweather shot wide. Plackett, a moment or two afterwards, handled again, but nothing came of the free kick. The ball was rushed down the right wing, and Lowe, Smith, and Carnelley all tried shots, but failed. Play was confined to the visitors' for some minutes, until the centre and left wing broke away. Kelham repulsed, and kicked the ball into neutral territory. Sharpe made a good run for Hereford, but Spiby pulled him up and returned the ball. Lowe ran down the right and passed to Carnelley, who shot the sixth goal for Loughborough. On resuming the Loughborough forwards rushed up in a body, and Freestone kicked the seventh goal. Then a corner fell to Loughborough, and this was followed by a free kick for the home team, but the ball was got away. The next noteworthy incident was a splendid bit of passing by the Loughborough forwards. Cross passed to Carnelley, who shot across the mouth of the goal, and Lowe made a shot which the goalkeeper repulsed. Some interesting play followed, when a corner was gained by Loughborough, and the ball was well placed by Lowe, but immediately kicked out of danger by Bailey. Following this a free kick fell to Hereford, but nothing came of it. Val Smith shot over the cross bar, and a few seconds later repeated the performance. The ball was carried to the other end of the field, and Hereford made a desperate attempt to score, but Cross ran up the left wing, and centred. Several of the Loughborough tried shots, which were stopped by the visitors' backs. The Hereford right wing made a capital run, and the goalkeeper (Tomlinson) left his post and kicked away. At this point the game was stopped by an accident to a member of the Hereford team, who was carried off the ground, and attended to by Dr. Eddawer. Play was resumed in a few minutes, but the remainder of the game was quiet, and it closed as follows:

LOUGHBOROUGH, seven goals;

HEREFORD, none.

Players:—Loughborough: Tomlinson, goal; Spiby and R. R. Barker, halves; Smith, Plackett, and Kelham, three-quarters; Lowe, Cross, V. Smith, Carnelley, and Freestone, forwards. Hereford: Barber, goal; W. Holford and Cole, halves; A. Owen, Bailey, and Walters, three quarters; Mereweather, B. Sharp, Sharp, O'Neill, and Thomas, forwards.

**BRIERLEY HILL ALLIANCE v. LOUGHBOROUGH.**—At Brierley Hill, before a fair muster. On account of the match being looked upon as a soft thing for the home team, very little outside interest was evinced in the result. The game justified their expectations, as the Loughborough team were overplayed at every point of the game, and have a lot to learn before they can hope to rank as a first-class Association football club. The home side played against the wind in the first half, but they were not seriously hampered thereby, as they kept pretty much in the visitors' quarters; in fact, their own goal-keeper was not once called upon to save his goal, whilst the Loughborough custodian was twice beaten by the home forwards and ends were changed by Brierley Hill leading by two goals to none. In the second half the home team had matters all their own way, and scored five goals, a very one-sided game ending in an easy victory for Brierley Hill Alliance by seven goals to none.

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