



Football League Second Division 1894-95

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		P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Aver	Pts
1	Bury	30	15	0	0	48	11	8	2	5	30	22	2.364	48
2	Notts County	30	12	2	1	50	15	5	3	7	25	30	1.667	39
3	Newton Heath	30	9	6	0	52	18	6	2	7	26	26	1.773	38
4	Leicester Fosse	30	11	2	2	45	20	4	6	5	27	33	1.358	38
5	Grimsby Town	30	14	0	1	51	16	4	1	10	28	36	1.519	37
6	Darwen	30	13	1	1	53	10	3	3	9	21	33	1.721	36
7	Burton Wanderers[a]	30	10	3	2	49	9	4	4	7	18	30	1.718	35
8	Woolwich Arsenal	30	11	3	1	54	20	3	3	9	21	38	1.293	34
9	Manchester City	30	9	3	3	56	28	5	0	10	26	44	1.139	31
10	Newcastle United	30	11	1	3	51	28	1	2	12	21	56	0.857	27
11	Burton Swifts	30	9	2	4	34	20	2	1	12	18	54	0.703	25
12	Rotherham Town	30	10	0	5	37	22	1	2	12	18	40	0.887	24
13	Lincoln City	30	8	0	7	32	27	2	0	13	20	65	0.565	20

Season	1894-95
Winner	Bury (1 st title)
Runner-Up	Notts County
Wooden Spoon	Lincoln City
Resigned	Walsall Town Swifts
Matches played	240
Goals scored	1,023 (4.26 per match)
Top goal scorer	David Skea (Leicester Fosse), 22
Biggest home win	Notts County – Burslem Port Vale 10-0 (26 Feb 1895)
Biggest away win	Burton Swifts – Leicester Fosse 0-5 (2 Mar 1895)
Highest scoring	Manchester City – Lincoln City 11-3 (23 Mar 1895)
Longest winning run	8 matches; Bury (29 Sep 1894 - 24 Nov 1894)
Longest unbeaten run	13 matches; Burton Wanderers (12 Jan 1895 - 16 Apr 1895); Leicester Fosse (26 Jan 1895 - 20 Apr 1895)
Longest losing run	9 matches; Crewe Alexandra (29 Sep 1894 - 5 Jan 1895) Walsall Town Swifts (17 Nov 1894 - 26 Jan 1895)

Results Grid

Football League Division 2	BPV	BRS	BRW	BRY	CRE	DRW	GRI	LEI	LIN	MCI	NEW	NWH	NTC	ROT	WAL
Burslem Port Vale		2-0	1-0	1-2	4-0	0-3	5-0	1-1	7-1	1-2	4-4	2-5	0-3	1-1	1-0
Burton Swifts	1-0		2-2	0-1	4-0	3-0	2-1	0-5	6-1	2-1	5-3	1-2	2-2	2-0	1-2
Burton Wanderers	4-0	1-2		1-2	4-0	2-2	0-0	1-1	4-1	8-0	9-0	1-0	1-0	4-0	7-0
Bury	4-0	2-0	4-0		4-1	1-0	5-1	4-1	4-1	4-2	4-1	2-1	2-1	2-1	4-1
Crewe Alexandra	2-2	1-3	1-2	1-5		2-2	2-1	2-2	1-4	2-3	2-1	0-2	0-3	2-1	2-3
Darwen	2-0	5-0	2-0	0-1	5-0		4-1	8-2	6-0	4-0	5-0	1-1	2-1	4-3	2-0
Grimsby Town	4-1	7-1	7-2	3-2	5-0	2-1		4-3	3-0	2-1	3-0	2-1	0-1	4-1	1-0
Leicester Fosse	2-1	2-2	1-2	1-0	4-0	2-1	1-0		2-1	3-1	4-4	2-3	5-1	4-2	9-1
Lincoln City	6-1	3-2	0-2	1-3	5-2	0-2	1-5	1-2		0-2	3-1	3-0	1-3	2-0	1-0
Manchester City	4-1	4-1	1-1	3-3	4-1	2-4	2-5	1-1	11-3		4-0	2-5	7-1	1-0	6-1
Newcastle United	1-2	6-3	3-1	1-0	6-0	3-2	1-4	2-0	4-2	5-4		3-0	2-2	5-2	7-2
Newton Heath	3-0	5-1	1-1	2-2	6-1	1-1	2-0	2-2	3-0	4-1	5-1		3-3	3-2	9-0
Notts County	10-0	5-1	2-0	2-1	5-1	2-1	3-2	3-0	3-0	1-3	2-1	1-1		4-2	5-0
Rotherham Town	2-1	4-1	1-3	2-3	2-0	4-1	3-2	0-1	5-2	3-2	1-0	2-1	1-2		6-1
Walsall	2-0	4-1	3-1	0-3	4-0	5-1	4-3	1-3	1-2	1-2	2-3	1-2	2-1	1-2	

Home win

Away Win

Draw

The Football League test matches were a set of play-offs, in which the bottom First Division teams faced the top Second Division teams. The First Division teams, if coming out as winners, would retain their places in the division. If a Second Division team won, it would be considered for First Division membership through an election process. Losing Second Division teams would stay in the Second Division.

As a result of these matches, Bury, Derby County and Stoke were placed in the First Division the following season, while Liverpool, Notts County and Newton Heath went into the Second Division.

27 Apr 1895	Bury (2nd Div. Champions)	1	0	Liverpool (1st Div. 16th)	Ewood Park Attendance: 5,000
	Derby County (1st Div. 15th)	2	1	Notts County (2nd Div. 2nd)	Filbert Street Attendance: 8,000
	Stoke (1st Div. 14th)	3	0	Newton Heath (2nd Div. 3rd)	Athletic Ground Attendance: 10,000

Election for League Membership

The 4 bottom clubs were required to seek re-election to the League. They were joined in the vote for League membership by 3 non-league clubs.

Votes	Club	End Result
22	Burslem Port Vale	Re-Elected to the League
22	Lincoln City	Re-Elected to the League
18	Crewe Alexandra	Re-Elected to the League
18	Loughborough	Elected to the League
?	Blackpool	Not Elected to the League
?	Fairfield	Not Elected to the League
?	Walsall Town Swifts	Not Re-Elected to the League

Fosse's preparations for life in the Football League began before the news of their successful election to the Second Division was formally announced. The Walnut Street ground was further developed, by increasing the standing capacity by 5,000. A thousand tons of soil had been banked up along the Aylestone Road side and the new stand afforded great convenience for spectators when the covered stand was crowded. Admission for Football League fixtures varied from 6d on the banked-up side to 1s 6d in the main stand. The minimum admission was reduced in March 1895 to 4d in support of the town's Boot and Shoe workers who had been 'locked out'. The turf was also in the best condition it had ever been thanks to Leicester's groundsman-cum-goalkeeper, Jimmy Thraves. Several hundred yards of new turf had been laid. Taking a lesson from the dry weather of the previous season, a well was sunk, and piping was purchased to ensure there was sufficient water for the whole ground.

The greatest alteration from last year's eleven was in the forward ranks, and the quintet were according to the Fosse Committee, "*.....the heaviest and trickiest lot that ever donned the Fosse colours. Now, believed that they got as good a forward team in the Second Division, while their back division had always been their pride and joy.*" J. J Curtis, club Vice-President at the half yearly meeting of the Fosse Committee, also made the following plea to Fosse fans, "*.... not to cross the pitch, and thereby show some regard to the condition of the ground*".... and that, "*.... if they found the team was not as successful as they anticipated or wished them to be, not to discourage or jeer the players, but continue their support of a team playing a sportsmanlike and gentlemanly game and keeping up the character of the eleven on and off the field, and, by placing the utmost confidence in the men, helping the club to attain a prominent place in the second division chart.*"

Excitement was high within the town, with preseason practice matches attracting several thousand spectators. Leicester Fosse played in white shirts, with dark blue knickers and socks for their inaugural season in the Football League, the same strip that they had worn since 1892. They were also required by the Football League to register reserve colours - black and white quarters, "*after the same pattern, not the colours as other clubs in the Football League.*"

The Major of Grimsby kicked off Fosse's first-ever Football League fixture at Grimsby Town's Abbey Park ground on 1 September 1895, in front of 4,000 spectators. Leicester Fosse's side that day included five (5) Scots (Jimmy Brown, Jack Hill, Willie McArthur, David Skea), four (4) former Middlesbrough Ironopolis players (Archie Hughes, McArthur, Seymour, Hill) and two (2) Leicestershire born players (Harry Bailey and James Priestman). Two players made their club debut Hughes and Skea. Goalkeeper Jimmy Thraves signed in 1892 from Notts County was an ever present in Leicester's inaugural Football League campaign. He went on to play 148 games for the club. Hard hitting Leicestershire County Cricket club player Harry Bailey made over 100 appearances for the Fosse before running several public houses including the Belgravia Hotel (Spinney Hill), Crown and Anchor on Belgrave Gate, played left back. Jimmy Brown, aged 25, was club captain. Nottingham born Arthur Henrys, along with Tom Seymour were Leicester's oldest players aged 28. Henrys' had two spells at Newton Heath (now Manchester United), before moving to the Fosse and was a member of Gainsborough Trinity's Midland League championship side as an outside left but played at left-back throughout Fosse's first Second Division campaign. Later he became club captain and towards the end of time with the Fosse was suspended several times for 'alcohol-related' offences, before finishing his playing career in with Notts County. Fosse's player-maker was Hughes, who played in an English Cup Final with Bolton Wanderers. However, Hughes' stay in Leicester was cut short due to poor discipline – having been twice suspended by the club. Signed from Bury in 1894, 23 years old David Skea played in Leicester Fosse's first two seasons scoring an impressive 37 goals in 52 games, before leaving to join Swindon. The star striker went into the record books as the scorer of Fosse's first Football League goal, hit a hat-trick in Fosse's first Football League home game against Rotherham and ended the season as the top scorer with 23 Football League goals (31 from 35 games in all competitions). Skea also scored in his first four Football League games for Leicester, still a club record. Willie McArthur, Skea's main strike partner, finished the season as Fosse's second top scorer with 16 Football League goals (22 from 25 games in all competitions). Before leaving to join Dundee, McArthur would score 36 Football League goals in 65 games. Versatile reserve striker James Priestman (b 1870) played 15 games in total, just 8 in the Football League, and scored 5 goals. Going behind after just 7 minutes to Grimsby the Fosse eventually lost the game 4-3, with Skea (2) and McArthur being on target for Leicester. Press coverage which was extensive was generally favourable. Several hundred Fosse fans made the trip to the Lincolnshire coast. Four consecutive defeats followed and then in the first qualifying round of the English Challenge Cup the Fosse humiliated Notts Olympic 13-0, still a club record score. William Miller acquired from Bolton in 1893 and McArthur both scored four and Skea claimed his second hat-trick. The following week at home to Newcastle, Leicester staged a remarkable recovery, coming back from 0-4 to claim a point. If Miller had not missed Leicester's first ever penalty awarded in the Football League, then they would have claimed both points. Inspired, the Fosse went on a 5-match unbeaten run, which included a 5-1 win over local rivals Notts County at Walnut Street. More than 6,000 spectators witnessed the game and the club's first successful penalty by Skea, in yet another hat-trick performance. Much to the annoyance of the Football League, Loughborough, still banned from playing teams from the top two flights of English football were drawn against Leicester Fosse in the final qualifying round of the English Challenge Cup. Contested over three epic clashes in December, Fosse eventually emerged as victors, only to be knocked out of the competition by Bury in the next round. Christmas was ruined by a 4-1 hammering at home by Bury, but this was quickly forgotten when the new year started with a bang - a 9-1 home destruction of Walsall Town Swifts – Skea only managing to hit the back of the net twice! Two weeks later the Fosse themselves on the wrong end of an 8-goal drubbing at the hands of Darwen at Barley Bank in a farcical encounter. Originally the home of Darwen Cricket Club, football was played on a pitch in the north-west corner of the Barley Bank ground. Spectator facilities included a 1,200-seat covered stand on the western touchline with an embankment running the remainder of the length of the pitch on that side. During the football season, a temporary stand was erected on the eastern side of the pitch, with tents in the south-east corner of the ground used for dressing rooms. The first fixture with Darwen on 30 December was abandoned after just two minutes when the referee declared it impossible to play a League match after the goal posts had been blown down by a raging gale. Darwen won a 50-minute friendly "that amused" the thousand or so spectators 6-0. The rearranged game took place on a Tuesday, Darwen's weekly half-day holiday. The Fosse left Leicester railway station at 7.22 am. On arrival in Darwen they found that the pitch was in an awful condition, being covered with half-melted ice, sand, snow, and slush. One end of the field was totally unfit for play, and the usual pitch was under water, so the goal posts were erected on the cricket ground and a pitch was hurriedly marked out. The referee for some inexplicable reason deemed it fit for a League game. To add to the discomfort of players and spectators alike, a persistent drizzle commenced as soon as the teams arrived on the field of play. Less than one thousand spectators braved the

inhospitable conditions. Fosse won the toss and decided to defend the "dirty" end first. Darwen quickly acclimatised to the treacherous conditions, adopting a long ball game and through the use of swathes of felt wrapped around their boots were able to cope much better with the mud, sand and puddles than the Fosse players who struggled to keep upright. By half-time Fosse had conceded 7, and even the ever-reliable Thraves could not deal with the slippery conditions. In the second half Fosse abandoned the short passing game and started to hoof the ball as far forward as possible. When the game ended, much to the relief of everyone concerned, the score was Darwen 8-2 Fosse. Apart from this blip, the Fosse coped well with life in the Football League and were unbeaten in their last 13 games of the season, finishing the season in a very creditable fourth place with 38 points from 30 games. They had the same points, but an inferior goal average to Newton Heath who qualified for the end of season Test Matches. Walnut Street staged the final Test Match between Notts County (runners-up in Second Division) and the bottom side of the First Division. Derby won 2-1 to maintain their place on the topflight of English football.

Admission to the Football League had come at a financial cost. Fosse recorded a £200 loss for the season. Gate receipts were £2587 9s, whilst wages had increased almost 50% on the previous season to £434 9s 10d.

Leicester Fosse Results

Date	Opposition		Result	Scorer	Attendance
01.09.1894	Grimsby Town (A)	L	3 - 4	Skea (2), McArthur	5,000
08.09.1894	Rotherham Town (H)	W	4 - 2	Skea (3), Gallacher	4,000
15.09.1894	Burton Wanderers (H)	L	1 - 2	Skea	8,000
22.09.1894	Newton Heath (H)	L	2 - 3	Skea, McArthur	6,000
29.09.1894	Newcastle United (A)	L	0 - 2		5,000
06.10.1894	Notts County (A)	L	0 - 3		10,000
20.10.1894	Newcastle United (H)	D	4 - 4	McArthur, Henrys, Miller (2)	8,000
27.10.1894	Newton Heath (A)	D	2 - 2	Skea (2)	3,000
10.11.1894	Darwen (H)	W	2 - 1	Hill, McArthur	5,000
17.11.1894	Burton Swifts (H)	D	2 - 2	Skea, OG	6,000
01.12.1894	Notts County (H)	W	5 - 1	Skea (3), Gordon, McArthur	5,000
08.12.1894	Walsall (A)	W	3 - 1	McArthur (2), Skea	2,000
25.12.1894	Bury (A)	L	1 - 4	McArthur	5,000
05.01.1895	Walsall (H)	W	9 - 1	McArthur, Gordon (2), Brown, Skea (2) Gallacher, Seymour, OG	2,000
07.01.1895	Woolwich Arsenal (H)	W	3 - 1	McArthur, Gordon, Hill	3,000
12.01.1895	Crewe Alexandra (A)	D	2 - 2	Gallacher (2)	600
15.01.1895	Darwen (A)	L	2 - 8	Skea, Gordon	500
26.01.1895	Rotherham Town (A)	W	1 - 0	McArthur	2,000
09.02.1895	Burton Wanderers (A)	D	1 - 1	Brown	
18.02.1895	Crewe Alexandra (H)	W	4 - 0	McArthur, Priestman, Stirling, Gordon	1,000
23.02.1895	Burslem Port Vale (A)	D	1 - 1	Priestman	5,000

02.03.1895	Burton Swifts (A)	W	5 - 0	Hughes, Skea, Gallacher (2) , McArthur	3,000
04.03.1895	Lincoln City (H)	W	2 - 1	Skea, Gallacher	
09.03.1895	Woolwich Arsenal (A)	D	3 - 3	McArthur, Gordon, Skea	4,000
16.03.1895	Manchester City (H)	W	3 - 1	Gordon, Hughes, McArthur	4,000
23.03.1895	Burslem Port Vale (H)	W	2 - 1	Gordon, Skea	3,000
30.03.1895	Manchester City (A)	D	1 - 1	Gordon	4,000
06.04.1895	Lincoln City (A)	W	2 - 1	Gallacher, McArthur	
15.04.1895	Grimsby Town (H)	W	1 - 0	Skea	3,000
20.04.1895	Bury (H)	W	1 - 0	Gordon	3,000

* Played at North Road, Kettering