



Winner: Aston Villa
Runner-Up: West Bromwich Albion

Coalville Town became the third Leicestershire club to enter the English Cup. They were drawn against Smethwick Carriage Works in the first Qualifying round. Smethwick scratched, giving Coalville a walkover. Redditch Town, their second Qualifying Round opponents were unable to fulfil the cup tie and consequently were scratched from the competition. Coalville managed a 1-1 draw in their first ever FA Cup tie, against [Old Hill Warriors](#) and then, for some reason, currently not known, were scathed giving their Black County opponents a walkover.

Leicester Fosse and Loughborough Town were drawn together for the second and final time in the English Challenge Cup in 1894. It took three games to separate the teams, with the Fosse eventually overcoming their local rivals to move into the first round proper where they lost away at Bury. Enthusiasm does not adequately describe the depth of feeling and passion surrounding the cup tie staged at Leicester's Walnut Street ground on 15 December 1894, it was bordering "on the mild, if entirely harmless form of madness." For both Fosse and Luffs fans it was the event of the season. Fans discussed the excellence of the Fosse team and the utter weakness of Loughborough, and, of course, vice versa, until the neutral onlooker almost believed that the match was over and duly recorded in the county archives. The excitement surrounding the encounter even caused the Leicester Daily Post football correspondent to analyse the popularity of football: "Truly the attractions of a football game are extraordinary. That thousands of people should willingly, nay eagerly, put themselves to much personal inconvenience, to say nothing of the expense and risk of injury to health, to see some men careering about after a ball, is a problem fit for discussion at a conference of the sages. However, while the reason of the phenomenon remains untold..... To those who take but a passing interest in the game, and who remember vividly the stern battles of a few short months ago, it may seem a matter of wonderment that the thing does not become stale

and pall upon the appetite. Therein lies the great attraction of the game as played in these ultra-professional days – a game played not for the good done to the players, with whom it is a matter of to put money not business purely, but in many instances merely to put money into the pockets of the shareholders of a club company. Leicestershire has not escaped the fever. There is a great demand for high-class football, and as that commodity could not be readily manufactured, it had to be imported – under free trade principles, of course. Players were bought and sold just as in the ordinary way of trade, and both clubs [Fosse and Loughborough] with which we are now dealing were run on strict commercial lines Suffice it to say that the men now employed by the clubs are undoubtedly entitled to benefit by their ability on the field, an though cynics may carp at a team of Scotchmen posing as Leicester Fosse, or Wolverhampton men as Loughburians, what does it matter so long as the crowd are pleased? Football is a game ad captandum.”

The Luffs were in excellent form, having won 13 of their 16 games and losing just once, a friendly encounter early in the season, scoring 55 goals and conceding just 12. Their Midland League form in particular was impressive with 8 wins and 2 draws from the opening 10 games. Fosse had begun the season indifferently. The department that was regarded as the weak spot became the strongest – namely, the forward line. McArthur’s return to form and the introduction of Gordon had worked miracles. In the 20 matches played, Fosse had won 11, lost 6 and had drawn 2, conceding 41 and scoring 66. Both sets of supporters were confident of winning, in perhaps the most evenly contested encounter between Leicestershire’s footballing giants. Given the importance of the encounter, it hardly needs saying that every effort was made to get the players into the best of form. Loughborough made the Greyhound Hotel, adjacent to their home ground, their place of abode, players indulging in long walks with their trainer. On recent displays the Fosse side needed little special training, and the decision was made to continue the old course of quiet practice to prevent staleness.

Unfortunately, two of the three games required to settle the cup tie were spoilt, one by mud and the other by wind, the third was so even that neither side could claim superiority. The starting line ups for the first game was announced well in advance, revealed the loss of a valuable player by each side. Fosse were without Arthur Henrys, who although recovered from his injury, was not deemed fit enough to take part. Charles Booth, the Loughborough left winger, had a freak career-ending accident on a train during the week leading up to the match, when a falling light fitting badly cut his knee.

“D-Day”, Saturday 15 December 1894 broke mild, and dry. The gates of the ground opened at 1 o’clock, and from that time until a quarter-past two – kick off time – there was a continual stream of expectant fans, until there was an assemblage “crowded in a space which left scarce room for motion or exercise.” Both teams were greeted on arrival on the field with rapturous applause. The game began in bright sunshine, with a strong breeze blowing from the river at the town end diagonally across the ground. A great deal of rain had fallen during the night, making the turf heavy, preventing good play. The game opened even, but then the Luffs were put on the offensive and after thirty minutes play, Jacky Hill scored for the Fosse. Four minutes later Sammy Mills whipped in a cross, and Robert Edge equalised for the Luffs. Thanks in part to William Rose’s excellent goalkeeping, there was no further scoring. Loughborough’s backs were equal to, if not better, than the Fosse defence. Fosse forwards passed in fair combination, but were woeful at shooting, whilst the forward line of Loughborough scarcely showed any combination at all. The short passing by the Fosse resulted in several chances which were squandered and on one occasion the ball hit the back of the Loughborough net, but the referee gave a foul. Gate receipts amounted to £368 17s. 8d, and the number of people present was just under 10,000.

Rain fell almost constantly between the first game and the replay staged 4 days later and the ‘battlefield’ became “another fine opportunity for mud-larking”. In the hope that their players might pull themselves together and settle the ‘pretensions’ of the Luffs “once and for all” the Fosse Committee sent them to train at Narborough until the replay, but as they found on arrival that they could not be comfortably accommodated and a change to Bradgate Park was agreed upon. At the foot of Old John, as the Fosse team prepared themselves for the re-fight, there was an altercation between the centre forward Bob Gordon and the left back Archie Hughes. At the weekly Fosse Committee meeting, two days later Hughes was suspended for a week and Gordon for a month, for “breaches of training rules”. This was a distinct blow to the Fosse, though the best efforts were made to secure capable substitutes, Miller, and Lord (of Fosse Rovers) to fill the positions vacated by the two players.

It being Wednesday half-day holiday in Loughborough, and a number of the factories also closing, the attendance of 3,000 was flattering to the teams, considering the state of the weather, though significantly less than the Leicester gate. Almost 1,000 of the spectators travelled up from Leicester by train.

Plan of the field:

LEICESTER FOSSE.				
Whitelaw		Thurves	Smith	
Seymour	Brown (captain)		Lord	
Hill	McArthur	Miller	Skea	Gallacher
()				
Edge	Barton	Dowry	Smith	Mills
	Middleton	Owen	Rose	
	Swift	Berry		
W. C. Rose				
LOUGHBOROUGH TOWN.				
Mr. A. Kingscott, of Derby, referee.				

The visitors won the toss and elected to play with the wind from the Nottingham Road goal. Mr. W. G. Jones was on the line for the Fosse and Mr. Walter Cockain for Loughborough. Punctually at 2:15 pm the game kicked off. An evenly fought first half saw Loughborough take the lead on 42 minutes. Luffs half back Billy Owen dropped the ball beautifully among the pack of strikers from a free kick. It was knocked back to Robert Edge, who, in the neatest possible manner, lifted the ball into the net. Fosse equalised within 30 seconds of the restart. The ball was passed onto Miller from the kick-off, who passed up to McArthur who ran a short distance before transferring to Skea. With a lightning kick Skea banged the ball in at the corner of the goal, the poor Luffs goalkeeper having no chance whatsoever at stopping it. With 15 minutes remaining and Miller, Leicester's centre forward in irresistible form, ran with the ball and slid a pass to Gallacher on the left whose shot careered off Rose and over the goal line, Hill rushing in and banging it into the net. The Luffs attacked immediately and within less than two minutes, Robert Edge equalised with a high shot after receiving a pass back from one of his forwards. Extra time should have been played. The players however had quite had enough for one day and Mr. Kingscott after consulting with officials from both clubs and the Secretary of the Football League official (who had had stayed in Leicester overnight) agreed that an additional 30 minutes play was out of the question. The President of the Football Association was telegraphed for instructions on how to proceed, as the fans had already left the ground in their droves, believing that the match would have to be re-played on neutral ground. The gate amounted to £92.

At a special meeting of the Divisional Emergency Committee of the Football Association, held at the Wellington Hotel in Nottingham on Friday 22 December, it was decided that the replay should kick off at 2 o'clock, and if necessary extra time should be played. This decision being made less than 24 hours before the replay was due to commence! Furthermore, should the two clubs then be unable to arrive at a definite conclusion, and failing mutual arrangements, the Emergency Committee ordered that further match to be played at Bramall Lane, Sheffield, no later than Monday, 31 December.

Mud had spoilt first game and to a lesser extent the rematch and it seemed that the second replay would be threatened from another source. Throughout the Friday night the wind blew half a gale, and no diminution whatever in the force of the gale was noticeable in the morning. Accurate combination football was out of the question as the local reporter wrote, "the so-called match simply degenerated into a question of which eleven could stay the longer and have the good luck to land the ball in the net". The Walnut Street ground had also suffered from the violence of the weather. Some of the advertisement boards surrounding the enclosure had been blown down, and such was the force of the wind that even one of the stout goal posts had been blown over. Just to add further discomfort to the players and spectators alike, a sharp shower of rain fell as the players entered the playing arena. Attendance was miserably low, not surprising perhaps given the circumstances.

Loughborough named the same team as on Wednesday and Saturday, whilst the Fosse strengthened their side with the inclusion of Henrys who had sufficiently recovered from an injury sustained the previous week. The evenness of the teams of the field followed them even to the matter of tossing to decide ends, for twice the coin was thrown up only for it to stick in the mud, but at the third attempt Fosse's captain Brown was successful, and chose to play from the town end, gaining the advantage from the elements, the wind blowing across the ground,

but slightly towards the gasworks end. In such an overpowering hurricane it is not surprising the number of miskicks and that forward play was as challenging as defending. Forwards could not kick straight, whilst kicks of the backs were often weak and feeble. Fosse were unable to take advantage of the elements. The Loughborough men played heroically, and it looked odds on to win the game. Fosse however, put on a brilliant show in the second half. Facing the town end – Fosse appeared to have their work cut out to prevent Loughborough from piling on a substantial score. But for some reason the Loughborough men went to pieces. Everything seemed to be in their favour and just when they had the game in their own hands, players were unable to make the most of the conditions and they became more and more demoralised. Two goals to the Fosse quickly followed, that it sucked all the life out of Loughborough, whilst instilling confidence in the Fosse.

The first goal resulted from an exciting scrimmage that took place in the Loughborough goal mouth. Fosse fans shouting orders to shoot, Gallacher forced an opening while standing close in and scored. The crowd went wild with delight. The lead was doubled three minutes later as Gallacher fought his way up against the wind and passed in field to Skea, who, undeterred by an appeal for off-side, dribbled coolly and steadily up to the goal mouth before shooting. His shot hit the upright and Hill rushed the rebound into the net. The Luffs fought back, striking the bar from a free kick and Thraves had to work hard in the Leicester goal. Hill was carried off the field with a leg injury after a hard collision with an opponent and after reappearing was targeted by the Luffs and subjected to much rough play. Leicester were awarded a penalty amid the laughter of the crowd after full-back Berry, acting as a temporary goalkeeper, caught a shot from Miller and threw it away. Skea took the penalty and shot hard. Rose saved, but the referee for some inexplicable reason ordered the kick to be retaken, and second time around Skea scored. Loughborough played like a thoroughly beaten team and allowed the Fosse to do what they pleased until the full-time whistle blew. In retrospect it seems such a pity that the cup tie was ultimately decided by the weather.

Despite a valiant effort, Fosse were knocked out by fellow Second Division side Bury at Gigg Lane in the First Round proper. Fosse travelled up on Friday evening on the 18:10 express train to Manchester, where they had been booked into the Assize Court Hotel. The Woolwich Arsenal team were also on the same train to fulfil their game with Bolton Wanderers. Leicester's party comprised the eleven players with a reserve man, three committee members and the trainer. Gigg Lane had been completely cleared of snow, sanded, but was littered with deep pools of surface water. Fosse, playing in an all-white strip struggled and were two down by half-time. They conceded another brace in the second period, with McArthur claiming a consolidation goal. Bury were knocked out in the following round by Bolton Wanderers.



The cup was won by Aston Villa, who defeated West Bromwich Albion 1–0 in the final of the competition, played at Crystal Palace in London. Bob Chatt being credited with scoring the fastest goal in FA Cup Final history, scored after just 30 seconds, 20 seconds of which he spent "on smoko". This record would stand for 114 years before being broken by Louis Saha of Everton in the 2009 FA Cup Final with a goal after 25 seconds. This was Villa's second victory in the FA Cup.

The Trophy was stolen from a display in the shop window of W. Shillcock (a football fitter) in Newton Row, Birmingham, after the final and never recovered despite a £10 reward. According to the Police, it was taken some time between 21:30 on Wednesday 11 September and 7:30 the following morning, along with cash from a drawer. The cup was replaced by a copy of the original, made by Howard Vaughton, the former Aston Villa player and England international, who had opened a silversmith's business after his retirement from the game.

Results and Match Details

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
1QR	13.10.1894	Coalville Town	W		Smethwick Carriage Works	Smethwick scratched from the Cup.
1QR	13.10.1894	Leicester Fosse Miller (4) Skea (3) McArthur (4) Hill (2)	13 (8)	0 (0)	Notts Olympic	2,000 spectators. Dull and threatening weather. Olympic described by the Leicester Post as a "tenth rate team from Nottingham." Leicester Fosse/City record win in the FA Cup.

1QR	13.10.1894	Loughborough Edge (2) Dewey (2)	4 (3)	0 (0)	Kettering Town	Athletic Grounds, Loughborough. Third consecutive season Loughborough were drawn against Kettering in the qualifying rounds. Large crowd. Game commenced at 3.15 pm.
2QR	3.11.1894	Loughborough Booth Owen Mills Saxton	4 (2)	1 (0)	Hucknall St Johns AN Other	Athletic Grounds, Loughborough. Beautifully fine weather. Large number of spectators – a special train conveyed 700 supporters from Hucknall along with a brass band Hucknall were members of the Notts League – “one of the oldest established clubs who have not made much progress.”
2QR	3.11.1894	Leicester Fosse Hill McArthur (2) Skea (2) Gallacher Gordon (2)	7 (4)	2 (2)	Kimberley Norman AN Other	At Leicester. Moderate crowd. Kimberley – “an insignificant club from Nottinghamshire.” Kimberley sported the usual Fosse colours so the home team appeared for the second time in their reserve colours – black and white halves.
2QR	3.11.1894	Redditch Town		W	Coalville Town	Redditch scratched to Coalville, being unable to postpone a league match with Oldbury.
3QR	24.11.1894	Coalville Town	1 (0)	1 (0)	Old Hill Warriors	Fair attendance. Pool [Coalville] missed first half penalty – foolishly sending the ball straight at the goalkeeper.”
3QR	24.11.1894	Newark Town	0 (0)	1 (0)	Loughborough Smith	Muskham-road Ground, Newark. 500 spectators travelled by Midland Railway from Loughborough.
3QR	24.11.1894	Rushden AN Others	2 (2)	3 (1)	Leicester Fosse Seymour Gallacher Skea (pen)	3,000 spectators.
3QR Rep		Old Hill Warriors	W		Coalville Town	Coalville scratched to Old Hill Warriors
4QR	15.12.1894	Leicester Fosse Hill	1	1	Loughborough Edge	Walnut-street Ground, Leicester. 10,000 spectators. Match created great excitement in both towns Fosse were strong favourites to win the match.
4QRRep	19.12.1894	Loughborough Edge (2)	2 (1)	2 (0)	Leicester Fosse Skea Gallacher	Athletic Grounds, Loughborough. 5,000 spectators
4QR2Rep	22.12.1894	Leicester Fosse Hill Skea Gallacher	3	0	Loughborough AFC	Walnut-street, Leicester.
R1	2.2.1895	Bury Plant (2) Wyllie Mellor	4 (2)	1 (1)	Leicester Fosse McArthur	Gigg Lane, Bury. 4,000 spectators. To avoid travel fatigue the team travelled up to Manchester on the Friday evening, their saloon being attached to the 6.10 express. Ground was cleared of snow and sanded.

						Fosse played in white, Bury changed to colours.
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Match Reports

A selection of published match reports.

LEICESTER FOSSE v. NOTTS OLYMPIC.—At Leicester before about 2,000 spectators. The visitors started the ball, and after the Fosse had had the best of the early exchanges, Skey opened the account by easily beating Butler, who made but a poor attempt to save his goal. Miller added a second point two minutes later, and after the first ten minutes' play the home men obtained a complete mastery over their opponents, and piled on goals at a tremendous pace. The interval arrived with the Fosse leading by eight goals to nothing, and all interest had departed from the contest. During the progress of the concluding stage of the game the Notts representatives never had a look in, and the final score of 13 goals to nothing hardly indicates the exceptionally one-sided character of the game, as many shots at goal failed to add to the score by the nearest distance.

Sporting Life - 15 October 1894

LOUGHBOROUGH v. KETTERING.—A large crowd of spectators were attracted by this match, played on the Athletic Grounds, Loughborough, on Saturday. Both clubs were well represented, and although they played a drawn game in the Midland League competition a month since, the "Luffs," in the match under notice, gained the strong lead in the first half of 3 goals to 0. In the second half the visitors played a determined game, but failed to break through the home defence. Result:—Loughborough, four goals; Kettering, nothing.

Sporting Life - 15 October 1894

LEICESTER FOSSE v. KIMBERLEY.—At Leicester, before a moderate crowd. The Fosse played their new centre forward, Gordon, and had altogether a strong side. In the first half Kimberley had the advantage of the wind and went off at a rattling pace, Norman scoring three minutes after the start. Continuing, the visitors had the best of the exchanges, and for a time they looked like giving their formidable opponents a lot of trouble. Gordon equalised the score after fifteen minutes' play, and a little later Gallocher again beat the Kimberley goalkeeper with a rattling shot. The visitors afterwards indulged in long kicking tactics with advantage, and succeeded in getting upon even terms. The "Fossils" then put considerably more life into their movements, with the result that Skea and Gordon added goals before the interval was called. Score:—Fosse, four goals; Kimberley, two goals. Early in the second stage the Fosse front rank bore down, but for a time the attack was successfully repulsed. As the game progressed the superior training and science of the Fosse men began to tell its tale upon the Kimberley representatives, who long before the finish were a beaten side. M'Arthur scored a fifth goal, after which the home men scarcely treated the contest with any degree of seriousness. The result was—Fosse, seven goals; Kimberley, two goals.

Sporting Life - 3 November 1894

LOUGHBOROUGH v. HUCKNALL ST. JOHN'S.—A large number of spectators paid toll to the Athletic Grounds, Loughborough, to witness this cup tie on Saturday afternoon. Owen headed a goal for the Luff's soon after the start, and a second goal was added by Sexton before half-time. Resuming, Hucknall attacked in vigorous fashion, but shot wide. Directly afterwards Owen scored again for the home side, and Mills kicked a fourth goal. Loughborough continued to command the play, and although Weston ultimately beat the home custodian, the issue was really never in doubt. Loughborough winning by four goals to one.

Sporting Life - 3 November 1894

REDDITCH TOWN v. COALVILLE.
Redditch have scratched to Coalville, being unable to postpone League match with Oldbury.

Sporting Life - 3 November 1894

LEICESTER FOSSE v. RUSHDEN.

Nearly 3,000 spectators witnessed this match at Rushden on Saturday. The Fosse started and played in the first half down hill, Seymour scoring soon after the commencement. The form afterwards displayed by the visiting side was exceedingly faulty, and near enough brought about their downfall. Rushden, on the other hand, played with considerable dash, and at times they exhibited excellent combination. The score was soon equalised, and just before the interval the ball was scrummaged through the Fosse goal, so that the home side crossed over a point to the good. In the second stage of the game the visitors' play was still faulty, and for a time Rushden fully held their own. Gallacher ultimately equalised, and nearing the finish Skea scored a third goal for the Fosse from a penalty kick. The character of the play was not nearly up to expectation, and the Fosse won a poor game by three goals against two.

Sporting Life - 26 November 1894

NEWARK v. LOUGHBOROUGH.

At Newark. The visitors, who head the Midland League, paid a visit to the Brewery town, 500 of their supporters journeying with them. The day was an ideal one for football, and as both sides were strongly represented a good game was anticipated. During the opening half Newark had much the best of the argument, but the fine defence of the visitors stood them in good stead, and nothing was done ere the half-time arrived. In the next period of the game Loughborough added a capital point, after which Newark were conceded three corners, which were devoid of fruition. Finally Loughborough won by one goal to none.

Sporting Life - 26 November 1894

COALVILLE v. OLD HILL WANDERERS.

The Cup tie between these clubs was decided on Saturday at Coalville before a fair attendance. The home side pressed at the commencement, but then the game became more even. Coalville early on nearly gained a point, and generally had the best of matters, having hard lines in not scoring several times. Old Hill, on the other hand, though they played up well at times, were weak in front of goal. In the second half both sides scored, but although Old Hill played the best they gained no decided advantage over their opponents, and the game ended in a tie. Coalville, one goal; Old Hill, one goal.

Sporting Life - 26 November 1894

SATURDAY'S FOOTBALL.
—
THE ENGLISH CUP.
—
QUALIFYING STAGES.—FOURTH ROUND.
—
LEICESTER FOSSE v. LOUGHBOROUGH.
—
OLD MEMORIES REVIVED.
—
THE BATTLE OF FILBERT-STREET.
—
STIRRING SCENES.
—
SUPERIORITY YET UNDECIDED.
—
ANOTHER MATCH AT LOUGHBOROUGH.

"Once again into the breach, dear friends; once more." Again, has the conquest of Leicester been undertaken; again, the athletic community of this county is stirred to its deepest depths, and once more we are plunged in the vortex of excitement. What matters is that Leicester and Loughborough are in conflict in the midst of those

pacific contests known as guardians' elections? Who cares whether Liberals or the Tories are entrusted with the administration of relief! Who heeds the rise and fall even fall of the Roseberry government so long as the best Association footballers of Leicester are enabled to meet is what is humorously called friendly rivalry? Yes; there is no doubt as to the absorbing interest evinced in these constantly reoccurring encounters, and, in the words of Longfellow, it seems as though the enthusiastic ball kickers

Through dust and heat
Rise from disaster and defeat
The stronger

For days and weeks, one has heard scarce anything but a continuous argument on the merits of the respective players. The air has been full of discussion on the excellence of the Fosse team and the utter weakness of Loughborough, and, of course, vice versa, until one almost over and duly recorded in the archives of the country. That it is worth a place in the pages of history no one but an insignificant few outside the pale of football civilisation could for a moment doubt. Enthusiasm is hardly the word to be applied to the depth of feeling infused into the proceedings of twenty-three persons on the Fosse ground on Saturday afternoon – is bordered on the mild, if entirely harmless, form of madness. To the uninitiated, one would have thought that the destinies of whole empires depended on the precise movements of that sphere of leather; to the partisans, indeed, it was the event of the season. Ordinary language scarce meets the case, so we had better again drop into poetry, with the remark that the author of Ingoldsby might have been talking of the local football match when he penned the line:

What thousands will flock their arrival to greet,
There'll be hardly a soul to be seen in the street,
For at Vauxhall (i.e. Filbert Street) the whole population will meet,
And you'll scarcely get standing-room, much less a seat

Truly the attractions of a football game are extraordinary. That thousands of people should willingly, nay eagerly, put themselves to much personal inconvenience, to say nothing of expense and the risk of injury to health, to see some men careering about after a ball, is a problem fit for discussion at a conference of the sages. However, while the reason of the phenomenon remains untold, we will proceed to discuss things as they are, not as they should be. To those who take but a passing interest in the game, and who remember vividly the stern battles of a few short months ago, it may seem a matter of wonderment that the thing does not become stale and pall upon the appetite. Therein lies the great attraction of the game as played in those ultra-professional days – a game played not for the good done to the players, with whom it is a matter of business purely, but in many instances merely to put money into the pockets of the shareholders of a company club. Leicestershire has not escaped the fever. There was and is a great demand for high-class football, and that commodity could not be readily manufactured, it had to be imported – under free trade principles, of course. Thus, it came about that as the game increased in interest, so the managers of the two local clubs, then playing for the sake of playing, became aware of the existence of a demand by the general public for more attractive operations than badly or non-trained amateurs could be expected to afford, and quite naturally they followed the lead of older and more powerful organisations. Players were bought and sold just as in the ordinary way of trade, and both clubs with which we are now dealing were run on strict commercial lines. But this is neither the time nor the place to enter into the professional question. Suffice it to say that the men now employed by the clubs are undoubtedly entitled to benefit by their ability on the field, and though cynics may carp at a team of Scotchmen posing as Leicester Fosse or Wolverhampton men as Loughburians, what does it matter so long as the crowd are pleased? Football is a game ad captandum.

It is a remarkable to notice how evenly through all these years the strength of the teams has been. At first Loughborough had the pull and though Fosse always gave them a good game, generally managed to win; then Fosse assumed the upper hand, and now matters are so even that prior to to-day it would have taken a clever man to predict the precise measure of superiority of either team. So completely has the status of the clubs altered since the last meeting at the end of the season last passed that it seemed as though new teams were opposing each other under the old names. Noteworthy is it that since Loughborough were beaten by six goals to none last April twelve new players have been introduced into the two teams, those who participated in that runaway match at Leicester being Thraves, Smith, Seymour, Brown, Hill, and McArthur, on the Fosse side, and Middleton, W. Rose, Smith and Mills for Loughborough. Dorrell will be missed from the Fosse and Carnelly from Loughborough, but in their places fresh favourites have arisen.

Without reproducing the table of past performances that has so often done duty on previous occasions, we now briefly review the doings of the clubs so far this season. Regret must be expressed in the first place that owing to the eagerness displayed by the Loughborough executive to obtain players, they brought upon themselves the displeasure of the League authorities, and as a result have had to pay dearly in consequences. Boycotted at the

League meeting and thereby precluded from entering the Second Division, and then debarred from arranging ordinary fixtures with League clubs the outlook at the beginning of the season was dark, indeed, for, after all, Midland League matches are but poor sport for a club possessing such an array of undoubted talent, and under these circumstances it is not surprising that their progress so far has been almost irresistible. Their record speaks for itself: -

All matches: Played 16; won 13; lost one; draw two. Goals: 55 for; 12 against. Divided as follows: -

Midland League matches: Played, 10; won eight; lost, none; drawn two.

Cup matches: Played, three; won, three. Goals: nine for; Goals: one against.

Friendly games: Played, three; won two; lost, one. Goals: Seven for; three against.

The highest number of goals scored against the club in any one match was two: namely by Kettering and Millwall Athletic. The eleven that beat Notts. Forest in Fair week was with one exception the same as that announced for to-day, Booth then being included, and Saxton left out.

Fosse have a different tale to tell. Commencing the season in a very indifferent manner, matters went badly for a time, but gradually a change came over the spirit of the scene, and the department that was regarded as the weak spot has now become strongest in the team - the forward rank. The introduction of Gordon and the return to form of McArthur, have worked marvels, and small wonder, therefore that Fosse supporters were sanguine that the list of successes so recently achieved would not on Saturday be broken. In all, 20 matches have been played, of which eleven have been won, six lost and three drawn, the goal record being 66, against 41.

Coming more particularly to the match under notice, it hardly needs saying that every effort had been made to get the men into the best of form. On the Fosse side recent displays showed that they needed special training, and it was deemed wise in preventing staleness to continue the old course of quiet practice. The Loughborough players have during the week made the Greyhound Hotel their place of abode, and daily indulged in long walks with the trainer. As previously announced, each side had to deplore the loss of a valuable player. Fosse were without Henrys, who had recovered from his injury, through the enforced rest entitled, not considered fit to take part in a hard match, so that the team was selected similar to that which brought off the meritorious victory at Walsall last week. Booth met with a singular accident in a railway carriage during the week, which has turned out rather seriously, so Saxton was placed to partner Edge on the Loughborough left wing. The men "placed on habiliments of war" faced the music in the following order:-

Fosse: Thraves, goal; Smith and Whitelaw, backs; Seymour, Brown (capt.) and Hughes, half-backs; Hill, McArthur, Gordon, Skea and Gallacher, forwards.

Loughborough: W.C. Rose, goal; Berry and Swift, backs; "Dolly" Rose, Owen and Middleton, half-backs; Edge, Saxton, Dewey, Smith and Mills, forwards.

Mr A. Kingscott of Derby, referee

On Friday evidences were not wanting that the team would fare best that could stay on a heavy ground, and, from their experience at Walsall, this circumstance was expected to favour the Fosse. Rain fell steadily throughout the Friday night, though Saturday morning broke beautifully fine and mild, slight showers afterwards made the playing surface greasy and difficult.

The gates of the ground were opened at one o'clock, from that time until a quarter-past two - when operations were announced to commence - there was a continual stream of expectant sightseers, until there was an assemblage "crowded in a space, which left scarce room for motion or exertion." The sun was shining with a dazzling brilliancy, this was sure to have a bad effect on the combination of the team unfortunate enough to be placed to face it. A strong breeze blew from the river at the town end diagonally across the ground. The ground appeared to have dried wonderfully after the rain, but it was deemed advisable to lay down light litter at each goal. The teams appeared a few minutes before the time fixed for commencing, and were received with the customary cheer. Practice was indulged in until the arrival of the referee, and the captains then tossed the choice of ends, Swift winning on behalf of Loughborough. It was two minutes after time when Gordon started the ball from the town end, and exchanges of the usual opening description took place on the school side. From a throw-in at centre, the ball was passed across to the Loughborough left wing, and Whitelaw cleverly headed away, while Smith a minute later was called upon to save a shot from Middleton. Then McArthur got away with a lead, but his pass was too forward, and Swift had no difficulty in transferring the venue again to the Fosse half, where Seymour appeared on the scene in the nick of time, and kicked away. It was evident thus early that the home men were working under great difficulties in face of the sun, and they were defending for two or three minutes before a free kick for hands against Loughborough brought relief, and Hill and Gordon made the first serious inroad into the visitors' territory. Swift kicked the ball out before Hill could centre, and from the throw-in Loughborough again travelled down the field. Smith this time was safe enough, and ere long ball was again among the Fosse forwards. McArthur and Gordon went up the centre and passed across to Gallacher, who

steadied himself, and directed the ball into goal, but before any of the right wing could get up it had rolled out by the side of the goal. The Fosse had now gained their feet a little, and, playing in the most dashing manner imaginable, put Loughborough strictly on the defensive. Hill, Gordon, and McArthur were in turn prominent, and were well backed up by Seymour and Brown. From a centre by Hill, Owen gave a corner unnecessarily, but no good accrued from it. The next feature was a splendid screw kick by Hughes from far out, which was just wide of the goal, and after the Loughborough goalkeeper had kicked out a shot from the Fosse left, the game was taken up to the centre. Here it had not be in progress long before Hughes, from a throw-in, gave to Gallacher, who centred, and brought forth a capital display of tackling on the part of Owen, who cleared his lines very cleverly indeed. A free kick was given in the Loughborough half for a foul by Saxton, and Whitelaw placed the ball right into goal, where it seemed certain that a point would be scored, but Rose picked up as coolly as possible from the feet of a crowd of forwards, and threw away - a piece of a very nice play. Going along, the Loughborough left wing threatened to become dangerous, Edge and Saxton playing nicely with Dewey, but luckily a free kick for hands stopped their progress, so in less than a minute the ball was transferred to the Fosse end. Seymour brought relief, and through a bad miss by Middleton, McArthur was enabled to dribble away up the field, only to see his past annexed, and the Fosse ground again became the scene of operations. In the course of a flying visit to the other end, Swift kicked away a neat centre by Gallacher, and next a corner was forced by Mills on the Fosse left. With the flag kick, the home forwards had a chance with a long kick to the centre of the field, but though Berry headed, were not in a position to avail themselves of the opportunity. A minute later Gallacher sprinted away, and gave a clean pass to Gordon, who forced his way past Owen, and before reaching Swift took a long shot, which, while a good attempt, did not take effect. Miskicking Mills gave the ball to Gallacher, and then amusingly appealed for off-side. The Fosse left wing ran the ball out, and profiting by the goal kick, Loughborough undertook a spell of attack. Once the ball was kicked out by Smith (Loughborough), and then the game became even. After playing at centre, the Fosse front string combined prettily together, and Gallagher coming into possession, took a shot which was not straight. Berry kicked out from Gordon, and next a free kick for hands was given well in the Loughborough goal. To save the side, the ball was headed away for a corner, and in less time than it takes to tell the Fosse citadel was in a state of siege. A corner kick was taken, and a scrimmage ensued in goal, but nothing very serious happened, and no time was lost by the home men in taking the ball back to the Loughborough end, where Gordon should have scored with an exceedingly clever screw-kick. Rose saving again in a very clean fashion. Saxton made a bad mess of a tolerably certain goal by kicking out when only a few yards from Thraves and nobody in the road, and the resultant goal-kick had the effect of again placing the visitors goal in jeopardy. Berry and Swift, however, got the best of an interesting tussle with Gallacher, but the ball had not been really cleared before it was again returned to the goal, and the Loughborough men were fairly caught napping. Operations were conducted on the Fosse left, and gradually transferred nearer the goal, where Gordon gave a judicious pass to Hill, and that player, finding himself unguarded by the Loughborough defenders, had the easiest of tasks to place the ball in the net - an achievement which was received with enthusiastic cheering. The game up to now had scarcely been of the character expected of such an encounter, but the success of the Fosse men had the effect of imparting a wonderful amount of dash into the proceedings, and the players set about their work with all the energy they could command. Scarcely three minutes had elapsed, however, before Loughborough succeeded in eluding the home half-line, and Mills, dodging Smith, put in a long shot from the extreme right wing to the far side of the goal, where Edge was in waiting, and in precisely the same manner Hill rattled the ball into the net, this equalising the score. Proceeding, it was not long before the Fosse citadel had another narrow escape, the ball being luckily headed away from a corner kick at the side of the goal, and then it was Loughborough's turn to experience a bit of luck. Seymour, McArthur, Gordon and Hill took part in a combined attack, and having gained the vicinity of Rose, Hill took a shot, which went straight to the goalkeeper, who threw out. Straight back again to Hill the leather travelled, and this time he transferred to the left where as luck would have it, no one was able to catch it, and the ball harmlessly rolled out. A corner kick was taken on Smith's wing at the Fosse end, immediately following which one of the Loughborough backs, with a big kick, placed well into goal, where an exciting bully was witnessed, and Thraves at the crucial moment fisted away in wonderful fashion. Still, Loughborough were doing the greater part of the pressing. Dewy always being conspicuous among that forwards. At one time Hughes came to the rescue when the goal was in great danger, and later Smith was forced to kick out to stave off an attack by Mills and Val Smith. The play went on in a fairly interesting manner for the few minutes now proceeding half-time, when the whistle blew for the interval the home team were still busily engaged in defensive operations, the Loughborough men at this stage showing great improvement on their former play. Half-time score:

ONE GOAL EACH

Resuming after the usual short interval, the Fosse were first to attack, and passing well between them, Gordon, Hughes and Skea took the play into the Loughborough territory. Berry saving with a useful kick. Rose, Val Smith, and Mills changed the game to Fosse half, where the ball was allowed to roll out, but in a short time a free kick for an informality was given against the Fosse in their own ground. This produced no material result, nor did the long kick taken by Middleton. Just as Fosse were travelling over the dividing line, a free kick for a foul drove them back, and Dolly Rose returned Smith's saving kick. However, another free kick placed the home men in a better position, and with the play going on in the Loughborough half, Hughes ran through for a shot which, though hard, was not straight. Hughes stopped the Loughborough right wing and kicked down again to the Fosse forwards. Gordon, instead of shooting, passed on to Hill, who had not time to get in his try at goal before the whistle went. Brown at this point, was thrown heavily in a tackle, and Rose limping, was able to continue in his place. So far in this half of the game had been of a rather scrambling nature, and as such does not call for any detailed description. At length Val Smith put in an excellent shot at the Fosse goal, and Thraves caught the ball all right but he appeared to carry it over the goal-line outside the net and a free kick right in goal was the result. Nothing more serious than a goal kick was the outcome of the movement, but still the Loughborough men managed to get more of the play than their opponents. After more exchanges of a not very high-class description, McArthur gave a free kick, which again caused the game to proceed in the Fosse side of the line and matters at this stage were made decidedly uncomfortable by a short shower of rain. Mills earned ironic cheers for kicking the ball over the stand and Loughborough having again settled down to aggressive play, Thraves received the attentions of Mills from whom he threw away a grand shot. The spectators were evidently getting impatient at the momentous character of the proceedings, and the men were strongly urged to show a little more of their true form. For unfair tactics in a tackle with Hughes, Mills gave the Fosse a free kick, but little news what made of it, the final shot at Loughborough goal going wide. Still another free kick to Loughborough gave Fosse an opening, and Skea, who was limping badly, was placed in a position for a shot. He sent the ball high over that goal into the crowd. Hereabouts the home eleven were undoubtedly having the best of the encounter, but the play on both sides left much to be desired. As the result of a Fosse run, Berry was obliged to concede a corner, which was unproductive, and settling down to their work with a little more earnestness, Fosse now tried hard to get another point. Rather smart passages were seen in the Loughborough half, and once Rose had to fust away a high shot from Brown. For the second time, McArthur play caused his side to be penalised, and then with a determined effort Dewey, Smith, and Mills, after a lot of trouble managed to pass Seymour and Whitelaw, the net result of their movement amounting to a goal-kick. From this a long shot was put in at Thraves, which was not straight, and again serving themselves for the attack, the Fosse forwards went away with a rattle. A splendid position was gained in the Loughborough ground, and Gallagher had as good an opening as anyone could wish to see, but when he had the goal absolutely at his mercy, he gave a weak sort of pass to McArthur, who, in like manner, seemed to have no difficulty whatsoever in placing the ball past Rose. But he, too, dallied with it until the Loughborough custodian put himself in a position to save, and though stretched at full length he managed to keep his charge intact. Fosse here missed one of the best chances they could expect to secure. More pretty passing was in the next minute participated in by Gordon and his colleagues, and as a result Loughborough had to continue themselves to simply defensive work. Suddenly Edge got off all by himself with a clear field in front of him, and he sprinted grandly up the wing with the ball at his toes. Brown, however, although he had to concede two or three yards, caught his man, but not before Edge had put in his shot which struck the net on the outside. The Fosse were in short time raiding their opponent's lines with considerable vigour and as only a few minutes remained for play seemed intent upon gaining another goal. Accurate movements, however, with a heavy ball, were evidently most difficult of execution, and shooting at goal was almost impossible. Skea initiated a movement which placed the visitors' headquarters in a state of warm siege, and notwithstanding that Loughborough packed their goal, the ball was placed in the net from an excited scrimmage, but the point was annulled for a previous infringement. Gradually the home team were driven back to their own quarters, but the issue being still in the balance, there did not appear to be that anxiety to score that would have been expected. A goal kick was taken at the Loughborough end, and next a foul awarded to that team. Berry took it and found the Fosse halves in the way of any further progress. Rose got down the wing and centred, the ball being capitally met by Smith, but a foul by the Fosse in the ground again gave Berry an opportunity of displaying his kicking powers. The ball had been cleared away, and play was going on in neutral ground, when the whistle blew for no-side, leaving the question of superiority still undecided, the final score being:

A DRAW, of one goal each.

Leicester Daily Post - 17 December 1894

THE LEICESTER DAILY POST, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20,

RE-PLAYED ENGLISH CUP TIES
QUALIFYING STAGES.—FOURTH ROUND.
LEICESTER FOSSE v. LOUGHBOROUGH.
THE BATTLE RE-FOUGHT AT LOUGH-
BOROUGH.
ANOTHER DRAW.

Three days only have elapsed since the match that was expected to decide the championship of Leicestershire was fought and drawn, but in that brief space of time such a change has come over the affair that in many quarters - Loughborough especially - the issue was on Wednesday morning believed to be as good as settled. Supporters of the Fosse club, while disappointed at the mediocre play of the men, were confident that on a future occasion, with the team playing in true form, a verdict would be arrived at in their favour, but when the news came that Gordon and Hughes had been suspended for breaches of training rules, an entirely different complexion was put upon the matter. These two men have lately taken such a conspicuous part in the games played and have contributed to so great an extent in the successes achieved, that their depletion was regarded by many as nothing short of a calamity, and their absence together with that of Henrys, was thought to be sure to have a bad influence on the play of the whole eleven. In taking this line, perhaps too little regard was paid to the abilities of the reserve men. Miller, who came in from the second string, has over and over again proved himself to be one of the smartest men engaged, but his lack of weight was a consideration when opposed to a player of the ability of Owen, while Lord could be depended upon to work his hardest. At the same time, the wisdom of the committee in the action they have taken is, we venture to think, open to question. Without doubting the justness of the sentences passed, and in that of course the committee act with special knowledge, the policy of punishing individual players in face of a big match, and thereby mitigating against the success of the whole club, is one that is, to say the least, open to adverse criticism. Still, the committee must be given credit for the best intentions and, if nothing more, are to be complimented on their courageous stand in the interest of discipline.

Under these circumstances, Loughborough believed their chances of victory were never better, and on the whole they certainly had good reason for their anticipation. The men had been confined to strict training, and were expected to be as fit as possible. On the Fosse side, too, prompt steps were taken to keep the men in condition, and they have been in training under the shadow of Old John, so no effort of Bob Roberts' being wanting to place them in the field in the best of trim. The following were prepared to do duty:

Fosse: Thraves, goal; Smith and Whitelaw, backs; Seymour, Brown (captain) and Lord, half-backs, Hill, McArthur, Miller, Skea and Gallacher, forwards.

Loughborough: W.C. Rose, goal, Berry, Swift, backs; "Dolly" Rose, Owen and Middleton, half-backs; Edge, Saxton, Dewey, Smith and Mills, forwards.

Judging from the outlook on Wednesday morning, there was as little probability as last Saturday that the game would be played under conditions favourable to a scientific exhibition. The turf, not having fully recovered on Wednesday morning from the rains of last week, was again on Wednesday morning drenched, and the pitch therefore was bound to be on the heavy side.

A dull, grey, and showery morning gave way to bright sunshine, but as the time for the match approached conditions again changed, and as the crowd assembled on the Athletic Grounds there was a distant prospect of more rain, the weather being far from settled. The advantages held out to Leicester patrons of the game in the matter of cheap railway tickets were fairly well embraced, and the spectators included a good proportion of Leicester supporters. The ground had dried remarkably well, and when Loughborough men appeared a few minutes before time, and received with the customary cheer, there was the probability of a good game. Fosse followed quickly, and Brown, winning the toss, placed his men at the Nottingham-road end of the ground. The first feature of the game was a short run by Gallacher, and a bad shot, which sent the ball out far away from the goal. Fosse were aided by a fair breeze, and for a short time confined play to their opponents' half, Middleton, Rose and Swift, each having to exercise their saving powers. Seymour and Hill combined well together, and the latter essayed

a long shot from the wing, the ball striking the net. "Dolly" Rose broke a pass from Skea to Gallacher, and in very quick time both the Loughborough backs were called upon to save, the Fosse men, making the utmost use of the advantage gained by the breeze, played a purely aggressive game. A foul at half-way did them a bit of good, but Berry cleared, and for the first time Loughborough, by means of a run by Mills, succeeded in crossing the half-way line. The ball was sent over the Fosse goal-line, and in the course of the return down the field Miller was conspicuous by tricking Owen in an exceedingly clever manner. On passing to Skea, the latter was afforded a nice opening, but spoiled it by kicking high over the bar. Seymour also shot fruitlessly, and Miller twice shot hard on to Swift, who each time cleared when the goal was endangered. Aided by a free kick, a short visit was paid to the Fosse half, but Smith proved safe enough, and a further effort by the Loughborough forwards was nullified by a couple of fouls on the Loughborough left wing. Swift and Smith having exchanged long kicks, Loughborough obtaining a footing in the visitors' half, but another free kick was given against the home men, and a bad trip by Val Smith on Geo. Smith gave Fosse the advantage. On the ball being passed over to the left wing, it was kicked high to Skea, who tried to hook it over into the goal, but imparted just a little too much vigour into his kick. To rid himself of the attention of McArthur, who was very dangerous, Swift gave a corner kick, which was immediately followed by one on the other wing off Gallacher. From the latter Val Smith dribbled very prettily, and being fouled by Lord, was awarded a free kick. This proved of no avail, and Skea, running through, passed to Gallacher who centred beautifully into goal, where Swift was waiting, and headed away, a further attempt by Hill going behind. This was followed by a spirited attack on the Fosse goal, initiated by Smith and Mills, and for the first time the goal was placed in jeopardy. A free kick was given to Loughborough close in, and Middletom placed the ball accurately into goal, but it passed into the net without touching a second player. A little relief was forthcoming through an effort by Seymour, Miller and Skea, but Swift returned and Dewey appeared to have a good chance when one of the Loughborough forwards was fouled, but Whitelaw headed away just in time. Saxton caused his side to be penalised for tripping McArthur, but notwithstanding, Loughborough went again with a rattle, and a most exciting piece of play was witnessed round the Fosse goal. Thraves saved magnificently a long shot from the left, and had to run away from goal to effect a clearance. In his absence it seemed as if the ball would be returned, but the Fosse backs rose to the occasion splendidly, and cleared when a point seemed imminent. This was followed by further attacks on the Fosse headquarters, relieved once by a capital combined attempt on the part of the Fosse forwards, Miller shooting into goal from long range, and causing Rose to throw away. Except for this the home men were at this point having all the best of the game, and serious incursions were made into the Fosse domain. Thraves once or twice saved in his best style, and a corner kick proved of no avail. Having forced their way over the half-line, a free kick was awarded the Fosse well near the goal, and the outcome of smart kicking between members of each team was that Seymour sent wide and over the line. Saxton was applauded for a capital dribble past several opponents, but Whitelaw came to the rescue of his side, and after fairly even exchanges for a few minutes, Miller sent a stinging shot towards Rose, the ball almost grazing the bar as it went over at great speed. Proceeding, the Fosse centre was found to be in his best mood, dribbling and passing with splendid judgment. Mainly through his efforts the Loughborough goal was kept in a state of siege, and though one chance was spoiled through a wild kick by Whitelaw, the Fosse maintained their supremacy and succeeded in calling forth the best efforts of Swift and Berry. "Dolly" Rose headed away a dangerous centre by Hill and a tussle between Berry and Skea did not escape the referee's notice, a foul being awarded to the Fosse, who proceeded to give the home men the greatest trouble to keep their lines intact. Miller played a grand game for his side, and was always dangerous, one shot of his especially being very luckily saved by Swift. Loughborough once made their way for a moment to the other end of the field, but in very quick time the Fosse again attacked in earnest. To finish up, McArthur kicked high over the goal, and then a grand individual run by Saxton caused the game to be carried on in the Fosse half. Thraves successfully saved Edge's parting shot, but the ball had not really been cleared away before an exciting scrimmage took place right in the goal mouth, as the result of which Edge drew first blood for Loughborough amidst loud cheers. Going about their work with redoubled energy, each side played a fine forcing game. At the Loughborough end the goal had a narrow escape at the instance of Miller, and then Mills tricked Smith, and raced away into the Fosse ground again, where most attractive passages were witnessed. The visitors goal escaped all onslaughts made upon it, and in trying to break away, McArthur was given offside. The free had been taken, and Loughborough again were becoming dangerous, when the interval arrived with the score:

LOUGHBOROUGH, one goal;

FOSSE, none

Resuming, Miller re-started, but the Fosse combination was broken by Owen, although the Leicester men quickly recovered, and breaking away through Miller, speedily reached the Loughborough ground, where Skea took a pass nicely, and on less than two minutes from the commencement equalised the score with a grand low shot, which completely beat Rose. Then Loughborough became dangerous and played proceeded very near the Fosse

headquarters, but the ball went out by the side of the net, and by easy stages the visiting forwards traversed the length of the field before Gallacher sent in a shot at goal which went just over the bar. A minute later the same player, bored by the Loughborough backs, was forced to kick the ball out, and Smith and Mills transferred the venue to the Loughborough part of the ground, where in preventing a dangerous onslaught by Smith and Dewey, Whitelaw was winded, and the game suspended for a minute or two. On resuming, operations were conducted generally in the Fosse half, and Miller was once more conspicuous with surpassing trickiness. Thraves was called upon to cope with a splendid shot from the right wing, and a corner had to be given, from which "Dolly" placed a few inches over the bar. Whitelaw kicked high in trying to save, and the ball was curled back by the wind into the goal, where luckily for Fosse, Loughborough were penalised. With the free kick matters were eased considerably for the Fosse, and chiefly by the aid of Miller, McArthur and Skea, that the team were able to obtain a favourable position, Skea shooting just wide of the goal. This was followed by a brilliant individual effort by Gallacher, who shot hard at the Loughborough custodian, and meeting the return, caused Swift to concede a corner. This proved of no avail, and Brown having shot wide, the Fosse end again became the scene of operations. Seymour kicked away somewhat luckily when the Loughborough forwards got away in a line. Then Gallacher again sprinted away in his best style, but although he had a clear field his shot was taken much too far out and went wide. The game fluctuated most attractively, the backs on either side being afforded plenty of opportunities of shining. In the course of an attack on Thraves, the latter twice kicked out when danger threatened, and four or five minutes of play in the Loughborough territory showed up the combination of the Fosse forwards in fine light, Miller playing on to Owen with a great deal of success. A round of accurate passing between the Fosse front was spoilt when Hill transferred straight to Swift, but in a short time Fosse were again placed in a good position by a foul on Gallacher by Rose. Edge and Miller in turn were well stopped by Smith and Seymour, and Fosse, who now were having slightly the best offensive tactics by means of a free kick at half-way by Whitelaw. Brown emulated the example of the ex-captain in the matter of wild kicking, and Thraves having thrown away a mild shot, Loughborough were forced to concede a corner, which was well taken by Gallacher, but with no good result. The effect of a foul by the Fosse was scarcely nullified by a similar penalty by Loughborough for Whitelaw, miskicking, conceded a corner, which was put behind by Edge. More bad kicking by Whitelaw put the Fosse line in peril, relief being forthcoming from the right wing of the visitors' team. Just as Edge was breaking away, Whitelaw charged down his kick, and in a minute, Fosse pressed with commendable earnestness, Rose temporarily left his charge to stave off the attack, and Gallacher sent in a clever shot from the wing. The ball appeared to cross over the line into goal, but to make sure of it Hill dashed up and rushed it into the net, thus pacing Fosse in the ascendancy, amidst the cheers of their supporters. Playing in the face of this reverse with about a quarter of an hour more at their command, Loughborough imparted very great determination into their movements, and in a short time the Fosse goal was undergoing a hot siege. Thraves saved well from Saxton, but Edge spoiled one or two manoeuvres by erratic play. In about three minutes, however, from the last goal being scored, Hill and Edge came together, with the result that a free kick was awarded for an alleged foul by the former. Swift took the kick, placed the ball well into the goal, Edge receiving and once more making the score level – two goals each. Still keeping up their aggressive play, Loughborough had the best of the game, and seemed to have a fine chance of scoring again when the ball was well placed in the goal for Dewey, who unfortunately headed over. Gallacher received at half-way, and managed to reach the Loughborough goal-line, but then gave a bad pass, and Loughborough ran down, Seymour being winded. On the resumption, Middleton essayed a long shot, and it came near being successful, going straight into goal, and luckily for Fosse, into the hands of Thraves. Hill passed Rose and gave to McArthur, who tricked Berry, and put in a shot from the wing, which struck the net on the outside. Another stoppage having been caused through an injury to Saxton, Fosse made a run up, and gained a free kick close into goal, from which Saxton collared the ball, and raced more than half the length of the field before Brown caught him. Owen, who was being badly beaten by Miller, resorted to vigorous tactics, and fell foul of McArthur, but the resultant free kick produced nothing material, and next Loughborough deserved to score from a beautiful combined run down the field. Thraves saving a header into goal. A dangerous run by Gallacher and McArthur was stopped by Berry, and the game was being contested in midfield when no-side was called, and another draw claimed as follows:

FOSSE, two goals;

LOUGHBROUGH, two goals.

Leicester Daily Post – 20 December 1894

THE LEICESTER DAILY POST, MONDAY, DECEMBER, 21, 1894.

SATURDAY'S FOOTBALL
ASSOCIATION.
QUALIFYING STAGES.—FOURTH ROUND.
LEICESTER FOSSE v. LOUGHBOROUGH.
RE-PLAYED TIE.

It really seems as though matches between Fosse and Loughborough are, like the poor, always with us, and if by the conclusion of Saturdays' game on the Walnut-street ground the followers of the Association game in Leicester and Loughborough, too, are not absolutely satisfied by this time made far provided, their appetite must indeed be prodigious, and not particularly refined. But a few days ago the local championship was a matter of engrossing interest – now, it is nearly a "played out" topic. To play two drawn games in such an important competition as the contest for the English Cup in the brief spell of five days is an achievement not often recorded and that clubs of the calibre of the Leicestershire premiers should perform such a feat shows too plainly how evenly matched they are not wanting xxxx who hint that not honour alone, but such mundane considerations as gate-money have something to do with the matter, but the suggestion is too improbable to be seriously treated, though it is useless to deny that these matches have not a material effect on the financial success of each club when the season's reckoning is made. At any rate, it may be taken for granted that a victory to either side has not been lacking for want of effort, and the players who to-day did duty for the third time were as determined as when they entered the enclosure seven days before.

Still another change in the composition of the Fosse eleven was decided upon – a change that was calculated to materially strengthen the side, and thus enhance the probabilities of at win at last. Henrys had sufficiently recovered from the accident he sustained a week ago to be able to put in training, and he was therefore included in the list of players selected to do duty for the Fosse, while the Loughborough side was expected to be the same as on Wednesday and Saturday.

Last week the mud spilit the game, and now the game was threatened from another source. Throughout Friday night the wind blew half a gale, and no diminution whatever in the force of the gale was noticeable this morning. Accurate combination was altogether out of the question, and the so-called match simply degenerated into a question which eleven could stay the longer and have the good luck to land the ball into the net. To say that the men met on their merits would not be true and the issue of the game resolved itself into nothing more nor less than a matter of luck. The appurtenances to the ground had suffered from the violence of "rude Boreas." Some of the advertising boards surrounding the enclosure had been blown down, and such was the force of the wind that even one of the stout goal posts had been blown over. To add to the discomfort of the players and spectators alike, a sharp shower of rain fell just as the men entered the field, there being at that time, as was only to be expected, a miserably poor gate. The evenness of the men in the field followed them even in the matter of tossing for choice of ends, for twice the coin was thrown up only to stick in the mud, but at the third attempt Brown was successful, and chose to play from the town end, thus gaining an advantage from the elements, the wind blowing across the ground but slightly towards the gasworks end.

On the ball being set in motion by Loughborough it was sent out at centre, but then Fosse immediately took up the attack, and the players worked as well as possible under the most adverse circumstances. McArthur, Miller, Skea and Gallacher, took part in the movement, and Fosse gained a free kick well in. This was taken by Smith, who put the ball right in the goal mouth, Rose fisting out for a corner. Gallacher kicked finely from the flag, and two similar concessions had to be granted by the Loughborough backs before Gallacher at the next attempt placed the ball behind. The weather now cleared up, play therefore being carried on under slightly more enjoyable conditions. Still the Fosse kept up their attack and were within an ace of scoring on the right wing, the ball striking the net, and later Seymour was applauded for a clever forward movement, which again almost had the effect of lowering the Loughborough citadel. Loughborough having relieved to mid-field, McArthur stopped them, and dribbled back, the game up to this point being confined almost entirely to the school side of the ground. Under the shelter of the stand the competitors were able to proceed about their business in a much

more accurate manner, and here some interesting exchanges were witnessed. Twice Whitelaw came to the assistance of his side with long kicking, but then Skea fouled, and Loughborough eased to centre. From here Gallacher raced off to the corner, and passed back to Skea, who transferred in turn to McArthur, whose shot went wide. As Saxton and Edge were effecting a run down the wing, Seymour gave accidental hands, and making the best use of the free kick, Loughborough steadily gained a footing in the Fosse half, where Edge, who was playing inside to Saxton, essayed a long shot, which Thraves threw away. After some further play to windward, Fosse got up again, and Gallacher seemed to have a fine chance, but his pass forward was too hard, and the ball rolled out. Then Hill was given possession, and shot across the front of the goal, within a foot of the uprights, while Skea, receiving the ball on the bound, kicked just over, following this a minute later with a grand long shot right into the hands of Rose, who effected a clever save. From these operations, it was evident that the advantage gained by the Fosse in the matter of wind was of little value because of the very force of the gale, which prevented accurate shooting. Fosse now relaxed their efforts somewhat and play for a minute or two carried on at the half-way line where Dewey, Owen and Mills, aided by Rose, gave the Fosse defenders a bit of trouble. Eventually the home forwards broke away together, and manoeuvres on the left wing led to a corner being conceded. This was taken by Gallacher, and was productive of a most exciting piece of play in the mouth of the goal, for the ball was passed over to Henrys, who imparted a lot of force into a low ground shot, which just went wide. Following this the game was even for a time, Dewey, Owen, Edge, and Saxton on the one side and Hill, McArthur, and Seymour on the other, being the most prominent. From half-way Berry, with a prodigious kick, sent the ball over the Fosse goal line and next Whitelaw, in moving from Saxton, gave a corner, which was very dangerous, a bully in the goal mouth ensuing. McArthur came to the relief of his side, and placed the ball amongst the home forwards, but it was not long before Loughborough, who were now playing a strong game, were again on the aggressive. Another long kick by Berry was one of no use, and after Thraves had saved a mild sort of shot, Val Smith ended the attack by shooting wide from short range. This was followed by play of a more acceptable character to Fosse partisans, for the home men proceeded to force the game, which went on the Loughborough side of the dividing line. Swift missed his kick badly, but other defenders came to his assistance, and nothing particularly exciting occurred for some time, the game being fairly even. A long pass from Skea to Gallacher could not be taken advantage of, and a goal kick was the sole result: then Swift badly fouled McArthur, and Fosse were justly awarded a free. This led to a sharp attack, out of which Loughborough came scatheless, but further danger was imminent when McArthur centred capitally to Miller, who was waiting well in goal. The centre man headed in and Rose saved very well indeed. Mills contributed a pretty run down the Loughborough right wing, only to see his centre kick annexed by Whitelaw, and at the other end Fosse played persistently, but failed to rush into the goal sufficiently to make their attack effective. Loughborough, on the other hand, always seemed dangerous when they got within shooting range, and Smith and Whitelaw were often given important work to perform. After play had proceeded in favour of the Fosse for a minute or to, Skea, was afforded a splendid chance, and he put in a grand shot a goal which had the one defect that it was not straight. Just after this Seymour finished up a spirited onslaught by kicking wide, and Gallacher twice followed suit in a most provoking manner. Notwithstanding the wind, to which the players now seemed to have been accustomed, the match was being contested in a wonderfully interesting fashion, and the game was not lacking in some very smart pieces of good football. Fosse, however, maintaining the upper hand, were able with a few intervals to force the pace, and after Brown had been recognised for smart saving play. McArthur received a pass from the left, and with splendid effort landed the ball in the net, but just as he did so the whistle blew for off-side – a piece of decidedly hard luck for the Fosse for the movement which led up to the point had been a pretty one. Continuing to have the best of the play for the few seconds now preceding the interval. Fosse, except for a dash on the part of Edge, who was soon pulled up, played without intermission in Loughborough quarters, but all their efforts were without effect, although one or two narrow escapes were witnessed. Half-time arrived with the

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Going on in the second half of the game, Loughborough now had the advantage of the wind and appeared to have a fair chance of success. Miller re-started, but Loughborough soon took the game into their own hands, and Whitelaw had early on to stop a long shot, while a little later Thraves ran out to cope with a long short towards the goal. Whitelaw and Brown between them broke up a combined run on the part of the Loughborough forwards, and a bad miskick by Gallacher luckily proved of little use to the Loughborough invaders. Persistent and plucky play up the stand side by Henrys and Gallacher raised the enthusiasm of the crowd, and having reached the entrance corner, Skea was placed in a position to centre, but from the mouth of the goal the ball was quickly headed away by a couple of the Loughborough men. A piece of undue violence by Hill was the cause of a free kick being given to Loughborough, and the wind sent the ball right over the Fosse goal-line. Following the goal-kick, Miller and Skea were prominent with a run down the centre, and the latter being fouled by Swift, the resultant free

kick placed Loughborough well on the defensive, Swift having to give a corner to ease the immediate pressure on the goal. This was well placed in the goal mouth, but cleared away, though Loughborough were not able to really clear the lines, for Fosse were again swarming round the goal. A scrimmage of a most exciting character took place right in the goal mouth, and to the earnest orders of the crowd to shoot, Gallacher forced an opening while standing close in, and scored the first goal, amid enthusiastic plaudits. Playing up against this reverse, Loughborough attacked for a brief space, but in about three minutes Gallacher again forced his way up the wing, and passed along to Skea, who, undeterred by an appeal for off-side, dribbled coolly and steadily up to the goal mouth before shooting. With a splendid effort he struck one of the uprights, and the ball rebounded into the field, but Hill was on the spot, and in the cleverest manner possible rushed the ball into the net for the second point, upon which the enthusiasm of the Leicester crowd was generally intensified, and Loughborough were correspondingly demoralised. Going on, a free kick was given against the Fosse without effect, and once more Skea and Gallacher combined for a run down the wing, but the extreme wing man was badly supported, and the Loughborough defence prevailed. Another free kick well towards the Fosse goal was even more dangerous than the last one. Owen was entrusted with the kick, and struck the cross-bar, the ball rebounding into the field. A short time after this Thraves added to his reputation by a really brilliant save from the feet of his opponents right in the corner of the goal, and luckily he was able to perform this feat without even giving a corner kick. Determined efforts to break away were made by Skea, Hill and Miller, and soon this trio were successful in again causing the Loughborough quarters to become the scene of operations. Fosse were now playing a winning game, while the Loughborough men appeared rather downcast at their continued inability to score. Receiving a pass from the right wing, Skea tried the effect of a long shot at the Loughborough goal, and he succeeded in causing the visiting custodian a bit of trouble. Rose being rather slow in picking up before Skea was on him again. Now Loughborough took a short turn at attack, and once a very smart shot was sent in from the left, which went just wide. The next feature of interest was a resumption of hostilities on the part of the home men, and a further display of scientific combination by Skea and Gallacher, who passed and re-passed until the latter shot, striking the net on the outside. Henrys, who throughout had been one of the most prominent men on the Leicester side, was repeatedly applauded for fine saving powers. Going on again in quite a winning vein, Fosse caused the Loughborough defenders more trouble. Once Berry made a mull of a saving kick, and with Skea quickly on him, had a warm time, but Swift came to his assistance, and between them they cleared the ball away, with the game still going on in the "Luffs" quarters, Hill came into collision with an opponent, and fell heavily to the ground. It was found that his leg was hurt and he was incapacitated to such an extent that he had to be carried off the field. Resuming with weakened forces, Fosse were soon driven back on their own ground, and the defence rather severely tested, so the half back line was strengthened, Skea going behind to help Brown and Co. Notwithstanding a most plucky dash was made by Gallacher, who was backed up by Henrys, and reached the corner before centring, but no one was up to receive the ball, which was kicked out on the other side. A spell of touch play on the Hazel-street side followed, and Seymour broke up a run down by Saxton and Edge. Applause now greeted the re-appearance of Hill, who was able to take his accustomed place among the forwards. Loughborough had by this obtained a standing in Fosse ground, but the home men very wisely under the circumstances played a saving game, and did not hesitate to kick out when occasion required. Skea and Miller eased to the centre, where the ball was sent out in passing across to the right, but Owen broke up a further effort on the part of the Fosse men, and transferred to his forwards who were being played on by the home halves in a most persistent manner. A bad foul on Hill again took the play to the Loughborough end, where Rose came out to save from the left wing. While he was absent the ball was returned to Miller, who again shot in this time to Berry, who was standing between the posts. Acting as temporary goalkeeper, the Loughborough full back named in the most guileless manner caught the ball, and threw it away. Amid the laughter of the crowd, the referee granted a penalty kick, as of course he was bound to do. Skea was entrusted with it and shot hard on to Rose, who was standing between the posts. The shot was saved, but for some reason the kick was ordered to be taken again, and this time Skea, with a swift grounder, successfully placed the ball in the net for the third point, thus placing the game beyond all reasonable doubt. Loughborough now played like a thoroughly beaten team, and allowed Fosse to do almost what they pleased in actual play. Profiting by this laxity, the home forwards had much more of the game than their adversaries, and some of the Loughborough men at times resorted to tactics the reverse of gentlemanly, one of the men being cautioned by the referee and a free kick given for a bad trip on Gallacher. The free was taken by Henrys and once again caused the visitors goal to be invaded. But a short space now remained for play and the end came with the Fosse still pressing, and the score:

FOSSE, three goals;

LOUGHBOROUGH, none

Leicester Daily Post - 24 December 1894

BURY v. LEICESTER FOSSE.

This tie was decided on the ground of the former before 4,000 spectators. The ground had been cleared and sanded, and the referee decided on a cup tie. The Bootmen commenced operations, and at once got into close quarters, but shot past, a feat which Clegg performed at the other end a minute later. The game was an even one for ten minutes, but then the home side got the ball up, and Plant beat Thraves off a pass by Wyllie when the game was thirteen minutes old. The visitors dashed up, and Lowe had all his work cut out to save, but before many more minutes Wyllie scored a second point, while just at half time Gordon crossed over to M'Arthur, who beat Lowe, and half-time came round with the score—Bury, two; Leicester Fosse, one. Bury secured a corner just after the resumption, and then Mellor and Lee both called upon Thraves, who saved brilliantly from both. Soon after this Smith, of the Fosse, muffed the ball, and Mellor had no difficulty in putting on a third point for the home side. Skea missed the easiest chance of the match soon after this, and other chances were allowed to go begging. Just on time Plant scored a fourth goal for Bury, who won by four goals to one. Referee, Mr. Tomlinson. Linesmen, Messrs. Swaine and Hall.

Teams:—

BURY.—Lowe (goal), Barbour and Davies (backs), M'Naughton, Clegg, and Ross (half-backs), Wyllie, Lee, Millar, Henderson, and Platt.

LEICESTER FOSSE.—Thraves (goal), Smith and Bailey (backs) Seymour, Hughes, and Henrys (half-backs), Hill, M'Arthur Gordon, Skea, and Gallacher.