



United Counties Football League 1897-98

At a meeting held in late May 1897 at the Baseball Hotel, Derby, representatives of clubs interested in the Sheffield and Derbyshire Football League, the working of which during the 1896-7 season could not be described as a success, decided to form an entirely new league with a fresh title – the United Counties League.

It was agreed that the new competition should consist of the following ten teams:- Sheffield Wednesday Reserve, Sheffield United Reserve, Sheffield Club, Derby County Reserve, Leicester Fosse Reserve, Loughborough Athletic, Belper, Sheepbridge Works, Matlock and Worksop. Worksop later decided not to participate.

Leicester Fosse Reserves and Loughborough Athletic had both resigned from the Leicestershire Senior League to join the United Counties League.

The fixtures were arranged at a meeting held at the Maunche Hotel, Sheffield on 2 June.

Members of the United Counties League 1897-98

Club	Home Ground	Est.	Other Information
Belper Town	Acorn Ground	1883	Belper reached the first round of the FA Cup in 1887-88, losing 3-2 to The Wednesday. Founding member of the Derbyshire Senior League in 1890, and finished as runners-up in 1895-96.
Derby County Reserves	Baseball ground	1884	One of the twelve founder members of the Football League, and are one of only ten clubs to have competed in every season of it
Leicester Fosse Reserves	Filbert-Street	1884	Formed by a group of old boys of Wyggeston School. In 1891 the club also joined the Midland League and were elected to Division Two of the Football League in 1894.
Loughborough Athletic [Reserves]	Athletic Grounds	1886	First Leicestershire Club to enter the FA Cup and the first to become members of the Football League.
Matlock FC	Hall Leys	1875	First entered the FA Cup in 1885. Won the inaugural Derbyshire Senior League in 1891
Sheepbridge Works	Whittington Moor		Based in Chesterfield. Founder member of the Sheffield League.
Sheffield Club	Owlerton Ground – renamed Hillsborough in 1914 to coincide with a series of ground improvements.	1857	Recognised by FIFA as the oldest existing club still playing football in the world. Sheffield FC initially played games under the Sheffield Rules and did not officially adopt the new FA rules until 1878.
Sheffield United Reserves	Bramall-lane - one of only two grounds (the other being the Oval) which has hosted England football internationals (five games before 1930), an England Test cricket match (in 1902, against Australia) and an FA Cup Final (the 1912 replay)	1889	The club was formed as an offshoot of Sheffield United Cricket Club. The team have played home games at Bramall Lane since their formation. For most of the club's history, United have played in red and white striped shirts with black shorts.
Sheffield Wednesday Reserves	Olive Grove – first permanent home ground of The Wednesday FC -home to the club for just over a decade at the end of the 19th century. It was located on the site of what is now Sheffield City Council's Olive Grove Depot, near Queens Road in the centre of Sheffield.	1867	Second-oldest professional association football club in England. In 1868 they won the Cromwell Cup - the second ever Sheffield rules football competition (after the Youdan Cup). Founding members and inaugural champions of the Football Alliance in 1889, before joining The Football League three years later.

Note: Loughborough Reserves were also known as Loughborough Reserves.

Some report use "Reserve" instead of "Reserves"

United Counties Football League 1897-98

Nr	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Sheffield Wednesday Reserves	14	13	1	0	50	18	27
2	Sheffield United Reserves	14	8	2	4	37	19	18
3	Derby County Reserves	14	6	3	5	27	20	15
4	Belper Town	14	6	0	8	32	29	12
5	Leicester Fosse Reserves	14	5	2	7	30	29	12
6	Sheffield Club	14	5	2	7	18	31	12
7	Loughborough Athletic	14	5	0	9	21	36	10
8	Matlock	14	3	0	11	20	46	6

Sheepbridge resigned from the League during the season, record expunged,

	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
	Sheepbridge Works	10	3	0	7	16	30	6

Winner:	Sheffield Wednesday Reserves
Runner-Up:	Sheffield United Reserves
Wooden spoon:	Matlock
Matches played:	56
Goals scored:	235/228
Biggest home win:	Belper 7-0 Matlock
Biggest away win:	Sheffield FC 0-5 Belper Sheffield FC 0 -5 Derby County Reserves Sheffield FC 1-6 Sheffield Wednesday Reserves
Highest scoring:	8: Leicester Fosse 6-2 Matlock

The goals for and against columns do not tally in the table above which was widely published or with the scores in the results grid below.

The annual subscription was fixed at 2 guineas.

Each club was allowed to appoint four referees, the fee paid to the latter was fixed at 7s 6d and third class railway fare.

The League planned to arrange a championship match – with prizes for the winners – during the Easter period.

Sheffield Wednesday Reserves won the inaugural United Counties League easily, winning 13 out of the 14 games and drawing the other, against Derby County Reserves, scoring 50 and conceding. 18 goals. Incidentally, they were beaten by Sheepbridge who resigned from the League in 1898.

Matlock claimed the wooden spoon winning 3 and losing 11 of their 14 league games.

Sheepbridge failed to complete the season.

The Champions v Rest of League game was staged at the Fosse ground in April.

The **League was disbanded after just one season** following a decision by the Midland League to admit the reserves of Derby County, Leicester Fosse, Sheffield Wednesday and Sheffield United.

Results Grid

United Counties League 1897-1898	Belper Town	Derby County Reserves	Leicester Fosse Reserves	Loughborough Reserves	Matlock	Sheffield Club	Sheffield Wednesday Reserves	Sheffield United Reserves
Belper Town		0-2	1-0	6-0	7-0	2-5	1-5	2-0
Derby County Reserves	4-1		0-0	2-0	3-1	2-2	2-2	1-3
Leicester Fosse Reserves	4-1	1-0		2-1	6-2	5-1	3-4	1-4
Loughborough Reserves	3-2	2-1	1-0		2-1	1-0	1-2	0-4
Matlock	0-3	3-1	5-2	3-1		0-1	1-3	1-3
Sheffield Club	0-5	0-5	W/L	3-2	1-0		1-6	0-4
Sheffield Wednesday Reserves	4-1	4-1	5-2	3-1	6-1	1-0		1-0
Sheffield United Reserves	2-1	2-3	2-2	6-2	6-1		2-3	

Home win
 Away Win
 Draw
 Result Not Known

Match Results and Details

Date	Home			Away	Match Details
4.9.1897	Sheffield United Reserves	2 (2)	2 (1)	Leicester Fosse Reserves	Fosse scored twice within the first 15 mins. United equalised shortly before time.
11.9.1897	Leicester Fosse Reserves McMillan AN Other Flannagan (pen +1)	4 (2)	1 (1)	Sheepbridge Works AN Other	3,000 spectators. Kick off delayed 45 mins due to the late arrival of Sheepbridge.
11.9.1897	Loughborough Athletic Pegg	1 (0)	0 (0)	Sheffield FC	
18.9.1897	Leicester Fosse Reserves Dorrell Lord	2 (1)	1 (1)	Loughborough Athletic Earl	Beautiful weather. 2,000 - 3,000 spectators.
18.9.1897	Sheepbridge Works Harrison (og) E Tyers	2 (1)	3 (3)	Belper Town Burt Stokes AN Other	Broomhall Park. 200 spectators.
18.9.1897	Sheffield Club	0	5	Derby County Reserves	
25.9.1897	Derby County	1	2	Sheffield United Reserves	Good attendance.
?	Sheffield United Reserves Wetton AN Other	2 (2)	3 (1)	Sheffield Wednesday Reserves Stevenson Beech Brady	3,000 spectators Hill [United] was seriously injured at the start of the second half and took no further part in the game.
2.10.1897	Belper Town Farmer (3) E Tyers Stokes Hemstock Haslam	7	0	Matlock	
2.10.1897	Derby County Reserves	4	2	Sheepbridge Works	
2.10.1897	Leicester Fosse Reserves Jones	3 (2)	4 (0)	Sheffield Wednesday Reserves	2,000 spectators.

	Flannagan			AN Others	Leyton missed a penalty with a wretched shot. The referee ordered it to be retaken and Leyton hit the crossbar. Yet again for a reason that "only the referee could explain" he instructed that the kick should be taken for a third time. This time Leyton hit the back of the net.
2.10.1897	Sheffield United Reserves	6	2	Loughborough Reserves	Bramall-lane. Fair attendance.
9.10.1897	Derby County Reserves	0	0	Leicester Fosse Reserves	Dull but fine weather.
9.10.1897	Sheepbridge Hudson Evans Thacker Owen AN Others	7 (4)	0 (0)	Matlock	200 spectators
9.10.1897	Sheffield Wednesday Reserve Beech (2 min)	1 (1)	0 (0)	Sheffield FC	
16.10.1897	Matlock Taylor	1	3	Sheffield Wednesday Reserves Dryburgh Wastnage AN Other	
23.10.1897	Leicester Fosse Reserves Bamford Watkins Flannagan (3) Lord	6 (4)	2 (2)	Matlock Bowmer AN Other	Matlock had lost their first three games in the League. Attendance not so large as usual due to the Tigers paying at home.
23.10.1897	Loughborough Reserves Turner Webster (2)	3 (2)	2 (0)	Belper Town Wildgoose E Tyers	Fair gate.
23.10.1897	Sheffield Wednesday Reserves	0 (0)	1 (1)	Sheepbridge Works J Smith	Thin sprinkling of spectators. The game was stopped in the second half for a "slight exchange of compliments (with the fists) between the Sheepbridge goalkeeper and a Wednesday player.
30.10.1897	Derby County Reserves Burton Leonard	2 (0)	0 (0)	Loughborough Reserves	1,000 spectators
6.11.1897	Loughborough Reserves Paget	1 (1)	2 (1)	Sheepbridge Burgh AN Other	Late start was made
6.11.1897	Sheffield Club	0 (0)	5 (2)	Belper Town Wildgoose (2) Berresford AN Other E Tyas	
6.11.1897	Sheffield Wednesday Reserves Smith AN Others Topham	4 (4)	1 (0)	Derby County Reserves AN Other	1,000 spectators Dull weather
13.11.1897	Derby County Reserves	2 (1)	2 (2)	Sheffield Wednesday Reserves	Splendid game.
13.11.1897	Sheffield Club Eaden	1 (1)	6 (3)	Sheffield Wednesday Reserves Dryburgh (2) Cole	

				Richards (2) Topham	
20.11.1897	Derby County Reserves	2	2	Sheffield Wednesday Reserves	
20.11.1897	Sheffield United Reserves Johnson AN Others Wetton	6 (3)	1 (0)	Matlock AN Other	Moderate number of spectators. Game started 8 mins before the advertised time. As Matlock's colours were the same as United's the latter played in white.
27.11.1897	Belper Town Cooper	1 (0)	5 (0)	Sheffield Wednesday Reserves Davis AN Other Dryburgh (2)	Heavy rain
27.11.1897	Derby County Reserves Talbot (2)	2 (1)	2 (1)	Sheffield FC Potts Stokes	Wretched weather
27.11.1897	Sheffield United Reserves Logan Bloomer	2 (1)	1 (0)	Sheepbridge Works Schofield	"Scattered and inconsiderable crowd."
4.12.1897	Derby County Reserves Burton (2) Hunt Boag	4	1	Belper Town Willdgoose	The weather and the ground alike were very bad.
4.12.1897	Loughborough Reserves	0 (0)	4 (3)	Sheffield United Reserves AN Others Crompton White	
4.12.18974	Sheffield Wednesday Reserves AN Other Dryburgh (2) Richards	5 (2)	2 (1)	Leicester Fosse Reserves Coulson	Very small number of spectators Proudfoot, Fosse half back had to leave the field in the first half after his leg gave way.
11.12.1897	Sheffield United Reserves AN Others	2 (1)	1 (1)	Belper Town Farmer	Showery weather. Small number of onlookers. United missed a first half penalty.
18.12.1897	Sheffield Club	0 (0)	4 (2)	Sheffield United Reserves Johnson (2) Jenkinson (4)	Owlerton, Sheffield. Foggy weather
18.12.1897	Sheffield Wednesday Reserves Moffatt Dryburgh	2 (A)	0 (A)	Loughborough Reserves	Small number of spectators. Dense fog. Loughborough arrived 30 mins after the advertised time for kick off and the game started 45 minutes late. Game abandoned at half-time due to the density of the fog and darkness coming on
25.12.1897	Sheepbridge Works	0 (0)	4 (2)	Derby County Reserves Leonard (2) Burton Boag	The largest gate of the season.
27.12.1897	Belper Town Stokes Wildgoose	2	5	Sheffield Club Potts Hague AN Other Clarke (2)	
27.12.1897	Matlock Taylor (2) AN Other	3 (3)	1 (1)	Derby County Reserves Kirkland (og)	Largest gate of the season
1.1.1898	Matlock	0 (0)	1 (0)	Sheffield FC	

1.1.1898	Sheffield United Reserves Shaw Nutt	2 (2)	3 (1)	Derby County Reserves Hunt Paul AN Other	
8.1.1898	Belper Town	8 (2)	0 (0)	Sheepbridge Works	
8.1.1898	Leicester Fosse Reserves Watkin	1 (0)	4 (1)	Sheffield United Reserves AN Other	2,000 spectators. Kicked oof at 2.30pm
15.1.1898	Leicester Fosse Reserves King Coulson Watkin Coulson	4 (2)	1 (0)	Belper Town Fitzpatrick	Small attendance.
15.1.1898	Loughborough Reserves Turner (2)	2 (1)	1 (0)	Matlock Dr McLaws	Fait attendance.
22.1.1898	Belper Town	2	0	Sheffield United Reserves	
22.1.1898	Leicester Fosse Reserves Swift	1 (0)	0 (0)	Derby County Reserves	2,000 spectators.
22.1.1897	Sheepbridge Works Taylor	0	5	Sheffield Club Ward AN Other Potts (2) Hovet	
5.2.1898	Belper Town Stokes (2) Adams (2) Fitzpatrick	6 (5)	0 (0)	Loughborough Reserves	Beautiful weather. Treacherous ground.
12.2.1898	Loughborough Reserves AN Others Roulstone Pegg	4 (1)	0 (0)	Leicester Fosse Reserves	Moderate gate. Game was ordered to be replayed.
19.2.1898	Sheffield Club			Sheepbridge Works	
19.2.1898	Matlock Bowmar (2) AN Other	3	1	Loughborough Reserves AN Other	Loughborough had several new men, four of their forwards making their debut.
19.2.1898	Sheffield Wednesday Reserves Thackray (3) Beech	4 (3)	1 (1)	Belper Town Stokes (pen)	Poor attendance.
5.3.1898	Derby County Reserves	3	1	Matlock	
5.3.1898	Leicester Fosse Reserves Watkins (2) AN Others	5 (1)	1 (0)	Sheffield FC Sylvester	"Nice sprinkling" of spectators
5.3.1898	Loughborough Reserves	1 (1)	2 (2)	Sheffield Wednesday Reserves	The start was delayed by 30 mins due to the late arrival of the referee.
12.3.1898	Sheffield Club Tasker Sylvester Bruster	3 (1)	0 (0)	Loughborough Reserves	
21.3.1898	Sheffield Wednesday Reserves Moffatt Beech AN Other	3 (3)	1 (0)	Loughborough Reserves AN Other	Replay for the postponed match 18 December. Loughborough brought a strong team including 2 or 3 first team players
2.4.1898	Matlock Holmes	1 (1)	3 (1)	Sheffield United Reserves AN Others	
8.4.1898	Loughborough Reserves Hitchin	2	1	Derby County Reserves Swann	

	Webster				
8.4.1898	Matlock	0	3	Belper Town	200 spectators
11.4.1898	Belper Town	0 (0)	2 (0)	Derby County Reserves Burton (2)	Rain fell heavily. 300 spectators. Many surprised that the game was not abandoned.
11.4.1898	Matlock Stokes	5	2	Leicester Fosse Reserves	Wretched weather. Extremely poor gate Fosse started with 9 men, but they introduced another just before kick off.
12.4.1898	Champions [Sheffield Wednesday Reserves] AN Other	1	2	Rest of the League og AN Other	Fibert=street, Leicester. Meagre £4 gate – not surprising perhaps given that the game was played on a Tuesday morning. The scratch eleven as originally chosen included Bradshaw (Sheffield United), Staley, Burton, Patterson and Arkesden (Derby County) and Howell (Sheffield United), but none of these players turned up and the “Rest” were far from being a representative one. Coulson[Fosse suffered a bad knee injury. After the match, the teams dined at the White Hart Hotel, and gold medals were presented to the champions by Councillor S Hudson, a member of the Fosse directorate.
14.4.1898	Belper Town Berrisford	1 (0)	0 (0)	Leicester Fosse Reserves	This was Belper's 5 th game in 5 days.
23.4.1898	Loughborough Reserves Vickers	1	0	Leicester Fosse Reserves	Replay -the last meeting was nullified by Loughborough playing unqualified men. Poor gate. Fosse arrived with just 9 men, but managed to find another and played the first half one man short. Ted Yor appeared on the scene as the eleventh man for the Fosse in the second half.
30.4.1898	Sheffield FC	1 (0)	0 (0)	Matlock	

Note: Sheffield Club is also known as Sheffield FC

Match Reports

A selection of published match reports.

UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE.

LOUGHBOROUGH RESERVE v. SHEFFIELD CLUB.

Played at Loughborough in fine weather, before 800 spectators, being the opening match in this League so far as the home team was concerned. Sheffield kicked off, and play was even for a while, each end being visited in turn. The first corner fell to the visitors, but came to nothing. The performance was repeated, and Sheffield pressed, having much the best of matters. Both Earl and Storer made good attempts to score for Loughborough. Several free-kicks were given for fouling on each side, but no material advantage resulted. Nearing half-time the home team played better, and Bolsover was called upon to save some good shots. Half-time:—No goals either side. On change of ends Sheffield again took up the aggressive, but were quickly repulsed, and Loughborough got to close quarters, the first goal being got by Pegg. There was not much to choose between the teams for effective work, during the first ten minutes, but Loughborough kept well at the visitors' end. A smart attack was then made by the home team, the Sheffield custodian having some difficulty in maintaining his charge intact. The visitors rallied, and Foulds was troubled. Play ruled fast, and Loughborough all but scored again from free kicks, Bolsover running out to save. The ball was still kept well in the Sheffield quarters, the visitors appearing unable to break through the home defence. Towards the close the play slowed down, being confined chiefly to mid-field. A final and very spirited attack was then made by Loughborough, but no further scoring was done. Result:—Loughborough, one goal; Sheffield, none.

Nottingham Guardian - 13 September 1897

LEICESTER FOSSE RESERVE v. SHEEP-BRIDGE.

At Leicester, before 3,000 spectators. Play was fairly even most of the time. The Fosse in the opening half rushed a couple of goals through during the first five minutes, McMillan scoring in each instance. Hudson scored for Sheepbridge in the second half. Flaagan put the ball through from a penalty, and a quarter of an hour from the finish added the fourth. Final:—Leicester Fosse Reserve, four goals; Sheepbridge, one.

Nottingham Guardian - 13 September 1897

UNITED COUNTIES' LEAGUE.
LOUGHBOROUGH RESERVES v. SHEEP-
BRIDGE.

At Loughborough. A late start was made. Loughborough kicked off, and soon obtained three corners, from which nothing resulted, but returning quickly, Paget scored after five minutes' play. Loughborough continued to press, and then Sheepbridge retaliated. Keightley, the Loughborough back, missed his kick, and the visitors equalised. Loughborough once more pressed, and a free was given against the visitors, but the ball went into the net untouched by a second player. Nothing further of note occurred before the interval. In the second portion play was very quiet for a time. Sheepbridge obtained a corner, from which, however, the Loughborough left wing got away to the other end. A spell of interesting play in mid-field ended in Holmes being called upon to save, which he did with a good throw. Loughborough got well into position, and had a good chance, but the goalkeeper saved. Very ordinary play up and down the field followed, but Sheepbridge getting dangerously near Holmes effected a good clearance. After 20 minutes' play Sheepbridge got into the home ground, and though Holmes cleared, he was not able to get the ball quite away, and Burgh running up put through, and gave his side the lead. Loughborough tried hard to equalise, but darkness put an end to the match thirteen minutes before time.

Score at close:

SHEEPBRIDGE, two goals;
LOUGHBOROUGH RESERVES, one goal.

SHEFFIELD CLUB v. BELPER.

At Sheffield. Sheffield Club kicked off. Belper pressed, and Wildgoose scored, and Berresford also. Haigh and Eadon missed chances. Result: **BELPER, five goals; SHEFFIELD CLUB, none.**

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY RESERVES v. DERBY COUNTY RESERVES.

At Olive Grove, before 1,000 people. Wednesday, who are the champions of this League, played much the stronger game, and scoring by Smith, Dryburgh, and Topham (twice), led at the interval by four goals to nothing. Derby improved in the second half, and Burton scored for them. Subsequently both sides missed chances. Result:— **WEDNESDAY RESERVES, four goals; DERBY RESERVES, one goal.**

RESULTS UP TO DATE:—

	Pld.	Won.	Lo.	Draw.	For	Agst.	Pts.
Sheffield Wed. Res ...	7	6	1	0	18	10	12
Fosse Reserves ...	6	3	1	2	17	10	8
Derby County Res...	6	3	2	1	13	8	7
Belper ...	4	3	1	0	17	5	6
Sheepbridge ...	7	3	4	0	15	15	6
Sheffield United Res	4	2	1	1	12	6	5
Loughboro' Res. ...	6	2	4	0	8	14	4
Sheffield Club ...	4	0	4	0	0	12	0
Matlock ...	4	0	4	0	4	28	0

Leicester Daily Post - 8 November 1897

LOUGHBOROUGH v. FOSSE RESERVES

This match was played at Loughborough. before a moderate gate. Loughborough had a strong team, and the Fosse had almost an amateur eleven. The match was played under protest, through Loughborough infringing Rule 7 of the League, which reads, "Any club having an open date, and their reserve team being engaged in this competition on that day, it shall not be permissible for them to play meet time four players who shall have taken part in their preceding League fixture." The Loughborough team included half a dozen players who took part in the match against Gainsborough last Saturday. The Fosse had the advantage of the wind first half, but Loughborough were the first to get away, and Wright put through when off-side, after only a minute two's play. Then Fosse had a turn, but did not get dangerous, and play for a while was of a rushing character. Loughborough going and from a capital pass by Roulstone "Tich" headed in, Bailey heading away, "Tich's" return going out. Loughborough bore down again, and secured a free kick for hands, a scrimmage ensuing, and the ball being put in the net for the first goal. Fosse retaliated, but Swift shot badly, and a corner shortly after did not avail them anything. The Loughborough forwards raced down and tricked the Fosse defence nicely. but Roulstone's header went on the top of the bar. Loughborough came down again, and Roulstone got in a terrific shot at Underwood, who was standing against the post, the force of the contact winding the Fosse goalkeeper. Hodgkin gathered up the goal kick, and Roulstone crossed to Smith, whose shot was picked up by Underwood. 'Tich's' return flying wide. Fosse then woke up, and did a deal of passing. Swift brought the ball in nicely, but Paget got it away, and another effort by Swift went wide of the mark. A third attempt, however, created a demand for Fould's service, the Loughborough custodian fisting out, and the home forwards getting away. Pegg got offside, and Wright was charged in the back, but. neither was penalised. Fosse got away, but were pulled up for off-side and Loughborough became very dangerous from the free, Wright being charged in the back just outside the penalty line. The free kick was futile 'Tich' sending over the bar. Fosse then commenced hostilities, but it was some time ere Foulds was troubled Gillies with a splendid shot calling upon him to clear from under the bar. Play was mostly of a scrambling character, but ultimately Loughborough put in a pretty piece of passing, and Smith had a grand chance, but he shot too high doing ditto a few minutes later. Paget cut up a round of passing by the Fosse forwards, "Tich" getting possession, and shooting over the bar at a great pace, the interval coming with Loughborough leading by one goal to nil.

Shortly after resuming Cassell came into collision with Hardy and the game to be suspended for repairs. Loughborough got away and Underwood saved magnificently a shot from the centre. They followed this up with a smart effort, Roulston putting the ball grandly for goal, and Wright. In attempting to touch it through, kicked in the wrong direction.

Fosse raced away. but Riley sent wide, and then "Tich" dodged his way through and shot for goal. A minute the Loughborough forwards went down in line, and the Fosse goalkeeper saved splendidly from Wright, no other forward being in position to return the ball into the net. Success, however, came to Loughborough a minute later. Smith centred from off the line, the ball being headed out to Roulstone who shot sharply back and found the net. For some reason, the Fosse appealed against a goal, without avail. Loughborough were doing nearly all the attacking, but Fosse got away, and secured an ineffective corner. Loughborough, however, held the Fosse forwards well in check and repeated attacks were made on the visitor's goal. "Tich" was once roughly rolled over near the goal-line. An appeal for a penalty went unheeded, but a moment or two later Bailey was penalised for foul on, Smith. This resulted in the latter putting the ball right into goal, for Pegg to touch through for the third goal. Riley made a couple of capital efforts, and gave Foulds a difficult shot, but were all over the Fosse, the whole of the forwards bearing down strongly. Bailey was forced to concede a corner, which was followed another, conceded by Underwood. This was well placed by Smith, and the ball was rushed through for the fourth goal. Swift took up the running for the Fosse, and centred, but there was no one handy to take advantage of it. The Fosse front rank, however, came down, and secured a corner, which was of no avail, and at the other end Smith screwed the ball in grandly, Underwood saving and Wright a minute later shooting across the goal. The end came with the score:

LOUGHBOROUGH, four goals;

FOSSE, none.

Leicester Daily Post - 14 February 1898



Leicester Daily Post - 23 March 1898

UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE

LOUGHBOROUGH RESERVES v. FOSSE RESERVES

These teams met at Loughborough to replay their match in this League, the last meeting having been nullified by Loughborough playing unqualified men, whom they won by four goals to one. A poor gate witnessed the game, which was started by Loughborough. Fosse came with only nine men, but managed to find another, and played the first half one man short. Loughborough soon pressed, and kept up a sharp attack. Several corners were given by the Fosse, and from one the goal had a narrow escape. Then the visitors reached the home goal, and obtained three corners. Play went up and down the field for some time, and then Loughborough attacked, Vickers sending in a long shot which Cufflin missed. Nothing further was done before half-time when Loughborough were leading by one goal.

On resuming Ted York appeared on the scene as eleventh man for the visitors, pitying inside right with Marshall, but Loughborough pressed, and getting a corner kick, the ball was well dropped, and it was only just cleared away in time. The home team played determinedly, and maintained the attack, West shooting close in from the right. The ball was then crossed to Pepper, who landed in a good shot, which Cufflin stopped well. Fosse now pressed, and gave the home defence something to do, a clinking shot from Glover striking the corner of the goal. Loughborough then missed a good chance from a centre by Pym and Fosse taking advantage of the respite, attacked, but were repulsed, the ball being brought back into their own ground. In an attack on the home goal, a hot shot from the left struck the crossbar. Nearing time,

Loughborough played up well and pressed heavily, Pym getting in a fine shot, which Cufflin just stopped, and then Holmes had to handle, but there was no alteration in the score, and the end came with:

LOUGHBOROUGH, one goal;

FOSSE, none.

Leicester Daily Post - 25 April 1898

Additional Information

FILBERT-STREET GROUNDS.
TO-MORROW (SATURDAY),
FOSSE RESERVES
v.
LOUGHBOROUGH RESERVES.
KICK-OFF 3.30. ADMISSION 3D. AND 6D.
Season Tickets may be had on Ground.

Leicester Daily Mercury - Friday 17 September 1897

LOUGHBOROUGH FOOTBALL CLUB.

UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE FIXTURES FOR RESERVE TEAM

Oct 3—Sheffield United Reserves, at Sheffield
Oct 25—Belper, at Loughborough
Oct 30—Derby County Reserves, at Derby
Nov 6—Sheepbridge, at Loughborough
Dec 4—Sheffield United Reserve, at Loughborough
Dec 18—Sheffield Wednesday Reserves, at Sheffield
Jan 15—Matlock, at Loughborough
Oct 5—Belper, at Belper
Oct 12—Fosse Reserve, at Loughborough
Oct 19—Matlock, at Matlock
Mar 12—Sheffield Club, at Sheffield
Mar 26—Sheepbridge, at Sheepbridge
April 8—Derby County Reserve, at Loughborough
April 9—Sheffield Wednesday Reserves, at Loughborough

Leicester Journal - 24 September 1897

THIS DAY.
O L I V E G R O V E .
UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE
WEDNESDAY RESERVE v. UNITED RESERVE.
Kick-off, 3.30. Admission 3d., Boys 1d.

Sheffield Daily Telegraph - 18 April 1898

MIDLAND LEAGUE.

A special meeting of this body was held last night at Nottingham, to take into consideration the recommendation from the conference held at Sheffield last week, when the deputations from the Midland League, Sheffield and Hallamshire Association, Derbyshire Association, and the United Counties League suggested that the Midland League should admit to membership the reserves of Derby County, Sheffield United, Sheffield Wednesday, and Leicester Fosse. The recommendation was confirmed, and the clubs named will have the opportunity of arranging fixtures on Saturday. Should they do so the United Counties and Derbyshire Senior Leagues, as constituted last season, will, it is stated, be abandoned.

Leicester Daily Post - 8 June 1898