



Leicestershire Senior Cup 1893-94

Winner: Loughborough Athletic
Runner-Up: Shepshed Town
No. of entries: 7

Only seven clubs entered the competition in 1893-4. In the first round Loughborough Athletic, at Hugglescote defeated the Robin Hood by four goals to two. Fosse Rovers received a bye and Shepshed gained a magnificent victory over Hinckley, whom they defeated on their own ground by 4 goals to 3. The other competing clubs were Melton Town and Coalville Town, who played their tie at Melton resulting in a victory for the home team by 3 goals to 1. There were then four clubs in the running and the draw saw Shepshed pitted against Melton and Loughborough Athletic against the Fosse Rovers. The former took place at Kegworth and resulted in a victory for the 'Reds'. The Athletic and Fosse were unable to decide matters at one meeting, which took place at Barrow, a second test resulting in a defeat for the junior 'Fossils' by 2 -0. Barrow was the venue for the Senior Cup Final, where William Freestone scored the winning goal for Loughborough in the second half.

The cup was formally presented to Loughborough Athletic by Mr Ashmole on Tuesday 15 May during the annual athletic sports, held under the laws and rules of the A.A.A. and N.C.U in aid of Loughborough F.C at their Nottingham-road Ground. There were eleven events - including three-quarters mile novice bicycle handicap, 120 flat handicap, mile bicycle handicap, half-mile scratch race, mile handicap, two mile scratch bicycle, 220 yards handicap flat, two miles handicap bicycle, scholars race, football race and steeplechase 1,000 yards - entries being the largest on record. After the presentation of the Senior Cup, Mr Ashmole asked the wife of Loughborough MP, Mrs Johnson-Ferguson to present medals to the following members of the Athletic team: F Start (goal), John W Paget and Richard Gorse (backs), C Coltman, J W Plackett and T Cutler (half-backs), William Jackson, H Clarke, W Freestone, and G H Preston (forwards). The players also presented medals to A d'Arcy, the trainer and C Barrett, linesman.

Round 1

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
1	7.10.1893	Hinckley Town Ghent AN Others	3 (3)	4 (1)	Shepshed Town AN Others	Holywell, Hinckley. Shepshed scored the winner 2 mins before time.
2	7.10.1893	Hugglescote Robin Hood Glover (10 mins) Armson	2	4	Loughborough Athletic Preston (2) T Pool (og) Barnes	
3	7.10.1893	Melton Town Smith Fillingham Lee	3 (1)	1 (1)	Coalville Town AN Other	Coalville protested against the result of their match with Melton, on the ground of the incompetency of the referee and the improper division of the gate money. After investigating the Association called upon Coalville to apologise to the referee.

Fosse Rovers, bye

Semi-Finals

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
4	27.1.1894	Loughborough Athletic	0	0	Leicester Fosse Rovers	At Barrow. A gale blew across the ground.
5	9.2.1894	Shepshed Town AN Others	3	1	Melton Town AN Other (pen)	At Kegworth.

Semi-Final Replay

Date	Home	Away		Match Details		
6	3.2.1894	Loughborough Athletic Freestone AN Other	2	0	Leicester Fosse Rovers	At Barrow. Strong wind. Athletics' second goal was "doubtful."

Final

Date	Home	Away		Match Details		
7	3.2.1894	Loughborough Athletic AN Other Freestone	2 (1)	1 (1)	Shepshed Town Wale	At Barrow. Large attendance.

Match Reports

1 SHEPSHED v HINCKLEY

At Holywell, Hinckley. The home side kicked up hill in the first half, and even play ensued for the first quarter of an hour; then the visitors attacked strongly, and 25 minutes from the start Ghent scored. Hinckley equalised ten minutes later, and about a minute afterwards Shepshed obtained a second. Shipman running out. At half-time Shepshed led by three goals to one. In the second half Hinckley scored twice, but Shepshed put on the winning goal two minutes before time. Result:

SHEPSHED, four goals;

HINCKLEY, three goals.

Leicester Daily Post - 9 October 1893

2 HUGGLESCOTE ROBIN HOOD v LOUGHBOROUGH ATHLETIC

Clarke started for Loughborough, and the play was somewhat in Robin's favour. J. Pool passing to Glover, who scored after ten minutes play. Preston soon after scored, and at half-time the game stood one each. T. Pool put the ball through his own goal. Play was rather rough, pool giving a corner, which Jackson took, and Preston converted. Barnes scored and Armson followed for the Robins. The game ended:

LOUGHBOROUGH, four goals;

ROBINS, two.

Leicester Daily Post - 9 October 1893

3 LEICESTERSHIRE CUP

MELTON v COALVILLE

At Melton. The home team won the toss and defended the railway end goal. Play opened even, but innumerable fouls spoilt it for a time. The visitors were the first to score from a scrimmage, but Smith soon equalised. Half-time arrived with the score one goal each. In the second half Melton played better, and from a corner by Fillingham Lee obtained the second goal, and later added a third. Result:

MELTON, three goals;

COALVILLE, none

Leicester Daily Post - 9 October 1893

4 SEMI-FINAL

FOSSE ROVERS v LOUGHBOROUGH ATHLETIC

This match was played at Barrow-on-Soar. A gale of wind blew across the ground. The Rovers started, but play was completely spoilt by the wind. Slack, Tyler, and Priestman passed well, several shots were saved by Start. Loughborough defended well. Spiby especially. Ellis and Freestone shot wide. Fosse had slightly the best of the game in the second half, but a very even game ended in, no score

A DRAW

Leicester Daily Post - 29 January 1894

5 LEICESTERSHIRE SENIOR CUP

SEMI-FINAL

SHEPSHED TOWN v MELTON TOWN

At Kegworth, in the semi-final of the Leicestershire Senior Cup. Melton won the toss and assisted by a powerful wind pressed and scored early from a penalty kick. Shepshed afterwards equalised and won in the second half by three goals to one.

Leicester Daily Post - 13 February 1894

6 LEICESTERSHIRE SENIOR CUP

SEMI-FINAL REPLAY

FOSSE ROVERS v LOUGHBOROUGH ATHLETIC

Played at Barrow-on-Soar. The Athletic had a strong wind on commencing, and play was confined to the Fosse end. Good defence by Davis, Sweeney, and Underwood kept the Athletic out, but keeping the ball low, Freestone scored a beauty. Tyler, Gawthorne, and Slack caused trouble, but Loughborough scored a doubtful point, which Mr Hines allowed. With the wind, Fosse bombarded continually, but bad judgement lost many chances, while Loughborough continually kicked out. Final:

LOUGHBOROUGH ATHLETIC, two goals;

FOSSE ROVERS, nil.

Leicester Daily Post - 5 February 1894

7 LEICESTERSHIRE SENIOR CUP FINAL

LOUGHBOROUGH ATHLETIC v SHEPSHED

The final in the competition for the senior trophy of the Leicestershire Association took place at Barrow-on-Soar. Loughborough Athletic (holders) defeated Shepshed in the first round of the competition last season, and ultimately secured possession by defeating Coalville Town at Shepshed after two meetings, the first ending in a draw of one goal each. Shepshed won the cup in 1888, and the following season looked like winning it again, until an unfortunate dispute arose between them and the association. This seemed to have a depressing effect for a season or two, but they eventually won the Junior Cup. Only seven clubs entered the competition this year, and in the first round Loughborough Athletic, at Hugglescote defeated the Robin Hood's by four goals to two. Fosse Rovers received a bye, and Shepshed gained a magnificent victory over Hinckley, whom they defeated on their own ground by four goals to three. The other competing clubs were Melton Town and Coalville Town, who played off their tie at Melton, resulting in a victory for the home team by three goals to one. There were then four clubs in the running, and the draw saw Shepshed pitted against Melton, and Loughborough Athletic against the Fosse Rovers. The former took place at Kegworth and resulted in a victory for the "Reds." The Athletic and Fosse were unable to decide matters at one meeting, which took place at Barrow, a second contest resulting in the defeat of the junior "Fossils" by two goals to love. The clubs left in the final had already met twice this season, and on each occasion Shepshed proved worthy foemen of the "Luffs", indeed they lost at Loughborough by a goal only, and won at Shepshed in a canter, scoring four goals to the Athletic one.

There was a large attendance. Shepshed won toss, and within two minutes a free to Loughborough gave a good chance. After a sharp attack, Culley scored for Loughborough. Then a good attempt by the Shepshed right was repulsed well, and after play in midfield two corners were given by Shepshed. Another foul looked dangerous for the reds, but the leather was cleared, and the Loughborough goal placed in danger. Play was transferred to the other end, another corner being fruitless. The game was quieter till a Shepshed attack was stopped for "hands." Loughborough pressed hotly, the Shepshed backs saving, and returning the compliment. Helped by a free kick, they got down. Start saved smartly, and the next shot went over. Useful play by Wale improved the Shepshed position, West shooting well, while Start made a fine save, but Freestone and Culley missed good opportunities. Shepshed had the best of the game, but the Loughborough defence kept them out. A clinking shot from the line by Wale equalised the score. On the re-start Loughborough woke up a bit, but there was no alteration half time.

Re-starting Loughborough attacked first but the ball was retuned, and Shepshed assumed the aggressive. The blues got well down, Freestone scoring for Loughborough amid excitement. Slow play followed, and Shepshed forced Start to handle. The game was very uninteresting for some little time, and a stoppage was caused by an injury to Jordan. Then Loughborough got down, and Freestone sent over. Preston had to retire through an injury to his arm. Shepshed forced the game, but a foul by Newbold relieved. Shepshed right attacked and Start conceded a corner. The ball was returned to the reds' goal, and the blues looked like scoring, but the ball was got away safely, and transferred to the other end. Play continued in centre of the ground until a free kick took it into the Shepshed and, but nothing further was done. Result:

LOUGHBOROUGH ATHLETIC, two goals;

SHEPSHED, one
Leicester Daily Post - 9 April 1894