



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, Loughborough, Belper, Sheepbridge Works, Matlock and Worksop.

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

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

Worksop deciding not to participate.

Sheepbridge failed to complete the season.

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 Reserve	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 Reserve	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 Reserve	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	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 Reserve	Bramall-lane	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 Reserve	Olive Grove	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.
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United Counties Football League 1897-98

Nr	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
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	36	12
7	Loughborough Athletic*	14	6	0	8	21	31	10
8	Matlock	14	3	0	11	20	46	6

*Two points deducted

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

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

plete table being as follows :—

	P'yd.	Won.	Lst.	Drn.	Goals		Pts.
					For	Agst.	
Sheffield Wednesday Res.	14	13	0	1	50	18	27
Sheffield United Reserve.	14	8	4	2	37	19	18
Derby Countv Reserve ..	14	6	5	3	27	20	15
Belper Town	14	6	8	0	32	29	12
Leicester Fosse Reserve ..	14	5	7	2	30	29	12
Loughborough Reserve ..	14	6	8	0	21	31	10
Sheffield Club	14	5	7	2	18	36	12
Matlock	14	3	11	0	20	46	6

Dismay was general in the camp of the Sheffield **United** Club on Tuesday when it became known

Champions:	Sheffield Wednesday Reserves
Runners-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.

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

Results Grid

United Counties League 1897-1898	Belper Town	Derby County Reserve	Leicester Fosse Reserve	Loughborough Reserve	Matlock	Sheffield Club	Sheffield Wednesday Reserve	Sheffield United Reserve
Belper Town		0-2	1-0	6-0	7-0	2-5	1-5	2-0
Derby County Reserve	4-1		0-0	2-0	3-1	2-2	2-2	1-3
Leicester Fosse Reserve	4-1	1-0		2-1	6-2	5-1	3-4	1-4
Loughborough Reserve	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		3-2			1-6	0-4
Sheffield Wednesday Reserve	4-1	4-1	5-2	3-1	6-1	1-0		1-0
Sheffield United Reserve	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 Reserve	2 (2)	2 (1)	Leicester Fosse Reserve	Fosse scored twice within the first 15 mins. United equalised shortly before the end.
11.9.1897	Leicester Fosse Reserve McMillan AN Other Flannagan (pen +1)	4 (2)	1 (1)	Sheepbridge 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 Reserve Dorrell Lord	2 (1)	1 (1)	Loughborough Athletic Earl	Beautiful weather. 2,000 - 3,000 spectators.

18.9.1897	Sheepbridge 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 Reserve	Good attendance.
????	Sheffield United Reserve Wetton AN Other	2 (2)	3 (1)	Sheffield Wednesday Reserve Stevenson Beech Brady	Bramall-lane. 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 Reserve	4	2	Sheepbridge Works	
2.10.1897	Leicester Fosse Reserve Jones Flannagan	3 (2)	4 (0)	Sheffield Wednesday Reserve	2,000 spectators. 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	6	2	Loughborough Reserve	Bramall-lane. Fair attendance.
9.10.1897	Derby County Reserve	0	0	Leicester Fosse Reserve	Dull but fine weather.
9.10.1897	Sheepbridge Hudson Evans Thacker Owen AN Others	7 (4)	0 (0)	Matlock	Whittington Moor. 200 spectators
9.10.1897	Sheffield Wednesday Reserve Beech (2 min)	1 (1)	0 (0)	Sheffield Club	Olive Grove
16.10.1897	Matlock Taylor	1	3	Sheffield Wednesday Reserve Dryburgh Wastnage AN Other	
23.10.1897	Leicester Fosse Reserve 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 Reserve Turner Webster (2)	3 (2)	2 (0)	Belper Town Wildgoose E Tyers	Fair gate.
23.10.1897	Sheffield Wednesday Reserve	0 (0)	1 (1)	Sheepbridge Works J Smith	Olive Grove 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 Reserve Burton Leonard	2 (0)	0 (0)	Loughborough Reserve	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 Wildgoose (2) Berresford AN Other E Tyas	Owlerton, Sheffield.
6.11.1897	Sheffield Wednesday Reserve Smith AN Others Topham	4 (4)	1 (0)	Derby County Reserve AN Other	Olive Grove, Sheffield. 1,000 spectators Dull weather
13.11.1897	Derby County Reserve	2 (1)	2 (2)	Sheffield Wednesday Reserve	Splendid game.
13.11.1897	Sheffield Club Eaden	1 (1)	6 (3)	Sheffield Wednesday Reserve Dryburgh (2) Cole Richards (2) Topham	At Owlerton.
20.11.1897	Derby County Reserve	2	2	Sheffield Wednesday Reserve	
20.11.1897	Sheffield United Reserve Johnson AN Others Wetton	6 (3)	1 (0)	Matlock AN Other	Bramall-lane, Sheffield. 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 Reserve Davis AN Other Dryburgh (2)	Heavy rain
27.11.1897	Derby County Reserve Talbot (2)	2 (1)	2 (1)	Sheffield FC Potts Stokes	Wretched weather
27.11.1897	Sheffield United Reserve Logan Bloomer	2 (1)	1 (0)	Sheepbridge Schofield	Bramall-lane, Sheffield. "Scattered and inconsiderable crowd."
4.12.18974	Derby County Reserves Burton (2) Hunt Boag	4	1	Belper Town Willdgoose	Baseball ground, Derby. The weather and the ground alike were very bad.
4.12.18974	Loughborough Reserves	0 (0)	4 (3)	Sheffield United Reserves AN Others Crompton White	
4.12.18974	Sheffield Wednesday Reserve AN Other Dryburgh (2) Richards	5 (2)	2 (1)	Leicester Fosse Reserve Coulson	Olive Green, Sheffield 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 AN Others	2 (1)	1 (1)	Belper Town Farmer	Bramall Lane. Showery weather. Small number of onlookers. United missed a first half penalty.
18.12.1897	Sheffield Club	0	4	Sheffield United Reserves	Owlerton, Sheffield.

		(0)	(2)	Johnson (2) Jenkinson (4)	Foggy weather
18.12.1897	Sheffield Wednesday Reserve Moffatt Dryburgh	2 (A)	0 (A)	Loughborough Reserve	Olive Green, Sheffield. 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 (1 2)	Derby County Reserve Leonard (2) Burton Boag	Broomhall Park. 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 Reserve Kirkland (og)	Largest gate of the season
1.1.1898	Matlock	0 (0)	1 (0)	Sheffield FC	
1.1.1898	Sheffield United Reserve Shaw Nutt	2 (2)	3 (1)	Derby County Reserve Hunt Paul AN Other	
8.1.1898	Belper Town	8 (2)	0 (0)	Sheepbridge Works	
8.1.1898	Leicester Fosse Reserve Watkin	1 (0)	4 (1)	Sheffield United Reserve AN Other	2,000 spectators. Kicked oof at 2.30pm
15.1.1898	Leicester Fosse Reserve King Coulson Watkin Coulson	4 (2)	1 (0)	Belper Fitzpatrick	Small attendance.
15.1.1898	Loughborough Reserve Turner (2)	2 (1)	1 (0)	Matlock Dr McLaws	Fait attendance.
22.1.1897	Belper Town	2	0	Sheffield United Reserve	
22.1.1897	Leicester Fosse Reserve Swift	1 (0)	0 (0)	Derby County Reserve	2,000 spectators.
22.1.1897	Sheepbridge Taylor	0	5	Sheffield Club Ward AN Other Potts (2) Hovet	
5.2.1898	Belper Stokes (2) Adams (2) Fitzpatrick	6 (5)	0 (0)	Loughborough Reserve	Beautiful weather. Treacherous ground.
12.2.1898	Loughborough Reserve AN Others Roulstone Pegg	4 (1)	0 (0)	Leicester Fosse Reserve	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 Reserve AN Other	Loughborough had several new men, four of their forwards making their debut.

19.2.1898	Sheffield Wednesday Reserve Thackray (3) Beech	4 (3)	1 (1)	Belper Town Stokes (pen)	Olive Grove. Poor attendance.
5.3.1898	Derby County Reserve	3	1	Matlock	
5.3.1898	Leicester Fosse Reserve Watkins (2) AN Others	5 (1)	1 (0)	Sheffield FC Sylvester	"Nice sprinkling" of spectators
5.3.1898	Loughborough Reserve	1 (1)	2 (2)	Sheffield Wednesday Reserve	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	At Owlerton, Sheffield.
21.3.1898	Sheffield Wednesday Reserve Moffatt Beech AN Other	3 (3)	1 (0)	Loughborough Reserves AN Other	Olive Grove, Sheffield . 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 Reserve AN Others	
8.4.1898	Loughborough Reserves Hitchin Webster	2	1	Derby County Reserves Swann	
8.4.1898	Matlock	0	3	Belper Town	200 spectators
11.4.1898	Belper Town	0 (0)	2 (0)	Derby County Reserve 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	Fosse Ground, Leicester. Meagre £4 gate. 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 Reserve	Acorn Ground, Belper. This was Belper's 5 th game in 5 days.
23.4.1898	Loughborough Reserve Vickers	1	0	Leicester Fosse Reserve	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.

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.	Lost.	Drawn.	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, plying 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;

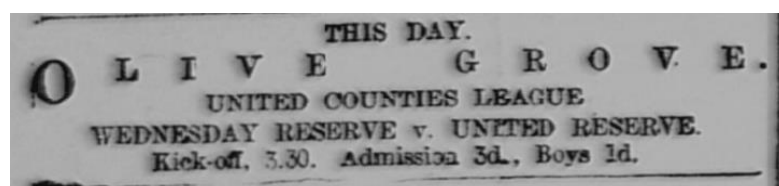
FOSSE, none.

Leicester Daily Post -25 April 1898

Additional Information

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



Sheffield Daily Telegraph - 18 April 1898

Leicester Fosse United Counties League Fixtures 1897-8

Date	Home			Away	Match Details
4.9.1897	Sheffield United Reserve	2 (2)	2 (1)	Leicester Fosse	Fosse scored twice within the first 15 mins. United equalised shortly before the end.
11.9.1897	Leicester Fosse Reserves McMillan AN Other Flannagan (pen +1)	4 (2)	1 (1)	Sheepbridge AN Other	3,000 spectators. Kick off delayed 45 mins due to the late arrival of Sheepbridge
18.9.1897	Leicester Fosse Reserves Dorrell Lord	2 (1)	1 (1)	Loughborough Athletic Earl	Beautiful weather 2,000 - 3,000 spectators.
2.10.1897	Leicester Fosse Reserves Jones Flanaggan	3 (2)	4 (0)	Sheffield Wednesday Reserves Leyton Topham AN others	2,000 spectators. Leyton missed his first penalty kick 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 Leyon hit the back of the net.
9.10.1897	Derby County Reserves	0	0	Leicester Fosse Reserves	Dull but fine weather.
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.
22.1.1898	Fosse Reserves Swift	1 (0)	0 (0)	Derby County Reserves	2,000 spectators
5.3.1898	Leicester Fosse Reserves Watkins (2) AN Others	5 (1)	1 (0)	Sheffield FC Sylvester	"Nice sprinkling" of spectators
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.

Loughborough Athletic United Counties League Fixtures 1897-8

Date	Home			Away	Match Details
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.
2.10.1897	Sheffield United Reserves	6 (1)	2 (1)	Loughborough	Bramall-lane Grounds Fair attendance
23.10.1897	Loughborough Reserves Turner Webster (2)	3 (2)	2 (0)	Belper Wildgoose E Tyers	Fair gate.
30.10.1897	Loughborough Reserve Paget	1 (1)	2 (1)	Sheepbridge Hudon (2)	Sheepbridge arrived late
18.12.1897	Sheffield Wednesday Reserve Moffatt (20 mins) Dryburgh	2 (A)	0 (A)	Loughborough Reserve	Olive Grove, Sheffield Small number of spectators. Dense fog. Loughborough arrived 30 mins after the advertised kick off time and the game started 45 mins late. Moffatt opened the scoring with an overhead kick. Game abandoned at half-time owing to the density of the fog.
8.1.1898	Leicester Fosse Reserves Watkins	1 (0)	3 (1)	Sheffield United Reserves	2,000 spectators. Beautifully fine weather.

				AN Other Jenkinson (2)	Kicked off at 2.30.
5.2.1898	Belper Stokes (2) Adams (2) Fitzpatrick	6 (5)	0 (0)	Loughborough Reserves	Beautiful weather Treacherous ground
19.2.1898	Matlock Bowmar (2) Ellis	3	1	Loughborough Reserves AN Other	
5.3.1898	Loughborough Reserves Lakin	1 (1)	2 (2)	Sheffield Reserves AN Others	The start was delayed by 30 mins due to the late arrival of the referee.
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.

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. SHEEPBRIDGE.

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. Flaanagan 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.	Lat.	Drn.	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, plying 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

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, 5.30. Admission 3d., Boys 1d.	

Sheffield Daily Telegraph - 18 April 1898

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LOUGHBOROUGH RESERVES v. FOSSE RESERVES.

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LOUGHBOROUGH, one goal;
FOSSE, none.

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Goals	Assists	Points
31	41	
30	37	
30	35	
41	33	
42	28	
45	32	
51	31	
47	31	
61	28	
45	28	
41	26	
43	24	
46	24	
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51	24	
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Storer was free but Walker being at the inter

UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE
LOUGHBOROUGH RESERVES v. FOSSE RESERVES

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LOUGHBOROUGH, one goal;
 FOSSE, none.

Leicester Daily Post -25 April 1898

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UNITED COUNTIES' LEAGUE.

FOSSE RESERVES v. LOUGHBOROUGH RESERVES.

Following the encouraging draw with Sheffield United and the victory over Sheepbridge, the Fosse Reserves by their engagement with Loughborough Reserves to-day made their second appearance on the home enclosure. Up to this match Loughborough had only fulfilled one fixture in the League, and then they defeated Sheffield Club by one goal to none, so that it was expected that the present game would be a tight one and a representation in miniature of the keen struggles that took place between the senior teams of the two rival Leicestershire towns some years ago. Several alterations were made in the team as compared with last week, the forward line especially being considerably altered. Clark, Jones, and Dorrell were down to play in the places of McMillan, Atkins, and Gillies, while Murden was given Cassell's place at half. Sacr was given another trial for the first team between the sticks, and Howes filled his old position in the second team. Loughborough also brought a good team, and everything was conducive to an interesting game. The ground was in excellent condition, and the weather was beautifully fine, although perhaps the sun was rather too warm for football. Punctually at time the men lined up as follows:—

Fosse: Howes, goal; Thompson and Rowell, backs; Lord, Pailey, and Murden, half-backs; Dorrell, Bamford, Flannagan, Jones, and Clark, forwards.

Loughborough: Foulds, goal; Bailey and Ward,

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forwards.

Loughborough: Foulds, goal; Bailey and Ward, backs; Bexon, Viccars, and Paget, half-backs; Earl, Pym, Turner, Webster, and Story, forwards.

Loughborough won the toss, and the Fosse had to play against the sun, but with the wind in their favour. The Fosse started, before between 2,000 and 3,000 spectators, with ten men, but Clark arrived before the play had been proceeding a moment. The first feature of the play was a shot at goal from Bailey, and while in possession Foulds was nearly rushed into the goal by Clark. Some warm work was then seen in front of the net, and Bailey made another attempt to score but the pass went behind. Dorrell put in a splendid centre, and gave Jones a ridiculously easy chance, but the latter failed to properly get his foot round the ball, and the opening was thus lost. He atoned for this somewhat, however, by sending in a couple of fine shots, the first of which Foulds cleverly fisted away, while the second one struck the cross-bar. Then Dorrell took up the running, and opened the scoring by beating Foulds with a low cross shot, in the first five minutes of the game. Soon after the re-start Thompson badly missed his kick, and let in Story, Webster, and Turner, and for a minute the Fosse goal looked in danger. Rowell, however, came to the rescue, and transferred play to the centre, and from here Dorrell put in one of his typical runs before putting in a good centre. Bamford took the ball, but he dallied too long before shooting, with the result that he was robbed. Play, however, still went on in the Loughborough half for a short time, but then the visitors got down, and the forwards put in some very smart work in front of goal. Story put in a long centre

time, but then the visitors got down, and the forwards put in some very smart work in front of goal. Story put in a long centre from the wing right across to Earl, who banged the ball into the goal just under the cross-bar, Jones having very little chance of clearing. At this time, however, it should be mentioned that the Fosse were playing without Clark, who for some reason or other had retired. Going on, the Fosse forwards took up the attack, and Dorrell sent in a stinging shot, which Foulds saved in fine style. A minute later the left winger gave Flannagan an opening, but a shot was

only a weak one, which gave Foulds but little trouble. Clark now returned, and a flying visit was paid to each end, both goalkeepers being called upon to make. Thompson was beaten by Story, but Rowell was again in evidence, and he turned the ball into touch. From the throw in the Fosse got down, but a free for a foul gave Loughborough temporary relief. Dorrell returned to the attack again, and after tricking several opponents, he banged in another fine shot. Foulds saved splendidly again, but the ball went over the crossbar for a fruitless corner. After a long spell of even play a lot of hot work was seen round the Loughborough goal, but Bailey, Ward, and Foulds were more than a match for the Fosse, and nothing tangible resulted. Soon afterwards the interval arrived with the score:

ONE GOAL EACH.

On resuming it was seen that Jones had gone to the centre, while Flanagan took his place as inside right. The visitors were the first to attack, but then the ball went behind. Following this the Fosse pressed, and some exciting exchanges were seen. Then Clark had an opening, but his shot went yards wide. A few minutes later some warm work was seen in the mouth of the visitors' goal, the ball appeared to go inside the net, and the leather was then sent behind for a corner, which did not avail the Fosse much, as Thompson shot over, and Dorrell centred behind. The Fosse continued to press, but their efforts were not of much use, owing to the lack of combination, all the forwards playing too much for themselves. In stopping a rush Ward sent the ball behind, but Clark's corner kick went out at the back of the net, while Dorrell also placed the ball in a similar position. The same player, with a good centre, placed the ball right in front of the visitors' goal, but the backs cleared, and then Clark

ball in a similar position. The same player, with a good centre, placed the ball right in front of the visitors' goal, but the backs cleared, and then Clark again sent the leather behind. From the kick off the Loughborough forwards got away, and Story centred to Earl, who made a good attempt to head the ball into the net. Howes, however, cleared, and the Fosse again took up the attack. Bamford had a fair opening, but he kicked too hard, and Dorrell followed this up by missing a chance. At this time the home forwards seemed to be completely demoralised, and could do nothing right, several good chances being literally thrown away. Bamford was fouled when he had worked the ball into an advantageous position, but the Fosse gained nothing from the free kick. Foulds fisted away a header from Bamford, while Bailey kicked away a swift low shot from Lord. Then Clark, Bamford, and Dorrell all had openings one after the other, but neither of the three could shoot straight enough to trouble Foulds, while a minute later Bamford put the ball yards above the crossbar. Dorrell then went inside left to try his luck. The game wandered on in miserable style for a time, but at last the only man—Lord—who seemed to be able to put in a decent shot, got possession, and the ball was banged into the net amidst cheers. Only a few minutes remained for play, and during that time nothing exciting happened, and a moderate game ended:

FOSSE, two goals;
LOUGHBOROUGH, one goal

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UNITED COUNTIES FOOTBALL LEAGUE

At the Maunche Hotel, Sheffield, on Wednesday night, delegates of the clubs forming the above League met to decide various points with regard to the carrying on of the League. Mr. G. Stevens, president of the Derbyshire Association, was in the chair. The following officers were elected for the ensuing season :--President, Mr. J. C. Clegg ; vice-presidents, Messrs. G. Stevens and A. Nixon ; hon. treasurer, Mr. David Haigh ; hon. secretary, Mr. Morgan Roberts. The Management Committee will consist of the same gentlemen. — It was decided to hold meetings quarterly, consisting of club representatives and the Management Committee. Messrs. D. Haigh and M. Roberts were appointed to draw up rules on the same basis as those in senior organisations. — The annual subscription was fixed at two guineas, and each club is allowed to appoint four referees, the fee to be paid to the latter being fixed at 7s. 6d. and third-class railway fare. — It was arranged to hold a championship match, for prizes for the winners, such match to be played about Easter, the actual day to be fixed later. — The clubs which form the League are as follows :—Sheffield Wednesday Reserve, Sheffield United Reserve, Derby County Reserve, Leicester Fosse, Loughborough, Sheepbridge, Matlock, Sheffield Club, and Belper. Mexborough may possibly be added to the list, that club not being at present in a position to apply for nomination. This concluded the meeting, and the various secretaries then proceeded to arrange fixtures.

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.

The clubs which formed the League were: Sheffield Wednesday Reserve, Sheffield United Reserve, Leicester Fosse Reserve, Loughborough Reserve, Sheepbridge Works, Matlock, Sheffield Club and Belper. In addition Mexborough and Worksop were also mentioned at meetings, but for a number of reasons (unspecified) neither started.

Belper News - Friday 20 August 1897

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practice is arranged for Saturday next, and should attract a few spectators who are eager to be once again glorying in the excitement of the football fever.

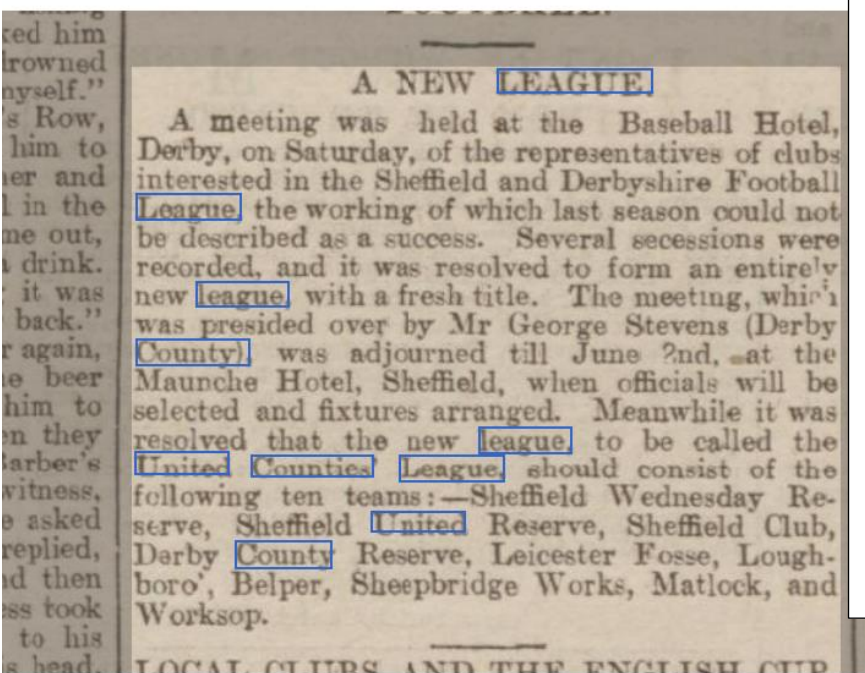
The following are the fixtures arranged up-to-date, and it is certain that many good games will be the outcome.

FIRST TEAM FIXTURES.

Date.	Club.	Where played.	League.
Sept. 4..	Riddings	Away ..	SL
.. 11..	County Reserve	Home ..	SL
.. 18..	Sheepbridge	Away ..	UCL
.. 22..	Heanor Town	SL
.. 25..	Ripley	Home	
Oct. 2..	Matlock	UCL
.. 9..	Ripley	Away	
.. 16..	Heanor Town	Home ..	SL
.. 23..	Loughboro'	Away ..	UCL
.. 30..	English Cup Tie		

Nov. 6..	Sheffield Club	Away	.. UCL
" 13..	Sheepbridge	"	.. SL
" 20..	Leicester Fosse.....	Home	.. UCL
" 27..	Wednesday Reserve..	"	.. UCL
Dec. 4..	Derby County Reserve	Away	.. UCL
" 11..	Sheffield United R. ..	"	.. UCL
" 18..	Matlock.....	"	.. SL
" 25..			
" 27..	Sheffield Club	Home	.. UCL
Jan. 1..			
" 8..	Sheepbridge	Home	.. UCL
" 15..	Leicester Fosse.....	Away	.. UCL
" 22..	Sheffield <u>United</u> R. ..	Home	.. UCL
" 29..	Chesterfield	Away	.. SL
Feb. 5..	Loughboro'.....	Home	.. UCL
" 12..	Riddings.....	"	.. SL
" 19..	Sheffield W'dn'sd'y R.	Away	.. UCL
" 26..			
Mar. 5..	Sheepbridge	Home	.. SL
" 12..	Long Eaton Reserve..	Away	.. SL
" 19..	Matlock	Home	.. SL
" 26..			
April 2..	Chesterfield	Home	.. SL
" 8..	Matlock	Away	.. UCL
" 9..	Long Eaton	Home	.. SL
" 11..	<u>County</u> Reserve	"	.. UCL
" 13..	Ilkeston	Away	.. SL
" 16..	County Reserve.....	"	.. SL
" 23..			
" 30..	Ilkeston	Home	.. SL

UCL—United Counties League
SL—Derbyshire Senior League



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, Loughborough , Belper, Sheepbridge Works, Matlock and Worksop.

Leicester Fosse Reserves and Loughborough Reserves 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. Note that the League comprised of 9 teams – Worksop deciding not to participate.

Club	Home Ground	Est.	Other Information
Belper Town	Acorn ground	1883	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 Reserve	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 Reserve	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 Reserve	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	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 Reserve	Bramall-lane	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 Reserve	Wednesday	Olive Grove	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.
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The Times - Friday 02 July 1897

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which fell, T. Poole was responsible for two.

It will be of interest to the supporters of the Coalville Albion Football Club to know that by a decision of the **League** committee at a meeting on Saturday, the club takes second place in the Senior **County** Competition for last season, coming next to the Fosse Reserves. Hinckley, it will be remembered, finished at the top of the chart, but they have had four points deducted for playing an ineligible man on two occasions, which reduces them to third position. It is noticeable that there are one or two changes in the constitution of the **League** for the coming season. Leicester Fosse Reserves and Loughborough Reserves have drawn out in order to join the new **United Counties League**, and Ibstock have left for other reasons. Thus three of last season's competitors will not take part next season while a new club—Anstey Town—has been admitted.

While the Leicestershire Senior **League** has lost some of its competitors, the Ashby and District **League** has been gaining strength, and the esteemed secretary, Mr. G. J. Lee, of Ellistown, assures me that there is the prospect of an excellent competition during the ensuing season. Several good clubs have been admitted, bringing the total to fifteen

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square, was playing on the top of a low wall on Monday when he fell to the ground, and injured his head. Attention was paid to the little fellow at the hospital.

FOOTBALL.—A new league has been formed, to consist largely of the reserve league teams. It will be called the **United Counties League**, and the Loughborough Club has been elected to membership.

ST. PETER'S C. L. B. COMPANY.—A march out to the

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ings.		THE UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE.		
R.	W.	COUNTY RESERVE FIXTURES.		Int
70	8	The following are the fixtures arranged for the		Ex
15	1	County Reserve in connection with the United		Inc
13	0	Counties' League:—		Bo
		SEPTEMBER.		Pro
R.	W.	18—County Reserve v. Sheffield Club.....	Away.	Ad
54	4	25—County Reserve v. Sheffield United R.	Home.	
42	2	OCTOBER.		
15	2	2—County Reserve v. Sheepbridge	Home.	Sub
23	2	9—County Reserve v. Leicester Fosse.....	Home.	Dep
		23—County Reserve v. Matlock	Home.	
ings.		30—County Reserve v. Loughborough.....	Home.	Bill
		NOVEMBER.		The
71	3	6—County Reserve v. Sheffield Wed. R ...	Away.	
53	1	20—County Reserve v. Sheffield Wed. R ...	Home.	
27	1	27—County Reserve v. Sheffield Club	Home.	
26	3	DECEMBER.		
8	1	4—County Reserve v. Belper	Home.	
		25—County Reserve v. Sheepbridge	Away.	
		27—County Reserve v. Matlock	Away.	
		JANUARY.		
		1—County Reserve v. Sheffield United R.	Away.	
		22—County Reserve v. Leicester Fosse ...	Away.	
		APRIL.		
		11—County Reserve v. Belper	Away.	

Derby County Reserve United Counties League Fixture List 1897-98

September		
18	County Reserves v Sheffield Club	Away
25	County Reserves v Sheffield United R	Home
October		
2	County Reserves v Sheepbridge	Home
9	County Reserves v Leicester Fosse	Home
23	County Reserves v Matlock	Home
30	County Reserves v Loughborough	Home
November		
6	County Reserves v Sheffield Wed. R.	Away
20	County Reserves v Sheffield Wed. R.	Home

ronicle - Saturday 21 August 1897

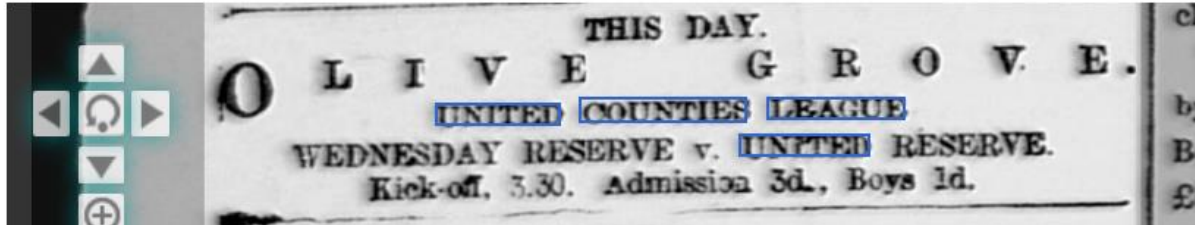
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fixtures, all of which, with the exception, of course, of the cup dates, are **United** League matches:—

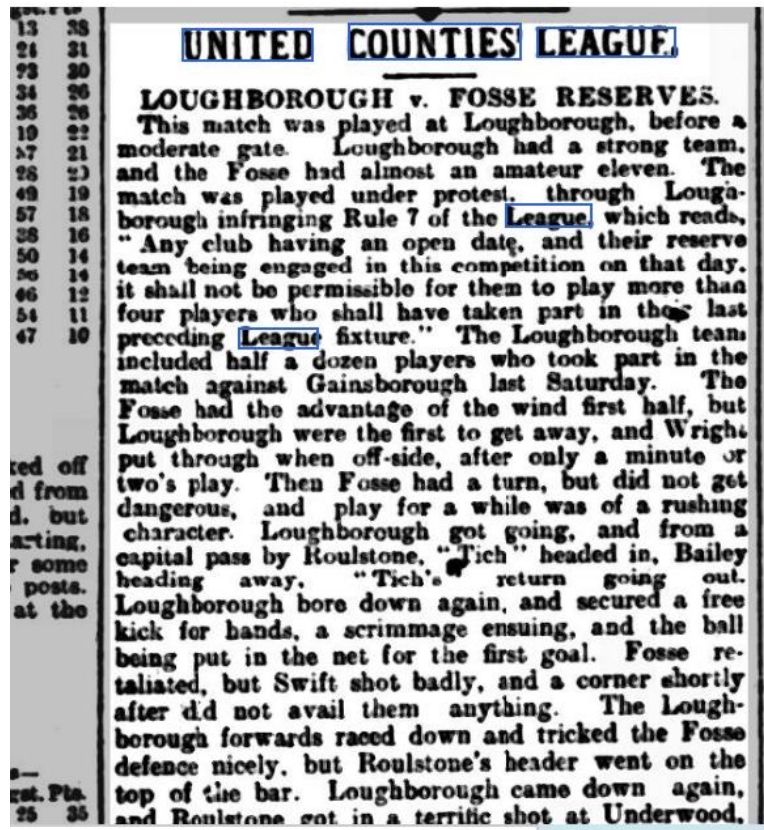
Sept. 4.—**Sheffield United**, away.
Sept. 11.—Sheepbridge, home.
Sept. 18.—Loughborough, home.
Oct. 2.—**Sheffield Wednesday**, home.
Oct. 9.—Derby Reserve, away.
Oct. 16.—Leicestershire Cup (first round).
Oct. 23.—Matlock, home.
Oct. 30.—**Sheffield Club**, away.
Nov 13.—Leicestershire Cup (second round).
Nov 20.—Belper, away.
Nov 27.—Leicestershire Cup (third round).
Dec. 4.—**Sheffield Wednesday**, away.
Jan. 8.—**Sheffield United**, home.
Jan. 15.—Belper, home.
Jan. 22.—Derby, home.
Feb. 12.—Loughborough, away.
Mar. 5.—**Sheffield Club**, home.
Mar. 12.—Sheepbridge, away.
Mar. 19.—Leicestershire Cup (semi-final).
April 2.—Leicestershire Cup (final).
April 11.—Matlock, away.

Of the men who have sought fresh fields upon

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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,

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 infringement, 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 a goal to none.

Shortly after resuming Cassell came into collision with Hardy, and the game had 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, Roulstone putting the ball grandly for goal, and Wright, in attempting to touch it through, kicked in the wrong direction.

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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, Underwood clearing. A minute later 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 cut 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 visitors' 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 a 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 Loughborough were all over the Fosse, the whole of the forwards bearing down strongly. Bailey was forced to concede a corner, which was followed by 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.

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ester Journal - Friday 24 September 1897

Reach PLC. Image created courtesy of THE BRITISH LIBRARY BOARD.

UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE FIXTURES FOR RESERVE TEAM	
Oct	5—Sheffield United Reserves, at Sheffield
Oct	23—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 Reserves, at Loughborough
April	9—Sheffield Wednesday Reserves, at Loughborough

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UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE.

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Goals For	Goals Against	Points
Sheffield Wednesday R.	16	14	1	1	54	29	29
United Res.	15	9	4	2	38	17	20
Derby County Res.	15	8	4	3	33	19	19
Belper Town	16	8	8	0	43	31	16
Leicester Fosse Res.	13	5	6	2	29	24	12
Sheffield Club	14	5	7	2	17	39	12
Leamington Res.	14	4	10	0	20	56	8
Slackbridge Works	10	3	7	0	16	39	6
Muslock	15	2	13	0	20	64	4

SHEFFIELD CLUB - MUSLOCK