



Representation of a football match from the book *Athletics and football*, 1894

## ~The Rules~

Football has been played in England for over 1300 years. Each region or county or school had its own unique set of rules. This of course severely limited the number of potential opponents and hindered its growth. The Cambridge Rules, drawn up in 1848 at a meeting of Eton, Harrow, Shrewsbury and Winchester public schools at the University of Cambridge were highly influential in the development of subsequent codes, including association football. These rules were not universally adopted and other rules, most notably by the Sheffield Football Club were written nine years later in 1857, which led to the formation of the Sheffield FA in 1867. The Football Association first met on 26 October 1863 at the Freemasons' Tavern, Great Queen Street, London and over a number of meetings over a period of three months produced the first comprehensive set of rules. Blackheath withdrew from the FA over the removal of two draft rules at the previous meeting: that allowed running with the ball and hacking. Other clubs followed and instead of joining the Football Association, they were instrumental in the formation the Rugby Football Union in 1871. The Sheffield FA played by its own rules until the 1870s with the FA absorbing some of its rules until there was little difference between the games.

The English Challenge Cup (FA Cup), the world's oldest football has been contested by English teams since 1872, whilst in the same year the first international football match took place, between England and Scotland. England is also home to the world's first football league, which was founded in Birmingham in 1888 by Aston Villa director William McGregor.

The following are the Rules (1883) in place when Leicester Fosse were founded.

1. The limits of the ground shall be, maximum length, 200 yards; minimum length, 100 yards; maximum breadth, 100 yards, minimum breadth, 50 yards. The length and breadth shall be marked off with flags and touch line; and the goals shall be upright posts, 8 yards apart, with a bar across them 8 feet from the ground. The average circumference of the Association ball shall be not less than twenty-seven inches and not more than twenty-eight inches.
2. The winners of the toss shall have the option of kick off or choice of goals. The game shall be commenced by a place-kick from the centre of the ground in the direction of the opposite goal-line; the other side shall not approach within 10 yards of the ball until it is kicked off, nor shall any player on either side pass the centre of the ground in the direction of his opponents' goal until the ball is kicked off.
3. Ends shall only be changed at half-time. After a goal is won the losing side shall kick-off, but after the change of ends at half-time the ball shall be kicked-off by the opposite side from that which originally did so; and always as provided in Law 2.
4. A goal shall be won when the ball has passed between the goal-posts under the bar, not being thrown, knocked on, or carried by any one of the attacking side. The ball hitting the goal, or boundary-posts, or goal-bar, and rebounding into play, is considered in play.
5. When the ball is in touch, a player of the opposite side to that which kicked it out shall throw it from the point on the boundary line where it left the ground. The thrower, facing the field of play, shall hold the ball above his head and throw it with both hands in any direction, and it shall be in play when thrown in. The player throwing it shall not play it until it has been played by another player.
6. When a player kicks the ball, or throws it in from touch, any one of the same side who, at such moment of kicking or throwing, is nearer to the opponents' goal-line is out of play, and may not touch the ball himself, nor in any way whatever prevent any other player from doing so until the ball has been played, unless there are at such moment of kicking or throwing at least three of his opponents nearer their own goal line; but no player is out of play in the case of a corner-kick or when the ball is kicked from the goal line, or when it has been last played by an opponent.
7. When the ball is kicked behind the goal-line by one of the opposite side it shall be kicked off by any one of the players behind whose goal line it went, within six yards of the nearest goal-post; but if kicked behind by any one of the side whose goal-line it is, a player of the opposite side shall kick it from within one yard of the nearest corner flag-post. In either case no other player shall be allowed within six yards of the ball until it is kicked off.
8. No player shall carry, knock on, or handle the ball under any pretence whatever, except in the case of the goal-keeper, who shall be allowed to use his hands in defence of his goal, either by knocking on or throwing, but not carrying the ball. The goal-keeper may be changed during the game, but not more than one player shall act as goal-keeper at the same time; and no second player shall step in and act during any period in which the regular goal-keeper may have vacated his position.
9. In no case shall a goal be scored from any free kick, nor shall the ball be again played by the kicker until it has been played by another player. The kick-off and corner-flag kick shall be free kicks within the meaning of this rule.
10. Neither tripping, hacking, nor jumping at a player, shall be allowed, and no player shall use his hands to hold or push his adversary, or charge him from behind. A player with his back towards his opponents' goal cannot claim the protection of this rule when charged from behind, provided, in the opinion of the umpires or referee, he, in that position, is wilfully impeding his opponent.

11. No player shall wear any nails, except such as have their heads driven in flush with the leather, or iron plates, or gutta-percha on the soles or heels of his boots, or on his shin-guards. Any player discovered infringing this rule shall be prohibited from taking any further part in the game.
12. In the event of any infringement of rules 5, 6, 8, 9, or 10, a free kick shall be forfeited to the opposite side, from the spot where the infringement took place.
13. In the event of an appeal for any supposed infringement of the rules, the ball shall be in play until a decision has been given.
14. Each of the competing clubs shall be entitled to appoint an umpire, whose duties shall be to decide all disputed points when appealed to; and by mutual arrangement a referee may be chosen to decide in all cases of difference between the umpires.
15. The referee shall have power to stop the game in the event of spectators interfering with the game.

### **Definition of Terms**

*Place Kick* - the ball is kicked when lying on the ground, in any position chosen by the kicker.

*Free Kick* - the ball is when lying on the ground. No opponents are allowed within six yards of the ball, but players cannot be forced to stand behind their own goal-line.

*Hacking* - intentional kicking of an opponent.

*Tripping* - the throwing of an opponent by use of the leg, or by stooping in front of him.

*Knocking on* - when a player strikes or propels the ball with his hands or arms.

*Holding* includes the obstruction of a player by the hand or any part of the arm extended from the body.

*Handling* - playing the ball with the hand or arm.

*Touch* is that part of the field, on either side of the ground, which is beyond the line of play.

*Carrying* - moving more than two steps when carrying the ball.

Some notable differences from the modern game include:

- There was no crossbar. Goals could be scored at any height.
- Although most forms of handling were not permitted, players were allowed to catch the ball but could not run with it or throw it. A so-called "fair catch" was rewarded with a free kick (this still exists in Australian rules football, rugby union and American football).
- Any player ahead of the kicker was deemed offside (similar to today's offside rule in rugby union). The only exception was when the ball was kicked from behind the goal line.
- The throw-in was awarded to the first player (on either team) to touch the ball after it went out of play. The ball had to be thrown in at right-angles to the touchline (as today in rugby union).
- There was no corner kick. When the ball went behind the goal-line, there was a situation somewhat like rugby: if an attacking player first touched the ball after it went out of play, then the attacking team had an opportunity to take a free kick at goal from a point fifteen yards behind the point where the ball was touched (somewhat similar to a conversion in rugby). If a defender first touched the ball, then the defending team kicked the ball out from on or behind the goal line (equivalent to the goal-kick).
- Teams changed ends every time a goal was scored.
- The rules made no provision for a goalkeeper, match officials, punishments for infringements of the rules, duration of the match, half-time, number of players, or pitch-markings (other than flags to mark the boundary of the playing area).

The following amendments were made to the Rules during the period of Leicestershire football derby games.

- 1887 – The goalkeeper may not handle the ball in the opposition's half.
- 1888 – The drop ball is introduced as a means of restarting play after it has been suspended by the referee.
- 1889 – A player may be sent off for repeated cautionable behaviour.
- 1890 – A goal may not be scored directly from a goal kick.

When first introduced in 1891, the penalty was awarded for offences within 12 yards of the goal-line.

- 1891 – The penalty kick is introduced, for handball or foul play within 12 yards of the goal line. The umpires are replaced by linesmen. Pitch markings are introduced for the goal area, penalty area, centre spot and centre circle.
- 1897 – The laws specify, for the first time, the number of players on each team (11) and the duration of each match (90 minutes, unless agreed otherwise). The half-way line is introduced. The maximum length of the ground is reduced from 200 yards to 130 yards.

The **penalty kick, introduced** out of frustration to combat cynical fouls committed to prevent a goal, was launched at a meeting of the International FA Board, held in the Alexandra Hotel in Glasgow on 2 June 1891.

The four British associations agreed that: *If a player intentionally trip or hold an opposing player, or deliberately handle the ball within twelve yards from his own goal line, the referee shall, on appeal, award the opposing side a penalty kick, taken from any point twelve yards from the goal line under the following conditions—all players, with the exception of the player taking the penalty kick and the opposing goalkeeper, who shall not advance more than six yards from the goal line, shall stand at least six yards behind ball; the ball shall be in play when the kick taken; a goal may be scored from the penalty kick.*

It must be remembered that football began in England's top public schools and was played by gentlemen. Since a gentleman would never deliberately foul an opponent, penalty kicks were disdained by gentlemen amateur teams of the period. If awarded against them, the goalkeeper would leave the goal unguarded while the opposition took the penalty kick, and if they were awarded a penalty, they would deliberately miss it. The legendary Corinthians player CB Fry wrote, *"It is a standing insult to sportsmen to have to play under a rule which assumes that players intend to trip, hack or push their opponents, and behave like cads of the most unscrupulous kidney"*. The kick could be taken from any point 12 yards from the goal line and the goalkeeper could narrow the angle by advancing up to 6 yards of his line. On 14 September 1891 Billy Heath of Wolves scored the first penalty kicked awarded in the Football League against Accrington at Molineux early in the second half. Wolverhampton won the game in a 5-0. In some sources, it is reported that Leicester Fosse also scored with a penalty against Notts County on the same day. Another Wolverhampton Wanderers player, Harry Allen, became the first man to miss a league penalty just 5 days later, shooting over the bar against West Bromwich Albion.

#### ~Officials~

Team captains initially ran the game. It was not until the early 1870s that referees appeared on the touchline, to act as both timekeeper and to settle disputes when the two captains could not agree. By the time Fosse and Luff encounters began, two umpires, one appointed by each team replaced the captains. Referees took complete control of games in 1891, when the umpires were relegated to the touchline, effectively becoming linesmen. Neutral linesmen were first used on a regular basis in 1898-99, but only for 'important' games. Even during Victoria times referees were much maligned characters. Forced to get changed in a shed or pub requiring them to walk long distances to and from the ground, or in a tent adjacent to the pitch, without any security or protection of themselves or their belongings, they were subjected to verbal and sometimes

physical abuse during and after the game. Many clubs were reluctant to pay the referee, who at the end of the game was required to seek out a club official to ask for his fee. Often as not he could not find anyone and would have to write a letter to the club secretary a few days after requesting a cheque to be forwarded to his home address. Adcock's 1905 handbook entitled, "Association Football" states that the standard pay for referees for an 'ordinary cup tie' was 10s 6d. A society for referees was established in London in 1893, and by the end of the century membership of the 27 referee societies in England was 773 members. To ensure consistency in all regions the overall responsibility for refereeing was passed to the FA.

Montague Sherman, in his 1887 book "Athletics and Football" neatly summarises the role of officials –

*"Each side has its own umpire, who is armed with a stick or flag; the referee carries a whistle. When a claim for infringement of rules is made, if both umpires are agreed, each holds up his stick, and the referee calls the game to a halt by sounding his whistle. If one umpire allows the claim, and the referee agrees with him, he calls a halt as before; if the other umpire and referee agree that the claim be disallowed, the whistle is not sounded. Two of the three officials must therefore agree in allowing the claim or the whistle is silent, and players continue the game until the whistle calls them off. Both umpires and referee, therefore, must lose no time in arriving at a decision, or so much play is wasted."*

The following excerpts from the set of the Football Association's "clarification rules" for umpires help bring nineteenth century football to life!

#### RULES FOR UMPIRES AND REFEREES

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The following Memoranda have been drawn up by the Committee of the Football Association for the guidance of Umpires and Referees:

No.1. – To call attention to two points in Law 2 of the game – First, that the kick-off must be in the direction of the opposition goal line, and therefore, all back kicking is illegal; and, secondly, that the other side shall not approach within TEN yards of the ball until it is kicked off.

No.2. Law 4 enacts that "a goal shall be won when the ball has passed between the goal posts." A goal, therefore, cannot be scored until the whole of the ball has passed over the goal line. The ball is also in play until the whole ball has passed over the touch line.

No.3. Law 6 commences thus: - "When a player kicks the ball, or it is thrown out of touch, anyone of the same side who at such moment of kicking or throwing is nearer to the opponents' goal-line is out of play." This is plain enough. All players of the same side as the player kicking the ball are offside if they are in front of but not.

If they are behind the ball. If players would always remember that when they are behind the ball, at the moment of kicking or throwing, they cannot be off side, but when they are in front of the ball, they are always liable to be off side, it would simplify the reading of this rule very much.

Briefly then, 1. A player is always offside if he is in front of the ball at the time of kicking unless there are three or more of his opponents nearer the goal-line than himself. 2.- A player is never offside if there are three or more players nearer the goal line than himself at the moment the ball was last played. 3. – A player cannot be offside if the ball was last played (i.e., touched, kicked, or thrown) by one of his opponents or by one of his own side who at the time of kicking is nearer his opponents' goal than himself.

Law 6 further enacts that a player being offside shall not in ANY WAY WHATEVER interfere with any other player.

No.4. – By Law 8 a goalkeeper “is allowed to use his hands in defence of his goal.” The Committee do not consider a goalkeeper to be in defence of his goal when he is in his opponents’ half of the ground.

No.5.- Rule 11, which reads as follows, should be strictly carried out by the Referees and Umpires in all matches. “No player shall wear any nails, excepting such as have their heads driven in flush with the leather, or iron plates, or gutta-percha on the soles or heels of his boots or on his shin guards. Any player discovered infringing this rule should be prohibited from taking further part in the game.”

The attention of Referees is particularly called to the following new Challenge Cup rule, which should be rigidly enforced in all matches in the Competition. “If bars or studs on the soles of the boots are used, they shall not project more than half-an-inch and shall have all their fastenings driven in flush with the leather, and in no case shall they be conical or pointed. Any infringement of this rule shall lead to the disqualification of the player, and the referee shall prohibit from taking part in the game. The Committee considers that it is not necessary for a Referee to have an appeal made to him before putting this rule into force.

No.6. – Rule 13, “In the event of an appeal for any supposed infringement of the rules, the ball shall be in play until a decision is being given. Umpires should remember how very important it is for the proper working of this rule that their decisions should be given as quickly as possible, and if a claim made the Referee, if he agrees with him should instantly sound his whistle, without waiting to ascertain the opinion of the other Umpire, it being of course understood that the system which has been found to work so well in the past is to be continued in the future, viz., that the Umpire should allow an appeal by holding up a stick and the Referee by sounding a whistle.

No.7. – A ball touching an Umpire or Referee is not dead.

No.8. – The Committee have decided that it is the duty of the Referee to see that all free kicks, kicks off from goal, and corner kicks are properly taken, and that it is not necessary for him to wait for an appeal in the event of an infringement of the rules referring to those points. In the case, though, of a throw in from touch, where a penalty is attached, and appeal is necessary before he can give a decision.

No.9.- In conclusion, umpires should bear in mind that it is entirely against the spirit of the rules to give any advice or to make a claim on behalf of either side and should be careful to ascertain that the claim is made by one of the players and not by a spectator. Also, that they are found to give a decision one way or the other when appealed to. In cases where an Umpire is so placed as to be doubtful about a claim, he should decide in favour of the side appealed against just as in cricket an Umpire would give a similar appeal in favour of batsman. Referees should remember that they have great powers entrusted to them, and that they should fearlessly use such powers, more particular ungentlemanly conduct.

### **~Ownership & Management of Football Clubs~**

Early football clubs were run by committees elected by its members. Management committees oversaw the running of the club, signed players and were responsible for team selection. Sometimes secretary/managers were appointed to carry out these duties. The club secretary was

often an old or former player and would try to entice opposition to his team's home ground that would attract a larger than usual crowd. This often involved promising them a percentage of the gate money. Mismatching was not uncommon, resulting in scores of more than 10-0. Crowds got bored with watching either their team thrash a hopelessly outclassed opposition or would leave the ground in their droves long before the end of the game their team were losing by more than four or five goals with 20 minutes to go. Top teams would often field severely weakened sides or send teams to more than locations on the same day. Towards the end of the nineteenth century as clubs and businesses sort to exploit the huge popularity of the game, the Football Association allowed Football League clubs to form limited companies. However, they restricted the profits that could be issued to shareholders to a maximum of 5% of shares held. In addition, club directors could not be paid. So, in essence clubs operated as not-for-profit businesses. The Football Association aimed to ensure that clubs met the social and culture needs of the communities which they represented, whilst still permitting a fair rate of return to their owners. Leicester Fosse would later take advantage of this to help themselves out of a financial crisis. With hindsight, if Loughborough FC had adopted a similar strategy, they may still be a footballing force today. A maximum wage was also introduced to stop clubs from increasing salaries as a means of retaining players. Gate receipts, the only significant source of revenue at the time was split between the competing clubs, with a small percentage going to a central fund for redistribution to all Football League clubs. The idea was to ensure that smaller town clubs would not be at a disadvantage to those from large towns and cities with larger fan bases.

### **~The Game~**

Football at the end of the nineteenth century was a brutal game, once described as, "*the terror of mothers, the dread of the timid and the joy of athletes*". Although "hacking", kicking an opposition player beneath the knee, an integral part of the pre-Football Association game, had been banned, players could charge or interfere in any manner that did not involve tripping, hacking, or using hands to hold or push. A young Coalville player was charged in 1878 with the manslaughter of an Ashby player following a "charge". The violent nature of football attracted the attention of the world-renowned medical journal, *The Lancet*. In 1885 they published an article entitled "*The Perils of Football*" which collated all the footballing accidents, both Association and Rugby Union codes, reported by newspapers during the 1884-85 season. It made grim reading: — October. 10th: At Eton, Mr. W. J. C. " had his right leg broken by a cross kick."— 24th: Mr. C. a student of St.

Angustine's Missionary College, Canterbury, " had his leg broken." — 25th: W.?? "while engaged in a match, was kicked in the stomach, but feeling better afterwards. He died some time afterwards from internal injuries." — 29th: Mr. W. P. G. " had his collar bone broken."— November 17th: W.

#### NEW FOOTBALL RULES

1. No match to be played without a surgeon being in attendance on the ground.
2. Should there be a hospital within a convenient distance, notice to be given beforehand, that services of the staff may be called into requisition.
3. An ample supply of bandages, or lint, splints, and other appliances to be always kept in readiness.
4. An ambulance to be waiting to convey anyone who may receive an injury to his home or to the hospital.
5. If an ambulance cannot be procured, then a sufficient number of cabs to be within immediate call.
6. Proper attendants and nurses to be engaged to wait on the sufferers.
7. Brandy and other stimulants to be kept on the grounds.
8. Crotches and sticks to be supplied for the use of those whose injuries may only be slight, but who yet may require some artificial support to them to return to their homes. No game to be played except on ground within easy reach of a Telegraph office.

These regulations may be considered severe and gloomy but in as much as football, as now too often played appears to inflict grievous injury, and even loss of life, on those who engage in its scrimmages (from it would seem to be the unknown uninitiated hardly possible to emerge without some sort of mischief) it becomes necessary to recommend to all, both men and boys, who venture onto the game, to take every imaginable precaution.

Touchstone in "As You Like It" says "It is the first time that I ever heard breaking of ribs was sport for ladies." Had Touchstone being a football player, he could not have said it was the first time that he ever he heard breaking of legs and necks was a sport for gentleman."

We will not press the acceptance of our proposed rules, if some code of laws can be rigidly and universally adopted, which shall great lesson, if not entirely prevent the risks but now seem to cloud the good name of the game and lead to the unwelcome introduction on the scene of the doctor and the coroner.

*Punch December 1896*

A. " had his leg badly broken below the knee."— December. 1st: Mr. H. W. P's "left leg was broken clean through." — 6th: Mr. E. G. B. "received a severe kick on his left leg, by which two bones were broken just above the ankle-joint." — 13th: Mr. H. H. G., a well-known athlete, sustained an injury to his right ankle which, in sporting parlance, "effectually put a stopper on his engaging in those pursuits of which he was such a rattling exponent." On the same day, in one match, two players received injuries which compelled their retirement; in another the captain of one of the teams had his leg broken ; in a third a fracture of the collarbone occurred (in this last it is added, "the play is described as having been rough"); in a fourth, "One of the Flint men had his collarbone broken through being violently charged by one of the opposing team." — 16th: A broken leg.— 22nd: Broken collar bone.— 27th: Broken leg and severe internal injuries. — 29th: Fracture of right leg just above the ankle. — January. 5th: H. L. " received a violent kick in the stomach, which completely prostrated him and caused him intense pain;" he died two days later from his injuries. — 29th: A player " received serious internal injuries." — February 2nd: Case of fracture of collarbone. — 9th: Two cases of fracture of collarbone and one of fibula. — March 9th: W. " had his ankle bone completely broken by a kick." — 30th: T. S. " was accidentally kicked

in the face; his lips, nose, and cheek were cut, and he was removed to a hospital." — April 4th: Broken leg.— 13th: Broken arm. In this case " the game said to have been characterised by a good



deal of rough play." Although the list, clearly does not represent total amount of the season's football casualties, it amply demonstrates the exceptionally dangerous nature of the game. No other popular game had the same amount of peril attached to it. The Lancet urged both Union and the Association authorities to reform. Although the Lancet states that the nature of the reforms "is not for us to decide, but we would venture to call the attention of the Rugby-

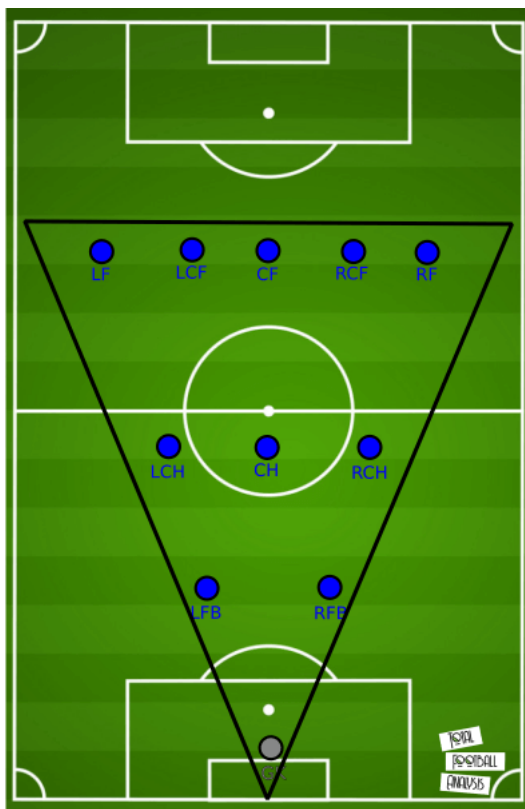
Union and the Association authorities to "collaring" and "charging, respectively." The article and recommendations appear to have had little effect, for during the 1888-89 season there were no less than eight fatalities and numerous injuries from lockjaw and brain fever through to limb amputations and ruptured kidneys. Shrewsbury Town player John Henry Morris (23) died on 12 November 1893 from an internal haemorrhage following a kick in the

**A FOOTBALL PLAYER FATALLY INJURED.** A young man named Thomas Radford died at Sutton in Ashfield on Tuesday morning from the effects of injuries received during a football match between a Sutton team and the Notts. Castle Rovers, Played at that place on Saturday last. He was twice heavily "charged" during the game, and once had to retire. At the conclusion, however, he appeared well, and left the ground to go home. A short time afterwards he was found lying moaning in a ditch by two women, who remained with him until the arrival of some men, by whom deceased was removed to his home. Dr. Standen and his assistant were called in to attend him, but he succumbed to some internal injury which he had sustained at two o'clock on Tues. day morning. Deceased was a married man, a collier, and 25 years of age. It is probable that a match will be played for the benefit of his widow next Saturday.

*Leicester Chronicle - Saturday 27 February 1886*

abdomen received by William Evans in an ill-tempered cup tie against Madeley Town at Shrewsbury. A verdict of "accidental death" was returned. Evans had to be escorted from the coroner's court by the police and was "followed to the railway by an excited crowd". Another football fatality occurred less than two weeks later. William Bannister of Chesterfield Town had collided with the inside right of Derby Junction at the Recreation Ground on 4 November 1893. Better known as "Wash", Bannister appeared to recover rapidly and when he took up his place at back again, he was loudly applauded. After the match, however, Bannister collapsed and was taken home. Dr. William Booth and Dr. Robinson were called in, and after careful examination found that Bannister had ruptured his kidneys but believed that he might pull through. However, just as he appeared to be on the mend, he slipped on a stone, fell, and re-opened the wound. A relapse set in, he gradually grew worse, and tragically died. The consensus of players, official and medical staff was that there was no one to blame. Rough play did not cause the injury which has resulted in Bannister's death, but the simplest collision. In March 1896 following a clash of heads, Teddy Smith playing for Bedminster against Eastville Rovers in the Gloucestershire Cup semi-final suffered severe concussion. After a short period of rest, he bravely carried on playing, but was forced to leave the field and by the next morning he had died from his injuries. Loughborough Town suffered a fatality, as we shall see later, with many players across Leicestershire having to endure life changing injuries as a result of playing the kicking game.

Team tactics were simple, dribble the ball straight down the middle of the field. There was little sideways movement of the ball. This often meant using sheer physical force to move through, rather than around the opposition. When the opposition successfully stopped an individual forward, another member of the onrushing group followed up to force the ball on by dribbling or kicking to teammates who were close by. Mass "scrimmages" occurred as loose balls were pounced upon as dribbles were cut short by hacks and fouls. Although passing of the ball occurred, it generally was a last resort and took only two forms - very short passes exchanged by



Ref: <https://totalfootballanalysis.com/>

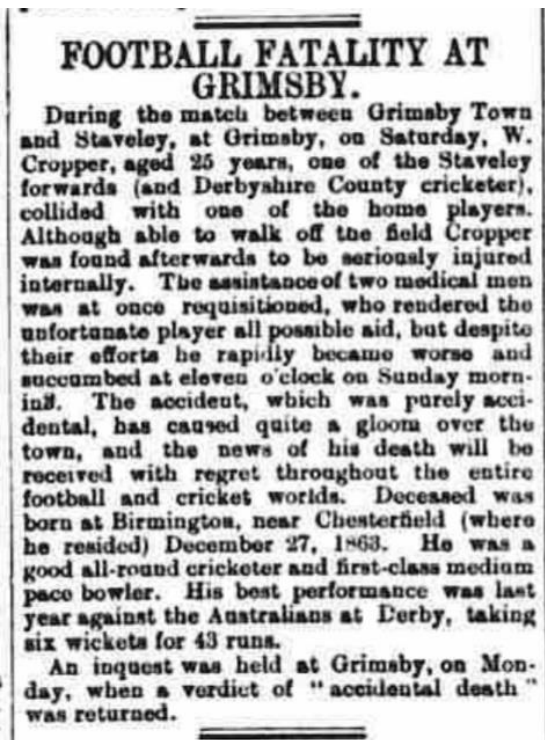
forwards running together in pairs or small groups, and long forward punts by backs for the pack of forwards to chase. The sweeping pass to the wing, or longer lateral or even backward passes designed to set up subsequent forward attacks, were unknown in this era. In many respects the game was more similar to Rugby League rather than modern football. Teams lined up and played with a goalkeeper, two or three backs and half backs, and the rest of the team as a tightly packed swarm of forwards. This style of football changed slowly during 1870s into one based around teamwork and cooperation. Developed by Queens Park in Scotland, the so called 'combination' or 'passing' game was rapidly adopted with considerable success by English clubs Liverpool FC, Aston Villa, Blackburn Rovers, Fulham, Arsenal, Southampton, and Derby County. The playing style involved a combination of dribbling and passing and game, offering a greater advantage to the rudimentary style of football. It seems strange that until then the idea that a ball could be deliberately passed to a team-mate in a better position had barely been considered. By cooperating and working together as a team gave them the upper hand.

Teams typically employed the 2-3-5 "pyramid formation", that dominated the game for sixty years, until a more technical, defensive approach, when Arsenal developed the 'W-M,' essentially a 3-4-3. For the first time, a balance between attacking and defending was reached. One of the backs often acted as a minder or bodyguard to the goalkeeper, protecting him from excessive barging and acting as a last line of defence. The other roamed further up field to break up attacks. The offside rule at the time required three defenders to be between the recipient of the ball and the goal. Therefore, it was tactically sound to utilise the second back to play higher to spring an offside trap far from goal. Backs with big kicks were highly sought after to both clear the ball away and to launch attacks. When defending, the two backs would watch out for the opponent's outside and inside forwards, while the halfbacks (midfielders) would watch for the other three forwards. As today the midfield was the engine room of the team, taking the ball from the opposition and launching attacks. The centre halfback had a fundamental role in both coordinating attacks, as well as marking the opponents centre forward, generally considered to be their most dangerous player. The forward line comprised outside and inside wing men who would combine to make rapid progress down the less muddy wings and create chances for other forwards. The role of the centre forward was to get on the end of crosses from his wing men and to be essentially in the right place at the right time to score. It was this formation which gave rise to the convention of shirt numbers. The Victorian goalkeeper's role was quite different to that of today's keeper. Until 1912 he was permitted to handle the ball anywhere in his own half of the field. Few goalkeepers managed to take full advantage of this, as they had to bounce the ball every two steps to continue running. This was almost impossible on muddy and uneven pitches. Goalkeepers could be legally charged by opposing burly forwards and if knocked over the goal line whilst carrying the ball would concede a goal (point). This meant that the goalkeeper generally stayed close to goal, preferring

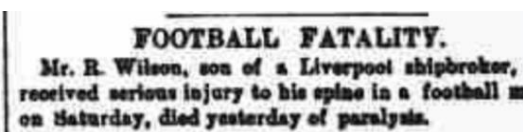
to fist or punt the ball high up field instead of catching the ball. Just to confuse matters the goalkeeper wore the same kit as his teammates. Gloves only started to be worn in the 1890s. The law changed in 1894 when charging was only permitted when goalkeepers were in possession of the ball. In 1866 the Darlington goalkeeper, Charles Craven identified the attributes and skills required to be a goalkeeper, "A good goal-keeper should not be less than 5ft 6 in. in height (the same in girth if he likes), active, cool, and have good and quick eye. He should be a safe kick. In clearing the ball, he should strike up in the air, so that the ball does not meet an opponent and rebound. He sometimes has eight yards to cover in next to no time, and as it is quicker to fall than to run, he should practice throwing down himself. When this art is acquired (and it cannot be done without practice) he will find fairly useful."

As the match reports between the Fosse and Luffs demonstrate, during the period they met, the game did noticeably change from dribbling and scrimmages to a passing game, with even the odd goal being scored from a header.

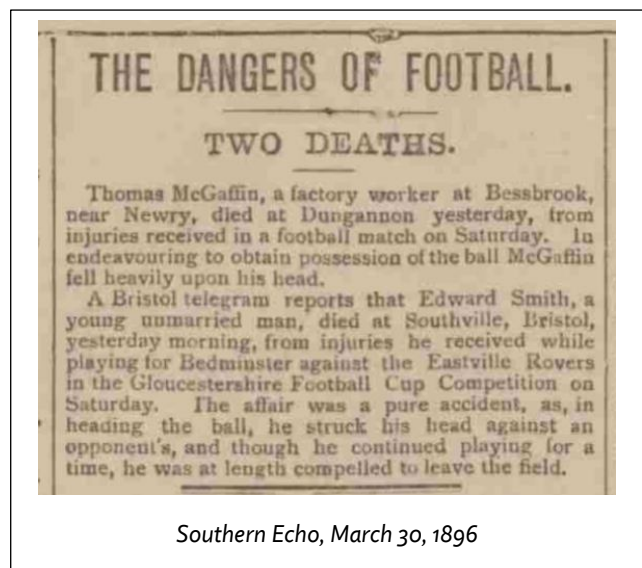
### The Brutality of Victorian Football



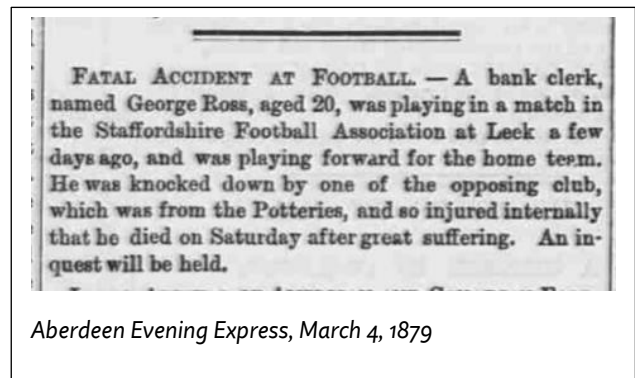
*Driffeld Times and General Advertiser, January 19, 1889*



*Carlisle Journal, April 3, 1883*



*Southern Echo, March 30, 1896*



*Aberdeen Evening Express, March 4, 1879*

## The Ashby Football Manslaughter Case

William Bradshaw, aged 18, a leather worker was charged with the manslaughter of Herbert Dockerty on 28 February 1878. A football match was played at Ashby-de-la-Zouch on 27 February between Ashby and Coalville. The deceased man Dockerty played for Ashby and the defendant for Coalville. Play began around 4 o'clock, and after about quarter of an hour's play, Dockerty began to dribble the ball towards the Coalville goal. Bradshaw went to stop him. The deceased kicked the ball past Bradshaw who instead of stopping and following the ball continued to run towards Dockerty and charged him. Instead of merely running against his antagonist, when about two yards from him Bradshaw raised his knee and jumped on him. Bradshaw fell down and Dockerty staggered a few paces forward before collapsing. No foul was given by the umpire. Unable to play Dockerty was taken home. The next day he died, medical evidence showing that the force of the collision had ruptured his bowels. At the inquest, the jury came to the conclusion that Bradshaw had been guilty of undue violence. This the coroner held to be equivalent to manslaughter and was sent for trial at Crown Court. Numerous players and witnesses were cross examined along with John Turner, the umpire. Nathaniel Betts, a surgeon informed the court that Dockerty complained of great pain over the pit of his stomach and died in agony.

During his summing up the case to the jury, his Lordship said if they were satisfied that Bradshaw caused the death of Dockerty by an unlawful act, then he was guilty of manslaughter. Since there was no doubt that he had caused the death of the Dockerty, so the only question was to whether or not the act was unlawful or not. Since no rule could be made of any game to render lawful what was contrary to the law of the land, the jury needed to pay little attention to the rules and practices of association football. If they thought that Dockerty either intended to do injury or act in an many which might produce injury, then they ought to find him guilty. Although there was no fault to be attributed to the prisoner charging, they need to determine whether he charged in an unlawful manner. People get very heated when playing football and *"it was possible that the prisoner got very angry when he found that the ball had just been kicked away from him; but it was to be remembered that he bore a good character for good temper, and also he would do an injury to his side by doing anything that was unfair"*. Although the judge would not criticise the game of football, he did say that he would be sorry to see the day when manly sports were banned. They ought to not to convict the prisoner unless they considered that he committed the act reckless of the consequences, or with the intention of doing a serious mischief; but if it was merely an unfortunate jump, then it was merely a misfortune, and not a criminal act.

The jury, after a momentary deliberation, returned a verdict of not guilty, and added a recommendation that the rules of the game of football as to charging should be altered. The judge said he could not quite agree with them on that point and that it should be left to the players themselves. He then ordered the defendant to be discharged.

### ~Players~

It must be remembered that association football began as an amateur game. A rule had been in effect since 1881 that stated: *"Any member of a club receiving remuneration or consideration of any sort above his actual expenses and any wages lost by any such player taking part in any match, shall be debarred from taking part in either cup, inter-Association, or International contests, and any clubs employing such player shall be excluded from this Association."* Throughout the early 1880s the issue of professionalism would simply not go away. The Football Association had several disputes with northern clubs including Bolton Wanderers, Blackburn Rovers and Darwen who had all signed Scottish players professionally. Many northern football clubs retained two sets of 'books', with one set of true accounts and another book detailing fabricated accounts that would be presented to the Football Association if the need were to arise. It was common practice for players to be paid from gate receipts, prior to the club declaring the gross takings on match day. Local tradesmen were often used by football clubs to 'employ' players. In reality these players had their wages paid by the football clubs themselves. A number of these practices had become very well established; for example, excessive payments

had been given for time taken off work (broken-time payments) paying players for 'one-off' or ad hoc games and myriad other financial inducements, all of which were implemented to ensure that particular players represented a particular football club. The Football Association embraced "amateurism" promoted by Corinthian FC and other clubs founded by alumni from top public schools. The difference between the southern amateur clubs and the professional teams from the north came to a head in 1884 when Preston North End played Upton Park in January 1884 in the English Cup. Preston were accused of professionalism which they admitted. Billy Sudell, who masterminded Preston's rise to the pinnacle of English football said the practice was commonplace. He said, "*Professionalism must improve football because men who devote their entire attention to the game are more likely to become good players than the amateur who is worried by business cares.*" Feeling they had little option; Preston withdrew from the competition. At least 30 other clubs, mainly from the north of England quickly followed suit, and threatened to set up a rival British Football Association if the Football Association did not allow professionalism. The Football Association relented, and in July 1885 professionalism was formally legalised in England. Professionals had to be registered with the Football Association relented and there were strict conditions, on paper at least. The main condition was that professionals were required to either be born, or been in residence for two years, within six miles of the ground or headquarters of their club. Preston, however, was a long way from the Football Association relented in London and the rule was difficult to police and was abandoned in 1889. Professionals were also not able to play for more than one team a season without special permission of the Football Association relented. Though English clubs employed professionals, the Scottish Football Association still banned them. Many Scottish players consequently moved to England to ply their trade. Preston North End's "Invincibles", that won "Double" - the English Challenge Cup and the inaugural Football League Championship (1888-89) fielded no less than ten Scottish professionals.

Although Leicester Fosse and Loughborough FC players from 1889 onwards were classified as professionals, most did not earn enough to support themselves. They supplemented their income by working for a local employer. Lesser-known players received a pittance. This meant that through a mixture of employers refusing to allow players to take time off, illness or fecklessness it was not unusual even for top teams, particularly away from home, to be short of one or more players, or to acquire substitutes from the crowd.

### ~Training~

Training was not part of the 'gentlemanly' ideal. Intense training was considered to be "*poor form*": "*Practising too much undermined natural grace and talent ... gentlemen were not supposed to toil and sweat for their laurels*". Due to the aggressive and physical nature of the game, players who could kick long and were robust were favoured over players with ball skills or speed for that matter. Robert Crompton, the Blackburn Rovers full back and England international was described in the following terms: "*Physically Bob Crompton is one of the finest examples of the native - born professional player. Standing 5ft 9 inches., and weighing 12st.7lbs., he is splendidly developed, and a fine figure in shirt and knickers... He can charge with effect, however, on occasions, but he is something more than a mere rusher...His kicking is naturally powerful-probably his punts are the biggest things in League football ...Perhaps he balloons the ball rather too much for the perfect back, and when attacking his feeding passes often have too much powder behind them.*"

Meanwhile, Herbert Smith, the captain of Reading Football Club was once described as follows by a former teammate: "*In watching the figure of Herbert Smith on a football field one is tempted to exclaim, "There stands a man!" As a specimen of English manhood, one might search far and wide for his equal. It may be that in these days purely physical qualities are extolled too much, but a fine man, a perfect human animal will always command respect. To watch Smith at play, to see him run, to witness the play of his muscles, makes one feel proud of one's kind. He is a type of perfectly developed manhood.*"

Given the emphasis of brute strength and idea of "muscular Christianity" bestowed by the church many early professional football clubs employed professional athletes or ex-boxers. Training sessions rarely developed ball skills and typically involved "*the use of heavy clubs and dumb-bells to twenty minutes` skipping, ball-punching, sprinting, and alternating with an eight or nine mile walk at a brisk pace*", An unnamed former English international writing in the early twentieth century bemoaned the lack of skills development in training: "*There is no running about or dribbling, feinting, passing with the inside or outside of the foot, trapping or heading the ball and placing it with the head like you do with your feet, judging distances etc; indulged in at all*". In an article entitled '*The Day's Work*', Mr W I Bassett, a former England international who played for West Bromwich Albion

for sixteen years, gave a detailed account of the manner in which a professional footballer was trained: "The bulk of the trainers vary in their methods...Monday is often a dies non. Many clubs allow the men to do as they like on that day, providing that there is no mid-week engagement. On the Tuesday morning they get to the ground at ten o'clock and the trainer takes them for a good walk into the country. They probably cover five or six miles, and do it at a fair pace....This is the form of training I cordially approve of...plenty of good fresh air...Should the morning not be conducive to pleasant walking, then the trainer orders alternative exercise...One of the greatest full-backs of the day is in the habit of skipping every morning; practically he does little else, and he is always in the pink of condition...It makes for increased agility, it improves the wind...Most of our leading clubs have a well-equipped gymnasium...another player will have a long turn with the Indian clubs, and others will punch the ball for an hour...Some of our leading pugilists are very fine ballpunchers...Then there is running exercise. Most of the players will run round the ground a few times or many, according to the amount of exercise each are deemed to require. This was the only real training I ever did. Then there is sprinting exercise...The men indulge in short bursts at top speed. But I fancy I hear the reader ask, what about learning to play football? ...Once a week, and once a week only, the men have ball practice...the men simply kick in...My own opinion is that men get nothing like as much actual work with the ball as they need."

### ~The Pitch~



Pitch markings 1891-1902

Although some private pitches may have been used, most football clubs began on public parks, which began to appear in Britain from the 1860s onwards. In Leicester for instance, Abbey Park (1882), Victoria Park (1883) and Spiney Hill Park (1885) all opened within three years of each other. The best-known private sports grounds in Leicestershire during the 1880s were the cricket grounds on Wharf Street, Aylestone Cricket Round (Grace Road), Belgrave Cycle (all in Leicester) and the Fox and Gosse Cricket Ground (Coalville) and the Hubbards Athletics Ground in Loughborough.

Pitch markings when Fosse played their first ever game in 1884 simply comprised of four flags to mark the corners of the playing area. The goalposts were eight yards apart - precisely the same distance as they need to be today. In general, there was nothing to indicate the edge of the pitch, nor the end of it. Pitches were just patches of grass wherever they could be found. Only when clubs had their own homes was it possible to lay down pitch markings. Bollards or a rope fencing along the field edges were used to help players know where they could not go beyond and to keep the spectators close to the action. When it was decided that players could no longer be offside from a throw, for example, it wasn't necessary for there to be markings on the pitch to denote that. But when the rules were changed in 1887 to ban goalkeepers from handling the ball in the opposition's territory, referees clearly could not enforce the new law without knowing the location of the halfway point of the field of play. The biggest change resulted

from the introduction of the penalty kick four years later in 1891 to punish players other than the goalkeeper handling the ball within twelve yards of the goal line. Equally, a penalty could also be awarded for foul play within the area, meaning that referees needed to be able to see exactly where that area began and ended. That was why pitch markings were introduced, dictating where both the goal area and penalty area were located as well as the location of the centre spot and the centre circle. In many ways' markings were more similar to what a modern supporter would expect see on a rugby than on a football pitch. The halfway line and centre circle would be familiar, but the penalty area was indicated by a dotted line across the width of pitch 18 yards from the goal line. The 12-yard line was put in place, with penalty takers able to strike the ball from anywhere along that line. The goalkeeper's area wasn't the box that we are us to today, instead it was in a shape that can really only be described as looking like a pair of breasts. It began a couple of foot either side of the goalposts and curved up to meet in the middle of the goal, but rather than meet as a full curve it

came together as the lines do at the top of a Valentine's Day heart. Why? Simple, because in 1891 the goal kick was formalised in the rules, which stated, "...the ball...shall be kicked off...within six yards of the goal-post nearest the point where the ball left the field of play." The football pitch began to take on a shape far more similar to what we're used to in this day and age, though it had enough differences to mean that a modern fan wouldn't be one-hundred percent confident of what they were looking at if they saw it. It would take another eleven years for the humble football pitch to begin to look like the one that you'll come across today, whether you head to the King Power, Wembley or the Camp Nou. The penalty area became the rectangular box that we know and love, whilst the six-yard box flattened down and became something of a hybrid between the 'boob' area and the line at the twelve yard mark that was in place previously. One further change was made. After suggestions from a number of European Football Associations, an arc was added to the penalty area.

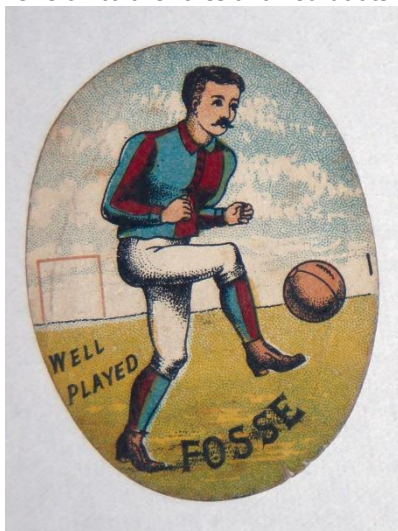
### ~Balls, Shirts, Knickers & Boots~

The first specifications for footballs were set by the Football Association in 1863. Previous to this, footballs were made out of inflated animal bladder, with later leather coverings to help footballs maintain their shapes. In 1872 the specifications were revised, and have been kept essentially unchanged by the International Football Association Board. Differences in footballs made since this rule came into effect have been with the material used to create them.

The tanned leather balls of the Victorian era typically comprised six panels of three strips each, with the seams tied together with laces. These balls were notoriously heavy and could double in weight in wet conditions as they sucked up rainwater like a sponge, making them hard to kick let alone control or run with on heavy pitches. Heading was almost impossible in wet conditions and caused headaches and could even knock a player unconscious. To make matters worse the brown balls were difficult to see by spectators, let alone the players in the mud. Footballs were relatively expensive. In the late 1870s footballs were being advertised for 8s 6d, which was equivalent to almost a week's wage for an unskilled worker. As a consequence, footballs were prized and well looked after, laces routinely replaced, and the leather regularly dubbed. In some parts of the country footballs could be hired (1s) for a game. Clubs did not have multiple balls and should a ball burst, then that would often result in the premature end of the game.



Before the early 1890s football boots were not in use. Heavy work boots, often with reinforced toes, were worn instead, which were not ideal for running in, or controlling a ball with. Players according to the 1863 rules were not allowed to wear footwear with "projecting nails, iron plates, or gutta percha on the soles or heels of his boots". Consequently, players struggled in wet and icy conditions to stay upright. Around 1891 a revision to the rules allowed boots to utilise small bars or studs leading to the manufacture of



specific footwear for playing Association Football. Made from thick leather, they were laced up the ankle for better protection. Shin guards or shin pads, developed in 1874 by the Nottingham Forest captain Stan Weller Woddowson from cut down cricket pads, were fastened with leather straps, on the outside of stockings below long knickerbockers. By the end of the nineteenth century the shin pads had become smaller and were being worn inside the stockings. The rule that knickerbockers must cover the knees of players was dropped by the Football Association in 1904 and as a result player wore much shorter "knickers". Almost all teams wore shirts of a contrasting colour or design to their knickerbockers. Loughborough wore black and white striped shirts and either white or dark blue knickerbockers. The Fosse meanwhile adopted a range of shirt designs from black with a blue sash across the chest and blue and marron quarters before finally settling on the colours of blue and white. The Football League ruled in 1890, two years after its formation, that each member club had to

register the colour and pattern of their shirts, to avoid clashes. Presumably, this resulted in arguments between clubs and was later abandoned. Instead, teams had ensure that a second shirt of shirts in a different colour was available for all games. In the event of a colour clash, the home team was initially required to change colours. For many clubs, a shirt in the clubs colours, was the only standard item amongst the 11 players. Shorts, socks and caps could be of any colour until the club was fully established and financially sound.

**C. J. CLARK,**  
 50, NOTTINGHAM ROAD.  
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**FOOTBALLS, SHIRTS,**  
**KNICKERS, BAGS,**  
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SPECIAL OFFER TO JUNIOR CLUBS:  
 Goal Nets, with Poles and Fittings, Wavy Stratch Cords,  
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**SHIN GUARDS**

Canvas Continuous Straps,  
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Gold Cape Chamois Lined,  
2s 3d.

Best Quality, 3s. 6d.

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**Shin and Ankle  
Combination.**

Leather (Lined Chamois), 2s.  
Gold Cape, 2s. 6d.  
Postage, 3d.

Shin guards or pads were worn outside the socks. Everything a player needed could be obtained in most towns across the country. If there was not a sports shop mail order was available or a local store could order items for you.

The away side usually travelled to the game by tram and/or train and had to carry kit and other provisions with them. In 1921 this rule was amended requiring the away team to change. As stated earlier, goalkeepers wore then same shirts as outfield players. This meant that match officials struggled to identify goalkeepers among a ruck of players. Yet another change to the rules, in 1904, stated that the goalkeeper must wear a different coloured shirt to their teammates. There were just two colours were initially allowed - scarlet or royal blue. Green was added as a third option in 1912, which became so popular that up until the 1970a almost every goalkeeper played in green. In the Victorian era goalkeepers generally wore a heavy woollen garment more akin to a jumper than the shirts worn by outfield players.

### ~Supporters~

As the Covid pandemic has clearly demonstrated, "*Football is nothing without fans*" as Jock Stein once commented. The first spectators were non-playing members, their families, and friends. As clubs played each other, and the popularity of football rapidly increased inherent rivalry developed, with spectators becoming supporters. The popularity of football rapidly increased during the late Victorian period. Clubs

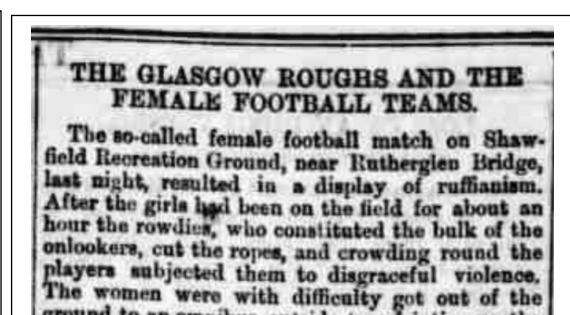
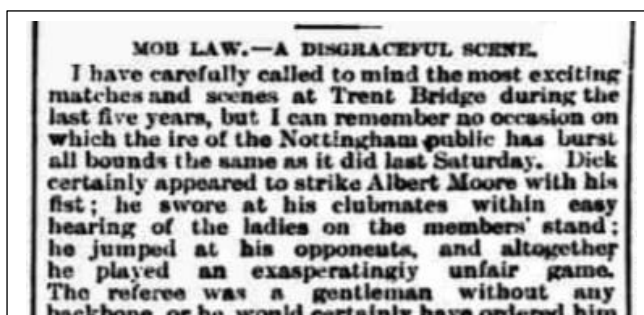


rapidly became an integral part of the local community. Factory workers finished at 2pm on a Saturday and flocked in their thousands to watch football in the industrialised north and midlands. It is hardly surprising that football appealed to the working classes. Anyone, regardless of size or strength anyone could play football, unlike rugby and football games were completed within a relatively brief timeframe, unlike cricket. Football was within the reach of everyone, a truly democratic game, which rapidly exerted an appeal of "gigantic dimensions" in working class communities. A game of remarkable simplicity that was enjoyable to both watch and play. As crowds grew in size and intensity, they began to influence the outcome of games. They generated noise and passion and at times an intimidating atmosphere. It was not unknown for the crowd, literally separated from the players by a rope, to interfere with the game, by tripping players as they ran by or kicking ball. There were no goal nets in the early years, so the rope went right along the goal line – the main reason the goal net was invented in 1890s. Spectators would throw mud, apple cores, orange peel and anything else close to hand at opponent players, and sometimes their own and verbally abuse them.

Large gatherings of men, some fuelled by alcohol, others by the excitement of 'rough' play would use coarse, threatening language that triggered rowdy and violent behaviour. A search of newspaper reports of the era revealed numerous incidents of violence and crowd trouble at association football games, much of which was aimed at the referee: .... Archie Hunter a former Villa player wrote that *"hats, sticks and umbrellas were flying in all directions, almost darkening the air"* as trouble broke out after his club won the Birmingham Challenge Cup in 1880..... On 15 May 1885 players from both teams during a "friendly" encounter between Preston North End and Aston Villa were spat at and pelted with stones. Spectators described as "howling roughs" knocked a Preston player unconscious..... After a disputed goal by Bolton Wanderers in a game against Blackburn Rovers played in December 1881. *"a long dispute ensued amid great excitement, many of the spectators invading the field in spite of the Wanderers Committee"* ..... Westhoughton were "kicked off the field" in an away at Southport (9 October 1886), and at the end of the game *"spectators swarmed around the dressing tent, rioting, and yelling at the referee"* ..... During a Football League game at Trent Bridge (November 1888) Alec Dick of Everton struck Albert Moore of Notts County *"in the back in a piece of ruffianism"*. Everton played a hard style of football, with the crowd frequently hooting and groaning. At the end of the game as the players left the field, the crowd rushed for the Everton players. Dick was targeted and struck violently with a stick inflicting a heavy blow to the side of his head. Dick was suspended by the Football League for the remainder of the season for violent and ungentlemanly conduct. .... Sheffield Wednesday fans *"were on the ground and went for the referee"* at the end of the game against Newton Heath (31 January 1891)... *"despite some mud throwing, he got into the dressing-tent without being molested."* The referee was *"openly threatened"* and *"they vented their spleen on the visitors, who had a shower of stones, bricks etc thrown at them"* ..... *"An excited mob"* surrounded the referee at the end of the Oswaldtwistle v Fleetwood game played on 13 February 1892, *"several of whom aimed blows at his head."* ..... After James Turner of Bolton Wanderers brutally tackled an opponent during a Lancashire Senior Cup tie at Bolton Wanderers in April 1895, the home crowd invade the pitch and attacked him. The referee had no option but to abandon the game..... Sheffield Wednesday fans in March 1899 made an *"ugly rush against the referee .....he had great difficulty in getting away safely"*. There were also incidents of fan attacking railway officials, damaging trains, and pitched battles outside grounds. Football authorities tried to clamp down by punishing player and closing grounds down.

Leicestershire football supporters also misbehaved as we shall see. In response to a report by Leicestershire Football Association in 1899 aimed at eliminating these unsavoury aspects of football, one supporter wrote to the Leicester Mercury urging Loughborough FC's management committee to do *"all they can to keep the game so that no self-respecting man may hesitate to bring male or female members of his family."* Loughborough's first cup final was disrupted by supporters of a rival team, their home ground was closed by football authorities on no less than three occasions as a punishment for crowd misbehaviour and a Leicester Fosse fan was physically assaulted by a well-known Derby player following an English Challenge Cup tie.

## Misbehaving Spectators



# THE ATHLETIC NEWS, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1888.

## A FOOTBALL GROUND CLOSED.

At a meeting of the Committee of the Lancashire Association at Blackburn last night, Mr. Williams, referee in the Haydock v. Adlington match on November 20, reported that he was assaulted by the Haydock spectators at the conclusion of the match, being struck in the face and kicked. The Committee suspended the Haydock ground until January 1 next. A professional player named Wilding, of Bury, for playing for Northwich while registered as a Bacup player, was suspended for seven days.

*Yorkshire Post, 4 December 1897*

## A DISORDERLY FOOTBALL TEAM.

Charles Wilding, a member of the Wigan football team, was sentenced to two months' hard labour by the Lancaster County Bench for assaulting James Shaw, stationmaster at Morecambe, on the London and North-Western Railway, on September 5th. Wigan visited Morecambe, and because a special train was not run back the members of the team became disorderly, and assaulted the officers. Wilding knocked Shaw down with his bag, and gave a false name when arrested. One of the men, named Winstanley, was sent to prison for two months at a previous hearing, and two others were fined. Wilding was also ordered to pay the costs on a second charge of abusive language, or suffer 14 days' additional imprisonment. When Winstanley was committed to prison, Wilding signed an affidavit that he was the player who assaulted the officials.

*Sheffield Daily Telegraph, November 30, 1898*

## FOOTBALL REFEREES & SPECTATORS

### SCENE ON THE DERBY COUNTY GROUND.

Mr. John Lewis, of Blackburn, referee in the League match, at Derby, between Everton and Derby County, has reported the spectators to the Association for misconduct, which will probably result in the suspension of the ground. Mr. Lewis states that he was abused and insulted for some decisions during the game, the spectators accusing him of being "squared" by the Everton club, and threatening him with violence. He says that unless referees are protected from such vulgar abuse no one with any self-respect will consent to officiate; and sooner than experience such treatment again he will resign.

*Burton Chronicle - Thursday 17 January 1895*

## FOOTBALL.

### WEDNESDAY v. EVERTON.

#### REFEREE REPORTS THE SPECTATORS.

We understand that Mr. E. C. Price, the referee in the Wednesday v. Everton League match, which was played at Olive Grove on Saturday last, has seen fit to report to the Football Association the disorderly conduct of a certain section of the spectators at the close of the match, and probably in the usual course a commission will be appointed to enquire into the matter. He has also, we believe, lodged a complaint against two of the Wednesday players for remarks made to him during the course of the match. Sheffield footballers generally, and followers of the Wednesday club in particular, have little cause to be displeased at this action, for it will afford an opportunity of the

#### A WARNING TO SPECTATORS.

The following the warning issued by the Football Association and ordered to be posted the grounds of all affiliated clubs.

**The Football Association – Caution.** *Spectators and players are requested to assist in keeping order at all matches on the ground, and to prevent any demonstration of feeling against the referee, the visiting team, or any player. The consequence" attending any misconduct of this kind may result in the closing of the ground for football. Such a course would not only entail great monetary loss, but would bring considerable disgrace the club. Betting is strictly prohibited. Spectators are expected observe rules regulations with reference to conduct, and the police are to maintain order. Any spectator guilty of misconduct or breach of rules and regulations is liable to be expelled from the ground by the police. —(signed) Kinnaird. President; J. C. Clegg, Chairman; C. W. Alcock, Secretary.*

*The Football Association. 61, Chancery-lane, London, W.C., January. 1895*

#### FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENCE.

##### DISORDERLY SPECTATORS.

The sec. of the Fordingbridge Rovers, writing in reference to the match between Ringwood Hornets II and Rovers F.C., says a word should be said as to some of the spectators, who used not very desirable language, and were backing on the Ringwood team to do all sorts of things. If the playing did not suit them, they had much better have left the ground than indulge in such personal remarks as they did. The referee's decisions were hotly disputed several times by the Ringwood team, but the game on the whole was keenly contested though somewhat rough at times.

*The Salisbury Times - Friday 15 December 1893*