



English Challenge (FA) Cup 1893-94

Winner: Notts County
Runner-Up: Bolton Wanderers

A large crowd congregated outside the Fosse headquarters on the Aylestone Road on Thursday 7 December 1893 to await news of the draw for the final qualifying round of the English Challenge Cup. Leicester had beaten two Mansfield sides, 'Town' and 'Greenlaugh' (named after a cotton mill). When the telegram from Mr. T S Ashmole was posted up announcing that the Fosse were drawn to play at Loughborough, who had beaten Kettering, Newark, and Rushden, all at the Athletic Grounds. The local press reported that the draw generated genuine disappointment. Presumably, the Leicester committee were hoping for an easier passage into the next round.

Both teams put in extra training for the match. Loughborough players had undergone a week of 'thorough training' for the 'great fight'. The club committee offered a £1 per player win bonus. All the players apart from Mills and Rose, who were unable to leave their employment, were in residence at the Stag and Pheasant, the house of the trainer Mr. William T Cockain, who was 'unremitting in his attention to his men'. On the Monday before the game, H. Storer, Kent, Spiby, Plackett, Smith, Sharpe, Carnelly, Farmer, W. Storer, and Culley, had a good run around the outskirts of Loughborough accompanied by their trainer. They ran as far as Rempstone, about 6 miles. On the Tuesday, the players started soon after nine o'clock for Nanpantan, but the men were not out exceptionally long due to the heavy rain and spent the rest of the day indoors. Training was not neglected as gymnastic exercises were entered into at the trainer's residence. On Wednesday afternoon a large number assembled at the Athletic Grounds to witness a half-hour's practice with the ball. A "boisterous" wind however, prevented accurate kicking. As the big day approached, excitement reached fever pitch. The prize for the winning team was a big one, a place the Challenge Cup competition proper and a lucrative payday against one of England's leading clubs. The Midland Railway ran football specials to Loughborough, taking at least 1,000 Fosse fans to the game. The gates opened at 1 o'clock on a sunny afternoon, just 9 days before Christmas. Admission prices were 4d (2p); Enclosure, 6d (3p); Enclosure Stand, 6d (3p); Balcony 1s (5p); Grandstand 2s 6d (13p). Between 8,000 and 15,000 crammed into the Athletic Grounds, occupying every vantage point. Given that the population of Loughborough at the time was around 25,000, the attendance was one of the largest for a sporting event in the county. It was not a spectacle of fine flowing combination football. It was 'rough' even by Victorian standards and ill-tempered. The boisterous crowd noisily reacting to every twist, turn and episode of foul play. So violent was the game that the referee had to administer a general caution to players who indulged in blatant kicking and barging of their opponents. One Loughborough local paper criticised the Luffs for 'disgraceful tactics', stating '... why men have been given months of hard labour without option for assaults far less brutal than at least one we saw committed on the Loughborough playing field'. Leicester won the game by a single goal scored by Fosse fan's favourite forward William 'Billy' Dorrell, after just 8 minutes. Dorrell was also involved in the incident for which marred the encounter and ended the career of the Luff's full-back, Jack Kent. Shortly after the opening of the second half, Kent charged Dorrell but slipped and unfortunately broke his leg in two places, the bone protruding from the skin. He had fractured the same leg eight months earlier, while playing at Leicester for the rest of the Midland League against Rotherham. This only made the incident even sadder, seeing that after his last injury he had a lengthy illness, and had only sufficiently recovered to take his place in the Loughborough team at the start of the season. There was a delay of between 20 and 35 minutes as he was stretchered off to hospital. Some newspaper reports even stating that a local doctor who had been watching the game, reset the leg at the side of the pitch before he was taken to hospital. Given that anesthetics and pain management were in their infancy, the agony must have been excruciating! The spectators were not slow to recognise the value of his services, and the considerable financial loss likely to be entailed by another illness, for they readily responded to an appeal for assistance. A collection was taken on the ground, and a most substantial sum was realised. Doctors A. E. Lyster (Long Eaton), A. Eddowes and W. Yorke (Loughborough) attended the patient, as he was taken to Loughborough Hospital, followed by a large crowd. It subsequently was announced that the collection amounted to £20 10s 6d. Although the remaining game was much more exciting, with end-to-end football, an atmosphere of gloom hung over the ground, although Fosse's victory was roundly cheered by their substantial travelling support.

On Sunday, the day after the game, several members of the Loughborough committee, together with several of his companions and sympathisers, visited Kent in the hospital. The patient passed a bad night on Saturday, but became easier during the course of Sunday, and was quite chatty. He disavowed any further idea of playing football, even should his recovery permit him to do so. Kent passed a good night on the Sunday after the game and on the Monday was reported to be doing well. In consequence of the large number of inquiries on Sunday a notice was posted on the hospital door to the effect that the patient was doing well. Club chairman visited Kent at the Loughborough Hospital on Saturday and was informed by him how the accident happened. He and Dorrell raced together for the ball, and as the Leicester man tried to trap it, Kent kicked at it right under Dorrell's foot with all his might. The result was that Kent's foot was trapped and his leg snapped. Numerous visits were made to the hospital by newspaper reporters during the following week and wrote that the patient was progressing satisfactorily. Mr. Hall, the referee, gave 10s to the fund and Mr. Tooth the Conservative parliamentary candidate, who was present at the match, contributed £1 1s.

On Wednesday 20 December 1893, the draw for the first round English Challenge Cup took place during a meeting of the Council at the Football Association in Chancery Land, London. Fosse were drawn at home against South Shore. The full draw was:

West Bromwich Albion v. Bolton Wanderers
 Small Heath v. Bolton Wanderers
 Grimsby Town v Liverpool
 Preston North End v. Reading
 Newcastle United v. Sheffield United
 Stockport County or Crewe Alexandra v. Burton Wanderers
 Notts County v. Burnley
 Newton Heath v. Middlesbrough
 Derby County v. Darwen
 Notts. Forest v. Heanor Town
 Stoke v. Everton
 Sunderland v. Accrington
 Middlesbrough Ironopolis v. Sherwood Foresters or Luton
 Leicester Fosse v South Shore
 Woolwich Arsenal v. Sheffield Wednesday



The Wyvern, 26 January 1894

Both teams went into a strict training regime the week before. South Shore, who would later to amalgamate with their neighbours Blackpool, travelled to Leicester the day before the game and made the White Hart Hotel on Belgrave Gate their base. Excited fans crammed into the Walnut-street ground. South Shore played rough, subjecting the Fosse forwards, particularly Dorrell, to some brutal treatment. The cup tie was played in almost a gale force wind. Fosse having won the toss, chose to play with the wind, and thanks to Hill and Brown managed to take a 2-1 lead by half-time. Fosse spent much of the second half defending against both pretty combination play by South Shore's forwards and the wind. Tension mounted as time edged slowly towards the 90-minute mark. Several of the crowd were unable to control themselves, and a man even threw his

umbrella on the field of play! Thanks to a spirited defence and outstanding saves by Jimmy Thraves, the Fosse prevailed. In the Second Round, the mighty Derby County, flying high in Division One were Leicester's opponents. On 10 February 1894, just three days after the draw was made, a record 13,000 excited spectators crammed into the Walnut Street Ground came close to witnessing a giant killing. More than 2,000 fans travelled from Derby on two football special trains. A goal-less draw resulted after extra time, with the Fosse attacking and defending splendidly throughout. England international and Derby's record goal scorer Steve Bloomer broke his collar bone after a collision with Fosse half-back Peggy Lord after 22 minutes. The

anthem 'Steve Bloomer's Watchin' is played at every Derby home game and there is a bust of him at the Pride Park Stadium. He is also listed in the Football League 100 Legends and English Football Hall of Fame. A few minutes after Bloomer let the field of play, Leicester's Lord made a grand shot from a free kick that dropped



Steve Bloomer

just over the heads of those in the goalmouth before hitting the back of the net, which was greeted by "tremendous cheering" when the referee awarded a goal. But on an appeal by the referee, Mr. Fox had a "talk" with several players and after consulting one of the linesmen, Mr. Adams, the goal was disallowed. No reason was given! Derby adopted rough tactics as both sides shot from all distances and angles to settle the tie. Extra time failed to separate the sides. Derby's skipper, Archie Goodall was fined £5 and costs for assaulting Fosse fan, Frank Main, a clerk from Market Harborough, at the end of the game. According to the court report, Mr. Main had said to a friend that Goodall was the foulest player on the field before Goodall came up from behind and

badly cut his eye. The replay took place the following Saturday, played in dreadful weather at the Racecourse Ground, Derby in front of 4,000 spectators. Derby outclassed the Fosse in a tense and at times violent game, winning 3-0. The Leicester Post were suitably impressed, commenting that, "Leicester Fosse have won new laurels by their encounters with Derby County, and have now attained a reputation in Association football which cannot but spur them on to attain an even more enviable rank another season."

The 1894 FA Cup final was contested by Notts County and Bolton Wanderers at Goodison Park. Notts County won 4-1, with goals by James Logan (3) and Arthur Watson. Jim Cassidy scored for Bolton. Notts County became the first team, following the formation of the Football League in 1888, from outside the topflight to win the FA Cup.



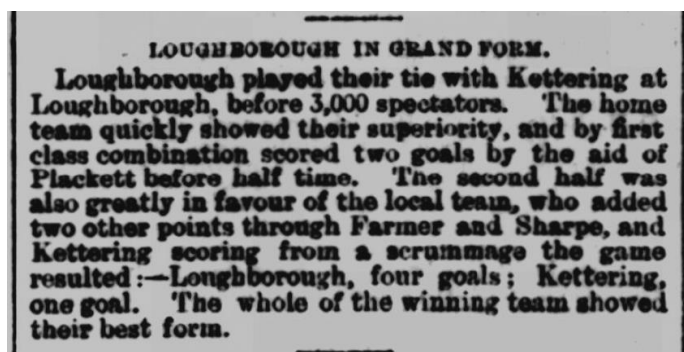
Notts County's 1894 FA Cup winning team

Results and Match Details

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
1QR	14.10.1893	Loughborough AFC	4	1	Kettering Town Peters	Large attendance (1,500)
2QR	4.11.1893	Leicester Fosse Dorrell	1	0	Mansfield Town	"Mansfield never really looked like scoring."
2QR	04.11.1893	Loughborough AFC Storer Mills	4	0	Newark Town	Athletic Grounds, Loughborough

		Carnelly				
3QR	25.11.1893	Loughborough AFC Carnelly	1	0	Rushden	Athletic Grounds, Loughborough. Many Rushden fans occupied the reserved enclosure.
3QR	25.11.1893	Mansfield Greenhalgh	0	5	Leicester Fosse Brown Hill Lord AN Other Miller	Fosse paid Mansfield an unknown "large" sum to stage the game. Splendid gate. Drizzling rain fell when the game commenced – greasy surface. One-sided first period, Fosse led 4-0 at half-time. Second half was more even
4QR	16.12.1893	Loughborough AFC	0	1	Leicester Fosse Dorrell	Athletic Grounds, Loughborough 5,000
R1	27.1.1894	Leicester Fosse Hill Brown	2	1	South Shore	Fosse's first appearance in the "magic 32" of the competition. Gale wind blew from the gas works end of the field. Splendid crowd. Game commenced at 2.36 pm
R2	10.2.1894	Leicester Fosse	0	0	Derby County	Walnut-street 12,000 spectators Derby legend Steve Bloomer broke his collar bone in the first half and had to retire.
R2Rep	17.2.1894	Derby County Keay Francis AN Other	3	0	Leicester Fosse	Racecourse (County Cricket) Ground 4,000 spectators. Game played in dreadful, rain fell unceasingly.

Match Reports



Athletic News – 16 October 1893

LEICESTER FOSSE BEAT MANSFIELD TOWN.

After having received a bye in the opening round Leicester Fosse were drawn with Mansfield Town in the second stage, and, with the match being fixed for decision at Leicester, the Walnut-street ground was visited by a big crowd of spectators. Locally, the issue was booked a certainty for the "Fossils," but, although they had much the best of the game, they only won by a goal to nothing. The visitors were handicapped by the loss of their half-back, Thompson, who, coming into collision with one of his colleagues, directly after the start, was badly kicked under the left eye. Notwithstanding this drawback, Mansfield continued to hold their own, and the game progressed for quite twenty minutes before Dorrell obtained possession, and, placing himself in good position, secured a really brilliant goal. Resuming, the Fosse halves worked the ball down and attacked vigorously. The feature of the second half of the game, and indeed of the match, was the exceptionally fine goalkeeping of Briggs. At times stinging shots were peppered at the Mansfield custodian in quick succession, but everything was stopped without the semblance of a mistake, and, but for Briggs's very fine performance, the "Fossils" must have gained a much more decisive victory, as but seldom in the second half was the ball in Fosse territory. In order, if possible, to save his side, Thompson returned to the fray, but his wound breaking out

again, he had to retire. As stated, the game ended in favour of the Fosse by a goal to nothing, and upon leaving the field the Mansfield goalkeeper received a big ovation for his masterly performance, which ranks as one of the best seen upon a Leicester enclosure.

Athletic News – 6 November 1893

LOUGHBOROUGH EASILY DEFEAT NEWARK.

Loughborough played their tie with Newark at Loughborough before 2,500 spectators. Although the visitors played with the wind, the home team pressed throughout the first half, having a great many shots, but the Newark goalkeeper played splendidly, and at half-time neither side had scored. In the second half the Loughborough team (although playing without Farmer, their centre-forward) played a first class combined game. Mills, Storer, and Carnelly scoring. The latter player also scored from a penalty-kick, and a very good game resulted in a victory for Loughborough by four goals to Newark none.

Athletic News – 6 November 1893

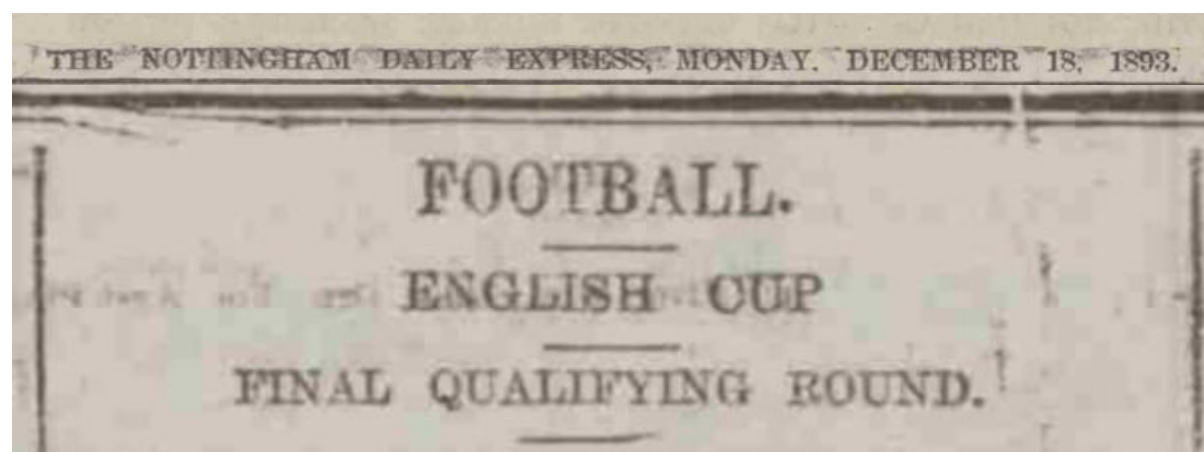
LOUGHBOROUGH DEFEAT RUSHDEN.

Loughborough had Rushden as their opponents, before 2,000 spectators. The game was very fast and exciting in the first half, the home team having many shots at goal, but could not succeed in scoring. In the second half Loughborough played with determination, and quickly opened the scoring with a grand goal by the aid of Sammy Mills. The other forwards shot well, but could not beat the goalkeeper again, and a good game resulted in a victory for Loughborough by one goal to none.

LEICESTER FOSSE BEAT MANSFIELD GREENHALGH'S.

Exceptional interest was evinced in this fixture, which the Fosse executive, by the payment of the best part of a "century" to the Mansfield club, secured for their own ground, and despite a miserable afternoon, there was a great crowd of spectators present. If form is anything to go by, the issue was a good thing for the "Fossils", who were enabled to command a strong side: still, such a decisive victory as that gained by the local club was scarcely anticipated. The visitors started, and notwithstanding the greasy state of the ground, the play seen in the early part of the match was of the most attractive kind. The Fosse ultimately gained a favourable position in their opponents' half, where, after a spell of passing, Brown scored a beauty amid rounds of cheering, and at the adjournment the Fosse were in possession of the useful lead of four goals. Miller added a fifth goal for the Fosse early in the second stage, after which the Greenhalghs were seen to much better advantage, and had rather the best of matters, but Thraves' defence was always accurate, with the result that Greenhalgh's failed to score, so that the Fosse won the match by five goals. The Fosse have now to contest the right of entering the competition proper with their rivals from Loughborough.

Athletic News – 27 November 1893



Amidst tremendous excitement, in lovely weather, and before 8,000 or 10,000 people, this match came off on Saturday at Loughborough. The rivalry existing between the clubs was demonstrated by the crowds of partisans, and from the opening this season of the English Cup qualifying rounds it was seen that the clubs must meet in the final. Loughborough were fortunate in getting the choice of ground, and in preparation for the game both teams quietly trained at home. Early in the afternoon spectators began to crowd in, the early hour of commencing - 2:15 - seeming not to deter the crowd. When the game opened, stands, pavilion, walls, and every available place was occupied, whilst a crowd of three or four deep lined the ropes. Farmer kicked

off amidst growing excitement, and the Fosse returned up the wing, and Hill centred. From the goal kick another that centre came from the same player. Continuing the pressure Hill made matters dangerous for Loughborough by his clever centres, the backs having all their work cut out, Loughborough having to meet two corners within 3 or 4 minutes. With these cleared Hill and Edwards were again prominent, and Brown made rushes for the goal. Within 10 minutes from the start the Fosse got through, the ball coming from the right wing, and passing to Dorrell, he measuring his chances, shot swiftly, surely, obliquely, and well, right into the net. Up to now Loughborough had scarcely passed the ball beyond the centre line, and the hopes of the Fosse ran high, the applause being tremendous. Mills, who had very little chances, now passed into the centre, and the ball being taken up by Carnelley, he had a fair chance but could not get in his shot. The Loughborough fellows begun to look up a little, but a good chance past to Sharpe was terribly nulled. The Fosse having had a look in, Bailey, in defending, gave a corner, which, however, was easily got away. Anon the ball was passed to Sharpe, who, passing across to Mills, he, by tricky play, eluded the half-backs, and for a while made the Fosse goal look dangerous. On the visitors' side Hill was extremely troublesome to the Loughborough defence, his centres being frequent and timely placed, one barely grazing crossbar on its career outside. Sharpe forced a corner by smart play, in which he was nicely fed by a Farmer and Carnelley. Lord, too, was well on the ball. The Loughborough team now, has it had been doing for ten minutes, held its own with the visitors. Miller was seen smartly shooting, but the ball went too high. Half-an-hour from the start the Fosse had a narrow squeak of the goal falling, Sharpe neatly passing to Carnelley, the latter shot a fast one low into Thraves hands, and he falling on his back was lucky in kicking over the line. The next incident on the field was a most unpleasant one, in which W Storer was seen "scrapping" with a Fosse man. The referee calmed them, and from the restart football was taken into Fosse quarters, Storey sending in a stinger – a little too wide. Again, Hill passed neatly, and Brown being well up a goal seemed imminent, but he shot too high, and the other players too had not so easy a task at the commencement of play. The play, too, was of a rougher kind than is usually seen at Loughborough. Val Smith appeared to be out played on his wing, Hill having him fully in hand, and as half-time drew near the hopes of the Fosse maintained the rosy colour they having an advantage in the exchanges. After the interval Storey was called upon to save the most difficult attack, which he did in a marvellous manner, keeping the ball in a touch safely while pressed by a couple of backs. Amidst growing excitement Loughborough obtained possession, and Farmer took the ball through, only, however, to be out played. The ball going to the home left Sharpe shot, almost a duplicate of Dorrell's famous goal, but in this instance the ball went wide. A foul against the Fosse was the next dangerous point, but the backs cleared, and the leather was seen travelling along the home left. Again, a dangerous attack came from the Fosse, Dorrell running with the ball right across the goalmouth, but he could not get in his shot, and Spiby relieved by conceding a corner. A second of Kent was headed out by Plackett. Pretty combination from the Loughborough forwards took the ball away, only to see an unfruitful corner as a result. A couple of minutes later Bailey was pressed into a similar concession, and although the ball was shuttlecocked dangerously near the Fosse goal, it was got away unharmed. The game now begun to slow down, but as Kent was trying to prevent a chance which Dorrell had in view, his leg came in contact with Dorrell's. Soon after it became apparent that he was badly hurt, he was carried off the field on an ambulance waggon. After a delay of 20 minute, the accident was set to be a serious compound fracture of the leg. On resuming, with 25 minutes to time, the sky began to show signs of absence of light. Storer took Kent's place, and the cheering rose to a great point as Loughborough forwards carried the ball forward. But the Fosse soon returned and attacked lustily. A quarter of an hour from the close of time it wasn't easy to distinguish where the ball was. although without their captain and working with an absentee place it will be difficult for Loughborough to fill, the home team played most pluckily. In the gloom Storey was seen saving magnificently game resulted a victory of the Fosse by one to one. Players:-

Loughborough: H Storer, goal; Spiby and Kent, backs; Rose, Plackett and Smith, half-backs; Mills, W Storer, Farmer, Carnelley, and Sharpe, forwards,

Fosse:- Thraves, goalkeeper; Taylor and Bailey, backs; Seymour, Henrys, and Lord, half-backs; Hill, Edwards, Brown, Miller and Dorrell, forwards.

Referee: Mr Hall (Derby)

Nottingham Daily Express – 18 December 1893

LEICESTER FOSSE v. SOUTH SHORE.

An extraordinary amount of interest was associated with this match at Leicester on Saturday, and the Walnut-street enclosure was packed with spectators. The ground was in good order, but with the wind blowing almost a gale good play was out of the question. The Fosse captain was fortunate in winning the toss, and an immediate attack on the South Shore goal enabled Hill to open the local account. Play went on in a most uninteresting fashion, the wind invariably carrying the ball over the goal or touch line. Occasionally the visitors bore down to the Fosse quarters, but for the most part the game was confined to the South Shore half, and the outcome of twenty minutes' play was a second goal by Brown. Nearing the interval the visitors forced a corner, and from smart work, which followed in front of the home goal, "Skill" Parkinson rushed the ball through. In possession of one goal only, and the gale to play against, matters looked none too rosy for the Fosse when the second stage was commenced. South Shore made a vigorous attack on the home stronghold, in which Wilkie and "Skill" Parkinson were conspicuous, and several times the visitors were within an ace of scoring. Thraves proved himself a splendid custodian, his efforts being exceptionally fine. Frequently the South Shore representatives swarmed round the home citadel, but by strengthening their defence, and packing the goal, the Fossils stalled off disaster. A few minutes prior to the call the local forwards broke away, Dorrell being prominent, and play was going on near to the visitors' goal when the whistle blew. A tame match, through no fault of the men engaged therein, ended as follows:—

LEICESTER FOSSE	2 goals
SOUTH SHORE	1 goal

Referee, Mr. A. G. Hines, Nottingham.

LEICESTER FOSSE.—J. Thraves (goal), A. Smith and H. Bailey (backs), T. Seymour, A. Henrys, and J. Lord (half-backs), J. Hill, H. Edwards, J. Brown, W. Miller, and W. Dorrell.

SOUTH SHORE.—A. Dewhurst (goal), Handford and "Skill" Cookson (backs), R. Wilson, J. Helliwell, and J. Atherton (half-backs), "Pank" Parkinson, Taylor, W. Mather, Wilkie, and "Skill" Parkinson.

A NARROW SQUEAK FOR DERBY COUNTY AT LEICESTER.

[BY PRAXITE.]

Although it was generally conceded that Derby County had a pretty favourable draw against Leicester Fosse, the fact that the match had to be played at Leicester made the result much more open than might at first sight be supposed. The Fosse have made big strides in the football world during the present season, and amongst their performances at home are to be numbered victories over more than one League team. They have, moreover, a very enthusiastic following, and there was an undercurrent of quiet confidence in Leicester concerning the outcome of their meeting with the Leaguers from Derby. The latter brought a very large band of supporters with them, and the gate assumed very big proportions, all previous records for Leicester being thrown into the shade. I should imagine there could not have been less than 10,000 or 12,000 people present, and they were rewarded by a very fast game, which, although not of the highest class was nevertheless full of interest from beginning to end. The Leicester men had their full strength in the field, and the same observation applied to Derby County, John Goodall and Leiper having sufficiently recovered from their injuries against Wolverhampton Wanderers to be able to take the field. The teams were accordingly as follow:—

LEICESTER FOSSE.—Thraves, goal; Smith and Bailey, backs; Lord, Henry, and Seymour, half-backs; Hill, Edwards, Brown, Miller, and Dorrell, forwards.

DERBY COUNTY.—Robinson, goal; Methven and Leiper, backs; Cox, A Goodall, and Hickinbottom, half-backs; Allan, Bloomer, J Goodall, M'Millan, and Keay, forwards.

Referee: Mr J Fox (Sheffield). Linesmen: Messrs Adams (Birmingham) and Proctor (Nottingham).

Owing to the late arrival of the Derby players through a train being delayed, it was five minutes past three before a start was made, and then John Goodall kicked off with a wind blowing diagonally across the ground in his face. The first shout was raised by the Derby section of the crowd, inasmuch as a fast run in the centre gave Bloomer a chance. He shot hard at Thraves and the ex-Notts man caught the ball and threw it out of harm's way. During the first few minutes the home backs had to give several samples of their quality, and they acquitted themselves remarkably well. Gradually, however, play worked into Derby quarters, and Robinson was constantly engaged. One of his saves was from a free kick at the top corner of the goal, and another from a capital shot by Edwards. Play had proceeded 20 minutes in this fashion when a great misfortune befel Derby, Bloomer, the dashing youngster who has made such a name for himself by his dangerous work in front of goal, being disabled. He was engaged in a tussle with Lord and Dorrell, and, somehow or other, sustained a heavy fall. He failed to rise, and a couple of medical men were promptly in attendance to see what was amiss. The verdict was that his collar-bone was broken, and, needless to say, there were some long faces amongst the Derby supporters when he was led off the field, unable to take any further part in the struggle. The effect on the Leicester men, however, was to make them play better than ever, and eventually, from a free kick the ball was rushed into the net. Mr. Fox

apparently gave a goal, but Robinson was very persistent in calling his attention to the fact that the ball had touched no one in its course through the goal. One of the linesmen was called in to give his version of what had occurred, and then, to the great disgust of the Leicester supporters, the referee disallowed the point and ordered a goal kick. Up to half-time the Fosse men held the advantage, but Robinson, Methven, and Leiper were in splendid form, and kept their charge intact up to the interval. The second portion of the game was not particularly exciting, but generally speaking it ruled in favour of the visitors, especially towards the close, when the home team appeared to tire considerably. The score was still blank when the whistle blew, and although Derby were at a distinct disadvantage there was nothing for it but to obey the referee's orders, and play an extra half hour. In the first quarter Derby did most of the pressing, and once M'Millan struck the cross-bar with a fine shot. By this time everybody had made up their minds that the result would be a draw, and though each side had a narrow escape in the last few minutes of the game the goalkeepers retained their unbeaten certificate

to the end. A second meeting of the rivals is, therefore, necessary, and as this will take place on the Derby ground the County doubtless, look forward with confidence to entering the third round. That they had a big fight on Saturday is certain, as Leicester had a shade the best of the orthodox ninety minutes, and might have won had their forwards been able to shoot better. Dorrell, their best forward, would have been seen to more advantage had he combined more with his colleagues, instead of lying right out waiting for a chance of getting in one of his dashing runs. The backs played a splendid game, and the halves never tired once from beginning to end. Of the Derby players most praise must be awarded to Robinson, Leiper, Methven, and Cox, who were each in grand form. The forwards were evidently upset by Bloomer's accident, as they have not been seen to such disadvantage all the season. Keay was limping badly during the last half hour, and was of little use to his side.

ENGLISH CUP.

SECOND ROUND.

RE-PLAYED TIES.

DERBY COUNTY v. LEICESTER FOSSE.

A wet Saturday at last! Footballers must not grumble, nor yet football spectators, for, unlike that of the Gilbertian boy in 'blue, their lot has not been a particularly unhappy one this season. Rarely, indeed, have they been subjected to wet jackets, and yet for their sakes it was hard to restrain a regret that the atmospherical conditions of to-day, above all others, should put such a complete damper on their spirits. Why? Well, now, had not the all-conquering Fosse—the team whose great progress is quite the feature of the season—to re-play their cup tie with Derby County, and didn't hundreds upon hundreds of people who have fallen readily-submissive victims to the football fever desire to go to Derby to see the match? But rain, rain, rain, pitiless rain, fell unceasingly, and, wisely enough, many folks remained at home rather than run the risk of the many "ills which flesh is heir to," and which frequently result from wet feet, etc. Well, there isn't much new to say about the Fosse, or Derby either, for that matter. They met only a short week ago, when all anterior details were fully and completely given in this journal. To enter, therefore, into similar particulars would only be to commit the unpardonable sin, to quote the immortal bard, of "damnable iteration." Suffice it, then, to say that the rival players have been busy all the week girding up their loins—the Fosse on the

banks of the salubrious Soar, in the vicinity of Narborough; whilst the Derby men went in a good deal for boating on the bosom of the Derwent, at Matlock—and, naturally, they came to the scratch as fit as fiddles, and in the pink of condition.

With rain and snow continuing to fall very heavily right up to the time of the kick-off, doubts were entertained whether the match would stand as a cup tie, but although the ground was all but under water, especially at the goal mouths, the referee ordered that it should stand. Still, the fact remained that the ground was really unfit. A very slight wind prevailed, Derby having the advantage of it to begin with, and in the first minute Thraves had to fist out a rapid shot from McMillan, who got the ball after a pretty passing run by Allan, Francis, and John Goodall. Even play followed, and then Derby, passing with as good precision as could be expected from the state of the ground, pressed heavily for a few minutes, but the Fosse defence was wonderfully safe, and nothing but goal kicks resulted. Although Derby remained entirely in the Fosse half for the first ten minutes, no straight shot was made at Thraves. At length, Dorrell got off with a characteristic run, though slower naturally than usual, and got close to the goal, but Methven cleverly compelled him to run the ball behind. With the return of the game to the other end Allan, McMillan, and Francis shot behind. Now Fosse were cheered for pretty passing runs, which gave Dorrell the chance to put in a fine centre, but nobody was up to receive it, and the players dwelling in consequence of a vain appeal for off-side, an excellent opportunity was thrown away. Archie Goodall nearly scored from a foul against Lord.

From a long pass by Brown, Dorrell ran and centred splendidly, but the Derby men, having fallen back on the goal, had no difficulty in clearing. Then Derby came again, and Francis had the goal at his mercy, but shot absurdly wide. Dorrell and Brown were conspicuous in fine play, and both sides fouled, whilst after 30 minutes' play the Fosse goal escaped miraculously, McMillan failing miserably. A couple of free kicks against Fosse availed Derby nothing, and Lord kicked too hard when trying to pass to Dorrell, who would otherwise have had a splendid opening. Then Methven twice stopped capital rushes to the Fosse left wing, which was assiduously fed to the starvation of the other wing. Play, however, was fairly even, and except for wretched kicking at goal, for which of course every excuse existed, the game was better played than might be expected. Derby pressed, but Seymour, Henrys, Bailey, and Smith defended admirably, Henrys shadowing John Goodall most effectively. The first corner in the game now fell to Derby off Smith, but Keay's flag kick went behind. Then Derby were unaccountably pulled up for off-side when Francis had only Thraves to beat. By this time the ground was almost white with snow, and play degenerated. Hill put in a clinking effort from neat passing by Edwards and Henrys, but Leiper got the best of him near the goal line. Edwards, however, got in a shot at goal which, like those by the Derby men, went very wide. The game went on in a ding-dong fashion, and just before half-time John Goodall had hard lines in failing to score. Derby now had much the best of the game, but could not kick straight.

Half-time:

FOSSE, nil.

DERBY COUNTY, nil.

Dorrell and Miller made a brief break-away after the re-start. Being pulled up, Derby got off, and McMillan despatched a fine shot at Thraves, who saved grandly, and a minute later John Goodall, after neat play by Allan and Francis, just missed the mark by a few inches. Miller twice tripped a Derby man badly, and was cautioned by the referee. By the aid of free kicks for these infringements, Derby pressed, and from a "bully" in front of goal McMillan and Keay rushed the ball through for the first blood, Thraves having no chance because he was hampered. The goal was scored ten minutes after the change of ends. Fosse made slight break away, but the home team were having much the best of matters now, the heavy state of the going undoubtedly suiting them better than the Fosse. The latter made play on the left, and both Dorrell and Edwards had futile shots at goal, whilst directly after Robinson, for the first time in the match, was called into requisition, the Derby custodian having to repel a straight kick from Miller. Play was more even for a time now, the Fosse making spasmodic spurts, but they could not secure by any means a desirable position for shooting until Edwards made one for himself, and his kick for goal put Robinson about a bit. Still he cleared safely enough, and with the Derby left-wing being well played to a corner was forced off Brown without any tangible result from the flag kick. Derby continued to attack, however, and with a grand shot Francis scored the second goal for the County, thus putting the result beyond all reasonable doubt, especially as the Fosse men were now apparently liking the bad going less than ever. Although leading after twenty minutes' play by a couple of goals, the home team worked untiringly still, and not a little vigour was now being im-

parted into the game, one side charging quite as hard as the other. No bad fouls, however, marred the character of the game. Fosse made headway, but only for a moment, capital play on the Derby left being seen, and Smith conceded a corner. The Fosse got well out of this, but were really being outplayed now at all points. First John Goodall, then McMillan, and next Alan failed to shoot straight for goal, after all the Fosse men were beaten but Thraves, and but for this the score against Fosse must have been increased. Dorrell dashed off, and Methven gave a corner, but Fosse were not to score, for Lord kicked behind from Dorrell's flag kick. The remaining stages of the game were fairly even in the field play, but just before time Alan kicked a third amid great cheers. Result.

DERBY COUNTY, three goals;

LEICESTER FOSSE, none.

COMMENTS.

Criticism proper of a game played under such dreadful atmospherical conditions would be absurd. The elements overhead and the sloppy state of the ground rendered good football absolutely impossible. It simply resolved itself into a question of which players could maintain the best foothold, and in this respect the Derby men were seen to the best advantage, the Fosse being utterly at sea in the watery waste. Miskicks were many, especially on the Fosse side. Still, there is no getting away from the fact that Derby County were the best team—on the day's play, if it could be so dignified, and the three goals by which they won does not more than account for the superiority they showed. They played much better together than in the previous match. With the Fosse men visibly tiring in the second half they did fairly well to get off with

a three goals defeat.

Derby County: J. W. Robinson, goal; J. Methven and J. Leiper, backs; J. D. Cox, A. Goodall, and J. Docherty, half-backs; J. Allen, P. O. Francis, J. Goodall, J. McMillan, and W. Keay, forwards.

Fosse: J. Thraves, goal; H. Bailey and G. Smith, backs; J. Lord, W. Henrys, and T. Seymour, half-backs; W. Dorrell, W. Miller, J. Brown, H. Edwards, and J. Hill, forwards.

Linesmen, Messrs. J. Morton and W. Rawson, Sheffield. Referee, Mr. Fox, Sheffield.

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