



# Leicester & District League 1897-98

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Nr	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Market Harborough	22	17	2	3	83	25	37
2	Belgrave St Michael's	21	13	3	5	86	25	31
3	Syston Swifts	22	14	6	2	100	42	30
4	St Mary's Rovers	22	14	7	1	62	44	29
5	Leicester Waverley	22	11	7	4	52	42	26
6	Enderby Granite	22	11	9	2	52	43	24
7	Wigston Excelsior	21	8	9	4	53	51	20
8	Fleckney Athletic	21	6	12	3	46	69	15
9	Aylestone Park Rovers	22	5	13	4	34	80	14
10	Syston Rangers	21	5	12	4	26	66	14
11	Blaby United	22	5	14	3	31	75	13
12	Kibworth	22	2	15	5	29	92	9

*Leicester Daily Post - 2 May 1898*

Winner: Market Harborough  
 Runner-Up: Belgrave St Michael's  
 Wooden spoon: Kibworth  
 Games Played: 142  
 Missing Results: 59  
 Goals scored: 654  
 Biggest home win\*: Syston Swifts 18-1 Aylestone Park Rovers  
 Biggest away win\*: Kibworth 0-7 market Harborough  
 Highest scoring\*: 19; Syston Swifts 18-1 Aylestone Park Rovers

\* Based on known results

Market Harborough won their first 12 games.

## Results Grid

Leicester & District League 1897-1898	Aylestone Park Rovers	Belgrave St Michael's	Blaby United	Enderby Granite	Fleckney Athletic	Kibworth	Leicester Waverley	Market Harborough	St Marys Rovers	Syston Rangers	Syston Swifts	Wigston Excelsior
Aylestone Park Rovers		1-1	2-2	3-2		6-0	0-1	1-2				3-2
Belgrave St Michael's				1-2		14-0		3-3	7-0		4-1	
Blaby United	2-4	9-4		0-2				1-0	0-2			
Enderby Granite	6-1	0-4	3-1		2-2	6-1		3-2	2-1	5-0	2-2	1-3
Fleckney Athletic		4-3	6-1					1-3				
Kibworth	5-0	1-1	3-3	1-3			0-4	0-7	2-2	5-0	0-4	
Leicester Waverley	2-0	3-3			6-0			0-1	3-1	4-2		
Market Harborough	7-0	2-1		4-1			2-2		4-1		2-1	2-2
St Mary's Rovers	9-1			3-2		7-0	4-1					
Syston Rangers	3-3		2-1	0-3			2-1	0-1				
Syston Swifts	18-1		8-2		8-0	12-0	3-2	2-5				5-2

Wigston Excelsior	3-1				5-4	5-0	9-2	1-2	3-5			
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Home win



Away Win



Draw



Result Not Known

### Match Results and Details

Date	Home			Away	Match Details
18.9.1897	Enderby Granite	1	3	Wigston Excelsior	
18.9.1897	Syston Rangers	2	1	Leicester Waverley	
18.9.1897	Syston Swifts	2	5	Market Harborough	
25.9.1897	Enderby Granite	6	1	Kibworth	
25.9.1897	Market Harborough	4	1	St Mary's Rovers	
25.9.1897	Syston Swifts	8	2	Blaby United	
2.10.1897	Enderby Granite	3	1	Blaby United	
2.10.1897	Kibworth	0	7	Market Harborough	
2.10.1897	Leicester Waverley	3	3	Belgrave St Michael's	
2.10.1897	Wigston Excelsior	5	4	Fleckney Athletic	
9.10.1897	Blaby United	2	4	Aylestone Park Rovers	
16.10.1897	Aylestone Park Rovers	1	1	Belgrave St Michael's	
16.10.1897	Market Harborough	4	1	Enderby Granite	
16.10.1897	Syston Swifts	12	0	Kibworth	
16.10.1897	Wigston Excelsior	3	5	St Mary's Rovers	
23.10.1897	Kibworth	3	3	Blaby United	
30.10.1897	Blaby United	0	2	St Mary's Rovers	
30.10.1897	Enderby Granite	2	2	Syston Swifts	
30.10.1897	Syston Rangers Ward Jacques AN Other (pen)	3	3	Aylestone Park Rovers AN Others	
30.10.1897	Wigston Excelsior	9	2	Leicester Waverley	
6.11.1897	Aylestone Park Rovers	0	1	Leicester Waverley Hackett	
6.11.1897	Syston Swifts	8	0	Fleckney Athletic	
13.11.1897	Enderby Granite	5	0	Syston Rangers	
13.11.1897	Leicester Waverley	2	0	Aylestone Park Rovers	Waverley had all the play, their goal-keeper not being called upon to stop a shot
13.11.1897	Syston Swifts	5	2	Wigston Excelsior	
27.11.1897	Aylestone Park Rovers Powell Whitmore Hutchinson	3	2	Enderby Granite AN Other	
27.11.1897	Kibworth	0	2	Belgrave St Michael's	The game was stopped owing to darkness
4.12.1897	Blaby United	1	0	Market Harborough	
4.12.1897	Syston Swifts	3	2	Leicester Waverley	
4.12.1897	Wigston Excelsior	2	0	Kibworth	
11.12.1897	Enderby Granite	2	2	Fleckney Athletic	
11.12.1897	Market Harborough	2	2	Wigston Excelsior	
11.12.1897	St Mary's Rovers Cufflin (3) Brown (2) Glover	7 (3)	0 (0)	Kibworth	
1.1.1898	Belgrave St Michael's	4	1	Syston Swifts	
1.1.1898	Leicester Waverley	6	0	Fleckney Athletic	
8.1.1898	Belgrave St Michael's Harris Wright	2 (0)	1 (1)	Market Harborough Turner	Leire-street, Leicester.

					Ground –“sloping meadow which had once been ploughed and was still left ridge and furrow.” A large number of enthusiastic supporters travelled with the Harborough team. Around each goal post was a large bare, black looking space ad behind one goal yawned a wide trench...”
8.1.1898	Blaby United	0	2	Enderby Granite	
8.1.1898	Leicester Waverley	4	2	Syston Rangers	
8.1.1898	Syston Swifts	18	1	Aylestone Park Rovers	
22.1.1898	Aylestone Park Rovers	2	2	Blaby United	
22.1.1898	Belgrave St Michael's	7	0	St Mary's Rovers	
22.1.1898	Leicester Waverley	0 (0)	1 (0)	Market Harborough Turner	Victoria Park, Leicester. Moderate crowd – including “20 or 30 of the red and whites keen supporters.”
22.1.1898	Syston Rangers	0	3	Enderby Granite	
29.1.1898	Enderby Granite	0	4	Belgrave St Michael's	
29.1.1898	Wigston Excelsior	5	0	Kibworth	
5.2.1898	Aylestone Park Rovers	1 (0)	2 (1)	Market Harborough Bromley Turner	Harborough played the second half with 10 men after Johnson Smith had to retire due to a knee injury.
5.2.1898	Kibworth	0	4	Leicester Waverley	
12.2.1898	Aylestone Park Rovers	3	2	Wigston Excelsior	
12.2.1898	Belgrave St Michael's	14	0	Kibworth	
12.2.1898	Enderby Granite	2	1	St Mary's Rovers	
12.2.1898	Fleckney Athletic	6	1	Blaby United	
12.2.1898	Market Harborough	2 (1)	1 (0)	Syston Swifts	First v second top of the table clash. Syston arrived late – game commenced at 3.40 instead of the advertised time of 2.30. Both teams missed penalties in the first half.
19.2.1898	Fleckney Athletic	4	3	Belgrave St Michael's	
19.2.1898	Wigston Excelsior	3	1	Aylestone Park Rovers	
26.2.1898	Enderby Granite AN Others	3 (2)	2 (1)	Market Harborough Bromley AN Other	At Enderby. Harborough were missing several key players. Harborough's second League defeat of the season..
26.2.1898	Kibworth AN Other F Ward Johnson (2) Freer	5 (1)	0 (0)	Syston Rangers	Good attendance.
26.2.1898	Leicester Waverley	3 (1)	1 (0)	St Mary's Rovers	
5.3.1898	Aylestone Park Rovers	6	0	Kibworth	
5.3.1898	Blaby United	9	4	Belgrave St Michael's	
5.3.1898	St Mary's Rovers	4	1	Leicester Waverley	
12.3.1898	Kibworth “yellow men”	2 (2)	2 (1)	St Mary's Rovers	
12.3.1898	Syston Rangers	2	1	Blaby United	
12.3.1898	Wigston Excelsior	1 (0)	2 (0)	Market Harborough	
19.3.1898	Enderby Granite	6	1	Aylestone Park Rovers	
19.3.1898	Market Harborough	2 (1)	1 (0)	Belgrave St Michael's	Unpleasant weather Belgrav travelled with a large number of supporters

19.3.1898	Kibworth	0 (0)	4 (4)	Syston Swifts	The feature of the match was the brilliant lay of the Kibworth right wing of H and B Tyler.
26.3.1898	Fleckney Athletic	1 (0)	3 (0)	Market Harborough Harrison (2) Bromley (pen)	Game did not commence until about 4 pm. Blinding snowstorm in the second half.
26.3.1898	Kibworth	1 (1)	3 (2)	Enderby Granite	Awful weather.
26.3.1898	St Mary's Rovers	9	1	Aylestone Park Rovers	
2.4.1898	Belgrave St Michael's	1	2	Enderby Granite	Gipsy-lane Ground – game had an important bearing ion the Championship of the League
2.4.1898	Kibworth Freer Knapp Howlett F Ward Hearth (pen)	5 (3)	0 (0)	Aylestone Park Rovers	Kibworth's second win of the season. One-sided - the game ended with a vigorous bombardment of the Rovers goal.
2.4.1898	Market Harborough	2 (2)	2 (0)	Leicester Waverley	Game commenced at 3.30 pm The home crowd were very disappointed. The game was very uninteresting all through the first half, a spell of lethargy seeming to have seized both players and spectators alike and the second half was not much better.
9.4.1898	Kibworth	1	1	Belgrave St Michael's	Unexpected result – Belgrave expected to win the game easily.
9.4.1898	St Mary's Rovers	3	2	Enderby Granite	Good game.
9.4.1898	Syston Rangers	0	1	Market Harborough Wood	Harborough sent a weakened side – with several of the team playing out of position
16.4.1898	Belgrave St Michael's Thacker Johnson AN Other	3 (2)	3 (1)	Market Harborough Turner Bromley (pen) Wood	Great interest centred in this match as it would determine in a large measure the Championship. Harborough journeyed by the 2 pm train. Game commenced at 3.45 pm
23.4.1898	Market Harborough Turner (2) Harrison Bromley (pen +1)	7 (3)	0 (0)	Aylestone Park Rovers	
30.4.1898	Champions [Market Harborough] Harrison AN Others	3 (1)	2 (0)	Rest of the League AN Others (pen +1)	Market Harborough League Cup and medals were presented at the end of the game. Both teams set down to an excellent meat tea at their headquarters [Greyhound]. At 7 pm the cup was paraded through the town. The day finished with three rousing cheers for the Harborough men, given in the Square where possession broke up.

## Match Reports

A selection of published match reports.

LEICESTER AND DISTRICT LEAGUE.	
<b>SYSTON SWIFTS v. KIBWORTH.</b>	
At Syston. Result:	
<b>SYSTON</b> , twelve goals;	
<b>KIBWORTH</b> , none.	
<b>AYLESTONE PARK ROVERS v. BELGRAVE ST. MICHAEL'S.</b>	
At Aylestone. Result:	
<b>A DRAW</b> —one goal each.	
<b>MARKET HARBOROUGH v. ENDERBY GRANITE.</b>	
At Market Harborough. Result:	
<b>MARKET HARBOROUGH</b> , four goals;	
<b>ENDERBY</b> , one goal.	
<b>ST MARY'S v. WIGSTON EXCELSIOR.</b>	
At Wigston. Result:	
<b>ST MARY'S</b> , five goals;	
<b>WIGSTON</b> , three goals.	

*Leicester Daily Post - 18 October 1897*

LEICESTER AND DISTRICT LEAGUE.	
<b>AYLESTONE PARK ROVERS v. ENDERBY GRANITE.</b>	
At Aylestone. The Rovers played a good game throughout, and won a grand match, Powell, Whitmore, and Hutchinson each scoring for the winners. Result:	
<b>AYLESTONE</b> , three goals;	
<b>ENDERBY</b> , two goals.	
<b>KIBWORTH v. BELGRAVE ST. MICHAEL'S.</b>	
At Kibworth. The game was stopped owing to darkness. Result:	
<b>BELGRAVE</b> , two goals;	
<b>KIBWORTH</b> , none.	

*Leicester Daily Post - 29 November 1897*

## LEICESTER AND DISTRICT LEAGUE.

### BELGRAVE ST. MICHAEL'S v. ENDERBY GRANITE.

This game was hotly contested on the Gipsy-lane Ground, the match having an important bearing on the championship of the League. Both teams had their full strength. Belgrave won the toss, and decided to face the wind in the first half. The game started somewhat exciting, inasmuch as Enderby broke away and scored. Not to be denied, the home eleven took up the attack, and pressed in determined fashion. Some rough play ensued, and the home team had a penalty given them, which Burgess placed to good account, and equalised the score. Half-time was soon after called, with the score:

#### ONE GOAL EACH.

The second half was commenced in vigorous fashion, but both sides were too eager, and lost several splendid openings through inferior shooting, the home team, however, being the greatest aggressors. The game continued in uninteresting fashion until the visitors' forwards executed a pretty bit of passing, by which means they reached the mouth of the home goal. Here St. Michael's were guilty of an infringement, and a penalty given against them, the shot striking the upright, and bounding over the bar. Following the goal kick St. Michaels rushed down, their backs keeping them well fed. However, Enderby got the better of some tricky play, and from a "bully" in front of goal the Granite left wing scored a lovely goal with a fast rising shot. Re-starting, Belgrave came away in splendid style, but their skill was not finished enough to beat the visitors' defence. Result:

ENDERBY, two goals;

ST. MICHAEL'S, one goal.

### KIBWORTH v. AYLESTONE PARK ROVERS.

At Kibworth. Result:

KIBWORTH, five goals;

AYLESTONE PARK, none.

*Leicester Daily Post* - 4 April 1898

**Additional Information**

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## LEICESTER AND DISTRICT FOOTBALL LEAGUE.

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The annual meeting of the above league was held at the Victoria Coffee-house on Friday, the following being present: Messrs F Gardiner (chairman), Baxter (Belgrave St Michaels), Cartwright (Blaby United), Salt (Enderby Granite), H. Watts (Market Harborough), Bourne (Ayleston Park Rovers), Ward (Syston Rangers), Sharp (Syston Swifts), Baille (Waverley), Wild (Wigston Excelsior), J W Carter and R H James (hon. secretary). The hon secretary and treasurer presented their reports, which were adopted, and a donation of a £1 1s. was voted from the league to the fund being raised on behalf of the Whitwick Colliery disaster. Blaby United F.C. were re-elected under Rule 10. Applications to resign were received from Ayleston Park Rovers and Syston Rangers, which were accepted, and Ferndale F.C. and Glenn Parva Depot F.C. were elected to the vacancies. A vote of thanks was passed to the officials of the league for their services. The election of officials for next season included the following: President, Mr T. Seddon, vice-presidents, Mr. T. Brooks, (Barkby Hall), Captain Drummond (Enderby), Mr J. Johnson (Wigston), Allen Lovell, Sir John Rolleston, M. Spurway, Mr. O. Wright (Wigston), Mr W. W. Price, Mr. J. H. Douglass; chairman and treasurer Mr. F. Gardiner, 41, Hinckley-road, hon. secretary, Mr. R. H. James, 20, Chancer-street, emergency committee, Messrs. H. Bramley, T. Salt, J. W. Carter, R. W. Baxter, G. M. Sharp.

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Market Harborough Advertiser and Midland Mail - 24 May 1898