



Birmingham Senior Cup 1899-00

Winner: Wolverhampton Wanderers
Runner-Up: Burslem Port Vale
No. of entries: 19

Leicester Fosse were Leicestershire's only representatives in the 1899-1900 season. Loughborough declined an invite to participate.

In the qualifying series, Wem (Salop) beat Kidderminster Harriers and seven clubs were given byes in round "A". The second round draw was as follows: "B":- Stourbridge v Wellington; "C" Brierly Hill Alliance v Newport; "D". Winner of "A" v Dudley; "E" St George's v Ironbridge. In the final round of qualifying Winners of "B" v Winners of "D" and "E". The winning two clubs - Wem and Ironbridge - then entered the first round of the main tournament.

Round 1 saw Aston Villa meet Stoke, a repeat of the previous year's draw, with the same outcome, victory for the League Champions. There was a surprise at Cobridge when Burslem Port Vale met West Bromwich Albion. A week earlier Burslem had been knocked out of the FA Cup by non-League Stalybridge Rovers, whereas Albion had beaten Notts Conty 2-1 at Trent Bridge in a First Division fixture, yet Burslem remarkably trounced Albion 5-0. The two Burton clubs met at Trent Bridge ground in the brewery town , with the Swifts beating their Midland League opponents, whilst Wolves eliminated Small Heath. The two clubs successful clubs from the qualifying competition - Ironbridge and Wem, along with Leicester Fosse were granted byes.

The quarter final ties went according to form. Champions-elect were too string for Leicester at Filbert Street - the 3 goals conceded by Fosse compared unfavourably with the measly total of 8 conceded in their 17 Football League home fixtures that season. Wolves proved too strong for their Second Division opponents, whilst Ironbridge overcame Stalybridge.

In the semi-finals - Wolves avenged their defeat by Villa at the same stage last season, whilst Burslem put home advantage to good use in defeating Ironbridge 6-3.

The final was again marred by bad weather. Wolves were the more skilful side and Poole in goal made several fine saves before Harper's header beat him after 25 minutes, at which point a thunderstorm started. The light was already poor and this was followed by torrential rain and a hailstorm and the ground quickly became muddy making good play impossible. On 40 minutes Heames made a good run and from his centre Whitehouse gave Baddeley no chance and the scores were level. Wolves missed an open goal just before half time but it was something of a surprise when the two teams reappeared for the second-half. The teams battled on bravely until another downpour caused the referee to end the misery on the hour.

The replay was again worthy of a better attendance, which was unfortunate as it was played on a Monday afternoon in front of a few hundred spectators. Wanderers played the better football but Vale matched this with pluck and energy. All of the goals came in a 12 minute spell before half time, the first of them saw Millers centre turned in by Bowen to give Wolves the lead a few minutes later Beats and Worton dribbled crippled through making it two nil, only for a high screw shot from Grassam to deceive Wolverhampton's goalkeeper goal. The second-half was closely fought, with result remaining in doubt until the final whistle, at which point Wolves were finally confirmed as winners. Burslem were thus beaten finalists for the second successive season, the fifth club to do so.

Qualifying Competition

Qualifying Round 1

Date	Home		Away	Match Details
23.9.1899	Wem	W	Kidderminster Harriers	Wem walkover.

					Kidderminster Harriers scratched.
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Brierley Hill Alliance, Dudley, Ironbridge, Newport, Stourbridge, Wellington St George's, and Wellington Town, byes

Qualifying Round 2

Date	Home			Away	Match Details
23.9.1899	Wellington St George's	0	1	Ironbridge	Vicarage-road
	Brierley Hill Alliance	W		Newport	
	Stourbridge			Wellington Town	
	Wem	W		Dudley	

Kidderminster Harriers, a bye.

Qualifying Round 3

Date	Home			Away	Match Details
11.11.1893	Ironbridge	19	0	Newport	Hill Top Ground
	Stourbridge or Wellington Town		W	Wem	

Ironbridge and Wem qualified for the Competition Proper

Competition Proper

Round 1

Date	Home			Away	Match Details
11.12.1899	Aston Villa Garratty (2) Smith	3 (2)	1 (0)	Stoke Kennedy	Aston Lower Grounds, Birmingham. 4,000 spectators (gate receipts £85 5s 9d)
11.12.1899	Burslem Port Vale Harvey (2) AN Others	5 (2)	0 (0)	West Bromwich Albion	Cobridge Athletic Grounds. 1,500 spectators.
11.12.1899	Burton Wanderers Richards	1	2	Burton Swifts Cooper Wildes	Trent Bridge ground - neutral venue.
11.12.1899	Wolverhampton Wanderers	P	P	Small Heath	

Wem and Ironbridge, winners from the qualifying series, were both given byes along with Leicester Fosse.

Round 1 Replay

Date	Home			Away	Match Details
8.1.1900	Wolverhampton Wanderers	1	0	Small Heath	Molineux Grounds, Wolverhampton. 1,500 spectators.

Round 2

Date	Home			Away	Match Details
15.1.1900	Burslem Port Vale Price (3)	3	0	Burton Swifts	Small crowd. Game started in rain
15.1.1900	Leicester Fosse King Eaton	2 (1)	3 (3)	Aston Villa Smith (2) Garratty	Filbert-street, Leicester. 2,000 spectators. Heavy rain, stormy weather. Fosse scored first.
20.1.1900	Wem	1	2	Ironbridge	Castle Field.
15.1.1900	Wolverhampton Wanderers	3	1	Walsall	Molineux Grounds, Wolverhampton 2,500 spectators.

Semi-Finals

Date	Home			Away	Match Details
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12.3.1900	Wolverhampton Wanderers Fleming	4 (1)	1 (1)	Aston Villa Brown	Molineux Grounds, Wolverhampton. Glorious weather 5,000 spectators. Villa fielded several reserve players. Wolverhampton were at full strength.
5.3.1900	Burslem Port Vale AN Others	6	3	Ironbridge Lewis (3)	Cobridge Athletic Ground. A third of Burslem's goals should have been saved. The gate realised over £22 – more than was taken when the Fosse visited Burslem.

Final

Date	Home			Away	Match Details
19.3.1900	Wolverhampton Wanderers Harper	1	1	Burslem Port Vale Whitehouse	Aston Lower Ground, Birmingham. First game between Wolverhampton Wanderers for several years. A blizzard accompanied by thunder and lightning broke over the ground during the game. 15 mins into the second half the conditions were so bad that the game was postponed.

Final Replay

Date	Home			Away	Match Details
1.4.1900	Wolverhampton Wanderers Bowen Beats	2 (2)	1 (1)	Burslem Port Vale Grassam	Aston Lower Ground, Birmingham [Monday afternoon]. 1,000 spectators.

Match Reports

A selection of published match reports.

FOOTBALL.

ASSOCIATION RULES.

BIRMINGHAM CUP.—SECOND ROUND.

ASTON VILLA V. LEICESTER FOSSE.—This match took place on the Walnut Street Ground, Leicester, yesterday afternoon. The weather was damp and muggy, and the turf in very heavy condition, the latter militating considerably against a fast game. Both sides were well represented. There were about three thousand spectators present. Cowan winning the toss, the Villa took advantage of a fairly strong wind and at once attacked, Wheldon twice making ineffective shots at goal. The sticky state of the ground spoilt several attempts at combination among the Villa forwards. After a quiet spell of play Athersmith centred prettily, but Wragg cleared when the home goal was threatened. On the home side Ball, Brown, and Eaton commenced an aggressive movement, which was splendidly carried out. Allen ultimately centred, and Noon failing to clear King dashed up and scored in fine style, George having no chance whatever of stopping the shot. Good tackling by Swift foiled Athersmith in an attempt to get down the right wing, but immediately afterwards a fine forward movement by the Villa resulted in the scores being equalised. Johnson and Athersmith had worked the ball up on the right, and from the latter's centre Smith put the ball through very cleverly indeed. From this point the Villa showed undoubted superiority, especially in the matter of combination, although the home defence had much to commend it; whilst among the Fosse forwards McMillan was doing splendid work. Cowan was penalised for fouling Robinson, but the free kick gave Fosse very little advantage. Athersmith, who was not in the best possible form, ultimately shot in hard, and Beardsley could only save at the expense of a corner, which proved fruitless. Still the Villa pressed, and kept their opponents well on the defensive, in spite of the fact that Noon, getting the worst of a charge, had to retire from play. Indeed, it was immediately after this incident that the Villa secured the lead, Garraty registering their second goal from a sharp low shot. Just before the interval the Villa attacked strongly again, and although Beardsley saved pluckily from Athersmith's shot he was beaten an instant later by Smith, who was on the look-out for the return. Thus, at half-time, Aston Villa were leading by 3 goals to 1. On the resumption Noon reappeared, but played at right half, Bowman going full back. The Villa were first to attack, Smith running in very tricky style, but shooting badly. This was the most prominent feature of the villa's play in the second half—weakness in front of goal. Time after time by brilliant combination the ball would be carried to the front with bewildering rapidity, only to be feebly snicked outside, or lifted loftily out of play when the crucial moment came. In this manner the Fosse goal

had repeated escapes. Swift defended in the soundest fashion, but was not very well supported. On the other hand, when the Fosse attacked—which they did rather frequently towards the end—their efforts were spoiled in many instances by King receiving when off-side. Three or four times in rapid succession the Fosse centre was dropped upon for this infringement, when otherwise he must have had the Villa goal at his mercy. In the later stages of play the visitors showed great laxity, and were practically taken unawares by a sudden sortie on the part of the Fosse, George only saving at the expense of a corner. Then, playing up with great determination, Fosse fairly tested the Villa defence, and, after several failures to penetrate it, Eaton scored at close range. The home side were distinctly unlucky in not equalising, but, their chance once gone, the Villa gave them no further opportunity, and, despite the fact that in the last few minutes the Fosse played six forwards, their most determined efforts to break through were unavailing. Just before the finish the Villa looking like scoring again, Swift having to concede a corner. Nothing came of it, however, and the final score was—Aston Villa 3 goals, Leicester Fosse 2. Aston Villa: George, goal; Spencer and Noon, backs; Bowman, Cowan, and Wilkes, half-backs; Atheramith, Johnson, Garraty, Wheldon, and Smith, forwards. Leicester Fosse: Beardsley, goal; Swift and Wragg, backs; Ball, Robinson, and Jones, half-backs; Eaton, Brown, King, McMillan, and Allen, forwards. Referee, Captain Simpson.

Birmingham Daily Post - 16 January 1900

BIRMINGHAM CUP.

FINAL TIE.

PORT VALE v. WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS.

Burslem Port Vale were engaged in an important contest this afternoon at the Villa ground against Wolverhampton Wanderers, namely, the final for the Birmingham Senior Cup. During the last three seasons the Vale have been very keen fighters for this trophy, and in the latter two have succeeded in reaching the final stage. Last season their opponents in the deciding encounter were Aston Villa, who on their own ground secured the right to hold the cup until the present season by a victory of four goals to none. On that occasion the Vale had a weak team, both Beech and Simpson being on the sick list. For to-day there was promise of the Vale team being more representative, although there was one doubtful position in the eleven, namely, that of goalkeeper. Poole, it will be remembered, was hurt at Gainsborough on Saturday, through a kick in the region of the breast bone cartilage; unless he had completely recovered from the effects of this Sanders would have to act as substitute between the sticks. The record of the two finalists in the previous rounds had comprised victories by the Vale over West Bromwich Albion (5-0), Burton Swifts (5-0), and Ironbridge (6-3), all at Cobridge, while the Wolves had given the quietus to Small Heath, Walsall, and Aston Villa—the last mentioned by 4-1 just a week ago. The Vale have not met the Wolves for many years, and have long felt anxious to try conclusions with them, this feeling being created by the numerous transfers of Vale men to the Black Country club.

BIRMINGHAM CUP.

REPLAYED FINAL TIE.

PORT VALE v. WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS.

For the third time this season Burslem Port Vale visited the Villa ground at Birmingham this afternoon in order to try conclusions in a cup-tie final. The trophy for the possession of which they were contesting is the Birmingham Senior Cup, and their opponents were Wolverhampton Wanderers. It will be remembered that the teams tried conclusions a fortnight ago on the same ground under very peculiar conditions, namely, to the accompaniment of rain, hail, snow, thunder and lightning. Owing to this mixed storm the ground very soon became unfit, and the referee thought fit to stop it after a quarter of an hour in the second half. At that time the teams were on level terms, for although the Wolves scored first, the Vale had shown all along that the prestige of the Black Country club had no terrors for them, and had equalised through a lovely goal registered by Whitehouse, who won high praise from the Birmingham critics for his play as inside right on that occasion. The Vale were playing the same team to-day as appeared on that occasion, and were expected to make a most determined fight. It will be remembered that they were in the final last season and were defeated by Aston Villa, but on that occasion the Vale were very weakly represented. To-day, however, with their full League eleven playing the Vale hoped for a much better result than against the great Birmingham stars. The record of to-day's finalists in the previous rounds comprised victories by the Vale over West Bromwich Albion (5-0), Barton Swifts (3-0), and Ironbridge (6-3), all at Cobridge, while the Wolves had given the quietus to Small Heath, Walsall, and Aston Villa, defeating the latter by 4-1.