



# Nuneaton Junior Cup 1886-87

**Winners:** Rudge Whitworth  
**Runners-Up:** Coventry Progress  
**No. of entries:** 19

Leicestershire were represented by Hinckley Town - who were eliminated in the first round - and Earl Shilton who appear to have reached round 3.

Little has been found to date about this competition apart from the information given below:

The Cup was won by Rudge Whitworth who beat Coventry Progress 4-0 in the final.

## Round 1

	Home			Away	Match Details
13.11.1896	Atherstone Town	3	2	Fazeley Swifts	
	Coventry Cravens			Unity Villa	
	Earl Shilton Swifts			Progress	
13.11.1896	Lord Street	5	3	Hinckley Town Reserves	
13.11.1896	Royal Artillery	0	3	Stockingford	
13.11.1896	Tamworth Town Swifts	1 (1)	0 (0)	Tamworth Athletic	

Earl Shilton Excelsior, Foleshill Great Heath, Hillfield Wanderers, Nuneaton Town (holders), Rudge, Singer's Reserves, and Whitworth, byes.

## Round 2

	Home			Away	Match Details
19.12.1896	Atherstone	5	0	Bedworth town	
12.12.1896	Hillfield Wanderers	0	6	Earl Shilton	Wanderers started with 10 men and lost the services of 2 other players soon after the start.
19.12.1896	Stockingford	4	3	Tamworth Town Swifts	

## Round 3

	Home			Away	Match Details
	Atherstone			Coventry Progress	
	Hillfield Wanderers			Unity Villa	
	Rudge			Foleshill Great Heath	

## Semi-Finals

	Home			Away	Match Details
13.2.1897	Progress	4	0	Unity Villa	At Nuneaton. Good gate.
6.3.1897	Stockingford			Coventry Rudge	

## Semi-Final Replay

	Home			Away	Match Details
3.4.1897	Coventry Rudge	3	1	Stockingford	

## Final

Home		Away		Match Details
23.4.1897	Rudge Whitworth	4	0	Coventry Progress
				At Nuneaton. 700-800 spectators. "The game was not devoid of roughness." Mr E F Melly, manager of the Griff Colliery presented the cup t the winning team, and afterwards conveyed to Coventry amid great enthusiasm on the part of the Rudge team and their supporters.

## Match Reports

NUNEATON COTTAGE HOSPITAL CUP .  
SECOND ROUND.

ATHERSTONE TOWN A TEAM V. BEDWORTH TOWN.—  
At Atherstone. Berry scored a minute from the start. Another was secured by J. Millerchip, Spencer adding the third, the three goals being obtained in about ten minutes. The first portion of the game terminated in favour of Atherstone by 5 goals to 0. Crossing over, Bedworth played more on the defensive. Atherstone won by 5 goals to 0.

TAMWORTH TOWN SWIFTS V. STOCKINGFORD.—On the ground of the latter, in the presence of a goodly number of spectators. The game was interesting and exciting, and the final point which gave Stockingford the lead was scored amid a scene of enthusiasm. Result: Stockingford, 4 goals; Tamworth, 3.

*Tamworth Herald - 26 December 1896*

**ASSOCIATION.**

Were the attendance on Saturday at the final tie of the Nuneaton Hospital cup a reflex of the interest taken by the residents in their hospital, the institution would come rather badly off. Fancy an attendance of only 700 or 800 at a final cup tie, and for so worthy an object. Whether it was due to the fact that the contesting teams hailed from another district, or because Nuneaton people—like those of most other places—have had enough of football for this season, I am unable to say, but the meagre attendance was quite unworthy of the occasion.

Out of the 700 or 800 mentioned, not a few journeyed from Coventry and Foleshill. As is well-known, the teams left in were the Rudge and Progress, and though the match could hardly be regarded as a first class attraction, there was every reason to anticipate an interesting struggle. How the teams fought their way into the final, is, of course, well-known, and it only remains to be said that the Rudge, bar accident, were looked upon as almost certain winners.

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The contest was only of moderate interest ; compared with the final struggle for the Birmingham Cup, it was decidedly tame. The Progress played a remarkably plucky game against their more experienced and stronger rivals, and had there been a little more determination near goal, they should certainly have scored. As it was, they were beaten by 4 goals to 0. Not only did Reeves, in one instance, head the ball through his own goal, but in at least one other case when the Rudge scored there was more than an element of luck about the performance. Greaves, the Progress goalkeeper, appeared to be under the impression that the Rudge man, when shooting for one goal, was offside, for he made no effort to clear, and strongly appealed. The game was not devoid of poughness, and I think the referee should have ruled the players with a firmer hand.

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Kirk was not often called upon, but he had one or two nasty shots to stop, and his save when the penalty kick against the Rudge was taken was a very fine effort. Pittaway was much the better of the backs, for Glover was only moderate ; in fact, the Rudge skipper has, for a week or two past, failed to do himself justice. Gandy and Reader played vigorously, but the latter may deem himself fortunate that he did not come under the ban of the referee more than once, for some of his tactics were certainly open to suspicion. Although Cross is not so showy a player as his colleagues, I consider that his half-back play was characterised by much more judgment ; on the whole, his performance was

exceedingly good. The forwards showed fairly good form, but there was nothing about their work which calls for special mention.

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Although the Rudge certainly deserved their victory, they were not allowed to have matters all their own way. Greaves kept goal finely, and had Reeves not got in his way one at least of the goals would have been saved. Wilkes was the more reliable of the backs, Reeves appearing to lack judgment at critical moments. The halves gave a fairly good display. Among the forwards, little Hill was the shining light, his running and centring being quite features of the game. Tasker was the weakest of the five, Shilton, Eaton, and Wright all showing creditable form:

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On the conclusion of the match the cup was presented to the winning team by Mr E F Melly, manager of the Griff Colliery, and it was afterwards conveyed to Coventry amid much enthusiasm on the part of the Rudge team and their supporters.

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Additional Information

## Nuneaton Cottage Hospital CHARITY CUPS ASSOCIATION.

SEASON 1896—7.

*The Executive are this Season offering TWO CUPS*  
N.C.H. JUNIOR ASSOCIATION CUP.—Open  
to clubs within a Fourteen mile radius of  
Nuneaton.

N.C.H. MINOR ASSOCIATION CUP.—Open  
to clubs whose members reside within a  
Seven miles radius of Nuneaton.

Entry Forms, Rules and Particulars Free  
by Post on application to  
J. T. BROWNE, (Hon. Sec.) Nuneaton.

Midland Counties Tribune - 5 September 1896

### NUNEATON CHARITY CUPS.

The entries for the two cups connected with the Nuneaton Cottage Hospital number 35, and the first rounds are:—Junior Cup: Atherstone Town v. Fazeley Swifts, Tamworth Town Swifts v. Tamworth Athletic, Lord Street v. Hinckley Town Reserves, Coventry Cravens v. Unity Villa, Royal Artillery v. Stockingford, Earl Shilton Swifts v. Progress; byes, Rudge Whitworth, Foleshill Great Heath, Nuneaton Town (holders), Earl Shilton Excelsior Reserves, Singer's Reserves, and Hillfield Wanderers. Minor Cup: Bulkington v. Barwell Swifts' Reserves, Baddesley Stags v. Atherstone True Blues, Chapel End Victoria v. Nuneaton Rovers, Stockingford Albion v. Bedworth Town, Hinckley Granville Reserves v. Longford Forest, Attleborough v. Stockingford Reserves; byes, Nuneaton Town Reserves, Atherstone Town Reserves, Wolvey, Foleshill, St. Paul's, and Nuneaton Albions.

Lichfield Mercury - 6 November 1896

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If some of our football legislators, who are endeavouring to purge the Association game of roughness, had been at Atherstone on Saturday, when the Rudge met Stockingford in the semi-final of the Nuneaton Cup, they would have been compelled to admit that their work is very far from complete at present. I shall be perfectly within the mark when I say that during the concluding stages of the game some of the Stockingford players were guilty of conduct of the most reprehensible kind. Not only was Elsby, the Rudge goalkeeper, seriously kicked, and, it is feared, his leg broken, but Glover was also severely knocked about. Gandy, too, came in for rough usage; in fact, it may be said that hardly a member of the Rudge team escaped injuries of a more or less serious character. The first half was well enough and during this period some good football was shown by both sides. Afterwards it was little better than a "slogging" match.

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However the referee allowed such a state of things to continue, I am at a loss to understand. If it is a fact that he hails from Stockingford, one can only regret that a selection was not made which would have been beyond any possibility of criticism on the score of partiality. Fancy a man officiating as referee in an important cup tie who resides in the same locality as one of the contesting teams. To criticise such a game would be ridiculous, but this much may be said, that had football been played, the Rudge would undoubtedly have won. As an outcome of the game, which ended in a pointless draw, the Rudge will certainly refuse to re-play the match anywhere in the vicinity of Saturday's encounter. Not only was the game so disagreeable, but the conduct of some of the spectators was of a most disorderly character. I understand that they will also most strenuously oppose any re-appointment of the same referee.

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From latest enquiries at the Hospital I learn that Elsby is going on satisfactorily. Although not so serious as at first imagined, the accident is bad enough, and will incapacitate Elsby from following his employment for some time to come. In view of Elsby's enforced retirement, I am very pleased to state that E. Kirk, as the result of overtures from the Rudge committee, has consented to fill the position of goalkeeper for the Crow-lane team in their semi-final of the Birmingham Junior Cup against Holbrook Olympic, at Bournbrook, on Saturday.

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