



Midland Football Alliance League 1890-91

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	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Notts County Rovers	14	9	4	1	33	17	22
Doncaster Rovers*	14	9	1	4	43	19	17
Loughborough AFC	14	7	2	5	35	25	16
Grantham Rovers	14	5	4	5	33	30	14
Heanor Town	14	5	2	7	32	41	12
Newark	14	4	4	6	26	37	12
Notts Olympic	14	3	3	8	20	39	8
Sheffield FC	14	3	2	9	23	37	8




* Two points deducted for fielding an ineligible player

Winner:	Notts County Rovers
Runner-up:	Doncaster Rovers
Wooden spoon:	Sheffield FC
Games played:	56
Missing Results:	0
Goals scored:	245 (4.4 goals per game)
Biggest win:	Sheffield 8-0 Heanor Town
Highest scoring:	Loughborough 7-2 Sheffield FC
Biggest home win:	Sheffield 8-0 Heanor Town
Biggest away win:	Notts Olympic 0-5 Loughborough
Consecutive wins:	6; Notts County Rovers
Consecutive losses:	4 ; Sheffield Club (28 Feb - 18 April 1891)
Consecutive draws:	No team drew consecutive games.

At a meeting held at the Maypole Hotel in Nottingham in June 1890 under the presidency of Mr F H Celley, of the Sheffield Club., representatives from Doncaster Rovers, Grantham Rovers, Heanor Town, Loughborough, Newark, Notts Jardines, Notts Olympic, Rotherham Swifts (sent a letter agreeing with the subject of the meeting) and Sheffield FC unanimously decided to form an amalgamation of clubs to be called the Midland Football Alliance. The constitution of the new body was based on that of the Midland League. It was decided to invite Notts County Rovers to join the Alliance to make to make 10 clubs. Mr A G Hines was nominated to be hon. sec and a sub committee was formed. By the end of a 2 ½ hour meeting the following week, Notts County Rovers had joined the Alliance, rules were adopted and fixtures for the ensuing season arranged.

Midland Football Alliance Clubs 1890-91

	Founded	Ground	Colours	Additional Information
Doncaster Rovers	1879-	Intake Ground		Turned professional in 1885. They entered the Midland League in 1891 and were elected into the Football League in 1901. The club lost re-election votes in 1903 and 1905 and so returned to the Midland League.
Grantham Rovers	1891-97	Harlaxton-road		Grantham Rovers disbanded in 1897 after incurring debts of £140.
Heanor Town	1883 -			Founder members of the Midland Amateur Alliance. The club reached the first round of the FA Cup in 1891-92, losing 4-1 at Aston Villa. When the league folded in 1893 they joined the Derbyshire Senior League, winning it at the first attempt, The

				club then moved up to the Midland League, where they played for three seasons. After dropping out of the Midland League in 1897, Heanor returned to the league in 1898. Despite finishing sixth in 1899–1900, the club left the Midland League again.
Loughborough AFC	1886 -1900	Athletic Grounds		
Newark	1868-1914	Muskham Street (used the facilities of the Midland Hotel)		The club experimented with codes (association, rugby, Sheffield rules) in its first year of existence before formally adopting the association code.
Notts County Rovers		Trent Bridge, Castle Ground		Reserve team of Notts County.
Notts Jardines	1874 -1919			The club was the works side of the John Jardine company in Nottingham, manufacturer of machinery for the lace industry.
Notts Olympic	1882-	Churchville, Radford.	Black and red stripes	Herbert Kilpin, founder of AC Milan, played for the club in 1890 and 1891.
Rotherham Swifts		The Holmes		
Sheffield FC	1857-	Ecclesall Road, Sheffield		The oldest existing club still playing football in the world. In 2004 they were given the FIFA Order of Merit, an award given to only one other club; Real Madrid. On the pitch, the club's finest hour came in 1904 when they won the FA Amateur Cup, a competition conceived after a suggestion by Sheffield FC.

Sheffield FC lost every away game.

Runner-up Doncaster Rovers won the Sheffield Challenge Cup.

Grantham Rovers, who finished third won the Kettering Cup for the second time.

Of the 56 matches that counted towards the final standings, all but 11 were brought to a definite conclusion. There were 35 home and just 10 away wins!

Notts County Rovers topped the table for the most weeks, but were replaced by Grantham Rovers and Loughborough, for the odd week or two but in general only when they had played more games.

The Alliance Council, consisting of representatives from each club, met for the first time on Wednesday 28 October to consider several protests. In the case of protests regarding points of play it was decided to uphold the authority of the referee by accepting all decisions. For playing unregistered men against Loughborough and Notts County Rovers respectively, Doncaster rovers and Jardines each forfeited two points. These were the only instances of Midland Football Alliance League rule being broken.

After drawing at home against Jardines in November, which was completed in semi-darkness due to the late arrival of the visitors, Newark protested stating that the game should be count as an Alliance game as it was impossible for the spectators and players to see the play. The Newark committee stating that if games kicked off later than 3 pm during the winter months then there would soon be very few spectators and much dissatisfaction.

Two of the original ten clubs – Notts Jardines and Rotherham Swifts - failed to fulfil their fixtures. Notts Jardines withdrew from the Midland Football Alliance having been suspended by the Football Association for non-payment of a fine. Jardines only won one match, against County Rovers, and even then it lost the 2 points from that win because of fielding an ineligible player. A 3-0 defeat to Loughborough was the last of the 9 matches the Jardines played that season, and, indeed, was the last match the club played in its original incarnation. Given below is the last published league table to include Jardines and Rotherham.

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Notts County Rovers	15	9	2	4	35	18	22
Loughborough AFC	17	9	6	2	40	25	20
Heanor Town	17	8	7	2	42	42	18
Grantham Rovers	15	7	5	3	41	28	17
Doncaster Rovers*	15	7	6	2	33	18	14
Newark	11	3	4	4	20	15	10
Notts Olympic	14	3	7	4	21	15	10
Sheffield	12	4	7	1	23	31	9
Notts Jardines*	9	1	6	2	12	23	2
Rotherham Swifts	6	1	5	0	6	24	2

Two points deducted for playing ineligible men.

Newark Herald - 25 April 1891

Rotherham Swifts withdrew from the Midland Football Alliance in late December 1890 because they alleged that they could not pay expenses incurred travelling to away matches. The Alliance Committee decided not to accept their resignation, and thus releasing them from further obligations; but to leave it to those clubs who had the expense of going to Rotherham, to appeal against the English Association.

Jardines were suspended by Football Association for the non-payment of a fine.

At the meeting of the Alliance Committee on 17 April 1891 it was decided that Rotherham and Jardine results should be deduced and that the Champions should be presented with a trophy.

Nine of the Alliance clubs entered the English Cup competition, Notts County Rovers being the exception, and only two, Newark, Notts Jardine and Loughborough reached the third round. Notts Olympic and Sheffield went out in the first round, and Grantham scratched, whilst Heanor, Doncaster and Rotherham Swifts went out in the second round. Newark were disqualified after beating Belper 3-1 at home. Loughborough were the only team to get through to the fourth round after beating Belper 6-2 away from home. In the third round. Jardines were eliminated by Long Eaton Rangers (4-1). Sheffield United were Loughborough's opposition in the fourth and final qualifying round, where they were outplayed by the Yorkshire team eventually losing 6-1 at Bramall-lane. Doncaster and Loughborough both resigned at the end of the 1890-91 season after being accepted into the Midland League. Their places along with the vacancies created by withdrawal of Notts Jardines and Rotherham Swifts were taken by Derby County Wanderers, Lincoln City Swifts, Long Eaton Athletic and Mansfield Town.

Results Grid

Midland Alliance Football League 1890-1	Doncaster Rovers	Grantham Rovers	Heanor Town	Loughborough	Newark	Notts County Rovers	Notts Olympic	Sheffield
Doncaster Rovers		6-1	5-1	4-0	7-0	0-2	6-0	4-2
Grantham Rovers	3-0		3-0	4-1	2-0	2-2	2-2	5-2
Heanor Town	1-4	5-3		2-1	3-4	2-3	2-1	5-1
Loughborough AFC	3-0	3-1	3-3		6-2	1-1	3-1	7-2
Newark	1-2	2-2	3-3	1-0		2-2	5-0	3-1
Notts County Rovers	3-2	3-1	2-1	0-1	3-1			3-0
Notts Olympic	2-2	4-3	0-2	0-5	3-0	2-2		2-0

Sheffield FC	0-1		8-0	2-1	2-2	1-2	3-1	
	Home win	Away Win	Draw	Score Not Known				

Note: Although all results have been found, the scores of two games are currently not known. The Notts County Rovers home match against Notts Olympic originally scheduled for late December was postponed. The date and score of the rearranged fixture despite considerable research has yet to be found. Similarly, the encounter between Sheffield and Notts Olympic had to be rearranged. It appears that it had not taken place by late April, but League tables published in May suggest that the game did take place and that it ended in a score draw. This however, has yet to be verified.

Loughborough and the Midland Football Alliance League

At the end of the 1889-90 season Loughborough had agreed to join the recently formed Leicestershire Football Senior League, but just the ink was drying, they resigned and instead accepted an offer to join the Midland Alliance League. The lure of top-class opposition such as Doncaster Rovers, Rotherham Swifts, Sheffield FC, and Notts County clearly swayed them, although the decision no doubt annoyed many in the Leicestershire Association. The Luffs Committee knew that to both attract supporters and to stand any chance of being successful, they had to strengthen their squad. They signed William Freestone (Notts Mapperley), John Plackett (Long Eaton) and Valentine Smith (Notts Swifts). At 3:10 pm 21 September 1890 Loughborough became the first Leicestershire club to play in a league competition when they faced Doncaster Rovers away in the Midland Alliance League at the Intake Ground. Originally it was called the "Deaf and Dumb Ground" as it was located on field rented from the Yorkshire Institute for the Deaf and Dumb. There were no dressing rooms and the players changed at a nearby hostelry, either the Rockingham Arms or the Doncaster Arms. So, although they were moving up a class in opposition, the same cannot be said for quality of the amenities. Luffs playing with the strong wind that blew diagonally across field, failed to score in the first period. In the second half Doncaster made the most of weather conditions, netting four times, although the final score of 4-0, rather flattered the Yorkshiremen. A defeat also away from home the following weekend, again in Yorkshire, this time in Sheffield, was followed by the Luffs first victory, at Notts Jardine. The Luffs drew their first-ever home league game, 3-3 against Heanor on 18 October, with William Lowe having the honour of scoring the club's first home goal in the Midland Alliance. November yield just 3 points from four games, which made what followed remarkable. Due to awful weather, the black and whites first game in December did not take place until five days before Christmas when they slaughtered Sheffield FC 7-2. This result sparked a run of six consecutive wins that sent them to the top of the league for the entire month of January. The run ended at home to the eventual Champions, Notts County Reserves on St Valentine's Day. Sadly, they lost two of their remaining three games to finish in 3rd place, on 18 points after winning 7, losing 5 and drawing 2 of their 14 league games. Nevertheless, a more than satisfactory first season.

Loughborough left the Midland Alliance League to join the Midland League along with arch-rivals Leicester Fosse

The Midland Alliance only ran for two further seasons. Derby County Wanderers were crowned champions in 1891-92 and Derby Town in 1892-93.

Midland Football Alliance League Table 1891-92

	Pld.	Wn.	Lst.	Dr.	Fr.	Agst.	Pts
Derby County Wanderers	18	15	2	1	88	19	31
Mansfield Town	18	12	3	2	43	19	28
Notts County Rovers	18	11	5	2	49	34	24
Newark	18	10	6	2	55	42	22
Heanor Town	18	8	8	2	46	37	18
Lincoln City Swifts	18	6	9	3	26	43	15
Long Eaton Athletic	18	4	10	4	31	38	12
Grantham Town	18	3	10	5	29	51	11
Sheffield FC	18	4	11	3	25	64	11
Notts Olympic	18	2	12	4	19	64	8

Midland Football Alliance League Table 1892-93

	Pld.	Wn.	Lst	Dr	Fr.	Agst.	Pts
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Derby Town	20	16	2	2	69	15	34
Sheffield United Strollers	20	12	5	3	66	26	27
Mansfield Greenhalghs	20	11	5	4	46	32	26
Nottingham Forest Swifts	20	11	5	4	36	33	26
Heanor Town	20	11	6	3	41	18	25
Notts County Rovers	20	9	9	2	41	43	20
Matlock	20	9	10	1	41	49	19
Lincoln City Swifts	20	8	9	3	34	43	16

Results and Match Details

Date	Home			Away	Match Details
6.9.1890	Notts County Rovers	3	0	Sheffield FC	Castle Ground, Nottingham. 1,500 spectators. Bright and fine weather. Visitors arrived late delaying kick off until 4.10 pm.
6.9.1890	Notts Olympic AN Other Turner Carter (2)	4 (1)	3 (0)	Grantham Rovers Cockerman Salen Michell	Churchville, Radford. Fair attendance.
13.9.1890	Doncaster Rovers	5	1	Rotherham Swifts	
13.9.1890	Notts County Rovers Ferguson (2) Lawson	3 (1)	1 (1)	Grantham Rovers Southwell	Castle Ground, Nottingham. Large number of spectators. Beautiful weather.
13.9.1890	Notts Jardines Jarvis Gandy	2 (1)	4 (2)	Heanor Town Levers (2) Wright AN Other	Castle Ground, Nottingham. Warm and oppressive weather.
20.9.1890	Doncaster Rovers Herrod Gresham Kisby Frost	4 (0)	0 (0)	Loughborough AFC	Strong wind blew diagonally across the field. Game commenced at 3.10pm. Ward, the visitor's goalkeeper ought to have saved two of the goals.
20.9.1890	Grantham Rovers	5 (5)	2 (0)	Sheffield FC	Time announced for kick-off 3.30 – game commenced at 3.35pm. Sheffield played against the wind in the first half. This was Grantham's third game and first win.
20.9.1890	Heanor Town Jardine (2) J Levers Ackroyd R Wright	6 (5)	1 (1)	Rotherham Swifts Duke	Strong gale Fair number of spectators
20.9.1890	Notts Olympic	2	2	Notts Jardines	
27.9.1890	Grantham Rovers Archer Flinders Salew	3 (3)	1 (1)	Heanor Town Jardine	Harlaxton-road, Grantham. Large crowd of spectators, c.1,000. First League defeat of the season for Heanor.
27.9.1890	Newark	5	0	Notts Olympic	
27.9.1890	Rotherham Swifts	1 (0)	5 (3)	Notts County Rovers	The Holmes, Rotherham.
27.9.1890	Sheffield FC	2 (1)	1 (1)	Loughborough AFC	Loughborough played down hill in the first half.
11.10.1890	Grantham Rovers Southwell Flinders Jenkinson	3 (2)	0 (0)	Doncaster Rovers	1,500-2,000 spectators. "The game beggars description being a succession of fouls, smashes and

					accidents interspersed with cheers and groans from the supporters of either side," 9 men injured. Hawkesworth [Doncaster] broke his collar bone just before half-time. At the close of the match a collection was made for Hawkesworth and the sum of £2 16s 3d was handed to him.
11.10.1890	Heanor Town Ackroyd (2) Jardine	3 (3)	4 (1)	Newark og Huskinson Wood (2)	800 spectators. Due to the late arrival of the visitors the game did not commence until 4 pm. Newark kicked uphill in the second half and scored the winning goal 5 mins before time.
11.10.1890	Notts Jardines	1 (0)	3 (2)	Loughborough AFC Plackett Kelham (2)	Castle Ground, Nottingham. Small attendance. "The visitors showed capital form." The lack of a reliable goalkeeper was blamed for Jardines poor form.
11.10.1890	Sheffield FC	1 (0)	2 (2)	Notts County Rovers	Beautiful weather. Sheffield played with only 10 men throughout the second half. This was Rovers fourth consecutive win in the Alliance.
18.10.1890	Loughborough Lowe Freestone AN Other	3 (0)	3 (3)	Heanor Town AN Others	Heanor scored three times in the first half for the second consecutive game.
18.10.1890	Newark	2	2	Grantham Rovers	Most spectators thought that Newark had scored a third goal through Armstrong. However, it was not given as no appeal was made by the players. With the defeat of Notts Couty Rovers, Newark became the only unbeaten team in the Alliance.
18.10.1890	Notts Jardine Jarvis	1	0	Notts County Rovers	County Rovers were expected to win this game easily. However, shortly after losing the service of Ferguson and Bramley through injury, Jarvis scored the only goal of the game for Jardines. This was Rovers first defeat in the competition. County Rovers appealed against the win claiming that Jardines played 3 days before Carter was eligible to play in MFA matches (although he had played in an English Cup tie for Jardines). The MFA deducted two points from Jardines.
25.10.1890	Notts County Rovers	P	P	Loughborough AFC	Postponed due to Loughborough playing an English Cup tie.
1.11.1890	Sheffield FC	0	1	Doncaster Rovers	Although winning Doncaster were anything but satisfied with result. They alleged that they passed the ball between the posts four times. The referee differed with them, allowing only one goal.
1.11.1890	Newark	1	0	Loughborough AFC	Generally acknowledged as the best match played that season on the Newark ground. Loughborough infused considerable roughness towards the close of the game as they hoped to rush an equalising goal. Newark maintained their unbeaten start to the competition.

1.11.1890	Rotherham Swifts	0 (0)	3 (3)	Heanor Town	Heanor played their usual game of gaining three points in the first half, and nothing afterwards." Rotherham Swifts remained rooted at the bottom of the table.
8.11.1890	Grantham Rovers Southwell Chamberlain	2 (2)	0 (0)	Newark	2,000-3,000 spectators. Game was fast and exciting. Rovers scored within the first 3 mins. Newark played well but were poor shooters. First league defeat of the season for Grantham, who went to the top of the league.
1.11.1890	Loughborough AFC Lowe (2) AN Other	3 (3)	1 (0)	Notts Olympic AN Other	
1.11.1890	Notts Jardine Carter (2)	2 (1)	2 (0)	Doncaster Rovers AN Other Gresham	Castle ground, Nottingham "Attendance was most wretched."
15.11.1890	Doncaster Rovers	0	2	Notts County Rovers	Gunn (of cricket fame) and Fergison played backs for Notts and Carnelly, who had just signed as a professional played as a forward.
15.11.1890	Grantham Rovers Archer Fletcher	2 (1)	2 (0)	Notts Olympic AN Other	2,000 spectators.
15.11.1890	Loughborough AFC	P	P	Grantham Rovers	Match was deferred until 10 January and in its place Notts Olympic played Grantham.
22.11.1890	Newark	1	1	Notts Jardines	Newark complained that Jardines arrived late – delaying the kick-off until 3.30 pm and that the game was completed in semi-darkness. Jardines equalised in the dusk. Game was ordered to be replayed.
22.11.1890	Rotherham Swifts	3	1	Loughborough AFC	Bottom of the table Rotherham's first league win of the season. Loughborough were a different team away from home, to what they were at home. On their own enclosure they could beat teams in superior Leagues but away from home they easily succumbed to Midland Alliance teams.
29.11.1890	Loughborough AFC	1 (0)	1 (1)	Notts County Rovers	Recent fall of snow had covered the ground in 2 to 3 inches in depth. The Loughborough secretary telegraphed the Notts men postponing the game. Owing to an error, the visitors turned up. Some of the Loughborough men had been advised not to come and seeing the state of affairs 3 of the Notts men returned home by the next train. Later it was decided to play the game, which commenced at 3.15 pm.
29.11.1890	Notts Olympic	P	P	Heanor Town	Heavy snow fall.
4.12.1891	Notts County Rovers Carnelly Weightman Freestone Lawson (2)	5 (1)	0 (0)	Notts Jardines	Castle Ground, Nottingham.
6.12.1890	Grantham Rovers Freeman (2) Southwell Cockman	4 (3)	2 (1)	Notts Jardines AN Others	Since September 13 th Grantham Rovers, with the solitary exception of Newark (18 th October) had not played a match of any kind away from Harlaxton-road. In January

					and February, they were scheduled to play 5 Alliance matches away from home. Jardines arrived late. The match commenced at 3 pm and was not properly finished, the referee (Mr H Shelton) ending the game 6 mins early due to darkness. Rovers scored 3 times in the opening 35 mins.
6.12.1890	Sheffield FC Belk AN Others	3 (1)	1 (1)	Notts Olympic Dunncliffe	Ecclesall-road, Sheffield. Game kicked off at 2.50 pm. Notts played down the incline in the first half. Fenwick, the home goalkeeper was in fine form.
13.12.1890	Grantham Rovers AN Others	2 (2)	2 (0)	Notts County Rovers Carnelly og (Mablestone)	Harlaxton-road, Grantham. 2,000 spectators. Notts played uphill and with the sun in their eyes during the first half.
13.12.1890	Notts Olympic Jefferies (2) Drewry	3 (1)	0 (0)	Newark	Churchville ground, Radford. Game ended 15 mins before time due to fog. Game was ordered to be replayed.
13.12.1890	Rotherham Swifts	2	3	Sheffield FC	Turf was frozen. Evenly contested match.
20.12.1890	Loughborough AFC Freestone Lowe Plackett AN Others	7 (3)	2 (1)	Sheffield FC Clarke AN Other	Athletic Ground, Loughborough. Ground cleared of snow.
20.12.1890	Notts Jardines May Starr	2 (1)	5 (4)	Grantham Rovers Pullen Freeman Southwell Flinders (2)	Return encounter – which by mutual consent was played on Harlaxton-road Ground which was covered by 2 inches of snow. Game commenced at 2.30 pm. 35 mins play each way. <i>"it was rather amusing to watch the players making for the ball at rapid pace and missing it by yards on account of it stopping dead And several players will remember the game for hard bumps they received..."</i> [Grantham Journal – 27 Dec 1890] Jardines played the majority of the first half with 10 men.
20.12.1890	Notts County Rovers	P	P	Heanor Town	Trent Bridge, Nottingham. Postponed due to heavy snow.
20.12.1890	Notts Olympic Fletcher Atkins	2 (1)	2 (2)	Doncaster Rovers McCullum Kisbey	Churchville Ground, Radford Small attendance.
27.12.1890	Notts County Rovers	P	P	Notts Olympic	4 or 5 Olympic players put in an appearance at Trent Bridge unaware that County Rovers had postponed the match.
27.12.1890	Sheffield FC	8	0	Heanor Town	Ecclesall-road, Sheffield. Wintry weather, snow falling throughout the game.
3.1.1891	Heanor Jardine (2) Levers Ackroyd Stott	5 (1)	3 (1)	Grantham Rovers Cockman Woodhouse Freeman	Ground was thickly covered with snow. This was Grantham's 3 rd away defeat from 4 games.; they drew the other game. Grantham gave various excuses for the defeat – they took a poor team; and were cramped by a long drive.
3.1.1891	Loughborough AFC Cross Plackett	3	0	Doncaster Rovers	Both teams had goals disallowed for off-side in the second half.

	Kelham				
10.1.1891	Doncaster Rovers	6 (3)	0 (0)	Notts Olympic	Notts sent a weak team.
10.1.1891	Loughborough AFC Val Smith Kelham AN Other	3	1	Grantham Rovers Flinders	The Athletic ground was in wretched condition and was "eminently dangerous" although "sand had been freely thrown about."
10.1.1891	Newark	P	P	Notts Jardines	Ground was unfit. Match postponed. Jardines were anything but satisfied as Mr Williams, their secretary, did not receive any notification of the postponement until Saturday morning, although the ground was pronounced unfit on Friday. "Jardines had been in strict training for the match and meant winning."
17.1.1891	Loughborough AFC Kelham Smith AN Others	3	0	Notts Jardines	This victory sent Loughborough to the top of the League. Jardines still held the wooden spoon.
17.1.1891	Newark	1	2	Doncaster Rovers	Frost bound. The ground was for the most part was covered with hops, but the wings were unprotected, a sufficient supply not being attainable. Hard fought game.
17.1.1891	Notts Olympic	0	2	Heanor Town	"This fixture was one which had been postponed on account of the ground; if anything, it was in a worse state than it was on the original date."
24.1.1891	Notts Jardines	P	P	Newark	Newark received a telegram stating that Jardines had been suspended by the Football Association. Newark had played 3 games less than most of the teams in the league.
24.1.1891	Notts Olympic	0 (0)	5 (2)	Loughborough AFC Cross (2) Freestone AN Others	Churchville Ground. The heavy ground suited Loughborough, the weightier team. <i>"Olympic were "completely outplayed by the nice level combination of which the Loughborough players have lately given so much evidence. It is an honour to little Leicestershire, backward as she has hitherto been in association football to have Loughborough reigning at the head of the Midland alliance statistics..."</i> -[Leicester Chronicle - [31 Jan 1891]
31.1.1891	Heanor Town	1	4	Doncaster Rovers	Large gate.
31.1.1891	Loughborough AFC	4	1	Rotherham Swifts	
31.1.1891	Sheffield FC Wright McClennan	2 (2)	2 (0)	Newark Wood Grocock	Ecclesall-road, Sheffield Boisterous weather
7.2.1891	Heanor Town Rippin (2)	2 (1)	3 (2)	Notts County Rovers Carnelly (2) AN Other	Notts scored within 3 mins and the winner 10 mins from time.
14.2.1891	Doncaster Rovers	7	0	Newark	Intake Ground, Doncaster. High wind. Newark were down to 10men for the second period, following the 'breakdown' of Davies
14.2.1891	Heanor Town	2	1	Notts Olympic	Heanor's goalkeeper, Woodhouse stopped several "miraculous shots"
14.2.1891	Loughborough AFC	2	4	Notts County Reserves	

14.2.1891	Rotherham Swifts	3	2	Grantham Rovers	
21.2.1891	Heanor Town Stott AN Other	2	1	Loughborough AFC AN Other	Loughborough's second defeat in a fortnight. They had key players – Peters, Spibey and Cross on the sick list. The High Sheriff of Derbyshire [Mr E M Mundy] kicked off for the visitors. This win took Heanor to joint third with Grantham, the goal average of the latter being better than that of Heanor.
21.2.1891	Newark	P	P	Notts County Rovers	Match postponed to facilitate the Newark v Mansfield cup tie. Another Alliance fixture was arranged by County Rovers with Doncaster Rovers
21.2.1891	Notts County Rovers	3 (1)	2 (1)	Doncaster Rovers	Trent Bridge Ground, Nottingham. 500 spectators.
28.2.1891	Doncaster Rovers Greesham (2) Herrod (2) Kisbey Langton	6 (3)	1 (1)	Grantham Rovers Palley	1,500 spectators. Grantham opened the scoring.
28.2.1891	Heanor Town	5	1	Sheffield FC	
?.3.1891	Notts County Rovers	2	1	Heanor Town	
?.3.1891	Newark	3	3	Heanor Town	
21.3.1891	Notts Olympic	2	0	Sheffield FC	Foster [Newark] had to retire through an injury to his ankle early in the match.
28.3.1891	Loughborough AFC Plackett (2) Kelham Cross Smith AN Other	6	2	Newark	
30.3.1891	Newark	3	1	Sheffield FC	
30.3.1891	Notts Olympic	2	2	Notts County Rovers	
2.4.1891	Notts County Rovers Carnelly Weightman Bell	3 (3)	1 (1)	Newark Armstrong	The visitors were only able to take a moderate team, several of the leading players being unable to travel. The encounter should have taken place on the Castle Cricket ground and bills were posted to that effect in Nottingham. A crowd waited patiently at the latter enclosure to witness the match. the Newark secretary, however, shortly before the match started received a telegram to the effect that the game would be played on the Gregory ground, which was in splendid condition.
4.4.1891	Doncaster Rovers Herrod (2) Kisbey Gresham Langton	5 (1)	1 (0)	Heanor Town Cheetham	
11.4.1891	Newark	2	2	Notts County Rovers	
18.4.1891	Doncaster Rovers	4	2	Sheffield FC	
18.4.1891	Grantham Rovers AN Others	4 (0)	1 (1)	Loughborough AFC Cross	This was Grantham's first Alliance game for 8 weeks

Match Reports

A selection of published match reports.

DONCASTER ROVERS v. LOUGHBOROUGH.

These clubs met on the Intake at Doncaster on Saturday afternoon under the Midland Counties Alliance. A strong wind blew across the ground diagonally, and interfered considerably with the play. Loughborough won the toss, and elected to take the advantage of the wind in the first half. They failed to score, however, and in the second half, with the wind against them, they were completely over-matched, and the game ended in favour of the Rovers by four goals to nil. The visitors' backs fell off considerably as play proceeded, whilst the Rovers' forwards, particularly after having registered their first goal, developed an amount of dash not often equalled in the Doncaster Club. Frost, Hawksworth, and Gresham may be particularly mentioned in this connection. Both wings in the Loughborough team put in some good, useful, and clever work, and Plackett played a grand game at half-back.

Kisby kicked off for Doncaster at ten minutes past three, and when players had settled down to their work Loughborough, assisted by the wind, got among their opponents, and looked like making it rather hot for them, but Gray relieved with a good kick, and the ball eventually went out over the goal line at the Loughborough end. From the goal kick Plackett cleverly centred, and a creditable attempt was made by the Loughborough forwards to register a point, but Gray came to the rescue, and through the combined efforts of Hoyle, Herrod, and Gresham play was transferred to the other end, where the referee ruled an appeal that Gresham fouled. Play was continued, and the ball soon went over the line, avoiding any disputes. Herrod then played off-side when Doncaster seemed to have a chance, after which play again settled down in the Rovers' quarters, and once or twice Massey was called on to set out, which feat he accomplished in fine style. Kelham and Colman both made creditable attempts to score. James headed away another shot. Langton, who had been playing a sound game in spite of his unsoundness of limb, missed for once, and James stopped what bid fair to be a dangerous onslaught on the Rovers' goal. Herrod, Hoyle, and Gresham, who played well together with pretty short passing, were responsible for working the ball towards the visitors' goal, but it was not allowed to remain there long, for it was speedily carried down the other side by Kelham and Cross, and Plackett nearly scored with a long shot, which Langton just managed to stop, and the ball eventually went out. Possession was then taken by Gray, who passed to Langton, who in his turn passed to Hawksworth, who had a chance, but kicked over. The home backs were soon appealed to again, and

they were there when wanted, returning ball after ball carried over by the wind, and taken down by the still more dangerous short passing system. Langton hereabouts was particularly conspicuous, and was greeted with the cheering "Good old Langton" more than once. Half-time, however, was called without any score. Having prevented their opponents scoring with the advantage of the wind, the Rovers settled down in the second half with an evident intention of winning. Herrod's was the first attempt, the ball actually going through, but he was clearly off-side. Langton kicked from mid-field to before the goal, but the ball was got away, and went outside. From a subsequent throw in Frost centred, and Hemmingfield had a chance which he failed to utilize. After some give and take play Hoyle took the ball up and passed to Herrod, who scored with a beautiful long low shot. The forwards followed up by a rush, and Hemmingfield and Frost sent in stinging shots, which were luckily headed out by the backs or fisted away by Ward, who made a fine display. This performance was shortly afterwards repeated, subsequently to which Loughborough had a brief look in. Then the ball was again worked up into the Loughborough quarters, and after a bit of neat passing amongst the forwards Gresham saw his opportunity and took advantage of it, scoring the second goal for Doncaster. On restarting, play was for a time in midfield, and then Frost and Hawksworth worked up, the former centring and the ball being headed through by Kisby, making the third point. The Rovers continued their aggressive measures to the end of the chapter, the fourth goal being registered by Frost. Gray had placed the ball well in front of goal, and a scrimmage ensued, in the midst of which Frost steered it through, the game ending—

DONCASTER ROVERS . . . 4 goals.
Loughborough . . . : 0 goal.

Doncaster Rovers.—Goal, Massey; backs, Gray (captain) and Langton; half-backs, James, Hemmingfield, and A. Hoyle; left wing, Herrod, Gresham; centre, Kisby; right wing, Frost, Hawksworth. Umpire, Mr. Musson.

Loughborough.—Goal, W. Ward; backs, Spibey, Griffin; half-backs, Plackett, Peters, Colman; right wing, Rogers, Smith; centre, Prieston; left wing, Kelham, Cross. Umpire, Mr. W. Cockain. Referee, Mr. Colley.

MIDLAND ALLIANCE.

LOUGHBOROUGH v. ROTHERHAM SWIFTS.

At Rotherham on Saturday, Loughborough were defeated by three goals to one. It is alleged that the game was a very rough one throughout. As the home team were not ready at the time of starting darkness had fallen ere the game was finished. No goals were scored in the first half, and the Loughborough players disagree in the decision of the referee, who disallowed them two goals and gave one disputed to the Swifts. Some of the visitors' team showed their sense of the treatment received by leaving the field, and during their absence a point was allowed to the home team. Cross being disabled by the kick received last Saturday week his place was filled by Fisher.

Loughborough Herald & North Leicestershire Gazette - 27 November 1890

MIDLAND ALLIANCE.

LOUGHBOROUGH v. NOTTS JARDINES.—Continuing their victorious career, the Loughborough players defeated the Jardines on Saturday by three goals to nil. The ground was too hard and slippery to allow of anything like good form, and often during the game what appeared to be promises of good points were missed by the players having a difficulty in keeping their feet. Freestone kicked off, and was met by a smart response from the Jardines, who, rushing the ball down, secured a corner. Another corner followed to the same players, but Loughborough clearing, a good run by Lowe took the ball near the opposite goal, Kelham shooting too high. This was succeeded by another attack from Loughborough, a good shot by Kelham shaking the cross-bar, and though the pressure was maintained the Jardines' backs eventually cleared. An "off-side" goal for the visitors was recorded, and the game which up to now had been rather slow showed signs of improvement. The Jardines, however, though they played but 10 men, proved themselves worthy the mettle of the home players. Twenty minutes from the start, a remarkably good goal was obtained by Loughborough. Lowe and Smith, by smartly dodging the half-backs, succeeded in obtaining a chance for Smith, who put in a capital cross shot which, as it was just passing the goal mouth, was rushed through by Kelham. On resuming, a capital chance was placed for Freestone, who, after he had passed through the backs with the aid of Lowe, shot wide. The Jardines played up well, Jarvis particularly giving his opponents plenty to do, but the dangerous state of the ground was against them all. At half-

time Loughborough led by one goal to nil. When the game restarted the Jardines made a capital start, the attack being maintained until Loughborough cleared. Then they commenced to press until Carter, having the ball within easy distance, sent in a fine shot, which passed just over the crossbar. The ball having passed back again, a tricky shot from Lowe compelled Shaw to concede a corner. But neither from this, nor from an easy chance in the hands of Kelham—who had exchanged positions with Freestone—did Loughborough succeed in adding to their points. The visitors having had a look in, which ought to have resulted in a goal, the play became slow again, until Smith, receiving the ball from the left wing, sent in one of his fine fast shots, which, after making an upright tremble, passed through the posts, Shaw being powerless to save. Following this Loughborough pressed, and continued the attack mostly for the rest of the game. A third goal was obtained from a scrimmage, after the centre had been fed by Smith, and had Cross shot more correctly a fourth might have followed. The superiority of the home team, however, was much more demonstrated towards the close of the game, the visitors being unable either to run through the backs or to make a serious defence from the attacks of the home forwards. Players:—Loughborough: Harris, goal; Spiby and Griffin, backs; Smalley, Plackett, and Peters, half-backs; Lowe, Val Smith, Freestone, Kelham, and Cross, forwards. Jardines: Shaw, goal; Freeman and James, backs; Taylor, Walters, and Jackson, half-backs; Jarvis, Carter, Starr, and Keasley, forwards.

Leicester Daily Post - Monday 19 January 1891

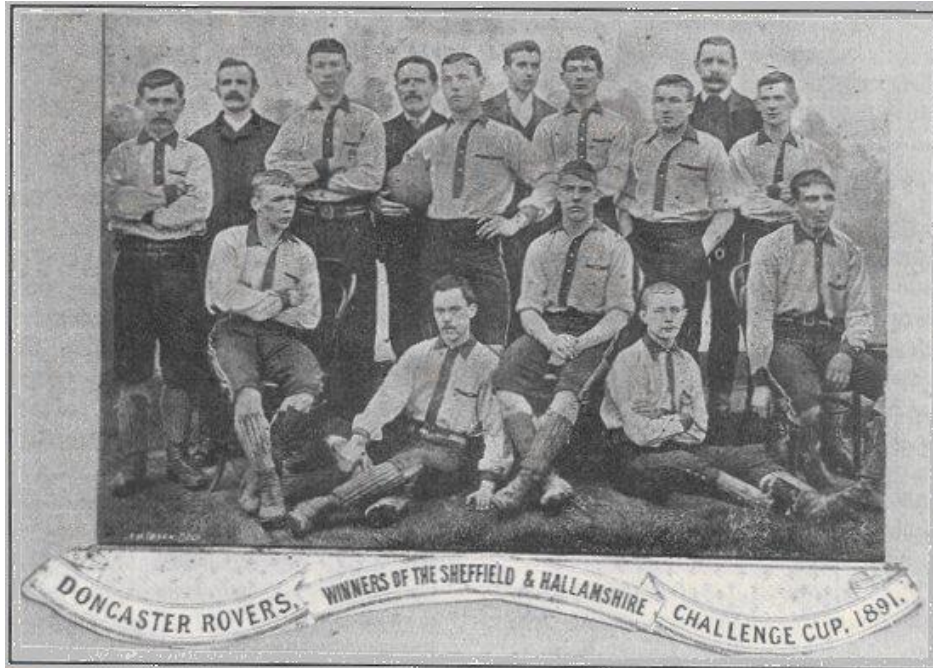
MIDLAND ALLIANCE.

LOUGHBOROUGH v. NEWARK.

At Loughborough. The visitors early caused the home goalkeeper to clear his charge, but the attack was not sustained, and Loughborough took a strong lead. Plackett scored from a corner kick. Kelham kicked a second goal, Freestone a third, Cross headed a fourth, and Val Smith kicked a fifth. Newark then changed the monotony, and Buck scored. The home team had still much the best of the exchanges, but there was no further scoring before half-time. Each side scored one goal in the second half, and the result was:—Loughborough, six; Newark, two.

Nottingham Journal - 28 March 1891

Additional Information



Team photo of the Doncaster Rovers team that played in the Midland Football Alliance in 1890-1

NOTTS. COUNTY ROVERS.
SEPTEMBER.

6. Sheffield Club	Castle Ground
13. Grantham Rovers	Castle Ground
27. Rotherham Swifts	Rotherham

OCTOBER.

11. Sheffield Club	Sheffield
16. Notts. Jardines	Trent Bridge
25. Loughborough	Trent Bridge

NOVEMBER.

15. Doncaster Rovers	Doncaster
29. Loughborough	Loughborough

DECEMBER.

4. Notts. Jardines	Trent Bridge
13. Grantham Rovers	Grantham
20. Heanor Town	Trent Bridge
27. Notts. Olympic	Trent Bridge

JANUARY.

3. Rotherham Swifts	Trent Bridge
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FEBRUARY.

21. Newark	Newark
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MARCH.

7. Heanor Town	Heanor
14. Doncaster Rovers	Trent Bridge
30. Notts. Olympic	Churchville

APRIL.

4. Newark	Castle Ground
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NOTTS. JARDINES.
SEPTEMBER.

13. Heanor Town	Nottingham
20. Notts. Olympic	Churchville

OCTOBER.

11. Loughborough	Nottingham
18. Notts. County Rovers	Nottingham

NOVEMBER.

8. Doncaster Rovers	Nottingham
22. Newark	Newark

DECEMBER.

4. Notts. County Rovers	Nottingham
6. Grantham Rovers	Grantham
13. Doncaster Rovers	Doncaster
20. Grantham Rovers	Nottingham

JANUARY.

3. Sheffield Club	Nottingham
10. Rotherham	Rotherham
17. Loughborough	Loughborough
24. Newark	Nottingham

FEBRUARY.

14. Sheffield Club	Sheffield
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MARCH.

14. Notts. Olympic	Nottingham
21. Rotherham	Nottingham
28. Heanor Town	Heanor

NOTTS. OLYMPIC.
SEPTEMBER.

4. Grantham Rovers	Nottingham
21. Jardines	Churchville
27. Newark	Newark

NOVEMBER.

8. Loughborough	Loughborough
15. Grantham Rovers	Grantham
22. Heanor	Nottingham

DECEMBER.

4. Sheffield Club	Sheffield
11. Newark	Nottingham
18. Doncaster Rovers	Nottingham
25. Notts. County Rovers	Trent Bridge

JANUARY.

12. Doncaster Rovers	Doncaster
19. Loughborough	Nottingham

FEBRUARY.

7. Rotherham Swifts	Rotherham
14. Heanor	Heanor
21. Rotherham Swifts	Nottingham

MARCH.

14. Jardines	Castle Ground
21. Sheffield Club	Nottingham
28. Notts. County Rovers	Churchville

Nottingham Journal - 28 August 1890

ROTHERHAM SWIFTS FOOTBALL CLUB.

LIST OF MATCHES, 1890-91.

<p>Sept. 6—Opening match. „ 13—Leeds Albion, h „ 20—Heanor Town, M.F.A., a „ 27—Notts County Rov's, M.F.A., h Oct. 4—English Cup Tie. „ 12—Sheffield A. Cup Tie. „ 25—Owlerton, a. Nov. 1—Heanor Town, M.F.A., h. „ 8—Sheffield Cup Tie. „ 15—Leeds Albion, a. „ 22—Loughbro', M.F.A., h „ 28—Attercliffe, h Dec. 6—Kilnhurst, a „ 13—Sheffield C, M.F.A., h „ 28—Newark, M.F.A., a „ 25—Doncaster Rovers, M.F.A., a „ 26—Heeley, a „ 27—Grantham Rovers, M.F.A., a</p>	<p>Jan. 3—Notts County Rov's, M.F.A., a „ 10—Notts Jard's, M.F.A., h. „ 17—Attercliffe, a „ 31—Loughbro', M.F.A., a Feb. 7—Notts Olympic, M.F.A., h. „ 14—Grantham Rovers, M.F.A., h. „ 21—Notts Olympic, M.F.A., a „ 28—Newark, M.F.A., h Mar. 21—Kilnhurst, h. „ 27—Notts Jard's, M.F.A., a April 4—Owlerton, h. „ 11—Sheffield C., M.F.A., a „ 18—Heeley, h. „ 25—Doncaster Rovers, M.F.A., h.</p>
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M.F.A. denotes Midland Football Alliance.