# Leicestershire Shield 1897-98

**Winner:** Oakham Rovers
**Runner-Up:** Leicester Ferndale
**No. of entries:** 43

Teams divided into Divisions for at least the first three rounds.

Numerous R1 results/scores are currently not known.

The final between Oakham Rovers and Leicester Ferndale at Oakham ended in a goal-less draw. The decision of the Leicestershire Football Association Executive in the selection to stage the final of Shield competition at Rutland seems "*a most extraordinary one and totally unfair to one of the contesting clubs" [Oakham Rovers]. As the press reported, "there is not much neutrality about this, the Rovers actually playing on their own ground*." - Melton Mowbray Mercury and Oakham and Uppingham News – 3 March 1898

Melton staged the replay. Despite a gale force wind there was a good attendance. Ferndale led 2-0 at the interval. Oakham clawed a goal back. Two players were sent off and the game finished 10 minutes early, with the agreement of both teams due to a storm which had increased in severity,

## Round 1

*Division I*

| | Date | Home | | | Away | Match Details |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | | Ashby Trinity | | W | Markfield Rovers | |
| 2 | | Bagworth Rovers | W | | Packington Rising Star | |

Barlestone Rovers, Barlestone United, Nailstone Albion and Whitwick White Cross, byes.

*Division II*

| | Date | Home | | | Away | Match Details |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | | Loughborough Corinthians | W | | Sileby Rangers | |
| 4 | | Sileby Villa | W | | Barrow Victoria | |

Anstey Albion, Mountsorrel Castle and Quorn Havelock, byes

*Division III*

| | Date | Home | | | Away | Match Details |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | 2.10.1897 | Earl Shilton Excelsior | | W | Earl Shilton Victor | Under Shield Rule No.6 – Earl Shilton Excelsior FC were fined 2s 6d for falling to scratch their Shield match in accordance with Rule 12. |
| 6 | ? | Hinckley Volunteers | W | | Burbage United | |

*Division IV*

| | Date | Home | | | Away | Match Details |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7 | 2.10.1897 | Ashby Swifts | | | Syston Rangers | |

Belgrave St Michael's. Melton Rovers, Oakham Rovers and Thurmaston Rovers

*Division V*

Fleckney, Market Harborough and Wigston Wesleyans all byes

*Division VI*

| | Date | Home | | | Away | Match Details |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8 | 2.10.1897 | Belgrave Nonconformists | 5 | 2 | Leicester Old Boys AN Others | |

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Roberts (3)<br>Hilton (2) | | | | |
| 9 | 2.10.1897 | Belgrave United | 0 | 5 | Leicester Rutland | |
| 10 | ? | Leicester Ferndale | W | | St Mary's Victor | |
| 11 | ? | Leicester Granby | W | | Aylestone United | |
| 12 | 2.10.1897 | St Paul's Church | 2 | 5 | Oxford Victoria | |

All Saints, Clarendon Park Congregational, St Matthew's. St Saviour's and YMCA, byes.

## Round 2

*Division I*

| | Date | Home | | | Away | Match Details |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 13 | 30.10.1897 | Bagworth Rovers | 1 | 0 | Barlestone United | |
| 14 | 30.10.1897 | Barlestone Rovers | 2 | 3 | Nailstone Wood Albion | |
| 15 | 30.10.1897 | Markfield Rovers<br>J Notts | 1 | 5 | Whitwick White Cross<br>AN Other<br>Middleton<br>Parker<br>Dunleavy | Match commenced at 3.20 pm. |

*Division II*

| | Date | Home | | | Away | Match Details |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 16 | 30.10.1897 | Anstey Albions | 3 | 2 | Quorn Havelock | |
| 17 | 30.10.1897 | Mountsorrel Castle | 2 | 1 | Belgrave St Michael's | |
| 18 | 30.10.1897 | Sileby Villa | 2 | 2 | Loughborough Corinthians | |

*Division III*

| | Date | Home | | | Away | Match Details |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 19 | 30.10.1897 | Hinckley Volunteer | 0 | 2 | Earl Shilton Victor | |

*Division IV*

| | Date | Home | | | Away | Match Details |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 20 | 30.10.1897 | Oakham Rovers | 3 | 0 | Ashfordby Swifts | |
| 21 | ? | Thurmaston Rovers | | W | Melton Rovers | |

*Division V*

| | Date | Home | | | Away | Match Details |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 22 | 30.10.1897 | Fleckney | | W | Wigston Wesleyan | |
| 23 | 13.11.1897 | Leicester Ferndale | D | D | Market Harborough | Market Harborough were fined 2s 6d for arriving 35 minutes late |

*Division VI*

| | Date | Home | | | Away | Match Details |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 24 | 30.10.1897 | All Saints | 1 | 2 | Leicester Rutland | |
| 25 | 30.10.1897 | Clarendon Park Congregational<br>Fell (2) | 2 | 1 | St Saviour's<br>Smith | Victoria Park, Leicester. |
| 26 | 30.10.1897 | Granby | 2 | 0 | Cumberland | |
| 27 | 30.10.1897 | Oxford Victoria | W | | Belgrave Nonconformists | |
| 28 | 30.10.1897 | YMCA | 1 | 3 | St Matthew's Vicarage | |

**Round 2 Replays**

| | Date | Home | | | Away | Match Details |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 29 | 13.11.1897 | Loughborough Corinthians | 3 | 1 | Sileby Villa | |
| 30 | 13.11.1897 | Market Harborough | 2 (1) | 6 (4) | Leicester Ferndale | Ferndale |

**Round 3**

| | Date | Home | | | Away | Match Details |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 31 | 8.1.1898 | Bagworth Rovers | 2 | 0 | Anstey Albion | |
| 32 | 8.1.1898 | Clarendon Park Congregational<br>Iliffe (2)<br>Fell | 3 | 1 | Leicester Rutland<br>AN Other | Victoria Park, Leicester. |
| 33 | 8.1.1898 | Granby | 8 (6) | 1 (0) | YMCA | Victoria Park, Leicester. |
| 34 | 8.1.1898 | Loughborough Corinthians<br>Palmer (15 mins) | 1 (1) | 0 (0) | Mountsorrel Castle | Forest-road Ground, Loughborough. |
| 35 | 8.1.1898 | Melton Rovers | 1 | 2 | Oakham Rovers | |
| 36 | 8.1.1898 | Oxford Victoria | 6 | 2 | Earl Shilton Victor Reserves | |
| 37 | 8.1.1898 | Wigston Wesleyans | 0 | 1 | Leicester Ferndale | Stopped 15 mins before time. |
| 38 | 8.1.1898 | Whitwick White Cross | 6 | 1 | Nailstone Wood Albion | |

**Round 4**

| | Date | Home | | | Away | Match Details |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 39 | 5.2.1898 | Leicester Granby | 5 | 0 | Leicester Clarendon Park | Victoria Park, Leicester. |
| 40 | 5.2.1898 | Loughborough Corinthians | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | Leicester Ferndale | The crossbar was struck three times in the last few minutes. |
| 41 | 5.2.1898 | Oakham Rovers | W | | Oxford Victoria | |
| 42 | 5.2.1898 | Whitwick White Cross<br>Parker<br>AN Others | 3 | 0 | Bagworth Rovers | "The match was played under protest" – the ground was not of sufficient length.<br>Small gate |

**Round 4 Replay**

| | Date | Home | | | Away | Match Details |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 43 | 19.2.1898 | Loughborough Corinthians | 0 | 2 | Leicester Ferndale | |

**Semi-Finals**

| | Date | Home | | | Away | Match Details |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 44 | 19.2.1898 | Oakham Rovers | 1 | 0 | Whitwick White Cross | At Barrow. |
| 45 | ? | Leicester Ferndale | W | | Leicester Granby | |

**Final**

| | Date | Home | | | Away | Match Details |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 46 | 12.3.1898 | Oakham Rovers | 0 | 0 | Leicester Ferndale | At Oakham. |

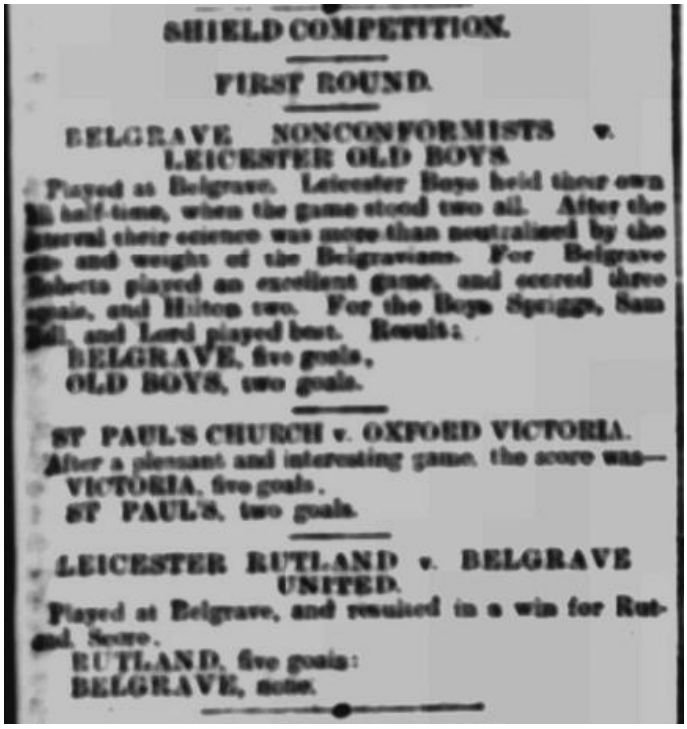
**Final- Replay**

| | Date | Home | | | Away | Match Details |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 47 | 26.3.1898 | Oakham | 1 | 2 | Leicester Ferndale | At Melton. |

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | (0) | (2) | | Good attendance despite wretched weather (gale force wind).<br>Two players sent off.<br>Game finished 10 minutes early, with the agreement of both teams due to the storm which had increased in severity, |

## Match Reports

A selection of published match reports.



SHIELD COMPETITION.

FIRST ROUND.

BELGRAVE NONCONFORMISTS v. LEICESTER OLD BOYS.

Played at Belgrave. Leicester Boys held their own at half-time, when the game stood two all. After the interval their science was more than neutralised by the size and weight of the Belgravians. For Belgrave Roberts played an excellent game, and scored three again, and Hilton two. For the Boys Spriggs, Sam Ball, and Lord played best. Result:

BELGRAVE, five goals,
OLD BOYS, two goals.

ST PAUL'S CHURCH v. OXFORD VICTORIA.

After a pleasant and interesting game, the score was—

VICTORIA, five goals.
ST PAUL'S, two goals.

LEICESTER RUTLAND v. BELGRAVE UNITED.

Played at Belgrave, and resulted in a win for Rutland. Score.

RUTLAND, five goals:
BELGRAVE, none.

*Leicester Daily Post - 4 October 1897*

**#8 BELGRAVE NONCONFORMISTS v LEICESTER OLD BOYS**

Played at Belgrave. Leicester Boys held their own at half-time, when the game stood at two all. After the interval their science was more than neutralised by the size and weight of the Belgravians. For the Belgrave, Roberts played an excellent game and scored three again and Hilton two. For the Boys Spriggs, Sam Ball and Lord played best. Result:

BELGRAVE, five goals;
OLD BOYS, two goals.

*Leicester Daily Post – 4 October 1897*

**#9 LEICESTER RUTLAND v BELGRAVE UNITED**

Played at Belgrave and resulted in a win for Rutland. Score.

RUTLAND, five goals;
BELGRAVE, none.

*Leicester Daily Post – 4 October 1897*

**#12 ST PAUL'S CHURCH v OXFRD VICTORIA**

After a pleasant and interesting game, the score was –

VICTORIA, five goals;
ST PAUL'S, two goals.

*Leicester Daily Post – 4 October 1897*

**#13 BAGWORTH ROVERS v BARLESTONE UNITED**
At Barlestone. Result:
BAGWORTH, one goal
BARLESTONE, none.
*Leicester Daily Post – 1 November 1897*

**#14 BARLESTONE ROVERS v NAILSTONE WOOD ALBION**
At Nailstone. Result:
NAILSTONE, three goals;
BARLESTONE, two goals.
*Leicester Daily Post – 1 November 1897*

**LEICESTERSHIRE SHIELD COMPETITION SECOND ROUND.**
**#15 MARKFIELD v. WHITWICK WHITE CROSS.**
These clubs met in the second round of the Shield Competition at Markfield on Saturday. The home side won the toss and elected to play downhill. The kick-off was at 3-20. The game began very fast the White Cross at once began to press. In a few minutes they forced a corner, which, however, proved abortive, but soon after some good passing on the right wing by McCarthy and Dunleavy first blood was drawn by the White Cross. Starting again, three corners in succession were forced, Markfield managed to keep the ball out but soon after by a long shot Middleton scored again for the visitors. Markfield now began in their turn to press and gave considerable trouble for a while, securing two corners. Once more the ball was brought to the centre of the field by sturdy play on the part of Springthorpe at back and Waterfield at half-back. There was on further score when the whistle blew at half time. On resuming. Markfield played with more dash and would have scored twice but for the cool play of the Whitwick goalkeeper. Then becoming disorganised the White Cross soon brought the ball to the other end and Parker scored the third goal to which, after a clear run, Dunleavy soon added a fourth. The play now began to be rather rough, Springthorpe who had been playing with great pluck, being lamed. However, the White Cross still continued to play as though the game was yet undecided and by a long shot scored once more. In a scrimmage before goal, J. Notts put the ball into the for the home side shortly before the whistle blew, leaving the White Cross winners by 5 goals to 1.
*Coalville Times – 5 November 1897*

**#16 ANSTEY ALBION v QUORN HAVELOCK**
At Anstey. Result:
ANSTEY, three goals;
QUOEN, two goals.
*Leicester Daily Post – 1 November 1897*

**#17 MOUNTSORREL CASTLE v BELGRAVE ST MICHAEL'S**
At Mountsorrel. Result:
MOUNTSORREL, two goals;
BELGRAVE, one goal.
*Leicester Daily Post – 1 November 1897*

**#18 SILBEY VILLA v LOUGHBOROUGH CORINTHIANS**
At Sileby. Result:
A DRAW – two goals each.
*Leicester Daily Post – 1 November 1897*

**#19 HINCKLEY VOLUNTEERS v EARL SHILTON VICTOR**
At Hinckley. Result:
EARL SHILTON, two goals;
VOLUNTEERS, none.
*Leicester Daily Post – 1 November 1897*

**#20 OAKHAM ROVERS v ASHFORDT SWIFTS**
At Oakham. Result:
OAKHAM, three goals;
ASHFORDBY, none
*Leicester Daily Post – 1 November 1897*

**#24 ALL SAINTS v LEICESTER RUTLAND**
On the former's ground, a very fast game resulting in a win for Ritland by the following:
LEICESTER RUTLAND, two goals;
ALL SAINTS, one goal.
*Leicester Daily Post – 1 November 1897*

**#25 ST SAVIOUR's v CLARENDON PARK**
On the Victoria Park. An even game took place, Fell scoring two goals for the Park and Smith for St Saviour's, the result being.
CLARENDON PARK, two goals;
ST SAVIOUR'S, one goal.
*Leicester Daily Post – 1 November 1897*

**#26 GRANBY v CUMBERLAND**
Result:
GRANBY, two goals;
CUMBERLAND, none.
*Leicester Daily Post – 1 November 1897*

**#28 YMCA v ST MATTHEW'S**
On the Victoria Park. Result.
ST MATTHEW'S, three goals;
YMCA, one.
*Leicester Daily Post – 1 November 1897*

**#32 CLARENDON PARK CONGREGATIONAL v RUTLAND**
On the Victoria Park. This was a capital game. For the winners T Iliffe scored two goals and Fell one, the result, being:
CLARENDON PARK, three goals;
RUTLAND, one goal.
*Leicester Daily Post – 10 January 1898*

**#33 GRANBY v YMCA**
On the Victoria Park. Granby had matters pretty much their own way in the first half, and put on six goals. The second half was more evenly fought out, but still Granby put on two more goals, the Young Men replying with one. Result:
GRANBY, eight goals;
YMCA, one goal.
*Leicester Daily Post – 10 January 1898*

**#34 LOUGHBOROUGH CORINTHIANS v MOUNTSORREL CASTLE RESERVES**
The match was played on the Corinthians ground, Forest-road ground, on Saturday. The home captain lost the toss and was set to defend the Redmoor goal. From the lick off the Corinthians forwards worked the ball into the visitors' half but were driven back. Midfield play followed, but after about 15 minutes, Palmer receiving a pass from Harrison, ran through, and scored the first goal for the Corinthians. From this point up to half-time the home side continued to press but failed to increase their score. Upon resuming, the Corinthians pressed continuously, and it had not been for the grand defence of the Mountsorrel club a large score would have been run up against them. Result: One to none. Every member of the Corinthians team played a good game, and on present form they should stand an excellent chance of winning the Shield.

*Melton Mowbray Mercury and Oakham and Uppingham News – 13 January 1898*

**#37 WIGSTON WESELEYANS v FERNDALE**
Stopped fifteen minutes before time, when the score was:
FERNDALE, one goal;
WIGSTON, none.
*Leicester Daily Post – 10 January 1898*

**#39** Leicester Granby and Clarendon Park Congregational met on the Victoria Park, Leicester, the Granby being beaten by five goals to none.
*Leicester Daily Post – 10 January 1898 `*

**#40 LOUGHBOROUGH CORINTHIANS v LEICESTER FERNDALE**
Played on the former's ground. Both sides were strongly represented. The game was fast, exciting, and even, the teams appearing well balanced. At the interval neither side had scored. Matters were pretty much the same for some time after crossing over, but the Corinthians eventually pressed, and it was only determined defence of the Ferndale that prevented several; goals from being scored. The Corinthians had the hardest luck imaginable, the crossbar being struck thrice in the last few minutes, and time came with a clear sheet.
*Melton Mowbray Mercury and Oakham and Uppingham News -10 February 1898*

**#42 BAGWORTH v WHITWICK WHITE CROSS**
Whitwick White Cross having sustained their protest against Nailstone, met Bagworth, at Whitwick and were victorious by three goals to none. The match was played under protest. Middleton and Stacey made a grand wing, and Springthorpe played a magnificent game. Parker scored the only goal in the first half. Bagworth had, if anything, the best of the game, but the superior combination of the Whitwick players, and the weak shooting of Bagworth accounts for the result, which was: Whitwick, three goals; Bagworth none.
*Melton Mowbray Mercury and Oakham and Uppingham News -10 February 1898*

**#43 RE-PLAYED TIE**
**LOUGHBOROUGH CORINTHIANS v LEICESTER FERNDALE**
At Loughborough. Result:
FERNDALE, two goals;
CORINTHIANS, none
*Leicester Daily Post – 21 February 1898*

**#46 OAKHAM ROVERS v LEICESTER FERNDALE**
Oakham was selected for this match, and a really good game was witnessed, full time arriving with
NO SCORE
*Leicester Daily Post – 14 March 1898*

**LEICESTERSHIRE SHIELD**
**#47 REPLAYED FINAL**
**OAKHAM ROVERS v LEICESTER FERNDALE**
These teams met at Melton for the second time on Saturday to contest the right to hold this trophy. Despite the wretched weather there was a very good attendance. Leicester Ferndale had the advantage of a strong gale in the first half and put on two goals. Crossing over the Oakham team, assisted by an increasing gale, kept the Leicester team very much on the defence, and after a very effective round of passing scored. The result put a great deal of spirit into the match, and two of the players were ordered off the field. After this Oakham pressed continuously. The storm, however, increased in its severity, and the referee consulted the linesman, but still an attempt was made to finish the game, but with 10 minutes to go, after consulting both sides, the referee stopped the match, the score at that time reading
LEICESTER FERNDALE, two goals;
OAKHAM ROVERS, one goal.
Referee, Mr Alan Lovell (Leicestershire F.A.)
*Leicester Daily Post – 28 March 1898*