



Leicester Town League 1898-99

Winner: Imperial
Runner-up: Belgrave United

The Town League was for "minor" clubs based in Leicester.

Local newspapers gave little coverage to this competition.

The Town League was split into two Districts – North and South. The winners of the North and South Districts played a Championship decider at the end of the season.

At the April 1899 meeting of the Management Committee of the Leicester Town League held at the Victoria Coffee House:

- The Hon. Secretary reported that the Oxford Victoria v Humberstone-road PM league match on 1 April was stopped 30 minutes from time, owing to the ball bursting, the score then reading Oxford 2 goals, Humberstone-road PM. None. The game was ordered to be replayed on 29 April. Oxford Victoria to pay the expenses of the Humberstone-road team, failing which the match to stand as a win for Oxford by two goals to none.
- Oxford Victoria reported that St Saviour's FC failed to turn up on Saturday 8 April to replay the League match stopped by inclement weather on 21 January, the score in that match standing at one to none in favour of Oxford at the time of abandonment. St Saviour's secretary pleaded that he was unable to raise a team, but admitted that he did not inform the Oxford secretary until too late to prevent the Oxford team and the referee from taking the field. It was decided that the St Saviour's FC must pay Oxford FC 2s 6d for marking out the ground, 1s cost of dressing room and half expenses of the Oxford Victoria FC visiting them. Oxford Victoria were ordered to pay the referee; the result of 21 January was ordered to stand.
- Hon. Secretary reported that D Oldham and H Bunn (Cumberland FC), S Whiteman (Sanvey-gate) and G Atherley (Rutland FC) did not turn up to play for the Rest of League v Belgrave United on 25 March, nor had any notifications before that date or since been received by the League Secretary. The Sanvey-gate FC secretary attended, and tendered an explanation which was accepted; the other three who did not appear) were fined 1s each and debarred from taking place in the Town League football until the fine was paid,

NORTH DISTRICT

Leicester Town League North District 1898-99

Nr	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Belgrave United	16	13	2	1	51	15	28
2	St Leonards Church	16	12	3	2	45	19	27
3	Wellington Swifts	16	11	1	4	50	26	23
4	Cumberland	16	9	2	5	47	36	23
5	All Saints	16	6	1	9	37	39	25
6	Ivanhoe Swifts	16	4	3	10	27	40	19
7	Rutland*	16	4	1	11	32	56	7
8	Caillard Home	16	2	3	11	19	45	7
9	Sanvey-gate	16	1	4	11	23	54	6

* Rutland had two points deducted for playing ineligible man.

Winner: Belgrave United
Runner-Up: St Leonard's Church

Wooden-spoon: Sanvey-gate
 Games Played: 72
 Missing Results: 49
 Goals scored: 330 (aver. 4.6 goals per game)
 Biggest home win:
 Biggest away win:
 Highest scoring:

Results Grid

Leicester Town League North 1898-99	All Saints	Belgrave United	Caillard House	Cumberland	Ivanhoe Swifts	Rutland	Sanvey-gate	St Leonard's Church	Wellington Swifts
All Saints									
Belgrave United									1-3
Caillard House								0-1	
Cumberland								1-1	
Ivanhoe Swifts								0-5	
Rutland		0-6					8-2	1-4	4-1
Sanvey-gate									
St Leonard's Church	2-1	3-0	5-0	4-1	2-1	6-0			5-4
		0-2	3-1						1-0
Wellington Swifts			4-0	5-3		7-1		2-0	
								4-5	

Home win
 Away Win
 Draw
 Result Not Known

Note: It is often not possible to identify the home team from match reports. It was the custom of many newspapers to name the winning team first when listing results.

North District: Match Results and Details

Date	Home		Away	Details
10.9.1898	Rutland	4	1	Wellington Swifts
17.9.1898	Leicester Rutland	8	2	Sanvey-Gate
17.9.1898	St Leonard's Parish Church	5	0	Caillard Evening Home
17.9.1898	St Saviour's	3	0	Oxford Victoria
24.9.1898	Wellington Swifts	4	0	Caillard Evening Home
1.10.1898	Rutland	3	3	All Saints
8.10.1898	St Leonard's Parish Church	3	1	Caillard Evening Home
15.10.1898	St Leonard's Parish Church	2	1	Ivanhoe Swifts
29.10.1898	Leicester Rutland	1	4	St Leonard's Parish Church
29.10.1898	Sanvey-gate			St Leonard's Excelsior
29.10.1898	Wellington Swifts			Caillard Evening Home
5.11.1898	Cumberland	1	1	St Leonard's Parish Church
12.11.1898	Caillard Evening Home	0	1	St Leonard's Excelsior Broughton
12.11.1898	Leicester Wellington Swifts	7	1	Leicester Rutland Rovers
12.11.1898	St Leonard's Parish Church	2	1	All Saints
26.11.1898	Wellington Swifts	2	0	St Leonard's Excelsior
3.12.1898	Ivanhoe Swifts	0	5	St Leonard's Parish Church

St Leonard's playing don hill in the first half scored 3 goals and in the

					second half, against the wind and slope, added 2 more
3.12.1898	St Leonard's Excelsior AN Other Wright (pen)	3	0	Belgrave United	
10.12.1898	Leicester Wellington Swifts	5	3	Cumberland	
17.12.1898	St Leonard's Excelsior AN Others Wright	5	4	Leicester Wellington Swifts	Excelsior scored the winning goal just as the final whistle blew.
14.1.1899	Belgrave United	1	3	Wellington Swifts	
28.1.1899	St Leonard's Parish Church	4 (1)	1 (1)	Cumberland	Hospital-lane Ground.
4.2.1899	Wellington Swifts	4	5	St Leonard's Parish Church	
11.2.1899	Leicester Rutland	0 (0)	6 (5)	Belgrave United Burrows (2) Allsopp Durrad	Owing to the ball bursting the game finished 15 minutes early.
18.2.1899	St Leonard's Parish Church	0	2	Belgrave United	
11.3.1899	St Leonard's Parish Church	6	0	Leicester Rutland	
18.3.1899	St Leonard's Parish Church	1	0	Wellington Swifts	
1.4.1899	St Leonard's Parish Church	2	1	All Saints	

SOUTH DISTRICT

Leicester Town League South District

Nr	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Imperial	14	13	1	0	60	17	27
2	Clarendon Park Congregational	14	8	3	3	53	30	19
3	St Matthew's Vicarage	14	8	2	4	44	14	18
4	Oxford Victoria	14	7	3	5	24	30	17
5	Old Boys	14	6	0	8	33	55	12
6	St Saviours	14	4	2	8	23	35	10
7	Humberstone-road PM	14	2	2	10	16	46	6
8	YMCA	14	1	2	11	17	43	4

Humberstone-road took the place of Richmond (P6, W1, D0, L5, F7, A29)

Winner: Imperial
 Runner-Up: Clarendon Park Congregational
 Wooden-spoon: YMCA
 Games Played: 56
 Missing Results: 32
 Goals scored: 270/270 (aver. 4.8 goals per game)
 Biggest home win:
 Biggest away win:
 Highest scoring:

Results Grid

Leicester Town League South 1898-99	Clarendon Park Con	Humberstone-road	Imperial	Old Boys	Oxford Victoria	St Matthews Vicarage	St Saviours	YMCA
Clarendon Park Congregational			5-6	3-1				
Humberstone-road	2-1						1-1	1-0
								3-0
Imperial								3-2
Old Boys						1-0	7-1	5-3
							1-1	
Oxford Victoria	1-4	2-0		4-3			1-0	
St Matthew's Vicarage				10-0	9-0		3-0	3-0
								3-1
St Saviour's					3-0	1-0		2-1
YMCA							4-3	

Home win
 Away Win
 Draw
 Result Not Known

South District

Date	Home	Away		Details	
17.9.1898	Clarendon Park Congregational Res	4	2	Aylestone Swifts	
24.9.1898	Crafton Swifts	4	2	Corinthians	
8.10.1898	St Matthew's Vicarage	3	0	YMCA	
5.11.1898	Oxford Victoria	1	4	Clarendon Park Congregational Reserves	
5.11.1898	St Saviour's Yates (2) Lycett	3	0	Leicester Old Boys	The Saints were minus two or three key players.
12.11.1898	Clarendon Park Congregational Reserves	5	6	Imperial	
12.11.1898	YMCA	4	3	St Saviour's	
12.11.1898	St Matthew's Vicarage	9	0	Oxford Victoria	
19.11.1898	Clarendon Park Congregational Reserves	3	1	Leicester Old Boys	
19.11.1898	Richmond	1	0	YMCA	Victoria Park.
26.11.1898	Richmond	2	1	Clarendon Park	
26.11.1898	St Matthew's Vicarage	3	1	YMCA	
3.12.1898	St Saviour's Lycett	1	0	St Matthew's Vicarage	St Saviour's had only 9 men for the first 15 mins
14.1.1899	St Matthew's Vicarage	3	0	St Saviour's	Hinch's Farm
21.1.1899	Oxford Victoria	1	0	St Saviour's	
4.2.1899	Leicester Old Boys Wesson (2) Lord Tomlinson AN Other	5	3	YMCA AN Others	

11.2.1899	Imperial	3	2	YMCA	Victoria Park
	Oxford Victoria Betteridge Cartwright Wesson Neumann	4	3	Leicester Old Boys AN Others	Victorias Park
18.2.1899	Humberstone-Road PM	3	0	YMCA	Victoria Park.
18.2.1899	Leicester Old Boys	7	1	St Saviour's	Victoria Park
11.3.1899	St Matthew's Vicarage	10	0	Leicester Old Boys	Hincks' Farm Ground
11.3.1899	St Saviour's	2	1	YMCA	St Saviour's only had 10 men.
18.3.1899	Humberstone-Road PM	1	1	St Saviour's	
18.3.1899	Leicester Old Boys Brown (pen)	1	0	St Matthew's Vicarage	Victoria Park
1.4.1899	Oxford Victoria	2	0	Humberstone-Road PM	Game finished 30 mins early due to a burst ball

Inter-League Game

Date	Home			Away	Details
26.12.1898	North	3 (1)	3 (2)	South	St Matthew's Vicarage ground, Green-lane. 500 spectators. Game kicked off by Councillor E J Yearby (League president)

Leicester Town League Championship Game

Date	Home			Away	Details
14.4.1899	NORTH Belgrave United Durrad Burrows	2 (0)	2 (1)	SOUTH Imperial Rosevear Johnson	Filbert-street, Leicester. Played as a "curtain-raiser" to the more serious business of the Midland League match. Moderate attendance.
22.4.1899	NORTH Belgrave United AN Other Bowles	2 (1)	4 (2)	SOUTH Imperial Johnson AN Others	Martin-street ground, Leicester. The winning players were presented with a silver medal with a gold centre, together was a new ball, whilst the losing team were the receipts of a silver medal each.

Match Reports

LEICESTER TOWN LEAGUE

NORTH DISTRICT.

ST. LEONARD'S EXCELSIOR v. BELGRAVE UNITED.

Smith and Mellor played a fine game at back for St. Leonard's. Result:
ST. LEONARD'S, three goals;
BELGRAVE, none.

IVANHOE SWIFTS v. ST. LEONARD'S PARISH CHURCH.

Played on the former's ground. St. Leonard's playing down the hill, in the first half, scored three goals, and in the second half, against the wind and slope, added two more. Result:
PARISH CHURCH, five goals;
IVANHOE SWIFTS, none.

SOUTH DIVISION.

ST. SAVIOUR'S v. ST. MATTHEW'S VICARAGE.

St. Saviour's had only nine men for the first 15 minutes. With the help of the wind St. Saviour's put on one goal by Lyett. The Vic's tried hard to equalize in the second half, but the St. Saviour's defence was sound. Result:
ST. SAVIOUR'S, one goal;
VICARAGE, none.

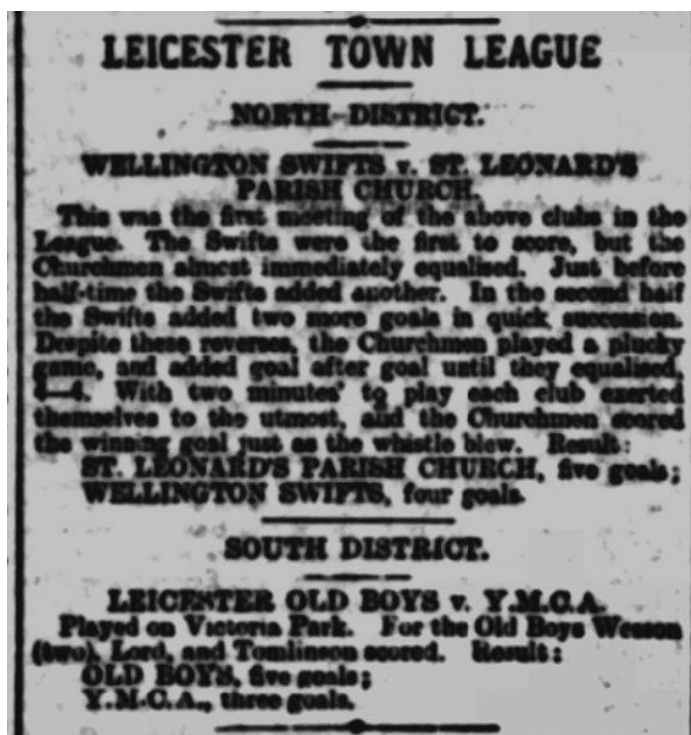
Leicester Daily Post - Monday 05 December 1898

NORTH v SOUTH

This match was played on the St Matthew' Vicarage FC ground, Green-lane, on Monday morning before 500 spectators, including a fair sprinkling of ladies. Councillor E J Yearby (president of the League) kicked off for the North, who had lost the toss, and had the face the slope and a rather high wind. H Randall scored the first for the South, with a shot which gave Greenough no chance. Both Wright and Pegg were playing a grand game against the wind, and they were well supported by the halves. The North forward went up the field in a body, and Knight fell in an attempt to prevent them dribbling through, but did not get the ball away, the scores thus coming level. The South forwards were well fed by big kicks from the backs, and hereabouts Wright, missing his kick, et in Rudkin, who banged the ball through. Half-time: South, two, North, one. The second half was more evenly contested, Bentley and Turner making some splendid bursts up the wing, for the South, as did Cree and Bryan for the North. Platt was working like a Trojan in the centre, his energy being rewarded by a lovely goal. Tomlinson, getting the ball from the kick-off, raced up the touch line, and sent in a beautiful shot, the ball ging just under the crossbar in the corner, Greenough had a few minutes hard work to do, but dealt with some teasers in a very cool manner, the North encouraged by shous of their supporters, now got going again, the South defenders having a very uncomfortable time of it. On one occasion it looked all over a goal for the North, but Knight threw himself all his length, and just stopped the ball from rolling through. The North forwards, who were very smart in following up swarmed round him, but after a severe tussle be managed to get the ball away. The North were not to be denied, however, forcing several corners, one of which Ward received on his toe, and through a crowd of players put the ball in the et, bringing the scores level once more. Time was called soon after, the result being:

NORTH, three goals
 SOUTH, three.

Leicester Daily Mercury - 27 December 1898



Leicester Daily Post - Monday 06 February 1899

LEICESTER TOWN LEAGUE BELGRAVE UNITED v IMPERIAL

This was the closing match in the above League's programme, and took place on the Fosse club's ground, as a curtain-raiser to the more serious business of the Midland League match. Both clubs have played consistently good football in their class throughout the season, and for to-days' encounter both clubs had their best sides up. There was only a moderate attendance at kick-off. Consequent of the early start. The weather was fine, but threatening, and the ground soon worked itself into a dreadfully holding condition. Promptly to time. Belgrave kicked off, and a couple of runs down ended in nothing, Chapman sending them back. The opening play was rather tame, but after the players had found their feet somewhat, the Imperial made strong running, and kept the game almost wholly in Belgrave's half. Thacker was proving himself a bit useful on the left wing for Imperial and to in several short runs and shots in Greenhough's xxxxx, but the Belgrave goalkeeper was seldom troubled, so what shots didn't go behind, Roberts generally interposed, until at length a nasty handful to clear from the feet of Squires caused Greenhough to be on his mettle, and which the defence came forth triumphant. After a visit to each end, a bit of capital combination by the Imperial forwards was justly rewarded, as after a short passing movement up the field, Rosevear at last sent in a capital ground shot, which gave them the lead. The Belgrave lot played up somewhat better after this reverse, the left wing getting down twice in quick succession, but shooting outside. Fairly even play followed up to half-time. Which arrived with the score:

IMPERIAL, one goal;
BELGRAVE UNITED, none.

Imperial started the second half, but were quickly robbed of the ball by Archer and Belgrave paid a momentary visit to their opponents' half. Morley was not long in kicking over to his forwards, however, and a sharp run down by Thacker and Wakefield led to a corner being eventually conceded on the other wing. Belgrave cleared away the flag kick, but they were soon on the defensive again, and from a bit of a melee in front of goal Johnson shot in, Greenhough having no chance whatever to save. This put the "Imps" on good terms with themselves, who no doubt could see the gold "centre-bits" in their possession, but the game was not yet won. Belgrave ran down from the centre kick, but Chapman soon transferred play, which again settled down in Belgrave's half for some little time. Butts at length enlivened proceedings somewhat with a tussle with Goodwin, and emerging with the ball at his toes, he was enabled to shoot for goal. Hollowood cleared but was called on twice in quick succession, and before he recovered himself Durrad headed a sharp return into the net. Belgrave again got down by the aid of the right wing, Barrows putting behind. This

was followed by a bit of extremely good combination by the Imperial forwards, and hereabouts the game enlivened up considerably, play concentrating in interesting fashion round the Belgrave goal. A goal kick eventually brought the needed relief for Belgrave, whose forwards got away, and Bowles, running strongly, finished up by sending in a stinging hot at Greenhough, the last-named throwing away in good style. After xx Imperial had been at the other end, Belgrave came again, and Barrows banged in a straight shot, which Greenhough turned up to the cross-bar, but Barrows rushed up and breasted the ball int the net, thus making the scores level. Both sides strove their utmost to get the winning point, but no-side was sounded with the result:

BELGRAVE UNITED, two goals;

IMPERIAL, two goals.

Belgrave United: C Greenhough, goal; H Roberts and K W Baxter, backs; H Goodwin, C Archer ad J Illston, half-backs; H Betts, T Allsopp, W Barrows, J Bowles and E Durrad, forwards.

Imperial: G Hollowood, goal; S Chapman and F Morley, backs; Sward, S West and J Griffin, halfbacks; W Squires, J Jonson, C Rosevear, G Wakefield, and W Thacker, forwards.

Leicester Daily Post - 17 April 1899

Additional Information

LEICESTER TOWN LEAGUE.

The Management Committee met on Thursday evening, at the Victoria Coffee House. Present: Mr. G. E. Metcalfe (chairman) Messrs. R. Smith, F. Tobbut, J. B. Montgomery, S. Sanday, F. T. Maynell, and the hon. secretary (F. L. Jinks).—The Hon. Secretary reported that the Oxford Victoria v. Humberstone-road P.M. League match, on April 1st, was stopped thirty minutes from time, owing to the ball bursting, the score then reading: Oxford two goals, Humberstone-road P.M. none.—The committee ordered the match to be re-played on April 29th, Oxford Victoria to pay the expense of the Humberstone-road team, failing which the match to stand as a win for Oxford by two goals to none.—Oxford Victoria also reported that the St. Saviour's F.C. failed to turn up on Saturday, April 3, to re-play the League match, stopped by inclement weather on January 21st last, the score in that match standing at one to none in favour of Oxford at the time of abandonment.—The St. Saviour's secretary attended, and pleaded that he was unable to raise a team, but admitted that he did not inform the Oxford secretary until too late to prevent the Oxford team and the referee from taking the field.—It was decided that the St. Saviour's F.C. must pay to the Oxford F.C. 2s. 6d. for marking out ground, 1s. cost of dressing-room, and half expenses of the Oxford Victoria F.C. visiting them. Oxford Victoria were ordered to pay the referee. The result, as arrived at on January 21, was ordered to stand.—The Hon. Secretary reported that D. Oldham and H. Bunn (Cumberland F.C.), S. Whiteman (Sanveygate), and G. Atharley (Rutland F.C.) did not turn up to play for Rest of League v. Belgrave United, on March 25, nor had any notification either before that date or since been received by the League secretary.—The Sanveygate F.C. secretary attended, and tendered an explanation, which was accepted; the other three (who did not appear) were fined 1s. each, and to be debarred from taking part in Town League football until the same is paid.

Leicester Daily Mercury - 29 April 1899