Leicestershire Challenge Shield 1898-99

Winner: Oakham Rovers
Runner-Up: Loughborough Forest Rovers
No. of entries: 39 entries

Although 39 clubs entered the competition only 7 matches were drawn to take place in the first round.

Several scores are currently not known.

Round 1
Games played 1 October and kicked off at 3.30 pm

Division 1

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
1	1.10.1898	Markfield Albion	W		Thringstone United	Thringstone were scratched – Markfield went into the second round.

Ashby Town, Ashby United, Barlestone United, Coleorton Wanderers, Packington, Spring Cottage Wanderers and Thringstone Town, byes.

Division 2

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
2	1.10.1898	Mountsorrel Castle Reserves	0 (0)	7 (1)	Loughborough Forest Rovers W Smith (3) Bennett (2) Simmons Hood	
3	1.10.1898	Mountsorrel St Peter's Reserves	0 (0)	4 (2)	Loughborough Corinthians AN Others F Gadsby	Corinthians took a very weak side to Mountsorrel

Barrow Rising Star and Castle Donington, byes.

Division 3

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
4	1.10.1898	Burbage United		W	Croft	
5	1.10.1898	Earl Shilton Victor		W	Hinckley Granville	

Blaby United and Earl Shilton Town byes

Division 4

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
6	1.10.1898	Melton Rovers	1	1	Melton Victoria	Victoria went through to R2 – no replay result/score has been found to date.

Oakham Rovers (finalists) exempt. Ashfordby Swifts and Melton Town byes.

Division 5
Market Harborough, Market Harborough Congregational, South Wigston Albion and Wigston Wesleyan, byes

Division 6

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
7	1.10,1898	St Saviour's	D	D	Leicester Old Boys	

Anstey Albion, Anstey Town, Clarendon Park Congregational, Groby Albion, Oxford Victoria, Richmond, and St Matthew's Vicarage.

Round 1 Replays

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
8	15.10.1989	St Saviour's	2	2 aet	Leicester Old Boys	30 mins extra time played.

Round 1 2nd Replays

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
9	29.10.1898	Leicester Old Boys	6 (1)	2 (1)	St Saviour's	Victoria Park, Leicester.

Round 2

Division 1

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
10	29.10.1898	Ashby United			Ashby Town	An Association committee appointed to investigate cross protests between Town and United threw Ashby Town out of the competition in consequence of playing unregistered men. They awarded the game to Ashby United after adjourning to verify signatures on Association forms. United were later also eliminated – reason not known.
11	29.10.1898	Coleorton Wanderers		W	Barlestone United	
12	29.10.1898	Thringstone Town		W	Packington	
13	29.10.1898	Spring Cottage Wanderers		W	Markfield Albion	

Division 2

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
14	5.11.1898	Loughborough Forest Rovers	W		Barrow Rising Star	Forest Rovers given a walk over by the Rising Star Reserves who were unable to raise a team.
15	5.11.1898	Castle Donington Poxon Simpson	2 (2)	2 (0)	Loughborough Corinthians A Moss (pen + 1)	Station-road ground, Castle Donington. Good company present. Loughborough missed a first half penalty due to the "intense chagrin of the Don's supporters."

Both Loughborough clubs were granted extra time to play their cup ties owing to Loughborough Cup matches.

Division 3

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
16	29.10.1898	Croft		W	Blaby United	
17	29.10.1898	Hinckley Granville	2	0	Earl Shilton Town	

Division 4

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
18	29.10.1898	Melton Victoria	W		Ashfordby Swifts	Ashford scratched; game awarded to Melton.
19		Oakham Rovers	W		Melton Town	Melton were unable to raise a team. Oakham were awarded the tie.

Division 5

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
20	5.11.1898	South Wigston Albion	1	1	Market Harborough Congregational	
21	5.11.1898	Market Harborough	1	1	Wigston Wesleyan	

Division 6

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
22	29.10.1898	Anstey Albion	0	2	Oxford Victoria	
23	3.12.1898	Anstey Town Reserves	0 (0)	8 (5)	Leicester Old Boys	Small crowd. Anstey were poorly represented.
24	?	Clarendon Park Congregational	W		Richmond	
25	29.10.1898	South Wigston Albion	6	0	Market Harborough Congregational	The official referee failed to turn up, so that a friendly was played.
26	29.10.1898	St Matthew's Vicarage	2	0	Groby Albion	

Round 2 Replays

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
27	12.11.1898	Loughborough Corinthians	3	6	Castle Donington	"Corinthians goalkeeper did not put in an appearance. A stranger to the position was played and it was soon evident that he was not capable, while to make matters worse one of Corinthians half-backs sustained an injury. He was placed in goal, the previous occupant changing positions with him. This also proved unsatisfactory. Corinthians played a far better game and had more shots than Donington and were unlucky to lose."
28	26.11.1898	South Wigston Albion	2	0	Market Harborough	

Round 3

Both Ashby clubs were ruled out of the competition and in consequence Markfield Albion was granted a bye.

Division 1

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
29	?	Barlestone United	W		Packington	

Division 2

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
30	14.1.1899	Castle Donington	2	6	Loughborough Forest Rovers	

Division 3

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
31	7.11.1899	Hinckley Granville	4	1	Blaby United	

Division 4

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
32	7.1.1899	Melton Victoria	0 (0)	1 (1)	Oakham Rovers Haliett (15 min)	All England Ground, Melton.

Division 5

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
33		Wigston Wesleyan		W	South Wigston Albion	

Division 6

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
34		Clarendon Park Congregational	W		Leicester Old boys	
35	7.1.1899	St Matthew's Vicarage H Marples J Dilly (2) W Rudkin H Simpson	6	1	Oxford Victoria	At Hinck's Farm.

Round 4

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
36	4.2.1899	Barlestone United	0	3	St Matthew's Vicarage	
37	4.2.1899	Loughborough Forest Rovers	2	0	Hinckley Granville	Cotes-road ground, Loughborough.
38	4.2.1899	Markfield Albion	0	3	Oakham Rovers	
39	11.2.1899	South Wigston Rovers	2	0	Clarendon Park Congregational	

Semi-Finals

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
40	25.2.1899	Oakham Rovers	1	0	St Matthew's Vicarage	At Oakham.
41	25.2.1899	Loughborough Forest Rovers W Smith (4 min) H Smith (pen)	2 (1)	2 (2)	South Wigston Albion AN Others	Athletic Grounds, Loughborough. Poor attendance. Forest Rovers were the first Loughborough club to reach the semi-finals of this competition. The Rovers spectators appealed for extra time at the end of the match but the referee and linesmen ruled otherwise. "It was evident the visitors could not have held out for much longer despite the fact that they played 3 backs and 4 halves for the last 20 mins."

Semi-Final Replay

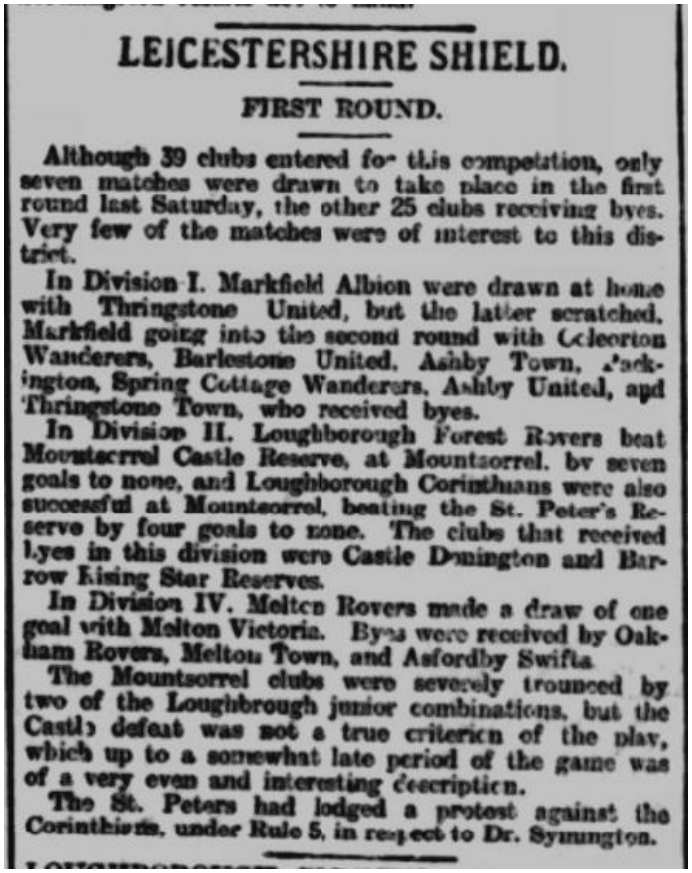
	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
42	4.3.1899	Loughborough Forest Rovers	1 (0)	0 (0)	South Wigston Albion	At Syston. Extra time played.

Final

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
43	8.4.1899	Oakham Rovers	4 (1)	0 (0)	Loughborough Forest Rovers	All England Ground, Melton. Unfavourable weather.

Match Reports

A selection of published match reports.



LEICESTERSHIRE SHIELD.

FIRST ROUND.

Although 39 clubs entered for this competition, only seven matches were drawn to take place in the first round last Saturday, the other 25 clubs receiving byes. Very few of the matches were of interest to this district.

In Division I. Markfield Albion were drawn at home with Thringstone United, but the latter scratched, Markfield going into the second round with Coleorton Wanderers, Barlestone United, Ashby Town, Packington, Spring Cottage Wanderers, Ashby United, and Thringstone Town, who received byes.

In Division II. Loughborough Forest Rovers beat Mountsorrel Castle Reserve, at Mountsorrel, by seven goals to none, and Loughborough Corinthians were also successful at Mountsorrel, beating the St. Peter's Reserve by four goals to none. The clubs that received byes in this division were Castle Donington and Barrow Rising Star Reserves.

In Division IV. Melton Rovers made a draw of one goal with Melton Victoria. Byes were received by Oakham Rovers, Melton Town, and Asfordby Swifts.

The Mountsorrel clubs were severely trounced by two of the Loughbrough junior combinations, but the Castle defeat was not a true criterion of the play, which up to a somewhat late period of the game was of a very even and interesting description.

The St. Peters had lodged a protest against the Corinthians, under Rule 5, in respect to Dr. Symington.

Melton Mowbray Mercury and Oakham and Uppingham News – 6 October 1898

#2 LOUGHBROUGH FOREST ROVERS v MOUNTSORREL CASTLE RESERVES

Played at Mountsorrel under the supervision of Mr. Beale, Kegworth. The Rovers had the advantage of the toss, but the Castle pressed strongly during the first ten minutes. The Rovers' defence, however, stood the test well, and by good combination in the forward rank they had a spell of attacking. Dodge, however, saved well successive shots from Stevens, Smith, and Bennett. Again, the Castle pressed, and the Rovers' goal had a very narrow escape when Wadd hit the top of one of the uprights with a good shot. The Rovers played a steady game, and eventually gained the upper hand, the right wing bringing the ball into the centre for W. Smith to open the score. Castle made strenuous efforts to equalise without effect, and Bennett, through being over anxious, missed a good chance of increasing the Rovers' lead. Smith netted the ball from Hood's centre, but was given offside, though the ball off the line. The Rovers continued to have much the better of matters, but the custodian saved repeatedly. At the interval only one goal had been registered, crossing over, the Rovers forwards played finely, and pressing strongly Stevens put on the second goal, Smith following with a third. The last twenty minutes was nothing but a struggle between the home defence and the Rovers' forwards. Bennett put on two more goals, and Simmons and Hood each scored one, the result being a seven to nil victory for the Rovers. Dodge played well in goal for the Castle, some of his clearances being very neat. The Rovers' success was chiefly due to good combination of the forwards, well supported by the rear divisions, and they should give a good account of themselves in the competition. The Rovers' team was: Cooks; Streets, and H. L. Smith; Goodwin, Rodgers, and Powell; Hood, Simmons, Stevens, W. Smith, and Bennett.

Melton Mowbray Mercury and Oakham and Uppingham News – 17 November 1898

#3 LOUGHBOROUGH CORINTHIANS v MOUNTSORREL ST PETER'S RESERVES

Loughborough Corinthians took a very weak eleven to Mountsorrel, the team being practically a reserve one. The Corinthians lost the toss, and faced the sun. St Peter's were quickly at the visitors' end, but Palmer cleared well, and the Corinthians gradually asserted themselves, their forwards work showing accuracy and cohesion. The Saint's lack failing to cope with a sharp cross-shot from the Corinthians' right, the ball glanced off his leg into the net. F Gadsby next headed into the net from a clearance by the goal-keeper. Although the

long grass hampered short passing, the visitors played an effective game, and would probably have scored oftener but for the difficulty of shooting out of the grass. During the second half the Peter's goal had to submit to a prolonged assault, although only one goal was scored. The Saints' only broke over the half-way line occasionally, and then the visiting defence easily stemmed the rushes. Their goalkeeper played well. For the Corinthians C. Gadsby and Palmer was most prominent in the defence, while Hodgin and G Gadsby did most of the aggressive work, through the forwards all played well and keenly. Barker, in goal, was never tested. Mr. S. James, of Barrow, refereed satisfactorily to both sides, which is saying a great deal.
Melton Mowbray Mercury and Oakham and Uppingham News – 17 November 1898

#9 LEICESTERSHIRE SHIELD COMPETITION
FIRST ROUND – RE-PLAYED TIE
OLD BOYS v ST SAVIOUR'S
These teams met for the third time this season having previously played two drawn games on the Victoria Park, but the Old Boys on this occasion asserted their superiority to a merry tune after the change of ends. Up to that point the game stood at one goal each. Then, however, the Old Boys put on goals rapidly, and won easily. The following scored for the winners, Riley (3), Adcock, Weston, and Barrett. Result:

OLD BOYS, six goals;
ST SAVIOUR'S, two goals.

Leicester Daily Post – 31 October 1898

#14-15 LOUGHBOROUGH CORINTHIANS v CASTLE DONINTON
The two Loughborough clubs, granted an extension of time owing to the Loughborough Cup matches, should have played off their ties last Saturday, but Loughborough Forest Rovers were given a walk-over by the Rising Star Reserves, who found themselves unable to raise a Shied team.
Loughborough Corinthians went to Castle Donington to play off their ties on the Station-road ground. There was a good company present. The Corinthians were the better set of fellows in the matter of weight. A sharp rain fell as the Dons kicked off. The home forwards started in sensational fashion, for the game was scarcely a minute old when, after pretty passing on the right, Poxon scored a lovely goal. The Corinthians then got away, Moss being conspicuous for good play, and, but for the state of the ground, goals must have resulted. The Don's pressed again, and Barket running out to save, the ball was kicked towards the goal, and Moss took upon himself the task of goalkeeper for a brief moment. A penalty was awarded, and, to the intense chagrin of the Dons supporters, Dakin shot outside. Dr Symington and Palmer played a fine game at back. Just before the interval the Dons made a rush, and Simpson scored again with a good shot, Barker, having no chance, half-time coming with Donington leading by two goals to none. On resuming, play was fast and even, both sides being continually applauded for smart play. The Loughborough forwards combined nicely, F. Gadsby putting in a lot of useful work. The ball was dropped into goal, and a tussle ensuing, A. Moss dispatched it into the net for the Corinthians' first goal. This livened up the Dons and very exciting play followed. The Loughborough left combined well, and C. Gadsby put in a shot which Cliff knocked out with his arm. The inevitable penalty following, A. Moss took the kick, and made no mistake, Loughborough being played on equal terms. Both sides tried hard for the winning goal, and the Dons breaking away, C. Gadsby and Morley, who were playing very strongly, pulled them up nicely, and nothing but mud and hard luck prevented them for gaining the leading goal, the end coming with the game a draw of two goals. A Castle Donington correspondent says the Corinthians played a gentlemanly game throughout. And that their conduct on and off the field reflected the greatest credit upon them. The game was greatly enjoyed by the spectators, though the play was not very methodical. Mr. J. James of Birmingham was the referee, and gave general satisfaction.
Melton Mowbray Mercury and Oakham and Uppingham News – 10 November 1898

#15 CASTLE DONINGTON v LOUGHBOROUGH CORINTHINIANS
At Castle Donington. Result:

CASTLE DONINGTON, two goals;
LOUGHBOROUGH, two goals.

Leicester Daily Post – 7 November 1898

#17 HINCKLEY GRANVILLE v EARL SHILTON TOWN
Art Hinckley. Result:

GRANVILLE, two goals

EARL SHILTON, none.
Leicester Daily Post – 31 October 1898

#18 MELTON VICTORIA v ASFORDBY SWIFTS
AT Melton. Result:
ASHFORDBY scratched to MELTON.
Leicester Daily Post – 31 October 1898

#19 OAKHAM ROVERS v MELTON TOWN
The latter club were unable to raise a team, and scratched to Oakham.
Leicester Daily Post – 31 October 1898

#22 ANSTEY ALBION v OXFORD VICTORIA
At Anstey. Result:
VICTORIA, one goal;
ANSTEY, none.
Leicester Daily Post – 31 October 1898

#23 LEICESTER OLD BOYS v ANSTEY TOWN RESERVE
There was not a very large crowd to witness this encounter on Saturday last on the Anstey ground. The home team were poorly represented, while the visitors had a strong eleven, and played a sterling game. Mr. Carter started the ball just after the appointed time, and it was soon evident the home team were outclassed. After some desultory football in midfield, the visitors got by the home backs, and put one into the net. They were soon at it again, and after a struggle they beat Willett, and easily put goal number two past the home custodian. When the ball was again set rolling, the home front relieved the pressure somewhat, but when a good opening presented itself, the forwards muffed it. The visiting forwards were not long before they were at it again, and at half-time they led by five goals to none. Resuming play was of an uninteresting character, the visiting team having matters much their own way. Several times the home team crossed the half-way line, but their visits were of short duration. Before the whistle called time, eight goals stood to the credit of the Old Boys; Anstey Twon second, none.
The home team were thoroughly out-classed, and Leicester Old Boys are a team to be reckoned with in the Shield competition. The play was exceedingly good, especially that of the forwards. The Ansteyites have one or two fair players, but of the rest the least said the better. A big day is expected next Saturday, when the Town first team, who showed such good form against Earl Shilton, are entertaining Loughborough Reserves. There will be considerable disappointment if the Town do not step two points higher up the League table.
Melton Mowbray Mercury and Oakham and Uppingham News – 8 December 1898

#25 SOUTH WIGSTON ALBION v MARKET HARBOROUGH CONGREGATIONAL
At Wigston, the official referee failed to turn up, so that only a friendly was played with the following result:
SOUTH WIGSTON, six goals;
MARKET HARBOROUGH, none.
Leicester Daily Post – 31 October 1898

#26 ST MATTHEW'S VICARAGE v GROBY
On the Crown Hills. Result:
VICARAGE, two goals;
GROBY, none.
Leicester Daily Post – 31 October 1898

#27 LOUGHBOROUGH CORINTHIANS v CASTLE DONINGTON
This match , which ended in a draw of two goals at Donington was replayed at Loughborough last Saturday. Unfortunately for the Corinthians their goalkeeper did not put in an appearance, and they had to make the best of matters. A stranger to the position was played, and it was soon evident that he was not capable of filling it satisfactorily, while, to make matters worse, one of the Corinthians' half-backs sustained injury. He was placed in goal, the previous occupant changing places with him. The exchange proved unsatisfactory, and the Corinthians, although playing the far batter game, and having many more shots at goal than the

Donington players, had the hard luck to sustain an easy defeat. They scored three good goals, but Donington registered six, owing to the cause stated. The visitors scarcely put in more than a dozen shots throughout the match.
Melton Mowbray Mercury and Oakham and Uppingham News – 17 November 1898

#30 CASTLE DONINGTON v LOUGHBOROUGH FOREST ROVERS
At Castle Donington. Result:
CASTLE DONINGTON, six goals;
FOREST ROVERS, two goals.
Leicester Daily Post – 16 January 1899

#31 HINCKLEY GRANVILLE v BLABY UNITED
At Hinckley. Result:
GRANVILLE, four goals;
UNITED, one goal.
Leicester Daily Post – 9 January 1899

#32 MELTON VICS v OAKHAM ROVERS
This match was played on the All England Ground before a large gathering of spectators, for a time the Vics, had, if anything, the best of the game, but eventually the Rovers right-wing got away, and Hallett opened the scoring for Oakham with a splendid shot 15 minutes from the commencement. The Vics, on several occasions narrowly missed scoring, but when the interval arrived the score-sheet remained unchanged. On resuming the Vics played a better game than they had hitherto been doing, but the visitors defence was strong, and all attempts on the part of the home team to equalise proved futile, and the game ended:
OAKHAM ROVERS, one goal;
MELTON VICS, none.
Leicester Daily Post – 9 January 1899

#35 ST MATTHEW'S VICARAGE v OXFORD VICTORIA
Played at Hinck's Farm and a very fast and exciting game was seen. For the winners H. Marples (2), J. Dilly (2), W. Rudkin (1) and H. Simpson (1), were the scorers. Result:
VICARAGE, six goals;
VICTORIA, one goal.
Leicester Daily Post – 9 January 1899

#37-38 FOURTH ROUND
Loughborough Forest Rovers, two goals, Hinckley Granville, none.
Oakham Rovers, three goals, Markfield, none.
St Matthew's , three goals; Barlestone Unted, none.
The fourth match in the round could not be played owing to a prior round not having been disposed of.
Oakham Rovers did well to win at Markfield. They ran into the final last year, and are evidently bent on securing the trophy this time.
The Forest Rovers are the first Loughborough team to reach the semi-final, and it is to be hoped they will pass into the final and ensure medals.
Melton Mowbray Mercury and Oakham and Uppingham News – 16 February 1899

#39 LEICESTEESHIRE SHIELD COMPETITION
The postponed match in the fourth round between South Wigston Albion and Clarendon Park Congregational took place at Wigston on Saturday, and resulted in a victory for the Albion by two goals to none.
Loughborough Forest Rovers will meet the Wigston club at Loughborough in the semi-final on Feb, 25th.
The other semi-final is between Oakham Rovers and St Matthew's Vicarage at Oakham.
Melton Mowbray Mercury and Oakham and Uppingham News – 16 February 1899

#40—41 SEMI-FINAL
THE FIRST ROVERS MAKE A DRAW

These semi-finals were played on Saturday. At Oakham the Rovers beat Leicester St Matthew's Vicarage by the narrowest possible margin, viz, one gal to none, and the probabilities are that had the tie been played on neutral ground the Vicarage would have won.
The other tie was between Loughborough Forest Rovers and South Wigston Albion, and was played on the Athletic Grounds, Loughborough. The attendance was very poor, the receipts not covering expenses. There were not nearly so many present as when the Rovers played the previous round off on their own enclosure on Cotes-road. The Albion were a much older and weightier lot than the Rovers. Wigston started with the wind, but were quickly placed on the defensive. Bennett finished a nice run with a good centre, from which W. Smith scored for the Rovers after only four minutes play. The visitors then put in some good work, and were not long before they equalised. Each side strove hard, and, for the Rovers, Baker shot straight into the goalkeeper's hands. Wigston, however, played strongly, and a fine shot from one of the half-backs gave them the lead. The Rovers played up, but Baker twice shot outside. At the interval Wigston led by two goals to one. For a while after the resumption the Albion had the better of the matters, but were met by a sound defence, and eventually the Rovers applied pressure. The visitors kicked out, and conceded several corners to save. Stevens twice shot wide and several centres from Bennett were only prevented, taking effect by the superior weight of the opposing defence. Keeping up the pressure, Bennett was badly fouled inside the twelve yards line, and the referee gave the usual penalty, which was taken by H. Smith, who made no mistake, and brought the score level again. The Rovers went for all they were worth, and had hard lines in not getting the lead. Baker was given few liberties, and Bennett was badly fouled just outside the penalty lin. The end came with the score two goals each. The Rovers and spectators appealed for extra time, but the referee and linesman ruled otherwise. It was evident the visitors could not have held out much longer, despite the fact that they played three backs and four halves for the last twenty minutes.
Leicester Daily Post – 2 March 1899

#40 SEMI-FINALS
OAKHAM ROVERS v ST MATTHEW'S
At Oakham. Result:
OAKHAM ROVERS, one goal;
ST MATTHEW'S, none.
Leicester Daily Post – 27 February 1899

#41 LOUGHBOROUGH FOREST ROVERS v SOUTH WIGSTON ROVERS
At Loughborough. Result:
A DRAW – two goals each.
Leicester Daily Post – 27 February 1899

#42 RE-PLAYED SEMI FINAL
SUCCESS OF THE FOREST ROVERS
After the drawn game on the Athletic Grounds, the Loughborough Forest Rovers and South Wigston Albion were ordered to meet at Syston where the match came off last Saturday. Both sides were slightly altered from the previous week. Wigston won the toss, and had the advantage of the slope first half. They went off with a rare dash, and for several minutes play was dangerously near the Rover's goal, but the defence stood the test, and the siege was raised. Then Stevens, after beating both backs, seemed certain to score, but his shot struck the bar, Baker, from the rebound, shooting outside Wigston again forced matters, but play eventually settled down, and each goal was visited. Hood shot into the Albion goalkeeper's hands. At the interval the score sheet was blank. The Rovers re-started in business-like fashion, hemming the Albion in. The Wigston defenders, however, played a rare game, and staved off disaster. Norman got away several times, but his centres were cleared, and in the Rovers returning the attack, they were too closely watched to do anything in the scoring line. Hood put in the best centre of the afternoon, without effect. A couple of corners to the Albion were fruitless. Powell bringing off some smart clearances. W. Smith grazed the bar, and Stevens shot, just over. Time was called with the game a draw, there being no score. An extra half hour was played, and Wigston, again winning the toss, kicked downhill in the first quarter. However, the Rovers pressed, Stevens shooting over from a good position. Play continued fast, but eventually told on both sides, though the Rovers appeared to stand the strain better. The first quarter went by with no score, and in the last stage the Rovers made a determined attack on the Wigston goal. The goalkeeper cleared from Baker, but the ball was returned, and the custodian, scooping it out again, placed it nicely to Bennett, who shot it through a heap

of players into the net, this success coming after 110 minutes play. Wigston made a desperate effort, and struck the bar, another shot being saved by Powell. The Rovers then held the sway, and ran out winners by a goal to none, pressing into the final stage after a most interesting two hours' struggle. The Rovers played splendidly from start to finish, especially the defence. Powell gave a fine exhibition in goal.
Melton Mowbray Mercury and Oakham and Uppingham News – 9 March 1899

#43 LEICESTERSHIRE SHIELD COMPETITION
FINAL
OAKHAM ROVERS v LOUGHBOROUGH FOREST ROVERS

The unfavourable weather was all against a good gate for this match, which was played on the all-England Ground, Melton although taking all things into consideration the attendance was by no means bad. Oakham began to press, but Loughborough got down and after a considerable number of attempts to score, forced a corner without result. From a foul by a Loughborough back, a clever run was made by the opposing team, and some good work was seen near the goal. Loughborough eventually gained relief, and a lot of uninteresting play followed. A corner was forced by Oakham, which took full advantage of it by rushing the ball through. Half-time:

OAKHAM, one goal
LOUGHBOROUGH, none

In the first part of the second half some fine passing was displayed by both sides, but towards the finish the game became very slow. Oakham having matters practically their own way. Loughborough were unable to score, while their opponents added three goals to their credit. Result:

OAKHAM, four goals
LOUGHBOROUGH, none.

Leicester Daily Post – 10 April 1899