



Leicester Town League 1899-00

Winner: Imperial
Runner-up: Oxford Victoria

The League was comprised of two districts - North (6 teams) and South (9 -teams). A "Championship Game" between the winners of the two divisions determined the winners of the Leicester Town League.

Changes since 1898-99

Oxford Victoria moved from South District to North District.

North District

News teams: King Richards-road Wesleyans.

Leaving teams: Belgrave United, Cumberland, Ivanhoe Swifts, Sanvey-gate

South District

New teams: Criterion (St Saviour's Old Boys), Holy Trinity, St Peter's Guild, St Peter's Victor

Leaving Teams: YMCA

At the January management Committee of the Leicester Town League which met at the Victoria Coffee House in Leicester:

- The League match, Criterion v Humberstone-road PM on January 6 which ended as a 4-2 away win was ordered to stand. This game was stopped for 10 mins before time, owing to darkness. The visiting team and the referee were waiting on the field 45 minutes for the home team (Criterion) to turn up. The Criterion team were severely censured for their unsportsmanlike conduct.
- Cumberland FC wrote asking permission to resign membership of the League. The Committee decided to accept the resignation but as the Cumberland were considerably in arrears with the subscriptions - the matter was referred to the Leicestershire Football Association.
- An application from St Saviour's Old Boys FC to join the League was granted after they agreed to fulfil the remaining fixtures of Criterion FC.

North District

Leicester Town League - North District 1899-00

Nr	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Oxford Victoria	6	5	0	1	24	3	10
2	Wellington Swifts	6	5	0	1	25	5	10
3	All Saints	7	4	0	3	13	19	8
4	King Richard's-road	6	3	0	3	10	11	6
5	St Leonard's Church	7	3	0	4	13	13	6
6	Calliard Evening Home	7	0	0	7	3	37	0

Winner: Oxford Victoria
Runner-Up: ?

Oxford Victoria won 7 of their 8 League games, scoring 37 and conceding just 3. Their only defeat was against St Leonard's Church FC, which they lost 1-0. As Oxford had won the first match between them by no less than 5-1, "it may almost be inferred that they held their opponents too cheaply and so suffered defeat."

Results Grid

Leicester Town League North 1899-1900	All Saints	Calliard Home	King Richards -road Wesleyans	Oxford Victoria	St Leonards Church FC	Wellington Swifts
All Saints					2-1	
Calliard Home						
King Richard's-road Wesleyans	1-3					
Oxford Victoria					5-1	
St Leonard's Church FC		3-0		1-0		
Wellington Swifts	9-0	3-0	2-0			

Grasmere Swifts, Mayfield Napier Swifts, Sanvey-gate resigned during the season

Home win
 Away Win
 Draw
 Result Not Known

Results and Match Details

Date	Home			Away	Match Details
9.9.1899	King Richard's-road Wesleyans	1	3	All Saints	
9.9.1899	Mayfield	4	1	Ashleigh	
16.9.1899	Calliard Evening Home			King Richard's-road Wesleyans	
16.9.1899	Oxford Victoria			Wellington Swifts	
23.9.1899	Calliard Evening Home			All Saints	
30.9.1899	All Saints	2	1	St Leonard's Parish Church	
30.9.1899	Calliard Evening Home			Cumberland	
30.9.1899	St Leonard's Church			All Saints	
7.10.1899	St Leonard's Church	3	0	Calliard Evening Home	
11.11.1899	Wellington Swifts	2	0	King Richards-road	Victoria Park, Leicester.
2.12.1899	Oxford Victoria	5	1	St Leonard's Parish Church	
23.12.1899	Wellington Swifts	9	0	All Saints	
27.1.1900	Wellington Swifts	3	0	Calliard Evening Home	Victoria Park, Leicester. The Evening Home were minus a couple of players during the first half.

South District

Leicester Town League - South District 1899-00

Nr	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Imperial	10	9	1	0	74	5	19
2	Humberstone-road PM	12	8	2	2	47	27	18
3	St Matthew's Vicarage	8	5	1	2	30	12	11

4	Old Boys	9	4	2	3	38	21	10
5	Clarendon Park Congregational	7	4	0	3	41	11	8
6	Holy Trinity	10	2	1	7	16	59	5
7	St Saviour's OB	7	2	0	5	13	37	4
8	St Paul's Victor	10	2	0	8	10	36	4
9	St Peter's Guild	9	1	1	7	10	61	3

St Saviour's Old Boys took the place of Criterion FC, who resigned (6 2 4 0 12 36)

Winner: Imperial
Runner-Up: ?

The record of the South District was a case of history repeating itself. Imperial FC retained their title. The figures speak for themselves:

1898-9 Played 14, won 13, drawn 1, lost 0, goals for 60m against 17, points 27.

1899-0 Played 14, won 13, drawn 1, lost 0, goals for 115, against 6, points 27.

Results Grid

Leicester Town League South 1899-1900	Clarendon Park Congregational	Holy Trinity	Humberstone-road PM	Imperial	Leicester Old Boys	St Matthews Vicarage	St Pauls Victor	St Peters Guild	St Saviours OB
Clarendon Park Congregational									
Holy Trinity					0-4			2-0	
Humberstone-road PM					1-1		3-0		8-1
Imperial			11-0			2-2			
Leicester Old Boys			2-2	0-6					9-2
St Matthew's Vicarage	3-1	9-0							
St Paul's Victor					0-2				
St Peter's Guild							0-4		
St Saviour's OB			4-2						

Criterion, Cumberland, and Old Trinity failed to complete the season.

Home win
 Away Win
 Draw
 Result Not Known

Results and Match Details

Date	Home			Away	Details
14.10.1899	Humberstone Road PM	3	0	St Paul's Victor	Victoria Park, Leicester.
21.10.1899	Humberstone Road PM	8	1	Criterion	
21.10.1899	Oxford Victoria	3	1	Cumberland	
11.11.1899	Humberstone-road PM Nichols	1	1	Leicester Old Boys Gibson	Victoria Park, Leicester.
2.12.1899	St Matthew's Vicarage	3	1	Clarendon Park	Hinck's Farm Ground
23.12.1899	Humberstone-road	7	0	Old Trinity	Victoria Park, Leicester
23.12.1899	Leicester Old Boys Brierley (4)	9	2	Criterion Dallason	Victoria Park, Leicester.

	Broughton (3) Borman (2) Tomlinson			AN Other	Criterion who played with 9 men throughout scored first.
6.1.1900	Criterion	2	4	Humberstone-road PM	Game was stopped 10 mins before time owing to darkness. The home team turned up 45 mins late.
20.1.1900	Imperial	2	2	St Matthew's Vicarage	Martin-street ground. Vicarage played 10 men in the latter part of the game. H Randall having to retire in the first half.
20.1.1900	Old Boys Tomlinson (2)	2	2	Humberstone-road Woodcock Green	Victoria Park, Leicester.
27.1.1900	Holy Trinity Robinson (2)	2	0	St Peter's Guild	Victoria Park, Leicester. Played in a hailstorm,
27.1.1900	Imperial	11	0	Humberstone-road PM	Martin-street.
10.2.1900	St Paul's Victor	0	2	Leicester Old Boys	Humberstone
17.2.1900	Leicester Old Boys	0 (0)	6 (1)	Imperial Johnson (3) og Burgess Rosevere	Victoria Park, Leicester.
17.2.1900	St Matthew's Richards (3) Marples (3) Simpson (2) Gunn	9	0	Holy Trinity	
3.3.1900	St Peter's Guild	0	4	St Paul's Victor Smith (3) Jackson	Victoria Park, Leicester. Glorious weather.
3.3.1900	Holy Trinity	0 (0)	4 (2)	Leicester Old Boys Tomlinson (2) Borman (2)	Victoria Park, Leicester.

Leicester Town League "Regional" Championship Matches

Date	Home			Away	Details
7.4.1900	Leicester Imperial	2	2	Rest of the South	Martin-street Ground, Leicester.
7.4.1900	Oxford Victoria	3	0	Rest of North	Martin-street Ground, Leicester - played after the above fixture

League Championship Match

Date	Home			Away	Details
28.4.1900	Leicester Imperial	5	2	Oxford Victoria	Filbert-street, Leicester

Match Reports

A selection of published match reports

LEICESTER TOWN LEAGUE.

SOUTH DISTRICT.

LEICESTER OLD BOYS v. CRITERION.

Played on the Victoria Park. Criterion were handicapped by having to play nine men throughout. However, they scored first by Dallason, but Borman equalised from Tich Brierley's centre. The Old Boys now played a splendid game, and outclassed their opponents at all points. In the second half Criterion played up much better, Abbott and Briers being the pick. The scorers for the Old Boys were Brierley (4), Broughton (2), Borman (2), and Tomlinson. Result:

LEICESTER OLD BOYS, nine goals;
CRITERION, two goals.

HUMBERSTONE-ROAD v. OLD TRINITY.

On the Victoria Park. Result:

HUMBERSTONE-ROAD, seven goals;
OLD TRINITY, two goals.

WELLINGTON SWIFTS v. ALL SAINTS'.

On the Victoria Park. Result:

WELLINGTON SWIFTS, nine goals;
ALL SAINTS' none.

Leicester Daily Post - 25 December 1899

LEICESTER TOWN LEAGUE.

NORTH DISTRICT.

WELLINGTON SWIFTS v. CAILLAIRD EVENING HOMES.

On the Victoria Park. The Evening Home were minus a couple of players during the first half, but defended valiantly, and only had one goal notched against them. On changing ends, however, the Swifts had more of the game, and put on two more goals, the result thus reading:

WELLINGTON SWIFTS, three goals;
EVENING HOME, none.

SOUTH DISTRICT.

HOLY TRINITY v. ST. PETER'S.

On the Victoria Park, in a hailstorm. The teams were evenly matched, and play was interesting in the first half, during which Robinson managed to shoot a goal for the Trinitarians, this being the only point up to half-time. On resuming the ground worked up in a heavy state, in which the Trinity performed best. The St. Peter's made but little headway, and only tested their opponents' goal-keeper once this half. Robinson scored another goal for his side, and the result thus was:

HOLY TRINITY, two goals;
ST. PETER'S, none.

IMPERIAL v. HUMBERSTONE-ROAD P.M.

On the former's ground. Result:—

IMPERIAL, eleven goals;
HUMBERSTONE-ROAD P.M., none.

Leicester Daily Post - 29 January 1900

LEICESTER TOWN LEAGUE.

SOUTH DISTRICT

ST. PAUL'S VICTOR v. OLD BOYS.

Played at Humberstone. The first half was evenly contested, O'Shea scoring a fine goal for the Old Boys. After the interval, the "Boys" had all the play, but could not score. Just before time E. Brown notched a goal for the "Boys" from a scrimmage. The Victors' custodian saved some splendid shots. Result:

OLD BOYS, two goals;
ST. PAUL'S VICTOR, none.

Leicester Daily Post - 12 February 1900

LEICESTER TOWN LEAGUE.

SOUTH DISTRICT.

IMPERIAL v. OLD BOYS.

This match took place on the Victoria Park. The game was fairly even in the first half but Imperial managed to get through the Old Boys' defence before ends were changed. In the second half the Imperial forced the game, and the forwards showed excellent form, their shooting for goal being excellent. Three more goals were put on, while the Old Boys' backs put one through their own goal in trying to clear. For the winners Johnson scored three times, and Burgess and Roosevelt once each. Result:

IMPERIAL, six goals;
OLD BOYS, none.

ST MATTHEW'S v. HOLY TRINITY.

On the Victoria Park, on ground soft and slippery with the recent thaw. St. Matthew's had much the best of the play throughout, and ran round their opponents to a lively tune. Richards and Marples were in excellent form, and scored three goals each, the other scorers being Simson (twice) and Gunn. Result:

ST. MATTHEW'S, nine goals;
HOLY TRINITY, none.

Leicester Daily Post - 19 February 1900

LEICESTER TOWN LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP MATCHES

Two matches in connection with the above League were played on Saturday on the martin-street ground. The first contest was between the Imperial (Champions of the South) and a picked team representing the South district). The second match was contested by Oxford Victoria (Champions of the Noth) and a representative eleven from the North district), a goodly crowd of spectators assembled, and much interest was evinced in the matches.

IMPERIAL v REST OF SOUTH

Following the kick-off the Rest at once began to attack, and after some spirited forward work Tomlinson scored a good goal. The Rest were not long before augmenting their score, Dilly putting through from close range. Proceeding, the Imperial took up the running, and applied severe pressure, but the defence of the scratch team withstood all attacks. Not to be denied, the champions continued on the aggressive, and ultimately Johnson registered their first goal. From a throw-in the ball went to Ward, who made a good effort to get through, but on nearing his opponent's goal Green came to the rescue and grassed him. Afterwards the game was of an even character, and when half-time arrive the score was as follows:

REST OF THE SOUTH DISTRICT, two goals;
IMPERIAL, one.

Smith, for the Rest, started the second half, but the Champions were the first to become dangerous, and their opponents were compelled to concede a corner. This, however, proved abortive, Jinks effecting a creditable save. Still pressing, the Champions provided the Rest with plenty of defensive work, and two corners were granted in quick succession, but the ball went behind in each case. By way of a change, the Rest had a run down, the right wing combining very prettily, and managing to get to the vicinity of the Champion's' citadel, but the backs promptly cleared and play as transferred to the other end of the field. Immediately following, the Imperial, through the agency of Ward, put on a second goal, this equalising the scores. The "Imps" continued to press, but were unable to add to their score, and when time was announced the game was in the following condition:

REST OF SOUTH DISTRICT, two goals

IMPERIAL, one.

Leicester Daily Post - 9 April 1900

OXFORD VICTORIA v REST OF NORTH

Immediately after the conclusion of the previous match, the above teams entered upon their contest. Unfortunately, the North team was not as strong as could have been desired, two or three of the chosen men failing to put in an appearance and substitutes had to be requisitioned. After the ball had been put in motion, the Vics lost no time in making tracks for their opponents' goal, and Norman had little difficulty in scoring a goal in the first few minutes. The representative team then came into possession, but were unable to make much headway, the kicking of the back division being very strong. Following a spell of quiet play, the champions forced a corner, but it was unproductive. The Vics, who are a very smart combination, were unable to increase their lead, and when half-time arrived the score read as follows:

OXFORD VICTORIA, one goal;

REST OF NORTH DISTRICT, none.

Daley, following the interval, put the ball in motion, and although the North team made the initial run, the Champions were not long before placing their opponents on the defensive, and after the ball had hovered about the goal for a short period Ward put it through and scored the Champions' second goal. The scratch forwards then showed up in a rather better light, and on several occasions, they were able to get within shooting range of the Champions' goal, but although they made several good attempts nothing tangible accrued. On the other hand, Norman was instrumental in registering a third point for the Champions. Throughout the game cessations of play were frequent owing to the ball being kicked into the adjoining field. In the expiring stages of the game the Rest showed better form than at any previous period of the game, and but for poor shooting would probably have scored. As no further scoring took place, the "Vics" left the field winners of a rather one-sided game, the following being the result:

OXFORD VICTORIA, three goals;

REST OF NORTH DISTRICT, none

Mr Pickering had charge of the team. the member of which were as follows:

Oxford Victoria: Harding, goal; Riley and Measures, backs; Smith, Fowkes and Foster, half-backs; Weston, Ward, Daley, Nortman and Herbert, forwards.

Rest of District: J H Findley (St Leonard's), goal; F Spencer (captain) (St Leonard's) and S Osbourne (Evening Home), backs; A Jxxx (Wellinton Swifts), A Bott (Evening Home) and W A Pepper (St Leonard's), half-backs; G Robinson (St Leonard's), F Friswell (St Leonard's), Herringshaw, A Wood and G Osborne (Evening Home), forwards.

Leicester Daily Post - 9 April 1900

LEICESTER TOWN LEAGUE

CHAMPIONSHIP

OXFORD VICTORIA (NORTH) v IMPERIAL (SOUTH)

These teams having gained the championship in their respective divisions, met on the Filbert-street Ground, in front of the Fosse-Brighton game, to decide the championship of the league. The weather was of the most ideal character, and both clubs were at full strength, and lined up under Mr Jinks, in the following order:

Oxford: Harding, goal; Measures and Bxxx, backs; Riley, Smith and Foulks, half-backs; Norman. Lee, Daly, Herbert and Wesson, forwards.

Imperial: Hollowood, goal; Beasley and Mosly, backs; Cufflin, West and Griffin, half-backs; Burgess, Johnson, Rosevere, Barrows and West, forwards.

Oxford won the toss, and set the Imperial to face the bright sun, play opened in brisk fashion, the ball travelling up and down the field in quick succession. Then Oxford, after a throw-in forced a corner but the kick went behind. From the goal kick the Imperial bore down, but with offside nullified a splendid opening. Following this the Imperial still attacked, and Foulkes kicking across his own goal. Rosevere shot at the right moment, thus drawing first blood for the "Imps". Going on, Oxford had slightly the better of the argument, Smith sending wide when close up. Then, after a lot of touchline lay, Foulkes, with a long drooping shot from the extreme left, beat the Imperial custodian, thus equalising amid enthusiasm. From the re-start Imperial had a trifle the best of the play, but a free for a foul against them resulted in the downfall of their goal, Norman bashing the letter into the net from a long range. Resuming, an attempt at combination was made by both teams, but their efforts lacked finish, Oxford ultimately sending behind. A good run by Burgess on the South left looked dangerous, and Barrows, shooting when offside, a good opening was apparently thrown away. Oxford now bore down, Beasley relieving with a strong kick. Lee, for Oxford, hereabouts was seen to advantage just missing a goal by inches only. Following this, Ward was to the fore with a neat run but sent behind from an oblique shot. Hereabouts a hot attack was set up on the North goal, but the anxiety was relieved with Smith sending the ball high over the net. Nothing, save a piece of good play by Foulkes on Oxford's right was seen for some time, the ball in turn going behind at either end, whilst free kicks were pretty numerous to either side, the shot from Daley being deserving of the better results. Then a kick from Wesson, after an individual dribble along from the extreme right, met with no better success. Imperial kept up a string attack right up to the interval, but failed to draw level, the score standing at:

OXFORD, two goals;

IMPERIAL, one.

Crossing over, the opening exchanges were a trifle slack, the pace of the first half having apparently told its tale upon both teams. Still Oxford, through good play by Wesson kept Imperial strictly on the defensive, Hollowood having a warm time, but he was equal to the occasion, the ball eventually going behind from a shot by Herbert. Next Oxford had to concede a corner, the centre being too weak to be of much use. A neat piece of combination between the whole of the Imperial backs looked ominous for the Oxford goal, but Ward failed to steady himself and thus put in a wild shot that resulted in a goal kick only. Imperial again got on the move. Measures pulling himself up in splendid fashion. Then the best item of interest was the offensive back play of Morley for Imperial, by which method he repulsed several hot attacks of the Oxford men. For the next ten minutes play was for the most part of a weak character. Imperial eventually gaining the upper hand, and forced Harding to handle, Johnson kicking over. From the restart Imperial set up a hot attack, and from a scrummage right in the Oxford goal mouth, the ball was rushed through, thus bringing the score two all. Immediately from the restart the Imperial were close to Oxford's citadel again, and Barrows going through alone put his side ahead with a fast low shot that gave Harding no chance. It was plainly to be seen that Oxford were now a beaten team, Imperial missing a goal from the extreme right by the merest margin. After Oxford had paid a brief visit to the other end, Ward was seen in good form, and breaking through all opposition, landed still another goal to the Imperial's already strong lead. Then from a free close up, the ball was again sent by Harding. The fifth goal against Oxford caused them to lose heart considerably, and as a result were kept strictly on the defence. Time was now called, with the score standing:

IMPERIAL, five goals;

OXFORD, two goals.

Leicester Daily Post - 30 April 1900

Additional Information

LEICESTER TOWN FOOTBALL LEAGUE.

The two divisions of the Leicester Town Football League brought the season finally to a close on Wednesday with a smoker, at the Three Cranes Hotel, when the medals were presented to the successful clubs. Mr. A. E. Marson presided over a large attendance, including representatives of all the clubs engaged, and in addition there were present the Rev. J. W. A. Mackenzie, of Whitwick, Mr. J. E. Carpenter (secretary Leicestershire Football Association), and Mr. F. L. Jinks (secretary of the League). The winners of the Southern Division were the Imperial, who had a splendid record. Out of 14 matches played, they won 13, the other one being drawn, and scored 115 goals against six, thus gaming 27 points out of a possible 28. The eleven players who received medals were: S. West, S. Ward, J. Johnson, G. Hollowood, G. Beasley, J. Griffen, F. Cuffin, W. Barrows, C. Rosvear, and T. Burgess. There were a number of secessions in the Northern Division, and the final result was that Oxford Victoria were at the top, with 10 points, they having lost one match out of the six played, and scored 37 goals against two. Their players were: J. Harling, T. Bacon, J. Mcasures, E. Riley, R. Snutch, E. Fawkes, H. Weston, A. Daley, A. Norman, Foster, and H. Herbert. The presentations were made by the Rev. J. W. A. Mackenzie, who, in the course of his remarks, advised the clubs to stick together, and encouraged those at the bottom to keep on trying, until they improved their positions. They ought to do that, if only for the sake of the management, who had devoted so much time and trouble to the League. He attributed the success of his own club to the fact that they had hung well together, and quoted them as an example of what might be done. He also mentioned that the whole of the members were Whitwick men.—Mr. J. E. Carpenter paid a tribute to the splendid work done by the management of the League, and said that it took a great deal of work off the shoulders of the association. Since the formation of the League they had had no trouble with the clubs in the matter of the fulfilment of fixtures, so that a good work had been done in that direction alone.—The rest of the evening was spent in conviviality.