Leicestershire Challenge Shield 1896-97

Winner: Fleckney
Runner-Up: Leicester Clarence
No. of Entries: 47

Clubs were divided into 6 divisions for the first three rounds. Divisions were amalgamated into a traditional knock out competition in Round 4.

Many results have yet to be found.

Fleckney beat Leicester Clarence 2-0 in the final which was staged at Kibworth.

Round 1

Division 1

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
1	3.10.1896	Ibstock Albion	0	6	Ibstock Wanderers	
2	3.10.1896	Ibstock Town Swifts	2	4	Bagworth Rovers	
3	3.10.1896	Overseal Town	0	2	Woodville United	

Ashby Trinity, Thringstone Albion and Swannington St George's, byes

Note: All the home teams in Division I suffered defeat.

Division II

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
4	3.10.1896	Anstey Town	3	2	Ratby Swifts	
5	3.10.1896	Hemington United	1	3	Quorn Havelock A Wykes T Barwell A Clarke	Quorn since last season were weakened considerably through several members joining neighbouring clubs and others leaving the village. Hemington were much heavier, "several of them being very old for Shield players."

Barrow Rising Star and Groby, byes.

Division III

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
6	3.10.1896	Enderby Granite	4	3	Cosby	
7	3.10.1896	Hinckley United	5	2	Earl Shilton Excelsior	

Earl Shilton Swifts, Earl Shilton Victor, Blaby and Hinckley Athletic, byes

Division IV

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
8	3.10.1896	Somerby	0	4	Melton Villa	
9	3.10.1896	Thurmaston Rovers	W		Syston Swifts	Syston Swifts scratched.

Ashfordby Swifts and Syston Rangers, byes

Division V

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
10	3.10.1896	Wigston Excelsior	2	1	Bowden Excelsior	

South Wigston Rovers, Fleckney and Kibworth, byes

Division VI

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
11		Clarence	W		Aylestone United	
12		Melton-road		W	St Mark's Recreation	
13		Railways' United		W	Atherton Wanderers	
14		St Matthew's Vicarage	W		St Paul's Church	
15		West Humberstone Swifts		W	Imperial	

Ferndale, Abbey-gate Rovers and St Mary's Victor, byes

Round 2

Of the 16 Round 2 matches played, 4 were unfinished owing to darkness, while 4 other protests were lodged for violation of rules.

Division I

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
16	7.11.1896	Bagworth Rovers	4	2	Thringstone Albion	Thringstone protested , alleging that the ground was both too short and too narrow.
17	14.11.1896	Ibstock Wanderers	2	0	Ashby Trinty	Game stopped before time owing to the rain and fog and was ordered to be replayed.
18	7.11.1896	Woodville United+	8	1	Swannington St George's	Short time was played. The game was ordered to be replayed.

Division II

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
19	7.11.1896	Anstey Town	0	1	Barrow Rising Star	
20	7.11.1896	Groby	1	4	Quorn Havelock	

Division III

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
21	7.11.1896	Earl Shilton Victor	1	1	Blaby	
22	7.11.1896	Earl Shilton Swifts	0	0	Hinckley Athletic	
23	7.11.1896	Enderby Granite	0	2	Hinckley United	

Division IV

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
24	7.11.1896	Ashfordby Swifts	2	0	Melton Villa	
25		Syston Rangers	5	0	Thurmaston Rovers	Mr. Lambert who was officiating stated that it was quite a pleasure to him, both teams playing a gentlemanly game.

Division V

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
26	7.11.1896	Wigston Excelsior	1	2	Fleckney	Fleckney claimed 15s expenses incurred through the Wigston club failing to report the fact that they had no enclosed ground, at which gate money could not be taken. Wigston Excelsior also protested against the match being allowed to stand on the

						account of short time played. Fleckney were allowed 10s and the match was ordered to stand.
27		South Wigston Rovers	0	2	Kibworth	

Division VI

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
28	7.11.1896	Atherton Wanderers	2	0	St Matthew's Vicarage	
29	7.11.1896	Abbey-gate Rovers	A	A	Imperial	Abandoned.
30	7.11.1896	Clarence	7	2	St Mary's Victor	
31	7.11.1896	Ferndale	11	0	St Mark's Recreation	

Round 2 Replays

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
32		Abbey-gate Rovers		W	Imperial	
32a	14.11.1896	Ashby Trinity	0	8	Ibstock Wanders	
33		Ashfordby Swifts	W		Melton Villa	
34		Bagworth Rovers		W	Thringstone Albion	
35		Blaby		W	Earl Shilton Victor	
36		Fleckney	W		Wigston Excelsior	
37		Hinckley Athletic		W	Earl Shilton Swifts	
37a	14.11.1896	Swannington St George's	2	4	Woodville United	

Round 3

Division I

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
38	16.1.1897	Thringstone Albion	W		Woodville United	

Division II

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
39	16.1.1897	Quorn Havelock	3	1	Barrow Rising Star	

Division III

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
40	16.1.1897	Hinckley United	2	1	Earl Shilton Victor	
41		Ibstock Wanderers	W		Earl Shilton Swifts	

Division IV

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
42	16.1.1897	Ashfordby Swifts	1	3	Syston Rangers	

Division V

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
43	16.1.1897	Kibworth	1	6	Fleckney	

Division VI

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
44	16.1.1897	Atherton Wanderers	1	5	Clarence	
45		Ferndale	0	1	Imperial	

Round 4

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
46	6.2.1897	Fleckney	4	3	Imperial	
47	6.2.1897	Hinckley United	0	3	Clarence	
48		Syston Rangers		W	Quorn Havelock	
49		Thringstone Albion	W		Ibstock Wanderers	

Semi-Finals

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
50	27.2.1897	Thringstone Albion	0	1	Clarence	
51	6.3.1897	Fleckney	3	2	Quorn Havelock	At Mountsorrel.

Final

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
52	20.3.1897	Fleckney A Garner (1 + pen)	2 (1)	0 (0)	Leicester Clarence	At Kibworth. 900 spectators. The Shield and medals were presented to the victors by Mr Allen Lovell, president of the association and medals to the Clarence for getting to the final.

Match Reports

THE SHIELD COMPETITION

The first round took place on Saturday last. In Division I Woodville United beat Overseal Town, at Overseal, by two goals to one. Ibstock Albion were beaten on their own ground by Ibstock Wanderers, six to none; and Bagworth Rovers beat Ibstock Town Swifts, at Ibstock by four goals to one. It will then be seen that all the home clubs in this division sustained defeat.

In the second division Quorn Havelock went to Hemington, and; won by three goals to one; Anstey Town beat Ratby Swifts, at Anstey, by three goals to two.

Since last season the Quorn Havelock have been weakened considerably through several members joining neighbouring clubs and others leaving the village. However, a fair team was sent off to Hemington, and they acquitted themselves very creditably. The forwards played a good game, the goals being scored by A, Wykes, T. Barwell and A. Clarke. The goal headed by Wykes was very smartly done. The homesters were a much heavier lot, several of them being very old for Shield players.

The results in Division III were; Hinckley United 3, Earl Shilton 2; Enderby 4, Cosby 3.

In the fourth division, Syston Swifts scratched to Thringstone Rovers; Melton Villa bet Somerby at Somerby, four goals to nu, and Wigston Excelsior defeated Harborough [Bowden?] Excelsior, two goals to one.

Melton Mowbray Mercury and Oakham and Uppingham News - 8 October 1896

LEICESTER SHIELD MATCHES

Of the sixteen matches in this competition on Saturday on Saturday four were unfinished owing to darkness, while in fur other protests have been lodged for violation of rules. The results were as below:

Division 1

(a)	Bagworth Rovers	4	Thringstone Albion	3
(b)	Woodville	3	Swannington	1
(b)	Ibstock Wanderers	2	Ashby Trinity	0

Division 2

(b)	Groby	4	Quorn Havelock	1
	Barrow Rising Star	1	Anstey Town	0

Division 3

	Earl Shilton Victor	1	Blaby United	1
	Earl Shilton Swifts	0	Hinkley Athletic	0
	Hinckley United	2	Enderby	0
		Division 4		
(a)	Ashfordby Swifts	2	Melton Villa	0
	Syston Rangers	5	Thurmaston Rovers	0
		Division 5		
(a)	Fleckney	2	Wigston Excelsior	1
	Kibworth	2	South Wigston Rovers	
		Division 6		
(b)	Atherton Wanderers	2	St Matthew's	0
	Clarence	7	St Mary's Victor	2
	Ferndale	11	St Mark's Recreation	0

Those marked (a) have to be replayed owing to short time and those with a (b) protests have been lodged.
Melton Mowbray Mercury and Oakham and Uppingham News – 12 November 1896

#17 LEICESRERSHIRE SHIELD
SECOND ROUND
ASHBY TRINITY v IBSTOCK WANDERERS
This match took place at Ibstock on Saturday, before a fair number of spectators. The home team pressed throughout the first half, but owing to the excellent way in which Price and the backs defended their goal they were only able to secure one goal up to half time. The second half was again in the Wanderers' favour, the home custodian having very little to do. The game was stopped before time owing to the rain and fog when the game stood:

Ibstock	2
Ashby	0

Burton Chronicle – 12 November 1896

#32a ASHBY TRINITY v IBSTOCK WANDERERS
This match was played on Saturday, and resulted as follows:

Ibstock	8
Ashby	0

Burton Chronicle – 19 November 1896

37a LEICESTERSHIRE SHIELD
SECOND ROUND
WOODVILLE UNITED v SWANNINGTON
The match played a Woodville on the 7th inst in the competition was ordered to be replayed on Saturday last. The reason for this course of action was the playing of "short time" in the previous match. Woodville United were ordered to Swannington and accordingly they met opponents there. The match was well contested, and ended in the visitors winning. Result:

United	4
Swannington	2

Burton Chronicle – 19 November 1896

#46 LEICESTERSHIRE SHIELD COMPETITION
FLECKNEY v IMPERIAL
At Fleckney. Result:
FLECKNEY, four goals;

IMPERIAL, three.
Leicester Daily Post – 8 February 1897

#47 HINCKLEY UNITED v CLARENCE
At Hinckley, Result:
CLARENCE, three goals;
HINCKLEY, none.
Leicester Daily Post – 8 February 1897

#52 LEICESTERSHIRE SHIELD COMPETITION
FINAL
FLECKNEY v LEICESTER CLARENCE
The final of the Leicestershire Shield competition was played on the Kibworth ground, before 900 spectators, the contesting teams being Fleckney and Leicester Clarence. Fleckney played their full strength, but the Leicester men had to substitute Kank for Ward in goal on account of illness. During the initial stages of the first half play was fairly even, but later on A. Garner scored for Fleckney when close in, the goalkeeper miskicking at an easy shot. Fleckney had the best of the exchanges after this but failed to score, and half-time arrived with one point to none in favour of Fleckney. After about fifteen minutes A. Garner notched the second point for Fleckney from a penalty kick, the goalkeeper having no chance of effecting a save. The game resolved itself into one of very moderate character, and as neither side could again score the end came with a victory for Fleckney. Result:
FLECKNEY, two goals;
CLARENCE, none.
Afterwards the shield and medals were presented to the victors by Mr. Allen Lovell, president of the association, and medals to the Clarence for getting in the final. Referee, Mr. E. A. Manson.
Leicester Daily Post – 22 March 1897