Leicestershire Challenge Shield 1895-96

Winner: Leicester Belvoir-street
Runner-Up: Swannington St George's
No. of entries: 55

Derbyshire was represented by two clubs – Overseal Town and Swannington St George's.

The clubs were divided into six divisions for the first three rounds.

The Shield competition had the following residential qualification: "*That a player, who is a householder and residing in any other village than in which the club is situate, is NOT eligible for the Shield Competition.*"

F. Ainsworth, of Kegworth FC was suspended from playing football for three weeks for abusive language towards the referee in a Shield match at Kegworth on 19 October.

Hathern were fined 2s for failing to send the result of the game to the secretary of the Association.

Leicester Belvoir-street beat Swannington St George's at Anstey to become the first Leicester club to win the competition.

Many scores are not currently not known.

Round 1

Division I

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
1	5.10.1895	Bagworth Rovers	3	2	Measham Wanderers	
2		Blackfordby Town Rovers	W		Whitwick Town Reserve	Whitwick scratched.
3	5.10.1895	Ibstock Albion	3	0	Whitwick Albion	
4	5.10.1895	Overseal Town	0	1	Coalville United	
5	5.10.1895	Swannington St George's	1	4	Hugglescote St John's	Swannington protested on account of 6 Hugglescote players having taken part in a 6-a-side contest. The Association awarded the tie to Swannington.

Coalville Town Reserve, bye.

Division II

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
6	5.10.1895	Castle Donington PSA	11	0	Belton Villa	Played on a field close to Castle Donington. Belton protested that the ground at Castle Donington was not laid out I accordance with the rules of the association. The complaint was upheld, and the game was ordered to be replayed at Belton.
7	5.10.1895	Hathern Victoria	2	0	Barrow Excelsior	Victoria Ground, Hathern. Hathern were fined 2s for failing to send the result of the game to the secretary of the Association.
8	5.10.1895	Hemington United Reserves	3	1	Mountsorrel St Peter's	

9	5.10.1895	Mountsorrel Castle	5	1	Shepshed Town Reserves	
10	5.10.1895	Sileby Rangers	3	3	Kegworth	
11	5.10.1895	Woodhouse Rovers	1	3	Barrow Rising Star	

Division III

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
12	5.10.1895	Earl Shilton Victor	5	4	Barwell Swifts	
13		Earl Shilton Town	W		Burbage Albion	Burbage scratched.

Earl Shilton Excelsior and Earl Shilton Swifts, byes.

Division IV

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
14	5.10.1895	Ashfordby Swifts	2	2	Melton Villa	
15	5.10.1895	Syston Excelsior	2	0	Thurmaston Rovers	
16	5.10.1895	Syston Rangers	5	1	Melton Town	

Barkby, bye.

Division V

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
17	5.10.1895	Belgrave St Michael's	2	2	Wigston Excelsior	
18	5.10.1895	Belvoir-street	0 (0)	1 (1)	Oxford-street SS Walker	Belvoir-street progressed to R2 – reason not known
19	5.10.1895	Emanuel	1	2	Clarence	
19a	5.10.1895	Ferndale	10	0	St Peter's	
20	5.10.1895	Humberstone-road Wesleyans	0	3	Kibworth	
21	5.10.1895	Imperial A Shore E Foster S Hopkins	3 (1)	0 (0)	St John's	
22	5.10.1895	Richmond Collis	1	2	Waverley T Platts AN Other	Stork's head Ground.
23	5.10.1895	Saxe-Coburg-street	0	3	Freehold Rangers	
24	5.10.1895	St Mark's Recreation	2	4	Anstey Town	
25	5.10.1895	St Mary's Victor	3	2	Old Wigstonians	

West Humberstone Swifts and Tyro Victor, byes.

Round 1 Replays

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
26		Kegworth		W	Sileby Rangers	
27		Melton Villa	W		Ashfordby Swifts	
28		Wigston Excelsior		W	Belgrave St Michael's	

Round 2

Division I

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
29		Blackfordby Town Rovers		W	Coalville Town Reserve	
30		Ibstock Albion	W		Bagworth Rovers	

31	2.11.1895	Swannington St George's	6	1	Coalville United	

Division II

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
32		Castle Donington PSA	W		Hemington Reserve	
33	2.11.1895	Hathern Victoria	1	3	Mountsorrel Castle	
34	2.11.1895	Sileby Rangers	1	1	Barrow Rising Star	

Division III

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
35		Earl Shilton Town	W		Earl Shilton Excelsior	
36		Earl Shilton Victor		W	Earl Shilton Swifts	

Division IV

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
37	2.11.1895	Melton Villa	8 (2)	0 (0)	Syston Excelsior	
38		Syston Rangers	W		Barkby	

Division V

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
39		Anstey Town Reserve	W		Leicester Waverley	
40		Belgrave St Michael's		W	Ferndale	
41	2.11.1895	Clarence	1 (0)	1 (0)	Belvoir-street Sunday School	Belvoir-street were fined 2s 6d for arriving 30 mins late.
42		Freehold Rangers		W	West Humberstone	
43		Imperial	W		Tyro Victor	
44	2.11.1895	St Mary's Rovers	5	2	Kibworth	

Round 2 Replays

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
45		Barrow Rising Star		W	Sileby Rangers	
46		Belvoir-street Sunday School	W		Clarence	

ROUND 3

Divisions I and II

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
46	18.1.1896	Coalville Town Reserves		W	Castle Donington PSA	
47		Mountsorrel Castle	W		Ibstock Albion	
48	18.1.1896	Swannington St George's	6 (4)	0 (0)	Sileby Rangers	Swannington's goalkeeper did not touch the ball once during the game. A Sileby player was ordered off the field for misconduct.

Division III

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
49	18.1.1896	Earl Shilton Swifts	W		Earl Shilton Town	

Division IV

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details

50	18.1.1896	Melton Villa	W		Barkby	

Division V

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
51	18.1.1896	Belvoir-street	4	0	Imperial	
52		Ferndale	W		Anstey Town Reserves	
53		St Mary's Victor		W	West Humberstone Swifts	

Round 4

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
54		Castle Donington PSA	W		Mountsorrel Castle	
55	1.2.1896	Earl Shilton Swifts	1	0	Ferndale	
56	1.2.1896	Melton Villa	0	2	Belvoir-street Sunday School	Belvoir were drawn at home, but since they were not in possession of a field where a charge for admittance could be made, the game was played at Melton.
57		West Humberstone Swifts		W	Swannington St George's	

Semi-Finals

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
58	29.2.1896	Castle Donington PSA	1	4	Belvoir-street	At Barrow
59	29.2.1896	Earl Shilton Swifts	2	2	Swannington St George's	At Ibstock

Semi-Final Replay

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
60	7.3.1896	Earl Shilton Swifts	0	1	Swannington St George's	At Barwell.

Final

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
61	14.3.1896	Leicester Belvoir-street Singler Jarvis King	3 (1)	1 (1)	Swannington St George's AN Other	At Anstey. This was the first time in the history of this competition that a Leicester club had reached the final. After the match Mr Lovell, the referee presented the shield to the winners, and also medals to both teams. Belvoir had not lost a match since December 12.

Match Reports

A selection of published match reports.

#1 FOOTBALL SHIELD TIE – Measham Rangers Reserves and Bagworth Ivanhoe met on Saturday in the first round of the Shield Competition, the game ending in favour of the home team, whose superior weight told against their lighter, but more trickly opponents. Read, the Bagworth goalkeeper, saved some excellent shots, whilst G Barrs and R Bale were the most conspicuous of the forwards. For Measham Hart did not shine as a goalkeeper, and he was responsible for many corners which ought not to have been conceded.

The shooting of the Measham forwards was most erratic and they missed chance after chance. Peach, Bradford and Dennis made a fair trio, and pope was perhaps the best of the two backs. Final score – Bagworth three goals; Measham, two goals.
Mowbray Mercury and Oakham and Uppingham News – 10 October 1895

#4 OVERSEAL RESERVE v COALVILLE UNITED
Played at Overseal on Saturday. Coalville scored after twenty minutes play, but during the first half the game was evenly contested. In the second half Overseal pressed considerably, the Overseal goalkeeper being on the half-way line nearly the whole of the time. The Coalville backs constantly kicked out, Overseal securing many corners, and bombarding the Coalville gal. Result:
COALVILLE, one goal;
OVERSEAL RESERVES, none
Mowbray Mercury and Oakham and Uppingham News-10 October 1895

#4 Coalville United v Overseal
These teams met in the first round of the Challenge Sheild Competition at Overseal, and a well-contested game ended:

Coalville	1
Overseal	0

Coalville Times – 11 October 1895

#6 CASTLE DONINTON PSA RESERVES v BELTON
THE PSA Reserves met Belton village (in the Leicestershire Shield) in a field close to Castle Donington station, but owing to the counter attraction of the League match there was a very small number of spectators. The visitors who lacked any science whatever, were completely outclassed by the Dons, who eventually ran out easy winners by 11 goals to one.
Mowbray Mercury and Oakham and Uppingham News-10 October 1895

#7 HATHERN VICTORIA RESERVE v BARROW EXCELSIOR
This match was played on the Victoria Ground, Hathern, and ended as follows:
HATHERN, two goals;
BARROW, none.
Leicester Daily Post – 7 October 1895

#7 HATHERN VICTORIA ROVERS v BARROW EXCELSIOR
Played on the Victoria ground, Hathern, on Saturday afternoon, before a moderate attendance. The visitors winning the toss, the ball was set in motion by A Thompson, the visitors immediately making a rush for the home goal. After a spell of mid-field play, a corner was conceded the Barrow players, as the outcome of which the ball was placed between the posts, but the referee disallowed the point for offside. Hathern now got possession, and B Mitchell made a splendid run on the left. A corner resulted from a throw-in, and Hathern should have scored. Give-and-take play was now the order, till W Roper was conspicuous, and scored the first goal for Hathern. Although this around the visitors, the Reserves was pressed and several corners fell to them. Eventually the gaol-post was struck, and the ball rebounding in front, Berrington forced it through and added the second goal for the Reserves. Barrow now made the game lively, and tried to improve their chances, the Hathern goal being in danger for a time. Halftime: Hathern, two goals; Barrow none. On the re-start, play was decidedly in favour of the Excelsior, who obtained a foul in front, which was followed by two corners in quick succession. Immediately following this the visitors made a splendid run, and certainly should have scored. Hathern now acted somewhat on the defensive, and the visitors were not able to pass the backs, who played a good game. The end came with the score standing:
HATHERN, two goals;
BARROW EXCELSIOR, none.
Hathern players: Berrington, goal; Taylor, Brooks, Thompson, Berrington, Warren, B Mitchell, Smith, Ratcliff, Barlow and Roper. Referee, Mr Smithson, Leicester.
Mowbray Mercury and Oakham and Uppingham News -10 October 1895

#9 MOUNTSOREL v SHEPSHED
At Mountsorrel. Result:

MOUNTSORREL, five goals;
SHEPSHED, one.
Leicester Daily Post – 7 October 1895

#18 BELVOIR SS v OXFORD-STREET SS
With the wind in their favour Oxford-street had the best of the exchanges, half-time arriving with a goal in their favour scored by walker. No scoring took place after the interval, and the game ended:
OXFORD-STREET, one goal;
BELVOIR-STREET, none.
Leicester Daily Post – 7 October 1895

#21 IMPERIAL v ST JOHN'S
Imperial played with the wind in the first half, scoring one goal by A. Shore. The second half was mostly in favour of the Imperial, the Saints being outplayed, Imperial scoring two goals (by E Foster and S Hopkins). Result:
IMPERIAL, three goals;
ST JOHN'S, none.
Leicester Daily Post – 7 October 1895

#22 RICHMOND v WAVERLEY
Played at Stork's Head ground. The game opened very fast, both sides pressing in turn. T Platts scored for Waverley after fifteen minutes' play. Richmond equalising through Collis. Result:
WAVERLEY, two goals;
RICHMOND, one goal.
Leicester Daily Post – 7 October 1895

#25 ST MARY'S VICTOR v OLD WIGSTONIANS
At Wigston. Lewis and Pywell played a brilliant game at back for St Mary's. Result:
ST MARY'S VICTOR, three goals;
OLD WIGSTONIANS, two.
Leicester Daily Post – 7 October 1895

LEICESTERSHIRE CHALLENGE SHIELD
#31 SWANNINGTON ST GEORGE'S v COALVILLE UNITED
These teams met at Swannington in the second round of the Shield competition. The visitors were out played, and the game ended in an easy victory for St George's. Result:

Swannington	6 goals
Coalville	1 goal

Coalville Times – 8 November 1895

#33 Mountsorrel Castle played Hathern Victoria, at Hathern, in the second round of the Shield competition. Castle had not full strength, playing three reserves. Hathern won the toss and kicked against the wind. A. Bowler soon scored from a corner kick, and directly after Inglesant did ditto from a free, close in. In the second half Hathern pressed during the first quarter of a hour, and scored, as the wind was very strong. Afterwards the game was more open, and Palmer scored with a low cross shot. The game ended; Castle three goals; Hathern, one. Lovett, in goal, played a splendid game, while Mawby and Bowler kicked finely.
Mowbray Mercury and Oakham and Uppingham News – 7 November 1895

#33 MOUNTSORREL CASTLE v HATHERN VICTORIA
At Hathern. Result:
MOUNTSORREL, three goals;
HATHERN, one.
Leicester Daily Post – 4 November 1895

#34 SILEBY RANGERS v BARROW-ON-SOAR
At Sileby.

A DRAW – one goal each.
Leicester Daily Post – 4 November 1895

#37 MELTON VILLA v SYSTON EXCELSIOR
At Melton. Much to the surprise of the visitors they were excelled at all points of the game, and the match ended in a runaway victory for Melton. In the first half two goals were scored, and chances innumerable missed, but after the interval six more were added. Syston never got within shooting range, though they were much the heavier team, and the final score was:
MELTON, eight goals;
SYSTON, none.
Leicester Daily Post – 4 November 1895

#41 BELVOIR-STREET SS v CLARENCE
On the latter's ground, Clarence won the toss and played with the wing and soon scored from a free kick. Play became fast but no further scoring took place in the first half. On resuming Belvoir bombarded their enemy's goal, but could not score for some time, several times just missing. At length Jarvis scored, the ball grazing the cross bar as it went through. Final score:
CLARENCE, one;
BELVOIR, one.
Leicester Daily Post – 4 November 1895

#44 FOOTBALL – St Mary's Victor played Kibworth in the second round of the Shield Competition at Kibworth on Saturday, before a good gate. Kibworth started well, scoring two goals in the first ten minutes. St Mary's then played up and scored by Wheldon and Marson. Even play continued up to the interval, when the score was two all. St Mary's completely outplayed their opponents in the second half, scoring goals by Sutton, Marson and Wheldon, and a good game ended: St Mary's Victor, five goals' Kibworth, two goals.
Leicester Daily Post – 6 December 1895

#48 SWANNINGTON ST GEORGE'S v SILEBY RESERVES
This match was played at Swannington, on Saturday, and ended in a win for the home team by six goals to none. The Swannington players had the best of matters throughout, their goalkeeper not being called upon more than once throughout the game. Playing uphill in the first half, the Saints scored four points, whereas they could only score twice downhill, although pressing constantly. One of the Sileby players was ordered off the field for misconduct, but as this happened just before the finish, it could not have had much effect upon the game, as Sileby were undoubtedly outplayed from beginning to finish.
Melton Mowbray Mercury and Oakham and Uppingham News 23 January 1896

#51 IMPERIAL v BELVOIR-STREET SS
Result:
BELVOIR-STREET, four goals;
IMPERIAL, none.
Leicester Daily Post – 20 January 1896

FOURTH ROUND
#56 BELVOIR-STREET v MELTON VILLA
At Melton. Result:
BELVOIR-STREET, two goals;
VILLA, none.
Leicester Daily Post – 3 February 1896

#55 EARL SHILTON SWIFTS v FERNDALE
At Earl Shilton. Result:
SWIFTS, one goals;
FERNDALE, none.
Leicester Daily Post – 3 February 1896

#58 LEICESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION SHIELD SEMI-FINA:
CASTLE DONINGTON v BELVOIR-STREET
At Barrow. Result:
BELVOUIR-STREET, four goals;
CASTLE DONINGTON, one goal.
Leicester Daily Post – 2 March 1896

#59 EARL SHILTON v SWANNINTON
At Ibstock. Result:
A DRAW – two goals each.
Leicester Daily Post – 2 March 1896

#60 RE-PLAYED SEMI-FINAL TIE
EARL SHILTON SWIFTS v SWANNINGTON
At Barwell. Result:
SWANNINGTON, one goal;
EARL SHILTON, none.
Leicester Daily Post – 9 March 1896

#61 LEICESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION SHIELD
FINAL
Played at Anstey, before a good attendance. Belvoir won the toss and played with the wind in their favour in the opening half. Swannington scored first, but Belvoir equalised in the next minute by Shingler. Belvoir had most of the game but missed several chances to score. Half-time, Belvoir, one goal; Swannington, one.
Resuming Belvoir played a most improved game, and pressed throughout this half. Jarvis scored the second goal and King added another, the "Swans" being completely outplayed.
Result:
LEICESTER BELVOIR, three goals;
SWANNINGTON, one.
After the match Mr Lovell, the referee presented the shield to the winners, and also medals to both teams. Belvoir have not lost a match since December 12.
Leicester Daily Post – 16 March 1896