

Midland League 1894-95

		P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Loughborough	26	19	4	3	84	24	42
2	Stoke Swifts	26	14	7	5	90	33	35
3	Derby County Reserves	26	12	8	6	46	27	32
4	Gainsborough Trinity	26	14	4	8	55	36	32
5	Kettering	26	13	6	7	59	45	32
6	Ilkeston Town	26	13	5	8	53	46	31
7	Mansfield	26	12	5	9	46	37	29
8	Heanor Town	26	9	5	12	49	48	23
9	Rushden Town	26	10	3	13	47	70	23
10	Long Eaton Rangers	26	7	5	14	41	55	19
11	Newark	26	6	6	14	37	63	18
12	Doncaster Rovers	26	6	6	14	35	70	18
13	Grantham Rovers	26	6	5	15	27	59	17
14	Matlock	26	3	7	16	37	92	13
			144	76	144	703	703	

Champions:	Loughborough AFC
Runners-up:	Stoke Swifts
Third place:	Derby County Reserves
Wooden spoon:	Matlock
Games played:	156
Missing Results:	0
Goals scored:	703 (4.5 goals per game)
Biggest home win:	Mansfield 12-1 Rushden
Biggest away win:	Rushden Town 1-7 Loughborough AFC
Highest scoring:	13; Mansfield 12-1 Rushden

The 1894-95 season saw a rise in applications to the Midland League that eventually led to a 14 team division for the first time. The new clubs were Derby County Reserves (aka Derby Town), Heanor Town, Ilkeston Town, Matlock, Rushden Town and Stoke Swifts. Two clubs who had competed in the Midland League during the previous season, Mansfield Town and Mansfield Greenhalgh's amalgamated to form "Mansfield." Derby County Reserves (2nd), Heanor Town (1st), Ilkeston (3rd) and Matlock (5th) all competed in the Derbyshire League during the 1893-94 season. Stoke Swifts had finished runners-up in the [Combination](#), a league for clubs based in the North-West of England.

The prospects of the clubs most likely to succeed during the new season was difficult to gauge.

Derby County Reserves started well, as expected, losing only once in their opening ten fixtures. They fielded a high number of players from their First Division squad. Stoke Swifts, a club that was generally regarded as the Stoke Reserve team, also began in impressive style, and suffered only one defeat in the first twelve games. It is worth noting that the defeats experienced by both Derby and Stoke amidst their impressive starts to the season were against Loughborough.

Thus, before the season was too old, it became abundantly clear that Loughborough had put together a formidable team. By early December they were still undefeated and had only dopped two points in drawn games at home to Kettering and at Stoke Swifts. Defensively they were very sound, illustrated by the fact that after the 2-2 draw with Kettering no team scored more than once against them for 16 games, and only then in 5-3 and 5-2 victories. It was not until almost the last week of March that Loughborough suffered

their first defeat in the Midland League. When it came, it provided the biggest upset of the season as last-placed Grantham Rovers beat the runaway leaders by a single goal on the Harlaxton-road ground. Prior to this game Grantham had only won twice in 17 matches.

Stoke Swifts and Derby County Reserves maintained their pursuit of Loughborough, although both lost matches that they could have been expected to have won. Of the other new clubs, Ilkeston Town fared the best of the rest, finishing their first Midland league campaign in sixth place. Mansfield, Heanor and Rushden filled the positions immediately below them. Matlock, meanwhile, struggled and ended the season at the foot of the table, winning just 3 of their 26 League fixtures.

Following two seasons in the doldrums, Gainsborough Trinity had something of a resurgence ending the campaign in fourth place. Trinity forward Joe Raby was the League's joint leading goal scorer with Jack Thorpe of Kettering with 15 goals.

Loughborough won the Midland League well before the end of the season. They lost their last two games against Doncaster Rovers and Derby County Reserves, which served only to reduce the margin of supremacy. The Derby defeat prevented Gainsborough from taking third place and here was some concern when it was discovered that the Derby club had fielded almost their first team.

Loughborough scored 84 goals, which included 8 against Newark and 7 against Matlock, Rushden, and Ilkeston and 6 in consecutive games against Rushden away and Doncaster Rovers at home. Robert Edge, one of the infamous "Wolverhampton four" was Luff's top scorer with a near goal-a-game record, before returning to Molineux before the season ended. Gaining 18 votes, Loughborough Town were duly elected to the Football League, where they replaced Walsall Town Swifts. Leicestershire 'derby days' from now on would be in the Football League. Loughborough were formally crowned Midland League Champions at the twenty-eighth annual sports held on 2 June 1895 on the Athletic Grounds, before a large gathering. There was a huge cheer as club President Mr J E Johnson-Ferguson MP for the Loughborough division unfurled the flag after it was ceremonially presented to him by Mr A Kingscott, of Derby, secretary of the Midland League. Success, however, came at a cost as the Fosse had also discovered. Unfortunately, the deficit was huge, that would eventually strangle the club to a premature death. Loughborough made a loss of £258 4s 4d in 1893-4, against £110 the previous season. Unfortunate injuries to Kent and Coulton, and several other players, resulted in an additional expenditure of nearly £100. Players wages and travelling expenses had increased by £294 to £938 1s 16s, mainly as a direct result of having to sign fresh players to take the place of those injured, and a large proportion of the players not residing in Loughborough.

Results Grid

	Derby County Reserves	Doncaster Rovers	Gainsborough Trinity	Grantham Rovers	Heanor Town	Ilkeston Town	Kettering	Long Eaton Rangers	Loughborough	Mansfield	Matlock	Newark	Rushden Town	Stoke Swifts
Derby County Res		3-1	2-1	3-0	1-0	2-1	3-1	2-1	4-1	0-0	7-0	1-1	2-3	1-1
Doncaster Rovers	1-1		2-0	4-2	1-0	4-2	1-1	2-1	1-0	0-2	2-2	2-2	1-2	2-2
Gainsborough Trinity	2-0	4-0		3-0	4-0	1-3	4-2	2-0	0-0	0-1	5-0	3-0	3-1	1-0
Grantham Rovers	0-1	1-0	1-1		1-1	1-2	0-1	2-2	1-0	0-2	1-1	2-0	1-0	2-1
Heanor Town	1-0	5-2	3-3	3-0		2-0	3-3	3-0	1-1	1-2	7-1	3-4	5-0	0-2
Ilkeston Town	0-4	1-0	2-1	4-1	2-1		4-2	2-0	0-2	2-2	7-1	2-1	9-1	0-2
Kettering	2-2	2-1	3-1	4-2	2-1	4-0		2-2	1-4	4-1	7-0	2-1	1-0	2-2
Long Eaton Rangers	4-4	5-1	0-2	4-3	1-0	0-0	2-1		1-2	4-0	2-1	0-3	3-1	1-5
Loughborough	2-0	6-1	5-3	4-0	3-0	7-1	2-2	3-1		1-0	7-0	8-0	7-1	2-1
Mansfield	1-2	1-0	3-3	2-0	1-2	2-2	2-0	3-1	0-2		1-0	3-1	12-1	2-1
Matlock	1-1	2-2	1-3	6-0	1-1	1-2	1-2	5-3	2-5	3-1		2-2	0-2	3-3

Newark	0-0	3-2	1-3	0-3	5-0	1-2	2-4	1-1	1-3	1-1	2-1		0-3	0-4
Rushden Town	1-0	6-0	0-1	2-2	1-4	2-2	2-1	2-0	1-6	2-0	10-1	1-2		2-2
Stoke Swifts	1-0	13-1	6-1	8-1	6-1	1-1	2-3	3-2	1-1	4-1	7-0	7-3	5-0	

Loughborough AFC Results & Match Details

Date	Opposition	Result	Score	Scorers	Attendance	Match Details
08.09.1894	Stoke Swifts (H)	W	2-1	Booth, Edge /Eccles		New Loughborough man Bob Edge, signed from Wolverhampton Wanderers scored on his ML debut.
15.09.1894	Kettering Town (H)	D	2-2	Booth, Dewey / Mablestone, Thorpe		Loughborough preserved their 21 match unbeaten home record in the ML.
22.09.1894	Newark Town (H)	W	8-0	Dewey (3), Booth, OG, Edge, Kidger, Owen		Newark were down to 9 men at the end of the game.
29.09.1894	Rushden (A)	W	6-1	Edge (2), Tucker, Mills (2), Owen / Pendered		Loughborough became early leaders of the ML after this massive away win.
06.10.1894	Doncaster Rovers (H)	W	6-1	Edge (3), Mills, Tucker, OG / Bessenger		Loughborough had scored 20 goals in the last 3 ML games, conceding just 2.
20.10.1894	Long Eaton Rangers (A)	W	2-1	Mills, Edge / Hardy		Loughborough missed a penalty in the second half.
27.10.1894	Derby County Reserves (H)	W	2-0	Mills, Dewey		"Rain fell in torrents during the whole time of the match."
10.11.1894	Long Eaton Rangers (H)	W	3-1	Owen, OG, Mills / Locker		
17.11.1894	Stoke Swifts (A)	D	1-1	Mills / Brookfield	2,800	Simpson of Stoke broke his collarbone in the second half. The home team first choice goalkeeper (Rowley) failed to turn up.
24.11.1894	Ilkeston (A)	P	P			
08.12.1894	Matlock (H)	W	7-0	Mills (3), Edge (2), Dewey, Saxton		Sam Mills recorded his first hat-trick of the 1894-95 season.
26.12.1894	Heanor Town (A)	Aban	2-0	Saxton, Berry		Abandoned after 75 mins due to bad light.
05.01.1895	Rushden (H)	W	7-1	Edge (3), Mills, W C Rose, OG (Baldrey) / Bailey		Former England goalkeeper William Rose scored.
12.01.1895	Newark Town (A)	W	3-1	Smith, Edge, Mills / McCullum		
26.01.1895	Grantham Rovers (H)	W	4-0	Edge (2), Owen, Dewey		"Heroic performance2 of the Grantham goalkeeper (Shaw) kept the score to a respectable level for the visitors
02.02.1895	Gainsborough Trinity (A)	D	0-0			Gainsborough became the first team to prevent Loughborough from scoring in the ML for 14 games.
23.02.1895	Kettering Town (A)	W	4-1	Dewey, Bull, Saxton, Edge	4,000	More than 12 months since Loughborough had lost a ML game [2-1 at Burton Wanderers, 3 February 1894]

02.03.1895	Ilkeston (H)	W	7-1	Bull, Saxton (3), Dewey (2), Rose / Raybould	3,500	5 th time this season that Loughborough had scored 6 or more goals at home,
23.03.1895	Mansfield Town (H)	W	1-0	Dewey		Dewey's 12 th goal of the season. Loughborough's 9 th straight home win.
30.03.1895	Grantham Rovers (A)	L	0-1	/Freeman	400	Biggest upset of the ML season.
06.04.1895	Gainsborough Trinity (H)	W	5-3	Saxton (3), W Rose (2) / Ward, Raby, Hayne		Saxton's second hat-trick of the season. Loughborough's 16 th consecutive home win over 2 seasons.
12.04.1895	Matlock (A)	W	5-2	Saxton, Owen, Bull (2), Mills / Taylor, Frost	2,000	Loughborough completed the ML double over lowly Matlock-scoring 12 goals in the process.
13.04.1895	Heanor Town (H)	W	3-0	Cotterill, Middleton, Mills		Loughborough's final home game which saw them preserve a 33 unbeaten run over 3 seasons.
15.04.1895	Rest of the League	W	2-1	Bull, Preston		
16.04.1895	Ilkeston (A)	W	2-0	Saxton, Mills	4,000	Although reputed to be unconscious at the end of the game the previous day, Sam Raybould appeared for the Ilkeston team.
17.04.1895	Heanor Town (A)	D	1-1	Preston / Butterworth		Original game (26 Dec.) was abandoned.
20.04.1895	Mansfield Town (A)	W	2-0	Cotterill (2)		Two goals from recent signing Tom Cotterill gave Loughborough a 10 point lead.
27.04.1895	Doncaster Rovers (A)	L	0-1	/Carr		
30.04.1895	Derby County Reserves (A)	L	1-4	Owen / Paul, Cox, McMillan	1,500	Derby played their first team in the final ML match of the season, which helped their reserve team finish third.