



Rolleston Cup 1897-98

Winner: Fosse Amateurs
Runner-Up: Glen Parva Depot
No. of entries: 12 (13?)

Ten (10) teams were given byes into Round 2.

Fosse Amateurs and Anstey Town were exempt from Rounds 1 and 2.

Records for the competition remain incomplete. While Aylestone Park Rovers successfully defeated YMCA in the second round, the reason for the subsequent replay is unknown, and the club's eventual progress or exit in Round 3 remains unrecorded. It is possible that they were defeated by Enderby Granite in Round 3 but this has yet to be confirmed.

Leicester Old boys appeared in Round 2 – but were not listed as being given a Round 1 bye.

Syston Rangers were possibly awarded a Round 2 bye.

Fosse Amateurs beat Glen Parva Depot 1-0 in the final which was played on the Tiger's Welford -road Ground.

The Glen Parva team include Lance Corporal Jones in goal and Private Walker who played as a forward.

Round 1

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
1	23.10.1897	Wigston Excelsior	3	1	Leicester Richmond	Game commenced at 3.15pm

Aylestone Park Rovers, Belgrave St Michael's, Enderby Granite, Ferndale, Glen Parva, St Mary's Rovers, Syston Rangers, Syston Swifts, and YMCA, byes.

Leicester Fosse (Amateurs) and Anstey Town were exempt from the first two rounds.

Round 2

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
2	20.11.1897	Aylestone Park Rovers	3	1	YMCA	
3		Belgrave St Michael's			Ferndale	
4	20.11.1897	Enderby Granite	11	0	Leicester Old Boys	
5	20.11.1897	Glen Parva Depot	3	3	Syston Rangers	Syston reported Glen Parva Depot FC for failing to give notice of taking no gate. Glen Parva paid Syston their travel expenses.
6	20.11.1897	St Mary's Rovers Joe Breward Gee Mattson (3) Cufflin (2) Wood	10	1	Aylestone United	St Mary's missed a penalty.
7		Wigston Excelsior		W	Syston Swifts	

Kick off time – no later than 2.45 pm

Round 2 Replays

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
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8	4.12.1897	Aylestone Park Rovers Burks Whitmore (2)	4	1	YMCA AN Other	Victoria Park, Leicester. Bad conditions.
9	4.12.1897	St Mary's Rovers Breward (3) Gee Mattson (3) Cufflin (2) Wood	10	1	Aylestone United	St Mary's missed a penalty.
		Syston Rangers		W	Glen Parva Depot	

Round 3

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
10	18.12.1897	Fosse Amateurs Coulson (2) Watkins (2) Wood AN Others	7 (2)	1 (0)	Anstey Town	Filbert-street enclosure, Leicester. Good attendance. Anstey had the choice of grounds, but monetary considerations changed the venue to Leicester. Fosse only had 10 men at the outset.
11	18.12.1897	St Mary's Rovers	D	D	Syston Swifts	

Round 3 Replay

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
12	15.1.1898	Syston Swifts	1	0	St Mary's Rovers	

Semi-Finals

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
13	5.2.1898	Syston Swifts AN Other Baker	2	2	Fosse Amateurs Riley Eaton	At Syston. Fosse played a weakened side through several players being required to assist in the contest at Leicester against Darwen.
14	5.2.1898	Enderby Granite AN Other	1	2	Glen Parva Depot AN Other Adcock	At Enderby. Beautifully fine weather. Large attendance. Large crowd Glen Parva fielded an ineligible player. Game ordered to be replayed.

Semi-Final Replay

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
15	19.2.1898	Fosse Amateurs Riley Watkins Eaton Coulson (2)	5	0	Syston Swifts	Filbert-street Ground, Leicester 1,000 spectators. The appearance of a number of Syston supporters made matters lively McAlpin failed to turn up. His place was taken by Hunt at half-time.
16	19.2.1898	Glen Parva Depot	3	0	Enderby Granite	

Final

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
17	26.2.1898	Glen Parva Depot	0	1	Fosse Amateurs Coulson	Welford-road Ground, Leicester.

Match Reports

A selection of published match reports.

FIRST ROUND

#1 WIGSTON EXCELSIOR v LEICESTER RICHMOND

Played at Wigston, the home team making good xxx to enter the next stage by the following score:

WIGSTON, three goals;

RICHMOND, one goal.

Leicester Daily Post – 25 October 1897

#2 AYLESTONE PARK ROVERS v YMCA

At Aylestone. The Rovers played a good game, and won on the point of time. Result:

ROVERS, three goals;

YMCA, two.

Leicester Daily Post – 22 November 1897

#4 ENDERBY GRANITE v LEICESTER OLD BOYS

At Enderby. Result:

ENDERBY, eleven goals;

OLD BOYS, none

Leicester Daily Post – 22 November 1897

#5 SYSTON RANGERS v GLEN PARVA DEPOT

At Syston. Result:

A DRAW – three goals each.

Leicester Daily Post – 22 November 1897

#8 AYLESTONE PARK ROVERS v YMCA

On the Victoria Park, under bad conditions. The Rovers had the best of the opening exchanges, and before half-time Burke and Whitmore had put on two goals. The game was fast considering the state of the ground, and the YMCA hardly knowing what they were beaten and defending in gallant style. In the second half Wallace put on a goal for them, but Whitmore scored again for Aylestone, being followed by Powell, the result being:

AYLESTONE ROVERS, four goals

YMCA, one.

Leicester Daily Post – 6 December 1897

#9 ST MARY'S ROVERS v AYLESTONE UNITED

Played on the former's ground being scored by Joe Breward (three), G. Gee (one), Mattson (three), Cufflin (two), Wood (one). St Mary's Rovers also had a penalty kick, but failed to add a further goal. Result:

ST MARY'S ROVERS, 10 goals;

AYLESTONE UNITED, on goal.

Leicester Daily Post – 6 December 1897

#10 ROLLESTON CHARITY CUP

THIRD ROUND

FOSSE RESERVES v ANSTEY TOWN

Anxious to gain possession of the handsome trophy presented by the president of the Fosse Club, the Reserves entered the Filbert-street enclosure this afternoon, with a strong eleven selected to do duty against Anstey Town in the third round of the competition. Both teams had had the benefit of exemption in the preliminary rounds, and for this match Anstey had choice of grounds, but monetary considerations changed the venue of operations in Leicester. There was a good attendance at the time of the kick-off. The Fosse, who only had ten men at the outset, started the game, and the home forwards quickly got down, but twice in quick succession was the ball kicked over the line. Give-and-take play of a fast description followed, and then a corner fell to the Whites, but Bond saved splendidly. The Fosse, however, continued to keep up a spirited attack on the Anstey goal, and nothing but the grand display of the visiting custodian prevented a

score being registered on several occasions. Anstey were penalised, and Bond had to save at the expense of a corner, which, however, proved fruitless. Smart work by the Anstey forwards transferred play to the opposite end, where a corner fell to the visitors, who failed to utilize it to the best advantage, and again the fosse got down, and Coulson subsequently beat Bond with a low fast shot, the success being received with considerable enthusiasm by the supporters of the home club. Going on, play ruled very fast, and the ball was taken up and down the field at a big pace. Then the Fosse pressed heavily, but generally speaking this, together with the fact that Bond continued to give a sterling exhibition in the Anstey gal, was responsible for the failure of the Fossils to add to their score. Ten minutes before half-time the visitors front contingent broke away and looked dangerously, a fast shot from the left wing going over the cross bar. From now to the interval the game went all in favour of the Fosse, and only by a miracle was the Anstey goal kept intact. The downfall of the visitors' citadel was however, eventually brought about by Atter getting possession from the inside right, and centering cleverly to Watkins, who scored a second goal for the Fosse with a shot which Bond hadn't a chance with. Almost immediately afterwards Watkins again received, and after a tricky run that player sent Bond a shot which had to be fisted away at the expense of a corner. Nothing further had been registered, however, when the whistle piped for half-time, the score standing:

FOSSE, two goals;

ANSTEY, nothing

The second half opened in favour of the Fosse, and Coulson headed through, but the referee held that the ball had been out, and awarded a goal kick. The fact, however, availed the visitors little, for the Fossils again got dangerous, and a splendid centre by Hart was headed through by Watkins in fine fashion. Ensuing play saw the Fosse still keeping up a hot attack on the Anstey goal, but by plucky play the villagers relieved and got down, only to find the home defence well-nigh impregnable. Once more hostilities were removed to the Anstey end of the ground, where Watkins put the finishing touch to a pretty movement by scoring a fourth goal for the home team. Almost directly afterwards Watkins narrowly missed adding a still further point, a magnificent overhead kick going over the net. Anstey then played with vigor, and got into the Fosse half, and as the result of a scrimmage in the mouth of goal the visitors managed to effect a score. Playing together in fine style Fosse again took up the attack, and Woof registered yet another goal for the home brigade, and this was followed by a hot bombardment of the Anstey goal. The visitors, however, succeeded in obtaining relief, and the Anstey forwards rushing the ball down managed to extract a corner, but nothing of tangible character accrued. The concluding stages of the game saw the Fosse sorely taxing the Anstey defence and after Culson had put on a goal No. 6 for the home eleven, with the exception of a few spasmodic bursts by the visiting forwards play went all in favour of the Fossils, who kept Bond busily engaged. Just before operations finally ceased, Atter scored still another goal for the Fosse, and the game thus ended:

FOSSE, seven goals;

ANSTEY, one.

Leicester Daily Mercury - 18 December 1897

#12 REPLAYED TIE

SYSTON SWIFTS v ST MARYS ROVERS

This replayed tie took place at Syston, before a good crowd, both sides being well represented. Syston kicked off, and quickly pressed, and after about ten minutes play the ball was rushed through at the third attempt, Deacon saving twice. Give-and-take play followed, but nothing further was scored up to half-time. Syston Swifts, one goal; St Mary's, none. After the change the game was fought with great vigour, but no more goals were scored Coper for Syston, had the goal at his mercy, but shot outside, Result:

SYSTON, one goal;

ST MARY'S, none.

Leicester Daily Post- 17 December 1897

#14 Great interest in this match, which was played at Enderby on Saturday. The weather was beautifully fine, and the attendance large. Owing to the frost overnight and the powerful sun during the morning the ground was somewhat on the soft side. Both teams had taken their full strength. The visitors won the toss, and started down hill, and after a spell of play in midfield, the ball was taken to the visitors' goal, and it is marvellous how it escaped. Shot after shot was saved by Kimberley, who was in fine form. Play was very fast, but after a couple of corners proved fruitless to the home team the visitors gradually worked the ball and after twenty minutes from the commencement Marvin shot a beautiful goal amidst great cheering from the supporters of the visiting team. Five minutes after the ball was again put through, but the point

was disallowed for off-side, following which the home team tried hard to score, and from a scramble in front of goal they equalized in the last minute of the first half, an appeal for off-side being disallowed. The interval came with the score: One goal each. Immediately on the resumption the home side attacked, and had hard lines in not scoring, the visitors defence being superb. Glen Parva next paid a visit to the home goal, and nearly scored, Adcock just missing. The Soldiers got down again, and from a corner Adcock put them in front with a splendid shot, which the goalkeeper had no chance of saving. From this point the visitors were kept on the defensive, and the whistle blew with the score:-

GLEN PARVADEPOT, two goals;

ENDERBY GRANITE, one goal.

Leicester Daily Post - 8 February 1898

#15 FOSSE AMATEURS v SYSTON SWIFTS

The peculiar character of the match a few weeks ago between these teams, at Syston, when the Leicester men succeeded in making a draw under rather difficult circumstances, invested the replayed tie with a good deal of interest, and though the crowd at Filbert-street on Saturday afternoon was not much more than a thousand strong, the appearance of the Syston team contributed to turn out for the home side, and Hunt took his place at half, while Syston had a representative side out. Thompson lost the toss, and the Fosse had, therefore, to play against a cold wind. Mr W Cockain, who refereed, thought it wise to speak to the players before commencing, but the opening stages were marked by good cup-tie football. After a foul or two the game settled down in the visitors' territory, and some thoroughly interesting play was seen. Well fed by Wood, who at centre-half played a capital game, the Fosse forwards were repeatedly dangerous, and deserving effects score were made by Swift, Eaton, and Watkins. Two or three corners were forced, and one particularly good shot was put in by Eaton, but the ball rose just above the bar. Generally speaking, the Fosse backs were quite capable of holding the village forwards, but Hunt let down Pilkington and Harris, and in spite of some strong play by Bailey, Underwood had to deal with a fine shot from Brown, but the Fosse custodian was quite equal to all emergencies. The Syston defence was sound, except for a narrow escape from miskicking by Harriman and a needless corner by the goalkeeper. As the game progressed the superiority of the home forwards became more marked, but at shooting they lost much by over anxiety. Coulson once took a good pass from Riley, and was in a splendid position for scoring, but in trying a side foot shot missed the goal altogether. Then again Watkins gave the ball to Swift, when, from long range, dropped a beautiful shot just over Lewin's head, and into the net; but, as he did so, the whistle blew for off-side. A quick rush by Harris, Pilkington and Baker caught the Fosse backs unaware and the result was a hot shot from Brown. Cassell kicked away a centre by Harris, which was passing by the front of goal, and in doing so gave a corner, which led to a foul, and from the free kick Lewin (half-back) scored, only to be given off-side. When play was going on close to the Fosse goal, Riley kicked forward for Watkins to race up the field, and beat Barker, who had run across to meet him. The Oswestry player reached the goal-line before centring to Swift, whose shot for goal was a poor one, but it caused Lewin to fall down to it, and the goalkeeper losing the ball, Riley ran up, and touched it into the net. The interval was announced shortly afterwards, with the score:

FOSSE, one goal;

SYSTON, none.

The opening of the second half was entirely favourable to the Fosse, Cassell and Wood soon became conspicuous. The former pulled up Cooper and Brown in good style, and then the Market Harborough man made progress with a strong burst, finishing up with a shot which was stopped by Lewin at the side of the goal. The Fosse were not long before they assumed a useful lead, for a couple of goals came in quick succession. The first resulted from a capital piece of concerted play, Eaton middling the ball to Watkins, who headed as neat a goal as one need wish to see. The next point came from the foot of Eaton, who followed up a burst with a shot close in which gave the custodian no chance. These reverses seemed to put "settled" to the Swifts account, for the ensuing play was completely in favour of the Fosse, whose forwards were having matters pretty much their own way. Shots from both Eaton and Swift passed by, and a hard drive from Wood was just stopped in front of goal by one of the defending backs. Eaton, in taking a centre from Riley, was stopped for offside just as he shot on to the goalkeeper, and so one-sided were the exchanges hereabouts that it was evident the Swifts had shot their bolt. Two or three long shots at the visitors' goal were wide, and for some time the defence prevailed, but at length Coulson got through with an admirable long kick, which beat Lewin all the way. For a brief space the Swifts made their way into Fosse territory, and Underwood caught and threw away a well-judged shot by Stacey. At the opposite end Wood dropped a 30

yards' kick in front of the post, and the ball rolled off Coulson's back of the net for the fifth goal. Play slowed down considerably towards the finish, and two or three times Syston gained a footing at the other end, but their forward play was spasmodic, and they were never really dangerous, while, on the other hand, their halves were continually beaten back by Eaton and Co, Wood's shooting was a feature, and twice he provided Lewi with work, Eaton also playing an exceedingly good game. On the whole the match was a good one, but the Swifts failed to stay, and the victory of the Fosse was all that the score represented it to be. Final score:

FOSSE AMATEURS, five goals;
SYSTON SWIFTS, none.

Teams: - Fosse: Underwood, goal; Thompson and Bailey, backs; Cassell, Wod and Hunt, half-backs; Swift, Eaton, Coulson, Watkins and Riley, forwards.

Syston Swifts: Lewin, goal; Harriman and Barker, backs; Lewin, Coper and Stacey, half-back; Harris, Pilkington, Baker, Cooper and Brown, forwards.

Leicester Daily Post - 21 February 1898

#16 GLEN PARVA DEPT DEPOT v ENDERBY GRANITE

These teams met for the second time in this competition on account of the first-named club in the previous game playing an ineligible player. The previous result, however, was not upset, the soldiers winning by:

GLEN PARVA, three goals;
ENDERBY, none.

Leicester Daily Post - 21 February 1898

#17 ROLLESTON CHARITY CUP

GLEN PARVA. DEPOT v. FOSSE AMATEURS.

The final ties for possession of the Rolleston Charity Cups took place on the Welford-road Ground on Saturday afternoon in fine, but gusty weather and the presence of a big crowd of spectators.

The Depot brought with them a large following of spectators, including not a few "red-coats" who were very enthusiastic over their team's chances. The Depot won the toss, and the Fosse set the game in motion in the face of a strong wind. The opening stages of the match were of an even character. Then the Fosse got down, a shot by Watkins hitting the Glen Parva cross-bar. Going on, the Fosse front rank gave a very pretty display, and Coulson once again had a pop at goal. The Depot took up the attack, and got right down, but their forwards shot wide. A minute later a kick by Thompson was carried by the wind over the Fosse goal line. Aided by the wind, the soldiers kept up a hot attack on the Fosse citadel, and from a fast low shot from Adcock, Underwood had to handle to clear. Fast even play followed, and then the Fosse front division dashed down the field in irresistible fashion, and a long shot from Watkins was saved by Jones on his knees. With the Fosse keeping up the pressure, the Depot backs, found plenty to do. Underwood in one instance sending over. The Glen Parva representatives then resumed the aggressive, but Adcock shot outside. Pretty passing by the Fosse forwards was next witnessed and which looked dangerous for the Depot, but only a couple of unproductive corners accrued. Fast, exciting play followed after which the Fosse returned to the attack, but Jones between the sticks, proved equal to every emergency. For a foul on Cassell, the Depot were penalised, and the offending player was cautioned. Notwithstanding that they were considerably handicapped by the stiff breeze, Fosse, continued to have much the best of the game and on several occasion, only the remarkable goalkeeping of Jones kept them from scoring. The Glen Parva custodian, on one occasion, cleared a couple of hot successive shots in splendid fashion. A free against the Depot for a bad foul on Watkins was nicely placed, but was safely cleared, and the game transferred to midfield. From now up to the interval Fosse pressed continually but failed to effect a score. Half-time arriving with the game still

NO SCORE.

On changing ends, the Fosse at once commenced to press, and got close up. but were forced back to midfield The Depot continued to attack, and the ball was sent over the Fosse goal line. The Fosse. relieved with a rush. and Riley getting the ball from a long kick in midfield sent in a feeble shot. which went just outside the post. Almost immediately afterwards Coulson put in a fast overhead shot which only missed the bar by a few inches. Fosse still kept up the pressure and Turner, with a flying shot, put the leather over the bar, and several other good opportunities for the scoring were lost by mediocre shooting. After the soldiers had paid a temporary visit to Fosse territory, the amateurs repelled the attack. and in turn assumed the aggression, but Coulson's attempt to kick a goal, when well up, was nicely saved by Jones, who a few

minutes later from Swift at the expense of a corner from which, however, nothing came. After a spell of uneventful play the Fosse took up the attack in earnest, and an exciting bombardment of the Glen Parva citadel was witnessed but the Depot offered a stubborn defence to the Fosse efforts, and, thanks to the excellent goalkeeping of Jones, danger was for time being averted. Ensuing play, however, went all in favour of the Fosse, who, however, seemed incapable of penetrating the Soldier's defence. Jones clearing time after time in wonderful fashion. After the Fosse had had a protracted turn of attacking, the Depot broke away, and got in dangerous proximity to their opponents' goal, but the Ancients drove them back, and into the Glen Parva half was the game once more taken. The end was now drawing near, and, as a result, the Fosse strained every nerve to obtain a goal, and shortly after Coulson had scored an off-side point, the same player, after a tricky run, beat Jones, and secured the victory for his side. Time was shortly afterwards called, with the score standing.

FOSSE AMATEURS, one goal;

GLEN PARVA DEPOT. nothing.

Fosse Amateur. Underwood, goal; Thompson and Bailey, backs; Cassell, Wood, and Hunt, half-backs; Riley, Watkins. Coulson, Turner, and Swift, forwards.

Glen Parva Depot: Lance-Corporal Jones, goal; Private Martin and Private McKillop, backs; Private Yeomans, Corpl. Price, and Corpl. Small, half-backs; Private Burgall, Lance-Corpl. Richards, Private Walker, Private Scotter, and Private Adcock, forwards.

Referee, Mr. Carpenter.

Leicester Daily Post – 28 February 1898

Additional Information

Syston Rangers FC reported Glen Parva FC for failing to give notice of taking no gate. The committee of Glen Parva Club had since the report tendered the amount of expenses, and apologised for the neglect of their secretary – the executive, after hearing the evidence ruled that the money tendered be handed to Syston Rangers, the secretary of Glen Parva FC was censured, and the club recommended to revise and improve its management.

Leicester Chronicle – 25 December 1897