LFA Leicestershire Challenge Shield Cup 1893-94

Winner: Castle Donington Swifts
Runner-Up: Hathern Victoria
No. of entries: 27 entries

Leicester were represented by just three teams (Newby-street, North End and St John's), none from Market Harborough, with the reminder from the Hinckley, Coalville and Loughborough districts.

Due to the lack of information regarding second and third round draws, the structure of this competition has been difficult to fully elucidate, not helped by the poor weather resulting in the postponement/abandonment of many games in addition to the large number of replays (particularly in Round 2).

Despite considerable research there are several missing results and uncertainties.

Given number of ties played in Round 1, and no mention in the press of Oxford Rovers and Enderby Swifts during the period in which Round 2 games were played, it can be assumed that both clubs were granted byes into Round 3.

The second round tie between Hugglescote and Shepshed appears to have been ordered to have been replayed twice, despite the former winning both games. It is not currently known whether the third game took place.

Leicestershire Football Association in November 1893 ruled that players winning the Challenge Shield were barred from taking part in the same competition ever-again.

The silver medals offered by Leicestershire Football Association to the winners of the Junior Challenge Cup and the Challenge Shield went on display in Castle Donington, in the windows of Mr J Simpson, London House and Mr W F Parker, Borough-street in June 1894. The medals bore the inscription "*Leicestershire Football Association 1894" and* are of a most artistic design and "form a beautiful specimen of the silversmith's handicraft."

Although losing 4-2 to Hathern in the final, the Shield and medals were controversially awarded to Castle Donington. The strange story of Hathern's first cup competition is summarised below:

> "…if a junior club is defeated in a Shield tie, it is very probable that before a week is passed the secretary of the winning team will receive a letter from the association that governs the competition that the tie must be played or perhaps that the match has been awarded to their opponents. There is strong suspicion among the different clubs that some of the later ties are ordered to be replayed so that the association may reap the result of another "gate." After the expenses of the competing teams have been paid, the balance of the gate-money is paid to the association…." – *Football News (Nottingham) – 24 March 1894*

Six players of Hathern Victoria FC competed in a 6-a-side contest at Costock. The Hathern club a little afterwards were desirous of entering the Leicestershire Challenge, and their secretary, Mr J Thompson, was instructed to write to Mr T Ashmole, secretary of the Leicestershire Football Association asking whether the men who had played in the aforementioned contest would be eligible to take part in the Shield competition. Mr Thompson received the following letter in reply:

> "Leicestershire Football Association"
> August 18th, 1893
> "Mr G J Thompson, Hathern Victoria FC
> Dear Sir – I have to acknowledge receipt of your letter with PO 5s enclosed. The players you mention are ineligible to compete for Challenge Shield, until they have been suspended, unless

> the contest they took part in was sanctioned by some recognised association. I am getting a handbook printed giving the names and addresses of all our clubs, also the fixtures of each, rules of the Association Cup competitions, &c., so shall be glad to receive your arrangements for the coming season. By taking a number of these, it will save clubs having fixture cards printed. – Yours truly THOS ASHMOLE

The six players who had taken part in the contest were reported, and eventually suspended by the Leicestershire Association, and after the period of their suspension had expired, assisted Hathern in their Shield ties. In the first round they had to face Sileby Rangers at home and won by three goals to two. Sileby protested, alleging that several of the Hathern men had played in the Leicestershire Junior Cup Competition. The Emergency Committee overruled this protest. In the second round Hathern were drawn against Woodhouse Rovers at home and scored 8 in an easy victory. The Rovers protested on account of the weather, and the match was ordered to be replayed. The Vics again proved their superiority over their opponents, winning in easy fashion by 3-0.

The draw for the third round resulted in Hathern having to journey to Leicester to play Oxford Rovers. They easily won the tie 4-0. This was the only club that Hathern met in the competition who did not protest on some ground or other. In the semi-final Hathern played Shepshed Church of England, on the Town Ground, at Kegworth, There Hathern thrashed their opponents to the tune of 5-1, a very creditable performance. Following tradition, however, the defeated club, Shepshed protested on the ground that J Thompson, J Berrington and J Burrowes had played in a six-a-side contest, and were therefore ineligible to play in Shield ties. It was dismissed on the strength of the letter printed above. Shepshed, however, were not satisfied, and appealed to the General Committee, who refused to reopen the matter. Castle Donington Reserves won their semi-final tie, and therefore had to meet Hathern in the Sheild final, at St Andrew's Ground, Kegworth

Castle Donington won the toss and kicked off with the wind in their favour and scored twice in the opening 15 minutes. Hathern retaliated, however, and at half-time the score was: Hathern, three goals; Castle Donington, two. In the second half Hathern scored again and eventually ran out winners of a splendidly contested game 4-2. Then Castle Donington protested – and on the same grounds that Shepshed had done in the previous round. On the following Wednesday the Hathern secretary received the following letter: -

> Leicestershire Football Association
> March 6th, 1894
> Mr J Thompson, Hathern FC
> Dear Sir – emergency Committee have ordered your match v Castle Donington to be replayed at Kegworth on Match 17th, and your team is not to include the three men who took part in the six-a-side contest, and who were objected to in last round. I am also to point out that although the committee sanctioned their having played in the last round (under the exceptional circumstances) the men ought not to have taken part in the final last Saturday. Your
> THOM ASHMOLE.

The Hathern executive requested their secretary to write to the Association stating that they would not take part in replayed tie, given that Mr Ashmole stated it in the first letter that the men would be eligible to play after suspension. They had been suspended, and according to the first letter the Hathern club were within their right in playing then men. Hathern appealed against the decision of the Emergency Committee.

The General Committee upheld the decision of the Emergency Committee. Furthermore, Hathern were fined a guinea for refusing to replay the match. Hathern's secretary wrote to Mr Ashmole expressing his surprise that they were not informed about the meeting. Mr Ashmole informed Hathern that the committee did not meet to decide the protest, but that he [Mr Ashmole] wrote to the various members of that committee, and the decision was arrived at in that way. One of the delegates stated that what stood good in the semi-final did not in the final. It is worth mentioning

that whilst 5 Hathern players took part in the semi-final and final had played in the semi-final and final had played in the six-a-side contest, only 3 were objected to, the same 3 in each case. Hathern club officials also believed that if the match had been replayed and had again proved victorious the defeated club would have been able to protest against the other two players.

Round 1

Division I

#	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
1	21.10.1893	Earl Shilton Excelsior	0	3	Barwell Swifts	
2	21.10.1893	Hinckley Swifts Hall AN Others	5 (2)	1 (1)	Earl Shilton Town Reserves AN Others	
3	21.10.1893	St John's	0	2	Enderby Swifts	

Division II

#	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
4	21.10.1893	Melton Victoria AN Others	3 (2)	4 (3)	Syston Swifts Tyers Pickard AN Other	Snow-hill ground, Melton – "a snug enclosure with a high railway bank one side".
5	21.10.1893	Newby-street Wain Needham	2 (1)	1 (0)	North End Bramley	

Oxford Rovers, bye

Division III

#	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
6	21.10.1893	Barrow Swifts	W		Loughborough Victoria	
7	21.10.1893	Castle Donington Swifts	6 (3)	0 (0)	Kegworth St Andrew's	
8	21.10.1893	Hathern Victoria Thompson Randon AN Other	3 (1)	2 (1)	Sileby Rangers AN Other	Old Cricket ground, Hathern. Rough and exciting game
9	21.10.1893	Hugglescote Reserves Hall AN Others	3 (3)	1 (1)	Quorn Havelock AN Other	Bishop's ground, Hugglescote
10	21.10.1893	Loughborough Robin Hood	7	0	Griffydam Swifts	
11	14.10.1893	Shepshed Church of England AN Other Grain	2 (1)	1 (1)	Thringstone AN Other	
12	14.10.1893	Shepshed Rovers	0 (0)	5 (3)	Woodhouse Rovers Baker Clark Bradshaw Whatnall AN Other	At the kick-off there were just 9 spectators. Woodhouse scored from the kick off without a Shepshed player touching the ball.
13	14.10.1893	Stanford Church	0	1	Kegworth Town Swifts	Standford Church went through to the next round – reason currently unknown.

Round 2

Divisions I and II

#	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
14	25.11.1893	Barwell Swifts	4	2	Hinckley Swifts	
15	25.11.1893	Syston Swifts	2 (0)	1 (1)	Newby-street Needham	Newby-street arrived without their goalkeeper. Syston with the wind and slope in their favour in the second half drew level just before time. Extra time was played, and in the last-minute Syston scored.

Oxford and Enderby, byes

Division III

#	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
16	18.11.1893	Hathern Victoria	8	1	Woodhouse Rovers	Played in unfavourable weather. Woodhouse protested and the game was replayed a week later
17	11.11.1893	Hugglescote Reserve Smith (2) AN Other Edwards Ree	5 (1)	2 (1)	Shepshed Church of England AN Others	This game was replayed 2 weeks later – reason currently not known.
18	18.11.1893	Loughborough Victoria	A	A	Loughborough Robin Hood	Moor-lane Ground, Loughborough. Played in a storm – game stopped 20 mins from time due to darkness.
19	18.11.1893	Stanford Church	P	P	Castle Donington Swifts	The Swifts arrived at Stanford headquarters in Loughborough, 'but not the least inclination to play was manifested by either side, and the referee, Mr Waring, of Shepshed, declared it postponed.'

Round 2 Replays

#	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
20	25.11.1893	Hathern Victoria E Burrows T Randon (2)	3	0	Woodhouse Rovers	
21	16.12.1893	Barwell Swifts	2	0	Hinckley Swifts	This was the fourth attempt to decide this tie.
22	25.11.1893	Loughborough Victoria	0 (0)	1 (1)	Loughborough Robin Hood J Mounteney	Moor-lane, Loughborough
23	25.11.1893	Stanford Church	0 (0)	3 (3)	Castle Donington Swifts Taylor (2) Poxon	Bottleacre Ground, Loughborough
24	25.11.1893	Shepshed Church Tivey (2)	2 (0)	0 (0)	Hugglescote Robin Hood Reserves	Hugglescote lodged a protest alleging that short time was played. Another report states that the protest was based on the length of the pitch. The game was ordered to be replayed – it is not known whether this game took place – no report has been found.

Round 3

#	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
25	2.12.1893	Shepshed Church Grain Bob Smith	2	1	Enderby Swifts AN Other	
26	16.12.1893	Hathern Victoria	4 (0)	0 (0)	Oxford Rovers	Old Cricket Ground, Hathern
27	2.12.1893	Castle Donington Swifts Poxon Taylor	4 (2)	3 (1)	Loughborough Robin Hood AN Others	Large number of spectators. "A more even, well-fought, and exciting match has not been witnessed on the Castle Donington ground." Loughborough twice equalised.
28	?	Barwell Swifts	W		Syston Swifts	

Semi-Finals

#	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
29	20.1.1894	Hathern Victoria	5 (3)	1 (0)	Shepshed Church Club	Town ground, Kegworth. Poor attendance. Stormy weather. Shepshed lodged a protest.
30	6.1.1894	Castle Donington Swifts	P	P	Barwell Swifts	Syston -postponed due to the unsatisfactory condition of the ground.

Semi-Final Replay

#	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
31	13.1,1894	Castle Donington Grimley AN Other Atkins Trigg	4 (1)	1 (0)	Barwell Swifts Haywood	At Sileby.

Final

#	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
32	3.3.1894	Hathern Victoria Vickers T Randon Mitchell (2)	4 (3)	2 (2)	Castle Donington Swifts Poxon AN Other	At Kegworth. Beautiful weather. Large number of spectators. The "Dons" opened the scoring after 7 mins. Game was ordered to be replayed.

Final-Replay

#	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
	17.3.1894	Hathern Victoria		W	Castle Donington Swifts	At Kegworth. Hathern refused to play. LFA awarded the game to Castle Donington.

Match Reports

#1 EARL SHILTON

BARWELL SWIFTS 1ST v EXCLESIOR - At Earl Shilton. Result: Barwell Swifts, three goals; Earl Shilton, none.
Leicester Chronicle – 28 October 1893

#2 HINCKLEY SWIFTS v EARL SHILTON RESERVES

Played at Hinckley. The home side played uphill the first half. Hall scored three minutes from the start, and Shilton equalised a little later. In the second half the home side had much the best of the game, and scored three more goals. Result:

HINCKLEY, five goals;
EARL SHILTON, one.

Leicester Daily Post – 23 October 1893

#3 ENDERBY SWIFTS v ST JOHN'S - Before a large number of spectators on Saturday, the Swifts played their first game in the shield competition with St. John's (Leicester). The visitors were favoured with the wind during the first half, and for some time pressed hard. The homesters, however, defended well. After about half an hour's play J. Phillips scored for the Swifts, and immediately afterwards W. West put in a good shot, which, however, just scaled the bar. At the commencement of the second half the home team experienced very hard lines. A bit of good passing on the part of Phillips and Nutt resulted in another Joal being obtained for the Swifts, the game ending: Swifts, two goals; St. John's, nil. Swifts: G. White G. Nutt, J. Phillips, W. West, T. West, A. College, A. Rowley, G. west, E. Elliott, G. Young, and W. Martin.
Leicester Chronicle – 28 October 1893

#4 FOOTBALL – The Syston Swifts journeyed to Melton on Saturday, and defeated the Melton Victoria by four goals to three,
Leicester Chronicle – 28 October 1893

#5 NEWBY-STREET v NORTH END
Played on the ground of the first-named, Newby-street kicked off, and play for the first fifteen minutes was pretty even. A smart bit of passing resulted in Wain drawing first blood for Newby-street. Play became very fast, but nothing more was added up to half-time. Restarting, North End pressed and from a corner a fine centre by Bramley was well put through by Coles, this livened Newby-street up, and they began to press, and Needham scored the winning goal.

NEWBY-STREET, two;
NORT END, one,

Leicester Daily Post – 23 October 1893

#7 LEICESTERSHIRE SHIELD COMPETITION – On Saturday, at Castle Donington, the Swifts of the Town club met the Swifts of Kegworth St Andrew's in the first round of the held competition. The visitors won the toss, but although kicking with the wind behind them were unable to make headway. The homesters scored the first goal and held the upper hand throughout, the score at half-time being: Castle Donington, three goals; Kegworth, nil. The latter portion was all in favour of the home team, who won a pleasant game by six goals to nil.
Leicester Chronicle – 28 October 1894

#8 HATHERN VICTORIA v SILEBY RANGERS — Played on the Old Cricket Ground, a rough and exciting game being witnessed. After half an hour's even play the ball was well placed in front by Randon, and a goal was scored for Hathern by J. Thompson. The Rangers tried bard to equalise, and in a few minutes scored. The second half opened very evenly, but after a time the Rangers beat the Victoria custodian and scored number two. At the other end a free was given in favour of the Victoria, and F. Randon scored, making matters equal. A few minutes before time Hathern scored again, and the game ended in favour of Victoria by three goals to two. Hathern players: J. Bevington, J. Burrows, E. Burrows, A. Hunt, J. Hunt. Bowley, Vickers, T. Randon, J. Thompson, W. Thompson, and W. Roper; referee, Quarter-master Sergeant Lord, Wigston Barracks.
Leicester Chronicle – 28 October 1893

#9 Robin Hood Reserves v. Quorn Havelock — On Bishop's Ground on Saturday. Rovers won the toss, and kicked with the wind. The visiting forwards made a brilliant rush, the final shot, however, going wide. From the goal-kick Edwards and Hall took the leather down, and forced three successive corners, the last being splendidly converted by Hall with a long shot. The Rovers again pressed, and several shots were finely fisted out by Sharpe, a stinger from Read also striking the bar. Quorn at length got away, and passing the home backs, scored. From this point the Rovers swarmed round their opponents' goal, and augmented

their score by two more goals, half-time arriving immediately after the third had been registered, Quorn having scored but one. This was still the score at the end of the match.
Leicester Chronicle – 28 October 1893

#9 LEICESTERSHIRE CHALLENGE SHIELD
Hugglescote St John's v Quorn Havelock
These teams met in the first round of the above competition at Hugglescote on Saturday, and a good game ended as follows:

St John's	3 goals
Quorn	1 goal

Coalville Times – 27 October 1893

#9 LEICESTERSHIRE CHALLENGE SHIELD
Hugglescote St John's v Quorn Havelock
These two teams met in the first round of the above competition at Hugglescote on Saturday, and a good game ended as follows:

St John's	3 goals
Quorn	1 goal

Coalville Times – 20 October 1893

#10 and **#13** In the first round of the Leicestershire Shield competition on Saturday, Kegworth Town Swifts proved the better team, beating Stanford Church by one goal to none. Loughborough Robin Hood's in the same competition easily defeated Griffydam Swifts, by seven goals to none.
Nottingham Evening Post – 28 October 1893

#11 LEICESTERSHIRE JUNIOR SHIELD
Shepshed Church v Thringstone Ivanhoe
Played at Shepshed on Saturday. Both teams were equally matched, the score at half-time being one goal each, but just before time was called Grain secured the winning point for Shepshed.

Shepshed	2 goals
Thringstone	1 goal

Coalville Times – 20 October 1893

#11 LEICESTERSHIRE JUNIOR SHIELD
SHEPSHED CHURCH v THRINGSTONE IVANHOE
At half-time each side had scored and just before the call of time Grain added a second for the homesters. Result:

SHEPSHED, two goals;
THRINGSTONE, one.

Leicester Daily Post – 16 October 1893

#12 WOODHOUSE EAVES
On Saturday, Woodhouse Rovers journeyed to Shepshed to play their Shield Tie with the Rovers. Shepshed won the toss and the team lined up as follows: Shepshed: Briers, goal; Dexter and Moore, backs; Rose, Hollis and West, half-backs; Iliffe, Platts, Grimbley, Hallam, and Wale forwards; Woodhouse: Foulds, goal; Sills and Sutton, backs; Bonsher, Wainwright, and Squires, half-backs; Bradshaw, Harrison, Clarke, Baker and Whatnall, forwards. At the kick-off there were only nine spectators, but across the road there was a large crowd awaiting the Fosse Rovers, who were to play the premier team. The Woodhouse forwards rushed down and scored without any of the Shepshed players touching the ball. Encouraged by this success, the visitors played with energy scored another goal less than 5 minutes. From the kick-off Shepshed had a look in but could not score. Several corners fell to them, but failed to take advantage of them, and from a goal kick the visitors commenced another attack on the Shepshed goal, which fell again. Woodhouse that slackened down and appeared to rest on the laurels, half-time arrival with the score three goals to nil. The Shepshed team altered their arrangements for the second portion, the backs coming to the front rank, and from the kick off it was evident they meant to draw level if possible. Woodhouse however,

played with as much determination as before, and scored two more legitimate goal and one disallowed. Scorers were Baker, Clark, Bradshaw and Whatnall. Result: Woodhouse, five goals; Shepshed.
Leicester Chronicle – 28 October 1893

#14 BARWELL, four goals;
HINCKLEY SWIFTS, two goals
Leicester Daily Post – 27 November 1893

#15 SYSTON SWIFTS, two goals;
NEWBY-STREET, one goal
Leicester Daily Post – 27 November 1893

#16 LEICESTERSHIRE SHIELD
BARWELL, four goals;
HINCKLEY SWIFTS, two goals
Leicester Daily Post – 27 November 1893

#17 LEICESTERSHIRE SHIELD COMPETITION
Hugglescote v Shepshed
In the second stage of the Leicestershire Shield Competition these two were drawn together Hugglescote having the choice of ground. The match as previously arranged, was played on Saturday. The Johns were rather afraid owing to Watts having to be left out of the team. Edwards lost the toss and kicked off against the breeze, Shepshed at once pressing. Kendrick had plenty to do until released by Ghent. Hall taking the ball into the visitors' quarters and Smith adding the first goal for the homesters. Restarting the 'Reds showed pretty passing, and equalised, half-time arriving with the score: Blues 1; Reds, 1. Recommencing the Johns pressed, but Shepshed relieved put one more point to their favour. The homesters livened up and made matters very awkward for the visitors, Edwards, Reed and Smith in quick succession. Moss, who was playing a sterling game, had now to retire owing to the cramp. The Johns scored one more, and the game ended :
Hugglescote, 5 goals
Shepshed 2 goals
Coalville Times – 17 November 1893

#18 Loughborough Victoria and Robin Hood met in their shield tie on the Morr-lane Ground on Saturday. The Robins , winning the toss and having the snowstorm at their backs, were anxious to play the game out, but could not score owing to the good defence and splendid goalkeeping of Neal. Cutler made some useful runs, and almost scored on several occasions. On the change of ends, the Vics penned the Robins in their own goal, and only kicking out tactics prevented the Vics from scoring in the short time they were allowed to play, the referee stopping the game after twenty minutes of this half had elapsed. The Robins were delighted, but not so their opponents who were greatly dissatisfied at the abrupt termination, as they had taken their share of the storm in the first half. The referee, however, did right in stopping the game, as it was almost impossible at times to distinguish the players, but it would have been better had the match not been played at all. The game is to be re-played on Saturday.
Melton Mowbray Mercury and Oakham and Uppingham News – 23 November 1893

#19 The weather was also the cause of the shield tie at Loughborough with Stanford and Donington Swifts being abandoned., The Swifts arrived at Stanford headquarters in Loughborough, but not the least inclination to play was manifested by either side, and the referee, Mr Waring, of Shepshed, declared it postponed.
Melton Mowbray Mercury and Oakham and Uppingham News – 23 November 1893

#20 LEICESTERSHIRE SHIELD
SHEPSHED CHURCH v HUGGLESCOTE RESERVES
At Shepshed. In the first half Dexter and Harrington showed excellent defence and at half0time no goals were scored. In the second half Tivey scored twice. The visitors lodged a protest, alleging that the ground was too short. Result:

SHEPSHED, two goals;
HIUGGLESCOTE, none.
Leicester Daily Post – 27 November 1893

#21 BARWELL SWIFTS v HINCKLEY SWIFTS
The teams met for the fourth time to decide their tie in the second round for the shield. The Barwell players had the best of the first half, and but for the good play of the home goal-keeper must have scored. Hinckley had hard lines in the second portion when Barwell scored twice, and ran out winners. Final score:
BARWELL, two goals;
HINCKLEY, nil.
Leicester Daily Post – 18 December 1893

#23 STANFORD CHURCH v CASTLE DONINGTON TOWN SWIFTS
Played on the Bottleacre ground, Loughborough. This tie occasioned considerable interest in junior football circles in Loughborough, on account of the church club being entitled to contest in the second round through their protest being upheld against Kegworth Town Swifts, who defeated them one goal to nil. Donington beat Kegworth St Andrew's in the first round. Both teams assembled at the headquarters of Stanford last week for the purpose of playing the tie, which on account of the state of the ground was postponed. The visitors won the toss, and kicked with the wind. Swifts immediately pressed, and Taylor scored the first goal. Coxon added the second, and Taylor the third for Donington. Half-time: Three goals to none to favour of the visitors. In the second half the game proved very even. Each goal was visited in turn, but nothing further resulted. Result.
CASTLE DONINGTON, three goals;
STANFORD, nil.
Leicester Daily Post – 27 November 1893

#24 SHEPSHED CHURCH v HUGGLESCOTE RESERVES
This match in the Leicestershire Shield competition—was played at Shepshed on Saturday. In the first half Dexter and Harrington showed excellent defence, and as half-time no goals were scored. In the second half Tivey scored twice. The visitors lodged a protest alleging that the ground was too short. Result: Shepshed 2, Hugglescote, 0.
Leicester Chronicle – 30 November 1893

#25 LEICESTERSHIRE SHIELD
THIRD ROUND
SHEPSHED CHURCH v ENDERBY SWIFTS
At Shepshed. During the first half the visitors scored, but in the next half the homesters played an excellent game. Grain scored first, and this was followed by an addition from Bob Smith. Result:
SHEPSHED CHURCH, 2 goals;
ENDERBY, one.
Melton Mowbray Mercury and Oakham and Uppingham News – 7 December 1893

#27 CASTLE DONINGTON v. LOUGHBOROUGH ROBIN HOOD.
This match was played Castle Donington on Saturday, before large number of spectators. A more even, well-fought, and exciting match has not been witnessed on the Castle Donington ground. The Swifts won the toss and down hill, but in three minutes their opponents scored. Shortly afterwards Poxon scored for the Swifts, and a few later a second was scored for Dons. by Taylor. Half-time: Swifts 2, Robin Hood 1. On resuming, the visitors very soon equalised and then led off again with one goal ahead of the homesters. The latter, however, soon drew level, and ultimately won. Score:
SWIFTS 4
ROBIN HOOD 3
Burton Chronicle – 7 December 1893

#29 HATHERN v SHEPSHED
Hathern and Shepshed met in the final of the Leicestershire Shield on the Town ground Kegworth, in favourable weather, before a poor attendance. Hathern, although playing against the wind, quickly scored

twice, and in the second half added three more to Shepshed's one. Hathern eventually winning. A protest was lodged against Hathern. Result:
HATHERN, five goals;
SHEPSHED, one.
Leicester Daily Post – 22 January 1894

#30 CASTLE DONINGTON
SHIELD TIE – The tie between Castle Donington Swifts and Barwell in the Challenge Sheild competition, which was to have been played on Saturday at Syston, was postponed on account of the unsatisfactory condition of the ground.
Leicester Chronicle – 13 January 1894

#31 LEICESTERSHIRE SHIELD
SEMI-FINAL
CASLE DONINGTN v BARWELL
These teams met at Sileby on Saturday. Both teams were fully represented, the first half was evenly contested, but just because the interval Donington asserted themselves, Grimley scored a good goal. Crossing over, Donington maintained their advantage for some time, and added a second point from a corner, and soon after this the score was augmented by a good shot from Atkins. Barwell rallied and forced the game in their favour considerably, and after several first-class attempts, Haywood scored for them, but after a time Donington again got down, and assisted by a field in the goal-mouth, Trigg put on a fourth point for them. Barwell made several attempts to retrieve their position, but failed, the game ending:

CASTLE DONINGTON	4
BARWELL	1

Leicester Chronicle 18 January 1894

#32 LEICESTERSHIRE SHIELD COMPETITON - FINAL
HATHERN VICTORIA v CASTLE DONINGTOX RESERVES This match was played on the St. Andrew's Ground, Kegworth, this afternoon, in beautiful weather, and before a large number of spectators. The clubs who earned the right to compete in the final round of this competition are well known in the district as being two very clever and promising organisations, and the fact that they have survived the previous rounds is in itself an indication of their ability as football exponents. The Hathern club was only established this season, and its progress up to the present has been extremely satisfactory to its very numerous supporters. The "Vics" have never once been defeated at home, and only once away. All other matches, with the exception of playing a drawn game with Quorn Havelock at Quorn, they have won, most of them with a handsome margin, the goal average allowing five to one in their favour. From the very commencement of the season the Hathern players have been bent on winning the shield. In the first round they had a very severe struggle with Sileby Rangers and only succeeded in defeating them by two goals to one. In the succeeding rounds they experienced no difficulty in retaining their place in the competition. Shepshed Church of England were their opponents in the semi-final, and, as was anticipated, the Shepshed men played a good game, but where the "Vics'" scored four goals, they only once were able to break through the defence of Thompson and Hunt, the Hathern backs, who played a sterling game throughout. Although they have had such a victorious career, Hathern were by no means confident as to . the result of to-day's encounter, and the executive had accordingly takes every step to get the men in good condition. Castle Donington were instrumental in getting into the final last year, Shepshed defeating them by a single goal after a very good match. This season Castle Donington have done well by defeating St. Andrew's Rovers, Stanford Church. Loughborough Robin Hood (the latter after a very keen struggle by a single goal), and Barwell Swifts in the semi-final. It has no doubt somewhat spoiled the Donington team by the loss of North, centre forward, who has been, and rightly too, transferred to the first team, easily supplanting Hall, who used to occupy that position. The relative strength of the two teams appeared about equal, and in consequence of the splendid weather prevailing a large member of spectators were in attendance. Mr. Ferguson, of Leicester, officiated as referee. Linesmen: Mr. W. P Woolley, of the Referees' Association, London, and L. Hardy, of the St. Andrew's Club, Kegworth. Cattle Donington have an almost equally good record with Hathern. Last year the "Dons" fought their way into the final round of this competition, but were defeated at that late stage by Shepshed Town Reserves. This year they have a very wrong combination, and their supporters were quite confident of defeating the "Vics" to-day. Their supporters turned up in large numbers, and were in high

spirits, expressing great confidence in the abilities of their players. The following were the teams which faced each other:-

Hathern —J. Berrington, goal; E. Thompson and A. Mint, backs; W. Roper, J. Burrows, and J Hunt, half-backs; J. Thompson, and E. Vickers, right ring; T. Randon, centre; E Burrows and B. Mitchell, left wing.

Castle Donington.— G Foxon, goal; J. Bosworth and W. Bosworth, backs; J. Sutton, A. Rowlstone, and W Dakin, half-backs; B. Grimley and A. Taylor, left wing; A. Poxon, centre; J. Trigg and A, Adkin, left wing.

Referee: Mr. Ferguson. Leicester.

Castle Donington won the toss and elected to play with the wind. Randon started the ball for the "Vics" punctually at half past three, and the "Dons" right at once got away and forced a corner, which proved fruitless. Donington continued the pressure for some time, and eventually their left outside shot over. Hathern then pressed, but were soon repulsed, and play was again transferred to the other end. Midfield play was now the order until Donington again carried the ball into the Hathern half, and a scrimmage in front of goal resulted in Donington scoring seven minutes from the commencement of the game. Front the restart Hathern went off with the rush, but faulty play on the part of the forwards resulted in the ball being again carried into the Hathern half, and beautiful play on the part of the Donington forwards resulted in a second goal being placed tie their credit. A foul in midfield was carried into the Donington half, but this attack of the Hathern forwards was of short duration, for the "Dons" backs. J. Bosworth and W. Bosworth, were playing a sterling game and never failed to beat the "Vics'" forwards. Even play ensued for time, until a foul against Donington let Hathern in, but Randon, missing his kick, spoiled the chance, and play was again transferred to the other end, but the Hathern players, who had by this time warmed to their work, were not to be denied, and again got away, thanks to some good play on the part of J. Thompson on the right, but again they were repulsed, but only for a moment, and then again breaking away they forced a corner, but they failed to further take advantage of it, Randon kicking into touch. The "Dons" then got away, but a tremendous kick by Thompson at full back sent the ball into the Donington half, but Bosworth cleared, and Hathern returning to the attack Vickers shot through, scoring the first goal for the "Vics'. This success was greeted with an outburst of applause by the Hathern partisans, who were gathered on the field in large numbers. From the kick-off Hathern again pressed, and Randon sent in a beauty, which just went outside. A foul against Hathern resulted in play being transferred to the Hathern half, and Berrington to handle. This attack was only of short duration, for Thompson and Hunt playing in their very best fashion lifted the ball up the field, and Mitchell on the left. receiving a good pass, sent in a beauty, which fairly beat Poxon. Matters were now equal, but the Hathern men did not in the slightest degree relax their effort,,', and going away with • rush Tom Randon placed a third goal to the credit of the "Vies." The game was now proceeding amidst the greatest excitement, Hathern playing the game in magnificent style, fairly outrivalling their opponents. Mid-field play was the order for time, and then Mr. Ferguson was heard to blow hie whistle, half-time arriving with the Hathern, three goals; Donington, two. Restarting with the wind in their favour, Hathern at once got away and a foul against Castle Donington outside the penalty line resulted in Mitchell scoring the fourth goal for the "Vics". The "Dons" now assumed the aggressive, and after a prolonged attack on the Hathern citadel the "all teas ;dated just over the ben Castle Donington again returned to the attack, but were unable to shoot at all accurately. Result:-

Hathern	4
Donington	1

Football News (Nottingham – 3 March 1894