



Nuneaton's Footballing Heritage

Nuneaton St Nicholas FC

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Nuneaton St. Nicholas F.C.



The Parish Church of St Nicholas, from which the original football team adopted their name.

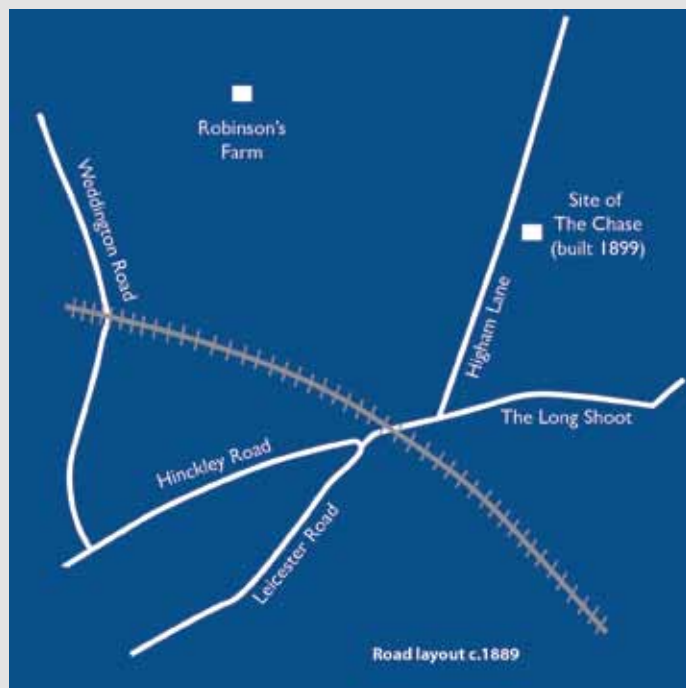
Introduction

The Football Association had been in existence for more than 25 years by the time Nuneaton St Nicholas are recorded as playing their first ever match. There had previously been matches played under Association rules in the town by Nuneaton True Blues, who were formed in 1883 'to provide the menfolk of the town with healthy exercise.'

Nuneaton True Blues had gone out of existence by 1888-89, but there was still Association Football played within the town in the form of Nuneaton Rangers. Several Nuneaton Rangers players would later become part of the St. Nicholas F.C. team when the teams appear to have merged at the start of St. Nicholas' second season.

Nuneaton St. Nicholas FC were formed in 1889 by the pupils in the Bible class at Vicarage Street School. They were in existence for five seasons before changing their name to Nuneaton Town and joining a league for the first time.

Although initially St Nicholas played only friendly matches, the introduction of the Nuneaton Cottage Hospital Cup competition, which started in 1892, brought about their first competitive match which resulted in a 7-3 win against Burbage Wanderers on January 21st, 1893.



The above map shows the area of town in which the home of Nuneaton St. Nicholas F.C. was situated in the first season of their existence.

It is known that St. Nicholas' first season was spent at a field somewhere in Higham Lane, although the exact location of the ground is not known.

Some newspaper reports remark on the very heavy ground and windy conditions at Higham Lane, particularly in the January fixture against Atherstone Reserves.

Within their first three years, St. Nicholas led a somewhat nomadic existence, relocating from Higham Lane via a brief flirtation with The Newdegate Arms ground, then The Rose Inn (Coton Road) ground, before eventually making Arbury Road their home until the name change in 1894.



Association Football 1889

It is, perhaps, difficult for us to imagine how the game looked in 1889. There are few photos from the time which depict the level of football we are recording.

We do, however, have written histories of the game to call on, which give us an insight into what it may have been like at Higham Lane when St Nicholas played their matches.

We are extremely grateful to Mike Bradbury, author of 'Lost Teams of the Midlands' for giving us permission to use a chapter from his book. The following is an imagined account of a game from 1889:

“We are in Shropshire at the Birmingham cup-tie between Wellington St. George’s and Warwick County, the Birmingham footballing side from the Edgbaston county cricket ground. The visitors are all professionals, and it’s all above board, since, after a few years of protracted wrangling in the early 1880s, the FA has finally allowed professionalism.

It had been a long and vociferous battle to reach this state of play. Leading officials of the Sheffield and Birmingham associations were, and remained, against it, and all of London was full of well-known amateur clubs, still going strong, such as the Old Carthusians and the Casuals.

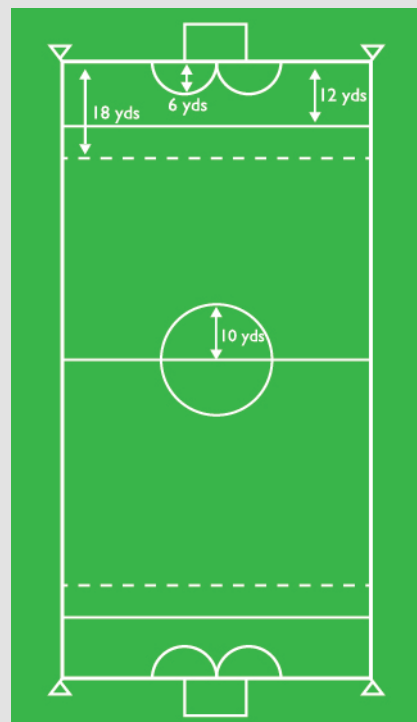
The home side, all amateurs from the village, walk on to the field from the pavilion in their claret shirts and white trousers. Warwick are in royal blue. Vicarage Field looks picturesque in the November sunshine; the trees surrounding the field are half-empty of their golden leaves. The church overlooks the proceedings, and as the bells chime 3 o’clock, the game gets under way. The usually manicured grass of the cricket pitch has been left to grow long in the winter months, and the heavy pitch begins to contribute to defensive errors on both sides as the goals flow. Rose has been kept busy in charge of the Warwick citadel, but Ollis and new man Pangbourne shine in the visitor’s attack. The Jones brothers form the home side’s spearhead. At the call of time, the scores are level at 3-3, but the match can’t be decided, because, even at 4.45pm, it’s getting too dark to see properly, and so extra time is not possible. The light from the gas lamps on the main road are no use to the players. The cup tie will have to be decided after a replay, probably in the new year. After a supper at the Bail and Balls public house across the road, the Warwick team sets off for home, some forty miles away. The steam train from Oakengates station will take them to Snow Hill station in Birmingham, where they will disperse by hansom cab to their homes.

The ground had looked just like a football ground that modern folk would recognise, a properly defined, fenced-off and well-marked out playing field, with halfway line and centre circle. The goal area though has yet to be changed to the twentieth century shape of a small rectangle within

a large rectangle, and instead we see two half-moon shapes in front of each goal area, defining the area that the goalkeeper could handle the ball. In a couple of years (1891), there were two lines added to the pitch, which may seem strange to the modern eye. The ground had grandstands down each side, and the crowd benefits from earthen banking behind the goals.

A continuous line painted across the pitch 12 yards out described a point at which penalty kicks could be taken in an attempt to score. It was a one-on-one situation where the man with the ball had a chance to either shoot from where he was, or dribble around the goalkeeper and score. This, of course, was an early attempt to punish a foul or handball misdemeanour and provide the attacking team with a strong chance of scoring from the opportunity, the penalty spot itself finally appearing on the pitch in 1891. Also, a dotted line, painted 18 yards out described the restriction of the defensive zone in which a forward had to be in before being called offside. There are now long grandstands some dozen rows deep, seating made of wooden planking for a charge of double the standing admission fee. Most of the village has turned out to see this exciting match, and the 600 who each paid 4d (1.5p) will have helped the team to keep the club going for a while yet and give the visiting team a contribution towards their travelling costs.”

Extract taken from Lost Teams Of The Midlands copyright of Mike Bradbury 2013 (ISBN 978-1-4836-9529-7)



The pitch markings as were in use during the early period of St Nicholas’ existence. A more recognisable layout was instituted in 1902.

Victorian Football Kit

In the 1860s there were no uniform kits to speak of and players would utilise whatever clothing was available.

In the 1870s, teams started using uniform colours that reflected their association with a school or other institution. At this time, it was not uncommon for the players to buy their own shirts and to wear caps in the colours of their team.

By the 1880s shirts were being mass produced as the game was taken up by the working classes. The shirts were commonly different weights of knitted garments (jerseys) or loose fitting collared shirts.

The shorts or knickerbockers were knee or full length trousers supported by a belt or braces. Usually they were black, white or navy blue.

Shin pads were first used in 1874 and were originally cut down cricket pads worn on the outside of the stockings. The use of commercially available shin pads was incorporated into the laws of the game in 1881.

The early football boots were everyday shoes or work boots, with strips of leather nailed to the bottom, until the FA Laws of 1863 prohibited the use of nails. By the 1880s boots were of ankle length, made from thick leather with hard toecaps and also had rounded studs.

The size and weight of the football was first fixed by the FA in 1872, who specified the circumference at 27-28 inches and the weight at 13-15oz.

Victorian Kits

It was reported at the 1894 AGM that Nuneaton Town's first team colours would be white with blue knicks and that the reserves would wear the old colours of black and amber.

There are no records of the nature of St. Nicholas' kit, but at that time manufacturers, such as Bukta, published catalogues showing available styles.

It was also reported that Nuneaton Town's first pre-season game of 1894-95 would be Whites v Stripes.

Whilst there is no concrete proof to suggest that the attached artists' impression was St Nicholas' kit, it is representative of what was available at that time.



Victorian Association Football Rules

- The Cambridge rules were developed in 1848
- The Sheffield Rules were developed in 1857
- Football Association founded October 1863 at a series of meetings at the Freemasons Tavern
- The original FA Laws were drafted by Ebenezer Cobb Morley, a London solicitor. Elements of both Cambridge and Sheffield Rules were incorporated into the new FA Laws
- FA rules approved and published December 1863
- Originally the offside rule stated that any attacking player ahead of the ball was deemed to be in an offside position. This meant that tactics involved up to eight forwards scrimmaging forward with the ball
- 1866 - Catching the ball no longer allowed
- 1866 - Rules were introduced that allowed for players to be deemed onside if there were three opposition players between the ball and the goal
- 1869 - Goal kicks introduced
- Around 1872 each team had an umpire as well as the referee, who stood on the touchline and kept time
- 1872 - Corner kicks introduced
- 1874 - Team change ends at half time (instead of after a goal)
- 1875 - Introduction of the cross bar (replacing tape)
- 1877 - Duration of game fixed at 90 minutes
- 1878 - Referee's whistle introduced
- 1882 - Throw ins with one hand declared illegal
- In 1886, the International Football Association Board defined the laws that ended the division between FA and Sheffield Rules
- 1891 - Goal nets introduced
- 1891 - Penalty kick (originally known as the Kick of Death) was introduced following a proposal by Irishman William McCrum. The kick was taken from anywhere along a 12 yard line. It was originally opposed by the establishment as it was thought that it was unlikely that a gentleman would deliberately commit a foul!
- 1891 - Referees allowed on to the field of play and umpires become linesmen
- 1891 - With the introduction of new rules, there were developments in pitch markings, which saw the incorporation of a centre spot, centre circle and the penalty line (see previous page)
- 1892 - Injury time introduced
- 1894 - Goalkeepers can no longer be charged unless they have the ball.



Vicarage Street School. The pupils of the Bible Class started Nuneaton St. Nicholas F.C., who were forerunners of the town's present club.

Season 1889-90

The first recorded game featuring St Nicholas took place on October 19, 1889 in an away fixture against Hinckley Church and Institute, with the Hinckley side running out 1-0 winners. Interestingly, Hinckley Church and Institute were the top football side in Hinckley at the time, but several of their players were expelled from the team for not attending Bible classes and formed their own team, Hinckley Association, which later became Hinckley Town AFC.

As may be expected, many of the players lived locally – Arthur and George Bacon of Wheat Street, William Looms of Attleborough Road and the club's first captain Charles Richard Day, a 19-year-old hat finisher born in Islington, North London. Charles lived in Victoria Street, five doors away from Charles Williams, another footballer who played for local rivals Nuneaton Rangers, and who later became secretary of the 'Nicks' and then Nuneaton Town. Like his neighbour, Charles Williams worked as a milliner, possibly at Hall and Phillips in Abbey Street.

The first recorded goal was in the second match of the season, scored in the first five minutes by Thomas Smith in another away fixture against Burbage Wanderers on October 26. It was reported in the Nuneaton Chronicle that when Burbage went 2-0 down they "began to play very roughly".

For whatever reason, it was five matches into the season before Nuneaton played their first home game. Their home fixtures were played in Higham Lane, but unfortunately the exact location of the ground remains a mystery to this day.

The first home game was against Coventry Alliance which resulted in a 3-0 defeat. St. Nicholas were not at full strength for the fixture, but they held out until half time thanks to a 'magnificent' performance from 18-year-old Frederick Wykes in the 'Nicks' goal. However, the Coventry side scored three second half goals to run out comfortable winners. It was reported that there was 'a fair attendance of onlookers'.

A Christmas/New Year double header took place against Atherstone, albeit their reserve side, with 'Nicks' coming out on top in both games, winning 1-0 at Atherstone with a goal

from George Bacon followed by a 2-0 home victory with goals from James Hardy and William Wright.

Detailed match reports are sketchy, a fair number of these games were not recorded in detail and line-ups, scorers etc., didn't appear, so stats can't be recorded 100% accurately. Also players were sometimes listed by different initials, even though they appear to be the same man.

Overall Record: P14, W7, D2, L5, F13, A16, GD-3

Player Records:	Appearances	Goals
W. H. Looms (GK, RH, CH)	4	
W. Wall (RB, LB)	3	
J. Baker (LB)	1	
J. T. Clamp (RH, CH, LH, GK) (vice-captain)	6	
G. Bacon (CH, RH, IR, CF)	7	1
J. Marston (LH, IR, CH)	4	
C. Day (RW, CF, RB) (captain)	4	
C. Biggs (IR)	1	
F. Swain (CF, GK)	2	
T. W. Hardy (IL, RW)	5	2
T. Wright (LW, LB)		
F. (J). Groome (RB, LB)	5	
F. Wykes (LH, GK)	5	
A. Pratt (CF)	1	
T. Smith (IL, LW)	2	
A. Bacon (RW, IR)	3	1
W. Wright (CF, LW, IL) app: 3, goals: 2		
A. Hill (RB)	1	
J. Green (RH)	1	
A. Beamish (LH)	1	
Johnson	1	1
Gilliver (GK)	1	

*These records represent the information available from newspaper reports. These records are incomplete.

Early Rivalries

One opponent, appearing on the fixture card at the end of St. Nicholas' first season was Foleshill Great Heath. They became great rivals of St. Nicholas FC, although it was rare for 'Nicks' to defeat them in those early days. Nuneaton Town were still playing Great Heath in their last year of existence in 1927.



The Angel Ground, Foleshill, home of Foleshill Great Heath.

Higham Lane Ground

The following photograph shows the modern day view of Higham Lane and it was somewhere along this road that St Nicholas FC played their matches during the first season of their existence



The view from the corner of Ferndale Close looking down Higham Lane towards Queensway in the middle distance. The Chase Hotel is located on the far right of the photo in the extreme background.

The Rose Inn Grounds

After playing their first two games of the 1890-91 season at the Newdegate Arms ground, St Nicholas moved to a field at the rear of the Rose Inn in Coton Road.

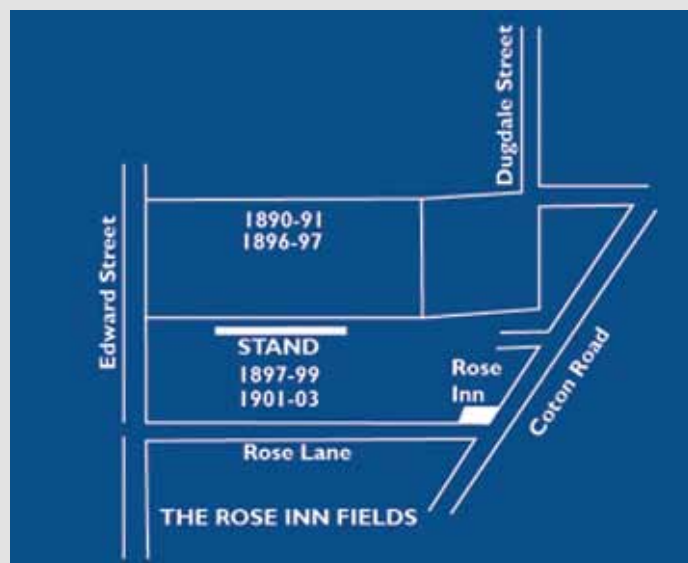
There were two fields behind the Rose Inn, and on four separate occasions over the course of 13 years, right up until 1903, Nuneaton's senior football club would make this their home. The years during which the town's club played on the site are illustrated in the following map.

The site was also the home to Nuneaton St. Nicholas' junior side Nuneaton St. Nicholas Wanderers in 1891-92 and then again in the years 1893-1896 inclusive.

Originally, spectators entering the ground would have had to cross the second field to reach the St. Nicholas pitch. It is reported that this led to complaints from supporters, as their shoes and clothes would have been covered in mud when weather conditions were unfavourable.

St Nicholas spent the rest of their existence at Arbury Road, which was the former home of Nuneaton Rangers and is covered in more detail on the following page.

As illustrated on the map, Nuneaton Town would eventually return to the Rose Inn in 1896-97 and would remain there in different guises until 1903.



The modern day Rose Inn. The ground was behind the pub when St. Nicholas played there in the 1890-91 season.



The view from Rose Lane towards Harold Street, where the pitches were situated (mid-ground to background).

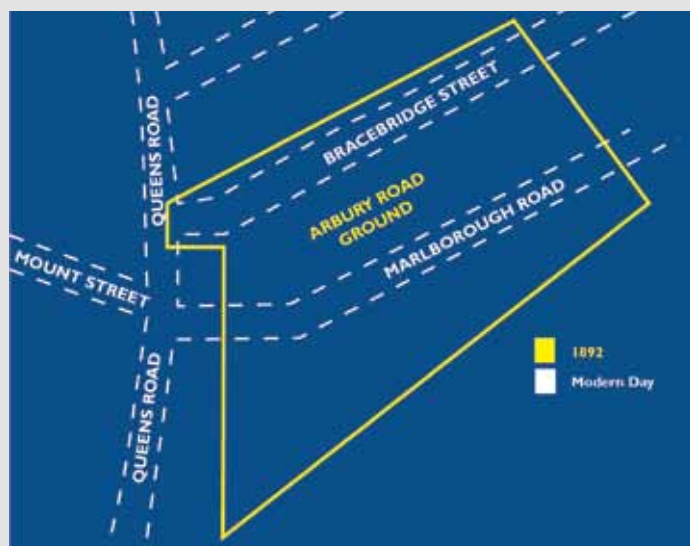
A connection exists between the Rose Inn grounds and the modern day football club as Stuart Plumbing, who have been a significant sponsor of the club in more recent times is situated on the site.

It is likely that the Stuart Plumbing business, which can be seen to the right hand side in the photograph, occupies the spot where access from Coton Road to the ground would have been situated.

Daffern's Field (Arbury Road/Queens Road)

At the AGM of St. Nicholas on Tuesday, 23rd August, 1892, it was agreed that the home ground would now be moved to Daffern's Field.

The ground was situated in Arbury Road, which at that time ran from the Cock and Bear pub to the Market Place, which is now known as Queens Road.



St. Nicholas' home ground from 1892 up until their name change in 1894.



Marlborough Road, opposite Mount Street, with Bracebridge Street in the far background. Marlborough Road was the entrance to the Daffern's Field ground, home of St. Nicholas FC 1892-1894.

The ground entrance was situated in what is today known as Marlborough Road (opposite Mount Street). The actual playing area was located between Marlborough Road and Bracebridge Street.

To gain access supporters would have to make their way up a path in between some old houses, which included Whateley's Cottage (now Whateley Court). The path then led off to the left into Daffern's Field.

An idea of where the pitch was situated can be gained by walking up Bracebridge Street a short way, until the road turns slightly to the left, at this point you are just about standing in line with where the Arbury Road end goalmouth was situated.



Bracebridge Street: The pitch was situated more or less directly behind the fish bar shown to the right of the photograph.

Accounts of matches played on Arbury Road often mentioned the slope on the pitch and this is apparent today as you look up Bracebridge Street towards where the top goal would have been.

Despite the severe slope and the ground being subject to flooding, it was still considered worthy of hosting local cup finals, with Foleshill Great Heath defeating Atherstone Town in March 1893, in the Nuneaton Cottage Hospital Challenge Cup by three goals to nil.

The following year saw Nuneaton Wanderers lift the trophy on the same ground, with a 4-1 victory over Stockingford True Blues in front of 3,000 people.

The Newdegate Arms Ground

Although St. Nicholas made use of the Newdegate Arms ground on occasion, the story of this ground will be told in detail in the next e-book 'Nuneaton Town 1894-1919' when the club would make it their home for a period of eight years from 1907.

The Granby Head Headquarters

In August 1892 the headquarters of the club were located at The Granby Head in Church Street. The public house was situated on the opposite side of the road to the current Granby on the corner of Bridge Street, and just down from the Queens Head (later the Pen and Wig/Reflex)



Richard Townsend, vice-president in 1893 and later landlord of the Granby Head.



The Granby Head (formerly the Marquis of Granby). Headquarters of St Nicholas FC from 1892-1894.

1889

10.19	Hinckley Parish Church & Institute	A	Fr	0-1	
10.26	Burbage Wanderers	A	Fr	2-0	T. Smith, A. Pratt
11.02	Nuneaton Rangers	A	Fr	0-2	
11.09	Coventry Alliance	A	Fr	0-5	
11.16	Hinckley Reserves	A	Fr	0-3	
11.23	Coventry Alliance	H	Fr	0-3	
11.30	Hinckley Parish Church & Institute	H	Fr	1-0	
12.14	Hinckley St. Mary's	A	Fr		
12.21	Croft Rising Star	H	Fr		
12.28	Atherstone Reserves	A	Fr	1-0	G. Bacon

1890

01.04	Atherstone Reserves	H	Fr	2-0	W. Hardy, W. Wright
01.11	Burbage Crusaders	H	Fr	2-0	W. Hardy, A. Bacon
01.18	Hinckley St. Mary's	H	Fr		
02.01	Coventry Unity Junior Association	A	Fr		
02.08	Bentley	A	Fr	1-0	
02.15	Croft Rising Star	A	Fr		
03.01	Coventry Unity Junior Association	H	Fr	0-3	
03.08	Burbage Wanderers	H	Fr	0-0	
03.15	Coventry Victoria	A	Fr		
03.22	Coventry Victoria	H	Fr		
03.29	Bentley	A	Fr		
04.05	Hinckley Reserves	H	Fr		
04.07	Foleshill Great Heath	H	Fr		
04.12	Nuneaton Rangers	A	Fr	2-2	Wright, Johnson

St. Nicholas scores first

Early Players

As has already been mentioned, all of the earliest representatives of the town's football team lived locally. They also worked locally, and although there are a number of different trades represented, a couple stand out as being the places where the greatest number of the local men made their living.

One of those companies was The Wool Factory, and the fact that a number of the people employed there lived in Wheat Street, Seymour Road and Vicarage Street, it could be that the Wool Factory is the Union Wool and Leather which was situated close to what is now Sainsburys.

It would also appear that a number of people involved in local football, found employment in the hat making industry. Hall and Phillips, which was situated in Meadow Street, Abbey Green, had been moved from Atherstone to what was known as Abbey Mills in 1868.

As might be expected, there were also people involved in the local mining and building industries.



A picture taken inside Hall and Phillips, showing the production of felt hats. Many thanks to Peter Lee (nuneatonhistory.com).

Name	Born	Address	Occupation	Died	Children
William Henry Looms	1870	29 Wheat Street 68 Attleborough Road (1911)	Hatter's apprentice	1929	Alan W. Looms Lawrence W. Looms Lance C. Looms
Walter Scott Wall	1871	87 Vicarage Street 114 Abbey Street c. 1901 Chilvers Coton	Wool Merchant's Clerk		
George John Baker	1861	Albion Street (part of Attleborough Road)			
Joseph Thomas Clamp	1870	30 Seymour Road	Printing Compositor	1944	
George Bacon	1871	18 Wheat Street	Fur Skinner	1919	
James Robert Marston		10 Wheat Street 13 Regent Street	Baker's Boy		Doris Marston Ida Marston James Marston
Charles Richard Day	1872	St Luke, Islington, N. London 58 Victoria Street 34 Fitton Street	Hat factory clerk	1942	
Charles Henry Briggs	1869	7 Manor Court Road 2 Abbey Green (1901)	Hatter		Rose Ellen Briggs Violet May Briggs
Frederick Swain	1872	68 Broad Street 104 Oaston Road (1901)	Drayman Kiln Furniture Caster		
James William Hardy	1874	Church Gresley 22 Chesterfield Road, Matlock, 27 Midland Road	Coal Hewer	1946	



Name	Born	Address	Occupation	Died	Children
Tom Wright	1874	43 Seymour Road	Fellmonger's Labourer		
Walter John Green	1872	27 Bull Street	Colliery Banksman		
Frederick Wykes	1872	Victoria Street Winden Street, Chilvers Coton (?) 44 Victoria Street	Carpenter's Apprentice		Walter Wykes Florence Wykes Lizzie Wykes
Thomas Hardy Smith	1869	64 Coton Road	Builder's Assistant	1903	
Arthur Bates	1870	30 Wheat Street Fife Street 23 Mount Street	Clerk at Brickyard		Nora Dorothy Bates Trene Winifred Bates Gladys Selina Bates Doris Bates Wilfred Albert Bates Cecil Arthur Bates
Arthur Bacon	1871	18 Wheat Street 45 Dugdale Street			Mary Elizabeth Bacon William Bacon Arthur Bacon
William E. Wright	1868	43 Seymour Road	Telegraph Messenger Grounder (Wool Works) Skinner (Wool Factory)		Mabel Wright Frances E. Wright Olive M. Wright Thomas C. Wright Ernest E. Wright

SOCIAL HISTORY FROM THE NEWSPAPERS

The Crisis In The Coal Trade

The miners of Warwickshire, numbering from 4,000 to 5,000, on Saturday put in fourteen days' notice for 10 per cent advance of wages. It is usual to put notices in on Wednesdays, but Mr W. Johnson (general secretary of the Miners' Association) advised the action for Saturday so as to have the notices expiring on the same date as those of other districts, and thus be loyal to the Miners' Federation of Great Britain.

The men assert that while prices of coal in Warwickshire have gone up 4s per ton, they have only received an advance equal to 1s. The men are very determined, but as most of the masters have signified their willingness to concede the advance asked, the result is dependent on the course taken by the Yorkshire owners.

A meeting of representatives of the Miners' Federation and the lately formed Coalowners' Federation was held in London, on Tuesday, to consider the demand which has been made for a 10 per cent advance on the 15th inst. Mr Woods, on behalf of the men, contended that the advance of wages asked for was justified by the present prices of coal.

Mr Pickard, M.P., followed, and stated that the price of coal in London this year was 7s 2½d more per ton than last year, and would continue to go up.

Mr Parker Rhodes urged the men's representatives to investigate the books of any eight collieries against eight chosen by the masters, and see whether the advance was justified by the figures or not. The masters were ready to abide by this test. After a long discussion the proposition was refused, and the meeting ended without result.

Nuneaton Observer: 1890

SOCIAL HISTORY FROM THE NEWSPAPERS

United Kingdom Railway Temperance Union

On Sunday a meeting of members and friends of this society was held in the large waiting room of the L. and N. W. Station, Nuneaton, to hear addresses from Mr. J. Teesdale, chairman, and Mr J. Henderson, secretary of the L. and N. W. branch.

Mr C. Butler, chairman of the Nuneaton section, presided and amongst those who crowded the room were Mr D. Hutchinson, loco superintendent; Mr E. Dutton, station master; and Mr T. O. Cliffe, traffic inspector; together with a large number of railway employees and friends - Mr Henderson gave a lengthy address pointing out the advantages of total abstinence and humourously criticising the statistics going the rounds of the press as a report of the British Medical Association, giving the average age at death of total abstainers and temperate and intemperate drinkers, saying they were after the fashion of those published respecting the ravages of cholera in India, in which it was stated that while the temperate drinkers amongst our soldiers were dying at the rate of 88 per cent, total abstainers were dying at the rate of 30 per cent, a statement which was quite true in the abstract, but was completely robbed of its value by the fact that at that time there were only two abstainers in the whole of the regiment attacked.

Mr Teasdale followed with a short but pointed address and the meeting closed with the doxology and benediction.

Nuneaton Observer: 1890



Heritage: The Axons

George Axon came to Nuneaton in 1864, where he was married to Eliza Hutt. George and Eliza had a large family of 9 children, including Harry (Henry), George (great-grandfather of David, below), Joseph and William Edward Axon.



David and Mark Axon: Members of the Axon family have been associated with the Town's senior football club since 1890.

Henry Axon

Born: 7th June 1865. Marriage: 5th July 1887 to Mary Eleanor Swain

Death: 25th Feb 1927, Nuneaton, aged 61. Henry and Mary Eleanor had 13 children in total.

Henry was a hair dresser based in Church Street until 1916 (H Axon Hairdressing Salon), then he became the licensee of the Granby Head. He joined the town council

around 1914 for the St Nicholas Ward and represented that Ward until 1924. The Granby Head had previously been used as a headquarters for both St. Nicholas and Nuneaton Town.

He was an accomplished flautist and was a founding member of the Nuneaton Borough band. He was also a Sunday school teacher for Nuneaton Parish Church, treasurer of Nuneaton Horticultural Society and a keen follower of the Atherstone Hunt. According to his obituary, when he could no longer ride, he used to follow the hunt in his car.

At the Annual General Meeting of St Nicholas FC, which took place at the Granby Head on Tuesday, July 11th 1893, Henry was elected as a vice-president of the football club.



George Axon

Born: 17th Aug 1867

Marriage: 20th May 1894 to Ellen Ann Bradford then 24th January 1904 to Bessie Goodman

Death: 4th Mar 1932 in Devon, age 64.

George and Ellen had three children and four children resulted from George's marriage to Bessie..

George was a Cotton spinner, then a coal miner before enlisting in the army, where he served in India, Ceylon and fought in the Boer War.

Joseph Axon



Born: 1872

Marriage: 3rd June 1895 to Susannah Burbage. They had 11 children and Joseph worked at Arley pit

Death: 6th November 1924, Nuneaton, age 52

He banged his head on a steel girder at work (Arley pit). The wound became infected and Joe died a week later.

Joseph's first recorded involvement in the St. Nicholas team is as a member of the reserve team squad for 'Nicks' second season in 1890-91 when he would have been 19.

He also captained Nuneaton Wanderers, which was the one time youth team, and appears to have split from the St. Nicholas club during the 1892-93 season. Many players appear to have turned out for both clubs at the same time.

Below is part of a report of Joseph being awarded the Nuneaton Cottage Hospital Charity Cup on April 8th 1894, following Wanderers' 4-1 victory at The Newdegate Arms ground.

“The Hon. Mrs. Newdegate then handed over the cup to Axon, the Wanderers captain, amidst a terrible manifestation of feeling, the applause being so loud and sustained that the recipient was deprived of the pleasure of returning the formal thanks he had prepared.”

HAVE YOU TRIED ONE OF
YOUNG AXON'S
2d CIGARS?

The Best in the World.



William Edward Axon

Born: 22nd Jan 1874. Marriage: 9th July 1904 to Mary Hankinson then in 1919 to Ida Cook

Death: 27th May 1927 Castlethorpe, Bucks, aged 53.

William had one child from his first and a son from his second marriage. He was a well known Nuneaton Rugby player

and also gained two Midland Counties Caps. He became a coach for the Nuns. William also played for the Wanderers in 1891-92 season and is recorded as having scored four goals in seven appearances.

At the start of World War 1, William joined the reserves and then served in France for the duration of the war and was wounded on 16th July 1916 (gunshot wound). His nickname was "Tich" and this is mentioned in his obituary (where it states it is because he was a 'striking six-footer'). An article in the local newspaper at the time he was wounded, refers to him as 'Pte "Tich" Axon.'

SOCIAL HISTORY FROM THE NEWSPAPERS

Treat to the Aged Poor at the Drill Hall

As reported a few weeks ago, the Pleasant Saturday Evening Committee finished up their successful season at the Drill Hall with a balance to the good of £8 10s, and it was decided to expend this in providing a meat tea and entertainment for as many aged poor of Nuneaton, Attleborough and Coton as the funds would allow of.

The scheme was carried out last Saturday to the entire satisfaction of everyone interested. Mr Yoxall, of Abbey Street, who has provided the weekly refreshments, placed an excellent spread on the board, consisting of ham, beef, tongue &c.; and prior to the arrival of the guests proper at six o'clock, those who had assisted throughout the season, likewise had tea together.

The old folks were very punctual and with plenty of willing hands to wait upon them, and after grace had been said by the Rev. J. G. Gascoigne they were very soon enjoying the good things set before them.

One old lady in the extravagant fulness of her heart was overheard telling her vis a vis that the treat "would be the making of Nuneaton," and another said she "wouldn't mind going to the like of it every week."

The provision made for their wants was of the most ample character and at the conclusion of the repast all present were heartily joined in singing "Praise God from whom all blessings flow."

Upwards of fifty "churchwardens" were distributed amongst the male portion of the audience; and a supply of tobacco being kindly forthcoming from Mr Yoxall and Mr. C. H. Wade, all those who cared to smoke were enabled to do so. After the audience was settled the Rev. J. S. Grant commenced proceedings with a speech which was couched in appropriate language and listened to with interest. At the conclusion the reverend gentleman called upon Mr A. F. Cross, the hon. sec., to assume the duties of Chairman and an impromptu programme was arranged and carried out in a very satisfactory manner:

At the conclusion of the entertainment a distribution of tobacco took place and the Chairman announced that Mr. Yoxall would give away fifty quarts of good soup on the following Monday to any of those present. The proceeding then closed with the singing of the National Anthem.

Nuneaton Observer: April 1893 (Abridged)

Here's a list of the Homester's team -

A clinking little lot -

Jack Marston stands between the sticks

Backs, Axon are and Bott.

Bill Marston and Sargeant come next,

Best of men at half-back,

Not forgetting that kicker bold

Rorty "Loughborough Jack."

Then Harris and Pykett, like stags,

Can gallop, while Clifford works grand

The tricky left wingers Higham and Joe

Complete the Wanderer's band.

The Observer: January 27 1893

FROM THE NEWSPAPERS

Nuneaton St. Nicholas v Hinckley Association

This match was played on the Newdegate Arms Ground, Nuneaton, on Saturday afternoon, in the presence of a good muster of spectators, and resulted in a victory for the home team by 8 goals to 1. The home club, who have made a grand start for this season, were fairly well represented, but the Hinckley team came with two men short, the vacancies being filled up by H. Farnell and H. Lilleycrap. the visitors won the toss and the game was started by the home team. For about ten minutes the game was of a very fast nature the visitors playing rather rough, when by a bit of good play, H. Tomlinson scored the first goal for the St. Nicholas. Some splendid shots at goal were made by the home team, and two more goals were added to their score before half time was called, the visitors being unable to score.

On changing ends the home team had decidedly the best of the game, adding five more goals to their score, while the Hinckley men were only able to score 1 goal about ten minutes before time was called. The home team played a good game, especially Tomlinson, Lingard, Bacon and Williams, the first named winning the admiration and applause of those present on several occasions.

The Nuneaton team was as follows:-

Goal: Allen; backs: Clamp and Measures; half-backs: Day (captain), Wright and Wykes; forwards: Tomlinson, Lingard, Williams, Bacon, Hutt.

Nuneaton Observer: 1890

FROM THE NEWSPAPERS

Bribery Scandal

In the aftermath of St Nicholas' 11-0 win against Nuneaton Globe FC, it was alleged that Nicks' bribed the Globe goalkeeper, which resulted in several letters being published in the local press.

The allegations seem unlikely, although it was suggested that Nicks may have tried to acquire the services of The Globe goalkeeper Kirkman, as he was regarded as the town's top goalkeeper at that time.

Nuneaton Observer: 1890





Season 1890-91

The first two games of the 1890-91 took place at the Newdegate Arms ground, which was situated where the multi-storey car park and bus station are today.

The games resulted in two resounding victories, 11-0 against Coventry Cow Lane Star and an 8-1 victory against Hinckley Association. Another 11-0 victory against Nuneaton Globe FC, who played in Midland Road, meant that 'Nicks' had averaged 10 goals a game in their first three matches.

Although only in their second season, Nicks took the opportunity to field a reserve side whose first game was against Hinckley Great Meeting at The Newdegate Arms ground. Nick's Reserves ran out 3-2 winners.

Throughout the remaining part of the season, Nicks played their home games at the rear of The Rose Inn, Coton Road. The first game on October 25th, 1890 saw Nicks' first ever fixture against an Atherstone 1st XI, which ended in a 2-2 draw.

Due to an exceptionally cold winter from late November to late January, 1891, several matches were postponed or abandoned due to weather conditions. However, on January 24, 1891, St. Nicholas made the journey to Budbrooke Barracks, Warwick, where after conceding three own goals, they were defeated 6-0 by the Royal Warwickshire Regiment.

Nicks had made a full recovery by the time the return match took place at the Rose Inn ground in March, when they inflicted a 4-0 defeat on the soldiers in 'one of the most important matches of the season'. Tomlinson and Stockley turned in sterling performances, with West also meriting a mention in reports.

March 21st saw the return match against Atherstone, which ended in controversy when the referee upheld an offside decision against George Bacon. The 'Nicks' captain William Wright decided to withdraw his team from the field with 10 minutes remaining. The final score was 2-1 to Atherstone.

it is reported that at this time, Atherstone supporters were in the habit of having 'mourning cards' printed. These were sold before the games, were edged in black, and contained a verse mourning the passing of the opposing teams.

Although at this time Nicks games were almost exclusively 'local', they did play hosts to a touring side from London on Good Friday, 1891, when St. Mary's Recreation visited the Coton Road ground and inflicted a 2-0 defeat on the home side.

First Team

Overall Record: P20, W13, D1, L6, F69, A24, GD+45

Player Records:	Appearances	Goals
B. Allen (GK)	8	
W. Hardy (GK, LH)	3	
T. Dalton (GK)	1	
J. Stockley (RB, LB)	9	
J. West (LB, RB)	7	
J. Clamp (RB, RH, IL, LB, LH)	8	

A. Measures (LB, RB, IR, RW, CF)	9	3
C. R. Day (RH, CH)	6	
W. Wright (CH, RH, LH, CF)	11	
F. Wykes (LH)	3	
H. Tomlinson (RW, LW, IR, CF)	10	4
A. Lingard (IR, RW, CF)	10	7
T. Wright (IR, LH)	2	
C. Williams (CF, LB, LH)	13	2
G. Bacon (LW)	11	7
A. Bacon (IL, CF)	10	2
J. Hutt (LW, RW, RH, CH)	6	
H. Barlow (IR)	1	
Day (IL)	1	1
Cox (H, LW)	2	3

*These records represent the information available from newspaper reports. These records are incomplete.

Reserves

Record: P8, W2, D2, L5, F10, A23, GD-13

Squad	Appearances	Goals
G. Bacon		1
W. Jarvis		1
J. Axon		1
G. Clamp (RW)		1
J. Marston (GK)	1	

FROM THE NEWSPAPERS

St Nicholas v Coventry Cow Lane Star

The first of the fixtures between the above clubs came off on the Newdegate Arms Ground, Nuneaton, on Saturday afternoon, in the presence of a goodly number of spectators, the weather being all that could be desired.

It was soon evident that the teams were unequally matched, for the home team, who were the heaviest, had it all their own way, scoring 5 to 0 before half time and 6 more goals on the change of ends.

Nuneaton Observer: 1890

FROM THE NEWSPAPERS

St Nicholas v St Mary's Recreation (London)

This important fixture came off on the St Nicholas ground, on Friday, before a large number of spectators. The home team kicked off with a strong wind at their back, and a good part of the first half had passed before anything final was done, when London from a corner scored. On changing ends play was for a time very even and London from a good shot scored a second time.

The St. Nicholas team played a very good game considering the weight of their opponents. West and Stockley played a dashing game at the back, and Allen saved some very good shots in fine form, Tomlinson and Lingard as usual were at home and made some good runs as did also the brothers Bacon, while Measures made some very good shots.

St Nicholas: Goal, Allen; backs, West and Stockley; half-backs, Clamp, Wright and Williams; forwards, Lingard, Tomlinson, Measures, A. Bacon and G. Bacon.

Nuneaton Observer: 1891



1890

10.04	Coventry Cow Lane Star	H	Fr	11-0	G. Bacon
10.11	Hinckley Association	H	Fr	8-1	Tomlinson
10.18	Nuneaton Globe Excelsior	A	Fr	11-0	Lingard 5, G. Bacon
10.25	Atherstone	H	Fr	2-2	Tomlinson
11.01	Tamworth St. Georges	A	Fr	0-2	
11.08	Croft Rising Star	A	Fr	0-2	
11.15	Nuneaton Globe Excelsior	H	Fr	7-2	G. Bacon, Tomlinson
11.22	Hinckley Institute	A	Fr	1-0	Day
11.29	Coventry Clifton Wanderers	H	Fr	5-0	
12.06	Hinckley Trinity	H	Fr	5-0	Tomlinson (2), Williams, A. Bacon, Cox
12.13	Hinckley Trinity	A	Fr	2-0	G. Bacon, Williams

1891

01.10	Nuneaton Wool Company	H	Fr	4-2	Cox (3), Williams
01.24	Royal Warwicks Regiment	A	Fr	0-6	
02.07	Coventry Clifton Wanderers	A	Fr	0-1	
02.21	Nuneaton Globe Excelsior	H	Fr	2-0	Measures, G. Bacon
03.07	Royal Warwicks Regiment	H	Fr	4-0	Lingard (2), Measures, A. Bacon
03.14	Hinckley Association (Town)	A	Fr	4-2	G. Bacon (2), Tomlinson, A. Bacon
03.21	Atherstone	A	Fr	1-2	Measures.
03.27	St. Mary's Recreation (London)	H	Fr	0-2	
03.30	Croft Rising Star	H	Fr	2-0	
03.28	Gentlemen 1 – Players 2 @ Newdigate Arms Ground				

St. Nicholas scores first

The Wanderers

At the start of 1891-92 season St Nicholas formed a youth team called Nuneaton St. Nicholas Wanderers. Their first game was a 3-0 away win at Hinckley Trinity on Saturday, October 3rd, 1891. Secretary W. Lingard scoring one of the goals alongside W. Howes and W. Marston, who later became a prominent first team player.

During that first season the 'Young Nicks' played their home matches at the Cock and Bear ground, which was leased from landlord Mr Taylor and is thought to be where Manor Park was later located.

The first home game took place there on Saturday, October 17th versus Coventry Excelsior Unity, with Marston bagging a hat trick in a 6-2 victory. Brothers Joseph and William Axon both played for 'Nicks' that day with the former captaining the side.

In their second season, Wanderers took over the use of the Coton Road Ground (Rose Inn) from the St Nicholas senior team who moved to the Arbury Road ground.

By the fourth game of the season there seems to have been a change in the way the Wanderers interacted with the senior club, and they had dropped the 'St Nicholas' from their name, perhaps no longer wanting to be

viewed as a junior side. Nuneaton Wanderers drew their first game under their new name with a 1-1 draw against Chapel End Rovers on Saturday, October 22nd, 1892. The relationship between the sides seems to have continued as players represented both clubs in following games and seasons.



A photograph of the Cock and Bear, circa 1879, adjacent to Wash Farm, later the home of Nuneaton St Nicholas Wanderers.

Nuneaton Football Heritage Heroes

No. 1

Charles Henry Williams



Charles Henry Williams was born in Chilvers Coton in 1868 to Thomas and Eliza Williams, who were greengrocers by trade.

Charlie played for Nuneaton True Blues in the 1880s and then helped to form Nuneaton Rangers, but was not involved from the outset with Nuneaton St. Nicholas.

Charlie's name appears in a report of Nuneaton Rangers v Coventry Rudge Reserves at Arbury Road on October 5th 1889, in which he played right half, shortly after Nuneaton St Nicholas had been formed. The following season Williams, Reader and Lingard had joined the 'Nicks' from Nuneaton Rangers and Charlie became Secretary for the 1891-92 season.

In 1891, Charlie aged 23, who worked as a felt hat finisher, was married at Coventry to Mary Ann Lester. After living with his parents and their child Henry Archie (1) at 15, Victoria Street, Charlie and his family moved to 205 Arbury Road.

In 1894 St Nicholas became Nuneaton Town and had to make the step up from playing friendlies and charity cup matches to league football and Charlie's role as club secretary must have been crucial in that transition to league football.

Mr. Williams was Secretary until about 1898, but when the club closed down in 1900 it was a Mr Stockley who held the position of secretary.

Charlie was a founder member of Nuneaton and District Football League in 1898, but died fairly young at 38, passing away in 1906 at Bedworth. He left behind his wife, Mary Ann and four children - Henry Archie, Ernest John, Charles George and Doris Ann.

Part of the From Town to Town Project

Season 1891-92

The pre-season saw a trial game take place and also saw the launch of what was effectively St Nicks' youth team, Nuneaton St. Nicholas Wanderers, to compliment their existing A team.

The club were still based at The Rose Inn, although The Wanderers played matches at The Cock and Bear ground, the first of these being against Coventry Excelsior Unity on October 17th 1891. The Wanderers, known as the 'Young Nicks', ran out 6-2 winners.

The season was preceded by a trial match between captain, J. Stockley's team and the vice-captain A. Measures' team. It was reported that some good additions had been made, that the club was on the up, and that the committee was looking forward to a prosperous season. Matches had been arranged against some of the best clubs in Leicester, Tamworth, Hinckley, Atherstone and Warwick.

The first game of the season, on September 26th, was against Tamworth St Editha's Guild, watched by a good sized crowd. Lingard opened the scoring for 'Nicks', which was accompanied by 'much loud cheering' and it was 1-0 at the break. Rollason, a tricky ball player, dribbled down the ground before hitting a 'splendid' shot which struck the crossbar. Nicks' lead was doubled when Lingard and Tomlinson worked the ball upfield, with the latter shooting home.

Tamworth pressed hard after the second goal and 'keeper Dalton was called upon to make two saves before the away side cut the deficit 15 minutes from time. Good defending by the Nicks' back line saw the game end 2-1 to the home side.

First Team Record: P19, W13, D2, L4, F51, A15, GD+36

Squad	Appearances	Goals
T. Dalton (GK)	18	
J. Stockley (RB, IR, RW) (captain)	15	2
D. Reader (LB, CH)	9	
A. Bacon (RH, LH, LB, RB, CH, IR)	17	1
C. Williams (CH, RH, LH, CF, RB)	7	
W. Wright (LH, CH, RH)	12	
W. Rollason (RW, LW, IR)	7	4
G. Bacon (IR, IL, LW, CF)	17	7
H. Thomas (CF, LH, RW)	17	10
H. Tomlinson (IL, IR, RW, LW)	15	12
A. Lingard (LW, CF, IR, IL, RW)	15	9
J. Howes (LB, RH, IL, RW, IR, LH)	9	1
Wootton (CF)	3	2
J. T. Clamp (LB)	1	
J. Reader (CH, LH, RH, LB)	9	
W. Haden (IL, IR)	3	
W. Bell (LH, CH)	2	
H. Farnell (IR, CH)	4	
F. Cooper (RW, LH, IL, CH)	4	
E. Cope (IR)	1	
W. Cooper (LB, RB)	6	
E. Starmer (LH)	1	
Hogg (LB, LH)	2	
Salmon (CH, RH)	2	

*These records represent the information available from newspaper reports. These records are incomplete.

1891

09.26	Tamworth St. Editha's Guild	H	Fr	2-1	Lingard, Tomlinson
10.03	Atherstone Association	H	Fr	4-0	Tomlinson (3), G. Bacon
10.24	Hinckley Trinity	A	Fr	4-0	Wootton (2), G. Bacon, Rollason
10.31	Hinckley Town	H	Fr	6-0	Tomlinson (3), Lingard (2), Rollason
11.07	Nuneaton Grammar School	A	Fr	7-0	Lingard (2), Rollason (2), Thomas (3)
11.14	Hinckley Town	A	Fr	0-1	
11.21	Burbage Wanderers	A	Fr	2-1	G. Bacon, Tomlinson
11.28	Coventry Ragged School	H	Fr	4-1	Tomas (2), G. Bacon (2)
12.05	6th Royal Warwicks Regiment	A	Fr	1-1	Howes
12.31	Towcester Association	H	Fr	2-0	Lingard, Howes

1892

01.16	6th Royal Warwicks Regiment	H	Fr	0-2	
01.30	Hinckley Trinity	H	Fr	1-0	Lingard
02.06	Coventry Ragged School	A	Fr	3-0	Thomas (2), A. Bacon
02.13	Coventry Rudge United	H	Fr	0-2	
02.27	Leicester Fosse Reserves	H	Fr	2-2	Thomas (2)
03.05	Atherstone Association	A	Fr	3-0	Lingard (2), G. Bacon
03.12	Nuneaton Grammar School	H	Fr	3-1	Lingard (2), Thomas
03.19	Burbage Wanderers	H	Fr	2-0	Tomlinson, Stockley
03.26	Coventry Rovers	H	Fr	6-1	Tomlinson (3), Lingard, Stockley, G. Bacon
04.02	Birmingham Warwick Street	H	Fr	1-2	Lingard

St. Nicholas scores first



Wanderers (Youth)

Record: P18, W10, D4, L4, F52, A31, GD+21

Squad	Appearances	Goals
W. Lingard (LW, IL, CF, RB, IR)	15	12
W. Howes (CF)	5	4
W. Marston (IR, RW, LW)	11	7
J. Marston (GK, LH)	9	
W. Bott (RB)	8	
S. Bull (RW, IR, CH, RB, GK)	6	5
(J?) Paul (IR, RW, RH)	3	
Stone (CH)	1	
S. (T). Cox (LH, LB, CH, RB, RH)	9	
J. Payne (CF, IL, IR, RH)	11	1
J. Axon (IL, LW, RW, LB)	8	
W. Axon (RW, IL, CF)	7	4
W. Blythe (CH, RH, LH)	7	
Atkins (LH, RH)	4	1
J. Howes (IL, IR, CF)	6	15
W. Stone (GK)	1	
T. Dalton (LB)	1	
Taylor (RH)	1	
J. Draycott (CH, LH, IL)	4	2
H. Thomas (CF)	1	
J. Wilson (CH)	1	
A. Lingard (RW)	1	
Daniels (LB)	1	
W. Bell (CF)	1	
C. Addy (LB)	1	
G. Harris (LW, RW)	4	
Parker (GK)	1	
D. Reader (LB)	1	

*These records represent the information available from newspaper reports. These records are incomplete.

FROM THE NEWSPAPERS

Local Results Service

The great interest taken in football has determined Messrs. Coleman, clothiers, of Abbey Street, to publish in their shop window every Saturday evening the results of all local and league matches. This information will be supplied through one of the Press Agencies and these early and reliable reports will no doubt be greatly looked after by the Nuneaton leather-kickers.

Nuneaton Observer: October 1892

FROM THE NEWSPAPERS

St Nicholas v Hinckley Town - Rowdy Crowd

The meeting of these teams on the St. Nicholas ground, Coton Road, attracted a very good gate, and a great deal of interest was manifested in the match.

A match had been arranged between the Nuneaton St Mary's and Coventry Godiva Rovers, but the latter team failed to put in an appearance, in consequence of which the St Mary's turned up in full force on the ground of the St. Nicholas, and their behaviour as spectators was anything but commendable.

The game ended in a victory for The 'Nicks' by six goals to nil.

Nuneaton Observer: 1891

FROM THE NEWSPAPERS

Nuneaton St. Nicholas v. Rudge United

Rudge FC (later Rudge-Whitworth FC) originated from the Spon End district of Coventry and were the works side of the Whitworth Bicycle Company.

Rudge were able to recruit some fine players and they provided some stiff opposition to rivals Singers FC, who were Coventry's number one Association Football team. At one stage Rudge and Singers held discussions regarding a merger to form a football team to represent the City of Coventry, but this suggestion was rejected.

The downturn in the bicycle trade and their inability to offer jobs as an incentive for players to join the club ultimately brought about their demise and they disbanded in the summer of 1898.

Rudge played their games at The Red House ground, Stoney Stanton and the Bulls Head Ground in Binley Road, Stoke, Coventry, which is still in use today and is the home of Coventry and North Warwickshire Cricket Club.

The above fixture, which was one of the best arranged, came off on the St. Nicholas ground, Coton Road, on Saturday last.

The weather was charmingly fine, and for the second time this season the St. Nicholas lost a victory on their own ground, but were greatly handicapped by the absence of J. Howes (inside left) and D. Reader (left back), and was substituted by E. Cope and F. Cooper both of which it is believed are coming footballers but on Saturday seemed out of form, as on several occasions they missed very bad.

The ball having been started, Rudge pressed very hard, for a few minutes, but the "Nicks" soon got a look in and secured two corners. Nothing, however was scored and the visitors forwards having got possession made a capital run on the left but were neatly stopped by Stockley in attempting to shoot.

A. Bacon, having sent the ball into midfield, the "Nicks" were awarded to "frees", and came very near scoring. From a bit of quick forward passing, Heath got possession, and scored the first goal for the visitors.

The ball, on being re-started, the visitors forwards made a capital run, and Johnson sent in a splendid shot, but Stockley by a clever spring turned the leather outside the post, and half-time being called the game stood: **Rudge United 1, St. Nicholas 0**

At the re-start Coventry got the ball well up, and Farnell put in some good work. The Rudge men were clever at passing, but the "Nicks" by a well-combined rush nearly scored. The ball was taken near the Rudge goal, and Thomas, by a bad kick, shot wide of the uprights and sprained his knee.

Afterwards he put in a grand shot in goal, but it was repulsed by Payne. Following up the advantage, Lamb, for the visitors, scored with a good centre shot. Then Johnson shot, but struck the bar. Bacon made an attempt, but the ball went wide, and the game ended with the score: **Rudge 2, St. Nicholas 0**

The teams were as follows:-

St. Nicholas: Goal, Dalton; backs, Stockley and A. Bacon; half-backs, J. Reader, Farnell and Cooper; forwards, G. Bacon, Lingard, Thomas, Cope and Tomlinson.

Rudge United: Goal, Payne; backs, Whitehouse and Ingram; half-backs, Kelley, Johnstone and Rother; forwards, Health, Reeves, Lumb, Osborne and Clarke.

Referee, Mr C. Williams; linesmen: Mr C. Day, Nuneaton; Mr T. Price, Coventry.

Nuneaton Observer: 1892



Season 1892-93

At the Annual Meeting on June 24th, 1892, W. Cooper was elected captain, T. Dalton as 'sub-captain' and the committee consisted of Mr. C. Williams of 13 Victoria Street (Secretary) and Mr. A. Lingard. These two members of the committee had previously played for Nuneaton Rangers, and as the 'Nicks' had by now moved from Higham Lane to the Rangers' Arbury Road ground in the centre of the town, it looks as though the two clubs had amalgamated.

The first match of the 1892-93 season was a trial between W. Cooper's team and W. Haden's team which was won by the latter 6-1. During the season that followed there were many complaints that the grass was too long, but the 'Nicks' attracted good crowds who paid 2d to watch. Although they were not members of a league, the 'Nicks' entered into the Nuneaton Cottage Hospital Cup and also the Midland Daily Telegraph Cup.

In a match against the Royal Warwickshire Regiment in November, 1892, it was the soldiers who provided all the fireworks, inflicting an embarrassing 11-0 defeat on the Nicks on their own soil.

Arbury Road hosted the final of the Nuneaton Cottage Hospital Cup on March 18th, 1893, between Foleshill

Great Heath and Atherstone Town. A crowd of 2,000 were present to see the 'Heathens' defeat Atherstone 2-0. The match that day was delayed for 'some little time' as someone had forgotten to bring the match ball.

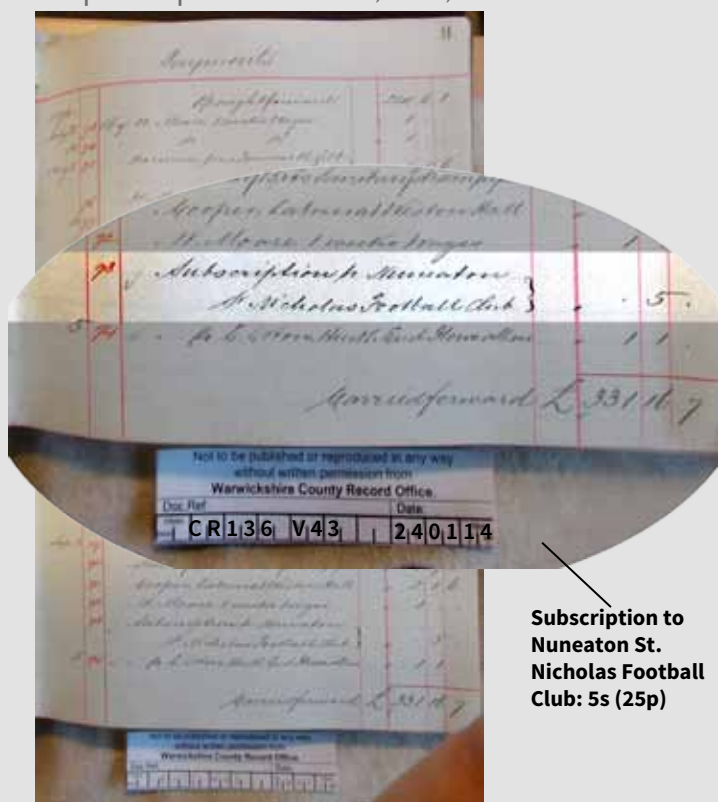
At the AGM on July 11th, 1893 the following officials were elected: President: W. J. Yoxall; vice-presidents: R. Townsend, F. R. Jones, H. Field, H. Axon, H. Hickey. Captain: W. Cooper and Sub-Captain: A. Jeffcoate; Secretary: C. H. Williams; Treasurer: T. Dalton.

The president was the owner of Yoxall's Confectioners & Cafe, which was the only shop in town to be lighted by electricity at that time.

Overall Record: P32, W18, D4, L10, F72, A55, GD+17

Player Records:	Appearances	Goals
T. Dalton (GK, CF)	23	1
W. Cooper (capt) (RB)	29	1
I. Bates (LB, CH)	2	
F. Cooper (RH)	28	
A. Jeffcoate/Jephcoate/Jephcote/ Jephcoatt (CH, IL, LH, LW)	26	10
H. Starmer (LH)	2	
E. Starmer	3	
H. Tomlinson (RW, LW, IL, IR)	26	8
H. Thomas (IR, CF, RW, LH, CH, LB)	30	4
C. Thomas (IL)	2	1
M. Fogarty (CF, LB)	22	3
A. Lingard (IL, RW, IR)	10	2
J. Stockley (LW, LB, RB, IL, IR, RW)	24	11
W. Haden (IR)	2	
G. Bidmead (IL)	1	
W. J. Yoxall (CH, LB)	9	
J. Morris (LH, CH, LB)	10	
W. Garnett (IL, RW)	2	2
W. Wright (CF, CH)	9	2
T. Wright (RW)	2	1
A. Lester (IL, GK)	11	1
J. C. Wallbank (RW, CF)	2	
H. Lillycrapp (IL, LW)	2	1
E. Jones (RW)	18	14
A. Measures (LB, CF)	3	
E. Sidwell (IR, CF, CH)	21	5
F. Marriott (IL)	2	2
F. Groom (LB)	1	
B. Kelsey (CH)	2	
L. Marston (LB)	1	
J. Millard (LH)	5	
W. Higham (IR)	5	1
J. Cifford (CF)	1	
T. Smith (RH)	1	
E. Cope (IR)	1	
J. Toynbee (CF)	3	3

*These records represent the information available from newspaper reports. These records are incomplete.



Subscription to
Nuneaton St.
Nicholas Football
Club: 5s (25p)

Frances Alexander Newdigate-Newdegate pays a five shillings annual subscription to Nuneaton St. Nicholas for the 1892-93 season for matches to be played at the Arbury Road ground.



Saturday, October 8th 1892

Nuneaton St. Nicholas v Atherstone Town

This well-contested match came off on the Arbury Road Ground on Saturday last. There was a large number of enthusiastic spectators, all of whom became very excited towards the finish. The weather was very showery, rain falling for about ten minutes during the first half. As will be seen the home team were left victorious by one goal although a splendid goal was disallowed by the referee in the second half.

A strong wind was blowing at the commencement of the game, but it ceased, however soon after both sides had scored one goal each. The home half-backs played well as did also the visitors backs. Morgan won the toss for the visitors and elected to play downhill and against the strong wind.

Fogarty started the ball and the home forwards at once made a rush towards the visitors goal, but Thomas shot the ball over the line. A kick from Mears sent the ball into midfield where the home forwards took possession and Fogarty scored a goal from a splendid shot. An appeal was made by the visitors that the ball was not shot through the goal-post but the referee gave his decision in favour of the home team. On restarting play was very even and fast, and from a run by Challis and Stretton, the former scored a goal which equalised the homesters. From the kick-off a corner soon fell to the visitors, which, however, proved fruitless and the home forwards broke away by a good passing game, Mears eventually kicking the ball out of touch.

From the throw in a shot was sent in by Thomas, which failed to score. The ball travelled to the other end of the field, another corner falling to the visitors and from a kick into the mouth of the goal a rush was made, but Stockley brought the ball into midfield by a good run, where it remained for a few minutes, both sides trying very hard to break away. The left home forwards having got the ball up the field, Garnett scored a goal by a grand shot. On restarting, the visitors tried very hard to equalise but their efforts were unsuccessful, Cooper and Stocking playing a good defensive game for the home team. A corner having been awarded the visitors, nothing resulted therefrom and play remained very even until Bourne and Barnsley broke away by a good passing game, a goal eventually being scored by the latter. Half time was soon afterwards called with the score as follows: **St Nicholas 2, Atherstone 2**

After the short interval the visitors at once began to press, Dalton being called upon to save, from a shot by Stretton, which he did in grand style and the ball thus travelled to the other end of the field. After a run by Lingard and Thomas the former sent in a shot which failed to score.

Play was soon in the home half by a splendid run on the left by Bourne and Barnsley, the latter misses his kick and thus lost a goal. Dalton sent the ball into midfield where the home forwards took possession and Thomas scored a goal, but

the referee ruled that player offside and thus the goal was disallowed to the great disgust of the spectators.

Taylor sent the ball up the field where play remained for a few minutes and from a rush by Stretton a shot was sent in which Dalton saved in splendid style. Stockley soon after gave a corner which proved of little use and the ball was again in close quarters to the visitors goal by a good passing game on the part of the home forwards. Mears kicked the ball out and from the throw in Stretton and Challis took possession and played a good passing game but Stockley took the ball from them and sent it down on the right wing. A "free kick" was eventually awarded the homesters but the ball was shot over the goal-line. Taylor sent the ball up the field but Lingard and Thomas took possession and the former sent in a long shot which Mears saved in grand style. The visitors forwards having rushed the ball up the field succeeded in getting over the line. Tomlinson and Garnett brought the leather towards the visitors goal and having got in close quarters the former misses his kick and thus lost a splendid chance of scoring. Time was drawing very near and "Nicks" began to make every exertion possible. From a rush in the mouth of the visitors' goal, Fogarty headed through amidst loud cheers. On re-starting the visitors tried very hard to equalise but their opponents outclassed them and another attempt to score was made by Lingard, the ball going over the crossbar. Cooper and Stockley were now seen in fine form breaking up the combination of the visitors' forwards and when the whistle was heard for time it brought a fast and good game to a close with the score: **St. Nicholas 3, Atherstone 2**

The teams were as follows: St. Nicholas: Goal, T. Dalton; backs, W. Cooper and J. Stockley; half-backs, F. Cooper, W. J. Yoxall and J. Morris; forwards, A. Lingard, H. Thomas, M. Fogarty, W. Garnett and H. Tomlinson. Linesman, Mr C. Day.

Atherstone: Goal, G. W. Taylor; backs, J. Mears and W. Morgan; half-backs, G. Taylor, A. Windridge and T. Gilbert; forwards, J. Stretton, J. Challis, T. Morgan, A. Barnsley and W. J. Bourne. Linesman, Mr. T. Albrighton. Referee, Mr. W. E. Wright.

FROM THE NEWSPAPERS

Hand of God? St Nicholas v Hinckley Trinity

The match was played on Coton Road before a goodly number of spectators in fine, but dull weather.

The game entered the second half with the scores tied at 0-0 when a good free kick was made by Lingard to George Bacon who scored with a splendid shot. A dispute then arose by the Hinckley men saying that the ball was punched through instead of kicked, and the referee (Mr Charles Williams), giving it in as a goal, G. Moore of Hinckley threatened to punch his 'b*****' head off. It may be said that if Hinckley Trinity come to Nuneaton again, they will learn their men how to use better language.

At the final whistle the game saw 'Nicks' victorious by a goal to nil.

Nuneaton Observer: 1892



1892

09.24	Hinckley Trinity	H	Fr	2-1	Tomlinson, Lingard
10.01	Leamington Town	A	Fr	1-4	Lingard
10.08	Atherstone Town	H	Fr	3-2	Fogarty (2), Garnett
10.15	Bablake Old Boys (Cov)	A	Fr	4-0	H. Thomas (2), Tomlinson, Wright
10.22	Tamworth Swifts Reserves	H	Fr	1-3	Tomlinson
10.29	Nuneaton Grammar School O.B.	H	Fr	2-1	Lillycrapp, E. Starmer
11.05	Royal Warwicks (Budbrooke)	H	Fr	0-11	
11.12	Hinckley Trinity	A	Fr	5-0	H. Thomas (2), Stockley (2), Lester
11.19	Leamington Town	H	Fr	0-0	
11.26	Foleshill Great Heath	A	Fr	2-3	E. Jones (2)
12.03	Hinckley Town	H	Fr	2-2	Stockley, Jephcoate
12.10	Hinckley Town	A	Fr	4-3	Jones (2), Stockley, Jephcoate
12.17	Newbold Revel	H	Fr	6-0	Jones (2), Marriott (2), Lingard, Jephcoate
12.24	Rudge United Reserves (Cov)	A	Fr	2-3	Jephcoate (2)
12.26	St. John's Albion (Cov)	H	Fr	2-1	Scorers not known (11.00am KO)
12.26	Foleshill St. Lawrence	H	Fr	1-0	Scorer not known (2.30pm KO)
12.31	Foleshill Great Heath	H	Fr	3-4	Wright, Sidwell, Tomlinson

1893

01.14	Newbold Revel	A	Fr	2-0	Sidwell, Jones
01.21	Burbage Wanderers	H	NCHC1	7-3	Tomlinson (2), Jephcoate (2), Jones, Stockley, Sidwell
01.28	Fazeley Swifts	A	MDLCC3	1-1	Jones
02.04	Foleshill Great Heath	A	NCHC2	1-2	Sidwell
02.11	Fazeley Swifts	H	MDLCC3r	1-0	Sidwell
02.25	Royal Artillery (Coventry)	H	Fr	5-1	Jones (2), Tomlinson, Stockley, Mosely (OG)
03.04	Foleshill St. Lawrence	A	Fr	1-0	Jones
03.11	Rudge United	A	MDLCCSF	1-2	Stockley
03.18	Rugby Alexandra	A	Fr	2-1	Stockley, Jephcoate
03.25	Rudge United	H	Fr	4-1	Stockley (2), Tomlinson, Jones
03.31	Fazeley Swifts	H	Fr	0-1	
04.08	Royals Warwicks (Budbrooke)	H	Fr	0-3	
04.15	Royal Artillery (Coventry)	H	Fr	2-2	Toynbee, Higham
04.22	Rugby Alexandra	H	Fr	1-0	Jephcoate
04.29	Stockingford True Blues	H	B	4-0	Toynbee (2), Garnett, Jephcoate

Fr = Friendly, NCHC = Nuneaton Cottage Hospital Cup, MDLCC = Midland Daily Telegraph Challenge Cup, B = Benefit for M. Fogarty

Nuneaton Cottage Hospital

The Nuneaton Cottage Hospital Cup was contested in support of the hospital which was built on land off Manor Court Road, donated by Mr James Tomkinson MP and Mr Reginald Stanley. It was opened on 20th September 1893.

The money raised by the cup competition was used to finance beds and help with expenses associated with maintaining the facility. The idea was originally conceived by Dr Richard Nason and was seen through by his sons Edward and William, who were also doctors. They both took part in local charity games, including Gentlemen vs Players (Easter 1891), and William also captained Nuneaton Town Rugby Club.



Nuneaton Cottage Hospital early 1900s. Later to become The Manor Hospital and now a local doctor's surgery.

Photograph Courtesy of Nuneaton Library



Season 1893-94

After winning their opening fixture 2-1 at Measham the 'Nicks' had two disastrous results when losing 7-3 at home to Tamworth Athletic and 4-3 away to Warwick United. September 30th brought a fine 4-0 win over Coventry Victoria at Arbury Road, followed by a 4-3 victory at Hinckley Grammar School Old Boys ground.

Also, on the first day of the season, while Nicks first team were at Measham the reserve team game with Nuneaton Wesleyans was abandoned after the Wesleyan's right back R. Randle broke his leg in a tackle with Nicks' forward E. Cope. Following this unfortunate event, a rematch was played in benefit of the player on October 7th, which ended in a 3-0 win for the Young Nicks. A sum of nine shillings was raised.

That season Birmingham sides appeared on the fixture list for the first time, and so on October 21st, Windsor Street Gas Department came to Nuneaton. The match was in aid of Nuneaton Floral and Horticultural Society and the visitors proved too strong for the 'Nicks' by winning 4-0. This was followed by two more home games in which Fazeley Swifts were beaten 2-0, but Rudge Reserves (Coventry) scraped home 1-0 on November 1st.

The following Saturday the St. Nicholas travelled to Edgewick where they were beaten 5-3 by Foleshill Great Heath in the First Round of the Nuneaton Cottage Hospital Charity Cup. After the game Nuneaton objected that three of the 'Heathens' players (Wood, Grimley and Windridge) resided 'outside the specified boundary', and so the match was replayed some weeks later when Foleshill again won. The game against Rudge Reserves on November 18th did not take place due to blizzard conditions.

Tamworth Swifts were beaten 3-1 in the Midland Daily Telegraph Cup, but the St. Nicholas men went out of the Leamington Charity Cup in December when they lost 3-2 at home to Stoke (Coventry). The newspaper report on this match referred to Nicks as the black and yellows.

Christmas 1893 brought victories over Leicester (17th Regiment) by 2-0 and St. Thomas's Institute, Birmingham 4-3. There were back to back games on Christmas Day and Boxing Day which saw three St. Nicholas first team players, Cooper, Fogarty and Higham representing Wanderers, who played host to Leicester Albert (2-0) and Leicester YMCA (4-5).

On New Year's Eve Stoke again knocked them out of a competition, running out 3-1 winners in the Third Round of the Midland Daily Telegraph Cup. The attendance for this game was so poor that insufficient monies were raised to clear players' expenses.

A couple of weeks of extremely cold weather wiped out the fixtures for the start of the new year. The first match played after this break was the return game against Measham Wanderers, which saw Nicks run out 5-1 winners in a game

which saw captain Wally Cooper sidelined for two weeks with an injured leg.

Reserve team player W. Bott was drafted in for Cooper, and in the next game saw off Royal Artillery (Coventry) 6-0. However, the following fixture resulted in a 2-0 defeat at home to Warwick United, quickly followed by another defeat at the hands of Moseley Unity (2-3), despite the return of captain Wally Cooper.

February 10th saw St. Nicholas return to winning ways with a 2-0 victory over Birmingham City. This was not, however, the Birmingham City of modern times, as they started out life as Small Heath and by this time were playing in the Second Division of the Football League.

Elsewhere on this date, St Nicholas' former youth side Nuneaton Wanderers were making significant progress in the Nuneaton Cottage Hospital Cup, reaching the final by taking the impressive scalp of Foleshill Great Heath 3-2 in the semi-final at Stockingford.

The average crowd for the season was about 500, which was not bad given the town's population at that time. Receipts amounted to £71 0s 7d, expenses £64 10s 3d, therefore cash in hand was £6 10s 4d. Admission to games cost 2d with the stand extra.

SOCIAL HISTORY FROM THE NEWSPAPERS

Medical Officer's Report

Nine cases of infectious disease were officially notified during the month, seven typhoid fever (four in the Wide Yard, Coton Road, five at Heath End, and one at the back of the Jolly Colliers Inn, College Street), one erysipelas in Heath End and one diphtheria at Upper Dugdale Street.

The analysis of the water in the Wide Yard was "it is enormously polluted with organic matter of animal origin, being in fact, little better than partially oxidised sewage. It is therefore, in the medical officer's opinion, totally unfit for use for drinking purposes."

Nuneaton Observer: 1894

SOCIAL HISTORY FROM THE NEWSPAPERS

Advert

Epps's Cocoa: Grateful and Comforting

"By a thorough knowledge of the natural laws which govern the operations of digestion and nutrition, and by a careful application of the finer properties of well-selected Cocoa, Mr. Epps has provided our breakfast tables with a delicately flavoured beverage which may save us many heavy doctor's bills. It is by the judicious use of such articles of diet that a constitution may be gradually built up until strong enough to resist every tendency to disease. Hundreds of subtle maladies are floating around us ready to attack wherever there is a weak point. We may escape many a fatal shaft by keeping ourselves well fortified with pure blood and a properly nourished frame". (Civil Service Gazette).

Made simply with boiling water or milk. Sold only in packets, by Grocers and labelled "James Epps & Co., Homeopathic Chemists, London."

Nuneaton Observer: 1894





1893

09.09	Measham Wanderers	A	Fr	2-1	Sidwell, Lingard
09.16	Tamworth Athletic	H	Fr	3-7	H. Thomas, Lingard, Sidwell
09.23	Warwick United	A	Fr	3-4	Higham, Jones, Lingard
09.30	Coventry Victoria	H	Fr	4-0	Tomlinson (2), Jephcoate, Higham
10.07	Tamworth Athletic	A	Fr	3-6	Tomlinson (2), Lingard
10.14	Hinckley Grammar School O.B.	H	Fr	4-3	Measures, Higham, Tomlinson, Middleton
10.21	B'ham Windsor St. Gas Department	H	Fr	0-4	
10.28	Fazeley Swifts	H	MDTCC1	2-1	Higham, Jones
11.04	Rudge Reserves	A	Fr	0-1	
11.11	Foleshill Great Heath	A	NCHC 1	3-5	Tomlinson, A. Lingard, Higham
11.25	Tamworth Town Swifts	H	MDTCC 2	3-1	Higham, Tomlinson, Wood (OG)
12.02	Foleshill Great Heath	H	NCHC 1r	0-1	
12.16	Stoke (Coventry)	H	LSHC 1	2-3	Tomlinson, Jones
12.23	17th Leicester Regiment	H	Fr	2-0	Jephcoate, Higham
12.26	Birmingham St. Thomas's Institute	H	Fr	4-3	Jephcoate, Higham, Tomlinson, Cox
12.30	Stoke (Coventry)	A	MDTCC 3	1-3	Jones

1894

01.13	Measham Wanderers	H	Fr	5-1	Tomlinson (2), C. Thomas (2), Sidwell
01.20	Royal Artillery (Coventry)	H	Fr	6-0	Tomlinson (2), Sidwell (2), Jones, Browne
01.27	Warwick United	A	Fr	0-2	
02.03	Moseley Unity (Birmingham)	H	Fr	2-3	Jones, Higham
02.10	Birmingham City	H	Fr	2-0	Sidwell, Tomlinson
02.24	Rugby Alexandra	H	Fr	3-2	Cox (2), Higham
03.03	Stockingford Rovers	A	Fr	1-1	Higham
03.10	Hinckley Town	A	Fr	2-4	Jones, Cox
03.17	Fazeley Swifts	H	Fr	4-4	Wright (2), Browne, Higham
03.24	Nuneaton Wanderers	H	Fr	3-1	Higham (2), Tomlinson
03.26	Birmingham St. Thomas's Institute	H	Fr	3-3	Higham (2), Marston
03.27	Willenhall Pickwick	H	Fr	0-7	
04.07	Fazeley Swifts	A	Fr	1-4	Cox
04.14	Hinckley Town	H	Fr	0-2	
04.21	Atherstone Town	A	Fr	1-1	Hammonds

MDTCC = Midland Daily Telegraph Challenge Cup, NCHC = Nuneaton Cottage Hospital Cup, LSHC = Leamington Spa Hospital Cup,

All time St. Nicholas Player Records:

Appearances	Played	Scorers	Played	Goals
H.Tomlinson.....	73	H.Tomlinson	73	37
H.Thomas.....	71	A.Lingard	35	18
W.Cooper.....	51	E.Jones	37	21
J.Stockley.....	48	H.Thomas	71	15
T.Dalton.....	41	J.Stockley	48	13
		W.Higham	25	13





Overall Record: P31, W12, D4, L15, F69, A78, GD-9

Player Records:	Appearances	Goals
J. Masser (GK)	26	
W. Cooper (capt) (RB)	22	
M. Fogarty (LB, IR, RW, CH)	24	
F. Cooper (RH, CH)	25	
J. Brierley (CH)	2	
H (Harry) Thomas (LH, LW, IR)	26	1
C (Charlie) Thomas (IL)	1	1
A. Lingard (RW, IR, CF)	12	4
W. Lingard (CH)	1	
E. Sidwell (IR, CF, CH)	26	3
W. Garnett (CF, IL)	2	
W. Higham (IL, CF)	25	13
H (Harry) Tomlinson (LW, CF, IL)	22	13
L. Marston (LH)	1	
W. Marston (LW)	2	1
E. Jones (RW, IR)	19	7
J. S. Smith (IR)	1	
A. Jackson (LW)	1	
A. Jephcoate/Jephcoatt (LW)	10	3
A. Measures (RB, IR, RH)	4	1
A. Jebbetts (CF)	2	
H. Middleton (LH)	2	1
J. Roberts (CF, IR)	2	

W. Bott (LB, LH, RB)	8	
A. Groves (CH)	1	
A. Payne (IR)	1	
F (Fred) Cox (RW)	6	3
E. Cope (LB, RH)	2	
E. Starmer (CH)	2	
J. T. Browne (LW)	4	1
Farnell (IL)	1	
T. Wright (IR)	5	2
M. Morse (CH)	2	
J. Morris (LB)	2	
A. Lester (GK, IL)	2	
D. Reader (LB)	1	
H. Horwood (RH)	1	
T. Smith (CF)	1	
W. Jebbetts (IL)	1	
W. Curl (RB)	1	
J. Hammonds/Hammond (RW)	1	1
T. Savage (CF)	1	

*These records represent the information available from newspaper reports. These records are incomplete.

FROM THE NEWSPAPERS

Sporting Notes April/May 1894

Caught in The Deep

The plea of the members of the Nuneaton Town Cricket Club is for privacy - and too much privacy, "as the saying is," but just privacy enough. If the remarks of the Chairman at last Monday night's meeting are to be relied upon - and I don't think they are likely to be disputed - there have been many drawbacks to the due enjoyment of the fine old English game as played on the Newdegate Arms Ground.

The pavilion has been transformed into a fried fish emporium, and the greensward has been the happy hunting ground of the Nuneaton larrikin. Truly, these things should not be.

Cricketers, as a class, are not squeamish individuals, but when a crowd of tetterdemalions are skipping about the wicket outside, and the odour of fried fish assails the nose inside, it is quite time to draw stumps "as the saying is."

Cricket In Crisis

The Town Club plays its opening match next Saturday against the Coventry Craven, and a good team will probably be sent to champion 'Eaton in spite of their forlorn and homeless plight.

SOCIAL HISTORY FROM THE NEWSPAPERS

Absenting Himself From Work

Thomas Jackson and Henry Blower were summoned by Messrs. Hall and Phillips, who claimed £2 as damages in consequence of Jackson, who is an apprentice, having left their service. Blower is Jackson's stepfather, and he was summoned as surety for him. Mr Bland appeared for Messrs. Hall and Phillips.

Mr. C. A. Phillips stated that Jackson was an apprentice with his firm, and he had cause to speak to him in consequence of his misconduct. He went away, and enlisted in the Militia, but was fetched back.

He came to the factory and on witness telling him to get to work he refused to work "in that shop." He afterwards came back and had continued to work since. William Starkey, the foreman, proved Jackson's absence from his work for ten days altogether. There was no practical defence to the charge. The Bench adjourned the case for a month in order that some amicable arrangement might be arrived at.

Nuneaton Observer: 1894

Nuneaton Observer: 1894

Nuneaton St Nicholas FC – The End

On Wednesday, September 5th, 1894, a General Meeting was held at the Granby Head, headquarters of Nuneaton Town Association Football Club. Mr. E. Scanlon (Chairman) explained that the meeting had been called to allow every member to hear what had transpired at committee meetings since the last A.G.M. It had been decided to change the name of the club from St. Nicholas F.C., to the Nuneaton Town A.F.C., the colours of the shirts were to be changed from amber and black to white, and a grandstand was to be erected on the Arbury Road ground. The club had also joined a league for the first time, The Warwickshire Junior, of which they would be members of the First Division.



Acknowledgments

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Others, too numerous to mention, have also contributed - their names may not be mentioned but their services and knowledge of both the football club and the town have been invaluable.

Compiled and edited by Paul Sawyer and John Hobson.



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