

FIRST ROUND

**HAMPSHIRE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION
SENIOR CUP
Season I - 1887/88**

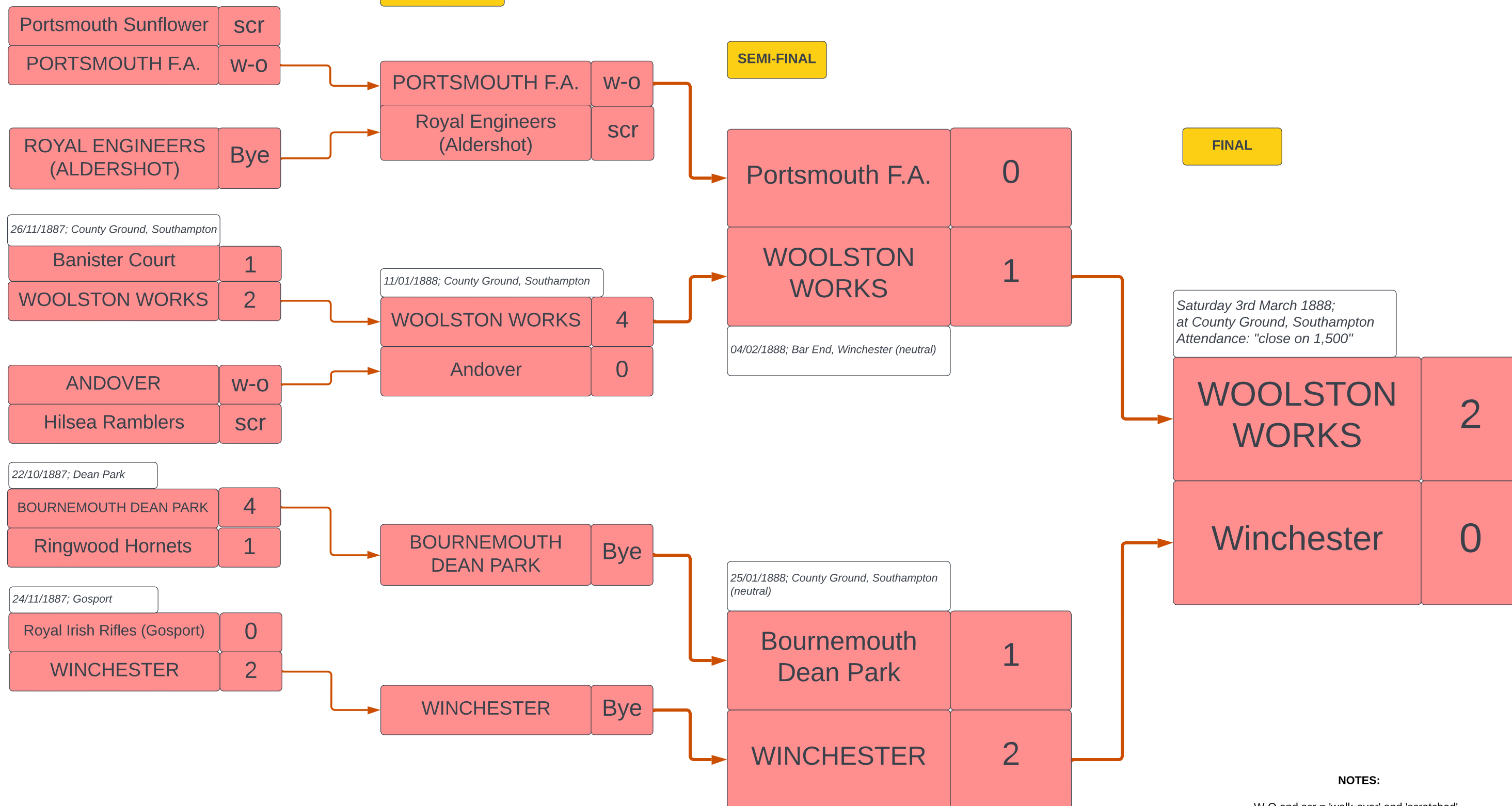


HOLDERS:
N/A - although Woolston Works were the very last winners of the Hants & Dorset Senior Cup competition prior to the two associations splitting in 1886/87

SECOND ROUND

SEMI-FINAL

FINAL



THE CUP FINAL LINE-UPS:

Woolston Works:
Higgins, goal;
W. Howarth and J. Forster, backs;
A. Oswald, J. Oliver (capt), and W. Duff half-backs;
J. Kesson and W. Ramsay, right wing;
W. Denny, centre;
J. Moir and Ward, left-wing

Winchester
B.H. Wooldridge, goal;
J.P. Powell and G.L. Cox, backs;
G.H. Du Boulay, and G.F. England, half-backs;
T.B. Kitchin and J.A. Fort, right wing;
C.E. Currie, centre;
A. Tebbutt and R.S. Smith, left wing

Referee
Mr. J. Armstrong (Clapham)

Umpires
Messrs. J.A. Nethercoate (Bournemouth) and F.A. Johns (Ringwood)

NOTES:
W-O and scr = 'walk-over' and 'scratched'

THE STORY OF THE HAMPSHIRE SENIOR CUP - 1887/88

At the time of writing, the Hampshire Senior Cup is within its 137th year and even a competition that's survived the annals of time has to start somewhere and it's here!

The Senior Cup's first season had eleven entrants, six of whom had previously entered the Hants & Dorset Senior Cup competition in its short-lived existence.

Some details of the new entrants follows:

Bournemouth Dean Park were newly formed and came from the ruins of the Bournemouth Rovers club who'd folded in the summer of 1887. A fair few of their team would have had previous senior cup experience which would have helped them progress to the semi-final.

The Aldershot area was represented for the first time in county senior football but the **Royal Engineers (Aldershot)** didn't have a chance to shine on this occasion having to unfortunately 'scratch' their cup game as player availability would have been an issue. In club (or friendly) matches they had a good run since Christmas 1887 though, losing only to their own senior club at Chatham.

Banister Park were a Southampton-based school team. Formed in 1883 they put up a good show, suffering a narrow defeat to the Hants & Dorset Cup holders who went on to become this season's cup winners.

The **Hilsea Ramblers**, a military team, had a good season overall and late in this season had thought they'd won the Portsmouth Cup final only to find they were disqualified due to a rule infringement!

The **Royal Irish Rifles (Gosport)** entered although they were expecting to leave the district in February 1888.

The first Hampshire Senior Cup match played ... This was the tie between Bournemouth Dean Park and Ringwood Hornets, at Dean Park. It was played early to enable one of the Hornets players to appear as he was reported to be going away. The attendance was between 300 and 400 spectators. The assembly didn't have to wait very long to witness the competition's first ever goal scored. Mather centred and Crowley 'breasted' it between the posts inside four minutes to give the home side the lead in what turned out to be a 4-1 win.

Second Round Controversy ... Only one match was actually played in the second round and it appeared to be a comfortable win for Woolston Works against Andover. At the HFA meeting on 19th January 1888, Andover famously protested against the Works, which was to become known as "Kesson's Boots". The Works had brought J. Kesson back from Scotland for the game. The rule required six months' residence previous to a cup-tie within six miles of a headquarters of a club. The Works argued that six months meant at any time and not immediately previous, which the committee ruled was the latter. So, what did residence mean? Mr. Oswald, a member of the shipbuilding company, claimed Mr. Kesson had only temporarily left his job and was expected back. Mr. Oswald was able to prove this as Mr. Kesson had retained his lodger's vote, had left his clothes with his landlady and given her a retainer for his room. The protest, apparently following a heated discussion, was dismissed. This decision led to a loophole in the rules being stopped up and was a key one in the circumstances as Woolston Works went on to win this very first Hampshire Senior Cup competition.

Semi-Final Summary ... Bournemouth Dean Park v Winchester

Winchester took the lead after about ten minutes against Dean Park when C. S. Wooldridge centred from the goal line and C. E. Currie put the ball through the posts. C. J. Richards scored the second Winchester goal with a high shot which the goalkeeper could not reach and the half-time score was 2-0. Dean Park went down to ten players (due to an injury) but Hockaday scored. The game ended 2-1 to Winchester.

Semi-Final Summary ... Portsmouth FA v Woolston Works

Woolston Works handed over the Hants & Dorset Senior Cup before the game (to become the property of the Dorset FA). There was no score at half-time with Kesson and Ramsey prominent for the Works and Pares dribbled well for Portsmouth. A defensive error led to the only goal and the Works' centre E.G. Lenney ran the ball through the posts for the only goal. There wasn't very much between the teams.

Cup Final Summary ... Woolston Works v Winchester (extracts from the Bournemouth Guardian Newspaper, dated 10th March 1888)

The County Ground, Southampton was the venue for the inaugural Hampshire Senior Cup final. It was dubbed to be the 'old public schoolboys with weight and speed' of Winchester against the 'dash, earnestness and lasting power' of the Works, or more simply, 'City vs Celts'. Woolston were thought to be not as strong as the previous season yet had still made it to the final stage.

The turf was faultless and the field of play roped all round. The crowd assembled and by kick-off time about 1,500 had lined the ropes, the largest 'gate' ever taken in these parts amounting to receipts of around £30.

There was no score in the first half but plenty of entertaining play. In the second half the fast play seemed to have told on the city men whilst the shipwrights remained fresh. Ward put in a cross shot and Kesson collected and dashed between two defenders and drove a low shot home. Moir sent a curling shot just under the bar, meaning a 2-0 win to Woolston the much fitter XI.

Colonel Fellowes led the presentation ceremony, and complimented the winners and handed the cup to Woolston skipper Oliver. The winning team received medals each bearing the county arms in crimson and blue.

THE HAMPSHIRE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION JUNIOR CUP COMPETITION - 1887/88

The Hampshire F.A. also ran a Junior Cup competition in this season. Eighteen teams entered this competition including the reserve sides of senior clubs Bournemouth Dean Park and Portsmouth Sunflower.

The competition was won by St. Mary's FC (Southampton) who defeated the Southampton Harriers 2-1 in a replayed final, following a 2-2 draw. Both matches took place at the County Ground, Southampton. It was the St Mary's club's first attempt at competitive football and they were to become the Southampton FC of today.

Finally, the Small Print ...

Compiled in September 2023. Please acknowledge www.hantsoccerarchive.co.uk if using this information. E.&O.E.

CUP FINAL VERSE

Once again, the excellent coverage of local football from the Bournemouth Guardian newspaper is shown here. The relevant parts (two verses) of a longer poem which included covering the cup final is below:

Woolston and Winchester met on the third,
To fight for the Hampshire pot,
And even the keenest of prophets, I think,
Didn't know which would win - not a jot,
But the Winchester forwards kept "losing their heads",
And the shooting was very askew.
So Woolston Works won,
By two goals to none,
As they really deserved to do.

For:-

Nothing went wrong with the WORKS,
Nothing went wrong with the WORKS,
Howarth was there and everywhere,
Kesson was "on the job",
Nothing went wrong with the Works,
In fact you may say no doubt
That nothing much,
Will go wrong with the WORKS,
When the Woolston boys are out.

[Anon]