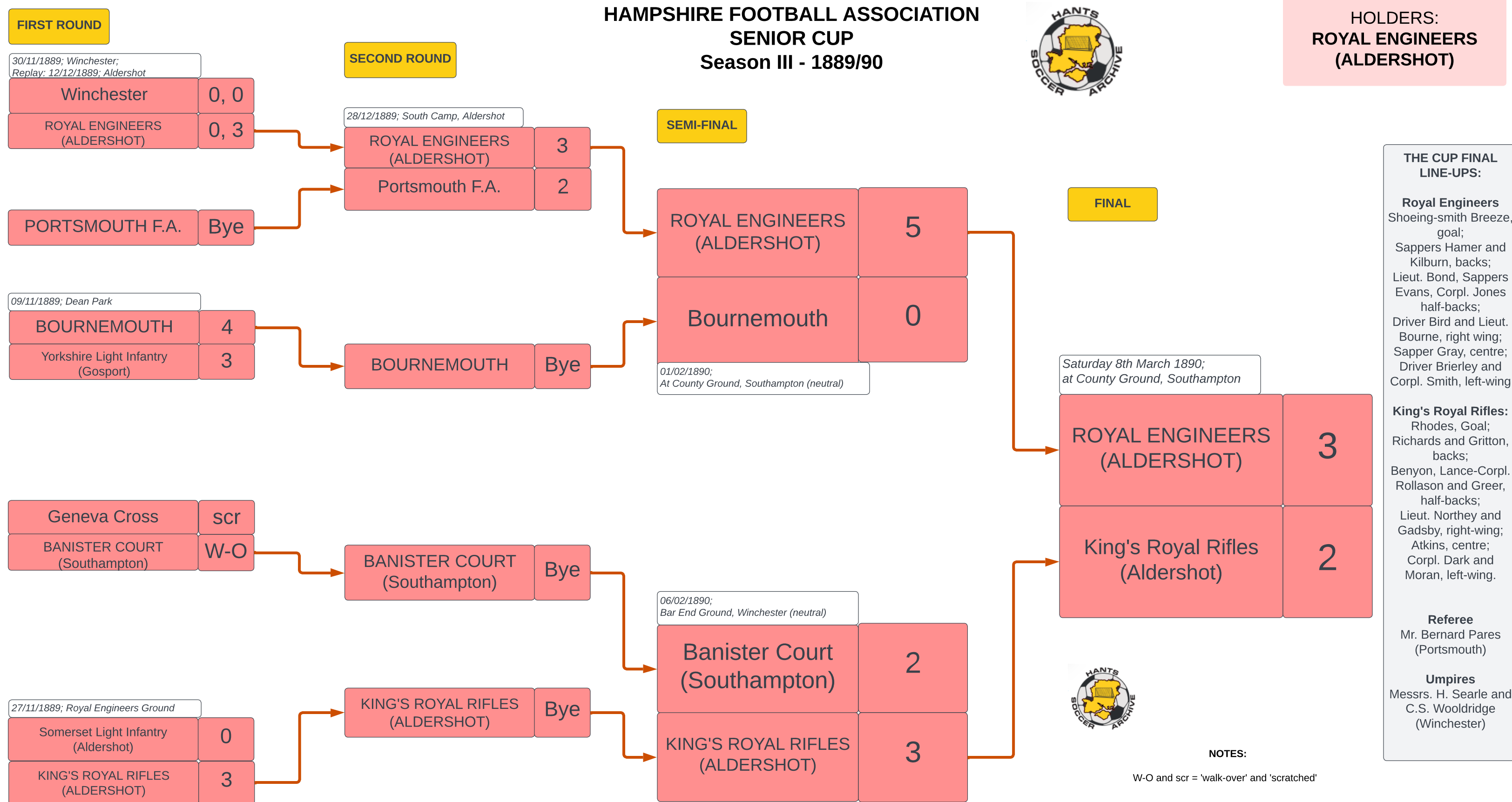


HAMPSHIRE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION SENIOR CUP Season III - 1889/90



HOLDERS:
**ROYAL ENGINEERS
(ALDERSHOT)**



THE CUP FINAL LINE-UPS:

Royal Engineers
Shoering-smith Breeze, goal;
Sappers Hamer and Kilburn, backs;
Lieut. Bond, Sappers Evans, Corpl. Jones half-backs;
Driver Bird and Lieut. Bourne, right wing;
Sapper Gray, centre;
Driver Brierley and Corpl. Smith, left-wing

King's Royal Rifles:
Rhodes, Goal;
Richards and Gritton, backs;
Benyon, Lance-Corpl. Rollason and Greer, half-backs;
Lieut. Northey and Gadsby, right-wing;
Atkins, centre;
Corpl. Dark and Moran, left-wing.

Referee
Mr. Bernard Pares (Portsmouth)

Umpires
Messrs. H. Searle and C.S. Wooldridge (Winchester)

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

THE STORY OF THE HAMPSHIRE SENIOR CUP - SEASON 1889/90

Changes to Entries:
Entries into the county's Senior Cup competition were considerably reduced for this season as there were only nine competitors (there were previously twelve).

Out went: Alton FC (unknown), Andover FC (who played only friendly matches), Portsmouth Sunflower (who may have disbanded) and Portsmouth Grammar School (who continued to play some friendly games). Woolston Works were the other club not taking part and there is a feature compiled in the previous season.

There was one change of name as Bournemouth Dean Park became known as **Bournemouth FC**, a title they are still known by today.

The two newcomers were both service teams:

Somerset Light Infantry were Aldershot based and added to the two other teams from that area competing.

Yorkshire Light Infantry were based at Gosport.

First Round Summary

There were four first round ties with the Portsmouth F.A. club being the beneficiary of a bye into the next stage. Winchester and cup holders Royal Engineers met in the first round for the second successive season and, once again, it was the sappers who progressed but this time a replay was necessary. At the Royal Engineers Ground the all-Army affair between the Somerset LI and the King's Royal Rifles saw the latter victorious due to three first-half goals. The *Aldershot and Sandhurst Military Gazette* of 7th December 1889 reported "an enormous gathering of spectators on the ground, the enclosure being three and four deep all round". At Dean Park, Bournemouth led 3-0 at half-time but the Yorkshire's put in a good effort in the second half to run the locals close. Geneva Cross scratched their game, a repeat of their exit from the previous season as Banister Court progressed on this occasion.

Second Round Summary

Three clubs received second round byes as just one tie occurred. Portsmouth F.A., having had a first round bye, knew they would be taking part and they were drawn to meet the Royal Engineers, which was a repeat of the previous season's final. A crowd of around 1,800 watched and this match was a lot closer than that final as Portsmouth F.A. held a 2-1 lead at the break. The sappers levelled and scored a last minute winning goal to progress.

Semi-Final Summary

One first half goal and four more after the break produced a most comfortable semi-final win as the cup holders entered the final at the expense of Bournemouth. The Banister Park team had not played at all in the competition up to now and they took on the King's Royal Rifles but lost an exciting game 3-2. This meant it was an all service team final.

Final Summary

Royal Engineers (Aldershot) v King's Royal Rifles (Aldershot)
Once again, the County Ground, Southampton staged the final and it was a most unpleasant afternoon with rain descending in torrents and wind blowing. However, there was a large attendance of about 1,500 present and receipts were shown to be £31, 5s, 6d. In this all-military final the King's scored early through Benyon but Smith with a cross-shot soon equalised. King's had the conditions in their favour and retook the lead after the ball had slipped from the hands of Royal's goalkeeper Breeze in saving a shot from Lieut. Northey and a wary Rifle sent it home (the scoring player was not identified). Some thought King's had added a third goal before half-time, claiming the ball was a foot over the line following a free kick but the score remained at 2-1 to K.R.R. Into the second half and the Royal's took complete control of the game as it progressed and Rifles goalkeeper Rhodes was called upon to save many shots. The scores were levelled when a free kick taken by Gray was touched into goal by Rhodes. Fifteen minutes remained and both teams tried their hardest to gain the advantage but it was the cup holders who netted the winning goal. Following a melee with Rhodes out of his goal, Smith sent the ball careering through the goal amidst a frantic outburst of cheering. Five minutes were left to play. The cup and medals were presented to the winning team by Lady Wilson.

Junior Cup Competition

Once again, and for the third successive season, St. Mary's (Southampton) won the Hampshire Junior Cup competition. This time they defeated Lymington F.C. 2-0 in the final at the County Ground, Southampton on 29th March 1890. The rules of the competition meant the club, having achieved this treble feat, was able to keep possession of the silver plated trophy. To move forward in years the cup was proudly on display when the club (as Southampton F.C., of course) celebrated its Golden Jubilee in 1935. The cup was then used by the Southampton Schools' F.A. and disappeared in the fifties before being found in a school cupboard and was almost discarded in 2013. It is now located back with the Southampton club at St. Mary's Stadium.

Minor Cup Competition

The Hampshire Football Association operated a Minor Cup competition, for village teams, for the first time in this season. Southampton St. Luke's became the inaugural holders, needing a replay to defeat Cowes White Star. The first game was drawn 1-1 but the White Star team protested about the eligibility of a St. Luke's player and also about a disallowed goal for offside which should have stood. The player claim was unproven but a decision regarding the 'goal' being disallowed was referred to the English F.A. by the Hampshire F.A. and a telegram was received stating: "Umpire's decision final". The replay took place on the ground of the Cowes F.C. club on 12th April and was won by Southampton St. Luke's by 3-1. The cup was displayed at Mr. Sharpe's Tobacconist shop in Above Bar for a few days afterwards. The St. Luke's team had disbanded by January 1891. The original Cowes F.C. disbanded during the 1899/00 season and the Cowes White Star team adopted the Cowes F.C. title and therefore revived the club in the summer of 1903.

Additional Feature

It was a successful time for football teams in the Aldershot area. As well as providing the Senior Cup winners, the Royal Scots (who were also based at Aldershot) won the Surrey Senior Cup competition. They defeated Reigate Priory 5-2 in the final at Guildford. In addition to that, civilian club Aldershot Institute took the Surrey Junior Cup, defeating Vampires 3-0 in the final at Reigate. It isn't known whether the outcome of this Surrey Senior Cup final was a reason but by the commencement of the next season, the Surrey Football Association debarred Aldershot military teams from entering their competitions. This therefore resulted in more integration between the military and the Hampshire F.A.

Finally, the small print ...

Extracts from the Aldershot Military Gazette, Bournemouth Guardian, Hampshire Independent and Southampton F.C. match programme 2022/23. Please acknowledge hantsoccerarchive.co.uk. Compiled October 2023. E.&O.E.

