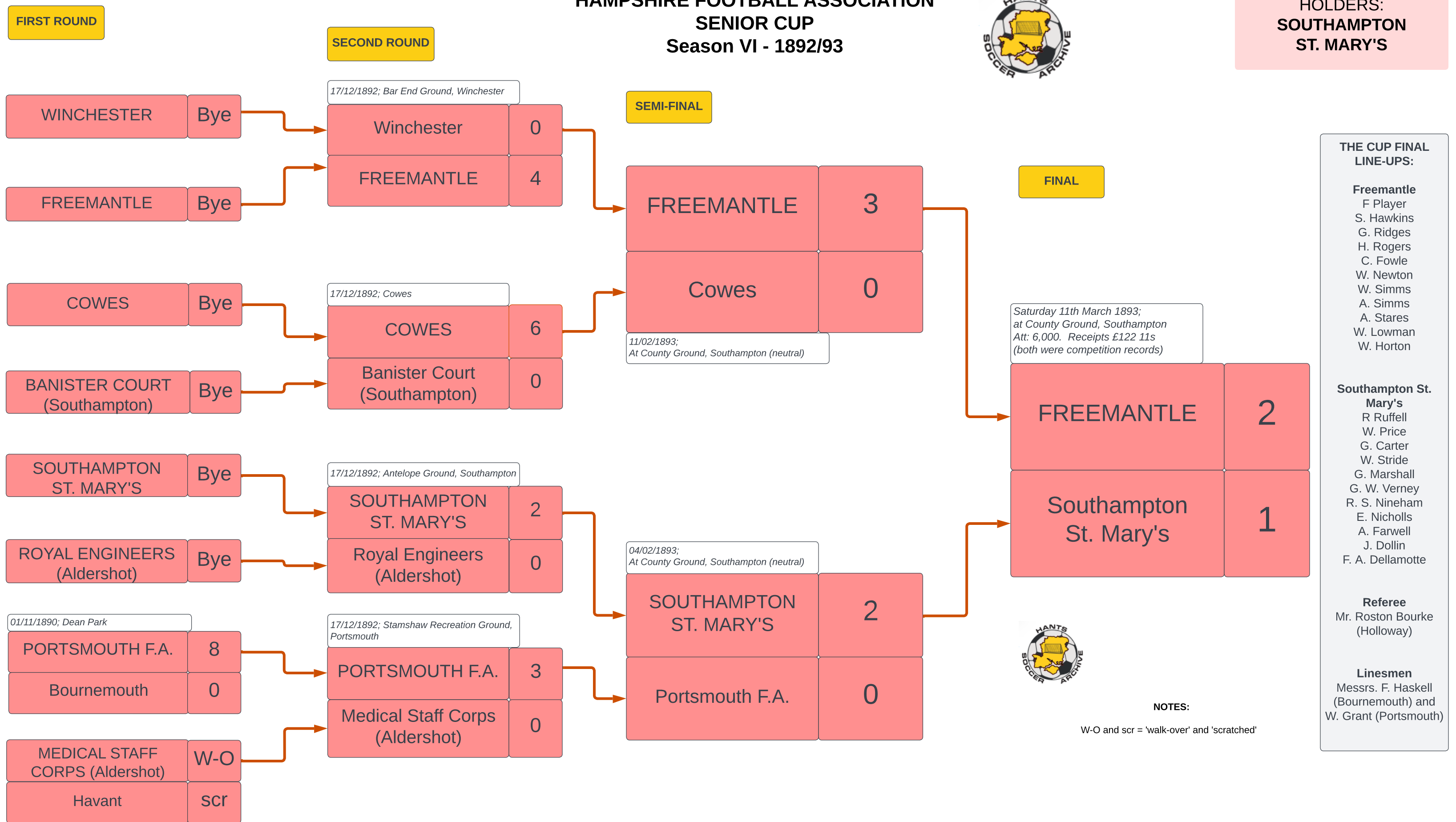


HAMPSHIRE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION  
SENIOR CUP  
Season VI - 1892/93



HOLDERS:  
SOUTHAMPTON  
ST. MARY'S



**THE CUP FINAL LINE-UPS:**

**Freemantle**  
F. Player  
S. Hawkins  
G. Ridges  
H. Rogers  
C. Fowle  
W. Newton  
W. Simms  
A. Stares  
W. Lowman  
W. Horton

**Southampton St. Mary's**  
R. Ruffell  
W. Price  
G. Carter  
W. Stride  
G. Marshall  
G. W. Verney  
R. S. Nineham  
E. Nicholls  
A. Farwell  
J. Dollin  
F. A. Dellamotte

**Referee**  
Mr. Roston Bourke (Holloway)

**Linesmen**  
Messrs. F. Haskell (Bournemouth) and W. Grant (Portsmouth)

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

THE STORY OF THE HAMPSHIRE SENIOR CUP - SEASON 1892/93

**Changes to Entries**  
The eight entrants from 1891/92 all had a crack at the cup in this campaign, but they were joined by two newcomers who had come through the junior ranks.

**Coves FC** were formed in 1881 and had competed in the junior cup in the last season when Hampshire and Dorset were a joint association which was in 1886/87. They reached the final then and took Poole Rovers to a replay but were defeated. All their Hampshire Junior Cup efforts from there proved to be unsuccessful until winning that competition in the previous (1891/92) season. They were clearly the strongest team on the Isle of Wight.

Also moving up were **Freemantle FC** who were the club who'd lost to Coves in that Junior Cup final mentioned above. This club, located on the western fringes of Southampton district, was formed in 1883 and had only competed in the junior cup competition since 1888. The 'Magpies' began to make an impact on local football when they won the Portsmouth Association Cup in 1890. In this featured season, they were holders of that cup again, having defeated previous H.S.C. entrants Portsmouth Grammar School in the final back in March.

First Round Summary

Only two matches were necessary at the first stage. The Portsmouth F.A. side recorded a surprisingly emphatic victory over the 'Green Shirts' of Bournemouth FC. The visiting side made an unsuccessful protest about the poor light which was not upheld. The Havant club scratched from their trip to Aldershot as the Royal Engineers, a popular outfit in the county, moved into the Second Round without the need to kick a ball.

Second Round Summary

With all the remaining clubs in action the second round was completed on the same afternoon, as scheduled. The top tie brought St. Mary's and the Royal Engineers together, both having been two times winners of the trophy so far. A goal in each half saw the Saints progress. Portsmouth F.A. dismissed the previous season's finalists the Medical Staff Corps but, like the previous round, survived a protest, this time a claim by the Medicals that the colours were too similar! The cup debutants were both successful. Coves took to the cup like a 'Duck to the Solent' with a comprehensive victory over the Banister Court students. Freemantle, the other 'first timer', had no problem travelling to Winchester and returning home with a victory.

Semi-Final Summary

The semi-final ties were played in February at The County Ground, Southampton.

**Southampton St. Mary's v Portsmouth F.A.**  
A crowd numbering around 2,500 witnessed this tie with the 'new stand' filled with excited onlookers. A few of the supporters came from Portsmouth, cheering on their team who wore 'neat uniforms of navy blue with white sleeves'. Nicholls put the Saints in front in the first half and Dollin added to it. The Portsmouth backs saved them from a heavier defeat and people left the ground wondering how Bournemouth came to lose their tie so heavily in the first round.

**Freemantle v Coves**  
A repeat of last season's junior final brought the teams together for a right to meet the St. Mary's side in the final match. Hamer put the Magpies in front, but this goal had no effect on the enthusiasm by the Coves supporters as Freemantle had scored first in that previous game and their side won. Coves started the second half in better fettle, but nothing was scored. A second Freemantle goal materialised though, good play by Simms followed by a further goal through a speedy run by Horton. Referee A. Tebbutt almost gave Coves a penalty kick but changed his mind having consulted his linesman, the foul having taken place outside the '12 yards line' which had been almost obliterated due to the wet surface and the rush of many feet. Freemantle deserved the win but 3-0 was hardly in accordance with the play.

Final Summary

**Freemantle v Southampton St. Mary's**  
The largest crowd ever assembled to watch a Hampshire football match, all of 6,000, lining the pitch and the recently added grandstand at the County Ground was full. The Magpies won the toss and defended the western goal as a blinding sun shined in the faces of their opponents. Ruffell, the Saints goalkeeper, made some good saves in the first half. Freemantle took the lead, due to a rush, following a free kick (scorer not identified). At that point the pressure was so great the wire broke in two or three places and the members of the County Cricket Club did well to prevent the crowd from encroaching onto the field of play. Freemantle held their lead until about eight minutes from time when a ball from the right was sent to the mouth of the goal, and in an instant the Saints had scored. The final minutes were exciting. The Magpies stormed Ruffell's goal, the crowd having now pressed before the posts and were impeding the players. Saints cleared but the ball was quickly brought back as a penalty kick was given and Freemantle scored. Freemantle goalkeeper Player made a good late save and soon after, time was sounded, the Magpies achieving a most historic victory.

The president of the Association, Mr. C. S. Wooldridge announced that Mrs. Edwin Jones was present to present the trophy. It was received by Freemantle captain Ridges who, amid much cheering, returned thanks. There was a rumour of a Saints protest lodged regarding the winning goal which didn't materialise, but it was a talking point within the district for a long time thereafter. Freemantle celebrated at the Star Hotel later which was sportingly attended by Mr. George Carter, the Saints captain and referee Roston Bourke, a Londoner of considerable experience, and both gave speeches. The referee had officiated in his fifth match that week and stated he would have been quite happy to have been with the Southampton team as with Freemantle.

Junior Cup Competition

The finalists were Christchurch and Bournemouth Wanderers. Christchurch defeated the Netley-based Geneva Cross after a replay in the semi-final. The 'Wonders' took just the one game to overcome the Coves second team in their 'last four' match. They were also looking to be the first team to win the Junior Cup having won the Minor Cup in the previous season. The game took place at the County Ground, Southampton on 4th March 1893. The teams were level at 1-1 at half-time but it was the blue and black shirted Christchurch team that scored the winning goal in the second half.

Minor Cup Competition

This trophy was shared between the contestants who were Christchurch Star and East Coves Victoria. The first game was a 1-1 draw at The County Ground, Southampton on 25th March. The replay took place at the Freemantle ground on 8th April and it again finished a goal apiece. It looked as though a third match was necessary but there were difficulties in obtaining a suitable ground for the game to be played and the H.F.A. decided that each club would hold the trophy for six months and it went to the Isle of Wight initially. Both cup holders moved up to the junior ranks for the next season.

Additional Feature

Following on from their Senior Cup success, Freemantle capped a very successful season by again winning the Portsmouth Association Cup, defeating North Stafford Regiment 1-0 in the final at the United Services Ground, Portsmouth.

The Senior Cup final was the first county cup game that St. Mary's had lost, having won the first three Junior Cup competitions and then the next two Senior Cups, a most impressive record.

Finally, the small print ...

Hampshire Independent and Bournemouth Guardian newspapers, The Hampshire Football Association Golden Jubilee 1887-1937 book. Please acknowledge hantsoccerarchive.co.uk. Compiled in November 2023. E.&O.E.

