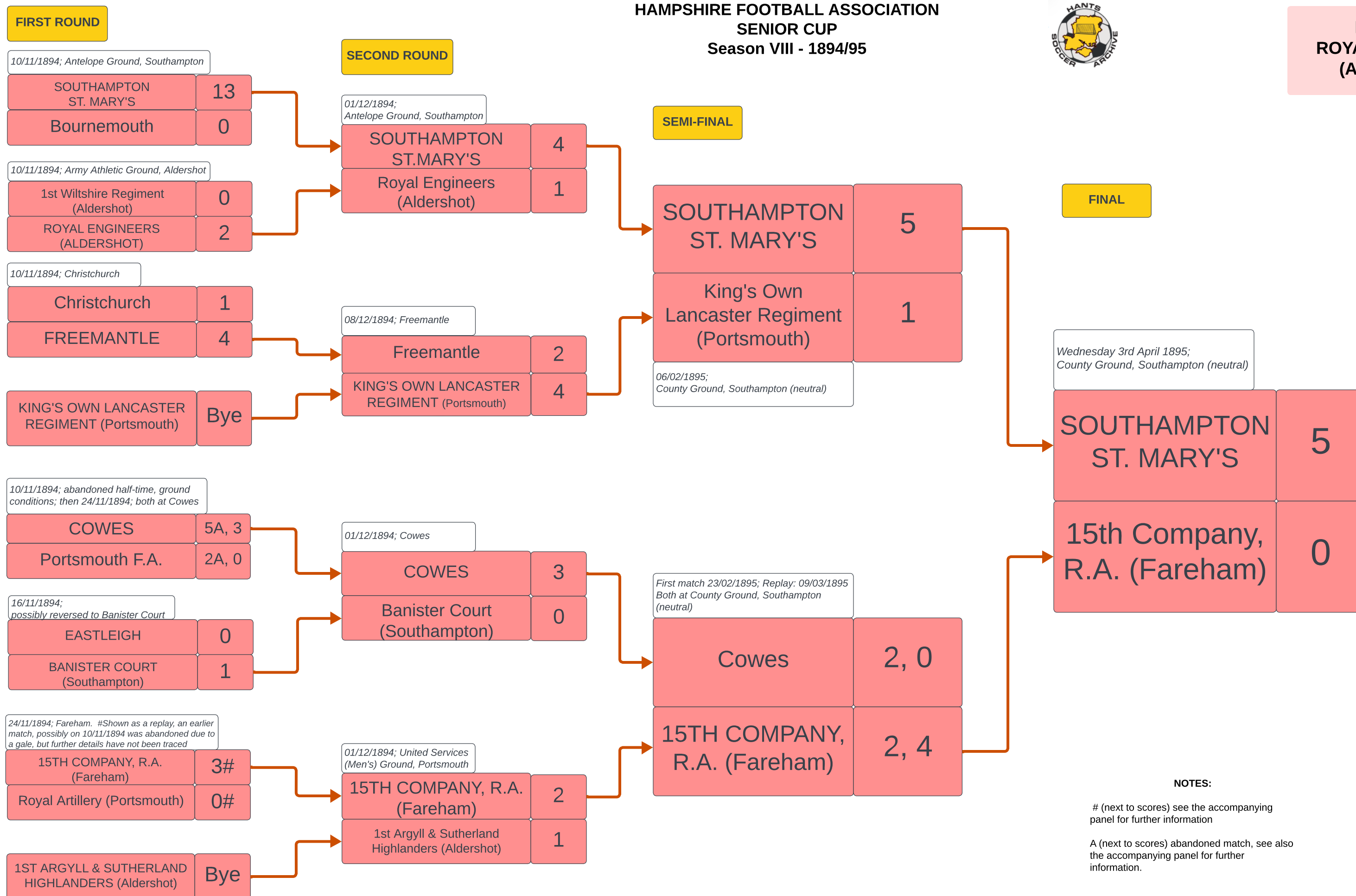


HAMPSHIRE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION
SENIOR CUP
Season VIII - 1894/95



HOLDERS:
ROYAL ENGINEERS
(ALDERSHOT)



THE CUP FINAL
LINE-UPS:

Southampton St. Mary's
Williamson
Rogers
Jeffery
Taylor
Littlehales
Thomson
Dorbin
Baker
H. F. Ward
Hollands
Angus

15th Company, R.A.
Field
Moorhouse
Pitt
Black
McManus
Haxton
McDonald
Nichols
Cook
Jackson
Holling

Referee
Lieut. Simpson

Linesmen
Messrs. Ellaby and Tebbutt

NOTES:

(next to scores) see the accompanying panel for further information

A (next to scores) abandoned match, see also the accompanying panel for further information.

THE STORY OF THE HAMPSHIRE SENIOR CUP - SEASON 1894/95

Changes to Entries

Eight of the nine teams that took part in the previous season's competition had a crack at winning the coveted trophy this time. The exception was the Army Medical Staff.

This season saw a large presence of military teams taking part.

Football in the Aldershot area gained a boost with the local newspaper providing a cup for competition by senior clubs, which were mainly from the military. That cup is the present day Aldershot Senior Cup. Two new teams entered the county cup, the **1st Wiltshire Regiment**, who were nicknamed the 'Springers' and the **1st Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders**. These teams added their presence in the district to the holders and hitherto regular entrants Royal Engineers.

The services also had a presence in the Portsmouth area. Two of the entrants were very close relatives namely the **15th Company, Royal Artillery (Fareham)** and **Royal Artillery (Portsmouth)**. The latter team was formed in 1894 out of the Depot R.A. side who had been based at Gosport. This team went on their own following a mooted possible merger with the Fareham gunners which didn't materialise. Both newcomers were very strong county cup entrants. The **King's Own Lancaster Regiment** was based at Victoria Barracks, Portsmouth (this location was also referred to as being in Southsea).

The only civilian newcomer in this season came from the Southampton area. **Eastleigh** was formed in 1892 when a new railway works came to the area. Initially known as L.&S.W.R. Eastleigh F.C. and had played in the Junior Cup, this club had just moved up to the senior ranks which coincided with the opening of their sports ground in Dutton Lane. They later had various name changes and are not to be confused with the present day club with the same title.

The Southampton St. Mary's club had now embraced professionalism and became one of the founder members of the Southern League.

First Round Summary

There were six first round games. St. Mary's made easy work of Bournemouth, whilst a military battle at Aldershot saw the Royal Engineers progress. Cowes had two attempts to put out the Portsmouth F.A. team, their first being abandoned. There was an interesting tussle between Eastleigh and Banister Park. Because of fears of bad weather, the game was brought forward from the Saturday date to the previous day. Banister Court won their first senior cup game for three years but were faced with a protest regarding the eligibility of one of their players. Such protests had to be made within a set down time period and Eastleigh delivered theirs on the Monday after but this was decreed to be a day too late to be considered. They would have won that protest too and the rule which included a Sunday as one of the days to count was soon changed. Banister Court therefore progressed due to an anomaly in the rules!

Second Round Summary

The last eight battles brought the previous season's finalists together and this time St. Mary's made no mistake, dismissing the Royal Engineers by 4-1. Cowes defeated the Southampton student side whilst the 15th Company, having a most successful season, defeated the 1st Argyll & Sutherland team. The fourth game raised some eyebrows. Played a week later due to the King's Own Lancaster Regiment having F.A. Amateur Cup involvement, they went to Freemantle and defeated the locals by 4-2. This prevented yet another match-up between the Magpies and the Saints at the next stage (and denied the Association benefiting from another large gate!).

Semi-Final Summary

Once again, the County Ground at Southampton was the venue for the penultimate round matches.

Southampton St Mary's v King's Own Lancashire Regiment (Portsmouth)

This match took place on a midweek date as both teams had been playing in higher ranked competitions on the Saturday. The Portsmouth based military team had played at Clapton in the first round (last 32) of the F.A. Amateur Cup and were victorious whilst St. Mary's had met Nottingham Forest in the first round of the English (F.A.) Cup but were beaten at the Antelope Ground. It was the Saints who won this semi-final tie comprehensively, scoring five first half goals with the Regiment posting a single goal in the second period.

15th Company, Royal Artillery (Fareham) v Cowes

This was described as a 'stubbornly contested' match. The military team led by the only goal scored in the first half. Cowes turned it around in the second half but in the final seconds the 15th Company scored from a scrum which was immediately followed by the final whistle. The 15th Company had been down to ten players at that point as one of their forwards, Jackson, received a sprained knee and had to be carried from the field.

15th Company, Royal Artillery (Fareham) v Cowes (replay)

The weather was abominable (wet) for the replay which contrasted with the sunshine of the first match. Cowes went into the replay with two changes to their team, one of them being 'unaccountably absent' with a suggestion on the ground that he was a member of the opposing regiment (which was not verified). The soldiers made one change to their line-up (enforced following the initial meeting). The military won quite comfortably with two goals in each half, asserting their authority as it progressed and went on and meet the St. Mary's professionals in the final.

Final Summary

Southampton St. Mary's v 15th Company, Royal Artillery (Fareham)

The eighth holding of this final was the first time it hadn't been played on a Saturday. The Saints led by 2-0 at the break, their first goal being scored after half an hour's play through a header following a scrum from a Taylor ball into the area. An Angus shot saw Dorbin helping the ball through for the second goal. Dorbin and Ward added further goals in the second half. Ward adding his second later when the military side was reduced to ten players due to an injury. It was a most comprehensive win for the professional team from Southampton. The crowd gathered around the grandstand and cheered lustily as the Mayor (Mr. L. Button) presented "Charlie" Baker with the handsome trophy.

Junior Cup Competition

The final was played on 2nd March 1895 at the County Ground, Southampton: Army Service Corps defeated Ryde 3-2 after extra time. The Corps also won the 'Corps Station Cup'.

Minor Cup Competition

This final was played on 16th March 1895 at the County Ground, Southampton. Albion Guild, a Southampton-based team, defeated East Cowes Victoria 'B' by 4-1.

Additional Feature

Two references were made to the King's Own Lancashire Regiment being involved in the F.A. Amateur Cup above and they made it all the way to the semi-final and lost to Middlesbrough at that stage (which was played at Derby). ... This was the Southampton first team's final season entering the Hampshire Senior Cup competition, their reserve team would be representing the club for the next season. At a summer meeting, the club also abandoned their 'cherry square' shirts as they would now become half scarlet and half white instead. Another proposal was to change the club's name to 'Southampton F.C.' which was defeated as the subscribers 'liked the word Saints too much'. This proposal would be carried in a few years' time!

Finally, the small print ...

Sources: Hampshire Independent, Bournemouth Guardian, Southern Echo. Acknowledge hantsoccerarchive.co.uk. Compiled in November 2023. E.&O.E.

