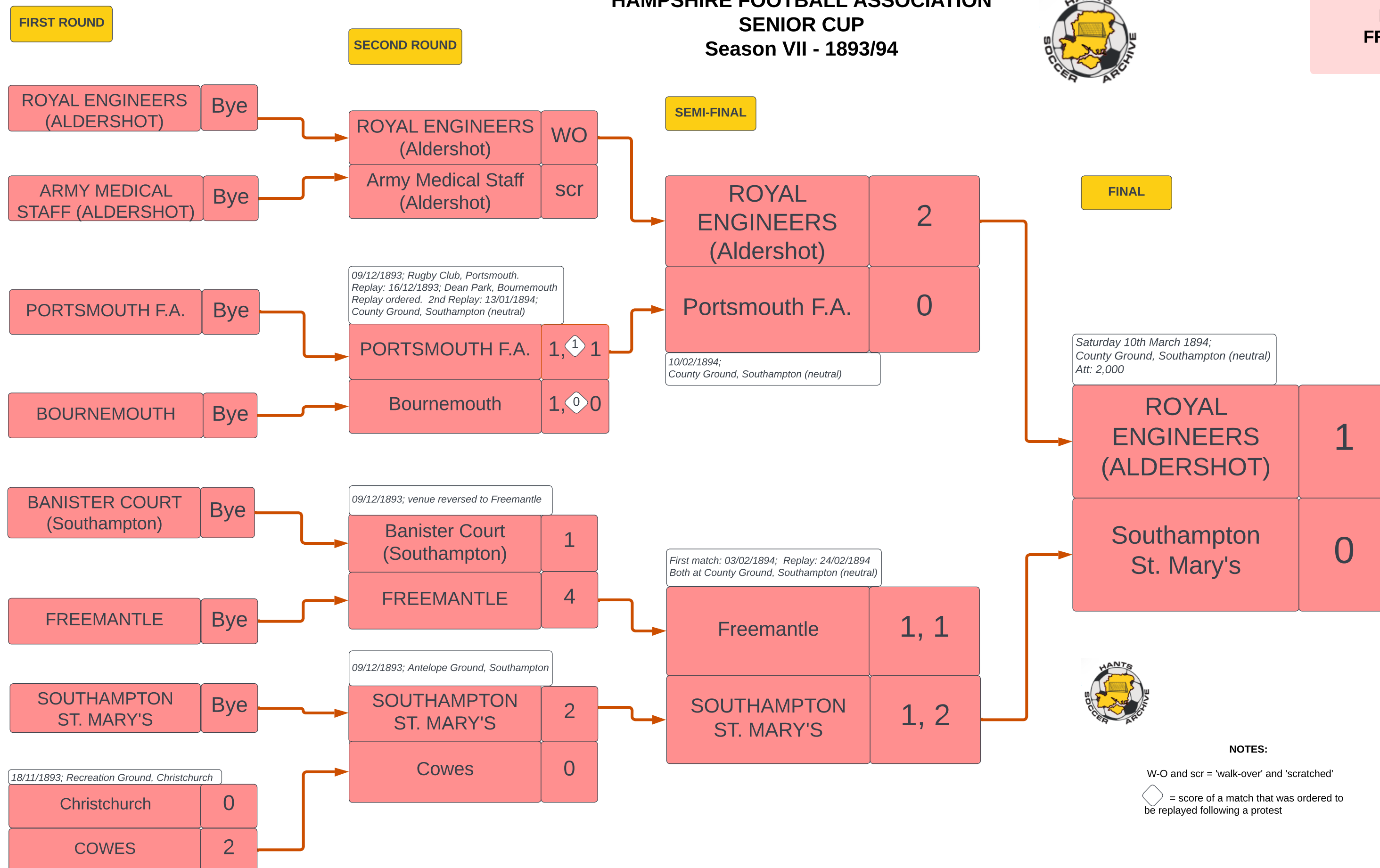


HAMPSHIRE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION
SENIOR CUP
Season VII - 1893/94



HOLDERS:
FREEMANTLE



THE CUP FINAL LINE-UPS:

Royal Engineers
Sapper Hammett
Sapper Smith
Sapper McConnell
Sapper Dewey
Sapper Evans
Sapper Alvey
Driver Wren
Corpl. Walstow
Sapper Stewart
Sapper Boardman
Sapper Wilson

Southampton St. Mary's
Mary's
R. Ruffell
Rowthorn
G. Marshall
E. J. Taylor
W. Stride
J. W. Verney
E. Nineham
Dorkin
Offer
E. Nicholls
Ward

Referee
Lieut. Simpson

Linesmen
Messrs. A. Tebbutt,
J.P. and
J. A. Nethercoate

THE STORY OF THE HAMPSHIRE SENIOR CUP - SEASON 1893/94

Changes to Entries

Nine clubs entered the competition, seven remaining from the previous season.

Christchurch, formed in 1885, moved up to the senior competition following victory in the previous season's junior tourney.

The **Army Medical Staff** were the Aldershot area's second representatives, in addition to regular participants the Royal Engineers. Unfortunately, little is known of this team. They aren't thought to be the same team as the Medical Staff Corps as they moved down to play in the junior competition for this season.

The original Winchester club (and the first finalists) had folded in the summer. This meant only four of the original eleven clubs who took part in the first competition remained – Portsmouth F.A., Royal Engineers, Banister Court and Bournemouth (the latter under a slightly different name). Other teams (Ringwood and Andover) took a further part in later years. Note that the Winchester name was represented in the Junior Cup through a team with the suffix 'Swallows'. This team, formed in 1891, became the present day Winchester City F.C.

First Round Summary

As was often the case at that time, most of the teams received first round byes. There was one match to reduce the participants to eight as Christchurch took on Cowes. Two first half goals for the visiting side brought the 'blue and blacks' competition debut to a defeat. Following an after-match tea at the 'Ship', the Cowes team returned by train to Southampton but due to a storm were unable to complete their journey to the Island until the following day.

Second Round Summary

Three of the four Second Round ties were decided on the field, the other saw the Royal Engineers pass into the semi-final as the Army Medical Staff scratched. The Cowes cup journey ended as St. Mary's moved into the semis in what was described as a 'tempestuous affair'. Holders Freemantle accounted for Banister Court in a meeting between neighbouring teams (not sure if they were labelled 'derby' games back then as there are various theories regarding this term's origin).

The fourth tie proved to be quite a saga. The Portsmouth F.A. and Bournemouth clubs fought out a draw in their first attempt. Portsmouth won in the replay, but the Bournemouth side lodged a protest regarding the eligibility of one of their players. The protest was upheld, and another replay was ordered at neutral Southampton. A second half goal by Basil Pares settled it as Portsmouth F.A. were victorious at the third time of asking.

Semi-Final Summary

The semi-final draw paired the 'big guns' of last season's finalists Freemantle and St. Mary's together whilst the Royal Engineers met the Portsmouth side. As usual it all took place at Southampton and in the month of February but this time it took a little longer to decide than usual.

Freemantle v Southampton St. Mary's

The first semi-final tie did not come to a decision as the previous season's finalists fought out a battle which finished a goal-apiece. The 'Magpies' team had undergone a few changes since their success a year ago. Dorkin opened the score for the 'Saints' but Marshall equalised, slipping the ball past the St. Mary's goalkeeper and captain Ralph Ruffell. Despite an exciting finish the game ended level. The attendance was estimated to be between 8 and 9,000 and the receipts were £167 10s (that's £167.50 today), both figures exceeding the previous season's final and therefore new records for a county cup game. Both teams assembled at their respective headquarters and some of the St. Mary's players later journeyed to the 'Star Hotel' in Freemantle where they were accorded a warm reception by the 'Magpies'.

Royal Engineers (Aldershot) v Portsmouth F.A.

A goal in each half saw the Royals enter the final, at their first attempt in this season's competition (on the field of play) before a moderate attendance. The chief interest appeared to be which of the teams would meet one of the local Southampton area clubs in the final, but at this point it was not known which of them it would be. The general view was the Royal Engineers of the day would be no more of a 'supporting cast' to whichever opponent they were to meet in the final tie.

Freemantle v Southampton St. Mary's (replay)

St. Mary's gained revenge for that previous season's final defeat with a 2-1 win over the 'Magpies'. Herbert Ward put the 'cherry squares' into the lead from a Dollin cross. Play was interrupted to remove a dog from the pitch, the players chasing the animal in vain, much to the amusement of the crowd. Jack Angus had the misfortune to be the very first Southampton player to be sent-off when he clashed with Freemantle's Fowle. Many of the attendance formed the opinion that Fowle was fortunate not to have joined him. Despite being a player short Arthur Nineham increased the St. Mary's lead. J. George reduced the arrears with ten minutes to go but the Saints held out to claim that final place.

Final Summary

Royal Engineers (Aldershot) v Southampton St. Mary's

Both teams had won this cup twice before and the winners on this occasion would become the first to have their name inscribed on the cup for the third occasion in its history. The Engineers last won the cup in 1890 and the general thought was they had reduced in strength since those days. Most people felt that the team that had won the other semi-final would have the cup at their mercy. The Engineers scored a first half goal following a scrimmage. Saints were already without non-starters Carter, Price and Angus and then lost Rowthorn who left the ground injured during the game. This meant the Saints had only two half-backs and the Royals were able to hold their own. The Saints had a lot of the play but found Hammett in the Engineers goal in unstoppable form and it was the service side who took the cup (this proving to be for the last time). The Saints injury list was added to towards the end of the game as goalkeeper Ruffell had to be helped from the ground with a knee injury. The result was the biggest surprise of the local football season.

The cup and medals were presented by Mrs. T. Chamberlayne. The attendance was about 2,000 and the gate amounting to £40, which was well down on the previous season's final game.

Junior Cup Competition

The final four in the Junior Cup were Geneva Cross, Andover and the reserve teams of both Southampton St. Mary's and Cowes. The Island side and Andover needed a second game to settle their argument as it was 0-0 (after extra time) at the County Ground and 3-2 to Andover in the replay at the Antelope Ground, Southampton. St. Mary's reserves defeated the Netley medical side by 3-1 at the County Ground. It was all back there for the final match, played on 17th March 1894, when the St. Mary's team won by a single first half goal against Andover.

Minor Cup Competition

The Minor Cup final needed two matches. The finalists were Southampton area club St. Mary's Rovers and the Southsea based St. Simon's Institute. Following an initial 0-0 draw at the County Ground, Southampton on 24th March 1894, the clubs met again in the replay three weeks later at Bar End, Winchester. St. Simon's Institute were 3-0 victors and thus became the first club from the Portsmouth area to win a county cup final.

Additional Feature

Freemantle entered the inaugural F. A. Amateur Cup competition in this season. They won 5-0 at home to Windsor & Eton in the first qualifying round but exited at the next stage, losing 3-1 at Maidenhead. Freemantle were successful in the Portsmouth Challenge Cup though, beating Southampton St. Mary's (who travelled by boat to the game) by 2-0 in the final at Portsmouth. It was the fourth time the Magpies had won this cup and their third in succession. It also proved to be the last time they would win this competition.

Finally, the small print ...

Sources: Hampshire Independent, Bournemouth Guardian, Southern Echo, Ian Denness, Southampton F.C. programme 2023/24. Acknowledge hantsoccerarchive.co.uk. Compiled in November 2023. E.&O.E.

