

Missing Information – Can You Help?

All of the details in this book are based on information after matches took place. Pre-match newspaper and programme listings of teams and officials have been ignored.

The Lincolnshire Standard, Boston Standard and Boston Guardian were, naturally, the most fruitful sources for the 'Match Details' section.

After that, most of the missing information was provided by either (a) opposing teams' local newspapers stored at the British Newspaper Library, Colindale or, (b) numerous individuals such as club secretaries, historians, programme editors or, (c) newspaper and library staff.

Despite all this, a relatively small amount of information was still not available because either it was never recorded at the time or it was recorded somewhere but is now unavailable – lost, probably, for ever.

For example, in the 1930s, gate receipts from matches were often publicised and attendances ignored (or not even counted in the first place).

Second-half scoring times were often not indicated in particularly high-scoring games, presumably because the journalists either deemed them unimportant/irrelevant as the outcome of the game had already been settled anyway, or they had lost interest in recording such details!

The information missing from the Match Details section is as follows:

Key:

<i>A</i>	Attendance
<i>RH</i>	Referee's home town
<i>RN</i>	Referee's name
<i>S</i>	Substitute
<i>SC</i>	Scorer
<i>ST</i>	Scoring time
<i>TD</i>	Team details

<i>Date</i>	<i>Boston's opponents</i>	<i>Missing information</i>
1/11/34	Grantham	A
17/10/36	Louth Town	A and ST: 1 Louth
31/10/36	Marfleet	A and STs: 3 Boston
14/11/36	Newark Town	A and STs: 4 Boston & 1 Newark
2/12/36	Spennymoor United	RH and RN
18/9/37	Bilthorpe Colliery	A and STs: 4 Boston
4/11/37	Grantham	ST: 1 Grantham
1/10/38	Sutton Town	A and STs: 3 Boston
15/10/38	Newark Town	A and STs: 4 Boston & 1 Newark
29/10/38	Ollerton Colliery	A
3/11/38	Ollerton Colliery	ST: 1 Boston
6/10/45	Ollerton Colliery	RH and RN
4/10/47	Gedling Colliery	RH and STs: 3 Boston & 2 Gedling
2/9/50	Skegness Town	STs: 3 Boston & 1 Skegness
29/9/51	Barton Town	A
8/9/62	Spalding United	A
7/9/63	Holbeach United	A
11/9/63	Holbeach United	A
17/9/66	Spalding United	S: Both teams
2/11/74	Enderby Town	A

17/9/88	Coventry Sporting	TD: 7 Coventry players & 2 Coventry subs.
15/9/90	Lowestoft Town	STs: 3 Boston

Put together this means that the missing information in relation to the overall totals is as follows:

Category	Number missing	Maximum possible amount of information	Percentage missing
Surnames of all the players in the starting XIs	5192	7*	0.13%
Substitute's name	609	4	0.66%
Scorer's name	914	0	0%
Scoring time	914	35	3.82%
Attendance	236	13	5.5%
Referee's name	236	2	0.85%
Referee's home town/city	236	3	1.27%
ALL	8337	64	0.77%

* All seven are Coventry Sporting players for the match on 17/9/88

In the section 'Boston Players: Cup Appearances and Goals', there are 482 players listed. Of these, there are first names missing for 9 (2.1%):

Player's surname	Season
Barton (S)	1945-6
Bogg (F)	1934-5
Burn	1964-5
Clark (H)	1949-50
Clarkson (A)	1937-8
Hill (T)	1964-5
Kendall	1964-5
Longmate (D)	1949-50
Walmsley	1964-5

I would be grateful if any reader can provide me with some of the missing facts (with, if possible, some sound evidence for this). Please write to me via the publisher.

