

1871-72

Date: Saturday 16th March, 1872

Venue: Kennington Oval

Attendance: 2,000

Toss: Wanderers

End chosen: Harleyford Road

Kick-off: 3.05 pm

Youngest player: Vidal 18 years 195 days

Oldest player: Bowen 35 years 352 days

Average ages: Wanderers 23 years 294 days; Royal Engineers 24 years 108 days; joint 24 years 19 days

Wanderers 1

(Betts 15)

Goal	1	RC Welch
Full-back	2	E Lubbock
Half-back	3	AC Thompson
Forwards	4	†CW Alcock
	5	EE Bowen
	6	AG Bonsor
	7	MP Betts
	8	WP Crake
	9	TC Hooman
	10	RWS Vidal
	11	CHR Wollaston

Royal Engineers 0

Goal	Capt. W Merriman
Full-backs	†Capt. FA Marindin
	Lieut. GW Addison
Half-back	Lieut. AG Goodwyn
Forwards	Lieut. H Mitchell
	Lieut. EW Creswell
	Lieut. HW Renny-Tailyour
	Lieut. HB Rich
	Lieut. HH Muirhead
	Lieut. EW Cotter
	Lieut. A Bogle

Referee: A Stair (Upton Park)

Umpires: JH Giffard (Civil Service) for Royal Engineers; J Kirkpatrick (Civil Service) for Wanderers

Injuries: Creswell broke his collar-bone in a charge after ten minutes play but, despite severe pain, refused to leave the field and completed the match.

Other comments: M.P. Betts played under the pseudonym A.H. Chequer. The Engineers, who were favourites, began the match with the wind and sun in their faces. Alcock had a goal disallowed after 20 minutes because of a handling offence by Wollaston; The Wanderers also hit a post; Royal Engineers had only two chances; a fine run by Muirhead brought the ball within a few yards of the centre of the Wanderers' posts. The admirable and faultless kicking of Lubbock and Thompson repulsed all of the attacks by the Engineers; the admirable way they worked together was the great feature of the match.

It was 'the fastest and hardest match that has ever been seen at The Oval ... some of the best play on their [Wanderers] part, individually and collectively, that has ever been shown in an Association game.' *The Field*.

The Cup was presented by the President of the F.A., Mr E.C. Morley, at the annual dinner of the Wanderers at the Pall Mall Restaurant, Charing Cross, on 11th April. The F.A. also gave each player in the winning team a silken badge commemorating the victory and they also received an inscribed gold medal from the committee of the Wanderers.

PATHS TO THE FINAL

Wanderers

R1	Harrow Chequers (scratched)	
R2	16/12/71 v Clapham Rovers	3-1
R3	20/1/72 v Crystal Palace	0-0*
SF	5/3/72 v Queen's Park	0-0
replay	Queen's Park (scratched)	

*Both teams allowed through under rule 8.

Royal Engineers

Reigate Priory (scratched)	
10/1/72 v Hitchin	5-0†
27/1/72 v Hampstead Heathens	3-0
17/2/72 v Crystal Palace	0-0
9/3/72 v Crystal Palace	3-0

†Only 50 minutes played; result stood

1872-73

Date: Saturday 29th March, 1873

Venue: Amateur Athletic Club grounds, Lillie Bridge, West Brompton

Attendance: 3,000

Toss: Wanderers

End chosen: not found

Kick-off: 11.30 am

Youngest player: Vidal 19 years 207 days

Oldest player: Bowen 36 years 364 days

Average ages: Wanderers 25 years 44 days; Oxford University 21 years 300 days; joint 23 years 172 days

Wanderers 2

(Kinnaird 27, Wollaston 80)

Goal	1	RC Welch
Full-back	2	LS Howell
Half-back	3	EE Bowen
Forwards	4	CHR Wollaston
	5	RK Kingsford
	6	AG Bonsor
	7	Capt. WS Kenyon-Slaney
	8	CM Thompson
	9	JR Sturgis
	10	†Hon. AF Kinnaird
	11	Rev. HH Stewart

Oxford University 0

Goal	AJ Leach
Full-back	CC Mackarness
Half-back	FH Birley
Forwards	CJ Longman
	†AK Smith
	RWS Vidal
	FB Maddison
	CJ Ottaway
	HB Dixon
	WB Paton
	JRE Sumner

Referee: A Stair (Upton Park)

Umpires: JH Clark (Maidenhead) for Wanderers; JR Dasent (Gitanos) for Oxford University

Comments: The morning kick-off was arranged in order for spectators to be able to watch the Boat Race later. Oxford were below full strength as their regular goalkeeper, C.E.B. Nepean, could not play. The Wanderers had to play without the half-backs, A.C. Thompson or F.H. Wilson, and the forwards, W.P. Crake and T.C. Hooman.

Early on, Smith made a series of brilliant runs for Oxford; Kenyon-Slaney had a goal disallowed when both umpires agreed an offside offence; an Oxford corner kick was foiled by Howell; after about 40 minutes Oxford moved their goalkeeper, Leach, into the attack and left the goal unattended. The second goal was blamed on this move; Oxford had several chances to score but tried to force their way through the middle and failed each time. Kinnaird showed the best form of the match with extreme brilliance in dribbling.

PATHS TO THE FINAL

Wanderers

Exempt until final under rule 9

Oxford University

R1	19/10/72 v Crystal Palace	3-2
R2	23/11/72 v Clapham Rovers	3-0
R3	9/12/72 v Royal Engineers	1-0
R4	3/2/73 v Maidenhead	4-0
SF	Queen's Park (scratched)	

1873-74

Date: Saturday 14th March, 1874

Venue: Kennington Oval

Attendance: 2,000

Toss: Oxford University

End chosen: Harleyford Road

Kick-off: 3.15 pm

Youngest player: W.S. Rawson 19 years 151 days

Oldest player: Merriman 35 years 346 days

Average ages: Oxford University 23 years 146 days; Royal Engineers 25 years 86 days; joint 24 years 116 days

Oxford University 2

(Mackarness 10, Patton 20)

Goal	1	CEB Nepean
Full-back	2	CC Mackarness
Half-backs	3	FH Birley
	4	FT Green
Forwards	5	RH Benson
	6	FB Maddison
	7	WS Rawson
	8	†CJ Ottaway
	9	Rev. AH Johnson
	10	RWS Vidal
	11	FJ Patton

Royal Engineers 0

Goal	Capt. W Merriman
Full-back	†Major FA Marindin
Half-backs	Lieut. GW Addison
	Lieut. GCP Onslow
Right side	Lieut. PG von Donop
	Lieut. JE Blackburn
Centres	Lieut. HE Rawson
	Lieut. HW Renny-Tailyour
	Lieut. HD Olivier
Left side	Lieut. CK Wood
	Lieut. T Digby

Referee: A Stair (Upton Park)

Umpires: A Morten (Crystal Palace) for Royal Engineers; CHR Wollaston (Wanderers) for Oxford University

Comments: The Rawsons were brothers in opposition; it was Birley's 24th birthday. The Engineers had spent the previous fortnight in special training for the match. They were without their best back, A.G. Goodwyn, who had been posted to India at the start of 1874; unknown to the players at the time, Goodwyn actually died in India on the day this final was played from injuries suffered in a riding accident.

A threatening run by Ottaway and Vidal was stopped by von Donop who then dribbled along the right wing as far as the Oxford back; Renny-Tailyour struck a post; a free-kick from the corner flag went between the posts of the Engineers' goal but no claim was made nor was there an appeal so the incident was ignored; late assaults by the Engineers were frustrated by the activity of Nepean.

PATHS TO THE FINAL

Oxford University			Royal Engineers	
R1	29/10/73 v Upton Park	4-0	11/10/73 v Brondesbury	5-0
R2	22/11/73 v Barnes	2-0	26/11/73 v Uxbridge	2-1
R3	6/12/73 v Wanderers	1-1	10/12/73 v Maidenhead	7-0
replay	31/1/74 v Wanderers	1-0		
SF	28/2/74 v Clapham Rovers	1-0	28/1/74 v Swifts	2-0