

= 1874 FA Cup Final =

The 1874 FA Cup final was a football match between Oxford University and Royal Engineers on 14 March 1874 at Kennington Oval in London . It was the third final of the world 's oldest football competition , the Football Association Challenge Cup (known in the modern era as the FA Cup) . Both teams had previously reached the final but been defeated by Wanderers . The Engineers had reached the final with comparative ease , scoring sixteen goals and conceding only one in the four previous rounds . Oxford 's opponents in the earlier rounds had included two @-@ time former winners Wanderers .

The final was decided by two goals from Oxford in the first twenty minutes . Their opponents had spent two weeks training for the match , an innovative concept at the time , but were repeatedly thwarted by Charles Nepean , the Oxford goalkeeper . The Engineers were said to have missed their best back , Lieut . Alfred Goodwyn , who had been posted overseas .

= = Route to the final = =

Oxford University and the Chatham @-@ based Royal Engineers were among 28 entrants to the competition in the 1873 ? 74 season . Both teams were ranked among the strongest in the country at the time , especially the Engineers who played 86 games between 1871 and 1875 and lost only three , scoring a total of 240 goals and conceding only 20 .

Both teams progressed through the first round of the competition with little difficulty , Oxford defeating Upton Park 4 ? 0 and the Engineers winning 5 ? 0 against Brondesbury . In the second round , the University beat Barnes 2 ? 0 and the " Sappers " , as the Engineers were nicknamed , beat Uxbridge 2 ? 1 .

The Engineers comprehensively defeated their quarter @-@ final opponents , Maidenhead , winning 7 ? 0 , the first time a team had ever scored as many as seven goals in an FA Cup match . Oxford , on the other hand , were paired with Wanderers , who had won the competition in both its first two seasons and never lost an FA Cup match . They had defeated the Engineers in the 1872 final and Oxford in the 1873 final . The first match finished in a 1 ? 1 draw , necessitating a replay which Oxford won 1 ? 0 to end Wanderers ' grip on the competition .

Both semi @-@ final matches were played at Kennington Oval , the home of Surrey County Cricket Club , as specified by the rules in use at the time . Royal Engineers defeated Swifts in the first match to be played , and Oxford booked their place in the final a month later with a 1 ? 0 win over Clapham Rovers .

= = Match = =

= = = Summary = = =

Oxford were able to call on their first @-@ choice goalkeeper , Charles Nepean , who had been unable to play in the previous year 's final , which Oxford lost . They also selected William Rawson , whose brother Herbert was in the Engineers ' team . The Engineers , who represented the Corps of Royal Engineers regiment of the British army , had undertaken two weeks of special training before the match , an innovative concept in an era when little importance was placed on training , but were unable to field Alfred Goodwyn , considered to be their best back , as he had been posted to India earlier in the year . Oxford 's players were not all students , as the team included Arthur H. Johnson , an ordained clergyman and Fellow of All Souls College . Around 2 @,@ 000 spectators were in attendance , a smaller crowd than had attended the previous final .

Oxford won the coin toss and elected to begin the game defending the Harleyford Road end of the stadium . Charles Mackarness gave Oxford the lead after just ten minutes . Following an Oxford corner kick , a melee developed in front of the Engineers ' goal , and the ball fell to Mackarness , who shot it over the crowd of players and past goalkeeper William Merriman . Frederick Patton

doubled the lead ten minutes later after some skillful dribbling by captain Cuthbert Ottaway and Robert Vidal , who was nicknamed the " prince of dribblers " for his skill in that aspect of the game . Oxford could have had a third goal when they managed to get the ball through the Engineers ' goalposts , but the players did not appeal for the goal . At the time , as in cricket , the officials were not permitted to award a goal unless the players appealed for it , thus no goal was given . It is not recorded why the Oxford players never appealed . The best effort for the Engineers came when Henry Renny @-@ Tailyour 's shot struck the goalpost . Late in the game the " Sappers " mounted a series of attacks on the Oxford goal but were unable to score , being repeatedly thwarted by Nepean . Oxford thus won 2 ? 0 and secured the cup .

= = = Details = = =

= = Post @-@ match = =

As occurred each year until 1882 , the winning team did not receive the trophy at the stadium on the day of the match , but later in the year at their annual dinner . The secretary of the Royal Engineers club , in his official report , stated that Oxford had thoroughly deserved their victory . Some time after the match , the Engineers discovered that Alfred Goodwyn , their absent star player , had died in India on the day of the final of injuries sustained in a fall from a horse .