

= 1877 FA Cup Final =

The 1877 FA Cup Final was a football match between Wanderers and Oxford University on 24 March 1877 at Kennington Oval in London . It was the sixth final of the world 's oldest football competition , the Football Association Challenge Cup (known in the modern era as the FA Cup) . Wanderers were the reigning cup @-@ holders and had won the competition three times in total . Oxford had also previously won the tournament . Wanderers had reached the final without conceding a goal , defeating Cambridge University in the semi @-@ finals . Oxford had only played three matches in the five rounds prior to the final due to a combination of byes and opponents withdrawing .

Oxford took the lead in the final when Arthur Kinnaird , the Wanderers goalkeeper , stepped behind his goal @-@ line while holding the ball , thereby scoring an own goal . Wanderers equalised in the dying stages of the match and scored the winning goal in extra time . Oxford 's goal was struck from the official records after the match , but reinstated over a hundred years later .

= = Route to the final = =

Wanderers were the reigning cup holders and had also won the tournament in both 1872 and 1873 . Oxford University had won the competition in 1874 . Both teams entered the competition at the first round stage and were allocated home matches against Saffron Walden and Old Salopians respectively . Neither match took place , however , as in each case the away team withdrew from the competition , giving their opponents a bye into the next round . In the second round , Wanderers and Oxford both scored six goals , defeating Southall and 105th Regiment respectively .

In the third round , Wanderers beat Pilgrims 3 ? 0 and Oxford again progressed without playing when their scheduled opponents , the leading Scottish club Queen 's Park , withdrew . Wanderers themselves progressed through the quarter @-@ finals on a bye as an uneven number of teams remained in the competition . Oxford were held to a goalless draw by Upton Park , but emerged victorious after a replay two weeks later . In the semi @-@ finals Oxford received a bye , progressing straight to the final , and Wanderers beat the other of the great universities , Cambridge University , 1 ? 0 .

= = Match = =

= = = Summary = = =

Both teams chose to play with two full @-@ backs , two half @-@ backs and six forwards , in keeping with the attacking style of play generally employed at the time . Arthur Kinnaird played in goal for Wanderers , even though he had played as a forward in three earlier cup final appearances . At the time , the position of goalkeeper was not considered a specialised one , and players often alternated between playing in goal and playing in outfield positions . The game was played at Kennington Oval , home of Surrey County Cricket Club and took place in extremely bad weather , with rain and sleet hampering the players . Wanderers won the coin toss and chose to begin the match defending the Harleyford Road end of the stadium .

The Wanderers players began the game in relative disarray , which the correspondent from The Sportsman reported was not an uncommon feature of their matches . After fifteen minutes Oxford were awarded a corner kick , which Evelyn Waddington kicked high towards the goal . Kinnaird caught the ball , but in doing so stepped behind the goal @-@ line . The Oxford players immediately appealed for a goal to be awarded , and after a consultation the officials did so , giving the University team the lead . Some time later , Charles Wollaston was injured and swapped positions with Kinnaird . At the time the concept of substitution had not been introduced to the sport , so injured players were obliged to remain in the game unless they were completely unable to play on , but it was common for an injured player to " retire into goal " , where it was felt he would be less of a

liability .

As Wanderers pressed for an equaliser , Francis Birley took an indirect free kick , which went into the Oxford goal , but no goal was awarded as the ball had gone straight in without touching another player . Four minutes from the end of the game , Hubert Heron made what The Field called a " splendid run " and passed the ball to Jarvis Kenrick , whose shot eluded Oxford goalkeeper Edward Alington to level the scores and send the game into extra time . Seven minutes into the extra period , William Lindsay 's goalbound shot was headed away by an Oxford player but the ball rebounded to Lindsay who sent it past Alington to give Wanderers a lead which the cup holders kept until the end of the game and thus retained the trophy .

= = = Details = = =

= = Post @-@ match = =

Some time after the match , Kinnaird informed the council of the Football Association (FA) , of which he was a member , that in his opinion he had not carried the ball over the line for Oxford 's goal . Despite the fact that the referee had awarded the goal and multiple newspaper reports stated that the ball had clearly gone over the line , Kinnaird 's fellow council members took his word for it , and struck the goal from the records , changing the official score to 2 ? 0 (although if Oxford had not scored , there would have been no reason for the game to go to extra time , so by rights they should have annulled Wanderers ' second goal as well) . For the next century , all sources reported the score of the match as 2 ? 0 . In the 1980s , after fresh research into contemporary reports of the game by football historians , the FA reinstated the Oxford goal , and now regard the official final score of the 1877 final as 2 ? 1 .