



# Grantham Minor Cup 1892-93

**Winner:** Grantham Thursday  
**Runner-Up:** Melton Town  
**No. of entries:** 12

Leicestershire were represented by Melton Town, who overcame Grantham Colts, and Newark Reserves to reach their first-ever final, where they were beaten by Grantham Thursday. On arriving home, the Melton team were met with *"gibs and jeers by their fellow townsmen"*.

## Round 1

Date	Home			Away	Match Details
22.10.1892	Grantham Herald	0	10	Newark Swifts	
22.10.1892	Grantham Town Reserve		W	Grantham Rovers Reserve	
19.11.1892	Grantham Wanderers	3	4	Grantham Town (B Team)	
19.11.1892	Lincoln St Andrew's			Lincoln Apprentices	
19.11.1892	Melton Town	14	0	Grantham Rovers Colts	
24.11.1892	Sleaford	0	4	Grantham Thursday	

## Round 2

Date	Home			Away	Match Details
14.1.1893	Grantham Rovers Reserve	1	1	Lincoln St Andrew's	At Grantham 200 spectators Very snowy weather – the ground was in wretched condition.
11.2.1893	Newark Swifts Armstrong AN Other	2	3	Melton Town Priestman Berridge AN Other	Over 50 Melton supporters travelled to Grantham.

Grantham B Team and Grantham Thursday, byes

## Round 2 Replay

Date	Home			Away	Match Details
14.1.1893	Lincoln St Andrew's		W	Grantham Rovers Reserve	

## Semi-Finals

Date	Home			Away	Match Details
9.3.1893	Grantham Thursday	3	0	Grantham Town B Team	Moderate number of spectators.
25.3.1893	Melton Town	1 (1)	0 (0)	Grantham Rovers Reserve	A mass brawl took place late in the game.

## Final

Date	Home			Away	Match Details
15.4.1893	Grantham Thursday	2 (0)	1 (1)	Melton Town	At Grantham. Large crowd.

## Match Reports

A selection of published match reports.

### **GRANTHAM MINOR CUP**

**MELTON TOWN v GRANTHAM ROVERS COLTS** – Played at Melton Mowbray, a most one-sided game ending in a ridiculously easy win for the Melton team by 14 goals to none.

*Nottingham Evening Post – 12 November 1892*

### **GRANTHAM MINOR CUP**

#### **MELTON TOWN v NEWARK SWIFTS**

On Saturday the Melton Town eleven journeyed to Newark, accompanied by a goodly number of supporters, to meet Newark Swifts, on their own ground. Melton were represented by R Marshall, goal; G Bolton and W Clarke, backs; J Richardson, F Brewin and H Plant, half-backs; J Lee (captain) and J Priestman, right wing; H Berridge, centre; Herbert Bailey and Rex Smith, left wing. The weather was very favourable, barring a strong cross wind. The visitors having lost the toss, Berridge put the ball in motion, which got to the foot of the international, McCree, the result was smartly defended by Marshall. Berridge, getting possession the ball was quickly transferred to the Newark end, and after some fast play Priestman sent in a stinger, which the home custodian failed to negotiate. A few minutes later, however, the homesters equalised after some good combined play. From a nice run on the left and a true kick from Bailey, Lee who was standing in front of the home goal received the ball on his back, and it travelled into the net. For some minutes the Newark lads attacked, and but for the saving power of Marshall they must have got into a safe place. After some pretty even play in the centre of the ground, the homesters forged away, and after shooting twice close to the goal post and twice over the bar, a nice low shot from the centre again placed the terms on equal terms, making the score at half-time: Melton Town, two Newark Swifts, two. Resuming, the Swifts were confined to a defence of their own ground, though in the attack Melton had hard lines – a lot of hard work failed, and there was some weakness observable in front of goal, while the home goalkeeper saved finely several times. At last the Swifts succeeded in resuming their assault on the Melton citadel. Brewin, however, got on to the ball, and made a lovely pass to Bailey, who ran almost the whole length of the ground, dodged every opponent, and shot from the touch-line, the ball striking the inside of the upright, from which it rebounded into the net. The friendly pot did the trick, and made the score read at this point (to the great disappointment of the Cup-holders and their friends):

MELTON TOWN, three goals;

NEWARK SWIFTS, two goals.

*Loughborough Herald & North Leicestershire Gazette – 16 February 1893*

### **GRANTHAM MINOR CUP – SEMI-FINAL – GRANTHAM ROVERS COLTS v MELTON TOWN**

– these teams met on the Harlaxton-road ground, Grantham, on Saturday, in the presence of a good number of spectators. The day was beautifully fine, with little wind blowing. The Rovers won the toss, but Melton took the ball down. It was quickly returned, the Rovers pressing for a minute. They took three unproductive corners, having hard lines in not scoring. Then Melton took a corner, and after forty minutes play Lee scored from a splendid pass by Smith. The Rovers strove hard to equalise before half-time, but when the whistle blew Melton led by one goal to none. Melton were much the heavier team. On resuming Grantham had again the best of the play. Melton rushed in vigorously, one of their players striking and kicking a Grantham man; two or three on each side came up, and several blows were struck. Bailey of Melton left the field hurt. On resuming the Rovers had still the best of the play, but failed in front of goal. Result: - Melton one; Rovers, none.

*Nottingham Journal – 27 March 1893*

### **GRANTHAM MINOR CUP FINAL**

#### **GRANTHAM THURSDAY v. MELTON TOWN**

The final tie between the Melton Town and the Grantham Half-Holiday teams was played at Grantham on Saturday. The weather was beautifully fine, and a large company witnessed the play. The Melton followers formed a large crowd. Capt. Lee put into the field the same team that defeated the Rovers' Colts on their last visit. They were:—R. Marshall, goal; G. Briton and W. Clarke, backs; J. Plant, F. Brewin, and J. Richardson, half-backs; J. Priestman, centre; J. Lee and W. Brewin, right wing; Rex Smith and F. L. Bailey, left wing. Mr. Slawson, lineman. The Half-Holiday were represented by:—Bullock, goal White and Moulcher, backs; Whysall, Maples, and Barker, half-backs; Belton, centre; Miller and Benton, right wing; Whaley and Jackson, left wing. Linesmen, Mr. G. Fillingham. Referee, Mr Saunders. The visitors won the toss and elected to play uphill with the wind. For the first twelve minutes the game was in favour of the runners-up, when Smith, on

the left, got possession put the leather through--a result, however, which ought to have been averted by Bullock. The game continued brisk, the visitors sending in shot after shot. The back division played grandly on both sides, but do what Grantham could, when half-time sounded the score remained Melton one, Thursday nil. Resuming, Melton played very tamely, while the homesters played for all they were worth. Once or twice Melton had chances, which however they did not utilise, and after Maples had equalised the score all the energy appeared to depart from the Melton forwards, who let the Thursday men again, with the result that they won the game by two goals to one. This was bad for Melton, who have played up so well in the contest, having knocked out Newark Reserves and Grantham Colts, but it was worse still when, on arriving home, they were met with gibes and jeers by their fellow townsmen, who appeared to forget the splendid play of the Town club during the season on their failure in a final effort. This reception was not by any means deserved.

*Melton Mowbray Mercury and Oakham and Uppingham News – 20 April 1893*