



Leicestershire Senior Cup 1895-96

Winner: Fosse Rovers
Runner-Up: Hugglescote Robin Hood
No. of entries: 8

Just 8 teams entered the 1895-6 Senior Cup competition; four from the north west of the county (Coalville Albion, Coalville Town, Hugglescote Robin Hood and Shepshed Town) and two from Leicester (Leicester Fosse Reserves, Leicester YMCA); the remaining two were from Loughborough and Hinckley.

Fosse Rovers retained the cup.

No games were played in the town of Leicester.

Two first round ties went to replays.

In the final played at Loughborough's Athletic Grounds, with the score 0-0, Beniston scored a goal which was ruled offside, much to the disgust of the Hugglescote section of the crowd, who "hooted" vociferously. Leicester Fosse Rovers played much of the Final with 10 men after Pickard had to retire injured. Hugglescote resorted to rough tactics in an attempt to score resulting the retirement of goal scorer Bishop, Fosse finishing the game with 9 men. With just a few minutes remaining the "Robins" scored from a free kick, with the final score, Leicester Fosse 2-1 Hugglescote Robin Hood.

At the end of the final spectators assembled round the stand to witness the presentation of the cup and medals. Match referee, Mr Allen Lovell was refused a hearing by the crowd who "hooted and groaned" as he handed the Cup to Leicester Fosse captain, Thompson and medals to the Hugglescote players.

In his report to Leicestershire Football Association, Mr Lovell reported that he had never been on a football and heard more disgusting language. He was appalled that when players were carried off injured that the spectators cheered and shouted to "advise to the effect that other players should be disabled as soon as possible."

Presentation of winners medals to the Fosse players was delayed for several weeks due to their "non-arrival".

Round 1

#	Date	Home		Away	Match Details
1	19.10.1895	Coalville Albion	1	1	Leicester YMCA Fair number of spectators
2	19.10.1895	Hinckley Town Narraway	1	4	Fosse Rovers Bishop Davis Pickard Manson 1,000 spectators
3	19.10.1895	Loughborough Athletic Preston	1	2	Hugglescote Robin Hood J Marriott Rice Athletic Grounds, Loughborough Small attendance
4	19.10.1895	Shepshed Town AN Other Wale	2	2	Coalville Town West AN Other At Shepshed.

Round 1 Replays

#	Date	Home		Away	Match Details
5	25.11.1895	Coalville Town Orton 2, AN Other	5	0	Shepshed Town Wagon and Horses Ground, Coalville. Large attendance.

		Kendrick Own Goal				
6	16.11.1895	Coalville Albion	0 (0)	3 (1)	Leicester YMCA	

Semi-Finals

#	Date	Home	Away		Match Details
7	14.3.1896	Coalville Town	0 (0)	1 (1)	Fosse Rovers McArthur At Loughborough
8		Hugglescote Robin Hood	1 (1)	0 (0)	Leicester YMCA Wagon and Horses Ground, Coalville 1,000 spectators

Final

#	Date	Home	Away		Match Details
9	28.3.1896	Fosse Rovers Hibberd Atherton	2 (2)	1 (0)	Hugglescote Robin Hood AN Other Athletic Grounds, Loughborough. Unruly crowd. Rough game. Fosse finished with 9 players

Match Reports

#1 COALVILLE ALBION v LEICESTER YMCA

Played on the former's ground, before a fair number of spectators. The Christians scored first, and the Albion soon equalised. Numerous corners were soon conceded to the Young Men in the first half, but nothing resulted. In the second half the game was well contested by both sides, but nothing resulted, and a well-played game ended in:

A DRAW, one goal each.

Melton Mowbray Mercury & Oakham & Uppingham News - 24 October 1895

#2 FOSSE ROVERS v HINCKLEY

At Hinckley, before a thousand spectators. Hinckley opened the score 14 minutes from the start, Narraway having the final kick. Bishop equalised six minutes later, and after five minutes Davis gave his side the lead. Another good run by Pickard resulted in the Fosse left wing scoring a third goal. The Fosse continued to have the best of matters and Manson scored a fourth goal with a fine shot. Half-time:

FOSSE ROVERS, four goals;

HINCKLEY, one goal

The second half opened with visits to both goals, Carter clearing well when Pickard was dangerous. Davis made a fine run but shot badly. Strachan saved from Lucas and threw away a long shot by Beardsworth. The Fosse Rovers had slightly the best of the game, but their shooting was bad. Hinckley attacked several times, but Strachan was barely troubled. Result:

FOSSE, four goals;

HINCKLEY, one.

Melton Mowbray Mercury & Oakham & Uppingham News - 24 October 1895

#3 LEICESTERSHIRE SENIOR CUP

FIRST ROUND

LOUGHBOROUGH RESERVES v HUGGLESCOTE ROBIN HOOD

These teams met in the first round of the competition on the Loughborough Ground, before a small gate, on Saturday afternoon. The home team kicked off towards the entrance goal, and after an exchange the Robin Hood invaded the Loughborough territory on the left, and centring the first shot, struck the post. Foulds partly stopped the next at close quarters, and then J Marriott kicked sharply out of Foulds' reaching, scoring within two minutes of the start. Loughborough attacked hotly and looked like equalising, but Peacock saved well from several capital shots by the home forwards. A dangerous attack was made from the right, and Handley's shot seemed almost certain to score, Peacock being charged off as he was about to clear, but the ball bounced over the bar. A foul by Hugglescote occurred close in goal, but the ball could not be got through.

Returning to the other end, the Robin Hood made a strong attack, and the home defence showed some weakness. Foulds stopped a sharp shot from the left, and Loughborough responded upon the other side, Mounteney sending across to Cutler, who returned to W Rose, but his attempt was very poor, and Peacock had no difficulty in keeping the ball out. The game was quiet, and without any particular features, neither side showing much good football. Handley got away from the centre line for a nice run, ending with a good centre, and Mounteney made a shocking miss when he had the goal practically at his mercy. Directly after, however, Loughborough again pressed, and Preston succeeded in getting the ball through, thus equalising the score. Encouraged by this Loughborough awakened up a bit, and forced the visitors on the defensive, and Preston's shot just topped the bar. In attempting to clear, Wells gave a corner, and Coltman sent in a worthy shot which went just wide. Half-time score:

ONE GOAL EACH

Read started the second half and Loughborough were soon on the spot again, but had no luck. Preston stopping some good shots. Pressure was relieved by a free kick and desultory play followed, neither side obtaining an advantage till a free for the visitors gave them a chance, and rushing strongly up, Rice managed to break through, and put his side ahead with a clever shot. Poor play on both sides followed, Hugglescote strengthened their defence, and did not push any aggressive tactics. Long kicking was the order of the play, and Loughborough were quite unable to make any impression on their opponents. After careless exchanges in neutral ground, Coltman put in a long shot which went wide, and his was followed by a corner, West kicking badly behind. A short stoppage was occasioned just before time by Poole getting a shaking, and in the last few minutes both goal-keepers handled long shots. Full time:

HUGGLESCOTE two goals;

LOUGHBOROUGH RESERVES, one goal.

Teams Loughborough Reserves: Foulds, goal; Gorse and Mellors, backs; C Rose, Coltman, and West, half-backs; Cutler, W Rose, Preston and Mounteney, forwards. Hugglescote: Peacock, goal; G Marriott, and Wells, backs; Ellis, J Marriott and J Poole, half-backs; J Smith, W Rice, J Read, J More and W Smith, forwards. Referee, Mr E A Marson.

Melton Mowbray Mercury & Oakham & Uppingham News - 24 October 1895

#4 SHEPshed TOWN v COALVILLE TOWN

This important fixture was brought off at Shepshed, and judging by the interest manifested during the week, it will rank as one of the most interesting matches of the season. The Shepshed football public having always displayed a regard for the excitement of a Cup contest, but in the palmy days of 1887-8 when their players took premier honours in the Cup competition, there was not greater enthusiasm than in the initial stage of today. Formerly the clubs were old rivals, and some tough fights have been witnessed – generally a more trial of strength and not under the present altered conditions. Last season fixtures were not arranged between the clubs. In the previous season they met on the Coalville ground on December 23rd, when the home team were victorious by seven goals against Shepshed four. The return match was played on January 27th and the game ended in a draw, no goals being scored, so that, if the last match is any criterion, the teams started on equal terms today. West was able to take his place, and the Shepshed team were, therefore, able to play their full strength. The visitors had come out well in their previous matches in the English Cup competition, having defeated Notts Amateurs and the YMCA of Leicester.

Shepshed lost the toss, and Tivey kicked off at 3.40 in the presence of a large crowd. Mills was quickly called upon to save, which he did in good style. Kidger and West had a pretty bit of play on the right but were unable to score. A number of free kicks were awarded, and Grain then made a good shot at goal, but it went wide of the mark. Even play followed for a time, and then the home team pressed, but were repulsed by Pickering and Nichols, the latter kicking the ball clean out of the ground to save his side. After 14 minutes play Martin "muffed" the ball, and the first goal was scored. Wale made several pretty runs on the left, but it was not until a quarter of an hour before half-time that West made matters equal. Needham and Wale put in some good work, and the latter added another goal. Play now became very exciting, and just before the interval matters again became equal. Immediately upon the change of ends the homesters had several corners, but nothing came of them. Wilson sent in a beauty, but it was fisted out. Despite every effort on either side to secure victory, the game ended in a

DRAW, two goals all.

Players:-

Shepshed: Martin, goal; Wortley and Mills, backs; Needham, Newbold and Wilson, half-backs; Kidger, West, Tivey, Grain and Wale, forwards.

Coalville: Bunting, goal; Pickering and Nicholls, Cliff, Bradshaw and Brownlow, half-backs; Dicken, Gibling, Orton, C Bennison and E Bennison, forwards.

Referee, Mr F Gardner, Leicester.

Melton Mowbray Mercury & Oakham & Uppingham News - 24 October 1895

#5 Leicestershire Senior Cup

Shepshed Town v Coalville Town

Having played a drawn game in the first round of the above competition at Shepshed last week, these teams met again on the Wagon and Horses ground on Saturday to decide, if possible, which of the two should complete the semi-final stage. There was a large attendance of spectators, the weather being fine but very cold. The home team kicked down hill in the first half and had the assistance of a stiff breeze. An incursion was made into the Shepshed territory, but the backs relieved, and play of a scrambling nature ensued. The Stockingers, who played a strong kick and rush game, got up to the home goal, but capital defence by Cliff and Pickering kept them out. The Town forwards broke away repeatedly, but the wind carried the ball too strongly and after the players were unable to catch it when returned by the backs. This made the combination ragged, and Shepshed had the best of the game for some time. Bunting threw away one hot shot, and the reds forced a corner, the kick from which, placed the home side goal in great danger, Bradshaw kicking away, after an exciting melee in the goal mouth. Another ineffective corner was taken by Shepshed then E Benistone ran down the right and centered but Wortley kicked away. Shortly after Cliff shot hard, the ball getting just over the bar, and Bradshaw followed suit with another fine attempt. The Stockingers left troubled Nicholls, but he returned and Roulstone forced a corner, which however, was kicked behind. Half-time arrived with the score sheet blank.

Coalville	0 goals
Shepshed	0

On resuming, the home forwards were seen to much better advantage, a series of attacks being initiated on the visitor's goal. For some time, the Red's backs were unable to keep the ball out, but five minutes from the re-start Dicken made a capital sprint up the left, and centering accurately Orton banged the ball through amidst cheers. The game improved both teams showing good form. Shepshed pressed, and hard lines in not scoring. Bunting saving from a crowd in front of goal in marvellous fashion, three shots in as many seconds finding him always in the road. The ball was passed to Orton by Cliff, and the former who was showing excellent in judgement in his passing, transferred to Benistone who secured a corner from Needham. The ball was well placed, Orton kicked through, making No.2. The home forwards effectively combined at times, and put in two shots which went just wide. Then danger threatened the homesters, a foul being awarded the stockingers close in goal. The ball, however, went into the net without touching anyone. Dicken and Giblin by pretty combination went up the left wing, and the former forced back to kick out at the expense of a corner. The "free" was splendidly taken, and Orton headed into the net amidst loud cheers. The homesters now had much the best of matters, and the halves fouling the forwards with good judgement, the latter were able to continually invade their quarters. Benistone and Kendrick, playing capitally together, got past the visitors defence and the former's shot was diverted behind the custodian. From the ensuing "free" Kendrick kicked over his head into the net - a very clever goal. Not many minutes from time, the right-wing pair again travelled up the ground, and Kendrick shot in hard, one of the Shepshed backs miskicking past his own goalkeeper. This was all the scoring and the game ended:

Coalville - 5 goals
Shepshed 0

Coalville: Bunting , goal; Nicholls and Pickering, backs; Kales, Bradshaw, Cliff, half-backs; E Benistone, Kendrick, right wing; E Orton, centre; Dicken and Gibblin, left-wing.

Coalville Times - 1 November 1895

#6 REPLAYED FOOTBALL MATCH - Leicester YMCA again turned up at Coalville on Saturday in fulfilment of cup ties. On this occasion they opposed Coalville Albion in the Leicestershire Senior Cup Competition, to replay the match which was recently drawn. Coalville won the toss, and kicked with the wind, which was blowing terrifically. Several corners were conceded them, but nothing resulted, and at half-time there was no score. The Christians, playing with the wind, soon scored, quickly adding a second, and subsequently a third, winning rather easily by three goals to nil.

Leicester Journal - 22 November 1895

#7 LEICESTERSHIRE SENIOR CUP SEMI-FINALS FOSSE RESERVES v COALVILLE

Considerable interest was shown in the semi-final of the Leicestershire Senior Cup between the Fosse Reserves and Coalville, which was played on the Loughborough Athletic Ground before a good crowd on Saturday afternoon. Lynes started the ball for the Fosse Reserves, kicking towards the entrance goal. The ball was quickly returned, and sent behind the Fosse lines, and for a few minutes Coalville kept play in the Leicester men's half, a free adding considerably, and Underwood, fisting away, the fosse forced their opponents back, and a weakness in the Coalville defence gave an opportunity which McArthur seized, and scored an easy goal for the Fosse. Directly after Bishop put in a long shot, which only missed by a short distance. Giblin getting possession at the half-way line, ran along the left well into the Fosse ground, but was not supported, and the opposition was too much for him. Play in midfield followed, and a free to Coalville gave a brief chance, but Kendrick shot over. The ball was returned along the Fosse right, and Underwood put behind for a corner, the kick bringing nothing tangible. After further play in neutral ground, a free was awarded to the Fosse close in goal. Atherton took the kick, which was barren of result, but Fosse continued to maintain an aggressive attitude, though they failed frequently in front of goal.

Obtaining possession from a throw-in, Strachan made a good attempt, which Bunting had no difficulty in stopping and Lynes' shot went just wide. A foul by Fosse was followed by two by Coalville, leading eventually to a corner against the latter, but the kick was safely cleared. After a goal kick at the Fosse end, the Leicester left took the ball back into Coalville territory, and Bunting was twice called upon to deal with easy shots. Returning up the left, Coalville pressed, and Giblin centred. Horton kicked sharply in, and Underwood gave a very unnecessary corner, the kick for which was finely taken. Coalville maintained the attack until Bevans made a nice run p the left. This was followed by a capital shot from Davies, but Bunting saved well. Just before half-time. McArthur had a splendid chance, running right up to goal, but then shooting shockingly. Half-time score:

FOSSE RESERVES, one goal;
COALVILLE, none.

Horton re-started, and Fosse were the first to attack. Davis missing badly. A free against Coalville, was well dropped in, and a like penalty against the Fosse followed. Lynes having missed a shot, the Coalville left broke away. Dickson made a sterling run, but was stopped by Thompson, and the latter was returned to the other end, where the pressure was relieved by a free hands. Play continued in the Coalville half, and they were quite unable to get it out sufficiently to do any good. After some time a free on the left enabled them to pass forward, and the wing succeeded in making their way well up, Gibbs putting in a high shot. Underwood just reached the ball, and, and saved a goal. The game returned to Coalville quarters, but the Fosse attempts were very weak. Two corners against the Coalville were fruitless, but the pressure was continued, Bishop making the next effort of any consequence. Hands against Coalville did not improve their position, and a hot shot from McArthur was well saved by Bunting, the succeeding shot going behind. Play became rather desultory for several minutes, though mainly at the Coalville end. A break through by Bradshaw made matters a bit better for his side, and E Cliff sent in a long shot, which was not far off. Band temper and foul play did the Fosse no good, and from the free J Cliff got forward, but he made a mess of his chance and sent behind. Fosse getting down again looked likely to score, but Pickard was given offside before the ball went through, and the game was returned to midfield, only to be brought back again on the right. Lynes crossing to Bishop, the latter sent in a hot shot, but was given offside. Bunting made another fine save immediately after, and play became fast and furious for the last few minutes. Coalville rushed up, but kicked wildly, and made no impression ob the Fosse defence. Time was called with the score at full-time:

FOSSE RESERVES, one goal;
COALVILLE, none

Teams

Fosse: Underwood, goal; Thompson and Bailey, backs; Strachan, Atheron and Bevan, half-backs; Pickard, McArthur, Lynes, Davies and Bishop, forwards.

Coalville: H Bunting, goal; C Eales and J Pickering, backs; E Beniston, J Bradshaw and E Clipp, half-backs, G Cliff, T Kendrick, E Horton, A Dickson and J Giblin, forwards.

Referee, H Weston (South Wigston)

Leicester Daily Post - 16 March 1896

#8 LEICESTER YMCA v HUGGLESCOTE ROBIN HOOD

Played on the Wagon and Horses ground, Coalville, before a thousand spectators. Hugglescote kicked off, and even play ensued, mostly in midfield. The Young Men then pressed, and ought to have scored, but were too slow, Hugglescote ran up and shot in goal, but the goalkeeper cleared easily. The Young Men ran down and nearly scored, but Hugglescote fouled and nothing resulted. Half-time:

LEICESTER, one goal;
HUGGLESCOTE, none.

Resuming, Hugglescote quickly set to work, and scored in a few minutes, and immediately afterwards registered number two. Leicester then ran up, and Hugglescote conceded a corner, but the chance proved futile. A scrimmage took place in front of the Hugglescote goal, the goalkeeper being on top of the ball and during the melee he got kicked, and he had to leave the field. Leicester still pressed, but no more goals were scored. Result:

HUGGLESCOTE, two goals;
YMCA, one goal.

Leicester Daily Post - 16 March

#9 LEICESTERSHIRE SENIOR CUP FINAL

LEICESTER FOSSE ROVERS v HUGGLESCOTE ROBIN HOOD

Played at Loughborough before a small gate, Fosse won the toss, and kicked towards the Moor-lane end, with a good wind behind him. Pickard and Hibberd got away from the kick-off and forced a corner, which was well placed, and followed by another on the opposite wing, which came to nothing. Then Smith and Moore beat Strachan, and crossed to Beniston, who was given offside, much to the disgust of the Hugglescote section of the crowd, who hooted vociferously. Fosse were soon on the aggressive again, and obtained a corner. This was kept out, but the Fosse kept at close at hand, and a nice shot from Atherton beat Peacock, who subsequently had to clear from the same player. Fosse were penalised several times, and Hugglescote at length made good headway, the right wing showing clever passing, and from J Smith's centre kick shot well for goal, Underwood clearing. The Robins' forwards were now playing a spirited game, and strove hard to make an impression on the Fosse defence. Thomson kicked away, and Moore, in relieving was heavily brought to the ground by Hibberd. The Robins failed to improve upon a couple of frees and Fosse sustained a strong attack on the Hugglescote goal, but the wind interfered with accurate shooting. Hogan once put in a smart shot, which Peacock cleverly saved. At this point Pickard wrenched himself and had to leave the ground. Play was of a scrambling nature and greatly in favour of the Fosse, who attacked continuously without further success, the Robins backs defending stubbornly. A determined effort by the Hugglescote forwards seemed likely to bring the score level, but Moore's shot went wide, and then the Fosse applied a stiff pressure, and Hibberd put on a second goal, Peacock fumbling badly. The game continued in favour of the Fosse, but nothing was done up to the interval. Half-time:

FOSSE ROVERS, two goals;
HUGGLESCOTE, none.

Re-starting, the game was of a rough and tumble character for some time, Hugglescote being frequently penalised. Fosse had all of the play, and it was only the determined defence of the Robins which kept them out. After a while Hugglescote managed to get away, and J Smith put in a ball over the bar and missed another chance of scoring directly after. Lynes made an attack on the Hugglescote goal, which was just saved by Warner. The rough tactics of Hugglescote were again resorted to, and Bishop was hurt, and had to leave the field, Fosse finishing the game with nine men. Towards the close Hugglescote pressed, and Underwood had to save several times. Five minutes from the close Hugglescote pressed, and Underwood had to save several times. Five minutes from the close they scored from a free kick. Result:

FOSSE ROVERS, two goals;
HUGGLESCOTE, one goal.

At the close of the match spectators assembled round the stand to witness the presentation of the Cup and Medals. Match referee, Mr Allen Lovell was refused a hearing, the crowd hooting and groaning. He handed the Cup to Thompson on behalf of the Fosse Club and medals to the Hugglescote to J Marriott.

Leicester Daily Post - 30 March 1896