



Coalville & District Charity Cup 1899-00

Winner: Swadlincote Town
Runner-Up: Whitwick White Cross
No. of entries: 12

Round 1

No.	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
#1	9.12.1899	Hugglescote Hood	Robin		Ibstock Albion	
#2	25.11.1899	Coalville Albion	1	1	Whitwick White Cross	Central Ground, Coalville.
#3	9.12.1899	Spring Cottage	3	1	Measham Wanderers	
#4	25.11.1899	Newham Swifts Welsch (pen)	1 (1)	3 (3)	Earl Shilton Victor Ball Rat (2)	At Newham. The home team failed to score on several occasions through poor shooting.

Byes: Swadlincote Town, Coalville Town, Coalville Athletic, Gresley Rovers

Round 1 Replay

No.	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
#5	30.12.1899	Whitwick Cross	White	7	0	Coalville Albion Whitwick

Round 2

No.	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
#6	29.1.1900	Earl Shilton Victor	0 (0)	1 (0)	Whitwick White Cross Case	
#7	9.12.1899	Spring Cottage	1	1	Ibstock Albion	At Gresley.
#8	9.12.1899	Swadlincote Town	0	1	Gresley Rovers Fearn	At Swadlincote. Referee stopped the game 7 mins early due to poor light. The Cup Association ordered the match to be replayed. Gresley resented the decision, and refusing to replay, the tie was awarded to Swadlincote.
#9	9.12.1899	Coalville Town	3	1	Coalville Athletic	Waggon & Horses Ground, Coalville.

Semi-Finals

No.	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
#10	10.2.1900	Coalville Town	0	0	Whitwick White Cross	Fox & Goose Ground, Coalville Field sodden, pools of perched water
#11	3.3.1900	Ibstock Albion T Wright	1 (1)	4 (3)	Swadlincote Town Harrison (3) AN Other	Fox and Gosse Ground, Coalville.

Semi-Final Replay

No.	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
#12	31.3.1900	Coalville Town Jeffcote	1 (0)	(2)	Whitwick White Cross Allen Ottey	Fox and Goose Ground, Coalville. c. 1,000 spectators. Whitwick appeared in their new khaki kit for the first time - white collars and cuffs, a white cross on one breast and a Union Jack on the other - and white knickers.

Final

No.	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
#13	28.4.1900	Swadlincote Town	2	1	Whitwick White Cross	Central (Coalville Albion) Ground, Coalville

		AN Other Draycott	(0)	(0)	Cross	Attendance – 2000 Game kicked off at 4.30 pm. Whitwick missed a penalty.
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Match Reports

#1 ?

#2 COALVILLE ALBION v WHITWICK WHITE CROSS

At Coalville. Result:

A DRAW – one goal each.

Leicester Daily Post – 27 November 1899

#4 NEWHALL SWIFTS v EARL SHILTON

Played at Newhall. In the first half Shilton had the best of the play, scoring three goals. Interval: Earl Shilton, three goals; Newhall, none. On resuming Newhall pressed, and Welch scored their first goal from a penalty. After this the play was chiefly round the visitors' goal, Newhall falling to score on several occasions through bad shooting. Result

EARL SHILTON, three goals;

NEWHALL, one.

Leicester Daily Post – 27 November 1899

#4 NEWHALL SWIFTS v EARL SHILTON VICTORS

For the first time in the history of these clubs we believe, they met in opposition this (Saturday) afternoon, at Newhall, before a fair attendance of spectators. Bearing in mind the fact that the Hickley and District League representatives were considered "higher class" than themselves, the Newhallers fully realised that they would have nothing to throw away, and consequently a hard fought game anticipated

Referee – Mr Swain (Coalville)

The Swifts had the best of the opening exchanges but found Pick, the visitors' custodian, in fine form. After about ten minutes play the visitors broke away and Ball scored from short range. This reverse livened up the Newhallers, and they made a raid into the visitors' quarters. Earl Shilton were penalised for a foul, about fifteen yards from goal, but nothing resulted. The Swifts forced a corner which was safely negotiated, and a hard shot by Hason was neatly punched away by Pick, play at this period being very exciting in the mouth of the visitors' goal. The venue was changed and Kirkland conceded a corner. the kick was well taken and Rat succeeded in placing Earl Shilton two goals ahead. Smith and Warren exchanged positions. Even play followed. Earl Shilton rushed away to the other end, and Rat again scored. Newhall carried the war into the visitors' territory and gained two corners in rapid succession. Then J Welch had hard lines with a terrific shot. The game continued of a ding dong character, and half-time arrived with the score:

Earl Shilton 3

Newhall 1

On resuming the Swifts attacked in determined style, but found Pick in fine form. The game was stopped owing to an accident. A Newhall player trapped the ball, and Elverston, of the visiting team, tried to gain possession. He twisted his ankle, and had to be carried off the field. Play was resumed, and a regular bombardment of the Earl Shilton goal followed. Newhall gained an abortive corner. Riddle's shots were ineffective, and the Swifts were awarded a penalty. Pick came out to the six yards' line, and Welsh scored amid loud cheers. Final score:

EARL SHILTON 3

NEWHALL SWIFTS 1

Burton Chronicle – 30 November 1899

#5 COALVILLE CHARITY CUP

RE-PLAYED TIE

WHITWICK WHITE CROSS v COALVILLE ALBION

At Coalville. Result:

WHITWICK WHITE CROSS, seven goals;

COALVILLE ALBION, none.

Melton Mowbray Mercury and Oakham and Uppingham News – 4 January 1900

#6 Coalville Charity Cup

SECOND ROUND

EARL SHILTON VICTORS v WHITWICK WHITE CROSS

Played at Earl Shilton on Monday afternoon in fine weather and before a fairly good gate. The Whitwick players were: Goal, B Hall; backs, H Springthorpe and T Williams; half-backs, J Hall, T Middleton and J Jarvis; forwards, H Clamp, W Stanyard, A Allen, J Cane and F Middleton. – The field was very level and there was no advantage either way, except a rather strong wind, which Whitwick, winning the toss, had in their favour. The game was excellently contested and very fast, both goals having some narrow escapes, but the interval arrived with no score. The game became rather rough in the second half, several of the Shilton players offending very much in this respect. Both teams had a goal disallowed for offside, but a good goal, the only one of the match, was obtained by Case for Whitwick with a nice high shot, the ball just getting under the crossbar in the corner. Shilton pressed hard in the last five minutes, and a free custodian for carrying the ball, there was much excitement, but the ball was eventually got away, and Whitwick came victorious out of a hard struggle as follows:

WHITWICK, one goal;

EARL SHILTON, none.

Coalville Times – 2 February 1900

#7 SPRING COTTAGE v IBSTOCK ALBION

At Gresley

SPRING COTTAGE, one goal;

IBSTOCK ALBION, one goal.

Leicester Daily Post – 11 December 1899

#8 COALVILLE CHARITY CUP

SWADLINCOTE v GRESLEY ROVERS

At Swadlincote. The game was late starting. Play in the first half was even, but both sides were weak in shooting, and when the interval arrived nothing had been scored. In restarting, the Rovers scored through Fearn, and for a long time had the best of the game. Towards the close Swadlincote tried hard to draw level. The referee stopped the game owing to darkness, seven minutes before time. Result:

GRESLEY, one goal;

SWADLINCOTE, none.

Leicester Daily Post – 11 December 1899

#9 COALVILLE TOWN v COALVILLE ATHLETIC

At Coalville. Result:

TOWN, three goals;

ATHLETIC, one goal.

Leicester Daily Post – 11 December 1899

#10 COALVILLE CHARITY CUP

SEMI-FINAL

COALVILLE TOWN v WHITWICK WHITE CROSS

At Coalville. The match was keenly contested, and on heavy ground the players were solely tried. At half-time no goals were scored. After the interval the game was fast, and the teams fairly equal. Result:

COALVILLE TOWN, none;

WHITWICK WHITE CROSS, none

Melton Mowbray Mercury and Oakham and Uppingham News – 22 February 1900

#11 COALVILLE CHARITY CUP

SEMI-FINAL:

IBSTOCK v SWADLINCOTE

At Coalville. Result:

SWADLINCOTE, four goals;
IBSTOCK, one goal.

Leicester Daily Post - 5 March 1900

#11 IBSTOCK ALBION v SWADLINCOTE

On the Fox and Goose ground, Coalville before a good gate. The players were:-Ibstock: goal, Woodward; backs, Gibson and sharp; half-backs, Beeson, Storer and Wright; forwards, Deeming, Foster, Black, Price and Stanton - Swadlincote: Goal, Davis; backs, Sabine and xxxx; half-backs, Rowland, Orgill and H. Pickering; forwards, G. Pickering, Parker, Harrison, Orme ad Draycott - Referee, Mr T Moss.

Ibstock pressed at the start and soon scored from a fine long cross by Wright. Harrison, however, soon afterwards equalised, being let in and given an easy chance through a bad miss by Gibson. The same player (Harrison) scored two more the interval, when Swadlincote led by three goals to one. The game was more even in the second half. Ibstock were near scoring several times, but they failed to penetrate as excellent defence, while on the other hand, Draycott managed to get one though for Swadlincote. Result:

SWADINCOTE, four goals;

IBSTOCK, one.

Coalville Times - 9 March 1900

In the Field of Sport

KHAKI WINS.

Local football enthusiasts attended the Fox and Goose ground in good force on Saturday afternoon to see Whitwick White Cross and Coalville Town replay their Coalville Cup semi-final, there being over a thousand present. To reach the semi-final stage, the Whitwick men had defeated Coalville Albion and Earl Shilton Victor, while the Town had had a bye and dismissed Coalville Athletic. The result of the former meeting of the teams was a pointless draw.

The match on Saturday had something novel about it, inasmuch as the Whitwick players appeared for the first time in their new khaki attire; and very well they looked too. The shirts were of khaki, with white collars and cuffs, and a white cross on one breast, and a Union Jack on the other. They also wore white knickers to match. Whether this popular colour won over the majority of the spectators in favour of the Cross, can only be conjectured, but judging by the shouting, it was certain that the Whitwick men were the most popular.

This was manifest as soon as the game started, and it evidently stimulated the Cross players. From the very commencement, there was a noticeable determination about their efforts which they maintained, to their credit, right through the game, and it cannot be said that they ever looked like losing.

Except during one or two very brief intervals, the ball was kept dangerously in the Coalville half during the first portion of the game, and it was during the first 45 minutes that the superiority of the Cross was most noticeable, and during that time also that they placed the issue in their favour. The Coalville defence was sorely taxed and both the backs and Webster, as well as the halves—E Benistone in particular—were most indefatigable in their attempts to keep the fortress intact.

But though Berry and Ball both played a fine game, it was a mistake between them that was the cause of the first goal. Either of them would have had time to kick away, but Allen promptly availed himself of the misunderstanding, slipped between the two backs, and scored with a capital shot, Webster having no chance. There was tremendous

cheering at this early success, and the play immediately following was very fast. Coalville tried hard, and twice forced corners, which in each instance were put behind, while in another case Smith was unable to get in an effective centre when there seemed to be a good opening.

The Whitwick left wing were frequently busy, and, in my opinion, Frank Middleton was the best forward on the field. Being fed well by his partner, he made several splendid runs and centres—such as deserved to be, and ultimately were, successful, for it was from one of these that Ottey headed beautifully into the net for the second goal. Thus the interval arrived with the Cross leading by two goals.

For the first ten minutes of the second half, it seemed as though Whitwick were to continue to harass the Town defence, but Coalville then showed a little better combination and for a quarter of an hour did most of the pressing. The Whitwick backs, however, were scarcely ever at fault, and they made a grand defence. But the pressure being maintained, Jeffcote ultimately got through, after a smart piece of individual play, and though he was charged down and partially winded, it was not until he had got in his shot and scored the first goal for Coalville.

Hereabouts Frank Middleton had an injury to his knee which caused him to leave the field for a short time. Coalville were now having the best of matters and for a while Whitwick's lead was threatened. Several times did the forwards seem likely to score when the Whitwick players generally contrived to take the ball from their toe, so to speak. In this respect, little Springthorpe was a marvel. He was a second Joe King. Walker, however, once got in a stinger, which everyone thought had equalised the score, but Percival brought off a good save.

There was not long to play now, and the ball was rapidly banged from end to end, both sides making some fine attempts, but without further success, and by a victory of two goals to one Whitwick White Cross thus qualified to meet Swadlincote in the final.

On the form shown, Whitwick were, undoubtedly, the best team, and their victory was thoroughly deserved. They played a winning game all through and to every man credit is due for the success

achieved. Allen and F. Middleton were especially prominent in the forwards, though all combined well, and T. Middleton was again a great power at the important position of centre half. In passing, however, I may say that he was rather free in the use of his hands upon other players and might have been justly penalised for this more often than he was. Springthorpe and Williams were a splendid pair of backs. "Twit's" kicking was always clean and hard, while his little mate was full of tact and resource. The custodian did not have a deal to do.

The best trier on the Coalville side was E. Bonistone (centre half) who got through a tremendous amount of useful work. Brown also did well. With the exception of the incident, which unfortunately for them, gave their opponents the first goal, Ball and Berry were never at fault, and Webster played a good game in goal. He had no chance to prevent either of the points scored. It was in the forward line where the Town were weakest. Time after time, when in possession of the ball, were they beaten by their much smarter opponents and there was no combination to speak of. Jeffcote's goal, as the outcome of a bit of good work, and an accurate shot by Walker immediately after, were about the only redeeming features of a poor forward display.

It is noteworthy that White Cross have now beaten both the Coalville senior teams in this competition, after first making a draw with each club. After this excellent achievement Whitwick deserve to win the cup.

#13 THE COALVILLECUP FINAL

The "blue riband" of local football – the Coalville and District Cup - was fought for on Saturday by Swadlincote Town and Whitwick White Cross on the Central (Coalville Albion) ground, and the event attracted a big crowd – close upon two thousand. Judging by the states of the clubs, Swadlincote, of course, were looked upon as the likely winners, but the excellent performances of the White Cross in the earlier stages of the competition – they having disposed of both Coalville senior teams – made them great favourites. Both sides had a large following of supporters and the greatest enthusiasm was displayed.

Punctually at half past four, Referee Linthwaite of Leicester, who was assisted on the lines by Messrs T Moss and G Swain, sounded the commencement of hostilities, and the players on both sides soon settled down to their work. The opening play exchanges were very even, though after a few minutes' play Swadlincote made an attack, Williams nicely repulsed it, however, and gave his forwards possession. They passed well, and Clamp, who was last to receive the ball before the final attempt at goal, had a beautiful opening, only a few yards away, but in his eagerness, he kicked outside the posts. Unfortunately for the Cross a similar incident by the same player followed almost directly after, though a little later he made amends by putting in a really brilliant shot which the custodian, with a fine effort, could only just get away.

The Cross continued to press, and the next item of note was a splendid shot by Hall, who had received the ball from T Middleton from a free kick in a favourable position, but once more did Davis, the custodian, distinguished himself and receive the applause of the crowd. The game was tremendously fast, and though Swadlincote kept the Whitwick defence fairly busy, they were not so frequently dangerous, near the goal, as were their khaki opponents. Try as they would, however, Whitwick could not get through, the Swadlincote backs playing well, while the custodian was simply invincible, and when the whistle sounded for breathing time there was a clean score sheet. The perspiring state of the players at half-time – it was a warm, sunny day – made it evident that it would be a strain on them to keep up to the end of the game, the great pave at which they had been going. Swadlincote proved themselves to be the best "stayers", and soon after the resumption, started getting goals in an astonishing manner. In a very short space of time they had netted the ball three times and thus placed the issue beyond doubt.

There was, however, only one really good goal in the lot, and this was the first, which Harrison obtained after a bit of smart work and with a magnificent shot. It was after this that the falling off of the Whitwick men became very noticeable and the next two goals were the result of a feebleness which was quite inexcusable. Draycott from the right wing, obtained the second goal with a long shot which Percival should easily have stopped, while the tame return he made soon afterwards, when he might easily have kicked away, put the ball right on the toe of Harrison, who was thus given the simplest of opportunities, and utilised it.

Soon after Swadlincote got their first goal, there was an exciting incident. The Whitwick left wing had run the ball up and one of the forwards was about to centre, when he was badly charged in the back, and the referee, after consulting Linesman Moss, awarded a penalty, which was quite proper. The excitement at the possibility of the Cross getting level again can be better imagined than described. F Middleton took the kick, but once more did Davis prove that he was not to be beaten, as, bounding forward, the ball cannoned off his knees into the field. There could be no doubt, however, that Davis was not the requisite six yards away when the ball was kicked. He advanced as soon as the whistle blew, and practically charged the ball down immediately it left Middleton's tea, but the referee allowed the incident to pass, and there was no appeal by Whitwick.

Taking the match all through, Swad. may be said to be the best team and deserved to win, though there is no question as to which was the best side in the first half, the Cross having some hard luck.

Coalville Times- 4 May 1900