



# Gresley & District Charity Cup 1898-99

**Winner:** Swadlincote  
**Runner-Up:** Stanton  
**No. of entries:** ?

Little is known about this competition before the semi-finals.

## Round 1

Date	Home			Away	Match Details
17.12.1898	Woodville Town	0	1	Newhall Swifts	

## Semi-Finals

Date	Home			Away	Match Details
4.3.1899	Gresley Rovers Fearn (2)	2 (1)	2 (1)	Swadlincote Jones Wileman	Big gate, c. 1,500 Dull weather. Both teams were exempt from the qualifying round,
18.3.1899	Burton Swifts Reserve	0	2	Stanton [Staffordshire]	At Gresley

## Semi-Final Replay

Date	Home			Away	Match Details
30.3.1899	Gresley Rovers	1	2	Swadlincote	11.00 am kick off.

## Final

Date	Home			Away	Match Details
8.4.1899	Swadlincote	2	1	Stanton	

## Match Reports

### GRESLEY CHARITY CUP

#### SEMI-FINAL

#### GRESLEY ROVERS v SWADLINCOTE

Played at Gresley. In dull weather before a big gate. Swadlincote opened best, and Jones scored from a penalty, but Fearn equalised immediately, the interval being one goal each. The Rovers' custodian was brilliant. In the second half Fearn again scored for Gresley, and later Wileman made it two each. The closing exchanges were vigorous and exciting, both trying hard. Result:

A DRAW, two goals each.

*Melton Mowbray Mercury and Oakham and Uppingham News - 9 March 1899*

### A KEEN AND EXCITING MATCH

was witnessed on the Grosley Rovers' enclosure on Saturday afternoon. The teams engaged in the semi-final were Burton Swifts Reserve and Stanton. In the Swifts Reserves Lloyd and Bell were absentees, and A. N. Other turned out to be Peach. The services of W. May and "Bag 'Em" West were requisitioned. It was early evident that both sides were in good form, and it was no certainty for the young Swallows. Hardwick did a lot of useful work. His outside man, Staley, worked hard, and with "S Wallow" made a good wing. When the Stantonians were leading by two goals, Jos. Parker was prominent in a raff into the Swifts quarters and scored, but to the disgust of the spectators Referee Lowles (Derby) disallowed the point, and some uncomplimentary and even unprintable things were said in Derbyshire dialect.

Stanton gave a capital exposition, and ought to have had four goals to their credit. Of the forwards, Shreeves, Hardwick, and Staley were well to the fore. In the second half a transformation scene took place. The Swifts Reserves attacked strongly, and the Stanton backs and half-backs did not come up to their general standard when hard pressed. The Burtonians have a splendid knack of putting in corners. Both their goals resulted from the ball being dropped accurately in the goal mouth from the corner flag. Had Wheatley kept in his goal he might have saved the first. He misjudged the ball, however, and the Burtonians opened their account. The Swifts' Parker made some capital attempts to put the Reserve on even terms, and ultimately succeeded in notching the equalizing goal from a corner. T. Lowe played a splendid game at back, and Roberts was safe. "Bag 'Em" West worked like an old war-horse. Warren played a judicious game. In Knibbs he had a capital partner.

## GRESLEY CHARITY CUP.

### SWADLINCOTE ENTER THE FINAL.

The replayed semi-final for the Gresley Charity Cup took place on Friday morning on the Gresley Recreation Ground between Gresley Rovers and Swadlincote Town. Nearly 2,000 spectators were present to brave the elements and one of the most interesting matches of the season was witnessed. The teams faced each other in the following order:—

Gresley Rovers.—Goal, Newbould; backs, G. Jones and A. Adams; half-backs, Solomon, Fearn, and Richards; forwards, Ward, Harrison, Yardley, Wileman, and J. Jones.

Swadlincote.—Goal, Champion; backs, Sabine and Kinston; half-backs, Rowland, Alf. Jones, and Pickering; forwards, Draycott, Orgill, Chamberlain, Scott, and Wileman.

The Rovers, who kicked off, had to face a slight breeze, and the possession of the ball was early contested in Gresley quarters, Swadlincote making nothing of a corner. Draycott was the first to try his hand at shooting for goal, but he failed. Gresley then commenced an onslaught on the visitors' goal, but Sabine transferred. Draycott had another try to open the scoring sheet, and shot in, but he was ruled offside. Pickering nearly scored with a fine mid-field shot. A splendid shot from Alf. Jones just alighted on the top of the crossbar. Ward fell down through the slippery state of the ground, thus losing an easy opening. A sharp scrimmage ensued in front of the Swadlincote goal. Champion saved one or two shots in splendid style, but was eventually beaten by one from J. Jones, amid cheers. At half-time the score stood:—

In the second half Swadlincote showed their superior staying powers. Ward, especially, repeatedly broke away, but all their efforts came to grief. Eighteen minutes before time Scott drew the score level, Newbould being defeated in the course of a sharp melee. The Swadlincote goal had a somewhat narrow escape, but Champion managed to avert the danger. Swadlincote continued to have the best of the play, and eight minutes before time the home defence was again pierced, amidst tremendous enthusiasm. The last few minutes of the game were marked by a desperate effort on the part of the homesters to turn the tables, but without avail, and the Swaddies ran out winners. The final score was:—

SWADLINCOTE .....	2
GRESLEY ROVERS .....	1

Burton Daily Mail - 1 April 1899

### Gresley Charity Cup

#### FINAL ROUND.

#### Coalville Town v Swadlincote

The Coalville Town players visited Gresley on Saturday and opposed Swadlincote in the final of the Gresley Charity Cup, having reached that stage by defeating Gresley Rovers and Newhall Red Rose. The journey was accomplished by brake and the team was accompanied by a large number of supporters. The match took place on the Gresley Rovers ground, and the cup executive had been very considerate in the excellent arrangements. The Coalville party arrived at Gresley shortly before three o'clock, and were on the field in

readiness, as were the Swadlincote players also exactly at 3.30 the advertised time for commencing, but they were kept waiting in tire cold wind until five minutes to four. The Town well represented, although a league match with Shepshed was being played on the same day. The players were:

Goal, Picken; backs, Eales and Pickering; halfbacks, T. Benistone, K. Benistone and C. Benistone forwards, Kendrick, Walker, Orton, Smith and Pagett.

Referee. : Mr. Lowles, of Derby.

Swadlincote were fortunate enough to win the toss and chose to play with the strong wind blowing in their favour, which was also down a slight slope. Dr Parker kicked off in presence of about 1500 spectators.

Coalville were first to attack, but the backs safely cleared, Swadlincote came away, and Eales missed, but this ball was sent over the line. Pagett and Smith combined well took the play to the opposite end, only to be repulsed by the Swad. backs. C Benistone, when hard pressed, kicked the ball back to Picken, who only just managed to clear. A pretty bout of passing was shown by Smith, Orton and Kendrick, still to no avail as the opposing backs offered a sound defence. Swad. obtained three corners in rapid succession, but these were fruitless. Picken bringing off some very smart saves, Coalville got a free in a good position, T. Benistone put the ball into net without a second player. A miss by C. Benistone after the goal kick let in Swad. but Picken effected another fine save. Walker and Kendrick took the play to the other end and forced a corner. This was placed well by the latter, and when it was returned, the same player again shot in, the ball just skimming the crowbar. Foul play against C. Benistone on the part of Swadlincote player known as "Jumbo then caused the game to be stopped for a short time; the same player afterwards is similarly offended, but the referee allowed him to proceed. Swad. pressed ' awl Picken saved a shot in one corner of the goal. The ball was returned and hustled through by several players in the other corner - a somewhat lucky goal. This was the only point obtained during the first half. After the resumption, Coalville had the greater part of its game in their favour. On one occasion Kendrick hit the crossbar, and another from Orton only just got round the post by the goal keeper. Coalville pressed hard to the finish. and determined play of the Swad. by frequently kicking the ball out, kept the score unchanged, and the game ended:

Swadlincote	1
Coalville	0

The cup was presented o the winners on the ground and the players will also receive medals.

*Coalville Times - 9 April 1897*