



## Leicestershire Football News Stories 1880-81

Headline	Newspaper
Damage to a stolen football	<i>Leicester Journal - 13 August 1880</i>
Wigston AGM	<i>Leicester Journal - 27 August 1880</i>
Football Contest - Sheepshed Athletic Sports, Dovecote field, Sheepshed	<i>Hinckley News - 11 September 1880</i>
Earl Shilton Rising Star FC	<i>Hinckley News - 18 September 1880</i>
Use of Loughborough Recreation Ground for football	<i>Loughborough Herald &amp; North Leicestershire Gazette - 14 October 1880</i>
Dangers of Football	<i>Hinckley News - 16 October 1880</i>
Football Accident	<i>Loughborough Herald &amp; North Leicestershire Gazette - 4 November 1880</i>
Loughborough Local Board of Health Loughborough FC application	<i>Hinckley News - 6 November 1880</i>
Serious Accident in the Football Field	<i>Leicester Daily Mercury - 19 November 1880</i>
Sad Death	<i>Hinckley News - 20 November 1880</i>
Notice to correspondents	<i>Ashby-de-la-Zouch Gazette - 20 November 1880</i>
Serious Accident in the Football Field	<i>Leicester Chronicle - 20 November 1880</i>
Letter to the Editor - The Long Eaton And Hathern Football Match	<i>Hinckley News - 22 January 1881</i>
Letter to the Editor - Mountsorrel and Quron match	<i>Hinckley News - 12 March 1881</i>
Letter to the Editor - Football At Coalville	<i>Ashby-de-la-Zouch Gazette - 2 April 1881</i>
Football at Gotham	<i>Hinckley News - 16 April 1881</i>
Hugglescote Robin Hoods AGM	<i>Leicester Chronicle - 16 April 1881</i>
Season Summary of Ashby Grammar School FC	<i>Ashby-de-la-Zouch Gazette - 16 April 1881</i>
Sheepshed FC AGM	<i>Leicester Chronicle - 28 May 1881</i>

### ASHBY-DE-LA-ZOUCH

**PETTY SESSIONS** - August 7 ..... Samuel White, Neatherseal, labourer, pleaded guilty to having football, the property the Rev. Nigel Gresley, to the amount of 10s. appears that the football was lent by Mr. Gresley to the school children, and defendant went up, jumped upon it, and burst it—Fined 1s. and costs, and 10s. damage.

*Leicester Journal - 13 August 1880*

**Football Match** - Two teams contested for this event [Sheepshed Athletic Sports, Dovecote field, Sheepshed - Monday, 6 September], the captains being A Kidger and J Bennett. After a quarter of an hour's play the game ended in a draw, neither side having obtained a goal.

Long Kick at Football - There were ten entries for this item, and after a good contest J Thurman proved the winner with a good kick of 113ft 6 in, nearly 38 yards; J Bennett being second with 105ft, 11in, and E Gouch, third with 105ft 2in.

*Hinckley News - 11 September 1880*

**FOOTBALL** - A meeting of the Earl Shilton Rising Star Football Club was held at the Royal Oak Inn, on Saturday, when members were admitted, and officers chosen for the ensuing season.

*Hinckley News - 18 September 1880*

**FOOTBALL** - A meeting was held at the Town Hall on Wednesday evening to establish a football club in the town. Officers and a captain were appointed, and about fifty members enrolled. It is proposed to play both

the rugby and Association games, and no doubt if energy be displayed in the management, a fair team could be got together for either or both games.

*Leicester Chronicle – 25 September 1880*

### **THE RECREATION GROUND AND THE ATHLETIC CLUB**

To the Editor.

Sir, -I notice in your report of the Local Board meeting that an application by Mr. G. F. Pickering, secretary of the Loughborough Athletic and Football Club, for permission, on behalf of that club, to use the pavilion on the recreation ground during the football season, and also to fix permanent goal posts in the ground. As to the first part of the application. I have not a word to say; but, as to the second part, there is, In my opinion, an important principle at stake. The distinctive feature of all recreation grounds. is that they shall be free from any reservations, and, if that be so, then neither the Local Band nor say other body has the right to impose restrictions for the benefit of one comparatively small society, at the expense of a large portion of the community. The juvenile population of Loughborough have, I should the prior claim upon the recreation ground, at all events in preference to a club which can afford to pay for a field. Besides this, the fixing of permanent goal posts practically means the establishment of a claim to a certain tract of ground. Is this by any means fair? It is true the club an acknowledgment for the privilege. But this does not affect the principle. It is for the less fortunate ones of the town that I speak, and on their behalf I restore to hope the Local Board Committee, to whom the subject was referred, will refuse the application. Mr. Deane clearly indicated the objection which I now take, and, if I may make a personal appeal, I trust will use his endeavours to secure the ground from any fettering distinctions whatever.—I am, Mr. Editor, yours obediently. Wm. PALLETT

55, Baxter-gate, Loughborough, Oct. 14th, 1880.

### **THE DANGERS OF FOOTBALL**

During the last few years, football has become so popular that a "National Association" has been called into existence to preside over the game. It would probably win a great many more adherents but for the dangers attending the pastime. Heavy falls on frost-bound ground and heavy kicks on tender shins are among the chief of these perils. Could not something be done to lessen them? A suggestion has just been thrown out that it would be a great improvement if players were shod with india-rubber instead of leather. There would, not be so much slipping in that case, nor such dangerous results from chance kicks. When lawn tennis first into vogue, it played in ordinary leather shoes. But a little experience showed that the soles became as slippery as ice after an hour or so, with the result of heavy falls, and what are even worse, the violent wrenches people give themselves in trying to escape falls. Racquet shoes of a modified sort were accordingly introduced, and accidents are now much less frequent than they used to be. There is, however, one solid difference in this matter between lawn-tennis and football. The former might be but a strong, stoutly-soled boot is required for the latter, to enable the players to kick the ball with due precision and force. The question is, therefore, whether india-rubber soles could be given this character to the requisite degree. On the hand we to not presume to speak, as football has become too much of a science for any but experts to deliver judgment on its appliances. Perhaps the National Association will take the matter in hand by instituting experiments with various sorts of shoes and boots. The upper leathers would not need to be changed, but if some description of sole could be discovered which had the merits of always remaining rough and end of not being quite so hard as leather, many would play the game who are afraid to do so under present circumstances. It is a fine and healthy pas-time, thoroughly English in its lineage and character, and equally adapted for the young and middle-aged, while it the additional advantage of being enjoyable by those whose skill is of the limited sort. But the chance of broken and the almost certainty of severe contusions decidedly detract from its pleasure – Globe.

*Hinckley News – 16 October 1880*

### **HEANOR**

**FOOTBALL ACCIDENT** – A few days ago Wm. White was playing in the football field with Codnor against Heanor, and broke his leg, but is progressing very favourably.

*Loughborough Herald & North Leicestershire Gazette – 4 November 1880*

### **LOUGHBOROUGH LOCAL BOARD OF HEALTH**

The Clerk read the minutes of a meeting of the Pleasure Ground Committee showing that having considered the application of the Loughborough Football Club for permission to put down posts on the Recreation Ground end to use the booth for dressing purposes, the committee resolved to grant the application on condition that the posts were put in sockets to be fixed in the ground, and removed when the club had done playing, it being understood that the committee granted the club no exclusive or prior right to the use of ground within the posts.—The Board unanimously endorsed the action of the committee.

*Hinckley News – 6 November 1880*

**SERIOUS ACCIDENT IN THE FOOTBALL FIELD** – An accident of a serious nature occurred to a youth named Arthur Needham on Wednesday, when Needham was charged by another player, and knocked down, breaking his collar bone. The bone was set by Dr Wilson and Needham is now progressing favourably although he will not be able to resume work for a considerable time. Football when played by association rules is a game of comparatively little danger, but when the play becomes rough and charging is resorted to, this game can no longer be considered to be a safe one.

*Leicester Daily Mercury – 19 November 1880*

**SAD DEATH** —On Tuesday last the funeral of a boy named John Mason took place in Hinckley Cemetery in the presence of a very large number of spectators. The deceased, who was a chorister at St. Mary's Church, Hinckley, was running down Bond-street, after he had been playing at football, on Saturday, the 6th inst., when he accidentally kicked his ankle. Some few days afterwards inflammation set in, and in spite of medical efforts to arrest it, spread over the body, and in less than a week from the time of the accident the poor youth, who had preciousy enjoyed good health, expired. The funeral service was read by the Rev. W. H. Disney, assisted by the Rev. A. F. Aylward, and the choir of the church as in attendance. Hymns were sung in the chapel and on the way to the grave, and other marks of respect were shown to the memory of the deceased. Much sympathy is felt for the bereaved parents.

*Hinckley News – 20 November 1880*

## NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

In the populous and extensive district over which the *Gazette* circulates, it is impossible to obtain early information of every occurrence, and in this way many little matters which would be desirable to have published are overlooked. The Editor therefore invites clergymen and ministers of all denominations, schoolmasters, secretaries of cricket, football, quoit, benefit, and other clubs, friendly societies, and the like, to favour him with particulars of any special services, parishial gatherings, weddings, school treats, breakings-up, matches, meetings, inquests, accidents, robberies, fires, &c., &c., &c., which may be of interest to their own particular district, or to the public at large. Bare facts (being careful to state correctly names, places, hour, and date) will suffice—the Editor will see to their arrangement, and will send copies of the paper free to contributors.

All communications to be addressed to the Editor (who will consider them as confidential), *Gazette* office, Ashby.

Competent reporters sent to all meetings of importance, if advised in time.

*Ashby-de-la-Zouch Gazette - 20 November 1880*

**Serious Accident in the Football Field.** — An accident of a serious nature occurred to a youth named Arthur Needham on Wednesday. A lot of youths were playing at football, when Needham was charged by another player, and knocked down, breaking his collar bone. The bone was set by Dr. Wilson, and Needham is now progressing favourably, although he will not be able to resume work for a considerable time. Football, when played by the Association Rules, is a game of comparatively little danger, but when the play becomes rough, and charging is resorted to, the game can no longer be considered a safe sport.

*Leicester Chronicle - 20 November 1880*

### THE LONG EATON AND HATHERN FOOTBALL MATCH

Dear Sir,—Being an eye-witness of the game between the Long Eaton and Hathern football team., referred to by your correspondent, who styles himself "A Lover of the Game," permit me in justice to the last named, to say that there is very little truth in any of his assertions. The exceptionally great distance of the ground from the railway station did not exceed two miles, a circumstance which was (as explained to the Long Eaton umpire) unavoidable; the cricket field where the match should have been played, and which is much nearer the station, being at the time under water. I think "A Lover of the Game" must have mistaken one umpire for the other, as the one from Long Eaton did follow the ball all over the field in a most remarkable manner. Moreover, he evinced great vexation when he saw his men losing the game. The statements about rough and foul play are an entire fabrication; nor did the Long Eaton team complain of

any here. With regard to comparing his opponents to savages, let me remind "A Lover of the Game," he knows it is not true, and to say the least of it very ungentlemanly, and I hope the Long Eaton team will make it their study when they lost a game not to lose their temper also. Thanking you for inserting these few words, I remain yours truly,

AN ENGLISHMAN

Another correspondent, who signs himself "A True Lover of Fair Play," gives the lie direct to the Long Eaton correspondent, and says the latter's statement is false "from beginning to end."

*Hinckley News - 22 January 1881*

#### **MOUNTSORREL AND QUORN FOOTBALL MATCH.**

*To the Editor of the Loughborough Monitor and News.*

Sir —Having seen an account in your last of a football match between the Quorn and Mountsorrel third teams, played at Quorn they say it resulted in a tie. I beg to say it is incorrect. The ball was kicked fairly through the goal before half time for the visitors. The Quorn umpire J. Rennocks, disputed the goal at the time, but on being questioned on the following Monday morning, he admitted that he was wrong, the visitors thus winning by one goal to nil. J. Rennocks, umpire, played well for the Quorn team. Hoping you will insert this in your columns, I remain, yours truly,

ONE OF THE PLAYERS

*Hinckley Times - 12 March 1881*

#### **FOOTBALL AT COALVILLE**

Sir – Ever interested in the information conveyed to us through your excellent paper, we are at the same time always interested in the correctness and excellence of its reports, and without casting any reflections upon the reporter of any or each of its varied articles, we are at the same time, I hope, open, when occasion demands, to challenge the truthfulness of the statements. We are sorry to find the report of the last football match at Coalville, is one of those requiring correctness, not only in the interest of your valuable paper, but the in justice to the public, and fairness to the visiting team of players.

Your report conveys the idea that a goal was made by the home team undisputed, but the one made by the visitors was disputed "owing to" &c., &c.

I am able to bear out the statement made by a contemporary that a more disgraceful match was never played on any football field, and that owing on any football field, and that owing principally to one or two members of the Coalville Club, who appeared to be the champions of rowdyism, the "capital goal" made was disputed by the 'visiting team, and on quite as equal grounds as the one made by the opposite side ; and I am led to think that your reporter was either not present during the match, or else was something like a famous general who had a blind eye, and in one instance put his glass thereto. What the justice of the umpire prevented is known only to the fates or remains to be written only in the history of events not transpired. What took place can only be branded as a burlesque upon the ancient game of football or football in its lowest or worst shades. I am, Sir, Yours faithfully, FAIRNESS.

*Ashby-de-la-Zouch Gazette - 2 April 1881*

#### **SHEEPSHED**

**FOOTBALL CLUB** – The members may be congratulated on their success during the season. They have played 30 matches, won 17, lost seven and drawn six, 66 goals were obtained by the club against 25 by their opponents. The last match was played on Saturday, between Shepshed and Swannington but it was impossible for either side to obtain a goal owing to the boisterous weather. Players – Shepshed: A Kidger (captain), J. G Foston, F Argyle, J Thurman, C Bennett, J Bennett, J Cotton, T Atkins, E Savage, W Waldram, W Danvers, W Clarkson and A Smith. Umpire, Mr. John Polard,

*Leicester Chronicle - 9 April 1881*

**ASHBY GRAMMAR SCHOOL (English Department) FOOTBALL CLUB** —The football season being now over, appended is a list of the matches played by this club, reports of which have from time to time been published in the Ashby Gazette. The return matches with the Hugglescote and Ibstock Clubs have not been played:

Oct. 18, Coalville, at Ashby, won by 1 goal to 0.

Nov. 8, Woodville Young Rovers, at Woodville, tie, 1 goal each.

Nov. 10, Ashby Classical School, at Ashby, lost by 2 goals to 1.  
 Nov. 17, Coalville, at Coalville, won by 2 goals to 1.  
 Dec. 1, Woodville, at Ashby, won by 2 goals to 0.  
 Dec. 8, Gresley, at Ashby, won by 8 goals to 0.  
 Dec. 15, Gresley, at Gresley, won by 2 goals to 1.  
 Jan. 12, Hugglescote, at Hugglescote, lost by 2 goals to 0 (1 disputed).  
 Feb. 9, Ashby Classical School, at English Ground, Ashby, won by 2 goals to 1.  
 Feb. 23, Ibstock, at Ibstock, tie, 2 goals each.  
*Ashby-de-la-Zouch Gazette - 16 April 1881*

**FOOTBALL AT GOTHAM**—The letter of "A Bystander," contains such a grave charge of wanton brutality against the Gotham players in their match with the Barrow team on the 9th, that we must decline to publish it unless the writer will allow his name and address to appear with it. If half the complaints which reach us be true, there must certainly be a great amount of blackguardism mingled with the "play" of some teams, and in some quarters it seems to be matter for special mention if a match played without on unseemly exhibition of the coarsest ruffianism.

*Hinckley News - 16 April 1881*

#### HUGGLESCOTE.

ROBIN HOOD FOOTBALL CLUB.—The annual supper of the members at the termination of the season took place on Saturday, at the Castle Inn, when upwards of 40 sat down to an excellent Old English supper. After the repast, the chair was taken by the esteemed curate-in-charge of Hugglescote, the Rev. H. Broughton. The National Anthem was then sung, after which came the usual loyal toasts. The report was then read, from which it appeared that during the season 18 matches had been played; 13 won, three drawn, and two lost. The subscriptions for the year amounted to £1 14s. ; balance in hand last year, 13s. 4d. : total, £2 7s. 4d. Expenditure, 16s. 9½d. ; balance, £1 10s. 6½d.—The Chairman then gave the health of the members, coupling with it the name of their captain, Mr. Andrew. This was drunk with musical honours.—Mr. Andrew, in reply, said he fully appreciated the hearty and kindly manner in which they had drunk his health, and assured them that he took the greatest interest in the efficiency and prosperity of their club. (Cheers.) But they must remember that in selecting a team they had to cut their coat according to their cloth. (Cheers.) He then proposed the health of the umpire, Mr. Thomas Hall, who had discharged his very responsible duty to the entire satisfaction of the Robin Hoods, and their opponents' health was given with musical honours.—Mr. Hall, in reply, said it had always been a source of pleasure to him to act as umpire, especially when they were victorious. (Loud applause.)—The treasurer, Mr. Gimson, in a few well-chosen sentences, proposed "The chairman," whom they were pleased to see amongst them that night, as well as in the field. The toast was drunk with rapturous applause.—The rev. Chairman said he had looked with pleasure upon the formation of their club, and he was always pleased to play with them

when he could do so, and he was proud to say that he had not yet witnessed a single disturbance, or heard an improper word on the field. (Loud cheers.) It was an honour to them and the respected host, Mr. Tillson, that their clergyman could come and preside at their little festive gatherings. (Loud applause.) The rev. gentleman vacated the chair, which was then taken by Captain Andrew.—The Chairman then gave the host and hostess, with their best thanks for the excellent supper provided. The toast was drunk with musical honours, and three times three. Mr. Tillson then suitably replied. The health of Mr. Wilkins, the Gate Inn, followed, and that gentleman responded in a humorous speech.—The next toast was “The bold Robin Hoods,” and this was drunk with Robin Hood honours.—Then followed the “Health of the secretaries, Messrs. Gimson and Newbury, and the members of the committee,” with acknowledgments for their untiring efforts to promote the efficiency and prosperity of the club.—The toasts were both drunk with musical honours.—Other toasts and songs brought to a close a most enjoyable evening.

*Leicester Chronicle - 16 April 1881*

**Sheepshed Football Club.** — The annual general meeting was held in the Young Men's Institute Room on Monday evening, when there was a fair attendance. The President, Mr. R. Husbands, occupied the chair. The committee's report and balance sheet were presented by the hon. secretary, Mr. J. G. Foston. The former congratulated the members on their success, and the material help rendered by the large increase in the membership. The number of matches played was 30, of which 17 were won, 7 lost, and 6 drawn—and this the committee considered was an event in the history of the club which could by no means be overlooked. This average would rank amongst the first of Leicestershire clubs. 66 goals were obtained by the Sheepshed club against 25 by their opponents. The balance sheet was also very encouraging considering the great depression in trade, which has caused some arrears, there being a balance in hand of £1 16s. 7<sup>d</sup>. The report and balance sheet having been adopted, a cordial vote of thanks was unanimously accorded to Messrs. Goodall, Poyner, and Griffin for the kind use of their fields, and also to Hussey Packs, Esq., and the honorary subscribers for their financial help. The revision of the rules was next proceeded with, and several important alterations were made. The officers for the ensuing season were then elected as follows :— President, Mr. R. Husbands ; vice-president, Dr. Wil- son ; treasurer, Mr. W. Lovitt ; lion, secretary, Mr. J. G. Foston : captain of the first team, Mr. F. Argyle; captain of the second team, Mr. W. Lovitt ; committee] Messrs. J. Thurman, J. Bennett, and T. Atkins ; vice- captain of the first team, Mr. J. Bennett; vice-captain of the second team, Mr. T. Smith. A vote of thanks to the president for presiding brought the meeting to a close.

*Leicester Chronicle - 28 May 1881*

#### **LONDON CORRESPONDENCE**

Now that our athletes are entering upon the football season, let me say a word or two about the system of “charging” at the Association game. My opinion is that the rule that permits this practice ought to be abolished, last season no end of accidents occurred in consequence of it. The only place in the football field where “charging” should be allowed is at the gate. There's no sense or skill in a big man running full tilt at and upsetting a little one, and the sooner the elements of brute force are eliminated from the game the better.

*Hinckley News - 10 September 1881*