

Ashby & District League 1896-97 - last known table

Nr	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Gresley Swifts	10	5	4	1			14
2	Whitwick Albion	11	6	2	3			14
3	Ashby Town	10	6	1	3			13
4	Swannington St George's	9	6	0	3			12
5	Donisthorpe	11	4	3	4			11
6	Coalville Town Reserves	12	3	4	5			10
7	Linton Swifts	11	2	1	8			5
8	Moira Rovers Reserves	9	0	3	6			3

The final League table has not been found despite considerable research. The latest table - published in the Burton Chronicle on 4 March - is given below - even then it has not been possible to complete the for and against goals columns due to the quality of the digital image of the newspaper.

ASHBY & DISTRICT LEAGUE						
Results up to February 27th.						
	Pld	Won	Lost	Drawn	For	Against
Gresley Swifts	10	5	4	1	14	14
Swannington	9	6	3	0	19	2
Whitwick Albion	11	6	3	2	24	14
Ashby Town	10	6	3	1	27	15
Donisthorpe	11	4	4	3	23	11
Coalville Reserves	12	3	5	4	17	19
Linton Swifts	11	2	8	1	9	5
Moira Reserves	9	0	6	3	8	3

Burton Chronicle - 4 March 1897

- Winner: Ashby Town (?)
- Runner-Up:
- Wooden spoon:
- Games Played:
- Missing Results:
- Goals scored:
- Biggest home win:
- Biggest away win:
- Highest scoring:

Measham Wanderers resigned from the League in November 1896 owing to a "lack of support." They lost their 1 guineas guarantee money. Ashby Town applied for the vacancy and were elected to the League.

Hugglescote Ronin Hoods and Woodville Town failed to complete the season.

Linton Swifts reported that that no referee turned up to officiate their League match with Whitwick Albion in November.

Swannington St George's reported Hugglescote Robin Hood for non-fulfilment of a fixture for a second time in November 1896 as well as non-payment of a fine for a similar offence. As Hugglescote had withdrawn from the League Swannington were awarded 10s out of their guarantee money. Coalville Town Reserve

were awarded 11 s for a similar offence against Hugglescote – the remainder of the guarantee, Coalville were given 1s more than Swannington as they had incurred the expense of travelling to Hugglescote. Numerous League fixtures played between late November and mid-February were ordered to be replayed as a result of early termination of matches owing to darkness.

The result of the replayed game between Coalville Town Reserve and Whitwick Albion on 2 January which was stopped 8 minutes before time due to an error the referee, was ordered to stand – a no-score draw.

Results Grid

Ashby & District League 1896-7	Ashby Town	Coalville Town Reserves	Donisthorpe	Gresley Swifts	Linton Swifts	Moirra Rovers	Swannington St George's	Whitwick Albion
Ashby Town		3-0	3-1	2-0	7-0		2-0	3-2
Coalville Town Reserve	0-1		1-1				2-0	0-0
Donisthorpe	2-1	6-0			6-0	1-3	4-3	
Gresley Swifts		2-1				2-1	1-0	
Linton Swifts	0-3	0-5					1-0	2-0
Moirra Rovers	1-1	2-2			2-2		2-3	1-1
Swannington St George's	0-2	3-0			5-0			2-0
Whitwick Albion	1-2	2-0	5-0	1-0		6-0	2-1	

Home win
 Away Win
 Draw
 Result Not Known

Match Results and Details

Date	Home			Away	Match Details
12.9.1896	Coalville Town Reserve			Moirra Rovers	
12.9.1896	Whitwick Albion	2	1	Swannington St George's	
19.9.1896	Donisthorpe			Whitwick Albion	
19.9.1896	Linton Swifts	0	5	Coalville Town Reserves	Linton's first-ever league match.
19.9.1896	Swannington St George's			Moirra Rovers	
3.10.1896	Linton Swifts	1	0	Swannington St George's	
3.10.1896	Woodville Town	2	0	Overseal	
17.10.1896	Donisthorpe	6	0	Coalville Town Reserves	
24.10.1896	Measham Wanderers	2	3	Donisthorpe	
24.10.1896	Swannington St George's	5	0	Linton Swifts	
24.10.1896	Whitwick Albion	6	0	Moirra Rovers Reserves	
31.10.1896	Gresley Swifts	2	1	Coalville Town Reserves	
31.10.1896	Moirra Rovers Reserves	4	0	Measham Wanderers	
7.11.1896	Donisthorpe	1	3	Moirra Rovers Reserves	Referee failed to turn up, a friendly was played.
7.11.1896	Linton Swifts	1	1	Whitwick Albion	
21.11.1896	Donisthorpe	4	3	Swannington St George's	
28.11.1896	Ashby Albion			Whitwick	
28.11.1896	Coalville Town Reserve			Linton Swifts	
28.11.1896	Moirra Rovers Reserves	1	1	Whitwick Albion	
5.12.1896	Linton Swifts AN Others	2 (1)	2 (2)	Donisthorpe W Childs	Fair gate.

				Wilkinson	
12.12.1896	Donisthorpe Bowley Bradford Riley Wilkinson	4 (3)	0 (0)	Ashby Town	
12.12.1896	Moira Rovers Reserves	2	2	Linton Swifts	The teams left the field at half-time.
19.12.1896	Coalville Town Reserves	1	1	Donisthorpe	
25.12.1896	Ashby Town	2 (0)	0 (0)	Gresley Swifts	Good attendance.
26.12.1896	Swannington	0 (0)	2 (1)	Ashby Town	
2.1.1897	Coalville Town Reserves	0	0	Whitwick Albion	Moderate attendance, Game ended 8 mins early.
2.1.1897	Donisthorpe	6	0	Linton Swifts	
9.1.1897	Moira Rovers Reserves	1	1	Ashby Town	
16.1.1897	Coalville Town Reserves	0	1	Ashby Town	Waggon and Horses Ground, Coalville.
23.1.1897	Moira Rovers Reserves	2	2	Coalville Town Reserves	
30.1.1897	Ashby Town	3 (2)	2 (1)	Whitwick Albion	Bath Grounds, Ashby.
30.1.1897	Swannington St George's	3	0	Coalville Town Reserves	
6.2.1897	Ashby Town	7	0	Linton Swifts	
6.2.1897	Whitwick Albion King (3) Concannon Robinson	5 (1)	0 (0)	Donisthorpe	
13.2.1897	Ashby Town	3	1	Donisthorpe	
20.2.1897	Coalville Town Reserves Kendrick Stevens	2	0 (1)	Swannington St George's	Wagon and Horses Ground, Coalville.
20.2.1897	Donisthorpe	2	1	Ashby Town	
20.2.1897	Linton Swifts	2 (2)	0 (0)	Whitwick Albion	Square and Compass Ground, Linton.
27.2.1897	Ashby Town	3	0	Coalville Town Reserves	
27.2.1897	Whitwick Albion	1 (0)	0 (0)	Gresley Swifts	Gresley led the table going into this match.
6.3.1897	Moira Rovers Reserves	2	3	Swannington St George's	
13.3.1897	Whitwick Albion King Hall	2 (1)	0 (0)	Coalville Town Reserves	Coalville had two new players – Carris (goalkeeper) and Cooper (back), both of Nuneaton.
27.3.1897	Gresley Swifts	1 (0)	0 (0)	Swannington St George's	Swanning played most of the match with 10 men after Bishop was injured and had to leave the field
27.3.1897	Whitwick Albion	1 (0)	2 (1)	Ashby Town	
3.4.1897	Gresley Swifts	2	1	Moira Rovers Reserves	
3.4.1897	Linton Swifts	0	3	Ashby	Moderate attendance. This victory almost guaranteed the title to Ashby.
10.4.1897	Ashby Town	2	0	Moira Rovers	
?4.1897	Swannington St George's Marsh (2)	2	0	Whitwick	
19.4.1897	Swannington St George's			Ashby Town	
24.4.1897	League Champions			Rest of League	

Match Reports

A selection of published match reports.

ASHBY AND DISTRICT LEAGUE.

LINTON SWIFTS v. WHITWICK ALBION.
At Linton. Result:
A DRAW—one goal each.

DONISTHORPE v. MOIRA RESERVES.
At Donisthorpe. Owing to the referee failing to put
in an appearance, a friendly was played, which ended:
MOIRA, three goals;
DONISTHORPE, one goal.

Leicester Daily Post - 8 November 1896

ASHBY & DISTRICT LEAGUE.

IBSTOCK ALBION v. ASHBY TOWN.

This, the first League match between these
teams, was played on the ground of the former
before a fair number of spectators. The home
captain won the toss, and decided to kick with the
wind in their favour. It was soon seen that both
teams were evenly matched, and after some excit-
ing play near the visitors' goal, Black scored the
first goal for Ibstock. The game still continued
in Ibstock's favour, but a break away enabled
Harris to score for the visitors. Within four
minutes of this the same player scored another for
the Town. Ashby at this time were playing a
splendid game, but the home side managed to
clear, and Jackson was again called upon to save,
but a second attempt by the Albion forwards
proved successful, Black scoring with a good shot.
The home team was pressing when half-time
arrived, the score standing:

Ibstock	2
Ashby	2

On resuming Ibstock were the first to cause
trouble, and Jackson saved well, but it was some
time before Slater relieved, and Harris, making a
splendid run, passed to Grew, who shot and caused
the home custodian to save and throw away.
Jones met the ball, and scored a third goal for the
visitors. Some good work by German and Jones
brought Ashby again into close proximity to the
home goal, and after exciting play, German placed
the visitors two goals in front. The Albion
managed to score another within three minutes of
time, and the ball was near the Town goal when
the whistle blew, the result being—

ASHBY	4
IBSTOCK	3

Burton Chronicle - 18 November 1897

ASHBY & DISTRICT JUNIOR LEAGUE.

LINTON SWIFTS v. WHITWICK ALBION

Played on the "Square and Compass" ground, Linton, on Saturday last. The home team won the toss and had the benefit of the wind and hill, and scored twice in the first half. Nothing was scored in the second portion, and the game ended—

Swifts	2
Whitwick	0

ASHBY TOWN v. DONISTHORPE.

Played at Donisthorpe on Saturday, and ended—

Donisthorpe	2
Ashby	1

COALVILLE TOWN RESERVES v. SWAN- INGTON ST. GEORGE'S.

Played at Coalville. Result:

Coalville	2
Swannington	1

Ashby and District League.

Coalville Town Reserves v. Ashby Town.

At Ashby. Result :

Ashby	...	...	...	...	3
Coalville	...	...	...	...	0

Whitwick Albion v. Gresley Swifts

This match took place at Whitwick on Saturday last. A great amount of interest was taken in the encounter, as Gresley are the present leaders. The visitors won the toss and kicked with the wind. Morley started the game for Whitwick and passed to Clarke, who forced a corner. The flag kick was accurately taken, but one of the Gresley backs headed out again. A scrimmage in the Gresley goal afforded the Albions a good opening, but Morley's shot went wide. From the goal kick, Gresley's right wing raced away, but were forced to kick out. The game was kept on at a very fast pace, the home team having a little the best of the exchanges. Once Morley had very hard lines in not scoring, his shot hitting the crossbar. Gresley now had a turn but seldom troubled the goalkeeper. Towards half-time the Albion right raced away and centreing nicely Morley had no difficulty in registering a goal.

Half-time :

Whitwick	...	...	...	1
Gresley	...	...	...	0

The game was very fast in the second half, each goal being visited in turn. Gresley had a very easy chance, but one of their players missed ridiculously. The game was fiercely contested up to the finish, but neither team could score.

Whitwick	...	..	...	Result	1
Gresley	...	...	...		0

ASHBY-DE-LA-ZOUCH.

ASHBY AND DISTRICT FOOTBALL LEAGUE.

A general meeting of the Ashby and District Junior Football League was held on Tuesday evening last at the King's Head Inn, when there were present: Mr. J. N. Holbrooke, Moira Rovers (chairman); Mr. G. M. Sankey, Linton Swifts; Mr. J. Bowley, Donisthorpe; Mr. A. E. Clay, Swannington; Mr. Wheeldon, Whitwick; Mr. Tickner, Ashby Town; with Mr. G. J. Lee, Ellistown (hon. secretary).—After the minutes of the previous meeting had been signed, the secretary read a communication from Leasham Albion to the effect that owing to lack of support they were compelled to resign from the league. Their resignation was accepted and the guarantee money confiscated. Ashby Town applied for the vacancy, and after a vote they were elected.—Linton Swifts reported that no referee turned up to officiate between them and Whitwick Albion, and the match was ordered to be replayed on a date to be mutually arranged. Donisthorpe and Moira Rovers Reserve were also in the same dilemma, and the match was ordered to be replayed, no expenses in either case to be allowed to visiting teams.—Swannington St. George's reported Hugglescote for non-fulfilment of fixture a second time, also non-payment of fine for a similar previous offence. As Hugglescote had withdrawn from the league Swannington were awarded 10s. out of their guarantee money.—Coalville Town Reserve had also a complaint of a similar nature against Hugglescote and were awarded 11s., the residue of the guarantee, Coalville to pay the referee's expenses. The secretary explained that Coalville had been to Hugglescote thereby causing expense, while Swannington had not; hence the greater amount of recompence to Coalville. The secretary also stated he thought he could get a team to take Hugglescote's place in the league, on the same terms as Ashby Town had been admitted, viz., payment of the entrance fee, and all matches to be played.—A vote of thanks to the chairman concluded the business.

Ashby and District League.

A meeting was held at the King's Head Inn, Ashby, on Thursday January 7th, when the following were present: Messrs W. Gee (Gresley Swifts), (chairman), T. Earp (Coalville Town), J. H. Holbrooke (Moirs), A. Clay (Swannington), Bowley (Donisthorpe), F. A. Wheeldon (Whitwick Albion) and an Ashby Town representative, with G. J. Lee, secretary.

Correspondence was read from Ashby Town and Swannington regarding their match being stopped through darkness. It was decided that the match be re-played at Swannington, date to be arranged within 14 days. The matches between Ashby and Donisthorpe, Moira and Linton and Coalville Reserves and Whitwick Albion were also ordered to be re-played, date to be arranged within 14 days. The return match between the two last-named clubs which was played on January 2, and stopped eight minutes before time on account of an error on the part of the referee, was ordered to stand as played—a draw, no score.

Referees were then chosen for January and February.

- Jan. 9—Moirs Reserves v Ashby Town, Mr Sherwin.
.. 16—Coalville Town Reserves v Ashby Town, Mr Swain.
.. 23—Moirs Reserves v Coalville Town Reserves, Mr Shuttleworth.
.. 30—Swannington v Coalville Town Reserves, Mr Moreton.
.. 30—Linton Swifts v Moira Reserves, Mr Sherwin.
.. 30—Ashby Town v Whitwick Albion, Mr J H Holbrooke.
Feb. 6—Ashby Town v Donisthorpe, Mr G J Lee.
.. 6—Ashby Town v Linton Swifts, Mr Shuttleworth.
.. 13—Whitwick Albion v Donisthorpe, Mr G J Lee.
.. 20—Coalville Town Reserves v Swannington, Mr T Moss.
.. 20—Gresley Swifts v Moira Reserves, Mr Sherwin.
.. 20—Linton Swifts v Whitwick Albion, Mr Holbrooke.
.. 27—Ashby Town v Coalville Town Reserves, Mr Holbrooke.
.. 27—Moirs Reserves v Donisthorpe, Mr T Earp.
.. 27—Whitwick Albion v Gresley Swifts, Mr Freeman.

ASHBY AND DISTRICT LEAGUE.

A general meeting of this league was held at the King's Head Inn, Ashby, Mr. J. H. Holbrooke presiding, there being also present:—Messrs. Earp (Coalville Town), Wheeldon (Whitwick Albion), Tickner (Ashby Town), and Clay (Swannington St. George's).—With reference to the report by Whitwick against Linton for intimidation on the part of spectators, &c., it was decided that the charges had not been proved, and the fee deposited by Whitwick was ordered to be returned to them in order to permit of the Champions v. Rest of League match to be played on April 24.—Swannington and Ashby agree to play off their match to-day (Monday) at Swannington, kick off at 12 o'clock, with Mr. Earp as referee. As this match will decide the question of championship considerable interest is taken in the fixture. The first three clubs will finish very close, and until Saturday Ashby's chance looked exceedingly well, as they had 19 points with two matches to play, whilst Gresley had 16 points with but one match to play, and Swannington 15 points with one match to play.—As Ashby lost to Gresley on Saturday by four to one, they now only lead Swannington by one point. The Champions v. Rest of League match will be played on the Ashby Albion Ground, which the committee of the club have kindly placed at the disposal of the league, on Saturday, April 24. Kick off at four o'clock. Referee, Mr. G. J. Lee; linesmen, Messrs. J. H. Holbrooke and T. Earp. The Rest of League will be represented by Brotherhood (Whitwick), goal; ——— (Gresley) and Thompson (Coalville), backs; Millergill (Ashby) or Wardie (Swannington), E. Orton (Coalville), and Hault (Whitwick), half-backs; F. German (Ashby) or T. Swain (Swannington), A. Sherratt (Moirs), J. Howley (Danithorpe) (captain), ——— (Linton), and A. Ros (Gresley), forwards.