



Ashby & District League 1897-98

Ashby & District League 1897-8

	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Ibstock Wanderers	16	10	4	2	37	14	24
2	Swannington St George's	14	9	2	3	37	14	20
3	Boundary Albion	16	3	4	4	32	14	20
4	Measham Wanderers *	15	9	3	3	42	15	19
5	Ashby Town	16	8	1	7	35	31	17
6	Thringstone Albion	16	6	4	6	22	27	16
7	Donisthorpe	14	6	3	5	31	24	15
8	Ibstock Albion	16	5	4	7	32	35	14
9	Oakthorpe	11	0	4	7	10	33	4
10	Ellistown	12	1	1	10	13	38	3

* Two points deducted for fielding ineligible players

Coalville Times - 25 February 1898

Champions: Ibstock Wanderers
 Runners-Up: Swannington St George's
 Wooden spoon: Ellistown
 Games Played:
 Missing Results: 40
 Goals scored:
 Biggest home win:
 Biggest away win:
 Highest scoring:

The following pre-season review of the Ashby and District League was published in the Derby Mercury (1 September 1897):

The coming season bids fair to be a very busy one in the Ashby and District Football League, the League embracing no less than 15 clubs. Swannington St. George's, who won the championship last season, will not be quite so strong, having lost one or two of their best players, but they should give a good account of themselves. They were closely followed by Ashby Town and Gresley Swifts, both of whom will play as strong a team as last year, and the chances are very much against Swannington repeating their last season's performance. The more notable new clubs this season are Ibstock Albion, Ibstock Wanderers, Ellistown, Overseal Reserves, Measham Reserves. Ashby Albion Reserves, and Thringstone. Ashby Albion Reserves, Measham Wanderers Reserves, and Overseal Town Reserves, who were in the League in the season of its formation, will all put very fair teams in the field, but the rules of the League to protect the younger clubs only permit their playing three of their senior team players in any one of their matches. Boundary Albion and Oakthorpe are very promising combinations, whilst Coalville Town Reserves, Moira Rovers Reserves, and Donisthorpe go to make up what would seem to be an excellent association, in which it appears that no one club is far and away superior to the others.

Coalville Town Reserves Committee deemed it "advisable to withdraw" from the League after playing just one match and were replaced by Gresley Swifts.

By the time the season ended the number of teams was 10 with Ashby Albion Reserves, Gresley Swifts, Ibstock Wanderers, Moira Rovers Reserves, and Overseal, all withdrawing from the competition.

Boundary Albion were fined 5s for playing a Woodville registered player.

Referee, Mr Harper, in the Ashby League match between Boundary and Swannington, reported that six Swannington players left the field before time. After investigating the incident, an Association commission have the following rulings: "1. That the referee's report of charging players with leaving the field is not

sustained. 2. That the match was abandoned by the referee, and therefore it was irregular for him to restart the game. 3 That the action of the referee in tendering a misleading report is deserving of censure, and that his expenses in attending before the commission be not allowed. 4 That he be reported to the Leicestershire Referees Association for incompetence.

Donisthorpe's ground was closed by the Leicestershire Football Association from late May to 19 September 1898 as a result of disorderly behaviour of spectators at a match between Donisthorpe and Ibstock Wanderers. In addition the club were not allowed to play matches within a 5 mile until and that boys be charged full admission up to 31 December. Expenses of the referee and commission investigating the incident were charged to Donisthorpe.

At the March meeting of the League at the King's Head:

- Ibstock Albion asked for 12s – the cost of conveying their players to Gresley – that club having resigned – as no return match would be played. Swannington made a similar claim and it was decided to defer the matter;
- Swannington protested against their match with Boundary standing, in which they lost 5-0. Mr Boncer representing Swannington – Mr Gee, the Boundary secretary, and the referee in the match (Mr Harpr), having been heard, it was decided that, in view of the seriousness of the case, a decision would be withheld until the matter had been before the Leicestershire FA;
- The League secretary stated that a gentleman had promised a cup for competition by amateurs in the district and asked the League to support the project.

The attention of the Leicestershire Football Association was drawn to several matches in league competitions, in which clubs had won by an extraordinary number of goals, had by goal average placed themselves as winner of League championships. The manner in which the matches were played and the conduct of player and club officials being deemed contrary to the best interests of the game, it was decided to hold special meetings, and to summon before the executive the clubs affected, the referees and the League secretaries to investigate the matter. The Leicestershire Senior League and Ashby and District Leagues were ordered in late April 1898 to refrain from declaring any clubs champions pending this inquiry. After a full investigation as to irregular proceedings in connection with the matches bearing upon the championship of Ashby and District League were not substantiated. Ibstock Albion were declared league Champions.

Results Grid

Ashby & District League 1897-1898	Ashby Town	Boundary Albion	Donisthorpe	Ellistown	Ibstock Albion	Ibstock Wanderers	Measham Wanderers	Oakthorpe	Swannington St Georges	Thringstone Albion
Ashby Town		1-0	3-0	6-0	2-4	2-3	5-2		0-4	2-1
Boundary Albion	2-1				2-0	2-3		6-0	5-0	
Donisthorpe					6-0					
Ellistown	1-1	1-2	2-4		0-4	0-8	2-3	4-0		0-3
Ibstock Albion	3-4	2-2	3-4	3-0		2-1	1-0	8-0	1-1	0-0
Ibstock Wanderers		0-1		3-0	2-1			5-0		2-0
Measham Wanderers		1-1		1-0	0-0	5-1		0-0		
Oakthorpe										2-3
Swannington St George's				7-0		2-1		3-1		
Thringstone Albion	4-1	2-1	0-0		0-1					

Match Results and Details

Date	Home	Away		Match Details
4..9.1897	Boundary Albion	2	3	Ibstock Wanderers
4..9.1897	Ellistown	2	5	Measham Wanderers
4..9.1897	Overseal	2	1	Coalville Reserves
4..9.1897	Swannington St George's` `	3	1	Oakthorpe
11.9.1897	Ibstock Wanderers	0 (0)	0 (0)	Gresley Swifts Waggon and Horses Ground, Ibstock.
18.9.1897	Ibstock Albion	2	2	Boundary Albion Hastings Arms Ground, Ibstock.
18.9.1897	Ibstock Wanderers Stanton (2) Burton	3	0	Ellistown Wanderers Waggon and Horses Ground, Ibstock. Fair attendance
25.9.1897	Ashby Albion Reserves	2	4	Ibstock Albion Reserves
25.9.1897	Moira Rovers Reserves	1	5	Measham Wanderers
25.9.1897	Overseal Town Reserves	1	3	Donisthorpe
25.9.1897	Thringstone	0	1	Ibstock Wanderers
2.10.1897	Ashby Town	1	0	Boundary Albion Opening match for the Town on their new ground.
2.10.1897	Ibstock Wanderers Stanton (2) Sharp (2) Atkins	5	0	Moira Rovers Reserves Waggon and Horses Ground, Ibstock.
2.10.1897	Measham Wanderers	1	3	Moira Rovers Reserves
16.10.1897	Measham Wanderers	0	0	Ibstock Albion
16.10.1897	Thringstone	2	1	Boundary Albion Newspaper report not clear
19.10.1897	Ibstock Wanderers Stanton Bodle	2	1	Ibstock Albion Storer Waggon and Horses Ground, Ibstock Record gate for the ground
23.10.1897	Ibstock Wanderers Stanton Sharpe	2	0	Thringstone Albion Wagon and Hores Ground, Ibstock Encounter between 1 st and 2 nd in the league
23.10.1897	Moira Rovers Reserves	2	1	Donisthorpe
30.10.1897	Boundary Albion	2	0	Ibstock Albion
6.11.1897	Ellistown	2	4	Donisthorpe
6.11.1897	Ibstock Wanderers	0	1	Boundary Albion Wagon and Horses Ground, Ibstock. Due to the late arrival of the visitors kick off was delayed until 4 pm. Bad light stopped play after 73 mins.
6.11.1897	Oakthorpe	2	3	Thringstone Albion
13.11.1897	Ibstock Albion Black (2) AN Other	3 (2)	4 (2)	Ashby Town Harris (2) Jones German Hastings Arms Ground, Ibstock.
13.11.1897	Ibstock Wanderers	5 (3)	0 (0)	Oakthorpe Albion Waggon and Horses ground, Ibstock. . First goal scored after 15 mins.
13.11.1897	Swannington St George's	5	1	Moira Rovers Game played before a "fair number of spectators on the incline ground"
20.11.1897	Ashby Town	2	3	Ibstock Wanderers Game commenced 30 mins late at 3.15 pm. About 10 mins from time Ibstock scored, but on account of darkness, the referee could not see and disallowed the goal, and stopped the game.
20.11.1897	Donisthorpe	6	0	Ibstock Albion
20.11.1897	Moira Rovers Reserves	2	1	Oakthorpe

20.11.1897	Swannington St George's	7	0	Ellistown	
27.11.1897	Ashby Town	3	0	Moira Rovers Reserves	
27.11.1897	Ibstock Albion	1	1	Swannington St George's	
4.12.1897	Ellistown	0	8	Ibstock Wanderers	
4.12.1897	Moira Rovers Reserves	0	9	Boundary Albion	
11.12.1897	Ashby Town	6	0	Ellistown	
11.12.1897	Ibstock Wanderers	2 (1)	0 (0)	Swannington St George's	
18.12.1897	Ellistown	0	4	Ibstock Albion	Game was stopped owing to thick mist
18.12.1897	Measham Wanderers	1	1	Boundary Albion	
25.12.1897	Ashby Town	2	1	Thringstone	
26.12.1897	Measham Wanderers	5	1	Ibstock Albion	
26.12.1897	Thringstone	0	0	Donisthorpe	
1.1.1898	Gresley Swifts	2	1	Ibstock	
1.1.1898	Ibstock Wanderers	2	2	Measham Wanderers	
8.1.1898	Ibstock Albion	3	4	Donisthorpe	
8.1.1898	Measham Wanderers	6	1	Gresley Swifts	
8.1.1898	Moira Rovers Reserves	3	3	Ibstock Wanderers	
8.1.1898	Thringstone Albion	4	1	Ashby Town	Game was evenly contested until the final 20 mins
15.1.1898	Ibstock Albion	0	0	Thringstone Albion	
22.1.1898	Ashby Town	5	2	Measham	
22.1.1898	Gresley Swifts	1	1	Ibstock	
29.1.1898	Gresley Swifts	1	1	Donisthorpe	
29.1.1898	Ibstock Albion	4	1	Moira Rovers Reserves	
29.1.1898	Swannington St George's	2	1	Ibstock Wanderers	
5.2.1898	Boundary	6	0	Oakthorpe	
5.2.1898	Ellistown	0	3	Swannington St George's	
5.2.1898	Moira Rovers Reserves	0	4	Ashby Town	
12.2.1898	Measham Rovers Reserves	1	0	Ellistown	
19.2.1898	Ibstock Albion	3	0	Ellistown	
26.2.1898	Ashby Town	3	0	Donisthorpe	
26.2.1898	Measham Wanderers	0	0	Oakthorpe	
5.3.1898	Ibstock Wanderers	5	0	Donisthorpe	Fairly good gate. Ibstock scored 4 goals in the first 10 mins.
12.3.1898	Ashby Town	0	4	Swannington St George's	
12.3.1898	Ellistown	1	2	Boundary Albion	
12.3.1898	Ibstock Albion Handford (4) AN Others	8 (3)	0 (0)	Oakthorpe	
19.3.1898	Boundary	5	0	Swannington St George's	
26.3.1898	Ellistown	1	1	Ashby Town	
2.4.1898	Moira Reserves	2	4	Swannington St George's	
8.4.1898	Boundary Albion	2	1	Ashby Town	Good Friday.
8.4.1898	Ibstock Albion	1	0	Measham Wanderers	
11.4.1898	Ibstock Albion	2	1	Ibstock Wanderers	
16.4.1898	Ellistown	4	0	Oakthorpe	

Match Reports

A selection of published match reports.

Ashby and District League.					
Ellistown v. Measham.					
At Ellistown.		Result :			
Measham	...	...	...	...	5
Ellistown	...	...	...	..	2
Coalville Reserves v. Overseal.					
At Overseal.		Result :			
Overseal	...	...	...	...	2
Coalville	...	...	...	...	1
Ibstock Wanderers v. Boundary Albion.					
<p>The Ibstock Wanderers visited Boundary on Saturday for their opening engagement and were victorious by 3 goals to 2.</p>					

Coalville Times - 10 September 1897

Ashby and District League.	
IBSTOCK WANDERERS v. MORIA ROVERS.	
<p>Played on the Waggon and Horses ground on Saturday before a good company. The home team had matters pretty much their own way throughout and playing well together won easily by 5 goals to none. The goals were obtained by Stanton 2, Sharpe 2, and Atkins 1. The home team were : Goal J. Woodward backs, A. Burton (Captain), E. Cooper, half-backs, J. Price, S Deeming, C Foster. forwards, J Storer, Watkins, R Stanton, J Sharp, and F. Towers.</p>	
<p>Referee Mr. G. Swain (Coalville).</p>	

Coalville Times - Friday 10 September 1897

Ashby and District League.

IBSTOCK WANDERERS v. MEASHAM WANDERERS.

At Istock. Result :
A DRAW—two goals each.

GRESLEY SWIFTS v. IBSTOCK ALBION.

At Gresley. Result :
SWIFTS, two goals ;
ALBION, one goal.

Coalville Times - 7 January 1898

ASHBY AND DISTRICT LEAGUE.

SWANNINGTON ST. GEORGE'S v. MOIRA RESERVES.

At Moira. Result :
SWANNINGTON, four goals ;
MOIRA, two.

Leicester Daily Post - 2 April 1898

Additional Information

Ashby and District Football League.

A meeting of the Emergency Committee of this League was held at the King's Head Inn Ashby-de-la-Zouch, on Wednesday evening. Mr. Clay, of Swannington, presided, and there were also present Messrs. W. Jones (Ashby) and Lee (hon. sec.)—The Secretary read a communication from the vice-chairman of the League, Mr. J. H. Holbrooke, regretting his inability to give the necessary time to the work, in consequence of which he tendered his resignation as vice-chairman of the League and as secretary of the Moira F.C. The resignation was accepted, and the Secretary requested to write Mr. Holbrooke acknowledging his past services.—The Committee unanimously decided to nominate Mr. E. W. Bradford, of Bosworth Street, Measham, to fill the vacancy on the committee caused by Mr. Holbrooke's retirement, and Mr. Clay for the position of vice-chairman, both gentlemen to act pending the confirmation of a full meeting of the League, which it was decided to hold on the 13th January. The referees for the months of January and February were then appointed as follows :—

January.

8—Thringstone v Ashby Town, Mr Geo Bishop (Ibstock).

8—Ibstock Albion v Donisthorpe, Mr J Butcher (Coalville).

8—Measham Reserves v Gresley Swifts, Mr J Sherwin (Woodville).

8—Moirs Rovers Reserves v Ibstock Wanderers Mr Harper (Measham).

15—Oakthorpe v Boundary, Mr J Holbrooke (Moirs).

15—Donisthorpe v Measham Reserves, Mr G J Lee (Ellistown).

15—Ellistown v Moira Rovers Reserves, Mr G Adcock (Ibstock).

15—Ibstock Albion v Thringstone, Mr George Swain (Coalville).

22—Ashby Town v Measham Reserves, Mr G J Lee (Ellistown).

22—Thringstone v Ellistown, Mr J H Freeman (Ravenstone).

22—Gresley Swifts v Ibstock Wanderers, Mr J Harper (Measham).

22—Oakthorpe v Ibstock Albion, Mr T Earp (Coalville).

29—Boundary v Ashby Town, Mr A H Middleton (Ellistown).

29—Gresley Swifts v Donisthorpe, Mr J Sherwin (Woodville).

29—Ibstock Albion v Moira Rovers Reserves, Mr Jno Butcher (Coalville).

29—Swannington v Ibstock Wanderers, Mr G Swain (Coalville).

February.

5—Moirs Rovers Reserves v. Ashby Town, Mr. D. S. Moore (Coalville).

5—Boundary v Oakthorpe, Mr. E. Rowbotham (Ashby).

5—Ellistown v Swannington, Mr G Bishop (Ibstock).

5—Thringstone v Measham Reserves, Mr G Adcock (Ibstock).

12—Swannington v Ashby Town, Mr G J Lee (Ellistown).

12—Oakthorpe v Donisthorpe, Mr J Butcher (Coalville).

12—Measham Reserves v Ellistown, Mr J Sherwin (Woodville).

19—Boundary v Donisthorpe, Mr T Farp (Coalville).

19—Ibstock Albion v Ellistown, Mr D S Moore (Coalville).

19—Gresley Swifts v Measham, Mr J H Holbrooke (Moirs).

19—Thringstone v Swannington, Mr A H Middleton (Ellistown).

26—Ashby Town v Donisthorpe, Mr G Swain (Coalville).

26—Swannington v Boundary, Mr G Adcock (Ibstock).

26—Ellistown v Ibstock Wanderers, Mr T Earp (Coalville).

26—Measham Reserves v Oakthorpe, Mr G J Lee (Ellistown).

On the ground of the first-named club; kick off at 2-30.

ASHBY AND DISTRICT LEAGUE.

Mr. W. Gee presided over a meeting of this League, at the King's Head, on Saturday afternoon, there being also present, Messrs. W. Jones (Ashby), Bradford (Measham), Gee (Boundary), Evans (Donisthorpe), Boncer (Swannington), Bates (Oakthorpe), G. W. Hallam (Thringstone), and Lee.—Ibstock Albion asked for 12s., the cost of conveying their players to Gresley. That club having withdrawn, no return match would be played.—Swannington made a similar claim, and it was decided to defer the matter pending other claims of a like nature.—It was agreed that the Emergency Committee and secretary be paid train fares for meetings attended.—Swannington protested against their match with Boundary standing, in which they lost five goals to nil.—Mr. Boncer represented Swannington.—Mr. Gee, the Boundary secretary, and the referee in the match (Mr. Harper), having been heard, it was decided that, in view of the seriousness of the case, a decision would be withheld until the matter had been before the L.F.A. — Moira Rovers Reserves made application for the reopening of the matter of their continuing in the League, and after considerable discussion it was decided that Moira continue, on complying with rules, the three days' limit for protest in the case of Moira not to act.—The Secretary stated that a gentleman had promised a cup for competition by amateurs in the district, the particulars of which would be shortly forthcoming, and asked the League to support the project.

LEICESTERSHIRE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION.

The executive of the above association met at the Victoria Coffee-house, Leicester, on Thursday evening. Mr. Allen Lovell presided, and there were also present Messrs. G. J. Lee (Ellistown), E. A. Marson (Leicester), and J. L. Carpenter (hon. secretary).—The minutes of the last meeting were confirmed.

Messrs. Dunn, Salt, and Carpenter reported they had met at Coalville and heard evidence in two cases. The first report considered being that of Mr. Harper, referee in the Ashby League match between Boundary v. Swannington, in which he reported six of the Swannington players for leaving the field before time. After hearing all the parties the commission gave the following rulings:—1. That the referee's report of charging players with leaving the field is not sustained. 2. That the match was abandoned by the referee, and therefore it was irregular for him to restart the game. 3. That the action of the referee in tendering a misleading report is deserving of censure, and that his expenses in attending before the commission be not allowed. 4. That he be reported to the Leicestershire Referees' Association for incompetence.—The second report dealt with was one from Mr. Sherwin, referee in a match between Donisthorpe v. Ibstock Wanderers, at Donisthorpe, in which the spectators were disorderly. The commission gave the following rulings:—1. That the ground of the Donisthorpe club be closed until Sept. 19, and that the club be not allowed to play matches within five miles until after that date, and that boys be charged full admission up to December 31. That the expenses of the referee and commission be borne by the Donisthorpe club.—The decisions of the commission were confirmed.

The Secretary reported that he had granted the following benefit matches:—Hinckley and District League for championship match: Whitwick Town for G. Tugby; Loughborough Emmanuel for Whitwick Relief Fund.

T. Bott (late secretary Belgrave United) was suspended until he appears before the committee to answer a charge by his late club. H. King (Earl Shilton Town) was suspended until December 31, 1898, for rough play at Earl Shilton. J. Weston (Markfield) was suspended until December 31, 1898, for unsportsmanlike conduct to the referee at Quorn. J. Foulds and A. Squires (Woodhouse) were suspended until December 31, 1898, for unsportsmanlike conduct and refusing to leave the field when ordered at Loughborough. A. Foster (Overseal) was suspended until September 12 for rough play at Burton. W. Freeman (Belgrave St. Michael's) was suspended for season 1898-99 from taking any official part in connection with football for misconduct towards the referee whilst acting as linesman.

The attention of the association was drawn to several matches in League competitions, in which clubs had won by an extraordinary number of goals, had by goal average placed themselves as winners of League championships. The manner in which the matches were played and the conduct of players and club officials being deemed contrary to the best interests of the game, it was decided to hold special meetings, and to summon before the executive the clubs affected, the referees and the League secretaries to investigate the matter.—The Leicestershire Senior League and Ashby and District Leagues were ordered to refrain from declaring any clubs champions pending this inquiry.

Mackney were ordered to pay South Wigston Albion 5s.; Richmond were ordered to pay Knighton Fields Swifts 2s. 6d.; Oxford Victoria were ordered to pay Belgrave United 2s. 6d.

On the adjourned hearing of charges made against T. Chadwick and G. Wakefield (Leicester Granby) for gambling in a match in which they were engaged, the committee ruled that the case was not proven, and no further action be taken.—The suspension passed upon G. Wakefield at the last meeting was removed.—A vote of thanks was accorded to Rev. L. H. Gwynne for his services on Sunday last, and also one to Mr. Wortley Lovell, as Hon. secretary to the Football Sunday service.—A letter was received from Leicester Rugby F.C. thanking the executive for their letter of congratulation on winning the Midland Counties Cup. It was ordered to be entered on the minutes.—A letter was received from Liverpool and District Association, inviting the association to be represented at a meeting to consider the proposed Junior National Association.—It was found impossible for the association to be represented, but it was decided to intimate to Mr. Lythgoe, the Liverpool Association secretary, that any scheme that finds favour with the Counties Associations represented would receive cordial support from Leicestershire.—It was decided to forward an expression of sympathy to the relatives of the men whose lives were lost in the recent disaster at Whitwick.—The date of the annual general meeting was fixed for Saturday, May 21. to be held at Leicester.

Leicester Chronicle - Saturday 30 April 1898