



## Coalville & District Challenge Cup 1890-91

**Winner:** Coalville Town  
**Runner-Up:** Shepshed Town  
**No. of entries:** 8

In November 1890 Mr F H Peplow, jeweller, of Station-street, Coalville offered to give a handsome silver cup, value £10, to be competed for by Association Football clubs within a seven-mile radius of the town. A meeting held at the Railway Hotel to consider the matter decided to call the cup the "Coalville and District Association Challenge Cup. The fledgling committee decided that the cup had to be won three years in succession before becoming the property of any club and the winners each year would be presented with medals and would hold the cup for 12 months. Mr S Bertenshaw, of Coalville East End FC was appointed secretary pro tem and invited clubs within the stated radius to join the association.



A follow up meeting took place on 13 November 1890, again at the Railway Hotel. Mr Peplow presided and the following were also present: J Waring and F Elliott of Shepshed Town, S Boot and A Brownlow of Coalville Town, Mr Mansfield and Mt Swindle of Ashby Ivanhoe FC, J Smith and A of Coalville East End FC, Mr Dempsey and A Smith of Whitwick Town and Mr Tivey and Mr Clay of Coalville Albion F C. It was agreed to form an executive committee, comprising one representative from each club. Mr S Bertenshaw was elected as honorary secretary and Mr Peplow was elected President of the Association. A full set of rules were drawn up and Mr Boot proposed that the secretary should take the necessary steps to affiliate the new association with the English Football Association.

Eights clubs entered the inaugural competition - Ashby Albion, Coalville Albion, Coalville East End, Coalville Town, Hugglescote St John, Shepshed Town and Shepshed United. At a meeting of the executive of the Coalville and District Football Association on 22 November the Secretary laid before the meeting an application from Gresley Rovers for the radius to be extended so as to include their club. After some discussion it was decided to keep the radius unaltered for the first year at least and to consider the application of the Rovers at the next annual general meeting. The two premier clubs Coalville Town and Shepshed Town were kept back until the six junior clubs had played a "qualifying competition", the two junior finalists were then drawn against the two clubs withheld in the semi-finals. The first round draw was made.

The opening game of the competition, between Hugglescote St John's and Coalville Albion was arranged for Saturday 27 December 1891. Unfortunately, the ground was covered in six inches of snow. Both captains agreed that it was inadvisable to play the cup tie and decided to play a friendly instead, which ended 1-1 draw. The Coalville and District Football Association ruled that since the clubs had not complied with Rule 12 of the Association, the match would have to be regarded as a cup tie. The game was ordered to be replayed on 10 January on the Coalville ground. Also played on snow, the game ended in yet another draw. It was not until the third replay, that the tie was finally decided in favour of Coalville Albion.

Coalville Albion beat Shepshed United 1-0 on St Valentine's Day in a close encounter in the first second round tie, played at Shepshed, the goal was scored in the second half. The following Tuesday afternoon, the second and final round two tie, between Ashby Ivanhoe and Whitwick AFC, witnessed by the largest crowd ever seen on the Ivanhoe ground, was a seven goal thriller. The home side eventually winning 4-3. In order to ensure a good game, the Ivanhoe appointed a committee to control spectators and to prevent them from encroaching on the pitch. Coalville Albion and Ashby Ivanhoe, the finalists of the qualifying competition were drawn against the two "town" clubs.

The first semi-final, staged at the Fox and Goose Ground on Saturday 7 March, was a one-sided affair with Coalville Town easily beating the "Albion" 3-0. Two weeks later, Shepshed Town and Ashby Ivanhoe faced each other on the Waggon and Horses Ground, Coalville. Underdogs Ivanhoe with the breeze at their backs took the lead after 15 minutes and scored a second as the whistle was blown for half-time from a header. The goal was disallowed. With the incline and wind in their favour Shepshed equalised and quickly scored a second. Although Ivanhoe forwards played well, the game went in favour of Shepshed, who eventually won a "splendid" game 4-1.



The Coalville Sports Ground in Coalville staged the final on 30 March 1891. Although the weather was unfavourable, the game was witnessed by at least 3,000 enthusiastic spectators. Snow fell heavily in almost blizzard conditions throughout much of the first half. Shepshed kicked off against the wind and play was fast, and furious. Both sides had opportunities to score, but the first half ended goalless. The second half in stark contrast to the first was played in bright sunshine, the wind dropping significantly. Wharmby with a shot from range took the lead for Coalville, much to the delight of "villian" supporters. Within seconds of the restart, Wharmby nearly doubled the lead, grazing the wrong side of the post. Shepshed pressed and Waring equalised after a scrimmage in the Coalville goal mouth. Glover moving at great pace on the counter attack, centred and from the ensuing "mill" Wharmby scored the winning goal. Coalville's captain was presented with the cup which initiated wild celebrations. Large number of people paraded the streets of Coalville in the evening, and there were a few coconut alleys and shooting gallery, &c., in the market place doing pretty brisk trade, but by ten o'clock the town was quiet.

The competition had caught the imagination of the public. Attendances in all games, were high with over 3,000 witnessing the final, resulting in Mr Stanley Bertenshaw, the hon. sec. having a healthy balance in the bank.

## Round 1

No.	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
#1	13.12.1890	Coalville East End Ball Bertenshaw	2	3	Whitwick Town AN Others	Coalville
#2	27.12.1890	Hugglescote John's	1	1	Coalville Albion	Hugglescote

First round byes – Ashby Ivanhoe, Shepshed United.

Coalville Town and Shepshed Town received byes through to the semi-finals.

## Round 1 Replay

No.	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
#3	10.1.1891	Coalville Albion	0	0	Hugglescote St John's	Played at Coalville

## Round 1 2<sup>nd</sup> Replay

No.	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
#4	17.1.1891	Hugglescote St John's	0	0	Coalville Albion	Town Ground Coalville

## Round 1 3<sup>rd</sup> Replay

No.	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
#5	24.1.1891	Coalville Albion King Tyler	2	1	Hugglescote St John Moore	Town Ground Coalville

## Round 2

No.	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
#6	17.2.1891	Ashby Ivanhoe	4	3	Whitwick Town	Ashby
#7	14.2.1891	Shepshed United	0	1	Coalville Albion	Shepshed

## Semi-Finals

No.	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
#8	7.3.1891	Coalville Town	3	0	Coalville Albion	Fox & Goose Ground, Coalville
#9	21.3.1891	Shepshed Town	4	1	Ashby Ivanhoe	Wagon & Horses Ground, Coalville

## Final

No.	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
#10	30.4.1891	Coalville Town Wharmby (2)	2	1	Shepshed Town Waring	Sports Ground, Coalville

## Match Reports

### Round 1

**#1 COALVILLE EAST END v. WHITWICK TOWN** – These teams met in the first round of the above competition on the ground of the former, on Saturday. Play ruled equal for the first quarter of an hour, but then Ball scored for the home team with a good shot from the left. Soon after Whitwick equalled, Wortley not being on the alert. Before half-time the visitors put the ball through again, a confident appeal from Coalville for off-side being disallowed by the referee. After resuming East End forced two corners which proved unproductive, and the Whitwick forwards getting away, Wortley was again beaten. The home side played up pluckily, and showing superior combination to their opponents, two more corners fell to them, but they were without result. Bertenshaw eventually got hold and passed to Ragg who transferred to the left, and Ball centring nicely

the leather was shot through by Bertenshaw. From now to time the East End pressed, but could not score, and the game ended in favour of Whitwick by three goals to two. Coalville East End: G Worthley, goal; J Moore and W Upton, backs; S Brown, T Smith, and W Brownlow, half-backs, S Bertenshaw and S Ragg, right wing; J Smith, centre; A Ball and A Dennis, left wing. Umpires, Messrs. C Eales and A Smith. Referee, Mr G H Morris.  
*Leicester Daily Post - 15 December 1890*

**#2** A match had been arranged for Saturday between Hugglescote St John's and Coalville Albion for the first round of the Coalville and District Challenge Cup, but it was considered in advisable to play on six inches of snow and a friendly game was played between the two clubs. This resulted in a draw of one goal each.  
*Leicester Daily Post - 3- December 1890*

**#3 COALVILLE ALBION V. HUGGLESCOTE ST. JOHN'S.**— This cup tie was played on the Fox and Goose ground, Coalville, on Saturday, before a large number of spectators. The ground was covered with hard snow, but nevertheless some excellent play was witnessed. The Albion had the best of the game all through, but were not able to score, and the game ended in a draw, no goals being scored by either side. Clay and Tivey played in very good form for the Albion as did Weston for Hugglescote. Teams: - Coalville Albion: E Massey, goal; J Tivey and J Burton, backs; A Tyler, T Bradshaw, and G Blockley, half-backs; W Harriman, E Tyler, right wing; S Goacher, centre; J King and F Clay, right wing. Hugglescote St John's: A Matley, goal; P Moore and F Wells, backs; J Weston, G Collings and Brealey, half-backs; T Atter and J Moore, right wing; R Pruden, centre; O Hallam and W Welsh, left wing.  
*Leicester Daily Post - 12 January 1891*

**#4 COALVILLE ALBION v. HUGGLESCOTE ST JOHN'S** - These teams met for the third time in the first round of the above cup at Hugglescote, on Saturday. There was a good attendance of spectators. Both teams protested before the commencement of the match against it being considered a cup tie on account of the state of the ground. Play ruled very even during the whole of the game, neither side gaining any advantage and the match again ended in a draw, no goals being scored.  
*Leicester Daily Post - 19 January 1891*

**#5 COALVILLE v. HUGGLESTONE ST JOHN'S** - These teams made a fourth attempt to decide their tie in the first round of the above Cup on the Town Ground, Coalville, on Saturday. Notwithstanding the unfavourable weather there was a very good "gate". The Albion kicked off and even play ensued for ten minutes; then King got hold and shot through, making the first point for Coalville. Before half-time Tyler scored another, amidst loud cheers from the supporters of the Albion. On resuming both sides attacked in turn, the play being fast. The St John's pressed their opponents, and after some "scrimmaging" Moore scored a good goal. Hugglescote had slightly the best of the play up to time but no more goals were made, and the game ended in victory for the Albion by two goals to one. Coalville Albion: E Massey, goal; J Tivey and J Burton, backs; G Blockley. A Tyler, and W King, half-backs; T Bradshaw and J King, right wing; S Goacher, centre; G H Massey and E Tyler, right wing. Hugglescote St John's: A Matley, goal; T Wells and T Pool, backs; A Briers, G Collings and O Hallam, half-backs; T Atter and R Pruden, right wing; R Moore, centre; J Brearily and W Welsh, left wing.  
*Leicester Daily Post - 26 January 1891*

## Round 2

### Match #6

**ASHBY IVANHOE v. WHITWICK TOWN** - The cup tie contest (Coalville and District Football Association), between the above teams, played at Ashby on Tuesday, was one that drew the largest assemblage ever witnessed on the Ivanhoe ground, and was one which would pecuniarily benefit the contending teams. A splendid game, contested throughout with gentlemanliness, resulted in a win for Ashby Ivanhoe. Score: Ashby Ivanhoe, four goals, Whitwick Town, three goals. Ashby Ivanhoe: - H Perry, W Grundy, T Jardine, W martin, H. Dennis, S Mansfield, F Roby, D Blackburn, W Blackburn, T Roby, and J Cox. Umpire, T Farmer. Whitwick Town: T Garrett, W Middleton, W Dempsy, J Clifford, J Curtis, W Waterfield, J Williamson, C Pegg, W McHugh, J Ottley, J Brotherhood. Umpire, A Smith. Referee, Mr S Bertenshaw.  
*Leicester Journal - 20 February 1891*

**#7 SHEPshed UNITED v. COALVILLE ALBION** – This match was played at Shepshed on Saturday afternoon, the weather being all that could be desired. There was a large gathering of spectators. Shepshed won the toss and elected to kick towards the town goal. Goacher kicked off at 3.15 for Coalville, and the game at once became very fast, and the first corner was conceded to the home team after five minutes play, but was badly kicked in by Cotton, and no advantage was gained. The play was of an even description for a time, and the home side pressed and a second corner was given, and being well-centred, and after some good crossing the ball was sent through, but was disallowed on the ground that it had been out of play. The visitors now played rather more determinedly, and by some good play the ball was taken to the Forest goal, and Iliffe had to save his side. A corner resulted, but without any alteration in the game. The next corner was to the home side, and although it was well kicked into the centre of the ground the forwards failed to utilise the advantage. Burton and Tivey at back had now plenty to do, and several shots were sent into the goal, which were repelled by Massey in an admirable manner. The home side continued to have the best of the game up to half-time, but no goal was scored, an easy chance just before time being badly missed by several of the forward men. Within a few minutes after the game had been restarted a good run was made up the ground by Martin and the goal-keeper had to kick out. The next point of interest was a corner to Coalville which Massey kicked in, but was well got away by West, and Cotton ran it up the ground and crossed to Wale, who missed his kick. This was followed by some good play on the part of Wesley and Smith, and, crossing to Wall, that player was within an inch of scoring. A corner was given shortly after this, but without result, Coalville now played better, and after a few minutes' play in the front of the Shepshed goal, sent in the ball. Iliffe fisted out, but Goacher returned, and the first goal was registered. Play was of a give-and-take description, the home team, however, straining every effort to equalise matters, which, however, proved futile, and the final score was—Coalville Albion, one goal; Shepshed United, none. Players: Shepshed: R Iliffe, goal; J. Beresford and A. West, backs; W. Start, T. Wilson, and J. Wesley, half-backs, R Martin and W. Wall, left wing; W. Cotton and R. Smith, right wing; C. Stevenson, centre. Coalville Albion: E. Massey, goal; J. Burton and J. Tivey, backs; G. Blockley, A. Tyler, W. King, half-backs; R. Tyler and G. H. Marcy, left wing; S. Goacher, centre; J. King and F. Clay, right wing. Referee, Bertenshaw; umpires, T. Waldron and W. Tyler.

*Leicester Daily Post – 16 February 1891*

### Round 3: Semi-Finals

**#8 COALVILLE TOWN v. COALVILLE ALBION** – This match took place on the Fox and Goose Ground, Coalville, on Saturday, before a large number of spectators. The Albion had the advantage of the slight incline in the first half, and play ruled pretty equal for half an hour, the Albion forwards missing some good chances through bad shooting. The Town forced a corner, but the ball was got away, Burton and W King being conspicuous in averting danger. Shortly after, from a good centre from the right, J Smith kicked through for the senior team, the game at half-time standing – Town, one goal; Albion, none. On resuming, the Town immediately commenced to press, but the opposing half-backs and backs played a sterling game, and kept their powerful rivals at bay for some time. Maddocks then placed the Town further ahead by shooting past Massey, this being a very easy goal. The Albion forwards broke away several times, but Eales always returned. The Town added another goal, and won easily by three goals to nil. Coalville Town: J Smith, goal; J Nicholls and C Eales, backs; A Brownlow, R Nicholls and R Smith, half-backs; W Glover and G Haywood, right wing; W Smith and J Smith, left wing; W Maddocks, centre. Coalville Albion: E Massey, goal; J Tivey and J Burton, backs; W King, A Tyler and G Blockley, half-backs; F Clay and J King, right wing; E Tyler and G H Massey, left-wing; S Goacher, centre. Umpires, Messrs. J Smith and H Wharmsby. Referee, Mr C Marshall (Woodville).

*Leicester Daily Post – 9 March 1891*

**#9 SHEPshed TOWN v. ASHBY IVANHOE** – Played on the Waggon and Horse ground, Coalville, on Saturday, before a large number of spectators. Ashby kicked off with a strong breeze at their backs, and were soon busy round their opponents' goal. The ball was got away by Cotton, but Ivanhoe came again, and a corner fell to them, but it was not improved upon. After fifteen minutes' play, however, the Ashby men secured an easy goal, and shortly after Mansfield missed two grand chances by erratic shooting. Savage made a capital run and centred, but the Ashby backs had no difficulty in clearing. Just on the call of half-time the Ivanhoe forced a corner, and the ball being nicely placed it was headed through, but the referee having blown his whistle when the corner was kicked off, the goal was disallowed. On resuming, Shepshed, having the incline and wind in their favour, began to press, and a goal was quickly secured. The Ashby forwards played a plucky game, and Newbold had to handle several times, but Shepshed came again with a rush and another point

was added, although Ivanhoe showed capital form right up to the finish, the game went in favour of their opponents, a splendid match ending: - Shepshed Town, four goals; Ashby Ivanhoe, one.

*Leicester Daily Post - 23 March 1891*

## Cup Final

### #10 COALVILLE AND DISTRICT CUP FINAL.

**COALVILLE TOWN v. SHEPSHED TOWN** -These two teams met on the Sports-ground, Coalville, yesterday (Monday), in the final of the above cup competition, and although the weather was very unfavourable there were over 3000 spectators present. During a great proportion of the first half snow fell heavily, a stiff breeze blew across the ground towards the London-road end. This was to the disadvantage of Shepshed, who had to face the wind and snow in the first half, but the second part of the game was played under much more comfortable circumstances, the wind moderating greatly, and the sun shining brilliantly. The game was one of the best that has been played on the Sports-ground this season under score of two goals to one favour of Coalville is a true index to the game. The Reds kicked off against the wind, but the "villains" immediately began to press. Brownlow and W Smith both had shots at goal, but the ball was got away and even play in midfield followed. Smart play on the part of the Shepshed forwards transferred play to the other end, but Compton easily saved. The leather travelled quickly to the quarters of the "stockingers" and from my scrimmage in front of goal a point was nearly secured, but Newbold saved splendidly. The Shepshed men broke away, but fine play by Eales and Bob Smith averted all danger, and the ball was taken down to the other end, where Beadman shot over. Coalville forced a couple of corners in quick succession, but nothing resulted, the Shepshed backs playing a grand defensive game. The "Reds" again made an incursion into their opponents' territory, Savage sprinting up the left wing in fine style, but the effort was spoilt by the ball going out. Shortly after Iliffe kicked over, and another attack by Shepshed was repelled, Compton fisted out. Half-time arrived with a blank score sheet. Wharmby restarted for the Town but Waring obtained possession and Shepshed pressed for a few minutes. Eales and Nicholls, however, were on the alert, and relieved with long kicks. The "villains" now began to have a look in, and Wharmby kicked over. Soon after W Smith obtained possession, and after a capital run up the left, he sent it nicely to Wharmby, who shot through and amidst enthusiastic cheering. Resuming, Coalville forced a corner, but the leather was got away. Even play in midfield was now the order, then Glover passed to Wharmby, who shot and grazed the post. The stockingers made a rush, and a long shot was made by a half-back, which Compton easily returned, but another shot by Newbold was not got away as well. Compton threw out, but the leather was brought back again, and a scrimmage resulted in front of goal, from which Waring scored. The game now became very interesting, and both sides put forth their best efforts, and the play being very fast.. Shepshed swarmed round the Coalville goal, but not for long. Brownlow got hold, and passed to W Smith, who transferred to Mattocks, but Newbold saved a good shot from the latter at the expense of a corner, which was not improved upon. Brownlow was noticeable for some good kicking and the Shepshed backs and goalkeeper were warmly engaged for a while. The "stockingers" going forward then united in a pretty bit of passing, and Eales kicked out to avert danger. From throw-in Kidger got the ball and put in a splendid shot, which it took Compton all his time to save. The "villains" now pressed and Wharmby, Smith, and Brownlow all had tries at goal but failed. Savage going away at great pace was pulled up by Beadman, who kicked to Glover. The latter made a useful run and centred, and from a "mill" in front of goal Wharmby again shot through, placing Coalville in front. Coalville continued to have the best of matters to the finish, but neither side improved their position, and the splendidly contested game ended in a win for Coalville by two goals to one. Umpire's, Messrs J Smith and H Wharmby. Referee, Mr Sharpe, Gresley. At the close of the match the cup was presented by Mr F Peplow to the winners, who would loudly cheered by an immense crowd.

*Leicester Daily Post - 31 March 1891*