



Coalville & District Challenge Cup 1897-98

Winner: Coalville Town

Runner-Up: Overseal Town

No. of entries: 12

Round 1

No.	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
1	20/11/1897	Sileby Rangers	4	0	Coalville United	
2	20/11/1897	Hugglescote Robin Hoods Hall	1	0	Thringstone	
3	20/11/1897	Shepshed Town	0 (0)	3 (1)	Coalville Albion Orton Jeffcoat Rose	Good attendance.
4	27/11/1897	Measham Wanderers	0 (0)	4 (2)	Coalville Town og Bunting J Smith (2)	The match was postponed from the previous Saturday on account of Coalville being engaged in an English Cup match at long Eaton. Weather was boisterous. Rain fell heavily before the game making the ground very slippery. Coalville forced a dozen corners in the opening 15 mins.

Byes: Loughborough Reserves, Whitwick Town, Swadlincote Town, Overseal Town

Round 2

No.	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
5	11/12/1897	Coalville Town J Smith Bunting	2 (1)	0 (0)	Whitwick Town	Waggon & Horses Ground, Coalville Attendance – 1000. Ground was in a slippery state. Cup Holders defeated.
6	11/12/1897	Loughborough Reserves	4	4	Coalville Albion	
7	11/12/1897	Sileby Rangers	0	3	Swadlincote Town	
8	11/12/1897	Hugglescote Robin Hoods Bowley	3 (1)	1 (1)	Overseal Town Cavendish	Poor gate. Overseal scored first.

Round 2 Replay

No.	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
9		Coalville Albion	W		Loughborough Reserves	

Semi-Finals

No.	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
#10	26/02/1898	Coalville Town Ridgard Walker AN Other Chapman (pen)	4 (2)	0 (0)	Coalville Albion	Fox & Goose Ground, Coalville Orton [Albion centre forward] retired in the first half.
#11	11/04/1898	Swadlincote Town	0 (0)	5 (2)	Overseal Town	Waggon & Horses Ground, Coalville. Fair gate.

Final

No.	Date	Home	Away		Match Details
#12	11/04/1898	Coalville Town	2 (1)	2 (2)	Overseal Town Park Road Ground, Coalville Overseal at led 2-0.

Final Replay

No.	Date	Home	Away		Match Details
#13	30/04/1898	Coalville Town F Bunting Walker	2 (2)	1 (0)	Overseal Town Park Road Ground, Coalville The proceeds of the match were given to the colliery relief fund.

Match Reports

#1 SILEBY RANGERS v COALVILLE UNITED

At Sileby. Result:

SILEBY, four goals;

COALVILLE, none.

Coalville Time – 26 November 1897

#2 HUGGLESCOTE ROBIN HOODS v THRINGSTONE

These teams met at Hugglescote to decide which should enter the second round for the local trophy. The weather was dull but fine, and there was a fair number present. Mr. Halliday was the referee, and the Hugglescote team was as follows :—Goal, Carter; backs, Wollerton and Sales; half-backs, Woodward, Hallam and Hall; forwards, Roper, Cooper, Harris, Barnett and Swift.

Hugglescote kicked off and it was soon to be seen that Thringstone meant business, for they at once attacked, and after a free had been awarded them a splendid opening presented itself, but the ball was put out for a corner. Hallam after the corner kick had been taken, kicked a way out of the mouth of goal, and the home forwards took up the running and forced a fruitless corner. The visitors left pair made a good run, and Carter could do no other but put out for a corner, and it was here that the home defence was severely taxed and their goal underwent some very narrow escapes, and had not Carter been in fine form Thringstone must have scored. The home team then had a turn and Hallam put in a good long shot which the visitors' custodian saved well, and at the other end Carter saved a stinger. Harris put in a good shot at short range but was well saved and after this the home team had a lengthy stay in the visitors' quarters' but lacked shooting powers. Swift then tricked the visitors left back and shot in well, but Thringstone custodian saved, Harris returned it, and shot had beaten the goalkeeper, but Cooper ran in and the ball struck him and was got back into play again, the goal having a narrow escape. Half-time arrived with a clean sheet. After the interval the home team commenced in a more business-like style and Swift after a good run centred nicely, but the ball was badly missed. Cooper was now playing well, and made a good run, passing on to Harris and this player to Swift, the latter returned splendidly into the mouth and Cooper made no mistake in putting it into the net, but the referee ruled him offside. The home team were now doing the pressing and after a couple of fruitless corners, Harris put in a low shot, and the visitors' custodian, at full length on the ground, fisted away. Two more corners fell to the home team, but were not improved on. Sales stopped his pair of opponents with a good kick and Swift taking possession passed to Hall, who had come into the forward rank, and this player netted the ball with a well-timed shot. From the centre kick the home team were again on the aggressive, and Harris went in a rattling shot, and free the return Woodward experienced "hard lines" the ball bouncing on his knee and going over. Thringstone left ran up and shot over and at the other end the visitors' custodian kicked away a low shot from Woodward. Swift made a run and centred, the ball rolling across the mouth of the goal but none of the home forwards seemed as though could not give it the final touch, and the game ended:

Hugglescote 1

Thringstone 0

#3 SHEPshed TOWN v. COALVILLE ALBION. The above clubs met at Shepshed in the first round of the Coalville Charity Cup. Coalville Albion are one of the clubs which have not met Shepshed in the Senior League at present this season, and probably this fact caused more interest and speculation than if their form had been previously tested. Last season the clubs met on three occasions, namely twice in the Senior League and once in

the Leicestershire Senior Cup. In the last named the Albion' were victorious, and in the League matches one was won by the Albion and one drawn so that on last year's record Shepshed started under handicap. There was a good attendance when the ball was kicked off. Within eight minutes of the start Orton scored for the visitors. Up to half-time the visitors pressed, but no further goal was added. In the second half the visitors continued to have the best of the game. Jeffcoat scored for Coalville as did also Rose and the game ended:

COALVILLE, three goals:

SHEPSHED, none.

The Coalville team were: Goal, Webster; backs, Noon and Berry; half-backs, Ridgard, Middleton and King; forwards, Rose, Sharp, Orton, Jeffcote and Earl.

Coalville Time - 26 November 1897

#3 SHEPSHED

Shepshed Town and Coalville Albion met in connection with the Coalville Charity Cup Competition on Saturday. Coalville scored after the start, and led at half-time by one goal. The change of ends resulted to further advantage to the Albions as they added two other goals to their credit, and won by three goals to nil.

Leicester Journal - 26 November 1897

Coalville Charity Cup.

FIRST ROUND.

COALVILLE TOWN v. MEASHAM WANDERERS.

These teams met at Measham in the first round of the Coalville Cup Competition on Saturday, the match having been postponed from the previous Saturday on account of Coalville being engaged in an English Cup match at Long Eaton. The teams were:—Measham: Goal, J. Hart; backs, C. Clamp and B. Evans; half-backs, T. Wright, N. Woodward and T. Buckley; forwards, J. Fletcher, J. Bradford, W. Geary, C. Ridgway and W. Ridgway.

Coalville: Goal, Bunting; backs, Chapman and Pickering; half-backs, Cliff, E. Benistone and C. Benistone; forwards, Heward, J. Smith, W. Smith, F. Bunting and G. Handley.

The weather was boisterous, and rain fell heavily just before the commencement, making the ground very slippery. The field sloped a good deal one way, and winning the toss, Measham elected to play up the hill, but with the wind behind them. Coalville at once began to press and in less than a quarter of an hour had forced a dozen corners, to no avail, the shooting, on account of the ground, no doubt, not being very accurate. However, when the game had been in progress about twenty minutes, Heward got in a good shot, which bounded off the Measham back into the goal-keeper's hands, and the latter allowed it to slip through into the net. Five minutes later, Handley and Bunting made a fine run, and the latter scored a second goal with a beautiful shot. Coalville pressed hard and W. Smith shot from long range, hitting the upright, and the same player just after caused the goal-keeper to save a good one at the expense of a corner, which was cleared. The third goal came from the left wing, J. Smith scoring after a bit of fine play with Heward. At the interval, Coalville were thus leading by three goals to none. The game was a little more open in the second half, but the Measham forwards seldom beat their opponents' defence, Chapman particularly playing well. About a quarter of an hour before time, Coalville made another attack and J. Smith scored again. A miss by Pickering soon after let in Measham, but Bunting cleared his goal in fine style, and the end came with the following result:

Coalville	4
Measham	0

COALVILLE TOWN v. WHITWICK TOWN.

THE CUPHOLDERS DEFEATED.

About a thousand spectators assembled on the Waggon and Horses ground, Coalville, to witness this match on Saturday. Interest in the event was great, as the teams are local rivals and had twice met this season in the league competition and on each occasion had made a draw of one goal each. Whitwick had held the cup for two seasons, having twice defeated Coalville in the final round. With the exception of a sharp shower just before the interval, the match was played in fine weather, but the ground was in a very slippery state. The teams were:—

Coalville: Goal, Bunting; backs, McGuinness, Chapman; halfbacks, Beeson, E. Benistone and Cliff; forwards, Kendrick, Bunting, junr., W. Smith, J. Smith and Heward.

Whitwick: Goal, Reckless; backs, Bevans and Whitehead; half-backs, Horn, Smith and Berrington; forwards, Sears, Whitmore, Harrison, Painter, and Barnes.

Referee, Mr. G. Poyser, Swadlincote.

Coalville first defended the road end goal, playing up the slope. The wind was blowing across the ground, but slightly in the home team's favor. Coalville pressed, but the shooting was bad, Kendrick throwing away two splendid chances. After a while, however, he made amends for this by getting in a beauty, in coping with which Reckless had great difficulty. J. Smith met the custodian's return, and scored a fine goal with a nice side kick. Whitwick attacked immediately after, and from a free, were within an ace of scoring. The game was principally confined to the centre during the first half, the backs on both sides particularly

playing a sound game, the goalkeepers not having a great deal of work to do. The interval found Coalville leading by a goal to nothing. Soon after the resumption, Whitwick attacked hotly, and Bunting effected some marvellous saves, clearing a swift shot on one occasion aimed at the goal from only a few yards range. The Coalville forwards then combined nicely, and Heward, after a neat run, centred well, Reckless having to clear. The pressure was maintained, and Bunting scored a second goal with a good shot. Though Whitwick played well, the Coalville men seemed to be greatly encouraged by their success, and for a time were complete masters of the situation. Several corners fell to them, but were not taken. Reckless, Whitehead and Bevans were the main defenders. When time was fast running out, Coalville again on the aggressive, and scored a fine goal, undoubtedly the best of the match, but before the ball had reached the net, the referee's whistle sounded, and the game was thus disabled. The result of the match was thus a draw. The Coalville team, Whitehead, Bunting was in-
vined.

LOUGHBOROUGH RESERVES v. COALVILLE ALBION.

These clubs met at Loughborough, additional interest being centred in the match through the fact that the clubs have to meet in the semi-final of the Senior Cup. There was a very strong wind blowing across the ground, and the attendance was of the most meagre description. The teams lined up as follows :—

Loughborough : Holmes ; Ward and Mumford ; Paget, Vickers, and Bexon ; Brewill, Turner, Strainford, Pym, and Keighly.

Coalville : Webster ; Berry and Noon ; King Middleton, and Moore ; Sharpe, Rose, Orton Joffcoat, and Earl.

The visitors kicked off towards the entrance goal, and for a minute or so the game was confined to neutral ground. Moore rushed ahead, and feeding the forwards nicely, they got right in a scrimmage, ending in Sharpe putting the ball inside the posts. Loughborough next attacked both Berry and Moore charging down shots. Keightley next made a good effort, Webster having to save, Brewill heading out. Loughborough again took up the running, and forced a corner, which was splendidly placed, and Brewill headed in. Play livened up, and Coalville being awarded a free kick matters were exciting near the Loughborough goal, which Mumford cleared well. A long shot, however, was sent in at Helmes, who caught the ball just near the bar, and threw across the goal and out of play, and Mr. Marson gave Coalville a goal. This decision was strongly objected to, and the game was delayed a minute or two. Loughborough played in a reckless manner and had several fouls given against them, but at length they got going again, and forced a corner of Berry. They kept well up, and Pym gave Webster a terrific shot which upset his equilibrium, and ere he had regained his balance Turner put the ball through, thus equalising matters again. A minute later Keightley swung the ball across again, and Brewill dropping the

ball in the centre, Pym quickly transferred it into the net. A subsequent shot by Brailsford was cleared by Webster for an unproductive corner, the wind carrying the ball over the bar, and the interval came with Loughborough leading by three goals to two.

Starting off again, the Albion left went down and Earl shot wide. The Albion kept close at home, the Loughborough backs being busily employed for some time. The home forwards making several attempts to get away, but were well looked after by Berry. Once, however they got nicely off, through smart play by Pym, but Turner got offside, Coalville, however, came very strongly, and Holmes conceded a corner. This was only partially cleared, the ball going to Noon, who sent it beautifully for goal, Holmes being just unable to prevent it going under the bar, the scores again being level. Coalville pressed more strongly than ever, and after Holmes had cleared a long shot, he saved thrice in quick succession in grand style, and was deservedly applauded. Loughborough raced away, and the Albion fouled in the twelve yards' line, a penalty being awarded Loughborough, from which Mumford gave his side the lead again. Coalville were again penalised for fouling, and Turner all but scored, Webster just fisting away. Coalville dashed ahead, and Jeffcoat, with a sharp shot, put the ball inside the post, the scores once more being brought level, and the end of an interesting game came with the result :

A DRAW—four goals each.

#7 SILEBY RANGERS v SWADLINCOTE

A fast and interesting game was witnessed between these teams, at Sileby, the visitors proving successful by the following score:

SWADLINCOTE, three goals;

SILEBY, none

#8 HUGGLESCOTE ROBIN HOODS v OVERSEAL

At Hugglescote before a poor gate. Play was very slow in the first half. The Robins pressed but Overseal was the first to score by Cavendish, Bowley equalising just before the interval. The Overseal custodian saved splendidly, and the visitors managed to get (by Carter) two in the second half. Result.

OVERSEAL, three goals;

HUGGLESCOTE, one.

#9?

#10 Coalville Charity Cup

Semi-Final

COALVILLE TOWN v. COALVILLE ALBION

The two Coalville teams—the Town and the Albion—met on the Fox and Goose Ground as Saturday last to decide which should enter the final round of the Coalville Cup Competition. The weather was beautifully fine, and there was a large gate, though, considering that both the teams and the competition as well were local, the attendance was not so great as might have been expected. The Town was unaltered from that which has done so well during the past few weeks, and the Albion played Dicken with Jeffcote on the left instead of Sharp. The players under the command of Referee Bailey, of Woodhouse, thus lined up as follows:-

Town Goal, Bunting; backs, Beeson, and Chapman; half-backs, C. Benistone, E. Benistone and Cliff; forwards, Parkes, Bunting, Walker, Smith and Heward.

Albion: Goal, Stubbs; backs, Berry and Ridgard; half-backs, King, Middleton, and Moore; forwards, Parkes, Orton, Jeffcote and Dicken.

The 'Town Captain (E. Benistone) won the toss and took what advantage there was of a cross wind defending the goal at the Forest Road end. The ball was set in motion by Dr. Bodkin, who gave Rose possession, and a short run towards the town goal was made, but young Bunting got hold of the ball and made good progress until he was upset by Middleton. The Town players then swarmed round the Albion goal and made it hot for the "Reds." In the first few minutes Stubbs got rid of a stinger from Walker, and after a melee in the goal mouth, Cliff shot over. The Albion got down through the efforts of Blockley, and Chapman conceded a corner, which King placed well, but to an avail. Orton, the Albion centre-forward, then received an injury to the knee which caused him to retire. Upon resuming, Beeson returned a shot from Jeffcote, and Blockley.

It was from this point forward that the Coalville men put more life into their play, and made better combined efforts. The passing of the forwards at times was really splendid, and while, perhaps, more care might have been advantageously taken with the shooting, the Overseal custodian had some stinging shots to stop, and gave a fine display. One peculiar feature was that while he might reasonably have been expected to stop Heward's shot which saved the match for Coalville he successfully dealt with others which were apparently much more difficult.

Coalville were extremely unfortunate in not winning the match seeing the manner in which they pressed in the second half, Overseal only becoming really dangerous at rare intervals; but they should make no mistake when the match is re-played tomorrow week.

Heward is to be highly complimented for his line forward play, and Smith fully justified himself to the title of the "evergreen." The other forwards did scarcely as well, though of the three, Walker was best, the halves played well, particularly Cliffe who, at times, put in some very fine shots. In the defence, Besson did the most useful work.

Coalville Times - 15 April 1898

#11 COALVILLE CHARITY CUP

Semi-Final

SWADLINCOTE TOWN v OVERSEAL

On the Coalville Town ground, before a fair gate. The opening exchanges were even, Overseal then forcing a fruitless corner. Swadlincote then run up and nearly scored, but the ball went over. Overseal scored twice just before the interval. Resuming, Overseal quickly scored again and soon afterwards added a fourth. Overseal continued to press and the result was:

OVERSEAL, five goals;

SWADLINCOTE, none.

Coalville Times - 18 March 1898

#12 COALVILLE CHARITY CUP FINAL

The other cup final to which I have to refer took place on the following Monday, on the Park Road Ground, between Coalville Town and Overseal Town for the Coalville Charity Cup, and in this the supporters of the local club were scared somewhat. Although the Town Club have on several occasions reached the final round, this was generally regarded as being the best chance of winning they had had for two or three years. Imagine then, the surprise of everyone, when after twenty minutes' play. Overseal were leading by two goals, and having at that time decidedly the best of the play.

Such a decisive lead, though early in the game, is, in a match of this description, a serious item for any team to contend with, though their opponents may be a little inferior — and in this respect Overseal were not a great deal behind. But as the game progressed matters improved—for Coalville. When the interval had arrived, they had managed to get one through from a penalty in addition to neutralising the determined onslaughts of the plucky "sealers" and thus they commenced their second journey only one goal in the rear.

It was from this point forward that the Coalville men put more life into their play, and made better combined efforts. The passing of the forwards at times was really splendid, and while, perhaps, more care might have been advantageously taken with the shooting, the Overseal custodian had some stinging shots to stop, and gave a fine display. One peculiar feature was that while he might reasonably have been expected to stop Heward's shot which saved the match for Coalville he successfully dealt with others which were apparently much more difficult.

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Coalville Times - 15 April 1898

#13 COALVILLE CHARITY CUP

RE-PLAYED FINAL

COALVILLE TOWN v. OVERSEAL

On the Park Ground, Coalville, on Saturday at the conclusion at the Albion v. Burton Swifts match, the replayed final between Coalville Town and Overseal for the Coalville Cup took place. Owing to the inclemency of the weather there was not a large attendance. Coalville first played down the slope with the wind in their favour, and in the first half all the play Overseal never becoming dangerous. Eight minutes from the start, F. Bunting scored and Walker added a second ten minutes later. This was all the scoring up to the interval, and the Town crossed with a lead of two goals. Overseal played with the wind, but the Town were able to hold their own until but a few minutes remained for play, when the visitors with a great effort rushed the ball through. In the last minute they made another determined attack on the goal and Bunting saved a low shot at the expense of a corner, which cleared, and the result was:

COALVILLE TOWN two goals;

OVERSEAL TOWN one.

The cup was afterwards presented to the Coalville Captain—E. Bennistone —by the referee, Mr. J. E. Carpenter. The proceeds of the match were for the colliery relief fund.

Coalville Times - 6 May 1898