



Gresley & District Charity Cup 1893-94

Winner: Gresley Rovers
Runner-Up: Swadlincote Town
No. of entries: ?

Applications for the entries in this new competition closed on 4 November 1893.

The number of teams which entered the inaugural Gresley Cup competition is not known.

Leicestershire were represented by at least one club – Moira Rovers.

The result of only one first round tie has been found.

Gresley Rovers lifted the trophy, beating arch-rivals Swadlincote, 3-0, in the final.

Round 1

Date	Home	Away		Match Details
3.2.1894	Swadlincote Town	5	0	Moira Rovers

Semi-Finals

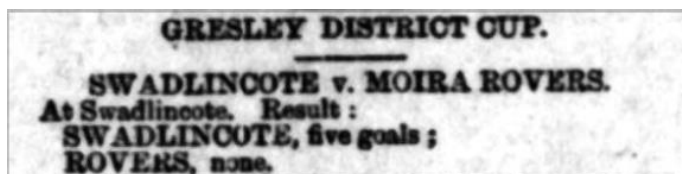
Date	Home	Away		Match Details
17.3.1894	Gresley Rovers Swinson (3) Robinson Parker	5 (4)	0 (0)	Burton Ivanhoe Played on a field adjoining the National Church Schools, Church Gresley. Large crowd.
14.3.1894	Swadlincote Town	4	1	Gresley Swifts Good gate. Gresley began the game with 9 players – but were “not long in obtaining the aid of a couple of players from amongst the spectators.”

Final

Date	Home	Away		Match Details
21.4.1894	Gresley Rovers “The Reds” Robinson Parker Swinson	3 (1)	0 (00)	Swadlincote Town “The Blues” Played in a field adjoining the National School kindly lent to them by Mrs Woodward. Swadlincote had beaten Gresley twice in the Burton Junior League, while the latter secured an easy win in the Burton Junior Cup earlier in the season. Game commenced at 3.30 pm- an hour late - due to the late arrival of the referee. Record crowd – gate receipts totalled £41 5s. Dr Parkhill presented the cup to the winning captain. The Gresley captain holding the cup was carried shoulder high as the Gresley Prize Band played "See the conquering heroes come" as the team possessed to the Rovers headquarters (Boot Inn).

Match Reports

A selection of published match reports.



Leicester Daily Post – 5 February 1893

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL

GRESLEY CHARITY CUP

SWADLINCOTE v GRESLEY SWIFTS

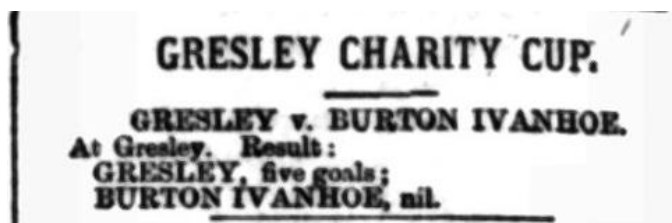
Yesterday (Wednesday), before a good gate these teams met in the semi-final of this competition, and resulted in a win for Swadlincote. Gresley commenced with nine men, but were not long in obtaining the aid of a couple of player from amongst the spectators. Mr G. B. Capes of Burton officiated as referee.

FINAL SCORE

SWADLINCOTE 4

GRESLEY 1

Burton Chronicle – 15 March 1894



Leicester Daily Post – 19 March 1894

GRESLEY ROVERS v SWADLINCOTE

This interesting and important match was played Mrs Woodward's field adjoining the National Schools and kindly lent for the on Saturday afternoon. The clubs had met on three previous occasions during the present season, Swadlincote having won both their League matches with the Rovers, while the latter secured an easy victory in the Junior Cup competition. The Blues had undoubtedly been going very strongly since the new year came in, and as they last week won the Coalville Charity Cup from the team that had knocked the Rovers out of the contest, opinion was slightly in favour of their chances for the Gresley trophy. Bearing in mind, however, that, only a goal divided the teams in two of the three previous games, it was generally expected that the fight would be a keen one, and the finish was very close.

Teams :—Swadlincote: Simpkins, Kinson, Cliffe, Wright, Jones, Street, Allman, Haywood, Brearley, Jackson, and Parker —Rovers: Langford, Harrison, Toplis, Fox, Wright, Richards, Parker, Jones, Robinson, Hayne, and Swinson

As will be seen from a glance at the above names, both clubs were strongly represented, and when the men entered the field they were loudly cheered by their respective partisans. The kick-off had been arranged for 2.30, but owing to the impossibility of the referee getting through it was nearly an hour after that time before the game commenced. The weather was beautifully fine, the ground—with the exception that the grass was a trifle long—in fine condition, and the crowd a record one, the total of the amount of gate being £41 5s. Mr. John Hall, C.C., set the ball in motion for Swadlincote (who had lost the toss) amidst a roaring cheer from the crowd, who had waited very patiently for the arrival of the man with the whistle. Harrison was called upon to push back from the initial kick, but his return was pounced upon by Street, who gave Jackson and Parker a chance. The ball was fouled, however, and, although Alf Jones blocked the way, game was taken into the Swadlincote "25." First one side and then the other attacked, Kinson, Cliffe, Toplis, and Harrison having plenty to do and doing it finely, and eventually Swadlincote got a footing in the Rovers' half, a warm time ensuing for Langford and his comrades. A stinging shot by Parker was splendidly caught and thrown away by the Rovers' custodian, who also saved his side in brilliant fashion twice in quick succession immediately afterwards. A corner to the Blues enabled them to keep up the bombardment, but the Reds' back and halves, were simply impregnable, and after fully half-a-dozen fruitiest attempts the Town were driven back. Robinson's men spoilt one or two good openings owing to the halves kicking too strongly, but eventually Jones and Parker got away beautifully, and Cliff had to kick one save. A big kick by Toplis staved

off a dangerous rush by Allman and Haywood, and play was taken to mid-field. Here Robinson got hold, and, kicking well out to Jones, the latter shot off in double-quick time. He was hard pressed, but managed to get in a gem of a centre. Robinson allowed the ball to go to Haines, who shot hard. The ball re-bounded into play off the goal-keeper and Robinson, well up, put in a fast cross shot with which Simkins had no chance—Gresley 1, Swadlincote 0. The supporters, of the Reds having shown their appreciation of "Sxxh's" achievement, the ball was restarted and again the Swadlincote goal was endangered, Swinson only just missing. Alf. Jones's men retaliated, and another grand effort on the part of Lansford prevented what looked like a certain goal. The Rovers now got a corner, but the flag-kick went out, and Wright (Gresley) having shot wide, midfield play ensued. A stoppage was caused owing to the Rovers' centre-half being winded, and on the game being resumed both sides showed splendid form, the attack and defence being really fine for teams of such calibre. The excitement was most intense as first one side end then the other menaced its opponents' position and a prolonged "Oh " was elicited when a clever kick on the part of Langford spoilt a fine try by Alf Jones, who was doing work of two men. The Rovers got a throw in close to the Swadlincote goal, but Allman and Haywood relieved the pressure, and Toplis only just in time. A centre by J. Jones and was put outside by Swinson, but the Rovers were having the best of matters at this point, and only the sterling defence of A. Jones, Kinson, and Simpkins prevented a heavy score. Allman, Haywood, Parker and Jones were repeatedly conspicuous for their respective sides and just on the stroke of half-time Toplis was very lucky to clear after tricky work by Allman. The "Blues " returned to the attack, and were in the Rovers half when the interval arrived with the score:—

Rovers	1
Swadlincote	0

On the game being resumed the Rovers were the first to show up, and in less than five minutes Parker (Gresley), defeated Simpkins from a free kick, the ball being placed through well out of the reach of the Swadlincote custodian (Rovers 2, Swad. 0). It is hardly necessary to say that this point the Gresley portion of the crowd on the best of terms with themselves, but it did not dishearten the League champions, who went off with a fine burst from the restart, and got close to Langford before Toplis relieved. Away went the Rovers to the other end, and a marvellous save by Simkins, when , completely surrounded, deservedly cheered. Harrison checked the Swad. left wing again in the nick of time, and then, thanks to a champion display by the Rovers halves, who had been playing finely from the commencement, the Blues were thoroughly penned in for minutes, Robinson, Jones, and Swinson only just missing. After another brief stoppage to allow the ball being laced up, the Blues attacked severely, and, cheered on by their supporters they gave the Rovers defence a decidedly warm few minutes. Try as they would, however, they could not get the ball through the allotted space, thanks to Langford, who saved magnificently three times in about a minute. Once the crowd shouted "goal!" but they were "too previous," as the Rovers custodian, throwing himself across the ball into play, and it was punted out of danger amidst tremendous excitement. With the ' exception of a flying visit into Swad. territory by Jones, and a good centre which Swinson placed outside, the Blues at this stage of this game more then held their own, their backs kicking powerfully, their halves tackling safely, and the front row passing and shooting in first rate style. The Rovers rear-guard, however, were in equally form, and although kept hard at work by Allman, Haywood, Jackson, and Parker, they rarely made a serious mistake. Langford seemed to take all sorts of shots with the coolness of the proverbial cucumber, but on one occasion only cruelly hard luck prevented the Blues from scoring off an attempt by Allman, the ball rising fast and just skimming the bar. Gradually the game became of a more open character, and J. Jones txxx Simkins, but found latter on the alert, and Alf. Jones punted to the other end. Langford again had his hands full, Swadlincote straining every nerve to reduce the balance against them but it was all to no purpose and eventually, from a forward pass, Robinson shot through, but was ruled offside. Another combined attack by the Blues found the "all there," and from a return by Harrison, Robinson got well away and placed out to Swinson, who, running nicely in, shot a third goal for his side - (Rovers 3, Swadlincote 0). Although three goals to the bad, the Blues struck gamely to their work for some time, and had quite as much of the game as their opponent, but in the last five minutes the Reds held the upper hand, and the final score was—

ROVERS	3
SWADLINCOTE	0

At the conclusion of the match Mr.. Hall—who was introduced by Dr. Parkhill— presented the cup to the captain of the winning team (J. M, Robinson), expressing the pleasure it gave her that the Rovers had proved victorious —The Gresley Captain briefly replied, saying he did not think the most bigoted supporter of Swadlincote would deny that the Rovers were the best team on the day's play.—A hearty vote of thanks

was accorded Mrs Hall for her kindest in presenting the trophy, and in acknowledging the same, Mr. Hall, while congratulating the Rovers upon their splendid victory, said all the more credit was due to them seeing that their opponents were unquestionably a fine team and knew how to play genuine football. This portion of the proceedings ended, a move was made for the Rovers headquarters (The Boot Inn), one of the members of the winning team, holding the cup, being carried shoulder high, and the procession being headed by the Gresley Church Prize Band, who played route "See the conquering heroes come." We must not omit to mention that the Gresley Church Prize Band filled up the interval of waiting for the referee with an admirable selection of music, and also contributed a piece while the teams were having their "refresher."

Burton Chronicle - 26 April 1894