



Gresley & District Charity Cup 1896-97

Winner: Swadlincote Town Reserves
Runner-Up: Coalville Town
No. of entries: 8

Swadlincote retained the cup.

Round 1

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
1	2.1.1897	Gresley Rovers Wright	1	2	Coalville Town AN Other	At Gresley. Hard ground. Blunder by Rovers' custodia led to Coalville's winning goal.
2	2.1.1896	Gresley Swifts	1	2	Swadlincote Town Reserves	At Gresley.
3	19.12.1896	Stanton AN Other	1 (0)	3 (3)	Newhall Red Rose Rose Dennis (2)	At Stanton. Good number of spectators
4	19.12.1896	Woodville Town	2	1	Moira Rovers	

Semi-Finals

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
5	13.3.1897	Coalville Town	2 (1)	0 (0)	Newhall Red Rose	At Gresley.
6	6.3.1897	Swadlincote Town Reserves	3 (0)	0 (0)	Woodville Town	At Gresley. The second half was played in drenching rain.

Final

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
7	3.4.1897	Coalville Town	0 (0)	1 (1)	Swadlincote Town Reserves	At Gresley. Cold and boisterous weather Good gate Game commenced at 3.45 pm.

Match Reports

#1 GRESLEY ROVERS v COALVILLE TOWN

At Gresley. Result:

COALVILLE, two goals;

GRESLEY, one goal.

Leicester Daily Post - 4 January 1897

#2 SWADLINCOTE RESERVE v GRESLEY SWIFTS

At Gresley. Result:

SWADLINCOTE, three goals;

GRESLEY, one goal.

Leicester Daily Post - 4 January 1897

#3 NEWHALL RED ROSE v STANTON

This match was played at Stanton on Saturday, before a good number of spectators. From the kick-off the Rose ran through the opposing defence and scored in the first minute. Stanton was rather aroused by this early downfall, and played vigorously, with the result that their opponents' centre-forward had to leave the

field. Dennis scored twice before the interval, the visitors crossing over with a lead of three goals. The second half was stubbornly contested, the game ending:

RED ROSE	3
STANTON	1

Burton Chronicle – 24 December 1896

#4 GRESLEY CHARITY CUP

WOODVILLE TOWN v MOIRA ROVERS

At Woodville. Result:

WOODVILLE, two goals;
MOIRA, one goal.

Leicester Daily Post – 21 December 1896

#5 GRESLEY CHARITY CUP

COALVILLE v NEWHALL RED ROSE

This second semi-final took at Gresley. The first half had been in progress 35 minutes when Coalville scored. They added a second immediately after the interval, and the final read:

COALVILLE, two goals;
NEWHALL, none

Leicester Daily Post – 15 March 1897

#6 Cup ties are always interesting, and the first semi-final for the Gresley Charity Cup between Swadlincote and Woodville, took place at Gresley on Saturday. The opening round of play saw the juniors doing good work, but as the minutes fled, Swadlincote forged to the front. Although at the interval neither side had scored, the re-start saw the Swadlincote players hard at it and they ran out winners by 3 to 0. The last half was played in drenching rain.

Derbyshire Advertiser and Journal – 12 March 1897

#7 GRESLEY CHARITY CUP

FINAL

SWADLINCOTE v COALVILLE

This match was played at Gresley on Saturday, and notwithstanding the cold boisterous weather, drew a big gate. Both teams were well represented, and Mr Lowles (of Derby), the referee, set them at work just after 3.45, Swadlincote having what benefit was the derived from the wind. From the start the game was fast and Swadlincote attacking first, Harrison with a long try got one just wide. The Coalville left were repulsed, and the "Blues" again beat the "Villains" backs, their custodian being called upon to fist away. In a further attack, the same player effected a lucky save at the expense of corner, which was followed by a second, but nothing tangible resulted. Swadlincote were having most of the play in front of goal, and the Coalville backs being somewhat "rocky", their goalkeeper was kept constantly busy, but time after time he cleared splendidly, his play being heartily cheered. A foul to Swadlincote close up was followed by a further unproductive corner. After the Coalville custodian had again distinguished himself, the Leicestershire men bore down on the Swadlincote defence, and secured a corner. Danger was averted and the "Blues" came again, "hands" well up the field giving them a nice opening. The ball was well put in and the Coalville custodian should have cleared, but he ran out with the ball, was robbed of it, and before he could get to his post again it was rushed into the net, Swadlincote securing the lead after 25 minutes play. This success woke Swadlincote up, and after the Coalville custodian [Pickering] had cleared, one of his half-backs just managed to get the ball away when a goal seemed certain. Street all but got one in shortly afterwards, and then the referee had to settle a "wordy" warfare between two of the players. The "blues" kept up the attack, and had a further unproductive corner, the interval finding the game:

Swadlincote	1
Coalville	0

On changing ends Coalville at once made a determined attack on the Swadlincote goal in the course of which they had two fouls, but gained no advantage by them. A further attack was spoilt by them fouling the ball, and following his Smith put the ball right across the goal mouth, none of the other forwards being up to add the needed touch. Three corners to the Villains followed in quick succession and Champion successfully negotiated several shots, although he had nothing like the amount of work to do as his xxxxx

had in the early part of the game. The contest continued of an interesting character, although at times there was more force than football about it. Neither team was able to score, and in the end Swadlincote secured the trophy for the second year in succession, the final score being:

SWADLINCOTE	1
COALVILLE	0

Leicester Chronicle – 8 April 1897

#7 GRESLEY CHARITY CUP

FINAL ROUND

Coalville Town v Swadlincote

The Coalville Town players visited Gresley on Saturday and opposed Swadlincote in the final round for the Gresley Charity Cup, having reached that stage by defeating Gresley Rovers and Newhall Red. The journey was accomplished by brake and the team was accompanied by a large number of supporters. The match took place on the Gresley Rovers ground, and the cup executive had been very considerate in the excellent arrangements. The Coalville party arrived at Gresley shortly before three o'clock, and were on the field in readiness, as were the Swadlincote players also exactly at 3.30 the advertised time for commencing, but they were kept waiting in the cold wind until five minutes to four. The Town well represented, although a league match with Shepshed was being played the same day. The players were:

Goal, Picken; backs, Eales and Pickering ; halfbacks, T. Bennistone, E. Bennistone and C. Bennistone; forwards, Kendrick, Walker, Orton, Smith and Pagett.
Referee: Mr. Lowles, of Derby.

Swadlincote were fortunate enough to win the toss and chose to play with the strong wind blowing in their favour, which was also down a slight slope. Dr Parker kicked off in presence of about 1500 spectators. Coalville were first to attack, but the backs safely cleared, Swadlincote came away, and Eales missed, but the ball was sent over the line. Pagett and Smith combined well and took the play to the opposite end, only to be repulsed by the Swad. backs. C. Bennistone when hard pressed, kicked the ball back to Picken, who only just managed to clear. A pretty bout of passing was shown by Smith, Orton and Kendrick, still to no avail as the opposing backs offered a sound defence. Swad. obtained three corners in rapid succession, but these were fruitiest. Picken bringing off some very smart saves. Coalville got a free in a good position, T. Bennistone put the ball into net without a second player. A miss by C. Bennistone after the goal kick let in Swad. but Picken effected another fine save. Walker and Kendrick took the play to the other end, and forced a corner. This was placed well by the latter, and when it was returned, the same player again shot in, the ball just skimming the crossbar. Foul play against C. Bennistone on the part of a Swadlincote player known as "Jumbo" then caused the game to be stopped for a short time; the same player afterwards similarly offended, but the referee allowed to proceed. Swad. pressed and Picken saved a good shot in one corner of the goal. The ball was returned and hustled through by several players in the other corner – a somewhat lucky goal. This was the only point obtained during the first half. After the resumption, Coalville had the greater part of its game in their favour. On one occasion Kendrick hit the crossbar, and another from Orton only just got round the post by the goalkeeper. Coalville pressed hard to the finish, but the determined play of Swad. by their frequently kicking the ball out, kept the score unchanged, and the game ended:

Swadlincote	1
Coalville	0

The cup was presented to the winners in the ground and the players of both teams will also receive medals.

Coalville Times – 9 April 1897