



## Hinckley Town Season Review 1899-00

On Saturday last Hinckley Town concluded what has undoubtedly been the most successful season in their history. They have surpassed all previous performances besides occupying the premier position in the Senior League; they are holders of the Leicestershire and Hinckley cups. Truly good season's work.

The club deserves the highest praise for its achievements and although there are one or two items in the season's programme which it would be pleasant to be able to wipe out as whole the work done has been highly satisfactory. The committee have spared no efforts to provide football of good class in the town and the possession of the three honours alluded to will doubtless be sufficient reward for their labour.

They have won the Championship of the League really good play; I think it would be impossible for anyone to say they have not deserved it. On their own ground they have not given single point while they have scored 31 goals their opponents 8. The away matches have not been quite so good but only 9 goals have been scored against the Town on foreign soil and when it is remembered that four of this number were obtained by Burton Swifts only five are left to be divided amongst the other seven games. Again deducting the two points scored by Barwell in that memorable game in December only three goals are left for the remaining six matches. One of these was obtained by Gresley Rovers another by Nuneaton, and the third by Coalville, Swadlincote, Coalville Albion, and Earl Shilton failed score on their own ground.

The goal average speaks volumes for strength of the Hinckley defence which with one or two exceptions has been good throughout the season. It seems rather strange that only one more goal has been scored against the Town in away matches than on their own ground. Only two teams have been prevented from scoring on the Holy Well these being Coalville Town and Earl Shilton while Nuneaton, Swadlincote, Barwell and Coalville Albion have each scored one goal and Burton Swifts and Gresley Rovers have obtained two each.

The highest score made by the Town on their own ground was 8-0 against Shilton Town the next being Coalville Albion whilst the narrowest margin by which they have become victors 1-0 against Coalville Town. The highest score away from home was the 5-0 defeat administered to Coalville Albion and the highest score against them was 4-0 by Burton Swifts. This was the largest number of scored against them in League match for several seasons and when one recalls the circumstances one cannot help repeating that the action of the Swifts was neither sportsmanlike nor fair. Fortunately however the result no effect upon the Championship. Otherwise it would have been lines for Hinckley.

When one comes to think of that game Burton it is really surprising that the result should have been 4-0. The score could not be said to have been in any way an indication of the state of the game for the Town had quite much of the play their opponents, and Joyce the Burton custodian considerably more work to do than Underwood. But it seemed that each time the home side had an opening they found the net while Hinckley try as they would, could not get by Joyce who gave a brilliant display of goalkeeping.

But perhaps the worst game and certainly the most tantalising result— was at Barwell when after going into December without defeat the Town came rude cropper at the hands of their local rivals. It would be pleasing indeed to be able to forget that match for it was a disgrace to the team. Every man seemed to be having a day off and the Swifts played them to a standstill Barwell certainly deserved every credit for their performance fully earned the two points.

Four drawn games have been played all away from home these being with Gresley, Nuneaton, Swadlincote, and Coalville Town. In three of the contests a goal each was scored while in the fourth at Swadlincote no goals were registered. In this game the Town certainly should have won for as will be remembered they had penalty but Sanders missed it in the softest fashion imaginable. Hinckley can rest contented with the other three draws although at Gresley the ground certainly was not fit to play on and on dry ground the Town have since demonstrated the fact that they are superior team to the Rovers usual the two games with Coalville Town have been tough struggles the locals have done well to which I think any other club in the League has succeeded doing. Coalville have been stronger than ever this year and they fully deserve to occupy the second position in the chart.

No team has secured more than two points at the expense of the Town while last season Coalville Town had four and Gresley Rovers three. Hinckley have this year obtained four points from Coalville Albion and Earl Shilton three from Gresley Rovers, Swadlincote, Coalville Town, and Nuneaton and two from Barwell, and Burton Swifts. The League record is as follows together with of last season.

Season	Pld.	Won	Los	Drawn	For	Against	Pts
1899-00	16	10	2	4	43	17	24
1898-99	20	13	4	3	46	22	29

In cup ties the Town have also done fairly well In the English Cup they a bye in the first round in the second they easily defeated Barwell and in the third they achieved their best performance of the season by defeating Loughborough on their own ground by two goals to one. This feat however, was to some extent overshadowed by the result of the next round. Their opponents were Hucknall Portland on the Holy Well and a game in which the Town quite two-thirds of the play ended in favour of the visitors by solitary goal. For the first 25 or 30 minutes of the second half the home men were shooting at goal nearly the whole time the ball would not go between the posts. Anywhere else but not into the net. This result was one of the most unsatisfactory of the season if they had won the Town would have had to meet Leicester Fosse in the final of the preliminary rounds.

In the Senior Cup (of which Town are now holders) the first game was against Coalville Town and a ding dong struggle ended in a draw, but the latter were removed from the competition for playing unregistered men. Woodville came next were easily disposed of and then in the semi-final the Fosse Reserves were made to bite the dust. They placed a strong team in the field, but the Town administered a 4-0 thrashing a kind of treatment to which the Junior Fossils are by this time quite hardened' if the Midland League chart is to be credited. In the final Gresley Rovers opposed the Town and splendid game ended in a win for Hinckley by two goals to nil.

Little difficulty was experienced in the Hinckley Cup competition until the semi-final was reached Croft and Earl Shilton being easily disposed of but in the penultimate round Atherstone had to be encountered A good game the result and Hinckley won by four goals to two. The final has been so recently played that comment is unnecessary. Sufficient to say that after playing extra time the Town again won the cup by two goals to one.

The Walsall Cup competition was entered for the first time and in the opening round Gresley Rovers were vanquished while for the second Wolverhampton Wanderers Reserves visited the Holy Well Ground. One of the prettiest exhibitions of football seen this season witnessed and the visitors eventually won by the narrow margin of a goal to nil. The Town that day were without Sanders or the result might have been different. The following are the results of the cup-ties of the season:

Pld.	Won	Los	Drawn	For	Against
12	8	2	1	48	11

A number of friendly games have been played but the majority have been uninteresting. Fosse Reserves were defeated by four goals to nil the same result in the cup tie - while Coventry City were startled and beaten by seven goals to two. I have no hesitation in saying that the game at Coventry was the finest the Town have played this season. The ground suited them to perfection and the passing and shooting was all that could be desired. I have never seen the forwards shine as they did that day and they deserved all they got. The only other friendly worth noting was with West Bromwich report of that will be found in another column. And now the season is ended there is but one thing to be looked for— the balance sheet. It would be useless to conjecture as to the state of this but I have no doubt that the committee have done their best and when the balance sheet does come we shall have to make the best of it.

Towards next season I understand that Mee, Brooks, Fell, and Worthington have been signed it is not without regret that I learn that Beadsworth is likely to join the Fosse if he has not already done so. I cannot help thinking that Beadsworth is making a mistake but of course he should know best himself.

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On Saturday last **Town** concluded what has undoubtedly been the most successful season in their history. They have surpassed all previous performances, and besides occupying the premier position in the League, they are holders of the Leicestershire and **County** cups. Truly a good season's work.

The club deserves the highest praise for its achievements, and although there are one or two items in the season's programme which it would be pleasant to be able to wipe out, as a whole the work done has been highly satisfactory. The committee have spared no efforts to provide football of a good class in the town, and the possession of the three honours alluded to will doubtless be sufficient reward for their labours.

They have won the Championship of the League by really good play, and I think it would be impossible for anyone to say they have not deserved it. On their own ground they have won seven away a single point, while they have scored 11 goals in their opponents' nets. The away matches have not been quite so good, but only 9 goals have been scored against the Town on foreign soil, and when it is remembered that four of this number were obtained by Burton Swifts, only five are left to be divided amongst the other seven games. Again defeating the two points scored by Harwell in that memorable game in December, only three goals are left for the remaining six matches. One of these was obtained by Gossley Rovers, another by Nuneaton, and the third by Coalville Town. Nuneaton, Coalville Albion, and Earl Shilton failed to score on their own ground.

The goal average speaks volumes for the strength of the Huddley defence, which, with one or two exceptions, has been good throughout the season. It seems rather strange that only one more goal has been scored against the Town in away matches than on their own ground. Only two games have been prevented from scoring on the Holy Well, these being Coalville Town and Earl Shilton, while Nuneaton, Swadlow, Harwell and Coalville Albion have each scored one goal, and Burton Swifts and Gossley Rovers have obtained two each.

The highest score made by the Town on their own ground was 5-0 against Shilton Town, the next being Coalville Albion, whilst the narrowest margin by which they have become victors was 1-0 against Coalville Town. The highest score away from home was the 5-0 defeat administered to Coalville Albion, and the highest score against them was 4-0 by Burton Swifts. This was the largest number of goals scored against them in a League match for several seasons, and when one recalls the circumstances, one cannot help repeating that the action of the Swifts was neither questionable nor fair. Fortunately, however, the result had no effect upon the Championship. Otherwise it would have been hard fare for Huddley.

When one comes to think of that game at Burton, it is really surprising that the result should have been 4-0. The score could not be said to have been in any way an indication of the state of the game, for the Town had quite as much of the play as their opponents, and Joyce, the Burton goalkeeper, had considerably more work to do than Huddley. But it just seemed that such was the home side had an opening they found the net, while Huddley, try as they would, could not get by Joyce, who gave a brilliant display of goalkeeping.

But perhaps the worst game—and certainly the most startling result—was at Harwell, when after going into December without defeat, the Town were a rule breaker at the hands of their local rivals. It would be pleasing indeed to be able to forget that match, for it was a disgrace to the team. Every man seemed to be having a day off, and the Swifts played them to a good effect. Harwell certainly deserved every credit for their performance, and fully earned the two points.

Four drawn games have been played, all away from home, these being with Gossley, Nuneaton, Swadlow, and Coalville Town. In three of the contests a goal each was scored, while in the fourth, at Swadlow, no goals were registered. In this game the Town certainly should have won, for, as will be remembered, they had a penalty, but Huddley missed it in the safest fashion imaginable. Huddley can rest contented with the other three draws, although at Gossley the ground certainly was not fit to play on, and on a dry ground the Town have since demonstrated the fact that they are a superior team to the

but the locals have done well to secure three points—a thing which I do not think any other club in the League has succeeded in doing. Coalville have been stronger than ever this year, and they fully deserve to occupy the second position in the chart.

No team has scored more than two points at the expense of the Town, while but seven Coalville Town had four and Gossley Rovers three. **Town** have this year obtained ten points from Coalville Albion and Earl Shilton; three from Gossley Rovers, Swadlow, Coalville Town, and Nuneaton; and two from Harwell and Burton Swifts. The **Town** record is as follows, together with that of last season.

		Goals					
Season	pts.	won	lost	drawn	by	against	pts.
1899-00	14	10	2	4	45	17	24
1900-01	20	13	4	3	40	22	29

In cup ties the Town have also done fairly well. In the English Cup, they had a bye in the first round; in the second they easily defeated Harwell, and in the third they achieved their best performance of the season by defeating Leighton on their own ground by two goals to one. This last, however, was to some extent overshadowed by the result of the next round. Their opponents were Huddley. Further, on the Holy Well, and a game in which the Town had quite two-thirds of the play, ended in favour of the visitors by a solitary goal. For the first 15 or 20 minutes of the second half, the home side were shooting at goal nearly the whole time, but the ball would not go between the posts. Anywhere else, but not into the net. This result was one of the most unsatisfactory of the season, and if they had won the Town would have had to meet Leicester Town in the final of the preliminary rounds.

In the Senior Cup (of which the Town are now holders), the first game was against Coalville Town, and a long and hard struggle ended in a draw, but the latter were removed from the competition for playing ineligible men. Vauxhall came next and were easily disposed of, and then in the semi-final, the Town Reserve were made to bite the dust. They played a strong team in the final, but the Town administered a 4-0 thrashing—a kind of treatment to which the Junior Footballers by this time quite hardened, if the Huddley chart is to be credited. In the final Gossley Rovers opposed the Town, and a splendid game ended in a win for **Town** by two goals to nil.

Little difficulty was experienced in the **Cup** competition until the semi-final was reached. Gossley and Earl Shilton being easily disposed of, but in the penultimate round Althorpe had to be encountered. A good game was the result, and Huddley won by four goals to two. The final has been so recently played that comment is unnecessary. Sufficient to say that after playing extra time the Town again won the cup by two goals to one.

The Welfare Cup competition was entered for the first time, and in the opening round Gossley Rovers were vanquished, while in the second Wolverhampton Wanderers Reserve visited the Holy Well Ground. One of the prettiest exhibitions of football seen this season was witnessed, and the visitors eventually won by the narrow margin of a goal to nil. The Town that day were without teachers, or the result might have been different. The following are the results of the captures of the season:—

		Goals			
Played	won	lost	drawn	by	against
12	9	2	1	48	11

A number of friendly games have been played, but the majority have been unsatisfactory. Four Reserves were defeated by four goals to nil—the same result as in the cup tie—while Coventry City were startled, and beaten by seven goals to two. I have no hesitation in saying that the game at Coventry was the finest the Town have played this season. The ground suited them to perfection, and the passing and shooting was all that could be desired. I have never seen the forwards shine as they did that day, and they deserved all they got. The only other friendly worth noting was with West Bromwich, and a report of that will be found in another column.

And now the season is ended, and there is but one thing to be looked for—the balance sheet. It would be useless to conjecture as to the state of this, but I have no doubt that the committee have done their best, and when the balance sheet does