



Leicestershire Senior League 1897-98

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Nr	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	+/-	Pts
1	Hinckley Town	16	12	1	3	70	17	4.12	25
2	Coalville Albion	16	11	1	4	39	15	2.60	23
3	Whitwick Town	16	9	4	3	42	16	2.632	22
4	Coalville Town	16	8	3	4	36	16	2.25	19
5	Barwell Swifts	16	7	2	6	28	23	1.22	16
6	Shepshed Town*	16	5	3	8	19	33	0.56	11
7	Hugglescote Robin Hood	16	4	2	10	14	44	0.32	10
8	Earl Shilton Town	16	4	1	11	16	46	0.35	9
9	Anstey Town	16	2	1	13	12	65	0.19	5

* Shepshed had 2 points deducted for fielding an ineligible man

Three clubs – Leicester Fosse Reserves, Loughborough Athletic and Ibstock left the League at the end of 1896-7 season. Only one team joined – Anstey Town. Thus just 9 clubs competed in the second Leicestershire Senior League competition.

Winner:	Hinckley Town
Runner-Up:	Coalville Albion
Wooden spoon:	Anstey Town
Games Played:	56
Missing Results:	0
Goals scored:	276 (4.93 goals per game)
Biggest home win:	Coalville Town 12-0 Earl Silton Town
Biggest away win:	Earl Shilton Town 1-8 Hinckley Town
Highest scoring:	12: Coalville Town 12-0 Earl Silton Town

There was an inquiry into the outcome of the Coalville Albion's match against Earl Shilton in late April which gave the Senior League title to Coalville on goal average from Hinckley. The game was ordered to be replayed, in September, which Coalville lost, giving the title to Hinckley Town.

At the AGM of the League at held in Jine:

- The League showed a balance at the end of the 1897-98 season of £1 19s
- Shepshed were deducted 2 points for playing an ineligible man – C J Gill
- Earl Shilton Town and Anstey – the bottom two clubs – were re-elected, as were Loughborough Reserves, who were members of the United Counties League, which had disbanded.

Results Grid

Leicestershire Senior League 1897-98	Anstey Town	Barwell Swifts	Coalville Albion	Coalville Town	Earl Shilton Town	Hinckley Town	Hugglescote Robin Hood	Shepshed Town	Whitwick Town
Anstey Town		1-4	1-5	0-4	2-0	1-3	1-0	0-3	2-7
Barwell Swifts	W/L		1-4	0-2	2-1	1-3	7-0	2-0	0-0

Coalville Albion	4-1	1-0		5-0	12-0	4-1	7-0	1-1	0-1
Coalville Town	6-0	2-0	1-0		5-0	2-1	1-1	4-0	1-1
Earl Shilton Town	1-1	0-4	1-2	1-7		1-8	0-0	2-0	1-0
Hinckley Town	7-2	2-0	2-0	2-1	2-1		8-0	10-0	4-0
Hugglescote Robin Hood	1-0	1-2	1-3	1-0	3-1	2-2		3-0	0-1
Shepshed Town	2-0	1-1	2-1	3-1	4-0	0-2	3-1		1-1
Whitwick Town	5-2	7-1	0-1	1-1	6-0	3-2	4-0	5-0	

Home win
 Away Win
 Draw
 Result Not Known

Match Results and Details

Date	Home			Away	Match Details
4.9.1897	Shepshed Town Cutler	1 (0)	1 (0)	Whitwick Town Smith	Game kicked off late at 3.40 pm First game on Whitwick's new ground, which was approached by a footpath crossing the fields opposite the cemetery. Splendid weather 1,500 spectators
4.9.1898	Coalville Town Wardle Kendrick (2) Smith (2) Benistone	6 (4)	0 (0)	Anstey Town	Waggon and Horses Ground, Coalville. Heavy rain delayed the start of the game
11.9.1897	Hugglescote Robin Hood Hall Pearson	2 (1)	2 (0)	Hinckley Town AN Other Fern	Sharpe (Hugglescote) fell heavily and had to be carried off the pitch
11.9.1897	Shepshed Town Briers	2	0	Anstey Town	Referee arrived late. Kick-off took place at 3.55 pm
11.9.1897	Whitwick Town	1 (1)	1 (1)	Coalville Town	Match too place on Whitwick's "new ground" - approached by the footpath crossing field opposite the cemetery. 1500 spectators
18.10.1897	Anstey Town	1	4	Barwell Swifts	
18.10.1897	Coalville Albion Sharp (2) Moore Jeffcote (2)	5 (3)	0 (0)	Coalville Town	Park-road Ground 1,500 spectators Town give a debut to a new centre forward Handley of Loughborough
18.10.1897	Earl Shilton	0	0	Hugglescote Robin Hood	
18.10.1897	Shepshed Town	0	2	Hinckley Town	
25.9.1897	Barwell Swifts	2	1	Earl Shilton Town	
25.9.1898	Whitwick Town	5	2	Anstey Town	
9.10.1897	Coalville Albion Orton	1 (1)	0 (0)	Barwell Swifts	Park-road Ground, Coalville. Good attendance
9.10.1897	Hinckley Town AN Other Griffiths	2	1	Coalville Town Bunting	Large gate. Handley (Coalville) missed a penalty
9.10.1897	Hugglescote Robin Hood Harris AN Others	3	1	Earl Shilton Town Freer (pen)	
9.10.1897	Whitwick Town	5	0	Shepshed Town	
23.10.1897	Hinckley Town AN Other	2	1	Earl Shilton Town	
	Hugglescote Robin Hood Hallam	1	3	Coalville Albion AN Others Earl (pen)	

23.10.1897	Shepshed Town	3	1	Coalville Town	
23.10.1897	Whitwick Town	7	1	Barwell Swifts	
30.10.1898	Earl Shilton Town	0	4	Barwell Swifts	
30.10.1898	Whitwick Town Whitmore Painter Barnes Smith	4 (0)	0 (0)	Hugglescote Robin Hood	Good gate.
4.12.1897	Anstey Town	1	5(6)	Coalville Albion	
4.12.1897	Coalville Town Heward	1 (0)	1 (0)	Whitwick Town AN Other	Played in wretched weather – snow and rain Fairly good attendance
4.12.1897	Hinckley Town	10	0	Shepshed Town	Hinckley scored 9 goals in the second half.
18.12.1897	Barwell Swifts	0	0	Whitwick Town	
18.12.1897	Coalville Albion	1 (1)	2 (2)	Earl Shilton Town Shilton (20)	Game stopped 13 mins before time due to thick fog. Albion scored within 3 mins.
18.12.1897	Hugglescote Robin Hood Roper Cooper Thompson	3	0	Shepshed Town	Foggy weather
25.12.1897	Coalville Albion	0	1	Whitwick Town	
27.12.1897	Hugglescote Robin Hood	1	0	Anstey Town	
1.1.1898	Coalville Albion Jeffcote (3) Rose(2) Sharp (2)	7	0	Hugglescote Robin Hood	Jeffcote scored “as quickly almost as it was possible.” Albion led 6-0 at half-time
1.1.1898	Coalville Town Heward (2) Plackett W Smith (pen)	4	0	Shepshed Town	Foggy weather(Coalville give debut to 2 players from Long Eaton – Clarke (centre-half) and Plackett Owing to the late arrival, Coalville had to start the game with 9 men.
1.1.1898	Earl Shilton Town	1	0	Whitwick Town	
8.1.1898	Anstey Town Fancote AN Other	2 (2)	7 (3)	Whitwick Town AN Others Harrison	
8.1.1898	Coalville Town Benistone	1 (1)	0 (0)	Coalville Albion	Waggon and Horses Ground, Coalville. Large number of supporters from both clubs 1,000 spectators Albion gave a debut to Stubbs (goalkeeper) of Woodhouse
8.1.1898	Shepshed Town Grain (2) Briers	3	1	Hugglescote Robin Hood AN Other	Good attendance
15.1.1898	Barwell Swifts	1	3	Hinckley Town	Good gate
15.1.1898	Coalville Albion Goacher	1	1	Shepshed Town AN Other	Meagre attendance. Shepshed awarded a penalty which was saved by Stubbs. Referee ordered the kick to be retaken and Shepshed equalised.
15.1.1898	Hugglescote Robin Hood	1 (1)	0 (0)	Coalville Town	
22.1.1898	Earl Shilton Town	1	1	Anstey Town	
	Hugglescote Robin Hood	0	1	Whitwick Town Barnes	
29.1.1898	Hinckley Town	2	0	Barwell Swifts	

29.1.1898	Coalville Town	1	1	Hugglescote Robin Hood	Waggon and Horses Ground, Coalville.
29.1.1898	Shepshed Town Jeffcote (15 min) Orton (pen)	2	1	Coalville Albion Parker (35 min)	Attendance badly affected by the numbers who had travelled to Derby to watch County and Villa.
29.1.1898	Whitwick Town	6	0	Earl Shilton Town	
5.2.1898	Barwell Swifts	7	0	Hugglescote Robin Hood	
5.2.1898	Earl Shilton Town	2	0	Shepshed Town	
5.2.1898	Whitwick Town Mounteney Painter Whitmore	3 (1)	2 (1)	Hinckley Town Wooding Hill	Prior to this game Whitwick were top of the League, but Hinckley had several matches in hand and had not lost League game. While Whitwick had been defeated at Earl Shilton and had made 4 draws compared with Hinckley's one. Coalville Albion were playing Hinckley in a cup match and Robin Hood at Barwell, this was the only action in the district. 1,000 spectators
12.2.1897	Earl Shilton Town	1	7	Coalville Town	
12.2.1897	Hinckley Town AN Other Fern	2	0	Coalville Albion	Good gate.
12.2.1897	Shepshed Town	1	1	Barwell Swifts	
19.2.1898	Anstey Town	0	3	Shepshed Town	
19.2.1898	Coalville Town AN Other Walker (2) W Smith (2)	5	0	Earl Shilton Town	Waggon and Horses Ground, Coalville
19.2.1898	Whitwick Town	0	1	Coalville Albion Orton	A good number of spectators from Coalville and Whitwick witnessed the game.
26.2.1898	Hinckley Town AN Others Beadsworth	7	2	Anstey Town AN Others	
5.3.1898	Barwell Swifts	0 (0)	2 (2)	Coalville Town Bunting W Smith	
5.3.1898	Coalville Albion Moore Middleton (pen) Brooks Mason	4	1	Anstey Town	Park-road, Coalville. Brooks and Mason of Melbourne made their debut for the Albion - and both scored
5.3.1898	Hinckley Town	8	0	Hugglescote Robin Hood	
5.3.1898	Shepshed Town	P	P	Earl Shilton	Game postponed so that Shepshed could stage the Junior Cup semi-final tie between Hathern Victoria and Coalville United.
12.3.1898	Anstey Town	0 (0)	4 (1)	Coalville Town Walker (2) Smith (2)	Coalville scored within the first few mins.
12.3.1898	Earl Shilton Town	1	8	Hinckley Town	
12.3.1898	Hugglescote Robin Hood	1	2	Barwell Swifts	
26.3.1898	Anstey Town	2	0	Earl Shilton	
	Barwell Swifts	1	4	Coalville Albion	
	Coalville Town Smith Parker	2 (1)	1 (0)	Hinckley Town AN Other	Waggon and Horses Ground, Coalville. Rough weather. Meagre attendance.
2.4.1898	Barwell Swifts	2	0	Shepshed Town	

	Hinckley Town Griffiths (pen) AN Others	4	0	Whitwick Town	Holywell Ground, Hinckley 1,200 spectators
8.4.1898	Rest of the League Kendrick	1 (0)	5 (4)	Champions (Hinckley) AN Others	Championship Match Hinckley led 4-0 at half-time
9.4.1898	Anstey Town	1	0	Hugglescote Robin Hood	
9.4.1898	Shepshed Town	4	0	Earl Shilton Town	
12.4.1898	Earl Shilton	1	2	Coalville Albion	
16.4.1898	Coalville Albion Jeffcote (2) Rose Sharp	4	1	Hinckley Town AN Other	
23.4.1898	Coalville Albion	12	0	Earl Shilton Town	Farcical game The Albions were leading 8-0 at half-time.
16.9.1898	Coalville Albion	1	2	Earl Shilton Town	Central Ground, Coalville Championship Decider.

Match Reports

A selection of published match reports

EARL SHILTON TOWN V. HUGGLESCOTE ROBIN HOODS.—Earl Shilton Town opened their League engagements on Saturday with an easy win of 4 goals to nil over Hugglescote Robin Hoods. Hugglescote having the best of the spin, Coe kicked off for the homesters before about 200 spectators, and within five minutes from the start the same player registered the first goal for Shilton, after which the game was very even up to half-time, the score being one goal to nil in favour of Shilton. On resuming, the homesters were soon on the aggressive and after several futile attempts to score, they obtained a corner, which Wileman placed beautifully in the mouth of goal, the ball cannoning off several players into the net. Directly after this from a pass by Armstrong, Wileman scored, but was ruled off-side. Raven, getting possession from the free-kick, beat the custodian with a long stinging shot which just went under the cross-bar, making number 3. However, this did not satisfy the homesters who were playing a grand game, for, from the kick-off the forwards got away and Wileman, after a nice bit of passing by the forwards, scored number 4 with a good low shot. The homesters still kept pressing and the visitors' goal had some narrow escapes till about five minutes to time, when the visitors broke away and should have scored, but they shot badly. Directly after, the whistle blew, leaving Earl Shilton victorious as stated above.

Hinckley Times - 25 September 1897

COALVILLE ALBIONS V. COALVILLE TOWN.—These great rivals met on the Albions' ground for the first time this season in the Leicestershire League. There were fully 2,000 people interested in the encounter. The Albions scored two minutes from the start, and immediately after added a second and a third. After changing ends the Albions soon added a fourth. The Town then pressed for some time but could not score. Again the Albions pressed severely and added a fifth goal, and right up to the finish had matters all their own way and ran out easy and unexpected winners by five clear goals.

ANSTEY TOWN V. BARWELL SWIFTS.—Barwell journeyed to Anstey on Saturday last to play off their first engagement in the Senior League, Barwell kicked off and the play settled down in midfield for a considerable time, and then Thomas sent in a good shot that was saved at the expense of a corner, which proved futile. Barwell then took up the attack and pressed severely, Cobby scoring an easy goal. This was all of interest up to half time, when the score stood—

Barwell.....one goal.

Anstey.....none.

Resuming, Barwell was the first to press, and added a second goal by the aid of Cobby. This put life into the home team, who played up much better, and bombarded the Barwell goal but could not get one through. Eventually Barwell gained the upper hand, Grewoock scoring a third goal, then Monk scored Anstey's only goal. Towards the finish Barwell pressed and Hayward scored a fourth goal. The game ended in a decisive win for the visitors. Result—

Barwell.....4 goals

Anstey1 goal

**WHITWICK TOWN v. LOUGHBOROUGH
RESERVE.**

Played at Whitwick, and a keenly-contested game ended in

A DRAW of two goals each.

COALVILLE TOWN v SHEPSHED.

At Coalville, before a moderate attendance. Sheps shed scored five minutes from the start, Coalville equalising soon after from a good run up the field. Directly after they scored number two. Half time score: Coalville, three goals; Sheps shed, one goal. In the second half play was mostly in the Sheps shed half, but Coalville failed to utilise several easy chances. Result:

COALVILLE, three goals;
SHEPSHED, one goal.

BARWELL SWIFTS v. COALVILLE ALBION.

At Barwell. The ground was covered with snow. Barwell scored by Peace in the first five minutes, but Coalville equalized a few minutes later. At half time Coalville led by two goals to one. In the second half Barwell scored two goals and Coalville two goals, a good game ending:

COALVILLE, four;
BARWELL, three

LEICESTERSHIRE SENIOR LEAGUE.

ANSTEY TOWN v. EARL SHILTON TOWN.

In wretched weather. Shilton attacked at first, and then Anstey scored from a corner, and the visitors had a try, but failed. The homesters had several corners, but the interval came with: Anstey, one goal; Shilton, none. Resuming, Murden shot just over, and Bentley showed pretty work. After good play by the home forwards Harlow secured a second goal. Result:

ANSTEY, two goals;
SHILTON none.

BARWELL SWIFTS v. COALVILLE ALBION.

At Barwell. Result:
COALVILLE, four goals;
BARWELL, one goal.

COALVILLE TOWN v. HINCKLEY.

On the former's ground, before a moderate gale. A rough wind prevented accurate play. Coalville scored in the first half. In the second half both teams scored once, Coalville thus winning by two goals to one. Result:

COALVILLE, two goals;
HINCKLEY, one.

RESULTS UP TO DATE:—

	Pld.	Won.	Lat.	Drn.	For	Agst.	Pts.
Hinckley	14	11	2	1	65	13	23
Whitwick	15	9	2	4	42	12	22
Coalville Town	15	8	4	3	30	16	19
Coalville Albion	12	8	3	1	28	8	17
Barwell	13	5	6	2	23	23	12
Nepshed	14	4	7	3	15	33	11
Hugglescote	15	4	9	2	14	43	10
Earl Shilton	13	3	9	1	13	40	7
Anstey Town	13	1	11	1	11	58	3

Leicester Daily Post -28 March 1898

COALVILLE ALBION v. EARL SHILTON.

Played on the Albion ground on Saturday. The match was to decide the league championship of last year between the Albion and Hinckley Town, the Association having ordered it to be replayed in consequence of some irregularity. There was a moderate attendance. The game ended as follows:

Earl Shilton, two goals;
Coalville Albion, none.

Albion team: Goal, Stubbs; backs, Bradshaw and Brooks; half-backs, Mason, Middleton and Moore; forwards, Briers, Whitmore, Earl, Jeffcote and Berrington.

Coalville Times - 23 September 1898

Additional Information

Leicestershire Senior Football League.

The annual meeting of this League was held at the George Hotel on Saturday afternoon, under the presidency of Mr. W. H. Harris (Leicester), the following clubs also being represented: J. Edwards (Hugglescote), H. S. Coacher (Coalville Albion), C. E. Marston (Coalville Town), H. Orton (Earl Shilton), W. H. Bray (Barwell), Dr. Harris (Anstey), H. White (Hinckley), J. T. Briers (Shepshed), and H. Ferguson (hon secretary.) The minutes of the last meeting having been confirmed, the Secretary and Treasurer submitted his report, the latter showing a balance of £1 19s. For playing in a match with Shepshed F. C., J. Gill was reported by the Hugglescote Robin Hood. The League were of opinion that Gill was still a bona-fide member of the latter club, and Shepshed had two points deducted from the chart. Mr. J. E. Carpenter attended the meeting, and suggested the inclusion of several clubs with a view to strengthening the League, and was accorded a hearty welcome from the chair. Earl Shilton Town and Anstey, respectively the bottom clubs in the League last season, were re-elected, as also were Loughborough Reserves, who were members of the United Counties League, now disbanded. Application for membership from Gresley Rovers, Swadincote, and Castle Donington was adjourned to the next meeting, to be held in a fortnight's time. A vote of thanks having been passed to the retiring officers, the election for next season resulted as follows: President, _____; vice-presidents, Messrs T. Ansott (Hinckley), W. Smith (Barwell), Dr. Harris (Anstey), W. Fellows (Hugglescote), A. Lovell and J. W. Bailey (Leicester), and W. Powers (Barwell) treasurer, Mr. J. M. Ferguson; hon secretary, Mr W. H. Harris (in place of Mr. J. M. Ferguson, resigned); chairman of committee (Mr. J. E. Carpenter.