



# Coalville & District Challenge Cup 1898-99

**Winner:** Gresley Rovers  
**Runner-up:** Coalville Town  
**No. of entries:** 12

The Final was postponed for a week owing to the fatal accident to Richards, one of the Gresley half-backs. John Richards was killed on 14 April at Granville Colliery when the roof fell, smashing his skull.

## Round 1

No.	Date	Home	Away	Match Details
1	26.11.1898	Hugglescote Robin Hood Woodward Handford Blockley Dewey	4 (1) 0	Loughborough Reserves At Hugglescote. On arrival Loughborough found that they didn't have enough jerseys to go round.
2	26.11.1898	Gresley Rovers Lyons (3) Gadsby Yardley Jones G Jones	8 (5) 0 (0)	Shepshed Town At Gresley. Miserable weather. 200 spectators.
3	26.11.1898	Coalville United	0 1	Boundary Athletic Fox & Goose Ground, Coalville
4	26.11.1898	Coalville Athletic	1 6	Swannington St Georges At Swannington.

Byes – Swadlincote Town, Newhall Swifts, Coalville Town, Coalville Albion

## Round 2

No.	Date	Home	Away	Match Details
5	10.12.1898	Boundary Athletic	0 3	Coalville Town At Boundary.
6	10.12.1898	Swannington St Georges	1 4	Coalville Albion At Swannington
7	10.12.1898	Hugglescote Robin Hood	2 (0) 2 (2)	Newhall Swifts At Hugglescote. Hugglescote scored in the first minute and missed a first half penalty.
8	10.12.1898	Gresley Rovers Wileman Lyons Yardley	3 (2) 2 (1)	Swadlincote Town Chamberlain Alf Jones (pen) At Gresley. Big and enthusiastic crowd.

## Round 2 Replay

No.	Date	Home	Away	Match Details
9	7.1.1899	Newham Swifts	1 3	Hugglescote Robin Hood At Newham.

## Semi-Finals

No.	Date	Home	Away	Match Details
10	18.2.1899	Coalville Town Walker (2) Clamp Jones	4 (3) 3 (2)	Hugglescote Robin Hood Moss Wood AN Other Fox & Goose Ground, Coalville Attendance – 2,000. The Robins played 10 men for a few minutes from the start, Wood being an absentee.

						Coalville scored twice in the opening 5 minutes. Smith had to retire in the first half, again reducing the Robins 10 men. Hugglescote had never beaten Coalville Town in a cup tie.
11	18.3.1899	Coalville Albion	1	3	Gresley Rovers	Robin Hood's Ground, Hugglescote

### Final

No.	Date	Home	Score	Score	Away	Match Details
12	22.4.1899	Coalville Town [Holders]	0 (0)	1 (1)	Gresley Rovers Wileman	Fox & Goose Ground, Coalville Attendance - 1000. "Most favourable weather." Both sides had goals disallowed for offside. Clamp [Coalville] hit the bat twice. Medals were presented to the Town players by Dr J C Burkitt.

### Match Reports

#### #1 Coalville Charity Cup

##### HUGGLESCOTE ROBIN HOOD v LOUGHBOROUGH RESERVES

On the Robins' ground, the game was very evenly contested for a time. The Robins at length got the better of the visitors, and making repeated attacks, Woodward scored for the Robins. After the interval the Robins further added to the score by Handford, Blockley and Dewey. Loughborough had some chances, but could not score. Result:

ROBINS, four goals,  
LOUGHBOROUGH, none.

*Coalville Times - 2 December 1898*

#### #2 GRESLEY ROVERS v SHEPSHED TOWN

At Gresley. The Rovers opened with a goal through Lyons and after 15 minutes play Filman added a second, followed by Gadsby, Lyons (2) and Yardley. Half-time: Rovers, five; Shepshead, none. On resuming the Rovers still held the advantage, Jones, Ward and G Jones scoring. The visitors only called on the home goalkeeper twice in the second half, and an uninteresting game ended.

GRESLEY ROVERS, eight goals;  
SHEPSHED, none.

*Coalville Times - 2 December 1898*

#### #3 COALVILLE UNITED v BOUNDARY ALBION

Played on the Fox and Goose Ground, Coalville. Result:

BOUNDARY, one goal;  
COALVILLE, none.

*Coalville Times - 2 December 1898*

#### #4 COALVILLE ATHLETIC v SWANNINGTON ST GEORGE'S

At Swannington. Result:

SWANNINGTON, six goals;  
ATHLETIC, one/

*Coalville Times - 2 December 1898*

#### #5 COALVILLE TOWN v BOUNDARY

At Boundary. Result-

Coalville Town 3  
Boundary 1

*Melton Mowbray Mercury and Oakham and Uppingham News - 15 December 1898*

#### #6 COALVILLE ALBIONS v SWANNINGTON

At Swannington. The Albions had much the best of the game, and the result was

Coalville Albion           4

Swannington           1

*Melton Mowbray Mercury and Oakham and Uppingham News - 15 December 1898*

#### #7 HUGGLESCOTE ROBIN HOOD v NEWHALL

At Hugglescote. The Robins dashed off, scoring in the first minute, and the Newhall goal-keeper saved a penalty from Devey. After this Newhall played up better, scoring on two occasions just before half-time. Re-starting, the Robins had the wind in their favour, and kept Newhall busy on the defensive, kicking out being the order. The Robins at great length, were regarded, bring the scores equal, the result being:

Hugglescote           2

Newham Swifts           2

*Melton Mowbray Mercury and Oakham and Uppingham News - 15 December 1898*

**SPORTING NOTES.**

The first round of the Coalville Charity Cup competition provided four matches on Saturday, and there would have been a fifth match but for some misunderstanding which has arisen between Whitwick Town, who should have played Newhall, and the Cup Committee.

The most decisive victory was that of Gresley Rovers over Shepshed Town, their score being no less than eight goals to none. By the style in which Gresley are playing they will require a lot of beating if they don't win the cup.

The performance of Hugglescote Robin Hoods was a most creditable one, and following other smart achievements of late, goes to show that they are getting into their old stride. It will be interesting to see how they fare with Coalville Town in the return league match at home to-morrow.

The other matches in the competition resulted in the defeat of two Coalville junior teams, the United being beaten by Boundary after a hard game by a goal to nothing, while Swannington asserted their sway over Coalville Athletic to the extent of six goals to one.

The draws for the second round for the cup took place last night.

Coalville Town and Albion had byes, and the latter played a league match at Swadlincote. A poor team did duty for Coalville, and the result was a win for Swadlincote by five clear goals.

*Coalville Times - Friday 02 December 1898*

## COALVILLE CHARITY CUP.

Two interesting matches were played in this competition last Saturday, the whole four clubs being connected with the colliery district.

Gresley Rovers and Swadlincote, who met the previous week in the Senior League without scoring, opposed each other at Gresley in the presence of a big and enthusiastic crowd. Gresley started well, Wileman scoring for them in the early stages, the Swadlincote custodian failing to hold the ball. Lyons scored again for the Rovers, the visitors appealing strongly against it on the ground of fisting, but the referee did not entertain the protest. Chamberlain scored for Swadlincote just before the interval, and upon resuming, Jones equalised, but Yardley gave the Rovers the lead again, which they maintained, and ran out winners by three goals to two.

Hugglescote Robin Hoods and Newhall met at Hugglescote, and for evenness this match rivalled that at Gresley. The Robins scored in the first minute, and a penalty was also awarded them, but the Newhall goalkeeper saved Dewey's shot. The visitors played up strongly, and, scoring twice, led at the interval by two goals to one. The Robins had the wind in their favour in the second portion, but the teams appeared so evenly balanced that it was some time ere the Robins were able to get on level terms. Hugglescote had the better of the concluding stages, but Newhall kicked out, and the end came with a draw of two goals.

At a meeting of the Leicestershire Executive, on Monday, Whitwick F.C. drew the attention of the executive to an alleged irregularity in the proceedings of the Charity Association. Whitwick F.C. had a bye, when the draw for the first round originally took place, but subsequently the secretary (Mr Bertshaw) discovered that a club had been left out, and the association decided to put Whitwick and the new club together and draw for ground. Whitwick objected, and asked to be allowed to withdraw. This was refused, and they were fined for refusing to play the match. The executive ruled that the proceedings of the Charity Association were irregular, and that the proper course would have been to have re-drawn the whole competition, as no matches had been played, and they ruled that Whitwick should have their entrance fee returned, and that the Charity Association's decision as to fine be overruled.

*Melton Mowbray Mercury and Oakham and Uppingham News - 15 December 1898*

### #8 GRESLEY ROVERS v SWADLINCOTE

Played at Gresley on Saturday last, when there was a large gate, and enthusiasm ran high. The players turned out as follows-

Swadlincote Town: - Champion (goal); Sabine and Kinson (backs), Rowland, Jones and Pickering (half-backs), Draycott, Orgill, Brealey, Webster, and Chamberlain (forwards) - Gresley Rovers - G Haywood (goal), G Jones, P Adams (backs), J Richards, J Fears, H Solomon (half-backs), J Jones, Wileman, H Lyons, T Harrison and H Yardley (forwards).

Gresley kicked with a strong wing, and Wileman soon scored for them, the ball slipping through the custodian's hands. Lyons scored a second, and a protest by the visitors for fisting was disallowed. Just before half-time Chamberlain scored for Swadlincote. Half-time:

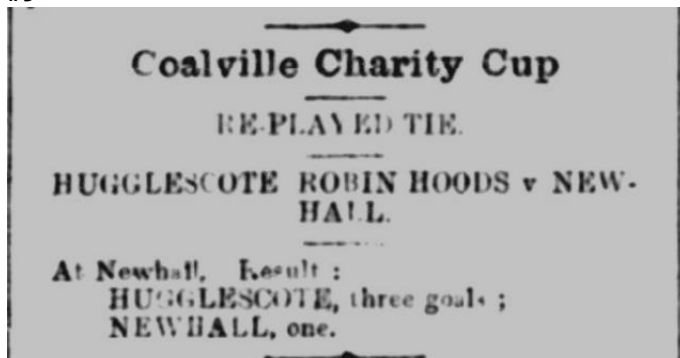
Gresley	2
Swadlincote	1

In the second half Alf Jones equalised from a penalty. Yardley kicked the third for the Rovers from a corner, and the result was:

GRESLEY ROVERS	3
SWADLINCOTE	2

*Melton Mowbray Mercury and Oakham and Uppingham News – 15 December 1898*

**#9**



*Coalville Times - 13 January 1899*

#### **#10 SEMI-FINAL ROUND**

##### **COALVILLE TOWN v HUGGLESCOTE ROBIN HOOD**

At Coalville before 2,000 spectators. The Town immediately gained the ascendancy, scoring twice during the first five minutes, Moss got one in the net from a centre by Blockley for the Robins and at half-time the score stood at three to two in favour of the Town. Wood equalised. Very fast exciting play ensued, and Walker got a fourth for the Town. An excellent game resulted:

TOWN, four goals;
ROBINS, three.

*Melton Mowbray Mercury and Oakham and Uppingham News – 23 February 1899*

## Coalville Charity Cup.

SEMI-FINAL.  
COALVILLE TOWN v. HUGGLESCOTE  
ROBIN HOODS.

Beautiful weather favoured this match which was played on the Fox and Goose ground Coalville, on Saturday, before about 1500 spectators. The teams had met twice this season in league matches, and the fact that both had claimed a victory made this event all the more interesting. The teams were as follows:—Coalville: Goal, Thornewell; backs, Chapman and Beeson; half-backs, King, Bradshaw, and Brewin; forwards, Bunting, Jones, Walker, Gilchrist and Clamp.

Hugglescote: Goal, Richards; backs, Berry, and Woollerton; half-backs, Robinson, Smith, and Ghent; forwards, Blockley, Moss, Dewey, E Coulson, and Wood.

Referee, Mr J T Hawkins, Hinckley.

The Robins played ten men for a few minutes after the start, Wood being an absentee. The Town were first to press, but their stay was brief. Hugglescote went to the other end through a fine run by Blockley and Moss promptly received a pass and netted the ball, but, unfortunately, was offside. Then the Town had most of the play for a while and in a short time had registered two goals, the first by Walker and the second by Clamp, who headed in finely from a pass by Bunting. The latter, however,

sides pressing in turn. Brief stoppages had to be made for injuries to a player on both sides, Smith, of Hugglescote, having to retire, the Robins' team thus again being reduced to ten men. Playing pluckily Hugglescote obtained a fine goal by Moss, and soon afterwards equalised amidst tremendous cheering, Wood this time doing the needful. The Town made some good attempts to take the lead again before the interval and eventually succeeded, Jones scoring with a fine low shot. Early in the second half, the Robins forced a couple of corners and there was an exciting time near the Town goal. Several times the ball was put out, but Wood got an opening and just touched the ball that it rolled into the corner of the net, the scores thus again being brought level. Thornewell saved again from Wood and after a brief pressure, the Town forwards got away in good style and Walker crowned the effort by scoring the winning goal, amidst great excitement. The Town again attacked and Clamp shot once more into the net, but the point was disallowed for off-side. Then the Robins raided the Town goal in a most determined manner and there seemed to be every likelihood of them drawing level again, but the Town managed to keep the goal intact. Just before the whistle blew, the cap-holders raced away again, and everyone thought Walker would score, but with the goal at his mercy and not more than a dozen yards away, he kicked just out-side. Result:

COALVILLE TOWN, four goals;  
HUGGLESCOTE, three.

*Coalville Times - 24 February 1899*

## **#12 COALVILLE CHARITY CUP**

### **FINAL**

#### **COALVILLE TOWN v GRESLEY ROVERS**

The final round in the Coalville Cap Competition was played between Coalville Town (holders) and Gresley Rovers on the Fox and Goose ground on Saturday, it having been postponed a week, owing to the fatal accident to Richards, one of the Gresley half backs. The weather was most favourable and the match was witnessed by over 1,000 spectators, Mr Smithson, of Leicester, was referee, and both teams were fully represented, the Coalville players being:—Goal. Webster; backs. Bradshaw and half-backs, King, E Benistone and C Brewin; forwards, Bunting, Walker, Jones, Gilchrist, and Clamp. The opening stages of the game were fairly even, but exactly after fifteen minutes' play, Wileman got a good opening and made no mistake, scoring a good goal for Gresley. Coalville afterwards made a vigorous attack on the Rovers' citadel, and after Clamp had struck cross-bar with a good shot, there was an exciting melee in the goalmouth, the ball eventually being got away. The Town renewed the attack and Walker obtained a goal, but was ruled offside, and a little later a goal by Gresley was disallowed on similar grounds. The game was fast and interesting, the backs and goalkeeper on both sides being frequently called upon. Just before the interval, the Gresley goal had another narrow escape, the ball rebounding from the cross-bar and was got away after a rather lively time near the Gresley goal. The Town commenced the second half with a spirited raid on the Gresley goal, and the custodian, on his knees, saved a stinger from Walker, an appeal that the ball had been over the goal-line under the post, being ignored. With the exception of an occasional breakaway by the Gresley forwards, Coalville were constantly popping at the goal and forced numerous corners, but without avail, the defence of the Rovers being sound. In the last ten minutes Gresley made one or two good efforts, but found Webster equal to the occasion, and the end came with the result:

GRESLEY ROVERS, one goal;

COALVILLE TOWN, none.

At the conclusion of the match, the cup and medals were presented to the winning team by Dr J C Burkitt, who also handed medals to the Town players, the presentation being accompanied with a few suitable remarks.

*Coalville Times - 28 April 1899*

## **Additional Information**

## **Whitwick Town Football Club in the County Court.**

### **THE WINNING OF THE COALVILLE CUP.**

#### **A PUBLICAN'S OFFER.**

Considerable interest was manifested in an action at the Ashby County Court before Mr. Registrar Musson on Monday, in which the committee of the Whitwick Town Football Club and a local publican were concerned. The court was crowded.

Jno. Tomlin, of the Three Crowns Inn, Whitwick, sued Thos. Kelly and Thos. Bonser for £5 money lent, and also Thos. Kelly and Thos. Williamson for £5, likewise money lent.—There was a counter claim by the defendants, representing the Whitwick Town Football Club, for £9 1s 6d, money alleged to have been promised by Tomlin for the payment of a professional player's wages and other club purposes.—Mr. J. J. Sharp (Coalville) appeared for Tomlin and Mr. W. Wilkins (Ashby) for the others.—Mr. Sharp, in opening the case for Tomlin, said the fact that the two amounts of £5 each were lent was not disputed. The defendants were members of the committee of the Whitwick Town Football Club and they waited upon the plaintiff, telling him they were short of funds, and asked him to lend them some money to procure good players. If he would do so, it would be better for the club and better for him (Tomlin), as the spectators would find their way to his house, and so increase his trade. On February 10th, he advanced £5 to Kelly and Bonser and told them he should expect them to pay it back. He was a stranger to Whitwick and did not know the committee. They agreed to those terms, and a week later another £5 was given to Kelly and Williamson under similar conditions. Another £5



was advanced to another member of the committee but he was man enough to admit his liability, and paid the amount back. The defendants in this case had promised to pay the money back and subscriptions had been collected and a concert held, but plaintiff told them it was in his (Mr. Sharp's) hands. The money he believed, had all been collected. He himself gave 10s.

Mr. Wilkins (jocosely): Your name don't appear on my list (laughter).

Mr. Sharp, continuing, said the defendants now denied their liability in their individual capacity. They contended the committee as a whole should be responsible and that plaintiff himself was one of the committee. But that was not true.

Mr. Wilkins: I have 15 witnesses to prove it.

Mr. Musson (to Mr. Wilkins): You deny private responsibility, and if I decide liability in a representative capacity then you counter claim for £9 1s 6d? If the other claim holds good, your counter claim fails.

Mr. Wilkins said that was so.

Mr. Sharp, proceeding, said the reason the club wanted to borrow the money was because the cup match was coming on and they wanted to get some good players. Tomlin promised to pay Whitehead's wages for one week and not for all the season as suggested, for that would have been absurd and unreasonable.

John Tomlin, the plaintiff, said he was landlord of the Three Crowns, Whitwick, and came there in December, 1896. He advanced £5 to Kelly and Bonser and a week later another £5 to Kelly and Williamson, but each time it was on the understanding that they personally should be responsible. He said he did not know the committee and should have nothing to do with them. He told those who borrowed the money he should expect them to pay it back. On February 23rd of the present year he instructed Mr. Sharp to write to the defendants for the money. Application for payment was never made to anyone except the defendants.

*Coalville Times - 2 December 1898*

At a meeting of the Leicestershire Executive in December 1898, Whitwick FC drew the attention of the Executive to an alleged irregularity in the proceedings of the Coalville Charity association. Whitwick FC had a bye when the draw for the first round originally took place, but subsequently the secretary (Mr Bertenshaw) discovered that a club had been left out, and the association decided to put Whitwick and the new club together and draw for ground. Whitwick objected and asked to be allowed to withdraw. This was refused and they were fined for refusing to play the match. the executive ruled that the proceedings of the Charity Association were irregular, and that the proper course would have to have re-drawn the whole competition, as no matches had been played and they ruled that Whitwick should have had their entrance fee returned and that the Charity's decision as to fine be overruled.

*Melton Mowbray Mercury and Oakham and Uppingham News - 15 December 1898*

## **COALVILLE CHARITY CUP.**

### **FINAL POSTPONED.**

This final, between Coalville Town and Gresley Rovers, which was to have been played on the Fox and Goose Ground, Coalville, has been postponed owing to the death of John Richards, one of the Gresley players, who was killed on Friday morning by the fall of a prop, whilst following his employment at the Granville Colliery, Swadlincote, under circumstances previously reported. Much sympathy is expressed for the widow of the deceased, and a fresh date for the fixture has not yet been decided upon.

*Melton Mowbray Mercury and Oakham and Uppingham News - 20 April 1899*