



Leicestershire Football Association Challenge Cup 1888-89

Winner: Loughborough
Runner-Up: Mill Hill House
No. of entries: 16



Loughborough Town Football Club, winners of the Senior Cup, 1888-89.

Standing: J. Cooper (Hon. Sec.), G. Spiby, W. Coltman, W. Cockain (captain), W. Kellam, J. Smith Seated: H. Griffin, C. H. Gadsby, L. Rodgers, F. Gibbs, F. W. Simpson, W. Gibson.

Sixteen clubs entered the 1888-89 Leicestershire Senior Challenge Cup competition. The draw for the first round of the second Leicestershire Challenge Cup competition took place in September, pairing the following teams:

Market Harborough v. Kegworth St Andrew's
Leicester Fosse v. Syston Wreake Valley
Leicester St Matthews v. Melton Rovers
Shepshed v. Belgrave
Leicester Park Rovers v. Hathern Liberal Club
South Wigston v. Coalville Town
Mill Hill House v. Hugglescote Robin Hood
Leicester Teachers v. Leicester Wanderers

All matches had to be played on the ground of the first named by November 10.

Cup holders (Shepshed) slaughtered Belgrave 8-0 at home in front of numerous spectators.

The Mill Hill House first round tie against Hugglescote Robin Hood at Leicester did not kick off until 3:55 due to the late arrival of the visitors. The home side were three up by halftime. Hugglescote adopted a "rough" style of play encouraged by shouts of support from their noisy travelling support. Within minutes of the

second half commencing, an appeal was made to the referee that the ball had gone into touch on the Hugglescote left wing within 14 yards of their goal line, but it was not given. The ball was centred from the wing, and shot through the visitors' uprights, the goal being allowed by the referee. Some of the visitors objected on the ground that the ball had been out of play, but the referee refused to change his mind, and after further wrangling blew for "onside" on account of the bad light, and some Hugglescote men refused to continue the game, which was awarded to Mill Hill House. At a Special Committee meeting of the association, Mr Ashmole read a letter which he had received from Mr S Briers, the captain of the Hugglescote Robin Hoods, who expressed the opinion that the match which they played against the Mill Hill in the first round of the Cup competition should not be awarded to the latter, their principal ground of complaint being that they were unfairly dealt with by the referee. Having heard statements from independent and totally disinterested persons, the committee passed a resolution unanimously awarding the match to Mill Hill, against whom there was really no definite appeal.

Leicester Teachers, down to nine men due to injuries by half-time, lost to Leicester Wanderers 2-0, one an own goal, at Victoria Park. Just a few yards away, Melton Rovers beat St Matthew's 4-3 in an exciting end to end encounter. In another entertaining game Kegworth got a quick goal and secured victory at Market Harborough, whilst Coalville slaughtered South Wigston, 6-0 away from home, with both Nash and Lover claiming hat-tricks. In the remaining ties, Hathern easily overcame Park Rangers, whilst Leicester Fosse demolished Syston Wreake Valley 12-1, a club record. Webb scored six and Knight a hat-trick. You may have noticed that Loughborough were not part of the first round draw.

Prior to the second round draw on 19 November 1888, considerable discussion as to whether the Loughborough Town Club were members of the association, and consequently entitled to take part in the cup competition took place at a protracted sitting of the Leicestershire Football Association. At the end of the previous season Loughborough announced that they leave the association. However, no formal resolution was passed by Loughbourians to this effect was ever received, and no record appeared on the minutes of the association. The last date for sending in entries for 1888-89 competition was September 15, and upon this day a letter was received in Leicester to enter the Loughborough club in the association, but as it was sent to the business place of the secretary it did not get into his hands until after the draw for the first round of matches had taken to place in the evening of the same day. The committee decided that the Loughborough club be members as from September 15, Mr Upton (Loughborough F.C.) stated that he had been instructed to offer the free for use of the Loughborough ground to the association for intercounty contests. The committee perhaps not surprisingly, given that the Hubbard's Ground was the best football enclosure in the county, readily availed themselves of this generosity and Loughborough were awarded a belated first round bye. The draw for the second round in the competition, the matches in which must be played on or before December 29, resulted as follows, the first-named team in each instance having the choice of ground:

Loughborough v. Leicester Wanderers, Kegworth St Andrews v. Mill Hill House, Shepshed v. Hathern Liberal Club, Coalville v. Melton Rovers, Fosse a bye.

Several hundred enthusiastic spectators witnessed Danvers score a double hat-trick in Shepshed's demolition of Hathern Liberal Club. Two second round ties were similarly one-sided with Loughborough Athletic beating Leicester Wanderers 8-1 and Melton Rovers conceding 7 away at Coalville. Melton took the lead and in the second half managed 14 shots on target. The remaining tie, staged at Kegworth, was a strong defensive game, which Mill Hill House won by a single goal.

After the completion of the second round there were five clubs (Leicester Fosse, Mill Hill House, Coalville, Loughborough Athletic and Shepshed) left in the competition. A proposal that a match between the Fosse and Loughborough, each of which had been granted byes in previous rounds should constitute the third round, giving byes to the other three times, was ruled out of order.

Interestingly, Loughborough, drew Leicester Fosse in the third round, a tie which caused intense excitement in both towns. Mill Hill House were granted a bye, whilst Shepshed were drawn at home to Coalville in the only other third round game.

Over 800 spectators watched the first competitive encounter between the Leicester Fosse and Loughborough played at Loughborough on 23 February. The teams were evenly matched, with each side having a strong body of support within the crowd. Kick off was 15 minutes later than advertised. The Fosse started fast and furious. Gibbs was hurt which necessitated a change in the Loughborough formation, with Gadsby taking left wing forward, Ashmole going back and Gibbs to goal. Fosse defended well and as the game progressed, they began to take control, pressing almost continuously. Leicester's record signing Webb sent a screamer just over the bar and Gibbs had to repulse a series of difficult shots. The visitors continued to press but wasted several clear cut opportunities. "Jammer" Radford in the Fosse goal had to fist out a screw shot, just before the interval. On resuming the Luffs rushed the ball across the ground, but it was quickly returned, and Gibbs was called upon to save. After a corner on each side and a fist out by Radford, play became more even. The Loughborough right wing forwards neatly centred and by a clever move Smith scored the opening goal of the game, amidst considerable cheering. Fosse pressed but bad shooting let them down. Loughborough doubled their lead with just 5 minutes remaining after a smart centre from Gadsby was kicked through the goal by Gibson. The Fosse were unfortunate, particularly in the first half. Loughborough lacked combination at times, but unlike their opponents were effective when opportunities came in front of goal.

Accompanied by a large contingent of supporters Coalville travelled to arch-rivals Shepshed in a second round tie. A fast and furious game ensued, despite the windy and snowy conditions. Shepshed scored after just ten minutes, and quickly followed it up with a second. By half-time they were six up and there was no way back for Coalville, who with the wind in their favour in the second half managed to claw back two goals - the game ending, Shepshed 7- Coalville 2.

The peculiar rules of the competition proved lucky for the Luffs, as just three teams went into the semi-final

LEICESTERSHIRE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION CHALLENGE CUP.

The competition for 1888-9 ended with the match on Saturday last at Coalville, but no one can be satisfied with the termination, inasmuch as Shepshed have still an unbeaten record, and but for the decision of the Association would probably have maintained their high position. The following is the result of the rounds:—

FIRST ROUND.			
	Goals.		Goals.
Shepshed (holders) ...	8	Belgrave... ..	0
Mill Hill House ...	4	Hugglescote ...	0
Leicester Wanderers ...	2	Leicester Teachers ...	0
Coalville	6	South Wigston... ..	0
Kegworth	1	Market Harborough ...	0
Melton Rovers	4	St. Matthew's	3
Leicester Fosse... ..	12	Wreake Valley... ..	1
Hathern Liberal Club... ..	4	Park Rovers	1
Loughborough Athletic a bye.			
SECOND ROUND.			
Shepshed (holders) ...	10	Hathern Liberal Club	2
Loughborough Athletic	8	Leicester Wanderers ...	2
Mill Hill House	1	Kegworth	0
Coalville	7	Melton Rovers... ..	1
Leicester Fosse a bye			
THIRD ROUND.			
Shepshed (holders) ...	7	Coalville	2
Loughborough Athletic	2	Leicester Fosse	0
Mill Hill House a bye			
FOURTH ROUND.			
Shepshed (holders) ...	2	Mill Hill House	2
Replayed on March 16th. Result:—			
Shepshed (holders) ...	3	Mill Hill House	2
Loughborough Athletic a bye			
The holders were thrown out on a trivial matter already reported in our columns.			
FINAL.			
Loughborough Athletic	3	Mill Hill House	0

It is stated that there is some doubt whether the Cup will be awarded to Loughborough, as their entry was not received until after Sept. 15th, the time specified by the general meeting for all entries to close. It is argued that the committee have no power to extend that time except on appeal to a general meeting.

Leicester Chronicle - 6 April 1889

draw, with Loughborough gaining a bye, their second of the competition, into the final. The holders, Shepshed met Mill Hill House at Loughborough Saturday 9 March 1889 to decide Loughborough's opponents. The weather was exceptionally fine, and fully 1500 persons passed through the turnstiles. In a closely fought even game, both sides played some outstanding combination football, the game ending in a 2-2 draw, with Mill House equalising in the last 10 minutes, after taking the lead midway through the first half. A short consultation took place as to whether another half hour should be played, but Mill Hill House declined. The replay the following week also at Loughborough caused such controversy that it caused a rift between Shepshed and Loughborough clubs that took years to heal and almost destroyed the young association. Shepshed objected to the appointment of Mr Ashmole as an umpire for the semi-final replay on the ground that he was a "Leicester man". Since they refused to play with him officiating, Mr Ashmole retired. Mr Cooper, the second umpire feeling that Shepshed should abide by the decision of the association, refused to enter the field. The referee selected Mr Burton (Coalville) and Mr Mellors (Kegworth) to replace them. In an exciting encounter played in front of "fully 1,000 spectators", the Leicester team took the lead. Adopting a "rough" style of play, the "Reds" (Shepshed) equalised and scored a second almost immediately following the restart following a corner. Whilst defending the Mill Hill House goal, McAlpine in attempting to stop the Reds forwards rushing the leather

through the posts, the ball alighted on his back and rolled through into the back of the net giving their third point. Playing with the wind in the second half, the Leicester side pressed and were encamped in the Shepshed goalmouth. They were eventually rewarded with a goal, just 5 minutes from the end and even then

were unlucky not to equalise, before the whistle for full-time sounded. The winners were loudly cheered as they moved to the pavilion, leaving the Leicester team tired and demoralised on the field.

Mill Hill House protested against the outcome of the match on the grounds that the umpires selected by the association were objected to, and that Shepshed refused to play if they stood as umpires. Leicestershire Association committee met on the evening of Saturday 23 March 1889 at the Victoria hotel, Leicester to discuss the appeal. Although conceding that the game was not played under protest and that the fixture was completed to avoid disappointing the spectators and to ensure the Association did not lose their gate, the Shepshed representative, Mr Foston, stated that both captains agreed to play with the new umpires and that no objections were raised by Mill Hill House until they lost. After considerable deliberation, the Chairman proposed, and Mr Smith (Melton) seconded, that the match be re-played at Coalville on Wednesday 27 March – this being carried. Mr Foston said that the Shepshed men would not play after having won fairly and without a protest being lodged. He also stated that he was not surprised that Loughborough were so anxious to meet the weakest team of the two (Derisive laughter). Shepshed's committee agreed unanimously not to play the match.

Much anger was expressed by Shepshed residents on hearing the outcome of the proceedings and a huge number attended an indignation meeting held in the town's Bull Ring a couple of days later. Mr Foston, who received a cordial reception, gave his account of what took place at the meeting. He said that no protest had been lodged by Mill Hill House, and no fee had been paid [Association rules for a protest to be considered], and on behalf of the Shepshed he objected to the matter being discussed. He was overruled by the majority at the meeting, but he thought they would agree with him that it was a question of right against wrong. The Shepshed players were prepared to meet Loughborough, as arranged, in the final, and he had no doubt Loughborough were afraid of meeting them, or they would not have raised the bother (Applause). Shepshed were not informed of the business for which the association were called together, although they were perhaps the most interested parties, and no time of course was given to them to prepare their defence.

The Shepshed committee decided not to meet Mill Hill House on Wednesday, but to play Loughborough as arranged on Saturday (Applause) – and from that they would not move one inch (Cheers). Mr W Hollis then moved the following resolution: *"That this meeting expressed its indignation at the unfair manner in which the majority of the Leicestershire Association have acted towards Shepshed football players, and their total disregard of the rules governing the association, and records its approval of the action of the Shepshed Football Committee in refusing to replay the match with Mill Hill on Wednesday next, and their determination to meet Loughborough in the final as arranged"*.

The following letter was sent to Mr Ashmole

Shepshed, March 25th, 1889. Sir – In reply to yours this morning, I am directed by our committee to state that they decline to meet Mill Hill Hose FC on Wednesday. The match of the 16th last was fairly contested without any protest from the Mill Hill captain, and, in fact the match was not played under any protest whatsoever. What object, therefore, the majority of the association can have in ordering the match to be replayed is not plain. It is quite certain their action is unfair and against all the rules of the Football Association. If a protest had been lodged with the usual fee, at the proper time we should have been prepared to abide by the decision of the association. I may add that we shall go to Coalville as arranged to play Loughborough in the final. Our brake is engaged, and all our arrangements are complete, and we have no intention of making any alternative. On behalf of committee, yours truly, J Waring

The local "Observer" reporter neatly summed up the thoughts of most football spectators*"it is greatly to be regretted that these cup competitions cannot progress without the spirit which should characterise them being spoilt by so many petty squabbles."* Whilst the Leicester Daily Post football correspondent wrote: *".... The Leicestershire Football Association Challenge Cup is about full to the brim - with bitterness. From its birth, "Double, double toil and trouble" has sadly retarded its growth into a healthy sport-promoting institution, until it is to-day a bye-word and a reproach amongst right-thinking people. I wonder how many of those gentlemen who subscribed their half-guineas to the very handsome cup would not have stayed their hands had they possessed only half an idea of the squabbling the trophy."* – 30 March 1899

Shepshed Football Club issued a handbill requesting their friends not to raise a disturbance at the Final. Despite this the final was marred by the unseemly behaviour of a small section of the crowd from Shepshed who were aggrieved at the disqualification of their team after winning the semi-final. Mr Ashmole, secretary to the Association, who was playing for Loughborough, came in for some "rough usage" and had to be escorted from the ground by the police at the end of the game. Loughborough won the game 3-0. Mill Hill House were outclassed by the men in black and white, the Luffs winning the coveted trophy 3-0, witnessed by 1800 spectators at Coalville. Loughborough 'Town' could rightly call themselves the champions of Leicestershire.

Round 1

#	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
1	3.11.1888	Leicester St Matthew's Flint Sharman Robinson	3 (2)	4 (2)	Melton Rovers Brewin (2) Smith Bailey	Victoria Park, Leicester. Flint [St Matthew's] retired at the beginning of the second half.
2	3.11.1888	Leicester Teachers	0	2	Leicester Wanderers og Johnson	Victoria Park, Leicester. Wanderers played much of the second half 2 men short.
3	3.11.1888	Market Harborough	0 (0)	1 (1)	Kegworth St Andrew's	
4	3.11.1888	Mill Hill House Sturges Dalley (2)	3 (3)	0 (0)	Hugglescote Robin Hood	Aylestone-road Ground, Leicester. Small number of spectators. Late arrival of the visitors delayed kick off until 3.55 pm. Unruly crowd. Hugglescote refused to play in the second half after disagreeing with a decision by the referee- the game was awarded to Mill Hill House.
5	3.11.1889	South Wigston	0 (0)	6 (4)	Coalville Town Glover (3) Nash (3)	
6	10.11.1888	Leicester Fosse Johnson (2) Webb (6) Knight (3) Glover	12 (5)	1 (1)	Syston Wreake Valley Lewis	Victoria Park, Leicester, Played in sunny/windy conditions. Result still stands as Leicester's largest margin of victory in a cup tie.
7	10.11.1888	Leicester Park Rovers Marvin	1 (1)	4 (3)	Hathern Liberal Club Warren (2) Tollington Young	St Margaret's Pasture, Leicester.
8	10.11.1888	Shepshed Bennett Warren (4) AN Other Waldron Danvers	8 (6)	0 (0)	Belgrave	Numerous spectators

Round 2

#	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
9	8.12.1888	Coalville	7 (3)	1 (1)	Melton Rovers	Fair number of spectators. Rain fell all afternoon. Kick-off 2.30 pm.
10	8.12.1888	Loughborough Athletic+	8 (5)	2 (1)	Leicester Wanderers	Athletic Grounds, Loughborough. Small attendance. Played in wet and slippery conditions. The second portion of the game was played in semi-darkness.

11	22.12.1888	Kegworth St Andrew's	0 (0)	1 (0)	Mill Hill House Dalley	Small number of spectators.
12	26.12.1888	Shepshed Danvers (6) AN Other Savage Waring	10 (1)	2 (1)	Hathern Liberal Club AN Others	700 spectators. "there was considerable enthusiasm".

Leicester Fosse, bye

+ Loughborough Athletic were the reserve team of Loughborough [Town] FC

Round 3

#	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
13	23.2.1889	Leicester Fosse	0	2	Loughborough FC Smith Gibson	Loughborough Athletic Grounds 800 spectators
14	23.2.1889	Shepshed Savage AN Other Waldron Waring Kidger AN Other	7	2	Coalville AN Others	Large number of spectator Played in heavy snow

Mill Hill House, bye

Semi-Final

#	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
15	9.3.1889	Shepshed Danvers AN Other	2	2	Mill Hill House AN Other Sturges	At Loughborough. 1500 spectators. Shepshed refused to accept the appointed referee, which eventually resulted in the club being eliminated from the competition

Loughborough, bye

Semi-Final Replay

#	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
16	16.3.1889	Shepshed Gibson Savage AN Other	3	2	Mill Hill House Fernie Sturges	At Loughborough. 1,800 spectators. Dispute occurred regarding the match officials

Final

#	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
17	30.3.1889	Loughborough Athletic Rodgers Gibson Smith	3 (2)	0 (0)	Mill Hill House	At Coalville 1,00 spectators. Two special trains brought large numbers of persons from Loughborough intermediate stations and Leicester to Coalville. Rain fell continuously throughout the game - which thinned the crowd. Crowd trouble - Shepshed supporters occupied the pitch during half-time in protest at the way in which their club had been treated.

MATCH REPORTS

ROUND 1

#1 MELTON FOOTBALL – The Melton Rovers football club sent a team to Leicester on Saturday to try their strength against St Matthew's team in the first round of the Leicestershire Challenge Cup. The splendid play shown by the Rovers against a strong Bottesford team on the previous Saturday inspired their friends with confidence, and on the return of the team by the seven pm train satisfaction was caused by the announcement that the Rovers had won by four goals to three. The Rovers team was almost identical with that of the previous week, and they richly deserved all the hearty congratulations paid to them on their success.

Melton Mowbray Mercury and Oakham and Uppingham News – 8 November 1888

#1 MELTON MOWBRAY ROVERS v ST MATTHEW'S – Played on Victoria Park. Melton opened, kicking from the pavilion goal, and within ten minutes Bruin scored two goals in rapid succession for the visitors. A short time afterwards Flint scored for the home team. Then the visitors attacked the home stronghold, but the goal was saved, and the ball carried to the opposite end, where the Rovers conceded a corner, which, however, came to nothing. Then the leather was well centred, and Sharman equalised matters. Repeated attacks were made on the home goal, but it was well defended by the backs, no further score being made up to half-time. Ends being changed, St Matthew's goal-keeper had to handle, and Smith with a good shot scored a third for the visitors. The "Saints" men had two free kicks in succession, but the ball was taken back, and Bailey for the Meltonians sent it through the uprights. The home team now played up well, and Robinson lessened the difference in the score with a well-directed shot. Darkness began to set in, and it soon became difficult to see the ball. The "greasy" state of the ground marred the accuracy of the shots, and no further score was made, the game ending in a win for the Rovers by four goals to three. Shortly after half-time Flint was compelled to retire. Players: - Melton Rovers: A E Pywell, goal; H Bailey and W Cartwright, backs; H Berridge, R Fendall, left wing; F Hill, umpire. St Matthew's: Bassett, goal; Lineker and Knight, backs; Jelley and Sharman, right wing; Flint, centre; Simpson and Robinson, left wing; W Sharpe, umpire. Mr A E Taylor, referee.

#2 LEICESTER WANDERERS v TEACHERS - This match was played on the Victoria Park and resulted in a win for the former. The play was mostly in the Teachers' quarter, and the Wanderers appeared altogether too strong for them, notwithstanding that during the second portion of the game they were two men short. The first goal was obtained by accident, one of the Teachers' backs being instrumental in scoring a point against his own side. The second obtained by the Wanderers was kicked by Johnson, their opponents being unable to score. Players: Wanderers: H. Allen, goal; Rowson and Perry, backs; A. Neal, Cornell, and Watts, half-backs; Brothers James, right wing; Johnson, centre; Taylor and Narroway, left wing. Teachers: Horner, goal; Busby and Stacey, backs; Bates, Taylor, and Waddington, half-backs; forwards, Walker, Martin, G. Kaye, Smithson, and Exton.

Leicester Daily Post – 5 November 1888

#3 MARKET HARBOROUGH v KEGWORTH- Kegworth won the toss at Market Harborough and kicked towards the town. After a few minutes' play the Kegworth forwards, with good combination soon scored a goal, the Harborough backs not being able to stand against them. Harborough broke away several times, but were repulsed by W. Clements, who played an excellent game. Howett and Lawrence played well for Harborough, and Shephard and G. Mellors for Kegworth. Price handled well in goal. The match ended in a win for Kegworth. Harborough team: Goal, Price; backs, Whitbread, and Tebbutt; half-backs, Fischer, Buchanan, Fitzjohn, centre, Howett; left wing, Stokes, Speight; right wing, Burdett, Lawrence. Kegworth: Goal, F Mellors; backs, W Clements, J Holliwel; half-backs, W Wood, W Mellors, G Mellors; centre, R Shephard; left wing, Spencer, J Mellors, right wing, Mellors, J Spencer. Umpires: W Capell and J Beswick. Referee: W Cooper.

Leicester Daily Post – 5 November 1888

#4 MILL HILL HOUSE v HUGGLESCOTE ROBIN HOODS - There were very few spectators on the Aylestone-road Ground to witness this tie in the first round of the Leicestershire Cup. Owing to the late arrival of the visitors, a start could not be made until 3.55 when Fernie kicked off from the Aylestone-road end. Play on the part of the visitors immediately became very rough, and at the start they appeared to lack combination. Within 5 minutes of the commencement Fernie passed well Sturges, who kicked the first goal for the Mill-

hillians. This appeared to instil some energy into the visitor's, who now played fiercer than ever, by which tactics they held their own for a time, until a second point was placed to the credit of the home eleven by Dalley. White added a third for the same side ten minutes before half-time, when the score stood in favour of the School by three goals to nil. Cross re-started the leather after changing ends, but at this point it was apparent that the approaching darkness would not admit the game continuing the full time. When the second half had proceeded only 10 minutes an appeal was made to the referee that the ball had gone into touch on the Hugglescote left wing within 14 yards of their goal line, but it was not given. The ball was centred from the wing by Dalley, and shot through the visitors' uprights, the goal being allowed by the referee. Some of the visitors objected on the ground that the leather had been in touch as mentioned above. The referee refused to alter his decision, and after some wrangling the whistle was blown for "non-side" on account of the bad light, and some of the Hugglescote men refusing to continue the game, which was awarded to Mill Hill House. Throughout the play was of a very rough description, especially on the part of the visitors, who, encouraged by the shouts of their partisans, at times indulged in measures not recognised as scientific football. Prior to the commencement of the game a protest, claiming the match on account of the light arrival of the visitors, was lodged with the referee by the captain of the Mill Hill House. The following were the names of the players: -Mill Hill House: Rev H S Biggs, goal; D McAlpin and K H Pearce, backs: F J Whitworth (captain), S W R Stretton and H Pilsbury, half backs; J Atter and W H Sturges (left wing), J Fernie, centre, A S Dalley and E White (right wing) forwards; umpire Mr A E Brice. Hugglescote Robin Hood's: R Parker, goal; W Deacon and S Briers (captain), backs; J Canser, H Holt and G Marriott, half backs; S Ghent and J Poole (left wing), H Cross (centre), J Marriott and J Armstrong (right wing), forwards; Umpire, Mr E Brewin. Referee, J Bonner.

Leicester Daily Post - 5 November 1888

#5 COALVILLE v SOUTH WIGSTON - This cup match was played at South Wigston before a fair number of spectators. Bolsover started the game, and Coalville at once assumed the offensive. A corner against Wigston was got well away by Crooks, as also were four other corners. After 15 minutes' play, however, Glover shot through for the visitors, a feat which Eales emulated immediately after, but the latter was ruled off-side. Coalville continued to press, and after some pretty forward play Glover again scored. Nash added a third and then a fourth, and the half-time signal sounded with the game four goals to nil in favour of Coalville. Locker re-started and Wigston played up better, but the Coalville defence was invulnerable. Glover scored another for the visitors, and just before the call of time Nash kicked a sixth, Wigston thus being defeated by six goals to none. South Wigston: S. Crooks, goal; J. Figgett and W. Studd, backs, W. Bolsover, W. Bridgeford, and J. Burton, half-backs; W. Cuniffe, and H Weston, right wing; H. Bolsover, centre; J. Longdon and J. O'Shea, left wing; umpire, Mr. J. H. Barwick. Coalville: R. Nichols, goal; A. Banner, and W. Wharmby, backs; J. Lakin, A. Brownlow and J. Nichols, half-backs; C. Eales and R. Smith, left wing; T. Locker, centre; J. Nash, and W. Glover, right wing; umpire, Mr. Day. Referee, Mr T. S. Ashmole.

Leicester Daily Post - 5 November 1888

#6 FOSSE 1st v WREAKE VALLEY (SYSTON)

Played on the Victoria Park in glorious weather the tie attracting the attention of a considerable number of spectators. Stacey beat Knight in the spin of a coin and chose the pavilion end goal, and Webbe sent the ball in motion from opposite end shortly after three. Five minutes from the start Johnson, on the Fossil's left took the ball down the wing, and passed well to his captain, who made a shot. The ball appeared to be going wide of the mark, but it was brought back by gust of wind, and rebounded off the post between the Syston uprights. A corner fell to the visitors, but from the kick E Johnson got possession, and made a good run assisted by Knight and Webbe until the Wreak Valley stronghold was hotly assailed, but the goalkeeper managed to preserve it intact. Most of the work fell on the Leicester lefts' side, through the wind, which was getting up, Webbe, being well fed by both wings, scored twice in rapid succession, and then Knight placed a fourth point to the credit of his team. Lewin obtained the first goal for the visitors, but no sooner had the ball restarted than Knight compensated this reverse by adding another goal for the Fossils. Half-time arrived with the score in favour off the latter by five goals to one. During the whole of the second portion the ball was hardly out of the visitor's territory. Seven more goals were scored for the local team by Webbe (4), Glover, E Johnson, and night, the home eleven thus winning a very one-sided game 12 goals to one. Players: Fosse: T de Ville, goal; G Gardner and S Sudbury, backs; J Johnson, W Johnson, and T Poyner, half-backs; G Knight (captain) and E Johnson (left wing), H Webbe (centre), C Bentley and S Glover (right wing) forwards. Umpire, Mr Cooper. Wreake Valley: J Walton, goal; G Bamford and H woodcock, backs; W Williamson, H Dalley and C

Hopkins, halfbacks; A Frisby and G Lewis (left wing), G Sharp (centre), J King and W Stacey (captain) (right wing), forwards. Umpire, Mr W Walton. Referee, Mr Fellowes, Hugglescote

#7 HATHERN LIBERAL CLUB v PARK ROVERS

This time was played off on St Margaret Pasture and resulted in an easy victory for the Hathern team. During the first half play was general, although the Rovers were not able to make much stand. Warren scored twice and Tollington once for the Club, and F W Marvin obtained a goal for the Rovers. After ends had been changed, Pell, one of the Rovers, was hurt and had to retire. The weakened team played up pluckily, but failed to make any addition to the score. Young, for the "Liberals" got another goal, and they thus won by four goals to one. Players:- Hathern Liberal Club: Mitchell, goal; Kellan and Wild, backs; Burrowes, Young and Hart, half-backs; Tollington and Brown, right wing; Warren, centre; Burgess and Randon, left wing; umpire, Mr Simpson. Park Rovers: Caffrey, goal; J Marvin and Shingler, backs; Jones, Stones, and Pell, half-backs; W Mawby and J Jenkins, right wing; W Marvin, centre; F Mawby and A Gilligan, left wing; umpire, Mr W E Taylor.

Leicester Daily Post - 12 November 1888

#8 SHEPshed v BELGRAVE

These clubs met in the first round of the above competition Shepshed on Saturday afternoon, in the presence of numerous spectators. The elements were altogether favourable for the encounter, and the enthusiasm was quite equal to former occasions. With the exception of Kidger and Smith the Shepshed team were the same as last year and their places were taken by Danvers, junr., and Gibson. The home team lost the toss, and the Belgrave captain elected to play towards the village goal. Danvers kicked off at 3:35, and the first point of interest was a corner to Belgrave, which was badly kicked in by Pole, and was taken up to the visitors' goal, and Waring had an easy chance of scoring, but failed to utilise it. Walker had to handle again immediately afterwards, and "hands" were given to each side. Danvers had now a chance to score, but made a bad kick, and the ball went out. Shortly after this Danvers got hold of the ball and crossed to Bennett, who scored the first goal from a long shot. Most of the play was now in close proximity to the visitors' goal, and several shots were made in rapid succession. At last, they were rewarded by a second goal, which was kicked through by Waring after some good crossing on the part of Bennett and Waldron. A third goal was scored shortly afterwards by the same side, the ball then having been in motion just half an hour. Shortly after this Danvers again sent the ball through, but this was disallowed by the referee on an appeal for offside. The game still continued to be in favour of Shepshed, and Bennett crossed to Savage, who gave the ball to Waring, and it was sent through. Within two minutes more, Waring again scored, making the fifth goal. A corner was then given to Shepshed, and Savage sent the ball well into the centre of the ground, but Danvers, junior, made a miss kick, and the ball was taken to the Shepshed goal, and a good shot was made by Pole, but was well repulsed by the backs. Shortly after this a run up the ground was made, and Waring scored again with a stinging shot which it was impossible for the goal-keeper to stop. A corner was next conceded to Shepshed, and Bennett kicked in but without result, and up to half-time there was no alteration, the score standing - Shepshed six goals, Belgrave none. The first point of interest after the half was restarted was a corner to the home side, but without result, and a corner to the same side was kicked in by Bennett, from which Waldron scored the seventh goal. Belgrave then had a run up the ground but did not score. Walker had now to handle twice in quick succession, and the ball was then sent through by Danvers off an easy kick. Shots were now made at the Belgrave goal in rapid succession, the visitors appearing quite disorganised, and playing but a poor game. A spurt, however, was put on, and they made a gallant attempt to score, but without success. A corner to Shepshed was kicked badly in by Savage, and from now up to the finish of the game no other goal was scored. The referee blew the whistle a quarter of an hour before the time was up as it was quite dark. The score was: Shepshed eight goals, Belgrave none. Players: Shepshed: J Newbold, goal; E Needham, J Cotton, backs; W Waldron, W Gibson, W Danvers, junr., half-backs; S Savage, J Waring, left wing; W Danvers, centre; J Bennett, W Johnson, right wing. Belgrave: C Walker, goal; J W Garber, H Garner, backs; W Pole, G Smith, H Hardy (half backs), F Chapman, R Small, right wing; W Harris, centre; G Pole, A Walker, left wing. Umpires, F Elliott, and H Page. Referee, MR T S Ashmole.

Leicester Daily Post - 12 November 1888

ROUND 2

#9 COALVILLE TOWN v MELTON ROVERS - The first named of these clubs had justified the right to enter the second round by inflicting a severe defeat on South Wigston, but the Rovers had hard work to get through

their preliminary match with St Matthew's. The game between Melton and Coalville in the second round was played on Saturday. There was a fair number of spectators, but rain fell all afternoon. The kick-off took place at 2.30, and play immediately became very fast. Several minutes after the start Melton scored a good goal, and the home team soon equalised. At half-time the score stood – Coalville three, Melton one. Coalville pressed all the second half, but were unlucky, fourteen shots being made which did not take effect. They however, added four other goals, and won by seven goals to one. Smith, Nash, and Glover all played well. The losers played a spirited game. Coalville team: Goal, Nicholls; backs. Wharmby, Bobber; half-backs, Brown, Low, Stableford, Lakin, right wing, Glover, Nash; left wing, W Smith, R Smith; centre, Eales.

#10 LEICESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION CHALLENGE CUP SECOND ROUND

LEICESTER WANDERERS v LOUGHBOROUGH ATHLETIC – By defeating the Leicester Teachers in the first round of this competition the Wanderers earned the right to contest the second stage, and in the draw which followed the completion of the initial series of ties they were drawn with Loughborough Athletic, with whom they fought out the issue on Saturday, the venue of the match being the Loughborough Athletic Club Ground. The weather was very wet, and there was a small attendance of spectators. The ground was exceedingly slippery, and accurate play was an impossibility. Loughborough, soon after the commencement, pressed and outplayed their opponents, but Leicester obtained the first goal. Loughborough, however, quickly equalised and added four others before half-time. The second portion of the game was played in semi-darkness, and Loughborough secured three more goals, the result being Loughborough eight goals to two. Teams:- Loughborough: Goal, J Bosomworth; backs, J Watson, H Griffin; half-backs, E Coltman, W Cockain (captain), W Kelham; right wing, A Smith, H Bailey; left wing, Simpson, L Rodgers; centre, W Gibson; Umpire, Mr H Hickling. Leicester: Goal, Allen; backs, Rowson, Cornell; half-backs, Thomas, Watts, Clarke; ring wing, Taylor, Tinsley; left wing, James Johnson; centre, Perry. Referee, Mr W H Ellis, Long Eaton.
Leicester Daily Post – 10 December 1888

#11 LEICESTERSHIRE CHALLENGE CUP SECOND ROUND

This match was played on Saturday at Kegworth, before a small number of spectators Kegworth won the toss, and elected to play against the wind. F. Wright kicked off for Mill-hill and very even play characterised the first half of the game. During the second period Dalley broke away the right wing, and after a capital run up the field he scored for the visitors. Stimulated by this reverse the Kegworth players made determined efforts to equalise, but good defence on the part of the prevented them doing so, and Mill-hill earned their place in the next round by one goal to none. Teams Home: Rev. H. S. Biggs goal; D. McAlphin and F. Whitworth, backs; Stretton, H. Pilsbury and E. Nuttall, half-backs J. Atter and W. Sturges, left wing ; F. Wright, centre; A. Dailey and B Lorrimer, right wing. Mr. A. E. Brice, umpire. Kegworth; F. Mellors, goal; J. Hollowell and Clements, backs ; G Mellors, W. Wood, and J. Bramley, half-backs ; Jas. Mellors and J. Austin, right wing; R. Shepherd, centre; J. Beswick and T. Spencer, left wing. Mr. W. Woolley, umpires Mr. J. Wakefield, referee.
Leicester Post – 24 December 1888

#12 SHEPSHED v HATHERN LIBERAL CLUB

This cup tie was played at Shepshed on Wednesday. Hathern won the toss, and kicked off with the wind. Danvers started the ball at 2.15, and the first goal was scored by Shepshed. Hathern shortly afterwards equalised. Shepshed had then five shots in rapid succession. Warren got the ball and scored for Hathern, and after some even play Waring again made the match equal. Up to half-time there was no alteration. The ball being re-started, Shepshed had the best of the game. Danvers scored within ten minutes and shortly added another, Savage the eighth, and Danvers the ninth and tenth. Shepshed won by ten to Hathern two. Seven hundred spectators were present, and there was considerable enthusiasm.
SHEPSHED – Goal, J Newbold; backs. E Needham (captain), J Cotton; half-backs A Kidger, W Waldron, W Gibson; ring wing, J Bennett, H Berridge; left wing, J Waring, E Savage; centre, W Danvers; umpire, F Elliott.
HATHERN- Goal, J Mitchell; backs, F Kelham, G Peberdy; half-backs, A Burrows, C Farrow, W Randon; right wing, C Gibson, A Randon; left wing, R Kelham, F Burgess; centre, T Warren; umpire, E Sibson. Referee, F Mellors, Kegworth.

ROUND 3

#13 ASSOCIATION

LEICESTERSHIRE CHALLENGE CUP

THIRD ROUND

LOUGHBOROUGH v. LEICESTER FOSSE. – These teams met in the third round of the challenge cup competition at Loughborough on Saturday, in the presence of about 800 spectators. The teams being evenly matched, and each having a strong body of supporters among the spectators, the game was watched with considerable interest. Play commenced fifteen minutes after the appointed time by Loughborough kicking off. The Fosse forwards at once rushed the ball down, and the game soon became fast. E. Johnson, getting hold of the ball, ran it quickly down the wing, but the shot from the centre was unsuccessful. A free kick by the Loughborough backs was neatly taken in hand by Smith, and Radford was called upon to handle. Gibbs being hurt, a change was made in the Loughborough field, Gadsby taking left wing forward, Ashmole going back, and Gibbs to goal. Fosse immediately after gained a corner, which was badly placed from the left wing, and Bailey passed the ball across the field, with the result of a corner, which was futile. Bailey now came with some good shots, but the Fosse backs defended well. A splendid shot from Webb went just over the crossbar. Fosse, who during the first part of the play pressed almost continually, now made a combined attack, but Gibbs came off well by repulsing some difficult shots. E Johnson shot smartly, but without avail. Ashmole conceded a corner, which was well centred, but the leather was got away. The visitors continued to press, but failed to carry their opportunities home, and from a screw by "Jammer" Radford was called upon to fist out. Play was in neutral ground at half time, Fosse having had the best of the game from the commencement. On resuming, Loughborough rushed the ball across the ground, but it was quickly returned, and Gibbs was called upon to save. After a corner on each side and a fist out by Radford, play became more even. The Loughborough right wing forwards neatly centred the ball, and by a clever manoeuvre Smith scored the first goal amidst considerable cheering. Loughborough now pressed, and soon afterwards made another shot, which Radford had some difficulty in saving. Some fluky play by the Loughborough half-backs placed their goal in danger, but Griffin skilfully saved a defeat. Nor did the visitors make any mark by a foul which Gibson gave near the goal mouth. Fosse plucked up, and made a combined attack, but Griffin placed his goal out of immediate danger by conceding a corner. Again, the visitors failed to negotiate, nor did a shot from their right wing succeed. Loughborough then getting hold of the ball, Bailey admirably centred, but the centre failed to accord the necessary support. For a short time, the venue of the game was changed, but the Fosse players shot badly. Then neutral play followed, a diversion being caused by a smart centre from Gadsby, which Gibson kicked through the goal. Five minutes afterwards play ceased, Loughborough being the winners by two goals to none. It must be admitted, however, that Fosse were unfortunate, particularly in the first half. Loughborough had not by any means a good combination, some of the forwards showing a random style, while the backs, too, were somewhat funky. Had Fosse been able to maintain the dash which characterised their first quarter of an hour the result might have been different. Teams: - Loughborough: C. H. Gadsby, goal; F. Gibbs and H. Griffin, backs; W. Coltman, W Cockain and T S Ashmole, half-backs; W. Gibson and H Bailey, right wing; W Kelham and A Smith, left wing, centre L Rogers. Umpire, Mr J. Cooper. Leicester Fosse: J. Radford, goal; G. Gardner and H. Simpson, backs; J. Johnson, J. Simpson and S. Sudbury, backs, half-backs; Rippon and Brady, right wing; Webb, centre; Knight and E. Johnson, left wing. Umpire, Mr W. Cooper. Referee, Mr W. Proctor, Notts Association.

Leicester Daily Mercury – 25 February 1889

#14 LEICESTERSHIRE CHALLENGE CUP – SHEPSHED v COALVILLE – In the third round of the Challenge Cup Competition the above clubs met on the ground of the former on Saturday afternoon. Considering the extremely bad weather which had prevailed during the former part of the week, the ground was in much better condition that might have been expected. The match had been looked forward to with considerable interest, owing to the improved form shown by the visitors during the present season, but the consistent form recently shown by their opponents left little doubt as to the ultimate result of the contest. The partisans of each side were present in large numbers, and frequently applauded. Needham won the toss, and elected to kick with the wind, and Brownlow started the ball at 3.10 Needham returned, and the home forwards were soon busy in the Coalville quarters. Waldron placed the busy very prettily in the centre, and Bennett taking advantage of a miss-kick by Wharmby, crossed to Savage, who scored the first goal. The Coalville backs had now plenty to do. The first corner was given to Shepshed, and Bennett placed it well in the centre, and it was by the merest chance that a goal was not scored. Shepshed continued to press, and several good shots were sent in. The second goal, however, came from a splendid long kick by Needham and Wharmby, who

attempted to head it out, unfortunately sent it between the posts. The home team were playing a determined game, and the third and fourth goals were scored by Waldron 25 minutes from the start. Waring added the fifth goal, and from a corner kick, Kidger registered the half dozen. Coalville then played slightly better, and Newbold had to handle twice, corners also being conceded to the visitors. Needham and Cotton, however, defended so well that no chance was given to score, and at half-time the game stood Shepshed 8, Coalville 0. In the second half Coalville started with an evident determination to make matters more equal, and pressed hard, Newbold having frequently to handle, several corners being given in rapid succession, from one of which Nash scored the first goal for Coalville. The "Reds" now played with ore combination, and despite the strong wind Danvers added a seventh goal. Just on the stroke of time the visitors scored another easy goal, the result being Shepshed seven, Coalville two. It may be interesting to note that in the three cup matches in which Shepshed have figured this season they have scored 26 goals to their opponent's 4 goals. We understand that a protest was lodged with the referee as the conclusion of the game on Saturday by Coalville on the plea of the ground being unfit to play. Rule 7 of the challenge cup competition reads: "Objections must be lodged with the referee in writing before the match is commenced." (This applied to ground, goal posts, or players.) The following were the players on Saturday: - Shepshed: Goal, J Newbold.

SEMI-FINAL

#15 LEICESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION CHALLENGE CUP

Shepshed and Mill Hill House met at Loughborough on Saturday to play the semi-final in the county challenge cup competition. The weather was exceptionally fine, and fully 1,500 persons passed the turnstiles. Danvers kicked off at 3.15 and Fernie getting the better of him Mill Hill at once commenced to press, quickly obtained a corner. The chance was denied by reason of the left wing man badly placing the ball. This they followed with two goal kicks, from one of which Fernie made the first of several splendid runs during the afternoon, but failed to carry home the leather. The pace then became very fast, and though Mill Hill had the advantage Newbold's defence, and the steady action of his backs neutralised their efforts. Shepshed having had a look in could not maintain the advantage, and Atter getting hold of the ball made a splendid run, but his smartness was nullified by "off-side." Shepshed then pressed for a while, until McAlpin sent in a long shot, and Sturges taking the pass shot ineffectively at goal. Atter placed the Shepshed goal in danger by just skinning the post. Fernie was within an ace of scoring a point when Newbold ran out and successively repelled the advance. A corner following, the Shepshed goal was again placed in jeopardy, but the defence was good, and the leather again passed into neutral quarters, Shepshed failed to make any advantage of a corner, and then Fernie make a clinking run right through the backs. Again, however, he lost his chance by a bad shot. Shepshed, who had been working well together, began to have the best of the game, and Biggs slipping at a critical moment his goal was with difficulty saved. Just before half-time a smart attack was made on the Shepshed territory, excellently repulsed by Needham. The game had not been commenced again long before Newbold had to repel a severe attack. While the leather was being rather listlessly knocked about in neutral quarters it was passed in the centre from the Shepshed right, and Waring scored. Shepshed still continued to press and Danvers taking a run up the centre tempted Biggs out of his quarters. He missed his kick, and the goal being left undefended it was an easy matter for Danvers to score. Mill Hill appeared to wake up a little, and a chance fell to them for a foul. The kick landed the ball in the centre, and smartly exercising pressure a goal was obtained from Fernie. Shepshed continued to press, but a corner was futile. It was now the turn for Mill Hill to press, and ten minutes from the call of time they made a combined and successful attack on the goal. After neatly passing, the ball made a good centre. It was repulsed, but before it could be got out of danger Sturges equalised, the excitement now became intense, and when time was called the game stood at a tie with two goals each. A short consultation took place as to whether another half an hour should be played, but Mill Hill declining, the game ceased. Players:- Mill Hill: Rev H S Biggs, goal; H Pilsbury and D McAlpin, backs; S W R Stretton, G Pochin and E Nuttall, half-backs; B Lorrimer and E White, right wing; J Fernie, centre; W Sturges and J Atter, left wing. Shepshed: J Newbold, goal; J Cotton and E Needham, backs; W Johnson, W Waldron and W Gibson, half-backs; J Bennett and A Smith, right wing; W Danvers, centre; J Waring and E Savage, left wing. Umpires: Mr Ashmole and Mr J Cooper. Referee: Mr Fellowes, Hugglescote.

Leicester Daily Mercury- 11 March 1889

#16 LEICESTERSHIRE CHALLENGE CUP COMPETITION

THE SEMI-FINAL

MILL HILL HOUSE v SHEPSHED

These teams played a tie Saturday week, when they met to contest for the place in the final, and again faced each other on Saturday at Loughborough. At the match on the 9th Mr. Ashmole and Mr. J. Cooper were umpires, but when the time for starting arrived on Saturday Shepshed objected to Mr. Ashmole on the ground that he was a Leicester man. As they backed up their objection by a refusal to play with him in the field he retired. Mr. Cooper, feeling that the club ought to abide by the decision of the association, expressed his sense of their conduct by refusing to umpire. The matter was then placed in the hands of the referee, who selected Mr. Burton (Coalville) and Mr. Mellors (Kegworth). Fully 1,800 spectators lined the enclosure. With but one exception the players were the same last week, Kidger taking Johnson's place in the Shepshed forwards. The game started with Shepshed having the advantages of a strong wind and the sun at their backs. Fernie at once got hold of the ball and rushed it through the Shepshed backs into dangerous quarters. Shepshed, responding to the attack, played up equally as fact as their opponents. Quickly the leather was returned, Biggs having to concede a corner. Play became somewhat of a reckless character on both sides, the ball being repeatedly "skied." Shepshed pressed, but Fernie got away, and Atter, taking up the running, unsuccessfully attacked the Shepshed goal. A minute later a corner fell to Mill Hill, but was badly placed. After give-and-take play had ensued a remarkably fine bit of football was given from Fernie. By consummate skill he carried the ball right through the Shepshed backs, and in the teeth of them all he scored the first goal. The venue of play then passed into Leicester quarters, the "Reds" obtaining a corner. Lorrimer now came to the front with smart play, but he kept the ball too long. Shepshed, though somewhat rough, were playing well together, and from a combined attack Gibson equalised. Following this Fernie passed to Atter, who, smartly running up the wing, had hard lines with his shot, the ball striking the crossbar. Kidger with a back kick, cleverly stopped an attack, and the ball being carried towards the Leicester goal Pochin blundered sadly in an endeavour to pass. As a result, a corner was obtained, and Shepshed making the most of the advantage scored, Savage doing the needful. Another piece of ill-luck fell to the Leicester man a few minutes later. McAlpin was defending the goal, and the ball coming too close he essayed to stop one of the "Reds," towards rushing it through the posts. In doing so the ball alighted on his back and rolled through, Biggs apparently being powerless to save. Some indifferent play ensued until Atter assumed the offensive, but Sturges missed a decent chance. Most of the time was passed the Leicester half, Needham now and again showing good defence, and Shepshed playing well together. A few minutes before half-time was called one of the Shepshed men placed a corner prettily and the interval of rest was taken with the "Red" leading three to one. The Leicester forwards started with a spurt, and Newbold whose defence throughout was very commendable, came to the rescue. His action was followed by Shepshed making a combined attack, the Leicester goal being placed in jeopardy. Loose play was then noticeable, Shepshed having the best of the game. Mill Hill obtained two corners, both well placed, the latter being followed up by a determined attack, which resolved itself into a corner. For a time, the "Reds" were unable to get away, two more corners following, from one of which Newbold saved his stronghold from a high shot. A free kick from Shepshed should have been useful, but Lorrimer neutralised, with a good run. The combination of the Leicester team now went to pieces, and their pace fell off considerably. Five minutes from the close Lorrimer centred well and Sturges headed a goal. With but one point to neutralise Mill Hill should have been equal to a combined spurt, but they appeared pumped out, and the game closed with Shepshed the victors by three goals to two. The winners were loudly cheered on leaving the ground. Players:—Mill Hill: Rev. H. S Biggs, goal; H. Pilsbury and D. McAlpin, backs; S. W. R. Stretton, G. Pochin, and E. Nuttall, half-backs; B. Lorrimer and E. White, right wing; J. Fernie, centre; W. Sturges and J. Atter, left wing. Shepshed: J. Newbold, goal; J. Cotton and R. Needham, backs; A. Kidger, W. Waldron, and W. Gibson, half-backs; J Bennett and A. Smith, right wing; W. Danvers, centre; J Waring and K. Savage, left wing. Referee: Mr. Fellowes, Hugglescote.

Leicester Daily Post - 18 March 1889

#17 LEICESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION CHALLENGE CUP FINAL

MILL HILL HOUSE v LOUGHBOROUGH

The final match for the temporary possession of the above challenge trophy was played at Coalville on Saturday. At one time last week it appeared probable that the encounter would not be permitted to pass off without a conflict more serious in its consequences than is usually associated with events of this kind. Fears of a disturbance arose through the fact of Shepshed, who beat Hill Hill in the semi-final being thrown out of the competition on account of an alleged infringement of the Association's laws. Believing themselves to be

no more to blame than the association, the Shepshed players had determined to appear on the field equipped to meet Loughborough, their lawful opponents; but in order to substantiate their position they deferred, at the last moment, any intention to do that which might lead up to a row, and decided instead to place the whole matter in detail before Ald. T Wright, the president of the Association. Accordingly they permitted the Loughborough and Mill Hill House clubs to play the game without personal molestation. All the same, many spectators vented their spleen in hurling most approbrious epithets at Ashmole, the secretary of the Association and a member of the Loughborough eleven. When the game started there would be about 1,000 people present. Very few of these had journeyed from the special train from Leicester, and as rain fell continuously the crowd gradually thinned until at the finish of the match not more than 300 were left. Smith started the game for Loughborough who immediately pressed, and compelled Pochin to fist out twice in quick succession, the ball ultimately going behind. After a smart run down by Sturges, who was repulsed by Griffin, Kelham and Smith came away with a capital rush, and forced McAlpin to concede a corner. Ashmole's centre was unproductive. The Home right wing returned the attack, but the kick at goal went behind. Again pressing, the Loughborough men were within an ace of scoring, but Pilsbury cleared and Fernie, Atter and Sturges, getting past the Loughborough backs, seemed certain to get home. Atter's shot, although a good attempt, went behind and but for the fine saves on the part of Gadsby his charge must have fallen before a further continued attack on the part of Atter, Sturges, and White, Lorrimer in the meantime having played unselfishly to White. After having much the worst of the game, Loughborough now had a look in, and with McAlpin missing his kick Gibson had a clear course, but could do no better than hit the crossbar. Fernie emulated this feat at the other end a minute or two later, and then a lot of neutral play ensued, the leather travelling up and down the field with great rapidity and bringing out good defence from both sides. Eventually Rogers beat both Nuttall and McAlpin, and put in a capital centre to Simpson. Pilsbury went for the last named, so he toed the leather on to Smith, who had nothing to do but kick an easy goal, the feat evoking cheers and counter cheers from the spectators. These were renewed almost with the re-start of the ball, Gibson, placing a second goal to Loughborough's credit as the outcome of a capital passing run by Kelham and Smith. From now to the call of half-time the home forwards persistently attacked, but could not get past Gadsby, and the teams changed end with Loughborough two goals to the good. There was a lengthy interval, the crowd encroaching into the playing circle and subjecting Ashmole to considerable mobbing. Rain was now falling fast, and the ground had become so slippery that the players experienced great difficulty in maintaining a foothold. Consequently, the quality of the play fell off somewhat. Fernie re-started, and after vacillating play, twice made Gadsby do everything he knew to keep his stronghold intact, whilst subsequent pressure by White and Fernie forced a corner. Rogers got it safely away, and an attack by the Loughborough right wing ended in the ball striking the cross-bar. A dispute over a foul caused a temporary cessation of hostilities, and upon the resumption Rogers, with a capital shot, put the third point on for the Loughborough. Notwithstanding this formidable lead, the home team played up splendidly, Fernie twice being within an ace of scoring from the efforts of good forward work on the part of both his wings. Loughborough, however, played fine defensive tactics, and eventually won a well-contested game by three goals to none. Players; - Loughborough: Goal, C H Gadsby; backs, F Gibbs, H Griffin; half-backs, W Coltman, W Cockain, T S Ashmole; right wing, L Rogers, W Gibson, centre, F W Simpson; left wing, W Kelham, A Smith. Mill Hill House: Goal, Pochin; backs, D McAlpin, H Pilsbury; half-backs, E A Nuttall, F W Wright, S W R Stretton; right wing, E White, B Lorrimer; centre, J Fernie; left wing J Atter, W H Sturges. Umpires, Mr Fellows (Hugglescote) and Mr Balsover (Wigston); referee, Mr Goodman (Burton).

Leicester Daily Post - 1 April 1889