

Football Crimes, Fines & Misdemeanours 1898-99

Leicestershire Football Association ruled football in the county with a rod of iron. Crimes and misdemeanours by players, officials and clubs were severely dealt with. A summary of the punishments handed out in 1892-93 are given below:

Leicester Granby F.C. were ordered to pay Leicester Town League's subscription and levies due, and the members were suspended until these were paid.

[LFA meeting – 22 August 1898]

Fleckney Athletic and Leicester Cumberland F.C. were ordered to pay fines due to South Wigston Albion and Melton Rovers F.C.s on or before 15 September, failing which to remain suspended until paid.

[LFA meeting – 22 August 1898]

G H Harris, a registered professional for Barwell Swifts was suspended until 16 September for practicing with another club.

[LFA meeting – 6 September 1898]

T Tivey [Shepshed Town] was suspended for 3 months for playing in a six-a-side contest;

[LFA meeting – 6 September 1898]

The following players were suspended:

G. Hewitt (Mountsorrel Castle) was suspended until December 5, for disorderly conduct.

J. Price (Barlestone Rovers) and Walter Langham (Burbage) until November 14, for fighting, at Barlestone.

James Langham and A. Burton (Burbage Albion), for 14 days for playing with a non-affiliated club.

G. Nutt (Earl Shilton Town), for one month, for playing for Enderby F.C. whilst a registered professional for Earl Shilton Town F.C., and to remain suspended from that date until his subscription due to Enderby F.C. was paid. Earl Shilton Town F.C. were fined 19s. 6d. for failing to have a written agreement with their professional players.

[LFA meeting – 28 September 1898]

J Allen (Ibstock Wanderers) was suspended until 28 February 1899 for striking a player and using bad language at Ibstock. A Sharpe (Hinckley Victor) for a similar offence was suspended until 31 January 1899.

[LFA meeting – 3 November 1898]

The case against H James (Barrow Excelsior) for assaulting Market Harborough players in the dressing room was adjourned for further evidence.

[LFA meeting – 3 November 1898]

Slater (Ashby Town) was suspended for 7 days for misconduct at Ashby, and Nichols (linesmen) was censured for exceeding his duty as linesmen.

[LFA meeting – 3 November 1898]

The committee of the Ibstock Wanderers F.C. attended with regard to the fact that the secretary who had recently acted for them, was the G. S. Newton suspended in 1896 from taking any further part in connection with football for grave irregularities. This suspended official had, in the name of G. H. Newham, been, until recently, acting as secretary of the Ibstock Club. — The explanation of the club was accepted.

[LFA meeting – 3 November 1898]

Wigston Excelsior were awarded s. and Castle Donington 8s. 6d. for expenses in protests not sustained against them.

[LFA meeting – 3 November 1898]

Messrs. Marson and Carpenter reported that they had investigated the report by Melton Town against Melton Rovers F.C. for playing A. White and A. Farrow, members in arrears. After evidence, they decided follows:

1. That the signature A. White was obtained in an irregular manner, and the registration was cancelled for Melton Town F.C.;
2. That A. Farrow: was a bona-fide playing member of both Melton Town and Melton Rovers;
3. Melton Town F.C. were required to furnish satisfactory evidence as to playing members' subscriptions;
4. That Melton Rovers F.C. be fined 5s. and cautioned for the irregular manner in electing members of other clubs.

[LFA meeting – December 1898]

L Bailey (Boundary) W (Coalville United) were suspended for one month for rough play in a Coalville Cup tie.

[LFA meeting – 6 January 1899]

J Leyland (Boundary) was suspended for three months for using bad language and tendering a wrong name to the referee. The secretary of the F.C. was severely censured for the careless indifferent manner shown towards official communications

[LFA meeting – 6 January 1899]

W Gates (Donisthorpe) was suspended for three months for language misconduct to a referee Oakthorpe.

[LFA meeting – 6 January 1899]

J Mounteney (Whitwick Town) was suspended for month for rough play at Coalville.

[LFA meeting – 6 January 1899]

Kegworth F.C. reported that W Hardy, who had been suspended by the Association, played on the previous Saturday, the club not having received official notice. This having been verified, the explanation of Kegworth F.C. was accepted and the suspension was altered to cover the time intended in the original ruling.

[LFA meeting – 6 January 1899]

The Belgrave St Michael's F.C. officials and playing members were suspended forthwith until fines and subscriptions to the Leicester and District League and the Association were paid. The minimum individual share was fixed at 2s 6d.

[LFA meeting – 6 January 1899]

A report by Swannington St George's against Whitwick White Cross for approaching J Keeley was referred to Mr Dunn for inquiry.

[LFA meeting – 6 January 1899]

Oakham Victoria were fined 2s 6d for breaking their fixture with Uppingham Town and were ordered to pay that club 10s and were suspended until the amounts were paid.

[LFA meeting – 6 January 1899]

T W Emms having paid his share of the fines due by Knighton Fields' Swifts was reinstated.

[LFA meeting – 6 January 1899]

J. Wesley (Woodhouse) was suspended for the rest of the season, and F. Whatnall, secretary of Woodhouse United F.C., was ordered to apologise forthwith to the Rev. J. W. A. Mackenzie, and Mr. H- J. Preston, the referee, for imputing false motives, and that he be suspended for the remainder of the season from taking any further part in football. Woodhouse to pay 7s., the cost of the inquiry.

[LFA meeting – 16 January 1899]

A report against J. Davis, of Quorn F.C., was adjourned for Mr. H. T. Dunn to make inquiries. H. King, A.

Bridgeford, T. Fowler, J. W. Folwell, A. Copson, W. Collins, H. Norman, Ellingworth, F. Gamett, F. Wilson, and J. Getliffe. members of South Wigston Albion F.C., were suspended from January 23 to February 3 for misconduct in a match at Leicester on Saturday last.

[LFA meeting – 16 January 1899]

J. Eames (Annwell) was suspended until subscription and property belonging to club were handed over to the officials.

[LFA meeting – 16 January 1899]

The application of Wellington Swifts for a reduction of G. Price's suspension was not entertained.

[LFA meeting – 16 January 1899]

Swannington St. George's F.C. v. Whitwick White Cross F.C. Mr. Dunn's report of the investigation of this case was received, and the following rulings given.

1. G. Webster (member of Whitwick White Cross F.C. committee) was suspended for three months for inducing J. Kelly, of Swannington, to sign a registration form without the knowledge or consent of the Whitwick White Cross F.C. committee.
2. That J. Kelly be suspended for three months for receiving monetary considerations for signing the said form.
3. That the secretary of the Whitwick Club be cautioned for failing to make inquiries of receiving registration certificate, and that club be ordered to pay the cost of the inquiry.

[LFA meeting – 16 January 1899]

Shepshed Albion F.C. were cautioned for making unfounded charges against Shepshed Town F.C., and were also ordered to apologise to the club named forthwith.

[LFA meeting – 16 January 1899]

The Secretary reported that the following players, having paid their share of fines due, were reinstated: R. W. Baxter and J. Harris, of Belgrave St. Michael's F.C., and W. E. Beesley, of Knighton Fields Swifts F.C.

[LFA meeting – 16 January 1899]

Shepshed Town F.C. were ordered to pay the expenses of a recent inquiry within 14 days, or be suspended.

[LFA meeting – 16 January 1899]

Newbold, late of Belgrave St. Michael's, having paid his share of fines, was reinstated;

[LFA meeting – 31 January 1899]

Blabv United F.C. were ordered to pay Fleckney Rovers F.C. 7s. 6d., in lieu of a return fixture not fulfilled.

[LFA meeting – 31 January 1899]

Report of Messrs. Marson and Carpenter into the dispute between Barlestone Rovers F.C. and Ibstock Wanderers F.C.. An inquiry was held at Coalville on Friday, January 27, into the charges preferred by Ibstock Wanderers F.C. and the players affected, and the officials of Barlestone Rovers F.C. attended and gave evidence, but Ibstock Wanderers F.C. failed to appear or substantiate the charges in any way. The committee ruled that the report be not sustained, and that Ibstock Wanderers F.C. pay the costs of the inquiry.

Rulings fining St. Leonard's Excelsior and suspending the players from the Leicester Town League football were confirmed, and the club and its playing members are suspended from playing with or against any other organisations until the amounts due to the league are paid.

[LFA meeting – 31 January 1899]

J. Martin (St. Leonard's Excelsior secretary) was ordered to attend before the next meeting of the executive to show cause why he should not be dealt with for misconduct towards the officials of the Leicester Town League.

[LFA meeting – 31 January 1899]

J. W. Bates (Moirs Rovers F.C.) was suspended for 14 days for playing for a club other than that for which he was registered as a professional.

[LFA meeting – 10 February 1899]

G. Hollowood (Imperial) was suspended for three weeks for misconduct towards the referee.

[LFA meeting – 10 February 1899]

J. Getliffe (South Wigston Albion) was suspended for one month for playing for a non-affiliated club, and also whilst under suspension.

[LFA meeting – 10 February 1899]

J. Harris (a registered professional for Kettering) was reported for playing for a Leicester club, and Messrs. Carpenter and Marson were appointed to inquire into the matter.

[LFA meeting – 10 February 1899]

J Martin (St. Leonard's Excelsior secretary) was suspended until the end of the season for wilfully ignoring the communications and rulings of Leicester Town League, and from that time to still remain suspended until such time that amounts due to that League were paid.

[LFA meeting – 10 February 1899]

A report from the Loughborough Corinthians F.C. as to the alleged assault upon their players by the Shepshed Albion players, and also a report from the referee in the match between Barrow Excelsior v Loughborough Emanuel for foul and abusive language on the part of the spectators, were referred to a commission to investigate and deal with, consisting of Messrs E A. Marson, H. T. Dunn, and J. E. Carpenter.

[LFA meeting – 10 February 1899]

Swannington F.C were awarded 5s. expenses to be paid by the Barlestone Rovers F.C., for the latter failing to give reasonable notice of their inability to play the Junior Cup-tie.

[LFA meeting – 10 February 1899]

Letters from Burbage F.C. and Earl Shilton F.C.. were received as to the circumstances under which their matches were abandoned in the Junior Cup competition.

[LFA meeting – 10 February 1899]

The drawn game in the Junior Cup competition between Hemington F.C. and Market Harborough F.C. was ordered to be re-played at Market Harborough on February 18, the same officials being again appointed.

[LFA meeting – 10 February 1899]

C. Wood (St. Mary's Rovers) was reinstated. The members of the St Mary's Rovers were under suspension, it was decided that they could obtain reinstatement upon the payment of 5s. to the Association.

[LFA meeting – 10 February 1899]

J Gamble, a former member of the Melton Rover F.C. was suspended for fourteen days for playing for Thorpe Arnold Excelsior – a non-affiliated club.

[LFA meeting – 16 March 1899]

The report of Mr. H. Shelton, referee in a match at Loughborough on Easter Monday, with respect to an assault made upon him on that date, was considered. After hearing evidence from the referee and Mr. Thompson for the club, it was decided that the ground be closed up to September 11, 1899, and the club not to be allowed to play matches within a six miles radius. The club were also requested to provide better arrangements for referees leaving the field of play, and to pay the expenses of the inquiry.

[LFA meeting – 25 April 1899]

Barrow Rising Star Ground. — Mr H T Dunn's report was received, and it was decided to order the club to post bills of caution on the ground.

[LFA meeting – 25 April 1899]

C. Blythe or C. Boyle, of Rothley F.C., was suspended until the end of the season; H. Sabine, of Swadlincote F.C. until December 1; J. Tugby, Whitwick F.C., to January 1; J Dailey, of Croft, to November 1; L. Kirk, Earl Shilton Victor F.C., and H. Fox, Stoney Stanton F.C., to December 1.

[LFA meeting – 25 April 1899]

The referee reported Messrs. Herbert, Grewcock, and Haydon, of Barwell Swifts F.C., for leaving the field of play without per permission. The players named were censured.

[LFA meeting – 25 April 1899]

A report against Coulson, of Fosse F.C., and Cariin, of Heanor F.C., for fighting in a Midland League match, was referred by the Football Association to a joint commission of the Leicestershire and Derbyshire Association, consisting of Messrs. J. E. Carpenter, H. T. Dunn, A G. Kingscott, and M. T. Roberts.

[LFA meeting – 25 April 1899]

The explanation of Kegworth F.C. for playing a team under the name of Kegworth United was accepted,

[LFA meeting – 25 April 1899]

An appeal by Barwell Swifts F.C. against a decision of the Senior League was not entertained, owing to it not being lodged in a formal manner.

[LFA meeting – 25 April 1899]

All clubs owing fines and levies to the association, leagues, or clubs were given until April 30 to pay, and were prevented from taking part in football until they were paid.

[LFA meeting – 25 April 1899]

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Clarendon Park Congregational were fined 2s 6d and ordered to pay 2s 6d to Market Harborough Congregational and to play a match at Market Harborough next season. Woodhouse United were fined 2s 6d and ordered to play a match with Loughborough Adult School F.C. at Loughborough next season.

[LFA meeting - 19 May 1899]

A protest by Whitwick White Cross against Castle Donington F.C. was considered, but since no further evidence was presented the protest was not sustained and the match was allowed to stand. Castle Donington were awarded 13s expenses.

[LFA meeting – 19 May 1899]

The following rulings of the Loughborough and District League were confirmed: Quorn Havelock fined 13s 6d, Shepshed Town fined 13s, Sileby Rangers 1?s 10d, Mountsorrel Castle 10s, Rothley Swifts 7s 6d, Kegworth Town and Quorn Havelock 2s 6d, to be paid to Seagrave Club, Loughborough Corinthians 2s 6d and Sutton Bonington 1s.

[LFA meeting – 19 May 1899]