

LFA Football Crimes, Fines & Misdemeanours 1893-94

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 1893-94 are given below:

The following players were suspended until 30 September for playing in six-a-side contests in the close season:

J Burrowes, J Berrington and J Thompson (Hathern); T Woodruff, E Parker, H Green, A Brawson, and J Roche (Kegworth t Andrew's); W A West, G Hardy, J Pym, J Burton and W G York (Stanford Church); T Harrison (Gresley); H Gutteridge, E Swann, J Bevington, L Kidger and R Hitchen (Loughborough Victoria), W Hopewell, J Hopewell ad A Pepper (Kegworth Town), and J Ghent and G Stevens.

[LFA meeting – 4 September 1893]

Earl Shilton Town alleged that Earl Shilton Excelsior unduly kicked the ball out of play throughout a Junior Cup match. The referee reported that there was no special wilful waste of time, and it was decided to allow the game to stand.

[LFA meeting – 17 October 1893]

Coalville protested against the result of their match with Melton, on the ground of the incompetency of the referee and the improper division of the gate money. After hearing statements from the parties, Coalville were instructed to apologise to the referee for their complaint against him. The other matter was referred to the Emergency Committee.

[LFA meeting – 17 October 1893]

The referee reported that the game between Hemington and Castle Donington was stopped 25 minutes before time. Castle Donington reported the referee for allowing Hemington's fourth goal, and Hemington reported Castle Donington lor refusing to play out time. Witnesses were examined, after which the parties retired. It was laid down that each club was responsible for the conduct of the spectators on their own ground. The match was awarded to Hemington, a proposition that it be re-played on the Hemington ground being defeated by 22 votes to 12.

[LFA meeting – 17 October 1893]

Coalville Town protested against the result of their match with Gresley Rovers, on the ground that Gresley played four professionals. There was no defence, and the match was awarded to Coalville.

[LFA meeting – 17 October 1893]

Leicester YMCA. reported the referee in their match with Shepshed, at Shepshed, alleging unfairness and incompetency. Shepshed complained about the YMCA for leaving the field before time. The latter complaint was ruled out of order, following no corroboration from the referee. The opinion was expressed that all clubs in future arrange for referees outside their own circles, and the YMCA's letter was allowed to "lie on the table."

[LFA meeting – 17 October 1893]

Castle Donington reported Coalville Albion for non- fulfilment of a fixture. It was announced that the Albion did not now exist.

[LFA meeting – 17 October 1893]

Kegworth Town were reported for playing a match on September 9th with a non-registered club (Derby Midland Wanderers). The Kegworth representative read a communication-dated October 4th, from the Derby club, stating that they were affiliated to the Derbyshire Association. It was decided to censure the

Kegworth club and the Association impressed upon affiliated clubs the necessity of making reasonable inquiries to the status of outside clubs before playing them.

[LFA meeting – 17 October 1893]

The Association's Secretary informed the meeting that Kegworth Town had played an unregistered man. The secretary of that club replied that he had notified by post card the Association secretary of that player 23 days before the match was decided. The Secretary said he had not received such communication, but the club were given the benefit of the doubt.

[LFA meeting – 17 October 1893]

Castle Donington reported that Hemington in their Junior Cup first round tie on 14 October, played a man while under suspension. Proof of this having been obtained from the English Association, the Emergency Committee of the Leicestershire Football Association, after due consideration, awarded the match to Castle Donington.

[LFA meeting – 23.10.1893]

Shepshed Church of England club lodged a protest against the match they played against Hugglescote Robin Hood in the Shield competition on the ground that short time had been played. The match was ordered to be replayed.

[LFA meeting – 23.10.1893]

Griffydan Swifts were fined 12s for failing to keep their engagement at Measham and a similar sum for the non-fulfilment of a fixture at Ellistown.

[LFA meeting – 23.10.1893]

Shepshed F.C. were ordered to pay an account for the hire of a brake at the end of last season.

[LFA meeting – 23.10.1893]

Loughborough Excelsior reported Barrow for non-fulfilment of a return fixture on 27 January – the defaulting club was fined 5s.

[LFA meeting – 22 February 1894]

Stoney Stanton Star and Sapcote reported each other in connection with a benefit match played between them, a disputed goal causing the teams to leave the field some minutes before the close of the game. The dispute which appeared complicated was referred to a committee.

[LFA meeting – 22 February 1894]

Hinckley Town reported Syston Swifts for non-fulfilment of a fixture and the latter were fined 15s.

[LFA meeting – 22 February 1894]

Enderby Swifts were reported by two clubs for non-fulfilment of fixtures. The Association had received a letter from Enderby stating that the club had broken up. Under such circumstances no action was taken.

[LFA meeting – 22 February 1894]

Gresley Rovers were complained of by Whitwick Town, who claimed £1 15s. The matter was reported to have been amicably settled.

[LFA meeting – 22 February 1894]

Kegworth Town Club forwarded a resolution "resenting keenly the injustice" done them the occasion of a semi-final played on January on their ground between and Shepshed, their complaint being that four gatemen and linesman were connected with the St. Andrew's Club. Nothing was done about the matter, which was considered trivial.

[LFA meeting – 22 February 1894]

Shepshed Church of England appealed against decision of the Emergency Committee in a match which was awarded Hathern. The meeting declined to go into _ the details, but upheld the committee's decision.

[LFA meeting – 22 February 1894]

The secretary of Whitwick Town complained that Hemington United had not fulfilled a fixture. He said that when they ought to have gone to Hemington, several their men were involved in a pit accident. They paid 15s. to Hemington, who then refused to play their match, and sent back the 15s. They then claimed £2 10s. in lieu the gate. The Association ruled that there was “nothing between the clubs.”

[LFA meeting – 22 March 1894]

Ellistown reported Measham Wanderers for general misconduct; the referee was very unfair and the Measham men were very rough, and the spectators interfered with the game. Several witnesses corroborated this. After an investigation, both the referee and Measham were suspended.

[LFA meeting – 22 March 1894]

The committee appointed to inquire into the Stoney Stanton and Sapcote affair recommended that the referee be suspended, that both clubs be censured, and that the full amount of the gate be handed over Jesse Bray.

[LFA meeting – 22 March 1894]

The question of the dispute between Castle Donington and Hathern with regard to the final of the Leicestershire Junior Cup was gone into, and the meeting decided to uphold the verdict of the Emergency Committee, and award the match to Castle Donington. Hathern were ordered to pay the expenses of the match.

[LFA meeting – 22 March 1894]

Leicester St Peter’s Victor were reported by Ellistown for not fulfilling the return fixture at Ellistown. The matter was amicably settled by the Victor promising to play two matches at Ellistown next year.

[LFA meeting – 22 March 1894]