



# Leicestershire Senior Cup 1889-90

**Winner:** Leicester Fosse  
**Runners-Up:** Coalville Town  
**No. of entries:** 14



SEVILLE & Co.

F. GARDNER, *Hon. Secretary.*

C. BENTLEY.

C. SQUIRE.

E. THOMPSON.

S. KOWSON.

J. JOHNSON, *Captain.*

PHOTO.

C. J. WALKER.

J. MURDOCH.

C. A. WEST.

R. PERRY.

E. JOHNSON.

W. DAVIS.

A. VICKERS.

J. ATTER.

W. J. COOPER, *Trainer.*

LEICESTER.

## Leicester Fosse Football Club.

WINNERS OF THE LEICESTERSHIRE CHALLENGE CUP, 1889-90.

*Leicester Fosse 1889-90*

Fourteen teams entered the third Leicestershire Challenge Cup competition, now known as the Senior Cup; five (5) from Leicester and nine (9) from the county. The first round draw paired the following teams:

- Wreake Valley v Melton Rovers
- South Wigston v Hugglescote Robin Hood
- Richmond v Coalville
- Mill Hill House v Market Harborough

Loughborough, Leicester Fosse, Leicester Teachers and Leicester Wanderers were all granted byes into the 2<sup>nd</sup> round. There were no cup upsets. South Wigston surprisingly took the lead against in form Robin Hood at Hugglescote, but this proved to be a false dawn as the home side went on to win comfortably, 6-1. Coalville also scored six against Leicester Richmond, without reply. Melton meanwhile overcame Syston Wreake Valley. They beat them 2-0 in heavy rain. Syston Wreake Valley entered a protest against Melton on the ground that the playing field was in an unfit state for a cup tie. The objection was sustained, and the game was ordered

to be replayed at Syston the following Saturday. Melton easily won the game 5-1.

By the victories of Mill Hill House and Melton Rovers over Harborough and Syston Wreake Valley, respectively, it seemed pretty safe to conclude that the Leicestershire Association Challenge Cup had come to a satisfactory conclusion. But the inevitable protest was forthcoming to destroy, as usual the harmony of the proceedings, and further, was sustained by the executive. Although strictly in accordance with the rules, it seems the height of childishness that Syston Wreake Valley lodged a protest before commencing their game against Melton Rovers. They objected to the long length of the grass which Melton, who having rented the field for the game, had no control over, unless as the Leicester Daily Mercury stated they "were prepared to go on all fours and nibble it off themselves". The Syston club also made an unsubstantiated claim against the membership qualification of a Melton player.

*Leicester Daily Mercury - 2 November 1889*

Playing on the Aylestone-road cricket ground, Mill Hill House overcame Market Harborough 5-0. The winning team included James Atter and Ernest Nuttall who would later star for the Fosse.

At least Loughborough had the opportunity to defend the Leicestershire Challenge Cup (now known as the Senior Cup). Loughborough were again granted a first round bye in 1889-90. Round two opponents, Leicester Wanderers (23 December 1889), failed to turn up and Loughborough went through to the semi-

finals, to face their arch-rivals, Leicester Fosse, without even kicking a ball. Leicester had also been granted a bye in round one and disposed of Leicester Teachers 2-0 at Mill Lane (14 December 1889). Mill Hill House drew with Coalville Town at home, but were unable to raise a team for the replay and consequently Coalville progressed to the next round.

Loughborough as Leicestershire's premier club and holders were the firm favourites in the semi-final of the County Cup. Fosse played Samuel Rowson and James Eggleston in place of James Atter and Ernest Nuttall who were ineligible (having appeared for Mill Hill House in R1), while the Loughborough team also had two of their regular men away. Played at the Sports Ground in Coalville, both teams bought a good number of enthusiastic supporters, and their ranks were considerably swelled by local fans of the 'kicking game'. Fosse started against the strong wind that blew sleet and snow straight down the field and had to act on the defensive for the majority of the first half, their back division all round playing superbly. Loughborough's shooting was rather wild, but Charles Walker, the Fosse goalkeeper, had to make several outstanding saves to keep them out. In spite of determined efforts, the Luffs could not score. At the other end Fosse created

Regarding the Cup ties fixed for Saturday, Mill Hill have cause to regret that their "scratching" to Coalville was not delayed a few hours. Had the intimation been left over until Saturday morning the snow would possibly have saved their self-elimination from the competition, because they would in all possibility have been able to a fit and proper team to-day. However, it was a sportsman-like motive that prompted Mill Hill to cause Coalville as little disappointment as possible by announcing their intention in time to permit of Coalville getting another fixture if desired.

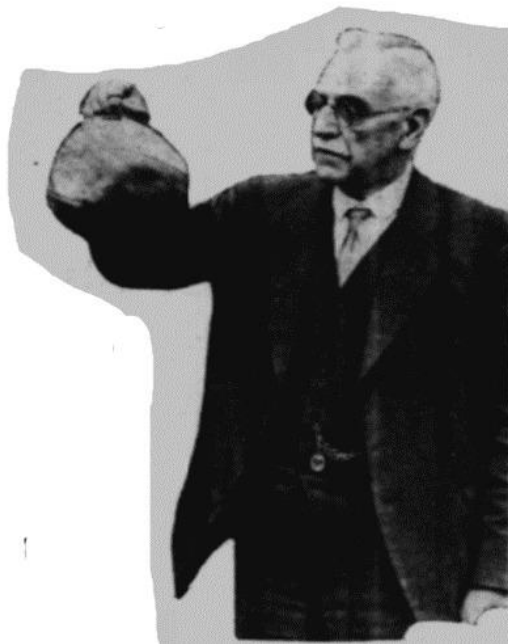
*Leicester Daily Mercury - 14 December 1889*

several chances, Spiby defending well, and from a centre from the left wing, Webb scored first for Fosse. During the second period the Fosse had the best of the play, and soon added a second. Wilders, the Loughborough 'custodian' totally missed an effort from Webb after a goal mouth scrimmage, the ball rolling slowly between the posts. Wilders despite his error, saved several times in good style. Kelham and Cross worked hard for Loughborough but could not get past the Fosse defence. Corner

MR. JIMMY JOHNSON holding the case of the ball which was used when Leicester Fosse won the Leicestershire Senior Cup for the first time in 1889-90..

kicks were rather erratic owing to the wind, but Murdoch calculated very carefully and at last dropped the ball into the middle of the goal but "with a barleycorn of two to spare", Johnson scored a third. Gibson the Loughborough centre had to leave the field after dislocating his knee cap.

Unable to cope with the conditions and down to ten men, Loughborough struggled. Fosse notched a fourth not long before the whistle blew for time, when Murdoch sent in a long range shot. A convincing win for Fosse. The Luffs protested over the eligibility of Rowson and Eggleston. The Fosse were accused of illegally



approaching Eggleston, an amateur player after he appeared for Hinckley against Fosse Rovers, and paying him excessive travelling expenses, as well as providing him with tea. No substantive evidence was provided to the adjudicating Cup committee asked to investigate the issue. Rowson was eligible, but the Fosse were requested to prove the 'bone fide membership' of Eggleston. However, Eggleston had left to work down south by the time of the hearing. Fosse were reprimanded for being unable to provide receipts but allowed to face Coalville in the final.

Fosse played in their first-ever cup final on a glorious spring afternoon in late March at Loughborough, in front of 1500 (some reports suggest 3,000) spectators. Leicester took the lead when "*Webb, fed from the left wing, followed up the ball and just as Coalville returned the ball, he headed it past and rushed it through the goal in fine style*". Cheers that followed were followed by cheers from the Coalville spectators a minute later when a "*combined rush*" resulted in an equaliser. Play was fast and furious and often "*too wild to be*

*scientific, little attention being paid to passing.*" Fosse half-back Perry received a nasty kick which stopped play for a full 5 minutes. "A huge cheer announcing the player was not '*hor de combat*' [hurt]". Fellow Fosse half back Bentley had to leave the field after a severe kick to the head. Just before half-time Fosse were within an ace of scoring, but the ball rebounded over off the crossbar. Perry had to retire just 10 minutes after the restart, Fosse playing the remainder of the game with just 9 men. Despite this Leicester possibly had the best chances, but their weakness in front of goal being their failing. Another shot rebounded off the crossbar, this time from Webb, whilst Murdock shot a foot wide when it seemed easier to hit the target. As the players tired, play became monotonous towards the end, resulting in a 1-1 draw.

Loughborough staged the replayed final on 12 April. In a one-sided encounter, Fosse took the lead just after half-time with a high shot, that "nonplussed" Coalville's goalkeeper Compton as it passed through just under the upright. A second followed by Frank Gardner who kicked the ball into the back of the net whilst lying on his back in the goalmouth. Two more goals in the last 15 minutes, one by Thompson and the other from a long kick by Murdock from the half-way line. Coalville scarcely had a look-in during the second half. Fosse winning their first silverware. As soon as the final whistle went Fosse's Jimmy Johnson secured the ball, which was one of his most treasured possessions for many years after his playing days were over.

## Round 1

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
1	19.10.1889	Coalville Town Smith AN Others	6 (3)	1 (1)	Leicester Richmond AN Other	At Coalville. Few spectators. Cold and showery weather.
2	26.12.1889	Hugglescote Robin Hood Cross (4) Moore Gee	6 (4)	1 (1)	South Wigston AN Other	Good number of spectators. The ground was rather greasy and prevented accurate play. Wigston opened the scoring. Cross scored 4 goals.
3	26.10.1889	Melton Rovers	2 (1)	0 (0)	Syston Wreake Valley	Mr Hodson's field, Leicester-road, Melton Game kicked-off at 2.30 pm. Admission - 3d. Syston Wreake Valley entered a protest against Melton on the ground that the playing field was in an unfit state for a cup tie. The objection was sustained, and the game was ordered to be replayed at Syston the following Saturday.
4	26.10.1889	Mill Hill House Atter	5 (2)	0 (0)	Market Harborough Victoria	Played Aylestone-road Ground, Leicester.

		Fernie (3) Stretton				
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### Round 1 Replay

Date	Home	Away		Match Details		
5	2.11.1889	Syston Wreake Valley	1	5	Melton Rovers	

### Round 2

Date	Home	Away		Match Details		
6	16.11.1889	Hugglescote Robin Hood Poole Gent	2	2 aet	Melton Rovers AN Others	Played in dull and wet weather. Only 10 minutes extra time was played.
7	16.11.1889	Mill Hill House Price-Evans (2) Fernie?	3	3	Coalville Town W Smith Clifford AN Other	Aylestone-road grounds. Just before the whistle blew Fernie [Mill Hill] and others made another rush, and succeeded in again equalising the score, though in the darkness of the impending storm it was impossible to see who actually did the trick.
8	14.12.1889	Leicester Fosse Johnson (2)	2	0	Leicester Teachers	Mill-lane Ground, Leicester. Foggy weather. Eagerly anticipated game. The game started at 2.35 pm. A protest lodged by the Teachers on the ground that the playing-feld was unfit for a cup tie was not sustained.
9		Loughborough	w/o		Leicester Wanderers	Leicester Wanderers failed to turn up - the tie awarded to Loughborough.

### Round 2 Replays

Date	Home	Away		Match Details		
10	14.12.1889	Melton Rovers og AN Other	2 (1)	2 (1) aet	Hugglescote Robin Hood Poole Gent	A farcical game played in dense fog. 10 mis extra time was played.
11		Coalville Town	w/o		Mill Hill House	Mill Hill were unable to raise a team and the game was awarded to Coalville.

### Round 2 Second Replay

Date	Home	Away		Match Details		
12	28.12.1889	Melton Rovers		w/o	Hugglescote Robin Hood	Melton failed to turn up - tie awarded to Hugglescote.

### Round 3 - Semi-Finals

Date	Home	Away		Match Details		
13	1.3.1890	Leicester Fosse	4	0	Loughborough	Sports Ground, Coalville.
14	8.3.1890	Hugglescote Robin Hood	0	2	Coalville Town	Athletic Grounds, Loughborough.

### Final

Date	Home	Away		Match Details		
15	29.3.1890	Coalville Town AN Other	1	1	Leicester Fosse Webb	Athletic Grounds, Loughborough. Glorious weather. Game started at 3.45 pm.

## Final - Replay

	Date	Home		Away	Match Details	
16	12.4.1890	Coalville Town	0	4	Leicester Fosse AN Others Thompson Murdoch	Athletic Grounds, Loughborough. 1,500 spectators. Game commenced at 3.30 pm.

## Match Reports

**#1 COALVILLE TOWN v LEICESTER RICHMOND** - Played at Coalville in cold and showery weather, before a few spectators. Shortly after the start, Smith scored one for Coalville, with a good shot. Richmond soon equalised and play afterwards ruled in favour of the home team, who led at half-time by three goals to one. After resuming, play was more equal for some time, though the Town pressed, and shot after shot was made at their opponents' goal without effect. Towards the close, however, three goals were added in quick succession, and Coalville thus won by six goals to one.

*Leicester Daily Post - 28 October 1889*

### #2 LEICESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION CHALLENGE CUP COMPETITION

**HUGGLESCOTE ROBIN HOOD v SOUTH WIGSTON** —This match is the first round of the cup competition was played at Hugglescote, on Saturday, in the presence of a good number of spectators. The ground, owing to the rain which had been falling all day, was in a rather greasy condition, and prevented strictly accurate play. Cross won the toss for the Robin Hood and chose to kick towards the village goal. Wigston started the ball, and at once began to press the home team, several shots just going outside the posts. From a miss-kick by Deacon, the visitors scored first; this put the home team on their mettle, and Gent on the left wing made some splendid runs, and centring well, Cross equalised for the Robin Hood. From this point the game went all in favour of the home team, they playing a good passing game. The visitors' backs and half-backs played well, but they were weak in their forward play. The Robin Hood were strong at all points of the game. Moore was the next to score from a good long shot, Cross going for the goal-keeper and keeping him from the ball. Gee by good shot from the left, again augmented the Robin Hood' score, and Cross added a fourth before the call of half-time. On the change of ends the Robin Hood pressed, and Briers centring well to Cross, the latter shot through, but the referee did not allow the goal on the ground that the ball was out when kicked to Cross. The Robin Hood continued to press, and several corners fell to them. Gent again distinguished himself by making some good runs on the left. and passing the ball to the centre Cross again scored amidst the cheers of the spectators. Soon after this, from a good corner kick from Gent, Briers obtained possession, and passing to Cross, the latter obtained the sixth goal for the Robin Hood. At the call of time victory rested with the Robin Hood, they having scored six goals and one disputed to Wigston one goal. For the Robin Hood, Gent played a splendid game on the left wing, and all the rest of the forwards played well together. Marriott and Deacon showed excellent defence when needed, and the half-backs showed good combination. For Wigston, the backs played excellently, and the right wing forwards at times showed good form. Mr. R. Small, of Leicester, was the referee, and his decisions were given with fairness and promptness to both sides.

*Leicester Daily Post - 28 October 1889*

**#3 MELTON ROVERS v SYSTON WREAKE VALLEY** - This cup tie was played at Melton. The Rovers kicked off and during the first half had the best of the game; the left wing persistently attacking, whilst the brothers Dalley were conspicuous for Syston. Play was not quite so fast in the second half, but the Rovers added a second goal to the one scored in the first half, and won 2 to 0.

*Leicester Daily Post - 28 October 1889*

### #4 LEICESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION CHALLENGE CUP.

#### FIRST ROUND

#### MILL HILL HOUSE v. HARBOROUGH VICTORIA

Played on the Aylestone-road Ground Saturday afternoon. Whitworth having won the toss. Coales kicked off from the Aylestone-road end at 3.25 against the wind, which caused most of the play during the first half to devolve upon the home team's left wing. Nuttall and Atter worked together very nicely, several corners falling to the Mill Hillians and more than once Price had to save. By a bit of good combined play the visitors eased their lines, but Fernie quickly dribbled the leather back in fine style. His shot, however, was carried wide of

the mark. Play was almost exclusively confined to the Victorians quarters the services of the goal-keeper being frequently requisitioned. Spake and Buchanan were conspicuous in a rush by the Harborough men, but the work was nullified by off-side play. The free kick brought the ball back into the visitor's territory, where Fernie, Nuttall and Atter were particularly busy. The first-named of the trio dribbled it right into the mouth of his opponents, but the latter responded with a rush when scoring against them seemed imminent. Pochin replied with a fine long kick, compelling Price to use his hands, as he now had to do several times in succession. Nearly in the centre of the ground Pilsbury took a free kick for "hands" which nearly resulted in a point, and then the ball was carried to the opposite end of the of the field, Thornton having to handle for the first time. Forty minutes from the start Atter took a corner kick and Nuttall getting possession scored first blood by shooting the ball through after "fiddling" more than one of the Harborians. After Coales had again kicked off, the leather was speedily returned by Lorrimer and Nuttall who passed to Fernie, and the latter put on a second point. The whistle then sounded, Mill Hill crossing over with an advantage of two goals. Fernie restarted after the interval, and although Harborough were now playing with the wind at their backs, they could not prevent the Leicester men invading their stronghold. From a prettily-judged corner kick by Stretton, the home forwards hustled the ball between the posts, and the point was allowed by the referee, though the visitors disputed that it had not crossed the line. Each goal was visited in turn, until Nuttall centred well to Fernie, who obtained a fourth point for his side. Atter made a couple of splendid runs right down his wing, but no further point resulted until the time had nearly expired, when Fernie again scored from a bit of pretty combined play. Mill Hill House won by five goals to nil. Players – Mill Hill House: A Thornton, goal; Pochin and F Whitworth (captain), backs; E Nuttall, S W R Stretton and H Pilsbury, half-backs; A E Price-Evans and H T Lister (right wing), J F Fernie (centre), R Lorrimer and J Atter (left wing), forwards. Umpire, Mr A E Wright. Harborough: Price (captain), goal; Fitzjohn and G Brooks, backs; Remington, G Martin, and Buchanan, half-backs; C Stokes and C Burdett (right wing), Coales (centre), Spake and J Whitbread (left wing), forwards. Umpire, T W Venable. Referee, Mr W E Taylor.

*Leicester Daily Post – 28 October 1889*

**#7 MILL HILL HOUSE v. COALVILLE TOWN**—These teams met Saturday afternoon the Aylestone-road Grounds to try conclusions in the second round the Challenge Cup competition. The visitors won the toss, and kicked off from the village end, but in very few minutes the Mill Hill team got to work, and Price-Evans scored two goals for his side. The Coalville men then woke up, and made a strong attack on the home goal, which fell to a shot from W Smith. Not long after this the Coalville left wing took the ball up and shot. Thornton made a good try to save, but the ball being greasy his "thumper" was not successful, and Clifford being on the spot equalised the score. From this point the game was close and exciting, although the state the ground was not conducive to really scientific play. Nuttall made a good run, but Nichols, the visitors' back, defended well and saved the goal. Before half-time Thornton had to fist out twice more, but no further score was made, each side having secured two points. Fernie restarted, and Nuttall got away down the centre, and passed to Atter, who returned to Nuttall, but the latter's shot went over the crossbar. After give-and-take play, Glover got the leather up the Coalville right, and neatly placing it before the home goal, it was rushed through, much to the elation of the visitors from the "mines", Atter had shot from the left wing, and Compton, his anxiety to save, ran very close an infringement of the law by taking a run when in possession of the ball. Glover, soon afterwards, again centred, and the "House" goal was in imminent danger, the goal-keeper saving splendidly three times in quick succession. The leather, however, was got away before any damage was done. A corner fell to the "colliers", but feeble kick enabled Atter to run up the field out of danger. Just before the whistle blew Fernie and others made another rush, and succeeded in again equalising the score, though in the darkness of the impending storm it was impossible to see who actually did the trick. The game ended in draw with three goals each. Mill Hill House - A Thornton, goal; W Whitworth and Pochin, backs; E A Nuttall, S W R Stretton, and H Pilsbury, half-backs; Price-Evans and Aslett, right-wing; J Fernie, centre; B Lorrimer and J Atter, left wing; Mr Vincent, umpire. Coalville – W Compton, goal; E Olden and J Nicols, backs; C Eales, W Mattocks and A Brownlow, half-back; W Glover and J Clifford, right wing; T Garratt, centre; W and R Smith, left wing; M G Burton, umpire. Mr Small, referee.

*Leicester Daily Post – 18 November 1890*

**#8 LEICESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION SENNIOR CHALLENGE CUP  
SECOND ROUND  
LEICESTER FOSSE V LEICESTER TEACHERS**

This match, which had long been eagerly anticipated by local followers will of the Association game, was played on Saturday on the Mill-lane ground. Recent frost at night had made the surface of the ground somewhat crisp, for all that it was by no means unsafe although at the same time militating against scientific play. At the time fixed for commencing play the scene of action was enveloped in a foggy mantle, circumstance which doubtless had a deterrent effect on the attendance, the number of spectators being far from large. The Fosse pitted their full strength side, but the Teachers were short of Eyles and Gardner, the latter of whom, it was rumoured had forfeited his illegibility to play. The watch showed 2.50 when Webbe started the ball, Bailey having won the toss for the Teachers. The Fosse immediately assumed the offensive, the halves feeding the right wing in most prolific fashion, and enabling Murdoch and Bentley to shoot at goal in quick succession. Harris, however, kicked away once very neatly, and repelled the second shot with his hands in fine style. The Fosse still kept pecking away at their opponents citadel, two behinds being quickly succeeded by a hot shot from Parr, which just skimmed over the crossbar, and Harris next saving brilliantly at the expense of an unproductive corner. Up to this time the ball had never travelled out of the Teachers' half, but the latters left wing now had a look in, dashing down the boundary line in good style Wilkes and a Martin threatened danger, but could only force a corner, from which no definite advantage accrued. Then E Johnson and Parr broke away, but hands by the last name slightly eased the Teachers position. That Fosse soon again returned to the attack, and the Teachers goal looked at their mercy, when Cornell tripped Webbe just as he was in the act of shooting. From the free kick for this infraction of the rules Murdoch shot the ball through, but on an appeal the referee decided it had not been fairly placed, and at the second attempt Murdoch kicked behind. Still keeping up the siege, the Fosse forced Harris to use this fist, and to prevent danger from the return Cornell kicked out. Hereabouts Roundtree raised the siege, and passing out to the left wing the latter broke away, but the effort was spoiled by Flint playing badly offside when the leather was crossed to him. Although the first had the best of the exchanges the game now became of a more equal nature, Walker been called on to repel a combined attack on the part of Exton Bailey, Wilkes, and E. Martin - an effort which cost an unfruitful corner - whilst the Fosse forwards twice got the leather beyond their opponents line, but not between the uprights. Half time arrived with no score to either side. The fog at this time at increased density, and it was impossible to see more than halfway across the field, so description of the play necessarily be brief. Bailey restarted, and for a some few minutes play was of a fairly give and take character, but no means of a scientific nature, some of the players on both sides evidently losing their heads in their anxiety to score, At length E. Johnson sprinted smartly down his wing, and when tackled passed neatly back to Vickers, who in turn, again past out. Johnson dashed up, and beat Harris with a beauty, a unanimous appeal off-side being disregarded by the referee. Soon after Teddy Johnson again broke away and putting in a fine centre, Wbbe was enabled to put a second goal to the credit of the Fosse, another appeal for offside finding no favour with the "man behind the whistle." From now to the call of time play was more of a scrambling than a scientific kind, both sides playing a lot below their form. No further score transpired, however, and the Fosse thus won by two goals to nil. A protest lodged by the Teachers on the ground that the playing-feld is unfit for a cup tie. Fosse team: C J Walker, goal; W Simmons and D Davies, backs; J Johnson, R Perry and A Vickers, half-backs; C Bentley and J Murdoch, right wing; H Webbe, cenntr; J Parr and E Johnson, left wing, forwards. Teachers: W H Harris, goal; A Cornell and Marsden, backs; H Rowntree, T Lineker and R J Martin, half-backs; T Exton and J Flint, right wing; J Bailey, centre; E Martin annd T R Wilkes, left wing, forwards. Umpires, Mr Hollis and Mr Cooper. Referee, Mr W H Proctor, Notts Association.

*Leicester Daily Post -16 December 1889*

### **#8 FOSSE V LEICESTER TEACHERS**

Just my luck! Some time ago I made a mental resolve to desert my beloved Tigers on a given day in order to judge for myself what progress was being made, locally, in the science of Association Football. The game selected for the purpose happened to be the Fosse v. Teachers' cup tie, played on Saturday last, and it has to be confessed at the outset that the choice proved an unhappy one. Had the idea been afforded more than passing consideration, some other encounter would probably have been selected - not because the Fosse and Teachers rank below other local clubs in importance, because as a mater of fact they are, I believe, looked upon as the most capable exponents f Association football of which we can boast - but for the reason that more often than otherwise footballers, both Rugby and association, fail to give their best form when battling for Cup honours. Such was Saturday's experience. But to begin with the Alpha of the thing, it was impossible not to be impressed with the attractiveness of the play during the first 20 minutes of the game. The attack on the part of the Fosse was splendidly sustained, and the defence of the Teachers equally admirable, the

"heading" on both sides being an especially noteworthy feature. Now had the coolness and equanimity which marked the play of both sides up to this point have kept up throughout the contest, nobody could have been otherwise than well satisfied, notwithstanding even the manifest disadvantage from which players and spectators alike suffered in consequence of the fog. But alas! The character of the play suddenly degenerated into what can only be fitly described as a huge scramble. Men there were, it is true, who strove splendidly to pull the erring ones up to a proper sense of the task that lay before them, whilst occasional flashes of the right sort of football likewise illumined the general gloom; but on the while, I repeat, the play after the first 20 minutes or so descended to a very low level, and thus furnished a deep source of disappointment to those who patronised it, and many of whom were not slow to express their opinion that both Fosse and Teachers were not performing within "tons" of the form they have previously displayed.

"OBSERVER"

*Leicester Daily Post - 19 December 1889*

#### **#9 LOUGHBOROUGH v. LEICESTER WANDERERS**

Loughborough and Leicester Wanderers were to have met in the second round of this competition. The Loughborough ground was fixed upon for the venue, and, notwithstanding a severe frost, the visitors arrived on the ground between two and three o'clock. As the day advanced, however, the fog became thicker, one scarcely being able to see thirty yards ahead during the afternoon. Under these circumstances the challenge cup match was abandoned. Some 300 or so persons having passed the gate, undaunted either by frost or fog, the rival teams gave an hour's exhibition, although the left outside forward was scarcely able to sight the ball when in charge of his fellow on the right. In the first half Loughborough led by two to none, Cross and Wiseman having put the ball through. In the second half the two same players were each credited with a goal, the home team thus winning by four goals to none. Players: Loughborough: Wilders, goal; Griffin and Smalley, backs; Coltman, Cockain, and Kelham, half-backs; Rogers and A Smith, right; Gibson, centre; Wiseman and Cross, left. Umpire, Mr W Cockain. Leicester Wanderers: Brammah, goal; Rowson and Taylor, backs; H James, Watson and Watts, half-backs; H James and Meddings, right; Cade, centre; Tinsley and Neale, left. Umpire, Mr R Small. Referee, Mr T Ashmole.

#### **#10 ASSOCIATION CHALLENGE CUP SECOND ROUND.**

**ROBIN HOOD v MELTON ROVERS** —This match in the second round of the Challenge Cup Competition was played Saturday, in dull and wet weather. There were good number of spectators. Melton won the toss, and chose kick down-hill. The game once became very fast, and greatly favour the Robin Hood, several corners falling them, but the Melton backs defended in good style. From some loose play the part of the home backs. Melton were the first to score; Walker caught hold the ball, but it was wet and slipped from him and went through the goal. Soon after Poole equalised for the Robin Hood with good shot. At half-time the game stood one goal each. Immediately after recommencing Melton scored. The Robinn Hood now pressed, and shot after shot was put in, but only to be returned by the Melton backs. Several corners fell to the Robin Hood, but although they were well placed they came to nothing. After about 20 minutes play Gent scored, making the game equal, amid the loud cheers the spectators. From now to the call time strenuous efforts were made by both teams to score, but of no avail, when the whistle blew the game stood two goals each. The referee decided the game should be played 10 minutes longer, but at the end of that time the result was still the same. The match will re-played at Melton on November 30. Mr. T S Ashmole, Leicester, officiated as referee.

*Leicester Daily Post - 18 November 1890*

**#11** Mill Hill have scartched to Coalville in their Senior cup tie, which should have been re-played to-day at Coalville, the "House" from one cause and another being entirely unable to raise a team.

*Leicester Daily Mercury - 7 December 1889*

Regarding the Cup ties fixed for Saturday, Mill Hill have cause to regret that their "scratching" to Coalville was not delayed a few hours. Had the intimation been left over until Saturday morning the snow would possibly have saved their self-elimination from the competition, because they would in all possibility have been able to a fit and proper team to-day. However, it was a sportsman-like motive that prompted Mill Hill to cause Coalville as little disappointment as possible by announcing their intention in time to permit of Coalville getting another fixture if desired.



### **#12 MELTON ROVERS v. HUGGLESCOTE ROBIN HOOD**

This match was to have been played at Coalville on Saturday afternoon, but the Melton team did not turn up. The Robin Hood formally kicked a goal and claimed the match.

### **#13 LEICESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION CHALLENGE CUP**

#### **SEMI-FINAL**

#### **LEICESTER FOSSE v. LOUGHBOROUGH**

These teams met this (Saturday) afternoon to play off their semi-final in the County Association Challenge competition. The battlefield was at Coalville, and a good number of partisans of both teams travelled to that place to witness the game.

In the teeth of a stiff breeze and a shower of sleet the Fosse defended against strong attacks, and Bentley scored. Loughborough failed to score despite good opportunities. In the second half Fosse had the game in their own hands. Webb scored easily, from a grand corner by Murdock, and Johnson added a third. Murdock, with a good shot, missed by the goalkeeper made the fourth. Loughborough worked well together, Kelham putting in good work. Result: Fosse four goals, Loughborough nil

The Fosse team was composed of the following men: C. J. Walker, goal; S. Rowson and W. Davis, backs, T. Johnson (captain), R. Perry and A. Vickers, half backs; C. Bentley and J. Murdock, right wing; H. H. Webb, centre; E. Johnson, and J. Eggleston, left wing.

*1<sup>st</sup> March 1890 Leicester Daily Mercury*

### **#14 LEICESTERSHIRE CHALLENGE CUP COMPETITION**

#### **SEMI-FINAL**

**HUGGLESCOTE ROBIN HOOD v COALVILLE** – These teams met at Loughborough on Saturday afternoon, in the presence of a good attendance of spectators, to play for position in the final of the above competition. Hugglescote kicked off, and soon obtained a corner, which was nicely placed from the right wing, was fisted out by Compton, and got away by Dempsey. Glover smartly took the ball down the wing, and a corner resulted, but it proved fruitless. Coalville continued to press until by judicious play the ball was sent through by W Smith. Hugglescote were at a disadvantage on account of a strong wind blowing against them but hands being claimed Coalville were pressed, a corner ensuing, only, however, to be placed outside the left wing. The game continued to be exciting, but thanks to the defence of Coalville half-backs. The pressure of the Robin Hood failed to carry home a goal. A capital repulse by Holden gave R Smith a chance, of which he was not slow to avail himself, and matters looked ominous until the Robin Hood backs relieved. Good combination by the Hugglescote forwards carried the ball into their opponents' territory, and though the initial attempt failed, the Coalville backs were compelled to concede two corners. The pressure was not relieved until Coalville got away from a scrimmage. An attack from the left wing caused Walker to grant a corner, poorly placed, however, and fruitless. A good centre by Broughton, Holden nearly headed through his own goal, the resultant corner proving as useless as its forerunners. A pretty run down the centre by the Coalville forwards, repulsed by the backs, was followed by equally as good play on the Hugglescote left. The hard lines experienced by Hugglescote in front of goal received a striking illustration when from two corners, smartly centred by Briers, the ball first struck the crossbar, and then was headed over. The relief thus obtained by Coalville was not of long duration, as Armson, cleverly passing the backs, shot over the cross-bar. Coalville were more fortunate, for two minutes later, while Walker was being pressed by R Smith, he slipped his chance, and allowed a second goal. At half-time Coalville led by two goals to nil. Soon after resuming, Hugglescote pressed, and though they failed to make capital out of a foul, the pressure was maintained until a run by the Coalville centres changed the venue. Following this came a smart centre from the left wing, which Glover put through, but a plea of off-side was allowed. The fast play which had characterised the game from the commencement fell off somewhat, neither side appearing to obtain any advantage. A corner for Hugglescote right wing loke dominus, but the point was neutralized by the ball being kicked just outside the posts. A good run on the left wing followed, but the forwards not being supported the temporary advantage was useless. The Coalville outside left worked well, and a combination in the centre necessitated the goalkeeper handling. The game, however, was much more even during the second half, and Hugglescote having once more had the misfortune to strike the upright during an attack, the game ended with two goals to the credit of Coalville, Hugglescote having failed to score. Robin Hood: A Walker, gal; G Marriott, W H deacon, backs; S Briers, J Poole, D Moore, half-backs' C Broughton, J

Marriott, T Gee, S Gent, forwards. Coalville: W Compton, goal; A Banner, W Holden, backs; A Brownlow, J Nichols, C Eales, half-backs; W Glover, W Maddock, W Smith, W Dempsey, R Smith. Referee, Mr Aitken (Derby Midland). Umpires, Mr W E Taylor (Mill Hill) and Mr W Horner (Leicester Teachers).  
*Leicester Daily Post – 8 March 1890*

## **#15 SENIOR CUP**

### **FINAL TIE**

#### **COALVILLE v LEICESTER FOSSE**

Glorious spring weather, and a crowd of spectators lining the enclosure, characterised this season's final of the above competition, played at Loughborough on Saturday afternoon. Webb kicked off at 3.45, a slight wind blowing in favour of Coalville. Immediately the Villians took the ball down, a kick from their right wing passing outside near the posts. The leather being returned, a pass on the left enabled Squires to centre nicely, but no one being up, Crompton saved easily. The attack being maintained by the Fossils, a high kick by E Johnson touched the cross-bar amid growing excitement. The Villians responded gamely on seeing this, and gained two corners in succession, the ball not being got away without difficulty. The game continued very fast, the Fossils backs finding their work cut out. Two more corners to Coalville followed a bad defence by the Fossils backs, but nothing resulted. The game was becoming somewhat slow when Webb, fed from the left wing, followed up by the ball, and just as the back player was returning the leather he headed it past and rushed it through the goal in fine style. The cheers which accompanied this feat were followed by counter cheers a minute later when by a combined rush the Villians equalised. A foul near the Coalville goal gave Fosse a chance, neutralised by Murdock missing his kick. The next minutes were to the advantage of the Fosse, but the game the game was too wild to be scientific, little attention being paid to passing. Fosse held a chance from a foul near the goal, badly negotiated, however. The Villians attacked, and while the ball was passing into neutral ground Perry received a nasty kick. This caused a cessation of play for five minutes, a cheer announcing that the player was not hors de combat. Squire made a fast run on the wing, but Banner was one too many for him. Others took up the attack, Holden proving serviceable by along safe kick. Within the next ten minutes another nasty kick – this time on the head – was received by a Fossil, Bentley being the sufferer. Being unable to recover, he left the ground. Fosse attacked, and by an unfortunate chance the ball rebounded over the crossbar when they were within an ace of scoring. At half-time the game stood one goal to each side. The match so far had not been famous for any display of good football, but rather for a careless placing of the ball. The Fosse goal certainly was due to Webb's excellent rush, the Colville backs being more on the alert afterwards. Scarcely had the players been ten minutes in the field before Perry retired hurt, and for 20 minutes the Fosse played nine men. The attacks by Coalville were admirably met by the Fosse until, with Perry again in the enclosure, the Fossils pressed, the weakness in front of the goal being their failing. A shot from Webb rebounded from the cross-bar, and one from Murdock- a long shot – went a foot over. The Villians had a look in, but Glover and Eales could not penetrate the backs. Play became monotonous towards the close, resulting in a draw of one goal each. There were 1,500 spectators. Coalville, W Compton, goal; Banner and Holden, backs; Brownlow, Nichols and Warmby, half-backs; W Glover and J Clifford, right wing; C Eales, centre; R Smith and W Smith, left centre. Leicester Fosse: C J Walker, goal; S Rowson and W Davis, backs; C Bentley and J Murdock, right wing; H Webb, centre; E Johnson and C Squire, left wing. Umpires, Mr Voss, South Wigston and Mr Fellowes, Hugglescote. Referee, Mr Fred Wright, Melton.

*Leicester Daily Post – 31 March 1890*

## **#16 LEICESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION CHALLENGE CUP COMPETITION**

### **FINAL TIE**

**LEICESTER FOSSE v. COALVILLE.** The final in this competition, fixed for last Saturday week, resulting tie of one goal each, the teams again met on Saturday afternoon on the Loughborough Athletic Grounds. Fully 1,500 spectators lined the enclosure. Wharmby kicked off at 3.30, and the ball was soon carried into the Fosse quarters. Two corners ensued in quick succession, but nothing of importance came from them. The Fosse responded, and corner was obtained. The ball having been in neutral territory West made run down the wing, but his efforts were futile by reason of a bad centre kick. Coalville, however, continued to press, the Fossils' defence in front of goal being severely taxed. Banner having conceded corner, the Villians gained relief by a foul. But the pressure was maintained by the Fossils, West making a warm shot, although when Johnson was given chance he o'er-topped the cross-bar. Combined play on the part the Leicester Fosse led them within an ace of scoring, then for some time the game was marked by but few points of

special note. Shortly before half-time, Gardner, who had been quietly keeping the Fosse right wing up to the scratch, made long kick, which proved a good attempt at the goal, but failed by being a little short. On resuming, a rush by the Villians brought Rowson to the front, and the leather being got away, Fosse attacked. The first time Holden withstood it, but on the ball being returned, bouncing high, it nonplussed Compton, and passed through close to the upright. A third attack within the space of many minutes was neutralised by Gardner misjudging the kick. Still the Fosse pressed, but Banner, playing coolly, prevented another chance of scoring. Compton saved on one occasion by a fine kick, but the Fossils evidently held the advantage, Coalville showing signs of being "pumped." A determined attack by the Fossils, carried on in front of goal, ended by Gardner, whilst on his back, kicking the ball and hitting the upright, Compton also being down. Two more goals were scored within the last fifteen minutes, one by Thompson, and the other by Murdock from a long kick. Coalville scarcely had look-in during the second half. Result: Fosse four goals Coalville none. Players: - Coalville: W. Compton, goal; Banner and Holden, backs Brownlow, Nichols, and Eales, half-backs; W. Maddocks and W. Smith, right wing; W. Wharmby, centre; T. Garrett and R. Smith, left wing. Leicester Fosse: C. J. Walker, goal; S. Rowson and W. Davis backs; J. Johnson, J. Murdock, and A. Vickers, half backs; F. Garner and C. Bentley, right wing ; K. Thompson, centre ; E. Johnson and West, left wing.

*Leicester Daily Mercury - 14 April 1890*