



Leicestershire Senior Cup 1898-99

Winner: Gresley Rovers
Runner-up: Swadlincote Town
No. Of entries: 13

Thirteen entries – two of which – Gresley Rovers and Swadlincote Town – were from out of the county.

Both Leicester Fosse and Loughborough were thrown out of the competition for fielding ineligible players.

The replayed semi-final between Coalville Town and Swadlincote was advertised to commence at 3.45 – which given the time of year was late enough – but it was more than 30 mins after time that a start was made. After the players had been standing shivering in the cold for some time, it was found that no ball had been provided, and the match had to be commenced with an old leather, supplied by the Whitwick club. This was not the only omission, for the official in charge of the match had failed to elect linesmen.

Swadlincote won the Cup after beating Gresley Rovers by a single goal; the final being played in Derbyshire.

The finalists tossed a coin to stage the final.

Mr J E Carpenter was appointed to referee, but, owing to illness, he was unable to officiate.

Round 1

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
1	8.10.1898	Anstey Town North	1	1	Swadlincote Town AN Other	
2	8.10.1898	Gresley Rovers	12	0	Earl Shilton Town	
3	8.10.1898	Hugglescote Robin Hood	0 (0)	3 (0)	Hinckley Town Beadsworth Berry AN Other	At Hugglescote. Blockley [Robin Hood] was injured at the beginning the second half and had to leave the field. "all were easy goals, and ought to have been saved."
4	8.10.1898	South Wigston (O Wight's) AN Others	2 (1)	2 (0)	Loughborough Reserves Goodman (2)	Toone and Black's Cricket Club enclosure.
5	8.10.1898	Whitwick Town	0 (0)	4 (2)	Leicester Fosse Reserves King Coulson Watkin	Ivy Woods enclosure, Whitwick. Good gate. Sunny weather

Coalville Albion and Coalville Town (finalists) and Barwell Swifts, byes

Round 1 Replays

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
6	22.10.1898	South Wigston Onions (2)	2	3	Loughborough Reserves Tebbs (2) Cutler	At Wigston. Loughborough came from 2-0 down; equalising just 2 minutes from time. Cutler scored the winning goal in extra time.
7		Swadlincote Town	?	?	Anstey Town	

Loughborough were thrown out of the competition for playing an unregistered player.

Round 2

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
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8	12.11.1898	Barwell Swifts	2	2	Coalville Town	At Barwell.
9	12.11.1898	Hinckley Town AN Other	1 (0)	2 (1)	Gresley Rovers Lyons Harrison	
10	12.11.1898	Swadlincote Jones (pen) Chamberlain og Draycott	4 (2)	1 (1)	Coalville Albion Middleton	

Kick-off no later than 2.45 pm

Round 2 Replay

Date	Home	Away	Match Details			
11	25.2.1899	Coalville Town Gilchrist Clamp Jones Bradshaw	4	1	Barwell Swifts Rose	Waggon and Horses Ground, Coalville.

Semi-Finals

Date	Home	Away	Match Details			
12	11.3.1899	Coalville Town Beeston (pen)	1 (1)	1 (1)	Swadlincote Town Brearby	At Hugglescote. Sabine was sent off for insulting the referee.
13	11.3.1899	Leicester Fosse og (Fox) Coulson Wood	3 (2)	0 (0)	Gresley Rovers	At Swadlincote. Good gate. Gresley missed a penalty.

Fosse played an eligible player, C Wood. There was no defence and the tie was awarded at Gresley

Semi-Final Replay

Date	Home	Away	Match Details			
14	25.3.1899	Swadlincote Town Beeston (pen)	3	1	Coalville Town	At Whitwick.

Final

Date	Home	Away	Match Details			
15	1.4.1899	Swadlincote Town	0 (0)	1 (1)	Gresley Rovers Wileman	At Swadlincote. Large gate. Good weather. Enthusiastic crowd.

Match Reports

#1-2

GRESLEY ROVERS v. EARL SHILTON TOWN.

At Gresley. Result :
GRESLEY ROVERS, 12 goals ;
EARL SHILTON, none.

ANSTEY v. SWADLINCOTE.

At Anstey. Result :
A DRAW, —one goal each.

Coalville Times - Friday 14 October 1898

#3

Leicestershire Senior Cup.

FIRST ROUND.

HUGGLESCOTE ROBIN HOODS v.
HINCKLEY TOWN.

At Hugglescote. The Robins started, but Heward got down, and shot outside. The Robins were the first to obtain a corner, but play was very fast, each end being visited, and both goals underwent repeated attacks. The shooting was very tame. Heward, Beadsworth, and Fluck played a good game for Hinckley in the forward rank. Benistone, Handford, and Blockley were conspicuous for the Robins. Both goal-keepers saved their charges very creditably. Half-time :
NO SCORE.

Resuming, the Robins went off with a dash, trying Adcock several times. Blockley was injured, and left the field. After this, Hinckley gained the upper hand, scoring by Beadsworth from Heward's centre. Berry let them score again, the ball glancing off his foot into the net. All were easy goals, and ought to have been saved. Result:
HINCKLEY, three goals ;
ROBIN HOODS, none.

Coalville Times - Friday 14 October 1898

#4

LEICESTERSHIRE SENIOR CUP.

SOUTH WIGSTON (O. WRIGHT'S) v LOUGHBOROUGH RESERVES.

South Wigston and all the other little Wigstons were en fete on Saturday, with a cup-tie encounter in the above competition, which took place on the natty little enclosure of Toone and Black's C.C., all the young sportsmen of the district being present. Not very representative sides lines up, as Wigston were minus H. Hopewell, a coming back, and Loughborough were unable to bring several players for this competition through not being registered. An interesting game ended in a draw of two goals each. Wigston leading at half-time by a goal to nil.

Market Harborough Advertiser and Midland Mail - 11 October 1898

#5

WHITWICK TOWN v. LEICESTER FOSSE RESERVES.

At Whitwick. Teams:—

Underwood, goal; Ballard and R. A. Thompson, backs; Robinson, Lord, and Parry, halves; White and Coulson, right wing; King, centre; Wood and Watkins, left wing

Whitwick: Reckless, goal; Bevans and Tugby; backs; Buckley, Wooding, and Cuffin, half-backs, J. and W. Sellars (right wing), R. Smith (centre), Mounteney and King (left wing), forwards.

Referee, Mr Moss (Hugglescote). Linesmen, Messrs W. Burdett (Leicester), and R. Carter (Whitwick).

The match was played in sunny weather, before a good gate, which increased considerably as the game proceeded. Watkin was conspicuous for clever work on the visitors' left, and gave Reckless a high shot which the home custodian successfully disposed of. Midfield play followed, and soon afterwards Coulson obtained a good opening on the right, but was pulled up for off-side. Play of an even nature followed. Smith, the Whitwick centre man, had twice good chances of distinguishing himself, but his shooting proved ineffective. A good cross by Watkin gave the Leicester forwards a capital opportunity, but they failed to take advantage of it. Ballard and Thompson were several times called upon to stop dangerous rushes on the part of the home forwards. Soon after Watkin made a very smart run up the field, and, with the assistance of King, was able to register Leicester's first goal by a clear and well-judged shot. Halftime:—

FOSSE, one goal;
WHITWICK, nothing.

The second half opened even. Then Fosse assumed the aggressive, and the home goal was soon in jeopardy. Attempts to score by the visiting forwards all proved futile however. Then the tables were turned, and the home forwards breaking away made an ineffectual attack on Underwood's citadel, but danger was averted, and the home team were soon compelled to retire again. From a beautiful centre by White, Coulson obtained, and managed to beat Reckless with a low shot, this making number 2. for the visitors. The attack on the home goal was maintained, and the home custodian about this time made a very tricky save, which was loudly cheered. It was when King was about to rush the ball through that Reckless "ducked," and throwing that player over his back, effected a clever save at the expense of a corner. Not long afterwards Coulson ran down, and transferred to King, the latter placing the third goal to the Fossils' credit with a stinging shot. The ball had not been re-started many minutes before Watkis after a brilliant run again found the net, this making the visitors' fourth and last goal. When the whistle blew shortly afterwards, the score sheet read:
FOSSE, four goals;
WHITWICK, nothing.

Coalville Times - Friday 14 October 1898

LEICESTERSHIRE SENIOR CUP.

REMARKABLE GAME AT LOUGHBOROUGH.

Loughborough Reserves having made a draw at South Wigston a fortnight ago, the clubs met on the Athletic Grounds to re-play the tie on Saturday. Loughborough had a scrambling team, Holmes the goal-keeper, taking the centre half position, while Wal West figured at full back. The teams were as follows:—

Loughborough: Moss; Basford and West; Adcock, Holmes, and York; Mea, Barlow, Bexon, Cutler, and Tebbs.

South Wigston: Crooks; H. Wright and Lagg; Smith, A. Wright, and Atkins; Thornton, Bridgford, Goodman, Hougham, and Onions.

Mr. W. P. Woolley, of Kegworth, had charge of the whistle, and Loughborough winning the toss, kicked with the wind first half. The game was tolerably even, each goalkeeper having some nice shots to negotiate. Onions scored for Wigston, and Loughborough would have equalised but for Cutler handling the ball as it was going inside the post. At the interval Wigston led by a goal to none, and shortly after resuming Onions scored when considerably off-side, but the referee allowed a goal. This success so overjoyed the Wigston followers that there was a perfect pandemonium for a time. A number of visitors on the stand made a tremendous noise, and in their excitement let their discretion run riot. The Loughborough folk looked calmly on, and were evidently keenly disappointed, for with only ten minutes left to play Wigston were leading by

two goals to none. Then the Loughborough players altered their positions, York going centre, and a great change came over the scene. Tebbs scored a capital goal, and two minutes from that time put on another, the whistle sounding with the game once more a draw of two goals. The Wigstonian contingent had now quietened down considerably. Extra time was played. In the first quarter Loughborough attacked almost continuously, and Cutler, after striking the bar, put the ball into the net. This sealed the result, for Wigston had scarcely a look in afterwards, and were beaten by three goals to two. The result was most remarkable, and not a few Loughborough spectators left the field ere the Reserves had notched a goal. Wigston's supporters made themselves so obnoxious to people who like to take their football calmly that Loughborough people are glad their like are not often seen at the Nottingham-road ground. The game was rather rough, a tendency which Mr. Woolley did not sufficiently check, with the result that the players began to take liberties, pushing being of frequent occurrence.

Leicester Daily Post - 24 October 1898

#7 SWADLINCOTE v ANSTEY TOWN

#8 BARWELL SWIFTS v COALVILLE TOWN

At Barwell. Result

COALVILLE, two goals

BARWELL, two goals

Leicester Daily Post - 14 November 1898

#9 HINCKLEY v GRESLEY ROVERS

At Hinckley. The Rovers lost the toss, but scored after three minutes play by Lyons. A fast and hard game continued, Whitehead having to leave the field for good. The game was vigorously contested till half-time. Resuming, Hinckley had a narrow shave and then Harrison scored for the Rovers. Continuing to press the Rovers made it hot for Adcock. Result:

GRESLEY, two;

HINCKLEY, none

Leicester Daily Post - 14 November 1898

#10 SWADLINCOTE v COALVILLE ALBION

At Swadlincote. The home team kicked off and in five minutes Middleton scored for Coalville. Jones equalised from a penalty, and after a goal had been disallowed, Chamberlain added another. Half-time Swadlincote, two goals, Coalville, one. Resuming, a Coalville back put through his own goal, and Draycott for Swadlincote, added and the game added:

SWADLINCOTE, four goals;

COALVILLE ALBION, one goal.

Leicester Daily Post - 14 November 1898

Leicestershire Senior Cup.

SECOND ROUND—RE-PLAYED.

COALVILLE TOWN v. BARWELL SWIFTS.

These teams having made a draw of two goals each in the second round of the above competition when they met at Barwell, the match was re-played at Coalville on Saturday. Coalville were without F Bunting, who had missed his train, and the services of an old player, W Smith, were brought into requisition. The custodian, Rose, was also a new recruit in the Coalville ranks, the team lining up as follows:—Coalville: Goal, Rose; backs, Beeson and King; half-backs, C Benistone, Bradshaw and Brewin; forwards, Smith, Jones, Walker, Gilchrist, and Clamp.

Referee, Mr Linthwaite, Leicester.

In the first half, when playing down the slope, Coalville scored four goals, the first by Gilchrist, after about eight minutes' play, Jones, Clamp and Bradshaw scoring subsequently.

The opening play in the second half was of an even nature, but Barwell got away nicely after about a quarter of an hour and Harris, inside right, scored a good goal. Coalville pressed hard afterwards, several exciting raids being made on the Barwell goal. The custodian on one occasion finely put the ball over the bar from a brilliant shot by Walker, and there was some demur at the referee's decision for a goal kick when it should certainly have been a corner. Coalville continued to press, but failed to further increase their lead and the end came with the score:

COALVILLE TOWN, four goals;
BARWELL SWIFTS, one.

Coalville Times - 2 March 1899

#12 SWADLINCOTE v COALVILLE TOWN

At Hugglescote. Swadlincote started, and play at once became exciting, the backs on both sides have plenty to do. Swadlincote played up better for a time, Brearby and Gilchrist doing useful work for their respective sides. A penalty for tripping against Swadlincote was nicely placed in the net by Beeston. Sabine was ordered off the field for insulting the referee. After this Swadlincote put in some good work, and form a good run by the whole of their forwards Brearily equalised, the game at half-time being:

Re-starting, Swadlincote, made brief attacks, several shots being well stopped by Webster. After this Coalville gradually wore their opponents down, Gilchrist sending in some clinking shots, which Campion dealt with in splendid fashion. Coalville appealed, but the ball did not go over. The finish was very exciting. Result:

SWADLINCOTE, one goal;
COALVILLE, one.

Leicester Daily Post - 13 March 1899

**#13 LEICESTERSHIRE SENIOR CUP
SEMI_FINAL**

FOSSE v GRESLEY ROVERS

At Swadlincote, before a comparatively good date. The ground was in fine condition. The Rovers kicked off twenty-five minutes late, against the wind. Fosse attacked, but the Gresley defence prevailed. Bishop narrowly escapes scoring, following which Fosse had a corner, from which Fox, the Gresley back, shot a goal for Leicester. The Gresley defence was not strong, and Coulson got through, and scored a second point after twenty minutes' play. Fosse had the best of matters, gaining several unproductive corners. Interval:

FOSSE, two goals;

GRESLEY ROVERS, none.

Immediately on resuming the Fosse goal narrowly escapes, and then a penalty fell to Gresley. Harrison took the kick, but Goudy effected a brilliant save at the corner. Gresley, with the wind, kept the play mostly at the Leicester end, but the Fosse defence was remarkably strong. Goudy showed up well. In the last few minutes the Leicester right wing transferred, and Wood ran through, and scored amidst loud cheers, finishing the last goal of the day. Result:

FOSSE, three goals;

GRESLEY, none.

Leicester Daily Post - 13 March 1899

#14

Leicestershire Senior Cup.

REPLAYED SEMI-FINAL.

COALVILLE TOWN v SWADLINCOTE.

After having made a draw of one goal each at Hugglescote, these teams met on the Whitwick ground on Saturday to decide which team should meet Gresley in the final for the senior cup. The Swadlincote team was exactly the same as on the previous occasion, but there were one or two notable absentees from the Coalville eleven as will be gathered from the following: Coalville: Goal, Webster; backs, King and Beeson; half-backs, C Benistone, E Benistone, and Brewin; forwards, Brownlow, Jones, Walker, Gilchrist and Clamp.—Swadlincote: Goal, Campion; backs, Sabine and Kinson; half-backs, Rowland, Jones and Pickering; forwards, Wileman, Scott, Chamberlain, Orgill and Brearley.

Mr A E Marson (Leicester) was the referee.

It was very late—4.20—when the players took their positions and then the start was further delayed through the absence of a ball. This necessity having eventually been procured, Swadlincote kicked off up the slope, but with the wind behind them. Soon after the start rain fell heavily for about a quarter of an hour, and the high wind made the play erratic and uninteresting. Both sides pressed in turn, Coalville in particular having some good chances which were not improved upon, while both custodians brought off some good saves. Swadlincote eventually scored through Scott and led at the interval by one goal. Swadlincote had most of the play in their favour down the slope and Chamberlain put on a couple of goals in quick succession, though one was obtained while the Coalville players stood appealing for offside. The point was allowed and thus Swadlincote held the substantial lead of three to none. They pressed further, but Coalville defended well, and just before time, Beeson kicked a goal from a penalty. Result:

SWADLINCOTE, three goals;
COALVILLE, one.

13

#15 LEICESTERSHIRE SENIOR CUP

FINAL TIE

GRESLEY ROVERS v SWADLINCOTE

At Swadlincote. The match evoked a lot of local interest, and there was a large gate and a good deal of enthusiasm. Swadlincote won the toss and played with the sun and wind behind them. Despite this, Gresley played strongly, and for the most part kept play at the Swadlincote end. Splendid play on the Rovers' right wing enabled Jones to centre accurately, from which Wileman headed through amid cheers. Swadlincote made strenuous efforts to draw level, but failed, and the score at the interval was

GRESLEY, one;

SWADLINCOTE, none.

Resuming the second half the Rovers attacked, and had two unproductive corners, whilst the Swadlincote custodian nearly let a long dropping shot beat him. A penalty was awarded Gresley, which Harrison took twice, but Campion saved at the cost of corner. Swadlincote afterwards tried hard to draw level. The game ended by Gresley winning by one goal to nil. Mr Harris of Leicester presented the cup to the winners at the pavilion. Result:

GRESLEY, one goal;

SWADLINCOTE, none.

Leicester Daily Post - 3 April 1899