



Leicestershire Junior Challenge Cup 1889-90

Winner: Loughborough Athletic
Runner-Up: Gresley Rovers
No. of entries: 11

Eleven clubs entered the inaugural Leicestershire Football Association Junior Cup competition. Five established clubs entered their reserve sides – Leicester Fosse, Loughborough, South Wigston, Syston and Leicester Teachers. Of the remaining clubs, two were relatively new (Holy Priory and Highfield Swifts), with the remainder being well established. Gresley Rovers, unlike most of their arch-rivals had decided to confine their attentions to ‘junior’ rather than ‘senior’ football, and were clear favourites to win the cup. The first round draw paired the following clubs:

Holy Priory v Gresley Rovers
Leicester Victor v Highfield Swifts
Fosse Reserves v Quorn Havelock
Loughborough Athletic v South Wigston Reserves
Melton Swifts v Syston Wreake Valley Reserves

Leicester Teacher Reserves were granted a bye. All matches had to be played before 30 November. The first match of this competition was staged in Derbyshire, between Gresley Rovers and Leicester Holy Cross Priory. Rovers won “hands down” by 22 goals to 1. Holy Cross alleged that the “Rovers” were “seniors” and hence should not be allowed to compete. This protest was dismissed out of hand by Leicestershire Football Association.

Quorn Havelock won a well-contested game against Leicester Teachers by two goals to one at Victoria Park, which was witnessed by a large number of spectators. The visitors scored a goal in each half before the scholars clawed one back.

Mr Hodson’s Close, Leicester-road, Melton staged the Swifts cup tie against Syston Wreake Valley. Announced to begin at 2:30, a large number of spectators had been admitted to the field by that time, but the game did not commence until 3:15 due to the late arrival of the referee. Within seventeen minutes, Melton scored three times. An objection was made about the third goal on the ground that the ball had passed behind the posts on the right wing and rebounded back into play again off a spectator. There was a long delay in proceedings whilst the referee decided in favour of Melton and it looked as though the Syston team would walk off the ground in protest as a small group of players conferred seriously and did not appear anxious to proceed with the game. Reluctantly Syston decided to continue and conceded a fourth within seconds of the restart. A further goal was scored by Melton just before half-time was called. After conceding the eighth goal, Syston’s goalkeeper Green frequently resorted to appealing for offside every time the ball came dangerously near to him. When the ninth goal was obtained after Green allowed the ball to roll over his arms, a spectator bawled “Off-side”. The referee who was unable from his position to see the play in the rapidly fading light, disallowed the goal. Another Melton goal followed directly afterwards, and then the game ended, the Swifts being victors by nine goals, which ought to have been ten, to nil.

Leicester Victor kept up their season’s unbeaten run with a 5-0 win against Highfield Swifts on Spinney Hill Park. A fair number of spectators witnessed Victor’s first ever cup tie. Lovell opened the scoring after 20 minutes. Victor added another four in the second half.

Loughborough Reserves scored after five minutes against South Wigston Reserves, who responded by immediately and equalised. Play was confined principally in Wigston territory and at half-time Loughborough led by three goals to one. The second period was more even and of a “give-and-take” nature, with Wigston equalising before Loughborough eventually winning the game 5-4.

Fosse Reserves met Quorn Havelock on the Victoria Park. A lucky goal at the start of the game to the villagers was equalised by the Fosse and the match ended in a tie. The replay at Quorn the following Saturday was played on a ground covered in deep snow and hence unfit for anything like good play. When the referee

stopped the game a few minutes before time, as it was impossible to play any longer, and the match was again left drawn at two goals each. A protest was lodged by Quorn on the ground that the Fosse played two first team men, which breached competition rules. After an investigation the Leicestershire Football Association upheld the protest and awarded the game to Quorn.

With six clubs remaining in the competition, there were just two second round ties:

Melton Swifts v Leicester Victor

Leicester Teachers v Quorn Havelock

Gresley Rovers and Loughborough Athletic were given byes into the semi-finals.

Melton sailed through their second round home tie against Leicester Victor. Heavy rain had made the ground sodden in parts, but there was not much to find fault with on this score, and a good hard fought game was witnessed by a limited number of spectators. Despite splendid goalkeeping by Victor's goalkeeper, Martin, Melton scored the first goal from dashing play by their forwards. The cheers that greeted this had hardly died away before Spiby with a grand shot doubled their lead. Very little time was wasted at the interval, and within just a few minutes both teams were at it hard again. Despite outstanding play by Swift's backs and half-backs, they rarely created any chances for their forward line. The third and final Melton goal was scored from a corner kick by Lee, the opponent's goalkeeper just touching the ball as it passed through. In the remaining tie, Quorn Havelock won a well-contested game against Leicester Teachers by two goals to one at Victoria Park, which was witnessed by a large number of spectators. The visitors scored a goal in each half before the scholars clawed one back.

The draw for the semi-final round of the Junior Challenge Cup made at a meeting of the executive body of the Leicestershire Football Association at the Victoria Hotel, Leicester, resulted in the following ties:

Loughborough Reserves v Quorn Havelock, at Syston

Gresley Rovers v Melton Swifts, at Loughborough

About 200 spectators were present at Syston to watch Loughborough Reserves beat Quorn Havelock 4-1 in a well fought encounter. Played at Loughborough in miserable weather before a small gate, Gresley Rovers slaughtered Melton Swifts 10-0 in the second semi-final. Gresley scored three goals in the first fifteen minutes and by half-time were leading 5-0. Soon after the restart the Melton goalkeeper returned the ball while standing over the goal-line, thus giving Gresley yet another goal. Had it not been for poor shooting by Rovers, and a snow storm, the score could have been so much higher.

The final between Gresley Rovers and Loughborough Reserves was staged on the Fosse ground, on Mill-lane. The weather was fine and the ground in capital condition. But for a lusty-lunged following that arrived in Leicester in the train of the Rovers the attendance would have been most meagre. It was a game of men against boys. As one sports correspondent commented that Rovers were "the most old-fashioned juniors ever saw", with one man in the crowd being heard to say. "They're a bit old in the tooth for juniors." Their average age was about 24, compared with the Loughborough side that were "juniors pure and simple", and unfortunately "one or two played like juveniles." Rovers took the lead after Sharpe's lackadaisical shot was missed by Miller, the Loughborough custodian. This was quickly followed by two further goals by Gresley before the interval. Armstrong scored for Loughborough with a rebound shot evoking loud cheers. Encouraged by this success, Loughborough played with more spirit and for some time the Gresley backs had plenty to do. Relief came a few minutes before the end of the game, when from a throw-in near Loughborough's corner flag Robinson scored his third and Rover's fourth goal. But for the admirable defence of Kidger and Smalley the winning margin would probably have been much greater.

Round 1

	Date	Home		Away	Comments	
1	30.11.1889	Fosse Reserves	1	1	Quorn Havelock	
2	16.11.1889	Gresley Rovers	22	1	Leicester Holy Cross Priory	It was alleged that Gresley were a "senior" side.
3	23.11.1889	Leicester Victor Skeffington Culley	5	0	Highfield Swifts	Spinney Hill Park, Leicester. Victor maintained their season's unbeaten record.

		Lovell (2) Smith				Game commenced punctually at 3 pm.
4	23.11.1889	Loughborough Reserves	5 (3)	4 (1)	South Wigston Reserves	
5	30.11.1889	Melton Swifts AN Others Fendell Tyler Lee	9 (5)	0 (0)	Syston Wreake Valley Reserves	Staged on Mr Hodson's Close, Melton. Admission 3d. Large number of spectators. Game commenced at 2.30 pm. Melton scored 3 times in the first 17 mins. Syston's custodian due to nervous excitement resorted to appealing for offside every time the leather came dangerously close to him. After the ninth goal, one spectator, who "evidently suffering from severe momentary attack of enthusiasm", which spread like an infection all over the field bawled "Off-side", intending it as a taunt for the Reserve goalkeeper". As the umpire was unable from his position to see the play, as it was now dusk, disallowed the goal, "though a goal was never more fairly obtained."

Leicester Teachers Reserves, a bye.

Round 1 Replay

	Date	Home			Away	Comments
6	7.12.1889	Quorn Havelock Chapman AN Other	2	2	Fosse Reserves Thompson AN Other	Played on a ground covered in deep snow and hence unfit for anything like good play. When the referee stopped the game a few minutes before time, as it was impossible to play any longer, and the match was again left drawn at two goals each. A protest was lodged by Quorn on the ground that the Fosse played two first team men, which breached competition rules. Leicester Football Association upheld the protest and awarded the game to Quorn.

Round 2

	Date	Home			Away	Comments
7	21.12.1889	Melton Swifts	3	0	Leicester Victor	Heavy rain made the ground sodden. Game commenced at 2.40 pm.
8	11.1.1890	Leicester Teachers Eales	1	2	Quorn Havelock Owen Chapman	Victoria Park, Leicester. Large number of spectators.

Gresley Rovers and Loughborough Athletic, byes.

Semi-Finals

	Date	Home			Away	Comments
9	8.2.1890	Loughborough Athletic Angrave AN Others	4 (1)	1 (0)	Quorn Havelock AN Other	At Syston. 200 spectators.
10	15.2.1890	Gresley Rovers	10	0	Melton Swifts	At Loughborough. Miserable weather. Snow storm fell across the ground in the second half. Small crowd.

						Gresley scored 3 times in 15 mins.
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Final

	Date	Home			Away	Comments
11	22.3.1890	Loughborough Athletic Armstrong	1	4	Gresley Rovers Robinson (3) Sharpe	Mill-lane, Leicester. Splendid weather. Small crowd.

Match Reports

#1 FOSSE RESERVES and QUORN HAVELOCK played a drawn home of one goal each in the Junior Cup ties: and in the same competition MELTON SWIFTS beat SYSTON WREAKE VALLEY by nine goals to nil.

Leicester Chronicle – 7 December 1889

Further progression in the Leicestershire Junior Cup Competition was made on Saturday. The second Fosse eleven met Quorndon Havelock on the Victoria Park. A lucky goal at the commencement of the game to the villagers could be no more than equalised by the Fosse and the match ended in a tie. It will thus have to be replayed.

Leicester Journal – 6 December 1889

#2 LEICESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION JUNIOR CHALLENGE CUP

FIRST ROUND

The first match of this competition was staged in Derbyshire, between Gresley Rovers and Leicester Holy Cross Priory. Rovers won "hands down" by 22 goals to 1. Holy Cross alleged that the "Rovers" were "seniors" and hence should not be allowed to compete.

Leicester Daily Mercury – 18 November 1890

#3 HIGHFIELD SWIFTS v VICTOR – The Victor kept up their season's unbeaten record by Saturday, on the Spinney Hill Park, in this the first cup tie they have ever played. In anticipation of a good match, and the afternoon being pleasant, a very fair number of spectators were present, who showed their appreciation of the play by repeated applause. The game started punctually at 3 pm; the Swifts taking first kick and following up well with pretty passing play were soon buzzing round the Victor goal; but the backs were too safe, and Martin, in goal, was playing in his best style. After about 20 minutes' hard play the Victor scored their first goal. Lovell neatly passing to Shenstone, who crossed the leather over to Will Skeffington, the latter scoring with a smart screw shot. No further point was added up to half-time, but the pace and length of play seemed to be telling its tale on some of the players. Lovell restarted, and the Victor forwards commenced rushing, and would not be denied, as Culley, from a nice shot and faulty handling of the Swifts' goalkeeper, put on the second point, A. Lovell immediately after scoring from a scrimmage close to the Highfields lines. The same player also from a long run and good screw-kick causing the score to be four to none, and again having the good fortune to claim number five for his side. Though these goals were put on fast the Swifts once or twice broke away and threatened danger, but Cotterill and Coper, at back averted; the Victor half-backs also putting in good work, especially Bridger. Just before time A. Lovell claimed, but it was disallowed for offside. Cheers being given, the match, thoroughly pleasant throughout, ended as stated above, the Swifts having played an exceedingly plucky game. – Victor team: Goal, C. H. D. Martin; backs, W. Cooper (captain), F. L. Cotterill; half-backs, H. Skeffington, C. E. Smith, W. R. Bridger; forwards, W. Skeffington, W. G. Midley, A. Lovell, A. H. Shenstone, A. Culley. Umpire, Mr T. Wells (Victor F.C.); referee, Mr Horner (Teachers F.C.)

#4 LOUGHBOROUGH RESERVES v SOUTH WIGSTON - Played at Loughborough on Saturday afternoon. Five minutes from the start the home team scored, but the visitors responded to the attack and equalised. Another point having been registered by the Loughborough players, the venue of the game was confined principally to the Wigston territory, who were pressed most of the time. At half-time Loughborough led by three to one. On resuming play was more even. A first-class shot from the Wigston right wing Underwood failed to stop, and this success was followed by a smart attack by the Wigston left, from which Smalley conceded a corner. This proved unproductive, and Oldham smartly dribbled the ball down the centre, the

result being a fourth goal for Loughborough. Within a couple of minutes, a fifth goal was added. Wigston attacked, and though faulty play spoilt the first onset they succeeded in making a third by the aid of the right wing, but Brightwell quickly handled, and the backs also ably defended. From a scrimmage near the Wigston goal the ball was again passed through, but the goal was disallowed. Give-and-take play ensued, and then, from a neat attack by the visitors, W. Smith scored. Clarke having conceded a corner the visitors pressed, and a second corner was obtained, but the home team got away, and even play ensued. When the whistle blew Loughborough held five goals to Wigston four. Players:- Loughborough: Underwood, goal; Clarke and Smalley, backs; Baldwin, Moss and Coltman, half-backs; F. Cocaine and Dawson, right; Oldham, centre; Batty and Rose, left; umpire, Mr T. Lakin. Wigston: Brightwell, goal; E. Limb and W. West, backs; C. Glover, C. Tattersall and A. Barrett, half-backs; C. Goodwin and A. Hall, right; W. Hammer, centre, Mr J. O'Shea. Referee, Mr W. H. Wells.

#5 LEICESTER JUNIOR CHALLENGE CUP

MELTON SWIFTS v SYSTON WREAKE VALLEY RESERVES – These teams met in the first round of the Leicestershire Junior Cup Competition on Mr Hodson's Close, Leicester-road, Melton on Saturday afternoon. The match was announced to begin at 2:30, and a large number of spectators had been admitted to the field by that time, but by very bad arrangement the ball was not kicked off until a quarter past three, the referee not having made it convenient to turn up until then. As soon as the signal was given, both teams started in earnest, the Swifts having had the choice of goals, and elected to kick towards the town. The home team began immediately to rush, and had scored in less than six minutes. Two or three minutes afterwards, a foul was claimed by the Swifts on the right, in the Reserves' quarters, from which Fendell scored the second goal for Melton. Within seventeen minutes the visitors colours had been lowered three times, an objection, however, being made to the third on the ground that the ball had passed behind the posts on the right wing, and rebounded into play again off a spectator. There was therefore a slight pause and then the referee had decided in favour of Melton it looked almost as though the visitors would have thrown up the sponge, as a small group of them conferred seriously, and did not appear anxious to proceed with the game. They came to, however, eventually, and no sooner had the ball been set in motion than it was run uninterruptedly up the ground on the left by Fendell, and to the utter astonishment of the unwary "Reserves" at the back, slipped splendidly past their custodian, making the fourth honour for the Swifts. Their fifth goal was secured just before half-time. Upon changing ends, Tyler and Lee both scored for Melton in a very short time, and the eighth goal for the Swifts was rather due to the nervous excitement of their opponents' custodian, who now frequently resorted to appealing every time the leather came dangerously near to him, and on this occasion he allowed the ball, which had been well directed from the centre by Fendell, to roll over his arms. When the ninth goal was obtained, one of the spectators, who was evidently suffering from a severe momentary attack of enthusiasm, which had spread like an infection over the field, bawled aloud "Off-side" intending it as a taunt for the Reserves' goalkeeper. An appeal was urged, and as the umpire was unable from his position to see the play, it now being quite dusk, it was sustained, though a goal was never more fairly obtained. Another goal followed directly afterwards, and then the game was over, the Swifts being victors by nine goals to nil, which ought to have properly been ten. The play of Fendell was the principal attraction, his screw shots from the left wing being well directed and scarcely ever imperfectly sent. Teams: - Melton Swifts: Hazlewood, goal; Goodacre and Littlewood, backs; Dunmore, Slack, and Spiby, half-backs; Lee and Tyler, right wing; Miller, centre; Fendell and Richardson, left wing. Syston Wreake Valley Reserve: Green, goal; Ward and Keeling, backs; J Baum, Hill and Adcock, half-backs; F Baum and Toon, right wing; Leatherland, centre; Potter and Sharpe, left wing. Referee, Mr Ashmould.

Grantham Journal – 7 December 1889

#6 FOSSE RESERVES v QUORN HAVELOCK

These teams met to replay their tie at Quorn on Saturday. The ground was in wretched condition, owing to the snow, and quite unfit for anything like good play. Thompson started the ball for the visitors against the wind, and after neutral play Quorn passed and obtained a corner. Fosse transferred play to the other end, and Thompson scored, Quorn, playing with considerable dash, then gave the visitors much trouble, and Poyner, in kicking out of goal, sent the ball hard on to one of the players, and it rebounded through, Quorn thus scoring a lucky point. In the second half both sides alternatively pressed, corners falling to each. Quorn obtained a free kick near the Fosse goal, and after a sharp tussle Chapman shot through. Fosse now had several "corners" in quick succession, and the Quorn men massed in goal and kept the ball out, but the

Fosse left wing ran up and scored. The referee had to stop the game a few minutes, as it was impossible to play longer, and the match consequently was again left drawn; score two goals each. A protest was lodged by Quorndon on the ground that the Fosse played two first team men. Fosse: - Poyner, goal; Burdett, Staynes, back; Jones, Harris, Johnson, half-backs; Gardner, Johnson, left-wing; Thompson, centre; Pears and Robinson, right wing; umpire, Mr Cooper. Quorndon: Ward, goal; Clark, Beardsmore, backs; Clarke, Winters, Adcock, half-backs; Orson, Gamble, left wing; Chapman, centre; Beardsmore, Warrington, right wing; umpire, Mr Facer. Referee, Mr Ashmole.

Leicester daily Mercury – 9 December 1889

#6 FOSSE RESERVES and QUORN HAVELOCK played a drawn home of one goal each in the Junior Cup ties: and in the same competition **MELTON SWIFTS beat SYSTON WREAKE VALLEY** by nine goals to nil.

Leicester Chronicle – 7 December 1889

Further progression in the Leicestershire Junior Cup Competition was made on Saturday. The second Fosse eleven met Quorndon Havelock on the Victoria Park. A lucky goal at the commencement of the game to the villagers could be no more than equalised by the Fosse and the match ended in a tie. It will thus have to be replayed.

Leicester Journal – 6 December 1889

The Melton Swifts on Saturday entered with flying colours into the second round of the Leicestershire Junior Challenge Cup. Their opponents were the Syston Wreake Valley Reserve, and a most weedy lot of men they were. But with little knowledge of football, and no combination, the Swifts literally made rings round them, and ran out easy winners by nine to nil. Fendell appears to have been of material assistance the victors and to have played a sterling game.

Grantham Journal – 7 December 1889

#8 TEACHERS RESERVES v. QUORN HAVELOCK

This match in the second round of the above competition was played on Saturday afternoon on the Victoria Park, and attracted a large number of spectators. The ground was rather greasy, but not sufficiently so to prelude a fairly good game, whilst there was no wind to give any advantage in point of position. The Quorn centre started the ball just below three o'clock, and the game for the first half was fairly fast. The Teachers held a slight advantage in the early stages, but could not score. Then the visitors had a turn, and just before the whistle sounded for half-time got a goal by the aid of Owen, who shot at Morgan, and the latter, making but a feeble effort to save, scored with a return shot. Previous to this the ball had been through from the Quorn left wing, but, the referee having allowed a prior appeal for off-side, the goal was not, of course, conceded. Soon after re-starting, Quorn got the best of the game, and as a result of a warm attack on the Teachers citadel, Chapman gave his side a good lead by scoring a second goal from a scrimmage in the goal mouth. The pace now slackened, but the Teachers made determined efforts to get on terms with their rivals, and Eales partly succeeded by shooting a goal after a smart run up the field. Give-and-take play followed to the finish, but no further legitimate point was gained, although Quorn once sent the ball through from a "free" for a foul in front of goal, the claim for a goal, however, not being allowed, as it was obviously obtained against the rules of the game. The Havelock thus won a well-contested game by two goals to one. Quorn players: - W. Ward, goal; J. Beardsmore and C. Warrington, right wing; H. Orson and H. Gamble, left wing; G. Chapman, centre. Umpire, Mr Facer. Teachers: Morgan, goal; F. Gater and C. Keay, backs; E. P. Uttley and E. Smith, right wing; C. Knight and J. D. Preston, left wing; F. Eales, centre. Umpire, Mr Hollis. Referee, Mr J. W. Scott.

#9 LOUGHBOROUGH RESERVE v QUORNDON HAVELOCK – Played at Syston, about 200 people being present. After a few minutes play a corner was given to Quorn, but nothing resulted. A goal kick being given to Loughborough. Armstrong took it clear away and Angrave scored. After half-time Loughborough had the best of the game, and scored three more goals, and won a good match by four goals to one. Players:- Loughborough reserves: Goal, J. H. Miller; backs, J. Smalley (captain) and E. Kidger; half-backs, L.L. Baldwin, C. Coltman and A. Ross; forwards; forwards, right wing, F. Cockain, and A. Armstrong; left wing, G. Angrave and W. Cayless; centre, F. Fisher. Quorn Havelock: Goal, W. Ward; backs, W. Clarke and J. Beardsmore; half-backs, F. Clarke, J. Stubbs and J. Adcock; forwards, right wing, C. Warrington and J. A Beardsmore; left, H. Gamble and C. H. Orson; centre, G. Chapman.

Leicester Daily Post - 10 February 1890

FOOTBALL—GRESLEY ROVERS FC v MELTON SWIFTS—These teams met on the Athletic grounds, Loughborough, on Saturday last, in miserable weather, and before a small number of spectators, to decide, who should enter the final for the Leicestershire Junior Cup. Gresley won the toss. Melton started the ball, but the Rovers soon pressed, and in the first fifteen minutes scored three goals. Following up their advantage, they soon added a fourth. The Swifts now had a look in and obtained a corner, but nothing came of it. Greeley next ran the ball down and scored a fifth goal, and before half-time they had scored two more. Soon after changing ends the Melton goal-keeper, on being pressed, drew right through the goal with the ball in his hands, thus giving Gresley another goal. The ground was most slippery, and neither side were able to play in anything like form. Gresley, however, continued to press and at the finish left the ground winners by 10 to 0. Players Gresley Rovers—Mansfield, Harrelson, Topliss, Dale, Ensor, Fox, Langford, Robinson, Sharp, Jackson, Hart; Melton—Hazelwood, Littlewood, Taylor, Dunmore, Goodwin, Durance, Lee, Tyler, Barnes, and Richardson. The umpires were Messrs. E. Taylor (Mill Hill) and W. Horner (Leicester Teachers), and the referee Mr. T. S. Ashmole (LFA).

Burton Chronicle - 20 February 1890

#11 LEICESTERSHIRE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION JUNIOR CHALLENGE CUP FINAL

GRESLEY ROVERS v LOUGHBOROUGH RESERVES- This match was played on Saturday on the Fosse Ground, Mill-lane. The weather was fine, and the ground in capital condition, but the muster of spectators only limited. Sharpe kicked off for Gresley, but he ball being well returned Loughborough immediately forced a corner. Topliss cleared, and Langford and Robinson coming away, Loughborough had to concede a corner, a concession they also had to repeat a little later, but from neither of which could the Rovers gain any distinct advantage. Another attack, however, on the part of Gresley met with better success, Sharpe doing the trick with a lackadaisical sort of shot which Miller ought easily to have stopped. After the Rovers right wing had missed an easy chance Loughborough attacked hotly, but Topliss played a fine defensive game, and after repeated efforts succeeded in raising the siege. Then play was more equal until the Gresley right again broke away, Robinson augmenting the score with a capital shot. Soon afterwards Mansfield had to punch out a hard shot, but with Robinson piling on a third goal with a fine long shot kick the teams crossed over with Loughborough's score-sheet still blank. In the earlier stages of the second half play was of a desultory character, though considerably in favour of the Rovers, goal kicks and corners being very frequent at Loughborough's end. At length, however, the "Luffs" worked the ball down, and Armstrong got past Mansfield with a rebound shot, the downfall of Gresley's goal evoking loud cheers from the majority of the spectators. Encouraged by this success, Loughborough played up with more spirit than they had hitherto exhibited, and for some time the Gresley backs had plenty to do. Relief came a few minutes before the end of the game, and from a throw in near Loughborough's corner flag Robinson scored again for the Rovers, who won a moderate game by four goals to one. But for the admirable defence of Kidger and Smalley (the former especially), the score against Loughborough would probably have been much larger. Gresley Rovers: R Mansfield, goal; G Topliss and J Harrison, backs; W Dale, A Ensor and S Fox, half-backs; W Langford and J M Robinson, right wing; J Sharpe (captain), centre; J Hart and W Jackson, left wing forwards. Loughborough: J Miller, goal; J Smalley (captain) and E Kidger, backs; L Baldwin, C Coltman and A Rose, half-backs; F Cockain, G Angrave and W Cayless, left wing. Referee, Mr Ashmole; umpires, Mr W Cooper and Mr E Taylor

Leicester Daily Post - 24 March 1890