



## Leicestershire Football League 1890-91

Winner:	Gresley Rovers
Runner-up:	Hugglescote Robin Hood or Shepshed Town
Wooden-spoon:	Syston Wreake Valley
Matches played:	64
Goals scored:	?
Biggest home win:	South Wigston 10-0 Syston Wreake Valley
Biggest away win:	Syston Wreake Valley 0-7 Leicester Teachers
Highest scoring:	Hugglescote 11-2 Syston Wreake Valley

The Leicestershire Football League was Leicestershire's first Association Football league competition.

A meeting of gentlemen interested in football was held at the Victoria Hotel, Leicester, in March 1890, when representatives were present from the following clubs:— Leicester Fosse, Melton Rovers, South Wigston, Loughborough, Leicester Teachers, Hugglescote Robin Hood, South Wigston, Leicester Victor, Shepshed, and the Leicestershire Football Association, the question; being the desirability of forming a Football League for the county. Mr. J. Cooper, Loughborough, occupied the chair —Mr. Ashmole proposed that League for Leicestershire be formed, which was seconded and carried unanimously. It was suggested that 10 clubs should form the League an amendment in favour of 12 being proposed. On a vote the smaller number was agreed to by 10 votes to 3. Thirteen clubs were nominated, and the following 10 selected; Loughborough, Melton Rovers, Shepshed, Coalville. Leicester Teachers, Hugglescote Robin Hood, South Wigston, Market Harborough, and Leicester Fosse. A fortnight was allowed for the clubs to signify their intention to join the League, and in case any should decline, it was agreed that the following clubs should be admitted in the order named: Leicester Victor, Syston, Hinckley. The subscription was fixed at £1 1s. Mr. J. T. Hincks, of Leicester, was appointed president, and it was agreed that there should be 12 vice-presidents, one appointed by each club, the executive of the remaining two nominated by the committee. Mr. Ashmole was elected secretary, and another resolution passed was that the committee should formed of one representative from each club, the executive to consist of five, to chosen by the general committee.

Leicester Fosse withdrew from the competition after Frank Gardner stated that club would not be able to play their full strength side in all Leicestershire League matches, as their first team would be playing in other matches on the same days. Leicestershire's other top club, Loughborough pulled out after successfully applying to join the Midland Alliance League.

By the time the fixture list (see Appendix below) was published in September 1890, the inaugural Leicestershire Football League competition comprised just 8 teams - Coalville Town, Gresley Rovers, Hugglescote Robin Hood, Leicester Teachers, Melton Rovers, Shepshed Town, South Wigston and Syston Wreake Valley.

Gresley Rovers, which are still in existence, are based in Derbyshire.

	Ground	Shirt Colours
Coalville Town	Wagon and Horses ground	
Gresley Rovers	Mushroom-lane, Alvert village	
Hugglescote Robin Hood	Garner's ground	Green
Leicester Teachers	Evington-lane and Victoria Park	
Melton Rovers	Southern-lane, Melton	
Shepshed		Red
South Wigston		Red
Syston Wreake Valley		

Leicester was represented in the Leicestershire Football League by just one club - Leicester Teachers.

It is worth noting the distance between the clubs. Travelling more than a few miles was time consuming during the 1890s. In reality the mode of transport was limited to bicycle, horse, brake (carriage), and train. Given that most employed players and spectators worked on Saturday morning, it is perhaps not surprising that many games started late and often finished early due to the lack of daylight from November to the end of February. Furthermore, the fields of play were often flooded, and the weather also adversely impacted on both the quality of football played and the completion of fixtures.

Approximate distance (miles) between Leicestershire Football League clubs	Coalville Town	Gresley Rovers	Hugglescote Robin Hood	Leicester Teachers	Melton Rovers	Shepshed	South Wigston	Syston Wreake Valley
Coalville Town		13	1.5	12	32	5.5	17	15.5
Gresley Rovers	13		12	24	11.5	15	28	27
Hugglescote Robin Hood	1.5	12		12.5	32	6	17	16
Leicester Teachers	12	24	12.5		25	15	5	6
Melton Rovers	32	11.5	32	25		24	32	16
Shepshed	5.5	15	6	15	24		18	14
South Wigston	17	28	17	5	32	18		16
Syston Wreake Valley	15.5	27	16	6	16	14	16	

The first game of the Leicestershire Football League took place on Saturday 13 September 1890 when Hugglescote Robin Hood beat Coalville Town 3-0.

The next round of games was not played for another three weeks, when Syston Wreake Valley conceded 11 goals away at Hugglescote. In the two other games played that day, Leicester Teachers beat Coalville (3-1) and Gresley Rovers scored six against South Wigston. The following week Syston Wreake Valley conceded 7 against Leiceser Teachers, making it 18 in just two games. South Wigston also lost their second game, although in their third game they managed to draw against Melton Rovers.

Shepshed's season started badly, as firstly one of the stars of the Senior Cup winning team, Elijah Needham signed professional forms for the Lancashire club Bootle, and secondly, the first Leicestershire Football League fixture, away to Gresley Rovers, was lost by six goals to one. The following week though, 1 November 1890, Shepshed slaughtered Syston Wreake Valley 10-0. As with the very first Leicestershire Senior Cup fixture at Shepshed three years earlier, Shepshed welcomed the new competition with a home win.

Gresley won their first 8 League games and only suffered one defeat – away at Shepshed in March 1891.

Richardson of Melton Town appeared to have been unaware that his side's home game against Gresley in January 1891 was to be played at Melton Swift's enclosure, and as a result "frivolled away his time in another field."

At a meeting of the Leicester Football Association on 10 January 1891, a letter was read from Syston Wreake Valley FC stating that they wished to withdraw from the League, since their secretary could not raise teams. Their representative on the Management Committee of League resigned.

Melton Rovers were fined 5s for not turning up at Shepshed on 27 December. Coalville were fined 16s for a similar offence against Gresley, who made a claim of £4 against them.

Leicester Daily Mercury sports columnist "Forward" reported in December 1890 that ... *"it is not a little remarkable that in nearly every match in which the Rovers [Gresley] have figured this season one or more of their*

opponents have been laid low – whether on account of the Rovers roughness or their own awkwardness I don't pretend to know.”

Syston Wreake Valley conceded 30 goals in their first four League games. Their only points came from a victory against Melton Rovers.

In December Shepshed did not play a League game as both Coalville on 13 December and Melton Rovers on 27 December failed to arrive.

Sadly in March 1891 with both Syston Wreake Valley and Leicester Teachers having resigned and with the suspension of Coalville Town for non-payment of a fine, the Leicestershire Football League, collapsed, leaving the League table, according to the local newspapers looking:

	<b>P</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>Pts</b>
Gresley Rovers	10	9	0	1	37	10	17
Hugglescote Robin Hood	9	5	0	4	18	17	10
Shepshed	7	4	2	1	24	11	10
Melton Rovers	8	2	3	3	14	18	7
South Wigston	10	2	3	5	18	31	7
Coalville Town	7	2	1	4	2	12	5
Leicester Teachers	6	2	1	3	13	11	5
Syston Wreake Valley	6	1	0	5	5	33	2
Totals	63	27	10	36	131	134	

*Leicester Daily Post – 10 March 1891*

This table cannot be correct as the total number of games played (63) is odd, which is not possible. In addition, the goals for and against values are not the same; plus, a goals for tally of just 2 for Coalville Town is clearly incorrect.

The Gresley Rovers archive has the following table

	<b>P</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>Pts</b>
Gresley Rovers	10	9	0	1	37	10	18
Shepshed Town	7	4	2	1	24	11	10
Hugglescote Robin Hood	9	5	0	4	20	17	10
Melton Rovers	8	2	3	3	14	18	7
South Wigston	10	2	3	5	20	21	7
Leicester Teachers	7	2	1	4	13	11	5
Coalville Town	7	2	1	4	11	13	5
Syston Wreake Valley	6	1	0	5	5	33	2
Totals	64	27	10	27	144	134	

Note: the goals for and against values do not match.

Although Gresley are still Champions, runners-Up are Shepshed not Hugglescote. However, there are errors in this archive. The 3-3 draw with Coalville in November 1891 and the 3-2 victory to Gresley against the same club a month later are not Leicestershire Football League fixtures, they were in fact Leicestershire Senior Cup games.

Below is a League table constructed from results published in local newspapers.

	<b>P</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>Pts</b>
Gresley Rovers	10	8	1	1	35	10	17
Hugglescote Robin Hood	10	5	1	4	20	19	11
Shepshed	7	4	2	1	26	11	10
South Wigston	9	2	3	4	16	24	7
Melton Rovers	8	2	3	3	14	18	7
Leicester Teachers	6	2	1	3	13	11	5
Coalville Town	7	2	1	4	9	12	5

Syston Wreake Valley	7	1	0	6	5	33	2
Totals	64	26	12	26	138	138	

Note: Of the results included one score is not known- Wreake valley v Gresley Rovers and hence not included in the goals for and against columns.

### Sequence of Results

Coalville Town	Win	Loss	Win	Loss	Loss	Draw	Loss			
Gresley Rovers	Win	Win	Win	Win	Win	Win	Win	Win	Loss	Draw
Hugglescote Robin Hood	Loss	Win	Win	Loss	Draw	Loss	Loss	Win	Win	Draw
Leicester Teachers	Win	Win	Win	Loss	Loss	Draw				
Melton Rovers	Draw	Loss	Win	Loss	Loss	Draw	Draw			
Shepshed	Loss	Win	Draw	Draw	Win	Win				
South Wigston										
Syston Wreake Valley						Win	Loss			

Win
  Loss
  Draw
  Game not played

There are clear discrepancies between the three tables

Although not all of the fixtures were not completed, it was possible to declare Gresley Rovers as league winners. Scores and match reports for all Leicestershire Football League games played **may not** have been found. If anyone has any additional information, please get in touch.

In 1894 the Leicester and Northants League was founded. Leicester Fosse Reserves were crowned champions in the first two seasons. In 1896, the league changed name to the Leicestershire Senior League, Leicester Fosse Reserves, winning the inaugural competition. Apart from a two-year hiatus between 1901 and 1903, the League has run continuously since 1903 apart from during the two world wars and a four-year spell in the 1930s. A second division was added in 1948.

### Results Grid

Leicestershire Football League 1890-91	Coalville Town	Gresley Rovers	Hugglescote Robin Hood	Leicester Teachers	Melton Rovers	Shepshed	South Wigston	Syston Wreake Valley
Coalville Town			3-0		0-1	2-2		
Gresley Rovers			2-2	5-0	5-0	6-1	6-2	
Hugglescote Robin Hood	3-0	0-4		1-0			1-0	11-2
Leicester Teachers	3-1	1-2			2-2			
Melton Rovers		2-5	4-0				3-3	
Shepshed		2-0	4-0				4-0	10-0
South Wigston	3-1		0-2		2-2	3-3		
Syston Wreake Valley	0-2	L/W		0-7	1-0		2-3	

Home win
  Away Win
  Draw
  Result Not Known/Game not played

### Results & Match Details

Date	#	Home	Away	Match Details
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13.9.1890	1	Coalville Town	3	0	Hugglescote Robin Hood	
4.10.1890	2	Hugglescote Robin Hood Moore (2) J Marriott Strait (2) Pool (4) Gent Kendrick	11	2	Syston Wreake Valley AN Other (2)	Wagon and Horses Ground, Coalville
	3	Leicester Teachers Eyles (2) Bailey	3	1	Coalville Town AN Other	
	4	Gresley Rovers	6	2	South Wigston	
11.10.1890	5	South Wigston	0	2	Hugglescote Robin Hood	
	6	Syston Wreake Valley	0	7	Leicester Teachers	
18.10.1890	7	Melton Rovers Berridge AN Others	3	3	South Wigston AN Others	
	8	Syston Wreake Valley	0	2	Coalville Town og (Adcock) AN Other	
	9	Leicester Teachers Wilkes	1	2	Gresley Rovers J Sharp Langford	Evington-lane, Leicester Bingham (Teachers) retired early in the second half.
25.10.1890	10	Coalville Town	0	1	Melton Rovers	
	11	Gresley Rovers	6	1	Shepshed	
1.11.1890	12	Melton Rovers Rex Smith (2) F Smith Berridge	4	0	Hugglescote Robin Hood	Southern-lane Ground, Melton Four minutes were added to the first half after the ball had to be recovered from the other side of a hedge at least 6 times.
	13	Shepshed Waldron AN Other Waring (3) Smith (2) Iliffe (2) Moore	10	0	Syston Wreake Valley	Syston arrived late. Game kicked off at 3.35 pm
8.11.1890	14	Hugglescote Robin Hood Gent	1	0	Leicester Teachers	
	15	Syston Wreake Valley	2	3	South Wigston	
15.11.1890	16	Hugglescote Robin Hood+	0 (0)	4 (2_)	Gresley Rovers Mattley AN Others Langford	Garner's ground, Hugglescote
	17	South Wigston	3	0	Coalville Town	
22.11.1890	18	Coalville Town	2	2	Shepshed	
	19	Gresley Rovers	5	0	Melton Rovers	
6.12.1890	20	Syston Wreake Valley	1	0	Melton Rovers	
13.12.1890	21	Shepshed			Coalville Town	Coalville did not turn up
20.12.1890		Melton Rovers			Leicester Teachers	
	22	Syston Wreake Valley		W	Gresley Rovers	Despite deep snow the referee (T Ashmole) considered it the field fit to play a League game. Syston refused to play and the game was awarded to Gresley.
27.12.1890		Gresley Rovers			Hugglescote Robin Hood	
	23	Shepshed			Melton Rovers	Melton did not turn up. Shepshed claimed the match,

						but were unsuccessful as Mr Johns, the Melton secretary two days previous to the match wrote to the Shepshed stating that they would not travel owing to the "bad state of the weather."
3.1.1891		Hugglescote Robin Hood			Shepshed	
		South Wigston			Syston Wreake Valley	
10.1.1891	24	Hugglescote Robin Hood Moore Gent Cross	3	0	Coalville Town	Garner's Ground, Hugglescote
		Leicester Teachers			South Wigston	
	25	Melton Town AN Other(s)	2	5	Gresley Rovers Brewin Longford (2) Sharpe Ensor	Played on Melton Swifts Ground, which was covered in frozen snow. Grantham Journal gave odds of 6/4 on for Gresley to win the game. Two Melton players - Rippin and W Clarke - declined to play on account of the hard ground. Soon after the game commenced, Melton lost the services of another player, Lee, after spraining his ankle.
17.1.1891		Leicester Teachers			Hugglescote Robin Hood	
	26	South Wigston	3	3	Shepshed	
24.1.1891		Melton Town			Syston Wreake Valley	
31.1.1891		South Wigston			Gresley Rovers	
7.2.1891	27	Shepshed	4	0	Hugglescote Robin Hood	
	28	Gresley Rovers Robinson (2) Orme AN Other	5	0	Leicester Teachers	Gresley sustained their unbroken record of successes by easily disposing of a weak Leicester Teachers eleven, who were without Handford, their best player - who decided to play for the Fosse.
	29	South Wigston Longdon Smith	2	2	Melton Berridge AN Other	
14.2.1891	30	Hugglescote Robin Hood	1	0	South Wigston	
		Coalville Town			Gresley Rovers	
		Leicester Teachers			Syston Wreake Valley	
		Melton Rovers			Shepshed	
21.2.1891		Coalville Town			Syston Wreake Valley	
		Shepshed			Leicester Teachers	
28.2.1891		Melton Rovers			Coalville Town	
	31	Shepshed West Kidger (2) Hewitt	4	0	South Wigston	
		Syston Wreake Valley			Shepshed	
7.3.1891	32	Leicester Teachers Rowntree Thompson	2	2	Melton Rovers Rex Smith (2)	Victoria Park, Leicester
	33	Shepshed	2	0	Gresley Rovers	
14.3.1891		Coalville Town			South Wigston	
		Leicester Teachers			Shepshed	

	34	Gresley Rovers	2	2	Hugglescote Robin Hood	
21.3.1891		Hugglescote Robin Hood			Melton Rovers	
		South Wigston			Leicester Teachers	
		Gresley Rovers			Syston Wreake Valley	
28.3.1891		Melton Rovers			Coalville Town	
		Syston Wreake Valley			Shepshed	

+ Gresley Rovers archive – report that the 15 November game against Hugglescote was played at home. Newspaper reports state it was played at Hugglescote.

Table includes games included in fixture lists, but for which no results are known. It is assumed that in the vast majority if not all cases that games were not played.

## MATCH REPORTS

### September

**#1 FOOTBALL** – The Town [Coalville] Football Club opened their season on Saturday, when they met the Hugglescote Robin Hood on the “Waggon and Horses” ground. The match was in connection with the Leicestershire League and excited a great deal of interest. The home team held the upper hand all through and won by three goals to none.

*Burton Chronicle – 18 September 1890*

**#1 COALVILLE TOWN v. HUGGLESCOTE ROBIN HOOD**– The opening of the Leicestershire League matches was commenced on the Waggon and Horses ground, Coalville, on Saturday last, between Coalville Town v Hugglescote Robin Hood, and resulted in a win for the home team by three goals to nil. Coalville: W Compton, goal; J Nichols and C Eales, backs; R Smith, W Lakin, and R Nichols, half-backs; W Glover and Brownlow, right wing; W Smith and T Garratt, left wing; Maddocks, centre. Hugglescote: W Walker, goal; W Deacon and G Marriott, backs; D Moore, J Poole and J Kendrick, half-backs; H Cross and W Underwood, right wing; S Gent and S Pool, left wing; J Marriott, centre. Umpires, W Green, and W Hubbard: referee G Swain.

*Leicester Journal – 19 September 1890*

### October

#### #2 LEICESTERSHIRE LEAGUE

**ROBIN HOOD v. SYSTON WREAKE VALLEY** - This Leicestershire League match was played at Hugglescote. The ball was kicked off at four o'clock, and a lively game ensued for the first ten minutes. The home team then began to show their supremacy. Moore being the first to pass the ball through the goal. The ball was soon again up at the System end, and many good shots made were repulsed by Hewitt, who kept goal in grand style throughout. A sharp shot from J. Marriott, however, secured goal number two; Moore immediately after scored number three, and a little fine passing by Pool and Moore put the ball in Strait's way, who scored number four. Pool was the next to score from a tame kick, which the goal-keeper evidently took for an "outer." The same player added the sixth goal which shot through after hitting the post. Pool afterwards ran up the ground, but was stopped by Hewitt, who returned it to Strait, who took the ball through, the game at half-time standing seven goals to nil. On the resumption of play Syston at once made a run at the Robin Hood goal. The ball was returned by the backs, and after a little dodging by Gent that player made a grand long shot, which secured number eight. Kendrick scored the next goal by a long shot from the centre of the ground, which the goalkeeper failed to hold, although handled by him. It was now time for Syston to score. and a rush was made for the Robin Hood' and a good shot was stopped by Walker, but before he had time to get back the ball was shot through. The game was now more equal for a little time, give and-take play being the order of the day. This did not satisfy Pool, who after some short play scored number 10. Syston after some good passing goal secured their second goal by a good shot from Potter. Repeated shots were made at the Syston goal, and Pool scored 11, four of which had been kicked by that player. The result at the finish was Robin Hood, 11 goals; Wreake Valley, 2 goals. Hewitt kept goal first-class or many more goals would

have been made. He was very busy throughout the match. Players -Robin Hods: Messrs. D. S. Moore, J. Marriott, G. Marriott, S. Gent, J. Pool, I. Mattley, J. Brearley, A. Strait, W. Lakin, H. Kendrick, and R. Walker (goal); umpire, Mr. W. Hubbard. Wreake Valley: Messrs. Stacy, Preston, Bamford, Potter, Walton. Ratcliffe, Sharp, Toone, Lewis, Barrows, and Hewitt (goal); umpire, Mr. Walton. Ream, Mr. W. Fellows.

*Leicester Daily Post - 6 October 1890*

**#3 LEICESTER TEACHERS v. COALVILE TOWN** - This Leicestershire League match was played on the private ground of the Teachers, who won, after a moderate game, by three goals to one, Eyles (2) and Bailey being the scorers for the winners.

*Leicester Daily Post - 6 October 1890*

**#4 GRESLEY ROVERS v. SOUTH WIGSTON** - Played on the ground of the former. South Wigston winning the toss, the Rovers started the ball, and at once began to press, but owing to excellent goal-keeping were for some time unable to score. The visitors then played up and equalised matters, but this to put the Rovers on their mettle, and the forwards, getting possession with a piece of splendid combination, scored goal No. 2. After this they held the upper hand till the call of half-time, the score then being four goals to one in the Rovers favour. The ball being restarted, the Rovers dashed off in good style, but excellent shots from the forwards were repelled by the clever play of Crook in goal. The Rovers, not to be daunted, scored No. 5. The visitors, rousing themselves by a piece of good play from the right wing, scored No. 2. After this the Rovers sent shot after shot, but the goal-keeper keeping at his work stopped them in splendid style, amidst loud applause from the spectators, the Rovers scoring No. 6 about five minutes before the call of time, thus winning easily by six goals to two. Gresley Rovers: R. B. Mansfield, goal; J. Harrison and G. Topliss, backs; S. Fox, W. Thompson, and W. Dale, half-backs; J. Hart, W. Jackson. W. Lansford, J. H. Robinson, and J. Sharpe, forwards. South Wigston Crook, goal; W. Bolsover and J. Usher, back; W. Bridgeford, T. Langbert, and H. Weston, half-backs; J. Longden, W. Storer, C. Studd, H. Bolsover, and C. Medley, forwards. Umpires, H. Hall, and C. E. Catley. Referee, Mr. W. Rostock.

*Leicester Daily Post - 6 October 1890*

**#5 HUGGLESCOTE ROBIN HOOD v. SOUTH WIGSTON** - This match was played at Wigston. The home team at once pressed, but Walker saved splendidly. Even play followed, and then Poole scored for Hugglescote. On crossing over Wigston at once assumed the aggressive, and from a corner Medley headed through and made matters even. Fast play followed, and although Wigston had slightly the best of matters, Hugglescote scored again, and won by two goals to nil.

*Leicester Daily Post - 13 October 1890*

**#6 LEICESTER TEACHERS v SYSTON WREAKE VALLEY** - Played at System. The Teachers were minus Exton, Faire and Liniker, whose places were filled by Key, Halliday, and Preston. The Valley played about their full strength. Winning the toss Syston kicked off, but gained nothing by this advantage, for the ball was quickly taken from their forwards, and a free kick for "hands" conceded to the town team in the Syston territory, and then, after some retaliative play, another resulted in the mouth of the home goal, but nothing came of it. Syston then rushed the ball down the field, but the shot for goal went wide of the mark. The ball was then, from the kick out, smartly returned up the field, but Wilkes in attempting to head a nice centre from Halliday, failed to score, and System, taking advantage, ran the ball back to the Teachers' goal quarters, a capital shot resulting, but Preston in goal stopped it beautifully. Play now settled down round the Syston goal, but Wilkes having another good chance, kicked wildly, and Rowntree, who then had the ball, also made a bad shot at goal. Syston right wing (Walton and Lewin) now took the ball into the enemy's quarters, but missed a good chance of scoring, the ball being passed rashly to the left wing (Potter and Sharpe), who, had they not been stopped finely by Bailey, would undoubtedly have run in. Give-and-take play here reigned, and then Rowntree, having the ball nicely passed to him by Eyles, again made a crooked shot, missing an easy chance; and again, in having the ball passed to him, missed his third chance. Martin now gave a free kick to Syston, who lost ground by it, and Bailey, getting the ball, had hard lines in not scoring from a long shot. Ratcliffe now returned it, the home forwards in pretty style, and Martin, in defending, made a poor attempt, letting Syston in, but Preston took the ball well, and threw it nicely up the field, when it was returned quickly to the home goal, and Hanford kicked a goal, which on an appeal was ruled offside by the referee. The Teachers through slow play here failed to convert a prettily placed corner kick by Bingham, and the ball was taken towards their own goal; but Bailey, taking it from the Syston left wing, evaded both half-backs and backs, and shot a nice



goal. Handford gave a free kick to the home team; but Eyles, having the ball sharply centred to him, after a muff by the Syston goalkeeper, put it through. Even play continued for some time, but Martin conceding a penalty kick gave Syston an advantage, and the same player had to kick out to save Syston taking their first corner kick; but nothing came of it, Eyles again getting the ball, and rushing it up the ground, scored a second time, Syston goalkeeper showing poor form between the uprights. Syston kicked off, but the ball soon travelled among the visiting forwards, Wilke, Hanford, and Eyles passing prettily, and their combined rush in nearly resulted in another goal. Half-time here intervened. On resuming, Syston, who opposed the kick-off, were outwitted by the Teachers' forwards, who, however, through bad shooting on the part of Rowntree, were denied the honour of another goal. Play continued for some time round the System goal, but through good defence by Dr. Theobald and Harriman and rash kicking by some of the Teachers' forwards, the ball never passed through until Hanford came to the rescue, and then, by pretty evasive play, that player carried the ball through. Dr Theobald and Bamford now did some good back work, but their forwards, with all their chances, could not succeed in keeping the ball anywhere near their opponents' goal, the play being transferred at once into their own territory. Bailey (1), Halliday (2), and Bingham (2) now took corner kicks, but nothing resulted. The home forwards here made their best rush of the day, and when within about three yards of the visitors' goal-posts one of them shot very sharply, but Preston, being equal to the occasion, caught the ball, but before he was able to throw out he was pounced upon by both the opposing forwards and backs, who altogether fell upon him, but failed to put him under the posts. After appeals from both sides the referee and umpires left the field of play to consult as to their decision, and eventually the ball was thrown up in the mouth of the Teachers' goal, and was only by fiery play returned into mid-field. The Teachers continued to have the game all their own way, and had augmented their score to the formidable number of seven to none at the call of time. Teams: Teachers J. D. Preston, goal; A. Taylor and C. Kay, backs; J. Handford, right, T Wilkes, left; H. Rountree, right wing; H. Halliday, left wing ; E Eyles, centre; umpire. Mr. T. Hollis. Syston: Hewitt, goal; Theobald and Bamford, backs; Ratcliff, Toon, and Harriman, halfbacks; Walton and Lewis, right wing ; Stacey, centre; Sharp and Potter, left wing; umpire, Mr. W. Walton. Referee, Mr. A. Vase.

*Leicester Daily Post - 13 October 1890*

**#7 MELTON ROVERS v. SOUTH WIGSTON** – Played at Melton. Hanney kicked off for Wigston but play soon settled in the visitor's territory. The Rovers showed good form and obtained a goal off Berridge. The Wigston custodian saved frequently before Smith put in a second goal from a grand centre by Lee. Resuming with the wind favouring, Wigston played up, Hanney, Bolsover, and the backs distinguishing themselves. The Rovers showed excellent combination, but through the kicking of Hanney, Medley, and Bolsover, a tie resulted. Result, three goals each.

*Leicester Daily Post - 20 October 1890*

**#8 SYSTON WREAKE VALLEY v. COALVILLE** – This League match was played at Syston. A very strong wind was blowing, but play was equal for some time. Then Coalville scored through one of the Valley men heading through his own goal. Play was again very slow, and at half time no further score had been made. In the second half Adcock of the home team, accidentally scored a goal for the visitors, through mis-kicking the ball. Result: - Coalville, two goals; Wreake Valley, nil. Coalville Town: Compton, goal; Nichols and Eales, backs; R Smith, Burton and R Nichols, half-backs; Glover, Brownlow, W Smith, Mattock and Eames, forwards. Wreake Valley: Walton, goal; F Sharp and Newbold, backs; Bawn, Adcock and Ratcliff, half-backs' E Potter, Harriman, Stacy, G Sharp and J Potter, forwards. W Walton, referee.

*Leicester Daily Post - 20 October 1890*

**#9 LEICESTER TEACHERS v. GRESLEY ROVERS** – These teams met in the Association League on Saturday afternoon on the Leicester club's ground, off Evington-lane. The Gresley captain won the toss and elected to start down the hill with the wind, which was blowing strongly. The visitors soon attacked, and with the assistance of the wind succeeded in keeping the greater part of the play in the Leicester territory. Several corners fell to the Rovers, who had the game very much in their own hands but failed to make the most of their chances by shooting carelessly. Towards the end of the first half a corner kick placed the ball before the goal; it was kicked in hard, and striking the bar, rebounded to Sharpe, who put it through. The Teachers made some good attempts to relieve the pressure, but their forwards not being particularly strong, they were unable to keep the ball away for long. Ends were changed with the visitors one goal to the good. Bingham received a sprain, and was compelled to retire, and this further weakened the Teachers' strength. Having the wind in their favour now, however, they showed rather better play. The game for a long time was of an

alternating character both teams putting in some deserving work. The goal keepers both did good service for their sides, Preston specially distinguishing himself by his smart saves. The second point to the visitors was made after a capital run up the left wing followed by a good centre, from which Langford succeeded in scoring. Stimulated by this, the Teachers tried hard to score, and eventually, after a combined rush, a good shot from Wilkes proved too much for Mansfield. No further score was made, the game ending in the Rovers winning by two goals to one. The players were as follows – Gresley Rovers: R. B. Mansfield, goal; J Harrison and G. Topliss, backs; W. Dale, A. Ensor and S. Fox, half backs; W. Langford and J. Robinson, right wing; J. Sharpe (captain) centre; J. Hart and W. Jackson, left wing. Leicester Teachers: J. D. Preston, goal; A. Cornell and A. Taylor, backs; J Bailey, J. Lineker, and J. Bingham, half backs; H Roundtree and T Exton, right wing; F Eyles (captain), centre; T. Wilkes and F. Hanford, left wing. Messrs. Hollis and T Smith officiated as umpires, and the referee was Mr Horner.

*Leicester Daily Post – 20 October 1890*

**#10 COALVILLE v MELTON ROVERS** – Played at Coalville in wretched weather. Melton kicked off, and at once pressed. Smith made a grand run, but shot wide. The Coalville forwards then got away, but Bailey defended grandly. Smith got possession again, and, putting in a good centre, enabled Deemer to score for Melton. The home team tried hard to equalise, but failed to beat the Melton backs. On changing ends Coalville played better, but always failed in front of goal. Result Rovers one goal, Coalville nil.

*Leicester Daily Post – 27 October 1890*

#### **#11 LEICESTERSHIRE LEAGUE**

**GRESLEY ROVERS v. SHEPSHED** - Played at Gresley. The Rovers, winning the toss, kicked with the wind and at once pressed, but were prevented from scoring by goal keeping. The visitors had a run down and secured a foul close on goal, and, just touching one of the players, the ball went through. The home team then pressed and scored three goals in rapid succession. The Rovers afterwards maintained the pressure till time arrived, winning a splendid game by six goals to one.

*Leicester Daily Post – 27 October 1890*

## **November**

**#12 HUGGLESCOTE ROBIN HOOD v. MELTON ROVERS** – Played at Melton on Saturday. The visitors winning the toss played with the wind, and no sooner had the ball been put in motion by the Melton centre than the game became very fast, a characteristic which continued to the end. It was soon seen that Harry Bailey and Walter Clarke (backs) were in good form, but the Robin Hood kicked wildly throughout the first half, when the Rovers had scored one goal to their opponents none. Resuming, the game became faster than ever, and fouls were frequent. Physically the visitors were by far the strongest team, but the Rovers played with hands and feet combined, the result being that at the close of play Rovers won but four goals to none – their third successive victory in league fixtures. The teams were: - Rovers: Goal, T Wells; backs, H Bailey, and W Clarke; half-backs, F Brewin, H Berridge and E Turner; centre, R Berridge; right wing, J Priestman and F Smith; left wing, R Smith, and J Ripple. Umpire, Mr F Hill. Hugglescote Robin Hood: Goal, A Walker; backs, W H Deacon, and G Marriott; half-backs, H Kendrick, J Maltby, and D S Moore; centre, J Marriott; right wing, H Cross, and J Poole; left wing, S Gent, and J Billings. Umpire, Mr J Usher. Referee, Mr F Wright.

*Leicester Daily Post – 3 November 1890*

#### **#12 LEICESTERSHIRE LEAGUE**

**MELTON ROVERS v HUGGLESCOTE ROBIN HOOD.** These teams met at Melton, on the Southern-lane ground, in the above League, on Saturday afternoon, with a result that was probably not at all expected by either party. Play was announced to begin 2.30, but it was not far off three before the ball was set in motion. During the first half of the game, the Rovers defended the goal nearest the river. The first five minutes' play was earnest of what the game was to be—swift, and withal good. Immediately after the kick-off, the leather was carried by the Rovers' right-wing forwards with a dash into the visitors' quarters, and a corner resulted. In the kick, no allowance appeared to have been made for the little breeze that was in favour of Hugglescote, and the ball was carried away. It was returned, however, in good form, but only to as promptly and beautifully repulsed. The leather now fell to the possession the visitors' left wing, and a well-judged screw shot at the home goal was splendidly saved. Play remained chiefly in the Rovers' quarters for some time, and now and then their citadel was vehemently attacked, but Bailey and his colleague, who were both in excellent

condition, succeeded in frustrating all "unkindly" purposes against them, and frequently elicited the well-merited plaudits of the onlookers. The advantage was now with the Rovers, and then with Hugglescote, and forty-four minutes had gone before the Rovers obtained the first goal. In fairness to the visitors, it should nevertheless be observed that they played the best and the strongest game. It was Brewin's manipulation of the leather that led to the above result, although R. Smith put it between the posts. Half-time was called five minutes afterwards, four minutes being added for time lost in getting the ball from the other side of the hedge, whither it was sent about six times. The kicking of Hugglescote which was frequently very wild, was their worst feature. After change of ends, the Rovers claimed a foul, which was given, and nearly led to an unfriendly dispute. From this pass the visitors allowed their opponents to get the upper hand of them, and the game concluded thus, in consequence: —

ROVERS 4, HUGGLESCOTE 0

From Priestman's play, F Smith and R Smith scored the second and third goals, and Berridge the fourth. Melton Rovers: T Wells, goal; H Bailey and W Clarke, backs; F Brewin, H Berridge, and Turner, half-backs; Berridge, centre; F Smith and J Priestman, right wing; Smith and J Rippin, left wing. Mr. Hill, umpire. Hugglescote: A Walker, goal; W Deacon and Marriott, backs; H Kendrick, J Motley, end D Moore, halfbacks; J Marriott, centre; H Cross and J Poole, right wing; S Gent and I Billings, left wing. Mr. J. Usher, umpire. Wright referee.

*Grantham Journal – 8 November 1890*

**#13 SHEPshed v. SYSTON WREAKE VALLEY** - This match was played at Shepshed on Saturday afternoon. The home team were minus the services of Savage, and his place was taken by A. Smith. The visitors arrived rather late, and it was not until 3.35 that the ball was kicked off by Stacey, the visitors having lost the toss. The ball was quickly taken to the Syston goal, and after some give-and-take play, Waldron scored from a good kick from the centre of the ground. The next point of interest was a splendid run by Smith, and from a good cross kick a goal ought to have been registered. A few minutes later Iliffe got hold of the ball and made the second goal for the home team amidst applause. The play continued to be in close proximity to the visitors' goal, and the first corner was conceded to Shepshed, and was kicked in by Smith but without result. Play was even for a time, and Waldron getting hold of the ball some pretty crossing on the part of Smith, Iliffe, and Jordan enabled Waring to score the third goal. Shortly after this in endeavouring to stop a fast kick from Smith the ball went through off the goalkeeper, making the fourth goal. No time was lost in getting the ball in motion, and Smith scored the fifth goal from a kick off the left wing. Half-time was called without any other point being scored, the game standing Shepshed five goals, Syston nil. On recommencing, Iliffe scored after only a minute's play. The visitors now played somewhat better. Newbold had to handle the ball, and Radcliffe missing a good chance of scoring Kidger put in some good work at back, and the ball was again taken to the visitors' goal and was sent through by Moore, making the seventh point. Shortly after this, Waring scored again for the home side, and this was followed by a splendid run by Waldron, and crossing to Iliffe that player sent it through amidst applause. Waring scored the tenth goal after 20minutes play, the visitors meanwhile playing pluckily but unscientifically. The final result was:--Shepshed, 10 goals; Syston, nil. Players:—Shepshed : J. Newbold, goal; J. Cotton, A. Kidger, backs; W. Waldron, J. Moore, J. Wortley, half-backs; J. Bennett and T. Iliffe, right wing ; A. Smith and C. Jordan, left wing; J. Waring, centre. Wreake Valley: J. Hewitt, goal I G. Sharpe and E. Potter. backs; H. Toone. J. Pole, and W. Foster, half-backs; S. Sharpe and F. Baum, right wing; R. Williamson and W. Ratcliffe, left wing; W. Stacey, centre. Umpires, T. Mattock, and W. Walton. Referee, F. Elliott.

*Leicester Daily Post – 3 November 1890*

**#14 HUGGLESCOTE ROBIN HOOD v. LEICESTER TEACHERS (LEAGUE MATCH)** - This league match was played on Garners Ground, Hugglescote, on Saturday. The visitors were late arriving, and it was fully four o'clock when a start was made. The visitors commenced kicking down hill but against the wind, and made a rush for goal immediately after the kick off. The Robin Hood returned the ball, and some good all-round play from both sides was witnessed. The first corner was conceded to the Robin Hood, which was utilised. Gent kicked the ball in front of goal, and Cross kicked through, thus scoring first goal. The play now became very fast, and the visitors, whose good passing had been notable, played more wildly, and failed to make a goal which appeared within their reach. Cross was playing well among the backs, and cleverly passed the ball to Pool, who by a fast shot made a goal, which was disallowed by the referee on an appeal for offside. Some good attempts were afterwards made by the Teachers, but Walker was always "at home." On resumption of play after half-time the Teachers ran the ball up the field, and a fine shot at the Robin Hood' goal was cleverly

stopped. The game afterwards was give and take; repeated assaults being made at each goal. The visitors appeared to feel the pace, which was very fast throughout the second half. The fine play of Bingham, Rowntree, and Taylor was frequently applauded, and capital runs were made by Cross and Gent, but no more goals were recorded, and the game ended in a victory for Robin Hood. by one goal to nil. Players: Teachers: Messrs. Linnett, Taylor, Eyles, Bingham, Bailey, Rowntree, Knight, Handford, Wilkes, Exton, and Martin (goal). Umpire, Mr. Hollis. Robin Hood: Meadows. G. Marriott, J. Marriott, J. Kendrick, Lakin, Pool, Armson, Gent, H. Crow, D. S. Moore, W. H. Deacon, and Walker (goal). Umpire, Mr. John Usher. Referee, Mr. W. Fellows.

*Leicester Daily Post - 10 November 1890*

**#15 SOUTH WIGSTON v. WREAKE VALLEY (Leicestershire League)** - At South Wigston, Wigston three goals, Wreake Valley two.

*Leicester Daily Post - 10 November 1890*

**#16 HUGGLESCOTE ROBIN HOOD v GRESLEY ROVERS** - The Robin Hood met their old opponents on Saturday on Garners Ground, Hugglescote, to play the league match. The captain of the Rovers won the task and at 3.15 the Hugglescote centre kicked off, and lively play at once began. The first corner was conceded to Gresley in the first five minutes, and a few minutes later Mattley kicked a goal for the Robin Hood's, which was disallowed on the plea of off-side. Brilliance of play by the Rovers was soon rewarded by a goal, which Walker failed to kick out, owing to the greasy condition of the ball. This was thought by the players to be got under the advantage of offside. Repeated assaults were made at each goal, but no further score was made up to half time. On changing ends the game became faster than before. The Robin Hood made several good attempts at scoring, but luck was all against them. On one occasion the ball had passed the Rovers goalkeeper, and was hooked back in a clever manner by the back standing close to the goal. The Rovers were more fortunate in the next run up, the ball being passed through the goal by one of the Robin Hood. A third goal was shortly afterwards made for the Rovers by a good long kick by Langford. A fourth goal came from a tame kick which passed through the goal, Owen to Walker slipping down. No further goals were made, the Rovers winning by 4 to nil. The Rovers had a certain amount of luck, but the Robin Hood were evidently out played. Gent got badly kicked, and for the last 20 minutes was of little use to his side. Players Robin Hood: Messrs. H Cross, centre; S Gent and J Mattley, left wing; J Pool and J Marriott, right wing; J Weston, J Lakin and H Kendrick, half backs; W H Deacon and G Marriott, full back; and R Walker, goal. Umpire, Mr. John Usher. Rovers: Messrs J Sharp, centre; J Hart and W Jackson, left wing; W Langford and J M Robinson, right wing; W Dale J Brooks and S Fox, half backs; J Harrison and J Topliss, backs; R B Mansfield, goal. Referee, Mr Charles Marshall (Woodville).

*Leicester Daily Post - 17 November 1890*

#### **#16 GRESLEY v. HUGGLESCOTE**

This match was played at Coalville, and ended in favour of Gresley by four goals to nil.

*Leicester Daily Mercury -15 November 1890*

**#17 SOUTH WIGSTON v.COALVILLE** - Played at Wigston on Saturday, and owing to the late arrival of the Coalville team only one hour's play took place instead of the usual 90 minutes. Medley kicked for Wigston and the leather was immediately carried to the Coalville quarters, where, after a straggle, the ball was shot through the uprights by Medley. The game now became very fast, and the Coalville team tried every effort to equalise, but to no avail, as the Wigston back division was impregnable, each men kicking and tackling very clean. The Wigston forwards were now going very strong, and a rush by Bolsover, Longden, and Medley resulted in goal No. 2 for Wigston, Storer being the executor. Nothing further of note occurred to half-time. On resuming the Wigstonians rushed away, and but for the dexterity of the Coalville goalkeeper the ball must have been put through. He got shot after shot away in fine style. A good run was now made by the Coalville team, which was well stopped by Bridgford, who shot into the goal mouth, where Medley did the needful. This was, however, disallowed, the referee being of the opinion the ball had not gone through. Not to be denied, the Reds again assailed and another point was scored by Medley. From this point the Coalvillians went "off colour" and never got beyond the centre line, and when time was called the Reds were again hotly bombarding the Coalville citadel. Result :--South Wigston, three goals; Coalville, 0. Teams :—South Wigston: Crokee, W. Bolsover, O'Shea, Key, Weston, Bridgford, H. Bolsover, Longden, Figgitt, Medley. and Storer.

Coalville Town: Compton, Eales, Nicholls, Brownlow. Glover, Maddocks, Eames, Smith, Marriott, and two others.

*Leicester Daily Post - 17 November 1890*

**#17 LEICESTERSHIRE LEAGUE  
SOUTH WIGSTON v. COALVILLE**

At South Wigston a fast game ended in favour of the home team by three goals to none.

*Leicester Daily Mercury - 15 November 1890*

**#18 LEICESTERSHIRE LEAGUE**

**COALVILLE TOWN v. SHEPshed TOWN** - Played at Coalville on Saturday, and a fair number of spectators. The home team, with the wind in their favour, pressed during the first half, and put on two goals to one. Soon after resuming Shepshed scored, and the game ended — Coalville two, Shepshed two. The play was fast throughout. Coalville were without W. Smith and R. Smith.

*Leicester Daily Post - 24 November 1890*

**#19 GRESLEY ROVERS v. MELTON ROVERS.**—Played at Gresley. At half time the game stood two goals to nil, and after a hard-fought battle the game ended—Gresley five goals, Melton nil.

*Leicester Daily Post - 24 November 1890*

## December

**#20 LEICESTERSHIRE LEAGUE**

**WREAKE VALLEY v. MELTON ROVERS** - This game, which was played at Syston on Saturday afternoon, was fast from the commencement to the close, and very rough at times. The home team scored in the first half, and held advantage throughout the second, winning by one goal to nil.

*Leicester Daily Post - 8 December 1890*

**#21 LEICESTERSHIRE LEAGUE**

**SHEPshed v. COALVILLE TOWN** - This match was announced to be played at Shepshed on Saturday afternoon, at 2.30. Long before that time numbers of people were in the vicinity of the ground, and before the time, as above, some hundreds of people had assembled to witness the encounter. The "Villains," however, did not turn up, and great disappointment was experienced, besides being a considerable loss to the Shepshed F.C. in the shape of gate-money. The Shepshed committee will probably be very chary of appealing to the committee of the League lest they should meet with the same consolation dealt out to them by the Leicestershire Association some time ago.—(Communicated)

*Leicester Daily Post - 15 December 1890*

**#22** The funniest incident in connection with the few attempts to play the game in this district occurred at Syston, where, despite the deep snow, the referee (T Ashmole) considered it fit to play a League game. Syston rightly refused to play and Gresley Rovers claimed a verdict,

*Leicester Daily Post - 22 December 1890*

## January

**#22 HUGGLESCOTE ROBIN HOOD v. COALVILLE TOWN** - This match was played on Garners Ground, Hugglescote, on Saturday, before a good number of spectators. The home team won the toss, elected to play downhill, and Locker kicking off, the ball was sent up the ground only to be returned by Lakin, and was soon in the Coalville territory. But few minutes had elapsed before Gent made a shy at goal, which was stopped by Middleton, who was charged, and who at once claimed a foul, which was not however, recognised, but whilst Middleton was making his claim Moore cleverly scored the first goal for the Robin Hood. An opportunity was open to Gent a few minutes afterwards, but the player missed his kick at goal. He was soon rewarded however by Pool placing the ball at his disposal, and Gent scored the second goal. Some good play was now shown by Nichols and Eales, but more soon got hold of the ball and placed it in the way of Cross, who shot goal number 3. By some excellent play by Maddocks and others the Robin Hood goal was threatened, but Walker was at home all through the game. One fine shot in particular by W Smith was well stopped, and at half time the

game stood three none in favour of the Robin Hood. On resumption of the game some good, sound play was shown by both teams, each goal being frequently unsuccessfully assaulted; but no further goals were recorded. Some fine runs were made by Glover and Smith for Coalville, and Pool, Gent and Moore were in splendid condition for the home team. The ground was in poor condition for a league match, and the pace throughout was not as fast as usual. The players: Coalville Town, Messrs, Maddocks and Glover, right wing; T Smith and W Smith, left wing; Locker, centre; A Brownlow, R Nichols and Bennington, three-quarter-backs; C Eales and F Nichols, full backs; L Middleton, goal. Robin Hood, Messrs. I Pool and H Cross, right wing; S Gent and R Haywood, left wing; D S Moore, centre; H Kendrick, Mattley, and J Marriott, three quarterbacks, W Lakin and G Marriott, full backs; and R Walker, goal. Umpire Mr. T Moss. Referee Mr TS Ashmore.

*Melton Mowbray Mercury and Oakham and Uppingham - 15 January 1891*

#### **#24 LEICESTERSHIRE LEAGUE**

**SOUTH WIGSTON v. SHEPSHED** – These clubs essayed a league match at Wigston, but the hard condition of the ground effectually prevented scientific football. A draw of three goals each was the result.

*Leicester Daily Post - 19 January 1890*

#### **#25 LEICESTERSHIRE LEAGUE**

**GRESLEY ROVERS v. MELTON ROVERS** - On Saturday, on the Swifts' ground, the Melton Rovers met Gresley Rovers for the second time this season, the Melton team having been beaten by five goals to nil in their first encounter. On Saturday, the ground being covered with frozen snow, it will be understood that the players were handicapped. The teams were Melton: D Brewin, goal; H Bailey and A Goodacre, backs; J Priestman, R Dunmore, and F Brewin, half backs; R Berridge, J Lee, A Tyes, R Smith, and W Brewin, forwards; umpire, Mr R Littlewood. Gresley Rovers: R B Mansfield, goal; J Harrison and G Topliss, backs; W Dale, A Ensor, and S Fox, half backs; J Sharpe, J M Robinson, W Langford, J Hart, and W Jackson, forwards; umpire, Mr J A D Wise. Referee, Mr F Wright. The Gresleyites kicked off, and at once attacked the home goal vigorously, and in spite of the grand defence of Brewin scored within 5 minutes from the goal kick by Robinson, and a few minutes later Brewin having again and again fisted away his brother Fred fairly collared leather, it ran it grandly along his wing and from a shot near the line of play sent it through. Thirty five minutes after the start Langford headed through. First half Gresley, two goals; Melton, one goal. On resuming Gresley put on the pace, though playing football as it should be played, and the home team displayed increased energy; but in spite of all their efforts they could not often approach the visitors goal, who pegged away, and Langford secured goal 3. Sharpe followed with No 4 and the fifth was credited to Enor just as a referee was raising the whistle to his lips, Gresley five goals to two.

*Melton Mowbray Mercury and Uppingham and Oakham Times - 15 January 1891*

## **February**

#### **#26 LEICESTERSHIRE LEAGUE**

**SOUTH WIGSTON v. SHEPSHED** – These clubs essayed a league match at Wigston, but the hard condition of the ground effectually prevented scientific football. A draw of three goals each was the result.

*Leicester Daily Post - 19 January 1890*

**#27 SHEPSHED v. HUGGLESCOTE ROBIN HOOD**– Played at Shepshed, the home team showing capital form and winning by four goals to love.

*Leicester Daily Post - 9 February 1890*

#### **#27 SHEPSHED**

**FOOTBALL** – On Saturday afternoon a match came off between the Shepshed team and the Hugglescote Robin Hood, resulting in an easy victory for Shepshed by four goals to none.

*Burton Chronicle 12 February 1891*

#### **LEICESTERSHIRE LEAGUE**

**#28 GRESLEY ROVERS v. LEICESTER TEACHERS** – Played at Gresley, the home team winning easily by five goals to nil.

*Leicester Daily Post - 9 February 1890*

**#28 FOOTBALL**—Gresley Rovers met the Leicester Teachers teams at Gresley on Saturday to play their return Leicestershire League fixture. Both teams were well represented, and, as had been expected, a good game was the result. Sharpe kicked off, having lost the toss, and the visitors at once obtained possession, made for the home quarters, and were very close upon scoring, but unfortunately Dale saved, and the home team made a run for the visitors' goal, the goalkeeper, however, keeping it out. Play was now fast, each goal being visited in turn, but at length the Rovers put in a good shot which the goalkeeper was unable to get clear away, and from a scrimmage in goal Robinson scored No. 1 for the home team. Play continued to be very fast, the defence on both sides being good, but shortly the home team attained a foul close in goal, and Robinson took the free kick, which he sent in sharp one to one of the visitors, from whom it glided through. At half-time the home team led by two goals to nil. On changing ends, it was seen that the fast game had told tales upon the Teachers, and the Rovers at once began to press, and put in some good work, but owing to the fine defence of the visitor's custodian and backs were for a time unable to score, but from a fine shot by C. Orme goal No.3 was scored for Gresley. The home team continued to press but still were not playing in the form they were earlier in the game; they however added two more goals, and came out winners by five goals to nil.

*Burton Chronicle 12 February 1891*

### **#29 LEICESTERSHIRE LEAGUE COMPETITION**

**SOUTH WIGSTON v. MELTON ROVERS** - This, the return match between these teams, came off at Wigston, Saturday last, before a good assemblage of spectators. Owing, no doubt, the first match being a draw of three goals each at Melton, in October, a good fight was naturally expected. Wigston were strongly represented, and felt very confident, while the Rovers had got together a good team, Lee making his first appearance since his accident. The Rovers won the toss, and defended the Barracks end goal. From the kick-off the visitors' halves returned, and Smith made good run, but shot wide. The home left took the ball down well, but Bailey kicked out, and here a stoppage of ten minutes occurred, through an accident to Smith. Play re-commenced by Smith making a good run and centre, but Berridge failed to reach. The home right caused some trouble some very neat passing, and Hazlewood had to fist and kick out. Priestman and Smith obtained, and, after a good run, got a fruitless corner. The home team came down with a rush, and, after a shot by the centre, Longdon luckily put the ball through with his face, giving Wigston the first goal. The Rovers woke up, and, after lot of neat passing, Lee and Brewin forced a corner, which Plant sent behind. The home forwards went away again at a rush, but Bailey relieved by a good kick. Priestman and Smith had an easy chance, but missed, also kicking behind. Wigston pressed, and Hazlewood saved some good shots, when Bailey gave a corner, which Goodman headed away. Smith obtained, and made a good run, but sent behind. After half-time, pressed for a while, but Brewin passed the ball to Smith, who had transferred to the left, and so made a good run. His shot at goal hit the upright, and went through, making the score even. This reverse made very keen, and the Rovers keener than ever, and a very fast game ensued. The visitors forced a corner, which Smith placed splendidly, but Crooks ran out and cleared. Priestman had shot, but sent wide, and a good run by Smith and Lee nearly resulted in a goal. Just as Lee was shooting, the home back held him, and foul was given, and a bit of jangling ensued, the home players not getting the required distance from ball. The referee refused to interfere and was cleared. Bolsover and Longdon made a good run, and lifted it on to the bar, and then nearly put it behind. Nothing resulted from the corner, and Berridge had a chance, but Crooks saved in fine style. Lee obtained, and Berridge keeping off Crooks he just sent the ball a few inches over the line, making Melton 2, Wigston 1. Both teams played a very fast game, and each goal was in turn assailed, several times the home forwards being offside, but the referee would not admit the appeals. Priestman missed a good opening, by shooting too hard over the bar. The home team made a combined run, and the outside left scored, being palpably off-side. The visitors' umpire appealed to therefore in reference to time being gone and off-side, but no notice was taken of them, and a good game ended in a draw of two goals each. The home forwards played a very tricky and passing game, whilst the backs and goal-keeper defended in their usual good style. Smith made some good runs, but failed score above once, Priestman, Berridge, and Lee doing some pretty work. The halves were in fine form, whilst the backs played a grand game. Hazlewood also kept goal in his usual good style. Melton Rovers: J Hazlewood, goal; H Bailey and Brewin, backs; S Turner. A Goodacre, and H Plant, half-backs; R Berridge, centre: J Priestman and Rex Smith, right wing; J Lee and W Brewin, left wing. Umpire, H Bailey. Referee, Mr Vass.

*Grantham Journal - 14 February 1891*

**#29 SOUTH WIGSTON v. MELTON ROVERS** – This match at Wigston, ended in a draw, both sides scoring two goals.

*Leicester Daily Post - 9 February 1890*

#### **LEICESTERSHIRE LEAGUE**

**#30 HUGGLESCOTE ROBIN HOOD v. SOUTH WIGSTON** – This League game was played on Garner's Ground. Hugglescote, before a large company of spectators. The home team won the toss and chose to kick downhill. Medley kicked off, the ball was well run up the field by Smith, who made a sharp shot at the Robin Hood goal, which Walker stopped; and a very good attempt was made at the same goal during the next few minutes which was well saved by Lakin, A good run down by Gent looked like being dangerous for the visitors' goal. W Bolsover, however, took the ball away from Gent, Haywood, and Pool each had a shy during the next few minutes, but both were to erratic, and failed. Gent, however, made a good shot, and with the assistance of Moore, who "bumped" the goal-keeper, the first goal was scored for the home team. Good attempts at scoring were made by Moore, Cross, and Gent, but Crooks defended his goal in capital style. Some capital passing by each team now ensued, and repeated attempts were made by Cross, who was now playing in capital form for the home resuming after half-time a fast game was played; good shots at each goal were made, but each goal-keeper seemed determined to save, and although splendid play was shown throughout, especially by Cross, G Marriott, Moore, and Pool for the home team, and by W Bolsover, Bridgford, Smith and Storer. No further score was recorded, and to the strains of "See the conquering here comes" by the Hugglescote Town Band, who had been in attendance during the afternoon, the Robin Hood left the ground victorious by one goal to nil. Doubtless the best side won, as the home team had the best of the game throughout. South Wigston: Messrs. Potter and Smith, left wing, G Medley, centre; W Storer and J Longdon, right wing; Bridgford, Tattershall and H Weston, three-quarter-backs; W Bolsover and H Bolsover, full-backs; Crooks, goal. Robin Hood: Messrs. S Gent and J Haywood, left wing; D S Moore, centre; H Cross and J Pool, right wing; J Mattley, J Marriott, and H Kendrick, threequarters back; G Marriott and W Lakin, backs; R Walker, goal. Umpire, Mr John, Causer. Referee, Mr T S Ashmole.

*Leicester Daily Post - 16 February 1891*

**#30** Only one match in the Leicestershire Association Lague was played on Saturday, Hugglescote Robin Hood defeating the "reds" of South Wigston after a sharp tussle by one goal to love.

*Leicester Daily Mercury - 16 February 1891*

### **March**

**#31 SHEPshed v WIGSTON** – This match was played at Shepshed on Saturday afternoon. The weather was beautifully fine, and the encounter attempted a large and enthusiastic number of spectators. Shepshed won the toss and selected to kick with the wind. The ball was kicked with the wind. The ball was kicked off by Medley at 3.20. Kidger and West got hold of the ball and the latter sent in a good shot was fisted out by Crooks. A corner was shortly after this conceded to the home side, but nothing resulted. Two others were given to the same side in quick succession, but no advantage was gained. Following up the attack, King crossed to Jordan, and the goalkeeper had again to save his side, a corner being given, but without any alteration being made in the game. After twelve minutes play the efforts of the home team were rewarded and West scored the first goal after some good crossing by Iliffe, Jordan, and King. The home side continued to press, and several corners were given in quick succession. The second goal was scored ten minutes later from a splendid kick by Kidger from the right wing. The next pint of interest was some good crossing in front of goal by the home forwards, and Kidger sent in a fast ball, which was well stopped by Crooks. The ninth corner was given to Shepshed and was sent through from the corner kick, but without any other player touching it, so no goal was allowed. It must in justice be stated that the wind was at this point helping the home side, and a tenth corner was well centred by Jordan and Moore was within an ace of scoring. Shepshed obtained four more corners before the call of half-time and from the last, which Jordan kicked in, Kidger scored, the home side thus leading by three goals, and having obtained no less than fourteen corner kicks. After the restart of the game there was some even play until Bolsover and Smith got the ball down to the Shepshed goal, and Newbold had to handle for the first time during the game. a good shot was next sent in by Medley, and Newbold fisted it over the cross-bar – a corner being conceded, from which nothing, however, resulted. A second corner to the same side, shortly afterwards, produced a similar result. A third corner to the same side gave Medley an easy chance to score, but he failed to utilise. The ball was now taken up the



ground, and a corner was given, which Moore kicked in. Jordan headed the ball, but it went wide of the goal. King shortly after made a splendid run down the ground, and crossing to the centre, by the efforts of Iliffe, West and Hewitt, a goal was scored. An appeal was made for off-side, but the goalkeeper, who was some distance from his goal, had played the ball, and the appeal was not allowed. Play was very fast up to the end of the game, but no other point was scored, and the result was: Shepshed four goals, Wigston none. Players: - Shepshed: J Newbold, goal; J Cotton, J Wortley, backs; J Moore, W King, T Mills, half-backs; A West, A Kidger, right wing; I Iliffe, centre; C Jordan, G Hewitt, left wing. Wigston: Crooks, goal; O'Shea, W Bolsover, back; Bridgford, Weston, Mills, half-backs; Vass, Lambett, ring wing; Medley, centre; H Bolsover, Smith, left wing. Umpires, Messrs. Matlock, and Catley. Referee, Mr F Elliott.

*Leicester Daily Post - 2 March 1891*

### **#31 LEICESTERSHIRE LEAGUE**

**SHEPshed v. SOUTH WIGSTON** - This match was played at Shepshed. The home team had the game in hand throughout and won by four goals to nil.

*Leicester Daily Post - 2 March 1891*

**#32 TEACHERS v. MELTON ROVERS** - These teams played a league match on the Victoria Park, which resulted in a draw of two goals each. Handford and J Thompson scored for the Teachers, and Smith put the ball through on both occasions for the visitors.

*Leicester Daily Post - 9 March 1891*

**#32 LEICESTERSHIRE LEAGUE Melton Rovers v. Leicester Teachers.**- The above match was on the Victoria Park, Leicester, last Saturday, and, after a well contested game, ended in a draw of two goals each. Bailey won the toss, and elected to kick towards the pavilion, no advance being gained, the wind blew across the ground. From the kick-off the Teachers pressed, but were driven back by the defence opposed to them. Smith started a run, but was pulled up sharply by Lineker, with the result that he was winded, and the game stopped several minutes. On resuming, Lee changed places with Brewin, and went outside right, and from a centre of his, Deamer missed an excellent chance right under the bar. From the kick-off, Handford got possession, and some excellent passing by him and Rowntree ended in the former scoring with a lofty shot. Teachers 1, Rovers 0. Immediately on resuming, the Rovers claimed hands, and Bailey taking the kick in good style, Smith headed a splendid goal right out of the reach of the goal-keeper—Teachers 1, Rovers 1. Eyles started the ball again, the Rovers secured, and Smith, running down the wing, banged it across to the right, from which it was returned, and Smith, dribbling past three opponents, shot a beautiful goal for the Rovers. The game thus stood at half-time—Rovers 2, Teachers 1 goal. Re-commencing, play was very even for some time, Handford being robbed of the ball three times by Lee, who made a good run up the right, but kicked out, and the ball was forced back. The home right wing got possession, and, after several ineffectual attempts, Thompson beat Hazelwood by a low bumping shot. From now until the finish of the match, the Rovers simply ran away from their opponents, and had very hard luck in not scoring, several times shots just going outside and the hitting the cross-bar. From a corner, which was splendidly placed by Lee, Smith just missed heading through, and very pleasant game ended a draw of

2 GOALS EACH.

For the home team, Lineker was the best man of his side, and kicked with admirable judgment. Of the half-backs, Bailey was the pick, and a good lot of forwards, Handford and Rowntree were the shining stars. For the Rovers, Hazelwood in goal did not have enough work to show his undoubted ability between the sticks. Bailey and Littlewood defended admirably, and, if they played of oftener together, would be very hard pair to beat, while of the half backs all did well. The forwards all worked hard, but should play more combined game, although at times on Saturday their combination was good. Smith on the left made some dashing runs, but should pass a little more often. Brewin played a better game than we have seen him lately. Berridge did some good work, and Deamer passed well on several occasions, while Lee made good runs and centres. With a full team together, the Rovers will show a lot better form than they have been doing. Teams Leicester Teachers: Smith, goal; Lineker and Taylor, backs; Martin, Bailey, and Bingham, half-backs: Exton and Thompson, right wing; and Handford and Rowntree left wing: Eyles, centre. Umpire. Mr. Holles. Melton Rovers: Hazelwood, goal; Littlewood and Bailey, backs; Plant, Brewin, and Turner, half-backs; Lee and Deamer, right wing; Smith and Brewin. left wing; Berridge. centre. Umpire, Mr. F. Preston. Referee, Mr F Wright, L. F. A.

*Grantham Journal - 14 March 1891*

### #33 LEICESTERSHIRE LEAGUE

**SHEPshed v GRESLEY ROVERS** – Played at Shepshed. Both teams were thoroughly representative, and a splendid game resulted, which ended in the victory of the home team by two goals to nil.

*Leicester Daily Post* – 9 March 1891

**#34** On Saturday a Leicestershire League match was played on the Gresley ground between the Hugglescote Robin Hood and Gresley Rovers. The game throughout was well-contested, and the result was a tie, each team scoring two goals. This is the third game between these clubs during the season, and at the two previous matches the Robin Hood have to knock under.

*Burton Chronicle* – 19 March 1891

## Other Information

### Leicestershire Football League Fixture List 1890-1

#### Hugglescote Robin Hood Fixtures.

Oct. 4.—Syston Wreake Valley, Hugglescote.  
Oct. 11.—South Wigston, South Wigston.  
Nov. 1.—Melton Hovets, Melton.  
Nov. 13.—Leicester Teachers, Hugglescote.  
Nov. 15.—Gresley Rovers, Hugglescote.  
Dec. 27.—Gresley Rovers, Gicsley.  
Jan. 3.—Shepshed, Hugglescote.  
Jan. 10.—Coalville, Hugglescote.  
Jan. 17.—Leicester Teachers, Leicester.  
Feb. 7.—Shepshed, Shepshed.  
Feb. 14.—South Wigston, Hugglescote.  
March 14.—Syston Wreake Valley, Syston.  
March 21.—Melton Rovers, Hugglescote.

#### Coalville Town Fixtures.

Oct. 4.—Leicester Teachers, Leicester.  
Oct. 18.—Syston Wreake Valley.  
Oct. 25. Melton Rovers, Coalville.  
Nov. 15.—South Wigston, Wigston.  
Nov. 22.—Shepshed Town, Coalville.  
Nov. 20.—Gresley Rovers, Gresley.  
Dec. 6.—Leicester Teachers, Coalville.  
Dec. 13.—Shepshed, Shepshed.  
Jan. 10.—Hugglescote Robin Hood, Hugglescote.  
Feb. 14.—Gresley Rovers, Coalville.  
Feb. 21.—Syston Wreake Valley, Coalville.  
Feb. 28.—Melton Rovers, Melton.  
March 14.—South Wigston, Coalville.

#### Leicester Teachers Fixtures.

Oct. 4.—Coalville Town, Leicester.  
Oct. 11.—Syston Wreake Valley, Syston.  
Nov. 1.—Gresley Rovers, Leicester.  
Nov. 8.—Hugglescote Robin Hood, Hugglescote.  
Dec. 6.—Coalville Town, Coalville.  
Dec. 20.—Melton Rovers, Melton.  
Jan. 10.—South Wigston, Leicester.  
Jan. 17.—Hugglescote Robin Hood, Leicester.  
Feb. 7.—Gresley Rovers, Gresley.  
Feb. 14.—Syston Wreake Valley, Leicester.  
Feb. 21.—Shepshed Town, Shepshed.  
Mar. 7.—Melton Rovers, Leicester.  
Mar. 14.—Shepshed Town, Leicester.  
Mar. 21.—South Wigston, South Wigston.

#### South Wigston Fixtures.

Oct. 4.—Gresley Rovers.  
Oct. 11.—Hugglescote Robin Hood, Wigston.  
Oct. 18.—Melton Rovers, Melton.  
Nov. 8.—Syston Wreake Valley, Syston.  
Nov. 15.—Coalville, Wigston.  
Jan. 3.—Syston Wreake Valley, Wigston.  
Jan. 10.—Leicester Teachers, Leicester.  
Jan. 17.—Shepshed, Wigston.  
Jan. 31.—Gresley Rovers, Wigston.  
Feb. 7.—Melton Rovers, Wigston.  
Feb. 14.—Hugglescote Robin Hood, Hugglescote.  
Feb. 28.—Shepshed, Shepshed.  
Mar. 14.—Coalville, Coalville.  
Mar. 21.—Leicester Teachers, Wigston.

#### Gresley Rovers Fixtures.

Oct 4.—South Wigston, Gresley.  
Oct. 25.—Shepshed, Gresley.  
Nov. 1.—Leicester Teachers, Leicester.  
Nov. 15.—Hugglescote Robin Hood, Hugglescote.  
Nov. 22.—Melton Rovers, Gresley.  
Nov. 29.—Coalville Town, Gresley.  
Dec. 20.—Syston Wreake Valley, Syston.  
Dec. 27.—Hugglescote Robin Hood, Gresley.  
Jan. 10.—Melton Rovers, Melton.  
Jan. 31.—South Wigston, Wigston.  
Feb. 7.—Leicester Teachers, Gresley.  
Feb. 14.—Coalville, Coalville.  
Mar. 7.—Shepshed, Shepshed.  
Mar. 21.—Syston Wreake Valley, Gresley.

#### Syston Wreake Valley Fixtures.

Oct, 4.—Hugglescote Robin Hood, Hugglescote.  
Oct. 11.—Leicester Teachers, Syston.  
Oct. 18.—Coalville, Syston.  
Nov. 1.—Shepshed, Shepshed.  
Nov. 13.—South Wigston, Syston.  
Dec. 6.—Melton Rovers, Syston.  
Dec. 20. Gresley Rovers, Syston.  
Jan. 3.—South Wigston, Wigston.  
Jan. 24.—Melton Rovers, Melton.  
Feb. 14.—Leicester Teachers, Leicester,  
Feb. 21.—Coalville, Coalville.  
Feb. 28.—Shepshed, Syston.  
March 14.—Hugglescote Robin Hood, Syston.  
March 21.—Gresley Rovers, Gresley.

**Melton Rovers Fixtures.**

Oct. 18. —South Wigston, Melton.  
Oct. 25.—Coalville, Coalville.  
Nov. 1.—Hugglescote Robin Hood, Melton.  
Nov. 22.—Gresley Rovers, Gresley.  
Dec. 6. —Syston Wreake Valley, Syston.  
Dec. 20.—Leicester Teachers, Melton.  
Dec. 27.—Shepshed, Shepshed.  
Jan- 10. —Gresley Rovers, Melton.  
Jan. 24, Syston Wreake Valley, Melton,  
Feb. 7.—South Wigston, Wigston.  
Feb. 14.—Shepshed, Melton.  
Mar. 7.—Leicester Teachers, Leicester.  
Mar. 21.—Hugglescote Robin Hood, Hugglescote.  
Mar. 28.—Coalville, Melton.

**Shepshed Town Fixtures.**

Oct. 25.—Gresley Rovers, Gresley.  
Nov. 1.—Syston Wreake Valley, Shepshed.  
Nov. 22.—Coalville, Coalville.  
Dec. 13.—Coalville, Shepshed.  
Dec 27.—Melton Rovers, Shepshed.  
Jan. 3 —Hugglescote Robin Hood, Hugglescote.  
Jan. 17.—South Wigston, South Wigston.  
Feb. 7. Hugglescote Robin Hood, Shepshed.  
Feb. 14.—Melton Rovers, Melton.  
Feb. 21. —Leicester Teachers, Melton  
Feb. 28.—South Wigston, Shepshed.  
March 7.—Gresley Rovers, Shepshed.  
March 14.—Leicester Teachers, Leicester.  
March 28. —Syston Wreake Valley, Syston.