



News Stories 1886-87

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Sheepshed FC	<i>Melton Mowbray Mercury and Oakham and Uppingham News</i> – 31 March 1887
AGM notice Loughborough Town FC	<i>Hinckley News</i> - 30 July 1887
AGM Loughborough Town FC	<i>Loughborough Herald & North Leicestershire Gazette</i> - 11 August 1887

AMATEUR FOOTBALL CLUB.—The annual meeting of the Oakham Football Club was held on Monday evening at the National school, Rev. C. J. B. Scriven in the chair. The balance sheet, showing the following items, was read:—Receipts, gentlemen's subscriptions, £12 1s. ; members' subscriptions, £2 12s. 6d. ; balance from last year, 2s. 4d. ; total, £14 15s. 10d. After meeting expenses a balance of 9s. 8d. remained in the treasurer's hands. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:—President, Rev. J. Mould; captain, Rev. C. J. B. Scriven; sub-captain, Mr. H. Stanger; hon. sec. and treasurer, Mr. G. S. Dexter. Matches for the ensuing season have already been arranged with Oakham School, Asfordby, Melton, and Wellingborough School. The opening match with Oakham school will be played on Saturday on the school ground.

Loughborough Herald & North Leicestershire Gazette - 23 September 1886

A meeting of bank officers and friends was held at the George Hotel on Monday evening to consider the advisability of forming a Banks' Football Club. There was a capital attendance, and it was unanimously resolved that a club be formed. After some discussion it was decided to adopt the Association Rules, there being a small majority in their favour on a show of hands. It was resolved that Mr. Lawford be asked to become president of the club, and Messrs. Hutchings, Waite, Bolus, and Clephan vice-presidents. The following officers were then appointed:—Captain, Mr. T. P. Bryan; vice-captain, Mr. J. A. Bagshaw; hon. secretary and treasurer, Mr. R. H. Powell; and a committee of five, consisting of the following: Messrs. Basford, Loseby, Oppenheim, Small, and Whitworth. The necessary details for an early commencement having been arranged, the meeting terminated. Several previous attempts have been made to form a Banks' Football Club on the same lines as the cricket club, but have not hitherto been brought to a successful issue. The present club, however, bids fair to receive a large amount of support, if we may judge from the enthusiastic character of the meeting.

Leicester Daily Mercury - 8 October 1886

ACCIDENT.—As the Robin Hood team of football players and friends, numbering 21, were returning home from Woodville, on Saturday night last, in a brake drawn by two horses, the tyre of the left hind-wheel snapped, necessitating a walk of about a mile to Ashby through the rain to procure a more substantial conveyance.

Leicester Journal - 15 October 1886

Two new footballs have been provided this week by the Town [Uppingham] Improvement Committee for the use of the youngsters on the Recreation-ground. We need scarcely add they have been received with the greatest satisfaction.

Leicester Chronicle - 16 October 1886

FOOTBALL CLUB.—On Saturday evening the annual supper in connection with the Town Football Club, was held at the Railway Hotel, when there was a good muster of members and friends. Mrs. Robinson, the hostess, catered for the company in her usual liberal style, and gave entire satisfaction. After the withdrawal of the cloth, Mr. S. Harriman was called to the chair and Mr. T. Chester to the vice-chair. The usual loyal toasts having been honoured, Mr. Joseph Parker sang "Long as the world goes round." The Chairman then gave "Success to the Sheepshed Town Football Club." He hoped they would have a successful season, and gain the feather for good behaviour. It was rather a dangerous game, and ought therefore to be played with caution. (Hear, hear.) This was the first time he had attended at the Town Football Club supper, but he hoped it would not be the last, as he believed such meetings as these helped to create good feeling one among another. (Applause.) The toast was responded to by the secretary. Song, "I'm so dry," Mr. E. Blood. Song, "The Millionaire," Mr. T. Matlock. The health of the vice-president of the club was next drunk, and Mr. J. Parker, in responding, expressed his desire to see the success of the club in matches. He urged the members to come to the practices. Song, "Anchor's weighed," Mr. W. Smith. Mr. J. T. Chester proposed "The town and trade of Sheepshed," coupled with the name of Mr. S. Harriman. Mr. Harriman, in responding, referred to the rapid growth of Sheepshed since they had equal facilities with other places. They were a progressive people at Sheepshed, and he hoped other manufactures would be started in the village. He maintained that what they wanted was waterworks, both for the prosperity and health of the inhabitants. When they started the works at Blackbrook, as he saw by the papers would not be long, he hoped Sheepshed would be the first to have the water. (Hear, hear.) Song, "The gipsy's warning," Mr. Joe Bowles. Song, "Old familiar face," Mr. T. Matlock. The health of the captain was drunk, and the other toasts were "The chairman," "Visitors," "Hostess," and "Treasurer," which were duly responded to. Several glasses were given by Messrs. W. Gadsby, G. Dexter, C. Kirby, and W. Chester, and a number of other songs were also given, an enjoyable evening being brought to a conclusion by singing the National Anthem.

Melton Mowbray Mercury and Oakham and Uppingham News - 28 October 1886

LOUGHBOROUGH TOWN v KEGWORTH (ST. ANDREW'S) FOOTBALL CLUB.

Sir,—I see by your last week's issue that the umpire of the Kegworth team (Kr. Helmsley), has taken the matter up in their behalf. He asks you to allow him to confirm and also to correct a few of my statements. He does confirm one statement I then made which was "We also scored in the first half," and which he says was not disputed. I beg to inform Mr Helmsley that it was our first goal they did dispute, and not the second, and our opponents wasted a considerable amount of time in trying to uphold their objection to the referee eventually allowed us the goal, and some of them then wished to object to the referee after the game had been going for some time, simply because he gave a verdict against them. They were, however, silenced by some of the milder members of their team, and play was resumed, but even then, they said they would consider it a disputed goal, and now Mr Hemsley with his marvellously retentive memory comes forward and states that they did not object to our first goal. Our second goal was not disputed at all and I never before heard that Gadsby or any other player fouled the ball. Then Mr Hemsley's confirmation ceases, why does he not confirm or contradict my statement that their players deliberately kicked out the ball to waste time? Why does he not confirm or contradict my statement that one of their back players deliberately handled the ball in front of the goal because he thought it probable that we should score again. I also made other statements which he neither confirms or contradicts. He then accuses one of our players of using foul language I may say, Sir, I never heard the expression complained of, and I do not believe it was used by one of the players. I refrained from quoting the foul expression used by our opponents, and I shall

still do so. I must also repeat my statement that I only saw one of their men knocked down during the whole of the game. My eyesight, I may say, is perfectly good, and I never saw five of their players lamed. I would ask Mr Hemsley how many are there who come out of a football match without some slight injury? It is very easy to say that five of their men were lamed, and it is very hard to contradict it, but I will tell you one case I did see. The game was proceeding very nicely, when of a sudden the umpire's whistle was blown, and the game stopped. One of the Keyworth players was lying on the ground, and the umpire ran for some brandy. I asked the man how he had been hurt, because when he lay down there was no one within ten yards of him. He said, "I felt funny all over." However, the brandy arrived shortly afterwards, and this "funny" feeling left him instanter. I suppose Mr Hemsley would lay that to the rough play of our men, and also count him amongst the wounded. But if any were hurt it was not very seriously for they all played on until time was called. Your correspondent then quotes what he terms "one of our cowardly tricks." Well, Sir, nothing could be more cowardly than the tactics with which I have previously charged them, and which have not been contradicted, for the simple reason that they are known to be perfectly true. I also beg to remind Mr Hemsley that I never said that the dispute could be borne out by the spectators, because I know quite as well as he does that they have nothing to do with the game. What I said was that "my statement would be borne out by the spectators, and also by a representative of the press." As to their breaking away, and being called back for a foul which had been passed over about four minutes, or for off-side, I wish to state most emphatically that we never had a foul which had been passed over for minutes. The idea xxx, to anyone who knows anything about football is most absurd, and how could they be called back for off-side if they broke away with the ball? If the ball went out with them they could not be called back, but if they went before it, quite right that they should be stopped. As to his statement that they could beat us seven to none, I should like to know where they have beaten any Loughborough team at all, except Old Loughburians. I shall not waste any more of your valuable time and space either now or on any future occasion by replying to any more of his absurd statements, beyond informing Mr Hemsley that he may consider the return match cancelled, as our players do not wish for any broken bones, and some of them have already been threatened with violence when they visit Kegworth. I therefore think the quietest and best way to settle the whole affair will be to forego the match. I thank you, in anticipation for the insertion hereof, and remain,

Yours faithfully

HARRY JACKSON

Hinckley News – 6 November 1886

ST. MARY'S YOUNG MEN'S FRIENDLY SOCIETY.—
Under the auspices of this society a social gathering took place in St. Mary's Schools on Thursday evening week. An excellent tea was provided at seven o'clock, when about one hundred sat down. St. Mary's Football Club have this year carried off the prize ball and illuminated address (open to all Y.M.F.S. clubs in the town), and they were exhibited on this occasion for the first time. Prizes were also distributed for the best batting and bowling averages in the two cricket clubs connected with the schools, viz., the Y.M.F.S. Club and the Excelsior. For the former Henry Wood was awarded the prize bat, and John Hopkins the ball. In the latter, Thomas Starbuck was successful in the batting average, and Thomas Darlaston in the bowling. The Rev. F. E. C. Easter made the presentations, and briefly alluded to the success which had attended the clubs during the past season. He concluded by moving a vote of thanks to Mr. R. W. Samwell for his trouble in arranging the concert which was given recently for the benefit of the prize fund, and to the ladies and gentlemen who assisted on that occasion. The vote having been heartily accorded, Mr. Samuel responded, and urged the members to further efforts. The remainder of the evening was very enjoyably spent in various amusements.

Leicester Journal – 19 November 1886

A QUARTER of a century ago football was confined to public schools, with the exception perhaps of a rough-and-tumble sort of affair which took place annually on Shrove Tuesday in such towns as Nuneaton, Atherstone, Derby, and Ashborne. These scrimmages, for they were nothing more, were very different to the game as played in these highly civilised times ; each school had its different rules, and the game was on a level with hockey, prisoners' base, and other winter amusements. Since then, however, to use a saying attributed to Prince Bismarck, a good deal has happened, and we now find partisans of the noble game arguing law before a learned judge, instead of buffeting one another and kicking the leather-encased bladder. It appears that the game has now reached such a perfection that there are what are called " professionals " connected with it. These are young men of considerable prowess and skill who play for money rather than amusement or shall we say both combined. It is of course the aim of each drib to win as often as possible, and the stronger the team the greater the probability of securing the victory. Hence long-headed committee men take care to secure the services of as many hard-kicking " professionals " as possible. But these " hard-kickers," whether they be forwards or half-backs in the language of Rugby or goal-keepers and centres in the language of the Association, are not always gifted with prudence. They kick well but not always wisely. In other words, to use the appropriate phraseology of Judge Jordan, they are apt to be seduced from the path of virtue which has been marked out for them and to dally with other clubs with which they have no business. Hence these tears. A certain professional football player in the Potteries had pledged himself under a penalty of £5 not to play for any other club than the one to which he belonged, and which promised to reimburse him his railway fare and out of pocket expenses whenever he played for them. He chose, however, to play for another club against his friends, and if we read the report rightly got his ribs damaged, lost his situation and was made a defendant in a County Court action for the sum of five pounds. The judge held that the agreement was equitable and binding, and ordered the defendant to pay the penalty he had incurred. We have referred to this in interests of football players in this locality, but we cannot help expressing our regret that what was once the heartiest, healthiest and honestest open-air game in England, should be in danger of being demoralised by professionalism and all its attendant evils.

Ashby-de-la-Zouch – 20 November 1886

THE PERILS OF FOOTBALL.—The Football Association have issued the following notice :—"The attention of the Committee of the Football Association having been drawn to the recent numerous accidents at football, arising in some instances from rough and violent play, wish to impress upon all clubs belonging to the association the necessity for a strict observance of the rules and laws of the game bearing upon the point under the provisions of Rule No 15. Referees have the power in all cases of 'violent conduct' to order the offenders at once to leave the field without any appeal having been made for foul play, and without the previous caution which is necessary in the case of 'ungentlemanly behaviour,' and as it is absolutely essential, both for the safety of players and in the interests of the game, that 'violent play,' easily to be distinguished from fair and legitimate charging, should be put down with a strong hand, the committee trust that referees will not hesitate to use the power conferred upon them by the rule quoted above whenever occasion may arise." We are glad to see that the authorities, of the Association game at any rate, recognise that the interests of football are being jeopardised by "violent play," and that accidents occur which are more numerous and severe than need be. We trust that referees will take the strong hint given them by the committee, and, by using freely their powers, save football from the reproach under which it now labours. If, however, the rules in force are not sufficiently stringent to prevent these frequent and formidable accidents, the committee of the Football Association must see that they are made so. We should also be glad to hear that the Rugby Football Union is taking steps to minimise the risk of accidents.—*Lancet*.

Leicester Chronicle - 11 December 1886

SHEEPSHED FOREST FOOTBALL CLUB.
 Sir,—Will you kindly allow us a small space in your valuable paper for the insertion of this letter.
 Owing to false reports having been about to the effect that Mr. J. Haywood, the late treasurer for the Sheepshed Forest United Football Club, had gone away with certain moneys belonging to the above Club, we, the Committee of the above Club, think it desirable that we should publish a letter and let the public know that before his going away he cleared up all accounts against him in an honourable manner. Thanking you in anticipation for the insertion of this letter,
 We remain,
 Yours faithfully,
 The Committee,
 Sheepshed Foresters United Football Club.
 Sheepshed, Jan. 17th, 1887.

Hinckley Times - 22 January 1887

THEATRE ROYAL.—The lessee of this theatre is to be congratulated upon the financial success of her second pantomime in Leicester. So as to vary the monotony, fresh songs, dances, scenery, dresses, &c., have been introduced, and judging by the favourable reception they had on Monday, the change will prove an agreeable innovation. We should mention that an amusing football match is played upon the stage by juveniles under the Association rules. The youngsters pourtray various scrimmages, perfectly play the game, and wind up by carrying upon their shoulders the individual who obtains the winning goal. Praise is due to Mr. Bonner, jun., of the firm of Messrs. F. Bonner and Son, High-street, for the artistic style in which he has painted the advertising scene and banners. Mr. Nicholson is also to be complimented upon the pretty music he has selected for the production.

Leicester Journal - Friday 28 January 1887

Football, now-a-days, is not only a science, but the men engaged in it are scientifically prepared for battle. They are taught to pass—on the field; and taught to pass—the public-house in the street. During the memorable fight recorded above, the Villa team underwent as much physical training as a prize-fighter or a pedestrian. Each morning they assembled at the headquarters in Witton-road, and after a short interval took a trot over to some village six or seven miles away. On returning, lunch was partaken of, and the afternoon spent on the ground shooting at goal. Dinner at half-past five; and the remainder of the evening consumed by playing at cards and other amusements. The men were not allowed to depart each evening until 10.30 or 11, when it was conjectured that the various places of public resort would have closed, or, at all events, lost their attraction. Football is big business in these days.

Leicester Journal - 11 February 1887

[Sheepshed] FOOTBALL CLUB – The football season was brought to a conclusion by the match last Saturday. The receipts at the ares have been considerably less than in previous years, owing to the hard weather which prevailed for several weeks, and also to a number of clubs thus being unable to come and play their matches. Twelve first team matches have been played, including Loughborough, Mellors Limited (Notts), Hucknall, Kegworth and Hugglescote, of which six were won, three lost and three drawn the number of goals scored being, Sheepshed 42, opponents 28. The second team have played five matches, winning four and losing one and scoring 24 goals against their opponents' four, thus making the totals scored by the club 66 against their opponents' 32.

Melton Mowbray Mercury and Oakham and Uppingham News - 31 March 1887

LOUGHBOROUGH TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB.
THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the above Club will be held in the Committee Room of the Town Hall, on Friday, August 5th, at 7.30 p.m.
 Members, intending members, and all gentlemen interested in the progress of the Club, are invited to attend.

Hinckley News - 30 July 1887

and Secretary.

TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB.—The annual meeting of the Loughborough Town Football Club was held in the Committee-room, Town Hall, on Friday night. Mr. George Upton presided, and Mr. C. H. Gadsby, honorary secretary, reported that the first team had during the season played 21 matches, of which they had won 8, lost 7, and 6 were drawn. They had scored a total of 48 goals, against 40 scored by their rivals. He also stated that the second team had played 12 matches, of which they won six, lost four, the remaining two being drawn. Matches had been arranged with Derby Junction, Notts Olympic, Wednesbury Old Athletic, Grantham Rovers, Long Eaton Rangers, Lincoln City, Castle Donington, and other football clubs during the coming season. The financial statement was presented by Mr. Gibbs (treasurer), and showed a balance in hand of over £8. The reports were adopted with thanks.

Loughborough Herald & North Leicestershire Gazette - 11 August 1887