

Football Crimes, Fines & Misdemeanours 1894-95

Leicestershire Football Association ruled football in the county with a rod of iron. Crimes and misdemeanours by players, officials and clubs were severely dealt with. A summary of the punishments handed out in 1894-95 are given below:

Blaby FC were suspended until the fine imposed by the Association was paid to Leicester Waverley FC. Leicester Wanderers FC were similarly dealt with until the fine due to Syston Swifts was paid. Carr Bros having failed to pay St Matthew's Swifts FC were suspended.

[LFA meeting – 30 July 1895]

Moirs Rovers and Ashby Albion were reported for holding a six-a-side contest during the close season, and the players who took part – A Dolman, J Smith, T Cox, W Hart, W. Dennis, J E Talbot and J Ramsell – were suspended until 31 October 1894.

[LFA meeting – 13 September 1894]

The players of Ashby Ivanhoe who took part in a six-a-side contest during the close season were suspended until 31 October, including J Bodice of Gresley Pool Village.

[LFA meeting – 13 September 1894]

Roby, the Ashby Albion Reserve goalkeeper was suspended until 31 December for an incident that took place in the match against Ravenstone.

[LFA meeting – 16 December 1894]

Several reports for nonfulfillment of fixtures by affiliated clubs were dealt with as follows:- Sileby Rangers by Kegworth St Andrew's match to be replayed on Easer Tuesday, and Kegworth to receive compensation; Ashby Albion by Blackfordby, amicably arranged; Leicester King Richard's-road by Belgrave Granville former fined 5s; Whitwick Town by Gresley Miners referred to the Derbyshire FA; Leicester YMCA Rovers by Enderby, former fined 12s; Loughborough United by Sileby Rangers withdrawn; Markfield Albion by Barlestone, referred to Emergency Committee; Leicester Richmond by Hugglescote Robin Hood withdrawn; Stoney Stanton by Narborough, referred to Emergency Committee. A report by Leicester Belvoir against Leicester St Peter's for failing to send a representative team was ordered to lie on the table. Belgrave St Michael's reported the Military Depot Club for failure to pay fines ordered by the Association. The Depot had already been suspended for misconduct on the field and were not allowed to play football until the fines were played.

[LFA meeting – 25 January 1895]

A letter was read from Ibstock Albion with reference to their match with Hugglescote Robin Hood last Saturday, and as the result of a serious complaint, on the motion of Mr. Gardner, Gent was suspended until the end of the year. The Chairman suggested that the Association should also deal with the captain of the Hugglescote team but his was not adopted.

[LFA meeting – 25 January 1895]

Sileby reported Shepshed for arriving late to play their Leicestershire & Northants League match at Sileby last Saturday, and asked for the game to be replayed. The referee, Mr Smithson also reported that the game had to be stopped six minutes before time on account of the late start made. Sileby alleged that their gate was affected by the occurrence. The Shepshed representative stated that the team left that place in good time, but a delay occurred on the road through one of the horses attached to the brake being "taken ill." The game was ordered to be replayed within 14 days, and Sileby were to receive travelling expenses.

[LFA meeting – 25 January 1895]

A report was read from Overseal FC with reference to their Leicestershire Shield match with the Syston Swifts last Saturday. Mr. A. Bloor, the referee, reported that he was assaulted by the spectators and was charged by the Syston club with being intoxicated. The referee also reported F. Ward of Syston for misconduct on the field. After hearing evidence, the Association decided to suspend Ward until 31 December 1895; that the Syston Swifts football club were suspended, and that the club was not allowed to play within a radius of 4 miles from Syston until 11 March; the club to withdraw their charge and apologise to Mr. Bloor forthwith.

[LFA meeting – 15 February 1895]

W.E. Gauder, of Syston was suspended for not conforming to the Leicestershire Shield rules until 25 February; the match to be replayed at Overseal.

[LFA meeting – 15 February 1895]

The match between Coalville Reserves and King Richard's-road FC in the Leicestershire Junior Cup, owing to the ground being unfit, was declared a "friendly" and the two clubs were requested by the committee to replay their match at Coalville on 16 February.

[LFA meeting – 15 February 1895]

Mr. E B Smithson, who acted as referee in the Leicestershire Shield match between Castle Donington PSA and Earl Shilton, reported Mr. F Roulestone, one of the linesmen for misconduct. He was suspended from acting as a referee or linesmen until 4 March.

[LFA meeting – 15 February 1895]

**LEICESTERSHIRE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION
REFEREES AND PLAYERS
STRINGENT REGULATIONS**

The executive of the above association have issued the following memorandum: — The number of complaints by referees against players this season has increased to such an extent that the executive have decided to take very serious notice of players' offences, and in issuing this memorandum to all clubs belonging to the Leicestershire Football Association, ask the co-operation of officials of clubs and players to assist in stopping this ungentlemanly and unsportsmanlike conduct. They regret to find that it has become a common practice for players to question the decision of the referee on the field, to make insulting remarks to him, in some cases to threaten him with personal violence, and in others to address remarks to spectators and other players showing contempt for the referee, and imputing dishonourable motives for his decisions. It must be distinctly understood by clubs and players that if referees are to discharge their duties properly and fearlessly, the association must take measures to more effectually protect and support them. In many cases that have been dealt with, mild sentences and censures have been imposed, with the hope that these would be sufficient to check the evil, but it is found from experience that these mild measures are not effectual, and I have to inform you that the executive have decided (after the issue of this circular) to punish most severely any club or player who shall be guilty of questioning the decision of a referee, or addressing to him any insulting remarks, and this will apply to conduct not only on but off the field. The executive further request all secretaries to read this memorandum to their players, and post it in the dressing-room of the club, and particularly emphasise that if any cases are reported, the offending parties will be most severely dealt with.

Leicester Chronicle -23 February 1895

For a postponed Leicestershire and Northants League match. It was agreed between the representatives of the two clubs that Good Friday should be the date arranged for a match at Coalville, and that YMCA should receive £1 of the gate.

[LFA meeting – 24 February 1895]

Leicester Midland Goods FC, which had been disbanded, were fined 15s and suspended until the fine was paid.

[LFA meeting – 24 February 1895]

Earl Shilton Town Reserve were fined 15s for not meeting Leicester St Mary's Rovers, the penalty was not to be enforced if a date before 16 March was arranged for another match. A similar decision was arrived at in a report by Hugglescote Robin Hood against Leicester Richmond. Carr Bros were ordered to pay 5s to St Matthew's Swifts.

[LFA meeting - 24 February 1895]

Woodhouse Rovers brought to the notice of the association the action of Barrow Rising Star in approaching Foulds, formerly of the Woodhouse team. After hearing the case it was felt that Barrow Rising Star were not to blame, and providing that Foulds was clear on the books of the Rovers club no action would be taken.

[LFA meeting - 24 February 1895]

NONFULFILMENT OF FIXTURES.—No less than 14 reports of nonfulfilment of fixtures were made, and these were dealt with seriatim.—Coleorton were reported by Whitwick Town, Bagworth Rovers and Gresley Pool Village, and their case was adjourned for further inquiries.—Oxford United were fined five shillings, or in default clubs and players suspended, for not fulfilling an engagement with Old Wigstonians, fine not to be inflicted if a fresh date is arranged.—On the complaint of Glen Parva Depot, Leicester Thursday Victoria were fined 5s., in default club and players suspended.—Heather were reported by Ellistown Wanderers, and fined 5s.; and a complaint by the same club against Burbage Albion was withdrawn.—Castle Donington reported Sileby Rangers, and the matter was adjourned for further information.—Leicester Wanderers were fined 5s. on the complaint of Syston Rangers, King Richard's-road were fined 9s. on a claim for 15s. for nonfulfilment of a fixture with Syston Swifts, Leicester St. Peter's were let off on a complaint of Stanford St. John's, Barwell Swifts were reported by Belgrave St. Michael's, but the matter was mutually arranged. Earl Shilton reported South Wigston, but withdrew their complaint on promise of a date for next season.

[LFA meeting - 1 April 1895]

The following fines were imposed for non-fulfilment of fixtures: Ibstock, 10s to Moira Rovers; Anstey, 5s to Earl Shilton Town; Belvoir-street, 2s 6d to Belgrave St Michael's; London-road, 2s 6d to Belgrave St Michael's; Shepshed 10s to Hinckley; Stanford St John's, 5s to Sileby Reserves. Other similar cases were dealt with as follows: Sileby to play a match with Melton early next season; Leicester St Mary's Swifts to arrange a match with Earl Shilton for next season; Leicester Waverley to arrange a match with Enderby or pay a fine of 5s.

[LFA meeting - 15 May 1895]