

LFA Leicestershire Football News Stories 1820-79

| Headline | Newspaper |
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| Letter regarding a football match between Wigston and Blaby | <i>Leicester Chronicle</i> – 21 February 1829 |
| Cancellation of a Shrove Tuesday football game between Wigston and Blaby | <i>Leicester Chronicle</i> – 7 March 1829 |
| Rules of the Hathern Playground | <i>Leicester Journal</i> – 14 January 1837 |
| Whipping Toms | <i>Leicester Journal</i> – 19 February 1847 |
| Shrove Tuesday Football [Leicester] | <i>Leicestershire Mercury</i> – 27 February 1847 |
| Christmas Day football [Lutterworth] | <i>Leicester Mercury</i> – 1 January 1848 |
| Football Accident [Market Harborough] | <i>Leicester Journal</i> – 17 April 1857 |
| Will Powdrill – last surviving payer of the 1793 great contest. | <i>Leicester Chronicle</i> – 22 January 1859 |
| Sheffield FC v 59 th Regiment [Rutland] Advert | <i>Sheffield Daily Telegraph</i> – 13 December 1860 |
| Rules of Football advert – JCT Uppingham School | <i>Field</i> – 12 July 1862 |
| Football Day [Atherstone] | <i>Leicester Journal</i> – 20 February 1863 |
| Shrove Tuesday Football [Hinckley] | <i>Leicester Guardian</i> – 21 February 1863 |
| Fatal Accident at Football [Market Harborough] | <i>Leicester Journal</i> – 1 April 1864 |
| Fatal Accident at Football [Market Harborough] | <i>Hinckley Times</i> – 2 April 1864 |
| Review of Football in the 1860s | <i>Leicester Chronicle</i> – 7 May 1864 |
| Advert for Cricket Balls and Foot-Balls | <i>Leicester Chronicle</i> – 14 November 1869 |
| Football [Review of the game and its rules] | <i>Pall Mall Gazette</i> |
| Advert Band of Hope Gala | <i>Leicester Mail</i> – 6 May 1868 |
| Winter Amusements | <i>Leicester Chronicle</i> – 13 November 1869 |
| Wigston FC formed | <i>Leicester Guardian</i> – 24 December 1873 |
| Football club formed in Lutterworth | <i>Leicester Journal</i> – 23 December 1870 |
| Exhibition of 1871 [Football Boots] | <i>Leicester Chronicle</i> – 11 March 1871 |
| Hathern FC meeting | <i>Hinckley News</i> – 9 December 1871 |
| Lutterworth Football Club | <i>Leicester Daily Post</i> – 14 November 1872 |
| Estate Committee [Town Council meeting] | <i>Leicester Daily Post</i> – 7 December 1872 |
| Roughs in Victor Park [Letter] | <i>Leicester Chronicle</i> – 14 December 1872 |
| Football and Sudden Death | <i>Leicester Journal</i> – 3 January 1873 |
| Football [Victoria Park] | <i>Leicester Daily Post</i> – 7 December 1872 |
| Football accident | |
| Victoria Park, Leicester receipts for football and cricket | <i>Leicester Guardian</i> – 31 December 1873 |
| Leicester Athletic Society's FC Fixture List 1875-76 season | <i>Leicester Chronicle</i> – 20 November 1875 |
| Market Harborough FC formed | <i>Leicester Chronicle</i> – 2 October 1875 |
| Whitwick Colliers' Football Club formed | <i>Leicester Chronicle</i> – 20 November 1875 |
| Wigston FC | <i>Leicester Chronicle</i> – 4 March 1876 |
| Grace Dieu – Football Casualty | <i>Hinckley News</i> – 13 May 1876 |
| Coalville Football Club meeting Sheffield Rules adopted | <i>Ashby-de-la-Zouch Gazette</i> – 16 September 1876 |
| Coalville FC Matches arranged for 1876-77 | <i>Ashby-de-la-Zouch Gazette</i> – 11 November 1876 |
| Accident to Leicester Footballer | <i>Leicester Daily Post</i> – 18 November 1876 |
| Narborough FC formed | <i>Leicester Daily Mercury</i> – 15 December 1876 |

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| Football Club Fixtures [Narborough and St Margaret's] | <i>Leicester Daily Post</i> – 5 January 1877 |
| Accident in the Football field | <i>Leicester Chronicle</i> – 10 February 1877 |
| Coalville Football Club AGM | <i>Leicester Chronicle</i> – 19 May 1877 |
| Coalville – Annual Fete and Athletic Sports Advert | <i>Leicester Daily Post</i> – 14 July 1877 |
| LAS and FA Fixture Lists 1877-78 | <i>Leicester Daily Post</i> – 20 October 1877 |
| Petty Sessions [illegal football] | <i>Leicester Chronicle</i> – 22 December 1877 |
| A spat between two football clubs conducted through the letters page of the Hinckley News | <i>Hinckley News</i> – 30 March 1878 onwards |
| Dangers of playing football | <i>Hinckley News</i> – 6 April 1878 |
| A Fatal Football Match | <i>Ashby-de-la-Zouch Gazette</i> – 28 March 1878 |
| Hugglescote Robin Hoods FC end of season supper | <i>Hinckley News</i> – 4 May 1878 |
| Football Contest [Coalville] | <i>Leicester Journal</i> – 9 August 1878 |
| Advert for Thursday Half-Holiday FC | <i>Leicester Daily Mercury</i> 29 August 1878 |
| State of the football in 1878 | <i>Ashby-de-la-Zouch Gazette</i> – 5 October 1878 |
| A Football Match by Electric Light | <i>Ashby-de-la-Zouch Gazette</i> – 19 October 1878 |
| Football Club formed in Hinckley | <i>Leicester Advertiser</i> – 26 October 1878 |
| The Electric Light | <i>Ashby-de-la-Zouch</i> -23 November 1878 |
| The Electric Light in Leicester – football game on peacock Grounds, Belgrave-road | <i>Leicester Journal</i> – 29 November 1878 |
| Electric Light [Hinckley] | <i>Leicester Chronicle</i> – 30 November 1878 |
| Football Injuries | <i>Hinckley News</i> – 6 April 1879 |
| Football Casualty | <i>Hinckley News</i> – 13 May 1879 |
| Wigston United FC AGM | <i>Leicester Chronicle</i> – 23 August 1879 |

A correspondent, in allusion to the Foot-ball Match at Wigston, observes—"Your informant says, that the Blaby men were thrown one after another, and lay sprawling like butts of trees, and that the Wigston won cleverly in a short time: this was not exactly the case, for it was allowed by a great number present, that it was quite the reverse. Two of Wigston men were down to one of Blaby; and I have authority to state, that the Blaby men are willing to play them again on Shrove Tuesday, for double the sum they played for before, or any sum they please to mention, providing they will act as men, and play honorably and fairly."

Leicester Chronicle – 21 February 1829

The foot-ball match at Blaby, between Wigston and Blaby, did not take place as previously agreed to, on Shrove Tuesday. The Blaby men were at their post at the time appointed, but the Wigston men did not attend.

Leicester Chronicle – 7 March 1829

Rules of the Hathern Playground

1. No matches to be played on the ground for any stake whatever; nor any kind of gambling to be permitted in it.
2. No liquor of any kind to be brought on the ground, except water; nor any one permitted to remain on it in a state of intoxication.

3. No battles to be fought; nor any swearing, or profane and immoral language, to be uttered on the ground.
 4. The lower square to be set apart for the cricket of the young men, and such other games as the season may admit of, except foot-ball.
 5. The end of the narrow piece nearest the town to be used for skittles and quoits.
 6. The remainder of the narrow piece to be given up to the school-boys, for their cricket or other games.
 7. The hours of play to be from 12 to 8 in the summer, and till six in the winter. At holiday times, the play-ground to be open from 8 in the morning till 8 or 5 in the evening.
 8. All young men resident in the town, are at liberty to play in common on the ground; and all the boys belonging to any of the day or Sunday schools. No other persons to be admitted upon it; and no persons whatever to be admitted on a Sunday.
 9. All persons offending against these rules will be discharged from the ground; and upon appearing on it again, will be prosecuted as trespassers.
- Superintendent of the ground, Mr. John Keetley, who will appoint proper persons to see that these rules be observed, and to report offenders.

Leicester Journal – 14 January 1837

THE "WHIPPING TOMS"

Tuesday last, being Shrove Tuesday, very large number of the lower orders of the town assembled the Newarke, for the purpose carrying on that ancient and long-accustomed sport "The Whipping Toms," and other games, notwithstanding the previous caution which had been given them by the magistrates of the borough to the contrary. For some weeks past notices have placarded different parts of the town, as well as being published the local papers, to the effect that, by Act of Parliament passed on the 10th of June last, the custom practice of Whipping Toms is declared unlawful: and case any person should found on any Shrove Tuesday playing at Whipping Toms, Shindy, Football, or any other game in the Newarke, he should forfeit and pay for every offence exceeding £5. About eleven o'clock on Tuesday morning a small body of the police were dispatched to the Newarke, and soon after considerable crowds of people began to assemble, and for some time every one appeared peaceable and orderly, but about two o'clock a boatman, named Burley, drew from under his smock frock a football, which he threw up into the air, and which was the signal for disturbance. The police duty instantly proceeded to the spot and succeeded in taking the boatman into custody. The mob then became infuriated and immediately commenced throwing stones and brickbats at the police; however, Burley was secured and placed in the guard-house magazine. The police again took their station in the midst of the crowd, who again assailed them with showers stones, so that they were compelled to retreat to the magazine for safety. The disturbance was now assuming a very serious aspect, and dispatch was sent to the superintendent for an extra number of police, and shortly after, Mr. Charters, accompanied by the Mayor arrived the scene of confusion and riot, with an extra number of police and about fifty special constables, who drew up into lined and formed two deep, and advanced into the centre of the Newarke Mayor and Superintendent in front. The Mayor attempted to address the mob, and advise them to disperse quietly, but all was in vain. The police then received instructions to advance upon the crowd, and a short space time they succeeded in clearing the Newarke, but not without furiously assaulted with stones and brick bats. The ground having been cleared of the rabble, body of constables were placed at each entrance, in order prevent the admittance of any person suspicious character. Four of the police, we are sorry learn, received considerable injury in the affray. During the afternoon, seventeen the ringleaders were apprehended, who, we hope, will be punished according to their deserts, in order that such disgusting and abominable scenes may at once and for ever entirely suppressed. The thanks of the Borough are due to the Mayor and Magistrates, for the prompt and determined manner which they have acted this occasion.

On Wednesday morning the seventeen prisoners underwent examination before full bench magistrates, at the Townhall. Their names are—James Bristow, Henry Greatorex, Henry Butler, Arthur Haywood, Jonathan Hurst. Henry Bull, Lewis Maybank. Jabez Burley, Wm. Breedon. Thos. Ratcliffe, J. Hill (alias "Moco"), James Snow, Samuel Vines, Charles Grace, Alfred Barrowcliffe, John Hall, and Joseph Hurst.

The first witness called was Serjeant Wright, who deposed, that went on duty, with several the police, soon after nine o'clock in the morning of Shrove Tuesday, the Newarke, by direction of the Magistrates, for the purpose of enforcing an Act Parliament for the suppression of the "Whipping Toms." Placards had been distributed about the town for three weeks past, more especially the neighbourhood of the Newarke. About twelve o'clock crowds people began to assemble, but they neither had sticks or whips. As soon as large had assembled a football was thrown up into the air, when he and his men proceeded to the place, and took one of the party into custody, but was soon rescued from them. The prisoner, Snow, was one the party who assisted in rescuing man, and the police force being weak at that time, they were compelled to retreat. A second football was thrown upon the green, and when police approached the mob, they were violently assailed with stones and brickbats, that they were induced to retreat to the Magazine for safely. A messenger was dispatched to the police station for extra force, and large number of police and special constables came to their assistance, when they endeavoured to drive the mob from the Newarke. The showers of stones came in all directions, three of which struck him on the face and head. On the arrival of the special constables, they formed themselves into two lines, and with the Mayor and Superintendent at their head, they marched toward the crowd, who fled in all directions. While the Mayor was attempting to address the crowd a stone was thrown, struck Serjeant Forcett a violent blow, which so dreadfully injured as to prevent his attendance Court today. Mayor was placed imminent danger. After Forcett was wounded the police made a rapid advance upon crowd, and notwithstanding the missiles which were thrown at them, they ultimately succeeded clearing the Newarke. Witness saw the prisoner, Bristow, pick up two stones and throw them at the police; he could also identify Hill and Breedon being present riot.

About a dozen other witnesses were examined, in the course of which all the prisoners were identified as parties who were present and look active part in the affray.

Mr. Charters, the Superintendent of Police, stated, that about two o'clock on Tuesday, went into the Newarke, accompanied by the Mayor and a strong force of police and constables. He formed the police two deep, and advanced with them and the Mayor upon the crowd. The Mayor attempted to the people, and advised them to disperse quietly, as the law prohibited their play, and expressed hope that they would so, otherwise the police would be under the necessity having recourse to violence drive them away. One man, who took prominent lead, spoke to the Mayor, and said that it was practice from time immemorial. After the Mayor had reasoned with him, they preceded clear the Newarke of the rabble, which time a great number of stones were flying in all directions. Bodies of men were placed at each entrance of the and it afterwards was kept clear till night.

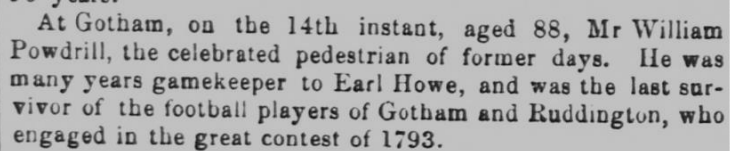
The prisoners made kind of rambling defence, after which the Bench retired to consult together, and in about half hour they returned into Court, and convicted Burley in the penalty 40s., or in default, twenty-one day's imprisonment, and Radcliffe in the penalty 20s. or fourteen day's imprisonment. Greatorex and Hull were bound over to keep the peace for two months and the remaining thirteen prisoners were committed for trial at the next Sessions.

Leicester Journal – 19 February 1847

Frederick Holyoak was charged with playing at football in the Newarke on Shrove Tuesday. Sergeant Foscutt, who was so badly cut in the eye on the above day, gave evidence as to the defendants kicking the ball repeatedly and P.C. Phillips corroborated. 21 days imprisonment
Leicestershire Mercury – 27 February 1847

Mr Thos. Leader, publican, and grazier, of Lutterworth, charged ten boys with trespassing in his field and playing at foot-ball on "Christmas-day, in the morning", and injuring his grass. The boys acknowledged the offence, and begged pardon, whereupon Mr Leader did not press the case.
Leicester Mercury – 1 January 1848

Football Accident. On Friday last an accident happened to a lad of the name of Capell, whilst playing at football with his companions in a field near to Market Harborough. He was pushed down by one of the boys, and the fall broke his arm. It appears that this arm is a very unfortunate one, as it is the third time it has been broken.
Leicester Journal – 17 April 1857



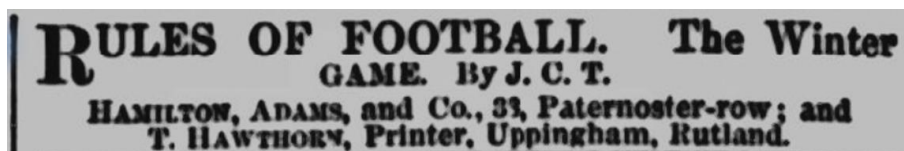
At Gotham, on the 14th instant, aged 88, Mr William Powdrill, the celebrated pedestrian of former days. He was many years gamekeeper to Earl Howe, and was the last survivor of the football players of Gotham and Ruddington, who engaged in the great contest of 1793.

Leicester Chronicle – 22 January 1859



SHEFFIELD FOOT-BALL CLUB v. 58th REGIMENT.
This MATCH will be Played (weather permitting) at the BARRACK GROUND, Hillsbro', on MONDAY NEXT, at One o'Clock.
A 'Bus will leave the ANGEL HOTEL, at 12.30 p.m. precisely.
NATHANIEL CRESWICK, Hon. Sec.

Sheffield Daily Telegraph – 13 December 1860



RULES OF FOOTBALL. The Winter GAME. By J. C. T.
HAMILTON, ADAMS, and Co., 33, Paternoster-row; and
T. HAWTHORN, Printer, Uppingham, Rutland.

Field – 12 July 1862

FOOTBALL DAY – Last Tuesday was the annual "Feast of Misrule" in the streets of Atherstone. The workmen of the town and neighbourhood set up their own match at three o'clock, and kicked with right good will till after five, when a protracted struggle took place at the top of the hill in Long-street, to have it carried on to the Witherley-road. The resolute lads prevailed, and on it went to the gardens outside the town, and into the field of Mr Bracebridge's when it lost wind and collapsed – probably with the aid of a penknife. It was remarked that the turnout was not so numerous as in previous years.
Leicester Journal – 20 February 1863

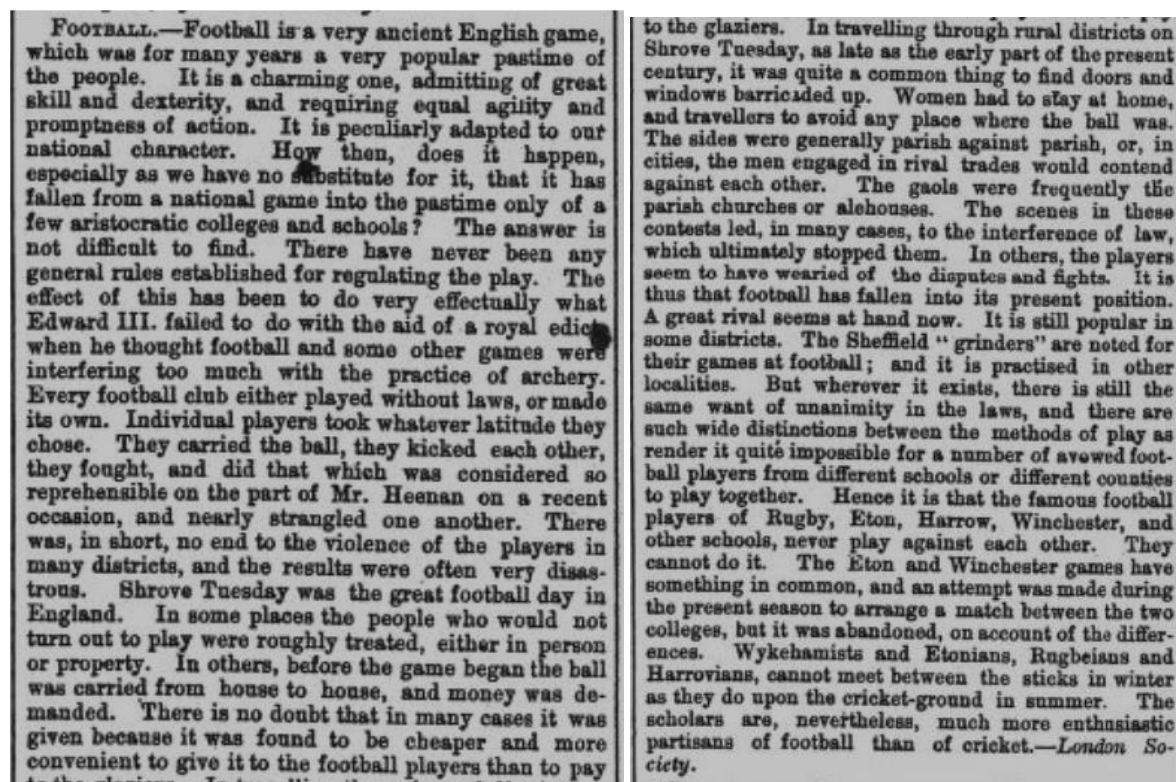
Mr Moore, superintendent of police, charged George Moore, stocking maker, with assaulting PC William Townsend while in the execution of his duty at Hinckley on Shrove Tuesday. It appears that according to ancient custom on the day named, the fire brigade with their engines appeared in the streets at Hinckley, which caused an assemblage of many hundreds of people, and foot-

ball as well as other games was resorted to; and PC Townsend being on duty, strove to prevent the foot-ball, and in doing so he was struck and knocked down. – The case was withdrawn, with a caution.

Leicester Guardian – 21 February 1863

FATAL ACCIDENT AT FOOTBALL - A rather singular and fatal accident occurred during a game at football at Market Harborough, on Friday last, to a young man named George Masters, ostler at the Cherry Tree Inn. He fell and injured the spinal cord and died on Monday. An inquest was held at the Cherry Tree Inn, on Tuesday last, before J. Gregory, Esq, coroner, and jury. The field was lent for the occasion by Mr. J. H. Douglass, solicitor, who joined in the game. The deceased in the course of the play, abutted that gentleman as he was running with the ball to the goal after having caught it, and was soon after found lying upon his back, having hurt his shoulder, neck, and spine. He had to be taken home on a door. The deceased said after to Mr. Douglass, "I saw you coming; and after the other fellow missed catching you, I thought that I would see what I could do by running full into you." - Mr. John White, assistant surgeon to Mr. Francis, who attended the person referred to, said that his patient suffered from paralyism of the lower extremities arising from injury to the spine. The muscles appeared to be affected as well. The deceased sank and expired on Monday. Verdict accordingly.

Leicester Journal – 1 April 1864



Leicester Chronicle – 7 May 1864

FOOTBALL AT MARKET HARBOROUGH – FATAL ACCIDENT - On Good Friday, the inhabitant' of Market Harborough were engaged in a game of football, when two of the players came violently into contact, and one received an injury which ended in his death. An inquest was held by Mr. J. Gregory, the 29th, on the body of the deceased, George Masters, when the following evidence was given George Price Frasier said: I live at Market Harborough. The deceased lived at the same place and was ostler at the Cherry Tree Inn. On Good Friday afternoon last, the 25th inst., there was a game of football being played by many of the inhabitants of Harborough in the cricket

field, which is in Great Bowden parish. There were about 30, divided into two sides. Mr. Douglass granted us the use of the field and provided the ball. The deceased on the same side as I was, and he was one of the two selected to keep goal. We had played, I believe three games, and the deceased joined in the games and seemed quite well. As we were playing the fourth game the ball was pitched into the air, when Mr. Douglass, who was playing on the opposite to the deceased, caught it in his hands near to the goal; perhaps a dozen yards from it. He then attempted to run into the goal with the ball, which would constitute the winning of game, and which is quite fair play. The parties on the opposite side called out to the goal keepers and others who were at hand, to stop him. Two, the deceased and a young man named Welsh, attempted do so. One on the one side and the other on the other. I was five or six yards off, and I saw the deceased with his head down run against Mr. Douglass, and butt him on his left side, and Welsh on the right side. He fell one way and the deceased went back, and as soon as Mr. Douglass had passed me I saw deceased lying all his length on his back. Mr. Douglass came back from the goal to deceased, and raised him up, and asked him whether he was hurt, when he said "Yes, on his shoulders". Mr Douglass felt of them, and said they appeared alright; when the deceased complained of his neck, and on being asked whether he could stand he said he could not, and Mr. Douglass carried him and laid him on a bank. Something was given to the deceased to drink, and a door was provided, and deceased was carried home. Mr. Douglass requested me to go to Mr. Francis, surgeon, and ask him to attend him at his expence. The game was played just in the usual way, and no unnecessary violence was used on either side, and the deceased was doing no more than his duty in trying to prevent Mr. Douglass reaching the goal.—James Heger Douglas' said: I am a solicitor at Harborough. I have heard the evidence now given by J. P. Truster, and it is substantially correct. I recollect catching the ball as stated by him, and in accordance with the rules of football I endeavoured to run into the goal of the opposite side with it. Two of the opposite side ran to meet us. The deceased on my left hand and rather behind the other.

The other man caught me by the leg, and I broke from him towards the left hand. I then saw the deceased coming to meet me and I endeavoured to avoid him by twisting sharply towards the right. struck me with his head rather below soy cheat s in a slanting direction, and he appeared to fall over on his back towards the left side. He did not Mop no., and I ran on with the ball to the goal. The game, I wish to add, was played throughout with the most perfect good humour. I sate the deceased several times after the accident. Oa Sunday morning when I saw him he was speaking of the way in which it occurred, when he observed "I sew you coming sir, after the other fellow missed catching hold of you I thought I would see what I could do by running full butt head first." I did not at the time deceased ran against me feel the slightest concussion, nor have I felt the least pals since. I have been in the habit of playing football at Rugby five years, everything that was done on the afternoon of Friday was perfectly in accordance with the rules of the game.— John White said: I am assistant to Mr. John Francis, of Harborough, surgeon. I saw the deceased before Mr. Francis, just after the accident, and after the accident been brought to his home. I found him suffering from partial paralysis of the lower extremities, arising from injury of the spine in the first instance. He complained of great pain about the shoulders and back of the neck. On passing my finger down the spinal column I discovered the more precise seat of the pain, near the junction of the dorsal and cervical vertebrae. At first he was unable to move his head.' I and Mr. Francis attended him regularly afterwards. The paralysis extended, and the symptoms got worse, and he died about one o'clock yesterday morning. I saw him last about eleven o'clock, when he was dying. I attribute the death to injury of the spinal cord, most probably compression of it, and from what I have heard in evidence to-day I have no doubt that the injury must have been caused in some way at the time he was attempting to prevent Mr. Douglass reaching the goal, I am informed that deceased was 25 years old – Verdict "Accidental death."

Hinckley Times- 2 April 1864

FOOTBALL is, par excellence, the winter sport of English youth, and frozen- out cricket and rowing clubs gladly welcome a game which the cold renders only more enjoyable. The exercise, however, is the exclusive monopoly of the young. At cricket a steady wrist and unerring eye may counter- balance years, and a rowing man may be in the height of his powers on the wrong side of thirty, but the elasticity and activity required at football are to be found only in frames still growing or unset. In later life, to say nothing of stiffness and other disadvantages, limbs are more brittle, and bodies too heavy to endure the shock of "spills" and "charges" with safety. The game itself, though practised in season by all schools, differs in relative importance in most of them. With Eton, Westminster, and Radley the " eight " is the leading feature; with Harrow and Winchester the "eleven." In these schools' football, though the pre- dominant winter game, is adopted only for want of something better to do; but at Rugby the case is different: football is there *the* game of the place. Cricket, though brought to great perfection, is only tolerated when the season will no longer permit of the favourite amusement. Marlborough, an offshoot from Rugby, shares its predilection for the game, but in a. minor degree, and allows an equal rank to cricket.

A great drawback to a more popular appreciation of football is that it is not regulated by any uniform code of laws. Each school plays its own peculiar game, governed by tradition, contingencies of numbers, shape of ground, &c. Some good may possibly be extracted from the variety of rules. At present, however, the multiplicity of systems prevents many schools from competing with each other and also embarrasses the game at the universities. If one side submits to the rules of the other side, it does so obviously to its own disadvantage; if both sides share all the privileges allowed by both their codes there will be little discipline left; while if the joint restrictions are enforced, there will be hardly any chance of touching the ball at all. At Oxford the programme is arranged with a view to mutual accommodation for a Harrow, Rugby, Eton, or Winchester game, as the case may be. At Cambridge a modified code of rules has been drawn up and adopted; and in the neighbourhood of London also local clubs have formed a "Football Association" [1863], and prepared rules to suit, as supposed, all exigencies of the game and all local prejudices. What is wanted is a supreme body like the M.C.C. at Lord's, which should legislate by the weight of its own prestige for all the votaries of the game. It is to be feared, however, that mutual prejudices and jealousies are too rife among the football clubs to permit much hope of such a result. There are certain principles common, from their simplicity to all phases of the game. It is played with sides in a "ground" marked out or enclosed; the object in all is eventually to drive the ball through the "goal" of the opposing side. The ball is "out of play" or "dead" if driven out of the ground, yet not through the goal, and has to be brought back to its place of exit. "Off side", "sneaking", "poaching", "tagging," &c., which describe the offence of unfairly passing on the ball from one to another on the same side, are universally forbidden; but beyond these few "common measures " there is a perplexing variety in the different games. Although the ground is always of an oblong shape, the "goal varies. In the Winchester game the ground is bounded by canvas screens and ropes, is proportionately narrower than other grounds, and the whole width of either extremity constitutes "goal." In most other games a narrower central space, defined by flags, at either end of the ground is goal; if the ball passes this line of flags without going between them it is "behind," and no goal is won. The Rugbeian system requires the ball to be kicked not only between the goals, but also over a bar, at a certain height from the ground, to win the game. Etonian laws compel the ball to go under a similar line. Most other rules recognize a victory when the ball passes between the flags, at any height from the ground. Next there is a choice of balls. The Etonian ball is small and light, suitable for being kept on the ground, and " bullied " through the forest of legs, where a larger orb might find difficulty in passing. The Harrow ball is about the largest. That used in the Rugbeian style of games is more oval than round, which renders it a favourite where long kicking is practised. As to the numbers employed in a game, eleven or fifteen suffice at Eton and Winchester tens or even hundreds may engage at Rugby

in the great matches, but twenty a side is the usual array. In commencing the game at Harrow and Rugby the ball is "kicked off" from the middle of the ground; at Eton and Winchester the commencement is a "bully" or "hot" - all the players en masse, shoulder to shoulder in the centre of the ground. Handing or "holding" is altogether prohibited by Etonians. The hands may never be used by them except to stop the ball, keep it down to the feet, or touch in a "rouge." The Rugbeian code - the opposite extreme - by a new rule allows the ball to be held even when picked up off the ground; he who has it may, at his peril, run with it into the opposite base, with a view to a "touch" and "try at goal", hereafter to be explained. Harrovians permit a "fair catch" if the ball is killed, i.e. driven from below the knee, though in its passage it may glance off any other part of the body, provided it does not touch ground. He who catches may claim a "free kick" if he calls at once "three yards," otherwise he is liable to have his prey knocked out of his hands. Wykehanmists allow a "free" kick from a fair catch, if it can be got; hence in this case they suspend their rule disallowing running with the ball, so far as to afford the catcher the power of getting his kick with a three yards' run, if he can, and also allow "holding" to stop him for the moment, but the instant he has his course clear, or the ball has been kicked, further privileges of holding or running come to an end. "Shinning" or "hacking" is variously allowed or disallowed. The Rugby school of players uphold and countenance it, as a necessary means of forcing the ball through the dense masses that play in such games, and one who runs with the ball may be hacked ad idem, but most other schools taboo it, as unsatisfactory and unnecessary. Many other differences in the mode of play might be enumerated; and these, of course, all have their effect upon the length of time occupied in each game. Three days may elapse in a great Rugby match before a goal is won. Etonian and Harrovian games are more rapid, and two or three may be played in an afternoon Winchester games occasionally last only a few minutes; or a dozen can be sometimes played in one match.

We cannot attempt to strike a balance in favour of any one system. It is plain that there are advantages and imperfections in all. The absolute condemnation of "hands," even to the extent of a "fair catch," as in the Etonian game, seems, for instance, rather an extreme measure, though the principle of invariably keeping the ball down is in the spirit of true sport; "rouges," though unique in one way, correspond very much to the Rugbeian "touch" and "try," and have the advantage of being of value in weighing in an otherwise undecided game. The imperfection of the Rugbeian system, and the plan of "touch" behind goals, is that it tends to draw the game systematically to a corner, instead of to the centre of the ground. High kicking also tends to keep the game for a time very much in the hands of a few. The "running in," though cherished and traditional, is contradictory in a great extent to the title of the game, though it gives scope for display of skill of another kind.

But the great evil is the recognized legality of "hacking." Where usage is law, and chances are the same for all, it may not appear unfair to those used to it, but to an external observer there is much in it that is objectionable. There is something brutal in deliberately "hacking" the shins of a fellow creature in cold blood, while hot blood, which might extenuate the deed, is the first evil to be avoided. Darked shins, and occasionally broken limbs occur in almost all forms of football, but the knowledge that they are due to accident is at least some consolation to the sufferer. In fact, in an eleven-a-side game, with the ball in perpetual motion, plenty of room for full play of legs, and no crowd, there are often more casualties, though purely accidental, than in a "hundred-a-side" game. Pluck, therefore, in codes other than Rugbeian, is equally called into play. It may be remarked that, as a rule, when a leg is broken in a charge between two players, it arises from the fact that one of them, 'not the sufferer, has flinched or widely missed the ball at the moment of collision, kicking his opponent instead. No accident can happen if both kick fairly and with good aim at the ball; and if the ball is then missed, or only half struck, the foot or ankle only suffers, not the upper part of the shin, which is the dangerous spot; if, however, one player happens to be double the weight of another, an ankle might be twisted. But as a rule such casualties are not common.

Pall Mall Gazette - 14 November 1866

FOOTBALL – The practice of kicking football in the town street was not carried to the same extent as in former years on Shrove Tuesday. Although great numbers of young people assembled soon after one o'clock, the practice continued for a short time only.

Leicester Journal – 8 March 1867

WINTER AMUSEMENTS.—A movement is on foot to establish a football club in Wigston, which will doubtless meet with hearty support, even if it do not lead to the formation of several clubs of the same kind, for this village is noted for a spirit of emulation (some call it opposition) in all projects for the improvement, mental or physical, of its populace. Football is a game in which little attention can be bestowed on rival “kickers,” that will leave their tender mark on obstructive legs. Wigston players are especially notorious for the vigour of their style *versus* the fairness of their play; it is to be hoped, however, when the club is formed and matches played, that no “exposition” of the science of football will be given, which cannot be squared by the rules of the game and fair play, as it is not a game instituted for the benefit of surgeons, but for healthful recreation in the open fields.

Leicester Chronicle – 13 November 1869

HINCKLEY

SHROVE TUESDAY – This day was commemorated as usual by large numbers of persons assembling in the afternoon for the purpose of kicking football. The fire brigade brought out of fire engines and practiced on them in various parts of the town to test their efficiency. They were found to be in a satisfactory state.

Leicester Journal – 4 March 1870

THE EXHIBITION OF 1871 Mr. W. Gilbert, shoe manufacturer of this town has sent up to London for exhibition in the “Welds Fair” a set of four footballs such as are used in the School Matches. The stand in which they will be exhibited is a very handsome one and unique in design. A pair of lace-up boots accompanies the stand and are designed to show the best kind of boot for kicking. Accompanying the above are a pair of cricket-boots and spikes for the same, on a new principle, which have been invented by Mr. J. Gilbert, (brother of the above) and which are used by the gentlemen of Rugby School.

Leicester Chronicle – 11 March 1871

HATHERN

The members of this Club met in the National School-room, on Saturday night, Nov. 18th, when the yearly accounts were read, which showed that the club was doing well. After paying all expenses for the year they had about £1 in hand. A football in connection with the club is to take place during the winter season, and the Rev. E. Smythies has kindly granted the use of a field. During the evening Mr. H. Tollington presented the Rev. Smythies, on behalf of the club, with a beautiful electro plated silver inkstand and silver-mounted ivory penholder and pen, bearing the following inscription – “Presented to the Rev. E Smythies by the Hathern United C. C., Nov. 18th, 1871.” The rev. gentleman in acknowledging the gift said he never anticipated receiving such a present; he would render them all the assistance he was able during the coming season. He again thanked them for their kindness and assured them that he should cherish the gift as long as he lived. This brought the meeting to a close.

Hinckley News – 9 December 1871

LUTTERWORTH – The Lutterworth Football Club have now commenced play for the season. The ground used for practice is equal to any in the county, being a portion of the well-known Lutterworth Cricket Ground, and is therefore well adapted for matches, which the club are desirous of playing. They are now open to a challenge from any club within a reasonable distance. The arrangements are under the management of Mr R C Burdett, the hon. secretary.
Leicester Daily Post – 14 November 1872

ESTATE COMMITTEE [Leicester Town Council meeting held at the museum]

The Estate Committee have to report that they have agreed to sell a piece of land in Walnut-street, containing 360 square yards to Mr. Benjamin Cave, of Leicester, tailor, at the price of 8s. 6d. per square yard. Your committee have further to report that they have received an application that the Victoria Park should, during the winter months be allowed to be used for the game of football, and recommend that the park shall be thrown open for football, on a principle similar to that adopted in the case of the ground used for cricket. And that the months of the year during which it shall be used, the price to be paid for tickets, and the other general regulation, shall be prescribed by the committee or by a sub-committee, appointed by them for that purpose. After the report had been read and adopted, Mr. J. H. Ellis gave notice that he would move that beasts be allowed to graze upon the race-course during the winter months.
Leicester Daily Post – 7 December 1872

ROUGHS IN VICTORIA PARK

TO THE EDITOR OF THE CHRONICLE AND MERCURY.

Sir, — Will you kindly grant me space in your valuable paper to make a few remarks in reference to the absence of a policeman from the Victoria-park on Wednesday and Saturday afternoons; more especially on Saturday, as that is the day on which roughs congregate there to race, &c. These roughs, not content with their own games, must needs interfere with those persons who are playing at football. They pull up the goal posts; run away with the ball whenever it chances to come near them and kick it about amongst themselves; thus entirely spoiling the game. Would it not be as well to have a policeman on the ground, occasionally at least, in order to prevent such annoyance and interruption? —

Yours,

A Football Player.

Leicester Chronicle – 14 December 1872

FOOTBALL AND SUDDEN DEATH - On Saturday last, Dec. 28th, a football match was played on the Cricket-ground, between twenty of the Lutterworth football club, and twenty gentlemen from Rugby. The game was a very exciting one, and some excellent play was shown upon both sides. After some very tough and hearty scrimmages a goal was kicked by Mr. Williams, one of the Lutterworth twenty. The victory was, therefore, gained by the Lutterworth. 'We are sorry to record that one of the players on the Rugby side, named Mr. Tongue, was carried off the field in a state of exhaustion to the Hind Hotel, where every attention was paid him by Mr and Mrs. Sansome; but he rapidly grew worse, and though most the doctors residing in the town were called in, their efforts were unavailing. The poor fellow gradually sank and died about ten o'clock the same evening. It appeared had been under medical treatment for some time for disease of the heart, and he had been recommended by his medical adviser to abstain from playing at cricket in consequence thereof. His friends were immediately sent for after he grew worse and were deeply grieved at his critical situation. His body was conveyed to Rugby on Sunday evening from the Hind. The event has cast a deep gloom over the town and feeling of general regret for the young man's relatives who have thus experienced so great and sudden a bereavement.
Leicester Journal – 3 January 1873

FOOT-BALL.

THE Season is now approaching at which the Game of FOOT-BALL is practised, and the Victoria Park will be available for the purpose on and after the 1st of November next. Season Tickets may be obtained of the Borough Accountant, at the Public Office, Siver-street.

Leicester Journal – 17 October 1873

LEICESTER CRICKET ASSOCIATION.—It appears that the receipts in the shape of fees for playing cricket and football on the Victoria Park ground were, in the year ending Sept. 1st, 1873, £233 10s. 6d., and the expenditure thereon £53 19s. 10d. In addition to the above receipts, the sum of £48 13s. 4d. was paid to the Corporation for the use of the Pavilion at the great cricket matches, and £15 16s. 6d. for the use of the Cricketers' Room in the Grand Stand. In most large towns cricket grounds are provided by the Town Council for the free use of the inhabitants, and it is very shabby on the part of the Corporation of Leicester to make a profit out of persons playing a game so well calculated to promote health and physical development as cricket undoubtedly is. It is to be hoped that when another season commences, some liberal arrangements will be made respecting the ground.

Leicester Daily Post – 20 December 1873

Market Harborough

FOOTBALL – A number of young men have commenced a football club, and from the patronage received, it promises to be a successful one.

Leicester Chronicle -2 October 1875

GRACEDIU.—FOOTBALL CASUALTY.—On Saturday last thirteen members of the Coalville football club had a friendly contention on the lawn of W. Bax, Esq., of Gracedieu Warren, when, in an unfortunate and vigorous charge against one of the players, Mr. David Howard, by Mr. Handley, Mr. Handley's collar bone was seriously shattered. He is now under the care of Dr. Johnson, of Whitwick. Mr. Handley is much respected, and receives the sympathy of his numerous friends.

Hinckley News – 13 May 1876

COALVILLE. FOOTBALL CLUB —A meeting of the Football Club has been held during the past week and was well attended. Some difficulty was experienced in connection with the financial business, in consequence of the absence of the late Treasurer, the balance in hand from last year not being forthcoming, but a fresh start was made with very fair prospects of success. Mr. D. Heward was elected captain, Mr. W. J. Gibbs secretary, and Mr. Charlesworth treasurer. Messrs. J. Turner, T. H. Heward, W. G. Price and J. Clay, with the officials, constituting the Committee of management. W. Bax Esq., Gracedieu Warren, has been elected president, for the present season. The Sheffield rules have been adopted as less dangerous than the Rugby, and it is decided not to compete with Clubs playing the latter. A suitable field has been secured, and an opening match between the members arranged, to be followed during the season by a series of contests with other clubs. A gymnasium is now required to complete the opportunities afforded for indulgence in athletic exercises and would be a boon to the neighbourhood.

Ashby-de-la-Zouche Gazette – 16 September 1876

COALVILLE FOOTBALL CLUB

Matches Arranged for 1876-77

| | | |
|-----|----|--|
| Nov | 18 | Wigston - Wigston |
| | 25 | St John's - Burton |
| | 30 | Thursday Half-Holiday |
| Dec | 9 | Wetmore Club - Burton |
| | 16 | St Margaret's |
| Jan | 6 | St John's |
| | 13 | St Margaret's - Leicester |
| | 17 | Ashby Town Club |
| | 27 | Wetmore Club |
| Feb | 1 | 1 st Derby Rifle Volunteers - Derby |

Ashby-de-la-Zouch Gazette - 11 November 1876

ACCIDENT TO A LEICESTER FOOTBALL PLAYER – On Saturday afternoon last, the L.A.S. Football Club played the Derby Wanderers at Derby. During one of the scrimmages a young gentleman named Howett, a well-known local “kicker” fell down and broke his collar bone. He was conveyed to the Derby Infirmary, whose very attention was passed to him by the able house surgeon, Mr T Highton, who set the bone.

Leicester Daily Post - 18 November 1876

NARBOROUGH

FOOTBALL CLUB – A football club has been started in Narborough, which has already played one match – against Lutterworth, and although not victorious, with a deficient team, managed to turn the game into a draw in their favour. For the home team Leghorn, R Catcheside and Wale distinguished themselves by their good play, and on the other side Messrs, Fawcett, W Bodycote and C Monnington were equally prominent.

Leicester Daily Mercury - 15 December 1876

ST MARGARET'S FOOTBALL CLUB FIXTURES

Jan 6 – S.M. v Leicester Amateurs (return), at Leicester.

Jan 13 – S.M. v Coalville (return), at Leicester.

Jan. 27 – S.M. v Market Harborough (return), at Leicester.

Feb. 3 – S.M. v Leicester Athletic Society (return), at Leicester.

NARBOROUGH FOOTBALL CLUB FIXTURES

Jan 13 – N.F.C. v Leicester Athletic Society, at Leicester.

Jan 20 - N.F.C. v Leicester Amateurs, at Narborough.

Feb 3 - N.F.C. v Leicester Amateurs, at Leicester.

Feb 10 - N.F.C. v Leicester Athletic Society, at Narborough.

Leicester Daily Post - 5 January 1877

ACCIDENT IN THE FOOTBALL FIELD – During a match on Saturday, between the Athletic Society's and St Margaret's Football Clubs, the vice-captain of the St Margaret's (R Elton), a well-known player, met with an accident, which caused the dislocation of his cheekbone. He was at once removed to the infirmary, where he remains, after having received every possible attention at the head of the home surgeon (Mr Hetley).

Leicester Chronicle - 10 February 1877

FOOTBALL CLUB.—On Tuesday evening, the members of the Football Club assembled at the Coalville Public Hall (kindly lent for the occasion) to hear the accounts read and to pass a convivial meeting, it being the close of the season. An excellent supper was served by Mr. Murfin, of the Engineer Inn, to which those present did ample justice. Supper being over, W. Bax, Esq., president of the club, was called to the chair. In his opening remarks he complimented the members of the club upon the gentlemanly manner in which they had conducted themselves both at and from home, and at the amount of success which had attended their play.—The Secretary, in his report, showed a very satisfactory state of things. The income of the season had been £7 6s.; the expenditure £7 4s. 2d.; leaving a balance in hand of 1s. 10d. The matches played during the season were 16, with the following results:—Won 11, drawn 3, and lost 4. The rest of the evening was spent most pleasantly, each contributing his quota to the general enjoyment. Mr. D. Heward (captain) sang "Polly Magee;" Mr. Bertenshaw read "Paddy and the Colliers," and sang "The Three Jews;" Mr. W. G. Price and Mr. F. Marchant sang "Larboard Watch;" Mr. F. Merchay "Volatile;" Mr. H. H. Gibbs "Jolly Miller" and "The Medical Student;" Mr. R. F. King "Will o' th' Wisp;" and Mr. J. Handley "Silvery Morn." Mr. W. G. Gibbs accompanied the various songs on the piano.—Votes of thanks to the president, secretary, treasurer, and committee, and to Mr. King for kindly lending his excellent hall on this occasion, were passed, and the meeting terminated with the National Anthem.

Leicester Chronicle - 19 May 1877

COALVILLE.—The **ANNUAL FETE** and **ATHLETIC SPORTS** will be held on **MONDAY, August 6th, 1877**, when Prizes for nearly £160 will be given for Flat Races, Hurdle and Bicycle Races, Jumping, Football Match, &c., &c.

BAND of the 1st **BATTALION LEICESTERSHIRE VOLUNTEERS** and **BAND OF THE SNIBSTON COLLIERY COMPANY** will play the most popular music of the day, under the conductorship of **Mr. J. A. Smith, Leicester.**

The whole to conclude with a **Grand Display of FIREWORKS** by **Professor Wilder, of Birmingham.**

Special Trains leave **Leicester** at **One o'clock**, returning **9.30**, after the **Fireworks**. **Fare, 2s. and 1s.**

For **schedules** and **further information**, apply to

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The SECRETARY, Athletic Club, Coalville.

Leicester Daily Post - 14 July 1877

FOOTBALL

L.A.S FOOTBALL CLUB FIXTURES

Nov. 10th, L.A.S. v. Leicester Amateurs.

Nov. 17th, L.A.S. v. Harborough, at Harborough.

Nov. 29th, L.A.S. v. Ashby, at Ashby.

Dec. 9th, L.A.S. v. Derby, at Derby.

Dec. 15th, L.A.S. v. Harborough, at Leicester.

Dec. 29th, L.A.S. v. Birmingham, at Birmingham.

Jan. 26th, L.A.S. v. Coventry, at Leicester.

Feb. 9th, L.A.S. v. Coventry, at Coventry.
Feb. 13th, L.A.S. v. Birmingham, at Birmingham.
Feb. 23rd, L.A.S. v. Coventry, at Coventry.

L.A. FOOTBALL CLUB FIXTURES

Oct. 27th, Loughborough Grammar School, at Loughborough.
Nov. 3rd, Market Harborough, at Harborough.
Nov. 10th, Leicester Athletic, at Leicester.
Dec. 9th, Loughborough Grammar School, at Leicester.
Dec. 20th, Leicester Athletic, at Leicester.
Jan. 5th, Market Harborough, at Leicester.
March 2nd, Rugby, at Leicester.

Leicester Daily Post – 20 October 1877

PETTY SESSIONS, Thursday – Before Rev J M Lakin (chairman), Rev E Elmhirst and Major Pearson – *H Humphrey, J Garner, A Shortland, H Sarson, T Sarson and A Sharpe*, youths of about 16, were charged with playing football on the Coventry-road on the 28th November, and on the promise not to offend again, the charge was withdrawn in the payment of costs.

Leicester Chronicle – 22 December 1877

A FATAL FOOTBALL MATCH

At the Leicester Assizes, on Wednesday, before Mr. Baron Bramwell, William Bradshaw, junior, was charged with "feloniously killing and slaying" Herbert Dockerty in a football match at Ashby-de-la-Zouch, the 29th February last—On the day named, the accused and the deceased were players in a football match between Ashby and Coalville. At one part of the game, Dockerty caught the ball and began what is known as "dribbling," that is kicking the ball short distances and following it up. Whilst dribbling, Bradshaw ran towards Dockerty to charge him. Seeing Bradshaw approaching, Dockerty kicked the ball past Bradshaw, but notwithstanding this, the accused continued his charge and leaped upon Dockerty with his knee protruding very much, his knee catching Dockerty in the stomach, and throwing him violently to the ground. The captain of the Ashby team and several other players said the charge was a most unfair one and was not legitimate football. They also stated that the charge was a deliberate one, and that Bradshaw, although running very hard, could easily have avoided striking Dockerty. Dockerty was taken home, and when he knew he was dying, he said, "Forgive Bradshaw, as I have done; he has done you a great wrong." Dockerty expired the next day from the effects of the charge. There was a good deal of conflict in the evidence as to whether the charge was fair or not.—The Judge, in summing up, said there was no doubt that the deceased was killed by the defendant; but, on the other hand, it was said he was killed, so to speak, in accordance with the laws of football, while, again, it was said it was a foul blow. Persons certainly could not be allowed to make laws whereby it should be allowable for one man to strike another in a way to imperil his life. In the present case they had to decide whether the act of the defendant was malicious or merely a misfortune.—The jury returned a verdict of "Not guilty," and the defendant was discharged. — The jury recommended that a change should be made in the laws of football with respect to charging.

Ashby-de-la-Zouch Gazette – 28 March 1878

A FOOTBALL SPAT – BURTON COGNITI & IBSTOCK SPARKENOE ROVERS

Sir – You will oblige by inserting the following. The Ibstock Sparkenhoe Rovers Football Club received a challenge from the Burton-on-Trent Incognito Football Club to play them on their own ground at Burton-on-Trent, on Saturday last. The challenge was accepted by the IR, who went to Burton; but on their arrival there the Incognito club was nowhere to be found, and after inquiring, and going all over Burton to find them, we had to return home without seeing or playing any members of the Incognito club. Such ungentlemanly treatment I think no club ever received before and the least thing we could think of doing to them was to expose their behavior before the public. If any football clubs see this, it may put them on their guard against similar treatment. They could not have chosen a better title for their club than Incognito, being so in accordance with their actions.

Hoping you will excuse me for taking up so much of your valuable time – I remain your humble servant,

Ibstock, March 12th, 1878

FAIR PLAY

Hinckley News – 16 March 1878

BURTON INCOGNITA FOOTBALL CLUB

Sir—I have just had put into my hands one of the most insulting letters that I ever saw in public print, one "Fair Play," complaining of the treatment the Sparkenhoe Rovers Football Club, Ibstock, received at the hands of the Incognita Football Club, Burton. Now, sir, with all due deference to Mr. "Fair Play," I never saw a letter with less truth in it than this one. No match had been definitely arranged, although there had been some correspondence on the subject, but the secretary of the Ibstock team neglected to write the final letter until the morning that the club came to Burton, when it was too late to make arrangements to play or to meet them, in consequence of the Incognita having to take part in an engagement elsewhere. On receipt of the Ibstock letter, on Saturday morning, I went at once to the Post-office to telegraph, but was informed that my telegram would have to go to Ashby and have to be portered from that town at the cost of 7s. or 8s., and even then it would have been doubtful had it reached them in time. The letter inserted in paper has done them every possible harm, and I do not think one club in Burton would play the Ibstock team after such an insulting and untruthful letter. It has not been taken much notice of in Burton, as the Incogniti Football Club have fully explained it; and it would simply be impossible for such a team as the Ibstock team in any way damage the irreproachable character that the Incognito's bear in Burton. After such an ungentlemanly letter the Ibstock team will find a difficulty in playing teams in this neighbourhood; and, in conclusion, I do not think that football clubs will take much notice of their insulting and ungentlemanly warning. Hoping you will excuse me for trespassing upon your valuable space, I am, sir, yours faithfully,

Geo. E. Loss, Hon. Sec. Incogniti Football Club.

Hinckley News – 30 March 1878

THE BURTON INCOGNITO FOOTBALL CLUB

I trust you will allow use space in your valuable paper for a few lines in reply to the letter of the Hon. Sec. of the Incogniti F.B.C., Burton, which appeared in your issue of Thursday last. I did not think it would have been necessary for me to have entered upon this subject, after the able letter of one "Fair Play," who so fairly exposed the ungentlemanly conduct of the Burton Incogniti F.B.C. It appears Mr. Lobb and his colleagues are very much annoyed at the letter of "Fair Play," and in return they have made a vain attempt to clear themselves of the complaint he made against them; and more particularly this is noticed on close perusal of his letter. He says, "No match had been definitely arranged, although there had been some correspondence on the subject." I suppose Mr. Lobb would admit the match was partially arranged; and if so, I contend the secretary of the Incogniti Club would have written to us prior to any engagement elsewhere, so as to prevent a needless journey by the members of the Ibstock Club, had they acted with

civility and straightforwardness to us; but, Mr. Editor, such was very far from being the case. The Incog.'s of Burton had not sufficient honour or respect to write and so prevent a useless journey to Burton. Had they done so we should not have complained; and up to this time no letter has been received from them to say the reason they did not meet us and play according to arrangement made. But I shall try and prove to you (that is with your permission) Mr. Editor, that a match was arranged in a precise manner, by laying the facts of the case before the public and leave them to decide whether the Burton Incog.'s treated us as gentlemen, or even with civility, which one club naturally expects from another. My first letter to Burton was addressed to a Mr. J. Martin (who I thought was the sec. of the Incogniti F.B.C.) asking them to play our club on Saturday, the 23rd February last, and in reply I received the following letter from Mr. Lobb Incogniti F.B.C., 17, New-street, Burton, February 8th, 1878.

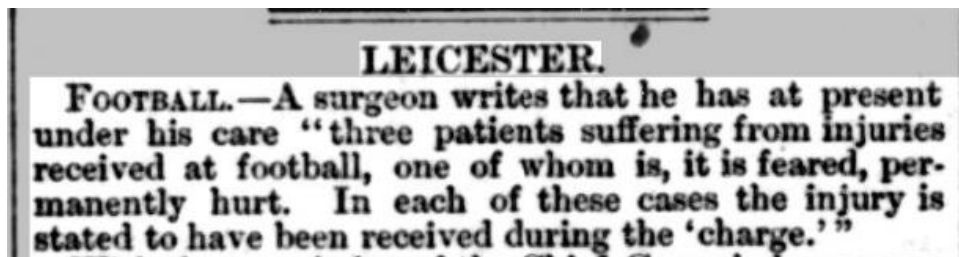
Sir.—Your favour to hand. I am sorry to say that we are engaged on Saturday, the 23rd inst., but we shall be glad to see you at Burton on Saturday, March 9th, if that date is convenient. An early answer will oblige, yours very truly,
GEO. ED. LOBB,
Hon. Sec. Incogniti F.B.C.

After the receipt of the above letter, I wrote again to say the Ibstock Sparkenhoe Rovers' Football Club would play them on the date named, that if they would let us know where to meet them, we should be at Burton according to arrangement on the 9th March. In reply to this I received, dated Feb. 12th, 1878, a post card, as follows:-
New-street, Burton, Feb. 12th, 1878.

Sir,—Thanks for your favour, we commence play at three o'clock. If you let us know what train your team comes by we will meet you at the station. Yours truly,
GEO. ED. LOBB
Hon. Sec. L.F.B.C.

Mr. Editor, if this is not arranging a match, I am at a loss to know what is, and I should feel obliged if Mr. Lobb could tell me. His argument respecting the final letter is not worth ink and paper. Our committee did not meet till Thursday, the 7th of March, to choose the players, and the train was not decided upon until this meeting was held, and how could this annul the arrangement that was definitely made! I sent to Mr. Lobb, by the very next dispatch, to say we should be in Burton by the 12.22 train from Leicester, which arrived in Burton about 1.22 p.m. It was a great pity our friends the Incog's could not send a telegram a distance of some 15 miles in the space of three or four hours, and I think at a far less cost than seven or eight shillings, and also to a much nearer telegraph office than Ashby-de-la-Zouch. Whether the letter of "Fair Play" was taken much notice of in Burton or not, it does not affect the case one iota. May be the Incog's will say the same of my letter; if they should, I wish to remind them that facts are difficult to overcome, and I challenge Mr. Lobb or any of his colleagues to refute the accuracy of my remarks. I don't suppose this celebrated FC represents the whole town of Burton. I trust there are a few common sense people who can distinguish between right and wrong, and who can discern a little comparison with the title and the actions of the Incogniti Club. The Ibstock F.B.C. will be pleased to play matches with any of the football clubs in Burton who act with civility, but we shall not trouble about playing the Incog.'s or arranging for any future matches with them, and in conclusion I would have all football clubs beware the Incog.'s of Burton, or they will find that the Burton club will be "Incog." when the visitors arrive at the station or on the ground. Excuse my trespassing on your space so much, Mr. Editor, and not to trouble you further, I beg to subscribe myself, yours faithfully,
JOHN W HOPKINS

Hon. Sec. to the Sparkenhoe Rovers, F.8.C., Ibstock.
Hinckley News - 6 April 1878



Hinckley News - 6 April 1878

HUGGLESCOTE - The football season having come to a close, the members of the Hugglescote Robin Hood Football Club sat down together on Saturday evening to a first-class supper, provided by Mr. W. Wilkins, of the Gate Inn. After the cloth was removed the usual loyal and patriotic toasts were drunk, the proceedings being, varied by recitations and songs from the various members. The Rev. H. E. Broughton occupied the chair. Statements were read showing the success of the club during the season, which appeared very satisfactory to the members — When the Local Board is in full operation, it would confer a favour on the postman and "there by naming the streets and numbering the houses. The proprietors in several instances have already adopted distinctive names for their houses, calling them "villa. or "cottages," as their fancy dictated.

Hinckley News - 4 May 1878

COALVILLE ATHLETIC SPORTS - The Coalville Athletic Club Annual Sports took place on Monday in a field near the railway station. The weather was fine and the attendance very large. The Snibstone Colliery Band under the direction of Mr J A Smith, performed selections of music during the afternoon. The entries were numerous, and the competitions generally very good Football Match, with set of six men (Association Rules) - The first heat resulted in a victory for Earl Shilton by one goal and one point, to Moira's six points; but the Moira team disputed the game in consequence of their men kicking a goal, and they were not allowed it, and the Judge decided against the objection. The second resulted in a victory for Coalville, by beating the Hugglescote team by five points to one. In the final contest Coalville beat Earl Shilton by two goals and two points to three points

Leicester Journal - 9 August 1878



Leicester Daily Mercury - 29 August 1878

The cricket season is over and that of football has begun. Meetings of members have already been held, captains and secretaries have been appointed, match invitations sent out and by this time perhaps accepted or rejected. On Saturday afternoon last more than one set of goal-posts could be seen, while the "thud, thud" of the ball mingled with the eager cries of the players. It is a manly old English game—superior in many respects to cricket. The latter is generally played on nice level turf with the sun shining over head, and with plenty of spectators to cheer; but football is frequently played under very adverse circumstances. Many a contest has been fought when the snow has covered the ground or when a keen East wind or a biting rain has swept o'er the field, and when applauding visitors have been few and far between. Of late years football has made rapid strides. A dozen years ago the great schools monopolised the game, but now every village has its club, while large towns boast almost as many clubs as streets. Some of the larger schools still keep to the Rugby rules, the roughest that are played, but the majority of clubs play either the London Association or the Sheffield rules, which are a great improvement on the Rugby. At Sheffield, indeed, the revival of football as a national game first seemed to commence, and a Sheffield team will now hold its own against any in England on equal terms. Already, we believe, county associations are beginning to be formed, and we may before long be favoured with an All England team. The annual match between England and Scotland can scarcely be called thoroughly representative. It should be borne in mind that there is a vast difference between football as formerly played and that which at present obtains. Formerly one section of a town—notably, at Ashborne and Derby—was pitted against another section or parish, and the respective combatants went at it pell-mell; the game was characterised more by the absence of rules and the presence of horse play than by anything else, and yet old players look back, with pride over the achievements of other days. Now, however, we have changed all that. We have grounds staked out or marked in some way, goal-posts a certain width apart, with a goal-line a specified height, and we have rigid rules, regulating "foul-play," "free-kicks," "off-side," and other technicalities of the game, so that now football requires something more than mere strength or agility—it necessitates skill and that knowledge that is acquired by practice.

A FOOTBALL MATCH BY ELECTRIC LIGHT.

The intense interest aroused by the application of the electric light to novel uses was strikingly apparent on Monday night in Sheffield, when nearly 30,000 people gathered at the Bramall-lane Grounds to witness a football match by the means of the electric light. The match, which was played by two teams belonging to the Sheffield Football Association, commenced at half-past seven o'clock at night. The electric light was thrown on the ground from four lamps thirty feet from the ground, and the rays, which were of great brilliancy, lighted up nearly the whole of the ground, and the players could be seen almost as clearly as at noonday. When the light was turned on the great crowd cheered loudly, and then watched the game with great interest. Some amusement was caused by the brilliance of the light, which dazzled the players sometimes, and caused some strange blunders. Behind each goal was placed a portable engine, each of which drove two dynamo machines—one for each light. The illuminating power was equal to 8,000 standard candles, and the cost per hour for each light was 3½d.

Ashby-de-la-Zouch Gazette - 19 October 1878

HINCKLEY

FOOTBALL CLUB – A football club has been formed in the town, under the presidency of Mr H W Disney. The Rev A O James has been appointed Captain, and Mr E J Simpson hon sec., Mr W A Pilgrim treasurer. Twelve matches have been arranged for the first season, and other will be made. The first match takes place at Hinckley to-day (Saturday), against Barwell.

Leicester Advertiser - 26 October 1878

THE ELECTRIC LIGHT.—A football match was played by the aid of the electric light at Nuneaton, on Saturday evening, and notwithstanding the unfavourable weather was witnessed by nearly 4,000 persons. The field in which the match took place was a large one, and it was deemed necessary, in order to illuminate it effectually, to have a light at either end. The lights on this occasion were supplied by Mr. Patterson, of London, and were similar to those recently exhibited at Kennington Oval. The apparatus for each light was fixed on a stage about 12ft. from the ground, and the two steam engines employed were each of six-horse power. When turned on, a brilliant light was emitted which was dazzling in the extreme, and the majority of the spectators were evidently astonished at its brilliancy. The match which was between the Tamworth and Atherstone Football Clubs, commenced at about half-past six o'clock, and created much interest, though for a time the light was the chief centre of attraction. Unfortunately, the wind was high during the whole of the evening, and Mr. Rosilin, who superintended on the occasion, had the greatest difficulty in lighting the players, who at times were somewhat inconvenienced. The match, which was interesting and at times exciting, resulted in a victory for the Atherstone team by one try and six touch downs, to three touch downs.

Ashby-de-la-Zouch Gazette - 23 November 1878

THE ELECTRIC LIGHT IN LEICESTER – On Tuesday night a football match was to have been placed on the Peacock Grounds; Belgrave-road, by aid the electric light, and numerous company assembled to witness the event. Three lights were fixed in different parts of the ground, fed by three steam engines, which were under the supervision of Mr. P. Williams, the manager for Mr. Featherston. Siemens' apparatus was used, but the lights seemed to have been fixed in hurry, and the arrangements being somewhat defective, the light could not be depended upon. At times it was very brilliant, while others it was little better than an ordinary gas jet. addition, a dense fog prevailed, and it was consequently impossible to commence the game.

Leicester Journal - 29 November 1878

THE ELECTRIC LIGHT.—Great numbers of people visited Hinckley on Monday evening last to see the much-talked-of electric light. Bills were issued announcing that a football match would be played in a field adjoining the Railway Station, under four real electric lights. The match was announced to commence at six o'clock, and at that time crowds of visitors thronged the Station-road, expecting to see the wonderful light illuminating the neighbourhood; but, on arriving at the gates, they found that the apparatus had not arrived, and for nearly an hour no other light was visible but the town lamps, which were of little comfort to the host of anxious ones, as the gas at Hinckley is not always of the best quality. About 6.30 the apparatus arrived, and it was quickly conveyed to the ground, where three portable steam engines were standing, and other arrangements had been made for fixing it. It was not until after eight o'clock that the first ray of light was thrown across the ground, and soon afterwards two electric lights were dazzling the eyes of those present. For some time the lights would not burn continuously, and several times, through some hitch in the arrangements, light was turned into darkness. This combined with the damp state of the ground, caused anything but pleasure to the spectators, and had it not been for the enlivening strains of a band in attendance and the refreshment-tents, the light would have shed its rays upon an empty enclosure, as numbers of people returned to their homes, believing the whole thing was a failure. About half-past nine the football match commenced between two picked teams from Hinckley, Stoney Stanton, Earl Shilton, and Croft. Some difficulty was experienced in clearing the ground. The game was continued for about half an hour, when one of the Earl Shilton men had his leg broken, and the play ceased. During the game the players were greatly inconvenienced by the lights going out, or becoming dim. The game ceased about 10 o'clock, but the lights were kept burning until about 11 o'clock. It cannot be said that the electric light was a success at Hinckley, and we hope that Mr. A. J. Orton (by whose speculation it was brought to the town) will not be a loser through the mismanagement of others.

Leicester Chronicle – 30 November 1878

LEICESTER

FOOTBALL —A surgeon writes that he has at present, under his care "three patients suffering from injuries received at football, one of whom is, it is feared, permanently hurt. In each of these cases the injury is stated to have been received during the 'charge.'

Hinckley News – 6 April 1879

GRACEDIEU – FOOTBALL CASUALTY – On Saturday last thirteen members of the Coalville football club had a friendly contention on the lawn of W. Bax, Esq., of Gracedieu Warren, when he was unfortunate and vigorous charge against one of the players, Mr David Howard, by Mr Handley. Mr Handley's collar bone was seriously shattered. He is now under the care of Dr Johnson, of Whitwick. Mr Handley is much respected and receives the sympathy of his numerous friends.

Hinckley News – 13 May 1879

WISTON UNITED FC AGM

WIGSTON.

FOOTBALL. — The second annual meeting of the Wigston United Football Club was held on Saturday evening, when the accounts, which had been audited by W. Bates and B. Hackett, were presented to the meeting, and gave general satisfaction. During the last season eight matches were played, out of which number the Wigston team won five, one was withdrawn, and two lost. Several other matches which had been arranged had to be given up on account of the unfavourable weather. The officers chosen for the coming season were—Arthur Hackett, captain; John Boulter, vice-captain; G. Herbert, G. Broughton, J. Cawthorn, B. Carter, and W. Boothaway, the committee; Charles Boothaway, secretary. This club is now anxious to arrange for matches with any other club on "Association Rules."

Leicester Daily Mercury - 23 August 1879