News Stories 1888-89

Headline	Newspaper
Sheepshed FC AGM	*Melton Mowbray Mercury and Uppingham and Oakham News - 27 September 1888*
A Football Challenge Cup For Coalville	*Leicester Chronicle – 13 October 1888*
Letter To The Editor: Mill Hill House FC v Ravenstone Druids FC	*Leicester Daily Mercury – 17 November 1888*
Castle Donington FC	*Loughborough Herald & North Leicestershire Gazette – 3 January 1889*
Football A Barrow-On-Soar	*Loughborough Herald & North Leicestershire Gazette – 3 January 1889*
Football Poem	*Leicester Advertiser – 22 January 1889*
Leicestershire Football Fixtures For 2 February 1889	*Leicester Daily Mercury – 1 February 1889*
Leicestershire And Notts FAs Amalgamate	*Mansfield Reporter – 1 February 1889*
Classified	*Hinckley News – 9 February 1889*
Football Accident In Leicester	*Nottinghamshire Guardian – 23 February 1889*
Shepshed Town FC Meeting	*Leicester Daily Mercury – 28 February 1889*
Wedding (E Needham- Shepshed Town FC Captain)	*Leicester Daily Mercury – 28 February 1889*
Saturday's Matches	*Leicester Daily Mercury – 1 March 1889*
Sheepshed FC Meeting	*Leicester Chronicle – 2 March 1889*
Is Football Demoralising?	*Leicester Daly Post – 20 March 1889*
Leicestershire Football Association And Shepshed	*Leicester Daily Mercury – 25 March 1889*
Comment About The Leicestershire Football Association Challenge Cup Competition	*Leicester Daily Mercury – 30 March 1889*
Letters About Leicestershire Football Association Challenge Cup Competition	*Leicester Chronicle – 6 April 1889*
Leicester Football Association AGM	*Leicester Daily Post – 29 April 1889*
The Leicestershire Football Association And The Shepshed Club	*Leicester Chronicle – 4 May 1889*
South Wigston Fc Annual Dinner	*Leicester Daily Post – 9 May 1889*
Teachers 2nd XI Fixture Request Classified	*Leicester Daily Post – 13 May 1889*
Hugglescote Robin Hood Fc Annual Supper	*Leicester Chronicle – 18 May 1889*
Football Poem	*Leicester Advertiser – 22 June 1889*
Shepshed FC Meeting	*Leicester Journal -26 July 1889*
Bicycle Accident – Loughborough's Captain	*Leicester Journal -26 July 1889*
Loughborough Football Contest Advertisement	*Loughborough Herald & North Leicestershire Gazette – 29 August 1889*

In connection with local football it seems that cricket and football will not be played simultaneously on the Victoria Park, an edict having been published that the kicking game will be confined to the months of October, November, December, January, February, and March. It also appears that the Estate Committee have no thoughts of missing the opportunity to take a bit of out of the winter pastime as well as cricket. It is stated in the rules and regulations officially issued that a season ticket can be held for 5s. this is surely an exorbitant figure on the face of it, but especially when compared with the charge for cricket, Day tickets are to be charged at the same rate as for cricket, viz, 6d each. Could anything be more extortionate? The ground wants no preparation – (if it did it would hardly get it, judging from what we see on the cricket area) – and is only used for 90 minutes once a week. The possession of a season ticket would of course entitle the

holder to practice during the week, but how often do we see the game pursued except in matches on the Saturday? Perhaps the charges have been doubled on account of the little bit of labour which is to be expended in marking out the ground, a duty which the players have hitherto had to do for themselves. Or perhaps an extra "tanner" is to be imposed for that, so as to keep up the charter of charging sixpence for drawing a crease for a cricket match. Upon my word, the Corporation would do well to lay out all the Borough estate is recreative areas. The Victoria Park is certainly a grand paying concern.
Leicester Daily Post – 10 September 1888

ANNUAL DINNER FOR THE SHEPSHED FOOTBALL CLUB – Upon the formation of the Leicestershire Football Association last season it was decided to institute a challenge competition for affiliated clubs. The idea was carried out, and the Shepshed club was ultimately declared the victor, but owing to the crippled finances no challenge cup was forthcoming. It was determined, however, that the Shepshed players should receive some token of their success, and after standing over a long time, causing not a little soreness, the affair came to a satisfactory settlement on Saturday evening, when silver medals were presented to each member of the winning team. The occasion was the annual dinner of the Shepshed club at the Railway Hotel, the proceedings being honoured by the presence oof the Lord Mayor of Leicester (Ald. T. Wright), who, as President, made a special journey to Shepshed in order to decorate the victors with the rewards. Other visitors from Leicester represented several clubs, and were included in a company numbering upwards of 70 – After dinner the chair was taken by Mr S Harriman (president of the club). Dr Still being in the vice chair – Royalty having been duly honoured, the Chairman gave "The Major of Leicester," expressing on behalf of the club the great pleasure and due sense of the compliment paid them by his Worship's presence that evening – The toast was most enthusiastically received - The Mayor, in replying. congratulated upon having defeated, directly and collaterally, every other club connected with the Association. All Leicester sportsmen, he said, with whom he came into contact, were fully alive to the keen interest in sport, especially cricket and football, which existed in Shepshed, and he was confident that the exertions of their football players had everywhere met with a proper appreciation. Their victory had been achieved by that perseverance and combination which were in their highest degree essential to the successful pursuit of football. There was no Royal road to the goal of success in football and it was most satisfactory to know that they had attained their proud position by sheer force of merit. He had heard on all sides that roughness formed no part of their play. That was the pleasant feature for all, for more brutality in the game, as practised, he feared, by some players, was not sport in any sense. Having traced the victorious career of the Shepshed club through the competition the Mayor alluded in flattering terms to the record of the entire season, during which 27 matches had been played, 16 won, two lost and nine drawn whilst 83 goals were scored as against 31 recorded by their adversaries. The financial state of the club he found was highly satisfactory, the accounts showing a balance in hand of £13; and the same source he also gleaned substantial evidence of the attractiveness of their play, nearly £20 appearing in the balance sheet as gate money. His Worship, having, invested the members of the winning team with chastely-designed silver medals, announced that a special prize had been offered by the Association for the player who took part in all the inter-county matches. Mr Needham and Mr Ashmole has each done so, but Mr Needham, with a delicacy of feeling and generosity of nature which did him great credit, desired that the medal be given to Mr Ashmole, who had acted as captain in the county matches. The request was accordingly complied with, and the Major resumed his seat amid great cheering – The members of the victorious eleven were: Messrs. Needham, Newbold, Cotton, Waldron, Johnson, Kidger, Bennett, Smith, Savage, Waring and Danvers – Mr Needham returned thanks – Dt Still proposed "Success to the Leicestershire Football Association remarking that in his opinion the Association game was preferable from any point of view to the Rugby code - Mr Ashmole acknowledged the toast, and the visitors from Leicester, after a short speech by Mr Thompson, then left -Various complimentary toasts followed, and song, c., completed the harmony of the evening.
Melton Mowbray Mercury and Uppingham and Oakham News - 27 September 1888

A FOOTBALL CHALLENGE CUP FOR COALVILLE – A meeting of the Coalville Town Cricket Club was held at the Fox and Goose Hotel on Thursday evening last, to discuss the advisability of offering a football challenge cup for the ensuing season. Mr A J White presided, and there were also present: Messrs W D Stableford, R Tebbutt, J Nash, S Bertenshaw, W Wardle and J Burton. After some discussion it was decided to give a cup of the value of £11 11s or eleven cups of £1 1s each, whichever the winning team preferred, the cup or cups to be the absolute property of the winning team at the end of the season without further

competition. It was also resolved to present the losers in the final match, with silver medals. The entrance fee was fixed at 10s per team of eleven men. Mr S Bertenshaw was elected secretary to the committee.
Leicester Chronicle – 13 October 1888

MILL HILL HOUSE FC v RAVENSTONE DRUIDS FC

To the Editor

Sir, - In answer to Mt Freeman's letter in your issue of Saturday last, I may say it was a great pity that the gentleman could not come to Leicester to captain the team. He would have to be able to give the "true" facts of the cases he mentions. He says, "one of the players was rendered useless for a matter of ten minutes by a nasty blow on the chest." This is what happened. Their centre forward was dribbling down the centre. Whitworth tackled him and got the ball away, the forward getting a knock in the wind. There was no jumping at the player, who was playing again in less than two minutes. In the second case Mr Freeman does not say how Fosbrooke had his leg broken. This is very unfair to the Mill Hill Club for he gives your many readers to understand it was through rough play. This was not so, Pilsbury was running down the left wing, Fosbrooke tackled him just at the time he was making his kick, Pilsbury kicked hard and kicked the ball, and Fosbrooke's leg at the same time, the ball going over the goal line. Fosbrooke did not fall. I said to him, "Are you hurt?", and he replied, "It will be alright soon." He even walked a few yards, but became worse and was helped off the field. Some spectators kindly took him to the dressing room. It was within ten yards of them, and could plainly see what happened. The other players were some distance away from them. The third case was of a man who received two kicks and then left the field. This is the man I suppose Mr Freeman alludes to when he talks of ill temper and rough language. This is a nice character for Mr Freeman to give one of his own men. I can quite understand why Mt Freeman did not care to play. This player was cautioned by me for rough play on three different occasions. The last time I said, "It is quite time you left off playing," and he walked off the field, after challenging of the players to fight. During the whole of the match there was not a dispute about a decision, and I am sure there was not a man charged over. The game was not a rough one, and would have been very enjoyable bit for one of the Ravenstone men.

Your truly

W A SMITH

Referee in the match.

Evington-road, Nov 15th, 1888

Leicester Daily Mercury – 17 November 1888

The Castle Donington FC, which occupied fairly good position among the county football clubs last year, has broken up after an existence of six years. They came to play at Loughborough in the fair week when they were defeated by five goals to none. I hear that the reason why the team collapsed was because, though there were 30 members in the club, the players were continually assisting other clubs in their matches.
Loughborough Herald & North Leicestershire Gazette – 3 January 1889 FOOTBALL AT BARROW-ON-SAR

To the Editor

Sir – The number of matches arranged for Christmas week by the Barrow Liberal Club was six, the first was against Quorndon, on Monday 25 December. It could not be played out owing to the rain which came on during the latter part of the game. On Christmas Day a match was played against Sileby, at Barrow. This was a very friendly game, Barrow winning by one goal to nil. On the same day, Mountsorrel was to have come, but they did not turn up at the time arranged, and the afternoon turning out so wet was perhaps the cause of their not putting in an appearance. On December 26th the Nottingham Emmanuel Institute team was arranged for, and the same morning a card was received, stating that owing to several players being out of work they could not get a team to come. On the same day a match was to have been played against the Highfield Rovers, Leicester, at Barrow, but noting was heard of them. On 29th a return match was arranged to be played at Barrow, and on that same morning a card was received from the Hugglescote Wanderers stating that they could not get a tea to come but would try later on. This is truly a week's record of disappointment, which all footballers ought to try and avoid, or else the game will lose a great of the interest now taken in it.

Yours W KETTLE

Loughborough Herald & North Leicestershire Gazette – 3 January 1889

Leicestershire Football Association

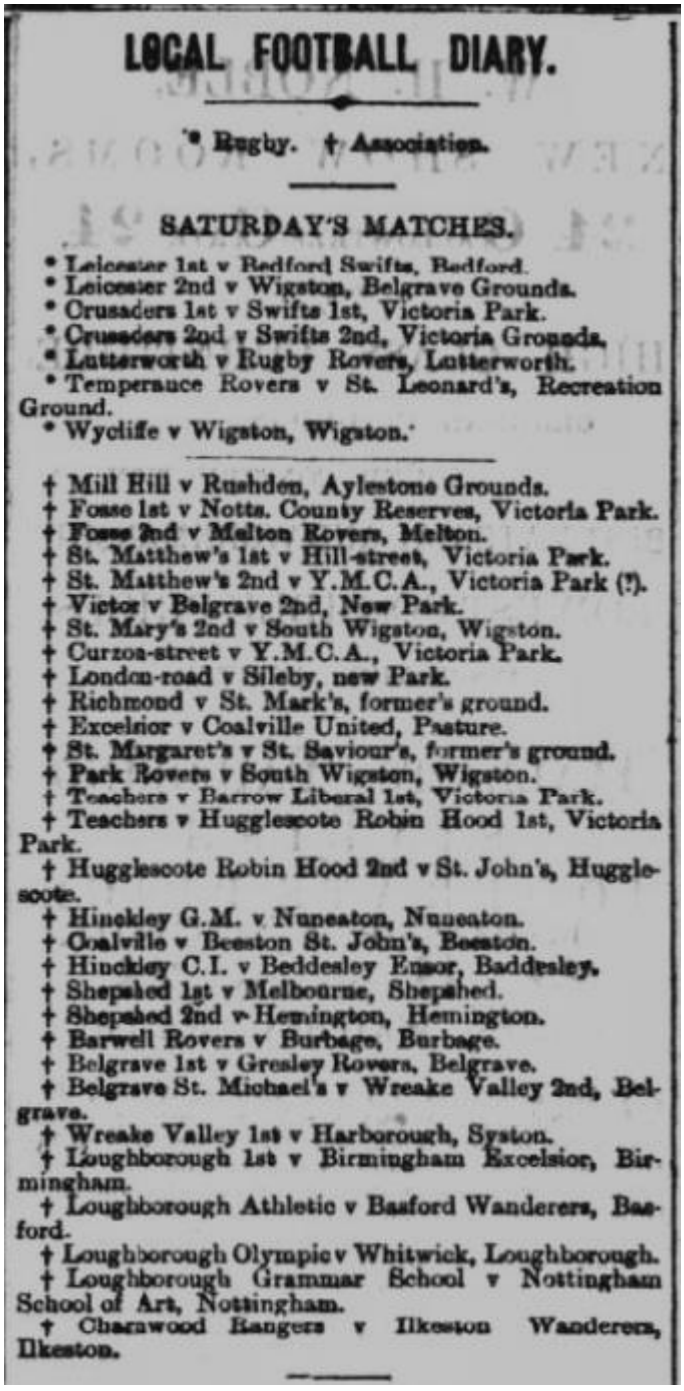
Most of the clubs affiliated with the above association were represented at a committee meeting held at the Victoria Hotel, London-road, on Saturday evening. — The first business transacted was the consideration by the sub-committee of the protest lodged against the Loughborough F.C. by the Leicester Wanderers, but as the necessary fee had not been deposited by the objectors the protest was ruled to be invalid. — Having read the results of the cup ties in the second round- of the Challenge Cup Competition, the honorary secretary (Mr. T. S. Ashmole) read some' correspondence which had been received from Mr. Proctor, the secretary of the Nottinghamshire Association, with reference to the proposed amalgamation of the two associations to entitle them to send a representative to the National Council meetings. — Mr. Proctor suggested that as they had the greater number of clubs their association should select the representative for two years and Leicestershire for one year, and also as the present season was so far advanced Nottinghamshire should send the representative for this season and Leicestershire for 1889-90. — On the proposition of Mr. Small (Belgrave), seconded by Mr. Foston (Shepshed), this course was unanimously agreed to. — Mr. Foston gave notice that at the next meeting he would move that the resolution by which the consideration of protests was deputed to a sub-committee be rescinded, and that in future they be dealt with by the whole of the representatives. — Mr. G. H. Stableford (Coalville) gave notice that he would ask at the next meeting for a list of the names of the professionals registered by the Loughborough F.C. up to that date. — Mr. Fellows (Hugglescote) gave notice to propose that in future the annual general meeting of the association be held at the end of the season instead of at the commencement of the following one. — Five clubs (Fosse, Mill Hill, Coalville, Loughborough Athletic, and Shepshed) being now left in the Cup competition, Mr. Foston proposed that a match between the Fosse and Loughborough (each of which had byes in the previous rounds) should constitute the third round, giving byes to the other three teams. — The motion was ruled out of order, and the draw for the third round was proceeded with, with the following result, it being agreed that the games should he played on any day up to Feb. 16, exclusive of Feb. 9 (when a county eleven is to be opposed by Derbyshire) : — Fosse v. Loughborough Athletic, at Loughborough ; Shepshed v. Coalville, at Shepshed; Mill Hill a bye.

Leicester Chronicle – 12 January 1889

Football Poem

People are asking –
How Leicestershire will fare against Derbyshire on Monday next?
If the best team will play?
When the football farce will end?
Why the association of football clubs does not keep up with the times?
Why Loughborough are amused over the latest mandate?
If such things add to the credit of football

Leicester Advertiser
22 January 1889



LOCAL FOOTBALL DIARY.

* Rugby. † Association.

SATURDAY'S MATCHES.

* Leicester 1st v Redford Swifts, Redford.
* Leicester 2nd v Wigston, Belgrave Grounds.
* Crusaders 1st v Swifts 1st, Victoria Park.
* Crusaders 2nd v Swifts 2nd, Victoria Grounds.
* Lutterworth v Rugby Rovers, Lutterworth.
* Temperance Rovers v St. Leonard's, Recreation Ground.
* Wycliffe v Wigston, Wigston.

† Mill Hill v Rushden, Aylestone Grounds.
† Fosse 1st v Notts. County Reserves, Victoria Park.
† Fosse 2nd v Melton Rovers, Melton.
† St. Matthew's 1st v Hill-street, Victoria Park.
† St. Matthew's 2nd v Y.M.C.A., Victoria Park (?).
† Victor v Belgrave 2nd, New Park.
† St. Mary's 2nd v South Wigston, Wigston.
† Curzon-street v Y.M.C.A., Victoria Park.
† London-road v Sileby, new Park.
† Richmond v St. Mark's, former's ground.
† Excelsior v Coalville United, Pasture.
† St. Margaret's v St. Saviour's, former's ground.
† Park Rovers v South Wigston, Wigston.
† Teachers v Barrow Liberal 1st, Victoria Park.
† Teachers v Hugglescote Robin Hood 1st, Victoria Park.
† Hugglescote Robin Hood 2nd v St. John's, Hugglescote.
† Hinckley G.M. v Nuneaton, Nuneaton.
† Coalville v Beeston St. John's, Beeston.
† Hinckley C.I. v Beddesley Ensor, Baddesley.
† Shepshed 1st v Melbourne, Shepshed.
† Shepshed 2nd v Hemington, Hemington.
† Barwell Rovers v Burbage, Burbage.
† Belgrave 1st v Gresley Rovers, Belgrave.
† Belgrave St. Michael's v Wreake Valley 2nd, Belgrave.
† Wreake Valley 1st v Harborough, Syston.
† Loughborough 1st v Birmingham Excelsior, Birmingham.
† Loughborough Athletic v Basford Wanderers, Basford.
† Loughborough Olympic v Whitwick, Loughborough.
† Loughborough Grammar School v Nottingham School of Art, Nottingham.
† Charnwood Rangers v Ilkeston Wanderers, Ilkeston.

Leicester Daily Mercury - 1 February 1889

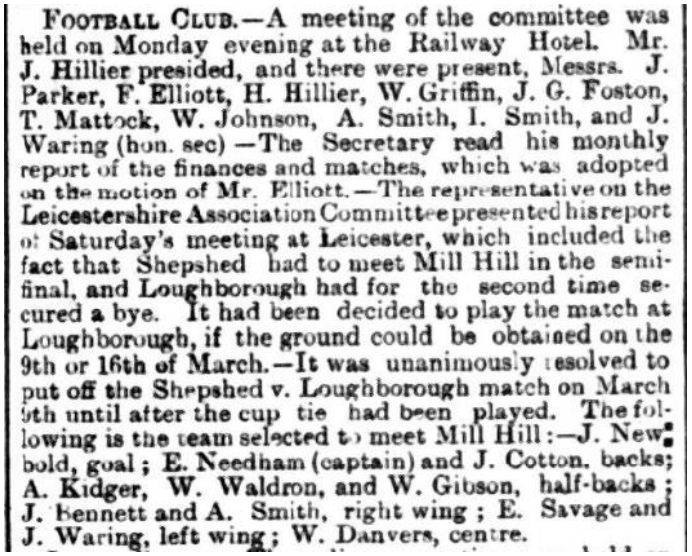
A meeting of the Executive of the Notts. Football Association was held at the Maypole Hotel on Wednesday evening, when the following business was transacted:- For the Junior Cup semi-final, Mansfield Town v. Eastwood, on February 9th, Mr. F. Doleman was appointed referee, and Messrs. J. Fiddler and J. C. Hunt umpires. The Leicestershire Football Association having decided to amalgamate with this association, in order to send a representative to the Football Council at their meetings, this association elected Mr. A. G. Hines as the representative for the combined associations.
Mansfield Reporter – 1 February 1889

WILL the two persons who travelled first-class from St P____ as to L___, with three friends on January 26, kindly meet same on Saturday next at Football Match, Leicestershire v Derbyshire. Were too late at last appointment.
Hinckley News – 9 February 1889

ACCIDENT TO A PLAYER

A young man named Arthur Woodall was admitted to the Leicester Infirmary on Saturday afternoon having met with an accident in the football field. Whilst playing for YMCA against Highfield Rovers, at the Welford-road recreation Grounds, he was either kicked or fell heavily on his knee. The joint was previously weakened by an accident earlier in the season, and Saturday's mishap again disabled him, though it was fortunately not of a serious character.

Nottinghamshire Guardian – 23 February 1889



FOOTBALL CLUB.—A meeting of the committee was held on Monday evening at the Railway Hotel. Mr. J. Hillier presided, and there were present, Messrs. J. Parker, F. Elliott, H. Hillier, W. Griffin, J. G. Foston, T. Mattock, W. Johnson, A. Smith, I. Smith, and J. Waring (hon. sec) —The Secretary read his monthly report of the finances and matches, which was adopted on the motion of Mr. Elliott.—The representative on the Leicestershire Association Committee presented his report of Saturday's meeting at Leicester, which included the fact that Shepshed had to meet Mill Hill in the semi-final, and Loughborough had for the second time secured a bye. It had been decided to play the match at Loughborough, if the ground could be obtained on the 9th or 16th of March.—It was unanimously resolved to put off the Shepshed v. Loughborough match on March 9th until after the cup tie had been played. The following is the team selected to meet Mill Hill:—J. Newbold, goal; E. Needham (captain) and J. Cotton, backs; A. Kidger, W. Waldron, and W. Gibson, half-backs; J. Bennett and A. Smith, right wing; E. Savage and J. Waring, left wing; W. Danvers, centre.

Leicester Daily Mercury - Thursday 28 February 1889

WEDDING -A large congregation assembled at the Parish Church on Tuesday to witness the marriage of Mr E Needham, the well-known cricketer, and captain of the highly popular Shepshed Football eleven, to Miss M J Wilde. After the ceremony, which was performed by the Rev W H F Hepworth, the wedding party drove off amidst showers of rice and the best wishes of their friends and acquaintances.

Leicester Daily Mercury – 28 February 1889

LOCAL FOOTBALL DIARY.

* Rugby. † Association.

SATURDAY'S MATCHES.

* Leicester 1st v Moseley Harlequins, Belgrave Grounds (first round Midland Counties' Cup).
* Swifts' 2nd v Crusaders' 2nd, Victoria Park.
* Temperance Rovers—captain's v secretary's teams.
† Mill Hill v Hugglescote Robin Hood 1st, Hugglescote.
† Fosse 1st v Sawley Rangers, Victoria Park.
† Fosse 2nd v South Wigston, Victoria Park.
† Park Rovers v Christ Church, Pasture.
† Wycliffe v Belgrave 1st, Belgrave.
† Highfield Rovers v Belgrave 2nd, Recreation Ground.
† St. Matthew's 1st v Excelsior, Pasture.
† St. Matthew's 2nd v Victor, Victoria Park.
† St. Mark's v Wreake Valley 1st, Victoria Park.
† St. Mary's 2nd v Y.M.C.A., Recreation Ground.
† Curzon-street v St. Saviour's Institute, New Park.
† Hill-street v South Wigston, Wigston.
† St. Margaret's v Belgrave Guild, Belgrave.
† Loughborough Athletic v Grantham (Kettering Charity Cup).
† Loughborough Olympic v Long Eaton Rovers, Long Eaton.
† Loughborough v Burton Swifts, Loughborough.
† Shepshed v Nuneaton, Nuneaton.
† Hinckley Great Meeting v Hugglescote St. John's, Hugglescote.
† Barrow Liberal v Warrington, Barrow.
† Oadby United F.C. v. Stoneygate F.C., at Oadby.
† Charnwood Rangers v Whitwick Rovers, Whitwick.
† Loughborough Grammar School—First 11 v Next 16, Club Ground.
† Coalville v Melbourne, Coalville.
† Wreake Valley 2nd v Ansty, Ansty.
† Belgrave St. Michael's v Loughborough Victoria, Belgrave.
† Hugglescote Robin Hood 2nd v Barwell Albion, Hugglescote.

ON WEDNESDAY NEXT.

† Wyggeston School v Harborough, Belgrave Grounds.

Leicester Daily Mercury – 1 March 1889

FOOTBALL CLUB – A meeting of the committee was held on Monday evening at the Railway Hotel. Mr J Hillier presided, and there was present Messrs J Parker, F Elliott, H Hillier, W Griffin, J G Foston, T Mattock, W Johnson, A Smith, I smith and J Waring (hon. esc) – The Secretary read his monthly report of the finances and matches , which was adopted on the motion of Mr Elliott – The representative on the Leicestershire Association Committee presented his report of Saturday's meeting at Leicester, which included the fact that Shepshed had to meet Mill Hill in the semi-final, and Loughborough had for the second time secured a bye. It had been decided to play the match at Loughborough if the ground could be obtained on the 9th or 16th of March – It was unanimously resolved to put off the Shepshed v Loughborough match on March 9th until after the cup tie had been played. The following is the team selected to meet Mill Hill: J Newbold, goal; E Needham (captain) and J Cotton, backs; A Kidger, W Waldron and W Gibson, half-backs; J Bennett and A Smith, right wing; E Savage and J Waring, left wing; W Danvers, centre.
Leicester Chronicle – 2 March 1889

LEICESTERSHIRE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION AND SHEPSHED

The committee of the Leicestershire Association met on Saturday evening the Victoria Hotel, Leicester, Mr. Small presiding. The meeting was called to consider the match between Shepshed and Mill Hill Loughborough on the 16th inst., but of this the representative for Shepshed had no notice. Consequently the course of business came upon him, as surprise. The minutes of the meeting on March 15th were signed, and subsequently it was asked why they did not contain the names of those appointed umpires for the match on the 16th inst. The secretary found the resolution sheet of note paper, but was not entered in the minutes or continued. Mr. Brice (Mill Hill House) then rose, but was interrupted by Mr. Foston (Shepshed), who asked if the secretary would give the name of the Mill Hill House representative, this was the third gentleman who had represented that club during the present season.—The Secretary stated that Mr. Brice was the representative, whereupon Mr. Foston said they had allowed two other gentlemen vote and make resolutions without protest from the secretary. The Mill Hill House representative then brought forward his protest against the match on the grounds that the umpires selected by the Association were objected to, and that Shepshed refused to play if they stood as umpires.—Mr. Foston asked if the usual fee had been deposited and the protest lodged the proper time ?—The Secretary slated that neither these things had been done.—Mr. Foston thereupon protested that the matter was altogether out of order, and appealed to the chair.—The Chairman ruled the Mill Hill House representative in order, and in continuing Mr. Brice said although the match was not played under protest it was simply played so that the spectators should not be disappointed and the Association lose their gate.—In reply, Mr. Foston stated that the umpires were both interested the final, and that was the ground of objection. The captains both agreed play with Mr. Burton and Mr. Mellors, and nothing was said until Mill Hill had lost.—Considerable discussion followed, and the Chairman proposed, and Mr. Smith (Melton) seconded, that the match be re-played at Coalville on Wednesday, the 27th inst.—This was carried six votes to one.—Mr. Foston said the Shepshed men would not play after having won fairly and without protest being lodged. He was not surprised that Loughborough were so anxious to meet the weakest team the two. (Derisive laughter.) They could laugh, but it was question of might against right, as shown by the voting that night.—Mr. Brice then stated that one of their players had been playing that day in another cup match, and asked that he might allowed to play against Shepshed with Mill Hill.—Mr. Foston protested, and said they ought to go according to rules, two clubs were thrown out on those very grounds last season.—The application was, however, granted. —Application having been received from Shepshed for permission to hold the newly-purchased cup for few days (having won the competition last season), the application was agreed to, and the secretary was instructed to convey the same to Mr. S. Harriman, president the Shepshed Club.—On the proceedings of the meeting becoming known in Shepshed much indignation was expressed at the decisions arrived at. The committee of the Shepshed Club have met and unanimously decided not to play the match on Wednesday, but to go on with the match on Saturday arranged. Arrangements have been made hold public indignation meeting to-day (Monday) in the Bull Ring. —Communicated.

Leicester Daily Mercury – 25 March 1889

LEICESTERSHIRE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION AND SHEPSHED – A large crowd assembled in the Bull-ring on Monday to express its opinion on the action of the Leicestershire Football Association towards the Shepshed Club. Mr S Ottewell presided, and the following resolution was proposed by Mr Hollis. Seconded by Mr Plowright, and carried unanimously – "That this meeting expresses its indignation at the unfair manner in which he majority of the Leicestershire Association have acted towards the Shepshed football players, and the total disregard of the rules governing the Association, and records its approval of the action of the Shepshed Football Committee in refusing to replay the match with Mill Hill at Coalville on Wednesday next, and their determination to meet Loughborough at Coalville in the final as arranged on Saturday next."

Nottingham Evening News – 26 March 1889

IS FOOTBALL DEMORALISING

A "Converted Enthusiast" writes to the Baptist denouncing football. He has come to the conclusion that the tendency of the game is evil and that "Christians" will be well advised in lending no respectability to it by their patronage. To a great and terrible extent football leads to drinking and gambling. The headquarters of a club are generally at public houses; the "play up" cards worn in the hats of partisans bear the name and advertisements of some tavern or hotel; players and patrons meet after the match in taproom, bar-parlour, and vaults; then "make a night f it" as they discuss the details of the play and the prospects of the team.

committee-rooms are almost invariably at a licensed house; with smaller clubs the dressing room in there too; the publican lets his room without direct pay, because the money spent in drink produced more than an adequate return for the "accommodation." Drink accompanies the arrangement for the match; drink celebrates a victory; and drink consoles for a defeat. The very worst feature about this obnoxious matter is that boys learn to drink and be in connection with the various football matches. It is because of this fact, which I have seen for myself, which I see exemplified every Saturday, that have been led to open my eyes to the baneful surroundings f football. Hundreds of boys – not youths, more boys – may be seen in any town on a Saturday night sporting the colours or cards of their club, waiting for telegrams to be posted in tobacconist window, criticising with oaths and ribald jests what they have seen and news which comes, most of them smoking and many of them drunk. Book making how is a recognised accompaniment of the game. Open, unblushing, flagrant, almost as extensively as upon a racecourse, gambling is carried on in the full light of day. And this is getting worse.
Leicester Daily Post – 20 March 1889

THE SHEPSHED FOOTBALL CLUB have decided to lay their dispute with the Leicestershire Football Association before the president, Ald Wright, of Leicester, and have issued a handbill requesting their friends not to raise a disturbance at the match at Coalville tomorrow (Saturday).
Leicester Daily Mercury – 29 March 1889

People who have read the Daily Post day by day during the past week will require little persuasion to agree with me that the Leicestershire Football Association Challenge Cup is almost full to the brim – with bitterness. From its very birth, "Double, double, toil and trouble" has sadly retarded its growth into a healthy sport-promoting institution, until it is to-day a bye-word and a reproach amongst right-thinking people. I wonder how many of those gentleman who subscribed their half-guineas to the very handsome cup would not have stayed their hands had they possessed only half an idea of the squabbling the trophy caused.
Leicester Daily Mercury – 30 March 1889

FOOTBALL CLUB – Letters continue to be received from Leicestershire clubs approving the action of Shepshed and censuring the association. Kegworth and Whitwick have spoken out very strongly. One of the most notable letters is from Mr H W Hill, who has been connected with the Notts Association for several years, who characterises the action of Leicestershire association as altogether wrong and unheard of before. He approves entirely of the action taken by Shepshed. It may not be out of place the state that during the season the Shepshed players took part in eight matches before they won the cup, scoring 31 goals against their opponents 11 goals. During the same season Mill hill House scored 14 goals against their opponent's nine. In the same season just ended Shepshed have played in five matches, scoring 30 goals to their opponents" eight goals; Mill Hill House have in the same number of matches scored nine goals to their opponents' eight goals.
Leicester Chronicle – 6 April 1889

LEICESTER FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL DINNER.
The first annual dinner in connection with the L.F.A. took place at the Victoria Hotel, London-road, on Saturday evening. Probably owing to the fact that Saturday evening is not a favourable time for holding such anniversaries, the attendance was limited, but at the same time—as remarked by the genial chairman in connection with a humous anecdote— very select. Host Cleaver provided a dainty dinner. which was admirably served, and apparently satisfied to the full the hearty appetites of the footballers gathered round the tables. The after dinner proceedings were under the chairmanship of Alderman T. Wright, Esq. (president of the Association), who had for his vie-a-viz J. T. Hawks, Esq,, and amongst others present were Messrs. W. Cockain (captain Loughborough F.C.), J. Cooper (hon. see. Loughborough F.C.), W. Johnson, H. Taylor, and J. Pickworth (Loughborough FC), Small (Belgrave F.C.), Donal Mc Alpin, W. R. Stretton, and W. H. Sturges (Mill Hill House F.C.), H. Johnson, W. Johnson, and F. Gardner (Leicester Fosse F.C.), R. A. Bamford (Syston Wreake Valley F.C.), M. C. Jarvis (Leicester Teacher.' F.C.), W. E. Taylor (Mill Hill House umpire), J. McRobie, C. W. Mawby, W. G. Seville, and T. S. Ashmole (hon. Leicestershire Football Association.)—The CHAIRMAN, in the name of that meeting, representing it did one of the many manly sports in which Mr.

Hincks had always evinced so lively an interest, congratulated that gentleman upon his recovery from serious illness, and then in appropriate terms submitted the loyal toasts.—The sentiments having been duly honoured, the company were given a musical treat by Mr. Donal McAlpin, whose beautiful basso voice was heard to its fullest advantage in "The Diver." - An encore was in everyone's mind, but with commendable taste it was not insisted upon, those present doubtless cherishing the hope that Mr. McAlpin would again favour them later in the evening.—Mr. J. T. Hincks then proposed "Success to the Leicestershire Football Association," first, however, acknowledging the chairman's remarks as to his (the speaker's) convalescence. Mr. Hincks said he believed he was a member of the first football club ever formed in Leicester, and from what he remembered of the crude style in which the game was then played he was afraid it compared with the football, either Rugby or Association, of the present day. Football was now played on purely scientific principles, but which in no way detracted from its merits as a splendid outdoor sport. In reference to what many people considered an objectionable feature of the game, liability to accident, he held that the same could be said of all outdoor pastime; but even granting that players run risks of bruises, did it not bring out in young men that pluck and grit which was the foundation of English manhood? In their field sports young men gained experiences which had been proved over and over again to have stood them in good stead in after life. To be a good footballer it was essential above all things to practise self-denial and coolness and courage in moments of danger—qualities which once engraven in a character were not easily eradicated. With regard to the Association, he found that 17 clubs were affiliated to it, and that the funds were in a flourishing state. They had a challenge trophy, and although the past season's competition for it had not progressed too smoothly, he treated that the future might be productive of a more friendly feeling. Such contests ought not to be allied with passionate play and ill feeling. They were really intended to promote social friendship well as healthy rivalry. Were it not for villagers and townsmen thus being brought into contact many lifelong friendships which proved mutually beneficial would sever have been formed. He trusted that the Association would never hesitate to check passionate play, and, in conclusion, expressed a sincere wish for its future prosperity.— With the toast was coupled the name of Mr. T. S. Ashmole; who, in responding first expressed regret at the absence through illness of Mr. J. Johnson, their esteemed treasurer, whose sympathies with the Association and practical part in its working had conduced not a little in the satisfactory position the had now occupied. The speaker said that since its establishment the Leicestershire Association had contested five inter-county contests, of which three were drawn, one won, and one lost. Not only did they possess. a handsome and valuable challenge cup, but had a balance in hand of about £25. He hoped the number of affiliated clubs would soon be large enough to give them an undivided vote in the Council of the Football Association. –Mr J McRobbie the rendered "Our Jack" in splendid style, after which the CHAIRMAN in handing over the Challenge Cup is the winning team proposed “Success the Loughborough Town F C." He said the observations of Mr. Hincks as to the beneficial effects of football and kindred in developing the physical side of our nature his heartiest concurrence. In reference to recent discussions as to whether cup competitions produced a healthy or fractious rivalry, he thought there existed in many quarters the belief that the win, tie, or wrangle motive was uppermost. If true, that would be a strong argument against cup ties, and would be deprecated by himself, as would everything which tended to make the play of a rough and brutal character. He knew, however that the powers of referees were sufficient, if properly applied, to completely stamp out every objectionable feature which enemies of football might see in it. In this regret them who controlled the game were acting very wisely, and they could not be made too strongly supported. (Hear, hear.) There was no doubt that the pursuit of football was not always attended by evenness of temper, but allowances must of course be made for natural ebullitions of rivalry. Having dwelt on the advantages of football be developing the best characteristics of manhood, the chairman came to the victory of Loughborough in the Leicestershire Challenge Cup. In connection with it he said it would hardly be wise to ignore the unfortunate dispute which had arisen in the penultimate round. Detailing the incidents of the affair, Mr Wright said it seemed clear to him that both Shepshed and the Association had erred, and suggested that in future the Association should be more careful to leave itself open to the merest shadow of unfairness towards one of its component parts. It was most gratifying, however, to know that Loughborough had no par in the dispute. They won the cup fairly and honourably, and it was reasonable to suppose the result would have been the same had they met any other club than Mill Hill House in the final. On the form displayed throughout the season Loughborough had assuredly earned the right to be the best team in the competition, and it was with the best wishes for the success of the Loughborough Football Club that he then handed the cup to Mr. Cockain. - The toast, with which was coupled the names of Mr. Cockain and Mr. J. Cooper, was enthusiastically received. - Mr. W COCKAIN briefly responded, and whilst regretting the unfortunate dispute which had occurred hoped that nothing would he

left undone to ensure the smooth working of the Association in the future.- Mr. COOPER replied in a very happy and effective speech. He first complimented the president and vice-president on their practical speeches, and said that if Mr. Wright's “calm, judicial mind" had only been available at the committee meetings of the Association, much, if not all. of the unpleasantness which had occurred would naturally have been prevented. He hoped to see the gentlemen named take aa abiding practical interest in the Association. Then he should have no fear of a recurrence of such a regrettable incident Commenting upon the prospects of local football Mr. Cooper said that hitherto Leicestershire had been considered outside the pale of good Association football, but if the material which he knew to be at disposal could be properly utilised he felt confident the county, which had always held a reputation for sporting propensities, would quickly advance to the front rank. They in Loughborough intended to progress. It had been said they could not do it without resorting to the "importation” system. He could assure them that the team which won the cup were bone fide amateurs, although they had professionals playing in other matches, which they all knew to be legal. Besides, if they could not play at football was it anything to their discredit that they should engage professionals to teach them. Anyhow, they had already reaped the benefit of such tuition, and with the aid of further instruction they hoped to place other trophies side by ride with the one which had been handed to them that night. They were going in for the National Cup, and hoped at least to make a good show. Mr. Cooper concluded by complimenting Mr. Cockain on his captaincy of the Loughborough F.C. during the post season. - At this stage the chairman ordered the cup to be filled with the exhilarating juice of the grape, and this having been done, it was handed round, each of the company, with the cup in hand, submitting a suitable sentiment- Then Mr. D. McAlpin appropriately sang "Drinking," which was received as splendidly as it was given.-The CHAIRMAN proposed 'The Visitors," to which Mr. HINCKS replied, and "The Press," " The Host and Hostess," and "The Chairman," concluded the toast list -The gathering wee in every respect an enjoyable one.
Leicester Daily Post – 29 April 1889

THE LEICESTERSHIRE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION AND THE SHEPSHED CLUB

The dispute between the Shepshed FC and the Leicestershire FA will be fresh in the recollection of all interested in the subject, and it is therefore unnecessary, in publishing the latest feature of the affair, to repeat the details. We have received a copy of the correspondence which has ensued through the matter being referred by Shepshed to Ald. T. Wright president of the Association, but it is too lengthy to publish in full. A statement of the case was submitted by the Shepshed Club to the president, who also received an account from the secretary of the Association and another from the Mill Hill House representative. After giving the matter due consideration, Ald. Wright wrote the following letter to the representative of the Shepshed Club : —

"Belvoir Chambers, 7, Welford-road, Leicester. "April 20, 1889.

Dear sir, — l regret that my absence from home for a week through indisposition has delayed my reply to your letter of April 2. On receipt of that communication, I sent one copy of it to the secretary of the Association and another to the secretary of the Mill Hill House F.C, and invited explanations. The latter replied that Mr. Brice had acted solely on his own responsibility, and in no way with the knowledge or authority of the club in the action he took. This Mr. Brice confirmed in a letter of which I enclose yon a copy.

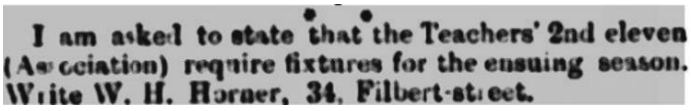
"It is unfortunate that such a dispute should have arisen. I trust its effect may not be prejudicial to the interests of the Association. There seem to me to have been mistakes all round, and I hope at the approaching annual dinner of the Association ail parties may concur in forgetting the past, and make plans for the avoidance of such unpleasantness in the future.

"The position of affairs as it presents itself to my mind is this:

" Every club is bound by the roles of the Association to accept in the semi-final and final matches the referee and umpires appointed by the Association. On March 16th the referee and umpires so appointed were on the ground for the purposes of the semi-final match between Shepshed and Mill Hill House. Both teams were present. Shepshed refused to play on the ground that Mr. Ashmole was one of the umpires, I take it you admit this was wrong because you say, ‘the referee had no power to award the match to Mill Hill House.' It is a regrettable circumstance that the Association should have appointed as umpires in a semi-final match two members of the remaining club qualified to compete in the final and one of whom was personally qualified so to compete. Nor do I think the suggestion of Mr. Brice that because owing to the accidental absence of the duly appointed umpires at the preceding match on the 9th the same two gentlemen were accepted as umpires altogether a sufficient answer. A deliberate appointment beforehand io not quite the same thing as an accidental one on the field.

"But here comes the crux of the question.
"It was, I take it, not only competent to
may in future prevail. — l am, dear sir, yours very obediently, "Thomas Wright."
"Mr. John G. Foston, Shepshed Football Club, Shepshed."
Mr. Foston acknowledges this letter as follows: — "Shepshed Football Club,
" April 30, 1889.
"To Ald.T. Wright.
" Sir,— I am directed by our committee to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 20th inst., and to thank you for the courtesy shown in considering this matter and the very favourable view yon have taken of our position.
"In Mr. Ashmole's letter I see it is stated that the committee of the Association ' unanimously ' decided to have the match played over again. There were nine gentlemen present at that meeting; six voted for the resolution, one against it, and two were neutral. This is a peculiar kind of unanimity. The Birmingham Association rules are quoted as the guide for the L.F.A. (of which you have been supplied with a copy). Our club never have been supplied with a copy; we have only had the L.F.A rules to guide us. Neither Mr. Ashmole nor Mr. Brice has ventured to quote any rule in support of any statement they have made.
"Mr. Brice refers to the custom of reappointing the same referee and umpires for matches which are to be replayed. Was it not practically an admission that the appointments were bad when altogether fresh appointments were made for the match ordered to be replayed on March 27?
"We cannot, as yon state, admit we were wrong, from the simple fact-that we were prepared to accept the verdict of the referee (whose decision according to the L.F. A. rules is final) in awarding the match to our opponents rather than play with Mr. Ashmole aa umpire.
"We claim that one-half of the net proceeds of the match belong to us if the Association refuse to accept it as the semi-final — l am, sir, yours obediently, " John G. Foston.
Leicester Chronicle – 4 May 1889

SOUTH WIGSTON
THE FOOTBALL CLUB – The first annual dinner of the united football clubs (Rugby and Association) took place in the splendid rooms adjoining the Grand Hotel on Saturday, when upwards of 70 members and friends sat down to an excellent dinner, under the presidency of Mr Orson Wright, CC, Mr W Rudkin being the vice-chair. After dinner and the usual Royal and patriotic toasts were disposed of, the President proposed, “Success to South Wigston united football clubs” and he had the greatest satisfaction in reading the report, because it showed that both Rugby and association teams had met without what he might, without exaggeration, describe as extraordinary. He (Mr Wright) found that the Rugby team had played 21 matches, of which 17 were won, one drawn, and only two lost, their score being 17 goals, 43 tries, 124 minors – 94 points, while the score of their various opponents combined amounted to but 6 goals, 5 tries, 43 minors – 33 points. He could not but congratulate the association team, all things considered, on so good a result, for he found they, as a young team, had been pitted against most of the best combinations in Leicestershire, and with signal success. They had played 21 matches, winning 12, losing 6 and 3 drawn. He submitted that result to the public with pride, believing that a young club who could beat Leicester Fosse once, Hinckley and Syston twice, and Hugglescote Wanderers and Coalville once each must possess the elements necessary to make them in the future the first club in the county. – Mr Bolsover and Mr Barwick returned hanks on behalf of the respective teams. The usual vote of thanks were accorded, and the remainder of the evening was spent in conviviality. The room was prettily decorated by Misses Matts, who deserved and were accorded great praise.
Leicester Daily Post – 9 May 1889


I am asked to state that the Teachers' 2nd eleven (Association) require fixtures for the ensuing season. Write W. H. Horner, 34, Filbert-street.
Leicester Daily Post – 13 May 1889

FOOTBALL - On Saturday evening the members of the Robin Hood Football Club, with a number of friends and patrons, held their annual supper at Mr. W. Wilkins's, the Gate Inn. A capital repast had been provided by Mr. Wilkins in the large clubroom, which was fully enjoyed by the large number present. After supper the

chair was taken by the Rev. H. E. Broughton, and the vice- chair by Mr. T. H. Heward. —The Chairman gave the toast, "Success to the Robin Hood Football Club." He said the club had during the past season played 20 matches, won six, lost nine, end drawn five. The toast was coupled with the names of the captain, Mr. S. Briers, and the secretary, Mr. H. Cross, who suitably responded. — The Vice-chairman next proposed the toast of " The Hugglescote Brass Band," coupled with the name of the leader, Mr. E. S. Eyre.— The Secretary, having read the list of officers for the ensuing season, proposed "The health of the Vice-president," and Mr. T. H. Heward replied. —Mr. S. S. Dean proposed the healths of Mr. Tillson, Mr. W. Garner, and Mr. T. Bishop, thanking them on behalf of the members for the free use of their fields during the past season.— Mr. Tillson and Mr. Garner, in responding, said that they were very pleased to let the members have the use of their fields, as they liked to witness a good match. — Mr. Heward proposed the health of the president, which was heartily drunk.- -The last toast proposed was that of "The Hoat and Hostess," which Mr. Wilkins suitably acknowledged. — During the evening several musical selections were rendered by the band, and songs were sung by Mr. J. Underwood. Mr. S. Briers, Mr. Bedford, Mr. Brewin, and Mr. Garner, and several glees were rendered by members of the band, a most enjoyable evening being spent.
Leicester Chronicle – 18 May 1889

SHEPSHED
FOOTBALL CLUB - At a meeting of the committee of Shepshed FC in late July 1889, the following resolution was passed "That the meeting express its entire approval of the action of the Shepshed delegates at the annual meeting of the Leicestershire Football Association, and records its opinion that the association by its changeable decisions has lost the confidence of all clubs that desire the prosperity of football generally in the county. It also expressed its regret at the action of the majority of the committee of the L.F.A. towards the Shepshed Club – a club which as an unbeaten record after playing in 133 matches in two seasons, at five of which the association took the whole of the "gates".
Leicester Daily Post – 26 July 1889

BICYCLE ACCIDENT – On Thursday evening Mr Walter Cockain (captain of the Loughborough Football Club) had a very unpleasant fall from his "safety" bicycle while riding up Meadow-lane. In turning sharply to avoid a brick end lying on the toad the machine upset and pitched him heavily to the ground, inflicting a fracture of the left wrist, besides several cuts and bruises about his face and body.
Leicester Journal – 26 July 1889

LOUGHBOROUGH ATHLETIC CLUB.

GRAND AUTUMN SPORTS AND FOOTBALL CONTEST,

ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7TH, 1889,

COMMENCING TWO O'CLOCK.

PRIZES £70 VALUE.

THE LOUGHBOROUGH VOLUNTEER BAND will play Selections during the Afternoon, and for DANCING after the Sports in an

ILLUMINATED MARQUEE.

Admission Sixpence. Entries Close August 31st.

W. J. COOPER, Greyhound Hotel.

Loughborough Herald & North Leicestershire Gazette – 29 August 1889