



Coalville & District Challenge Cup 1894-95

Winners: Swadlincote Town
Runners-up: Gresley Rovers
No. of entries: 7

Swadlincote met Gresley Rovers on the Sports Ground on Easter Monday in the final, but after a hotly contested game, neither side were able to claim a victory. Another meeting took place on April 27th but a deluge prevented the completion of the game, and it was then decided to make another attempt to bring the competition to a finish in the next season, on September 28th. Swadlincote easily overcame Gresley Rovers on their own ground to win the cup for the third successive season and hence it became their own property. The cup association put up a more valuable trophy in its place.

The first final was played in glorious weather in front of a record breaking 4,000 spectators at the Sports Ground, Coalville. Great interest was centred on the match as Swadlincote having won the cup in the previous two seasons, it would become their property if they were successful a third time. This brought out Swadlincote supporters in large numbers and there was plenty of blue ribbons present and cries of, "Play up you lucky blues." A spectator came onto the ground during the first half, but was soon "put behind the ropes by a policeman." Shortly afterwards Gresley took the lead, which kept until shortly before the call of time. Swadlincote from a corner scored the equaliser. Whilst the ball was in the net an altercation rose between two of the opposing teams, blows were struck and a free flight would of ensued had the police not interfered. A great many spectators rushed onto the ground and it was some time before play could be resumed. The game ended in deadlock.

A temporary stand was erected, and an enclosure created for the Cup Final replay staged on the Sports Ground. Unfortunately, this game was abandoned due to torrential rain shortly before half-time with Swadlincote leading 1-0. Since the football season finished promptly on 30 April it was not possible to arrange a second replay, until the beginning of the following season.

The second replay staged in Swadlincote at the start the following season, witnessed by 3,000 spectators, was won easily by the 'home' team.

Round 1

No.	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
1	3.11.1894	Gresley Rovers	3	0	Coalville Town	Mushroom Lane Ground, Church Gresley.
2		Swadlincote Town	W		Burton St Paul's	
3	15.12.1894	Hugglescote Robin Hood Tivey (2) James Clarke	4 (3)	0 (0)	Woodville	Garners Ground, Hugglescote. Moore [HRH] was ordered off the field by the referee, his boots having nails in them

Bye: Newhall Swifts

Semi-Finals

No.	Date	Home			Away	Venue
4	16.2.1895	Swadlincote Town	2 (1)	1 (1)	Newhall Swifts	Waggon & Horses Ground, Coalville 500 spectators. Newhall's' goal was scored just before the finish.
5	9.3.1895	Hugglescote Robin Hoods	0	4	Gresley Rovers	Fox & Goose Ground, Coalville Attendance – 600.

Final

No.	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
6	13.4.1895	Swadlincote Town	1	1	Gresley Rovers	Sports Ground, Coalville. Easter Monday. Attendance - 4,000 (£54 gate) - the largest number of people ever assembled at the time to watch a football match in Coalville. A player from each side were sent off for fighting in the second half.

Final Replay

No.	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
7	25.4.1895	Swadlincote Town	A 1	A 0	Gresley Rovers	Sports Ground, Coalville Attendance: 1,000 Game commenced at 4.28 pm Admission fees: enclosure 3d, stand 6d Match abandoned just before half-time due to torrential rain.

Final Second Replay

No.	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
8	28.9.1895	Swadlincote Town	4	1	Gresley Rovers	At Swadlincote Attendance - 3000

Match Reports

1. COALVILLE CHARITY CUP

COALVILLE TOWN v GRESLEY ROVERS

This match was played on Saturday, on the Mushroom Lane ground, before a fair attendance of spectators. The visitors brought their full strength, Redditch having given them a bye in the second round for the English Cup, but the Rovers clearly overplayed them from start to finish. Thanks to the sturdy defence of their backs, Coalville managed to keep their goal intact during the first half, but in the latter portion of the game, with the wind in their favour, the Rovers scored four times. One point was disallowed, however, and the game ended:

GRESLEY 3
COALVILLE 0

Leicester Chronicle - 8 November 1894

2. ?

3. COALVILLE CHARITY CUP

HUGGLESCOTE ROBIN HOODS v WOODVILLE

These teams met in the second round of the above cup competition at Hugglescote, on Saturday last. There was a fair attendance of spectators. The home team won the toss, and kicked off against the wind which, however, was blowing crosswise over the ground. The first part of the play was very uninteresting, the ball continually going out either over the goal line or in touch. After twenty minutes had gone, the home forwards got away, and James centred from the right, Tivey, working up and putting the ball through. Continuing to have much the best of matters, the homesters stayed in their opponent's quarters, and after several attempts previously made, James scored with a quick shot. Soon after Clarke, being well up, put on another point. In the few minutes before the interval, Woodville pressed hotly. Three corners in succession were taken by them, and Walker had to fist out four good shots. At half-time, the score was:

Robin Hoods 3
Woodville 0

During the interval, Moore was ordered off the field by the referee, his boots having nails in them., so that the Robins had to play with four forwards in the second half. On resuming the homesters pressed, but their shooting was weak, James, Clarke and Tivey all kicking wide. Rice and Cutler playing well together trouble

the "Box" defence, and latter put in one capital shot which ought to have scored. By means of Raby, outside right, Woodville got up to the home goal and one or two good chances were lost by the slowness of their centre. About half-way through the half, when the Robins were busy round the visitor's half, Rice got hold about twenty yards from goal, and sent in a fast high shot which hit under the cross bar, and was finally put through by Tivey. No further scoring took place, the game ending:

Robin Hoods	4 goals
Woodville	0

Coalville Times - 21 December 1894

4. COALVILLE CHARITY CUP

SEMI-FINAL

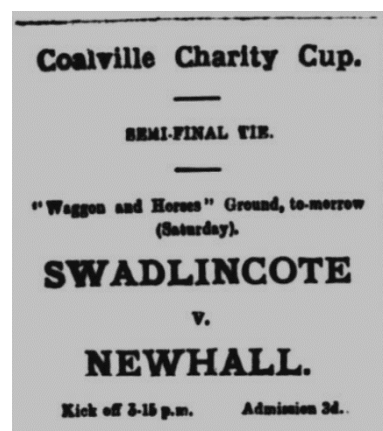
SWADLINCOTE TOWN v NEWHALL TOWN

On the Wagon and Horses Ground, Coalville, before 500 spectators. There was a strong wind blowing across the ground, which made play difficult. Swadlincote scored once in the first half, and again in the second, Newhall scoring just before the finish.

SWADLINCOTE, two goals

NEWHALL, one.

Leicester Daily Post - 18 February 1895



Coalville Times - 15 February 1895



Coalville Times - 8 March 1895

5. COALVILLE CHARITY CUP

GRESLEY ROVERS v HUGGLESCOTE ROBIN HOODS

On the Fox and Goose ground, Coalville, before a fair number of spectators. Gresley scored a goal in the first half shortly after the start and in the second half they scored three more, a moderate game ending:

GRESLEY, four goals;

HUGGLESCOTE, none

Leicester Daily Post - 11 March 1905

6. GRESLEY ROVERS v SWADLINCOTE TOWN

This interesting and important encounter took place at Colville on Easter Monday. As is generally known the rivalry, between the teams is of the keenest description, and interest attached to the game owing to the fact that the clubs have not met previously this season, the Town dub having thrown over the Burton Junior for the Derbyshire Senior League, of which they have run out easy champions - only having been defeated once, and that by the Ilkeston Midland League team (at Ilkeston). On other hand the Rovers have secured the championship of the Burton Junior League, and made no secret of their intention or ability to put their neighbours through their facings if they had the opportunity. As soon, therefore, as it became known that the two clubs would have to fight for of the Coalville Charity Cup, which Swadlincote have already won two years in succession, the chances of the teams became almost the only topic of conversation in football circles and it was generally admitted that whoever finished on the right side, the game would be a hard fought one from start to finish. The immense interest taken in the game may judged from the fact that from an early hour on Monday a constant stream of people were to be seen wending their way to Coalville on foot, while after dinner hundreds made their way thither, some on horseback, others on bicycles or in traps. waggonettes or cabs, every conceivable kind of vehicle that could be got hold of for either love or money being pressed into the service. The weather was beautifully clear overhead, and the gate, all told, numbered dose upon 4,000, but a keen and powerful breeze blew from goal to goal right through the game and completely spoilt it from a football point of view. With the exception of Jackson (who was ineligible), the Rovers had their full strength in the field; while Swadlincote had to take the field without Bert Haynes (extreme left), who had met with an accident, and whose place was taken by a reserve lad named Cooke. From the reason already stated the game needs and deserves little description. scientific play being

rendered impossible. Suffice it to that the Rovers, winning the toss had the wind behind them for the first forty-five minutes, and, having practically all the game, rushed the ball through from a scrummage close up just before half-time, when they led by a goal to nil. The second half was simply a repetition of the first with the exception, of course, that the Blues pressed of the Reds. As the Rovers had done, so Swadlincote repeated, and menaced the opponents' goal, but the time went by and forty minutes had passed ere, from a combined rush, the Blues equalised, amidst tremendous excitement. Before the noise had died away, Langford (the Rovers' goal-keeper) and Street (Swadlincote half-back) were observed indulging in an exhibition of the "noble art," and the crowd at once rushed on to the playing portion of the ground. With the assistance of the police-officers present, the ground was cleared in about ten minutes, and for the remainder of the game each side played a man short, Langford and Street having been sent off. Robinson (the Rover's) took Langford's place, and had anxious time in the remaining five minutes, but no farther scoring was done, and the game ended—

SWADLINCOTE 1

GRESLEY ROVERS 1

We understand that Swadlincote were willing to play extra time, but the Rover declined to do without their goal-keeper, and the teams left the field.

Burton Chronicle - 18 April 1895

7. Coalville Charity Cup

RE-PLAYED FINAL

Swadlincote v Gresley Rovers

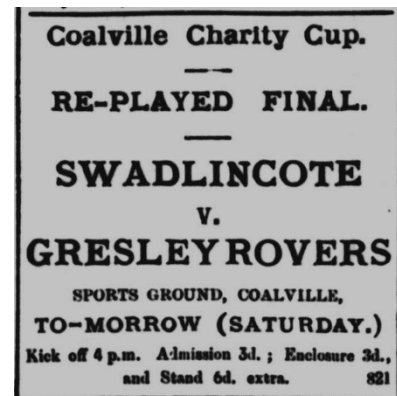
These teams met again on the Sports Ground, Coalville, on Saturday. Heavy showers of rain fell during the morning, consequently the ground was hardly in a fit condition for play. Notwithstanding this, close on a thousand spectators turned out to witness the game, but they were doomed to disappointment, and a good drenching, for after an hour's play, the match had to be abandoned. At 4.28, the Gresley captain won the toss and elected to play with the wind and rain at his back. In the opening exchanges the Rovers had the best of matters, being the first to take a shot at goal, which, however, went wide. The rain ceased for a few minutes, but the ground was very slippery. The spectators urged their favourites to "play up", and had the weather been favourable, there is not the slightest doubt but that a good match would have been witnessed. The referee was "on the job," and several times pulled both sides up for rough play, and it seemed as though he was to make them play as it should be played. Several corners were conceded to both teams, but neither could improve on them. Rain began to fall in torrents, but referee and players stuck to their like — footballers — and after playing for about ten minutes in a perfect deluge of hail and rain, they were forced to quit the ground, the score standing:

Swadlincote 0

Gresley 0

The end of April being the "close season" of football, the match cannot be played until next September.

Coalville Times - 3 May 1895



Coalville Times - 26 April 1895

8. COALVILLE CHARITY CUP

Swadlincote Town v Gresley Rovers

SWADLINCOTE WIN THE CUP OUTRIGHT

When the Coalville Charity Cup was first put up for competition by Mr F H Peplow in 1891 it was by Coalville Town from some of the strongest of the local clubs, Shepshed Town being the team that disputed possession with the Villains in last stages of the competition. The next year Coalville again figured in the final, but this time they allowed Gresley Rovers to wrest the trophy from them in a very decisive fashion. The latter team, however, were not fated to hold the Cup for more than one season, for in 1893 Swadlincote ran through the competition, inflicting a nasty defeat on Coalville Town in the finishing round. Swad. again won the cup in 1894, their neighbours of Gresley running them up, and the end of last season saw these two teams again in the final. It will be remembered that they met on the Sports Ground on Easter Monday, but after a hotly contested game, neither side were able to claim a victory. Another meeting took place on April 27th but a

deluge prevented the completion of the game, and it was then decided to make another attempt to bring the competition to a finish in the next season, on September 28th.

The match accordingly took place as arranged on the Swadlincote ground, on Saturday last. The tropical heat was not favourable to brisk football, but almost 3,000 spectators assembled to witness the game, which, considering the weather, was a fast one all through. Swadlincote kicked off with the sun in their eyes, but the first serious attack was made by the Rovers got close up and seemed certain to score but one of backs saved. Another try by the Gresley men was futile, and then the home forwards took the leather to the other end by smart passing and the inside right finding himself with the ball at his feet close to goal promptly banged it into the net, amidst loud cheers. The Rovers continued to try hard, and put in some smart work. A fast shot by the right wing would have certainly scored but Robinson diverted the ball outside. A minute after the ball was put over, and the Rovers also took a fruitless corner. Swadlincote paid another visit to the other end, and Langford failed to stop a high shot which went under the bar. Shortly after the efforts of the visitors were rewarded, and they scored a capital goal. Before half time, Swadlincote put on another. In the second half the game was fairly equal, but after 20 minutes play the homesters scored a soft point, Langford, who could have easily stopped the shot, letting it go by him under the impression that it was going out. The Rovers pressed towards the finish, but could not get through, and the game ended:

Swadlincote	4
Gresley	1

Dr Burkitt, a vice-president of the Association, presented the cup to the captain of the Swadlincote team amidst considerable cheers. The doctor said as Swadlincote had now won the cup for three years in succession, it became their own property. He remarked that the Association intended to put up the more valuable trophy in its place, this season.

A vote thanks to Dr Burkitt, on the motion of Mr J Sharpe (Gresley Rovers) was given with acclamation.

Mr F Gardner was referee in the match, and Mr T Moss one of the linemen.

Coalville Times - 4 October 1895

Additional Information

Coalville Charity Cup.

Sir,—The Secretary to the Charity Football Association being unable, for obvious reasons, to reply through your columns to the criticism on the final arrangements with respect to this year's final of the above Cup competition, he has asked me, as a member of the Association, to take the matter up.

I may inform "Albion," Mr. A. J. Ball, and all others who are anxious to know, that the Association has decided that Swadincote and Gresley shall be joint holders of the cup until September next, when the tie will again be replayed to decide where the trophy shall finally rest for the following six months. The arrangements come to have the approval of the clubs immediately concerned, and the other members of the Association, and, notwithstanding Albion's wisdom, they are the best that could possibly be arrived at. There are always people to be found who think they can manage other folk's business better than they can themselves, but these wise-acs are generally of that class of persons who make a muddle of everything they put their hands to and try to take attention from their own failures by finding fault with the work of other people. In conclusion allow me to inform Albion that he is wasting time, ink and paper in airing his opinions on the cup arrangements as the Association will not be in the least influenced by the self-concoited suggestions of such critics as Mr. A. J. Ball and himself.

I am, Sir,

Yours truly,

THOS. MOSS.

Hugglescote,
May 7th, 1895.