Coalville & District Cup 1896-97

Winner: Whitwick Town
Runner-Up: Coalville Town
No. of entries: 7

Whitwick Town beat Coalville Town in a repeat of the 1895-96 final to retain the trophy.

Preliminary Round

No.	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
1		Overseal Town	W		Swannington St George's	

Round 1

No.	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
2	23/01/1897	Coalville Town	3 (1)	1 (1)	Measham Wanderers	Waggon and Horses Ground, Coalville. Ground was covered in snow - consequently very few spectators.
3	23/01/1897	Overseal Town	5	0	Ellistown	Ellistown fielded 7 reserve team players.
4	23/01/1897	Whitwick Town Smith (2) AN Other Sear Moore (4)	8 (4)	0 (0)	Hugglescote Robin Hood	

Byes: Coalville Albion

Semi-Finals

No.	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
5	27/02/1897	Coalville Town	2	1	Overseal Town	Park Road Ground Attendance - 2000
6	20/03/1897	Coalville Albion	0	3	Whitwick Town	Waggon & Horses Ground, Coalville Attendance -3,000

Final

No.	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
7	19/04/1897	Coalville Town	0	0	Whitwick Town	Sports Ground, Coalville Attendance - 4000. "Unbounded enthusiasm." Easter Monday.

Final Replay

No.	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
8	24/04/1897	Whitwick Town	2 (1)	0 (0)	Coalville Town	Sports Ground, Coalville Attendance – 2000. At the end of the final, Mr J Jones presented the cup to Middleton, captain of the winning team and medals to the players of both teams. A brass band awaited the victors at the entrance to the ground and played a spirited tune on the way to the Leicester Hotel. Middleton was raised shoulder high displaying the cup along the way.

Match Reports

A selection of published match reports.

#2 COALVILLE CHARITY CUP
SECOND ROUND
Coalville Town v Measham Wanderers
The second round in the Coalville Charity Cup Competition took place between the above teams, on the Waggon and Horses Ground on Saturday. The weather was bitterly cold and the ground covered with snow, consequently, there were very few spectators. The players up as follows:
Coalville: Goal, Picken; backs, Eales and Pickering; half-backs, H. Moore, Ernest Orion, and T. Benistone; forwards, White, Kendrick, E. Orton, Smith and Pagett.
Measham: Goal, Bradford; backs, Clamp and Gilbert ; half-backs, Buckley, Bosworth, and Woodward ; forwards, Lakin, Upton, Pope, Ridgway, and Humphries.
Referee. Mr Holbrook., Moira.
Measham won the toss and had a strong wind in their favour. They at once bore down on the home citadel and from a swift shot by one of the forwards the ball struck the crossbar. They forced a fruitless corner and then bombarded the goal. Picken handled the ball, but could not get it way, and it was sent into the net. From the centre kick, Pagett and Smith took the game to the other end and two corners were obtained, but were fruitless. Soon afterwards Smith sent in a good shot which hit the crossbar. Just before the interval, White made a fine run, finishing with a good centre, from which Smith promptly headed the ball into the net, making the scores even. Half-time:

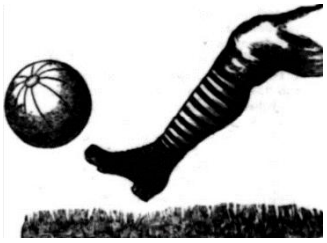
Coalville	1
Measham	1

Resuming, Coalville at once took up the attack and a scrimmage ensued in the goad mouth, the result being goal No 2 for the home team. Measham alleged that the ball did not go over the goal line and a long discussion ensued, but the referee kept to his decision. Soon afterwards, Orton sent in a fine shot and Bradford cleared at the expense of a corner, which was got away. The Town continued to press and were awarded numerous corners, Measham being penned in their own half. Coalville scored another goal by Kendrick, after a neat bit of passing between that player, White, Orton and Smith. Result:

Coalville	3
Measham	1

Coalville Times – 29 January 1897

#3 ELLISTOWN
FOOTBALL – Ellistown met Overseal in the second round of the Coalville Charity Cup on Saturday, at Overseal, when they were beaten by five goals to one. No less than seven reserves had to be drafted into the Ellistown team, included the goalkeeper, a full-back, and three forwards.
Leicester Chronicle – 30 January 1897



#4 COALVILLE CHARITY CUP
Whitwick Town v Hugglescote Robin Hoods
This match was played at Whitwick on Saturday last. The homesters won the toss and kicked with the wind. Whitwick were soon on aggressive, Hugglescote's defence being very poor. The home team scored soon after the start, Smith beating the goalkeeper with a splendid shot. Keeping up the pressure Whitwick scored again. The game was now a perfect bombardment of the goal, Sear and Moore scored again before half-time, when the scores were:

Whitwick	4
Hugglescote	0

The half was a repetition of the first, Whitwick having matters nearly all their own way, Moore scoring three goals and Smith one. Result :

Whitwick	8
Hugglescote	0

Teams : Whitwick: J Ottey, R Gorse, J Stratham, F Sears, W Wooding, T Middleton, S Berrington, S Howard, A Smith, W Whitmore, and J Moore.
Hugglescote: Ghent, Wells, Kendrick. Marriott, Cufflin, Hardy, Spencer, Spriggs, Hall and Reed.

#5 COALVILLE CHARITY CUP
Coalville Town v. Overseal

Played on the Park Road Ground, Coalville, on Saturday, in beautiful weather, and before about a thousand spectators. The teams were:

Coalville Goal, Picken; backs, and Pickering; half-backs, Benistone, E. Sandstone, and T. Benison.; forwards, Kendrick, J. Benistone, Orton, Smith, and Pagett.
Overseal: Goal, Joyce; backs, Smith and Wright, half-backs, Hart, Askew, and Turton; forwards, Cotton, Dolman, Cavendish, Thompson, and Hood.
Referee, Mr. W. Fellows, Hugglescote.

Coalville won the toss and played down the slope, defending the road end goal. Immediately the ball was started, Smith, for Coalville, got possession, and made a fine run and centre, but the ball was got away by the opposing backs. Coalville got a free, and this having nicely placed, Smith had another shot and nearly scored, the goalkeeper saving finely. Overseal then got away, both wings of the forward rank getting in some useful work, and several dangerous rushes were made. Picken, however, cleared in fine style. An injury occurred to the visitors' left back, which compelled him to retire, and though he appeared later on, he was of little service, and early in the second half left the play altogether. Overseal forced two corners, and the latter of these two being well placed, Cavendish gave them the lead with a fine shot. Coalville went down straight away from the kick-off, and from a beautiful centre by J Benistone, the scores were equalised by Orton. Picken was afterwards called upon to clear, and this having been accomplished, the Coalville forwards again went away, and once more J. Benistone got in a splendid centre. Orton failed to reach this, and the ball rolled slowly across the goal mouth and over the line, missing the upright by only an inch or two. The game was fairly even up till half-time, Overseal, if anything, having a little the best of it. Half-time:

Coalville 1
Overseal 0

Coalville immediately pressed after the restart, Smith shooting over. From a free kick the ball was sent into the next, but without a second player. Pagett got in some fine work on the left, the back being no match for him. Early in second half, he gave Joyce a beauty to clear, which the custodian did in good style, but Pagett met the return and scored the best goal of the afternoon from a difficult angle. Joyce gave a brilliant display of goal-keeping, fisting out shots in a remarkable manner from all the forwards, occasionally the half-tricks. The onslaught, however. too strong, and at last Orton dashed through, and scored what appeared to be splendid goal but the referee ordered a five yards' kick, much to the chagrin of the Coalville supporters. Town continued to have all the game, and from a free, well taken by Smith, Orton again headed into the net, but this time was clearly offside. further scoring took place, and the game ended:

Coalville 2
Overseal 1

Coalville Times – 5 March 1897

#6 COALVILLE CHARITY CUP
SEMI-FINAL
Coalville Albion v. Whitwick Town

Fine weather favoured the semi-final tie for the Coalville Cup between the above teams on the Waggon and Heroes ground on Saturday, and as both clubs were local there was a splendid gate, fully 2,000 being present. The teams were : Coalville :—Goal, Underwood; backs, Noon and Rigard; half-backs, King, Bradshaw and Moore: forwards, Gourley, Mickley, Jeffcote, Dicken and Sellers. Whitwick :—Goal, Reckless; backs, Tugby and Whitehead; half-backs, Sears, Middleton, and Berrington; forwards, Wooding, J. Tugby, Smith, Whitmore, and Haywood.
Referee, Mr. W. Fellows (Hugglescote); linesmen, Messrs. T. Moss (Hugglescote), and G. J. Lee (Ellistown)
The opening exchanges were very even, and the game was fast, both being rapidly visited in turn. Gourley made a good run and shot over and a renewed attempt by Dicken, Whitehead nicely cleared. At the other end, Underwood cleared in good style, and Ridgard relieved when Whitwick pressed. The Albion forwards again raced away, and from a centre by Gourley, Blockley grazed the cross-bar. Coalville were awarded a corner, and Jeffcote missed with a good shot. Wooding made a fine run for Whitwick, and an exciting piece

of play was witnessed in the Albion goal, Underwood fisting away from a group of players. Soon after, a free to Whitwick was nicely taken, and again the forwards nearly scored. When the goal had been cleared, Smith sent in a brilliant shot, which Underwood equally well put over the bar, at the expense of a corner. Dicken then made a good run and centre, but Reckless saved by running out. Hereabouts the game was stopped for a few minutes through Moore having received a nasty kick in the face, but he was able to resume play. Whitehead cleared nicely from an attack by the Albion forwards, and then Whitmore and Haywood made a pretty run, Underwood being called upon to clear. Whitwick got a free which was well placed, and Wooding should have scored, Gourley came away splendidly, and put in a magnificent shot, and Reckless was loudly applauded for a smart save. Whitwick pressed for a time, obtained two corners in quick succession to no avail. Just before half-time, Colville pressed hard, and Jeffcote missed a good chance. When the whistle blew there was.

NO SCORE

After the resumption Whitwick at once obtained a corner from which Ridgard headed away, The Albions went away and Gourley shot into the net from a pass by Jeffcote, but the latter player was clearly offside, and the point was not allowed. Reckless cleared from Blockley, who, directly afterwards, just missed with a swift low shot. Whitwick left combined nicely, but Noon relieved. They were awarded a free, and Haywood smartly passed to Middleton, who shot into the net with a grand attempt, amidst loud cheers. This was fifteen minutes after the re-start. The play now very interesting. The Albion pressed, a free to them was cleared by Whitehead. Only five minutes had elapsed before Haywood and Whitmore gave another pretty display of passing, and the latter beating the backs, scored the second goal with a shot which gave Underwood no earthly chance. The Whitwick left came down again nicely from the centre kick, and they were awarded a free the goal. Moore relieved, but Tugby got possession and scored a third goal with a good shot. The Albion paid a visit to the Whitwick territory, but the stay was brief and Wooding having ran down and centred well, Whitmore headed into the goal-keeper's hands. Underwood put out another good one from Wooding, and Whitmore returned and hit the crossbar, the ball bounding into play. The Albion ran up and forced two corners, and Reckless disposed of a good shot from Ridgard. Just before was called. Whitmore had a splendid opening, after having made a good run, but his shot went wide. Result:

Whitwick	3
Coalville	0

Coalville Times – 26 March 1897

#7 COALVILLE CHARITY CUP
FINAL
COALVILLE TOWN v WHITWICK TOWN

This match was played on the sports ground., Coalville, on Monday afternoon, before 4,000 spectators. Mr James Jones, C.C., started the ball rolling, and Coalville at once ran down, but the ball went out. Whitwick then transferred play, and kicked in goal, but Bunting easily cleared. After even exchanges Whitwick forced a corner, but nothing resulted and Coalville then had some of the play, but Whitwick soon assumed the aggressive and nearly scored. Coalville transferred play, but were weak in goal, and Whitwick defence was very good. Two corners in favour of Whitwick proved abortive. At half time there was no score. Resuming, Whitwick rushed down, and Eales missing the ball gave them an opening, but Bakewell ran in and cleared well. The ball now travelled rapidly from end to end, both sides trying to score, but the defence on each side was sound. Towards the end Coalville appeared to kick a goal, and made a strong appeal, but the referee decided against them. The pressure was kept up to the finish by both teams, but neither scored, and a good game ended in

A DRAW, NO SCORE

Leicester Daily Post – 20 April 1897

#8 THE COLAVILLE CHARITY CUP
Re-Played Final Tie
VICTORY OF WHITWICK

The re-played final tie for the Coalville Cup, between Coalville Town and Whitwick Town, took place on the Sports Ground, Coalville, on Saturday afternoon and was witnessed by about 2,000 people. The weather was boisterous and showery. No alteration from Monday was made in the constitution to either team, and the players faced each other in following order:

Coalville: Bunting; backs, Eales, and Pickering; half-backs, T. Benistone, F. Benistone, and C Benistone; forwards, Kendrick, Walker, Orton. Smith and Pagett.
Whitwick: Goal, Reckless; backs, Whitehead and Tugby; half-backs, S. Herrington, Wooding, and Middleton; forwards, A. Smith, J. Tugby, R Smith, Whitmore, and Haywood.
Referee, Mr. A. Peters (Kettering).
Linesmen, Messrs. Armson (Ibstock), and Moss (Hugglescote). Orton won the toss for Coalville and chose the advantage of a strong wind which was blowing right into the road-end goal. Coalville came down and a shot from Pagett sent the ball over the line. Coalville had a free, from which Whitehead returned, and the same player averted danger when a renewed attempt was made by C. Bennistone. Coalville pressed and Whitehead twice kicked out. Play was witnessed in midfield for a time, after which Coalville had a free near the goal. They pressed, and Tugby headed out a critical moment. Then Whitehead saved well, and a free relieved the pressure. Whitwick then went up by the right wing and got a free hands. Bunting had to hand away for a corner which was of no avail. Coalville forwards came down well, and Pagett received a pass from Walker and tried for goal, but missed. Reckless kicked away when the left forwards had a good opening from a pass by Walker. Whitwick went up and Bunting repulsed a splendid shot from the right. Walker ran well for Coalville but was badly tripped by Tugby, and the latter player was cautioned by the referee. Wooding and Whitehead defended well for Whitwick when Coalville resumed the attack. C. Bennistone returned a good shot from Berrington, and “hands" was given against Eales near the goal. From this the ball was headed in nicely by Middleton and hit the post, and as it rebounded, A. Smith shot into the net amidst loud cheers. Whitwick, played wonderfully after this, and T. Bennistone saved from Haywood at a critical time. Whitwick pressed and Bunting kicked away. Coalville got a free in the centre, but Whitehead, beating Smith, returned. The game was fast, both goal-keepers being called upon to clear. Aided by a free Coalville pressed, but met with a splendid defence in Wooding, Whitehead and Tugby. Then Reckless kicked away a low shot. Coalville resumed the attack, and Whitehead sent the ball into the gardens adjoining the ground. Coalville got two corners which were fruitless, and played ruled the centre for a time. The interval arrival with the score:

Whitwick	1
Coalville	0

A bout of passing among the Coalville forwards immediately on restarting was checked by Berrington, and Whitwick got a fruitless corner. They were afterwards awarded a free from which they pressed, and splendid shot was sent in by one of the forwards which J. Tugby accidently headed out. Orton made a good run for Coalville and passed to Pagett, but Berrington returned. Coalville got a corner which Kendrick put in well, and when it was returned C Benistone shot well. A melee ensued in the Whitwick goal, and Coalville had a free kick under the posts. The kick was taken by Orton, and the ball was about the goal for some time, Pagett eventually shooting outside. Coalville then got another corner, which was cleared. Whitwick came away and Berrington centred well. Eales tamely returned. They resumed the attack and Whitmore put the issue beyond doubt by adding a second goal. Soon after the re-start, Whitwick came down again, and Eales failing to get the ball away, A Smith put in a beauty, the ball hitting the crossbar, afterwards being put a few inches the wrong side of the post by J Tugby. Smith for Coalville got away, but his pass to Pagett was too strong, the ball going out near the corner flag. From the throw-in Orion made a fine dribble, and Reckless had to clear his shot. Coalville then got a corner which was not improved upon, and Whitwick once more resumed the attack. Middleton put in a splendid shot, from which Pickering nicely returned. A free to Coalville availed them little, and Whitwick afterwards worked the ball over. Coalville paid a brief visit to the other end, and the cupholders going in again, Bunting conceded a corner, from a shot by J Tugby. The goal was cleared and the Coalville forwards took the ball to the centre. Wooding then put in a good shot, and from Pickering’s return, Smith got possession and nearly scored. Another corner was splendidly put in by Berrington. Bunting fisted out, and then Wooding shot over. Time was called soon after with the result

Whitwick	2
Coalville	0

At the conclusion of the match, Mr J Jones, C.C. presented the cup to Middleton, the captain of the winning team, and congratulated them upon the excellent form shown, and also upon having won the cup two years in succession. Mr Jones then presented the medals to the players of both teams. A brass band awaited the victors at the entrance to the ground and played a spirited tune on the way to the Leicester Hotel, Middlton raised shoulder high displaying the cup along the way. Much enthusiasm prevailed.
Coalville Town – 30 April 1897

Additional Information

COALVILLE CHARITY CUP ASSOCIATION.

A meeting of the above Association was held at the Leicester Hotel, Coalville, on Monday evening, for the purpose of making the draw for the Cup competition. Mr. W. Fellows (Hugglescote) presided, and there were also present Mr. W. C. Tomlinson (vice-chairman of the Association), Messrs. T. Moss (Hugglescote Robin Hoods), M. Marston and E. Orton (Coalville Town), A. Boot and S. Goacher (Coalville Albion), A. G. Lee and J. Nash (Ellistown F.C.), D. Wheeldon (Whitwick Albion), Ridgway (Measham F.C.), and A. Clay (Swannington F.C.) Nine teams have entered the competition, and the draw resulted as follows:

Preliminary Round.

Overseal v. Swannington, referee Mr. T. Earp.

Second Round.

Coalville Town v. Measham, referee Mr. Fellows.

Whitwick Albion v. Coalville Albion, referee Mr. Lee.

Whitwick Town v. Hugglescote Robin Hoods, referee Mr. G. Blockley.

Overseal or Swannington v. Ellistown, referee Mr. T. Moss.

Fist-named club to have choice of ground.

A few other details having been transacted, a vote of thanks to the chairman closed the meeting.

It transpired that out of last year's profits £1 11s. had been given to the Burton Infirmary, £3 3s. to the Leicester Infirmary, and £15 would be handed to the fund for the creation of a cottage hospital for Coalville. Messrs. W. D. Stableford and Jas. Jones had signified their willingness to act as trustees, and Mr. T. Moss was appointed to act with them in the place of Mr. George Blockley, resigned. The secretary was requested to consult the English Association as to the best method of placing moneys in trust, as in this case, where the hospital is not actually in existence.—The Chairman made an eloquent appeal to the representatives of clubs present to do all in their power to prevent the disorderly and disgraceful occurrences sometimes known in connection with football. He was anxious that this association should be looked upon as a model one, and on his proposition the secretary was requested to give every possible assistance to the representatives of the English Association in connection with the inquiry about to be made as to the Charity Association's doings in the past, remarking that it would be altogether better if they exactly knew their position.

Leicester Chronicle – 33 October 1896

Letters to the Editor

The Coalville Charity Football Association

Dear Sir,—As one who takes a very keen interest in football, and more especially local football, may I through your valuable paper be allowed a word on what has proved an all absorbing topic in Coalville during the past two weeks,—namely, the action of the Coalville Charity Cup Association in ordering Coalville Town F.C. to replay their semi-final with Overseal on a protest received after the match. Now, Mr. Editor, as

who levee and admires fair play, I wish to say that I was very pleased with your outspokenness on the subject in last week's notes. Looking this matter fairly in the face one is forced to accept one of the following conclusions: That the Coalville Charity Cup Association are a grossly incompetent body, or else they are willing to violate the rules in order to get another gate at the expense of the Coalville Town club. Now I beg to be allowed to say that in my humble opinion they as an Association are woefully ignorant of the rules under which clubs playing for the Coalville Cup have to compete. No. 17 of the Coalville Association Rules reads thus "All rules of the Football Association respecting condition and size of ground, duties of linesmen, referees, appeals, or protests, and all the laws of the game, shall be applied to the matches in this competition." Yet, we find that although rule 20 of Football Association says distinctly that no protest relative to the ground shall be entertained unless it is lodged with the referee before the commencement of the match, that the Coalville Association entertain a protest from Overseer after the match and in opposition to rule, order it to be replayed. This decision I am pleased to say the Executive of the Leicestershire F.A. has reversed, thus proving the inefficiency of Coalville Association to properly interpret even their own rules. Dear Sir, is it too much to expect that the officials of this much mirk governed Charity Cup Association will resign, now that public opinion is so dead against them, and so make room for those who at least have some slight knowledge of the rules tinder which the Association should be governed? Thanking you in anticipation of as insertion of the above, believe me to be, you're very sincerely,
Coalville Times – 29 March 1897