



Leicestershire Senior Cup 1899-00

Winner: Hinckley Town
Runner-Up: Gresley Rovers
Entries: 13

Fosse played the second half of their first round tie against Loughborough in red, having changed at half-time out of their rain sodden shirts.

Coalville Town were thrown out of the Senior Cup competition. Hinckley were awarded the match as a result of their protest against Coalville playing two men who fell a few days short of the registration limit.

Gresley Rovers had ascertained "not without considerable" difficulty that their opponents in the second round were Nuneaton. Bills and other promotional material were issued by Gresley Rovers for a tie with Nuneaton. But, at the eleventh hour came a message from the Leicestershire Association that a protest against Nuneaton had been sustained, and that the Round1 tie awarded to Earl Shilton, who therefore became Gresley's Round 2 opponents.

Round 1

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
1	14.10.1899	Burton Swift Reserves	W		South Wigston (Orson Wright and Sons)	Score currently not known.
2	7.10.1899	Earl Shilton Town AN Others	2	2	Nuneaton Town Elsworth R Pickering (pen)	Gloriously fine weather. Large "concourse" of spectators. Nearly half of them from Nuneaton who had travelled by bicycles and traps etc Game kicked off 30 mins late. The "Blues" (Nuneaton) led 1-10 at half-time.
3	7.10.1899	Hinckley Town Woodward Thompson	2	2	Coalville Town Abbott AN Other	2,000 spectators. Match awarded to Hinckley after Coalville Town had been found guilty of fielding ineligible players.
4	12.10.1899	Leicester Fosse Reserves Eaton (2) Cox Lyon (2) Allsop Bishop	7	0	Loughborough Athletic	Filbert Street, Leicester. Sprinkling of spectators, nearly all of whom sought shelter of the grandstand due to the inclement weather.
5	7.10.1899	Woodville Woodward Thompson AN Others	5	1	Barwell Swifts Abbott	

Gresley Rovers (holders) and Swadlincote (finalists) were exempt from the first round and Coalville Albion was given a bye.

Games were to kick-off no later than 3.30 pm

Round 1 Replays

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
6	14.10.1899	Nuneaton Town Dearne (2)	2	2	Earl Shilton Town Whiteman AN Other	Extra time was played
7	28.10.1899	Nuneaton Town Edkins (2) Heale Elsworth (2)	5	0	Earl Shilton Town	Game awarded to Earl Shilton. Reason currently not known.

Round 2

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
8	7.11.1899	Coalville Albion	2	4	Leicester Fosse Reserves	
9	4.11.1899	Gresley Rovers Yardley (2) Marsh (2)	4	1	Earl Shilton Town Pickering	
10		Hinckley Town Webster Hitchcock	5	1	Woodville Town Smith	Holywell Ground, Hinckley. 1,000 spectators. Woodville took the lead within a minute of the game commencing.
11	28.11.1899	Swadlincote Town Pickering Harvey Brearley	3	0	Burton Swifts Reserves	

Semi-Finals

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
12	31.3.1900	Gresley Rovers Metcalf	1	1	Swadlincote Town Parker	At Gresley. Fine weather. Large crowd. Swadlincote took the lead after two minutes. Sabine (Swadlincote) left the field with a twisted ankle 20 minutes before the end.
13		Hinckley Town AN Other Mee Beardsworth Sanders	4	0	Leicester Fosse Reserves	Beautiful weather. 1,000 spectators.

Semi-Final replay

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
14	7.4.1900	Swadlincote Town Harrison	1	2	Gresley Rovers Solomon (2)	Small gate.

Final

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
15	14.4.1900	Hinckley Town Beardsworth (2)	2	0	Gresley Rovers	Holywell Ground, Hinckley 1,000 spectators. The game was temporarily interrupted owing to the spectators' uncomplimentary remarks to referee Marson. Saunders (Hinckley) was "laid out" by some rough play and carried off the pitch in the second half.

Match Reports

#1 BURTON SWIFTS RESERVES v SOUTH WIGSTON

(Leicestershire Cup)

There was only a moderate attendance to witness this encounter which was played off on Saturday on the Peel Croft enclosure. The teams were lined as follows:

Swifts Reserves: Goal, Joyce; backs, Greenwood and Lowe; half-backs, Waterman, Deli and Roberts; forwards, Fern, Butron, Stretton, Mods and Banner.

South Wigston – Goal, Ward; backs, .H Wright and Smith; half-backs, Chamberlain, E Garnett and Atkins; forwards, Goodman, W Smith, Garnett, A Wright and Onions.

Referee, Mr. Johns, Leicester.

The Swifts made an excellent start. They had the best of several exchanges at the outset. Burton made a good run, and finished up by centring extremely well. Moss had an exceedingly good chance to score, but failed to take advantage of the opportunity. Play continued from end to end for a time without any perceptible progress. In spite of the sun against them, the Swifts succeeded in converting play into the visitors' territory, but failed to get through. Wigston's outside right bounced upon the leather and dribbled down the wing, but Lowe outran him and cleared safely. Stretton broke away magnificently and eventually landed the ball within scoring point when Moss secured and kicked out of play. The Swifts followed up with a couple of forced corners, but without xxxx Waterson executed a third corner in correct style. The leather dropped in front of goal when one of the visitors deliberately fisted it out. The referee failed to correct this glaring mistake. Wigston pressed for a long time, and then broke through the home ranks and carried the leather almost into the goalmouth. The visitors were well up, but had counted without their host. Greenwood rushed in and sized the ball and after a period of strenuous pressing Waterson scored from a long shot. At half-time., the score was:

Burton Swifts Reserve	1
South Wigston	0

After the interval the Swifts immediately pressed, but their progress was impeded by fouling. Stretton was quickly in possession, but was fouled in front of goal for holding his man. The Swifts continued to press, and attacked the opposing forces severely. Burton shot in a beauty from the centre, and one of Wigston's full backs knocked it down, for which they were penalised. The visitors made a splendid rush down, the forwards passing in scientific style. Joyce cleared finely. The Swifts eventually broke away and made a splendid run down midfield. Stretton got well on the ball, but Moss dispossessed him. Waterson centred beautifully, but Banner carried it too far across. The visitors closed in, and buzzed the ball up the field and succeeded in forcing in a corner, but the Swifts cleared. A fine centre from the wing resulted in Lowe sending a long shot down Midfield. Moss secured and skied over the visitors' crossbar Banner headed a beauty through from the centre, but he was given off side. He visitors' custodian was repeatedly attacked, but they repulsed successfully until Burton secured from a run down and outran two of his opponents, and sent a stinging shot through. The Swifts were quickly up again. A throw-in by the Swifts were quickly up again. A throw in by the Swifts resulted in the leather being nicely centred from the left wing. Burton took it up and rushed the ball through. This player again scored after beating four men. The game terminated in a victory for the Swifts. Result:

SWIFTS' RESERVE	4
SOUTH WIGSTON	0

Burton Chronicle & Observer – 19 October 1899

#2 EARL SHILTON TOWN V NUNEATON

At Earl Shilton. Result:

EARL SHILTON, two goals;
NUNEATON, two goals,

Leicester Daily Post – 9 October 1899

#3 LEICESTERSHIRE SENIOR CUP

FIRST ROUND

HINCKLEY TOWN v COALVILLE TOWN

On the Holywell Ground, Hinckley, before 2,000 spectators. It was generally expected that this event would be a tough contest, as Coalville Town have always played Hinckley a good game, and on more than one occasion inflicted an unexpected defeat. The result of Saturday's engagement more than justified this surmise. The match throughout was stubbornly fought, though, unfortunately, it was characterised by innumerable fouls. The following were the respective teams:

Hinckley Town: Goal; Underwood; backs, Whitehead, and Worthington; half-backs, Harding, Baxter, and Hood; forwards, Mee, Hitchcock, Dewey, Gilchrist and Beadsworth.

Coalville Town: Goal, Webster; backs, Berry, and Ball; half-backs, C Bennister, E Bennister, and Brown; forwards, Smith, Walker, Jones, Jeffcoat and Clam. Referee, Mr. Gardiner.

Coalville won the toss and the game started with plenty of spirit. The ball travelled merrily from the home to the visitors' gal. from a foul against Worthington, Hinckley pressed, but Smith on several occasions beat Beadsworth and taking the ball smartly up the wing struck the cross bar of the Hinckley goal; rebounding things looked again dangerous, but the backs at length cleared. The visitors' goal was then attacked and Beadsworth made a good attempt at scoring. His shot, however, was too high. From the goal-kick the leather was returned by a dribble by Beadsworth, who centred finely. Hitchcock met and with rather a weak shot which, however, beat Webster and scored the first goal for Hinckley after 18 minutes' play. With the kick-off the Coalville forwards redoubled their efforts, but their play was not beyond question. A foul was then given against Baxter, which it should be stated was quite unintentional. Some good work on the part of the visitors' right wing resulted in the home goal being seriously threatened, and after 23 minutes' play Smith equalised for Coalville. The pace then became faster. Harding made an unfortunate mistake by kicking back, which certainly would have ended seriously in the hands of Jones, had Whitehead not excelled himself in clearing. During the next few minutes, the game took a most exciting turn. Beadsworth was working splendidly on the wing, and though he certainly had a strong opponent in Smith, he was noticeably faster, and by a finely judged screw shot landed the leather into the mouth of the visitors' goal. Webster, however, cleared badly, and Beadsworth again shot, Moss heading through; but the referee disallowed the goal, and awarded Coalville a foul against Dewey. Half-time came with

HINCKLEY, one goal;

COALVILLE, on goal.

Resuming, Hinckley for a time pressed, and a scrimmage took place in front of the visitors' goal. A corner was given to Hinckley, but nothing resulted. Mee subsequently had a grand opening, but shot wide. Play continued even till Gilchrist, by good god play in mid-field, got in a dangerous shot. Webster returned, but poorly, and Hitchcock meeting the ball scored the second goal for Hinckley. Frequent fouls were given, the whistle blowing almost incessantly. Each goal was frequently assailed, but on each occasion Underwood, in a very cool manner, easily saved. Moss put in a stinging shot, and Beadsworth made a grand attempt from a shot, and Beadsworth made a grand attempt from a twenty yards' range. Eleven minutes before time Coalville equalized, and then the play became fast and furious, but though Hinckley made several desperate attempts at scoring time came with the following result:-

HINCKLEY, two goals;

COALVILLE TOWN, two goals.

Leicester Daily Post - 9 October 1899

#4 FOSSE v LOUGHBOROUGH

Practically reserve teams of the above clubs met yesterday on the Filbert-street ground in the first round of the Leicestershire Senior Cup. Just before kick-off (timed for 3.15) rain began to fall, and with sullen persistency continued, making the ground heavy and the ball slippery.

Team: Fosse: McMillan, goal; R A Thompson (captain) and Thompson (A) backs; H Cassel, Cox and Robinson, half-backs; McWhirter and Eaton, right wing; Lyon, centre; Allsopp and Bishop, left wing, forwards.

Loughborough: Mumford, goal; Catlow and Roulstone, backs; Adcock (W), Adcock (J) and Rose (C), half-backs; Silvester and Milborn, right wing; Hodgkin, centre; Campbell and Tebbs, left wing, forwards.

Referee, Mr. A Petrs, Kettering.

Such untoward weather developing, there was but a mere sprinkling of spectators, nearly all of whom sought the friendly shelter of the grand stand. R A Thompson named the coin, and set his men to attack the town goal. From a judicious pass by H Cassel, the Fosse forwards attacked at once, and from McWhirter's centre Eaton scored within the first minute. Fosse continued to press, and Allsopp, with a sharp volley, hit the post. Fosse gained a fruitless corner, and McWhirter essayed a capital shot, which went a little wide. Then Loughborough had a run down, but the greasy football caused Milborn to ruin a good opening. Any chance of pleasant football was absolutely spoilt by the miserable weather Fosse were monopolising the play, and ten minutes from the start Cox, from the right half, contributed a screw shot which, owing to a bad misunderstanding, by the visiting defence found its way into the net. Fosse thus leading by a couple of clear goals. Ten minutes Lyon, with a well-directed low shot, clean beat Mumford, and then put on a third, and hardly had the centre kick been taken before Allsopp registered a fourth. After McMillan had had to handle for the first time, to an easy shot, the Fosse forwards who showed very fair combination were again attacking, and in spite of safe kicking by Roulstone, Eaton netted the fifth. Bishop from the extreme left, contributed a lovely shot, which dropped an inch the wrong side of the net, and then the Luffs exerted

serious pressure for a brief spell, but could reap no rewards from a goalage point of view. Rai fortunately ceased about ten minutes from the interval, leaving as a legacy a sodden ground. Half-time:

FOSSE, five goals;

LOUGHBOROUGH, none.

The teams having returned from drying themselves, the game was resumed, with rain falling slightly. Fosse wore red shirts. The visitors got off the mark the better of the two lots, and troubled McMillan, who, however, was safe. Play was more interesting during this portion. The rain ceased, and the visitors distinctly improved their play, but the versatile Mac would not be beaten, and once fielded a shot from Adcock (J) in competent style. There were no signs that the scoring this half would be as prolific as in its predecessor, because the luffs were now having the better of the game, and Tebbs, who played a nice game on the outside left for them, subscribed a teasing shot, which McMillan very capably disposed of, and excited the thin house to enthusiasm. After half an hour had resulted in a blank, so far as the score was concerned, the referee awarded a penalty against one of the Loughborough defenders for a foul, and Lyon easily put on the sixth gal from the 12 yards line. Bishop added a seventh at close quarters. Fosse were now more than holding their own, but Loughborough came again at the finish McMillan, however, was impassable, and no more scoring was done. Allsopp played a very promising game at inside left for the Fosse. The game ended:

FOSSE, seven;

LOUGHBOROUGH, nil.

Leicester Daily Post - 13 October 1899

#5 WOODVILLE V BARWELL SWIFTS

At Woodville. The home team had the best of the game. Smith scored twice for them, and Fisher put on another before the interval. In the second half Woodward and Sam Thompson scored for the home team, and Abbott put on one of the visitors. The result of an interesting game being:

WOODVILLE TOWN, five goals;

BARWELL SWIFTS, one goal.

Leicester Daily Pot - 9 October 1899

#6 LEICESTERSHIRE SENIOR CUP

REPLAYED TIE

NUNEATON TOWN v EARL SHILTON

At Nuneaton. Five minutes from the start Shilton scored through Whiteman, but nothing further took place in the first half. Nuneaton pressed in the second half, and scored through Dearne. Sven minutes after the same player added a second, and a free kick to the visitors made things equal. Extra time was played, but the game ended in

A DRAW - two goals each.

Leicester Daily Post - 16 October 1899

#7 NUNEATION v EARL SHILTON TOWN

At Nuneaton. Nuneaton had much the best of play and scored through Edkins. Five minutes after Heale had added a second, and ten minutes from the restart Edkins scored and Elsworth added a fourth. Nuneaton continued to hold their own and added a fifth through Elsworth. Result:

NUNEATON, five goals;

EARL SHILTON TWON, none.

Leicester Daily Post - 30 October 1899

#9 GRESLEY ROVERS v EARL SHILTON

Gresley Rovers had ascertained "not without considerable" difficulty that their opponents in the second round were Nuneaton. Bills and other promotional material were issued, but at the eleventh hour came a message from the Leicestershire Association that Nuneaton had been protested against, and a later wire was that the protest ad been sustained, and the R1 tie awarded to Earl Shilton, who therefor became Gresley's R2 opponents.

Burton Chronicle - 9 November 1899

#10 HINCKLEY v WOODVILLE

At Hinckley, before 1,000 spectators, the following being the Woodville team: J Smith (goal), W. Thompson,

C. Orme (backs), S. Hannah, W. Edwards, E. Street (half-backs), W. Smith, S. Woodward, A. Simpson, S. Thompson, C. Fisher (forwards). In the first half Hinckley scored within a minute from commencement, and later on Woodward equalised from a brilliant shot. The game thus grew into a give and take engagement. Just before half-time Hinckley scored again, the score at the interval standing: Hinckley 2, Woodville 1. On resuming Hinckley had the benefit of the wind, and scored in five minutes. Other goals fell to Hinckley, and the game ended-

HINCKLEY	5
WOODVILLE	1

Burton Chronicle - 9 November 1899

#11 SWADLINCOTE v BURTON SWIFTS RESERVE

In fine weather at Swadlincote, on heavy ground. The home team playing with the wind had much the best of the game, scoring a splendid goal through Pickering after 20 minutes, that being the score at the interval. In the second half play was even but Swadlincote were best in front of goal. Harvey and Brearley added further goals for the home team, an interesting game ending:

SWADLINCOTE, three goals
BURTON SWIFTS RESERVE, none

Leicester Daily Post - 30 October 1899

#12 GRESLEY ROVERS v SWADLINCOTE

At Gresley, in fine weather, before a big gate. Swadlincote had the wind in their favour and scored in the first minute, through Parker, by which they led at the interval. After this the Rovers had somewhat the best of matters, Metcalf scoring for them with a beauty. Sabine, of Swadlincote, left the field with a twisted ankle, twenty minutes from the finish. The closing exchanges were strongly contested, the final being:

A DRAW - one goal each.

Leicester Daily Post - 2 April 1900

#13 HINCKLEY TOWN v FOSSE RESERVES

The doings of the Fosse Midland League contingent have been of such indifferent character that lately their football performances have excited little interest among local footballers. Although exhibiting such poor form against League teams in general, the Reserves have succeeded in reaching the closing stages of the Leicestershire senior Cup competition, the semi-final of which was decided on Saturday. Fosse were drawn against Hinckley Town, who have displayed creditable form all through the present season, and occupy as honourable place in the Senior League tournament. Teams:

Fosse: Cater, goal; Bacon and Brown, backs; Cufflin, C J B Woodand McWhirter, halves; Mercer and Eaton, right wing; Lyon, centre; Bishop and Allsop, left wing.

Hinckley: Underwood, goal; Worthington and Whitehead, backs; Brooks, Baxter and Harding, halves; Mee and Hitchcox, right wing; Beadsworth, centre; Gilchrist and Sanders, left wing, forwards.

Referee, Mr. Linthwaite.

The weather was beautifully fine. There were about a thousand spectators on the Holywell enclosure, where the contest was decided. Fosse won the toss, and the visiting forwards were soon on the war path. Underwood being twice called upon. The opening stages were evenly contested. The Hinckley forwards attacked, and Beadsworth got a capital opening, but a careless shot sent the leather the wrong side of the post. Subsequently Bacon, the Fosse right back, when about to clear slipped and fell. Gilchrist rushed up, but his shot proved erratic. A corner was awarded the home side, but the succeeding play the ball went over the crossbar. The Hinckley team so far had had the best of the play. The Fossils broke through the home defence, and temporarily placed the home goal in danger. Mercer gave Underwood a warm harmful, but the pressure was relieved, and the game went back to midfield. The home forwards, however, soon troubled the Fosse defence, and Hitchcock lost a good chance of scoring by weak shooting. A combined effort on the part of the Leicester attackers took the ball to the home goal, but the danger was averted. Interval:

HINCKLEY TOWN, none;
FOSSE RESERVES, none.

In the first half Fosse with a strong sun in their eyes, and in the second moiety Hinckley were placed at a similar disadvantage. On re-starting Mercer and Eaton showed signs of attack, but could not get within shooting distance. About five minutes from the interval a determined attack by Hinckley resulted in a bully,

from which the leather was rushed into the net, amid great enthusiasm. The ball continued to hover dangerously near the Fosse which missed only by inches. Hinckley pressed again, and from a corner, skillfully placed by Mee, the leather was rushed into the net, the home team being thus two points to the good. The Fosse forwards were quite off colour during the latter portion of the contest, Hinckley having all the best of the game. Sanders, the Hinckley extreme right winger, sent in a beautiful shot, which skimmed the cross-bar. The home side kept up the pressure and Beadsworth, with a beautiful shot, notched Hinckley third goal, Sanders obtaining a fourth point. Result:

HINCKLEY, four goals;

FOSSE, nothing.

Leicester Daily Post - 2 April 1900

#14 RE-PLAYED SEMI-FINAL GRESLEY ROVERS v SADLINCOTE

At Swadlincote before a small gate. In the first few minutes Harrison scored for Swadlincote, but Gresley afterwards had the best of the game, and Solomon scored two beautiful goals for them, this being the score at the interval. In the second half the Rovers continued to hold the upper hand, but though the Swadlincote goal had some narrow escapes they failed to increase their lead. Result:

GRESEY ROVERS, two goals;

SWADLINCOTE, one goal.

Leicester Chronicle - 14 April 1900

#15 LEICESTERSHIRE SENIOR CUP FINAL HINCKLEY v. GRESLEY ROVERS

The game was fought out on the Holywell ground in dull but otherwise favourable weather. About a thousand spectators lined the ropes at the start, but the game was considerably augmented as the struggle proceeded. Whitehead having choice of goals, decided to kick down the hill. Gresley at once threatened danger. Wileman shot hard, and Underwood tipped over the bar, but the subsequent corner was fruitless. Mee was prominent on the Hinckley right but failed to turn the leather sufficiently. The Hinckley forwards, having the best of the game, Mee again became conspicuous, but the other forwards failed to co-operate. The game was temporarily interrupted owing to the spectators' uncomplimentary remarks to Referee Marson. The game proceeded, and the home side continued to have the best of the argument. The Gresley goal was seriously threatened, but the Cup-holders took the leather to the opposite end, where Metcalf was prominent. Underwood cleared in the nick of time. A couple of corners were conceded Hinckley, and at length Gilchrist got an opening, from which Beadsworth, with a beautiful clean straight shot, notched Hinckley's opening point about twenty minutes from the commencement, amid great enthusiasm. Play afterwards was more evenly distributed. Metcalf bested Underwood with a lofty one, but the old Fosse custodian saved with a clinking effort. The home attackers often bothered the Gresley defence, although the Hinckley men had occasionally to retire to resist incursions into their own territory. The Hinckley defence, however, was equal to emergencies. Some desultory play in neutral territory ensued. Hinckley returned to the attack. Baxter shot when in a good position, but ineffectually. The ball seemed continually hovering near the visitors' uprights. A corner to Hinckley was accurately deposited, but the leather ultimately went out of touch. Still the game was confined for the most part to the Gresley half. The pressure, however, was relieved, and the ball was worked towards the Hinckley citadel. The home defence was safe, however, and the visiting forwards forced to retire. Mee got down but was ruled off-side before distinguishing himself. At the interval the scores were:

HINCKLEY, one goal;

GRESLEY ROVERS, none.

On changing ends, the Hinckley forwards at once showed signs of attack, and some pretty combination resulted in Beadsworth, with an exceeding clever shot, increasing the Hinckley lead to two points. Gradually the leather was worked into the Hinckley quarters, but no material advantage was gained. Midfield tactics followed. Referee Marson kept the game well under control, and excited the comments to the onlookers by his frequent use of the whistle. After a spell of quieter play, the home forwards were soon seen to be harassing their opponents' defence, but the leather came back again to midfield. Saunders clashed up the centre all on his own and appeared to have the Gresley castle at his mercy, but the visitors' rear line intercepted him, although at the cost of a corner. This was accurately placed, and the Rovers goal was subjected to strong pressure, but without the desired effect. Even play ensued, and then the Hinckley

forwards, more especially Mee, were threatening the Gresley goal again, the Hinckley outside right put in a couple of long rangers, which both missed the mark. When well-placed Saunders gave Kinsey a low shot, which the custodian was equal to. The cup-holders got down, and Wileman, with the help of the other forwards, made a strenuous attempt to get past Underwood, but the latter cleared with commendable coolness, thunders was soon afterwards again laid out through the roughness of a Gresley opponent, and had to be carried off. Some exciting play followed, in which both teams tried hard to improve their position, but with fruitless results. When the whistle went Hinckley had wrested the trophy from the holders, the score-sheet reading:

HINCKLEY, two goals;

GRESLEY ROVERS, none.

Teams: — Hinckley: Underwood, goal; Whitehead and Worthington, backs; Brooks, Baxter, and Harding half-backs; Hitchcock and Mee (right wing), Beadsworth (centre), Saunders and Gilchrist (left wing) forwards. Gresley: Kinsey, goal; Jones and Adams, backs; Bannister, Robinson, and Fearn, half-backs; Boam and Wileman (right wing), Yardley (centre), Solomon and Metcalf (left wing), forwards Referee, Mr. E. A. Marson (Leicester). Mr. Marson afterwards presented the cup to the winning eleven, amid enthusiastic cheers.

Leicester Chronicle - 21 April 1900

#15 LEICESTERSHIRE SENIOR CUP FINAL

HINCKLEY v. GRESLEY ROVERS

The game was fought out on the Holywell ground in dull but otherwise favourable weather. About a thousand spectators lined the ropes at the start, but the game was considerably augmented as the struggle proceeded. Whitehead having choice of goals, decided to kick down the hill. Gresley at once threatened danger. Wileman shot hard, and Underwood tipped over the bar, but the subsequent corner was fruitless. Mee was prominent on the Hinckley right but failed to turn the leather sufficiently. The Hinckley forwards, having the best of the game, Mee again became conspicuous, but the other forwards failed to co-operate. The game was temporarily interrupted owing to the spectators' uncomplimentary remarks to Referee Marson. The game proceeded, and the home side continued to have the best of the argument. The Gresley goal was seriously threatened, but the Cup-holders took the leather to the opposite end, where Metcalf was prominent. Underwood cleared in the nick of time. A couple of corners were conceded Hinckley, and at length Gilchrist got an opening, from which Beadsworth, with a beautiful clean straight shot, notched Hinckley's opening point about twenty minutes from the commencement, amid great enthusiasm. Play afterwards was more evenly distributed. Metcalf bested Underwood with a lofty one, but the old Fosse custodian saved with a clinking effort. The home attackers often bothered the Gresley defence, although the Hinckley men had occasionally to retire to resist incursions into their own territory. The Hinckley defence, however, was equal to emergencies. Some desultory play in neutral territory ensued. Hinckley returned to the attack. Baxter shot when in a good position, but ineffectually. The ball seemed continually hovering near the visitors' uprights. A corner to Hinckley was accurately deposited, but the leather ultimately went out of touch. Still the game was confined for the most part to the Gresley half. The pressure, however, was relieved, and the ball was worked towards the Hinckley citadel. The home defence was safe, however, and the visiting forwards forced to retire. Mee got down but was ruled off-side before distinguishing himself. At the interval the scores were:

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Leicester Chronicle - 21 April 1900