Leicestershire Junior Cup 1896-97

Winner: Sileby Rangers
Runner-Up: Hemington United
No. of entries: 27 entries.

There are several missing results.

The final was staged at Barrow. Sileby beat Hemington United 2-1 in an enjoyable game in front of 1500 spectators. Directly after the finish Mr Lovell (chairman of the Leicestershire Football Association) presented the cup to the winners and medals to both teams. The Sileby team on the return home were met at the entrance to the town by two equestrians and the Wycliffe Brass Band playing, "Seeing the Conquering Hero comes." Bearing the trophy aloft they marched in procession to the Coach and Horses Inn, the football club's headquarters, where they were heartily complimented on their achievement. The medals were presented to the players the following week.

Round 1

Division 1

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
1	10.10.1896	Ellistown AN Other	1	1	Whitwick Albion Nash	
2	10.10.1896	Linton Swifts	3	1	Swannington St George's	
3	10.10.1896	Measham Wanderers	3	1	Coalville Town Reserves	

Ibstock Albion and Coalville Albion, byes

Division 2

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
4	10.10.1896	Anstey Town	1	1	Syston Swifts	
5	10.10.1896	Hemmington United	2	1	Barrow Excelsior	
6	10.10.1896	Kegworth	0	3	Barrow Rising Star	
7	10.10.1896	Sileby Rangers E Wood (2) West Earl	4 (3)	0 (0)	Quorn Havelock	Moderate gate.

Castle Donington, bye.

Division 3

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
8	10.10.1896	Belgrave St Michael's		W	South Wigston	
9	10.10.1896	Earl Shilton Town	2	2	Glen Parva Depot	
10	10.10.1896	Melton Town Kirk (2)	2 (2)	3 (1)	Waverley Thompson AN Other	Waverley played two ineligible men and were removed from the competition.
11	10.10.1896	Rothley Swifts	0	2	Earl Shilton Excelsior	

St Mary's Rovers (Leicester) and Enderby byes

Round 1 Replays

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
12	17.10.1896	Earl Shilton Town	5	2	Glen Parva Depot	Cup match abandoned owing to unfitness of the ground. Friendly played instead.

13	17.10.1896	Syston Swifts	4	2	Anstey Town	
14	17.10.1896	Whitwick Albion	2	5	Ellistown	

Round 2

Division I

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
15	14.11.1896	Ibstock Albion	1	0	Measham Wanderers	
16	14.11.1896	Linton Swifts	3	5	Ellistown	

Division II

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
17	14.11.1896	Barrow Rising Star	1	1	Sileby Rangers	
18	14.11.1896	Coalville Albion	2 (2)	4 (2)	Castle Donington	Park-road Ground, Coalville. Albion were the only team to beat the "Dons" - North Leicestershire champions last year in the League.
19	14.11.1896	Hemington United	6	1	Syston Swifts	

Division III

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
20	14.11.1896	Melton Town	1 (0)	1 (1)	Enderby Granite	Fair attendance. A very exciting and well-contested game. Melton adopted "kicking out tactics" for much of the second half.
21	14.11.1896	South Wigston	1	1	Earl Shilton Excelsior	Owing to the late arrival of the visitor's short time was played. Excelsior progressed to R3.
22	14.11.1896	St Mary's Rovers	W		Earl Shilton Town	

Round 2 Replays

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
23	21.11.1896	Enderby Granite	W		Melton Town	Melton failed to turn up.
24	21.11.1896	Sileby Rangers	2	2	Barrow Rising Star	Sileby went through to R3. No details of a second replay have been found.

Round 3

Division I

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
25	9.1.1897	Ibstock Albion	0	3	Ellistown	Unpleasant weather. Small attendance.

Division II and III

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
26	9.1.1897	Enderby Granite	2	2	Sileby Rangers	
27	?	Earl Shilton Excelsior	W		St Mary's Rovers	
28	9.1.1897	Hemington United	2	2	Castle Donington	Hemington went through; no details of the second replay have been found.

Round 3 Replay

	Date	Home	Away	Match Details

29	20.2.1897	Sileby Rangers	5	3	Enderby Granite	

Semi-Finals

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
30	6.3.1897	Earl Shilton Excelsior	1 (2)	2 (0)	Hemington United	At Hinckley. Large number of spectators. Very soft ground.
31	6.3.1897	Sileby Rangers	3	0	Ellistown	

Final

	Date	Home			Away	Match Details
32	18.4.1897	Sileby Rangers	3 (1)	2 (1)	Hemmington United	Played at Barrow on Easter Monday 1,500 spectators. Hemington were without several key players. Directly after the finish Mr Lovell (chairman of the Leicestershire Football Association) presented the cup to the winners and medals to both teams.

Match Reports

A selection of published match reports.

JUNIOR CUP MATCHES

In consequence of cup-ties, the local and district leagues were practically at a standstill on Saturday, but comment on the "pot hunting" business would be superfluous until the weeding process has taken place. The Leicestershire Junior Cup was in very strong evidence, the game being contested in the customary cup-tie fashion, with the result that some of the scores were exactly the reverse of anticipations, whilst in other instances the combatants were so evenly balanced that the respective clubs will have to renew their acquaintance of one another and fight their battles o'er again next Saturday.

Sileby Rangers and Quorn Havelock met at Sileby, before a moderate gate. The Rangers won the toss and therefore had the wind and sun behind them in the first half. But the homesters, with the aid of the wind, soon had the best of matters, and kept the Havelocks well in their own half, but could not score until twenty minutes had elapsed. Then E Wood headed through. Excellent passing between Earl, West and Lawrence was then exhibited, and West sent in a terrific shot, with which Stubbs had not the least chance. This occurred after 23 minutes play. The Rangers played up well, and, attacking again, Earl put on the third goal with a grand shot. Soon after, Mr. A Marson, the referee, sounded half-time, the score being three to nil in the Rangers' favour. A Quorn correspondent says that the third goal had a strong suspicion of offside about it.

On changing, the visitors played up better, but at no time during the game did they show up to anything like the advantage they have previously done, the forwards, amongst whom Thornton was placed hors de combat through colliding with the goalkeeper in the first ten minutes, being very disappointing. Once the ball was placed under the bar, but the referee ruled against a goal, and just before time E Wood scored the fourth goal for the homesters, Sileby winning four goals to none.

The home team, taken all round, were a very fair lot, the forwards being very smart, the weakest spot, perhaps, being the defence, against which the visitors certainly ought to have shown up better.

Sileby team: Geo. Marlow, goal; XXX and Geo. Yates, backs; F wood, H Preston and E Smith, half-backs; G Wood, W Lawrence, E Wood, C West and A. Earl, forwards. Referee, Mr. E A Marson, Leicester.

Melton own and Leicester Waverley were very evenly matched. Kirk scored twice in the first half for Melton, who had the wind behind them, and close in the interval Thompson scored for the Waverley. The Leicester man and the better of matters in the second half, and putting on a couple of goals, won by three to two.

Had I been a betting man I should have gone five to one on Ellistown against Whitwick Albion on Saturday, but the Whitwick men fought like champions. Weak in their forwards, the Ellistown men were let in over and over again, but try as they would, the needful seemed to be as far off as ever. The ball actually ran along the touchline, in goal, and, with no one to meet, they could not score. Nash managed to screw one in, and Whitwick replied with a long shot, the only pop at goal they had in fact, and scored, giving Ghent no chance whatever. Encouraged by this, the visitors made a strenuous effort, the game ending in a draw of one each. The tie will be replayed at Whitwick on Saturday next, Mr. Moss again officiating. The Ellistown team included two youngsters, Reuben Heames and A Dobson, at half-back, and they cannot be too highly spoken of. They played a very nice game, fast, plucky, and very safe kicks, and should do some good work for the club. I think Ellistown will get through the first round safe enough.

Coalville Reserves, although expecting to go down at Measham, could scarcely realise the result of three goals to one, which was the score on Saturday. The tactics of neither side were to be commended, both not being above a little dirty work occasionally. On the whole, though, they were fairly matched. The Reserves lacked combination, and were simply useless in front of goal, several ridiculously easy chances being spoiled. On one occasion, too, the left full back actually stood stock still, and let Hewitson take the ball from him and score. Hardy also, I am told, might have saved better. Altogether, I think a draw would have been the proper thing.
Melton Mowbray Mercury and Oakham and Uppingham News - 15 October 1897

LEICESTERSHIRE JUNIOR CUP.

MELTON TOWN v LEICESTER WAVERLEY.

The above teams met on the Leicester-road Ground, on Saturday, in the first round of the Leicestershire Junior Cup. The home captain won the toss and kicked with a strong wind during the first half. Soon after starting Leicester forced two corners, which resulted in nothing. Melton broke away, and from a corner Richardson shot over the bar. Some midfield play followed, and Melton had hard lines in not scoring several times. Kirk drew first blood for Melton with a hot shot from Bullimore's centre. Melton pressed again, and after a scramble in front of goal Kirk scored again, lying on his back. The play was very even until just before half-time, when Leicester broke away, Thompson scoring for the visitors with a dashing shot, the score at half-time being—Melton Town, two goals; Leicester Waverley, one goal. On resuming Leicester had the best of the game, and scored two more goals, the final result being:

LEICESTER WAVERLEY, three goals;
MELTON TOWN, two goals.

SILEBY RANGERS, four goals;
QUORN HAVELOCK, none.

ANSTEY TOWN, one goal;
SYSTON SWIFTS, one.

EARL SHILTON EXCELSIOR, two goals;
RUTHLEY SWIFTS, none.

LINTON SWIFTS, three goals;
SWANNINGTON ST. GEORGE'S, one.

EARL SHILTON TOWN, two goals;
GLEN PARVA DEPOT, two goals.

MEASHAM WANDERERS, three goals;
COALVILLE TOWN, one goal.

ELLISTOWN, one goal;
WHITWICK ALBION, one goal.

BARROW RISING STAR, three goals;
KEGWORTH, none.

HEMINGTON, two goals;
BARROW EXCELSIOR, one.

Leicester Daily Post - 12 October 1896

LEICESTERSHIRE JUNIOR CUP.

EARL SHILTON TOWN v. GLEN PARVA DEPOT.

At Glen Parva. The cup match was abandoned, owing to unfitness of the ground. A friendly match was played, which ended:
EARL SHILTON, five goals;
DEPOT, two.

ELLISTOWN v. WHITWICK ALBION.

At Whitwick. Result:
ELLISTOWN, five goals;
WHITWICK, two.

ANSTEY TOWN v SYSTON SWIFTS.

At Syston. Result:
SYSTON, four goals;
ANSTEY, two.

Leicester Daily Post - 19 October 1896

LEICESTERSHIRE JUNIOR CUP

The second round took place on Saturday, the results being as below:
At Ibstock, Ibstock Alboin one, Measham none.
At Linton, Ellistown five, Linton Swifts three.
At Hemington, Hemington six, Syston Swifts one.
At Barrow, Rising Sar one, Sileby Rangers.
At Coalville, Castle Donington four, Albion two.
At Melton, Melton Town one, Enderby one.
At Wigston, South Wigston one, Shilton Excelsior one.
The match between Melton and Enderby was a most exciting and well-contested one. Enderby scored in the first half, and led in the first half, and led at the interval, but ten minutes after resuming Melton drew level, and had much the best of the game afterwards, but owing to kicking out tactics they were unable to score again, and he result was a draw of one goal.
The Dons have once again passed into the third round of the Junior Cup competition. Drawing a bye in the first round they were pitted against Coalville Albion in the second. The Albion were the only organisation to lower the colours of the North Leicestershire champions last year in the League competition. Saturday's engagement, however, was a cup tie, and the Dons have made themselves famous in this direction, and their play on occasion was, if anything, above their average form. The Albion won the toss and set the Dons to play up hill against a strong wind.
Long before half-time it was evident that the Dons would win, their play being characterised by more method than was that of the Albion. The score at the interval was two each.
In the second half the Dons carried all before them, and the Coalville citadel was in a state of perpetual siege. Seven times altogether did the Coalville goal surrender, though for some reason several of these points were disallowed. Mr. Lambert states that he has never before seen so many shots repelled in one match, the Coalville keeper being constantly clearing. Often under great difficulties.
The Albion seldom passed the centre line, the Dons by their scientific passing and judicious placing completely penning their opponents. The result was a win for the PSA by four to two.
The winners were entertained to tea by their captain, Mr. S Archer, who played one of the finest games. Geo. Brewin and Harry Parker also gave a fine exhibition of scientific football. A. Taylor scored with a shot that broke the net, the ball then going some thirty yards before it fell.
Coalville played an ineligible man, in the person of Blockley, who had taken part in the overthrow of Shepshed a few weeks ago. The Dons are due at Ellistown on Saturday (League). The Reserves will be engaged with Long Eaton Fosse Rovers at Station-road.
Had I been a betting man I should have gone five to one on Ellistown against Whitwick Albion on Saturday, but the Whitwick men fought like champions. Weak in their forwards, the Ellistown men were let in over and over again, but try as they would, the needful seemed to be as far off as ever. The ball actually ran along the touchline, in goal, and, with no one to meet, they could not score. Nash managed to screw one in, and Whitwick replied with a long shot, the only pop at goal they had in fact, and scored, giving Ghent no chance whatever. Encouraged by this, the visitors made a strenuous effort, the game ending in a draw of

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Melton Mowbray Mercury and Oakham and Uppingham News - 15 October 1897

#15 IBSTOCK ALBION v MEASHAM WANDERERS
At Ibstock. Result:
ALBION, one goal;
WANDERERS, none.
Leicester Daily Post – 16 November 1896

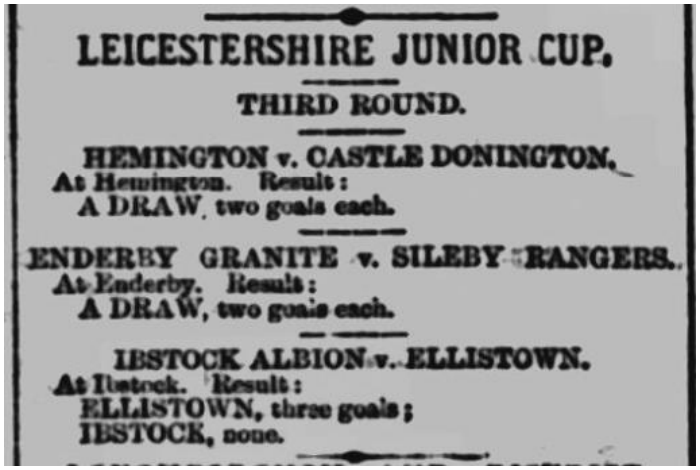
#16 LINTON SWIFTS v ELLISTOWN
At Linton. Result:
ELLISTOWN, five goals;
SWIFTS, three.
Leicester Daily Post – 16 November 1896

#17 BARROW RISING STAR v SILEBY RANGERS
At Barrow. Result:
A DRAW – one goal each.
Leicester Daily Post – 16 November 1896

#18 COALVILLE ALBION RESERVES v CASTLE DONINGTON
On the Park-road Ground. The Albions played with the wind, and soon scored, and Donington equalised, Albions again ran down and scored, which was followed by one for Donington, the score at the interval being wo each. Resuming, Donington pressed, and soon scored. Three corners fell to them, but nothing resulted. Still pressing Donington scored again, and a fair game resulted. Final score:
DONINGTON, four goals;
ALBON, two goals.
Leicester Daily Post – 16 November 1896

#19 HEMINGTON v SYSTON SWIFTS
At Hemington,
HEMINGTON, six goals;
SYSTON, one.
Leicester Daily Post – 16 November 1896

#21 SOUTH WIGSTON v EARL SHILTON EXCELSIOR
At South Wigston. Owing to the late arrival of the visitors short time was played, the game ending in
A DRAW – one goal each.
Leicester Daily Post – 16 November 1896



LEICESTERSHIRE JUNIOR CUP.

THIRD ROUND.

HEMINGTON v. CASTLE DONINGTON.
At Hemington. Result:
A DRAW, two goals each.

ENDERBY GRANITE v. SILEBY RANGERS.
At Enderby. Result:
A DRAW, two goals each.

IBSTOCK ALBION v. ELLISTOWN.
At Ibstock. Result:
ELLISTOWN, three goals;
IBSTOCK, none.

Leicestershire Junior Cup
#25 Ibstock Albion Reserves v Ellistown
Played at Ibstock on Saturday. The weather was anything but pleasant, either for the players or the spectators, and this, together with the fact that the cream of the home team were not engaged in the watch, might potentially account for the small attendance. He visitors, winning the toss, naturally took advantage of the wind, and scored in the first half. Resuming, the visitors scored two more goals, he game ending:

Ellistown	3
Ibstock	0

Teams:- Ibstock: Goal, J Black; backs, H Tollington and G Gibson; half-backs, H Hallam, G Bxdle and E Coper; forwards, W Bxdle, E Black, J Sharp, J Crane and A Roper.
Ellistown: Goal, F Ghent; backs, T Ghent, and G Wollett; half-backs, S Moon, S Watts and R Evans; forwards, H Horrobin, W Darby, J F Nash, W Watts and T Orton.
Coalville Town – 15 January 1897

LEICESTERSHIRE JUNIOR CUP
#30 EARL SHILTON EXCELSIOR v HEMINGTON
Played at Hinckley, before a large number of spectators, and on very soft ground. The game was very fast after the first half-hour, when Hemington scored. On resumption, the Shilton team put in an extraordinary work, and speedily got a goal from a scrimmage. Both sides played a desperate game, but Shilton succeeded in again scoring. Result:

EXCELSIOR, two goals;
HEMINGTON, one.

Leicester Daily Post – 8 March 1897

#31 SILEBY RANGERS v ELLISTOWN
Result:

SILEBY RANGERS, three goals;
ELLISTOWN, none.

Leicester Daily Post – 8 March 1897

LEICESTERSHIRE JUNIOR CUP
FINAL TIE
#32 SILEBY RANGERS v HEMINGTON
At Barrow-on-Soar on Easter Monday before a holiday crowd of over 1,500. Sileby had their full team up, but Hemington were without several of their best players, most notably Kilburn, under suspension. In the first half Hemington were the better team, and soon after the commencement of the game opened the score, which was followed by some very pretty movements on the part of their forwards, but without any tangible result up to the interval. Sileby scored, and the team crossed over with the score one all. Hemington scored soon after through a miskick on the part of the Sileby backs, but Sileby again equalised. Hemington fell off

after this reverse, and until the end Sileby had the best of the exchanges, and put on the winning goal, the whistle bringing to a close a very fast and enjoyable game, with the score

SILEBY RANGERS, three goals
HEMINGTON, two goals

Referee: Mr Allen Lovell

Directly after the finish Mr Lovell (chairman of the Leicestershire Football Association) presented the cup to the winners and medals to both teams.

Leicester Daily Post – 20 April 1897