# Leicestershire Challenge Shield 1892-93

**Winner:** Shepshed Rovers
**Runner-Up:** Castle Donington Reserves
**No. of entries:** 18 (?)

The draw for the inaugural Challenge Shield competition, along with the Senior and Junior Cup competitions took place on Thursday 15 September at the White Swan Hotel, Market-place, Leicester in the presence of 53 delegates representing all the clubs who had entered the three cup competitions, with the exception of YMCA and South Wigston.

First round ties were required to be played on or before 12 November; second round ties on or before 10 December and third round ties on or before 28 January.

The clubs were split into two Divisions for first three rounds. First round ties were required to be played on or before 12 November second round 10 December and third round 28 January.

The fate of several teams is unknown.

There was only one round 3 tie – a Division II clash between two pre-competition favourites – Hinckley Town Swifts and Shepshed Rovers.

Shepshed Rovers, the reserve side of Shepshed Town beat Castle Donington Reserves at Hemington [NW Leicestershire] to become the first winners of the Leicestershire Challenge Shield.

The Challenge Shield and medals were presented to Shepshed Rovers after the executive meeting of the Leicestershire Football Association at the White Swan Hotel on 25 April 1893.

## Round 1

*Division I*

| | Date | Home | | | Away | Match Details |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | ? | Barrow Rising Star Reserves | 1 | 1 | Woodhouse | |
| 2 | 12.11.1892 | Castle Donington Reserves<br>S Trigg<br>Richards<br>Adkin<br>Williamson | 4<br>(3) | 1<br>(1) | Kegworth Town Swifts<br>AN Other (5 mins) | Kegworth opened the scoring after 5 mins. |
| 3 | ? | Hugglescote Swifts | | | Bagworth St Andrew's Swifts | |
| 4 | 12.11.1892 | Quorn Havelock | 1 | 1 | Shepshed Rovers | |

*Division II*

| | Date | Home | | | Away | Match Details |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | ? | Coalville Albion | 0 | 4 | Leicester St Mary's | |
| 6 | 19.11.1892 | Enderby Swifts<br>AN Others | 2<br>(0) | 1<br>(1) | Leicester YMCA<br>Cartwright | |
| 7 | 29.10.1892 | Hinckley Rovers<br>og (2)<br>AN Other<br>Richardson<br>Hall | 5<br>(2) | 1<br>(0) | Wigston Rovers<br>AN Other | Holywell Ground, Hinckley.<br>Only 30 mins played in the second half due to darkness. |
| 8 | 22.10.1892 | Leicester Invicta | 0<br>(0) | 6<br>(5) | Leicester St John's<br>Timbrell (3) | |

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | Turner (2)<br>Lee | |
| 9 | 5.11.1892 | Syston Swifts<br>Cooper<br>Byard<br>AN Other<br>Pickard (1 + pen) | 5<br>(2) | 1<br>(0) | Leicester Craven<br>Warner | At Syston.<br>Dull weather. |

**Round 1 Replays**

| | Date | Home | | | Away | Match Details |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **10** | 19.11.1892 | Shepshed Rovers<br>og<br>Jordan (2) | 3<br>(2) | 0<br>(0) | Quorn Havelock | Large crowd.<br>Game started 30 mins after the advertised time.<br>Referee stopped the match 20 mins before time due to poor light. |
| **11** | 26.11.1892 | Woodhouse | 1 | 1 | Barrow Rising Star Reserves | |

**Round 1 2nd Replay**

| | Date | Home | | | Away | Match Details |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 12 | 3.12.1892 | Barrow Rising Star Reserves | | | Woodhouse | |

**Round 2**

*Division I*

| | Date | Home | | | Away | Match Details |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 13 | 10.12.1892 | Enderby Swifts<br>J H Phillips<br>W. Freestone | 2<br>(0) | 0<br>(0) | Leicester St John's | Limited number of spectators.<br>Well-contested match. |
| 14 | 10.12.1892 | Staynes & Smith's<br>Flude | 1<br>(0) | 4<br>(2) | Hinckley Rovers<br>Moore (2) | Hinckley caught the 11.56 am train to Leicester. Played commenced at 2.30 pm.<br>About 7 mins before time the ball was kicked on some railings close to the ground; it burst, and the referee gave the home side 5 mins in which to find another ball. Staynes & Smith's decided to give the game to Hinckley seeing there was no chance of scoring 4 goals in the remaining time to win the tie. |
| 15 | 10.12.1892 | Syston Swifts<br>R Williamson (5 min) | 1<br>(1) | 1<br>(0) | St Mary's Swifts<br>Orchard | At Syston.<br>Dull weather.<br>St Mary's equalised with almost the last kick of the match. |

*Division II*

| | Date | Home | | | Away | Match Details |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 16 | 10.12.1892 | Shepshed Rovers<br>Jordan<br>AN Others | 3<br>(1) | 0<br>(0) | Hugglescote St John's | Ground was covered with snow. |
| 17 | ? | Woodhouse or Barrow Rising Star Res. | | W | Castle Donington Swifts | |

### Round 2 Replay

| | Date | Home | | | Away | Match Details |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 18 | 17.12.1892 | Syston Swifts<br>Pickard (2) | 2<br>(1) | 1<br>(0) | St Mary's Swifts | At Syston. |

## Round 3

| | Date | Home | | | Away | Match Details |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 19 | 14.1.1892 | Hinckley Town Swifts | P | P | Shepshed Rovers | Holy Well ground. Shepshed did not arrive until 4pm having missed the train at Leicester. The ground from which snow had been partially removed on the previous day was in a very hard and dangerous condition. Both goals were surrounded by "yards of ice and large patches of ice were dotted all over the ground." The referee (Mr Weston, Wigston left it with the captain's to decide whether the game should be played or not and they came to the conclusion that it would be better to postpone for 2 weeks.<br>Bizarrely a friendly game of an hour's duration was played – which Shepshed won 2-1. |

### Round 3 Replay

| | Date | Home | | | Away | Match Details |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 20 | 28.1.1892 | Hinckley Town Swifts<br>Thompson | 1<br>(0) | 2<br>(2) | Shepshed Rovers<br>Jordan (2) | Holy Well Ground, Hinckley.<br>500-600 spectators.<br>Although Hinckley dominated the second period – their forwards either "*muddled the chances they had or sent in such weak shots that the custodian had no difficulty in keeping his charge intact. …Corners were numerous but invariably kicked behind*." |

### Semi-Finals

| | Date | Home | | | Away | Match Details |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **21** | 28.1.1893 | Shepshed Rovers | 6 | 0 | Enderby Swifts | At Sileby. |
| **22** | 11.2.1893 | Syston Swifts | 1 | 3 | Castle Donington Reserves | At Kegworth. |

### Final

| | Date | Home | | | Away | Match Details |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **23** | 1.4.1893 | Shepshed Rovers | 2 | 1 | Castle Donington Reserves | At Hemington.<br>*"The Donington lads were a very smart lot, and they created a very favourable impression indeed. The match was free from any unpleasantness whatever, and Mr. Hardy, of Long Eaton, the referee, is to be congratulated on his firm manner and impartial decisions given during the progress of the* |

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | *match."* - Football News (Nottingham) 8 April 1893. |

## Match Reports

A selection of published match reports.

**#2 CASTLE DONINGTON v KEGWORTH TOWN SWIFTS**
This tie was played off on Saturday last in Castle Donington. In point of weight there was a striking contrast, Kegworth in this respect holding a decided advantage. The visitors lost the toss, kicked off against the incline and for a time play ruled very fast. Edwards waited too long, letting in the Kegworth forwards, who scored easily after five minutes' play. Undaunted by this reverse, the home eleven continued to play the combination game, relying upon accurate manipulation of the ball, their opponents appearing to reply upon superior weight. It soon became apparent, however, that "class" was asserting itself, as Williamson and his partners swarmed round the Kegworth goal, S. Trigg equalising the score. Kegworth got off at the other end, but the final shot went yards wide. The Donington right then got down, and forced a flag kick, but nothing came of it. Directly afterwards a fine run by the whole of the front ran resulted in Richards placing his side in a majority. The great pace earlier in the game told heavily on the visitors, who flagged considerably, and after Williamson had shot, Horobin cleared. Adkin, jun., received the ball almost on the line, and shooting with perfect aim on the extreme left, scored a third goal, half-time arriving with the score unaltered. During the second half several Kegworth players, taking advantage of their mere youthful opponents, used their weight unfairly, and were cautioned by the referee. Despite some severe knocks and hard falls, the forwards play of the front play of the front division of the home team aroused the admiration of the partisans of both sides. The pace had now slowed down, and it was clearly seen that the home team had the measure of their opponents. Williamson scored again from a free kick, and but for the sterling defence of Horrobin and Co., the score must have been heavier. Time was soon afterwards called, Castle Donington wining by four goals to one.
*Leicester Chronicle – 19 December 1892*

**#5 ST MARY'S SWIFTS v COALVILLE ALBION RESERVES**
This match in the Leicestershire Shield competition was played at Coalville, with the following result:
SWIFTS, four goals;
ALBION, nil.
*Leicester Daily Post – 7 November 1892*

**#6 YMCA ROVERS v ENDERBY SWIFTS**
Played at Enderby. The "Reds" having won the toss elected to kick uphill, and very soon settled down to hard work. The Rovers played a good game during the first half, and continually kept the ball in the Swifts quarters. Several tries at goal proved failures, as they often muffed the ball just at the critical moment, but their efforts were at length rewarded by a good goal by C Cartwright who although the game played splendidly. When the half-time whistle blew the game stood: YMCA Rovers, one goal; Enderby swifts, nil. After the usual rest the game soon took an unfavourable turn for the Rovers, as their combination completely broke down, and the Swifts improved so much that they had it pretty well to their own liking. Had it not been for the sound defence of Beney they must have scored heavily, but the YMCA goalkeeper kept his goal free, and it was not until one of the YMCA backs in heading away sent the ball through his own post quite out of the goalkeeper's reach that the first goal was scored for the Swifts. The Rovers now seemed quite at sea and went gradually from bad to worse, and the Swifts soon scored a second goal. This stirred the Rovers up a bit, but nothing resulted, the Swifts defence being safe, and the game ended after a hard-fought struggle.:-
ENDERBY SWIFTS, two goals;
YMCA ROVERS, one goal.
*Leicester Daily Post – 21 November 1892*

**#7 LEICESTERSHIRE SHIELD**
**HINCKLEY SWIFTS v WIGSTON ROVERS**
This match was played at Holywell Grounds, Hinckley. Hinckley, playing with the wind, scored twice during

the first half. Rovers fell off during the next part, and Hinckley made three more goals, and the Rovers, one. Only 30 minutes were played in the second half owing to darkness. Result:

HINCKLEY, five goals;
WIGSTON, one goal.

*Leicester Daily Post – 31 October 1892*

**#9 SYSTON SWIFTS v LEICESTER CRAVEN**

Played at Syston in dull weather. The home team started the ball, and within a few minutes the visitors obtained two corners, which proved fruitless. The play then became very fast, the Reds hitting the crossbar twice before scoring. Then came two goals in pretty quick succession (Cooper and Byard), the play being all the time in the Craven quarters. Tyers here made a good dribble, but lost it at the posts, the ball being taken smartly down again by Warner. Open play was now the order of the day, and at half-time the game stood: Syston, two goals; Craven, nil. On restarting the ball was at once carried to the Syston goal, and the leather put through by Warner, two or three minutes later the Swifts doing likewise. A corner was awarded to the "Reds" but nothing came of it. The play became very fast again, the Swifts again scored, Pickard putting in a splendid shot. A penalty kick was here awarded to Syston, which resulted in another goal (Pickard) for the home team. After this the game was a very open one, although the Swifts had the best of the play, and at the call of time the game stood:

SWIFTS, five goals;
CRAVEN, one goal.

*Leicester Daily Post – 7 November 1892*

**#10 LEICESTERSHIRE JUNIOR SHIELD**
**SHEPSHED ROVERS v QUORN HAVELOCK**

The above teams met at Shepshed on Saturday. On the previous Saturday they met at Quorn , and the match ended in a draw. The day was fine, and a large company assembled. It was half-an-hour after the advertised time before the match commenced. The game, during the first half, was of an even description, and one of the visitors' backs had the misfortune to score for the home team. In the second half the Shepshed players showed slightly better form, and Jordan scored twice. The referee declared the match at an end 20 minutes before time owing to it being too dark to play.

*Leicester Daily Post – 21 November 1892*

**#13 FOOTBALL – (Junior Shield) – Enderby Swifts v Leicester St John's** – This well contested match was played before a limited number of spectators at Enderby on Saturday. Play was fast throughout the homesters having the best of it. They experienced hard lines, however, for though during the first half they made some capital shots they could not get the ball through, though the visitor's goalkeeper putting in some good work. St John's played up well, and made some good shots, but perhaps never before has White, the Swifts' goalkeeper, been seen in better form, his remarkably good play on Saturday evoking much praise, a good share of it coming from the town 'boys'. No goal was scored during the first half, and 15 minutes had elapsed in this second ere J. H. Phillips got one for the country "lads", while about eight minutes afterwards W. Freestone put the leather through again. The Swifts fairly out-played their rivals, and the result of the game was:- Swifts, two goals; St John's, none. Swifts: G. White, goal; C. Dyman and A. College, backs; T West, R. Wilmore, and G. West, half-backs; W. Freestone, W. Martin, J. H. Phillips, A. Rowley and W. West, forwards.

*Leicester Chronicle -17 December 1892*

**#15 SYSTON SWIFTS v ST MARY'S SWIFTS**

Played at Syston in dull and wet weather. The home team started the ball and within five minutes a shot was put through the posts by R. Williamson. The visitors then secured two corners in quick succession, no result accruing, and the leather was carried into the Saints territory. A splendid bit of passing was xxx displayed by the homesters. St Marys were then awarded a free kick – result , xxx and the ball was smartly taken down by Williamson. Tyler at this point was badly winded, which delayed the game some few minutes. On resuming four successive corners were claimed by the home team, Cooper's being a grand attempt. Fine play was now shown by the visitors, who were on the point of scoring when frustrated by the Syston custodian and Williamson took the ball back up in splendid style. Play became fast and even, the half-time score being: Syston one, St Mary's, nil. On resuming the game was very tame for the first ten

minutes but was enlivened by Moore taking the ball up to the visitors' quarters. It was smartly returned and exceptionally good play was shown by the Saints in which the backs were very conspicuous. Pickard reversed the order of things by making a splendid run up the left wing and had hard lines in not scoring. Play was now very fast indeed. The visitors played in good style, and the Syston custodian had his work cut out. They kept the upper hand until close on the call of time, when the ball was put through by Orchard and the game ended in

A DRAW one goal each.

*Leicester Daily Post – 12 December 1892*

**#16 SHEPSHED ROVERS v HUGGLESCOTE ST JOHN'S**

At Shepshed. Hill won the toss, and the ball was started on ground covered with snow. Jordan scored first for the home team, and no addition was made before half-time. In the second half the home team had the best of the game and scored twice. Result:

SHEPSHED, three
HUGGLESCOTE, nil.

*Leicester Daily Post – 12 December 1892*

**#18 JUNIOR CHALLENGE SHIELD**
**SECOND ROUND**
**SYSTON SWIFTS v. Sf. MARY'S SWIFTS**

This match, which resulted in a tie last week, was replayed at Syston. The home team kicked off uphill, and very even play was the order for the first 10 minutes. Then a good bit of passing resulted in Pickard scoring the first goal, the home team still pressing at half-time—Syston, one St. Mary 's, nil. On resuming some grand play was shown on both sides, but at this point two of the home team were injured. Play however, was kept going, and shortly afterwards Pickard scored a second goal. The game now became very exciting, St Mary's striving their utmost to score, but the match ended in a win for the home team by two goals to nil. Pickard (Syston) and Neal (St. Mary's) played an excellent game.

SYSTON, two goals;
ST MARY'S, nil.

*Leicester Daily Post – 17 December 1892*

**#20 HINCKLEY SWIFTS v SHEPSHED RESERVES**

Played on the Holywell Ground. The Reserves played up-hill with a strong wind. Play was even at the start and then Hinckley attacked but failed to score. Shepshed subsequently had the best of the play, and Jordan scored, afterwards putting on a second, afterwards putting on a second. During the second half the Hinckley team pressed almost all the time but were weak in goal. Ten minutes before time Hinckley scored, and the game ended:

SHEPSHED RESERVES, two goals;
HINCKLEY TOWN SWIFTS, one goal.

*Loughborough Herald & North Leicestershire Gazette – 2 February 1893*

**#20 LEICESTERSHIRE CHALLENGE SHIELD**
**THIRD ROUND**

**HINCKLEY TOWN SWIFTS v SHEPSHED RESERVES -** This tie in the third round of the Leicestershire Shield was fixed to take place on the Holy Well Ground Hinckley, on Saturday last. The visitors did not put in an appearance until four o'clock, having missed their train at Leicester. The ground, from which the snow had been partially on previous removed on the previous day, was in a very hard and dangerous condition. Both the goals were surrounded by yards of ice, and large patches of ice were all over the ground. The referee (Mr Weston of Wigston) left it to the Captains of the teams to decide whether the tie should be off or not, and they came to conclusion that it would better postpone the Shield match for fortnight. A friendly match of an hour's duration was then indulged in. As only to be expected, the play was of a somewhat tame character, the players being unable to secure any foothold. At the commencement the Shepshed men had decidedly the best of matters, and they were soon leading by a goal. Then the home side worked well together, and the visitors' custodian had a lively time. Three times the ball hit the post off shots by Moore and Brightmore, and once Lucas headed the ball well into the goal from a centre by Goddard. The goalkeeper, however, was doing his work well, and he fisted the ball well out of danger. At half-time the

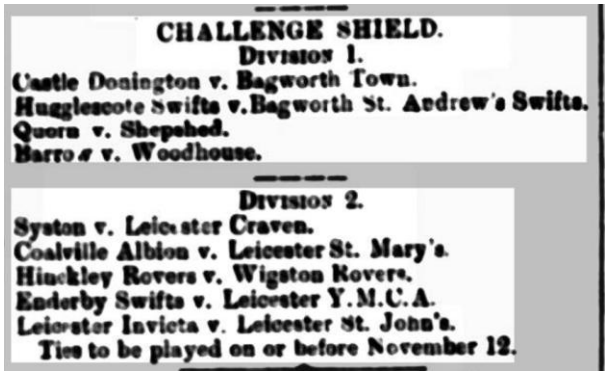
visitors led by one goal none. After the change of ends, Shepshed quickly gained two corners, but these were fruitless. Hinckley got away, but the Shepshed backs returned, and the centre scored from a long shot, which Shipman was evidently unprepared for. After the kick-off, Moore ran the ball well up the hill and passed to Hall, who dribbled up to the goal, and scored. The game then progressed very evenly for a time, but about ten minutes before the finish, the Hinckley men attacked vigorously several times, and narrowly missed scoring. Once the ball was put through by Hall, but the referee (who was far down the field the time could not see), accepted the word of the goal-keeper, and disallowed the goal on the ground that Hall had handled the leather before he rushed it through. Time arrived without any alteration to the score, and the visitors retired winners by two to one. These clubs are considered to be the two best now in for the shield, and the winners of the tie are looked upon as the ultimate holders of shield. There was little to choose between their play on Saturday, and a good fight will be witnessed when the tie is brought off on Saturday week Jan 28th.
*Hinckley Times - 21 January 1893*

**#21 SEMI-FINAL**
**ENDERBY SWIFTS v SHEPSHED RESERVES**
At Sileby. Result:
SHEPSHED, six goals;
ENDERBY, none.
*Leicester Daily Post – 13 February 1892*

**#22 CASTLE DONINGTON SWIFTS v SYSTON SWIFTS**
At Kegworth. Result:
CASTLE DONINGTON, three goals.
SYSTON, one goal.
*Leicester Daily Post – 13 February 1892*

**#23** The match on Saturday at Hemington between Shepshed and Castle Donington resulted in a win for the former by two goals to one. The Donington lads were a very smart lot, and they created a very favourable impression indeed. The match was free from any unpleasantness whatever, and Mr. Hardy, of Long Eaton, the referee, is to be congratulated on his firm manner and impartial decisions given during the progress of the match.
*Football News (Nottingham) 8 April 1893*

## Additional Information



CHALLENGE SHIELD.
DIVISION 1.
Castle Donington v. Bagworth Town.
Hugglescote Swifts v. Bagworth St. Andrew's Swifts.
Quorn v. Shepshed.
Barrow v. Woodhouse.

DIVISION 2.
Syston v. Leicester Craven.
Coalville Albion v. Leicester St. Mary's.
Hinckley Rovers v. Wigston Rovers.
Enderby Swifts v. Leicester Y.M.C.A.
Leicester Invicta v. Leicester St. John's.
Ties to be played on or before November 12.

*Leicester Daily Post - 16 September 1892*