



Whitwick Charity Cup 1898-99

Winner: Whitwick White Cross
Runner-up: Coalville Albion
No. of entries: 15

The Whitwick Charity Cup competition was founded by the Rev M McKenzie, who was president of the Leicestershire Senior League, and the Loughborough & District League.

The Whitwick and District Amateur Association was formally sanctioned by the Football Association in April 1898.

It was reported at the end of August that 15 clubs entered. They were split into two 'districts'..
 Division 1: Anstey Albion, Barlestone United, Ellistown, Ibstock Wanderers, Ibstock Albion, and Markfield Albion.
 Division 2: Ashby Hastings, Ashby Town, Belton Villa, Coalville Athletic, Coalville United, Coleorton Wanderers, Shepshed Town, Swannington St George's, Whitwick White Cross.
 There were two byes (Ellistown Wanderers and Ibstock Wanderers) in Division 1 and three byes (Belton Villa, Shepshed Town and Swannington St George's) in Division 2 in the first round of the competition.

Having ascertained that it would be impossible to play the 10 remaining clubs after the first round ties, Whilst constituted in divisions, it was decided to join the divisions, the winners of the first round agreeing to accept byes. The remaining 4 teams, who were awarded byes in the first round, contested Round 2.

There are several missing results.

After drawing 1-1 with Shepshed in the third round tie, Whitwick destroyed them 20-1 in the replay. Shepshed fielded a "severely weakened" team due to a league game with Quorn..

Whitwick White Cross easily overcame Coalville United to win the inaugural Whitwick Charity Cup competition in front of 600 spectators,

Round 1

Division I

Date	Home	Away	Match Details
1	17.9.1898	Barlestone United AN Other Springthorpe	3 2 Anstey Albion Spencer (2)
2		Ibstock Albion	W Markfield Albion

Ellistown and Ibstock Wanderers, byes

Division II

Date	Home	Away	Match Details
3	17.9.1898	Ashby Town og	1 2 Whitwick White Cross Allen (2) Poor quality pitch.
4		Coalville Athletic	W Coleorton Wanderers
5		Coalville United	W Ashby Hastings

Belton Villa, Shepshed Town and Swannington St George's

Round 2

Date	Home	Away	Match Details
6		Belton Villa	W Ellistown Wanderers
7		Ibstock Wanderers	W Shepshed Town

Round 3

	Date	Home	Away		Match Details
8	12.11.1898	Barlestone United	1	6	Ibstock Albion
9	12.11.1898	Coalville Athletic	4	1	Swannington St George's
10	5.11.1898	Coalville United	3	3	Ellistown Wanderers
11	5.11.1898	Shepshed Town	1	1	Whitwick White Cross

Round 3 Replay

	Date	Home	Away		Match Details
12	12.11.1898	Ellistown Wanderers	2	4	Coalville United
13	12.11.1898	Whitwick White Cross	20	1	Shepshed Town Shepshed had a Loughborough and District League match with Quorn and sent a "miserably weakened" side to Whitwick.

Semi-Finals

	Date	Home	Away		Match Details
14	3.12.1898	Whitwick White Cross	3	1	Ibstock Albion Whitwick Town Ground.
15	17.12.1898	Coalville United	3	0	Coalville Athletic Coalville Albion Ground. Interesting game.

Final

	Date	Home	Away		Match Details
16	26.12.1898	Whitwick White Cross	5 (3)	0 (0)	Coalville United Played to Whitwick Town's ground. 600 spectators. Cup presented by Mrs W A Mackenzie. The following day the White Cross won a League match at Shepshed.

Match Reports

A selection of published match reports.

#1 ANSTEY ALBION v BARLESTONE UNITED

These teams met on Saturday afternoon in the first round of the Whitwick Charity Cup. The Albion won the toss, and decided to kick up hill. They were soon on the aggressive, and only a few minutes from the start looked very much like scoring, but the long grass spoiled the shot. Both ends were visited several times, and it was exceedingly hot for the players, who were bathed in perspiration. Ultimately Barlestone, after repeated attempts, managed to put one past Smart at the end of twenty minutes. The reverse made the Albions play a more determined game, and after a hard tussle between the Anstey forwards and the United backs, the former broke through, Spencer making matters equal with a fair shot. Still showing splendid combination, Albion kept their opponents defence busy, and after a fine centre by Pollard from the right wing, Spence put the Albions ahead. A few minutes later the Barlestone forwards got down, and the ball was put past Smart, the referee giving a goal, through the decision is open to question, the man appearing to be offside from where the wrier stood. Evidently the Albion felt very much aggrieved, but they again buckled to, but to, but the resting time sounded with the scores unaltered, viz, Anstey Albion 2 Barlestone United 2. Re-commencing, the Albion's prospect looked fairly bright, but the forwards fund the United defence exceedingly hard to break through. Several opportunities, however, presented themselves, but the Albion's forwards failed to make use of them. Bostock, who, above every player, is the least likely to make a mistake, missed a remarkably easy chance of scoring. Barlestone managed things better, and after being let in by Springthorpe they took the lead with a fine shot. Even play now ruled for a time, but neither side could

add another to their total, and time was announced with the result being: Barlestone United, 3 ; Anstey Albions, 2. Mr. G Bishop, of Ibstock, officiated as referee,

Comments: The ground was exceedingly poor for a match of any importance and this, no doubt in some measure, affected the result. The shooting of the Albions was too wild, many chances being missed through over-anxiety. W Pollard, T Black and F Wright were a good trio in the best rank. F. Willett, in the half-backs, showed great improvement, and fully justified the action of the committee in giving him a trial, Springthorpe and Graves at back were a little below their usual form. Next Saturday the Albion encounter Quorn Havelock in the first round of the Rolleston Cup, and it is hoped they will give a good account of themselves.

Melton Mowbray Mercury and Uppingham and Oakham News – 22 September 1898

#3 WHITWICK CHARITY CUP

FIRST ROUND

ASHBY TOWN v WHITWICK WHITE CROSS

Played at Ashby on Saturday. The White Cross won the toss, and the teams lined up with Mr. E. Smithson, of Leicester, as referee. Ashby began to press at once, but the visitors soon recovered, and at the end of some ten minutes' lay a piece of good passing brought the ball back, and Allen put a beautiful shot into the net. Thus, for some time play was fairly even, each side in turn securing corners, but the visitors had rather the better of the argument, and the Ashby custodian saved brilliantly several times. The White Cross, however, continued to press, and shortly before half-time Underwood passed to Stanyard, who gave up the ball to Allen, and the second goal for Whitwick was obtained, the White Cross leading at half-time by two goals to none. The game resumed, and Ashby began to play very fast and keenly, giving Taylor plenty to do to keep his goal intact. Stanyard was called back, and, with Eames played, an excellent defensive game, but their efforts were not entirely successful, for, Taylor, kicking out Lord in a general melee before goal, the ball struck Williams, and rebounded into the net. This was the last goal scored, and a keen game left the White Cross victorious by two goals to one.

Melton Mowbray Mercury and Uppingham and Oakham News – 22 September 1898

#10 COALVILLE UNITED v ELLISTOWN WANDERERS

At Coalville. Result:

A DRAW of three goals each.

Leicester Daily Post – 7 November 1898

#11 THIRD ROUND

SHEPshed TOWN v WHITWICK WHITE CROSS

This match was played at Shepshed, the team lining up with Mr. A. H. Middleton, of Ellistown, as referee. Shepshed won the toss, and put their opponents to face the wind and sun. For a time neither side could claim any advantage, and twice neither side could claim any advantage, and twice during the first portion the game was stopped temporarily owing to heavy rain. The backs on both sides played a good game, with the custodians did not have much to do. Whitwick gained a corner, but nothing resulted, and shortly after, upon Shepshed getting away, one of the White Cross backs brought Lakin down within the twelve yards line, the referee awarding a penalty. Worthley took the kick, but shot wide. The game continued even, neither side being able to make any headway, the interval arriving with the score unopened. The game was resumed on very slippery ground, but Shepshed forced matters, and in a few minutes put the ball in the net amidst much cheering. Shepshed started, off again with a rush, but their success had roused the White Cross, who repelled them, and fairly hemmed them in their goal for some time. They had several corners with no advantage, and after a slight cessation, Whitwick attacked again, but Stanyard, with a grand shot, brought about an equalisation of the score. The game was then warmly contested, each side straining every nerve to gain the deciding goal. Whitwick pressed, and Beresford being fouled for carrying the ball, matters looked promising for them, but they failed to improve upon the free. About five minutes from time F. Middleton put a stinging shot into the net, and a goal being apparently allowed, the Shepshed spectators ran on to the field, and, after a heated discussion, the referee remarked that his whistle had sounded unintentionally, and no goal was allowed. The matter caused the greatest dissatisfaction to Whitwick, especially as the goal had seemed to be allowed. Shepshed's version of the matter is that as Whitwick were forcing the game the referee's whistle sounded, and the home players ceased playing, whereupon the visitors netted the ball. When the referee allowed a goal the Shepshed linesman called his attention to the

whistle blowing, and he stated that the whistle was not blown intentionally. He then gave it as no goal. Nothing further was done, and the game ended in a draw of one goal.

Melton Mowbray Mercury and Uppingham and Oakham News – 10 November 1898

#12 COALVILLE UNITED v ELLISTOWN

Having made a draw of three goals each at Coalville, the teams re-played their tie in the third round at Ellistown on Saturday. The opening stages were confined, the only noticeable feature for a time being a run by Hardy, which resulted in a corner to the United. Burton and Underwood were responsible for good play, W. Spriggs heading over when he had the goal at his mercy. Ellistown next had a look in, and Ball had a fast shot straight into his hands. Clibbery was applauded for his tricky play, but held his ball too long, and was robbed. Sam Moore was doing useful work. A foul being accorded the home players, Thompson took the kick, S. Moore hitting the cross bar. G. Horrobin and T. Wood troubled their opponents considerably, but the visitors held their own, and gave Redfern and Jno. Moore plenty of work, which they generally creditably performed. Sam Moore made a good run and centred well, Henry Horrobin missing a certainty. Going away, Burton and Underwood were conspicuous, and Hardy put in a shot which Watts badly muffed, and let in the United, who immediately added a second goal from a corner. Re-starting, T. Moore ran the ball up, and again making a lovely centre, Geo. Harrison scored, the visiting goalkeeper being on his knees at the time. Ellistown afterwards forced matters, relief coming from a foul, a corner resulting, the home team were also accorded a corner, which was very nicely placed, and Redfern had to quickly defend from Sheffield. Two corners were obtained by Coalville, both of which were nicely placed. Dobson, who played a strong game, was instrumental in relieving the pressure, but the United were not to be denied, and quickly rushed another goal, the game at half-time being – Coalville, three, Ellistown, one. Re-starting, the home team ran down and obtained a corner, and with the wind blowing strong, they had matters much their own way, occasional ineffective spurts being made by the United. The home team, however, made little use of their opportunities, and the United having run up, Watts ran up to a ball, and missed his kick, Sheffield had a clear shot, and scored the fourth. The home team were now without S. Moore's services, he having been injured, and going down with a will, Dobson scored from a scrimmage. Fairly even play followed, both sides having chances. The visiting backs defended well and there was no further score, the gam ending. Coalville, four, Ellistown, two.

Melton Mowbray Mercury and Uppingham and Oakham News – 17 November 1898

#14 WHITWICK CHARITY CUP

SEMI-FINAL

WHITWICK WHITE CROSS v IBSTOCK ALBION

At Whitwick. Result:

WHITE CROSS, three goals;

ALBION, one goal.

Leicester Daily Post – 5 December 1898

#15 WHITWICK CHARITY CUP

COALVILLE UNITED v COALVILLE ATHLETIC

An interesting game resulted in a win for the United. Result:

UNITED, three goals;

ATHLETIC, nil.

Melton Mowbray Mercury and Uppingham and Oakham News – 22 December 1898

#13 WHITWICK CHARITY CUP

THIRD ROUND

A FARCE AT WHITWICK

After the unsatisfactory draw of one goal each at Shepshed, the Charity Association ordered the Whitwick White Cross and Shepshed Town match, and the others which were also drawn, to be replayed on Saturday. Shepshed had a Loughborough and District League match on with Quorn, and being anxious to keep their list unbroken, sent their reserve team to Whitwick. Our White Cross correspondent says it would have been far better if Shepshed had scratched rather than sent a miserable team they did. No description of the game is possible for the Whitwick White Cross spent their time shooting at the Shepshed goal, and when

time was called the White Cross had scored twenty goals, while Shepshed had responded with one. Mr. J. W. Bailey, of Leicester, was the referee.

Melton Mowbray Mercury and Uppingham and Oakham News – 17 November 1898

#16 WHITWICK CHARITY CUP

FINAL

WHITWICK WHITE CROSS v COALVILLE UNITED

The final match in connection with the Whitwick Charity Association Cup, presented by the Rev. J. W. A. MacKenzie, was played on the Whitwick Town ground on Monday afternoon, before about six hundred spectators. Whitwick won the toss, and played down the slope in the first half. Play at the commencement was even, but the Whitwick halves played a strong game, and after about twenty minutes White Cross scored, and quickly put on two other goals. Nothing further was done until half-time when the score was three goals to nil in favour of Whitwick. The game, however, had been more even than the score indicated, but Coalville did not fulfil expectations, and White Cross played well, scoring twice. The pace throughout was fast, and Whitwick lasting the best run out easy winners by five goals, the final score being:

WHITWICK WHITE CROSS, five goals;

COALVILLE UNITED, none.

After the game the cup was presented to the winners by Mr. Mackenzie, to whom a vote of thanks was awarded, on the proposition of Dr Birkett, seconded by Mr. G. J. Lee. A vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Lee for his services as secretary. Medals are to be given to the finalists at a tea and entertainment, which is being arranged.

Melton Mowbray Mercury and Uppingham and Oakham News – 29 December 1898