

**THE BEGINNINGS OF GRIFFYDAM
WESLEYAN'S CRICKET CLUB**

AN ONGOING PROJECT

BY SAMUEL T STEWART APRIL 2026

Little in the way of records for Griffydam Wesleyan's Cricket Club are available and those that have been found are all related to newspaper articles, and a small selection of those are appended. As they appear to have been called the Wesleyans, we can assume that they were affiliated to the Griffydam Wesleyan Methodist Chapel and many of their opponents in the Coalville and district League were also Church or Chapel Teams. It is not known where Griffydam played their matches, but one possible venue could have been on the fields adjacent to the Griffydam Primary School on the top road, which was / is the only flat area in Griffydam, suitable for a cricket pitch.

In June 1906, this was Griffydam' s fixture list as it appeared in the Coalville times:-

▲	June 9...	Castle Donington Town II.	away.
▶	16...	Bagworth	home.
▼	June 16...	Long Whatton A.S.	away.
⊕	June 23...	Markfield II.	home.
⊖	June 30...	Coalville Primitives	away.
📅	July 7...	Woodville Town II.	home.
	July 14...	Bagworth	away.
	July 21...	Ibstock Free Church	home.
	Aug. 6...	Abbot's Oak	home.
	Aug. 11...	Ibstock Free Church	away.
	Aug. 18...	Oakthorpe	away.
	Aug. 25...	Woodville Town II.	away.
	Sept. 1...	Coalville P.M.	home.

The earliest evidence found of a Griffydam Cricket team was recorded in the Leicester Journal in July 1873 when Griffydam played Ravenstone on the Ravenstone Ground. Ravenstone were the victors with a score of 114 to Griffydam's 63. The Players listed for Griffydam were:

E. Domand ?
 R.Knight
 J.Smith
 W.Lane
 T.Bird
 W.Haywood
 D.Abell
 J.Rowell
 K. Knight
 S. Haywood
 ? Hutchinson.

In November 1879, a return match was held between the members of the Coleorton Beaumont Cricket Club and a like number of players from Griffydam. The game was played on Coleorton's cricket pitch in Coleorton Paddock, adjacent to the seat of Sir George Beaumont's Coleorton Hall. The play was described as being good in all its points with Griffydam being victorious. Following the match, the players sat down to a sumptuous dinner at host Charville's 'Beaumont Arms' (*Coalville Times 15 November 1879*)

In July 1905 Griffydam Wesleyan met a Markfield second eleven at Markfield and were disposed for 41 runs which was materially added to by three dropped catches. A sensational start was witnessed when Griffydam went into bat, five wickets falling for 1 run but eventually Markfield were victorious by 9 runs (*Coalville Times*).

In July 1907, a match between Griffydam and Markfield 2nd eleven at Griffydam afforded a great triumph for the bowlers on both sides. W. Hayes (Markfield had the splendid record of eight wickets for 9 runs and J. Johnson (Griffydam) five wickets for 5 runs, including a 'Hat Trick'. Markfield, the winners made 91 runs and Griffydam made 27. (*Coalville Times*)

In a Match in May 1909, between Markfield second eleven and Griffydam, Markfield after a moderate start scored 62. 4 wickets were down for 15, and 7 for 38. Stevenson of Griffydam clean bowled 5 and got one caught. Griffydam gave a dismal exhibition with the bat, 9 of the batsmen making only 9 runs with 5 failing to score any runs. (*Coalville Times May 1909*)

Griffydam :	
T. Saddington, c Goacher, b Moore ...	0
J. Winfindale, b Measures	12
J. Springthorpe, b Moore	7
D. Haywood, c Toon, b Measures	1
H. Curtis, run out	6
H. Reid, c and b Ward	0
W. Saddington, c Ward, b Towers ...	4
G. Rowell, b Towers	1
M. Rowell, not out	7
W. Walker, b Towers	3
W. Bennett, b Towers	0
Extras	1
Total	42

This was the Griffydam team that played Oakthorpe, at Oakthorpe in August 1909. Oakthorpe scored 49, therefore Griffydam lost the match by 7 runs.