

**COLEORTON ROVERS FOOTBALL TEAM  
1947 to 1960  
(INCLUDING SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION)**



**Coleorton Rovers Football Club photographed outside their home the "Angel Inn" - early 1950's  
(see inside for names)**

**DRAFT - AN ONGOING PROJECT**

**BY SAMUEL T STEWART - DECEMBER 2022**

## PRE - AMBLE

The earliest recorded date which the author has found for a football team being established in Coleorton was in 1879:-

**These three newspaper articles are the earliest reference found to a football team in Coleorton. Note the reference made to the game being played on the Cricket Ground.**

**Leicester Daily Mercury - Saturday 01 November 1879**

### **COLEORTON.**

A Football Match was played on the Cricket Ground Saturday, between the Coleorton and Swannington Football Clubs. Each side at the end of the game had scored a goal.

**Ashby-de-la-Zouch Gazette - Saturday 22 November 1879**

**FOOTBALL - COLEORTON v CASTLE GRESLEY** - These clubs met at the Beaumont arms on Saturday. Some good play was witnessed for the first half, Coleorton getting the first goal, after which darkness set in, and the Gresley team being the stronger of the two, obtained two goals in the dark. The players afterwards enjoyed a convivial evening together.

**Ashby-de-la-Zouch Gazette - Saturday 13 December 1879**

**COLEORTON. FOOTBALL MATCH CASTLE GRESLEY v COLEORTON.** — This match was played on Saturday last, and resulted in favour of Gresley by one goal to nothing, kicked by T. Langford.

The author will be writing a separate publication about Coleorton football entitled "Football in Coleorton - 1879 to 1929" which will be free to download and read on his website, as is a publication on the "Angel Inn - Coleorton", the home of Coleorton Rovers football team.

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## COLEORTON ROVERS FOOTBALL CLUB

As far as the author is aware, the Angel Inn, Coleorton was always the home of Coleorton Rovers Football Club, and there follows several team photographs connected with it. The team was formed post the 2nd W.W., and the earliest reference to it found by the author was January 1947. The club was thought to have been disbanded c.1960. Coleorton Rovers was a new name and for some reason they didn't continue with the name of the old Coleorton team which was recorded as Coleorton Albion in its latter years, before the 2nd W.W.



**MABEL AND JACKIE CROSON**

The above photograph, although of poor quality, still serves as an important record of Mrs. Mabel Croson, who was licensee of the Angel Inn for nearly 30 years from 1936 to 1966, during the period when the football club was in existence. Jackie and Mabel left the Angel Inn to retire to Swannington, following a farewell party on Tuesday, the 25<sup>th</sup> October 1966.

Jackie played for Coleorton Rovers and features in the following team photographs.

During their years spent at the Angel Inn, Mrs Croson became noted for her large collection of brassware, the majority of which had been sold to friends and regular patrons during the preceding few weeks.

Coleorton Rovers played in the First Division of the "Coalville Amateur & District Football League and achieved a notable standard, being runners up in the league on at least five occasions, and were also runner's up in numerous

cup competitions, but never quite achieving the pinnacle of winners as far as the author is aware.

The author recalls going to watch the Rovers' play their home games on the field near to the Council Houses on the opposite side to the Kings Arms.

### **ROBERT BARKBY - LEFT WINGER**

Bob Barkby, who played Left Wing for the club for most of its existence was born, and lived his whole life in Stoney Lane, Coleorton in the same cottage with his mother and father Fred and Mary. He was uncle to the author's wife Sheila (nee Bannister), who lived with her family in the adjoining cottage. Bob retained all the medals he won with the Rovers', and these appear in a later photograph with details of the competitions they related to. These medals are now in the possession of the author and his wife. Bob was able to provide the author with most of the names on the following team photographs. He served with the Royal Engineers during the second World War. One of his duties he related was taking Japanese POW's, who had been shot following their surrender, in body bags by boat from Hong Kong harbour, to be deposited out at sea. He became extremely ill and was taken up to the foot hills in India for convalescence, on a long train journey, having to sit in open carriages on planks of wood. Bob worked at British Rail Derby for most of his working life, on the construction of train carriages and was a great Pigeon fancier and had his own lofts in the garden next to the cottages.

Stan Hodges who features in the team photograph on page 7 went onto join Brush Sports FC, Loughborough's Town Team, and was considered to be a legend of the club. He can be seen in the photograph on the next page just emerging from the Brush player's tunnel and also on the team photograph.

His brother Row Hodges also kept goal for Coleorton Rovers and he too features in the following team photographs.

Stan and Roy were two of 5 children born to Annie (nee Haywood) and Joe Harry Hodges of Stoney Lane, Coleorton. Their siblings were Stella, Marion and Alan. Alan was also a talented local cricketer and played for New Lount Cricket Club for many years.



**BRUSH SPORTS FC  
STAN HODGES - BACK ROW - 2nd FROM LEFT**



**Coleorton Rovers Football Club photograph - early 1950's**

- A - M. BIRD,
- B - B. BIRD,
- C - J. CROSON,
- D - J. THORNLEY,
- E - L. HOLLAND,
- F - R. HODGES,
- G - A. FOWKES,
- H - ?,
- J - L. CROSON,
- K - N. GREW,
- L - E. HOLLAND,
- M - M. LOVATT,
- N - C. CROWSON,
- P - J. CROSON,
- R - T. WEBSTER,
- S - B. SMITH,
- T - ??,
- V - C. FAIRBROTHER,
- W - J. TWIGG,
- X - T. HARLEY,
- Y - R. CURTIS,
- Z - W. BIRD,
- 1 - G. DAWSON,
- 2 - A. SMITH,
- 3 - R. BARKBY
- 4 - B. BIRD



**End of season dinner at "The Angel Inn" - June 3<sup>rd</sup> 1950**



**Coleorton Rovers end of season pre-dinner photograph  
The Angel June 3<sup>rd</sup> 1950**

**Top Row left to right** - Charlie Fairbrother, ????, Bert Platts, Alan Platts, ? Walker, Eric Leech, Jack Cooke, Les Croson, Ernie Adams, L. Holland, Mo Bird,  
**Middle Row left to right** - Roy Hodges, Jack Croson, Stan Hodges, Bob Barkby.  
**Front Row left to right** - John Walker, Bill Bird, Tom Bradford



Coleorton Rovers 1951/52 Season

- 1 - Jackie Croson 2 - Les Croson 3 - John Bettison 4 - Eric Leach 5 - Bill Croson 6 - Tommy Williams  
 7 - Billie Bird 8 - Tommy Brooks 9 - Daca Ball 10 - Morris Ball 11 - Bob Barkby



**Coleorton Rovers Football Team c.1955**

**Top Row left to right** - A. Smith, R. Curtis, A. Fowkes, R. Hodges, L. Croson, L. Twigg, J. Whitaker (Ref), Moses Bird

**Front Row left to right** - G. Chippendale, W. Bird, B. Smith, R. Mann, J. Thornley, J. Croson.



**Coleorton Rovers Football Team  
Coalville & District Amateur Football League - Div.1.  
Medals Won by Robert W Barkby - Left Wing**



**Robert W Barkby**  
Born Coleorton 1923 -  
Died Coleorton 2009

- Div.1 - Runners Up 1954/5
- Div.1 - Runners Up - 1955/6
- Div.1 - Runners Up - 1956/7
- Div.1 - Runners Up 1957/8
- Div.1 - Runners Up - ??
- Knock Out Cup - Runners Up -1951
- Knock Out Cup - Runners Up - 1956/7
- Knock Out Cup - Runners Up - ??
- Leics Football Association Jnr. Cup - Runners Up - 1947/8
- Cup??- Runners Up - 1951/2

**In January 1947, when Coleorton Rovers played Pegsons' in the Coalville League, the first team was :-**

L. Croson: S. Warrington: J. Croson: Z. Leek : J. Cook : W. Turner: W. Bird :  
T. William : R. Turner : N Swift : K. Curtis.  
**Reserves:-** W. Croson. K. Lawson.

## A STORY ABOUT THE BIRDS

**Transcribed from Leicester Evening Mail - Monday 06 August 1962**

A Coleorton couple, Moses and Martha Bird, celebrated their golden wedding yesterday at their home, 12, The Moorlands.

Mr. Bird was one of the founders of the Coalville Greyhound Racing Track, amongst the first to be established in the Country. he raced his dogs for many years, and one of them Ring-??? won over 100 races.

For many years after their marriage, on an August Bank Holiday Monday at Coleorton Primitive Methodist Church, Mr. & Mrs. Bird lived in the former Workhouse Lane, Coleorton.

But just over 20 years ago their home was wrecked when it was struck by lightning. Mrs. Bird Mrs. Bird was in the house at the time with one of their children, both escaped injury, but the shock affected Mrs. Bird's health for many years.

The family was evacuated to their present home. Mr & Mrs. Bird have four children.

Mr. Bird played football for several local clubs including Coleorton ( [this would have been pre 2nd W.W.](#) )

One of his sons, Billy Bird, and a grandson Barry Bird, also played for the Coleorton Club ( [Coleorton Rovers'](#) ), which was disbanded a few years ago.

## A SELECTION OF COALVILLE DISTRICT LEAGUE TABLES FROM 1949 TO 1958

Leicester Evening Mail - Saturday 01 October 1949

<b>COALVILLE AND DISTRICT AMATEUR FOOTBALL LEAGUE.</b>							
Division 1							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Sth. Colliery	10	10	0	0	49	17	20
Bagworth I.	6	3	1	2	14	16	7
Ravenstone ..	4	3	0	1	16	6	6
Coleorton R.	4	3	0	1	16	8	6
Stanton S. ...	4	3	0	1	17	4	6
Ashby W.B. . .	5	2	0	3	18	17	4
Whitw'k WC	4	2	0	2	10	9	4
Swann'ton S.	5	2	0	3	8	12	4
Ellistown C.	3	1	1	1	7	9	3
Barlestone U.	5	1	1	3	11	14	3
Shepshed A. .	4	1	0	3	13	20	2
Huggl'cte. A.	1	1	0	0	2	1	2
Coalville Tn.	5	0	1	4	7	29	1
Ashby Ivan. .	3	0	0	3	4	16	0
IPR .....	4	0	0	4	4	8	0

Leicester Evening Mail - Saturday 31 October 1953

<b>Coalville Amateur Football League</b>							
DIVISION 1							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Coleorton R ...	8	7	1	0	26	7	15
Ravenstone ...	8	6	0	2	23	12	12
New Lount ...	8	5	1	2	19	16	11
Thringstone ...	8	5	1	2	20	19	11
Swannington	6	4	2	0	25	12	10
Ashby Iv. ....	8	3	1	4	24	30	7
South Coll. ...	7	3	1	3	30	24	7
Queens .....	3	3	0	0	15	25	6
Bagworth Coll.	8	2	1	5	19	26	5
Bardon Hill ...	6	2	1	3	17	19	5
Ibstock PR ...	7	2	0	5	10	22	4
Stanton Sw. ...	6	1	2	3	14	16	4
Measham Imp.	7	0	2	4	8	16	3
Ellistown Coll	5	0	0	5	4	18	0

Leicester Evening Mail - Saturday 03 December 1955

## Coalville Amateur Football League

### DIVISION 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Coalston R.	9	8	0	1	21	7	16
Pegsons	11	6	1	4	26	25	13
Woodville	6	6	0	0	25	9	12
Desford Coll.	20	5	2	9	20	20	12
Ravenstone	9	6	0	3	20	10	12
Ibstock PR.	9	5	2	2	20	17	12
C. & K.	9	4	2	3	27	22	11
Ellistown C.	8	3	2	3	22	24	8
South Coll.	11	3	2	7	20	41	6
Stanton Swifs	7	2	0	5	10	10	6
Bardon Hill	9	2	1	6	21	41	5
Bagworth C.	12	1	1	9	20	20	4
Old Edws.	20	1	1	18	11	60	3

Leicester Evening Mail - Saturday 21 April 1956

## Coalville Amateur Football League

### DIVISION 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Woodville	21	20	0	1	107	24	49
Coalston R.	22	18	1	3	74	27	37
Ibstock PR	20	12	2	5	65	39	29
Stanton Swifs	21	14	2	5	129	43	30
Pegsons	23	13	3	7	93	44	29
Desford Coll.	21	10	3	7	80	40	24
Ravenstone	23	10	1	12	50	69	21
South Coll.	22	9	2	11	66	76	20
C & K.	22	7	5	10	60	72	19
Ellistown Coll	23	6	3	14	49	87	16
Bardon Hill	24	6	2	15	61	98	15
Bagworth Col	24	1	4	19	30	104	6
Old Edws.	22	2	2	18	41	116	6

Leicester Evening Mail - Saturday 05 January 1957

## Coalville Amateur Football League

### DIVISION 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Stanton S. ...	14	13	0	1	73	22	26
Coleorton R. .	14	12	1	1	62	22	26
Woodville ...	9	8	1	0	58	18	17
Aspicy OB ...	10	8	1	1	39	16	17
Heather St J	12	6	2	4	40	28	14
IPR .....	12	6	1	5	43	41	13
C. Kemp .....	11	6	0	5	46	34	12
South Coll. ...	14	4	2	7	42	41	11
Bagworth Coll	14	3	5	6	39	42	11
Bardon Hill ..	12	4	0	8	25	58	8
Pegsons .....	15	3	2	10	33	57	8
Ravenstone ...	11	3	2	6	26	29	8
Ellistown C. .	14	2	2	9	26	12	7
Derford Coll.	12	1	2	9	26	52	6
Old Edwa. ...	12	2	0	10	18	64	4

### DIVISION 2

Leicester Evening Mail - Saturday 04 January 1958

## Coalville Amateur Football League

### DIVISION 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Markfield ...	14	14	0	0	83	16	28
Coleorton R. .	15	12	1	2	57	17	25
Pegson's ...	14	9	0	5	46	32	18
Ashby I. ...	14	7	2	5	57	30	16
C. & Kemp ...	16	7	2	6	39	39	16
Co-op. ....	14	7	2	5	29	32	16
Heather S. J.	12	7	2	3	45	22	16
I.P.R. ....	11	8	0	3	42	31	16
Stanton S. ...	12	7	0	5	61	32	14
Bardon Hill .	15	5	2	8	42	45	12
Swan'ton ...	15	5	1	9	42	53	11
Ravenstone .	13	4	1	8	27	43	9
South Coll. .	13	3	2	8	35	53	8
Bagworth C. .	13	2	2	9	29	58	6
Old Eds. ...	12	1	2	9	31	49	4
Ellis. Coll. ...	15	1	0	14	17	119	2