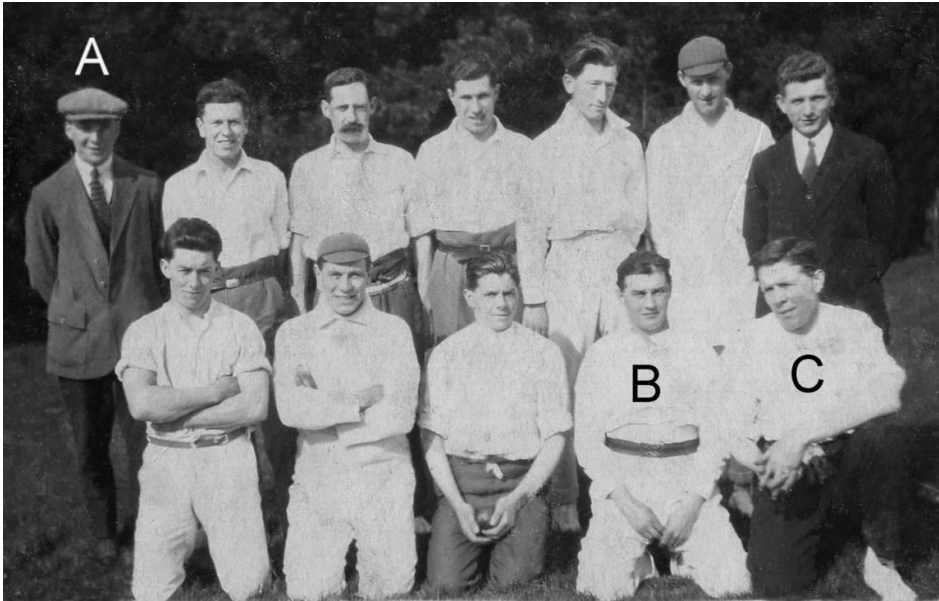


"NEW LOUNT COLLIERIES AND WORKS ATHLETIC CLUB GROUND" AT GELSMOOR - FEATURING A HISTORY OF BOTH THE FOOTBALL AND CRICKET TEAMS PLUS INFORMATION ON THE TENNIS CLUB



BY SAMUEL T STEWART - UPDATED April 2026

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INTRODUCTION

Around 1929, in association with New Lount Colliery, the "New Lount Collieries and Works Athletic Club" ground was established at Gelsmoor in the parish of Worthington, which incorporated both football and cricket pitches. By 1930, Hard Tennis Courts were established followed later by a bowling green which was opened in 1969, and is still in use today.

The sports field was almost opposite Aqueduct Lane on land that was owned at the time by Mr. Warrington of Gelsmoor and which was subsequently purchased by the colliery.

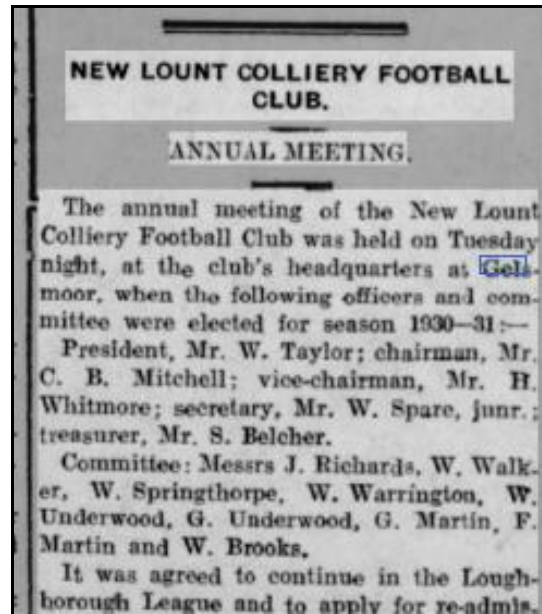
The official "New Lount Sports and Social Club", was formed around 1934, with apparently Frank Hodges, the Chairman of the "Leicestershire Colliery & Pipe Company" and M.D. of New Lount Colliery which was owned by them, being the driving force behind it.

A new sports pavilion was built c.1937 which was an impressive building for its time The pavilion was shared by the football, cricket and bowls clubs.

Besides all the sporting activities that took place, the ground was used for numerous social events, such as fetes and galas.

NEW LOUNT COLLIERY FOOTBALL CLUB

The earliest reference found to New Lount Colliery Football Club being in existence is 1929, four years after the first shaft was sunk at New Lount Colliery. Reports of them still playing games on the New Lount Colliery Athletics Sports Ground at Gelsmoor in 1947 have been found.



Coalville Times - Friday 11th July 1930

THERE FOLLOWS A SELECTION OF NEWSPAPER REPORTS

COALVILLE TIMES 18TH OCTOBER 1929

'A LOCAL DERBY' - PEGG'S GREEN VICTORIA V NEW LOUNT COLLIERY

Great enthusiasm in the way of a 'Local Derby' was caused on Saturday when Pegg's Green Victoria entertained **their new football neighbours New Lount Colliery 'A'** in competing for the Leicestershire Junior Cup. Weather conditions were ideal, the wind not being strong enough to spoil the afternoons play.

The teams were as follows:-

Pegg's Green Victoria- T. Bradford, L. Bradford, J. Wilton, T. Bradley, A. Barkby (Capt), M. Wardle, E. Bird, G. Williamson, F. Barkby, Cufflin and Johnson.

New Lount Colliery - W. Major, B. Francis, C. Bradford, C. Darby (Capt), T. Richards, J. Bradford, Staley, Twigger, Else, Bott, and Underwood.

Pegg's Green were soon attacking and forced a corner but without result. The colliery retaliated, Pegg's Green being lucky to find the goal still intact under the onslaught. The home side again raided, and in a scuffle on their right wing, F. Barkby was left unmarked, receiving a pass from that quarter he sent a swift high shot into the net, Major, the goalkeeper having no chance whatsoever. Still attacking, a second goal was soon forthcoming, Johnson sending in a capital low shot after receiving a well placed pass.

The colliery attackers could do anything but score, the home goal having some miraculous escapes. Play was held up for a while, Wardle receiving an injury to his foot.

The same play continued, attacking alternately. Pegg's Green were however the more aggressive, and through misjudgement by the visiting backs, Johnson ran through and scored an easy goal.

On resuming after the interval, the colliery strived hard to reduce the lead, but found Wilton a strong defender. The latter player penalised the ball and Darby scored from the spot. Bradford in the Pegg's Green goal, did well to save at close range from Underwood, and again in smothering a terrific shot from J Bradford. The final whistle sounded with the colliery still attacking and hardly deserving to loose by three goals to one.

Notable for Pegg's Green Victoria were A and F Barkby, Also T. Bradley., whom despite his smallness is a hard worker. While notable for the colliery were the extreme half backs J. Bradford and Darby.

Unfortunately, the football club didn't have any changing rooms till c.1937 and had to use a hayloft.....

Leicester Evening Mail - Monday 19 October 1936

Even a Hay Loft that is well heated is hardly an ideal spot in which to change one's attire in readiness for a football match, but this is the only accommodation the New Lount Colliery Football Club can offer visiting teams at the moment on their spacious sports ground at Gelsmoor. This is hardly In keeping with the position of a Leicestershire Senior League club, a fact which New Lount are only too painfully aware, and I understand that **a scheme is now on foot to erect a pavilion** which will be the last word In comfort. To further this idea the first of a series of efforts, this one was a dance, took place at **the Village Hall, at Newbold**, on Saturday night, when quite a useful sum of money was realised. And while on the subject of New Lount, it will be something of a blow to them to learn that their full-back, Frank Smith. will not play again this season. Smith is still having trouble with a leg injury and on medical advice he will have a long lay-off

Owing to the resignation of Mr. L. Gough, the secretary of the New Lount Colliery F.C. he has been replaced by Mr. J. H. Underwood. 15, Cambridge Street, Coalville.

1930 / 31 SEASON - COALVILLE LEAGUE CHAMPIONS & COALVILLE CUP WINNERS

Leicester Evening Mail - Saturday 09 May 1931

It was left to the last few matches of the season to decide the championship of both divisions of the Coalville Football League. Ibstock Swifts were threatening **New Lount Colliery** for the top position in the first division, but they were beaten 2-1 by Ibstock United **and this gave Lount the championship**. A championship match was played at Lount, Snibston St. James' providing the opposition, and the Colliery won by four goals to two. After the match, the cup and medals were presented to the champions by Mr. Geo. Swain, a member of the League Management Committee.

A REPORT FROM THE 1931 / 32 SEASON

Leicester Evening Mail - Monday 7th December 1931

Hugglescote Prims were no match for New Lount Colliery in a Coalville League match, though playing at home. The colliery scored twice in the first half through Fern and L. Bradford, and then ran riot in the second half. Four of the five goals in the second half were scored by Matt Rowell. The Prims only scored once and were beaten by seven goals to one.

Continued over page

**1933 / 34 SEASON - RUNNERS UP IN COALVILLE LEAGUE 1ST
DIVISION & WINNERS OF "SWANNINGTON CHARITY CUP"**



1st Row seated LH side - Mick Bradford;

2nd Row L to R - 1st person Les Bradford, 3rd person Matt Rowell;

Top Row L to R - Tom Richards 3rd person, 6th person John Wilton.

Leicester Evening Mail – May 12th 1934

**NEW LOUNT HAVE A REAL SHARPSHOOTER -
MATT ROWELL OF GRIFFYDAM SCORES 106 GOALS THIS SEASON**

"BY AN OLD STAGER"

Sportsmen in the Coalville district will join me in congratulating Matt Rowell, New Lount Colliery's 22 year old centre-forward, who lives at Griffydham a few miles from Coalville.

When the colliery completed their season's programme last Saturday, by defeating Snibston United 3 - 1, at Hugglescote, thus being runners-up in the First Division of the Coalville League, Rowell had obtained no fewer than 106 of their goals in all competitions. This is a remarkable scoring feat and it would be interesting to know if any other amateur player in Leicestershire can claim such a record. As far as I gather, such

a feat has nothing to equal it in the district.

New Lount Colliery caused an end of the season sensation by defeating Snibston New Inn Sports 10 – 0 in the final of the Swannington Charity Cup on the Station Hill ground, Swannington. Rowell also scored four of the goals in this match and so passed the hundred mark.

Leicester Evening Mail - Saturday 14th April 1934

SCOUTS ARE WATCHING THIS PLAYER

Birmingham F.C. scouts are interested in **Frank Smith. the New Lount Colliery (Coalville League) full-back, who is 21 years of age, and lives at the King's Arms, Coleorton.** Frank has had a run out with Southend United on one or two occasions this season. A fortnight ago, he played in a London Combination match against Northampton. Features of Frank's play are his excellent kicking and a cool head during an emergency. He is definitely due for a move into higher football at any time. We hear that it is quite on the cards that he will be snapped up by a League club much nearer his home than Birmingham.

Leicester Evening Mail - Tuesday 24 April 1934

SWANNINGTON CUP - NEW LOUNT IN THE FINAL

There were plenty of thrills in the final of the Swannington Charity Cup competition last night. when New Lount Colliery beat Whitwick Holy Cross 4-3 at Swannington before a good crowd in a vigorous game. Matt. Rowell (3) and Les Bradford Scored for Lount, while Whitwick's goals were obtained by Laurence Concannon (2) and Underwood.

Smith and Pickering were outstanding in the Lount defence and John Concannon did the brunt of the work for the "Cross"

LEICESTERSHIRE SENIOR LEAGUE WINNERS 1934 / 35 SEASON

The "Leicestershire Senior League", following a period of decline ceased to operate in 1930 and was not re-instated till the 1934 / 35 season

New Lount Colliery Football Team were the first champions of the "Newly reformed Leicestershire Senior League" in the 1934 / 35 season as shown in the table below.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
1. New Lount Colliery	22	15	3	4	84	37	33
2. Overseal Institute	22	12	7	3	76	47	31
3. Whitwick White Cross	22	13	4	5	62	47	30
4. Holwell Works	22	12	5	5	74	30	29
5. Ibstock Penistone Rovers	22	13	1	8	62	41	27
6. Measham Imperial	22	11	3	8	69	62	25
7. Newhall Swifts	22	9	2	11	45	72	20
8. Loughborough Brush	22	8	3	11	65	76	19
9. Oaks Parish Church	22	8	2	12	61	49	18
10. Ibstock Swifts	22	6	5	11	51	61	17
11. Snibston New Inn Sports	22	4	4	14	59	106	12
12. Whitwick Holy Cross	22	1	1	20	42	122	3

LEICESTERSHIRE SENIOR LEAGUE 1935 / 36 END OF SEASON CHART

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
1. H.M. Mansfields Sports	30	24	2	4	169	57	50
2. Whitwick White Cross	30	21	4	5	112	63	46
3. Holwell Works	30	18	8	4	108	44	44
4. Overseal Institute	30	16	4	10	114	74	36
5. Snibston United (-2)	30	18	2	10	91	71	36
6. Donisthorpe	30	13	6	11	84	63	32
7. Loughborough Brush	30	13	5	12	114	84	31
8. Gresley Rovers	30	12	6	12	70	70	30
9. Whitwick Holy Cross (-2)	30	14	4	12	85	99	30
10. New Lount Colliery	29	11	2	16	83	99	24
11. Oaks Parish Church	30	10	4	16	67	91	24
12. Ibstock Swifts	29	8	8	13	67	104	24
13. Newhall Swifts	30	9	3	18	64	106	21
14. Measham Imperial	30	7	6	17	51	99	20
15. Leicester Nomads Reserves	30	7	2	21	64	102	16
16. Snibston New Inn Sports	30	2	6	22	58	175	10

**Information transcribed from
the "Leicestershire Senior League Website 1894-1950".**

Leicester Evening Mail - Saturday 19 January 1935

CHARITY CUP

New Lount Colliery and Newhall Swifts met at Lount, a good game ending in a 3-3 draw. Les Bradford, Mat Rowell and Keeling scored for Lount and Eric Rose completed a Hat trick for Newhall.

Leicester Evening Mail - Monday 04 March 1935

In the Leicestershire League, Holywell Works met with an unexpected defeat at Asfordby Hill, at the hands of the New Lount Colliery Football Team. Rowell (2) and Bedford put the visitors 3 goals in front. Later, "Rowell" completed his hat trick, with Holwell failing to reply.

1934 / 35 SEASON LEAGUE CUP FINAL

Leicester Evening Mail - Thursday 12 September 1935

STORMY SCENES AT LEAGUE CUP FINAL

SECOND REPLAY and STILL NO DECISION

Stormy scenes occurred in the closing stages of the Coalville , knock-out cup final at the Waggon and Horses ground, last night, between **Ibstock Pennistone Rovers and New Lount Colliery**.

Players nearly came to blows and spectators ran on to the pitch. Order was restored, but near the end, Platts playing at full back for New Lount Colliery, was sent off the field.

This was the second replay of the final and for the third time no decision was reached, the result being 2-2. The Coalville League Knock-out cup has never been won In the three seasons of its existence, the finalists having persisted in playing to a draw.

GOOD GAME MARRED

The incidents marred what had promised to be a thoroughly entertaining game with both sides displaying some delightful movements. Lount led by two goals at the interval, each of which were scored by Matt Rowell their centre-forward. The first was scored after about twenty minutes. It followed neat passing between Keeling and " Mick " Bradford.

Jim Holland (outside-right). who last season played with Whitwick White Cross, was chiefly responsible for the next goal, making a fine run down the wing, and from his centre, Rowell headed easily through.

The Colliery deserved their lead, but on resuming, the Penistone Rovers rallied well. French reduced the lead, though the goal was disputed. Shortly before the end, from a corner, Swain headed into the net through a crowd of players.

A Feature of the game was the brilliant work in the New Lount goal by "Bill" Stafford.

OUTSTANDING DEFENCE

Rowell led the Colliery line well, while Deacon and Newbold in the Ibstock defence were also outstanding. During the second half Bonnick, a Lount full-back, received slight concussion and had to be carried off the field. A doctor was sent for.

Ibstock Pennistone Rovers- Cotton : Bishop, Newbold : Deacon, Poyser, Swain ; French, Watts, Robinson, Smith, Jesson

New Lount Colliery- Stafford : Keeling (H), Bonnick ; Barkby, Pickering, Mee ; Holland, Bradford, Rowell, Keeling, Platts

Leicester Evening Mail - Thursday 26 September 1935

COALVILLE TROPHY GOES TO IBSTOCK

Colliery Lose Third Replay

Cup Won For First Time In Three Years

Although the Coalville League knock-out Cup competition was inaugurated in October 1932, a trophy was not won until last night when **Ibstock Penistone Rovers defeated New Lount Colliery** in the final by 3-2, on the Ashby-road Ground, Coalville. They did it with only two minutes to spare. A. Storer, the Rovers' inside-left, scoring when it seemed inevitable that the battle would continue. It was their fourth meeting in this final. The match had developed into a farce this time, it being so dark during the last fifteen minutes of the game, it was almost impossible to distinguish the players.

ONLY A FEW SAW IT

Only a few spectators near the Lount goal area saw the all-important goal scored. Some humorists were shining flashlights over the ground and striking matches. A large crowd saw another thrilling battle, and if the football did not always reach great heights, the spectators got full value for their money. The Rovers took the lead after five play in a rather lucky way, a shot by Joe Gray, their centre-forward, was deflected into the net off an opposing full-back. Five minutes later, during a Lount raid, the ball went across the goal to Bird the Colliery's new young winger, whose shot hit the underside of the crossbar at a terrific pace and went into the net. After 25 Minutes. Swain, the well known amateur, scored one of the best goals seen on the ground. Straight from a throw-in by Jessop his first time shot from long range found the top corner of the net and was a winner all the way.

Shortly after the interval "Bill" Keeling equalised with another great shot. This followed a clever movement by Holland, his partner. Ibstock were awarded a penalty but Robinson failed with the kick, the ball hitting the upright.

STRONG RALLY

The Rovers rallied strongly in the closing stages, but up to this point there was very little to choose between the teams. In fact, many people considered the Lount men unlucky to lose. Ibstock's victory was a personal triumph for Swain, who was on the top of his form at left-half, his heading, footwork and long passes being delightful. Outstanding on the Lount side, were the Keeling brothers, William and Harry. In defence, Bonnick and Pickering were also outstanding. Bird was the best winger on view.

The cup will now be put up for competition again among the Coalville League clubs.

Teams:

Ibstock Penistone Rovers; Cotton ; Bishop, Newbold ; Deacon, Poyser, Swain ; French, Robinson, Gray, Storer, Jessop.

New Lount Colliery: Stafford ; Bonnick, Platts ; Barkby, Pickering, Keeling (H) ; Holland, Bradford, Rowell, Keeling (W), Bird

A FIESTY 1934/35 SEASON CUP MATCH

Leicester Evening Mail - Tuesday 11 December 1934

A Cup Match between New Lount Colliery and Overseal Institute was described at a football meeting at Coalville last night. Blows were alleged to have been struck, and the game was abandoned 20 minutes from time. The secretary (Mr. C. E. Marston) read a letter from Mr. Whittaker (referee), stating that the match at New Lount on December 1st was not finished. The referee stated that 20 minutes from time, when Lount were leading by three goals to none, he had occasion to order an Overseal player from the field. The spectators crowded on to the field, which he was unable to clear. The New Lount secretary, Mr. W. Major, was struck when affording him (the referee) protection. He admitted that Mr. Wright (Overseal secretary) did assist in trying to clear the ground. The committee awarded the match to New Lount.

1935 / 36 SEASON "LEICESTERSHIRE JUNIOR CUP" DIVISIONAL FINAL

Leicester Evening Mail - Saturday 04 April 1936

A CLOSE GAME

Both sets of forwards were guilty of poor finishing in the divisional final of the Leicestershire Junior Cup competition at Whitwick, between New Lount Colliery and Donisthorpe, the Colliery winning by 4-2. Rowell claimed three of the Colliery's goals and the other was scored by their clever centre-half, Frank Pickering, who had the support of two splendid halfbacks in Mee and Barkby. Incidentally, Lount were booked for two semi-finals in two days this weekend. Yesterday they were due at Measham for the semi-final of the Measham Charity Cup with Donisthorpe, this being a replay; and at

Coalville this afternoon were opposed to Holwell Works in the Coalville Charity Cup semi-final.

Leicester Evening Mail - Sat 15th February 1936

Matt Rowell, the New Lount Colliery centre forward scored three of the collieries 9 goals against Newhall Swifts, the other goals being netted by Morley (2), Holland, Bradford, Keeling and Pickering.

TOUGH GUYS AT NEW LOUNT

Leicester Evening Mail - Thursday 09 April 1936

"Tough Guys" At New Lount

They evidently make their Soccer players tough round Coalville way, and nothing short of complete paralysis appears to prevent a footballer from returning to the field after the trainer's magical sponge has eased the fevered brow. In recent cup semi-finals, three of New Lount Colliery's players were in the wars, but having a rest on the touchline was the last thing these "he-men" thought about.

Billy Keeling, playing for New Lount against Donisthorpe at Measham, was struck right between the eyes by the ball, a real k.o. He was carried off, but returned to finish the game. His clubmate, Barkby, received a nasty thigh injury in the same match, and he, too, had to be carried off, but, though a passenger for the remainder of the game, he came back, like Oliver Twist, for more.

Then in the match against Holwell Works, Morley, the New Lount full-back, was injured very badly. Twice was Morley carried off, and on each occasion he returned to the fray after attention. Today Morley undergoes an X-ray examination. Of course, to the hundred-per-cent., dyed-in-the-wool, tough guys, these episodes may not appear to be anything out of the ordinary, but it so happened that each of the injured trio had done a night shift in the local pit less than twelve hours before.

NEW LOUNT COLLIERY CRICKET CLUB

The following 1932 report is the earliest report that the author has found relating to New Lount Collieries cricket team. They played cricket there until not long after the closure of New Lount Colliery in 1968.

Transcribed from the Coalville Times dated July 1932

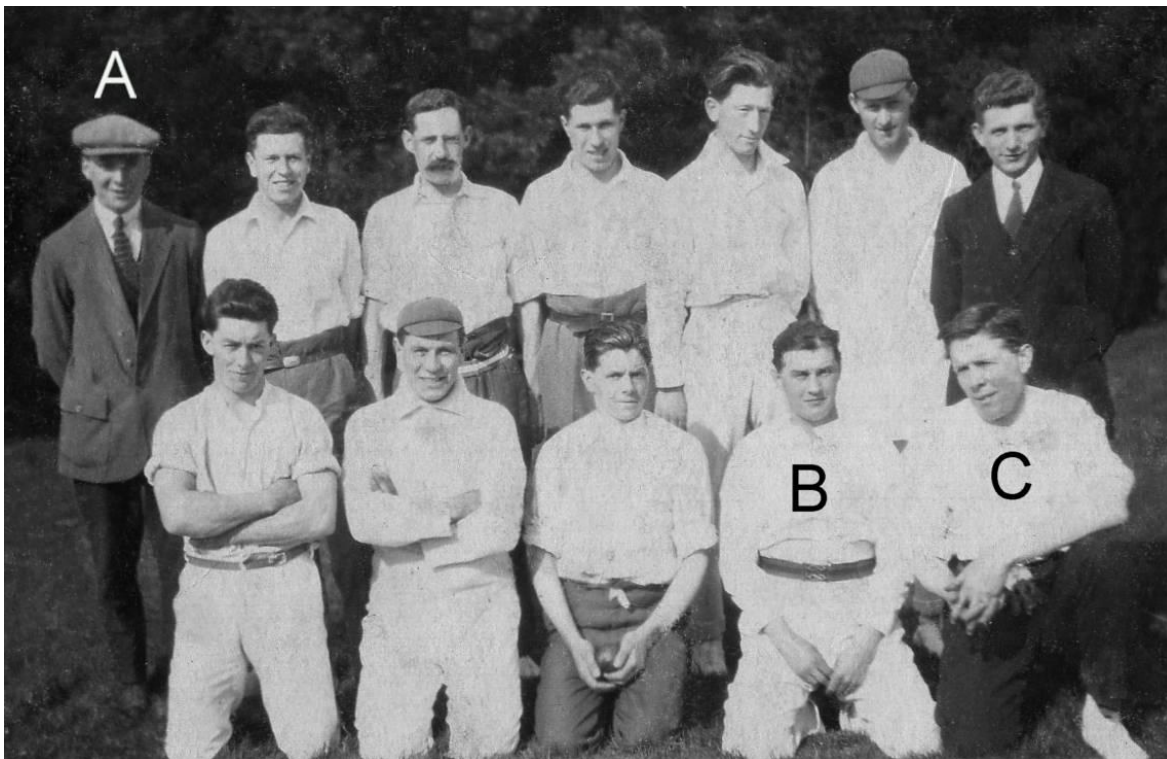
BARDON CUP FINAL NEW LOUNT COLLIERY BEAT SNIBSTON COLLIERY

Before a good attendance, New Lount Colliery won the Bardon Cup on the Bardon club's ground on Wednesday evening. The clubs each batted for one and a half hours, and in this time, New Lount scored 54 runs for 8 wickets after dismissing Snibston for 47 runs. For the winners, J. Wilton took 6 wickets for 17 runs and for Snibston, the best bowling was J Pearson 's 4 for 14. George Haywood for New Lount batted well for his 22 runs.

NEW LOUNT COLLIERY SCORES

G.Haywood	bowled	Bradford	22
W.Haran	lbw bowled	Pearson	4
F.Smith	bowled	Pearson	2
J.Hodges	caught Rowell bowled	Pearson	5
T.Richards	caught Kirkland bowled	Pearson	4
J.Wilton	not out		4
J.Curtis	caught Rowell bowled	Kirkland	8
H.Fairbrother	bowled	Kirkland	1
J.Richards	caught Kendrick bowled	Kirkland	3
H.Williams and H. Fern did not bat.			
			extras 1
Total for 8 wickets			54

Continued over page



New Lount Cricket Team c.1935.

Top Row

A - John Whyman, Umpire (uncle of the author)

Bottom Row

B - Samuel Stewart (father of the author), **C** - Les Saddington (cousin of the author)

John Whyman acted as umpire for the cricket team, due to the leg injury he received in the First World War, at the age of twenty one.

Coalville Times Fri 2nd June 1961

**BARDON CUP
CLUTSOM and KEMP 57; NEW LOUNT 64 for 1**

Clutsom and Kemp scored only 57 in this Bardon Cup match at Gelsmoor. Coleorton, due to some fine bowling by J. Jordan (6 for 28) and R. Cooper (4 for 25). New Lount knocked off the runs for the loss of J. Harper. John Bettison scored 32 and Alan. Hodges 27.



**SOME OF THE LADIES AT THE NEW LOUNT CRICKET CLUB DINNER IN
APRIL 1969**

**It was a ritual in those days for wives and girlfriends to make the teas for
the cricket teams after the matches.**

TENNIS CLUB - AUGUST 1930

NEW LOUNT v. SWANNINGTON

New Lount defeated Swannington by five rubbers to four in a men's doubles tennis match at New Lount, on Saturday. Details:

Bird and Rowell (Lount) beat Causer and Whyman 5-6, 6-3, 6-5; beat Dowdeswell and Walker 5-1, 6-2; beat Irons and Johnson 6-4, 6-3.

Williams and Williams (Lount) lost to Causer and Whyman 5-6, 5-6; beat Dowdeswell and Walker 6-1, 6-1; lost to Irons and Johnson 0-6, 4-6.

Bird and Leeson (Lount) lost to Causer and Whyman 5-6, 3-6; beat Dowdeswell and Walker 6-5, 5-6, 6-5; lost to Irons and Johnson 6-5, 4-6, 5-6.