

PEGG'S GREEN VICTORIA FOOTBALL CLUB
1885 - c.1930
(AS SEEN THROUGH THE EYES OF THE NEWSPAPERS)



**GOLD AND SILVER MEDAL AWARDED TO PEGG'S GREEN VICTORIA CLUB
PLAYERS WHO WON THE COALVILLE LEAGUE SECOND DIVISION
CHAMPIONSHIP IN THE 1911/12 SEASON
(IN POSSESSION OF THE AUTHOR)**

DRAFT - ONGOING PROJECT

BY SAMUEL T STEWART - OCTOBER 2022

COMPLIMENTARY READING

The following are free to download and read on the author's website under "Publications - Griffydam & Pegg's Green":-

- The subsection entitled "Wartime - Lest we Forget" includes publications in memory of the Pegg's Green Victoria footballers who lost their lives in the First World War.
- The publication entitled "The New Inn - Pegg's Green", which is under the subsection entitled Public Houses

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Pegg's Green Victoria Football Club were first formed at the **New Inn, Pegg's Green** in 1885, which the following newspaper article, transcribed from the **Coalville Times** dated **Friday 23rd August 1895** relates to. The location of Thringstone is given, because at that time, the village of Pegg's Green was part of the Township of Thringstone and had been since the Enclosure Act of 1807. In a 1909 newspaper report regarding the New Inn potentially losing its license, it contains information that the pub was the home of two teams of 80 and 50 members, which refers to the first and second teams of Pegg's Green Victoria football club who played in the "Coalville League" and also for a short spell in the Leicestershire Senior League.

PEGG'S GREEN

THRINGSTONE

A Football Club

Is about to be formed at the NEW INN, PEGG'S GREEN

**Applicants for Membership should be made to
Mr. F. Page at the above address**

**A SPLENDID GROUND HAS BEEN ALREADY
ARRANGED FOR**

Pegg's Green Victoria Football Club had a fairly successful history, which was sadly tinged with sadness, when at least three of its members from the same team, lost their lives in battle in Europe during the First World War. The author has written publications in memory of these men details of which are provided under "Complimentary Reading" at the beginning. Their names were Private John William Barkby, Sapper Harold Curtis and Lance Corporal William Bird. Sapper Harold Curtis' brother, Lance-Corporal Thomas Curtis was also killed but he did not play for the team. During the period of the War, no games took place but by 1919 things were in full swing again.

Post War, the club provided the platform for the likes of Joe Bradford to demonstrate his footballing talents which came to the notice of championship football scouts resulting in a remarkable career with Birmingham City and England. He signed for Birmingham in 1920 after a series of trials with other clubs. In 1920, Joe Bradford scored fourteen goals in a match for Pegg's Green Victoria against Birstall Rovers. His brother William, who also played for P.G.Victoria, signed for Birmingham in 1922. In fact, five members of the Bradford family played for P.G.Victoria. The club also provided another player to Birmingham in 1927, the former Pegg's Green Blacksmith named Mee.

In the main, information on the club has only become available through researching newspaper reports, and this publication is based on these. Pre the First World War, the sporting section of newspapers, although providing details of results, league positions and limited reporting on games, did not provide information on the match day teams, so it is not possible to provide much in the way of player's names during that period.

The Coalville League 1911/12 season second division championship medal depicted on the front page has evidence of part of a name at the upper rear, which unfortunately is not decipherable, so the author has no knowledge of how and why it came to be in possession of his parents. To be awarded an ornate solid silver medal with a gold shield at local amateur level is remarkable, particularly when one considers the cheap plastic medals awarded today.

Pegg's Green Victoria repeated their league winning achievement in the following two seasons also. Having been runner's up in the 1910/11 season and beaten finalists after a replay in the County Medals in 1911, this was a successful four year period for the club.

TRANSCRIBED NEWSPAPER REPORTS

Coalville Times - Friday 15th September 1899

.....and at Pegg's Green, Coalville United won by two goals to one. In this match, one of the players named Arthur Brealey, unfortunately sustained a fractured leg.....

Leicester Chronicle – Saturday October 14th 1899

COALVILLE

FOOTBALL. – On Saturday, at Coalville – Coalville United (5 goals) beat Pegg's Green (one)

Burton Chronicle – October 29th 1903

Swadlincote Ivanhoe were the visitors to Pegg's Green on Saturday, and although a keenly contested and interesting game was witnessed, neither side could score, and the result was a draw.

Coalville Times - Friday 27 October 1905

PEGG'S GREEN VICTORIA.

Oct. 28...Whitwick Excelsior,	away.
Nov. 4...Hugglescote United	home.
Nov. 11...First Round Junior Cup.	
Nov. 18...Swannington St. George's	home.
Nov. 25...Whitwick Excelsior	home.
Dec. 2...Hugglescote Athletic	away.
Dec. 9...Coalville Amateurs	home.
Dec. 16...Second Round Junior Cup.	
Dec. 23...Coleorton United	home.
Dec. 26...Measham United	away.
Dec. 30...Eil stown United	away.
Jan. 6...Ravenstone Rising Star	away.
Jan. 27...Hugglescote Athletic	home.
Feb. 10...Desford Athletic	away.
Feb. 17...Coleorton United	away.
Feb. 24...Ravenstone Rising Star	home.
Mar. 17...Ibstock Albion	away.
Mar. 31...Ellistown United	home.

COALVILLE LEAGUE FIXTURE LIST- OCT TO MARCH 1904/5 SEASON

PEGG'S GREEN VICTORIA F.C.		
Oct. 27...	Ibstock Town	away.
Nov. 3...	Coalville Town	home.
Nov. 10...	1st Round Junior Cup.	
Nov. 17...	Hugglescote Athletic	home.
Dec. 1...	Coalville Excelsior	away.
Dec. 8...	Swannington St. George's	away.
Dec. 15...	2nd. Round Junior Cup.	
Dec. 22...	Ibstock Town.	
Dec. 26...	Coalville Excelsior	home.
Jan. 5...	Hugglescote United	away.
Jan. 12...	Coalville Amateurs	home.
Jan. 26...	Coalville Town	away.
Feb. 2...	3rd. Round Junior Cup.	
Feb. 16...	Moirs United	away.
March 2...	Messham United	home.
March 30...	Messham United	away.

COALVILLE LEAGUE FIXTURE LIST- OCT TO MARCH 1906/7 SEASON

Coalville Times - Friday 5th October 1906

THE COALVILLE LEAGUE

.....Then there was a battle royal at Pegg's Green, where the Victoria met their near neighbours and rivals, Swanninton St. George's. Under ordinary circumstance, a keen game might have been anticipated, but as each side were struggling , there was an added interest to the contest. Swannington had the best of matters till half time, but they failed to penetrate the home defence, and there was a clean sheet at the interval. Early in the second half, Pegg's Green took the lead in a somewhat lucky manner. One of the Swannington backs was clearing, when the ball went to Morley, rather by accident than design into the net. Pegg's Green were pressing again when one of the Swannington men handled the ball and Springthorpe gave them the second goal from the ensuing penalty. There was no further scoring, though Swannington were desperately near it on several occasions. Towards the close they completely monopolised the play. There was a big crowd present, and at times excitement ran high.....

Continued over page

PEGG'S GREEN VICTORIA		
Nov. 16...	Ibstock Albion	away.
Nov. 23...	Coalville Swifts	home.
Nov. 30...	Coalville Amateurs	away.
Dec. 7...	2nd Round Junior Cup.	
Dec. 14...	Coalville Town	away.
Dec. 21...	Swannington	away.
Dec. 28...	Coalville Town	home.
Jan. 4...	Measham	home.
Jan. 11...	Moirs	home.
Jan. 18...	3rd Round Junior Cup.	
Jan. 25...	Hugglescote United	home.
Feb. 1...	Coalville Swifts	away.
Feb. 8...	Coalville Amateurs	home.
Feb. 22...	Measham	away.
Feb. 29...	Hugglescote Athletic	away.
Mar. 7...	Ravenstone	away.
Mar. 21...	Ravenstone	home.

COALVILLE LEAGUE FIXTURE LIST- NOVEMBER TO MARCH FOR 1907

Coalville Times - Friday 19th October 1906

.....The Coalville Amateurs found Pegg's Green a sturdy lot, and though the match was played on the Coalville club's ground, they had to knuckle under for the first time. The Amateurs opened the scoring through Benistone, but Brooks, Hemsley and Williamson got through for Pegg's Green before the interval. The latter scored again after crossing over and Benistone got another for the Amateurs, who were beaten by four goals to two.....

The Coalville League chart up to date is as follow :-

	p	w	l	d	f	a	pt
Moirs United	4	3	0	1	10	4	7
Coalville Amateurs	4	3	1	0	12	8	6
Measham United	5	2	2	1	10	12	5
Coalville Excelsior	5	2	3	0	5	7	4
Pegg's Green Vic.	4	2	2	0	8	10	4
Ibstock Town	1	1	0	0	1	0	2
Ibstock Albion	1	1	0	0	3	1	2
Hugglescote United	1	1	0	0	4	2	2
Hugglescote Athletic	3	1	2	0	7	7	2
Swannington S. Geo.	4	1	3	0	4	7	2
Coalville Town	4	0	4	0	5	11	0

THE LEAGUE CHART AT THAT TIME

Pegg's Green often received fines for various misdemeanours, the following being typical :-

Coalville Times - Friday 11th January 1907

.....Pegg's Green were late in arriving at Hugglescote, and their match with the United Reserves was unfinished. Leading by three goals to none at half time, Hugglescote had increased this to 5 - 0 by the time only 15 minutes were left for play and Pegg's Green then left the field, though the referee (Mr. Wooley) had not stopped the game, alleging that it was too dark to play. The Hugglescote goals were obtained by Measures (2), Poyser (2) and J. W. Haywood.....

Coalville Times - Friday 18th January 1907

A report was received from Mr. H. Wooley, referee in the match between Pegg's Green and Hugglescote at Hugglescote, on January 7th to the effect that the match was 16 minutes short owing to the late arrival of Pegg's Green. Hugglescote were leading 5 - 0. Mr. Morley the Pegg's Green secretary, wrote that they got there as soon as they could, several players being at work till one o'clock - It was decided that the match stand, and that Pegg's Green be fined 2s. 6d. for being late.

Coalville Times - Friday 17th January 1908

**COALVILLE LEAGUE
MOIRA TAKEN DOWN A "PEGGY"**

Some amusement was caused by a cartoon in the "Football Post" on Saturday night, dealing with the Coalville League. Moira United were portrayed as the trout amongst the minnows, and it was a coincidence that this should have appeared on the very day that the United suffered their first defeat. The league leaders were at Pegg's Green, and great surprise was occasioned when it became known that the opposition had won by the substantial margin of three goal to none. "Peggy" gave a dashing display, and, undoubtedly deserved the success achieved. Winning the toss gave them the advantage of the ground, and had much the best of matters in the first half, as indicated by the fact that they crossed over with a lead of two goals to none. The two goals were got in as many minutes about half way through the first half. Moira started in a business like fashion to wipe out the arrears, and it looked at one time as though they might succeed. They were soon one up and severe pressure was put on the home goal, but with Moira's bad shooting and the brilliant defence offered, especially by Rowell, the Citadel remained intact from their forwards. Just on time, Pegg's Green made another of their characteristic bursts and got through again. Their long passing quite upset the Moira play, and it was some time before the latter, and it was some time before they could realise that they had been handsomely beaten. They took it with good grace but by no means relished it. It will be a great game when Pegg's Green visit Moira. They have one on Xmas day, but in the absence of the official referee, only a friendly was played.

Melton Mowbray Mercury and Oakham & Uppingham News - December 3rd 1908

ORDINARY MATCHES

LOUGHBOROUGH OLYMPIC v. PEGG'S GREEN VICTORIA

Played at Bottle Acre, Loughborough. The home team won the toss, and, kicking with the wind, were first to attack. They were driven back, but returned, and kept up the pressure. Barrows shot inches wide, and Folkes hit the bar. Towards the interval the visitors began to attack, but half time arrived with **NO SCORE**

On resuming, the visitors set off with a rush, but North sent the ball back, and Gilbert headed through from a pass by Folkes. The Olympic came again, and Gilbert sent in a good shot, which the visitor's custodian save well. After this, Pegg's Green got away, and through a mistake by the home backs they equalized, and the game closed with the score :

**LOUGHBOROUGH OLYMPIC, one goal ;
PEGG'S GREEN VICTORIA, one goal.**

Leicester Daily Post - Monday 20 September 1909

LESSONS FOR MARKFIELD

For twenty minutes, Markfield Swifts, who were early on weakened by their left back's knee giving way, did well playing uphill, but in the twelve minutes following three rather lucky goals were scored against them by Pegg's Green. In the concluding stages of the first half, the defence again predominated, Wain kicking grandly. The visitors had weight and experience on their side, and wore the home team down, putting in five more goals. Markfield Swifts should not be discouraged by frequent losses, but should profit by experience. At present the guiding hand seems sorely missing.

Coalville Times - Friday 12 November 1909

THE MEDAL MATCHES

In the Leicestershire medal matches, the P.S.A. Reserves were beaten at Ibstock by the Wanderers 2 -1 : At Ravenstone, the United Reserves and Ellistown Reserves equally divided half a dozen goals : Ashby Hastings defeated Staunton Harold 3 -2 : and **Pegg's Green at home had matters much their own way against Bagworth Town Reserves, winning 5 - 0.**

Leicester Daily Post - Monday 10th April 1911

COUNTY MEDALS COMPETITION

FINAL

COALVILLE RANGERS v PEGG'S GREEN VICTORIA

At Coalville - Moses Bott opened the scoring for Pegg's Green five minutes after the commencement and Underwood equalised. The game was well fought up to half time, neither side scoring again. A supreme effort on the part of the Rangers through Underwood and Wardle availed nothing, the Coalvillians being the more active, and the Greeners the heavier. The Rangers distinguished themselves in a splendid game.
Result - **ONE GOAL EACH**

Leicester Daily Post - Monday 17th April 1911

COUNTY MEDAL RE- PLAY

COALVILLE RANGERS v PEGG'S GREEN

This match at Coalville was played in summer-like weather, there being a very fair attendance. Pegg's Green had the wind and sun behind them in the first half, but at the interval, the Rangers led by one goal to nothing. Coalville were the better team throughout, Newton and Straw especially playing well. Cladbury scored again.

RESULT - Coalville Rangers, two goals; Pegg's Green none.

Leicester Evening Mail - Saturday 06 May 1911

FINAL CHART. COALVILLE AND DISTRICT LEAGUE.							
DIVISION I.							
	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	Pts.
Coalville F.S.A.	16	13	1	2	62	21	27
*Ellistown	16	10	3	3	50	16	21
Hugglescote St. John's ..	16	10	3	3	46	26	21
Coalville Swifts	15	5	5	5	33	34	15
Moirs United	16	3	6	7	38	33	12
Measham Albion	16	5	2	9	32	56	12
Coalville Amateurs	15	5	0	10	20	39	10
Oakthorpe Albion	15	3	2	10	20	35	8
Oakthorpe United	13	3	2	8	20	57	8
* Two points deducted.							
DIVISION II.							
Ravenstone United	18	15	2	1	71	13	32
Pegg's Green Victoria ..	18	11	1	6	45	25	23
Ibstock Wanderers	18	9	5	4	36	27	23
Ibstock Amateurs	18	8	1	9	35	36	17
Ashby Hastings	18	7	3	8	33	40	17
Coalville Baptist	18	7	2	9	38	37	16
Bagworth Amateurs	18	7	2	9	41	41	16
Measham Town	18	6	4	8	36	53	16
Bardon Hill	18	5	3	10	26	42	13
Whitwick Albion	18	2	1	15	18	70	5

THE ABOVE CHART CONFIRMS PEGG'S GREEN VICTORIA FINISHING 2ND IN DIVISION 2 IN THE 1910/11 SEASON

Coalville Times - Friday 29 March 1912

COALVILLE LEAGUE.—Division 2.							
	p	w	d	l	f	a	p
Pegg's Green Vic.	20	18	0	2	79	18	36
Measham Town	20	12	5	3	60	19	29
Coalville Baptists	17	13	0	4	61	19	26
Ravenstone United	21	12	1	8	77	29	25
Ibstock Wanderers	19	9	4	6	40	39	22
Ashby Hastings	18	9	2	7	42	35	20
Thringstone House	21	8	4	9	51	32	20
Stanton-u-Bardon	20	9	2	9	45	50	20
Ibstock Amateurs	17	8	3	6	43	29	19
Whitwick Albion	20	7	2	11	37	70	16
Bagworth Amateurs	20	5	1	14	32	82	11
Bardon Hill	19	4	2	13	36	59	10
Bagworth Town Res.	15	4	1	10	18	70	9
Bagworth Albion	19	1	3	15	33	84	5

THE ABOVE CHART SHOWS PEGG'S GREEN VICTORIA HEADING DIVISION 2 IN THE 1911/12 SEASON WHICH THEY COMFORTABLY WON THAT YEAR

Leicester Evening Mail - Wednesday 10 July 1912

COALVILLE AND DISTRICT LEAGUE

THIRD DIVISION FORMED

The annual meeting of the Coalville and District Amateur Football League was held at the Red House Hotel, Coalville, on Monday evening, Mr. J. Kirby presiding. The members of the committee present were Messrs A. E. Clay, J. Tivey, R.T. Bradshaw, G. Swain, D. Marston (Treasurer) and C. E. Marston (Secretary) with a large number of representatives of clubs.

The secretary reported that they had ten clubs in Division 1., and fourteen in Division 2., last year and the programme was completed. The number of players registered was 706. Coalville P.S.A. won the first division championship, **and Pegg's Green Victoria the second division.....**

Coalville Times - Friday 12th July 1912

.....The secretary reported the withdrawal of Coalville Amateurs from Division 1 of the League, which would leave nine clubs, there being no new applications for the first division. - **The chairman invited Pegg's Green (last year's second division champions) to go up, but Mr. Wilton said they preferred to remain in division two.....**

Leicester Daily Post – September 9th 1912

COALVILLE AND DISTRICT LEAGUE Pegg's Green 12 v Bagworth Amateurs 1

Leicester Evening Mail - Tuesday 12th November 1912

.....Mr. H. Lewis (Ashby) reported Swannington Institute for leaving the field without permission on Oct. 26th, at Pegg's Green. It was decided that the match be replayed at Pegg's Green, the league to take half the "gate" and Pegg's Green half, and to be arranged within 14 days. The matter of leaving the field would be dealt with by the L.F.A.

Coalville Times - Friday 6th December 1912

Accident - A young man named Mee, employed at Snibston Colliery, as a blacksmith, met with an accident while at work on Saturday, having portions of two fingers cut off. Mee is a member of the Pegg's Green Victoria Football club, and was to have played for them in the Junior Cup match on Saturday.

Leicester Evening Mail - Saturday 11th January 1913

RAVENSTONE UTD v PEGG'S GREEN VICTORIA

This match in Division II, should have been played at Ravenstone today, but Pegg's Green have intimated that several of their players are on the sick list and they cannot play. Ravenstone suspect that it is because some of the Pegg's Green men wanted to go to Derby today to see the County and Aston Villa, and are reporting the breaking of the fixture to the League Committee.

COALVILLE LEAGUE.									
DIVISION 1.									
	p	w	d	l	f	a	p		
Moira United	4	3	0	1	14	5	8		
Ellistown St. Chris. ...	3	2	0	0	8	1	4		
Ibstock Excelsior	3	2	0	1	5	5	4		
Coalville P.S.A.	3	1	1	1	7	8	3		
Coalville Swifts	3	1	0	2	3	8	2		
Hugglescote St. John's	3	0	1	2	3	6	1		
Coalville Town Res. ...	2	0	0	2	3	10	0		

DIVISION 2.									
	p	w	d	l	f	a	p		
Pegg's Green Vic.	8	6	1	1	37	7	13		
Measham Town	8	7	0	1	35	7	14		
Ibstock Wanderers	10	6	1	3	20	16	13		
Ibstock Amateurs	8	5	2	1	14	8	12		
Swannington R. Hoods	6	3	0	3	12	7	6		
Coalville Baptists	7	3	0	4	10	13	6		
Bagworth Town	7	3	0	4	12	34	6		
Ravenstone United	4	2	1	1	7	5	5		
Colcoerton United	10	2	1	7	16	28	5		
Abby Hastings	7	1	0	6	8	23	2		
Bagworth Amateurs	9	1	0	8	11	41	2		

DIVISION 3.									
	p	w	d	l	f	a	p		
Swannington Institute	13	9	1	3	47	15	19		
Measham Town Res	14	9	1	4	41	20	19		
Bagworth Albion	12	7	1	4	26	26	15		
Moira United Res.	11	7	0	4	26	19	14		
Ibstock St. Dey's	10	6	0	4	32	16	12		
Pegg's Green Res.	9	5	0	4	30	18	10		
Markfield Swifts	9	5	0	4	15	13	10		
Nailstone All Saints	9	3	4	2	20	13	10		
Stanton-u-Barrow	13	3	2	8	18	27	8		
Nailstone Wood	12	2	2	8	16	20	6		
Rardon Hill	10	3	0	7	10	45	6		
Ibstock Excelsior Res.	11	2	1	8	15	36	5		

THE ABOVE CHART SHOWS PEGG'S GREEN VICTORIA HEADING THE 2ND DIVISION AND PEGG'S GREEN RESERVES MID-WAY IN THE 3RD

.....There was a great struggle at Swannington, between the Robin Hood and Pegg's Green Victoria, the two top teams, and the Victoria just managed to maintain their unbeaten record, there being no score.....

SEE THE FOLLOWING LEAGUE CHART

DIVISION II.							
	p	w	d	l	f	a	p
Pegg's Green Victoria	12	10	3	0	34	5	22
Swannington Robin H.	12	9	1	2	26	13	19
Ravenstone United	11	7	3	1	35	12	17
Bagworth Town	9	6	0	3	29	14	12
Thornborough United	10	5	1	4	13	18	11
Ashby Hastings	11	3	2	6	19	21	8
Measham United	5	4	0	1	20	19	8
Coleorton United	10	3	1	6	17	27	7
Swannington Institute	12	3	1	8	12	38	7
Ibstock Wanderers	10	2	2	6	10	20	6
Ibstock Amateurs	10	2	1	7	11	32	5
Whitwick Amateurs	13	2	0	11	13	35	4

Coalville Times - Friday 01 May 1914

SECOND DIVISION

The second division champions, Pegg's Green Victoria, played the rest of the League, on the Pegg's Green ground on Saturday, and a good game ended in a win for the home team by 2 goals to none. There was a good attendance. Mr. A. E. Clay presented the cup and medals, and the players afterwards had tea at the New Inn.

**PEGG'S GREEN VICTORIA JOINED THE
LEICESTERSHIRE SENIOR LEAGUE c.1916 FOR A PERIOD OF ABOUT 4 YEARS
BEFORE RETURNING TO THE COALVILLE LEAGUE**

Leicester Daily Post – December 29th 1919

LEICESTERSHIRE SENIOR LEAGUE

Coalville Town 4 v. Pegg's Green Victoria 10

Leicester Daily Post - Saturday 17th January 1920

Pegg's Green Footballer's Death. - The fourth round fixture of the Coalville Charity Cup between Pegg's Green Victoria and Coalville Swifts, arranged for this afternoon, has been postponed in consequence of the death of James Springthorpe, of the Pegg's Green team. He was a coalminer by trade, and his illness was of short duration. The players will attend the funeral this afternoon at Coleorton Cemetery

Leicester Daily Post – February 14th 1920

A PEGG'S GREEN PLAYER TRANSFERRED TO BIRMINGHAM

Birmingham have this week secured the transfer of Joseph Bradford, centre forward of Pegg's Green Victoria, a **Leicestershire Senior league team**. Bradford, who has

attracted the attention of several League clubs is 19 years of age and 5ft. 9in. in height.

Leicester Daily Post - Friday 5th March 1920

THE RUMPUS AT PEGG'S GREEN

Club Fined and Spectators Warned by Leicestershire F.A.

A meeting of the Council of the Leicestershire Football Association was held on Wednesday night, at the Y.M.C.A. Hut Leicester. The dispute between Pegg's Green Victoria and Coalville Swifts, in the fourth round of the Coalville Charity Cup competition, was discussed. The teams met on the 21st of February, and the spectators broke onto the ground ten minutes before time, and are alleged to have assaulted Bird, the Coalville Swifts centre-forward. The game was abandoned when the score stood at one goal each.

The Council, after hearing the facts, fined Pegg's Green club one guinea, and ordered them to put posters on the ground warning the spectators that in the event of a similar occurrence the ground would be suspended, and ordered a copy of same to be forwarded to the L.F.A.

Bird, the Pegg's Green centre half, was fined 5s., and suspended for one month.

Athletic News – November 21st 1921

BIRMINGHAM YOUNG CENTRE FORWARD

Joseph Bradford, who has recently appeared in Birmingham's eleven, is quite a good centre forward. Considering that he is only twenty years of age he should have a future. He has been the one man in the front line who of late as shown a real scoring power.

Joseph Bradford was born at Pegg's Green, Near Coalville, Leicestershire, on January 22nd, 1901. There was no organized school football in his district, but it is worthy of note that he was playing for Pegg's Green second team in the Coalville League when only twelve years of age. Some of his companions were 25 and 27 years old. He played three games for the reserves, and as they won the championship, they gave him a special medal to commemorate his association with the club at such a juvenile age.

When fifteen he was playing for the first team, who had then joined the Leicestershire Senior League. He continued to be associated with Pegg's Green, in fact he never played regularly for any other club until he joined Birmingham in February, 1920. By the way, Birmingham sent an emissary to see him, and so did Leicester City and Derby County, but Frank Richards, the Birmingham secretary, secured his signature. As a matter of fact, Bradford had had trials for both Aston Villa and Derby County, Mr. Middleton who used to play outside left for Derby, securing him that privilege for the county, but apparently he did not strike any of these clubs as being out of the ordinary. However, he has undoubtedly justified his acquisition by Birmingham.

Bradford recently played with much distinction on behalf of the Central League against the North-Eastern League, scoring the two goals by which his side won the match. Standing 5ft. 9¼ inches., he weighs 11st. 4lbs. Bradford plays cricket with enthusiasm for the Pegg's Green club, and resides there during the dull season.

Star Green 'un – March 11th 1922

Joe Bradford's brother, William, has also signed for Birmingham. He, too, comes from the little Leicestershire club, Pegg's Green Victoria

Leicester Chronicle – May 2nd 1925

CHAMPIONSHIP MATCHES

Pegg's Green, the team that reared Joe Bradford, of Birmingham and International fame, are champions of the Coalville League, and play Swannington Villa at Pegg's Green on Saturday, when the cup and medals will be presented.

Leicester Chronicle – October 29th 1927

The hamlet of Pegg's Green, which gave to Birmingham F.C. one of the greatest forwards of modern times in Joe Bradford, has provided Birmingham with yet another player.

Mee, the inside left of Pegg's Green Victoria, has signed for Birmingham, and given up his work in the village blacksmith's shop. Mee, who is only 19 years of age, made a name for himself in schools' football, and played for Leicestershire against Cheshire at Coalville.

Leicester Chronicle – March 3rd 1928

MOIRA LUCKY

Moira United were lucky to reach the final of the Coalville Charity Cup by defeating Pegg's Green at Coalville on Saturday by five goals to three.

Pegg's Green always held their own and often had the senior league team in difficulties. They gave an excellent all round display. Pegg's Green now playing in a junior league, is the club that reared Joe Bradford, the Birmingham F.C.'s famous centre-forward, and if some of the players maintain the form shown on Saturday, it would not be surprising if they eventually found themselves in first-class football. The juniors had much the better of the opening play, and took the lead through Hough. They kept up the pressure, and were unlucky in not adding to the score. However, Moira improved, and Bown equalized. Pegg's Green again took up the running, and several times were very near to scoring. Fern scored for Moira from a breakaway, but shortly before the interval Wardle equalized.

The second half was very much a repetition of the first except that Pegg's Green were dogged by bad luck. Moira, who certainly made better use of their chances in this half, scored through Fern, Narroway, and Clarke, whilst the only goal for Pegg's Green came from Warden.

Continued over page

A Few Useful Hints From Joe Bradford.



On Monday evening the Birmingham F.C. sent a team, which included seven First Division players, to meet Pegg's Green in a Charity match, Birmingham winning 4-0. In the picture Joe Bradford, a former Pegg's Green player, is seen giving a few hints to the Pegg's Green players.

An Interesting Ball.



A little girl holding an International ball signed by International football players which was raffled off at the Charity match



Pictured above is the Peggs Green Victoria football team who won the Coalville Charity Cup in 1928-29, when they beat Whitwick Imps 6-1. The players came from the Peggs Green and Swannington areas, and the picture was sent in by George Williamson, of Top Row in Peggs Green. He believes the picture was taken at the New Inn in the village. Back row, from the left, Ned Morley, manager; Maurice Wardle, right back; Tommy Bradford, goalkeeper; John Wilton, Left back; Jack Bird, trainer. Middle row, Tommy Bradley, right half; Ambrose Barkby, centre half; Ernie Bird, left half. Front row, Joe Hough, outside right; George Williamson, inside right; Wilf Wardle, centre forward; Joe Morley, inside half; Walter Johnson, outside left.

Sports Argus – February 9th 1929

SCHOOLBOYS' MATCH

Joe Bradford, Birmingham's injured centre-forward, gave the boys of his old school, Griffydam, near Pegg's Green, a treat today. He arranged a match for them this morning at Belehere-lane against the boys of Green lane School. After the match, he took them to see the Birmingham v Sunderland game, and then entertained the visitors to tea.

The Green-lane boys won by two to nil, and their scorers were Bignall and Stead. Simmonds and Newey did well for the winners, and Abbott (centre-half) and Morley (left-back) for the visitors.

Leicester Evening Mail – May 2nd 1929

JOE BRADFORD'S CUP FOR SCHOOLBOYS

Joe Bradford, the Birmingham and International forward, has presented a cup for competition amongst schools in the district of Pegg's Green, his native village, and the final was played last night at Pegg's Green, between Coleorton and Griffydam schools before 1,000 spectators. Griffydam won by two goals to none, both scored from

penalties. Bradford afterwards presented the cup, and is providing medals for the Coleorton players.

Burton Observer and Chronicle – September 26th 1929

NINE GOALS AT PEGG'S GREEN

VICTORIA 7 v MOIRA UNITED 2

Heavy scoring was seen in the Coalville and District League match at Pegg's Green, where Victoria defeated Moira United by the large margin of seven goals to two.

G. Bradford opened the scoring for the home team, and Pickering responded for the United.

Pegg's Green regained the lead through Bird, and J. Wright then made the score two all. Twice the Victoria broke away, and Bradford and Bird doubled the score. Their lead at the interval was four goals to two, and was unaltered at three quarter time. The wind became rougher, and the Vics were very aggressive.

After Bradford had completed his hat trick, Price brought the total up to half a dozen. An objection was made to this goal, and also to the last scored by Bradford, which made four to his account.

Leicester Evening Mail – October 19th 1929

PEGG'S GREEN FANS Visit to Belfast to Support Joe Bradford

The spectators at the England v Ireland match at Belfast to-day, included a party of enthusiasts from Pegg's Green, near Coalville.

Pegg's Green is the native village of Joe Bradford, the Birmingham player, who is in the England attack. The party had been organized by an inclusive fare of 30s. per head.

Leicester Evening Mail – October 23rd 1929

The great interest on the part of some of the local people at Coalville in the international football match on Saturday will be gathered from the fact that a party made the journey from Coalville to Belfast, leaving on Friday and returning on Sunday. One of the keenest in the party was Mr. Joseph Morley, of Pegg's Green, who undertook this long journey notwithstanding his 76 years. He is Joe Bradford's grandfather and great-uncle of Hughie Adcock. The latter's father was also in the party.

Leicester Evening Mail – April 23rd 1930

COALVILLE CUP FINAL

A crowd of 2,500 assembled at Coalville to witness the Charity Cup Final between Loughborough Corinthians and Pegg's Green Victoria on the Waggon and Horses ground.

It looked in the early stages of the game as if the match would be a gift for the Corinthians, for they had got a lead of three goals ere the interval arrived. Bourne scored after five minutes and there were further goal by Holden and Greaves.

Pegg's Green, however, reversed matters in the second half, when the bulk of the play was in their favour. Leslie Bradford – a brother of Joe Bradford, of Birmingham

and International fame – scored early on, and Williamson followed with another.

The closing stages were thrilling, particularly when L. Bradford put the teams on even terms, and the result was a draw of three goals each. Tom Bradford, another brother of the famous Joe, kept goal well for Pegg's Green.

Leicester Evening Mail – September 19th 1936

THE BRADFORD BROTHERS OF PEGG'S GREEN MAKE FOOTBALL HISTORY

Few romances of the football world can compare with that of the Bradford family of the Leicestershire hamlet of Pegg's Green.....Five brothers have been in the game ever since their father encouraged them to kick a football about.

Joe Bradford has now left football for the duties of "mine host" but he will always be remembered in the annals of the Birmingham City club, with whom he had such a splendid and long career. They used to call him "Gentleman Joe" at St. Andrew's, for, on and off the field, he was always a great sportsman.

It is this quality of the Bradford family that has made "Bill" so popular with Walsall, with whom he has been since 1926, and is now the captain. As in the case of Joe, his soccer skills were nurtured with the village team at Pegg's Green. The Birmingham talent-spotters one day had a tour of that part of the county and promptly signed Joe. Shortly afterwards, realizing they had made a find, they returned and brother "Bill" was the next local lad to go to Birmingham. He was then only 17 years of age and so has now been in the game for over 16 years, and will, without doubt, carry on Joe's tradition. Bill did not stop long with the "Blues". He moved to Preston North End and later joined Brighton and Hove, as an inside-left. It was when he was going "free" that he was secured by Walsall by Mr. David Ashworth. Now, as captain and left-half for the Staffordshire club, he has created a record for the number of appearances ever made by one player since the club was formed. Since 1926 he has made 270 appearances. His success is a triumph over bad luck for, after a serious injury at Chester a few seasons ago, so strong was the belief that he was "finished" that he was re-engaged as assistant trainer to take charge of the second team. The man best acquainted with the romantic history of these Bradfords is Mr. Edward Morley, former secretary of the old Pegg's Green club, which started these men on the path to football fame. Mr. Morley was the first man to register Joe as a soccer player and has watched his career closely. When the club were members of the old Leicestershire Senior League, another brother, Tom, used to keep goal. One night, Joe brought over a team of Birmingham "Stars" to Pegg's Green to play the village team. Tom was in goal for the local lads and Joe was opposed to him as centre-forward for the Birmingham visitors