



# Anstey Nomads FC

## The Extraordinary Story of an English Village Football Club

### The 1960s

The 60s were not swinging for the Nomads. Devoid of silverware, Anstey spent almost the whole of the decade in the lower half of the Central Alliance League and the East Midland Regional League. Cup campaigns were brief, with early eliminations. However, as the 60s ended there was a noticeable improvement indicating that the good times were back on the horizon.

### ~1960-61~

The Nomads finished at rock bottom of the Central Alliance Division 1 South with just two wins, and a draw from their 30 games, conceding on average four goals per game. They began the season badly, losing their opening seven fixtures, including a 4-0 loss to the newly formed Loughborough United, which emerged from the ashes of the old Brush Sports club, at Browns Lane. Over 1,000 spectators, more than double the average Saturday afternoon gate for Brush Sports' matches last season witnessed the Leicestershire derby game. The first win and points of the season arrived from a clash between the two bottom teams Anstey and Gresley Rovers, who were also winless. Despite Gresley's young centre-forward Clarke, scoring a hat-trick for the second week in succession, he finished on the losing side, Anstey winning 6-3 at Cropston Road. The following week against Wellingborough they conceded six, following the first minute injury to Anstey centre, Dennis Freer who turned sharply on the heavy ground and had to be carried off on a stretcher with a leg injury. Nomads with 10 men struggled.

**WELLINGBOROUGH TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB**

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**CENTRAL ALLIANCE — DIVISION 1 (South)**  
**DOUGHBOYS v. ANSTEY NOMADS**  
SATURDAY, 20th AUGUST, 1960 KICK-OFF 3 p.m. ISSUE No. 1  
OFFICIAL PROGRAMME 2s. (Issued by the Supporters' Club)

**THE TEAMS AND OFFICIALS**

**RIGHT** WELLINGBOROUGH TOWN **LEFT**  
Yellow and Blue trimmed Shirts, Black Shorts.

**FOTTER**

(1) DRAGE (2) MAPLES (3) FULTON (4) SPENDLOVE (5) WOOLHOUSE (6) MILLER (7) CAVE (8) BALDGH (9) JONES (10) LOASBY (11)

Referee: W. F. FENNICK (Bedford)

Linemen: N. R. BASH (Burton Lutetians) Yellow Flag A. E. BARDH (Northampton)

(11) PAYNE (10) STAFFORD (9) WHITE (8) PADFIELD (7) HEATH (6) COX (5) PRESTON (4) RICHARDS (3) PAYNE (2) WHITTAKER (1) BATES

Red and White Stripes, Black Shorts. **ANSTEY NOMADS**

**NEXT HOME MATCHES**  
Monday, 22nd August — FIRST TEAM v. SPALDING UNITED. Kick-off 6-45 p.m.  
Tuesday, 23rd August — Wellingborough Charity Cup.  
Wednesday, 24th August — Wellingborough Charity Cup.  
Saturday, 27th August — U.C.L. K.D. Cup v. SLETOCHLEY TOWN. Kick-off 3 p.m.

**ABC LYRIC WELLSBOROUGH**  
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MONDAY, 22nd AUGUST, 1960 — FOR SIX DAYS  
CHARLIE DRAKE — PETER ARNE  
"Sands of the Deserts"  
2-15 5-35 8-50 (Technical) (Centrifuge U)  
Also — DAVID LADD in "RAYMIE" (u)  
Last Complete Performance 7-05 p.m.  
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Manager: Mr. GEORGE RAYNOR  
Secretary: Mr. J. R. ARMSTRONG Ground: BURGH ROAD, SKEGNESS  
29, Cecil Avenue, Skegness Tel: Skegness 1214 Tel: Skegness 1385

**CENTRAL ALLIANCE LEAGUE — SOUTH**  
17th SEPT, 1960 Kick-off 3.0 p.m.

**SKEGNESS TOWN**   
**ANSTEY NOMADS**

Official Programme 3d.

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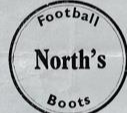
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"Anstey Hoo-Do Strikes Again United" was the headline in the Long Eaton Advertiser reporting on the match between Nomads and Long Eaton United at Anstey in November 1960. The fixture was originally scheduled for 22 October but was postponed due to the Amateur Cup tie with Quorn. Anstey realising that they had a double fixture they wrote to the league informing that the United game was off. United officials claimed that they received no such notification, although 'strangely' neither the league's referee or linesmen put in an appearance. Long Eaton arrived early and with no one around occupied one of the dressing rooms to get ready. As kick off approached three doors in the dressing room swung open almost simultaneously and there stood one player in red and white: one player in blue and white, and then one in gold and black. As amateurs always took precedence over semi-professionals, Long Eaton left to get their bus home. But it was nowhere to be found, the driver having gone to visit relatives. The bus eventually picked up the team and supporters at 4.25 pm. The missing bus was just 400 yards away while Long Eaton officials searched the village frantically. There was also drama at the rescheduled game, which prompted Granger, Long Eaton Advertiser's correspondent to open his match report stating "If United ever go to Anstey again it will be too soon for me. I am beginning to think there's a jinx on the place since every time we go something seems to happen." He then went on to list the catalogue of lighthearted 'shocks' that took place on that eventful autumn Saturday. Shock no. 1- although United supporters who had paid for the first futile trip were taken free of charge, there was not the mad fight to get aboard or call for the extra bus that officials had booked. Shock no.2 they found that three teams were already getting changed at Cropston Road, but the United team and officials were relieved when they discerned that the other two were playing on an adjacent ground. Shock no. 3, the pitch which had recently been flooded resembled something like a brown porridge with a green sprinkling on top. Perhaps the biggest shock, however, was that it took 40 minutes for United to overcome the fact that the Nomads were not the pushover they had expected. Nomads who were 1-0 down at the interval continued to play good football but they lacked a marksman. The class of Long Eaton showed through scoring two goals in the final quarter to win 3-0. Shock no. 4 - within just a few minutes after setting off for home the bus broke down just outside of Anstey. Jabs on the starter had little effect so the driver stopped a passing car and gained a lift back to the garage in Anstey. He was gone more than half-an-hour. There was no one at the garage who could help. He managed to get a lift to Leicester where he eventually found a mechanic, who soon put matters, a blockage in the fuel pipe, right.

Nomads second league two-pointer came on the road, when they put two past the Bedfordshire side, Potton United 2-0. On consecutive Saturdays in late November, Grantham scored 13 goals against the Nomads without reply, seven at home and six away. More than 400 watched the game at Grantham. A sharp drizzle quickly turned into a downpour, and the quality of the football suffered. Because of the light and the saturated state of the players, the referee dispensed with an interval, the teams changing straight round. These convincing victories over the Nomads took Grantham to the top of the table. When the Stafford team arrived at Cropston Road at Christmas the referee was in two minds about whether the game should be played, given that the ground was in a very muddy state. Whittaker scored twice very early in the game. As Stafford began to get use to the awful playing conditions, they outclassed the home team, eventually winning the match 4-1. Anstey were hapless throughout the remainder of the season, suffering several humiliating defeats including a 8-0 thrashing by Skegness Town who won the title by just one point from Loughborough United. Given their atrocious league form, perhaps not surprisingly Anstey were eliminated in the first round of all cup competitions entered - Central Alliance League Cup (Long Eaton United); Coalville Charity Cup (Shepshed Albion); Leicestershire Challenge Cup (Loughborough United); Leicestershire Senior Cup (Loughborough Colleges), Wigston Benevolent Cup (Oadby Town) - apart from the Amateur Cup where they

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BOURNE—Colours, Claret and Blue, Blue Shorts			
R	Lilley, G.		L
2 Thomas, G.		3 Savin, K.	
4 Crouch, A.		5 Smith, T.	
7 Darroch, J.		8 Parry, C.	
9 Livie G.		10 Brennan, H.	
11 Allen, K.			
Kick-off 2.45 p.m.		Linesmen :	
Referee :			
11 Stafford	10 Hanson	9 White	8 Hubbard
6 Black		5 Preston	4 Siddons
	3 Payne		2 Marston
L	Bates		R
ANSTAY NOMADS—Colours—Shirts, Red and White Stripes			
STILL THE BEST			
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eventually winning the match 4-1. Anstey were hapless throughout the remainder of the season, suffering several humiliating defeats including a 8-0 thrashing by Skegness Town who won the title by just one point from Loughborough United. Given their atrocious league form, perhaps not surprisingly Anstey were eliminated in the first round of all cup competitions entered - Central Alliance League Cup (Long Eaton United); Coalville Charity Cup (Shepshed Albion); Leicestershire Challenge Cup (Loughborough United); Leicestershire Senior Cup (Loughborough Colleges), Wigston Benevolent Cup (Oadby Town) - apart from the Amateur Cup where they

claimed their only cup win of the season against Quorn (2-0) at home, before losing in the Second Qualifying Round to Stapenhill.

## ~1961-62~

Despite vigorous opposition a new constitution to two leagues with 22 clubs in the Premier Division and 16 clubs in Division 1, was adopted at the Central Alliance Football League's annual meeting held at Normanton Miners in June. Although finishing bottom of the Division 1 South, Anstey were placed into the Premier Division. Unfortunately, a change of Division did nothing to improve the club's fortunes. The Nomads ended yet another poor season just one point off the bottom of the table, accumulating just 15 points from 32 games. In September, Ashbourne came from 3-1 down to claim a point, and Boston United scored 3 times in the last 5 mins of the first half in their 6-0 destruction of Nomads at York Street. Their first win, 3-2 against Burton Albion Reserves did not arrive until 18 November. Anstey's line up at Elton Park, Burton that day was Newhall, Whittaker, Payne, Smart, Preston, Richards, Heath, King, Arlott, Stafford, Marshall. This was a surprising scoreline, especially after being 2-0 down at the interval. Just six minutes into the second period, Anstey reduced the arrears through Arlott and 15 minutes later they were on level terms. Nomads equalised in the 65<sup>th</sup> minute when King scored beautifully from Stafford's pass. Four minutes later, with the best shot of the match, King gave Anstey the two points. Following a corner by Marshall, he took Bickley completely by surprise with a 20 yard backward shot, driving the ball over his head and into the net. In January, the works team, Ransom and Merles of Newark upon Trent humiliated the Nomads 10-3.

A hat-trick by Tony Shields gave Enderby Town a 3-0 home victory over Anstey in the first week of September that put them into the Coalville Cup final. A week earlier Anstey had slaughtered Oadby Town 7-0 in the quarter final. Enderby played by far their best football of the season in the semi-final against Anstey. Both sides attacked from start to finish. Davis, Enderby's captain and centre-half was outstanding throughout as he kept a firm grip on the Nomads' forwards, while his passes were distributed with judgment and accuracy. All the goals were the outcome of combined approach work to which all the forwards contributed, and they found Shields in the right place at the right time. The goals came in the 22<sup>nd</sup>, 35<sup>th</sup> and 60<sup>th</sup> minutes. Enderby's 9-0 annihilation of Bentley Engineering wrote them into the Coalville Charity Cup records as the highest cup final victory in the long history of the competition.

Anstey's performances in the other cup competitions were as inept as their league form, suffering a 5-1 home defeat in the opening round of the Senior Cup, and were also eliminated in the first round of the league cup (Gresley Rovers 3-1). After equalising from the penalty spot just 3 minutes from time, they lost the replay against Oadby Town, 4-0 in the Wigston Benevolent Cup. Oadby knocked Anstey out of the Amateur Cup in the preliminary round after a replay.

## ~1962-63~

For the second consecutive season, the Nomads finished one off the bottom of the League, with just 12 points from 28 matches, with four wins and four draws. Below them with just 2 points were Aspley Old Boys from Nottingham. The season began badly. The opening fixture against Wilmorton and Alvaston had to be postponed as Anstey were unable to raise a team as several of their players were on holiday. Anstey's first points of the season came with a 2-1 home victory against Cresswell Colliery. Arnold St Mary's, one of many teams to complete the home and away double against the Nomads team scored no less than 17 goals against Anstey. They lost 12-3 in Nottinghamshire and 7-1 at Cropston Road. The season was severely disrupted by the big freeze. Starting in mid-December, the temperature plummeted in Leicestershire along with the rest of the country, with heavy snowfalls and blizzards. With an average temperature of -2.1oC, January 1963 remains the coldest month since January 1814 in central England. It was not until 6 March that Leicestershire woke to a frost-free morning. While Leicester City became known as the "ice kings", a nickname earned following a club record unbeaten run of 18 matches between 10 November 1962 and 8 April 1963, non-league football in the county remained frozen. To overcome the backlog following the thaw, several "four point" matches in which the result represented both home and away fixtures were played. In one such game, against Ransome & Marles at Elm Avenue, Newark, two missed penalties led to a unique situation. At the end of the game, Ransome and Marles and Anstey Nomads left the pitch with two points apiece and neither team having scored! Anstey were faced with the problem of ground availability in May and came to an agreement with

Gresley Rovers that the game at Moat Road, which ended 6-0 in favour of the Moatmen would represent both home and away fixtures. Ericsson United scored twice in the final 3 minutes to deny Anstey a rare home victory in May, Anstey finished their unsuccessful league campaign, in the same way they started it, with a 4-1 defeat.

Back at the beginning of the season, Anstey easily beat Lutterworth Town, 4-0 at Dunley Way in the South Leicestershire club's first Amateur Cup tie on 13 October. The home team had to field 3 reserve team players due to injuries. They played poorly and lost 2-1 in the next round against another Leicestershire side, Loughborough Colleges. The Colleges a week earlier had knocked Anstey out of the Senior Cup. After a replay, Eastwood Town overcame the Nomads in the first round of the League Cup in September.

There was a disappointing attendance at the AGM in June. In the absence of the president, club chairman Albert Draper, said that owing to the loss of their second ground, only two teams would operate in 1963-64. Club finances were healthy and with careful spending the balance had been increased to £1,318. The following officers were elected: President, John Walker; secretary, Ken Ford; treasurer, Ted Jackson; financial secretary Clive Richad and auditor, Ken Motts.

## ~1963-64~

Although performances were marginally better than in the previous two seasons, the Nomads finished 18<sup>th</sup> in the Premier League, with 29 points from 42 games. They lost their opening game by the scoreline, 3-1, away at Gresley, which was followed by 3-1 defeats at home against both Burton Albion Reserves and Clay Cross. Anstey gave a creditable performance against Burton and had Drawater not missed a penalty when 2-1 down they might have even won the game. Anstey also lost their fourth game 2-6 (a multiple of 1-3). They occasionally shipped in more goals, losing 7-1 (Eastwood, away), 5-1 (Alfreton, away), and 4-1 (Sutton Town, home). Almost a third of Anstey's points came in March when they went on an unbeaten streak, accumulating 10 points out of a possible 12 with 4 wins and 2 draws.

In the Amateur Cup Moor Green were never in any danger of losing at Cropston Road in October. The visitors' diminutive inside right, Bates had a field day, scoring a brilliant hat-trick. His goals, all well taken, coming in the 30<sup>th</sup>, 65<sup>th</sup> and 82<sup>nd</sup> minutes. Burly inside-left McGill scored the fourth in the final few minutes. Anstey's downfall was according to press reports a lack of cohesion among their forwards and their defence allowing Moor Green wingers too much room in which to manoeuvre. For the third consecutive season, Anstey failed to get past the first round of the Senior Cup, losing 3-1 away at Earl Shilton Albion.

## ~1964-65~

For the third time in four seasons the Nomads finished the season one off the bottom of the Central Alliance Premier League. They were on the same points (25 from 38 games), but a lower goal average than as Long Eaton United Reserves in 18<sup>th</sup> place. Averaging just less than a goal a game, Anstey won just 9 league games all season and conceded 91 goals. Remarkably the season started well, they were unbeaten in their opening four fixtures, winning two and drawing two. They then went on a run of defeats and then won consecutive games against Arnold and Nottingham Forest A giving a glimmer of hope to their weary supporters. Sadly, this proved to be a false dawn; the rest of the campaign being an odd draw or win breaking the monotony of defeats. In December, Eastwood Town slaughtered the Nomads (6-1) on a heavy and slippery Cropston Road ground, sending the Nottinghamshire side to the top of the table. Eastwood arrived late and the players changed on the bus to make up for lost time. But worse was to come, the following week away to champions-elect, Gresley Rovers, Nomads conceded eight!

An unexpected 2-0 win at Howell Sports sent the Nomads into the second round of the Senior Cup. Unfortunately, success was short-lived as a few weeks later Bentley Engineering (1-0) ended their bid for cup glory.

## ~1965-66~

A much-improved Anstey Nomads easily disposed of Smethwick from the FA Amateur Cup on Saturday 25 September 1965. The score line of 2-0 did not reflect Anstey's mastery of the Birmingham side. The Nomads had 75 per cent of the game and only plenty of luck kept the score down. This was Anstey's first win of the season and with a new look forward line showed a big improvement. Centre forward Brown marked a good display with a goal in each half. In the First Qualifying Round, Anstey were drawn at home against another Birmingham side, Paget Rangers. Anstey started as if they would swamp the Rangers, but slack marking allowed Paget back into the game, and they took the lead after half-an-hour, Seal scoring from a free kick taken by Lancashire. From the restart Anstey went straight to the attack and Brown equalised. Both goals had a charmed life, with both sides wasting many golden opportunities to score, the game ending in a draw. Paget who were in tremendous form unceremoniously ousted Anstey Nomads from the FA Amateur Cup qualifying round replay, a week later at the Springfield Road Ground, Sutton Coldfield. The visitors never

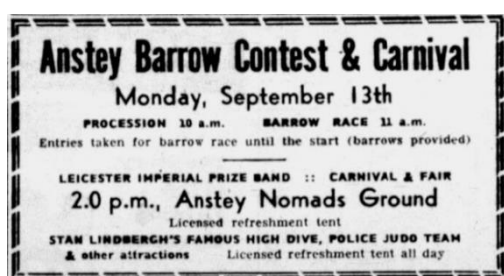


Figure 1 Leicester Daily Mercury - 11 September 1965

getting over the shock of a third minute goal from Seal and eight minutes later same player scored another brilliant point. In the 31st minute Lancashire slipped through to score the third and four minutes later Shrimpton drove home a Lyndon rebound for a fourth. Paget's next goal came in the 70th minute Lyndon heading home and later Lancashire crowned a great performance by giving Lyndon a gift completed the scoring minutes from time. The final score was 7-0 to the West Midlands side.

Nomads first win in the League did not arrive until the following month, a 4-2 away win at Creswell Colliery. Seven days later, Duggin scored 5 goals against the Nomads at Gresley, including an eight-minute hat-trick. Anstey scored an own goal after 4 minutes and missed a penalty in an all-action packed game, which ended with a 7-1 win for the Derbyshire side, who ended the season in second place, behind champions Boston United. Anstey's midtable finish was their best for several seasons.

A good Senior Cup run bought some cheer to the Nomads supporters. Anstey who's last three matches had been called off because of adverse weather conditions named a full-strength side for their Senior Cup semi-final match against Senior League side Loughborough United at Brown's Lane. In late February They reached the last four following victories against Breedon & Cloudhill (4-2 aet), Wellington Vic (4-0), and Barwell Athletic. Anstey fielded the following team: Saley, F Marston, E Marston, Brown, Allen, Berry, Crook, Pratt, Povoas, Coulter, Follow. Loughborough survived a spirited late rally by the Nomads and reached the Senior Cup final for the first time. Considering the atrocious conditions – a morass of a pitch and blustery wind – the football was of a high standard. Loughborough dominated play in the first half but missed some sitters and at the break it was 0-0. Then in the 57th minute they got what turned out to be the all-important goal. Left-winger Johnson who was outstanding throughout hit the cross bar with a shot from an oblique angle and the ball dropped at the feet of Kalisach. The centre-forward had only to pop it in the net from a couple of yards. Anstey's forwards who looked far from impressive for most of the game suddenly clicked into gear around the 70th minute mark and with wingers Crook and Follows putting in some good work – United had to battle to prevent an equaliser. It took three games to decide the final. After two draws at Filbert Street (1-1), and Measham (3-3 aet), Measham Social Welfare beat Loughborough 6-0 at Browns Lane on 6 May.

## ~1966-67~

Anstey won their opening two league games, both at home. The first against Belper Town Reserves (2-0) and the second against Grantham. There was a game scheduled between these two fixtures on August 24, but this was postponed by Burton Albion Reserves who were not willing to play three league games in seven days. Grantham took the lead following an error by goalkeeper Smart at Cropston Road in late August, in a game played in torrential rain. After an hour's play, the Nomads scored 3 goals, in blistering 7-minute spell, the game ending with a 4-1 win, two days after beating Belper Reserves. They were unlucky to lose the home fixture on September 9 with Gresley Rovers, who went on to win the championship by ten clear points. A

game of high-class football, the large crowd were kept on their toes until the final whistle. Anstey defended stubbornly in their first away game, at Kimberley and were unlucky not to draw the game, eventually losing 1-0. A large crowd were kept on their toes until the final whistle in the home fixture with Gresley Rovers, who would be crowned league champions. Both sides played high class attacking football, with the Derbyshire side eventually winning by the odd goal in five. Due to cup games and postponements the Nomads were languishing in the bottom two by mid-October, although they had several games in hand. Crewton travelled to Anstey on the first Saturday of 1967 only to discover that the Cropston Road ground was underwater. They continued onto Leicester to watch the Division 1 game against Sheffield Wednesday. Anstey officials made a nice gesture and invited the Crewton party on their annual social. To combat a backlog of fixtures, Anstey fielded two teams on Saturday 18 February in the Central Alliance, one away to Belper Town Reserves and the other at home to Shirebrook; they lost in Derbyshire (3-1) and won at Cropston Road (2-1). Apart from the away fixture against Gresley, which the Nomads lost 6-1, no other team outclassed them. Anstey drew 13 games, more than any other team in the league. Winning just 9 games, they ended the season 15<sup>th</sup> out of 20.

It took Anstey Nomads and Accles & Pollock 210 minutes of dour football in September to decide who should go forward into the first round of the FA Amateur Cup, a home match against Lutterworth Town. After a one-all draw at Anstey previous Saturday Anstey held out on Halloween for 90 minutes with neither team scoring but two goals in the first period of extra time put Anstey out for another year.

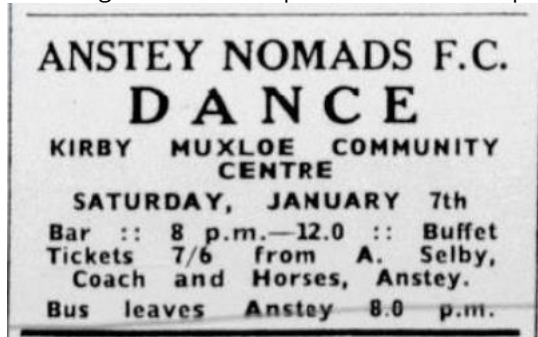


Figure 2 Leicester Daily Mercury - 31 December 1966

Anstey were forced to play extra time in their first round Senior Cup tie with Shepshed Albion on the latter's ground. And after extra time the sides were still level at 1-1. According to the rules the tie had to be replayed the following Saturday. The club had a Central Alliance fixture, a Senior League match and a District League engagement on that day. Furthermore, given that four of the Nomads first team were also selected to represent the County against Birmingham County in the Southern Counties Amateur Championship at Stourbridge, and another six were injured, they planned to postpone their Senior Cup replay. Leicestershire FA Chairman E R McLachlan told the local press that the rules cannot be broken and the "Game Must Be Played". Nomads' secretary was disgruntled by the decision and had no option but to postpone their Central Alliance game. Anstey won the replay 3-0 to face Oadby Town in the second round. Yet again it took a replay, further adding to their backlog of fixtures, to separate the teams, with Enderby knocking them out 2-1 in the third round.

A week after beating Oadby Town in the first round of the Coalville Cup at home on a Thursday evening (25 August 1966), Anstey fought out a thrilling 2-2 draw in the semi-final at the Hastings Arms ground, home of Ibstock Penistone Rovers. The lush long grass put Anstey off their game, and they never really got into their stride. Coulter gave Anstey a fourth minute lead when he headed wide of Thornley from a Crook centre. Both goalkeepers excelled for the next 40 minutes, particularly one marvellous save by Saley [Anstey] when he flung himself across the goal to fingertip a drive from Preston out. G Burton equalised just on half-time. The second half was of the pattern and in the 65<sup>th</sup> minute Coulter put Anstey in lead again minutes later G Burton levelled the score. Although the score of the replay had yet to be found, Ibstock won the replay and went through to the final, where they lost to Shepshed Albion.

In January Cropston Road staged the 3<sup>rd</sup> round tie in the FA Inter County Youth Championship between Leicestershire and Essex and two months later the Junior Cup Final between Hillcroft, and Friar Lane Old Boys. Played on Easter Monday morning, a crowd in excess of 3,000 – one of the biggest to ever watch a junior game in Leicestershire watched Friar Lane win.

## ~1967-68~

The Central Alliance Football League changed its name to East Midland Regional League Premier Division. Division One retained the old name - Central Alliance. Anstey were placed in the Premier Division. Mr Roger Sutherland, replaced Mr Sid Knight as Club secretary. Gresley won the title by 10 points, dropping just 12 points all season, scoring 129 goals in their 38 league games. Anstey in tenth – their best finish to date in the competition - were only nine points behind Newhall United in second place. The season began indifferently, with a series of losses and draws, intermingled with the odd two pointer. It was not until mid-October that they started to consistently play well, with successive wins against Heeley, Derby Venturers and Wilmorton & Alvaston. Following a disappointing display against Newfoundpool in the Senior Cup in January, Nomads axed their half-back line for the visit of Gresley Rovers in the Regional League. Out went Brown, Povoas and Berry, who moved to the Senior League side, and in came Lewis, Poole and Burdett. The reshuffle seemed to work as Anstey came very close to wrecking Gresley's unbeaten home record – Boarst missing an open goal in the final minute – shooting over the bar from 3 yards. The point from the 1-1 draw took Gresley to second place in the league. There was confusion when neither referee or the linesmen put in an appearance at the Kimberley Town v Anstey Nomads fixture in mid-January. Kimberley nominated a referee of experience, but Anstey officials objected on the grounds that he may favour the home team. Anstey also had a follower who had league refereeing experience. Kimberley welcomed this but the nominee refused because he may be prejudiced towards Anstey. With this deadlock a Kimberly official set off to Eastwood for the loan of a linesman. Eastwood agreed, also the referee, but Eastwood's opponents Gresley Rovers were adamant and said "No." Anstey finally agreed to Kimberley's nomination, but the match would be played as a friendly. Following their good 5-1 win at Heeley, Sheffield when they completed an 11-2 double, the Nomads completed their second double of the season a week later when they entertained Linby Colliery who they had already beaten 3-0 away. Anstey gave Linby a sound beating, the result was never in doubt after Wardle headed home after a quarter-of-an-hour. Coulter scored a second to give them a 2-0 interval lead, and then three more in the second period to bring his tally to four, Fitzpatrick completed the grand slam. Anstey collected two points and their fifth double of the season with an easy 5-1 win over Hucknall Town at Cropston Road. Fitzpatrick scored twice in the first 15 minutes and claimed his hat-trick on the half hour mark from a penalty after Crook had been grassed when cutting in. Barker saved his spot kick, only for the kick to be taken again. Barker again got his hands to the ball, but the speed carried it on. Just four minutes later Povoas handled, and Rogers made no mistake with the penalty for Hucknall. Fitzpatrick got his fourth early in the second period, and Berry completed the scoring with 8 minutes remaining. A 25-yard drive by Berry put Anstey 2-0 up against Ashbourne in early May at Cropston Road. Three minutes later Coxon from close into the far post scored from a beautifully placed free-kick by Hickmott to bring the Derbyshire side back with a chance. With ten minutes to go, Scott, who had come on as a substitute for the injured Couter slipped a neat pass just wide of Hicknott for Fitzpatrick to run onto and put the result beyond doubt.

After beating the Worcestershire side Pershore at home in the first qualifying round of the FA Amateur Cup, they were eliminated on the first Saturday of October by Smethwick Highfield.

Erie Marston brought honour to himself and the club by being selected for an England trial.

## ~1968-69~

A great season for the Nomads, finishing fourth in the highly competitive East Midlands Regional League. Their opposition was semi-professional, while the Nomads remained strictly amateur. Without star player, Ernie Marston, who was on holiday, Anstey began the season with an impressive 5-1 win at home against Wilmorton with Coulton bagging a hat-trick. Then a postponement as the Cropston Road pitch was underwater following a storm. Three consecutive draws and a number of defeats followed, and it seemed like the Nomads were in for a disappointing season. Form then picked up in November which carried on until the season's end. Along the way there were many interesting and exciting league fixtures. There was a ten-goal thriller at home to Ilkeston Town in November. At one point the Nomads were losing 3-1 before storming back to win 6-4. Crewton were slaughtered 10-1 at Cropston Road in late November. After scoring three goals

away from home in a 10-minute spell in the first half, Anstey eventually destroyed bottom of the table Heeley, 6-1. They completed their first double of the season, over Heeley, scoring seven without reply at home two weeks later. Anstey scored 3 times in a 6-minute spell during the second half. But for a brilliant display by Blencowe in the visitors' goal Anstey would have reached double figures. Between the two Heeley games, they netted six away at Hucknall, with Loakes netting a hat-trick in the opening quarter of an hour. Nomads moved to fifth in the table following a 3-0 victory at Ilkeston, making it five wins and one draw in their last six games, scoring 34 and conceding just 5 goals. The best game of the season voted by Anstey players and officials was the 4-2 victory against reigning champions Roe Farm Athletic, in Derbyshire. In March Anstey were losing 2-0 after 8 minutes at Sutton. Fitzpatrick's third hat-trick of the season gave the Nomads the two points and made him top goal scorer with 22. After inspecting the pitch at Crewton Sports (Derbyshire) the referee gave the teams the option of playing or not - for the ground had not been rolled since the wet weather and was bone hard. Passing along the ground was out of the question because of the ruts and bumps. The game ended in a 1-1 draw. Berry [Anstey] missed a second half penalty, sending it over the bar. Anstey still had a mathematical chance of winning the championship, if they won their match against Alfreton Town Reserves in early May. But Alfreton were struggling to raise a team. When Anstey played them a few weeks earlier they suggested that the match could count as both home and away fixtures, but the League refused permission as the Nomads still had a chance of honours. Given this decision Anstey felt aggrieved and threatened to resign from the League over the management committee decision to order the match between Kimberley Town and Eastwood Town to be replayed. Kimberley who fielded an ineligible player won 1-0. This decision effectively gave Eastwood a second chance to the title which looked certain to be won by Roe Farm. "By ordering this replay they seem prepared to give Eastwood four points. It is a wrong decision. We have discussed this and feel that we may have to resign in protest" said Anstey secretary Mr R F Sutherland, "the management committee seem to be doing one thing for Eastwood and something else for other clubs. There have been several things this season which we have felt to be wrong." Kimberley supported Roe Farm, and their president was so disgusted that he resigned over the issue. The controversy threatened the very existence of the competition. The matter was referred to a board of appeal - comprised of representatives from the Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire FA's - who reversed the East Midland's League decision.

Before a large crowd at Cropston Road on 24 May, Roe Farm Athletic retained the league, winning a thrilling encounter 4-1. The match was a personal success for teenage winger Eric Allsop who hit a splendid second half hat-trick. Heavy rain before the match made conditions tricky. Farm started cautiously and Nomads made all the running. But some splendid work by Guy Hall - who made a brilliant save in the opening minutes - kept the home side at bay. As the half-progressed Farm began to find their rhythm and started to threaten at the other end. Loydall put them ahead after a defensive mistake - his 40th goal of the season. Although Anstey had a number of chances before half-time, bad finishing saw them one goal down at the interval. Anstey changed their strip at half-time but five minutes into the second period a cloudburst sent spectators and players rushing for cover. The game was held up for a few minutes until the rain stopped. When play restarted the visitors really turned on the pressure and forced a corner. Fearn sent the ball across and Allsop scored his first goal. In the 70th minute Allsop put Farm further ahead. Wilkinson fastened on to a bad clearance, beat two players and squared the ball into Allsop's path. A left-foot drive gave Bates no chance. Anstey fought back. They forced a corner which was cleared but Crook put the ball back into the box. Hall failed to hold it, and Berry simply walked the ball into the net. Farm roared back and after Loydall and Wilkinson inter-passed down the field Allsop finished off the move. This was Anstey's first defeat in 24 games - the last time they lost a game was back in November. But they sportingly applauded the new champions off the field at the end. Mr Bernard S Shaw secretary of the Regional League presented the championship trophy to Farm skipper Dave Furlong. Farm finished the season with 61 points, Eastwood Town with 60 were second and third were Gresley Rovers with 58. Anstey were a further four points behind.

Anstey's bid for the FA Amateur Cup at the beginning of the season was somewhat brief as they travelled to Solihull to play Highgate United. They lost the one-sided tie 4-0. There was also an early exit from the Senior Cup as the Reserves were eliminated by Wellington Vic. The Wigston Cup semi-final tie against Newfoundpool in May was full of good football, with Anstey taking the lead direct from a corner which goalkeeper Jay, making the mistake of punching the ball into his own net. Shortly before half-time, Newfoundpool equalised through Holmes. The winning goal came from winger French, who beat two men in a grand run before finding the net with a crisp drive.



Anstey Nomads and Oadby Town played a dour 90 minutes football in the first round of the Leicestershire Challenge Cup on April Fool's Day and failed to decide who should go forward, the game ending 1-1. Oadby had the better of the first half and opened the scoring in the 20<sup>th</sup> minute when Williamson finished a fine move by heading across goal for Potter to score. Nomads seemed nervous but relaxed in the second half and had the Oadby defence in a tangle allowing Coulter to equalise. The replay also ended 1-1. The tie was decided at the third time of asking in favour of Oadby. Right winger Thomas hammered home a centre from left winger Baxter in the 24<sup>th</sup> minute. Four minutes later Maile gave Oadby a two-goal lead. Anstey went all out in the second period, with the Oadby defence under constant pressure, but found Timson in the Oadby goal, backed up by a tight defence hard to crack. The issue was settled midway through the second period when Oadby broke out of defence and forced a corner on the right, and from Thomas's kick Elliott scored.

The Nomads Senior League team had a poor start to the season and looked like having to apply for re-election, but a final spurt saw them pull well clear of the bottom whilst the "A" team finished third in the District League to gain promotion.

Cropston Road was extensively used as a neutral venue. It staged the Junior South Cup Final between Friar Lane Old Boys (Mutual League Champions) and Desford Colliery (Leicester & District League) on Easter Monday 11 am, the Youth Cup Final, and the Leicestershire & Rutland Thursday League Division 1 Cup Final between Fire Brigade and Retail Markets (cup holders for the past 3 seasons. Fire Brigade surrendered the trophy to Retail by 4-0).

The highlight of the Anstey Nomads annual dinner was a presentation of an inscribed silver salver, and gold cufflinks to 71-year-old Ted Jackson, "Mr Football" of Anstey - on his retirement from the Nomads' Committee. Mr J G Walker president of the Nomads said, as far as he could trace back Mr Jackson's football career in Anstey started in 1913 when he played for Anstey St Mary's and then in 1920, he joined Anstey Methodist's and was connected with Anstey teams up to the present time. Mr Jackson said he was sorry that after over 50 years of football in Anstey he had decided to "call it a day." Mr J H McQuinn president of the East Midlands League recalled the club joining the higher-grade football of the Central Alliance and their struggle during the first few seasons to their best ever season and hoped that next season the East Midland Regional League trophy might come to Anstey. Guests included Mr George Shaw retiring secretary of the East Midlands League, Mr Brough the new secretary, Mr John Holmes Leicestershire FA secretary, Mr Ken Goode (District League chairman) and Mr E R McLachlan (Senior League secretary).

## ~1969-70~

Nomads adopted new colours for the season, all red shirts and black shorts instead of their familiar red and white stripes. New signings included, Ian Beckett, an inside forward or wing half from Rose Farm, Mick Steer, inside forward or winger from Miand Athletic, Graham Merton, full back from Oadby and two goalkeepers Pau McMillan from Braunstone Athletic and Colin Bland. Anstey were joined in the East Midland Regional League by Enderby Town from the Senior League.

Gresley Rovers, who remarkably remained unbeaten all season retained the East Midland Regional League title, with 57 points from 32 games, finishing two points ahead of Enderby Town in second with 50 points. Anstey were fourth with 40 points, ten points behind Eastwood Town in third. Nomads drew 12 and lost only 6 league games. For the first time in many seasons, they started strongly, winning their opening league game against Derby Venturers 3-0, managing to take a point off Gresley in their second, followed by wins against Roe Farm Athletic, Newhall, Wilmorton & Alvaston, Grantham St Johns, and Blackwell Mine Workers. The winning goal against Newhall was scored 3 minutes from time. The game was marred in the 35<sup>th</sup> minute by an accident. Ernie Marston and Dave Smith clashed in a heading duel. Both fell to the ground and the game was halted for 10 minutes. Smith resumed with a plaster over his right eye, but Marston was taken to the infirmary where he had 7 stitches in a badly gashed forehead. In the reverse fixture a few days before Christmas, Anstey took Newhall's unbeaten home record. Wardle who scored all three goals of the game, netted the first after just 30 seconds. Anstey suffered their first loss of the season at the Moat Ground in

September. Gresley played a hard, tough game, but could not breakdown the Anstey defence until the second period.

Back at the start of the season, Anstey had to overcome several problems before beating Dunlop Sports 3-2 in the extra preliminary round of the FA Amateur Cup. Eddie Wardle went down with the flu on the day before the game. Then Frank Marston, who had cut short his holiday at St Ives in order to play failed to turn up for the kick off. Phil Burdett took his place. Marston arrived at 3.10 pm and acted as substitute. Anstey won easily on the game 3-0 and lost after a replay to Midland Athletic in the first qualifying round. Midland Athletic also cut short Anstey's bid for Senior Cup glory two months later. They were also knocked out of invitation Leicestershire Challenge Cup towards the end of April following a replay. After overcoming Oadby Town away from home in the quarter-final, they drew 0-0 in an indistinguishable, tough, and physical encounter with Loughborough United at Browns Lane, which was littered with free kicks. Seven days later at Cropston Road, United won 3-0 sending them into the final. All the goals came in the second period. Nomads had most of the game in the first half, but after Loughborough took the lead through Berresford, the visitors took control. In the 68<sup>th</sup> minute Broadhurst gave Bird, no chance with a hotly disputed penalty award and with ten minutes to go Smith settled the game with the best goal of the game.

# Arrival of Anstey's amateurs

**ENGLISH** amateur football tends to concentrate in two areas—thickly populated Metropolitan London or bleak North-East. Between the two, bisected by a line from Middlesbrough to St. Albans, is an amateur soccer Sahara where top-class teams are few. Once there was little to challenge the superiority of the soccer establishment.

Then on December 18, 1954 the attention of elite was drawn to a part of the county three miles north-west of Leicester Clock Tower. If you're an Anstey man, you'll remember the date. For in the evening you and hundreds more were standing on Anstey Nook (the village green) cheering—celebrating a great victory by the local team over the mighty Grays Athletic in the Amateur Cup.

Five hundred supporters from this soccer-mad community travelled the hundred miles to Essex in a specially chartered train to see the game. And for them and the 3,000 population, the evening of the 18th was a Waterloo, Trafalgar and Marston of a night. Anstey Nomads had made their mark.

## Spreading talents

Their reputation as Leicestershire's most renowned amateur club remains. Though they lost to Hayes of Middlesex in the next round of the 1954-55 Cup competition before a crammed 3,000 crowd at the Cropston Road ground, Anstey have continued to spread their talents.

A year ago they sifted in the East Midlands League, travelling far beyond the county to play teams from Derbyshire to Northants. Their opposition is semi-professional. But the Nomads remained strictly amateur. The first XI includes two firemen, an estate agent, a work-study expert, a commercial traveller, a brick-layer and a teacher. Secretary is Roger Sutherland.

"We usually get tips about possible signings from present Nomads players," he said. "Then



Inside forward John Ingleby

I go after them with maybe one or two members of the 17-man Anstey committee."

Inside-forward John Ingleby, a master tactician, was still in bed when the Anstey talent-gathering team arrived. In a single movement he had dressed and signed. Aged 22, a teacher who played for one of the Leeds United teams, he's prompted Anstey into fifth position in the League, with 95 goals and 23 points from 12 games.

Such players as Ingleby or 16-goal inside left Gerald Fitzpatrick make ideal targets for the scouts of professional teams. "But we're a happy club," says secretary Sutherland, "and we manage to keep a settled team."

Club loyalty is creditable. An example from Anstey was the dropping of three established half-

backs from the team last season. After keeping the same trio together for 12 consecutive games, Anstey dropped them in search of improved results. "We all knew that they had the talent, it was just that they weren't playing as well as they could," said Roger Sutherland. "They could have reacted by leaving the club in a fit of pique. But they stayed with us, fought back to form—and are now back again in the first team."

To a passing motorist the Anstey ground is a moderate assembly of green-painted buildings. But the grandstand holds 200, the pavilion includes four dressing rooms, showers and a canteen, floodlights overlook the shaded car park—the scene of mid-week training sessions under coaches Graham Favos and Roy James.

Anstey Chairman is Bill Boyes a brewery representative. President is John Walker, the village butcher, described by all as village benefactor. His beneficence shows in his supplying of sausage, pork pies and sherry to the players on suspicious occasions. The committee meets every week in the Coach and Horses. A member, 71-year-old Ted Jackson, outlined the club's chief income. "It's a tote," he explained. "We sell tickets at a shilling each, with a yearly draw for over a hundred prizes. At an estimate, we sell nearly 10,000 tickets."

## Vital extra

The extra income is vital. Over £1,000 a season is spent on travelling expenses for Anstey's three teams—and average gate is £7 a week. It's to the club's continuing credit that they've managed to stay amateur so long... since they were formed in 1948.

"But why the Nomads? As far as we know there are no other clubs with the same name," said Ted Jackson. "We called them the Nomads because players came



A pre-match picture of Anstey. The red-striped Nomads line-up includes goalscorer Gerald Fitzpatrick, Bill Berry firm tackling wing half and Nomads coaches Graham Favos and Roy James.

from all over the country to play for the club." They still do. Student Paul Jackson comes from Desborough, and left-winger Ron Mans from Coventry. They take their place in a 13-player pool from which the Nomads first team is invariably drawn.

At fullback are the brothers Frank and Ernie Marston—the latter an England amateur trialist. Peter Crook—brother-in-law of the raiding Fitzpatrick—plays right wing. Bill Berry is left-half. (The team always plays well when Bill's playing well.) Henry Hoskins centre-half and 10-goal Brian Loske, centre forward.

Des Bates is the reliable goalkeeper. And secretary Sutherland—one of the youngest in the game at 23 and a former trialist with Spurs and Forest—has been known to turn out.

"I was painting the fence outside my house when they asked me to take on the job," he said. "Being secretary takes up a lot of my social time. But I'm a football addict, like most Anstey people. My son looks as though he may carry on tradition." The younger Sutherland is only two—but the time when he, too, might join the throng on Anstey's green to celebrate Cup triumph might not be so far in the future.

	<b>1960-61</b>	<b>1961-62</b>	<b>1962-63</b>	<b>1963-64</b>	<b>1964-65</b>
President	J G Walker		J G Walker	J G Walker	J G Walker
Hon. Sec.	G K Ford		G K Ford	G K Ford	G K Ford
Hon. Tres	E Jackson		E Jackson	E Jackson	E Jackson
Hon Fin Sec	W S Driver		C Richards	C Richards	C Richards
Hon Aud			K Matts	K Matts	P Crowder
General Comm.	A Armstong S bates W Boyes S Crisp A Draoer G Draper F Garner A Kibble L matts K Partner S Raynor C Smart R Smart S Smith H Widdowson		A Draper (chair) W Boyes S Bates S Crisp G Draper D Freer B Greatorex A Henson A Kbble L Matts S Raynor R Smart S Smith H Widdowson A Armstrong	A Draper (chair) W Boyes S Bates A Amsong S Crisp A Fritche F Garner A Henson B Heath A Kibble L Matts S Raynor R Smart S Smith S Stone	A Draper (chair) W Boyes S Crisp K Ford B Heath A Henson R Jackson A Kibble L Matts S Raynor R Smart S Stone

	<b>1965-66</b>	<b>1966-67</b>	<b>1967-68</b>
President	J G Walker	J G Walker	J G Walker
Hon. Sec.	S Knight	S Knight	R Sutherland

Hon. Tres	A Kimble	A Kimble	A Kimble
Hon Fin Sec	C Richards	C Richards	C Richards
Hon Aud	P Crowder	P Crowder	P Crowder
General Comm.	A Draper (chair) E Botterill W Boyes S Crisp A Henson J Holt L Matts S Raynor R Smart	A Draper (chair) E Botterill W Boyes S Crisp A Henson J Holt L Matts R Smart R Cram	W Boyes (chair) A Draper E Botterill S Crisp A Henson G Farmer C Ford F Knights R #Cranp E Jackson M Jordan J Holt LMatts R smart