

Anstey Nomads FC

The Extraordinary Story of an English Village Football Club

The 1980s

~1980-81~

Chris Tucker remained as John Perkins assistant, with Nigel Perkins becoming general secretary. Other appointments included Terry French as football secretary, with John Sewell and Eddie Bowles becoming reserve team managers. "All these moves have been made to strengthen the Nomads on and off the Park" said manager Perkins. There were three major signings, Denis' Kirby and Andy Gould from Shepshed Charterhouse and John Brett ' the Friar Lane Old Boys' skipper "There's no complacency here, we will be working harder than ever to maintain our high standard of success ' and better if possible' he added. VS Rugby who were one of several clubs interested in Perkins turned to Len Willett former Atherstone Town chief as their new boss. He took over from Syd Hall who resigned towards the end of last season.

Anstey's biggest rivals during this period were Shepshed Charterhouse. There was an air of confidence at Dovecote prior to the start of the season. The Shepshed players were enthusiastic, with the management of Alan Hill and Terry Henness claiming that the club were second only to Leicester City on the county scene. The Charterhouse had made remarkable strides in recent seasons thanks in part to the financial backing provided by Maurice Clayton. One of the most important transfers of the close season was transfer of ace goal scorer Bran Sanderson from Oadby to Shepshed. Oadby Town has acquired the services of former Leicester defender Alan Woolett. Meanwhile, Anstey went on a pre-season tour of the East Coast with some intensive training stints and beat Louth 1-0 with a Perry goal. Alan Webster had joined from Melton Town. Although Shepshed were odds on favourites to win a hat-trick Senior League titles, it proved a much harder task than they expected.

Sadly, with the season just a few weeks old, club President William Boyes died aged 61.

As the season progressed, they were three contenders for the Senior League championship - Shepshed, Wigston Fields and Anstey. Last season the Nomads were streets ahead in the table until Christmas and New Year, when they faded, and Charterhouse took up the running and never looked back. This season however, Nomads were halfway down with just three points from three games, with Charthouse in their accustomed position top of the table with six points and a 12-1 goal record- when the sides met at Cropston Road before a crowd in excess of 800. The reigning champions won the game (2-1) that was packed with good football and a credit to local football. Having said that the game was decided by two bad errors by Nomads' keeper Fowler, presenting Brian Sanderson with both his goals, the winner coming in the 89th minute. Anstey had earlier equalised through Kirby' After the game Shepshed manager Alan Hill said: "We won 2-1 but Anstey must feel very hard done by because throughout they played the better football and in the second half they were in complete command." Nomads put an end to Wigston Fields' fine run in the League in October when they defeated them 4-0 at Cropston Road with Kirby and Wardle getting two each. Fields had scored 18 goals In their four previous games and In fact this was the first time they had failed to find the net In a League match. After dropping points during the run up to Christmas Shepshed regained their form gaining a vital home 3-1 win over the Nomads at the Dovecote. Scoular netted twice and Dearden made it three before Wardle got a consolation goal for Nomads in the final minutes. After months of speculation John Perkins left Cropston Road two days after the defeat at the Dovecote to officially join arch-rivals Shepshed Charterhouse— where he hoped to steer the club to their third successive Senior League championship. He left Anstey on good terms "that was very Important to me" - and former Leicester City player Willie Wilcox became playermanager. In press statement, the Nomads stated that they regretted that Perkins had resigned to take up the new post "In his 4½ years he had taken us from the doldrums to become a leading club. He has won the club 11 trophies and leaves us in a strong position. John Parkin made Anstey Nomads into a-top club and it up to us to continue the standard he us both on and off the park." Assistant manager Chris 'Tucker also left Anstey to take up similar post with the Charterhouse Perkins takes over at the Dovecote from Alan Hill who had resigned but remained with the club as chief scout. Perkins said 'It was a heart-searching decision, and I took long time to decide. I feel sad to be leaving Anstey, but I feel I cannot go any further with them. I have had other invitations to join teams in higher leagues but I always felt they were not the right clubs. Charterhouse have some very, honest and professional people and am very pleased to join them an ambitious and progressive club and they know where they want to go. Perkins played Senior League football with Enderby Town. As usual with cup games and postponements they spent the rest of the season playing catch-up. Shepshed having dropped several points over Easter, and with only one game to play led by only two points from Wigston who had two games in hand. Anstey were three points behind with two games to go. Wigston were considered at this stage to be the fancied club since they had to play both Shepshed and Anstey, in the space of three days at their Windsor Avenue ground. However, neither Anstey or Wigston took advantage, with Shepshed winning their third consecutive Senior League title, finishing two points ahead of Anstey in second and Wigston on the same points but with a much inferior goal difference in third.

| | Р | W | D | L | F | Α | Pts |
|-----------------|----|----|---|---|----|----|-----|
| Shepshed Chart. | 29 | 22 | З | 4 | 76 | 20 | 47 |
| Wigston | 27 | 20 | 5 | 2 | 52 | 22 | 45 |
| Anstey Nomads | 28 | 21 | 2 | 5 | 78 | 25 | 44 |

Although there was some cup glory, they could not match the success of the previous season. With the Senior League title still undecided Shepshed showed their class beat Anstey 4-2 in the quarter final of the Leicestershire Challenge Cup. After overcoming lbstock Penistone Rovers in the first round of the Coalville Charity Cup, they were drawn against Shepherd in the semi-final. Shepshed who received a walkover in this tie scheduled for late August, although the reason hasn't been traced lost in the final to Birstall United played in front of over 1,000 spectators at lbstock. Nomads claimed their first silverware of the season in mid-September when they retained their hold on the Battle of Britain Cup for a fifth consecutive season! - when they beat Oadby Town 1-0 on Enderby Town's ground. Oadby had the first chance of scoring when Millett shot wide of the near post and in the 11th minute Anstey scored their winning goal. It was a tragedy for Oadby when Grain 'made a bad back pass with advancing keeper Snee stranded for Wardle to send the ball into an empty net. Twice after that the Oadby goal lived dangerously with goalmouth ' mix-ups and In between Burdett moved up to miss an easy chance of putting Anstey further ahead. From close in he ballooned the ball over the bar Anstey's more calculated play gave them the advantage to the end and the cup presented to them by Arthur Chandler the ex-City favourite for the fourth successive year.

Anstey began their bid for FA Vase glory in some style in late September, with Peter Wardle scoring a hat-trick in the 5-0 demolition of Coleshill Town. Wardle was again Anstey's hero in the second-round tie against Hinckley Athletic of the West Midlands League at Cropston Road, netting another hat-trick. There was a feast of good football by both sets of forwards and over the whole tie Nomads - deserved their 3-1 victory. Hinckley's goal came from substitute Hill, but it came too late to give them a chance of a fight back. Irthlingborough Diamonds came to Leicestershire for the first time in the next round and pipped the Nomads 4-3 in a great game. The Nomads firing on all cylinders went off in style and were two goals up in 20 minutes through Dowsing and looking to get a hatful of goals. Sadly, it was not to be for stocky Glen Burdett hit back with a well take goal, and the crunch came between the 42nd and 50th minutes when Davis pounced on a defensive slip and Burdett completed a brilliant hat-trick - his second coming from a penalty. Wardle did put Nomads back and looked to have bagged an equalizer but after accepting the pass and return he was ruled offside. And so the Anstey Vase story ended for another season.

After demolishing Quorn 5-0 at home in the first round of the Senior Cup, Anstey coasted to a 2-0 lead in the second round with goals from Dowsing, and Wardle, but Friar Lane replied with late goals from Pateman and Hampson to take the tie into extra time, which was where the strength of Anstey came but with Dennis Kirby scoring twice in the first period of extra time to give Anstey a 4-2 victory. In the following round they won a

close encounter against fellow Senior League title contenders, Wigston, before losing in the semi-final against Oadby.

Holders Anstey were taken to a replay by Hinckley Town in the opening round of the Tebbutt-Brown Cup. Weakened Nomads twice had to come back from a goal deficit to clinch a second chance after Hanson had scored both Town's goals from quick breakaways. Town comprehensively beat Nomads in the replay at Leicester Road, coming back from being goal down. Nomads took the lead early on when keeper Bob Kelly was caught off his line. As the half wore on, the Town came more into things and deservedly equalised on the half-hour with a glancing header by Graham Laurence. And before half time the same player had given Hinckley the lead crashing home a shot from 25 yards hitting the ball on the half volley to give the Anstey keeper no chance. Nomads threatened to come back but a defensive error, well intercepted by Les Hanson saw the Town man slip home the third after 67 minutes to put the match out of their reach.

Arch-rivals Shepshed Charterhouse were admitted to the Midland League at the end of the season. Charterhouse won the Midland League title at the first attempt and when this league merged with the Yorkshire League to form the Northern Counties East League (NCEL) in 1982, they were placed in the NCEL Premier Division. They won their sixth successive league title to earn promotion to the Southern Football League Midland Division for the 1983–84. This season successfully negotiating the qualifying rounds of the FA Cup to reach the first round proper, where they lost 5–1 to Preston North End at Deepdale on the 20 November 1982.



Figure 1 John Perkins, manager of Anstey Nomads displays his club's trophies won in 1980-81. They are (left to right), Rolleston Cup, Leicestershire Combination championship cup, Tebbutt-Brown, Battle of Britain Cup and Senior League runners-up. Anstey were also runners up in the Leicestershire Challenge Cup, and in the Coalville Cup.

~1981-82~

Despite a two-point deduction, Anstey Nomads won the Senior League by five points from Birstall United, losing just one game. They dominated the first half of the season, winning game after game. By the beginning of December, Nomads were no less than seven points clear, thanks to a brilliant 3-0 away win over near-rivals Wigston Fields. Anstey dominated the game with goals coming at regular intervals from John Jarram, Des Bailey and Steve Coulthard. With snow and icy conditions prevailing, there was almost a complete white-out of local football for five weeks from mid-December. Anstey's third Round of the Senior Cup in January did not go according to the form book. In the surprise result of the season. Paul Weston of Narborough scored the only goal of the game five minutes before the interval. Despite bombarding the home goal for much of the

second half, the Nomads were unable to equalise. The squad was strengthened in February by the signing of experienced players from Wigston, midfielder John Carrigan and attacker, David Throop. Cup commitments and further postponements slowly eroded Anstey's lead at the top of the table by Birstall and Enderby. One of the games of the season was the clash at Cropston Road in mid-February, when Nomads and Enderby fought out a 1-1 draw. In a bruising encounter, former Nomad Paul Mee put Enderby ahead but five minutes from time Kirby equalized to preserve Nomads unbeaten league record of 13 wins and three draws. Unable to field a team through many injuries the following Saturday, Enderby Town increased their challenge with a 2-0 win over Thringstone. This put them just one point behind Anstey having played the same number of games. A row broke out after leaders Anstey, who had recently announced three new signings which brought their squad up to almost the biggest in the Senior League, cancelled their match against Lutterworth who were fourth from bottom. Several clubs felt that the Anstey action was not good for the image of the League, especially as a strong Anstey reserve side tuned out and beat good opposition. The Leicester Mercury also criticized Anstey, stating that, "sympathy must be with second placed Enderby Town Reserves who carry the burden of first team calls from their Southern League side, but struggle on by including youth players." The League agreed with the sentiments expressed in print and deducted Nomads two points for a breach of the competition rules, sending Enderby to the top of table. Enderby had 30 points from 21 games and led by two points, following Anstey dropping a point after drawing with third placed Birstall United at Meadow Lane. But having played four matches fewer they were still hot favourites for the title. Anstey led 2-0 a half-time at Birstall through goals by David Kely and Des Bailey. The home side refused to give up and after Lee Norman had reduced the deficit, equalised in the last minute of play through Paul Noble. On the first Monday in April, Anstey's run of 22 undefeated league games was halted by Melton Town at Egerton Park. Chris Duggan pounced in the 88th minute to give the home side 2-1 win after Steve Coulthard [Nomads] and Town's Johnny Clay had cancelled out each other's goals. Although they dropped another point at Oadby Town a week later, it was enough to nudge Enderby off the top of the table on goal difference. Enderby regained top spot a few days later only to be knocked off themselves within 48 hours by Anstey following an impressive 4-0 away win at Desford Colliery. Enderby surprisingly lost their penultimate league game of the season 3-2 at home to Wigston Fields, and with just one game to play they led by just one point from Nomads who still had five matches to complete. They made no mistake and clinched the title following a stunning 5-0 away win at Harborough Town Imperial.

The newly crowned Senior League champions were beaten 3-0 by Birstall United in the Rolleston Cup Final on 3 May played at Cropston Road. Kirby gave Nomads the lead, with Des Parry equalising for Birstall who had just clinched the runner-up berth in the Senior League First Division, just before half-time. Peter Jackson and Paul Noble were on target during the second period. Fifteen days later, Birstall beat Anstey Nomads 1-0 at Friar Lane Old Boys' ground in the Tebbutt-Brown Cup Final. A goal worthy of winning a trophy — a hard-driven shot from just out- side the penalty area from defender Lee Norman — settled the issue. As well as receiving the trophy Birstall captain Peter Jackson collected a personal award for being the Senior League's leading goal scorer.

Anstey hosted the last fixture of Leicestershire Senior League season when as First Division champions, they met their Second Division counter parts Narborough and Cropston Road. The game ended 1-1.

The Anstey club added another trophy to their collection when their reserve team beat Oadby Town Reserves I-0 to the Florentine Bowl.

Steve Coulthard, the only player to appear in all Anstey Nomads' 50 first-team games, was named player of the year. John Kirby won the clubman award, Des Bailey the manager's award and Wili Wilcox received a trophy for scoring 34 goals in the season.

John Perkins left Cropston Road for the second time in June, stating that he did not feel "mentally and physically right" to continue the job. His management team, of coach Chris Tucker and physiotherapist Brian Lovegrove also quit, both wanting a break from football. Former Enderby Town boss Tommy Elliott was appointed as John Perkins successor three weeks later. New chairman Nigel Perkins moved up from club secretary to take over from Ken Partner, who become Anstey president. Completing the changes, Terry French became secretary and Graham Monk treasurer.

~1982-83~

Anstey retained the Senior League title, but it was far from easy! They just got home in their opening league fixture of the season 4-2, but the following Saturday, with a full side available, won 7-1 at Earl Shilton. Denis Kirkby and Des Bailey notched two goals each and Coulthard, DeNoon and John Jarrams picked up the odd ones. They blotted their copybook by surprisingly cancelling their next game against Desford. Anstey ascended to the top of the table where they remained until mid-October, only dropping one point against Lutterworth Town. Because of their involvement in the FA Vase and Senor Cup, Nomads did not play in the Senior League between 20 October and 18 December.

After overcoming Blakenhall (2-0) and Brigg Town (after a replay), Anstey were knocked out of the Vase by Hallam FC, the second oldest association football club in the world. The tie was played at Sandygate, in the Sheffield suburb of Crosspool, which is officially recognised by the Guinness Book of Records as "The Oldest Football Ground in the World". In 1867, the club made history by winning the world's first ever football tournament, the Youdan Cup.

It took three attempts to settle the first round Senior Cup tie between Nomads and Oadby. In the second replay at Cropston Road. Esi Millett put the visitors ahead after 10 minutes. Jarram levelled almost immediately, but Oadby continued to have the edge and in the final 10 minutes Towers and Millett settled the result to earn a home match with Narborough the next weekend.

On their return to league action in December, they went down 2-1 to Quron who were fourth from bottom. This resulted in the Nomads being seventh in the standings, 7 points and five games behind leaders Wigston Fields. Nomads spent the remainder of the season chasing Wigston, who after the first quarter of the season were managed by former Nomad and Shepshed manager, John Perkin following the resignation of John Peat. There was also a change of leadership at Cropston Road. During the Christmas period Tommy Elliott resigned as manager and was replaced by former Leicester City player Willie Wilcox, his second spell in charge. Wilcox who continued to play for the club was manager at Cropston Road in the second half of the 1980-81 season. The race for the Senior League championship was thrown wide open in February after Nomads won 2-1 at Wigston Fields, who were league leaders and clear favourites to take over the crown. John Jarram scored a goal in the second half to inflict the Fields' their first league defeat since John Perkins took over. Nomads bid to catch Wigston stumbled two weeks later at home to Fields' arch-rivals Wigston Town, losing 2-0 at Cropston Road. By the second week of April, following seven consecutive wins, including memorable victories against Friar Lane Old Boys, Birstall and Enderby Town, Anstey were four points behind leaders Wigston Fields with three matches in hand. Although they won two of their games in hand, postponements because of the weather and players' work commitments repeat disrupted Anstey's attempts to complete their League fixtures and settle the First Division championship issue. The game was eventually played at the third attempt. In the meantime, Wigston had completed all of their fixtures to go a point clear. A draw would not be enough because of Anstey's inferior goal average. A hat-trick by player-manager Willie Wilcox gave Nomads the two points they need to win the Senior League championship on Friday 13 May, and stopped their former Nomads manager John Perkins, who had steered Anstey to the title in 1981, completing an unusual double of winning the championship with Wigston Fields. Wilcox put Nomads ahead in the last minute of the first half, giving them a psychological lift for the second period which they dominated. He second goal on he hour mark from a penalty after John Jarram had been brought down and the third a quarter of an hour from the end following a fine run by Steve Coulthard. Anstey's team that memorable evening was:: Hewitt, Kelly, Denoon, Walker, Connelly, Taylor, Deeping, Billington, Jarrams, Coulthard, Wilcox. Sub Mee.

Anstey drew 1-1 with Northern Counties East League champions, Enderby Town at the Dovecote in the County Challenge Cup quarter-final in April. Mark Cox's close-range goal was Enderby's return from numerous chances Willie Wilcox scored Anstey's goal from a penalty. Shepshed won the replay by a single goal here weeks later. Anstey were eliminated from the Rolleston Cup on penalties by Newfoundpool. They also lost on penalties in Coalville Charity Cup semi-final at Friar Lane Old Boyson the opening fixture of 1983, after a goal-less draw at Knighton Lane East. In the first round, they had humiliated Ibstock Penistone Rovers 10-1 in August, the first club to score ten or more goals in the competition since Anstey beat Desford Colliery 14-0 in 1958.

~1983-84~

Nomads lost Steve Taylor to Wigston Town and Paul Mee to Oadby Town in the close season, but recruited Steve Coulthard's brother, Tony from Wigston Town and full-back Paul Fitzpatrick. They also welcomed back Des Bailey following a stint with Wigston Fields. Add to that normally powerful line up and striker John Jarram who scored 7 out of the Nomads 13 after 4 league games, Anstey were bristling with self-belief. Nomads

seeking to win their third successive Senior League title, had a tough opening fixture, a home match with archrivals Wigston Fields. In a stunning performance Nomads won 3-0. They had a day to forget at George Street on the second Saturday of the season. Anstey had the ball in the net five times against Leicester United Reserves, but only one stood, the others being disallowed for offside, handball and a foul. United won 2-1, and to complete a miserable day, the Nomads goalkeeper Denis Hewitt suffered a broken arm a quarter of an hour from the end before United scored the clincher.

To mark the official 'switch on' of the floodlights at the County FA's Holmes Park headquarters on 28 September there was a 'special fixture' played between Senior Cup holders Hinckley Athletic and Senior League champions, Anstey Nomads. The match ended goalless.

Melton went 4 pts clear at the top of the table following a remarkable 5-0 away win at Cropston Road on the final Saturday of 1983. Steve Saxby and Peter Jackson, the attacking duo who had been the scourge of Senior League defence's, scored two goals each, the other coming from Steve Wright. Jackson was again on target when they played

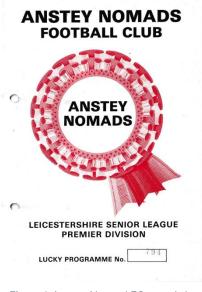
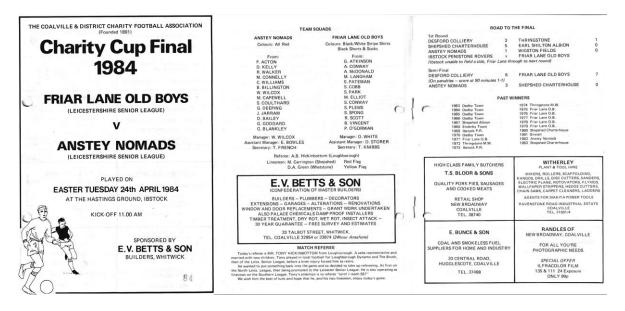


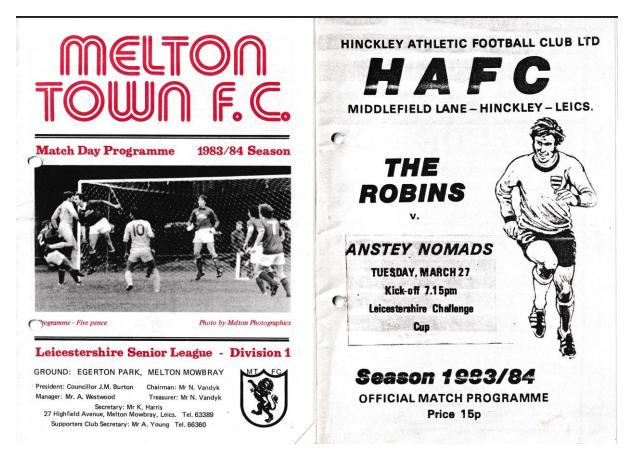
Figure 2 Anstey Nomad FC matchday programme front cover 1983-84

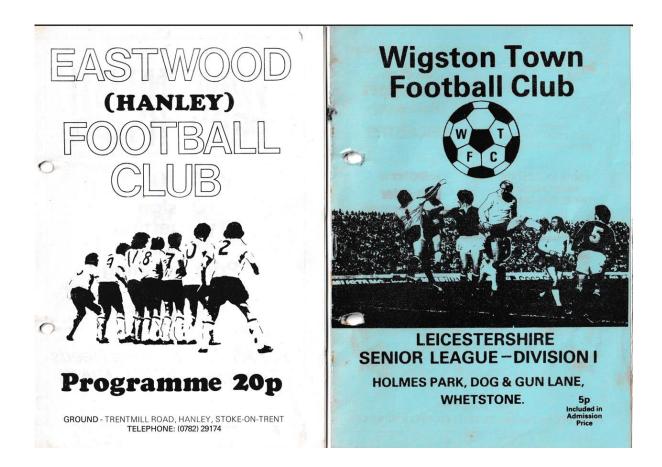
Anstey in the semi-final of the Rolleston Cup – both headers from Saxby crosses – Saxby added one more to his tally and Mick Carr scored the other from the penalty spot. Anstey, who had collapsed in the Senior League game after going 2-0 down came back from that position to draw level through Martin Capewell and John Jarram, and equalised again after being 3-2 behind through player- manager Willie Wilcox.



Anstey Nomads player-manager Willie Wilcox was disappointed at his side's failure to land a third successive Senior League championship, said "Full credit to Melton. They've won the title comfortably and they deserved to. We had basically the same players as last season, but we just have not played well all season." Anstey's season followed a similar pattern to their fortunes last season when they were second to Wigston Fields for much of the closing weeks. But while they produced a burst of form towards in the final third of the season in a bid to take the title, they never looked like catching Melton.

Leicester City decided not to play in the Leicestershire Challenge Cup. City had entered the Cup in 1982-83 for the first time in several seasons, because they could not agree with the County FA on an amount, they should pay to be exempt. However, they had to suffer a fine after each round for failing to field a full strength side. City secretary, Alan Bennett stated that a 'compromise figure' had been reached for the club to be exempt from this year's competition. It took Anstey two attempts to overcome Hinckley Athletic who had never beaten Nomads in a competitive game. In the quarterfinal tie, Anstey took the lead after 66 minutes when two defenders attempted to clear the ball before Des Bailey nipped in to add the finishing touch. For all their domination Hinckley rarely looked like scoring. They eventually equalised after 78 mins through John Allen, but almost lost it when Deeping hit the post. An own goal after 15 mins by Neil Costello was enough to earn Anstey a home tie against Loughborough United in the semi-finals of the County Challenge Cup after the replay at Cropston Road. The defenders back pass from 30 yards eluded goalkeeper Short, making it an unhappy return to his former club. Hinckley had 80 per cent of the play and at least half a dozen opportunities squandered to equalise. Nomads opened the scoring against Loughborough through a Roger Walker header from the edge of the box. Des Bailey increased the lead after the interval, and although Gary Hammond pulled one back for United within a minute, John Jarram made sure for Anstey from the penalty spot after Mark Smith handled. The final was staged at Filbert Street the last day of April. Wigston Fields romped home to a 6-0 triumph – one of the widest wining margins in the history of the competition. Injury-hit Nomads were simply outclassed and could not handle the Fields slick-moving attack in which former Anstey players Paul Mee and Richard Walker each helped themselves to a couple of goals. Such was the measure of Fields supremacy that it was 5-0 and 78 mins before Nomads fully tested goalkeeper David Fowler. Willie Wilcox admitted - "We've no complaints. We never got started. We did have four first teamers out, but that shouldn't have mattered. It was men against boys."





| LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND | COUNTY FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION |
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| | JP FINAL TIE |
| <u>ADMISSION</u> <u>£1.00</u> ADULTS/ <u>50P</u> .0AP-YOUTH UNDER 18 | A FIND IIS |
| MONDAY 30TH APRIL 1984 FILBERT | STREET KICK OFF 7.00PM. |
| ANSTEY NOMADS | WIGSTON FIELDS |
| COLOURS - ALL WHITE | COLOURS - ALL RED |
| FROM - P. ACTON | FROM - D. FOWLER |
| D. KELLY | G. STAPLES |
| G. BLANKLEY R. WALKER | M. RANDALL C. TAYLOR |
| M. CONNOLLY | J. LANE |
| B. BILLINGTON | M.LEE |
| C. WILLIAMS | P.HEARNE |
| S. COULTHARD | R.WALKER |
| G. DEEPING | P.NOBLE |
| M. CAPEWELL | P.MEE P.DOWSING - (CAPT.) |
| W.WILCOX J.JARRAMS | L.CAINES |
| D. BAILEY | N. ADAMS |
| G.GODDARD | |
| C.FOWLER | |
| R. WRIGHTON | |
| Referee - J.T. DUGMC | DRE(LELTON MOWERAY) |
| Linesmen - D.G.FRIER | |
| R.W.WARD | EURBAGE) |
| Council Member - Mr.W.S.G.NEEDHAM OBE (1 | P.A.LIFE MEMBER AND PRESIDENT OF THE COUNTY F.A.) |
| The Association congratulate both | clubs in reaching tonight's Final. |
| Should the scores be level after 90 minu of extra time each way will be played. | ates play then two periods of 15 minutes |
| | express to the Leicester City Football Club |
| Directors appreciation for allowing toni and to Mr.Alan Bennett and the members of arrangements. | ight's game to be staged at Filbert Street |
| | R. BARSTON |
| | SSCRETARY. |
| | |
| KODACOLOR FU | Same and a second secon |
| CRACKING DRIVE centre forward Paul Noble scores | |
| Taylor, Lee, Lano, Hisan Noble, Mee, Downi Agams, Akeradoku Nomadis: Acton, Bis Hians, Couthard, Wa nolly, Jarrams, Godda Billington, Desping, Su Ecular | na, Walker, na, Subis Ikler, Wil- Dier, Con- rol, Ballay, the: Walsh, |
| Ref: J. Dugmore (Mel Attendance: 512. | |

Anstey knocked for six in challenge cup classic

Wonderful Wigston

Wigston Fields boss John Goodman, me because of working commitments, was given the best possible aving present on Monday night at Filbert Street.

ofman looked on as teen Fields ripped t Senfor League rivals by Nomada by six to nil to win the pres-te County Challenge

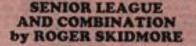
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Anitry players and Buch grabbed re eposed Senio a humiliating

eat. Noble weighed in Noble weighed in les to complete the ally.

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JOHN GOODMAN



L Gillett and Newton hap ged two each with Downen and Jackson making up the situation. Purcell scored for

Stopenhill, and point too much for stakes. In the final league match

The season Leicenter nited reserves defeated riar Lane 1-0 in a middle of ar table affair. Lapsreth ocched the only goal of the

crough, unbeate December, marched ugh to the Tebbuar yn Cup final following a access over Kirby Mux-

McMassus and Whitmore ore on target for Narborough. In the other semi-final, Wigston, Town emoyed a confortable 3-0 victory over Hinckley Town. Two gasis from Sarewczuk and one from Pollard par Wigston on their way into the final.





PER'S BALL ... Anstee oper Action Rolds on to the the Challenge Cup final of



BATTLE FOR SUPREMACY ... Analog Taff) and Wigh

SENIOR LEAGUE RESULTS.

| SAT | . 20th AUG. | WIGSTON FIELDS. | н. | D. | 0-0 | |
|--|----------------|------------------|-------------|----------|--------|--|
| SAT | . 27th AUG. | WIGSTON TOWN. | Α. | W. | 3-0 | (CONNELLY, WILCOX, O.G.) |
| SAT | . 3rd SEPT. | LEICESTER UNTD. | Α. | L. | 2-1 | (WILCOX, Pen.) |
| SAT | . 10th SEPT. | THRINGSTONE | н. | w. | 3-1 | (JARRAM, 2, PARRY.) |
| SAT | . 17th SEPT. | BIRSTALL UNTD. | н. | w. | 3-0 | (PARRY, CONNELLY, JARRAM, Pen.) |
| SAT | . 24th SEPT. | QUORN. | H. | ₩. | 3-2 | (JARRAM 2Pens. CONNELLY.) |
| SAT | . 22nd OCT. | E. SHILTON ALB. | | | | (BAILEY) |
| SAT | . 29th OCT. | BIRSTALL UNTD. | Α. | L. | 2-1 | (BILLINGTON) |
| | . 5th NOV. | LEICESTER UNTD. | H. | D. | 0-0 | |
| | . 12th NOV. | QUORN. | Α. | w. | 2-1 | (BILLINGTON, JARRAM.) |
| | . 19th NOV. | DESFORD COLL. | н. | W. | 3-0 | (BAILEY, WILCOX 2Pens.) |
| SAT | . 26th NOV. | STAPENHILL. | н. | W. | 9-0 | (JARRAM 3, 1Pen. COULTHARD 2, CAPEWELL, WILCOX, BILLINGTON, O.G.) |
| SAT | . 3rd DEC. | WIGSTON TOWN. | н. | w. | 1-0 | (JARRAM) |
| | . 10th DEC. | | | | | (WILCOX) |
| | . 17th DEC. | FRIAR LANE O.B. | | | | |
| | . 31st DEC. | | | L. | | |
| | . 7th JAN. | | Н. | w. | 3-1 | (TAYLOR, BILLINGTON, WILCOX.) |
| | . 14th JAN. | WIGSTON FIELDS. | | | 0-0 | |
| | . 21st JAN. | | | L. | | |
| | . 28th JAN. | NEWFOUNDPOOL . | Α. | W . | 3-2 | (WILLIAMS, COULTHARD, WILCOX, Pen.) |
| | . 4th FBB. | | | | | (COULTHARD, CAPEWELL.) |
| | . 11th FEB. | | | | | (CONNELLY, WALKER.) |
| | | | | | | (WALKER, JARRAM, BAILEY.) |
| | . 25th FEB. | DESFORD COLL. | A . | w. | 2-0 | (BAILEY, CAPEWELL.) |
| | . 3rd MAR. | E. SHILTON ALB. | Α. | w. | 4-2 | (COULTHARD, JARRAM, BAILEY, WILCOX.) |
| | .10th MAR. | NARBOROUGH. | Α. | T. | 1-0 | (coordinate) channel, control (|
| | . 17th MAR. | | | | | (BAILEY, JARRAM, 2.) |
| SAT | 31 at MAD | FRIAR LANE O.B. | Δ. | D. | 1-1 | (BATLEY) |
| | . 7th AFR. | MELTON TOWN. | A. | L | 2-1 | (JARRAN) |
| | | NEWFOUNDPOOL. | н. | w | 2-1 | (FOWLER, WALSH.) |
| ONI | . 2001 AFA. | MENTCOMPLOCE. | | | 6-1 | (Foundary, association) |
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| | | C | UP CC | DMPET | IT ION | NS. |
| CHA | LLENGE CUP | | | | | |
| | RTER FINAL. | HINCKLEY ATH. | Α. | D. | 1-1 | (BAILEY) |
| REP | LAY | | | | | (0.G.) |
| SEM | I- FINAL. | LEICESTER UNTD. | н. | w. | 3-1 | (BAILEY, WALKER, JARRAM, Pen.) |
| FIN | | WIGSTON FIELDS. | | | 6-0 | |
| SEN | IOR CUP. | | | | | |
| | L. ROUND. | FRIAR LANE O.B. | A. | D. | 3-3 | a.e.t. (JARRAM, BILLINGTON, WILCOX.) |
| REP | LAY. | FRIAR LANE O.B. | н. | L. | 1-0 | and a second a second se |
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| QUA) | L. ROUND. | EASTWOOD HANLEY. | Α. | L. | 3-0 | |
| TUD | BUTT BROWN CUP | | | | | |
| and the rest of th | ROUND. | HOLWELL WORKS. | Δ | W | 3-0 | (PARRY, JARRAM, CONNELLY.) |
| | ROUND. | | 10.000 | L. | | (India, ondian, outsider.) |
| 210 | ROOND. | MARDONO COM. | | | 5-0 | |
| FI | NAL | NARBOROUGH O | | WIG | STON | TOWN 1 |
| CO 41 | LVILLE CUP | | | | | |
| | RTER FINAL. | WIGSTON FIELDS. | H. | w. | 1-0 | (WILCOX) |
| | I-FINAL | SHEPSHED CHART. | H. | w. | 3-0 | (WILCOX 2, JARRAM.) |
| FIN | | FRIAR LANE O.B. | | w | 3-1 | (JARRAM 2 Pens. DEEPING.) |
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~1984-85~

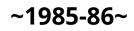
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Compared with recent campaigns, the 1984-85 season was somewhat of a disappointment. Anstey Nomads suffered a shock opening day reversal at the hands of Thringstone, who dominated the Senior League, winning the title by 13 points from Wigston Fields in second place. Nomads were a further nine points behind in third.

After overcoming Oakham at Cropston Road, in the preliminary round, Nomads were drawn at home against Boston United in the first qualifying round of the FA Vase. Although the name of Anstey Nomads was according to a Lincolnshire football reporter "not one to strike fear into the Boston FC camp before the game but the Leicestershire Senior League side were certainly no pushover." Boston's player-manager Martyn Boyers scored a first half brace. Lapworth struck a well-deserved goal and for a while it seemed that Anstey were capable of a fight-back. Boston had to draw on their added experience and snuffed out the home side's challenge. As tempers grew frayed late in the game Nomads substitute Pateman was booked for throwing a punch at Boyers.

A cracking volley from defender Gary Page won Birstall United the Tebbutt-Brown Cup at Friar Lane OB beating Anstey Nomads 3-2 in late May. Mick Duffy put Birstall ahead in this replay caused by previous week's 1-1 draw but within four minutes two Steve Pateman goals saw Nomads ahead by half-time. Mark Fretingham levelled the score in the 60th minute and Page hit his spectacular winner 10 minutes later.

A late goal from Nomad Paul Muddimer settled this first round Challenge Cup tie between Southern League Leicester United and Senior League Anstey Nomads at Enderby. Steve Pateman dispossessed John Massey near the halfway line and passed to Muddimer who worked his way through the home defence and lobbed the ball over 'keeper Dennis Hewitt. And that goal two minutes from time meant that a Senior League side had again knocked Leicester United out of a county competition, Wigston Town beating them in a Senior Cup tie. Anstey had the better of the opening half only to fail dismally on reaching the 18 yard area Leicester got back into the game in the second half but again neither side had the finishing power. In the semi-final Hinckley Athletic beat Nomads for the first time in 25 years to win through to the final of the Leicestershire Challenge Cup, with a goal by Jim Childs. Hinckley never looked in any danger. After drawing 1-1 at Filbert Street on May Day, Wigston Fields overcame Hinckley 2-0 a week later at George Street.



Thringstone retained the Leicestershire Senior League title, with Nomads two points behind in second place. Following a five week lay-off due to the weather during the winter, Anstey were strongly tipped to regain the title they last won in 1983.

| Р | W | D | L | Pts |
|----|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| 26 | 15 | 4 | 7 | 34 |
| 26 | 14 | 5 | 7 | 33 |
| 21 | 12 | 5 | 4 | 29 |
| 19 | 12 | 4 | 3 | 28 |
| 21 | 10 | 8 | 3 | 28 |
| 21 | 14 | 1 | 7 | 28 |
| | 26 26 21 19 21 | 26 15 26 14 21 12 19 12 21 10 | 26 15 4 26 14 5 21 12 5 19 12 4 21 10 8 | 26 15 4 7 26 14 5 7 21 12 5 4 19 12 4 3 21 10 8 3 |

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However, they failed to make the most of their advantage, drawing four and losing two of their remaining games, giving them 42 points from their 30 games, two points behind the league champions.

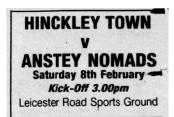
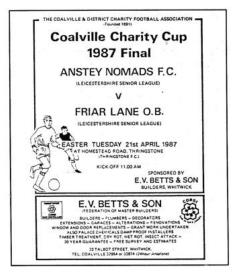


Figure 3 Hinckley Times - 7 February 1986 In late August Nomads reached the final of the Battle of Britain Cup, where they lost 7-8 on penalties to Newfoundpool at Frair Lane Old Boys' ground. Anstey took a first half lead with a well taken goal by Steve Spong. Newfoundpool pressurized Anstey but their goal led a charmed life until John James got 'Pool's' just reward 10 minutes from time. They appeared in another two finals, winning them both. On April Fool's Day, Anstey beat Leicester United 2-1 on the Hastings Arms Ground, Ibstock, to win the Coalville Charity Cup for the fifth time. They reached the final after beating

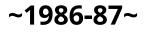
Friar Lane Old Boys (3-2) and Wigston Fields (2-1) in August. A

month later they held aloft the Rolleston Cup following a victory over arch-rivals Friar Lane. Performances in the remaining cup competitions were patchy. Anstey were the only one of the six Leicestershire Senior League teams to be eliminated from the FA Vase in the preliminary round. Southern League Midland joint leaders Bilston were given a scare by Anstey Nomads before progressing to the next round. Honours were even, one goal each at half-time through hard drive by Pritchard minute before half time which was equalised from penalty spot by Jarram who was brought down by keeper Davies. Bilston were forced to defend in the face of storming tactics by Nomads before an innocent looking cross was missed by keeper Action and substitute Rowe scrambled the ball home much against the run of play. Within minute Bilston conceded another spot kick but Jarram was off target. Perhaps the highlight of the season was knocking out



champions in the making Thringstone in the third round of the Senior Cup, only to lose 1-0 at Meadow Lane, Birstall to eventual cup winners Wigston Town. After claiming victory away at Wigston Fields they faced Leicester United in the semi-final. In an exciting end-to-end encounter United gave a strong second half performance to hit back from 2-1 down to win 4-2. United made an amazing start when in the first minute Peter Dowsing headed home John Massey's corner. Five minutes later Nomads were level when John Jarrams converted a penalty given for hand ball. It was all action and in the next 10 minutes United had two disallowed for offside and pushing. But Anstey steadily got on top and took deserved in the 40th minute when Steve Pateman scored from Jarrams' cross. After 20 minutes of the second half, United equalised when a Gary Staples shot from 25 yards hit the bar and Chris Newton knocked in the rebound. Ten minutes before the end United went ahead when from a David Puttnam cross Cohen Griffith out-jumped the Anstey defence to send a looping header into the comer. With only two minutes left United sealed the tie when good midfield run by Massey ended with him shooting home.

In late April two goals from Paddy Lawless in the opening 15 minutes clinched 2-1 victory for Ravenstone over Anstey Nomads Reserves in the County Junior Cup Final at the Dovecote.



Anstey finished in seventh in the Senior league, their lowest placing for a decade. The season started with a defeat at home to Birstall, followed by wins against followed by wins of Friar Lane, Kirby Muxloe and Lutterworth. A fumble by the Newfound pool's goalkeeper allowed Fowler to convert the only goal of the first half on 27 December, but after the break Anstey moved up a gear and went on a goal rampage eventually winning 6-1. Fowler completed his hat-trick with two goals in the final 10 minutes, following strikes by Kelly and Smith who scored within a minute of each other. Holwell goalkeeper, Paul Humphrey's played well to keep Anstey to just a single goal in January. The only goal came in the 75th minute with Pateman turning well some 20 yards out before sending a right foot shot low into the corner passed a partly sighted Humphrey. Goals by Smith and Coulthard sentenced Sileby to defeat at Croston Road in an all-action encounter on Valentines Day. The away side dominated much of the game, waywardness in front of goal proved Sileby's downfall. They fluffed several clear-cut chances, including a last minute chance by Pole, shooting wide when well placed. After drawing with Birstall at Meadow Lane in an end to end all action encounter two weeks later,

they were beaten by Wigston Town, leaving them fourth in the table with 28 points, 8 points and 3 games behind leaders Kirby Muxloe.

| | Р | W | D | L | Pts |
|-----------------|----|----|---|---|-----|
| Kirby Muxloe | 25 | 15 | 6 | 4 | 36 |
| Stapenhill | 19 | 13 | 4 | 2 | 30 |
| Birstall United | 24 | 13 | 3 | 8 | 29 |
| Anstey Nomads | 22 | 10 | 8 | 4 | 28 |

Stapenhill in second place looked well-placed on 30 points with no less than 6 games in hand on Kirby. Two consecutive defeats in March ended Anstey's slim title chance. The second was at home against Stapenhill who were crowned champions. Anstey however, had some revenge by ruining their championship party, beating them 1-0 on their final home league game of the season at Edge Hill. Four points behind in second place were Wigston Fields. Anstey finished a disappointing 7th, 14 points behind Stapenhill.

Memories were revived in March when Anstey came from behind to beat Friar Land Old Boys 2-1 in the meeting of the two clubs 1970s squads at Knighton Lane East in March 1987. The game, organized by Steve Patemen (who had played for both sides) helped by Nomads assistant manager, Eddie Bowles, raised money for BBC's Children in Need appeal.

Anstey fought back from a one goal half-time deficit to put Wigston Fields out of the FA Vase. Taylor, Jarram, Pateman and Spong scored second half goals in a 4-2 win. They also went a goal down against Northfield of the Midland Combination, but hit back to lead 2-1 at the interval through Steve Plews penalty and McDonald leader. Anstey then took control in the second period. Walker hit their third before Northfield pulled a late goal back when Moore convereted a last minue penalty. They were no match however against a rampant Tamworth at Cropston Road. Anstey could only offer tough tackling. The visitors went ahead after 15 minutes when Ward beat the offside trap and slipped the ball to Rathbone to score easily. There was controversy late in the first half as Tamworth claimed that a Fox free kick had crossed the line but the referee ruled that it had hit the post. Anstey fought back following the introduction of Patemen in the 56th minute, but Tamworth deservedly went further ahead from a corner, with two further late goal compelling the rout.

After overcoming Quorn 7-2 away from home, Anstey were drawn against Senior Cup holders Wigston Town in the second round. Wigston had several opportunities to take the lead and did not deserve to fall behind in the 25th minute to a headed goal from John Carrigan. In a remarkable few minutes before the interval the tie was virtually clinched by the visitors as first Rich Walker took advantage of slack marking to head Anstey's second, and then a corner from Steve Coulthard entered the net directly. In the second half Town continued to create, but missed chances until John Love beat his full back and netted well, but this goal never really looked sufficient to allow them back into the game and in the last-minute Steve Coulthard orchestrated an excellent break, which Steve Spong finished with a goal off the far post. Wigston Fields struggled to find any form and fully deserved to be beaten at Oadby by Anstey in the quarterfinals. Surprisingly Fields went ahead when an Anstey defender made a remark which upset the referee. Adams took the free kick, and James rolled the ball under the hapless Anstey keeper. A static defence allowed Spong to head the ball into the Fields net to equalise for Anstey. In the second half the Nomads scored twice, through Pateman and Fouler into the last four of the competition. Quorn's Sutton Park staged the semi-final tie with Holwell. This was the first time such a match had been staged at the ground. Quorn's long serving general manager Len Sutton stated that it rewarded the club hard working backroom staff. A goal in each half from Phil Newton proved enough to put Holwell into the final. Anstey had all the early play, but Howell took the lead midway through the first half against the run of play. Just before half-time Anstey equalised and with 8 minutes remaining Holwell were in front again much to the delight of their 200 plus supporters who had made the journey to Quorn.

Nomads were eliminated by Shepshed from the County FA Centenary Challenge Cup in an untidy tie that was littered with fouls. Just after a quarter of an hour Darryl Chapman's shot beat Danny Liquorice in the Anstey goal, but lan Jackson punched it off the line. Simon Woodhead scored from the penalty. Chapman turned in a low cross to double Shepshed's lead before Steve Plews lifted Nomads back, hammering the ball home with 30 mins remaining.

On the third Tuesday in April. Anstey retained the Coalville Charity Cup after beating Friar Lane Old Boys 2-1 in the final played at Homestead Road, Thringstone. Nomads reached the final in early September after overcoming Thringstone Minors Welfare (0-1) and Friar Lane (1-0).



Cropston Road staged both the Rolleston Cup Final, a fast and exciting game which ended Melton Town's twelve math unbeaten run to St Andrews and the Presidents Cup Final.

~1987-88~

A disappointing season! In the league they finished tenth, their lowest finish for nearly a decade, winning just nine league games all season. The season started badly, losing 4-1 at home to reigning champions Stapenhill in front of 142 spectators. Anstey's team that mid-August afternoon was: Bates, Varnham, Smith, Wardle Taft, Martin, Draycott, Fawcett, Appleton, Webb. Within three short weeks from the middle of August, Anstey were

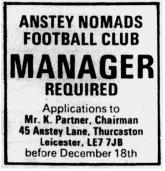


Figure 4 Leicester Mercury - 7 December 1987 knocked out of three cup competitions at the first hurdle. Sileby Town beat them in the Tebbutt-Brown Cup

on 17 August and three days later Friar Lane Old Boys won 3-1 at Cropston Road to knock them out of the Coalville Cup. Anstey's bid for FA Vase glory ended away at Bilston, of the Beazer Homes Midland Division, in the extrapreliminary round in early September. There was further disappointment in October, when Hinckley Town eased into the next round of the Senior Cup with a comfortable victory over a disappointing Nomads' side which failed to live up to the club's reputation. Hinckley began as if they were going to destroy Anstey, Steve Carr opening the scoring after a free kick and then Allen netting at the far post, but the threatened avalanche of goals did not materialise. Instead after the opening 15 to 20 minutes Town sat back and allowed Nomads came more into the game creating a couple of chances before half-time. Between cup games, Nomads went on an unbeaten run in

the league, winning seven of the nine league games that they won all season by the end of October. But this proved to be a false dawn as they failed to win a single league game in November. Although league form improved, they never managed to string together more than a couple of consecutive wins for the rest of the season. For the first time in 30 years Nomads were not invited to enter the Leicestershire Challenge Cup. In essence this meant that the football authorities no longer considered the Nomads to be one of the top eight clubs in the county. However, they did reach the final of the Rolleston Cup, but unfortunately cup holders St Andrews were victorious.



Anstey accumulated just 4 points from their opening four games, ending the season in the lower half of the table for the first time in xxx seasons. After drawing their opening two games 2-2, they went on to draw another 10 of their 30 games, more than any other team in the league. This included four consecutive drawn league games in February.

A goal after three minutes took Anstey to the first round proper of the FA Vase as Bilston, who knocked them out of the competition 12 months before, squandered numerous chances. The home side had the Nomads goal under constant pressure but saw a stream of chances. When they did find the target Paul Bates was in form. The vital goal came in Nomads first attack after Bilston had struggled to get the ball away from a corner. Lee Norman returned the ball across goal and when Phil Wood failed to intercept Richard Wilcox came in from behind and rifled the ball into the back of the net. Nomads travelled to Waterworks Fields, Northamptonshire to face Desborough in next round, but were outclassed, losing 5-0.

Pedigree Petfoods of Senior League First Division caused the shock of the first round of the Senior Cup with a brilliant display, beating Anstey 4-0. Both defences dominated in the first period, but the second half saw the home side take the initiative, with Chris Newton claiming a well-taken hat-trick.

~1989-90~

Silverware was secured for the first time in several seasons. Darren Robers scored twice to lift the Rolleston Cup as the Nomads beat holders Oadby Town 2-1in the final at Cropston Road in May. Goalkeeper Baz McKay keep Oadby on terms at 1-1 at the interval, but Roberts scored again in the second half to take the trophy. At the beginning of the season in September they reached the Battle of Britain Cup final, where they lost to Friar Lane Old Boys. A tremendous, long range shot by second half substitute Lee Haynes broke the deadlock. Haynes went on after a goalless first half and let fly through the gathering gloom before Lee Thompson netted a second goal in the closing minutes. Friar Lane also knocked Nomads out of the Coalville Charity Cup. For the first number for a few seasons, Anstey managed to navigate a few rounds of the Senior Cup before being eliminated by Hinckle Town in January.

Pegasus failed to cash in on a handful of changes in the extra preliminary round of the FA Vase, Dave Mills d Gerraint Edards missed a couple of golden opportunities before central defender Gerard Taft snapped up Anstey's 76th minute winner. Nomads created a giant-killing act in the next round when first-half goals from Jan Villins and Phil Ford accounted for Beazer Homes League side Racing Club Warwick. Anstey took the lead in the 17th minute when Adie Allen beat Adie Gregory and his low right-wing cross was slotted home by Villains from eight yards. Anstey increased their lead midway through the half when Ford was fouled in the area. Ford himself stepped up to score from the spot. Racing showed more invention in the second-half. First Paul Thomas fired narrowly wide and then Dave Broad had a goal bound header hacked off the line. With ten minutes remaining Betties scored for Warwick with a simple header after a cross from the right Baker Perkin. For the second consecutive season Anstey were knocked out of the FA Vase by a Northamptonshire club. It took an extra-time penalty for Irthlingborough by Dave Botterill to give 10-man Diamonds victory. Although hampered by the first half sending off of Mark Heeley for what the Diamonds claimed was an innocuous offence, they were always the better side. And when Mick Kurila was brought down, not for the first time, in the box by Anstey Nomads centre-half Taft, Botterill stroked home the penalty.

Anstey finished a creditable fifth in the Senior League, accumulating 51 points, losing just 7 of their 30 games. They were 16 points behind champions St Andrews, but 6 points ahead of Oadby Town in sixth. Notable games include a 6-3 and 8-2 home wins against Earl Shilton and Hillcroft. In January they drew 3-3 on consecutive Saturday's away at Narborough and at home against league leaders St Andrews.