



Anstey Nomads FC

The Extraordinary Story of an English Village Football Club

The 1970s

~1970-71~

The Nomads started the first season of the 1970s at Derby against Roe Farm in the East Midland Regional League, strengthened by the return of John Ingleby and the inclusion of new signing from Midland Athletic, Graham Ford. The full team was Bates, F Marston, Berry, Brown, Hoskins, Burdett; Ford, Ingleby, Coulter, Wardle, Bailey.

The other teams that represented Anstey on the opening day of the 1970-71 season were:

At home v Cottons (Leicestershire Senior League Division 2): Hartlett; Kenny, James; Beazley, Unknown, Marriott, Thorne, G Ritchie.

At home v Jones & Shipman (District League): Flower; Dryden, Jones, Morton, Richards, Spencer, Wainwright, Siddons, Wager, M Ritchie, Corda.

The senior team relied upon centre forward Brown and inside men Wardle and Burdett to provide the fire power while the two Marston bothers, Fred and Ernie, formed an effective barrier at full back with Bird a competent goalkeeper.

Gresley Rovers, unbeaten in the league in 1969-70 were favorites to retain the East Midlands Regional League championship, with Enderby Town, runners-up last year expected to provide stiff opposition. Anstey and Eastwood Town were both predicted to shine. However, Anstey did not start too well after their long run of success last season, drawing their opening match against Roe Farm and losing the next two. Anstey and Loughborough United Reserves gave a good display of open football in an evening game on the last day of August that ended in a 2-2 draw. With a strong wind in the first half, Loughborough could not take advantage, and it was left to a gift goal in the 40th minute to give them a half time lead. Jones, attempting a long pass back to Bates, was short and Hart intercepted and rounding the keeper and shot into an empty net. Anstey had more of the game in the second period and Daulby had to make several good saves. With 30 minutes to go, Gregson took a pass in the goalmouth and slipped the ball just inside the post. Ingleby had just reward for his hard work in the 70th minute when he beat Tuck and turned the ball home from a narrow angle. With 5 minutes to go Cain attempted to clear but headed in on goal to give Anstey a share of the points. In a game littered with odd decisions, Anstey claimed their first two points of the season at home to Grantham St Johns. As early as the first minute the Nomads lost their outside left and there was some confusion as to who was actually substituted. After half an hour Alfie Gibbons sent Mick Musgrave away on the right wing, his hard drive and low cross was met by Gale who headed home an excellent goal. The second half was 10 minutes old when a defensive slip allowed Anstey to equalise. With 20 mins to go the referee placed the ball on the penalty-spot and apparently informed Gibbons it was a penalty but then changed his mind and awarded a goal kick. With just minutes remaining, Anstey's outside right, looking well offside streaked clear to score the winning goal. A moment later Gibbons had a one on one with the goalkeeper, who made a good save. Gibbons however, continued through to challenge the keeper and was promptly sent off. Although they were occasionally outclassed, conceding 6 against Ripley Miners Welfare, Newhall United and Meadows Old Boys, they more than held their own, drawing a third of their games. Enderby Town sealed the championship of the East Midland Regional League with a decisive 3-0 win against Anstey in their last home match in late May. Their nearest rivals, Kimberley Town, with an equal number of points, played their last match away to Roe Farm and lost 1-0. This gave Enderby a clear lead of two points, and they still had a game to play. After a

goalless first half Enderby took command and Bird in the Anstey goal gave a fine display and kept his lines clear until the 70th minute when Orgill outwitted the defence and scored from an acute angle. Two minutes later Blockley, who had come on as substitute for Dearden, cut out an opening for Heggarty to score a second goal. Ford completed the scoring from a pass by Hardy. Anstey finished 13th (out of 19) with only 7 league wins all season; only Rolls Royce, who finished bottom won less games.

Anstey made a stunning start to their FA Amateur Cup bid in September when they whipped in five goals in the first half of their Preliminary Round fixture against Bournville and cruised to victory by 6-2. In the first qualifying round Nomads travelled to Wolverhampton to meet Whitmore Old Boys. The odd thing about this clash was that Whitmore didn't win their preliminary round tie. They were paired with Solihull Borough and forced a 2-2 draw. Anstey were not informed of the outcome of the tie until a few days before the scheduled date for the first-round game and were surprised to hear that Solihull had withdrawn from the competition after a replay which failed to produce a winning side. Whitmore beat Anstey 4-2.

For a brief spell towards the end of 1970 a threat of suspension hung over the Nomads who had been reported to the Leicestershire and Rutland County FA by the East Midland Regional League for the non-payment of two fines – for kicking off late and failing to reply to correspondence. Attracting the attention of the Leicester Mercury, the fine was later doubled, and the club were informed that they would be suspended by the league from Monday, November 24 if not paid. The money was eventually handed over and the notice of suspension withdrawn.

In the Leicestershire and Rutland County Challenge Cup, Nomads were drawn away at Atherstone Town of the West Midlands Regional League, who were accepted into the competition at the expense of Loughborough United, the ninth team nominated, who failed to be elected. The remaining ties in the first round were:

Enderby Town v Newfoundpool
Stapenhill v Oadby Town
Midland Athletic v Hinckley Athletic

Anstey did well to hold Atherstone to one each in the first half in an evening game played away in late August. The second half played under floodlights saw Atherstone take complete command and finish easy 4-1 winners. Anstey put the home team under pressure in the opening stages and their forwards, with fine support from Brown and Burdett, were always dangerous. On the half hour Moreton, a lively right winger who gave Berry the run around, gave Atherstone the lead and although Bird blocked his first attempt the winger scored with the second. Three minutes later, Wardle floated a centre over Preston for Coulter to equalise. Two goals in three minutes by Franklin (73) and Horne (76) sank the Nomads and Moreton scored a fourth in the last minute. Enderby Town had a walkover in the semi-final against Atherstone in April, before losing to Oadby Town 3-2 in the final after a replay,

Measham eliminated Anstey from the Senior Cup at the quarter final stage in February, after they had beaten Midland Athletic, 4-1 at home and Barrow Old Boys away, who had brought off a sensational 2-0 win against Newfoundpool Working Men's Club in round two, after extra time.

Nomads along with Enderby Town, Ibstock and Measham represented Leicestershire in the 81st edition of the Bass Charity Vase. The tournament was founded in 1889 in Burton upon Trent to raise funds for medical and hospital charities. Donated by Lord Burton and Hamar Bass the great-grandsons of William Bass, the founder of the Bass Brewery, the gold trophy itself is reputed to be one of the most valuable trophies in English football. Drawn at home, Anstey gave the Southern league side Burton Albion a tough game in April, but Albion eventually secured a two-goal lead. It was 0-0 at half time but after Anstey had made all the running at the opening of the second 45 minutes, Burton began to get into their stride and in the 60th minute Masefield put them in the lead. Three minutes later Masefield had the chance to add a second but shot straight at Bates. Then with an open goal in front of him he delayed too long and had a third opportunity cleared off the line. Just on time Waller scored a fine goal when after beating two men, he put in a terrific drive which although Bates got his fingers too, he could not keep out. Enderby were eliminated in the next round, but a year later they won the Vase beating Newhall United 2-1 in the final, to become only the third Leicestershire club, after Leicester City and Coalville Munition Girls to hold the coveted trophy.

The Nomads Reserves had a disastrous season, finishing bottom of the Senior League Division 2, winning just four of their 30 games, and had to seek re-election. However, events elsewhere would determine their ultimate fate.

In a most surprising decision at the annual meeting of the Leicestershire Senior Football league at the Fosse Bar, Filbert Street, all reserve teams were banned from the competition. The proposal by Holwell Works and seconded by Quorn was carried by 26 votes to 2, with two abstentions. This brought immediate reactions, for it automatically ejected two of the Leagues long serving members, Anstey Nomads Reserves (who were up for re-election) and Enderby Town Reserves (who had won the Second Division championship the previous season). And furthermore, it meant that Wellington Vics, another side seeking re-election, stayed in and the two clubs up for election – Thringstone Miners Welfare and Barell Athletic, were 'in' - all without a vote. Enderby Town Reserves followed their senior side and joined the East Midland League and Anstey Reserves entered the Central Alliance League.

THE LEICESTERSHIRE & RUTLAND COUNTY FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

The County Football Association now owns its own headquarters which are situated on Milton Road, Leicester. The premises contain several very well appointed meeting rooms which are available for hire at modest charges.

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LEICESTERSHIRE & RUTLAND COUNTY FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION



FINAL THE SEASON 1971-72

Ground: **Corah St. Margarets** Kick-off **6.20 p.m.**
Saturday 15th April.
SENIOR CUP
ANSTEY NOMADS
v
ENDERBY TOWN

OFFICIAL SOUVENIR PROGRAMME

ENDERBY TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB

Colours: **Red & White Stripes**
Black Shorts

The Enderby Town Football Club, which was founded around the turn of the century has now progressed to the stage where it is acknowledged as the most progressive and certainly the best equipped non-league club within a radius of about twenty miles of the city. The facilities at their George Street ground are exceptional. The playing area is near perfection, the changing facilities are of the highest standard and the newly installed floodlights give both players and spectators first class illumination. Visitors to George Street also have a newly erected covered terrace from which to view the game.

The present squad, under the guidance of Manager Duane Brown, have again had a fine season and are at present leaders of the league and are certain to retain the title for the second successive season. Club Coach Ian King, the ex-Filbert Street star, has stripped the hair which his forwards possess, while removing still further their defensive techniques. Most of the Enderby team have played in the County side this term and the number of very experienced players in their line-up gives Secretary Colin Pugh-Thomas great confidence that "The Granite Men" can retain their hold on the Senior Cup. He feels it would be wrong to single out players for special mention, as the emphasis at Enderby is for all not least effort, an effort which it is certain will be on display in full measure for today's Cup Final. Their position as the "King Pins" of local Soccer will not be surrendered lightly and the confidence in the outcome of the 72 Final is high.

The Players

1. Satchwell
2. Vernon
3. D. Blackley
4. D. Heggarty
5. E. Moore
6. C. Tallents
7. P. Digill
8. D. Scraggs
9. G. Bradshaw
10. R. Vincent
11. P. Dearden
12. R. Blair

Referee: **M. B. A. Stevens**
Linesmen: **M. D. T. Culling**
M. J. C. Longton

ANSTEY NOMADS FOOTBALL CLUB

Colours: **All White**

The present Anstey Nomads club is one of the oldest established clubs in the county and was formed many years before the second world war by the amalgamation of two clubs, Anstey St. Mary's and Anstey Primitive Methodist F.C. The Nomads quickly developed into one of the leading clubs in Leicestershire Senior Football.

The best period was in the years 1961 to 1966 when they were the Champions of the Leicestershire Senior League. At that stage and following a very good run in the F.A. Amateur Cup, the club decided to opt for membership of the Central Alliance, a competition now known as the East Midlands Regional League of which they are currently members.

The club's home ground is Cropston Road, Anstey, provides a first class playing surface in a pleasant rural setting.

The club Secretary is **M. J. Johnson** who is ably backed up by an energetic committee under the Chairmanship of **M. W. Brown**. The team Manager is **M. G. Siddons** who believes that there is no substitute for hard work and has aimed to get his squad to peak fitness for the Final. The side contains some long serving and very experienced players in Ken Coulter and Henry Macking, while their forwards have notched over fifty goals in the league campaign this term. Club president **W. J. G. Barker** is confident that the Anstey Nomads will give a very creditable account of themselves and is optimistic that the club can get their name on the Senior Cup.

The Players (From)

1. C. Bird
2. H. Hoeking
3. F. Marston
4. K. Coulter
5. W. Berry
6. N. Stewart
7. S. Hill
8. D. Jones
9. J. Marshall
10. J. Morris
11. A. Brown
12. N. Hoosier
13. S. Sainsbury
14. B. Kenney

~1971-72~

Anstey claimed their highest ever finish in the East Midland Regional League, finishing in third place, one point behind Gresley Rovers and a whopping 13 points behind champions Enderby. Highlights of their League campaign included an 8-2 demolition of Blackwell Miners' and a deserved 2-1 win over Enderby Town at Cropston Road in February which lifted them to 5th in the league after a good run of results, following a patchy start to the season. For the second consecutive season Enderby Town won the championship by beating Anstey Nomads (2-1) at George Street on a Monday evening in late April. Anstey owed much to the brilliant goalkeeping of Bird in keeping the score so low, though they were first to score after 15 minutes. Stegalls made an opening for Morris to score from an acute angle at close range. Enderby fought back and Bird brought off excellent saves from Dearden, Vincent, and Tallents. A penalty awarded to Enderby was converted by Vernon to level the score at the interval. Early in the second half Dearden netted from a centre by Orgill but the goal was disallowed for offside. Shots from Heggarty, Vernon, and Vincent were superbly dealt with by Bird. Enderby were so much in command that Satchwell had only one direct shot to deal with. A scramble in the Anstey goalmouth ended with Marston deflecting the call into his own goal to give Enderby the victory.

Cheshire club, Middlewich Athletic beat Anstey at Cropston Road 2-1 in the preliminary round FA Amateur Cup. Anstey took the lead in the 25th minute as a result of slack defensive play. Conceding a free kick, the Middlewich defence allowed the ball to run loose in the goalmouth and Nomads centre forward, Brown, who was left unmarked, was able to pick his spot. Athletic adopted a more positive approach and after a number of near misses they equalized in the 60th minute and took the lead a few minutes later.

The only Leicestershire Senior League side in the last four of the Senior Cup, Midland Athletic, were Nomads opponents in the semi-final staged at Wigston Fields ground at Glen Parva. Anstey who had beaten Bentley Engineering (3-0), Loughborough United (2-1), and Thringstone (2-1), made hard work of it and it was a Morris goal in extra time that did the trick and sent them through to the final. In the other semi-final on Cropston Road, the holders Enderby Town, who needed two bites of the cherry before ousting Challenge Cup

champions, Oadby Town, played Loughborough Colleges who had recently retained their hold on the Universities crown, with a team of amateur internationals. In a one-sided tie, Enderby trashed Loughborough 5-0. Scriggins gave Enderby an early lead, but it was not until half-time that Dearden put them two ahead. In the second period, Enderby took control, with Scriggins completing his hat-trick, with Dearden claiming his second. The all-East Midland League final was decided by a Dave Scriggins' goal in the last minute at Corahs Sports Ground, Abbey Lane on Saturday 15 April. Anstey fielded the following team- Bird, Hoskins, Coulter, Berry, Stewart, Hill, Jones, Morris, Brown, Holder, and Saulsbury. The crowd of over 3,000 saw a tough hard final between two sides fighting to the very last second for supremacy. Enderby set a very fast pace which they maintained throughout the first half. Orgill and Dearden stretched Anstey's defence fully with their runs down either flank. A bad injury in the fourth minute to Jones was unfortunate. He continued throughout the match but was obviously handicapped with a heavily bandaged knee. Nomads' back line despite this contained the Enderby attack with the assistance of Hoskins, Coulter and Hill, an outstanding mid-field player. Behind them Bird was kept busy. Enderby only had four real scoring chances in the half. Their best chance came in the 35th minute when Vincent with a good run beat off two defenders but Bird conceded a corner with a brilliant save. At the resumption Anstey started more convincingly and the Town temporarily lost some of their earlier pace. Two players had their names taken Kerr of Enderby in the 55th minute and Nomad's Berry in the 70th minute. This hard game found the trainers frequent visitors on the field in the second half and these stoppages necessitated an extension of eight minutes to normal time and was in the final minute that the Anstey defence slacked and Tallent's well placed pass round Dearden and Scriggins completed the move to retain the Senior Cup.

The Nomads Reserve team reached the semi-final stage of the Leicestershire Junior Cup North, where they were well-beaten by Thringstone (6-0). In the previous round Nomads scored ten goals away from home at Old Dalby.

~1972-73~

Anstey started their home programme in the East Midlands League with a well merited 2-1 victory over Gresley Rovers. At half-time they were a goal down with Gresley playing the better football and Bird in goal was the busier of the two. McAustrie scored Gresley's goal in the 20th minute. Brennan came on as a substitute for the reigning champions. Anstey play was far better in the second half, and they dictated matters. Within five minutes Anstey were level following a good move that started from halfway and ended with Ford passing to Holder who netted. Despite this they failed to convert any of the many chances created, until in the last minute a fast attack saw Sykes send over a lovely cross that Burdett met and crashed high into the net. A few days later reigning champions Enderby Town Reserves gained a well-deserved 2-0 win over Anstey at George Street. The first half was evenly contested with the defences holding the upper hand and neither goal was in serious danger until Enderby scored a minute before the interval. A free kick taken by Hadfield found Ford who shot first time well out of reach of Bird in the Anstey goal. Anstey who only lost 7 games, one more than in 1971-72 ended the season in 7th position, scoring 29 more goals than they conceded. More importantly they finished one position higher and 7 points better than arch-rivals Enderby. No side beat the Nomads by more than two goals. Ilkeston Town, who finished second from bottom completed a home and away double over Anstey. Champions Ripley failed to beat the Nomads, drawing both games and in the first week of May, Anstey scored ten goals in two games, against Grantham St John and Chesterfield Tubes, claiming four points.

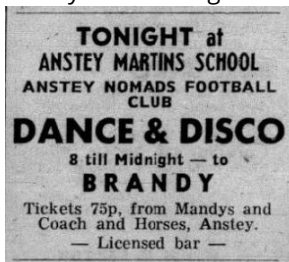


Figure 1 Leicester Mercury 7 October 1972

Cheney gave Lutterworth the lead in the first qualifying round of the FA Amateur Cup at home against Nomads when he secured the ball on the left, outstripped the Nomads defence and rammed home a drive from 20 yards which completely beat Pilgrim in goal. On resumption Anstey set up a series of attacks and eventually levelled the score. After a lengthy clearance from their own penalty area, Hoskins pivoted round and slid the ball past Cowley. Fifteen minutes from the end, Steggles scored the winner for Anstey following a cross by Holden. Lutterworth responded and an excellent header by Eckersley flashed just wide of the upright. In the second qualifying round they travelled to Price Road to play Sutton Coldfield, who were undefeated in the Birmingham Combination. Anstey took

the lead through Hoskins who fastened onto a good cross from Steggles. The equalizer followed a free kick which was considered by many as a harsh decision. Based on the display they put on in the first clash Anstey were expected to sail through into the next round. However, after a goal-less first half in the replay at Cropston Road a week later, Sutton had Anstey in real trouble for long periods and should have scored at least three goals. Sutton eventually took the lead when Elgood tricked two men, slipped the ball through to Hewitt who made no mistake. Nomads fought back hard and did get the ball in the net, but this was disallowed for an infringement.

With five first team men out, Nomads rather unluckily went down 2-1 at home to Hillcroft in late August in the quarter final of the Battle of Britain Cup. After 28 mins Matthews for Hillcroft forced a corner taken by Hollis which was only partially cleared and netted by Gamble. Just before the interval, pressure on the right by Steggles with a pass to Burdett found the net for Anstey. In the second period Siddon headed over from close range and Burdett missed a sitter and hit the crossbar for the home side. Hillcroft made an inspired substitution, bringing Wardle on after 78 minutes. Within 30 seconds of stepping onto the field of play Wardle scored the winning goal from a throw-in.

After receiving a first-round bye, Nomads were knocked out of the Senior Cup in the second round by Quorn (4-2).

Leicestershire Challenge Cup holders, Anstey, were given a shock when they went one down after 75 minutes against Burbage Old Boys in the quarter-final replay. But they recovered through goals from Hoskins and a 35 yarder from Burdett in the final minute to win 2-1 and go through. In the semi-final ties played on the evening of Tuesday 17 April 1973. Enderby beat Friar Lane Old Boys 5-2 at Knighton Lane East, and Anstey defeated Hinckley Athletic 1-0 at Cropston Road. Hinckley's chances of cup glory were shattered midway through the first half when a shocking mix up gave Nomads the only goal. Steve Vass and Bary McReynolds went for the same ball and with goalkeeper Oakes coming out for the back pass, Sykes nipped through and although the keeper got a touch, he could not stop the ball entering just inside the post. Hinckley could have few complaints. Though hit by injuries and players being ineligible, they had the majority of play but lacked the individual spark and punch to convert into goals. Only Oakes stood between the Nomads and further goals. The penetrating runs of Siddons and Holden and the pep of Sykes caused untold trouble to the Hinckley defence. Colin Newball had a golden chance for Hinckley but shot over the bar. It was third time lucky for Enderby Town when they beat Anstey to win the County FA's Challenge Cup on Friar Lane's ground, by one goal. Anstey surprised Enderby by the quality of their football, being equal in all departments and perhaps a little better in a few. Only a great tip over the bar save by Satchwell from a point-blank shot by Holden stopped the Southern Leaguers being a goal down. For the most part of the game lacked goalmouth incident. Enderby began to make their experience count in the second half. With less than half an hour to go, Enderby were awarded a penalty. Vincent was going through but sent the ball too far in front of him for Bird to easily collect when Vincent was unnecessarily fetched down from behind in the area. Vernon cracked the ball home from the spot to give Enderby the cup, which was presented to the winning captain at the end of the match by Mr. W S G Needham.

An effort by patrons of the Coach and Horses public house in the spring to raise money for the Leonard Cheshire Roecliffe Manor Home for the Disabled got off to a good start with a football match on the Nomads ground, between a team of Anstey Over 40s and a team of Meal Box Over 40s. The extra years and weight showed. From the kickoff the match only reached half pace, although the crowd enjoyed every minute of it with plenty of advice for their favourite of years gone by. The 'Daddy' of the Anstey team was 63-year-old Teddy Famer on the left wing, but the years restricted him to taking short corners. Derek Waring put Anstey in the lead early in the second half, but Meal Box equalised within 5 minutes – a fair reflection of the game. A buffet supper and social evening was held afterwards at the Coach and Horses and with the help of a huge prize draw over £30 was raised. A varied program of entertainment attracted a huge crowd to the Cropston Road ground the Whit Bank Holiday Saturday, when the Nomads FC and Stibbes Sports & Social Club combined to put on a gala day.

East Midland Regional Football League met the Nomads committee in May to discuss the reported withdrawal of the club from the competition. George Siddons told the Leicester Mercury that no announcement would be made until the AGM. However, no announcement was made following the meeting, creating confusion

among both players and supporters. In June, Anstey Nomads and Enderby Town Reserves both formally resigned from the Premier Division. Enderby left for financial reasons, the cost of running a team in the Southern League and one in the Regional League which involved a great deal of travelling, was too much. According to press reports Anstey had applied for membership to the Midland League, but since they rejoined the Leicestershire Senior League along with Enderby Town Reserves, who were both admitted into Division 2, it must be assumed that the reasons behind the decision to leave the Regional League were financial.

~1973-74~

Several players and supporters disappointed with the lack of information emerging from Cropston Road regarding the intentions of the Nomads for the coming season formed a new club - Anstey Town. The following officers were elected: President, Keith Monties; vice-presidents, Gordon Newberry, Don Smith, and Virgo; Chairman, Jack Holt; Treasurer, Hugh Parry; Secretary, John Harris; Committee, Frank Knight, Derek Waring, Fred Ford and Reg Hopkinson. The new club was registered with the Leicestershire FA and had applied and been accepted for the East Midlands League (Division I). Arrangements had been made for hiring the well sports ground of the Dunlop PED club the outskirts of Anstey. The ground had an excellent area and fine pavilion with dressing rooms and showers. The break-a-way was also the result of several players not enjoying their playing for some months and wishing to play football in a "more relaxed atmosphere." The new club's adopted colours were black and white stripes, white shorts and socks. With the nucleus of a team and financial backing assured, the new club looked forward to a good start in their new venture.

Anstey Nomads were the dominant team of the Leicestershire Senior League Division 2. They finished champions winning 21 out of 28 games and averaged 3 goals per game. From the end of January to the end of March they won 10 consecutive league games. The only noteworthy blip was a 4-0 loss at Shepshed in November. Along with second placed Enderby Town Reserves they were promoted to Division 1.



Figure 2 Anstey Nomads, winners of the Senior League Division 2 championship trophy. Form left to right: Mr Graham Wierson (captain); Mr Ken Partner (Chairman); Mr Bill Boyes (President), Mr George Siddon (manager); Mr Albert Brough the vice-president of the East Midland Regional League

In October, Nomads moved to the second qualifying round of the FA Amateur Cup, beating Paget Rangers 1-0 in a first-round replay at Cropston Road. Anstey who put out a side averaging just 20 years old- with four 18-year-olds in the line-up - deserved the victory. They had pleas for a penalty turned down and eight minutes from time Kevin Jones picked up a loose pass back rounded the goalkeeper, and the ball into the net. Four

weeks later, the young Nomads team put on a magnificent display to beat Walsall Wood in the second qualifying round replay at Walsall, after drawing 2-2 at Cropston Road. Anstey made a fine start, going two goals up after eight minutes through Paul Streggles and Kevin Jones, the latter scoring with a great drive from outside the box. Mickey Hill made it 3-0 following a corner after 22 minutes, but Anstey were then handicapped by an injury to Graham Wierson who did not play in the second half. Walsall were encouraged by a goal early in the second period, but Anstey defended well, and John Morris put the issue beyond doubt with a fourth after 75 minutes. Whilst Friar Lane easily overcame Yorkshire Amateurs 3-1 to reach the fourth qualifying round of the FA Amateur Cup, Anstey were engaged in a dour struggle with Preston Heys, a Cheshire League side. To come away with a no score which although looked good on paper, but when on looked in greater depth it was a far, far better performance. In the 15th minute Nomads' star Graham Weirson suffered a very bad injury with lacerations on the forehead and concussion which sent him to hospital where he was detained. And with 20 minutes to go Phillip Burdett hobbled around with a sprained ankle. Prestwich, who reached the last eight two seasons earlier, were the better side in the first period, but as Anstey gradually fought back, they became rattled, and Nomads were able to get on top. Burdett had a cracking shot saved by the Heys goalkeeper just before half-time, and then with just three minutes to go, an effort by Jones was blocked by the goalkeeper, the ball spun away and was cleared off the line in a desperate lunge by a defender. In the replay at Cropston Road, a goal in each half of extra time by Prestwich sunk Anstey's hopes. The score had been 1-1 at the end of normal time in an evenly fought game which threatened to go either way.

A sporting gesture by Barwell Athletic kept alive Anstey's hopes of success in the Battle of Britain Cup competition. Barwell and Anstey drew 0-0 at Barwell and the competition rules stated that quarter-final ties had to be completed by 27 August. Barwell were ready to play on this deadline day, but Anstey stated that they couldn't. Technically Barwell could have claimed a semi-final place but agreed to meet Anstey again on Tuesday 28 August. They may well have regretted this decision as Anstey easily won the replay 5-0 to reach the semi-final stage at Keyham Lane. After surviving the opening Hillcroft attacks, Anstey took the lead in their first serious attack. A low cross from Steggles enabled Vickers to beat goalkeeper Johnson from close range. Just before the interval Anstey struck again when a Ballard free kick pierced the Hillcroft defence for Vickers to find the net. Seven minutes before the close Kevin Jones settled the issue when he cut through to score following an accurate cross. Friar Lane took the lead after 11 minutes in the final at Knighton Road East on Monday 10 September when a pass from Vincent enabled Cooper to round the Anstey defence and open the scoring with a low shot from a narrow angle. The Lane continued to apply pressure with Hankey saving efforts from Conway and Elliott before Anstey broke out, only for the attack to end when Webb jumped high to cut out a dangerous-looking centre from Siddon. Back came the Friars for Hardy to put them further in front when he found the net with a deceptive hook shot. Still looking the more dominant side in the second half, the Lane increased their lead still further when a long ball to left saw Cooper race clear of a square Anstey defence and slide the ball past the advancing Hankey into the net. Although trailing by three goals Anstey replied with plenty of spirit and Kevin Jones pulled one back when a strong run took him through the Lane defence Anstey produced a series of attacks with Webb saving a point-blank shot from Vickers but the home defence was not to be beaten again The Cup was presented to the winners by ex-president of the competition and former Football League referee Roy Jordan.

It took no less than three replays for Whetstone to overcome Stapenhill to reach the semi-final stage of the Tebbutt-Bown Cup, where they faced Nomads at Cropston Road. Whetstone won the tie by a lone strike. The County FA allowed two second round Senior Cup ties to be played a week early to leave both Anstey and Friar Lane clear to play their FA Amateur Cup matches on the scheduled date of the county competitions. Both clubs made their first appearance in the Senior Cup this season having been granted byes in the first round. The draw for the third round resulted in "The Battle of Anstey" as Anstey Nomads hosted the newly formed Anstey Town at Cropston Road. A large crowd and partisanship displayed by both sets of supporters created a tense and excited atmosphere. The outcome was settled in favour of the underdogs, the Town, with Mason getting the all-important goal. Anstey Twon were eliminated in the following round by Leicester City 'A'.

C N Bird (Newfoundpool) was fined £5 for signing forms for Newfoundpool, Ibstock and Anstey Nomads, and forms of the latter two clubs were cancelled. R Brown (Oadby Town) was fined £4 for signing for Oadby and Anstey. Again, the Anstey registration was cancelled.

~1974-75~

In 1974, with many of the top amateur players receiving payment for playing, the Football Association abolished the distinction, scrapped the Amateur Cup, and introduced the FA Vase for the majority of clubs who had previously played in the competition. After receiving a first-round bye, Nomads marched into the third round following a thrilling home encounter with Players Athletic. With a 4-1 lead, with goals from Kevin Jones (2), Morris and R Jones, early in the second half, Anstey relaxed, and the Nottingham side came back at them, giving Nomads a shock. They held out after a tense final fifteen minutes, eventually winning 4-3. In Round 3 Anstey were well beaten by Stamford. After holding their own in the first quarter of an hour, the Lincolnshire side took control and were 2-0 at the interval, through Barnes and Russell. Barnes sealed it with a third soon after the restart. Nomads attempted a fight back and a good move on the right between Hill and Jones enabled the latter to cross the ball and Burdett netted with a fierce drive. But the revival came too late.

In their first season in the Senior League First Division for two decades, the Nomads finished fifth, just two points behind Jones and Shipman in second place and ten points adrift of runaway champions Friar Lane Old Boys. Nomads beat the Champions at home 2-1 in the final league game of the season at Cropston Road, only the Lane's second defeat of the season. Anstey more than held their own and scored four or more goals against Melton Town (away, 5-1), Enderby Town Reserves (home, 5-2), Midland Athletic (home, 4-1) and Lutterworth (home, 4-0). They only conceded more than four goals in a game, once, against Midland Athletic, away from home in April.

For the second successive season, the Nomads were paired with Anstey Town in the Senior Cup. In the second 'Battle of Anstey' which took place in November, the Nomads gained revenge for their defeat the previous season beating the Town away from home in the second round. After overcoming YMCA, also at home, they were beaten by Friar Lane by a lone goal in round 4.

After a gap of seven years Anstey were invited to enter the Coalville Charity Cup but were eliminated in the first round by Friar Lane Old Boys. They also suffered early first round exits from the Battle of Britain Cup (Newfoundpool, 1-0), Tebbutt-Brown Cup (Midland Athletic 5-1) and the highly prestigious Leicestershire Challenge Cup by Enderby Town by a lone goal in the second half from King, when he rounded Hankey to place the ball into the empty net. Earlier he had struck the upright and Dearden missed a sitter.

★ THE EVENT OF THE YEAR ★
GIANT MARQUEE
Anstey Nomads Ground
Cropston Road, Anstey
ANSTEY NOMADS F.C. COMMITTEE
invite everyone to all-star
international
WRESTLING
commencing at 3 p.m.
SATURDAY, 10th AUGUST
Team Kung Fu Indian Stars
MR. MOTO v JAGIR SINGH
and **KAMIKAZE AJIT SINGH**
Plus! Death v Taylor: Lee v Bowling
and Duran v Hardy.
Adv. booking: Ron Rowles,
5 Bencroft Close. Tel. Anstey 2161
**AND AT 8.30 p.m. TERRIFIC
BARBECUE and
DANCE with
KATSUMA**
YES, NEXT SATURDAY - Wet or fine
FREE CAR PARKING Licensed Bar

~1975-76~

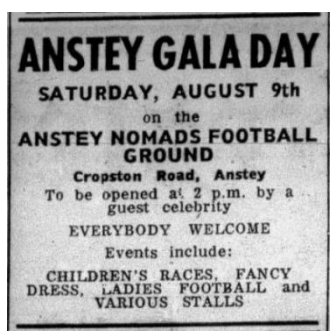
Friar Lane Old Boys won the Senior League for the third successive season. They clinched the title at Cropston Road in late April by defeating Nomads 2-1. In October after a poor start to the season which saw them lose their opening two league fixtures, they gained their third successive league victory over Friar Lane Old Boys winning by 3-0 on the Knighton Lane East ground to provide one of the biggest upsets of the season. They were truly beaten by the young Anstey side who fielded six players under the age of 20. This success invigorated Nomads who were still within an outside chance of the title in April after eight consecutive wins. This included three 4-1 wins (Hinckley Athletic, Thringstone and Midland Athletic) in four consecutive games.

Senior League standings - 5 April 1976

	P	W	Pts
Jones-Shipman	27	16	38
Newfoundpool	30	17	37
Oadby Town	29	15	36
Friar Lane	21	14	33
Anstey Nomads	24	15	33
Thringstone	26	14	33

Sadly, through fixture congestion Anstey only managed to accumulate 3 points from their 6 remaining games and finished the season in 6th place.

The last Saturday in February was a great day for Anstey. Not only did they beat Harborough 5-1 away in the Senior League, but their reserve team took the Combination Championship undefeated with a 3-1 win over Melton Town Reserves.



During a 10-minute spell during the second half Anstey scored three times through Mervyn Sperry (2) and Robin Jones to beat Oadby Town on Wigston Road in the first round of the FA Vase in October. Thringstone, riding on the crest of a wave, which made the 'big boys' of the Senior League sit up and take notice showed their power at Cropston Road, by administering the knock-out to the Nomads 3-1 in the second round, with Jimmy Francis (2) and Roger Gallacher on the mark.

In the Senior Cup after eliminating Hinckley Athletic and Wigston Fields, they gave Loughborough Colleges a lesson in shooting in the quarter final at Cropston Road when they whipped the students 5-1. The home team conceded a goal to Batley in the early stages but when they got going there was only one team in it. Kevin Jones enjoyed himself and cracked a fine hat trick and Green and Holder added their quota. In the semi-finals Anstey defeated Hillcroft at Newfoundpool 1-0 and Oadby Town brought off a similar verdict against the holders Friar Lane Old Boys at Whetstone. Nomads' goal came from skipper Johnny Green, and they had what was described as a "perfectly good goal" disallowed. This was a massive 40 yards kick right into the net by Ned Kelly but which the referee would not allow because another player was adjudged offside while not actually interfering with play. Hillcroft fought well in the second half and gave Anstey a good game but up against a star man in goal-keeper Steve Pilgrim. Having reached the semi-final stage of the competition at the first time of asking, Oadby were delighted with their victory against Friars and Joe O'Flynn was the hero here with a lone goal. It was fine match and little difference between sides. The final between Oadby Town and Anstey Nomads at George Street, Enderby in early May ended in a no score draw. The first positive effort came from Anstey when Stuart received a good cross from the left and shot over the bar. Also, in this early period K Jones and Ballard went close with the latter's effort cleared off the line by Oadby's Ken Turnbull. Jim Burt, for Oadby made a good run on the right against good defensive work by Anstey and his cross found O'Flynn who side-footed for goal but for the outstretched fingers of Pilgrim saved a certain goal. Anstey were playing a good offside trap and were catching out Oadby. In the second half Oadby attacked but a good effort from Donnelly went wide. As the game progressed it was end to end football with both sets of forwards finding it hard to break their respective defences. As a result of a quick clearance O'Flynn received the ball in his own half and took it straight through but his final effort was saved by Pilgrim. Anstey came back and a tremendous shot by Bates only just went wide. Anstey lost the replay two days later 2-0.

Jones and Shipmans went through to the final of the Leicestershire FA's Challenge Cup when they defeated Hinckley Athletic 3-1 at Belvoir Drive. But they did not know their opponents for nearly a fortnight as in the other semi-final at George Street, Enderby Town and Anstey Nomads drew 1-1 - the second time the Nomads had drawn in the invitation competition knocking out Friar Lane Old Boys in a replay just 48 hours earlier. At George Street, Green headed onto the Enderby crossbar and K Jones had the ball in the net but was given offside. In the 25th minute a bad pass out of the Enderby defence went to K Jones who ran on and shot past Hewitt from 12 yards to open the scoring for Anstey. In the 28th minute Enderby opened the second half on the attack and after missing several good chances they were rewarded in the 81st minute when King crossed

from the right and Roger Cooper shot past Pilgrim to equalise. Enderby won the replay at Cropston Road by a single goal after Anstey had several near misses, including a thirty-yard piledriver from Kevin Jones. Enderby's goal came nine minutes from time, Vilcins headed home a corner. In a close encounter Enderby beat Jones-Shipman in the final at Filbert Street.

The fourth and final cup encounter of the season with Oadby Town, at Wigston Lane in mid-May was in the semi-final of the Oadby Charity Cup, after the Nomads had beaten Midland Athletic 3-2 in the quarter final played 9 months earlier. Anstey took the lead in the tenth minute with a most curious decision. An Anstey forward looked to be well offside, but the linesman kept his flag down and as the player headed for goal he appeared to be obstructed. The referee first appeared to award a free kick for the offence which took place outside the box but after consulting the linesman he then awarded a penalty. Neil Stewart seized the chance to put Anstey in front. Oadby however, then got on top and early in the second half, a well placed free kick saw Joe O Flynn head home the equaliser. With 20 minutes to go Foweather Oadby's centre back broke through Anstey's offside trap and knocked home the winner from an acute angle. At this stage Oadby could quite well have buried Anstey for O'Flynn broke through to fire a terrific shot which Pilgrim managed to parry away, Kirby sliced his shot in front of an open net, and Burt had another wonderful chance but after breaking through and drawing Pilgrim out, shot only inches wide of the far post. Oadby settled for the 2-1 victory.

~1976-77~

Anstey made a dreadful start to the season, collecting two points from their opening seven Senior League fixtures. This included 6-0 away defeats at Stapenhill and Wigston Fields on consecutive Saturdays in October. Although results improved as the season progressed, they never managed to win consecutive league matches, ending the season in 11th place. Friar Lane retained the title.

Success, however, came in the form of the Battle of Britain Cup. Anstey reached the final by beating Friar Lane Old Boys 2-1. Although the Friars were first to attack, Anstey soon put their game together better and were good value for their 2-0 interval lead. First Sperry put May through, and his low shot just grazed the far upright, but made amends after 22 minutes when he stabbed home a goal after Johnny Green had squared him a fine pass. Friars defence during this half was shaky and Sperry for the Nomads headed home a corner taken by Sutherland after 33 minutes. Just before the interval Conway and Brett blasted over the bar for the visitors. The second half was completely different with Nomads falling back on defence and a Friars attack that had new life. Anstey conceded a silly penalty converted by Mick Brett after 58 minutes. Some fine goalkeeping by Cleaver for the Nomads and a defence that stuck to its task under constant pressure prevented any further scoring. In the final staged at Cropston Road against Newfoundpool ended with the score at 1-1, the regulation penalty kicks that followed ended in favour of a win for Nomads. Pool were quicker getting into their game and Paul Mee put them in front within nine minutes after Holyland and Donnolly had raided down the right. Weirson did well to concede a corner to prevent number two and Cleaver made two fine saves in the Nomads' goal. At the other end Holder should have equalised when he broke clean away and should have equalised but shot straight at the keeper but just on half time Holder fastened to a ball and after a fine solo squared the pass for May to stab home the equaliser. The second half provided good end to end football but with a lot of shots off target. Two Pool players booked. In defence the Pool were well served Burdett and Cobb with Johnny Green and Sperry outstanding up front. Anstey owed a lot to their fine defence throughout this final, with goalkeeper Cleaver outstanding throughout.

It took three games to decide the outcome of the third round Senior Cup tie between the previous season's finalists – Anstey Nomads (runner-up) and Oadby Town (winners). It eventually went in favour of the cup holders. In the first game at Cropston Road on Saturday 1 December, Oadby were winning with a Joe O'Flynn goal when fog caused abandonment. In the second game, the following week, Dearden put Oadby ahead in the 47th minute and Sperry equalised for Nomads in the 86th minute, and although extra time was played there was no further scoring. It took a penalty in extra time in the replay at Wigston on New Year's Day to turn the tide in favour of Oadby. Sperry gave Nomads the lead in the 21st minute, but Oadby's King bagged the equalizer two minutes before half-time. There was no further scoring in the second period sending the game into extra time. A penalty awarded to Oadby shot home by Foweather totally demoralised Nomads, and goals from O'Flynn (107') and Kirby (113') finished the job off.

Walsall Wood, after a goalless draw at Cropston Road, easily beat the Nomads in the replay to reach the first-round proper of the FA Vase. Anstey also suffered a humiliating 7-0 exit in the Tebbutt-Brown Cup and a 2-0 loss in the Leicestershire Challenge Cup by Friar Lane Old Boys.

~1977-78~

During the close season manager John Perkins revolutionised the club on and off the field and it rapidly paid dividends. The Senior League campaign began well as Nomads beat Melton Town 2-0 at Egerton Park, but in the second game succumbed 2-1 to newly promoted Hillcroft, who had crushed Hinckley Town away from home 5-1 in their opening game, at home. Then after an indifferent spell, they went on a winning spree and climbed to third in the table after overcoming YMCA 3-0 at home in the opening league game of 1978. This boosted the Nomads points to 25 from 18 games, behind Friar Lane (31 points) and Oadby Town (29). Newfoundpool were fourth on goal difference behind Nomads. Unfortunately, a series of drawn games and a few defeats against teams that they would have been expected to beat, resulted in them finishing fifth on 37 points, 4 points head of Melton Town in sixth and 15 points behind Friar Lane Old Boys, who retained the Senior League Division I championship for the fifth successive season. The Old Boys had a wonderful record, 12 championships in 13 years of competition. From 1965-6 to 1968-9 they won the Mutual League title (four seasons) won the Senior Division 2 title in 1969-70 followed by the Division I honour the following year and with the exception of season 1972-73, when Oadby took the title, had kept the crown ever since.

Success, however, came to the Nomads in the cup competitions. Anstey won the Leicestershire Challenge Cup (now known as the Westerby Cup), the county's premier cup competition, for the first time in the club's history. Played at the end of the season since 1950-51, usually in April the invitation only competition comprised just 8 teams. In 1977-78, a 'new' club was invited, Melton Town of League Division 1, who were champions of Division 2 in 1975-76. The draw made in February resulted in the following pairs:

Enderby Town v Friar Lane Old Boys
Newfoundpool WMC v Jones Shipman
Hinckley Athletic v Anstey Nomads
Oadby Town v Melton Town

Anstey overcame Hinckley at the second time of asking on 8 April after the sides had figured in a no score draw at Middlefield Lane. It was another close battle at Cropston Road, and the first goal did not come until the 62nd minute, Nomads took a fortunate lead when a back pass fell to the feet of ace goalkeeper John Sewell after rounding Hogg. Ken Barker sealed it up with a penalty in the 80th minute. In the other ties, Enderby Town beat Friar Lane Old Boys 2-1, with Oadby and Jones & Shipman winning the remaining ties. In one of the shocks of the local football season, Anstey defeated Enderby Town's Southern League side 1-0 in the semi-final at Cropston Road. The winning goal was scored by Peter Wardle. Anstey fully deserved the win and were the better side on the night. Graham Weirson led the side magnificently, Mark Lee in midfield with John Green and Paul Turner never allowed the Enderby midfield any room. Anstey faced Oadby Town (2-1 winners over Jones & Shipman at Birstall) in the final at Filbert Street on May Day. Anstey took the lead in the 38th minute. A free kick placed well into the goalmouth was headed low by Jones, but Warrington failed to hold the ball in a diving save and it went under his arms into the net. In the second half Oadby threatened more purpose and equalised in the 62nd minute when Solomons put the ball for Bain to gain possession and slammed the ball home. The last few minutes saw Anstey's forwards bombard Oadby's box in search of the winning goal, but Oadby's defence held out to give extra time. Oadby were stronger but Anstey hit back and there was a great back-heeler by Sewell to Staples who centred for Green to head from close range, Warrington saved brilliantly. The second half of extra time saw Anstey's Jones head over the bar from a yard out, and at times the Oadby goal was packed, but they held out. Anstey won the re-played final on George Street, a week later. Oadby opened strongly with Bain on the left flank cleverly turning before out-running Lee to cross to Hegarty on the opposite flank. There was no-one in the middle to accept the cross. Anstey pushed forward and soon had the Oadby defence in a tangle, but the final shot by Wardle was much too high. After 18 minutes with Oadby's defence again wanting, Wardle's short pass found Jones whose shot was parried by Martin and Sewell coming in on the left had an easy target. Just before the interval Oadby's Kirby might have levelled the score but his headed attempt off Orgill's square pass lacked strength. After the interval Oadby put on Sanderson and for 30 minutes kept the Nomads under constant pressure and only

stubborn defensive work by Anstey kept them ahead. Anstey made a break and Hegarty brought down Turner in the area. Barker increased their lead from the subsequent spot kick. After the previous match, this re-play never reached the heights expected and Anstey took the cup by sheer determination and spoiling football. The winners received the trophy from Mr W S G Needham, president of the County FA.

Anstey Nomads retained the Battle of Britain Cup. In the quarter final they beat Enderby Town 2-0 and Wigston Fields, who had lost eight of the team that reached the last eight of the FA Vase in 1976-77, in the semi-final. Before a large crowd at Knighton Lane East in the final, Nomads gave a competent performance as they beat Friar Lane Old Boys 4-2. They matched Friar Lane all through the game and never allowed the Old Boys whom they defeated in last year's semi-final to settle down. All the goals were of quality and Nomads went ahead in half an hour and although the Lane equalised soon afterwards Anstey didn't wilt and stuck to their task. Even when the Friars drew level at 2-2 and it began to look as if they might take over, the Anstey defenders came into their own and back came the Cropston Road outfit to clinch a memorable victory. Their scorers were: Tansley Barker Loydell and Morris Brennan netted twice for Friar Lane. The cup and other awards were presented by Norman Plummer former Leicester City captain who led the side in their first FA Cup final at Wembley against Wolves in 1949.



Figure 3 Leicester Daily Mercury - 30 June 1978

In their third final of 1977-78, Anstey were beaten 2-1 by Oadby Town in the Tebbutt-Brown Cup. John Sewell, after hitting a hat-trick in the first 14 minutes went on to score a fourth goal in Anstey Nomads 4-1 win against Melton Town at Cropston Road, in the first round replay following a goalless draw at Egerton Road. Duggan got Melton's goal just before the interval. Newfoundpool were dispatched 2-0 at Cropston Road in the next round. Anstey reached the final by beating Corby Town Reserves 3-0 at home in the replayed semi-final. Green and Ritchie scored in the first half, and though Corby worked hard in the second period, Turner put the issue beyond doubt. The Leicestershire Senior League wound up their season with the Tebbutt-Brown Cup at Friar Lane. Anstey's squad for the game was - Wrighton, Barker, Weirson, Bates, Ritchie, Kirby, Green, Wardle, Jones, Sewell, Turner, Sperry, Tansley and Broughton. Oadby beat Anstey 2-1; Don Tebbutt made the presentations at the end of the final.

In the other cups competitions entered, after a great fight which took the game into extra time, Nomads were beaten 3-1 at Halesowen in the FA Charity Vase. Oadby Town yet again destroyed Anstey's hopes of capturing the Senior Cup. The cup holders for the past two seasons reached the last four in fine style, knocking out the Nomads 2-0 at Wigston Road. King and Dearden did the damage, thanks to assists from Mick Challenor. Lastly, Enderby Town, who fielded their reserves, easily overcame the Nomads, 3-0 in the Rolleston Cup semi-final at George Street to face Shepshed in the final.

An attempt at the start of 1978 to cream off four top-ranking Leicestershire Senior Football League clubs in order to boost their own league for next season turned sour on the West Midland Football League. The teams they targeted were the champions Friar Lane Old Boys former champions Oadby Town, Anstey Nomads and Shepshed Charterhouse hot favourites for promotion from Division 2. All four turned down the offer, stating that they were perfectly satisfied with the Senior League and that they could not visualise how a move West would do them any good. Friar Lane whose status within Midlands' non-league football had soared through their FA Vase exploits had been attracting the attention of the West Midland League for some time and that an approach was expected. But as Ken Jewitt of the Friars told the local press, "While I'm at the Lane the Old Boys will remain a Leicestershire club. Make no mistake about that..... I would advise the other clubs to stay on too."



This public statement along with Anstey's experience presumably swayed Oadby and Shepshed committee to stay in the Leicestershire League. Remember that Anstey had already tasted the 'getting away bug' several years ago, leaving the Senior League to join the Central Alliance League and subsequently became associated with the East Midlands Regional League. But the travelling and expenses forced them back home.

~1978-79~

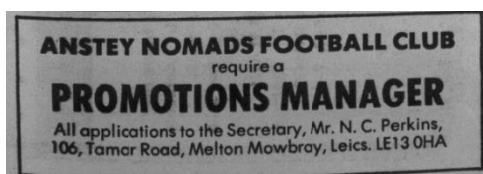
John Perkins' second season in charge was the most successful in the club's history to date. Anstey not only finished runner-up in the Senior League Division 1, reached round 4 of the FA Vase, won the Tebbutt-Brown Cup, the Battle of Britain Cup for a third consecutive season, and were losing finalists in the Challenge Cup and the Rolleston Cup, as well as setting a club record of 25 consecutive games unbeaten in all competitions.



Nomads had a blistering start in the Senior League. They won their opening four fixtures without a goal against, while 18 were scored. It was not until the fifth league game that Nomads dropped points and conceded a goal in a 1-1 draw at Dunley Way, Lutterworth. The man who popped the Anstey bubble was Courtney Johnson who was prominent throughout and hit his goal from a Gould cross just before half time. Nomads salvaged a point with a late goal by Burdett. Four more wins against Hillcroft (2-0), Hinckley (4-0), Birstall (1-0), Earl Shilton (7-1) followed and then two drawn games against Friar Lane Old Boys and Enderby. Numerous League games had to be rearranged as a result of their FA Vase Cup run, a big freeze over the New Year period and flooding, which created a huge fixture congestion. This no doubt contributed to Anstey dropping points against Senior League sides they would have been expected to beat. Nevertheless, already assured of the runners-up spot, they needed to beat Shepshed on 24 May to retain any chance of the title. The league position of the two clubs prior to kick-off were:

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Shepshed Charterhouse	29	21	4	4	64	15	46
Anstey Nomad	28	17	8	3	63	16	42

Anstey manager John Perkins reported several injuries to key players after their hectic number of games in the days leading up to the game. Shepshed Charterhouse promoted from Division 2 at the end of last season gained the point required to clinch the championship in an exciting goalless draw. In 1975 Buddhist Maurice Clayton was invited to help out Shepshed Albion, then struggling in Division Two of the Leicestershire Senior League. He poured money into the club and changed the club's name to Shepshed Charterhouse after his own company, setting them on a remarkable upward trajectory. In seven successive seasons in the late 70s and early 80s they either won the League they were competing in or won promotion by finishing second. Despite the lack of goals on that late May evening in 1979, it was a fine game played at a cracking pace throughout. Anstey were on top in the first 45 minutes with Shepshed clearly in command in the second half. In the opening 15 minutes following good work by James and White, Anstey's Peter Wardle headed over,



Green made a good run on the right beat full-back Leet and sent in a low shot which was almost turned in by Sewell. Shepshed on top and playing with increasing determination in the second period still found chances few and far between although Daltrey should have scored when presented with a free header from a good cross by Kirby. It was fitting that the match to decide the

championship was between the two best teams in League and that the result was a draw. Although a hard game it was played in a sporting manner without the hint of a vicious tackle. Two days later Anstey beat Shepshed again on Monday evening at the Dovecote in the replay of Tebbutt Brown final. The long league campaign finally ended on Saturday with win against Hinckley.

Eight months earlier, Anstey had travelled to Evesham, who played in the Midland Combination, in the first round of the Vase and came home with a 2-0 win. County cap Bob James recently transferred to Cropston Road from Shepshed Charterhouse was the Nomads marksmen in their second round 1-0 victory at home to

Blakenhall. In a remarkable performance at home, Nomads charged into the fourth round for the first time with a total demolition of Halesowen who had knocked them out of the competition twelve months earlier. Despite conceding seven goals Halesowen kept on trying. Newell scored after 23 minutes, Ritchie on 30 minutes from a Sewell corner. Two minutes later Sewell scored number three following a solo run. In the second half, James headed the fourth from a corner after 5 minutes and in the last ten mins Burdett, Sewell and James took the tally to seven. Anstey put up a great fight in their much-postponed Vase tie with Irthlingborough Diamonds, members of the United Counties League, before going out the competition 2-1 in Northamptonshire in February. The cup tie was seen by many as the most important in the club's history. Two coaches of supporters made the trip plus many more making their own way. John Perkins commented: "We know the size of our task. Chris Tucker the club coach and I have spoken at great lengths about the game. We believe everything is in our hands." During the few days leading up to the game the local fire brigade had pumped nearly 1,000 gallons of water off the pitch. Just when they looked ready to take the tie after a goalless first half, Anstey suffered through two disastrous defensive errors. There was a complete mix-up in Nomads' defence in the 65th minute letting in the ever-dangerous Harris to score. The second error came with only five minutes to go when Spick was allowed too much latitude, and he made no mistake. Nomads were not finished and a minute later, Green was brought down in the area. Staples pulled a goal back from the resulting penalty. Nomads rekindled their spirits and tried to pull the game out of the fire but time was against them. In the first half Sewell went through from a Wardle pass but had his shot blocked and a James centre went to Green whose header was saved at the foot of a post. Another Green header was only pushed out by Payne and White following up smashed his shot against the bar. In defence, keeper Fowler, Weirson, and Burdett were outstanding. But throughout the match it was the final pass from midfield to the forwards let them down.

Nomads successfully brought off a hat-trick of RAFA Battle of Britain cup victories when they beat Shepshed Charterhouse on Friar Lanes ground on the second Monday in September. The man in charge was Leicester's FIFA referee Peter Reeves who had the assistance of Carl Kings (Earl Shilton) and Doug Vye (Market Harborough) on the lines. It was a fast-exciting robust game that kept swinging both ways and in the first half Anstey could thank goalkeeper Fowler for a superb fingertip flying save from an equally superb volley from Hollis when Shepshed were on top. In the second half Anstey put more power into their game, but two more brilliant saves were made by Fowler from Gallacher's headers before they hit back. In the 75th minute Wardle sent a long ball down the middle inside Hennessey to Sewell who raced through, rounded Jones and steered the ball into an empty net. Anstey continued to pressurise Shepshed's defence. Jones made two great saves but 30 seconds from time, Sewell and Staples worked the ball to Wardle who slammed home Anstey's second goal. Jimmy Walsh, ex-Leicester City skipper afterwards presented the cup and trophies. Anstey had reached the final after defeating Birstall United and Enderby Town. John Sewell scored from the spot in the 75th minute to give Anstey Nomads a dramatic 3-2 win against Birstall. Birstall had led 1-0 at half time through a goal by Dixon and he then increased their lead. However, Nomads hit back in the last half hour with goals from Wierson, Jones and that penalty from Sewell. In the semi-final at Cropston Road, Anstey and Enderby drew 1-1 in normal time, the home team winning 7-6 on penalties. Enderby led at half-time through a Billington goal and Sewell put Anstey level. Des White netted the all-important penalty.

Enderby took revenge later in the season by knocking Anstey out of the Senior Cup. Anstey began their Senior Cup quest in some style - "Nomads Go On The Rampage" - THE RED ARMY went into action and totally out-manoeuvred all opposition - Leicester Mercury 9 October 1978, reporting on Nomads 12-0 win over Barrow Old Boys at Cropston Road in the opening round of the Senior Cup. In the second round they thrashed high-riding Oadby 3-0, goals coming from Phil Burdett, Ken Barker and Pete Wardle. Melton Town (2-1) and Thringstone (3-2) were dispatched in subsequent rounds to reach the semi-final. In one of the matches of the season Enderby Town defeated Anstey Nomads 5-4 after extra time on the Newfoundland WMC's ground on 24 March. The game was scheduled to take place at Birstall a week earlier but was postponed due to inclement weather. Enderby were not lucky to win but Anstey were unlucky to lose this greatly entertaining and well-played cup game. Six goals were scored in the first 90 minutes and three more in extra time where victory was not settled until six minutes from the end. Enderby were two up in 23 minutes through Neal Matthams and Malc Potter who worked his way in to find' the net from 20 yards. But Anstey hit back immediately for White to reduce the lead and Dowsing to equalise two minutes from halftime. Anstey came out fighting after the interval, but Enderby took the lead when awarded a penalty for Lane to send Fowler the wrong way. Nomads persistent pressure told and Wardle headed in the equaliser from a Staples' corner kick.

Two minutes into extra time Anstey created great excitement by taking the lead for the first time when Wardle flicked the ball past Satchwell following good work by Sperry and James. It took Enderby 12 minutes to get their equaliser and again Matthams who was having an excellent game took a free kick for Cooper to gain possession and stab the ball into the net. Enderby brought on Brian Billington and with six minutes to go he sent Malc Potter down the left, who sent in a low ball into the middle where Welford flashed a header home to give Enderby victory.

Leicestershire Challenge Cup holders Anstey Nomads came up against the Leicestershire Senior League champions and present leaders Friar Lane Old Boys in the semi-final. They reached this stage by knocking out Shepshed Charterhouse 2-0 on 21 April after a no-score draw at the Dovecote on Easter Monday evening. Both goals were scored in the first seven minutes which took the wind out of Shepshed Charterhouse's sails. The first in five minutes came from the penalty spot with Staples sending Hodges the wrong way. This put Anstey in high glee and the unmarked Dowsing one of their most improved players of the season headed home a fine cross from Wardle. Shepshed tried their hardest to get back into the game but Nomads held them in fine style and thoroughly deserved victory. Friar Lane Old Boys were well beaten, 3-0, and in the other semi-final Enderby defeated Newfoundpool WMC 3-1 at Birstall. At Anstey the first half was a hard struggle and the second began in the same way and nobody could have forecasted the fireworks of the final 20 minutes. Green for Anstey broke down the right and his centre was bouncing in the goalmouth before Wardle lashed it into the net. The Lane had their only real chance but Gallacher shot wide with only Fowler to beat. The second goal scored by James was a perfect shot into the corner through a crowd of players. But the best was yet to come when Morris beat three defenders and chipped the ball over Webb. After 30 minutes at Birstall in the other semi-final, Enderby took the lead. Through a mix up in the Pool defence a high ball into the goalmouth was missed by both 'keeper and defenders to bounce into the net. Enderby increased their lead shortly before half time when Cooper headed in a cross from the right. In the second period Newfoundpool pulled a goal back when Fisher was pulled down in the box and the same player scored from the spot. The home efforts to get on terms were crushed minutes from time when Welford put the result beyond doubt. Having already won the Senior Cup, staged at Cropston Road, Enderby Town completed the Leicestershire FA top trophies double by beating Anstey Nomads 2-0 at Filbert Street on 7 May in the final of the Challenge Cup. It was a thrilling contest. Nomads took the honours in the first half. Anstey's fast raids down the wing had Enderby fighting hard to contain them from dead ball free kicks. The first goal came inside the second minute of the second half. Bradshaw took the kick one yard outside Anstey's penalty area for the ball to go over Fowler's outstretched arms into the net off the bar. The second came on the hour when a free kick almost on the same spot was calmly and beautifully placed over the wall into the top left-hand corner by Welford. Enderby's experience now showed its power, but even so both sides slipped again by missing more excellent openings and kept up the crowd's excitement to the final whistle. The cup and trophies were afterwards presented by Mr W S G Needham OBE president of the County Football Association, life member of the FA and Leicester City director.

The Rolleston Cup final was held at Cropston Road, nearly four weeks later on 1 June. Melton Town eased into the final with a fine 3-0 victory over Nomads. In previous encounters this season Anstey came out on top but an Ade Goodall goal in the 21st minute with a free kick from the edge of the box put Melton on their way to breaking the sequence. Paul Noble put Town further ahead on the hour and Goodall completed the scoring from the penalty spot 13 minutes later. Only a clearance of the line by Des White from Billy Gumbley and the bar foiling Goodall, saved Anstey from humiliation. Shepshed Charterhouse beat Melton to win the cup.

In late May, Nomads after conceding the championship of the Leicestershire Senior League to Shepshed Charterhouse gained some revenge when they won the replay of the final of the Tebbutt Brown Trophy at the Dovecote by a single goal scored by John Green after 25 minutes. The goal came when White combined well with Mark Lee who played a ball to John Sewell wide on the left. Sewell beat two defenders and crossed for Green to ram home from close in. Anstey played superior football for the majority of the game but the result could have been different if Andy Gould had not missed a relatively simple chance in the 20th minute. Mick Hollis found Gould who after brushing aside a defender rounded the 'keeper and with the whole of the goal to aim at, he hit the post. Shepshed missed a number of chances to level in the second half. At the end of 90 entertaining minutes before a large crowd, in spite of the weather, the trophy was presented by Mr Geoff Brown.

Referee reports had been flowing into the Melton Road Headquarters of the Leicestershire & Rutland County FA during the first three months of the season. The general secretary John Holmes at the November meeting of the Association gave some startling figures. More than 1200 reports had been submitted, almost double that than in the corresponding week of 1977-78.

	Sendings Off	Cautions	Total
1976-77	122	561	683
1977-78	123	549	672
1978-79	238	985	1223

Under FA Rule 33 (a) and County Disciplinary Regulation 12 they warned 25 clubs – including Anstey, Newfoundpool and Thringstone – because of the misconduct reports received about their players.

John Perkins was linked with the vacant manager's job at Southern League Atherstone in early 1979. He had been manager at Cropston Road for two seasons and told the Leicester Mercury: "I am manager of Anstey Nomads at present and that is my only concern. We are on the verge of great things but have to keep working very hard to achieve them. I hope to be able to complete the task." Reports hinted that Perkins had already visited the Southern League outfit. There were also rumours that Enderby Town were interested in appointing Perkins as their assistant manager and that Earl Shilton Albion FC had made an approach to Anstey Nomads' chief for him to become their new manager following Len Glover's departure. Earl Shilton's secretary told a Leicester Mercury reporter in April that: "We haven't made any moves, but it would be a great compliment to us if Mr. Perkins were to apply for the post which will be advertised in the Leicester Mercury tomorrow night [24 April] "The man we are looking for is one dedicated to the game and one who puts the sport first instead of his wallet." Just two days after the final game of the season Anstey vice-chairman Mr. Robert Moss made the following press statement: "John Perkins will be the manager of Anstey Nomads next season. The club is delighted that in the end he decided to stay with us." John Perkins commented: "In the end it was a hard decision but basically, I could not work as No 2 and we are only halfway through the job at Anstey." Club secretary Nigel Perkins further added: "Our future is very good and we have got the go-ahead for a club house to be built during the summer"

~1979-80~

The final season of the 1970s was probably the most successful in the history of Anstey Nomads. They played in five cup finals, winning three – the Battle of Britain Cup (for a record fourth consecutive year), the Rolleston Cup, the Tebbutt and Brown Cup and runners up in the Leicestershire Challenge Cup and in the Coalville Cup. In addition, the reserve team lifted the Leicestershire Combination championship cup.

Perkins had strengthened the squad by signing the former Shepshed and A P Leamington midfielder William Wilcox, and Stephen Wright from Friar Lane Old Boys during the close season. Nomads forward John Sewell, who at one stage looked all set to move to United Counties side Rothwell Town, decided to stay after long discussions with the manager. At the end of the year Ian Gough, player manager of Stapenhill and a regular in the Leicestershire County senior sides for some years, signed for the Nomads. Gough who also had experience with Burton Albion significantly strengthened the Cropston Road side's bid for the league championship. "I'm delighted that Ian has decided to join us," said John Perkins, "His experience on and off the field will be of great value. He is exactly right for the club. His ability on the park is unquestionable and equally important are his standards. I realise his great association with Stapenhill and it is a great credit to him to come to this decision," Gough said: "My reason for joining Anstey Nomads is because I believe they are a professional club with ambitions, and like me they want success. I'm looking forward to playing for the club. But I realise it is going to be hard work."

In mid-August Anstey completed their preseason preparations with a fine 2-1 win against Irlingborough Diamonds, the United Counties League champions and quarterfinalists in the FA Vase. There was no score in the first half, but after the break Anstey took control and Sewell sent Steve Wright away to score from 20 yards. Anstey went two up when Turner centred for Wardle to head down to Dowsing who put the ball

home from 15 yards. Irthlingborough pulled one back five minutes from time. In other friendlies they beat Bermuda 2-0 and drew with a Leicester City XI.

After drawing their opening Senior League fixture of the season, away at Birstall, they went on a winning streak. Following a 4-0 win at Keyham Lane against Hillcroft in mid-September, with Mee (2), Dowsing and Wilcox on target, they became the new league leaders, as Shepshed, who had held top position all season were held to a 2-2 draw at Stapenhill. The following Saturday, the Nomads went three points clear at the top of the table after beating Shepshed Charterhouse 3-1 at home (Wardle, Wright, and Turner). Wins followed away from home against Lutterworth (2-1), Melton Town (4-1), and Friar Lane (3-1). Anstey lost their 100 percent home record in mid-November after a 1-1 draw with Oadby Town. Following two more wins (Hinckley and Ibstock Penistone Rovers) and consecutive draws, Oadby Town inflicted their first defeat of the season, and pegged them back a little in what seemed to be their runaway bid for the championship. Oadby's Brian "Ace Shot" Sanderson bagged both goals. Reigning champions Shepshed Charterhouse took advantage of the slip to draw closer with a 4-0 at Wigston Fields while third placed Birstall were also away winners 4-2 at Hinckley Town. Friar Lane kept in the race with a home 4-2 win against Hillcroft; the top places as a result read:

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Anstey Nomads	17	12	4	1	39	13	28
Shepshed	15	11	3	1	33	12	25
Birstall	14	9	6	0	29	29	24
Oadby town	15	9	3	3	38	12	21
Friar Lane OB	16	9	3	4	25	20	21

A further defeat for Nomads against Newfoundpool followed a week later. A draw away at Wigston Field and a loss at home against Enderby Town derailed Anstey's title chances. Although they went on another long unbeaten run, they were unable to match the consistency of Shepshed Charterhouse, who retained the Senior League title losing only one game and dropping just 9 points all season. Anstey yet again finished in second place, 4 points behind Shepshed and 5 points ahead of Oadby Town in third.

Anstey gained their first piece of silverware of the season in September, by retaining the Battle of Britain Cup. After winning away at Friar Lane (2-1), they reached their fourth consecutive final after beating Newfoundpool (2-0). Nomads took the lead after work by Sewell, and Green, Peter Wardle netting from close range. In the second half Pool broke away and Flynn missed an easy chance. Anstey completed the scoring when John Sewell who had been outstanding throughout beat two defenders before giving Atkinson no chance with a net-buster from 12 yards. Turner hit the bar in the last minute. In the other semi-final, Wigston Fields were also 2-0 winners, against Birstall United. Played at George Street, Enderby the final ended 1-1, Pollard giving Fields the lead after 20 minutes and Turner equalised in the 75th minute. The Nomads missed an 80th minute penalty but took the trophy for a fourth consecutive season by winning 5-3 on penalties. Leicester City team coach Eddie May presented the cup to Nomads skipper, Graham Weirson.

Anstey made it to the final of the Coalville Charity Cup for the first time since 1950 by defeating Syston St Peter's (7-1) and Desford Colliery on Desford's ground in the semi-final in April. There was no score at halftime but Trevor Freestone who was outstanding created a scoring chance to put Desford 1-0 up and with 20 minutes to go he increased the lead to 2-0. This sparked a remarkable come-back by Anstey. Paul Turner came on as a substitute altering the formation of the side and from a Wilcox corner Peter Wardle scored with a header. In the dying seconds Turner equalised. So, the game went to penalties. Wrighter saving the eventual penalty that sent Anstey through to the final on Easter Tuesday where they faced Shepshed. Two goals by centre half Mark Kendrick steered Shepshed to a 2-0 victory to claim the Coalville Cup at Ibstock for the fourth time. Shepshed were dominant in the first half of the final which kicked-off at 11.00 am. Dave Fowler was often at full stretch in the Anstey goal. Kendrick's goals both came from corners by Jeff Lissaman in the 32nd and 40th minutes. The second was a magnificent far post header, although the Anstey defence left him virtually unchallenged. Nomads came back into it after the break but rarely looked like scoring. Phil Burdett saw a header brilliantly turned on to a post by Kevin Massey but apart from that the Shepshed 'keeper was untroubled.

Shepshed also knocked Nomads out of the Senior Cup, after they had demolished Lutterworth 6-0 in the first round, and Holwell Works (4-2) in second round.

It took three attempts for Nomads to overcome Hinckley Athletic in the Leicestershire Challenge Cup quarter-final and after beating Birstall United 2-1 at Cropston Road on 16 April reached the final for the third successive season. Norman scored first for Birstall, but John Green notched two for Nomads. The final at Filbert Street six days later was a repeat of last year's, a win for Enderby. The Southern League side showed their power early on when they scored two goals in five minutes, the first from Billington, the second a fine effort from Elliott. Within four minutes of the second half Enderby increased their lead when Matthams sent Cooper racing through to beat keeper Fowler. Remarkably this third setback brought Anstey to life and a minute later Rue headed home. Anstey stepped up their work and in the 58th minute Brooks worked a crisp one-two before beating keeper Hewitt to reduce Enderby's lead to one. But Enderby had other thoughts and when Cooper was downed Lane made no mistake from the spot to restore their two-goal lead. However, a casual pass back by Lane was intercepted by Wardle who scored, and Anstey again were back the game. They stormed back but Enderby's defence never lost their cool again.

On Friday 16 May, Nomads ended their memorable season by winning Leicestershire's premier charity football trophy the Rolleston Cup for the first time, beating Shepshed Charterhouse 2-1 in the final at the Dovecote, after extra time. Nomads led after 25 minutes when after good work by Dowsing, Wilcox crossed for Green to net from close in. Klrby equalised with a good header from a Lissaman cross. After nine minutes of extra time Anstey restored their lead. Wardle passed to Burdett who gave Rue the chance to put home a fine diving header.

Meanwhile, Anstey Nomads Reserves became champions of the Leicestershire Combination for the first time. They clinched the issue with an impressive 4-0 victory against former champions Friar Lane Old Boys on the latter's ground with goals by Peter Wardle (2) Des Bailey and a Willie Wilcox spectacular effort.