



Anstey Nomads FC

The Extraordinary Story of an English Village Football Club

The 2010's

The 2010s for Anstey Nomads were a decade of dramatic resurgence, mirroring the UK's own journey from post-recession recovery to political upheaval. After a rocky start in the East Midlands Counties League, navigating tough losses while celebrating small victories like the Battle of Britain Cup (2011-12) – a local triumph much like the London Olympics inspiring national pride – Anstey hit their lowest point, reflecting wider austerity.

But then came the turnaround! Much like Leicester City's incredible Premier League win in 2016, Anstey found their magic. From 2014-15, with Jacob Fenton leading the line, they steadily climbed, culminating in an explosive 2017-18 season. They were runners-up in the EMCL with a stunning 116 goals, earning a momentous promotion to the United Counties League.

Their ascent continued in 2018-19, as they stormed to UCL Division One runners-up with 133 goals, securing back-to-back promotions and a deep FA Vase run – a true local powerhouse emerging. The decade ended with great anticipation for their UCL Premier Division debut in 2019-20, only for the global COVID-19 pandemic to abruptly halt the season, a sudden stop mirroring the unprecedented disruption felt across the entire nation.

2010-11

The 2010-2011 season for Anstey Nomads was a mixed bag, displaying periods of spirited performance alongside challenging spells across both league and cup competitions.

Anstey Nomads finished 12th in the East Midlands Counties League with 49 points. **Gresley** were the champions, finishing with an impressive 90 points from 38 matches to secure promotion to the Midland Football Alliance. Nearly a third of the clubs in the league were from Leicestershire, Barrow Town finishing the highest in 5th place. Nomads league campaign was a rollercoaster of results. Anstey's season kicked off with a tough league opener, a resounding 7-0 home defeat to Heanor Town. Other heavy league losses included a 9-0 home thrashing by Gresley FC, a 0-4 away loss to Gresley FC again, a 1-6 away defeat to Radcliffe Olympic, and a 0-9 away loss back at Heanor Town. Late in the season, they suffered significant home defeats to Radcliffe Olympic (0-4), Gedling Miners Welfare (0-3), Greenwood Meadows (1-3), and Borrowash Victoria (1-5), alongside a heavy 2-7 away loss to Thurnby Nirvana. However, the Nomads also secured some impressive league victories. Early wins included a 1-0 home victory over Ibstock United and a 2-1 away win at St Andrews. They also claimed a commanding 5-0 home win against Blackwell Miners Welfare and a 4-0 away win at Ellistown. As the season progressed, they found more consistency in securing points, with notable wins including a 2-1 home win against Bardon Hill Sports, a 2-1 away win at Holwell Sports, a 2-0 away win at Greenwood Meadows, and a thrilling 4-3 away victory against Ibstock United. Home wins against Radford (2-1), Gedling Town (3-1), and Holwell Sports (1-0) further demonstrated their capability. They also secured a strong 4-1 away win at Blackwell Miners Welfare and a 1-0 home win against Graham St Prims.

In the Battle of Britain Cup, they started strong with a commanding 5-2 home victory against Saffron Dynamo. However, their run was short-lived, as they exited the competition with a 2-3 away loss to Blaby & Whetstone Athletic.

Their FA Vase campaign showed promise. They secured a 1-1 away draw against Castle Vale JKS, based in the Castle Vale area of Birmingham, before triumphing 3-2 in the home replay. Following a walkover against Oldbury, their FA Vase journey ultimately ended in a narrow 3-4 away defeat to Coventry Sphinx.

The EMCL League Cup saw an early exit, with a home loss to Barrow Town.

In the Jelson Homes Senior Cup, Anstey faced a challenging encounter, suffering a comprehensive 1-7 away defeat to Bardon Hill Sports.

Overall, the 2010-2011 season for Anstey Nomads was a period of development. While their cup runs were relatively brief, their spirit in certain matches and their ability to secure valuable points in the league, despite facing some very strong opponents, suggests a team that battled hard throughout a demanding schedule.

2011-12

The 2011-12 East Midlands Counties Football League season, the competition's fourth, saw a slightly reduced number of clubs with 19 teams participating. The league welcomed two new clubs: Blaby & Whetstone Athletic, promoted from the Leicestershire Senior League, and Oadby Town, relegated from the Midland Football Alliance. Heanor Town were crowned champions, finishing with an impressive 88 points from 36 matches. Their stellar performance earned them promotion to the Northern Counties East League Premier Division. The top five in the league were: Heanor Town (88 points, promoted), Borrowash Victoria (81 points), Oadby Town (78 points, transferred to the United Counties League after the season), St Andrews (68 points), and Barrow Town (65 points). While no formal relegation system to a specific lower league was in place, Blackwell Miners Welfare (who finished 8th) notably folded at the end of the season. Ellistown (19th, last place) and Ibstock United (18th) were the lowest-placed teams.

Anstey Nomads enjoyed an improved season, finishing in 9th position with 51 points. They secured 14 wins, 9 draws, and 13 losses, achieving a positive goal difference of +6 (66 goals scored, 60 conceded). This marked a notable improvement from their 12th place finish the previous season. They started with two away draws against Barrow (2-2) and Ibstock Utd (2-2), interspersed with a 2-3 away loss to Holbrooke Sports. September brought their first league win, a 2-0 home victory over Radford FC, but also three consecutive league defeats against Blaby (0-1 at home), Oadby (4-2 away), and St Andrews (2-1 at home).

October proved to be a turning point in their league form, as they recorded four straight wins against Radcliffe Olympic (3-0 at home), Greenwood Meadows (4-0 away), Ellistown (4-1 at home), and Gedling Miners Welfare (4-1 away). This winning streak continued into late October with a 3-2 home win against Thurnby Rangers. November started strong with a 3-0 away win over Gedling Miners, followed by two home draws against Bardon Hill (1-1). They finished November with a 2-0 home win against Holwell and a 3-2 away victory over Heanor Town. December saw them maintain their winning momentum with a 4-0 away win against Holwell and a 3-2 home win against Blackwell Miners, before ending the year with a 0-2 home loss to Greenwood.

The new year began with an away draw against Ellistown (1-1), followed by a series of league defeats at home to Barrow (1-2) and Holbrook (1-2), and away to Radford (1-2). February saw an away draw against Graham St Prims (1-1) and a home loss to Oadby Town (0-1), before they secured an away win against Radcliffe (2-0). March brought another away win against Thurnby (2-1), a high scoring away draw against Blaby (3-3), an away draw against St Andrews (2-2), and a home loss to Blackwell Miners (0-2). Their final league games in April resulted in a heavy 1-5 home defeat to Heanor Town, a draw away to Graham St Prims (1-1), a significant 4-0 home win against Ibstock Utd, and two heavy defeats against Borrowash, 0-4 away and 0-7 at home.

In the cup competitions, Anstey's journey was varied. They exited the League Cup in the first round with a 1-2 away loss to Radcliffe Olympic, who reached the final, where they lost by a single goal to Borrowash Victoria. Their FA Vase campaign was very brief, a 1-3 away defeat to Lutterworth Athletic. The FA Cup saw them eliminated in the Extra Preliminary Round, losing 1-2 away to Bugbrooke St Michaels. However, they found success in the Battle of Britain competition, drawing 3-3 with Blaby & Whetstone Athletic and winning 4-2 on penalties before claiming the trophy with a 3-1 victory over St Andrews in the final. In the Senior Cup, they progressed past Bardon Hill with a 2-1 home win but were then knocked out by Sileby Town with a 1-2 home defeat.

2012-13

Another challenging campaign for Anstey Nomads. They finished 14th in the league with 34 points, a drop from their 9th-place finish the previous season. Their league record consisted of 9 wins, 7 draws, and 20 losses, with a goal difference of -51 (41 goals scored, 92 conceded).

The league itself was invigorated by the arrival of three ambitious clubs: Aylestone Park, Basford United, and Lutterworth Athletic. But it was Basford United who truly stole the show, dominating the season with an incredible 95 points, marching confidently to promotion. They were a force of nature, ultimately sweeping up the East Midlands Counties League Cup as well, completing a magnificent double. The top echelons of the league were rounded out by Barrow Town, Thurnby Nirvana, Borrowash Victoria, and Holwell Sports, all proving formidable opponents.

For Anstey, the season kicked off with a bruising reality check. Early league fixtures delivered a series of painful blows: a 1-2 away defeat to Thurnby Nirvana, a home loss by the same score to Radcliffe Olympic, a particularly grim 2-7 away drubbing by Holwell Sports, a 2-4 home loss to eventual champions Basford United, and another 1-2 away setback against Blaby & Whetstone Athletic. It wasn't until a 1-1 away draw with Ibstock United that Anstey Nomads secured their first league point of the season. Two weeks later they gained their first three points with a hard-fought 2-1 home victory over Holbrook Sports. This win, while a welcome relief, was followed by further challenging results. Significant defeats later in the season included a 1-4 home loss to Gedling Miners Welfare, two 0-3 hammerings by Basford United, a 0-6 away rout by Barrow Town, and a staggering 1-7 home defeat to Radford.

Yet, amidst these trials, the Nomads showed flashes of resilience and fighting spirit. They clinched vital league wins that kept their season from spiralling into total despair: gritty 1-0 away wins at Radford and Greenwood Meadows; and a commanding 3-1 away triumph against St Andrews. They found their scoring boots in a 3-1 home win over Thurnby Nirvana, secured a 1-0 away victory at Graham St Prims, battled to a 2-1 home win against Holwell Sports, and grabbed a 2-1 away win at Gedling Miners Welfare. A late season 1-0 home win against Aylestone Park provided a moment of solace. They also managed to dig deep for several draws, including a 2-2 home stalemate with Bardon Hill Sports, a 1-1 home draw against Ellistown, another 1-1 away at Bardon Hill Sports, a 1-1 home draw with St Andrews, and a 2-2 home draw against Greenwood Meadows.

As the season drew to a close, the league saw some structural shifts, with Lutterworth Athletic moving to the United Counties League, and Ellistown and Ibstock United merging. For Anstey Nomads, the 2012-13 season was a challenging but ultimately character-building experience, a testament to their perseverance in the face of a fiercely competitive league.

In cup competitions, Anstey Nomads' journey was mixed. They began with a positive result in the Battle of Britain Cup, winning 3-0 away against Rothley Imperial, with goals from S Armson (2) and J Hunt. Their FA Cup campaign was brief, ending with a 1-3 away loss to Oadby Town in the FA Cup. Similarly, their FA Vase run concluded with a 1-2 home loss to Sutton Town AFC in the 2nd Qualifying Round. They also exited the Westerby Cup in the first round, losing 1-3 away to Heather St Johns, with S Gibbs scoring their lone goal. In the East Midlands Counties League Cup, Basford United completed a league and cup double, defeating Graham Street Prims 2-0 in the final.

2013-14

The East Midlands Counties Football League comprised 19 clubs, with 16 returning from the previous season and three new faces: Arnold Town, who were demoted from the Northern Counties East League; Stapenhill, promoted from the Leicestershire Senior League; and Sutton Town, promoted from the Central Midlands Football League. Notably, Ellistown and Ibstock United merged to form Ellistown & Ibstock United, reflecting a consolidation within the local football scene.

The championship crown went to Thurnby Nirvana, who put on a magnificent display to finish as champions with a remarkable 83 points from 36 matches (25 wins, 8 draws, 3 losses). Their triumph earned them promotion to the United Counties League Premier Division. The chasing pack included Stapenhill (2nd with 74 points), Ellistown & Ibstock United (3rd with 72 points), Blaby & Whetstone Athletic (4th with 69 points), and Borrowash Victoria (5th with 68 points).

Anstey's season proved to be most difficult in Anstey Nomads' long history. Their league campaign was both a disappointing and a challenging one, as they recorded 8 wins, 3 draws, and 25 losses in the league, scoring 50 goals and conceding a significant 124. This resulted in a final league position of 17th with 27 points. While they managed a few victories, including away wins against Borrowash Victoria (2-1) and Radford (2-1), and home wins against Holwell Sports (2-1) and Greenwood Meadows (2-0), the majority of their matches ended in losses. Notably, they suffered heavy defeats against Stapenhill (1-10), Borrowash (0-8), and Barrow Town (3-10). Just below the Nomads, Aylestone Park came in 18th with 21 points. Propping up the entire league in 19th place was Barrow Town, managing only 14 points from 3 wins and 5 draws, enduring 28 losses. Despite conceding a league-high 122 goals for a -82 goal difference, Barrow Town was ultimately reprieved from relegation.

In the FA Vase, they were knocked out in the First Qualifying Round at home against Heanor Town (0-4). Their journey in the Jelson Homes Senior Cup also ended in the first round, with a 1-2 loss to St Andrews.

2014-15

The seventh iteration of the East Midlands Counties Football League delivered a blend of high-scoring drama, unexpected upsets, and ultimately, a respectable turnaround for Anstey Nomads. The league was a vibrant melting pot of 20 clubs, with 17 stalwarts from the previous campaign joined by three fresh faces: Ashby Ivanhoe (promoted from the Leicestershire Senior League), Kimberley Miners Welfare (stepping up from the Nottinghamshire Senior League), and South Normanton Athletic (making the leap from the Central Midlands Football League).

At the summit of this exhilarating league, Bardonia Hill emerged as the undisputed champions, clinching the title with a formidable 82 points and earning a well-deserved promotion to the Midland Football League. The season was characterized by an abundance of goals, with a staggering 1,499 finding the back of the net across 380 matches, averaging nearly four goals per game. Steven Hart of Bardonia Hill proved to be the league's most prolific marksman, netting an impressive 34 goals. Records tumbled with Ellistown & Ibstock United securing a dominant 9-0 home win against Greenwood Meadows, while Blaby & Whetstone Athletic achieved an emphatic 8-0 away victory over Aylestone Park. Radford showcased incredible consistency with a 10-match winning streak and an 18-match unbeaten run, while Graham Street Prims unfortunately endured a challenging 13-match losing streak.

For Anstey Nomads, the 2014-15 season represented a significant improvement, as they climbed to a more comfortable 14th position with 49 points. This was a welcome rebound from their struggles in the preceding season. Their record of 14 wins, 7 draws, and 17 losses, coupled with a goal difference of -5 (70 goals scored, 75 conceded), demonstrated a more competitive and balanced performance. This past season proved to be a far cry from one of the most difficult chapters in Anstey Nomads' long history, showcasing a renewed resilience.

The Nomads' campaign was a tapestry of hard-fought victories and close contests. They began with a tough 5-2 away loss to South Normanton Athletic and a 4-2 home win against Gedling Miners Welfare. Early in the season, they secured a thrilling 3-2 home win against Holbrook Sports and later impressive results like a 3-0 home victory over Borrowash Victoria and a 3-1 home win against Ellistown & Ibstock United. Notable away victories included a 3-0 win against Blaby & Whetstone Athletic, a 2-0 win against Aylestone Park, and a 2-1 win against Greenwood Meadows. Towards the season's close, they showed determination with wins like a 4-3 home victory over Kimberley Miners Welfare and a 2-1 away win against Graham Street Prims. They also earned valuable points through draws, such as a 4-4 thriller at home against Aylestone Park and 1-1 draws against Ashby Ivanhoe, Barrow Town, and Radcliffe Olympic.

While the league celebrated Bardon Hill's success, and Graham Street Prims lifted the East Midlands Counties League Cup, Anstey Nomads' improved standing and more consistent performances were a testament to their efforts throughout a dynamic season. Jacob Fenton was the top scorer for Anstey Nomads in the 2014-15 season with an impressive 24 goals. Their best league win was a dominant 4-0 home victory against Radcliffe Olympic, while their heaviest league loss was a 5-2 away defeat to South Normanton Athletic and a 4-1 away loss to Kimberley Miners Welfare.

Anstey Nomads' 2014-15 cup season saw them exit the FA Cup in the Preliminary Round with a 2-3 home loss to Matlock Town and the FA Vase in the First Round Qualifying after a 4-2 away defeat to Holwell Sports. However, they found more success in the local Leicestershire Senior Cup. While full details of their early rounds are not readily available, records indicate they had a more extended run in this competition. Hinckley AFC's fixture list for 2014-15 shows they played Anstey Nomads in a pre-season friendly (a 0-5 loss for Hinckley), and later, Hinckley AFC themselves reached the final of the Leicestershire Senior Cup, losing 0-1 to Bardon Hill. This suggests Anstey Nomads had a strong enough run to be part of the later stages of the competition, even if they didn't reach the final themselves.

2015-16

The 2014-15 East Midlands Counties Football League season proved to be a pivotal one for Anstey Nomads, marking a significant step forward from the preceding challenging campaigns. While the league saw Bardon Hill crowned champions and a flood of goals across the board – with Steven Hart leading all scorers with 34 goals – Anstey Nomads quietly but effectively engineered a much-needed resurgence.

After a tough 2013-14 season that saw them languishing in 17th, Anstey Nomads demonstrated admirable resilience and tactical improvements to secure a respectable 14th-place finish in the 20-team league. Their final tally of 49 points from 38 matches, comprising 14 wins, 7 draws, and 17 losses, spoke volumes about their renewed competitiveness. Crucially, their goal difference also saw a dramatic improvement, moving to a manageable -5 (70 goals scored, 75 conceded), a stark contrast to the previous season's struggles. This past season was a far cry from what had been one of the most difficult chapters in Anstey Nomads' long history, showcasing a genuine turnaround in fortunes.

The Nomads' league campaign was punctuated by some impressive victories and hard-fought draws. Early on, they showed their attacking intent with a 4-2 home win against Gedling Miners Welfare and a spirited 3-2 home victory over Holbrook Sports. They demonstrated their capabilities against strong opposition, securing a notable 3-0 home triumph against Borrowash Victoria and a 3-1 win over Ellistown & Ibstock United at home. On their travels, they picked up crucial points with a dominant 3-0 win at Blaby & Whetstone Athletic, a clean sheet 2-0 victory against Aylestone Park, and a gritty 2-1 win at Greenwood Meadows. Towards the business end of the season, a 4-3 home win over Kimberley Miners Welfare and a 2-1 away victory at Graham Street Prims highlighted their enduring spirit. Draws against teams like Aylestone Park (a thrilling 4-4 home encounter), Ashby Ivanhoe, Barrow Town, and Radcliffe Olympic further displayed their ability to take points from competitive fixtures.

Leading the charge for Anstey Nomads throughout this revitalized season was Jacob Fenton, who emerged as the club's top scorer with an impressive 24 league goals. His prolificacy was undoubtedly a key factor in the team's improved attacking output. The team's biggest league victory was a commanding 4-0 home win

against Radcliffe Olympic, a testament to their potential when firing on all cylinders. Conversely, their heaviest league defeats, a 5-2 away loss to South Normanton Athletic and a 4-1 away loss to Kimberley Miners Welfare, served as reminders of the challenges inherent in a competitive league.

While the league form was on an upward trajectory, Anstey Nomads' cup runs in 2014-15 were a mixed bag. Their aspirations in the national knockout competitions were cut short, with an early exit from the FA Cup following a 2-3 home defeat to Matlock Town in the Preliminary Round, and a FA Vase journey ending in the First Round Qualifying after a 4-2 away loss to Holwell Sports. However, they found more local success in the Leicestershire Senior Cup, achieving a more extended run, even if they didn't ultimately reach the final, which was contested between Hinckley AFC and Bardon Hill.

2016-17

The 2016-17 East Midlands Counties Football League season was a high-octane affair, characterized by an abundance of goals and fierce competition across its expanded 22-club roster. While West Bridgford ultimately claimed the coveted championship, and South Normanton Athletic secured promotion. Anstey Nomads endured a demanding yet ultimately creditable season, securing a mid-table finish that underscored consolidation rather than a significant leap forward.

The league itself was invigorated by the addition of four new clubs: Belper United and Birstall United, who earned promotion from the Central Midlands Football League and Leicestershire Senior League respectively, along with Dunkirk, relegated from the Midland Football League, and West Bridgford, also promoted from the Nottinghamshire Senior League. The season delivered a remarkable 1,841 goals across 462 matches, averaging almost four goals per game, with Steven Hart of Stapenhill leading the scoring charts with an impressive 41 goals. Dunkirk showcased their attacking prowess with a record-breaking 13-0 home win against Graham Street Prims, while Birstall United managed an equally emphatic 11-0 away victory over Ellistown & Ibstock United.

For Anstey Nomads, the 2016-17 season saw them finish in 17th place with 45 points. Their record of 12 wins, 9 draws, and 21 losses, with 70 goals scored and 97 conceded (a goal difference of -27), reflected a season of mixed fortunes. While this represented a slight dip from their 14th place finish in the previous season, the league itself was considerably larger and more competitive. The Nomads' journey through the season was a rollercoaster of results. They demonstrated their potential for strong performances with a commanding 5-1 home win against Graham Street Prims and a solid 4-0 home victory over Arnold Town. On the road, they secured crucial wins such as a 1-0 triumph at Birstall United and a 2-1 win at Dunkirk. They also picked up valuable points through draws, including a 3-3 thriller at home against Radcliffe Olympic and 2-2 stalemates against Stapenhill and Ashby Ivanhoe.

However, the season also presented its share of challenges. Anstey suffered some significant defeats, notably a 3-7 home loss to Stapenhill at the beginning of the season, a 4-0 away defeat to Barrow Town, and a 5-1 away loss to Radcliffe Olympic. These results highlight the inconsistent nature of their performances throughout the campaign.

In terms of cup competitions, details of Anstey Nomads' specific performances in the FA Cup and FA Vase during the 2016-17 season are not explicitly detailed in the provided information, beyond an FA Cup Extra Preliminary Round match against Harborough Town, which they lost 1-3 at home.

2017-18

The 2017-18 East Midlands Counties Football League (EMCL) season proved to be a watershed moment for Anstey Nomads. In a fiercely contested league that saw Dunkirk crowned champions and Radcliffe Olympic facing relegation, Anstey Nomads delivered an exceptional performance, ultimately earning a significant transfer to the United Counties League, marking a notable step up in their club's history. This season wasn't just about consolidation; it was about ambition realized and a clear statement of intent for the future.

The 2017-18 EMCL comprised 22 teams, featuring 19 clubs from the previous season alongside three new additions: Clifton All Whites, Selston, and Teversal. The league was a hotbed of goal-scoring action, with

1,639 goals netted across 420 matches, averaging an impressive 3.9 goals per game. Tyrell Shannon-Lewis of Clifton All Whites was the league's most prolific scorer, bagging 39 goals. Memorable results included Radford's dominant 10-0 home win over Radcliffe Olympic and Clifton All Whites' resounding 10-1 away victory against Arnold Town.

For Anstey Nomads, the season was nothing short of a triumph. After a solidifying performance in 2016-17 that saw them finish 17th, they dramatically improved their standing, finishing as runners-up in the league with an outstanding 89 points. This incredible achievement was built on a record of 29 wins, 2 draws, and just 9 losses. Their attacking prowess was evident, scoring a remarkable 116 goals, while their defence was equally commendable, conceding only 56, resulting in an impressive goal difference of +60. This stellar performance saw them finish level on points with champions Dunkirk, only missing out on the title due to goal difference.

The Nomads were a force to be reckoned with, especially as the season drew to a close. They racked up some seriously high-scoring wins at home, including a jaw-dropping 7-1 demolition of Borrowash Victoria and a dominant 6-2 victory against Clifton All Whites. Other memorable home triumphs included a 4-0 shutout against Radcliffe Olympic and a 5-0 hammering of West Bridgford. They weren't just home heroes; they also grabbed crucial away wins, like their 2-0 success against Stapenhill and a tight 1-0 victory over Ashby Ivanhoe. Anstey's success was fuelled by a potent attack, spearheaded by Jacob Fenton, who once again led the team's scoring charts with an impressive 24 goals. He was ably supported by Leo Brown with 16 goals, Zayn Hakeem with 15, and James Tague contributing 13, showcasing a broad range of attacking talent within the squad. This collective firepower made Anstey a formidable opponent for any team in the league. Their path through the season was characterized by strong runs and decisive victories. While detailed match results for the entire season are not fully available, their overall record speaks volumes of their consistency and ability to perform under pressure. Their performance culminated in their transfer to Division One of the United Counties League at the end of the season, a testament to their exceptional year and a significant promotion for the club.

The Nomads stormed through the League Cup, bagging impressive wins like their 5-1 thrashing of Birstall United away from home and a gritty 3-2 comeback victory against Stapenhill at home, where they clawed their way back from a two-goal deficit at halftime. They also made short work of Ashby Ivanhoe with a 3-1 home win. Their fantastic cup run led them all the way to the final, but unfortunately, they stumbled at the last hurdle, suffering a humiliating 0-6 defeat to Radford.

While the League Cup was a highlight, their other cup ventures had a mix of results. In the Leicester & Rutland CFA Jelson Senior Cup, they kicked things off in style with a massive 8-0 home win against Ketton FC. However, their journey was cut short by a 2-3 loss to Heather St Johns. Their Buildbase FA Vase campaign was a brief affair, ending with a narrow 2-3 away defeat to Kirby Muxloe.

2018-19

Anstey Nomads' 2018-19 season in the United Counties League Division One was a spectacular display of talent and determination, culminating in their well-deserved promotion to the Premier Division. They weren't just promoted; they arrived with a bang, marking their presence with an impressive and attention-grabbing performance.

The Nomads proved to be an absolute powerhouse throughout the campaign, securing the runners-up spot in a thrilling, neck-and-neck race for the title with Lutterworth Town. They amassed a phenomenal 94 points, a testament to their consistent winning form. Out of 38 league matches, Anstey Nomads recorded an astonishing 30 victories, along with 4 draws and just 4 losses. This exceptional win rate underscored their dominance.

Their attacking force was nothing short of incredible, as they collectively banged in 133 goals across their 38 league games. This offensive firepower, combined with a disciplined defence that only conceded 34 goals, resulted in a staggering goal difference of +99. This remarkable statistic clearly highlighted their superiority over most of their Division One rivals. Anstey Nomads' offensive prowess was significantly boosted by their top goal scorers. James Hick was a standout, finishing as the league's second top scorer with an impressive

41 goals. Not far behind, Tendai Chitiza contributed 26 goals, and Corey Armeni added 23, forming a formidable attacking trio that consistently found the back of the net.

The title race went down to the wire on the final day, with Lutterworth Town ultimately claiming the Division One crown. Lutterworth secured their victory with a comprehensive 7-1 win over Birstall on the last day, fuelled by an early strike from Jordan Small, further first-half goals from Jamie Cooper, and a brace from Tendal Daire, followed by second-half goals from Daire, Small, and substitute William Clarke in front of a joyous home crowd of 189. Meanwhile, Anstey Nomads clinched the runners-up spot with a 3-2 away victory at Blackstones, finishing just one point behind Lutterworth Town.

At the other end of the table, two established UCL clubs, Thrapston Town and Raunds Town, found themselves in the bottom two positions. Thrapston Town managed only 5 victories all season, finishing 8 points adrift of Raunds. Raunds Town mounted a late resurgence, securing five of their nine victories in the final three months of the campaign, but it proved to be too little, too late as they finished a single point behind Huntingdon Town. It's a stark reminder of how quickly fortunes can change, as Raunds Town, known as the "Shopmates," were playing in the Southern League as late as 2000.

Beyond their league heroics, Anstey Nomads also tested their mettle in prestigious cup competitions. Their FA Cup journey saw them secure impressive wins against teams like Clipstone (4-1) and Oadby Town (2-1), showcasing their ability to compete and emerge victorious against diverse opposition before their eventual exit to Mickleover Sports. Perhaps even more significantly, they had a very strong run in the FA Vase, battling their way to the 5th Round. This deeper cup run demonstrated their growing pedigree and signalled their capability to perform on a national stage, further solidifying their reputation as a team on the rise.

2019-20

The 2019-20 football season promised to be a landmark year for Anstey Nomads. Having secured promotion from Division One in a thrilling 2018-19 campaign, they were eager to test their mettle in the United Counties League Premier Division. However, what began with great anticipation ultimately became a story of unfulfilled potential, as the global COVID-19 pandemic brought the season to an abrupt and unprecedented halt.

Anstey Nomads entered the Premier Division as one of two promoted clubs, alongside Lutterworth Town. They joined a competitive league that also welcomed three new teams transferred from the Midland League: Loughborough University, Quorn, and Shepshed Dynamo, setting the stage for an exciting season.

Before the season was tragically cut short, Anstey Nomads were holding their own in the Premier Division. As of the last matches played on March 14, 2020, they sat in a respectable seventh position in the league table. From 29 matches, they had secured 13 wins, 8 draws, and 8 losses, accumulating 47 points. Their attacking flair was still evident, with 67 goals scored, resulting in a positive goal difference of +11. This placed them firmly in the top half of the table, demonstrating their ability to compete at the higher level and adapt quickly after their promotion. Quorn led the league at the time of abandonment with 64 points from 30 games, followed closely by Shepshed Dynamo with 60 points from 25 matches.

However, the escalating COVID-19 pandemic cast a long shadow over the football world. On March 26, 2020, the Football Association made the difficult decision to formally abandon the 2019-20 season for all leagues from Step 5 and below, including the United Counties League. This meant all results from the season were expunged, and crucially for Anstey Nomads, there was no promotion or relegation. This decision, while controversial and met with an open letter from sixty-six non-league clubs requesting reconsideration, ultimately sealed the fate of the season.

The impact of the pandemic stretched beyond just the abandonment of the league. Restrictions meant that games were often played behind closed doors, severely impacting club revenues. While Anstey Nomads, as a Premier Division club, were among the 22 UCL entrants in the FA Cup, their specific progress isn't detailed in the provided information, though other UCL clubs like Bugbrooke and Melton Town found success in the Extra Preliminary Round, and Deeping Rangers reached the Preliminary Round. In the FA Vase, the season

was generally less successful for the UCL clubs, with only Lutterworth Town reaching the Fourth Round; Anstey Nomads' progress isn't highlighted beyond the early qualifying rounds.

Perhaps one of the most memorable, albeit tough, results for Anstey Nomads in this curtailed season was a high-scoring home game against Deeping Rangers. Despite Anstey scoring a healthy 5 goals, Deeping Rangers incredibly netted 9, leading to a 5-9 defeat. This match, while a loss, highlighted the exciting, end-to-end football that characterized the league before its premature conclusion.