



ARTHUR CHADBURN MEMORIAL TROPHY

SSA held a minute's applause for the late Arthur Chadburn, aboard the coach he boarded for many years, on the recent trip to Accrington Stanley. This was the ground he was really looking forward to visiting and it is so sad he never made it. However SSA held the first annual Arthur Chadburn Memorial Trophy Quiz aboard this coach and amazingly the team that won the quiz were sat in the very same coach seat Arthur sat in so many times.

SSA Away Travel, run in memory of Arthur Chadburn, pictured below with Danny Bacon in 2000. Also pictured above is a Stags shirt, signed by Stags players, that was buried with Arthur following his sad passing in November 2006.

There is only one Arthur Chadburn



In a lovely touch, the winner gave the trophy straight to Arthur's local pub for them to permanently display in their glass cabinet, a fitting memorial.

Pictured is a photo of the trophy and an article that appeared in the Accrington programme:

SSA are proud to announce our sponsorship of Mansfield Town Ladies Under 15 Side



warning fans!

We are aware that Portland Retail Park have now introduced an automatic camera system which reads number plates meaning fines for anybody who parks for longer than 2 hours.

Stags Official Travel Club

Following legal advice SSA are no longer taking bookings from Juniors under the age of 16 unless accompanied by an adult. This is for the protection of all parties and no exceptions will be made.

All trips are SSA members only and seats need to be booked on:

07967 689597

If you book and can't make the trip please tell us as soon as possible which will give the chance for another Stags fan to travel.

You can also visit our website @ www.stagsnet.net for latest news, reports, fixtures and a whole lot more...

AWAY TRAVEL PRICES AS BELOW:

February			Departing	Amber	Blue	Junior	Under 10
Sat 10	1500	Stockport	11am	£10	£12	£10	£6
Tue 20	1945	MK Dons	4pm	£12	£14	£12	£7
March							
Sat 3	1500	Lincoln City	12pm	£8	£10	£8	£5
Sat 10	1500	Notts Country	1pm	£6	£8	£6	£6
Sat 31	1500	Wrexham	10am	£13	£15	£13	£8
April							
Mon 9	1500	Peterborough	11.30	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC
Sat 21	1500	Swindon	10am	£13	£15	£10	£8
May							
Sat	1500	Bury	11am	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC

Contact SSA - Phone: 07967 689597 Email: ssa@stagsnet.net

or post SSA, PO Box 6430, Kirkby In Ashfield, Notts, NG17 8RA.

If you would like to receive future newsletters via e-mail, and you are not currently on our e-mail list, then please e-mail us at the above address!!

Juniors, Christmas Party



This event was held recently in the X Bar and between 70 and 80 junior members attended. A wonderful time was had by all and highlights included appearances from Sammy the Stag and Freddy the Magician, both of whom held the children in raptures. There were also mountains of pizza, crisps and pop to feast upon. The whole afternoon was rounded off by the arrival of Santa Claus, who had a special word and a present for every child in attendance.

Trylena & Andy X

Stags Supporters Association

Registered with Mansfield District Council under Section 5 & Schedule 1 of the Lotteries & Amusements Act 1976 Certificate No.754

FROM THE MILL



The Newsletter of the Stags Supporters Association
Issue 4 - Season 06/07 - January 2007



Welcome to the latest SSA Newsletter.

Contents: Raffle Winners, Membership and Away Travel Committee News & Arthur Chadburn Memorial Trophy

Welcome to the first SSA newsletter of 2007 and a Happy New Year to all our members. You will find in this newsletter a copy of the statement issued to the press recently, we would like to take this opportunity to stress that SSA are as always fully behind our Manager and team, our support of them is vital as Billy bids to safeguard our league status as early as possible.

The SSA have recently strengthened our team with the appointment of Steve Danby as Joint Chair along with Dean Foulkes, Steve has been a long standing committee member of SSA and is the man who changes the next game board match by match at Field Mill on behalf of SSA, Steve also served on the board of SOS originally. We have also recruited David Groom onto the SSA Committee following his tremendous work and support of our 2006 Christmas Raffle. SSA would also like to inform our members that due to personal reasons Steve Hartshorn will not be releasing any issues of FTYBR this season so blue members who paid extra for a FTYBR subscription have been refunded their fee, we hope that FTYBR will return for season 2007/2008.

Although we felt it necessary to include our recent press release in its entirety in this newsletter for the benefit of our exiled members we would like to say that Andy Perry has met with the SSA Committee and confirmed he is seriously wanting to buy the club. He hopes to have progress by mid March and has stated he wants supporter involvement. He has promised to keep SSA personally informed but stressed he will not be conducting any business through the press. SSA will also be meeting the new Chairman of MFC as soon as possible to discuss many issues including stewarding, not least the apparent banning of freedom of speech at Field Mill, which came to a head with the very disturbing incident in which Stagsnet photographer Dan Westwell was ejected from the ground. SSA also will be outlining our concerns to the next meeting of the Safety Advisory Group, due to meet again in February.

SSA will be arranging a fans forum with James Derry, Billy Dearden and Safety Officer John Sidney, details to be confirmed.

Evening Post

SSA are upset at a quote attributed to Mr Haslam and printed in the Nottingham Evening Post dated 10th Jan 2007 which states " The SSA wants to be more involved, but how can you have dialogue with people who are threatening things all the time? "

SSA would like to make perfectly clear no members of the committee of SSA have ever in any way threatened or attempted to threaten anybody and trust that all our members know that this would never be condoned by anyone involved with SSA.

SSA Merchandise

SSA has an extensive range of merchandise as follows:

SSA Cheer Sticks £2 a pair

SSA Mug £6

SSA Metal Pin Badge £2

SSA Embroidered Polo Shirt £14

SSA T-Shirt £6

SSA Key Fob £2.50

You can purchase any of these items on match days from the X-Bar.



The SSA Christmas Raffle

was drawn in the X-Bar before the Hartlepool game and here are the winners:-

1st £250 Cash
K. Underhill 00699

2nd Gemstone Globe
K. Marrows 01507

3rd Wall Art
T. Biddlestone 03727

4th £50 Argos Voucher
A. Crawford 01630

5th £50 Argos voucher
M. Gundel 03578

6th DAB Radio
S. Hobson 02831

7th Hamper
Mr. Bird 03224

8th Freeview Box
Tom Harkness 02202

9th MP3 Player
Jimbo 04930

10th £10 Farmfoods Voucher
J. Henshaw (ref AAS) 01834

11th £5 Cooplands Voucher
D. Frudd (ref AAS) 01830

12th Framed Player Photo
G. Yeomans 00125

The SSA would like to thank everyone who who bought a ticket and a special thanks to those who provided prizes and sold tickets on our behalf.

SSA Committee News Update

Sadly SSA have to report our bitter disappointment that Alan Meale MP chose recently to take the SSA to court following comments made by individuals on the message board of the website www.stagsnet.net

SSA received what we considered aggressive letters from Mr Meale's solicitors demanding personal data concerning individuals that the SSA were not prepared to disclose or even legally allowed to give. SSA voluntarily removed comments from the message board out of courtesy after receiving Mr Meale's complaint and also reasonably offered to meet with him to discuss his concerns. Sadly he chose through his solicitor to say he saw no purpose in meeting with us, he then threatened SSA with court action and forced SSA as a voluntary fundraising organisation and the official supporters club of Mansfield Town FC, to seek legal advice rather than deal with us in, what we would consider, a more sensible, reasonable and less threatening and expensive manner.

The SSA exist to represent supporters views and have raised thousands of pounds for our club over the years. SSA organise coaches for supporters to attend away matches and organised the recent brilliantly successful children's Christmas party for the club in which over 70 youngsters and parents had a fantastic time. SSA provide and update the clubs next game board and all this work is done as volunteers purely through a labour of love for our club and appears rarely acknowledged or appreciated. SSA try our best to promote the club in near impossible circumstances bearing in mind the feelings of many supporters towards those with influence at our club. Even so SSA have financially helped the Youth Team and PA Announcer after requests this season.

Mr Meale taking the SSA to court just before Christmas was avoidable and has been a very stressful time for in effect voluntary community fundraisers. Since being threatened with court action SSA have had no option other than to follow legal advice throughout. The Judge ordered the release of registration details and found our conduct to be entirely proper and reasonable and endorsed such conduct by ordering Mr Meale to pay SSA's legal costs. SSA will not be commenting further on this issue upon legal advice.

The SSA would also like to state that we believe Mr Haslam's handling of our beloved club is now at an all time low and would encourage him to sell the club to people with the best interests of our club at heart as soon as possible. The disgraceful selling of happy and under contract club captain and top scorer Richard Barker to a club like Hartlepool when the club is 1 point off relegation to non league surely proves beyond all doubt in our opinion that he has no intention of moving the club forward. During Mr Haslam's 14 year reign our club has spent every year but 1 in the basement division of the Football League, the worst on pitch record of any owner in our clubs history. Enthusiasm and fans expectations are now so low that finishing 90th out of 92 clubs to survive as a league club will be seen as success again this season. In addition Mr Haslam's reign has overseen countless off pitch sagas bringing unwelcome publicity on our club at local and national level. Many Stags fans only travel away and are refusing to visit Field Mill as the fall in attendances prove. SSA feel that the overwhelming majority of Stags fans want a new owner and SSA will back almost any alternative which will respect our fans and give our club a chance of growing so we can compete again even with clubs like Colchester, Doncaster and Scunthorpe who have sailed above us in recent years. Even Chesterfield, hardly a huge club have competed at a higher level than us apart from one season for over ten years now which is unacceptable to Stags fans. Mr Haslam rarely communicates with supporters via the press or even the club programme and acknowledges no value of supporters feelings. The club is in our opinion understaffed, underfunded, late with shareholders AGMs and accounts and the club shop is a permanent symbol of embarrassment. Currently fans are protesting, the Commercial Manager has left and yet another team manager has been sacked. SSA would stress to Mr Haslam that fans protest because they passionately care about our club, are



desperate for success and are frustrated beyond belief with your running of our club. SSA respectfully ask you to finally accept that Mansfield Town is a massive part of many peoples lives and fans have the best interests of our beloved club at heart. Fans pay huge amounts of money to back our club and deserve to be respected and listened to.

The SSA did accept by invitation of Peter Lee an observatory position on the clubs board in the summer and were encouraged when Mr Lee told us he wanted to build bridges with fans. SSA agreed a date with Mr Lee to attend a fans forum and looked forward to supporters being taken seriously by a fresh face at the club.

However once SSA informed Mr Lee that if the club were serious about building bridges with fans legal actions against supporters really needed to stop Mr Haslam later informed SSA that Mr Lee would not be available to attend our fans forum. All our board meeting dates have since been cancelled by the club at short notice and Mr Lee is not returning our calls. SSA do not currently know whether our board position offer has been removed by Mr Haslam or indeed whether Mr Lee remains at our club. Is he happy to be associated with such turmoil? We have to assume that Mr Haslam is not interested in the views of supporters.

The SSA are also unhappy that commercial manager Angela Gregory has been allowed to leave the club. Angela gave SSA respect, wanted to help develop our club, had great ideas and was an excellent link between the club and fans, unfortunately Angela appeared to end up doubling up as bar manager as staff appeared not to be replaced and another ambitious person is lost to our club.

SSA are encouraged that recently Andy Perry has asked to meet with SSA and we would encourage all fans to be open minded and listen to what any potential new owners have to say. SSA will also be seeking to meet with other interested parties in our football club as with a 1000 strong membership we believe the potential is there for us to have a brilliant football club and thriving supporters club in the future with owners who respect the fans.

SSA believe in freedom of speech and will not be arranging any form of boycott as people make their own individual choices on the current situation and SSA believe support of the team is paramount. However SSA hope that the club respect and understand why passionate Stags fans are unhappy and want to protest but SSA would advise that any protests are organised in a peaceful and most of all entirely legal manner.

Finally SSA would like to thank Peter Shirtliff for his efforts in difficult circumstances since taking over from Carlton Palmer, Richard Barker for the memories and we wish Billy Dearden the very best of luck over the next few months as he works to keep us in the Football League.

Anyone wishing to assist the SSA in any shape or form through either sponsorship or wanting to join us please contact us on 07967 689597, SSA membership is now half price for 06/07.

Hopefully the year 2007 will see a new owner and new hope for Stags fans who deserve so much better.

Come On You Stags!