

KIDZ Corner...

WORD SEARCH COMPETITION

TEN WORDS TO FIND...

Prize

SSA Away Travel for a Family of up to four!
Closing date: 31st March

Name: Membership No.:

Address:

Tel:

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SSA SAY...



The Newsletter of the Stags Supporters Association
Season 07/08 – February 2008



Welcome to the latest SSA Newsletter

SSA would like to apologise for the delay in producing this newsletter which is due to Committee work commitments and the ongoing lack of positive news from the club with regards to a takeover.

MTFC Ownership

SSA have for many years made it perfectly plain with our organised public town centre demonstration, march and numerous press statements our overwhelming desire for our club to change ownership.

Recently the SSA Committee were truly excited at the prospect of working with James Derry's Consortium who we believed would be the new owners of the club before Christmas. Any of you present at the SSA AGM and last fans forum held in November will no doubt have been impressed with the vision and enthusiasm explained by the consortium at the time. SSA were particularly impressed with the ideas and passion for the club shown by John Thorpe. Appallingly in our opinion, their offer which was substantial according to press reports at the time before Christmas, was apparently turned down by the owner. Absolute deadlock and heartbreaking stalemate appear to have reigned supreme ever since as our teams Football League life hangs in the balance. All at SSA urge all the business people presumably involved in the never ending saga to control our club to put any possible personality issues, ego issues and personal financial issues firmly behind the top priority of what is in the best interests of OUR football club. Players, Managers and eventually owners come and go but us loyal supporters cannot get a transfer elsewhere and many fans live and breathe Mansfield Town Football Club.

It is not about playing Middlesbrough live in front of the world it is about securing our Football League life. There is absolutely no doubt in our opinion that the club should have changed hands years ago, never mind last summer and at the very latest by Christmas, especially with offers reportedly on the table. The SSA Committee are truly appalled yet sadly not surprised at the current sorry state of affairs. Whilst SSA has always encouraged absolute freedom of choice we would encourage all supporters who continue to protest in whatever form they believe in to do so in a legal manner. SSA do not expect our club to ever be in the Premiership, we do not even expect a sugar daddy to bankroll the Stags. All we want is our beloved club to be given the opportunity to breathe and be the best it can be and given an opportunity to reach it's huge potential. Our football club should not be robbed of opportunity to prosper or to be used for any one persons personal financial security. Mansfield Town is a massive part of the community and has a massive impact on thousands of peoples lives every week. Our marvellous fans deserve so much better as do the remaining staff at the club and surely it is not beyond possibility to find someone willing to use the clubs money to reinvest into our club and care for it with a view to growth? Sponsors and fans cannot take anymore of the

current ownership and all those capable of making a deal possible need to get this done as soon as humanly possible to give all of us some amber hope for the future. If there is anyone out there that can help to progress a deal SSA would urge you to get involved with Team Mansfield who are the Supporters Direct backed Mansfield Town Supporters Trust via their website www.teammansfield.co.uk. Protest group Stags Fans For Change also have a website at www.stagsfansforchange.co.uk whose sole remit is to remove Keith Haslam from our club. Regardless of how you view the political situation at the Stags SSA would encourage everyone who is attending matches either home or away to do everything you possibly can to support the team when inside the Stadiums as the lads desperately need our support. As the tremendous Stags fans backing shows at places like Brighton, Lincoln, Chester and the wonderful win at Wycombe, we can make a huge difference and none of us want to be looking back in the summer wishing we had given the lads more vocal support when they needed it most.

SSA Funds

SSA have recently been asked by Stephen Booth and Michael Merriman the groundsman for financial help. Stephen Booth asked SSA if we were prepared to increase Billy's transfer fund and the groundsman asked for financial help with the purchase of a waterhog. This request and future requests for financial assistance was and will be refused until we have a new owner at the club. The SSA Committee feel that the right thing to do is to protect fans money and although the SSA's remit involves raising money for the football club, considering that bids are being reportedly turned down by the owner in addition to unbudgeted FA Cup and TV money going into the club, your Committee feel fully justified in safeguarding funds to be used by a future owner who hopefully will show some respect to Mansfield Town Supporters. If as a member of SSA you have any issues with this please do contact us by any of the methods below. SSA have almost now completed our commitment of paying for the best training facilities our players have ever enjoyed, although it is arguable looking at our league position whether these facilities have done our team any good! Would they be better off back on school playing fields!!!! At least we can say we all gave the players the best opportunity to prepare for games through our members money!

As previously reported SSA have also contributed early in the season to sponsor Dave Jervis's Youth Team training kit and SSA hope in the future to return to fulfilling part of our remit by fundraising for our club once again when the ownership situation finally gets sorted.

Christmas Party 2007!

Christmas Party - All Juniors and Parents thoroughly enjoyed our Christmas Party held late December at the X Bar at Field Mill. A visit from Santa in which all children received a present was one highlight, as was a magician's act and an appearance by Billy Dearden.

With very special thanks to Stephen Burdon Solicitors for sponsoring this event.



SSA MONTHLY PRIZE DRAW WINNERS

AMBER WINNERS:

- A196 - AUGUST ANDREW BROADFOOT
- A186 - SEPTEMBER LEE DUNVILLE
- A183 - OCTOBER WILLIAM WALKER
- A195 - NOVEMBER RICHARD SHANNON
- A059 - DECEMBER CHRIS SMITH
- A192 - JANUARY HARRY CUTTS
- A127 - FEBRUARY MARTIN LUNN

BLUE WINNERS

- B055 - AUGUST KIRSTY WILLIAMS
- B061 - SEPTEMBER DEBORAH BAKUNOWICZ
- B091 - OCTOBER MR M EGAN
- B339 - NOVEMBER MARK HUFTON
- B347 - DECEMBER STUART COLEBROOK
- B077 - JANUARY PETER COOPER
- B296 - FEBRUARY CLAIRE SIMMONS

JUNIOR WINNERS

- J123 - AUGUST JAKE STONE
- J011 - SEPTEMBER JODY DAVIES
- J139 - OCTOBER GAVIN JONES
- J010 - NOVEMBER EMILY HUTCHINSON
- J200 - DECEMBER RIKKI JOHNSON
- J120 - JANUARY JOE HUMPHREYS
- J234 - FEBRUARY GEORGE ROFFE

AN AWAY DAY WITH SSA!

Wrexham	Depart 10am	Amber & Junior £13	Blue £15	Under 10 £10
Bradford City	Depart 11am	Amber & Junior £10	Blue £13	Under 10 £8
Bury	Depart 3.30pm	Amber & Junior £10	Blue £12	Under 10 £8
Notts County	Depart 1pm	Amber & Junior £5	Blue £8	Under 10 £5
Macclesfield	Depart 11.30am	Amber & Junior £9	Blue £11	Under 10 £8
Dagenham	Depart 9.30am	Amber & Junior £12	Blue £15	Under 10 £10

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:

Booking Line: 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 and a whole lot more...

Contact SSA

Phone: 07967 689597
Email: ssa@stagsnet.net
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!!



UPGRADE TO AMBER!

Contact SSA

Phone: 07967 689597
Email: ssa@stagsnet.net
Web: www.stagsnet.net
Post: SSA, PO Box 6430, Kirkby In Ashfield, Notts, NG17 8RA.

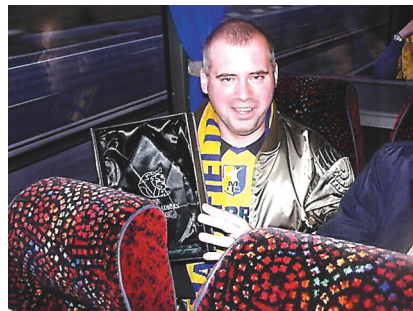


“Don't just wear Amber Become Amber”

Notts County Away Is Amber Day!

SSA will be giving out 1,000 balloons at Meadow Lane on Saturday 29th March. Let's show our vocal support and get behind the team. **COME ON YOU STAGS!**

WINNER



Ryan Barber is the winner of the SSA Arthur Chadburn Memorial Trophy for season 07-08. Ryan won the quiz which took place aboard the SSA coach V Hereford. Arthur was an outstanding Stags fan who travelled away everywhere with the SSA until his sad passing last year. The Trophy will live on in Arthurs memory and SSA will hold the quiz annually.

Ryan Barber said he was "honoured" to win the Trophy this year.

SAG OVERVIEW

Following the much publicised problems with ground safety at Field Mill since the appalling scenes at the last home game of last season versus Barnet matters are at last beginning to settle down with the club making real progress on the safety front. The appointments of Les Norman as Safety Officer and Steve Grummett as his assistant have been well received by the safety group. The major problems were the standard of stewarding and the failure of the turnstile monitoring system. The club is now buying in stewards from an outside agency to work alongside those employed by the club who are all being trained to the required standard. The upgrade of the turnstile monitoring system was completed before the Middlesbrough game allowing the ground capacity to be increased. Following the safety inspection during the Middlesbrough game the club was congratulated for maintaining a good safety record. There is still some way to go but at last things are going in the right direction.

A BIG THANKS

SSA would like to thank all members who attended our AGM and Fans Forum before Christmas. We reported last season we were proud to retain a £13 maximum away travel fare to any ground in the country and cheaper deals for children. We produced another new season calendar and held a successful Christmas raffle. We have produced personalised Birthday cards for all our Junior members and updated the clubs next game board all season (thanks Steve and Kieran!) Last season saw SSA sponsor MTFC Ladies and Steve Hartshorns fans football team FTYBR at their tournament in Leeds.



The 6 runners up enjoy seeing England beat Switzerland 2-1 at Wembley



RAFFLE WINNERS:

CHRISTMAS DRAW

1st prize
£250
Dave White
(03831)

2nd prize
Signed David Beckham
"Real Madrid" shirt
Ken Brooks (02507)

3rd prize
£100
Laura Atherton
(03577)

4th prize
£50
No name (01301)

5th prize
£25
Bradley (00082)

6th prize
Mansfield Town "Images of Sport" book
(Thanks goes to Paul Taylor for donating this book)
Neil Mathews (02037) (c/o Geoff)

WEMBLEY DRAW

1st prize
Claire Adams
Ticket Number
02961

The draw also took place to win 4 sets of 2 tickets for the same game.

2nd prize
Steve Peek
Ticket Number
01202

3rd prize
Richard Dove
Ticket Number
03631

4th prize
Peter Danby
Ticket Number
00326

5th prize
K.Cooper Ticket number 00102

Thank you to our Sponsors

SSA would like to thank the sponsors of this newsletter Elliot Mather LLP Solicitors, your support is very much appreciated.

Senior Partners John Wilford and Simon King who both specialise in criminal law, have stuck by the Stags through thick and thin! John's first match being in 1962 to watch the Stags at home to Southport.

Also thanks to Opsis Consulting for sponsorship of our website www.stagsnet.net, The Quill Press for sponsoring our membership cards, Andy Saunders for sponsorship of our postage costs and Andy Perry for sponsorship of our away travel service.

Next SSA Fans Forum will take place in March

SSA are in the process of finalising a fans forum for members which will provisionally take place on Thursday 20th March 2008 at 7.30pm in the X Bar at Field Mill. Stephen Booth, Billy Dearden, Paul Holland and Jake Buxton will hopefully be in attendance so watch the local press for confirmation of the date. This will be an SSA and Team Mansfield members only event with admission by membership card only, although SSA will be enrolling new members for half price on the night! Please take this latest opportunity to raise your questions directly to those in positions of responsibility at our club.

Special offers

50% off QLE Voucher books

Juniors **Was** £5.00 **Now** £2.50

Adults **Was** £10.00 **Now** £5.00

Discount vouchers SAVE YOU £1.00 off Junior admission to QLE

Discounts vouchers SAVE YOU £3.00 off Adult admission to QLE



Plus Half Price SSA Membership

Join the SSA at our NEXT home game!

Junior - £2.00
Blue - £5.00



MEET THE TEAM

SSA Committee Season 07-08

Joint Chair	Dean Foulkes Andy Saunders
Treasurers	Trylena Gallagher Andy Gallagher
Secretary	Shona Vasper
Head of Marketing & Recruitment	Vanessa McGrath
Head of Fundraising	Mark Taylor
Stagsnet co-ordinators	Martin Shaw Craig Kerry
Membership co-ordinator	Rob Wheldon
Away Travel co-ordinator	Joanne Dove
Fundraising / Events Officers	David Groom David Thompson Trevor Hitchcock Jayne Danby Julian Smith
Hon President	Paul Taylor

Priority Tickets V Middlesbrough

At the beginning of this season SSA signed an agreement, also signed by James Derry with regards to priority ticketing for SSA members. This agreement can be found online at www.stagsnet.net Although Mr Booth made a phone call to Joint Chairman Andy Saunders (who was on holiday at the time) just prior to the club publishing details on www.mansfieldtown.net the clubs voucher scheme entitling fans to priority after attending the Darlington match only was NOT in any shape or form agreed or approved by SSA. We were bitterly disappointed at the clubs decision without clear consultation not to simply include SSA members priority with season ticket holders BEFORE the vouchers given at the Darlington game were issued. Sadly the bottom line is whatever agreements are made with the club until a new regime take over permanently there is too much uncertainty and apparent power struggles for SSA to build any kind of confident working relationship.



Not a member of the SSA? Then Join today!

“Don't just wear Amber Become Amber”

SSA are delighted to report a current membership total of 200 Ambers, 467 Blues and 236 Juniors. This is tremendous commitment to the SSA and shows the passion for our club despite the major clouds hanging at the time of writing. Our Amber membership is at a record level and Blue membership is up on the whole of last seasons total already! We would strongly encourage all Blue members to consider upgrading to Amber at only £1 a week.

Now more than ever our club needs a strong supporters club and just think what a difference we could potentially make to new owners by backing them through the SSA.

ElliotMather
Solicitors

Your local legal experts

Services for individuals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accidents at work Buying or selling your home Family law 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remortgages Road traffic accidents Crime 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solving personal disputes Wills, tax and trusts Motoring Offences
Services for businesses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commercial property Debt recovery Employment law 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landlord and tenant Licensing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solving business disputes Terms, conditions and contracts

Mansfield: 01623 655 666