



FROM THE MILL

The Newsletter of the Stags Supporters Association



Season 03/04

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Amber Day

SSA have arranged another Amber Day this season. The match will be the home game with Bristol Rovers on Easter Monday (12th April) when we hope the weather will be kinder than it was last season – lets hope the result is kinder than the previous Amber Days too!! As always we'd like all Stags fans to come to the game decked in Amber & Blue, further activities will be available on the day, including an SSA Stall where you can purchase merchandise and order the Mansfield Town History CD Rom (which is also available via our website). We'd also like fans to bring the MTFC Flags we only generally see at away games.

Race Night



The SSA Race Night will take place on **Saturday April 24th** (a change from the date published in the last newsletter) at Top House on Sutton Road with a first race at 8pm. Please contact us via e-mail, phone or fill in and send the enclosed form to the address shown if you would like to sponsor a horse (at £2.50 each). The

Races themselves are now sponsored, but we do have horses still available for sponsorship. Prizes are given to the winning horse owner and their horse name and owner name are printed in the Race Night programme. If you haven't been to one of our Race Night's before then we can promise you an excellent night's entertainment. There are 8 races in total shown on TV screens throughout the pub and you are able to bet on a horse before each race.

Fans Forum

The next Fans Forum will take place in the Sponsors Lounge at Field Mill on Monday 26th April, starting at 7.30pm. As usual, all SSA and Team Mansfield Trust Members are invited to attend. Half-price membership of SSA will be available on the night should non-members wish to attend.

Membership

Our current membership totals are as follows: Amber 198, Blue 629, Junior 408 – TOTAL = 1,235. Thank you for your support.

MTFC History CD

SSA are delighted to announce the release, in June 2004, of the definitive history of Mansfield Town FC on CD Rom. The CD includes a copy of the book "Mansfield Town – The First 100 Years" as well as copies of the updated Managers and Players Who's Who and a copy of the History of Field Mill magazine. SSA members can now pre-order their own copy of the CD by completing the enclosed application form. SSA Members have also been given the exclusive opportunity to have the CD itself printed with their name on it.

CCT Meetings

SSA attend regular meetings with the Chairman and other officials at the club. The next meeting is due to be held on 7th April. If you have any other issues you would like us to raise directly with the club in future meetings then please get in touch with us. Minutes of these meetings are available on the TM website.

Away Travel Update

First of all thank you for your continued support this season. Once again we have been able to reduce prices and make away travel more affordable than ever.

Travel details of the remaining fixtures are as follows:

Date		Opposition	Depart	Cost
Sat 10 Apr	v	Darlington	11am	£10 (adult) £8 (U16) £6 (U10)
Sat 17 Apr	v	Boston Utd	12 noon	£8 (adult) £6 (U16) £4 (U10)
Sat 1 May	v	Huddersfield	12.30pm	£8 (adult) £6 (U16) £4 (U10)

Junior Training Day

Details of the Junior Training Day have been included in the Junior Newsletter, sent separately, but for your information, the event will be held at Field Mill on Thursday 15th April 2004 from 10am – 12 noon at Field Mill. As usual entry is free and all Junior SSA Members are invited to attend and family members are of course also more than welcome.

Player of the Year

You can now vote for your SSA Player of the Year on the enclosed voting slip, by e-mail to ssa@stagsnet.net or text us with your membership number and the player you want to vote for to our mobile number. All votes must be returned to us by 5 May 04.

SSA & The Stags Community Trust

As a result of a recent CCT, Keith Haslam asked if SSA would get involved with promoting and supporting the Stags Community Trust. The aims of the Stags Community Trust are to help local people learn new skills that will help the community at large in a safe, non-threatening environment. During the day children from local schools will spend the day at Field Mill. In the classrooms are over 30 computers and each child has the opportunity to learn Maths, literacy, local history and a multitude of other subjects. During the afternoon they will have a tour of the ground and if the youth side are playing, take in a game. Over the course of a year over 10,000 children will benefit from learning at Field Mill. SCT also provide the opportunity for individual and family learning, running various courses throughout the day and evenings again covering a wide variety of subjects from First Aid to FA coaching and from IT to basic understand of sports injuries. The courses do require a nominal registration fee, however if you're an SSA member the courses are **free**. Once completed you will be provided with a recognised qualification and will have the opportunity to progress to other levels of learning. Although in its infancy The Stags are committed to this and are providing a great opportunity for all of us to get involved at the club other than at 3 o'clock on a Saturday. A leaflet is enclosed, detailing some of the courses available, but if you require more information then please contact either an SSA committee member or the Trusts co-ordinator Suzanne Lester.

SSA & Mansfield 103.2

After the loss of Sportstalk, followed by the Alex Bellfield fiasco, SSA have got together with 103.2 to try and improve their ailing relationship with the football club. We feel that this station plays a vital role promoting MTFC around the District and to start our new partnership we are happy to have worked with them to bring back Sportstalk. Over the coming weeks we are meeting with Mr Delahunty to discuss the way in which we can progress this association to the benefit of all supporters of MTFC.

MTFC New Kit and Merchandise

At a recent CCT meeting SSA representatives were informed that MTFC would be launching 2 brand new strips for next season. This decision had already been taken and kits ordered by the club on the basis that this season's kit was of poor quality and MTFC had received many complaints from supporters. Whilst SSA appreciate that new strips are an essential source of income for the club every year, SSA is disappointed not to have been consulted over this issue before the decision was made, particularly as we are led to believe the sponsor will not be changing. Although an agreement was reached some time ago that the club would change home kit one year and away the next, we were told that the decision was made due to a change in kit supplier and the new shirts will be of superior quality. SSA can exclusively reveal that the new home shirt will be a mixture of amber and white with blue shorts. The new away shirt will be white with orange trim, along with orange shorts and socks.

The new merchandise available in the club shop has caused considerable controversy on the Stagsnet Message Board. SSA would again stress this decision was made by the club not in consultation with SSA. MTFC was formed in 1897 and SSA is disappointed that the club chose to promote this logo and remove the Stags head from the logo without consultation with its supporters. On a positive note MTFC were given a list of merchandising ideas compiled from a Stagsnet poll which include Stags wrapping paper, beachtowels etc. Hopefully several of these ideas will come to fruition over the coming months.