



# From the Mill

The Newsletter of the Stags Supporters Association  
Issue 3 - Season 04/05 - January 2005



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We hope you all had a great Christmas and excellent New Year. Please remember, we represent you, our members – if there is anything you think we should be doing and aren't, then please let us know – we can be contacted via every conceivable means, including a tap on the shoulder on match days!!

## Keith Curle

We at SSA would like to thank Keith Curle for his efforts as Mansfield Town Manager and particularly the way he has backed SSA in various ways over the past two years. The week before his suspension and immediately after the Macclesfield defeat at Field Mill, Keith and John Gannon attended a Meet The Manager night in the SSA bar which they had specifically requested themselves. Although we were disappointed with the turnout on the night, everyone who did attend were given honest answers in a frank and occasionally heated debate. Keith told us of his frustrations at being unable to bring in players he felt were needed of the right quality and explained that he felt with the finance he had been given, he would only be able to attract players who would be able to perform well one game in four or five. Although perhaps not everyone's favourite no one can argue that his time in charge has not been eventful. You may remember Keith Curle as the manager at the time of our relegation. You may remember him as the man who spent his summers making the club more professional, painting and decorating offices or knocking down toilets. You may remember him as the Millennium man who took Mansfield Town to the play-off final in Cardiff and all the razzmatazz that came with that. Or you may remember him as the Manager with a 100% derby day record, him being in charge of Stags sides who beat Notts County soundly twice at Field Mill, as well as that unforgettable day at Saltergate in which Mr Bradley was sent off and Liam netted that wonderful last minute winner. He certainly managed to fire the Stags up for derby games and under his management he has given Stags fans some excellent days out. Good Luck for the future Keith.

## SSA Investment into MTFC

Due to our rocketing membership over the last few months SSA has invested more money in areas that benefit Mansfield Town and our supporters than ever before. In addition to our investment in the security fencing at the front of Field Mill we have since invested in a new Next Game board on Quarry Lane in conjunction with the Chad and have also paid for that waste area directly underneath that to be cultivated, tidied up and have had plants and woodchip planted. This front of house work is not a club priority but we at SSA feel the image of our club is important as supporters take huge pride in following The Stags, and our image has took somewhat of a battering over recent months. The Chairman asked us to contribute towards Simon Brown after he had been signed, but we felt on the back of last season's record attendances and presumably successful season financially, as well as our Sky appearances and the release of players over the summer, that we could not justify this request to our members so declined funds. Mr Haslam also asked SSA for financial assistance towards some shutters for the bar at Field Mill. Having already invested £5,500 in the bar recently, we will discuss this with the Chairman at the next CCT meeting. We have agreed to a request from the Chairman for £2,000 to purchase an ice machine so that injured players can be treated more effectively. We have also agreed to invest in high quality signage for various new areas at Field Mill and are currently awaiting planning permission before we have these signs made up. In the 6 months since July last year, SSA have spent a total of £17,204 on equipment, sponsorship and other items at Field Mill.

## Stags 3,000th League Match

The Stags 3,000th League match is, barring postponements, the local derby at Notts County on Sat 5th February. We would also like to invite supporters to join in with the celebrations by making the away trip at County our first ever Away Amber Day. The idea of Amber Day is that fans should go to the game decked in Amber and perhaps bring Amber balloons etc – given the excellence of the County away end, it should produce quite a display. The Stags first began playing league football in 1931 and have been permanent members of the football league ever since. Probably our greatest achievement came in the mid-1970's when the club won both the 4th and 3rd Division Championships.

## Membership

Current membership totals: Amber 212, Blue 631, Junior 413 – TOTAL = 1256

As usual SSA are now offering membership at just half price, this means that for the rest of the season Amber Membership is £24, Blue Membership £3.50 and Junior Membership just £1.

## Supporters Bar

SSA would like to welcome Shaun as the new SSA Supporters Bar Manager. Employed by the club Shaun was previously employed as our steward. You may have noticed the increase in beer prices at the bar, unfortunately this is out of our control and we are to meet with the Chairman to discuss this rise at the end of the month. We have recently invested several hundred pounds in excellent quality photographs ranging from Wembley to Cardiff and montages for our bar at Field Mill. Come and have a look, Amber members have free entry and non bar members can sign in for just £1 per game.

## Away Travel

SSA have introduced a yellow and red card system to prevent supporters missing out on coach places. We have a problem as when our coaches are full occasionally we have to turn bookings away, then we often find at the time of departure we have no shows. Any traveller failing to cancel their place by telephoning our booking line will be given in effect a yellow card and should the traveller not appear again having booked they will lose the right to pre book seats. In addition although neither SSA nor MTFC can guarantee security we would encourage our travellers to park in the new locked compound at Field Mill when travelling to away matches. For any late travel news read the Away Travel page of The Stag matchday magazine produced at home games, or read the " View From The Stands " column in the Football Post on Saturday evenings, or simply log onto [www.stagsnet.net](http://www.stagsnet.net). Below are departure times and prices of our next four away games:

Date		Opposition	Depart	Cost
Sat 29 Jan	v	Lincoln	12 noon	£8 (adult) £6 (U16) £4 (U10)
Sat 5 Feb	v	Notts County	12.30pm	£6 (adult) £4 (U16) £3 (U10)
Sat 19 Feb	v	Bury	11.30am	£10 (adult) £8 (U16) £5 (U10)
Sat 26 Feb	v	Rushden & D	11.30am	£12 (adult) £10 (U16) £6 (U10)

## Team Mansfield

SSA were fully behind the Team Mansfield bid to take ownership of Mansfield Town Football Club and were disappointed that the Chairman feels now is not the right time to enter into even informal discussions on the matter. SSA have worked closely with Team Mansfield since our formation and will continue to assist them in any way we can to achieve the aim of real supporter influence at our club.

## Halloween/Christmas Party

SSA became aware that the club cancelled the Halloween party at Field Mill without informing the few children who had paid for tickets, who then appeared on the day dressed up. The event was cancelled due to lack of interest at £5 per ticket. SSA plan to discuss this situation with the club at the next CCT meeting with a view to working together on junior events of this nature. We would like to thank the players that attended the Junior Stags Christmas Party at Field Mill, including some that left Field Mill last summer, this event was free and included food, drinks, a present, games and entertainment from Paul "Santa" Holland, Davido a magician and Sammy The Stag.

## A New Club Shop??

As explained in our last newsletter we are targeting our fundraising towards a new club shop at Field Mill. Thanks to all those who bought and sold Christmas raffle tickets, the proceeds of which will go to this target and as ever any further donations would be most appreciated!!.

## Donation to Tsunami Appeal

Following the collection by MTFC for the Tsunami appeal, SSA donated all takings from that afternoon's raffle to this appeal, amounting to around £65.

## Roy Simpson

SSA Amber Member and lifelong Stags fan Roy Simpson sadly passed away just before Christmas. All at SSA send our condolences to Roy's family, he will be sadly missed.

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