

Mansfield Town F.C.

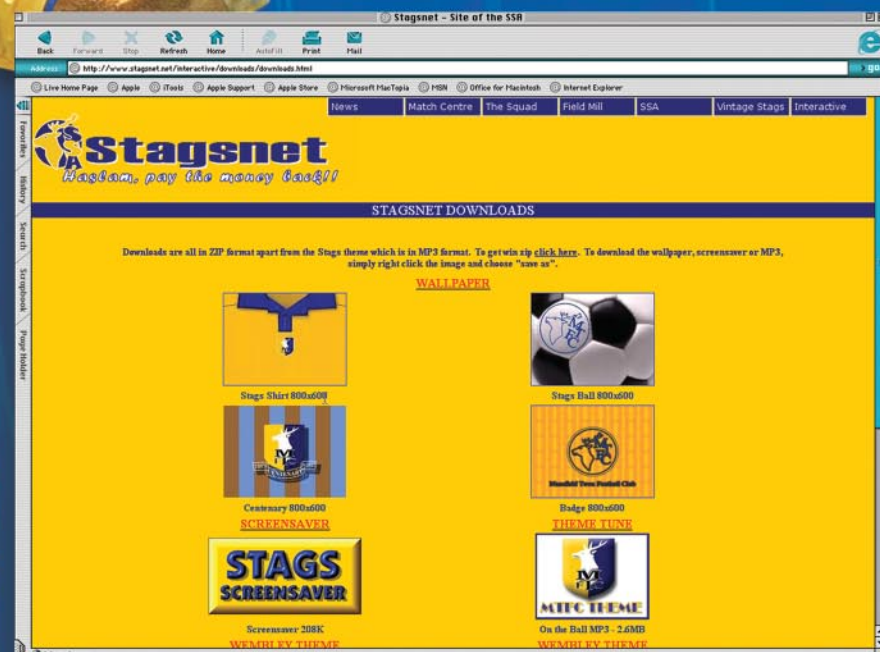
FROM THE MILL



The Newsletter of the Stags Supporters Association
Issue 3 - Season 05/06 – January 2006



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www.stagsnet.net



Welcome to the latest SSA Newsletter.

Contents: Team Mansfield Protest, SSA & MTFC, Newcastle, Competitions, Merchandise, Junior News, Membership and Away Travel

Team Mansfield Protest – Sat 4th Feb 2006

Following Stags Chairman Keith Haslam's admission that he has taken further "loans" out of our club contrary to an agreement between himself and the supporters trust, Team Mansfield Supporters Trust will be holding a meeting followed by a protest march to Field Mill prior to the Macclesfield Town match this Saturday (4th February). The public meeting, open to all, will start at 12 noon in the Civic Centre – the bar will be open!! At the conclusion of the meeting there will be a march to Field Mill. Stags Supporters Association unequivocally support this peaceful protest and urge all supporters who have concerns about issues such as the lack of training facilities for our team, the state of the new stadium, our unsatisfactory league position, the Chairman's admission that the vast sums of money gained from the cup run will not be used to strengthen the playing side and of course the fact that Mr Haslam and his company Stags Ltd owe our club over £1m. to join in and support this protest.

SSA Relations with MTFC

Following the recent public admission by Keith Haslam of illegally breaking company law as well as the Team Mansfield agreement regarding not taking anymore loans from MTFC we are sure you will all have read the press statement we released stating our wish for a change of ownership at Field Mill. The SSA Committee felt following this very public admission and apology that Keith Haslam has blatantly disrespected the fundraising arm of SSA as well as the TM agreement in which SSA are shareholders. The situation at Field Mill is changing almost daily but we are currently turning down several requests for funding from the Football Club as we cannot justify spending our members money with such loans to the club from the Chairman outstanding. This puts at risk the hard fought benefits received from the football club that SSA members enjoy, including season discount discounts, admission discounts etc but we do not feel we can be held to ransom effectively

and part of our role is of course to represent supporters views to the Chairman whether he agrees with them or not. As we stated out of respect for the honest and open way Angela Gregory, our club's commercial manager, has treated SSA we will honour financial elements of our season long package which includes all the benefits SSA members have already enjoyed this season and other add-ons but we will not agree new deals with Mr Haslam until he has repaid his outstanding loans or left the club entirely. We believe our members will stick with us during this troubled time. We also believe most people understand our position which is a very difficult balance to strike, to ensure we obtain the very best deals for our ever expanding membership we obviously need the agreement of the current owner of our club, and we know that many of our members join SSA for the benefits we enjoy from the club. On the other hand we crave for more investment in our Stags as we are unhappy with many issues surrounding the current running of our club, therefore that's why we have always had close relations with Team Mansfield, indeed SSA was born when initial Team Mansfield meetings helped combine the old SSC with SOS and we have grown SSA ever since. As regards our relationship with Team Mansfield there are four members of the SSA Committee who represent SSA on the Team Mansfield Supporters Trust Board. This has been the case since the formation of SSA and there is absolutely no reason to change this now. We completely support the idea of a club either owned or influenced by supporters, we also support the pressure applied on Mr Haslam by the Trust to ensure he repays money he owes to our club. We would ask our SSA members to back future Team Mansfield actions, including the protest on February 4th, as Team Mansfield's new stance has been forced on them by Mr Haslam's breaking of their legal agreement. We further encourage all our members who did not join the original Trust share issue, to join the supporters trust. They can do so by visiting the Team Mansfield website at www.teammansfield.co.uk or by returning the flier enclosed with this newsletter.

Stags Supporters Association

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

General News...

Newcastle United

All of us at SSA would like to thank all those that travelled with us to Newcastle for helping make it such a fantastic day out. It was a very hectic time for us and we took over 800 travellers, we received some great feedback, particularly from those who had travelled with us for the first time. Special thanks to Debbie and Liz at Andy Saunders Insurance Services who provided an invaluable selling point for our tickets within office hours. Don't forget SSA run coaches to every single Mansfield Town away fixture, further details are included later in this newsletter.

Competitions

We were disappointed with the response to our last competition asking what supporters would change should Team Mansfield gain control of MTFC, sadly we received just one entry, needless to say this member won the excellent prize of sponsors lounge match tickets, which included free admission, a meal, free programme and a photo taken with the Man of the match. Fortunately the response to our junior competition has been much better.

Discount Voucher Books/Merchandise

We still have a number of Adult and Junior discount voucher books. These books entitle an SSA member to a £2 per game discount off Quarry Lane End admission to every home league match. They are now priced at just £4 for adults and £2 for juniors and still represent great value. To order simply send a cheque for each book to SSA, buy on-line at our website (www.stagsnet.net) or pop into our supporters bar. We have now sold 150 Stags history CD Rom's, if you don't have one, then we still have a few available at just £10 plus £1 P&P.

SSA Committee Change

Due to the involvement of Chris Vasper with Team Mansfield, SSA have enlisted the help of Follow The Yellow Brick Road fanzine editor and regular Stagsworld broadcaster Steve Hartshorn to help cover the Publicity position.

Junior Christmas Party

Thanks to all members who attended our completely free Christmas party, each junior was entertained by Freddy The Magician, Sammy Stag, party games, Santa who handed out presents, free food and drink. Players were in attendance and it just gets better every year and we are already looking forward to next years. All our junior members receive club shop discounts, a birthday card and mention in the programme, free admission to the Christmas Party, discounted use of the SSA Away Travel Service (half price for Under 10's) plus all other benefits associated with SSA membership. We are extremely proud to have almost 400 junior Stags supporters currently members of SSA.



SSA Membership...

First of all we would like to welcome all the new members to SSA who joined so they could travel with us to Newcastle. We sincerely hope that joining SSA will become a habit you can't get out of!! Membership renewal details are sent to all our members at the end of the current season. SSA have one of the highest ratio of home attendance to supporters club membership in the entire league, we are also aware that our travel prices are lower than any other club, indeed in some cases half the price of identical journeys. Our members enjoy benefits such as club shop discounts, discounted match admission via voucher books for the Quarry Lane End, regular newsletters like this one, use of the away travel service, use of the supporters bar (X-Bar) on match days, representation of views directly to the club and more. Our current membership stands at just short of 1,300, comprised of 193 Amber Members, 692 Blue Members and 376 Junior members, giving a total of 1,261, not far short of our record annual membership.

SSA Away Travel

Prices and departure times for the last 7 away matches are as follows and all members wishing to travel need to book by phone or email:

Date	Opposition	Depart	Amber	Blue	U16	U10
Sat 11 Feb	Wycombe W	10am	£12	£13	£11	£7
Sat 25 Feb	Torquay	7am	£14	£15	£13	£8
Sat 4 Mar	Notts County	1pm	£6	£6	£6	£6
Sat 25 Mar	Bristol Rovers	9am	£14	£15	£13	£8
Sat 8 Apr	Lincoln	12pm	£7	£8	£6	£4
Mon 17 Apr	Barnet	9.30am	£14	£15	£13	£8
Sat 29 Apr	Bury	11am	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA

Contact SSA

If you wish to contact SSA, you can do so by any of the following:

Email: ssa@stagsnet.net.

Phone: 07967 689597

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!! Please note that the paper version of this newsletter has been sent to ALL members, if you have already informed us of your e-mail address you will receive future newsletters electronically.

