

the stag

THE OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME OF MANSFIELD TOWN FC £3.00



v Luton Town

Blue Square Bet Premier

Tuesday 23rd August 2011

Kick-Off 7.45pm

Issue 2

PROGRAMME SPONSOR



Blue Square Bet Premier
Programme
of the Year

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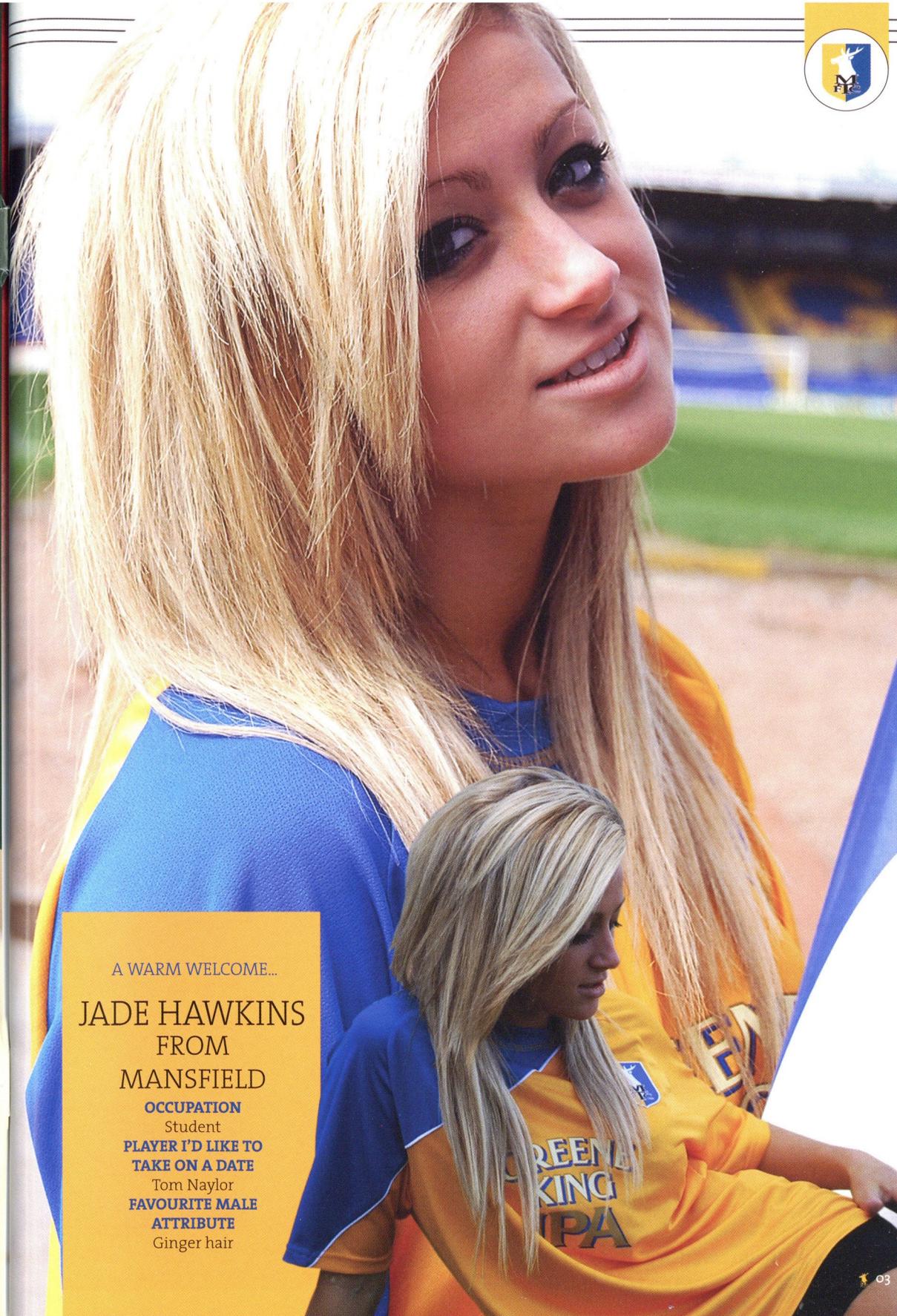
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Proud Sponsor &

Official Beer

Mansfield Town FC



A WARM WELCOME...
JADE HAWKINS
FROM
MANSFIELD
OCCUPATION
Student
PLAYER I'D LIKE TO TAKE ON A DATE
Tom Naylor
FAVOURITE MALE ATTRIBUTE
Ginger hair

We've saved Stags season ticket holders
£3,303.59* on their car insurance

20%
Discount on your **
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+

£10 goes to
the Stags



To save 20% on your car insurance go to

www.onecalldirect.co.uk/fc/thestags

✓ Free Breakdown Membership ✓ Free Legal Cover

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* Total premium saved in 2010/11 by Stags season ticket holders

** See website for terms and conditions

Mansfield Town Football Club

At the Top

Chairman: John Radford
Chief Executive: Steve Barker
Financial Director: James Beachill
Directors: Andrew Saunders, Steve
Middleton, Steve Hymas, Darren
Bland, Mark Hawkins
Non Executive Director (Fans
Representative): Darren Shaw

Vice Presidents

We would like to thank our Vice-
Presidents for their support this season:
Mike Abbs
Carolyn Abbs
Andy Saunders Insurance Services
Brimbles of Mansfield
Barry Coleman
Coleman's MOT & Tyres
Vikram Desai
Lee Dowdall
Thomas Fretwell
Terry Hayes
Edric Kimberley
Dilip Malkan
Malkan Enterprises
Maxim Financial Consultants Ltd
Caiden Naylor
Saffron Naylor
Jim Wilkinson

Football Officials

Manager: Paul Cox
Assistant Manager: Micky Moore
Player/Coach: Andy Todd
Youth Team Manager:
Mark Hemingray
Youth Team Coach: Mark Lynk
Physio: Jason Truscott
Chief Scout: Paul Ogden

Behind the Scenes

Head of Media & Communications:
Mark Stevenson
Business Development Manager:
Paul Nyland
Football Secretary:
Catherine Hannant
Safety Officer: Alan Lakin
Club Shop Manager / Ticket Office
Supervisor: Anne Matthews
Sales Administration:
Diane Jankiewicz
Sales Administration:
Adam Parkin
Accounts Manager: Elaine Bachir
Football in the Community Director
Mark Hemingray
Head Groundsman/Kitman:
Michael Merriman
Ground Maintenance:
Andy Johnson & Colin Needham
Club Historian: Paul Taylor
Club Photographer: Richard Parkes
Scoreboard Operator:
Stuart Eggleshaw
PA Announcer: Alan Wilson
Club Chaplain: Tim Mitchell



Plenty to play for

by Chairman John Radford

WELCOME to Nick Owen,
Chairman of Luton Town, and a
familiar face of BBC News in our
region along with all those
travelling from Kenilworth Road
to whom I wish a safe journey
home.

Promotions aren't won in the
first three games of any season,
but like you, I would have wished
for more points on the board at
this stage. Having watched Paul
Cox's press interviews on our
official website, I can only agree
that we deserve more than we
have to show from our first trio of
matches.

On behalf of everyone at the
club, I would like to welcome Ben
Futcher to Field Mill, having
signed last week from Bury on a
one month loan deal. Ben has an
excellent reputation in the
Football League and I hope he can
uphold that reputation here.

Whilst we have seen a busy
schedule on the pitch, our staff
off the field have been working
hard to ensure we are operating
as well as we can be.

Our official website,
mansfieldtown.net continues to
boom, and we recently received



our website hits from the month
of May, which showed a record
number of hits, even more than
Premier League Wigan Athletic.
The buzz of Wembley will no
doubt have played a large part in
this record but it shows that we
are making good strides forward.

Also, we have recently agreed
deals with two national
companies to become our official
partners: Tesco and Fitness First
are now on board with us and
this can only strengthen both
brands.

“Whilst we have seen a busy schedule on
the pitch, our staff off the field have
been working hard to ensure we are
operating as well as we can be.”



In charge Paul Cox

WELCOME to Gary Brabin and his players for this evening's game.

The fact that Luton Town have been unsuccessful in gaining promotion from the Blue Square Bet Premier in the past two seasons just shows how difficult it is to get out of this league. Luton are a club with a fabulous history and were most people's favourites to win the league at the beginning of the season. It goes to show that no club has a divine right to get out of this division.

At the time of writing, I am disappointed that we haven't got more points on the board to show for our efforts in these first three games.

In our opening match against Bath, I thought we did enough to win the match despite playing against a side which were stubborn and well organised. Three days later at Gateshead saw an excellent first half-hour, but we capitulated once they broke the deadlock. It was a much improved display at Braintree on Saturday, where I thought we were excellent.

At the moment, our opponents seem to be finding the net with every chance they create. However, football can be a cruel and uncompromising game. We can take heart from the fact that we have an honest bunch of players here who are working hard on the training ground.

As always, consistency is the key, in order to succeed. For us to be

consistent in the short term we will need to improve our concentration levels and sharpness in both boxes, which is something I have noted from our opening three games. The building blocks are beginning to take formation, however, but nothing happens overnight in this game. Our ethics and ethos cannot be implemented immediately with the amount of players we have brought in.

"Football can be a cruel and uncompromising game."

On the injury front, Paul Bolland might be involved in a behind-closed doors game this week and could be back for Saturday's match at home to Kettering. Ritchie Sutton

should be back in full time training this week, so he could also be amongst the squad at the weekend.

As I write these notes on Monday morning, John Thompson is expected to go in to hospital for his operation tomorrow. Also, Rhys Day will resume light training this morning.

The players and I were encouraged by the level of support which we took to Braintree, and your vocal backing was definitely noticeable. If that same volume of noise can be maintained in our home matches, then it will surely give us the edge against our opponents here at Field Mill.





Behind the scenes... Catherine Hannant Football Secretary

THE ROLE of Football Secretary remains one of the most crucial roles of any football club, and is a job which is relished by Catherine Hannant, a Stags supporter for 20 years.

As Football Secretary, Catherine is responsible for all football administration: managing and facilitating the registration, transfer and re-engagement of all players as well as being responsible for the management of fixtures. She works closely with the Football Association and Football Conference and ensures that we remain compliant with all regulatory requirements set by those governing bodies. In addition to her role as secretary, Catherine ensures the smooth running of our ticket office.

Educated at Quarrydale Comprehensive, Catherine has experience in administration having worked for Blue Line Taxis before working at the Labour Club in Sutton-in-Ashfield as a stewardess.

She started following our fortunes shortly before marrying Craig, who brought her along to Field Mill in 1991. Her involvement with us began when she applied as a volunteer in the ticket office before accepting the role as Club Secretary in March this year.

Catherine told us: "I do love my job. The biggest challenge so far would have to be Wembley, when we had to administer 15,000 tickets to our fans."

Away from football, Catherine enjoys Badminton and eating out. She has a son, Kyle (15) and a daughter, Kirsty (11), both of whom are Stags' fans.



Micky Moore, Luke O'Neill and Manager Paul Cox present a shirt to the owner of The Mint

Stags strike Mint deal

WE ARE delighted to welcome The Mint on board, as our official Indian Restaurant partner.

The Mint Restaurant, situated in Mansfield town centre on Clerkson Street, is an authentic Indian restaurant which offers a unique dining experience with the finest, freshly cooked to order cuisine. Their dedicated and skilled chefs, who have international experience, thrive on creating all meals to an exceptional high standard. All dietary requirements and needs are catered for.

Our goalscoring midfielder Lee Stevenson dined at The Mint a fortnight ago as part of a feature in The Stag and said: "The food was excellent, very tasty."

"As a Sheffield lad, we have a good batch of Indian restaurants in our city, but this was amongst the best I've tasted."

Business Development Manager Paul Nyland added: "It's good to forge a relationship with a restaurant which has such a good reputation in the area. I hope our partnership can be long-lasting."

Psychic Eva to perform in Kevin Bird Suite

HAVE you ever had a dream come true?

Or found you were able to read a friend's mind? Or had a sense of someone present when no one was physically there?

Well if not, the incredible spiritual medium Eva has, and she is to perform live in our Kevin Bird Suite this Saturday directly after our home match to Kettering.

We are opening our doors to allow you to experience Eva in all her glory from 5.30pm onwards.

This offer is only available for supporters who take advantage of our Bank Holiday special in the Kevin Bird Suite, which includes:

- A padded seat with a prime view

of the match in the Ian Greaves Stand Upper Tier

- A delicious hot two course meal before the match
- Complimentary tea and coffee at half time
- A new and improved full colour team sheet
- Exclusive entry to see the Man of the Match presentation after the match
- Pay bar facility
- Chance to mingle with the Chairman, Directors and players

To book, call Paul on 01623 482 482. Price is just £15 for season ticket holders and £25 for non-season ticket holders.



Futcher gets off to impressive start

TOWERING centre-half Ben Futcher got off to a fine start on Saturday with a solid display at the heart of our defence.

The 30-year-old signed only last Friday on a month's loan from Bury.

Fundraising group The 12th Stag, which raises funds to assist manager Paul Cox in the transfer market, aided the signing with a £2,400 donation.

The giant defender, who stands at 6 ft 7in, has made over 350 Football League appearances in a 12-year career which started at Oldham Athletic.

Futcher has also enjoyed stints at Oxford, Boston, Grimsby and Peterborough, but is perhaps best known for his days at Lincoln City, where he made over 140 starts,

scoring 17 goals. He has finished as a runner up in the play-off finals of English football's fourth tier on three occasions.

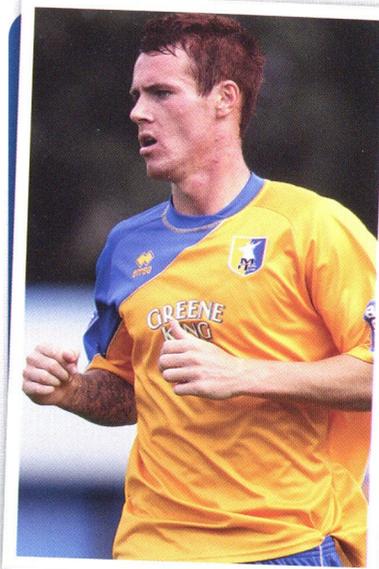
Manager Paul Cox said: "He's mentally strong, giving us that experience having been there and done it, that little bit of something we have been missing."

"He is a voice on the pitch and brings leadership and organisation and he will do the basics very well."

"I spoke to Richie Barker (Bury manager and former Stags player) about Ben and he gave me a glowing reference."

"But I have always admired him from his days at Lincoln under Keith Alexander."

"He is just what we need."



Naylor banned for four matches

DEFENDER Tom Naylor is serving the second of a four match ban tonight after being sent off at Gateshead last Tuesday.

The 20 year old was given his marching orders on 79 minutes for serious foul play.

After our appeal to overturn the decision was rejected by the Football Association disciplinary committee, Naylor was handed a further one match ban and will therefore be available for selection next on Saturday 03 September away to Darlington.

Stockport kick-off time switched

OUR away match to Stockport County on Monday 29 August 2011 will now kick off at 12 noon, following police advice.

The match was originally scheduled for a 3pm kick off.



STAGS FANS UNITED

ANNUAL DINNER

Thursday 8th September 2011 - 7.00pm for 7.30pm

MINT INDIAN RESTURANT, MANSFIELD
FOR AN INDIAN BUFFET BANQUET
(ENGLISH ALTERNATIVES BY PRE-ORDER)

GUEST SPEAKER
STAGS LEGEND PHIL STANT
ALONGSIDE COMEDIAN MAXIE PETERS

TICKETS JUST £25.00

AVAILABLE FROM MTFC TICKET OFFICE TEL: 01623 482482
NO FORMAL DRESS CODE. 18 AND OVER ONLY



EVENT SPONSORED BY



Fans' Group news

STAGS Supporters' Association are producing a limited edition individual pin badge for just £3 every time we play at home, depicting our badge along with the day's opponents. These are on sale from inside the Sandy Pate Bar on matchdays.

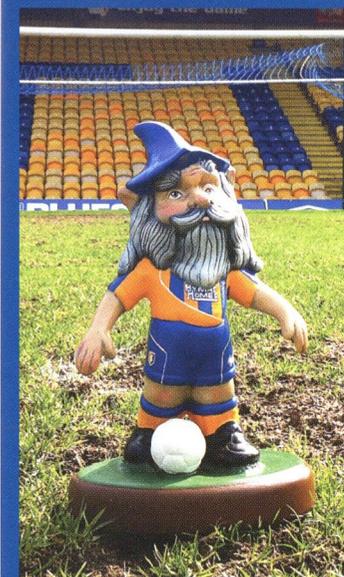
In addition to this exclusive item, SSA are making available 'matchday mints' for all our away games at the price of just £2 per tin.

To purchase outside of match days or to order a full seasons set of badges or mints, email info@thessa.org

12th Stag Wembley Gnomes back in stock!

THE 12th Stag Wembley gnomes, sponsored by the Stags Supporters' Association, are back in stock.

You can purchase your 12th Stag Gnome now by visiting the club shop which is open from 9am - 5pm during the week. All gnomes are priced at £20 with all proceeds going into the 12th Stag fund.



Unmissable offer for Season Ticket holders

WE ARE delighted to announce an exclusive deal for season ticket holders, allowing you to enjoy our home matches in style at the cheapest price yet.

In an upgrade offer at the cost of just £20 per person, and allowing you to select a game of your choice* on a match-by-match basis, season ticket holders can take full advantage of the sensational matchday experience in the Kevin Bird Suite which will include:

- A padded seat with a prime view of the match in the Ian Greaves Stand Upper Tier
- A delicious hot two course meal before the match

- Complimentary tea and coffee at half time
- A new and improved full colour team sheet
- Exclusive entry to see the Man of the Match presentation after the match
- Pay bar facility
- Chance to mingle with the Chairman, Directors and players

For just £20, make sure you take advantage of this unmissable offer by calling Paul on 01623 482 482 or e-mail sales@mansfieldtown.net
*Select your match(es) as soon as possible to avoid the possibility of the KBS being sold out.



Mansfield Town 1

Connor 3

Bath City 1

Connolly 35

SATURDAY 13 JULY 2011, 3.00PM

BLUE SQUARE BET PREMIER

ATT: 3,997

MANSFIELD TOWN

- 1 Alan Marriott
- 18 Matthew Bell
- 16 Luke O'Neill
- 6 Martin Riley
- 2 Tom Naylor
- 20 Andy Todd
- 11 Adam Murray
- 4 Jonathan Worthington
- 7 Louis Briscoe
- 10 Matthew Green ■ (Meikle 76)
- 9 Paul Connor (Dyer 70)

Subs

- 8 Lee Stevenson
- 24 Lindon Meikle (Green 76)
- 15 Ross Dyer (Connor 70)
- 23 Shane Redmond
- 25 Nick Wood

BATH CITY

- 1 Glynn Garner
- 2 Sekani Simpson
- 5 Gethin Jones
- 15 Mark Preece ■
- 8 Adam Connolly
- 11 Lewis Hogg
- 18 Marley Watkins
- 3 Paul Stonehouse
- 19 Joe Burnell
- 21 Alex Russell (Murray 74)
- 10 Lee Phillips (Cook 90)

Subs

- 4 Jim Rollo
- 17 Jason Matthews
- 14 Daniel Webb
- 7 Scott Murray (Russell 74)
- 9 James Cook (Phillips 90)

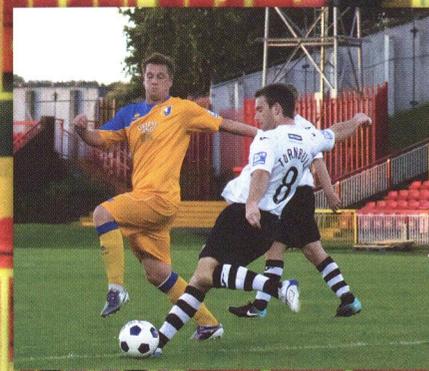
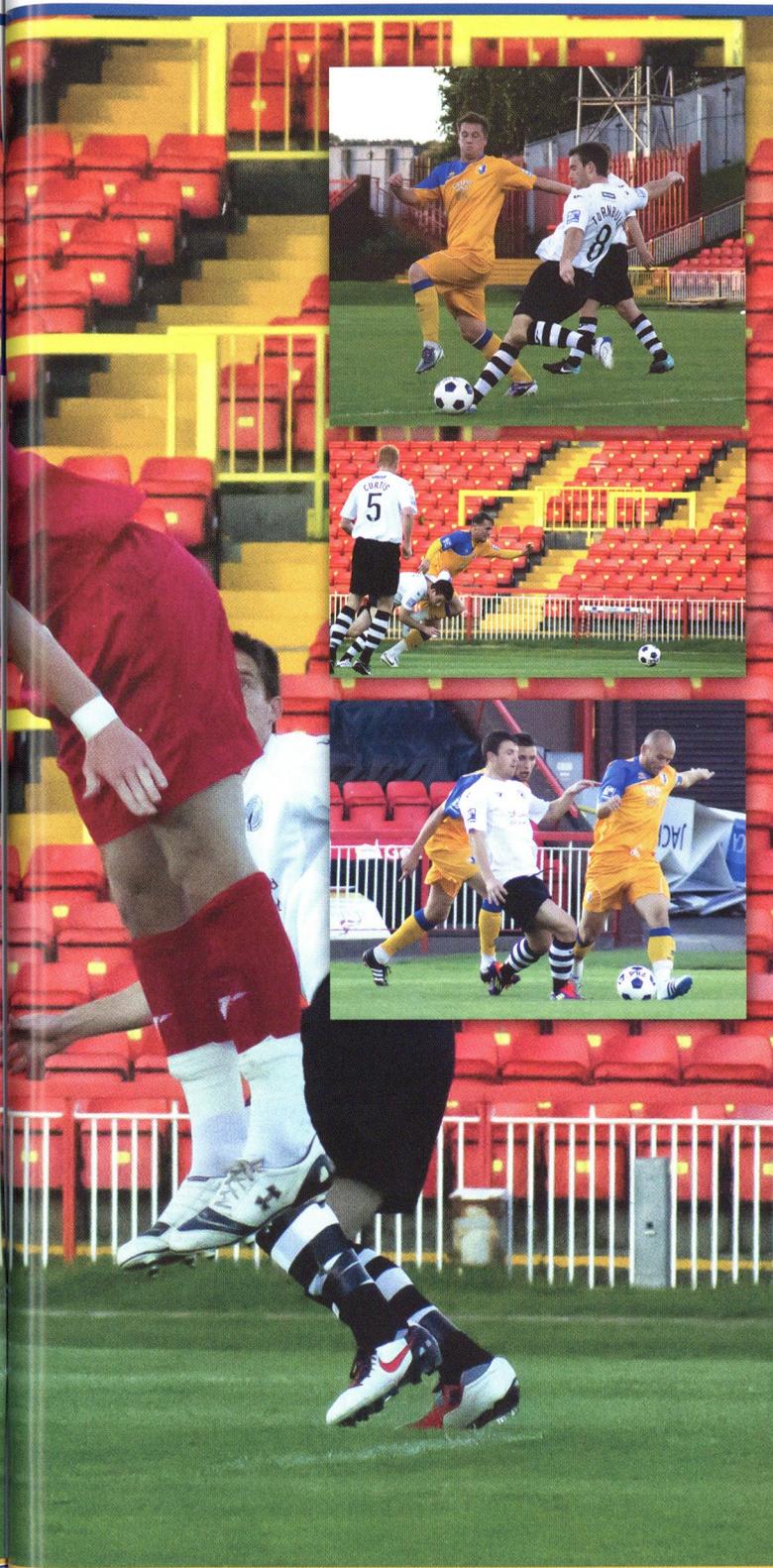
Pictured

Main: Matt Green battles for the ball

Right, left to right:

Paul Connor storms forward
Frustration for skipper Adam Murray
Tom Naylor strikes the upright





Gateshead 3

Shaw 33, Odubade 41, Curtis 59

Mansfield Town 0

TUESDAY 16 AUGUST 2011, 7.45PM

BLUE SQUARE BET PREMIER

ATT: 825

GATESHEAD

- 13 Paul Farman
- 6 Ben Clark
- 2 Eddie Odhiambo
- 5 James Curtis
- 20 Chris Carruthers
- 8 Phillip Turnbull
- 11 Michael Cummins (Nix 83)
- 4 Kris Gate
- 12 Nathan Fisher (Moore 71)
- 9 Jon Shaw
- 10 Yemi Odubade (Mulligan 81)

Subs

- 1 Tim Deasy
- 19 Chris Moore (Fisher 71)
- 15 Gary Mulligan (Odubade 81)
- 18 Kyle Nix (Cummins 83)
- 14 Craig Baxter

MANSFIELD TOWN

- 1 Alan Marriott
- 6 Martin Riley
- 16 Luke O'Neill
- 3 Joe Kendrick
- 2 Tom Naylor
- 8 Lee Stevenson
- 11 Adam Murray
- 4 Jonathan Worthington (Dyer 61)
- 10 Matthew Green (Wood 81)
- 7 Louis Briscoe
- 9 Paul Connor (Smith 71)

Subs

- 15 Ross Dyer (Worthington 61)
- 23 Shane Redmond
- 25 Nick Wood (Green 81)
- 19 Adam Smith (Connor 71)
- 24 Lindon Meikle

Pictured

Main: Paul Farman punches clear under pressure from Lee Stevenson

Left, top to bottom: Stevenson attempts to block the ball
Louis Briscoe tries to advance
Adam Murray shapes to shoot



Braintree Town 1 Mansfield Town 1

Bailey-Dennis 54

Briscoe 47

SATURDAY 20 JULY 2011, 3.00PM
BLUE SQUARE BET PREMIER
ATT: 875

GATESHEAD

- 1 Nathan McDonald
- 3 Aswad Thomas
- 5 Matthew Paine
- 4 Adam Bailey-Dennis
- 16 Patrick O'Connor
- 8 Kenny Davis
- 7 Nicholas Symons
- 6 Jai Reason (Quinton 73)
- 17 Andy Yiadom
- 9 Sean Marks
- 10 Ben Wright (Chilaka 83)

Subs

- 19 Chibuzor Chilaka (Wright 83) ■
- 18 Leon Constantine
- 22 Ashlee Jones
- 23 Merrick James-Lewis
- 15 Bradley Quinton (Reason 73)

MANSFIELD TOWN

- 1 Alan Marriott
- 16 Luke O'Neill ■
- 3 Joe Kendrick ■
- 26 Benjamin Futch
- 6 Martin Riley
- 11 Adam Murray
- 21 Anthony Howell
- 15 Ross Dyer (Connor 82)
- 10 Matthew Green
- 7 Louis Briscoe
- 24 Lindon Meikle

Subs

- 23 Shane Redmond
- 4 Jonathan Worthington
- 25 Nick Wood
- 9 Paul Connor (Dyer 82)
- 8 Lee Stevenson

Pictured

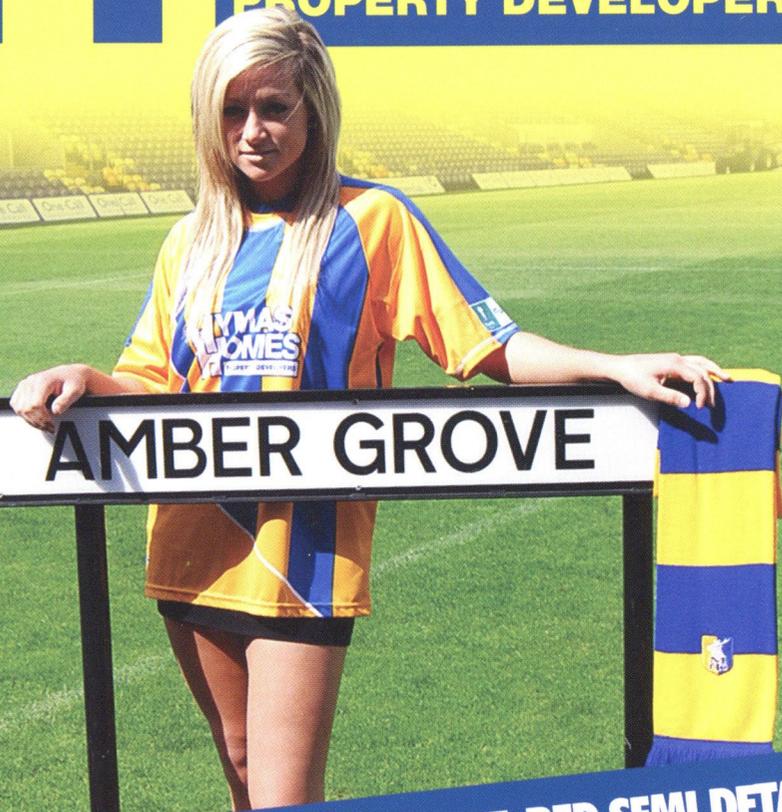
Main: Luke O'Neil drives forward
Left, top to bottom:
 Up goes Ben Futch
 Murray and Briscoe combine
 Briscoe flies into a challenge



A NEW DEVELOPMENT BY

HYMAS HOMES

PROPERTY DEVELOPERS

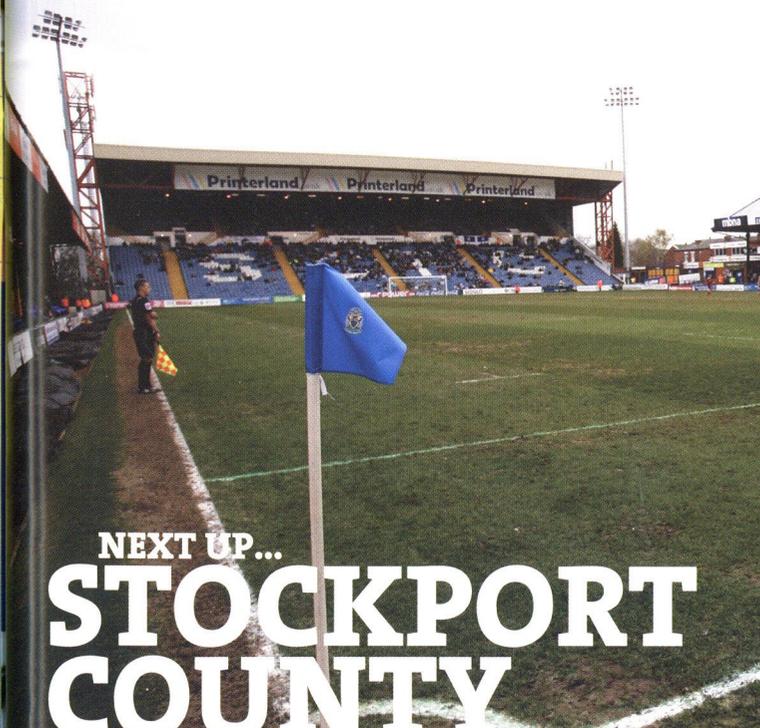


A BRAND NEW DEVELOPMENT OF THREE-BED SEMI DETACHED HOUSES AT AMBER GROVE, FOREST TOWN.
CALL 01623 627247 FOR DETAILS

EVERY STAGS FANS' DREAM ADDRESS – AND WILL HELP HYMAS HOMES SUPPORT MANSFIELD TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB



awaytravel



NEXT UP...
STOCKPORT COUNTY

Date: Monday 29th August 2011
Kick-Off: 12.00noon
Venue: Edgley Park, Hardcastle Road, Stockport, SK3 9DD
Distance from Field Mill: 50.5 Miles. 1 Hour 18 Mins (AA estimated travelling time)

Directions: Take the M63 and exit at junction 11, then join the A560 and follow signs for Cheadle, after 0.25 mile turn right into Edgeley Road, and then after 1 mile turn into Caroline Street for the ground.
By train: Stockport railway station is in walking distance of the ground (around half a mile). Come out of the station and turn left up Station Road, and continue up the hill towards the roundabout. Go straight over the roundabout and turn left into Caroline Street for the ground.



Admission prices: Adults £16, Concessions £11, Under 16's £3, Under 7's Free
Facilities: Refreshment kiosks either side of the ground. Sir Robert Peel Pub is recommended half way up Castle Street.

Parking: The ground is well sign posted around the area. Street parking is available, although beware of some new residents only parking areas that have been introduced recently.
Programme: Price £3 'County Life'
Recent news: Two wins and a draw have put Stockport 8th in the league table.

SSA COACH TRAVEL TO STOCKPORT:
 Departs Field Mill: 8am
 Amber/Junior SSA: £10
 Blue SSA: £10
 Non-SSA: £15

AND THEN...
DARLINGTON

Date: Saturday 03 September 2011
Kick-Off: 3.00pm
Venue: Northern Echo Darlington Arena, DL2 1DL
Distance from Field Mill: 112.8 miles. 2 hours 6 mins (AA estimated travelling time)

Directions: North on the A1. Leave the A1 at Junc 57 for Darlington. Follow road to roundabout. From here take the first exit off and follow road to second roundabout (reg vardy on right). Head straight over and follow signs for Teesside until you reach next roundabout. Turn left here and stadium is on right hand side.

By train: The nearest train station is Darlington Station and is around a mile and a half away from the ground

Admission prices: Adults: £16, Senior Citizens £10, Under 16's £5
Facilities: At the stadium itself there are two bars; one called 'Bar 66' and the other called the 'Corner Bar'. Just 10 minutes walk along Neasham Road, going towards the town centre is a little pub called the Copper Beech.

Parking: There is a fair sized car park at the stadium which costs £5 per car. If you continue on past the stadium towards Darlington, then there is some street parking to be found, although this can be quite a walk from the stadium as there is a residents only parking scheme in operation on matchdays in the streets nearest to the ground.

Programme: Price £3.00 'Quakers'
Recent news: Following a fairly successful campaign last season. Darlington have had a satisfactory start having won one, lost one and drawn one from their opening three games.

SSA COACH TRAVEL TO DARLINGTON
 Details TBC





Four out of four

Notts Representatives 0 Mansfield Town 4

MODAY 15 AUGUST

Striker Adam Somes helped our youth team return to winning ways by bagging his second hat trick of pre-season against Notts representatives.

Our young guns were ahead by the break after the prolific front man netted three goals. Joe Flint, also in good form, completed the win with a fourth before the stroke of half time.

Youth team manager Mark Hemingray said: "We performed well, but there is still room for improvement. Overall, Mark Lynk (youth team coach) and I are pleased with the way we are shaping up so far this pre-season."

Meanwhile, our youngsters take on Blidworth at Field Mill tomorrow, kicking off at 7pm.

Stags: Rogers, Coupe, Shaw, Gregory, Vincent, Pursglove, Ashley, Hawkins, Holland, Somes, Flint

Used Subs: Jankiewicz, Marsden, Villums, Harris, Munn,

Oadby Town 1 Mansfield Town 4

WEDNESDAY 17 AUGUST

A double strike from Jack Hawkins helped us on our way to a 4-1 win at Oadby Town. Matt Harris also found the net, and an own goal from the hosts made sure we left Leicestershire with a win. Said Mark Hemingray: "Oadby were a good footballing side – one of the best teams we've played, infact. Jack Hawkins was particularly impressive netting two goals."

Stags: Rogers, Marsden, Munn, Williams, Jankiewicz, Villums, Hawkins, Holland, Vintrelli, Harris

Used Subs: Gregory, Coupe, Ashley, Pursglove

Mansfield Town 3 Boston United 1

FRIDAY 19 AUGUST

A crowd of 141 witnessed another win for our youth team last night at home to Boston United.

Goals from Jack Hawkins, Joel Holland and a superb effort from Blake Vincent ensured the victory.

Stags: Rogers, Robinson, Horsley, Shaw, Vincent, Vintrelli, Villums, Hawkins, Brown, Holland, Flint

Used Subs: Harris, Gregory, Coupe

Newark 0 Mansfield Town 5

SUNDAY 21 AUGUST

Our youth team lifted the Tom Mann Memorial Trophy on Sunday thanks to a comprehensive 5-0 win at Newark.

The win was completed thanks to a brace from Matt Harris, along with goals from Travis Munn, Lewis Chambers and Kieran Coupe.

Director of Youth Steve Hymas told mansfieldtown.net: "Great credit must go to the team after playing four games in a week and winning them all.

"It's great to get our first trophy in the cabinet and there should be many more to come."



IN FOCUS...

Scott Rogers

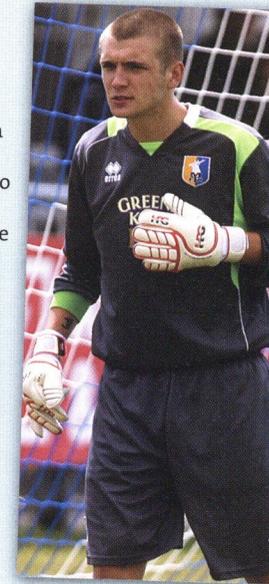
Goalkeeper/Central Midfielder

Lifelong Stags' fan Scott Rogers will be in dreamland today when he puts pen to paper on a one year scholarship.

The 18 year old has passed a six week trial spell where he has been anxiously waiting to learn his fate. Scott told us: "It really is a dream come true [to have signed] having supported the club since five years of age. The lads are such a great bunch both on and off the pitch and I owe a lot to them for helping me settle in so quickly. I'm really happy to sign but now the hard work starts to try and get in the side and then try and establish a regular place."

In an unusual twist, Rogers, who usually plays as a central midfielder, began to play for us in goal as cover for the injured Oliver Medley. He has gone on to make eight appearances in between the sticks and just one in central midfield.

Scott hails from Mansfield Woodhouse but could be eligible to play for the Ukraine, because of his grandfather's Scandinavian roots. He has three Stags' tattoos: on his forearm reads 'MTFC', the crest on his upper arm and 'Mansfield Town FC' across his back.



Youth Sponsors

Main sponsor:



With thanks to: Ian Pearce, youth physio

StagsNet ball sponsors:

Spiritator, Tainted Soul, Ronaldo 10, Field Mill Forever, Neil, Bros, The Real O.N.D, Mrs Whytham, Mr J Arnold, Emma C, The Saint, James 9002, Boza, Pete, Mansfield Smooth

Youth Fixtures 2011/12

PRE-SEASON

DATE	OPPOSITION	H/A	RES
Sat 16 July	Matlock Town	A	W5-0
Wed 20 July	Retford	H	W11-0
Tues 02 August	Rainworth	H	W5-0
Sat 6 August	Chasetown	A	W5-3
Wed 10 August	Pinxton	A	Lo-1
Mon 15 August	Notts Repts	A	W4-0
Wed 17 August	Oadby Town	A	W4-1
Fri 19 August	Boston United	H	W3-1
Sun 21 August	Newark Town	A	W5-0
Wed 24 August	Blidworth (at Field Mill)	H	7.00pm

LEAGUE FIXTURES

DATE	OPPOSITION	H/A	RES
Wed Sep 14	MMU Newcastle	A	
Wed Sep 28	Ilkeston	H	
Wed Oct 12	Birmingham City Blues	A	
Wed Oct 26	FC Halifax Town	H	
Wed Nov 02	Gateshead	A	
Wed Nov 09	Stalybridge Celtic	H	
Wed Nov 16	Newcastle Town	H	
Wed Nov 23	Boston United	A	
Wed Nov 30	Fleetwood Town	H	
Wed Dec 07	Fleetwood Town	A	
Wed Jan 11	MMU Newcastle	H	
Wed Jan 25	Ilkeston	A	
Wed Feb 01	Birmingham City Blues	H	
Wed Feb 08	FC Halifax Town	A	
Wed Feb 22	Gateshead	H	
Wed Feb 29	Stalybridge Celtic	A	
Wed Mar 14	Newcastle Town	A	
Wed Mar 21	Boston United	H	

Kick-off times to be announced

Matthew Bell

Home Sponsor:
Available
Away Sponsor
Available
Laces Available



Alan Marriott

Home Sponsor:
Mike & Carolyn Abbs
Away Sponsor
Jasmine Naylor/Blastline
Laces James Wathall



Ritchie Sutton

Home Sponsor:
Caiden Naylor
Away Sponsor
Available
Laces Stacey Webb & Nigel Kemp



Paul Bolland

Home Sponsor:
Arthur Saunders / Fred Cruickshanks
Away Sponsor
Sam Vardy
Laces Neil Barsby



Lindon Meikle

Home Sponsor:
Westfield Stags
Away Sponsor
Westfield Stags
Laces Caiden Naylor



Paul Cox

is sponsored by
The SSA



Louis Briscoe

Home Sponsor:
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Position
Forward
Sponsor
Martin Shaw



Callum Pursglove

Position
Right/left wing
Sponsor
Anton Wilson



Mark Lynk

Position
Youth Coach
Sponsor
Paul Dean



Sponsors & Guests



Jeff Barnes (of match sponsors Pardot) and guests receive a signed pennant from manager Paul Cox



Matchball Sponsors Wayne Fletcher and Ernie Kaye of Pleasley Stags line up with the match officials



Pleasley Stags members Wayne Fletcher and Ernie Kaye receive a signed ball from Adam Murray



Jeff Barnes from Pardot presents a bottle of champagne to Man of the Match Adam Murray



Programme Sponsors Mike and Carolyn Abbs receive a signed framed programme from skipper Adam Murray



The Mansfield Town youth team thank Barry Coleman for the sponsorship of their kit this season.

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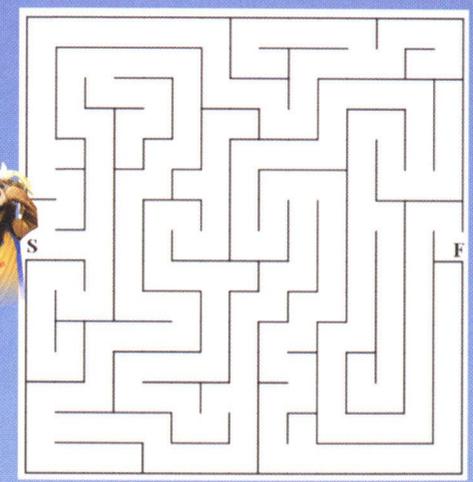
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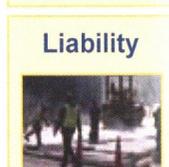
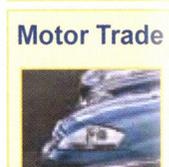
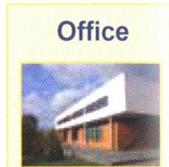
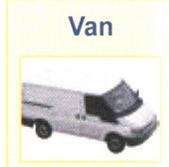
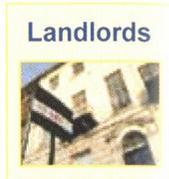
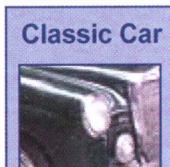
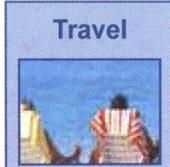
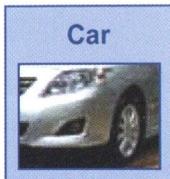
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Bumper numbers for Summer Course

OVER 100 children have attended Football in the Community's summer programme.

The kids have participated in supervised football, cricket, pool tournaments, plus sessions on the PlayStations, xBox and Nintendo Wii as well as a trip to Skegness in July in partnership with 622222 taxi company and an afternoon outing at Mansfield Superbowl last week.

Mark Hemingray, Football in the Community Director, said: "We have two weeks left to run in the programme finishing off with a trip to Chatsworth Country Fair on 02 September.

"We have limited places for the trip because it is filling up fast. The cost for the day is £20. Booking is essential for this trip.

For more information on Chatsworth Country Fair or any of FITC's activities call 01623 482482 or 07977 428 147.

October Half Term Holiday Course

This will run on the following days:

- Monday 24th October
- Tuesday 25th October
- Wednesday 26th October
- Thursday 27th October
- Friday 28th October

All dates run from 8.30am till 5.30pm.

Venue: Field Mill

Cost: £12 per day

Bookings will commence after the summer programme finishes.

Further information will appear in later matchday programmes.

Free Football Sessions

We are offering free football sessions for boys and girls aged between 6 and 14 years. The project is running alongside our summer programme on the following dates: Wednesday 24th August, Friday 26th August, Tuesday 30th August, Wednesday 31st August, and Thursday 1st September.

Mark Hemingray said: "Our Come and Play project in partnership with The Football Conference Community Club Development Fund is turning out to be a success. Any interested children who fit the age category above should contact us to take advantage of free football sessions."



MEET YOUR COMMUNITY TEAM

- Mark Hemingray FITC Director
- Gary Shaw FITC Officer
- Mark Lynk FITC Officer
- Jorden Ferrer FITC Coach
- Andy Bancroft FITC Coach
- Joanne Shuttleworth FITC Activities Co-Ordinator

Mansfield Town
Football in the Community
summer holiday course

Mansfield Town FC (Community Room)

July 25th - September 2nd Time: 8.30am - 5.30pm

£12 per day Ages 6-11 and 12-14 for both Boys & Girls

Little Kickers Day @ Field Mill

July 25th, Aug 1st, Aug 8th Aug 15th, Aug 22nd

10am - 11am Ages 4 & 5 ONLY £2.00

We will be coaching the fundamentals of football e.g. passing, shooting, heading, dribbling and turning all in the form of fun and enjoyable game related sessions. Also lots more indoor fun with computers and game consoles.

If you are interested in bringing along your child to Football in the Community you will need to complete a form so please contact via **Mobile: 07977428147 or 07530604370**
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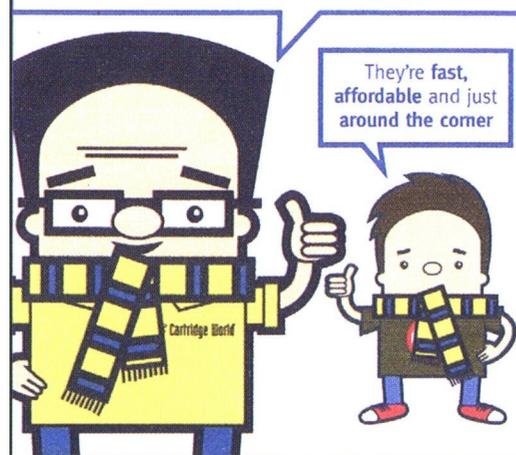
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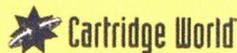
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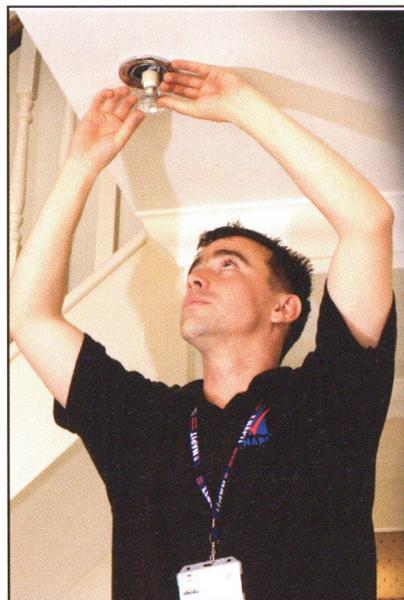
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Mike Abbs	Dennis & Helena Lord	John & Elizabeth Roughton	Adam Gallagher	Stags Fans United	Zac Simpson	Dylan & Jake	Brussels Yellows
Oliver Janklewicz	Ray Flint	Dale Flint	Miles & Sophie Cupidon	Oliver Saunders	Kieran Danby	Saffron Naylor	Brussels Yellows
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FIRST, LAST, EVERYTHING...

MY FIRST...

First job? Working on a chicken farm
Autograph you ever signed?

When I was at Newport, aged 18

Time you visited a football ground?

At Bristol City,
Ashton Gate

Foreign country you visited?

Jamaica,
aged 12

Time you were interviewed on television? Sky Sports when I played for Cardiff

Pet? A cat named Simmeon

Time you were mentioned in a newspaper? When I was playing for my local U12s team I scored three hat tricks in as many games which got me a line in the local rag

Person you call when you've had a bad day? My granddad



MY LAST...

Book you read? Michael Johnson – Slaying the Dragon

Soap you watched? Coronation Street... my missus likes it

Time you got star-struck?

Playing with Robbie Fowler at Cardiff

Thing you bought yourself? Some food from Tesco

Person you sent an email to? My missus

Website you visited? Google

Last present that was bought for you? A toaster for my new house

You failed to finish a book that you didn't enjoy? David Beckham's last book



MY EVERYTHING...

Your father's occupation? A songwriter and salesman

Current mobile phone ringtone? Over – Drake

Your speciality on karaoke? Drugs Don't Work - The Verve

Given the choice, where in the world would you live? I love England but wouldn't turn down the chance to live in Jamaica

Your secret celebrity crush? Cheryl Cole

Whose poster did you have on the wall as a child? Thierry Henry

Something interesting from where you're from? It's an old Roman town

Where did you meet your girlfriend? On a night out in Darlington

What's your life motto? Everything happens for a reason

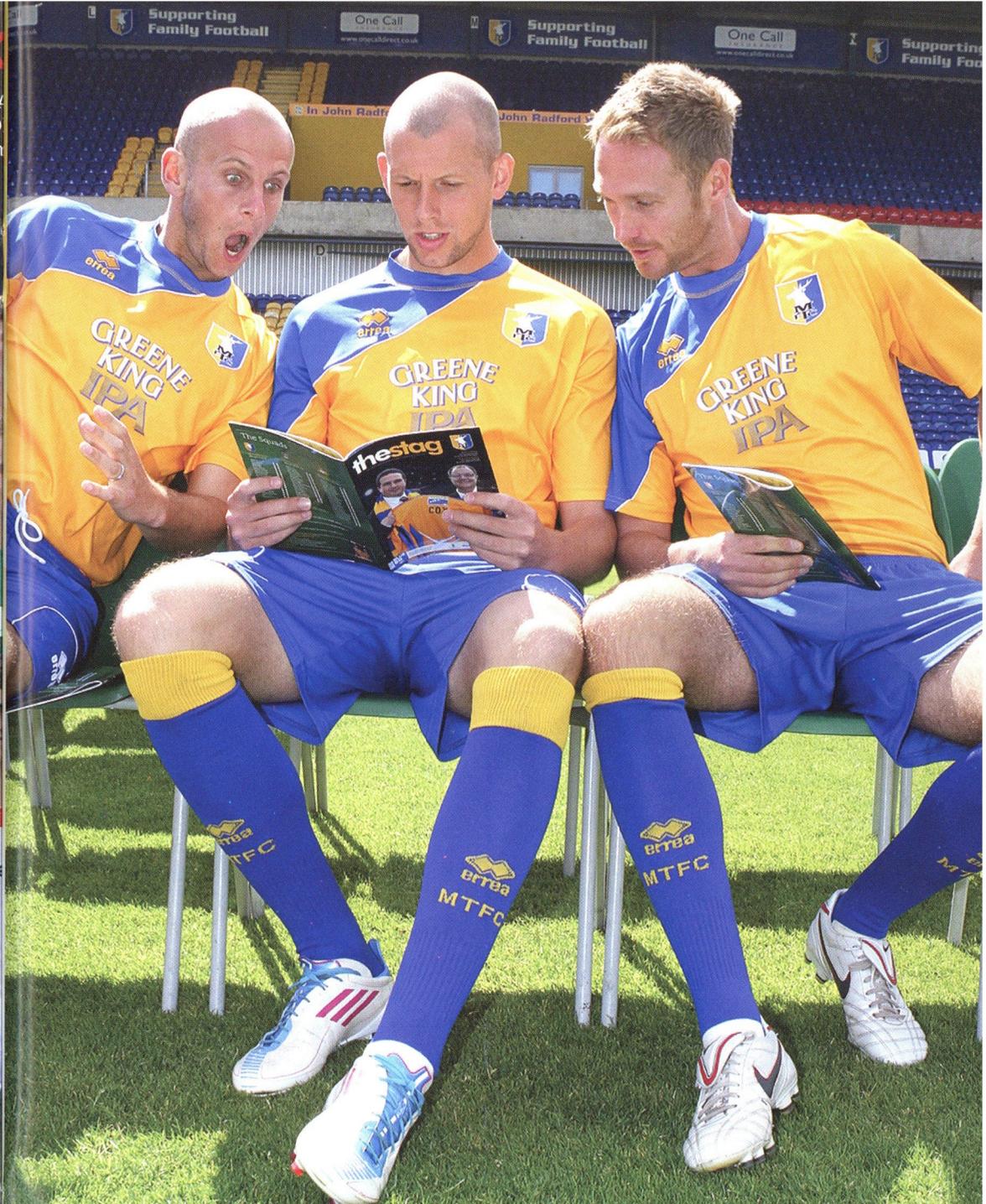


MANSFIELD TOWN YOUTH

TOP ROW (L-R): Jordan Villums, Matt Harris, Joe Flint, A

MIDDLE ROW (L-R): Blake Vincent, Liam Marsden, Jacob Ashley, Jason Gregory, O

BOTTOM ROW (L-R): Danny Barke, Yan Jankiewicz, Mark Hawkins (Director), Mark Hemingray (Youth Team



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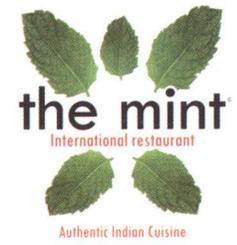
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YOUTH TEAM 2011/2012

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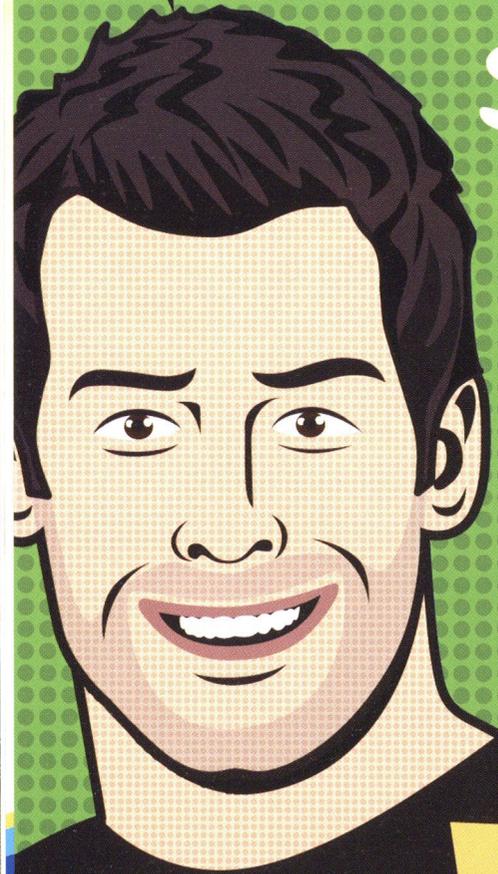
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What would you put in room 101?

Bad drivers, people with bad attitudes and people pushing in at the bar!
#waityourturn!

Favourite thing on TV?

Celebrity Juice or Robson Green's Extreme Fishing. I've never touched a rod in my life but that programme is awesome!

Who would you give your last Rolo to?

Just depends if I'm in the team or not!

Best subject at school?

Anything with a bunson burner!

What's your favourite dessert?

I'll just have two starters, usually too full for deserts

What's the best thing since sliced bread?

The new Stella Cidre #unbelievable

Favourite kids programme?

Byker Grove, man!

Team mate with worst fashion sense?

Got to be Sutts (Ritchie Sutton) up to now, just for his 'rascal' hair do!

Who to follow



bang_tidy!



chocolateteaser



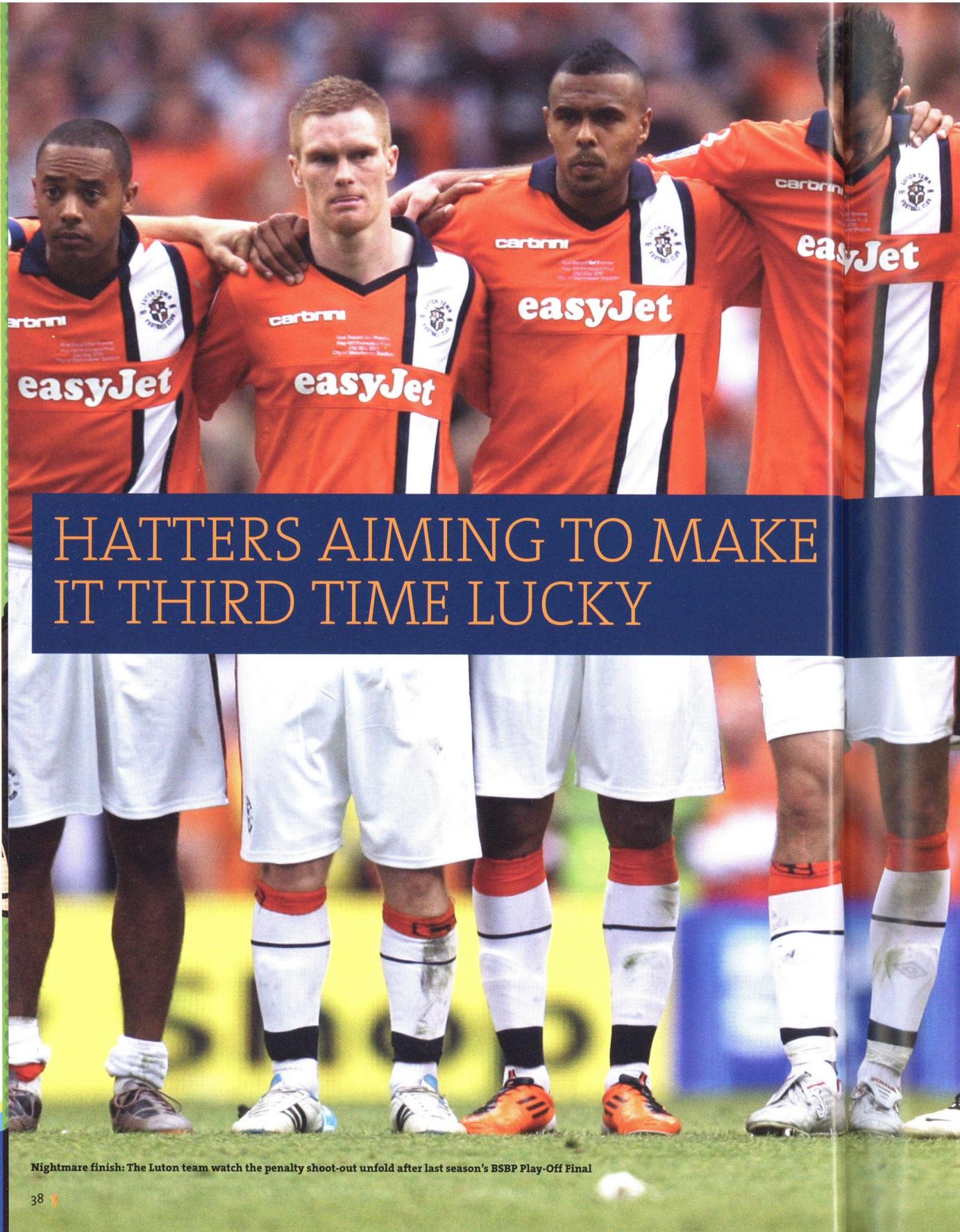
mad_professor



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go_see_jeffman



HATTERS AIMING TO MAKE IT THIRD TIME LUCKY

AFTER experiencing play-off heartache in each of the last two campaigns, Hatters fans will be hoping this season is a case of third time lucky as the club look to end their exodus from the Football League.

It was Danny Kedwell's winning spot-kick for AFC Wimbledon in the play-off final at the City of Manchester Stadium that ultimately consigned Gray Brabin's men to another season of non-league football, and the 40-year-old Liverpoolian has been busy in the transfer market over the summer.

Former Rushden & Diamonds striker Aaron O'Connor has arrived at the club to join a strike force that already boasts the likes of Danny Crow, Amari Morgan-Smith and Matthew Barnes-Homer. Only Crawley Town conceded fewer goals than the Hatters last season, but that hasn't stopped Brabin signing three new defenders. Dean Beckwith's arrival on a free transfer from Northampton Town looks to be an astute signing, whilst the additions of Curtis Osano and Will Antwi, following successful trial periods, will add competition for places in the starting eleven each week.

Also arriving at Kenilworth Road during the summer, this time for an undisclosed fee, is the highly-rated 24-year-old mercurial winger James Dance. His arrival, coupled together with players such as Jake Howells and Robbie Wilmott will give Brabin plenty of options on either flank this season.

However, the club have been hit by a string of notable departures. Talismanic midfielder Claude Gnakpa, the second highest scorer for the club with 15 goals last season, has signed for League One outfit Walsall, whilst trio of strikers Lloyd Owusu, Kevin Gallen, and Jason Walker,

former Peterborough United midfielder Adam Newton, and the ever-present defender Zdeněk Kroča have joined Gnakpa in heading through the exit doors at Kenilworth Road.

Despite the summer activity in the transfer market, the Bedfordshire-based club are widely regarded as one of the biggest to have ever played in non-league football. Attendances at Kenilworth Road in the last couple of years have regularly topped the 7,000 mark, dwarfing those of many rival clubs at this level.

Favourites

Therefore, it will come as little surprise to learn that most bookmakers and pundits have the Hatters down as strong promotion favourites this season, alongside the likes of big spending Fleetwood Town and former Football League teams Darlington and York City.

This evening's clash here at Field Mill will also be the first away trip of the new campaign for Luton Town supporters to enjoy. Having originally been scheduled to play newly promoted AFC Telford United at the new Bucks Head on the opening day of the season, the game was postponed just two days before it was due to take place, based on police advice.

Ironically, when the fixtures were first released a number of weeks ago, both Luton and their Shropshire counterparts had the opportunity to postpone the fixture because of an English Defence League march through Telford on the day of the match. However, after opting for a 7.45pm kick-off in the evening to ensure they avoided the

aforementioned march in the afternoon, the game was all set to take place ten days ago, until the recent nationwide rioting meant the police were unable to cope with both events in Telford on the same day.

Nevertheless, when the league season finally got underway for the Hatters seven days ago, it was a case of frustration and some disappointment as the team could only labour to a 1-1 draw with Forest Green Rovers. Summer signing Dean Beckwith may remember the game more fondly though, as his equalising goal just 12 minutes from time earned him a place on the small list of Luton Town players to have scored on their competitive debuts for the club.

Like every other club across the country, the Hatters have played a number of pre-season games this summer and they have had a mixed set of results. Despite an eye-catching 3-1 victory over Barclays Premier League new boys Queens Park Rangers at Kenilworth Road, home defeats against Azerbaijani side Gabala and Italian Serie 'A' side Parma have ensured that there is still room for improvement.

Finally, for the third successive season now, Luton will once again wear orange shirts as their home strip. However, the design this time around will have a more retro feel to it than in previous years with a navy blue collar and a white trim making it very similar to the orange shirts that the Hatters first wore for home games way back in the mid-1970's.

Nightmare finish: The Luton team watch the penalty shoot-out unfold after last season's BSBP Play-Off Final



In Charge... Gary Brabin

AN ENERGETIC and tough-tackling midfielder in his playing days, Gary Brabin played for a whole host of Football League clubs including Blackpool, Chester City, Doncaster Rovers and Hull City.

However, the Liverpoolian's first foray into management came in the summer of 2007, when he was appointed assistant manager of Welsh Premier League club, The New Saints.

After almost a full season in Wales, Brabin enjoyed a short stint as Southport manager in 2008, before taking up the reigns as manager of Cambridge United later that year.

Despite winning the manager of the year award in his first season at the

Abbey Stadium, 'Sumo' as he was nicknamed in his playing days, was unable to take the U's back into the Football League as the club lost out in the Wembley play-off final against Torquay United. Just weeks later, after a bitter dispute with then Cambridge chairman George Rolls, Brabin left the club.

Following a short spell out of the game, Brabin joined Luton Town in 2010 in the capacity of assistant manager. Following Richard Money's shock departure from Kenilworth Road in March, Brabin took the reigns but yet again tasted play-off heartbreak as the Hatters lost to AFC Wimbledon in last year's play-off final.

Recent History

THE DECADE of the 'noughties' proved to be a roller-coaster for fans of Luton Town as the club battled through administration on more than one occasion, enjoyed the euphoria of a League One title winning campaign, and plunged from the Championship to Conference with three successive relegations.

Under Joe Kinnear, the Hatters began the 2001/02 campaign in the bottom tier of the Football League for the first time in 33 years, but won promotion back to Division Two at the first attempt.

John Gurney's tenure as chairman in 2003 proved to be controversial. The popular Kinnear was sacked, and eventually replaced by Mike Newell, as Gurney unsuccessfully attempted to merge the club with Wimbledon.

In 2005, boasting a team that included the likes of Carlos Edwards, Steve Howard and Curtis Davies, the Hatters romped to the League One title, before going on to enjoy a two year stay in the Championship. However, their Championship spell was dogged by off-field issues.

After relegation from League One in 2008, the club were deducted 30 points by the Football League and subsequently relegated to the Football Conference just a year later.



The men from Kenilworth Road

The Likely XI

Mark Tyler Goalkeeper who made more than 400 Football League appearances in over a decade at Peterborough United. Signed for Luton Town in the summer of 2009 and has been an almost ever present in the last two seasons. Won the Player of the Season award for his performances last season.

Curtis Osano Former Reading trainee who joined the Hatters in the summer on a six-month contract, following three years at the now defunct Rushden & Diamonds. Osano is known for his ability to quickly develop attacks from the back and boasts exceptional pace. Can also play anywhere along the backline.

Dean Beckwith Strong and commanding 27-year-old centre-half, who joined the club following his release from Northampton Town. Was a promotion winner from this level in 2006 with Hereford United and has clocked up nearly 250 career appearances to date. Scored on his Luton debut (vs Forest Green Rovers) last week.

Will Antwi 28-year-old Ashford-born central defender who tasted League One football last season with Dagenham & Redbridge. Signed for the club on a six-month deal in July after impressing whilst on trial. Other former clubs include Crystal Palace, Wycombe Wanderers and Aldershot Town.

Ed Asafu-Adjaye Youngster who has progressed through the youth ranks at Kenilworth Road and spent time on loan at Histon last season. Has made over 60 appearances since his debut against Crewe Alexandra in March 2008, and can play anywhere in defence.

James Dance Highly rated young

winger who can play on either flank. Joined the club from Crawley Town in the summer and also enjoyed a spell at Kettering Town last season. Known for his pace, trickery and ability to run rings around defenders, Dance is expected to play a key role this season.

Alex Lawless Welsh midfielder who initially joined the club on loan, before signing permanently from York City in January this year. Experienced player at this level, having clocked up 114 appearances during a three-year spell with Forest Green Rovers. Scored five goals for the Hatters last season.

Keith Keane 24-year-old Irish midfielder, who is already the club's longest serving player having made his debut during the 2003/04 season. His bursting runs from midfield make him a danger to any defence at this level. Capable of playing anywhere across the midfield or backline, but preferred position is right centre midfield.

Robbie Wilmott 21-year-old midfielder, who enjoyed a three-and-a-half year spell with Cambridge United before penning a deal at Kenilworth Road in January. Highly rated and regarded as one of the best set-piece specialists in the division. Scored six goals in 18 appearances for Luton in the second half of last season.

Matthew Barnes-Homer Striker who finished last season as the team's top goalscorer with 18 goals. Known for his powerful technique, Barnes-Homer enjoyed a particularly fruitful spell at Kidderminster Harriers prior to signing for Luton, where he netted 35 goals in 109 appearances.

Aaron O'Connor Joined the club in the summer after his contract



expired at Rushden & Diamonds, where he won the 2010/11 player of the season award. Enjoyed a spell here at Field Mill in the 2008/09 campaign, where he scored eight goals in 40 appearances. Has also played for Grays Athletic at this level.

Kenilworth Road, home of The Hatters



Luton Town FC

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Stadium: Kenilworth Road
Capacity: 10,226
Colours: Orange & Navy

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STAR GRADUATE BRUCE RIOCH

Football historian Leigh Edwards profiles one of Luton Town's greatest-ever players

POWERFUL midfielder Bruce Rioch was capped 24 times by Scotland after leaving Luton Town.

Born in Aldershot, where his father was a regimental sergeant major, Bruce was raised in Luton and became an apprentice at Kenilworth Road. Rioch turned professional in September 1964 and made his League debut in Luton's 1-0 defeat at home to Southend United two months later. His first League goal came in the Hatters' 3-2 defeat at Bradford City in December 1965 and he soon attracted interest from bigger clubs with his pace, power and fierce shooting. He also had great competitiveness and a ruthless streak.

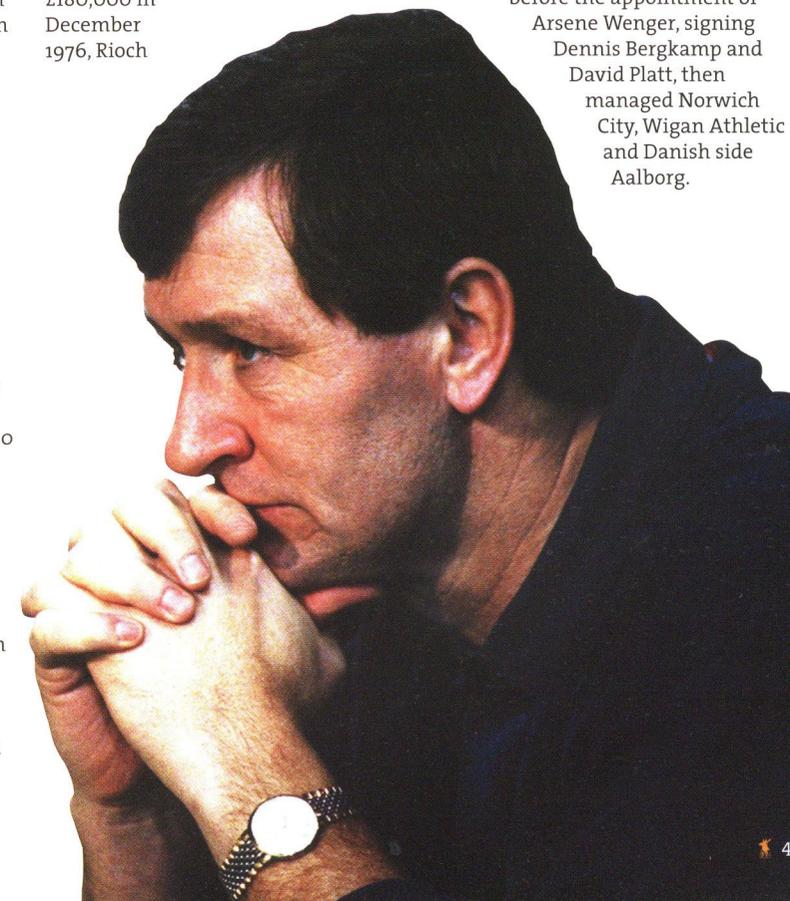
Bruce was Luton's leading marksman in 1966-67 and again in 1967-68 when he missed just two matches as the Hatters stormed to the Fourth Division title. Rioch was also an important figure as Luton narrowly failed to win promotion again in 1968-69, netting 47 goals in 149 League games before moving to Aston Villa for a then club record £100,000 in July 1969. His younger brother Neil, an England Youth international, followed him from Luton to Villa shortly afterwards. Bruce played for Villa in the 1971 League Cup final and starred in their 1971-72 Third Division title triumph. Moving to Derby County for £200,000 in February 1974, he took over from the injured Henry Newton and helped Dave Mackay's side to finish third in the top-flight that season. Rioch was ever-present and leading marksman with 15 League goals in 1974-75 when Derby won the League Championship for the second time in four seasons.

Towards the end of that title campaign, he scored one of his most memorable goals with a surging run from near the half-way line against Newcastle United at St James' Park.

The following season, he hit a thunderous free-kick in the FA Cup sixth round win at home to Newcastle, then scored four goals in Derby's remarkable 8-2 First Division victory over Spurs in October 1976. Rioch could play for Scotland through parental qualification and made his international debut in their 1-0 victory over Portugal at Hampden Park in May 1975. He scored his first international goal to clinch Scotland's 2-2 draw with Wales four days later and went on to become the first English-born player ever to captain Scotland, leading them in the 1978 World Cup finals in Argentina. Sold to Everton for £180,000 in December 1976, Rioch

returned to Derby a mere 11 months later but fell out with Tommy Docherty and Colin Addison and had loan spells at Birmingham City and Sheffield United. After that he played for Seattle Sounders, becoming Torquay United's player-coach in October 1980 and later their player-manager. He then took charge of Middlesbrough, managing them from the Third Division to First in consecutive seasons.

After a spell as Millwall's manager, he became Bolton Wanderers' boss in May 1992 and plotted two promotion successes, also leading them to the 1995 League Cup final. He spent a year as Arsenal's manager before the appointment of Arsene Wenger, signing Dennis Bergkamp and David Platt, then managed Norwich City, Wigan Athletic and Danish side Aalborg.





Front foot forward

Words: Mark Stevenson Pics: Richard Parkes

THERE ARE few players with as much character as Adam Murray. Trustworthy, determined and a born leader, 'Muzza' has gained strength from his well-documented hardships in his younger years. Now, he is looking to pass on his experience to younger players in our area in his new football coaching venture, *Front Foot Soccer*.



Greene King and MTFC are proud to present their latest signing...



For your chance to try a pint of Thatchers Gold for free, turn to the Vouchers page in the centre page pullout in tonight's copy of The Stag

Along with business-partner Karl Hawley, the Notts County forward, Muzza coaches young kids from six to 13, with a view to propelling some of his youngsters into football academies.

Said Adam: "It's an opportunity for young kids to receive coaching experience from two experienced professional footballers who are still playing the game. As we have been in the game for some time, we can use our contacts to push some of these players on to the next level, which we have done already with a couple of our lads. Our objective isn't to make money, it is to give young children the chance of working with professional players who are still playing the game, along with giving Karl and myself the opportunity to work with children - which is a different proposition altogether to coaching adults."

"Our objective isn't to make money, it is to give young children the chance of working with professional players who are still playing the game..."

Inspired by, amongst others, Steve Round, a former assistant to Steve McClaren at England and now number two to David Moyes at Derby, Muzza's coaching philosophy is focussed around ball-work, in contrast, perhaps, to a robotic coaching structure at many academies where coaches must adhere to the FA handbook.

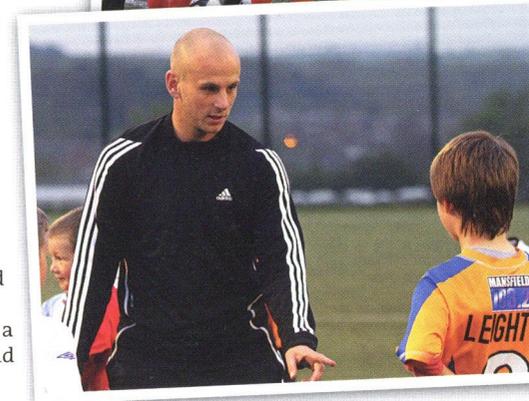
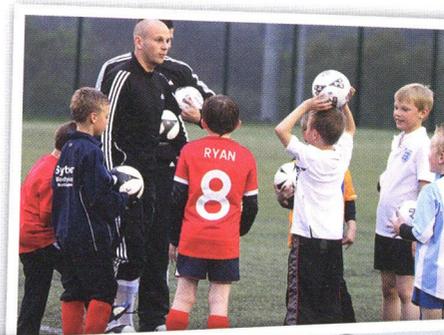
"I was lucky to be coached by Steve (Round) when I was a kid at Derby County. Jim Smith also had many qualities and knew how to get the best out of people. He did some crazy

stuff, and changed things when they needed to change, and wasn't afraid to upset people to get success. That's how you need to be. By the same token, this gaffer (Paul Cox) seems like he will do whatever it takes to win. Also, Micky Moore has put on training sessions which I haven't done before. As you go 'round the circuit' you tend to find that training sessions are pretty much the same as your previous clubs, so to mix it up has been refreshing. In a similar coaching sense, I picked up a lot from Richard Money at Luton. It was clear that he had thought about the next opponents, and a week's training would be centred around their strengths and weaknesses."

Despite being only 29 years old, Muzza has one eye on management when his playing days are over, and is using Front Foot Soccer as foundation to improve his coaching skills.

"I have a good few years left in me, but it would be foolish not to think about the future. Some players finish playing and head into management but are not fully ready. I want to be ready should I get an opportunity a few years down the line. I read a fair bit about the top coaches in different sports and the philosophies of coaching in basketball and American football, for instance, and the way the foreign coaches get their teams to gel. You can also take a lot from managers of businesses and see how they get the best out of their employees."

Muzza knows, however, that his main task in the short term will be to help us back in to the Football League, by playing a pivotal role in the centre of midfield this season. Even at this early stage, a look across



the league suggests that promotion is easier said than done from one of England's toughest divisions. Grimsby for example, one of the league's biggest clubs, are rooted to the foot of the table having failed to pick up a single point from their first three games, but Murray believes that it would be unwise to push any panic buttons at this stage.

"Former Football League clubs experience added pressure in this league because they are expected to go straight back up. The expectations on these type of clubs are massive. There are now around eight 'league' clubs in our division, all expecting a return to the Football League, whose supporters think it's the end of the world if the team doesn't get off to a good start.

"However, the bigger picture must be seen. Teams are still gelling, managers are still discovering the correct systems to play," he added.

• Details of Adam Murray's business: Front Foot Soccer can be found by visiting www.frontfootsoccer.co.uk

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Patience is the order of the day

TWO points from three games to start the season was not what any Mansfield Town supporter had hoped for ahead of the visit of Blue Square Bet Premier title favourites Luton to Field Mill, writes Matt Halfpenny of the Nottingham Post

Certainly the fans would have looked at the opening to the campaign and expected a victory over Bath City.

They might have envisaged a win at either Gateshead or Braintree to follow as well, and thought a six or seven point tally would already be on the board.

The reality of the situation is that the Stags have just two draws to show for their efforts, sandwiching an ultimately poor display and subsequent defeat in the north-east.

Even so, the team's prospects are not as gloomy as those scorelines would suggest.

For a start, the performance at Braintree on Saturday was almost universally recognised as much-improved.

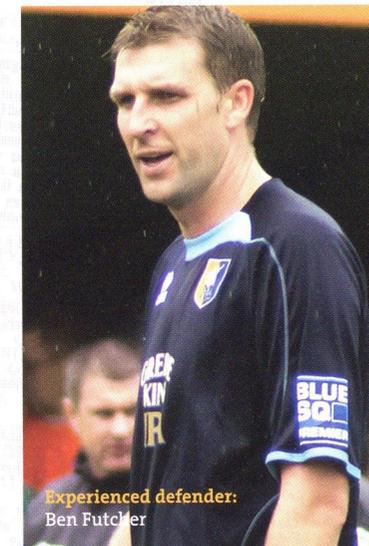
In the second half at Cressing Road, Mansfield were well on top and, without a lapse of concentration at the back, or better finishing, they would have come away with three points.

Another plus is that the injury pile-up that took hold in the final stages of pre-season now appears to be easing.

Paul Bolland and Ritchie Sutton are both close to returns and their availabilities, can only help.

And it is hoped that John Thompson could be back in around a month after having an operation on his nose yesterday.

Last in the list of positives, but my no means least, the Stags have also made what could prove to be an influential signing in the shape of Ben Futcher.



Experienced defender:
Ben Futcher

At 6ft 7ins tall, the Bury loanee certainly has the physical attributes to do the basics of defending well, not least winning the aerial challenges that are so prevalent at this level of the game.

But just as crucial is the 30-year-old's vast experience that should help him organise a defence which will need to tighten up from last season if the club are to have ambitions to challenge for a play-off place.

With well over 300 Football League games under his belt, Futcher has been there and got the t-shirt. He knows what is required.

And according to his manager Paul Cox he will not be shy in getting that message over to the rest of the squad, bringing the presence that

the boss insisted was previously lacking.

Make no mistake, though, Luton are likely to provide a stiff test, particularly if they land one of the striker targets they have been chasing, James Constable, Jon Shaw and Reece Styche among them.

Despite going behind to Southport at Kenilworth Road over the weekend, they came storming back to triumph 5-1 with Adam Watkins, Will Antwi, Amari Morgan-Smith, Robbie Willmott and Danny Crow a on target.

It means Mansfield are likely to have to produce the best performance under Cox's reign so far to truly get their 2011-12 up and running.

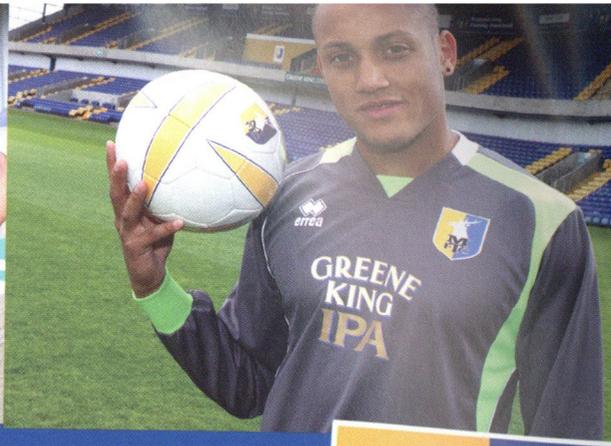
But it should be remembered that even if they don't, it will not be a disaster, more of a disappointment.

In each of their three previous seasons at this level Mansfield have started brightly and figured in the top six for the early stages of the campaign, yet ultimately flattered to deceive and finished well off the pace.

It therefore follows that the reverse is possible. The play-offs are very much attainable over the course of nine-month campaign, even if the wheels are not set in motion immediately.

If Mansfield are still struggling come Christmas then Cox himself has already admitted his job will be on the line.

In the meantime, however, patience from the stands has to be the order of the day.



Look the part

From left to right: Home shirt £40, Away shirt £40, Nick Goalkeeper's shirt £45, University jacket £59.95, Orion top £29.00, Storm jacket £39.95, Yam top £49





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Goals galore on opening day

by Matt Badcock of the Non League Paper

THERE'S always excitement ahead of the first Match of the Day of the new season.

Hearing that famous theme tune at 10.15pm set to round up the opening day really brings it home that football is back.

What with no World Cup to give us England fans a huge dose of the summer does tend to drag a bit.

About three weeks into the close season when 3pm rolls around we've all got to that point where you start to wonder what non-football followers actually do each weekend.

Last weekend's MOTD didn't exactly start with the drama we'd all been hoping for. After recovering from the hilarity of Alan Shearer's shoes and the huge ruck between Newcastle and Arsenal there wasn't a lot to sink our teeth into.

Just 11 goals in six games, and four came in one game as Bolton gave QPR an unfriendly welcome back to the Premier League, left me feeling like I was wearing a lead helmet as I struggled to stay awake.

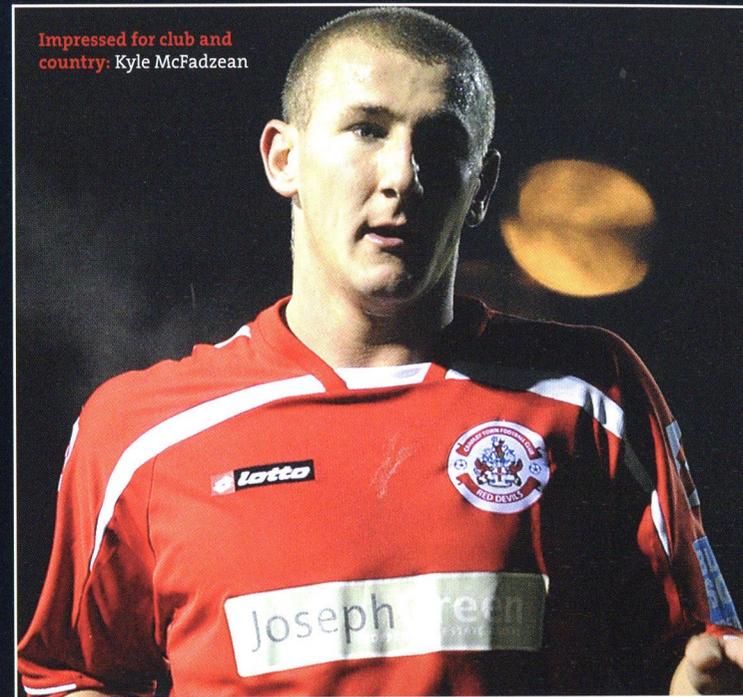
That's why we should all be thankful for the return of Non-League football, or proper football, and last weekend served up a nice little taster for what we can expect again.

It rained goals in the Blue Square Bet Premier's opening weekend, with the back of the net being found no fewer than 32 times.

Add in the 63 goals scored in the North and South divisions, plus some big scorelines in the four Evo-Stik leagues, and Non-League certainly gave us bang for our bucks.

Premier League and Championship ticket prices continue to escalate, but football fans still want a footy fix.

If Non-League can really sell itself to the wider football public – and let's be frank, there is a misunderstanding of the quality in the lower levels – then it can only be a good thing.



Impressed for club and country: Kyle McFadzean

More money through the gates, more money spent in the bar, more fans coming back time and again.

Defenders may disagree but goals are what everyone goes to football for. More Saturdays like last week can only help attract the fan at a loose end.

Goals Galore was our headline on the front of last Sunday's paper. Let's hope there's plenty more.

England C stars make the step up
THE England C set-up sometimes attracts sneers throughout the game. One manager recently commented that "every Tom, Dick and Harry" gets a call-up.

The Football League season kicked off a fortnight ago with no fewer than eight of last season's England C players featuring.

Had Paul Bignot, a recent signing by Championship Blackpool from Newport County, played it would have been nine.

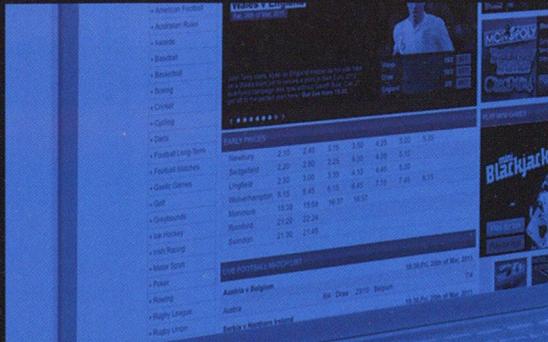
AFC Wimbledon had three starters in keeper Seb Brown, defender Sam Hatton and new signing Max Porter. Ex-Don Steve Gregory played in League One for Bournemouth.

In League Two Alex Rodman, ex-Tamworth, set up two and won man of the match as Aldershot beat Bradford.

Kyle McFadzean and Josh Simpson helped Crawley win a point on their Football League bow and Aden Flint scored for Swindon to give new manager Paulo Di Canio a dream start to management.

No doubt there will be more Toms Dicks and Harrys following in their footsteps this season.

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Premier Predictions

Stags' players and fans go head to head with their predictions of this season's BSBP fixtures...

BLUESQ BET



Latest Score
Players 0

ANDY TODD



Latest Score
Fans 1

ADAM REID

AFC TELFORD v LINCOLN CITY

1-1 Telford's first home game – where they usually do well. Lincoln will be a tough task though.

2-1 Telford have had a decent start so far and will shock a few teams this season.

BARROW v FLEETWOOD

1-2 Fleetwood have a good squad and I predict another good away win for the Fleet.

0-2 Fleetwood have a good selection of strikers even without Mangan.

DARLINGTON v ALFRETON

2-1 Alfreton are struggling defensively and Darlington will be a difficult place to go.

2-0 Alfreton have had a tough start so far, won't be any easier at Darlington.

EBBSFLEET v NEWPORT C

0-1 Newport earned a respectable position in the division last season. They will win by a slim margin here.

1-2 Newport just to edge this one

FOREST GREEN v BRAINTREE

1-0 Forest Green have enjoyed a decent start. It will be tight as Braintree are still riding on last season's success.

3-1 Forest Green have made some great additions with a great strikeforce in Styche and Griffin.

GRIMSBY v CAMBRIDGE U

1-1 Grimsby are due a half decent result. Their early results have not been justifiable.

0-1 Grimsby still appear suspect at the back and are missing the goals from Alan Connell.

HAYES & Y'DING v BATH

1-1 Bath are well organised and hard to beat, especially away. They'll set up at Hayes looking for a draw.

1-2 Close game but Bath will just edge it.

KETTERING v YORK

0-1 York will snatch a win like they did at Ebbsfleet on the opening day of the season.

0-2 York to bounce back from a surprising defeat with a comfortable win.

KIDDERMINSTER v STOCKPORT

0-0 Both sides will cancel each other out in this match.

2-1 Kidderminster to carry on their good start and have too much for Stockport.

SOUTHPORT v GATESHEAD

1-2 Gateshead have started well and are due a shock result. This won't be it, however.

0-2 Southport look like they are heading for relegation again. Gateshead have started strong.

WREXHAM v TAMWORTH

1-1 Tamworth have done well in the early stages and will be hard to beat.

2-0 Comfortable home win for Wrexham.

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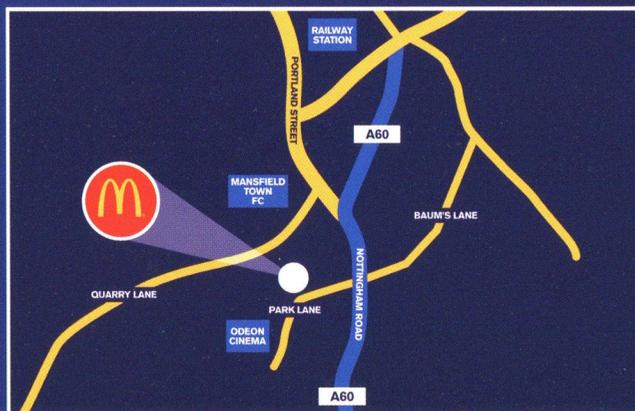
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tim**morriss**



Time for stars to tweet employers with respect

@TiMorrissChad... that is where you will find me on the increasingly popular social network site (and you are all more than welcome to follow me, too!)

...BUT WHAT you won't find among my often random tweets, along with some more sensible ones trying to keep Stags fans up to date with any news from the club, are messages slagging off my employers.

I mean, my profile clearly states that I work for the Chad, a lot of my tweets are from an automatic RSS feed from the Chad website and I am clearly linked to the newspaper.

So to my mind it is common sense NOT to say that my bosses are rubbish, that they haven't got a clue what they are doing, that I am continually hard done to by my colleagues, that I want to leave the job or a 'better' newspaper and that I deserve a massive wage rise.

Ok, so perhaps the last potential tweet is right let me know at twitter.com!

But on a serious note, why is it that our Premier League and Championship footballers - already paid more in a week than I earn in years - think that they are entitled to broadcast to the world on their own Twitter accounts similar grumbings against their employers?

And then they wonder why the club, its owners (who in 99 per cent of the cases are already bankrolling the players' wages) and its manager get upset!

It is not rocket science, afterall. In fact, it is very simple. If you slag off your employer in public - and let's be clear, Twitter is as public as you come - then you deserve everything that comes your way. It is unprofessional!



Tweeter: Joey Barton

There have been so many examples of these highly paid prima donnas - no doubt bored and with little else better to do, apart perhaps from trying to engineer a move to another club and an increase in wages, along with a nice signing on fee - thinking it is okay to criticise their clubs, only to then cry foul when they get into trouble.

Take, for example, Joey Barton. Just before the start of the season he was still a Newcastle United player. By the time you are reading this, who knows! Barton tweeted, or should I say moaned, that the club were not spending enough this summer, blaming owner Mike Ashley and the chairman.

Now owner Ashley might be many things, but one thing you can not accuse him off is failing to put his hand in his pocket.

Barton was fined, made to train away from the first team and, inevitably, hit back on Twitter. Hit back against the club that paid his £60,000 a week wages while he was in prison, remember.

More tweets and suddenly Barton was available on a free transfer. Then came the equally inevitable tweets that perhaps it was not all over for the player at the club afterall.

Tiresome? Probably! Entertaining? Sometimes. Unprofessional? Yes!

Of course, there are many sensible footballers whose tweets are perfectly sensible, informing fans at times of interesting facts about their lives and the clubs they are involved with - for example, after the recent 'Battle of Ilkeston' we saw at first hand the extent of the Stags' injuries courtesy of Twitter. Nothing wrong with that at all.

Just so long as the players at the higher levels don't start using Twitter as a vehicle for endorsing the companies who sponsor them in return for even more money.

So don't forget, if you are on Twitter, follow me at @TiMorrissChad where you will find a lot of random comments, the very odd funny one (or perhaps just very odd ones), a link to some Stags stories but nothing saying that my bosses are all clueless, couldn't organise a party in a brewery and should be sacked while giving me £1m a year, image rights and a loyalty clause that says I am entitled to another £1m when I demand a move to another newspaper!



1991-92

Match 3 – 31st August 1991

Attendance 4,740

CHESTERFIELD 0 STAGS 2

Mansfield Town secured their first win of the season at Saltergate. Chesterfield attacked strongly in the opening half hour, with Andy Beasley saving well from Neil Grayson and Dave Lancaster, but then began to tire in the searing heat. Mansfield took the lead from a swift counter-attack on 36 minutes when Phil Stant's low cross took a slight deflection and Gary Ford turned the ball in at the far post. The Stags doubled their advantage in the 54th minute when Paul Holland dispossessed Lee Turnbull to rifle a spectacular drive past Mick Leonard. Chesterfield's threat diminished after that, although Bryn Gunn hit the bar with a 20 yard shot on 68 minutes.

MANSFIELD: Andy Beasley, Paul Fleming, Chris Withe, Steve Spooner, Greg Fee, George Foster, Gary Ford, Paul Holland, Phil Stant, Steve Wilkinson, Steve Charles.

Match 4 – 3rd September 1991

Attendance 1,965

STAGS 3 WREXHAM 0

Mansfield Town secured their first home victory in seven matches against Wrexham. Steve Wilkinson shot narrowly wide in the fifth minute, then had a shot well saved by Vince O'Keefe and an effort disallowed for a push on 28 minutes. Wrexham almost scored through Jon Bowden's 25 yard drive in the 48th minute. The Stags finally broke the deadlock on 73 minutes when Ian Stringfellow, deputising for the suspended Phil Stant, scored from close range. Wilkinson netted from an acute angle eight minutes later, then added a freak goal in the 87th minute when O'Keefe allowed Phil Hardy's back pass through his legs and Wilkinson fired into the empty net.

MANSFIELD: Andy Beasley, Paul Fleming, Chris Withe, Steve Spooner, Greg Fee, George Foster, Gary Ford, Paul Holland, Ian Stringfellow, Steve Wilkinson, Steve Charles.

Player Profile

Paul Fleming

Speedy right-back Paul Fleming was an important figure in Mansfield's 1991-92 promotion success. Signing professional for hometown Halifax in September 1985, he made his League debut in their 3-0 win at Tranmere five months later. He played alongside his younger brother Craig before moving to Mansfield for £10,000 in July 1991. A finalist in the Professional Footballers' Sprint Competition at Wembley in May 1992, he was selected for the PFA Fourth Division side in 1991-92 but then had serious injury problems. Making 68 League appearances, he moved to Guiseley in September 1994, then played for Halifax again, Chorley and Runcorn.



Headlines elsewhere

Goals by David Burrows, Dean Saunders and Ray Houghton gave Liverpool a 3-1 win over Everton at Anfield Bryan Robson's second half equaliser gave leaders Manchester United a 1-1 draw at home to Leeds United.

No 1 single: (Everything I Do) I Do It For You – Bryan Adams



2001-02

Match 3 – 25th August 2001

Attendance 3,105

CHELTEMHAM TOWN 2 STAGS 3

Craig Disley scored twice as Mansfield Town gained their first win of the season at Whaddon Road. The Stags created several chances before taking the lead on 29 minutes when Disley headed in following a Liam Lawrence corner. Bill Dearden's side doubled their advantage in the 47th minute when Disley headed home from another Lawrence corner. Cheltenham hit back and reduced the deficit on 62 minutes when Julian Alsop headed in a Russell Milton cross, then Alsop headed an equaliser from Tony Naylor's centre three minutes later. With a draw looking likely, Wayne Corden fired a terrific shot past Carl Muggleton for a dramatic last-minute winner.

MANSFIELD: Kevin Pilkington, Bobby Hassell, Allen Tankard, Les Robinson, Stuart Reddington, Lee Williamson, Liam Lawrence (Martin Pemberton), Craig Disley, Andy White (Danny Bacon), Chris Greenacre, Wayne Corden.

Match 4 – 27th August 2001

Attendance 2,681

STAGS 4 MACCLESFIELD TOWN 0

Craig Disley netted another two goals as Mansfield Town hammered Macclesfield at Field Mill. Bill Dearden's team took the lead on 15 minutes when Disley headed down Wayne Corden's cross for Chris Greenacre to hook home. Mansfield scored again five minutes later when Disley headed Allen Tankard's long ball over the advancing Lee Martin. The Stags made it three on 46 minutes when Andy White headed home from close range, then Disley volleyed in his second goal in the 67th minute. Lee Williamson hit the bar on 83 minutes and Danny Bacon was fouled as he followed up. Disley was denied a hat-trick when his spot-kick was saved by Martin.

MANSFIELD: Kevin Pilkington, Bobby Hassell (Alistair Asher), Allen Tankard, Les Robinson, Stuart Reddington, Lee Williamson, Liam Lawrence (Lee Williams), Craig Disley, Andy White (Danny Bacon), Chris Greenacre, Wayne Corden.

Player Profile

Bobby Hassell

Young right-back Bobby Hassell missed just three matches in Mansfield Town's 2001-02 promotion campaign. A former trainee at Field Mill, he made his League debut in Mansfield's 4-1 victory at home to Chester ten months before turning professional in July 1998.



He secured a regular first-team slot during the 2000-01 season and netted three goals in 160 League games for the Stags prior to joining Barnsley in July 2004. Featuring in their 2005-06 League One play-off final triumph, he also helped the Tykes to beat Liverpool and Chelsea en route to the FA Cup semi-finals in 2007-08 and is now the longest-serving member of their first-team squad.

Headlines elsewhere

Bolton Wanderers went top after winning 2-1 at home to Liverpool with goals from Michael Ricketts and Dean Holdsworth Craig Bellamy's goal gave Newcastle United a 1-1 draw with Sunderland at St James' Park.

No 1 single: Let's Dance – Jive

The Most Famous Stags Goal That Never Was

B is for Brace, Bird and Blatant Miscarriage of Justice, of which more later.....

Stuart Brace joined the Stags in July 1966 from Watford. He was to make 55 appearances over two seasons before leaving for Peterborough in November 1967. In his fairly brief spell at Field Mill he rattled in 25 goals, not far off one every other game.

His ratio over his whole career was also impressive, with 155 in 423 appearances for Plymouth, Watford, the Stags, Peterborough, Grimsby and Southend. His name will mean little to latter-day fans but Stuart still marks a tangible link for me to my very first season as a regular attender at Field Mill.

The vision of Mr Brace tearing down the wing for the Stags takes me back 45 years to life at Carter Lane Junior School, the long abolished 11-plus examination, black and white televisions, caravan holidays in the rain on the Lincolnshire coast, a virtually forgotten world which remains real to me (and maybe others of my age) largely through sepia-tinted memories of Mansfield Town.

Football (remember England had won the World Cup in the very same month Stuart came to Field Mill) and The Stags in particular brought colour and passion into my life, gave it a purpose and meaning stamp collecting or pen pals never could. Brace was quite possibly the very first of my Field Mill heroes, the forerunner to the likes of Nick Sharkey, Dai Jones, the late Gordon Hodgson, and others. It would be absurd (and frankly a bit creepy) for

me now, at the age of 55, to hero-worship Louis Briscoe, even though I think he's a wonderfully mercurial talent, a potential match-winner in the same mould as Mr Brace.

But when you're only 10 years old, life's rather different. And I have Stuart Brace (and his chief fellow marauder up front, the late lamented Bill Curry) to thank for keeping those 45-year-old memories alive. Brace and Curry scored 43 goals that 1966-67 season for Tommy Cummings' side, an excellent return.

"Kevin Bird was one of the mainstays of Peter Morris's fine side, undoubtedly one of Field Mill's finest-ever."

We finished ninth that season and it's significant that we slipped to 21st just a year later, by which time Stuart had left for Peterborough and Bill for Chesterfield. Bill sadly died at the age of just 54 in August 1990. But in my mind's eye, Curry and Brace are still terrorising Third Division defences, a blur of blond and black hair interchanging passes and bearing down on the Quarry Lane End, where I habitually stood.

I'll never be 10 years old again, but the memory of Stuart Brace in a Stags shirt keeps alive those precious memories to this day....

Kevin Bird is a much more familiar name at Field Mill than Stuart Brace, his legacy to the club such that we now have the Kevin Bird hospitality

suite in the West Stand. Kevin spent 11 full seasons at Field Mill, making 377 appearances in total, scoring 55 goals, a fine effort for a defender. Jack Retter in his *Who's Who The Stags* from 1902 to 1995 calls him a "truly great clubman" and few would argue with that assessment.

He played for the Stags from July 1972 to August 1983 when he left for Huddersfield on a free transfer. His spell included the unforgettable championship winning

campaigns of 1975 and 1977, and he was a key member of the only Stags side to make it to the old Second Division.

Those of us long enough in the tooth to remember the wonderful trip to the Racecourse Ground, Wrexham in May 1977, when we clinched the Third Division championship, will recall Kevin Bird as one of the mainstays of Peter Morris's fine side, undoubtedly one of Field Mill's finest-ever, and in league terms, the most successful.

One of his career highlights was December 27 1977 when he scored at White Hart Lane for the Stags in a battling 1-1 draw. Unfortunately he also missed a penalty against Glenn Hoddle and co, otherwise Mansfield could have returned from North



Kevin Bird

delirium at the away end, where I was among the Stags faithful scenting another memorable cup day for Tommy Eggleston's men.

Seconds later, joy turned to despair as we suddenly realized the goal had been disallowed for an alleged foul by Big Dud on Reaney. Leeds went on to win 2-0 with goals from Johnny Giles and Alan Clarke, but the Stags had acquitted themselves wonderfully well in front of a crowd of 48,093.

Dud still believes the goal should have stood, telling the Legends of 69 dinner at Field Mill in February 2009: "Everybody knows I was far away from Reaney. I was a yard away from him. I nodded it to Jimmy Goodfellow and he streaked it in."

The man who scored possibly the most famous Stags goal that never was (although some fans will argue for Colin Larkin's at the Play-Off Final at Cardiff in 2004) died in April this year at the age of 72 following a lengthy illness.

Jimmy Goodfellow was a hugely gifted footballer, and created the first goal against West Ham in 69 following a lightning quick interchange of passes with Nick Sharkey. There's a famous shot of Dud steering the ball into an empty net at the North Stand end, Billy Bonds looking on helplessly. Jimmy's at the far right of the picture, a wiry figure about to raise his hands in triumph....

Jimmy, apparently a quiet, unassuming guy off the field much loved by his colleagues, is the second of the West Ham conquerors to fall following the earlier death of Johnny Quigley, who was captain that night. RIP Jimmy Goodfellow, one of the men who helped beat the World Cup winners on that freezing Nottinghamshire night all those years ago....and scorer of the most famous Stags goal that never was....

London with all three points. But that was a rare blot on a marvellous career at Field Mill for a player whose name is now up in lights for all time as a true Stags great....

If you rewind the clock back a full seven years from Kevin Bird's goal and missed penalty against Spurs, the Stags Time Machine finds 10,000 delirious MFC fans packed into Elland Road, home of Don Revie's notorious Leeds United side of the early 70s. It was February 1970, the game was a mouth-watering FA Cup Fifth Round tie against the most talented, if cynical, side in England, a team full of international stars such as Billy Bremner, Alan Clarke, Jack

Charlton, Peter Lorimer and others.

The Stags, who had famously beaten West Ham and their World Cup winners at the same Fifth Round stage the year before, were up to their old FA Cup tricks again. In the 13th minute of the match, the aforementioned blatant miscarriage of justice marred what could potentially have been a greater giant-killing scalp than even West Ham.

Over 40 years on, I can still see big Dudley Roberts climbing above Leeds full-back Paul Reaney to head into the path of Jimmy Goodfellow. The ex-Leicester man - one of the heroes of '69 - was onto it in a flash and buried it into the back of the net. Signal



Blue Square Bet Premier League Table 2011/2012

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Gd	Pt
1 Gateshead	3	1	0	4	1	1	0	0	3	2	4	7	
2 Wrexham	3	0	1	0	1	1	2	0	0	4	1	3	7
3 Fleetwood Town	3	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	0	3	7
4 Tamworth	3	2	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	1	1	2	7
5 York City	3	1	0	1	3	2	1	0	0	2	1	2	6
6 Kidderminster H	3	0	0	1	2	3	2	0	0	3	1	1	6
7 Forest Green Rovers	3	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	7	2	5	5
8 Stockport County	3	1	1	0	2	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	5
9 Braintree Town	3	1	1	0	6	1	0	0	1	0	1	4	4
10 Luton Town	2	1	1	0	6	2	0	0	0	0	0	4	4
11 Newport County	3	1	1	0	4	0	0	0	1	2	3	3	4
12 Kettering Town	3	1	0	0	3	2	0	1	1	1	2	0	4
13 Cambridge United	3	1	0	1	2	2	0	1	0	1	1	0	4
14 Darlington	3	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	4
15 Barrow	3	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	2	3	-1	4
16 AFC Telford	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	3
17 Hayes & Yeading Utd	3	1	0	0	3	1	0	0	2	0	5	-3	3
18 Mansfield Town	3	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	4	-3	2
19 Southport	3	0	1	0	2	2	0	1	1	1	5	-4	2
20 Lincoln City	3	0	0	2	1	3	0	1	0	2	2	-2	1
21 Ebbsfleet United	3	0	0	1	1	2	0	1	1	1	2	-2	1
22 Bath City	3	0	0	2	0	3	0	1	0	1	1	-3	1
23 Alfreton Town	3	0	1	1	1	6	0	0	1	1	3	-7	1
24 Grimsby Town	3	0	0	1	0	2	0	1	1	0	5	-7	1

Stags Statistics 2011/2012

Player	League		Cup	
	Apps	Gls	Apps	Gls
Alan MARRIOTT	3	-	-	-
Tom NAYLOR	2	-	-	-
Joe KENDRICK	2	-	-	-
Jon WORTHINGTON	2	-	-	-
John THOMPSON	-	-	-	-
Martin RILEY	3	-	-	-
Louis BRISCOE	3	1	-	-
Lee STEVENSON	1	-	-	-
Paul CONNOR	2(1)	1	-	-
Matt GREEN	3	-	-	-
Adam MURRAY	3	-	-	-
Paul BOLLAND	-	-	-	-
Ross DYER	1(2)	-	-	-
Luke O'NEILL	3	-	-	-
Ritchie SUTTON	-	-	-	-
Matt BELL	1	-	-	-
Adam SMITH	-	-	-	-
Andy TODD	-	-	-	-
Anthony HOWELL	1	-	-	-
Rhys DAY	-	-	-	-
Shane REDMOND	-	-	-	-
Lindon MEIKLE	1(1)	-	-	-
Nick WOOD	-	-	-	-
Ben FUTCHER	1	-	-	-

Tonight's other BSBP fixtures

AFC Telford v Lincoln City, 19:45
 Barrow v Fleetwood Town, 19:45
 Darlington v Alfreton Town, 19:45
 Ebbsfleet United v Newport County, 19:45
 Forest Green v Braintree Town, 19:45
 Grimsby v Cambridge Utd, 19:45
 Hayes & Yeading v Bath City, 19:45
 Kettering v York, 19:45
 Kidderminster v Stockport, 19:45
 Southport v Gateshead, 19:45
 Wrexham v Tamworth, 19:45

Date	Opposition	Time	Res	Att	Away	Pos
AUGUST						
Sat 13	Bath City	15:00	D1-1	3,997	80	13
Tue 16	Gateshead	19:45	Lo-3	825	125	21
Sat 20	Braintree Town	15:00	D1-1	875	212	18
Tue 23	Luton Town	19:45				
Sat 27	Kettering Town	15:00				
Mon 29	Stockport County	15:00				
SEPTEMBER						
Sat 3	Darlington	15:00				
Sat 10	Newport County	17:15				
Sat 17	Barrow	15:00				
Tue 20	AFC Telford	19:45				
Sat 24	Kidderminster Harriers	15:00				
Tue 27	Wrexham	19:45				
OCTOBER						
Sat 1	Forest Green Rovers	15:00				
Sat 8	Grimsby Town	15:00				
Sat 15	Southport	15:00				
Tue 18	Lincoln City	19:45				
Sat 22	Alfreton Town	15:00				
NOVEMBER						
Thu 3	Cambridge	19:45				
Sat 19	AFC Telford	15:00				
Sat 26	Bath City	15:00				
Tue 29	Gateshead	19:45				
DECEMBER						
Sat 3	Braintree Town	15:00				
Tue 6	Grimsby Town	19:45				
Sat 17	Southport	15:00				
Mon 26	York City	15:00				
JANUARY						
Sun 1	York City	15:00				
Sat 7	Forest Green Rovers	15:00				
Sat 21	Hayes & Yeading United	15:00				
Tue 24	Luton Town	19:45				
Sat 28	Ebbsfleet United	15:00				
FEBRUARY						
Sat 4	Darlington	15:00				
Tue 7	Alfreton Town	19:45				
Sat 11	Fleetwood Town	15:00				
Sat 18	Newport County	15:00				
Sat 25	Tamworth	15:00				
MARCH						
Sat 3	Lincoln City	15:00				
Tue 6	Cambridge United	19:45				
Sat 10	Tamworth	15:00				
Sat 17	Barrow	15:00				
Sat 24	Fleetwood Town	15:00				
Sat 31	Ebbsfleet United	15:00				
APRIL						
Sat 7	Kettering Town	15:00				
Mon 9	Stockport County	15:00				
Sat 14	Hayes & Yeading United	15:00				
Sat 21	Wrexham	15:00				
Sat 28	Kidderminster Harriers	15:00				

Starting XI

Marriott, Bell, O'Neill, Riley, Naylor, Todd, Murray, Worthington, Briscoe, Green*, Connor**
 Marriott, Kendrick, O'Neill, Riley, Naylor, Stevenson, Murray, Worthington*, Briscoe, Green***, Connor**
 Marriott, Kendrick, O'Neill, Riley, Futch, Dyer*, Murray, Howell, Briscoe, Green, Meikle

Used Subs

Meikle*, Dyer**
 Dyer*, Smith**, Wood***
 Connor*

Unused Subs

Redmond, Stevenson, Wood
 Redmond, Meikle
 Redmond, Stevenson, Wood, Worthington

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The day I made Hoddle waddle

Steve Hartshorn, former Mansfield 103.2 commentator and Stags' Correspondent for the Observer, is currently in the process of writing his memoirs. In this column he laments the loss of the imperfect football stadia...

WITH the visit of Luton Town for tonight's game, it got me thinking about quirky football grounds and the adventures I have had over the years reporting from them.

Today, new football grounds spring up all over the place, and whilst great for the new age supporter, the traditionalists amongst us will always have a fondness for the crumbling terraces and rusty turnstiles.

One such ground was 'The Dell', home of Southampton. Stags had drawn The Saints in the League Cup back in September 2000, with the first leg being played odd looking home of the Premiership side.

Now to be fair 'The Saints' had done quite a bit to modernise their humble home but it still had that 'old world' feel about it and when Matt Genever, James Bradley (of Mansfield 103.2) and I pulled into the car park on that late September evening I felt I had been whipped back to the 70s. It was like looking at a crumbling old terrace house filled with posh new furniture.

The story of the game went the usual way – Stags lost 2-0 and I think that Danny Bacon missed a sitter. After the game I went belting down to the dressing room to get hold of Stags Manager, Billy Dearden so that I could take him up to the commentary position for his after-match interview on 103.2. Now Billy, bless him, used to carry out his press duties with a grimace. He'd do them but you always got the feeling he'd rather not. Because of this Billy generally took his time in coming out. Normally not a problem, but on this occasion instead of standing in the rain to get the odd word from the goalscorer or manager, Southampton offered a warm press room equipped with top table and rows of chairs. The problem was that 103.2 wanted a live interview so I had



“In my haste I went to push into the room and knocked one of the blokes flying backwards”

to wait about for Billy, then belt up to the commentary position and then rush back downstairs hopefully in time for the press conference with the then Saints manager, Glenn Hoddle.

I was never the fittest, so from the top of the stand down to the old corridors (with what seemed a million bright red doors) seemed to take an age. I was out of breath, in a panic and frustrated. I reached the press room door only to be met by two gents, one in a bright red jacket who looked like he'd come fresh from Butlins, the other I never noticed. In my haste I went to push into the room and knocked one of the blokes flying backwards. I grunted some kind of apology and then to my horror noticed that the

bloke I had sent crashing against the wall was none other than Glenn Hoddle!

I hurriedly grabbed a seat. In walked Hoddle, dusting himself down a little and took up his position at the top table.

“Right gentlemen, who wants to ask the first question?” he said.

The room was full of national press, but undaunted, I stuck up my hand and to my utter surprise, he looked straight at me, smiled and said, “We'll start with you, you seem eager.”

I took a deep breath and asked, “Just how important is the League Cup to a club the size of Southampton?”

His reply went along the lines of Saints were never going to win the Premiership so the League Cup was a major chance of glory and how he couldn't understand why some clubs fielded weaker teams.

Satisfied, I sat back and took in the rest of the experience. I had sent a former England manager flying against a wall but still got to ask the first question. It was a wonder I hadn't been kicked out.

The following morning the back pages of the nationals all carried headlines about how Southampton and Hoddle were taking the League Cup in all seriousness. Great I thought, I asked the question and they filled their columns. It did make me smile though.

After the press conference I walked up to Hoddle and apologised.

“Don't worry about it. I bet when I was playing that some midfielders wished they'd caught me like that!” he said.

It just goes to prove that these football stars are human after all. Well some of them, but that's another story.



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The Squads



Mansfield Town

Manager: Paul Cox

1	Alan Marriott	●	●
2	Torn Naylor	●	●
3	Joe Kendrick	●	●
4	Jon Worthington	●	●
5	John Thompson	●	●
6	Martin Riley	●	●
7	Louis Briscoe	●	●
8	Lee Stevenson	●	●
9	Paul Connor	●	●
10	Matt Green	●	●
11	Adam Murray	●	●
12	12th Stag	●	●
14	Paul Bolland	●	●
15	Ross Dyer	●	●
16	Luke O'Neill	●	●
17	Ritchie Sutton	●	●
18	Matt Bell	●	●
19	Adam Smith	●	●
20	Andy Todd	●	●
21	Anthony Howell	●	●
22	Rhys Day	●	●
23	Shane Redmond	●	●
24	Lindon Meikle	●	●
25	Nick Wood	●	●
26	Ben Futcher	●	●

Luton Town

Manager: Gary Brabin

1	Mark Tyler	●	●
2	Dan Gleeson	●	●
3	Fred Murray	●	●
4	Keith Keane	●	●
5	Dean Beckwith	●	●
6	George Pilkington	●	●
7	Alex Lawless	●	●
8	Amari Morgan-Smith	●	●
9	Matthew Barnes-Homer	●	●
10	Danny Crow	●	●
11	Robbie Willmott	●	●
12	Shane Blackett	●	●
14	Aaron O'Connor	●	●
15	Jake Howells	●	●
16	Ed Asafu-Adjaye	●	●
17	Will Antwi	●	●
18	Curtis Osano	●	●
19	James Dance	●	●
21	Charlie Henry	●	●
24	Alex Lacey	●	●
25	Godfrey Poku	●	●
26	JJ O'Donnell	●	●
28	Adam Watkins	●	●
29	Dan Walker	●	●
30	Kevin Pilkington	●	●
31	Lewis Kidd	●	●
32	Ash Deeney	●	●
36	Christian Tavernier	●	●

Match Officials

Referee: Sebastian Stockbridge
Assistant Referees:
 Andrew Miller & Geoffrey Liddle
Fourth Official: Craig Grundy

Next Here

Kettering Town

Saturday 27 August 2011
 Blue Square Bet Premier
 Kick-Off 3.00pm

Next Away

Stockport County

Monday 29 August 2011
 Blue Square Bet Premier
 Kick-Off 12.00 noon

Mansfield Town's award-winning Official Matchday programme 'The Stag' was brought to you by:

Editor: Mark Stevenson

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