



STAGS

SEASON 2014/15



TUESDAY 17 FEBRUARY 2015 • 7.45PM

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Player I'd like to take on a date: Alex Fisher

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I am a qualified dental nurse



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Strong partnership
with Brooksby will
aid youth structure

Welcome to tonight's match at
home to Luton Town.

As always, our team are working industriously behind-the-scenes to further improve your matchday experience. Regular guests in our Kevin Bird Suite for matchday hospitality will have no doubt noticed our newly-improved lavatories, and our thanks are extended to those involved in their upgrading.

Elsewhere, work has started on our 1897 Suite, located on the first floor of the Ian Greaves Stand. This should hopefully be available for use in pre-season. Approximately twice the size of the Kevin Bird Suite, it is designed to relieve the pressure of queues in the Sandy Pate Sports Bar on a home matchday.

In other news, we have been in discussions with Brooksby Melton College (pictured), who currently provide an excellent education

programme to our youth team. Our professional players will also be allowed to use the college's sports facilities in pre-season, which are comparable to that of the esteemed St George's Park in Burton. We are also expecting to substantially increase the number of players in our academy by the start of next season. Our strong partnership with Brooksby Melton College will also see them provide residential accommodation for some of our academy players.

This will be an exciting time for the club as we see our academy expand, which should ultimately be of real benefit for our first team in the future.

On behalf of our staff and players, thank you for your support.

Tina Broughton
Operations director



Follow me on twitter @JRadfordMTFC



MANSFIELD TOWN
FOOTBALL CLUB
One Call Stadium
Quarry Lane, Mansfield,
Notts, NG18 5DA
Tel: 01623 482 482
Fax: 01623 482 495
Email: info@mansfieldtown.net
Website: www.mansfieldtown.net

AT THE TOP

Chairman: John Radford
Chief executive: Carolyn Radford
Operations director: Tina Broughton
Stadium director: Paul Broughton
Director: Steve Middleton
Communications director: Andy Sutton
Financial director: James Beachill
Non executive director:
(Fans' representative): Darren Shaw

FOOTBALL OFFICIALS

Manager: Adam Murray
First team coach: Micky Moore
First team coach: Richard Cooper
Head physio: Matt Fenney
Academy physio: Matt Salmon

BEHIND THE SCENES

Head of media & communications: Mark Stevenson
Commercial manager: Paul Nyland
Club secretary: Keith Burnand
Corporate sales manager: Laura Cooper
Safety officer: Alan Lakin
Football in the Community director: Mark Hemingray
Sales & accounts administrator: Diane Jankiewicz
Ticket office administrators: Rebekah Radford, Anne Matthews, Kieran Halpin-Danby
Media & communications assistant: Andrew Webb
Head groundsman/kitman: Michael Merriman
Assistant groundsman: Scott Merriman
Ground maintenance: Iain Else, Andy Johnson, Tobias Tobin Rowan, Chris Wood
Executive chef: Joseph Smith
Club doctor: Dr. Prabu
Club photographer: Chris Holloway
Club historian: Paul Taylor
Scoreboard operator: Stuart Eggleshaw
PA announcer: Alan Wilson
Hospitality MC: Chris Revill
Club chaplain: Ray Shaw

SOCIAL NETWORKS

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Stags Player: www.player.mansfieldtown.net

MANSFIELD TOWN FC CLUB HONOURS

LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Football Conference Premier	
Champions	2012-13
Football League Division 2	
(Highest place 21st)	1977-78
Football League Division 3 Champions	1976-77
Football League Division 4 Champions	1974-75
Midland Counties League Champions	1923-24, 1924-25, 1928-29
Central Alliance Championship	1919-20
Central Alliance Champions (Subsidiary Competition)	1915-16

OTHER LEAGUE HONOURS

Football League Division 3 (North)	1950-51
Runners-up	
Football League Division 3	
Third place	1964-65
Division 4 (or League 2)	
Promotion	1962-63, 1985-86, 1991-92, 2001-02
Midland Counties League	
Runners-up	1925-26
Midland Combination	
Runners-up	1926-27

CUP COMPETITIONS

FA Cup	
6th Round (Quarter Final)	1968-69
Football League Cup	
5th Round (Quarter Final)	1975-76
Associate Members Cup	
Winners	1986-87
Northern Area Final	1984-85
FA Trophy	
Runners-Up	2010-11
Midland Combination Cup	
Winners	1967-68
Nottinghamshire FA County Cup	
Winners:	1937-38, 1970-71, 1971-72, 1986-87, 1987-88, 1988-89, 2006-07
Joint winners:	1938-39
Nottinghamshire FA Senior Cup	
Winners	1922-23, 1925-26, 1926-27, 1930-31, 1931-32
Anglo Scottish Cup	
Semi Final	1975-76, 1978-79



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FOCUS

I'd like to start by noting a heartfelt
thank you to our supporters on
Saturday.

With the £7 ticket offer which was
made available to both sets of fans,
there was obviously going to be a
massive backing from Northampton
Town.

With their fans being extremely
vocal, it was hugely important that our
loyal army got behind us to make sure
that our opponents weren't being lifted
by the away fans' noise.

You did this and more, and I was
proud to be your manager.

Having finally calmed down after
reflecting on Saturday's game, I
imagine you will feel the same as me
– a sense of frustration at having not
taken three points.

In hindsight, after coming up against
the in-form team in the league, it will

prove to be a good point, although on
both Saturday and Sunday, it felt like
a loss.

After being 1-0 up, I felt that we
showed the anxiousness of a team that
are fighting tooth and nail to achieve
three points.

It's important that we keep our
focus and, like I said in Saturday's
programme notes, I'm not going
to waffle on with mundane football
clichés.

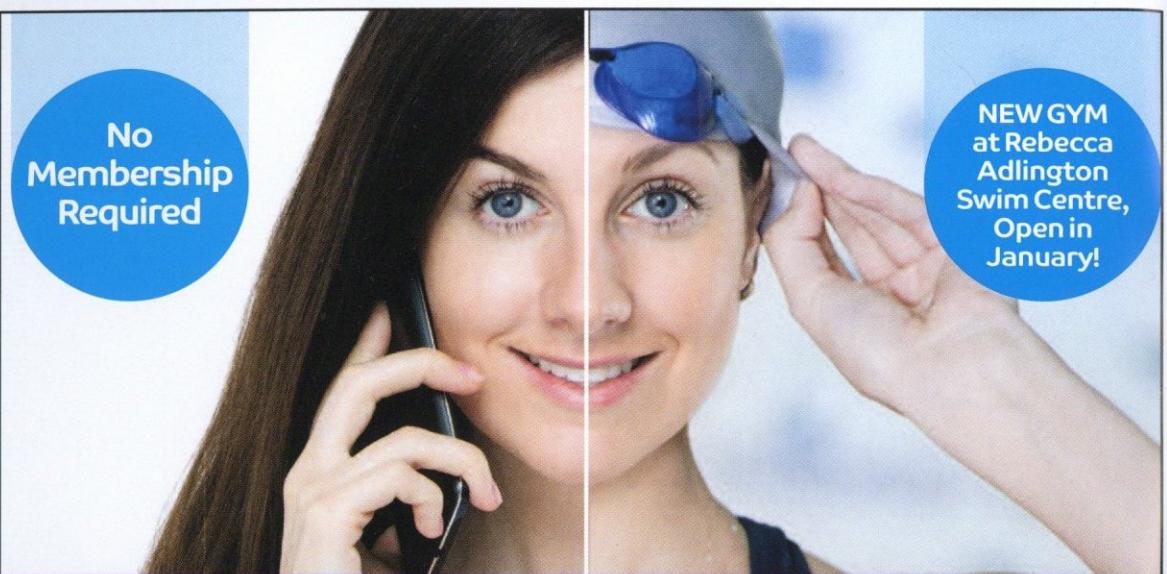
Let's stick together and come out
the other side of this battle victorious
and together we will move forward and
achieve success.

Thank you for your support – it is
massive to us.

Adam Murray
Manager



No
Membership
Required



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Tel: 0345 000 0230

River Maun
Barringer Road,
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Tel: 0345 000 0233

Water Meadows
Titchfield Park,
Bath Street, NG18 1BA
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Mansfield District Leisure Trust
Providing a service on behalf of
Mansfield District Council

STAGSNEWSROOM



Stags support Fountaindale

Representatives from Mansfield Town F.C. recently visited the brand new Fountaindale School to celebrate the opening of the facility and lift the spirits amongst young pupils.

Our commercial manager, Paul Nyland, was joined by first team players Liam Hearn and Luke Jones on a visit to the school, which specialises in helping youngsters who have complex physical and sensory needs.

"We were privileged to be asked to go along to witness the opening of the new Fountaindale School," said Mr Nyland.

"Our commercial partners, Hall-Fast, have raised thousands of pounds to help with both the building of the new facility, and also to support the children who attend the school."

Meanwhile, tickets are continuing to sell well for the third Hall-Fast Charity Ball, which is aiming to raise money for local good causes – including Fountaindale School.

The ball takes place on Friday 29 May at the John Fretwell Sporting Complex.

Local businessman Mark Hall is the brains behind the fundraising bonanza, which has helped to raise thousands of pounds to buy equipment for the Nottingham Road school, in previous years.

The event is just one in a number of fundraising challenges that Mr Hall, who is owner of the award-winning Mansfield firm Hall-Fast Industrial Supplies, is organising this year.

Another cause which will benefit from Hall-Fast's fundraising is Headway UK – the brain injury charity.

He said: "Over the next 12 months we have committed to raising £30,000 with £15,000 going to the Fountaindale School, and the other £15,000 being split between Headway UK and Headway Nottingham.

"We hope half of the money will be raised from the Hall-Fast Charity Ball, with the other half being raised from a Nottingham Rugby Charity bike ride in April and also a '300 miles in 24 hours' bike ride (Newcastle to London) in August."

It's 'Really Robbie'
Tickets are still available for a fabulous upcoming tribute event here at One Call Stadium to pop singer Robbie Williams.

On Saturday 28 February, 'Really Robbie' – the UK's Number One tribute act to the legendary singer from Stoke-on-Trent – will be performing live in the Kevin Bird Suite, singing hits such as Angels, Feel, Millennium and She's The One.

Tickets for this event can be purchased now for just £7 per person.

However, you can get your tickets for just £5 per person if you also want to come along to our Olly Murs tribute act, who will also be performing live at One Call Stadium in March.

To book tickets, either visit the main ticket office or call 01623 482482.



Horse racing at One Call Stadium

We wish to remind all supporters that Mansfield Town Ladies F.C. are hosting 'A Race Night With The Ladies' in the Sandy Pate Sports Bar this weekend.

On Saturday (21 February), starting at 7.30pm, the entire ladies team will be present for a night of virtual horse racing, which everyone, young or old, can enjoy.

Along with all the racing action as it happens, there will also be a disco, raffle, football cards and much, much more. Entry is FREE for everyone.

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It's a quintuple rollover in tomorrow's Stags Lotto draw and there is a WHOPPING £11,800,000 that could be won by you!

Stags Lotto is quick, easy and simple. If you select six numbers and a bonus ball, which correspond with the numbers drawn in twice-weekly draws, you could win big. Cash prizes are also awarded to those who match three numbers or more, whilst other prizes are

available to those who match only one or two balls.

Bets cost £1.50 per draw with a guaranteed 39p going towards your club. Simply visit www.lottofc.co.uk/mansfieldtownfc for full details and terms and conditions. Draws take place on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

So why not have a gamble and it could be you who scoops the life-changing jackpot.

Date set for Big Snore

Homeless charity Framework will be hosting their annual 'Big Snore' event, sponsored by Western Power Distribution, here at One Call Stadium on Saturday 07 March.

Mansfield residents are urged to brave a night under the stars in a big fundraising effort to help the homeless.

All proceeds from the event will go towards Framework's Mansfield Appeal, which helps former rough sleepers to develop independent, happy and prosperous lives within the community.

To find out more about this event, visit www.frameworkha.org/bigsnore.



Under 16s celebrate win

Our Under 16s moved up to fifth place in the Midland Junior Premier League with a comprehensive 4-1 win away at Kenilworth F.C. last weekend.

Dave McCarthy's team dominated throughout and earned their ninth

win of the campaign courtesy of goals by Tom Marriott, Funso Maveso, Curtis Millward and Takunda Mushambi.

Our other two academy teams, who compete at Under 14 and 15s level, weren't in action last Saturday.

Upcoming events

Wednesday 18 February
YOUTH: Chesterfield (H)

FLYA League, 1.00pm

Thursday 19 February
EVENT: Sportsman's Evening
With Dave Bassett

Kevin Bird Suite, 7.30pm

DEV SQUAD: Collingham (H)

H-K-L North Midlands League, 7.45pm

Friday 20 February
EVENT: Hoofers Got Talent

Sandy Pate Sports Bar, 9.00pm

Saturday 21 February
FIRST TEAM: Oxford United (a)

Sky Bet League Two, 3.00pm

Sunday 22 February
LADIES: FC Reedswood (H)

FA Women's Premier League, 2.00pm

EVENT: Quiz Night

Sandy Pate Sports Bar, 7.30pm

Monday 23 February
EVENT: An Evening With TBC

Sandy Pate Sports Bar, 7.30pm

Tuesday 24 February
DEV SQUAD: Dunkirk (a)

H-K-L North Midlands League, 7.45pm

Wednesday 25 February
YOUTH: Boston United (H)

FCYA (Midland Division), 2.00pm

RESERVES: Hartlepool United (a)

FTD League, 7.00pm

Friday 27 February
LIVE MUSIC: TBC

Sandy Pate Sports Bar, 9.00pm

Saturday 28 February
FIRST TEAM: Dagenham & Redbridge (a)

Sky Bet League Two, 3.00pm

EVENT: Robbie Williams Tribute Act

Kevin Bird Suite, 9.00pm

Information regarding venues for matches can be found on www.mansfieldtown.net.

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Sportsman's Evening

with Legendary Football Manager

Dave Bassett

Thursday 19th February 2015

in the Kevin Bird Suite

the night will also include
a comedy act from



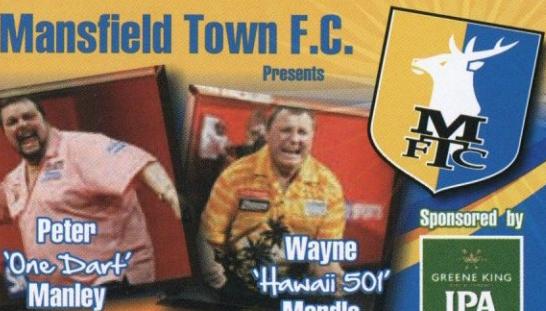
Tickets £25 per head
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Ticket price includes a two course meal

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Mansfield Town F.C.



LEGENDS OF DARTS

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Friday 13th March 2015

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Tickets available from MTFC Sales Office on

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or by email: sales@mansfieldtown.net

Really Robbie
UK's NO.1 ROBBIE WILLIAMS TRIBUTE

Sat 28th February

Appearing LIVE in the Kevin Bird Suite @ One Call Stadium

**TICKETS
£7 for each night**

OR £5 Each if Booked Together!

Tickets available from MTFC ticket office
or call 01623 482482 to book yours today

Olly Murs

TRIBUTE BY ANDY HAMMERSLEY

Sat 28th March

Appearing LIVE in the Kevin Bird Suite @ One Call Stadium



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www.mansfieldtown.net



An Evening with the Radfords

We recap last Monday's An Evening with John & Carolyn Radford, chairman and chief executive, respectively. All questions below were asked by supporters in attendance on the night...



Carolyn, when you first came to the club as CEO, you said you had very little knowledge of football. You seem to have learnt very quickly. Would you say you're enjoying your role?

Carolyn: Yes, I've had to learn quite quickly about football. Mansfield was the first football game that I'd been to, but I have learnt very quickly. It is now our life and everything revolves around football and this football club itself. I have learnt a great deal.

Carolyn, do you enjoy your journeys in John's helicopter?

Carolyn: No! I just get in there and hope for the best. But no, he is getting very good at it.

When are you going to get the scoreboard working?

John: Next season, there will be something new you will like. It came from Wembley Stadium. We have to

make sure everything is safe and done correctly and hopefully you will see it before the end of the season, but if not by then, it will be next season.

Is the PA system in the Quarry Lane End going to be improved?

Carolyn: We are carrying out testing of it frequently and when we have tested it, it seems to be working okay. We will have to look into it a little bit more.

Where will we be in five years?

John: Five years ago we were down in the Conference Premier, without a stadium and almost going out of that league. Where we will be in five years depends on a lot of things. How our manager and team does. It depends on the support that fans can give to the club and what myself and fellow directors can give to the club. We feel that in five years, we can make it to

the Championship and that's what we'd like to do. We do always need support and we will reward those that support us on a regular basis.

Could there be any signings in the loan window?

John: That is for Adam and myself to discuss. Of course, we will always look to make signings, seeing where we are. We will do our best to make sure we achieve our goals.

Do you think that selling Sam Clucas was the right thing to do?

John: I would have loved him to stay at the club - everyone knows that, including Sam. The style of football we were playing [at the time] didn't encourage a player like Sam to stay. When a player's head is turned, it is hard to turn it back. He was only contracted to us for the end of the season and we wouldn't have got a penny for him if we left it until then.



What is your biggest disappointment about the Stags, apart from the attendances?

John: I wouldn't say the attendances are too much of a disappointment. We are in a harsh economical environment and there are lots of factors that stop people from being able to get here on a Saturday. There aren't any disappointments from my point of view. The club is in my heart and I'm with them all the way.

What is it like to own a Football League club?

John: Your weekends are either really good or really bad [laughs]. Unfortunately we have had a few bad weekends of late and it hurts when we lose.

Carolyn: When we win it is fantastic, but when we lose it is awful.

Who would you say has been the best signing for the club?

Carolyn: Mine personally would be either Matt Green or Sam Clucas.

John: There have been quite a few good signings including Tom Naylor, Matt Green, Sam Clucas and Ryan Tafazolli. However, I feel Matt Green was the best because of his goals and the way we got promoted in the season he was here.

Before you decided to buy Mansfield Town, were there any other clubs you put into consideration?

John: No.

As Shirebrook is your native town John, what is the chance of Mansfield Town playing a friendly against Shirebrook Town?

John: I will have a word

with the manager at the end of the season. There is always a chance.

Is there any chance of getting changing rooms for the 3G pitches so players can leave their belongings and have a shower after playing?

John: We discussed this at board level. We don't see an immediate need for it. I think it will happen, but not until next season.

As the new manager likes to play 'football' on the grass, are there any plans to spend money on the pitch in the close season?

John: In the five years I have owned this club, I have spent a lot of money on the pitch. It looks really good at the start of the season and it has had a lot of work done on it. There are some issues with the pitch getting exposed to sunlight and these issues are being worked on.

Are you happy with the facilities in the Ian Greaves Stand (Upper Tier)?

John: You will find that all the facilities are being upgraded and they will be sorted by the end of next season.

Was the game against Northampton Town the best game to choose for the £7 ticket offer? They will bring a lot more fans and the club will lose money.

John: The reason why Northampton was put in there was because we had to choose a game where we would normally get a good turnout to see if the pricing strategy worked. We couldn't judge it properly if we picked games against clubs who were not anticipated to bring many fans.

Christmas at One Call Stadium 2015

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Tickets for all events are available from our Sales Team on

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stags' fanzone



Ben, Jake and Amelia Redfearn on holiday in Bideford, Devon.



Dan Westwell got all these Mansfield Town goodies for Christmas.



Jack Shaw meets defender Ryan Tafazolli.



Midge, a Jack Russell, pledges his support for his favourite football team.



Ben Brown enjoys his first trip to One Call Stadium.



Tanney announcer Alan Wilson and his wife, Janette, on a Gondola in Venice.

PICTURES PLEASE!

If you have a story or photograph and would like to appear on this page, send it by email to matchdayprogramme@mansfieldtown.net and you could feature at some point during the season.



INTERVIEW

RYAN TAFAZOLLI

Born winners will help our survival cause, claims Tafazolli

QUESTIONS: MARK STEVENSON PICS: CHRIS HOLLOWAY

What are your thoughts on the season so far?

It's been a rollercoaster. We've had our ups and downs, but I think everything is now starting to fall into place. The season, even though we are in February now, is just starting and I think we are going to take off under Adam Murray's guidance.

For you personally, do you think you've played better this season or last?

As you get older, the expectation level increases. I think maybe if I'd had some of the games that I've had this year in 2013/14, people would have said that I'd had a good game. This year, I have established myself in the team and when I've had an average game, it has been rated as an average game, rather than being seen as a good game because I'm young. I probably

had better games last season because I came into the side when they were losing and I got confidence when we turned it around in the second half of the season.

You've been linked with moves to other clubs since you broke into the first team, so how keen are you to stay here?

I'm very keen. I want to win a promotion with Mansfield. I think if we can stay up this season, we can consolidate for next season and I'm sure we can push for promotion.

Do you think people have been surprised with the development that you've made? You have been here for longer than some perhaps realise.

Yes. I didn't play many times in our last season in the Conference Premier as I think it was a bit

too early for me. I think at the time the manager, Paul Cox, was trying to get across to me that I needed to do the basics better, especially at that level. I got my chance when I eventually came into the side and then I think I had about a whole year playing with good players. That prepared me well for when I did come into the team.

What is the best game that you've had?

I'd say that the best game I've played personally was against Plymouth Argyle at home earlier this season. I was playing against a good striker in Reuben Reid as well as Lewis Alessandra, who was playing off him. I think myself and Martin Riley dealt with them really well and we won everything in that game - the headers, individual battles, etcetera, and I don't think I gave the ball away much either.

What is crucial for teams now in this relegation battle? What would be the ultimate difference between those teams that survive and those that don't?

I think you need to be solid in defence. You need to be able to keep clean-sheets. Obviously the teams at the bottom leak a lot of goals, so I think being able to build a solid foundation is essential for survival.

Have you literally seen, day in, day out, progress with this new group of players than perhaps a few months back?

Yes, we're progressing all the time. I don't think we've taken any backward steps, even though results might suggest otherwise. I think we haven't had much luck. If you look at the amount of chances that we've created in games, they have increased since Adam Murray first came in. I think hopefully we will start getting the luck that we need. We need things to go our way.

When the side last played Luton Town, the new 'set up' was very much in an embryonic stage. Does it feel a lot different from then until now?

Yes, we have come on leaps and bounds since the game away at Luton. They are a very well oiled machine and have been

together for a long time under John Still. I think we're going to more than match them at home. We're going to really give it to them and hopefully it'll be enough to win the game.

Are they [Luton] the best team you have come up against?

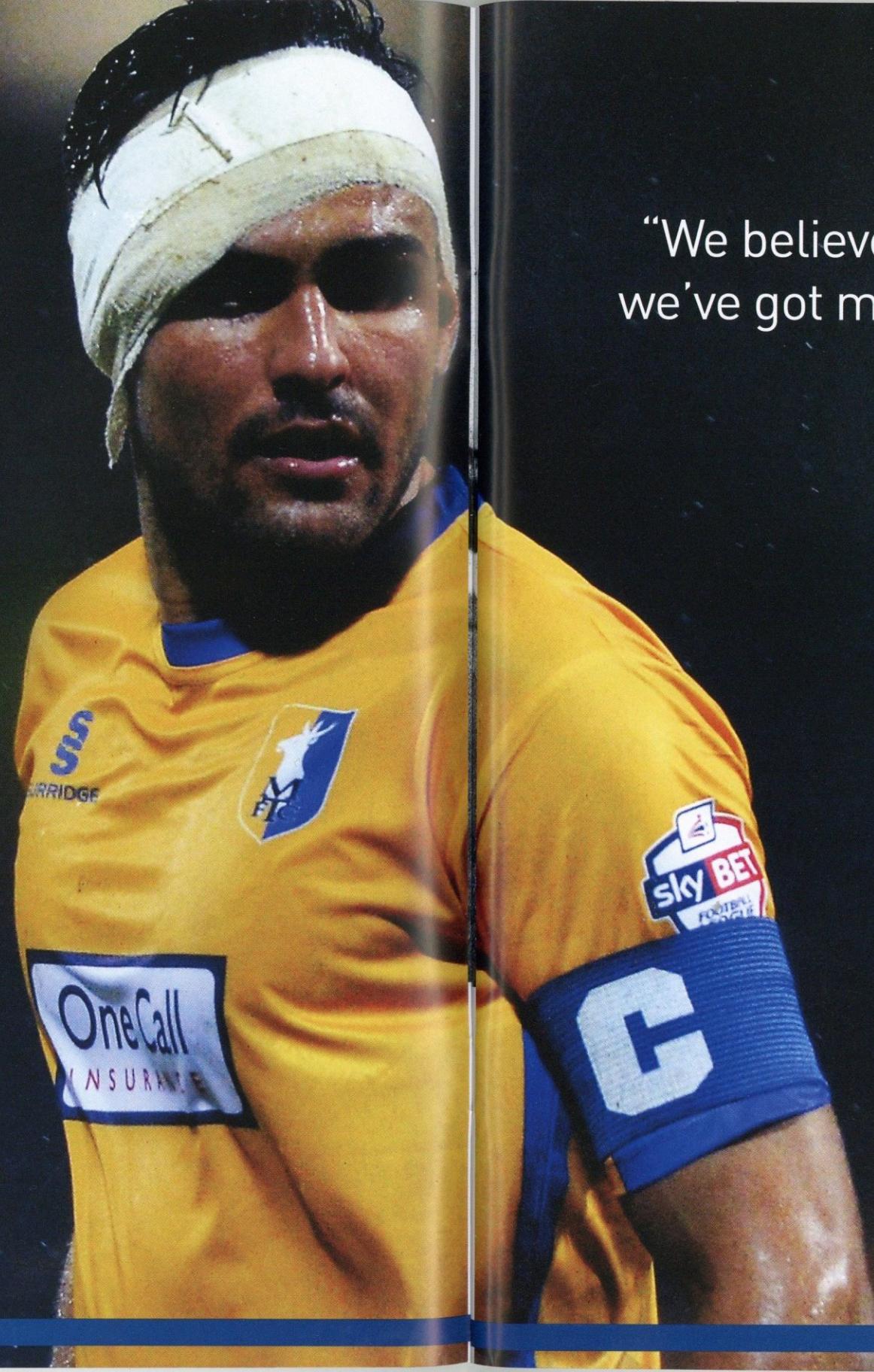
Shrewsbury Town are the best team that we've played so far, even though we were playing with 10 men and at a disadvantage for most of the game. Luton are definitely up there though. We cannot take them lightly. They are very good at what they do, but we'll give it our best shot at trying to beat them.

How high is the belief in the dressing room that survival can happen?

We believe we will stay up. I think we've got more than what it takes. We know we should be a lot higher in the league table with our current squad. We've got born winners in the camp and I'm sure that we will stay up.

So you believe that the born winners will see you through?

Yes, definitely. You look around at the experienced heads and even the younger lads always want to win. I think that is really going to help us.



"We believe we will stay up. I think we've got more than what it takes."

FOOTBALL FIRSTS:

First club supported:
Arsenal. My older cousin supported them growing up and I supported them as well.

First stadium played at:
St Mary's Stadium in the FA Youth Cup.

First manager:
Alan Pardew. He was strict but he had a fear factor about him and you didn't ever want to cross paths with him. One time I called him 'mate' and he made me get on the ground and do 20 press ups.

First position:
Centre-midfield. They put me there because of my height and so that I could tackle people.

First goal:
A goal in the FA Youth Cup for Southampton in extra-time against Derby County, which meant we won the game 2-1.

First shirt number:
It was 39 at Southampton. I just got given it and I had no choice.

First football hero:
Patrick Vieira. As an Arsenal fan and as I played centre-midfield, he was just unbelievable.

First room-mate:
Aaron Racine. I was at Southampton with him and we shared a room together. He is now playing for Forest Green Rovers.

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IN OPPOSITION...

LUTON TOWN



There is a sense of positivity in the air at Luton Town as John Still's men arrive at One Call Stadium tonight knowing that a victory will take them back into the automatic promotion places in Sky Bet League Two.

After gaining promotion out of the Conference Premier last season, the Hatters have enjoyed an excellent start to life back in the Football League.

Their main strength has been their consistency as they won 10 of 13 matches during a three-month spell in the first half of the season – a feat which put them firmly in the promotion picture.

Marshalled by the excellent Steve McNulty at the back, they have the third tightest defence in the division, having kept 13 clean-sheets so far in league action – the last of which was in a 1-0 home victory over Carlisle United on Saturday.

The Hatters have also been

particularly strong at Kenilworth Road, where they haven't been beaten in Sky Bet League Two since a game against Plymouth Argyle in early-September.

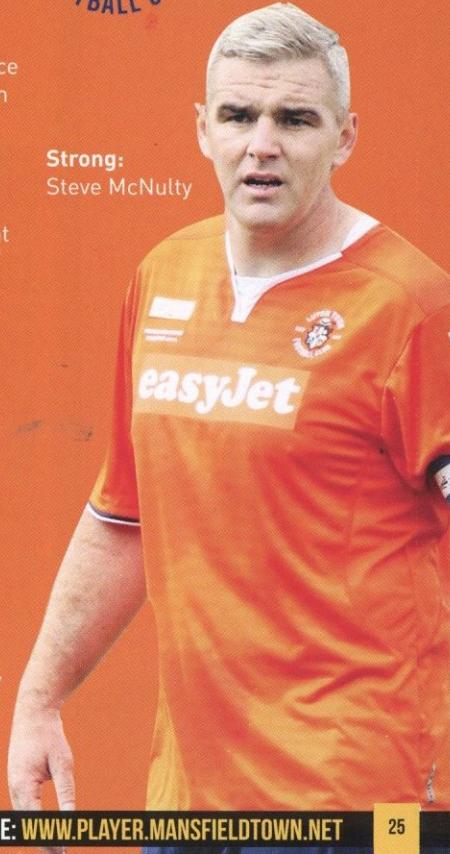
Reflecting on the weekend win over Carlisle, boss John Still said: "The work-rate of the team was phenomenal. We made some great moves and battled really well.

"I was pleased with our football and the way we moved the ball and towards the end, I was happy with how we dug in and defended manfully."

However, Still will have to make at least one change to his starting line-up for tonight's match as centre-back Luke Wilkinson is suspended for denying a clear goalscoring opportunity in the win over Carlisle.

The Hatters' boss added: "The opportunity will probably present itself for some players on Tuesday and our potential replacements all have objectives to play regularly for the first team."

Strong:
Steve McNulty



In charge

Since taking the managerial reins at Kenilworth Road just under two years ago, John Still has totally transformed the fortunes of the long-suffering Hatters.

The 64-year-old, who has won more than half of his games in charge, brought an end to Luton's five-year exile in non-league football by leading them to the Conference Premier title last season – accumulating a massive 101 points in the process.

Still also enjoyed plenty of success at his former club, Dagenham & Redbridge, whom he also led to the Conference Premier title in 2006/07.

The popular cockney spent a total of nine seasons with the Daggers and after cementing their Football League status – a feat he described as being like a Ford Focus qualifying for a Formula One Championship, he remarkably guided them to promotion from League Two, via the play-offs, in 2009/10.

Still is also highly regarded for his ability to spot and develop young players. This, combined with his good man-management skills and desire to play an attractive brand of football, has made him a popular figure in football circles.



FOUR TO WATCH

MARK TYLER

Position: Goalkeeper • **Age:** 37 • **Previous Club:** Peterborough United

Experienced 'keeper, Mark Tyler has made over 700 appearances during two colourful decades as a professional.

Originally from Norwich, Tyler received his first senior contract at Peterborough United, 21 years ago, after impressing in the youth ranks at London Road. The custodian went on to make over 400 appearances for Posh and was an ever-present in goal for a large part of his time at the club.

After being released by Peterborough, where he was a back-to-back promotion winner, Tyler put pen-to-paper on a deal with Luton and has since featured on over 250 occasions. He won the Player of the Year award in 2010/11, was an ever-present in 2013/14, and has registered 14 clean-sheets so far this term.



LUKE WILKINSON

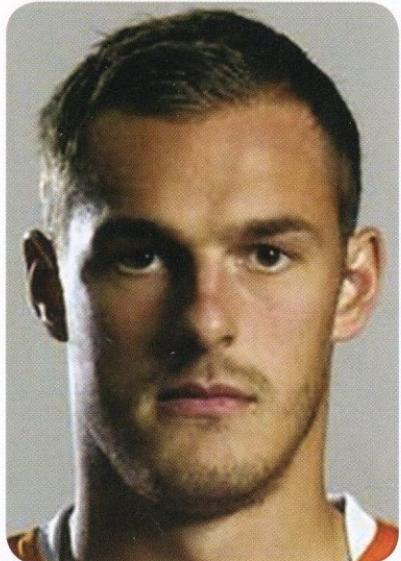
Position: Defender • **Age:** 24 • **Previous Club:** Dagenham & Redbridge

Defender Luke Wilkinson has been an important part of the Hatters' solid defensive set-up this season.

The 24-year-old played under manager John Still during a previous spell at Dagenham & Redbridge and was voted Player of the Year at his former club, two seasons ago.

After starting his career in the youth ranks at Bristol City, the centre-back was signed by Portsmouth, but didn't feature at first team level for the South Coast club.

After signing for the Hatters on an undisclosed fee at the start of the season, Wilkinson has been a near ever-present in the heart of defence and has managed to weigh in with four goals – the last of which was in a 3-2 win over Cambridge United.



ANDY DRURY

Position: Midfielder • **Age:** 31 • **Previous Club:** Crawley Town

Renowned for his creativity and passing ability, playmaker Andy Drury is currently in his second spell with the Hatters.

The 31-year-old previously appeared for Luton in 2010/11 and his two goals in a televised FA Cup clash with Charlton Athletic brought him to the attention of a whole host of higher division clubs, with Ipswich Town eventually swooping to secure his services for a fee somewhere in the region of £150,000.

Drury spent two-and-a-half years at Portman Road, making a total of 64 appearances, before signing for Crawley Town ahead of the 2013/14 campaign.

Having helped the Red Devils to a mid-table finish in Sky Bet League One last season, Luton re-signed him for a £100,000 fee, eight months ago.



MARK CULLEN

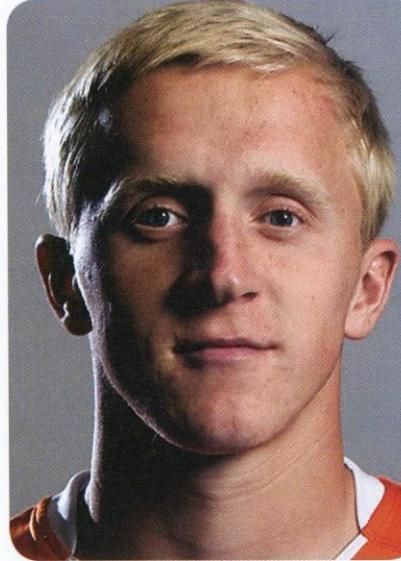
Position: Striker • **Age:** 22 • **Previous Club:** Hull City

The Hatters' top goalscorer with a dozen goals to his name so far this term, Mark Cullen began his career on the books of Premier League outfit Hull City.

The striker made 24 league appearances for the Tigers, punctuated by loan spells at Bradford City, Bury and Stockport County, before joining Luton ahead of the 2013/14 campaign, during which he helped the team gain promotion to the Football League.

Cullen has been in good form this season as he continues to be John Still's preferred option up front. The youngster caught the attention of his current manager after he put in two good performances against the Hatters whilst playing for Stockport.

The 22-year-old scored the only goal in last Saturday's 1-0 win over Carlisle United.



Did you know?

• Luton Town's traditional rivals are Watford. The Hatters boast a superior record in the fixture, despite the fact that Watford currently compete two divisions higher than the Hatters in the Sky Bet Championship

• The Hatters made history in 2012/13 when they became the first non-league club to defeat a top-tier team in the Premier League era.

Their victims were Norwich City, who were beaten, 1-0, courtesy of a late goal by Scott Rendell.

• In the 2008/09 campaign, the Hatters won the Johnstone's Paint Trophy, beating Scunthorpe United, 3-2, at Wembley Stadium. However, the following season, they were unable to defend their title due to being relegated from the Football League.



The place

• The Luton Carnival is the largest single-day carnival in Europe and attracts over 150,000 visitors every year.

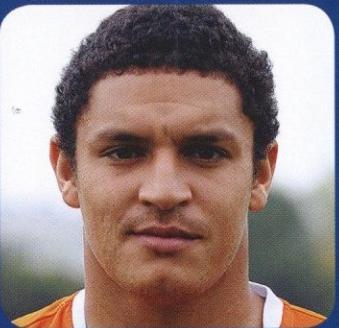
• Famous sportsmen who hail from the town include cricketer Monty Panesar and ex-England footballer Kerry Dixon.

• The town of Luton has a rich history when it comes to the hat making industry, as the club's nickname suggests. The production of hats in Luton still continues to this day.

• Luton Airport is the fourth-largest airport serving London and is a major contributor to the town's economy.



Best of the rest



Nathan Doyle

MIDFIELDER

Age: 28
Previous Club: Bradford City

Nathan Doyle penned a one-year deal at Kenilworth Road at the start of this season. The defensive midfielder has good pedigree at this level, having been part of the Bradford City team which reached the League Two play-offs, two seasons ago. Once on the books of Derby County, Doyle has also represented England as a youth international.



Pelly Ruddock

MIDFIELDER

Age: 22
Previous Club: West Ham United

Signed from West Ham United just over a year ago, Pelly Ruddock is a highly-rated midfielder who has racked up 18 appearances this season. The 22-year-old is held in high regard by the Luton hierarchy for his extensive work-rate and energy. Ruddock bears the name 'Mpanzu' on the back of his shirt and last scored in a 1-1 draw with Bury, back in August.



Scott Griffiths

DEFENDER

Age: 29
Previous Club: Peterborough United

Left-back Scott Griffiths joined the Hatters in the latter stages of 2012/13 – linking up with former boss John Still, who he played under whilst at Dagenham & Redbridge. A steady performer, Griffiths boasts plenty of Football League experience, having had loan spells with Chesterfield and Rotherham United, amongst others, whilst on the books of Peterborough United.

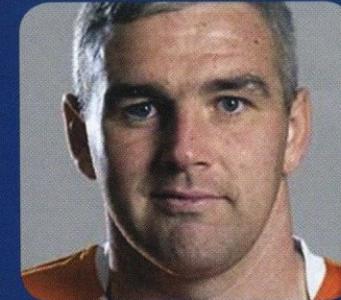


Michael Harriman

DEFENDER

Age: 22
Parent Club: Queens Park Rangers

Michael Harriman began his professional career with Queens Park Rangers and made his Premier League debut against Wigan Athletic in August 2011. The introduction of the Republic of Ireland youth international at Kenilworth Road earlier this season filled a void in the right-back position after both Paul Connolly and Curtley Williams suffered injuries. Harriman has so far made 23 appearances for the Hatters.



Steve McNulty

DEFENDER

Age: 31
Previous Club: Fleetwood Town

Undoubtedly one of the toughest defenders at this level, Steve McNulty is a burly and uncompromising operator who has played a major role in the Hatters' success over the past couple of seasons. The Liverpudlian, who is looking for the fifth promotion of his career, has featured 100 times for the Hatters, and has also had successful spells with Barrow and Fleetwood Town.



Alex Lacey

DEFENDER

Age: 21
Previous Club: Academy

Defender Alex Lacey made his senior debut for the Hatters, aged 17, in an FA Trophy clash with Welling United in November 2010. Since then, the youngster has gained invaluable experience from loan spells at a string of non-league clubs, and has become a more prominent figure in John Still's matchday squad in recent months. Lacey can also operate in a defensive-midfield role.



Jonathan Smith

MIDFIELDER

Age: 28
Previous Club: York City

Following a successful loan spell at Kenilworth Road in 2012/13, Jonathan Smith was signed permanently by then-boss Paul Buckle in a deal worth £50,000. The midfielder endured a set-back in his career after suffering a serious leg injury during the Hatters' Conference Premier title-winning campaign last term, but made an emotional return in the final match of the season.



Shaun Whalley

MIDFIELDER

Age: 27
Previous Club: Southport

After joining the Hatters from Southport in the summer of 2013, midfielder Shaun Whalley has gone on to become a popular figure. An attack-minded operator who can also play on the wing, Whalley scored twice in our 3-0 defeat at Kenilworth Road, three months ago. The 27-year-old has previously played for Chester City, Accrington Stanley and Wrexham, amongst others.



Jake Howells

WINGER

Age: 23
Previous Club: Academy

Winger Jake Howells boasts great versatility as he can also operate at left-back and in central midfield. A player who has come through the ranks at Kenilworth Road, Howells is fast-approaching 300 senior appearances. He last found the target in a 3-0 home victory over Newport County, just before Christmas, and on the international scene, he has also represented Wales at Under 21 level.



Jayden Stockley

STRIKER

Age: 21
Previous Club: AFC Bournemouth

Youngster Jayden Stockley has featured on seven occasions since joining John Still's team on loan from Sky Bet Championship front-runners AFC Bournemouth last month. A tricky opponent who boasts plenty of pace, Stockley has had loan spells at various other clubs including Cambridge United, where he bagged two goals in a 5-0 win over Carlisle United earlier this season.

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BACK TO THE FUTURE

LUTON TOWN

Football historian Leigh Edwards traces what happened to two of the Hatters' greatest post-war teams.

1973/74 PROMOTION WINNERS

GRAHAM HORN: Goalkeeper who moved to Charlton Athletic in December 1976, then had spells at Southend United, Aldershot and Torquay United. Later a residential social worker for Devon County Council, he died in July 2012.

JOHN RYAN: Right-back who joined Norwich City in August 1976, then Sheffield United, Manchester City, Stockport County and Chester City. He was Cambridge United's player/boss for a short time and has since held various coaching posts.

BOBBY THOMSON: Ex-England international who had a spell with Hartford Bi-Centennials before joining Port Vale in October 1976. He was Stafford Rangers' player/boss, then ran a sports shop in Sedgley.

PETER ANDERSON: Midfielder who joined Royal Antwerp in December 1975, then Tampa Bay Rowdies, Sheffield United and was Millwall's player/boss. He is now CEO of Bayshore Technologies Group in Tampa. **JOHN FAULKNER:** Central defender who netted six goals in 209 league games, later coaching at Luton and Norwich City. 'Maxie' as he was nicknamed then scouted for various clubs and has since become a sports psychologist.

ALAN GARNER: Central defender who moved to Watford in February 1975, then played for Portsmouth, Barnet, Chesham United and Barton Rovers. He now runs his own window business in Hitchin.

JIM RYAN: Winger who scored 21 times in 184 league games, then had a spell with Dallas Tornado before re-joining Luton as a coach, later becoming manager. He has since coached back at Manchester United.

JIMMY HUSBAND: Ex-England Under 23 international who joined Memphis Rogues in May 1978. Later with Eynesbury Rovers and St. Neots Town, he then worked as a barman at a local pub and has settled in Clophill.

BARRY BUTLIN: Leading marksman who moved to Nottingham Forest in October 1974, then played for Peterborough United and Sheffield United. He is now a financial advisor and has settled in Chellaston, Derby.

ALAN WEST: England Under 23 midfieler who joined Millwall in July 1981, then had spells with Hitchin Town and Baldock Town. He has since become a church minister in Luton and is also the Hatters' club chaplain.

JOHN ASTON: England Under 23 winger who netted 31 goals in 174 league games before moving to Mansfield Town in September 1977, then Blackburn Rovers. He has since run Pet World in Stalybridge.



1988: LEAGUE CUP WINNERS

ANDY DIBBLE: Welsh international goalkeeper who joined Manchester City in July 1988, then Scottish giants Rangers, Luton again, Stockport County and Wrexham. He has since been a goalkeeping coach. **TIM BREACKER:** England Under 21 right-back who netted three goals in 210 league games before joining West Ham United in October 1990, then Queens Park Rangers. He has since coached at various clubs, most recently at Millwall.

ROB JOHNSON: Left-back who re-united with David Pleat at Leicester City in August 1989, then played for Barnet. He is now a physio with the English Institute of Sport and has a practice in Matlock.

RICKY HILL: England international midfielder who joined Le Havre in June 1989, then re-united with David Pleat at Leicester City. He held several coaching posts before enjoying a spell back at Luton as manager.

STEVE FOSTER: England international central defender who netted 11 goals in 163 league appearances before joining Oxford United in July 1989, then Brighton & Hove Albion. He now has an insurance business in Hove.

MAL DONAGHY: Northern Ireland international who joined Manchester United in October 1988, then played for Chelsea. Settling back in Northern Ireland, he has worked for the FAI in development roles.

DANNY WILSON: Northern Ireland international later with Sheffield Wednesday. He has racked up over 1,000 games in management during spells at numerous clubs including Barnsley, Bristol City, Hartlepool United, Swindon Town and Sheffield United.

BRIAN STEIN: England international striker who joined Annecy F.C. in June 1988, then had another spell at Luton before joining Barnet. He has since held coaching posts, including a spell assisting Mike Newell, at Kenilworth Road.

MICK HARFORD: England international striker who joined Derby County in January 1990, then re-joined Luton, and later had spells at Chelsea, Sunderland, Coventry City and Wimbledon. Later Luton's manager, he is now Millwall's chief scout.

DAVID PREECE: England 'B' international who netted 21 goals in 336 league appearances, moving to Derby County in August 1995. He then was player/coach at Cambridge United and Torquay United, but sadly died in July 2007.

KINGSLEY BLACK: Northern Ireland international winger who joined Nottingham Forest in September 1991, then appeared for Grimsby Town and Lincoln City. He currently owns tanning studios in Luton.

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ALEX FISHER HOME: Sutton Stags AWAY: London & SE Stags Supporters Group	JOE FITZPATRICK HOME: Stan AWAY: Stan	DAN FLETCHER HOME: Stan AWAY: Stan
SIMON HESLOP HOME: AS PLANT AWAY: NBS Admin Assist	LUKE JONES HOME: Denis Hallam AWAY: Shirebrook Stags	BILLY KEE HOME: Stan AWAY: Stan
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Stags 1-1 Northampton Town

Saturday 14 February 2015. Sky Bet League Two. Attendance: 4,614



MATCH MOMENTS

Star Men

Mansfield Town: Vadaine Oliver - The on loan frontman bagged his sixth goal in Stags colours with a well-taken strike just after half-time, won most of his aerial battles, and even tracked back to help out with defensive duties on a couple of occasions.



Turning point

Northampton Town - Joel Byrom: No player particularly stood out for the visitors, but midfielder Joel Byrom was involved in most of their attacks and looked threatening - especially after a clever set-piece routine in the second half.



Special moment

The momentum of the game changed just before half-time when Cobblers' playmaker John O'Toole was shown a straight red card for violent conduct.



Vital decision

Referee Lee Collins awarded Northampton a controversial penalty deep into injury-time when Ivan Toney went to ground under a challenge inside the area. The spot-kick was duly dispatched by Sky Bet League Two's top scorer Marc Richards.



Best skill

Teenager Jack Thomas showed some good play at times with his tricky footwork. On one occasion in the second half, he embarked on a lovely 50-yard run and was unlucky not to set up Reggie Lambe for a chance.

Biggest chance

If truth be told, this was a game of few clear-cut chances. However, Mansfield almost scored in the first half when Vadaine Oliver shot narrowly wide following a long downfield ball by Lenny Pidgeley.

Finest save

Lenny Pidgeley made a smart save with around five minutes remaining to keep out a powerful 25-yard free-kick by Marc Richards.

Top tactics

Manager Adam Murray made four changes to his starting line-up and his team dominated throughout and created plenty of chances.



Mansfield Town

40 Pidgeley
02 Sutton
03 Riley
06 Tafazolli
18 Beevers
17 Lambe (Murray)
20 Thomas (Bingham)
15 Raventhil
16 Heslop
24 Brown
25 Oliver
Unused substitutes:
01 Studer, 09 Rhead
12 McGuire, 19 Marsden, 29 Kee

Northampton Town
01 Duke
02 Moloney
06 Collins (Toney)
36 Cresswell
03 Horwood
21 Taylor (Bodin)
25 Byrom
19 D'Ath
10 O'Toole
26 Holmes (Newey)
09 Richards
Unused substitutes:
04 Carter, 11 Hackett
12 Tozer, 13 Snedker

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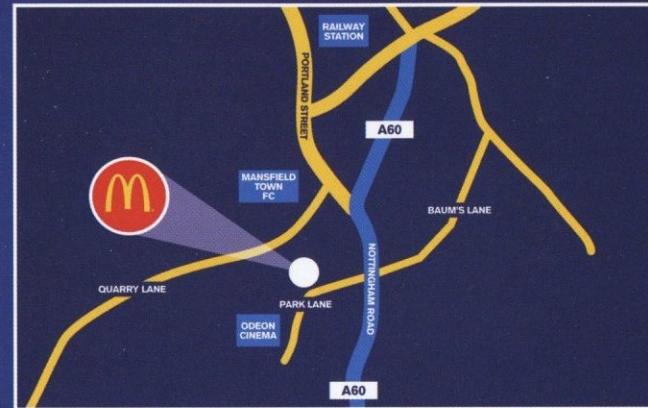
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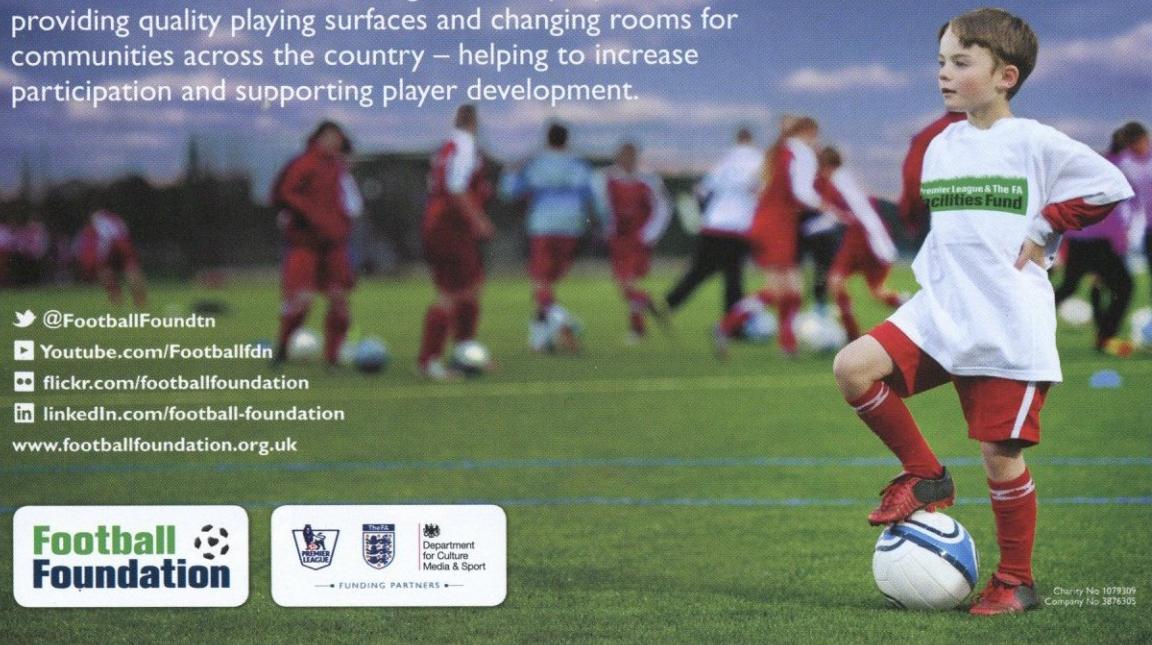


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NG18 1BU

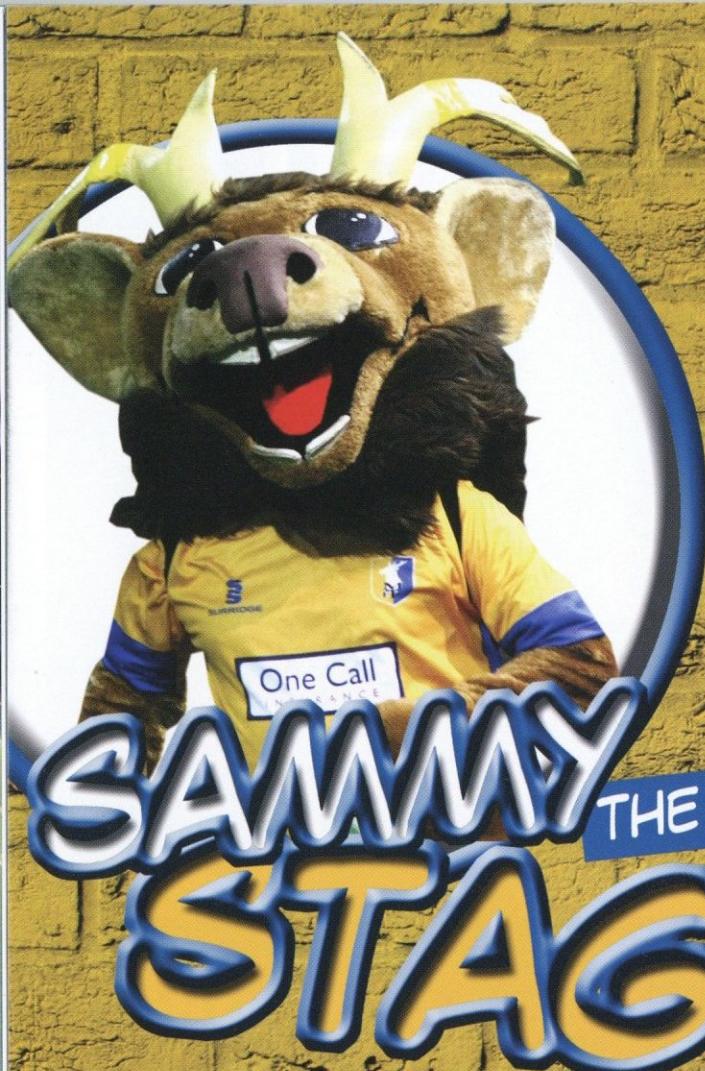


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 STILL • CLEMENTS • MANSFIELD • JONES

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 E E L G T A D O M T
 M I K L A T F N R K
 E N F N E E T U E B K
 N S B G N E G S B K
 T N V G O B R I B Q W
 S A D M Y S S A D E
 U M A S T T J O B G R
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3) 60, 4) CHELSEA AND TOTTENHAM HOSTSPUR
 QUIZ ANSWERS: 1) FRANCE, 2) ARSENAL WENGER

TONIGHT'S OPPONENTS

LUTON TOWN ARE NICKNAMED 'THE HATTERS' AND PLAY THEIR HOME GAMES AT KENILWORTH ROAD. THEIR MANAGER IS JOHN STILL, WHO WAS PREVIOUSLY IN CHARGE OF DAGENHAM & REDBRIDGE. UNDER HIS STEWARDSHIP, THEY WON THE CONFERENCE PREMIER LAST SEASON GAINING 101 POINTS FROM 46 GAMES.

QUIZ TIME!

1. IN WHICH COUNTRY WILL EURO 2016 TAKE PLACE?
2. WHO IS ARSENAL'S CURRENT MANAGER?
3. HOW MANY POINTS DID THE STAGS ACHIEVE LAST SEASON?
4. WHICH TWO TEAMS WILL COMPETE IN THIS SEASON'S LEAGUE CUP FINAL?

SAMMY'S MAZE

FOOTBALL IN THE COMMUNITY



Door Step Sports Club

Following the success of our Door Step Sports Club on Saturday mornings at Brunts Academy, we have decided to set up another club for teenagers from 14 years upwards.

The new club will be held at One Call Stadium, in our Community Room, on Friday evenings from

5.00pm to 6.00pm.

There will be a small fee of £2 per session to participate in various sports such as football, table tennis and pool.

We are hoping to attract some new faces to add to our ever-growing list of children who regularly attend our activities.



FEZ'S FACTS!

In the second instalment of our new 'Fez's Facts' column, we bring you another quote from our community officer, Jordan Ferrer: "Torchwood is an anagram of Doctor Who."

Matchday Mascots

For just £100, your child could be a mascot at one of our remaining home matches this season.

As well as an unforgettable experience in leading the team out prior to kick-off, your child will also receive the following: A Mansfield Town shirt, two free tickets (one adult/one child), a complimentary matchday programme, the chance to warm-up on the pitch before the game. For more information, contact us via the details elsewhere on this page.

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Up to 16 Guests
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CONTACT US

Mansfield Town
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WHO'S WHO

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 Gary Shaw
 Community Officer
 Mark Lynk
 Community Officer
 Jordan Ferrer
 Community Officer
 Sean Lynk
 Community Officer
 Joanne Shuttleworth
 Activities Co-ordinator
 Greg Williams
 Futsal Education Manager
 Matt Heartfield
 Community Coach



Stags Alphabet Challenge...

A IS FOR APPEARANCES

What is your favourite facial feature?

It's got to be my beard – it's a proper man's beard and not one with a 'goaty'. Anything that covers most of my face is a bonus.

D IS FOR DINNER

Which three guests would you like to invite round for dinner?

David Beckham because he's a global icon, Julia Roberts as I've always liked her since watching pretty women and Denzel Washington, because he's my favourite actor.

G IS FOR GUILTY PLEASURES

What are yours...

There are a few – 'Pic'n'Mix', chocolate, biscuits, egg custards with a coffee – all good things for you!

J IS FOR JOBS

What's the worst job you've had?

Cleaning up after my two dogs. It certainly isn't pleasant job.

M IS FOR MOBILE

What is your current ring-tone?

I don't have a ringtone. There is no point in having one as my phone is always on vibrate. If it goes off at work it can be costly.

B IS FOR BEST

Who is the best player you've played against?

In recent years I would say Kevin Mirallas at Everton. He was popping up all over the place and was just unmarkable because of way he exploits space between your lines.

E IS FOR ELEVATOR

Who would you hate to be stuck in a lift with?

Noel Edmonds. I can't stand the guy. He ruins what could be a good TV programme (Deal or No Deal) and I can't watch it simply because of him.

H IS FOR HERO

Who is your all time hero?

I don't really have a hero, but the person I look up to most in life is my Dad.

K IS FOR KIDS

How many children do you want?

Ideally I would love two boys and that would be me, but I think my wife would have something to say about that as she wants a girl as well. For now though, my two boys are my dogs.

N IS FOR NEVER SAY NEVER...

What ambitions have you yet to achieve?

Football-wise, I'd like to win more trophies and have as successful a career as possible. I'm always aiming to do that whenever I play.

C IS FOR CONSPIRACIES

Are there any well-known conspiracy theories you believe to be true?

Not really, no.

F IS FOR FRIGHTENING

What are you scared of?

I'm scared of heights – especially if I'm not enclosed in some kind of structure.

I IS FOR INSTRUMENT

What instrument would you love to play?

I'd love to have been a singer who could play the guitar and sing acoustic songs.

L IS FOR LABELS

What is your favourite clothes brand?

I can't say I'm into labels really. My favourite shop is Zara which is just high street.

ZARA

O IS FOR OLYMPICS

What's your favourite event?

The Men's 100m is always a good spectacle, but I've got admiration for all athletes that win at the Olympics. To prepare for four years and follow it through and win medals takes special talent and dedication.

with Luke Jones

P IS FOR PLACE

If you could live anywhere in the world, where would it be?

I think I'd travel the world staying all over if I had the resources to do so, because there are so many places that I'd love to see and experience.

S IS FOR SUPERHERO

If you could be a superhero, what would you want your superpowers to be?

I'd want x-ray vision for obvious reasons.



V IS FOR VACATION

Favourite holiday destination?

Me and my wife have visited a fishing village in Turkey called Kalkan several times. It's a beautiful place and is home to some of the best food that I've tasted.

W IS FOR WINNER

If you won the lottery, what would you do with the money?

I'd obviously look after my family and friends and buy a nice country home, but I would like to set up an academy which would allow less fortunate children access to free coaching and facilities.

Y IS FOR YOGI BEAR

Who is your favourite cartoon character?

Bart Simpson. I had a figure of him when I was younger.

U IS FOR QUIET

...night in or big night out?



R IS FOR RELIGION

Do you believe in God?

Yes I believe in God. When I was younger I used to go to church every Sunday.

U IS FOR UPHILL BATTLE

What is the biggest trial you've overcome?

I've faced many battles as many footballers do and I'm currently working hard to get back fighting fit after a bad injury.

X IS FOR X FILES

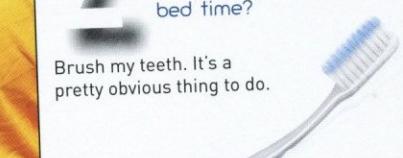
Do aliens exist?

No chance. I'm not into all that and hate science-fiction films with that sort of rubbish in as well.

Z IS FOR ZZZZZ...

What do you do before bed time?

Brush my teeth. It's a pretty obvious thing to do.



OPINION

MATT HALFPENNY
AUTHOR OF 'STAG PARTY'

YOUNGSTER SHINES IN FIRST START FOR STAGS

There was an uplifting moment amid the despondency that blanketed One Call Stadium come full-time on Saturday – brought on by the late concession of an equaliser by Mansfield Town against in-form visitors Northampton Town.

Emerging through the exits at the bottom of the Ian Greaves Stand, a woman could be heard on her mobile phone, excitedly describing the match and the performance of one player in particular.

"He played an absolute blinder!" she gushed, with a huge smile spreading across her face. "He was the best player on the pitch." Now no names were mentioned during the brief passage of conversation that was overheard, but the assumption can only be that she was a relative of teenager Jack Thomas and revelling in his display on his full debut.

If it was indeed the 18-year-old under discussion, she was pretty accurate in her assessment, even considering any understandable

family bias, with the midfielder enjoying an excellent first start in Sky Bet League Two wearing the amber and blue.

It's commonplace for someone so young to come into a senior environment and be overawed, at least in the early stages of a match, but Thomas clearly treated it as just another game from the very beginning and looked as if he had been playing in the midfield engine room all season.

It could have been easy for the youngster to have become frustrated at a lack of first team opportunities in the recent past, with other players being favoured on a number of occasions by first Paul Cox and then Adam Murray.

Impressive debut: Jack Thomas showed his class at the weekend



To his credit, though, he has remained patient, worked hard and impressed during a recent loan spell at Conference North side Hednesford Town, returning a better, more confident, player, which the management felt was deserving of a chance to shine.

That cool, calm temperament then stood Thomas in good stead in a blood and thunder clash against the Cobblers, which was quite some introduction to life in English football's fourth tier.

In a match that saw John-Joe O'Toole shown the red card and a host of other players booked, the Sutton-in-Ashfield-born player kept himself together brilliantly, never once reacting to any verbal wind-ups that may have been directed towards him, nor the heavy tackles that flew in.

What was also eye-catching was that he did not try to over-complicate things, laying the ball off simply to a colleague whenever he won possession, whilst also demonstrating a confidence on the ball that saw him dribble half the length of the pitch on one occasion, much to the alarm of the Northampton back-line.

Sure, Thomas did tire towards the end, which prompted his substitution, but not before he had underlined that he is a player of genuine promise who will surely have more to offer before the season is out.

He certainly earned the healthy applause from the Mansfield fans, who love nothing more than to see a local lad come good, as well as the sponsor's award for man of the match.

The only shame was that his teammates could not quite finish off his good work by holding out for what would have been a massive three points against a side who have one eye on the play-offs and travelled to North Nottinghamshire having won five out of their previous six matches.

Such was the nature of the Cobblers' leveller – deep into stoppage time from Marc Richards' penalty, after Lenny Pidgeley had rarely been called into serious action – that it felt like a defeat for the home players and fans alike.

Murray was adamant from his vantage point that the spot-kick should not have been awarded, but there were plenty in the West Stand who had a slightly different view and believed that it was.

Either way, the Stags should heed the



Opener:
Vadaine Oliver

lesson for future encounters that it is always a dangerous policy to sit back and protect what you have, rather than finishing off opponents when they are on the metaphorical ropes.

You get the feeling that if the Stags could make the most of their openings in one game or another and post a comprehensive victory, it really would give them a platform from which they could push on away from the drop zone towards Sky Bet League Two safety.

It's noticeable that Mansfield have now scored in all but one of their last seven games, but only

once in that same spell have they gone on to grab a second goal – in the 3-2 home defeat by Exeter City.

Although it did not transpire against the Grecians because of defensive lapses in concentration, so often that second strike can make all the difference. It can give extra breathing space and allow for a late rallying reply from the opposition.

Of course, in practice, it is not as easy as it sounds finding the net. It's why the Stags have only scored three times in a game once this season – in the 3-2 home win over Carlisle United back in

September – ahead of tonight's visit of Luton Town.

The paths of the two clubs, who have both regained Football League status after sinking into the Conference Premier, have crossed regularly during the last few years, the most recent in late November when the Hatters were convincing and worthy 3-0 winners.

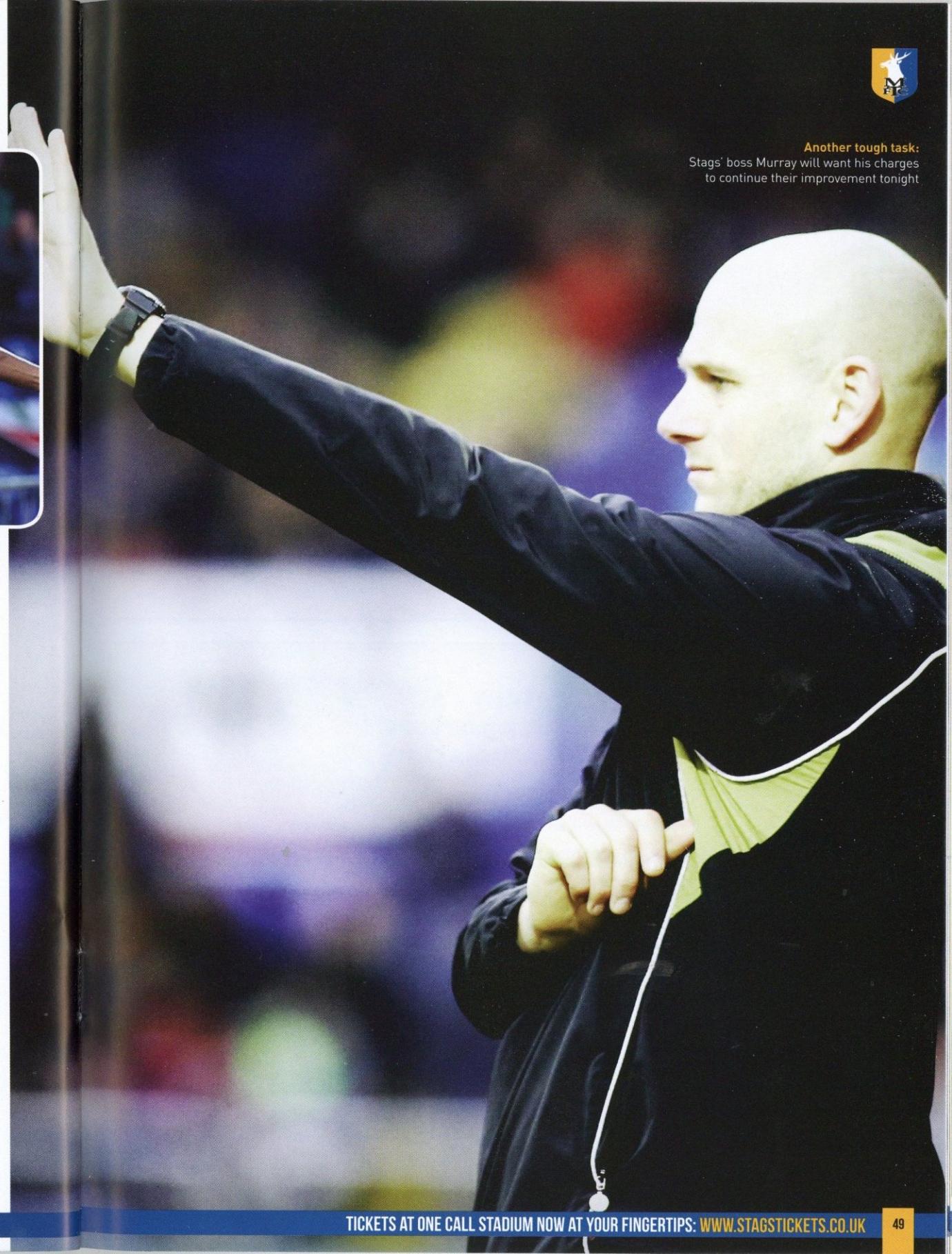
John Still's men are still handily placed in the race for automatic promotion and journey up the M1 knowing a victory will take them back above Wycombe Wanderers and into the top three.

They have put together an impressive 10-match unbeaten run in the division, last tasting defeat back on Saturday 13 December when they went down 3-0 at Morecambe.

It really is a measure of the task facing Mansfield this evening, who are equally desperate for the points for altogether different reasons.

Even so, the Stags should draw from the positives of their performance against Northampton, which on the whole was encouraging. A greater ruthlessness at both ends of the pitch is now all that is holding them back.

Another tough task:
Stags' boss Murray will want his charges to continue their improvement tonight



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Nick Sharkey

the Stag who demolished the World Cup winners

Every so often in life, we are all reminded that nothing lasts forever, that death, still a taboo subject in many ways, awaits us all.

I was recently reminded of that certainty when I heard the desperately sad news that Nick Sharkey had died at the age of 71, still relatively young by today's standards. His passing hit me harder than most have, even though I never met the man, because the diminutive striker was, quite simply, my favourite Mansfield Town FC player of all-time.

Nick is irreplaceable in my memory bank. He boasted such a towering presence in my Stags' all-time 'Hall of Fame' that a year ago I wanted to name our most recent cat Sharkey, because we welcomed her to the household on Wednesday 26 February 2014 – the

45th anniversary of the greatest night in the Stags' history; the 3-0 FA Cup fifth round win over West Ham United.

My wife said it would be rather silly to name a female cat Sharkey, so she became Sara instead. Naming pet cats after ex-footballers from the best part of half a century ago may seem a little obsessive (or weird), but Nick Sharkey had that effect on me. I never forgot him, even though I last saw him play in 1970.

It's difficult to explain exactly why Nick was the Number One ex-Stag in my eyes. Maybe it was my age when he arrived at Field Mill from Leicester City on transfer deadline day in March 1968, along with Phil Waller and Dudley Roberts.

Back then, I was a 12-year-old, obsessed with football and the Stags in particular, although

Arsenal also came calling around that time too.

But Mansfield Town was my first sporting love and they always will be, and Nick struck a chord with me as adolescence beckoned. He had a low centre of gravity, could turn on a sixpence, and was stocky and powerful, virtually impossible to shake off the ball when the mood took him. He could turn a game in an instant with a slide, pass or a jinking run past a helpless defender.

Nick was only at Field Mill for a couple of years before leaving to return to the North-East with Hartlepool United. He scored 17 goals for the Stags, hardly up in the Ken Wagstaff or Roy Chapman league, but that never mattered to me, because Sharkey was responsible for the single greatest moment in a life-time of watching football.

"His passing hit me harder than most, even though I never met the man, because the diminutive striker was, quite simply, my favourite Mansfield Town player of all-time."



Early in the second half of the aforementioned West Ham classic, Nick tricked his way through on the left-hand side of the goal towards the Quarry Lane End, leaving First Division defenders, including England's only World Cup winning captain Bobby Moore, trailing in his wake.

It's very nearly 46 years ago now, and the game, sadly, wasn't televised, so I have only my memory and a few black and white photographs to remind me of the greatest football match I ever saw. But I can instantly become that joyous 13-year-old boy again on the tiny terrace at the front of the Bishop Street Stand, as I still see in my mind's eye Nick skipping over the Field Mill mud, whilst being roared on by more than 21,000 fans (with the exception of a few hundred horrified Hammers supporters packed into the Quarry Lane terrace) and bearing down on Bobby Ferguson's goal.

We were already 2-0 up thanks to first-half goals from Dudley Roberts and Ray Keeley. Surely a third would leave West Ham and their World Cup winners at the point of no return? Nick kept his cool marvellously and flicked the ball over Ferguson into the Quarry Lane End net. The Stags, my beloved hometown club, were two games away from the FA Cup Final.

It later transpired that Stags' manager Tommy Eggleston had told Nick to man-mark Bobby Moore, quite possibly England's greatest-ever central defender, to stop him launching attacks. Nick did his job perfectly, as well as scoring that crucial third goal. Of course we didn't make it to Wembley Stadium, but it was a close-run thing, losing in the quarter-final by a solitary Rodney Fern goal to the eventual beaten finalists, Leicester City, Nick's former club. In the first half of that tie, before Fern broke Field Mill hearts, Nick was through one-on-one with a young Peter Shilton, who was to become England's record appearance holder.

In that game, there were so many people crammed into the ground – probably a lot more than the official 23,500 attendance – that the crowd had spilled out onto the track

perimeter at the North Stand end. I was amongst them and as Shilton palmed Nick's shot past his left-hand post, the ball flew straight to me near the corner flag. I even caught a sight of myself on the Match of the Day cameras that night – the game was on for a pitiful five minutes or so, the Stags' first ever national TV coverage, as far as I am aware. If Nick had scored, we might have been on our way to a winnable FA Cup semi-final against West Bromwich Albion. But that's football, as they say.

When the West Ham heroes' 40th anniversary dinner was held in the Kevin Bird Suite six years ago, I was fervently hoping that Nick was going to be there. They say you should never meet your heroes, but I can't imagine I would have been disappointed, judging by some of last week's online comments to mark Nick's tragic passing.

Sunderland supporter Simon Crabtree said: "I'm truly saddened to hear about Nick Sharkey. It was always great to chat with him. He'll be greatly missed from the Sunderland family." Fellow Black Cats' fan Tony Grey added: "A boyhood hero of mine." Allan Davis said: "RIP Nick Sharkey, a Sunderland great."

Even the late, great, Eusebio, who was Europe's 'Pele' in his day, had memories of Nick. Sunderland beat Benfica, 5-3, at Roker Park in a friendly in 1963, with Nick scoring a hat-trick while Eusebio scored twice for Benfica. The Portuguese legend, reminded of the game some years later, said: "Sunderland, yes, Sharkey – he was good, Hurley too."

That's how good Nick was in his prime, scoring 62 goals for the Black Cats between 1959 and 1966, including five in a game against Norwich City in a 7-1 win.

Recalling his Roker Park days, Nick later said in an interview: "Of course I have millions of memories and scoring five goals in one game was very special. I think I'm most fond of beating Benfica in a pre-season game in November 1963. I scored three goals and played against the famous Eusebio in front of more than 45,000



spectators at Roker Park."

He said his understanding with legendary defender Charlie Hurley led to most of his goals: "I used to be able to read Charlie's headers from corners. When we had a corner, 'keepers wouldn't know where Charlie was going to head it, but I did, and I used to be in the right place at the right time."

Until last year, Nick had been Chairman of the Sunderland Former Players' Association, and was described as a hugely popular figure with everybody connected to the Black Cats.

Ironically, I had been hoping to interview my ultimate Field Mill hero when the desperately sad news came through that he had died of pancreatic cancer, just two weeks after taking himself to hospital with a back complaint.

A precious part of my youth has now gone for good, with Nick joining Johnny Quigley and Jimmy Goodfellow as deceased members from the Stags' greatest ever heroes.

Former Stags' players from that era I have interviewed – Dave Hollins, Dai Jones and Dudley Roberts – had all remembered Nick with great

affection as a man, and as a highly-valued playing colleague. People loved the guy.

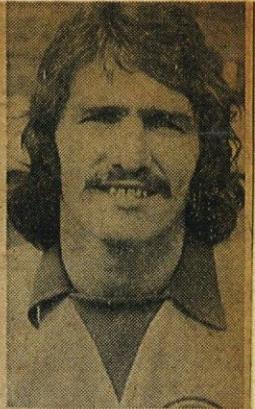
"Ironically, I had been hoping to interview my ultimate Field Mill hero when the desperately sad news came through that he had died of pancreatic cancer, just two weeks after taking himself to hospital with a back complaint."

Although I never got to meet or speak to Nick, he will always be the Number One Stag for me – a diminutive bundle of tricks who could outwit the likes of all-time world greats such as Bobby Moore and Eusebio.

So rest in peace the great Nick Sharkey, from a life-long Stags' fan. It was one of the lasting footballing memories of my life to see you play in the colours of Mansfield Town all those years ago.

CLARKE BACK ON STAGS' GOAL TRAIL

PETER FRATER at Spotland



John Lathan

RAY CLARKE rediscovered his scoring touch here this afternoon when he put the Stags ahead after 36 minutes with his first goal in eight matches.

The League leaders were unlucky not to have already been in the lead as an offside decision denied Hailwood a goal on his first senior appearance.

ROCHDALE
Poole
Hallows
Townsend
Fielding
Mulvaney
Hanvey
Ferguson
Mountford
Whelan
Brears
Tobin
Substitute:
Murty

MANSFIELD
Arnold
Pate
Foster B
Matthews
Foster C
Bird
Lathan
Hailwood
Clarke
Hodgson
McCaffrey
Substitute:
Walker

Referee: David Wallace, Crewe
After the game had got off to a scrappy start, Mansfield new boy Dave Hailwood was robbed of a debut goal with only six minutes gone.

The unlucky blow came when the 20-year-old midfield player collected a half-cleared free kick and drove the ball past goalkeeper Poole from 25 yards, only to see referee Wallace rule Clarke off-side.

Undaunted the Stags, seeking their first win in six outings, continued to seek an opening goal and built up some promising attacks.

Lathan, in his new attacking role due to Eccles' injury, threatened early down the right wing and put over a fine cross which Clarke met with a diving header. Again, the home off-side trap was effective.

FORCED

With a quarter of an hour gone, Rochdale were awarded a free kick inside Rod Arnold's penalty area when the referee judged that the keeper had challenged for the ball with his feet up.

But the danger was quashed when the defensive wall charged down Ferguson's free kick.

The League leaders came straight out to attack and forced four quick corners. The first came when Poole failed to hold Lathan's powerful drive and then others followed as the Stags piled

Attendance: 2,317

From the rebound, Matthews and Hodgson both had efforts blocked.

Rochdale struggled to build up attacks and gave poor service to front runner Bob Mountford, who has made a spectacular appearance on the scene with six goals in his eight appearances since the club

bought him for £3,000 from Port Vale.

Mansfield were doing most of the running although seldom looking too dangerous in front of goal. One good chance fell to Matthews after 35 minutes but, after Pate had overlapped well down the right, he scooped the pass over the bar.

But the following minute Mansfield took the lead with a simple but perfectly executed goal from top scorer CLARKE.

It came, as so many goals have done this season, from a Hodgson corner, the tall striker heading the ball in at the near post.

Minutes later Clarke got the chance to increase the score when he burst through the middle, but the home defence funnelled back to deny him a shot.

With 40 minutes gone, skipper Sandy Pate was booked for disputing a free kick awarded to Rochdale.

With half-time approaching, the Stags almost increased their lead with a goal similar to Clarke's opener. From Hodgson's corner, it was Colin Foster who got his head to it this time only to see the ball hit the underside of the bar and bounce clear.

HALF-TIME:
ROCHDALE 0
MANSFIELD 1

The second half opened in a similar way to the first with neither side able to produce clear openings.

The first threat came when Whelan sneaked behind the visiting defence and Barry Foster was forced to concede a corner to cut out the striker's dangerous looking cross.

Mountford got in a glancing header to send Whelan's cross goalwards but Arnold was perfectly placed to catch the ball. At this stage, for the first time in the game, Rochdale were looking dangerous although the Stags were still quick to counter-attack.

In the 82nd minute on the

John Lathan

Mansfield replaced Hallwood with substitute Walker after 87 minutes and he was straight in the action heading clear a cross from Hallows. The following minute Arnold had to go down in a ruck of players to collect another cross from Whelan.

Poole denied Clarke a second goal after 82 minutes after the striker had raced clear of the defence.

RESULT:

ROCHDALE 0
MANSFIELD TOWN .. 1

Gallant Eccles is Stags' hero

PETER FRATER at Field Mill

TERRY ECCLES snatched a dramatic 84th minute winner for Stags last night, but he took a knock in the face as he scored and could be kept out with a broken cheekbone for up to a month.

It was a tragic ending to a game that the League leaders always looked like winning, even though John O'Donnell scored a 67th minute equaliser after Ray Clarke had put Mansfield ahead in the first half.

Mansfield — Arnold, Pate, Foster B, Matthews, Pate, (C) Bird, Lathan, Eccles, Clarke, Walker, McCaffrey, Sub: O'Connor, ...
Cambridge — Smith (G), Howell, Lyon, Johnson, Eales, Smith (P), Watson, Shire, Horsfall, O'Donnell, Tully, Sub: Lill.
Referee: J. Hunting, Leicester.
Attendance: 8,152.

HALF-TIME:
MANSFIELD TOWN 1
CAMBRIDGE UTD 0

The Stags continued to call the tune after the interval but were shocked 22 minutes into the half when the visitors drew level.

A half-cleared free kick bounded to O'DONNELL just outside the Stags' box and he looped a shot over Arnold, who was caught off his line.

With the game seemingly heading for a draw, ECCLES grabbed the spectacular winner to improve the Stags' position at the top of the table.

But as he headed McCaffrey's cross into the net for his 16th goal of the season, the big striker was involved in a collision with some defenders and had to be carried off only semi-conscious.

RESULT:
MANSFIELD TOWN 2
CAMBRIDGE UTD 1

Anxious Stags get a vital point

By Peter Frater

The Stags' keeper pulled off a brilliant save to deflect away from the goal. The same keeper also came to the rescue for the visitors when he headed a close-range shot from McCaffrey over the bar. Eccles then cleared and Lathan moved up and only 15 minutes gone there were three names in the defences.

Former Mansfield player Eddie Booth, who had been

deflected away from the

goal. The same keeper

also came to the rescue for

the visitors when he

headed a close-range shot

over the bar. Eccles then

cleared and then Eccles

Lathan after further incidents.

Manfield lost striker

Booth after ten minutes

into the second half when substitute Clive

Walker came into the mid-

field Lathan moved up and

then Eccles.

Matthews — man of the

match.



TERRY ECCLES
injured as he scored the winner

STAGS' SCRAPBOOK

Throughout this season, we'll be digging deep into our archives to extract press cut-outs from our first ever title-winning season, 40 years ago in 1974-75, as we lifted the Fourth Division Championship.





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TIM MORRISS

Special One's silence is all too predictable

So Jose Mourinho decided not to speak to the media, again, in a fit of pique after Diego Costa was banned by the Football Association.

The temperamental striker, who clearly sets out to ruffle defenders and often oversteps the mark with sly, overly-physical challenges, was finally punished by the FA.

His three-match retrospective ban for stamping on Liverpool's Emre Can was upheld after an appeal, but the vast majority of ex-players and fans thought it was deliberate.

He was also lucky not to be charged for another stamp in the same game – a highly-charged League Cup semi-final, which Chelsea narrowly won.

As Alan Shearer – hardly a shrinking violet as a player – said, Costa plays on the edge and won't be bullied.

On the edge:
Diego Costa



However, he takes risks and so neither Costa, nor his club and manager, can complain when he is punished.

Costa sets out to get under the skin of his opponents. He shows a cynical side to his game too – highlighted when he dived and rolled around as though he had been shot, whilst trying to get a Liverpool defender sent-off.

If you live by the sword, then you must die by the sword and it's time that Mourinho acknowledged this. Or was his silence just another calculated move to take the pressure off his players, just as Sir Alex Ferguson used to do?

Certainly Bradford City's remarkable FA Cup win at Stamford Bridge just a few days before that infamous League Cup semi-final almost left Mourinho lost for words.

At least he had the good grace and class to praise Phil Parkinson's plucky side and went into their dressing room after the match to congratulate all of the players in person.

That 4-2 scoreline showed what the FA Cup is all about and reminded everyone that no club is ever safe from a cup shock. Long may the

competition continue, because there is nothing like it anywhere else in the world.

As for Mourinho, his comments pre and post-match are usually witty, clever and always designed to give his team the edge.

His self-imposed silence was a shame because football needs characters and he is definitely one of those.

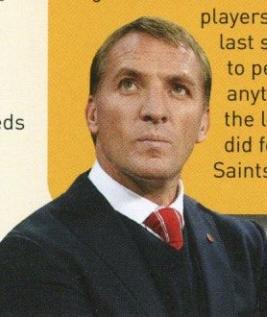
MOVERS AND SHAKERS
He comes across as arrogant and sullen all too often.

I know that he was probably well-paid for it, but Daniel Sturridge made the day for several kids when he recently visited a Liverpool school with Paralympian Ellie Simmonds. The duo were promoting the launch of Sainsbury's Active Kids 2015 campaign, and he also got involved in the kitchen as part of his ambassadorial role for the supermarket giants. It made for nice photos for the children and it was good to see the striker smile.

Brendan Rodgers is having a strange season – its second-season syndrome I suppose.

After nearly winning the Premier League in 2013/14, he is now struggling to get the club into Europe. The loss of Luis Suarez was always going to be a big miss, but perhaps they were a one-man team after all? What is for certain is that the Ulsterman has failed to get the three Southampton

players he signed last summer to perform at anything like the level they did for the Saints.



FIXTURES
AND RESULTSThe Football League Youth
Alliance (North-East Division)

FIXTURES & RESULTS

09 Aug:	Chesterfield (a)	D1-1
16 Aug:	GRIMSBY (H)	L2-3
23 Aug:	Bradford (a)	L0-2
06 Sep:	SCUNTHORPE (H)	L1-3
13 Sep:	LINCOLN (H)	W4-1
27 Sep:	York (a)	W2-1
11 Oct:	Hull (a)	L1-4
18 Oct:	ROTHERHAM (H)	D1-1
25 Oct:	BRADFORD (H)	L1-2
31 Oct:	DONCASTER (H)	W4-1
08 Nov:	Burton (a)	W6-1
22 Nov:	Hartlepool (a)	W3-2
20 Dec:	Grimsby (a)	L1-2
10 Jan:	Scunthorpe (a)	W1-0
15 Jan:	NOTTS CO (H)	W2-0
24 Jan:	Lincoln (a)	D1-1
07 Feb:	YORK (H)	W3-0
18 Feb:	CHESTERFIELD (H)	
21 Feb:	Rotherham (a)	
03 Mar:	HULL (H)	
14 Mar:	Doncaster (a)	
21 Mar:	BURTON (H)	
28 Mar:	HARTLEPOOL (H)	
11 Apr:	Notts Co (a)	

LEAGUE TABLE

	P	W	D	L	Gd	Pt
Hull City	16	9	4	3	16	31
Doncaster	16	8	5	3	17	29
Bradford	14	9	2	3	16	29
MANSFIELD	17	8	3	6	9	27
Lincoln	16	8	3	5	2	27
Chesterfield	13	8	2	3	14	26
Notts C	16	8	2	6	5	26
Scunthorpe	17	6	5	6	-5	23
Grimsby	16	5	4	7	-6	19
Burton	17	4	4	9	-20	16
Rotherham	16	3	3	10	-10	12
Hartlepool	13	3	1	9	-9	10
York	15	2	2	11	-29	8

Stags prepare
for the Spireites

Our young guns are preparing for another huge game in the Football League Youth Alliance (North/East Division) as they take on bitter arch-rivals Chesterfield tomorrow.

The Stags go into the game in good form, having won six of their previous eight games to climb rapidly up the table and give themselves an outside chance of challenging for the title.

In their most recent outing, two goals by Anthony Dwyer and a strike from Tyler Blake earned them a comfortable 3-0 victory over bottom-of-the-table York City.

"It was a great feeling to score and get my goals tally up. It's a not an easy league and there are some very good teams that we come up against, so it's always nice to score goals," said Dwyer.

Looking ahead to our meeting with the Spireites, the striker continued: "I haven't played in a match against our local rivals this season, but to go into the game with the good form that we're in, we feel confident as a team.

Dwyer's thoughts were echoed by team-mate Tom Stone.

He said: "I think we've had an excellent season on the whole and we're in a good position at this stage of the season.

"Hopefully, we can carry it on and finish as high up the table as possible.

"We're all looking forward to this game. It's a big local derby and we'll be looking to put in a good performance and get the three points."

Chris Spencer will also be hoping to retain his place in the starting line-up for tomorrow's game, after limping off injured in the first half of last week's victory over the Minstermen.

"It's been an amazing season so far," said the Stags' skipper. "I'm

happy with the team, happy with myself and I think we're capable of just going further and further.

"We've got great strength, will-power and we're certainly capable of a top five finish. Chesterfield should expect a very tough game because we're in good form and we want to achieve another positive result."

Defender Jack Koczalski also believes we have what it takes to beat the Spireites. He said: "It's our first season in the league and it feels good to be challenging near the top of the table.

"Everyone looks forward to Mansfield versus Chesterfield. It's a big game, but we've just got to prepare for it like we would for any other game. We've got to go into it, attack, and do our best.

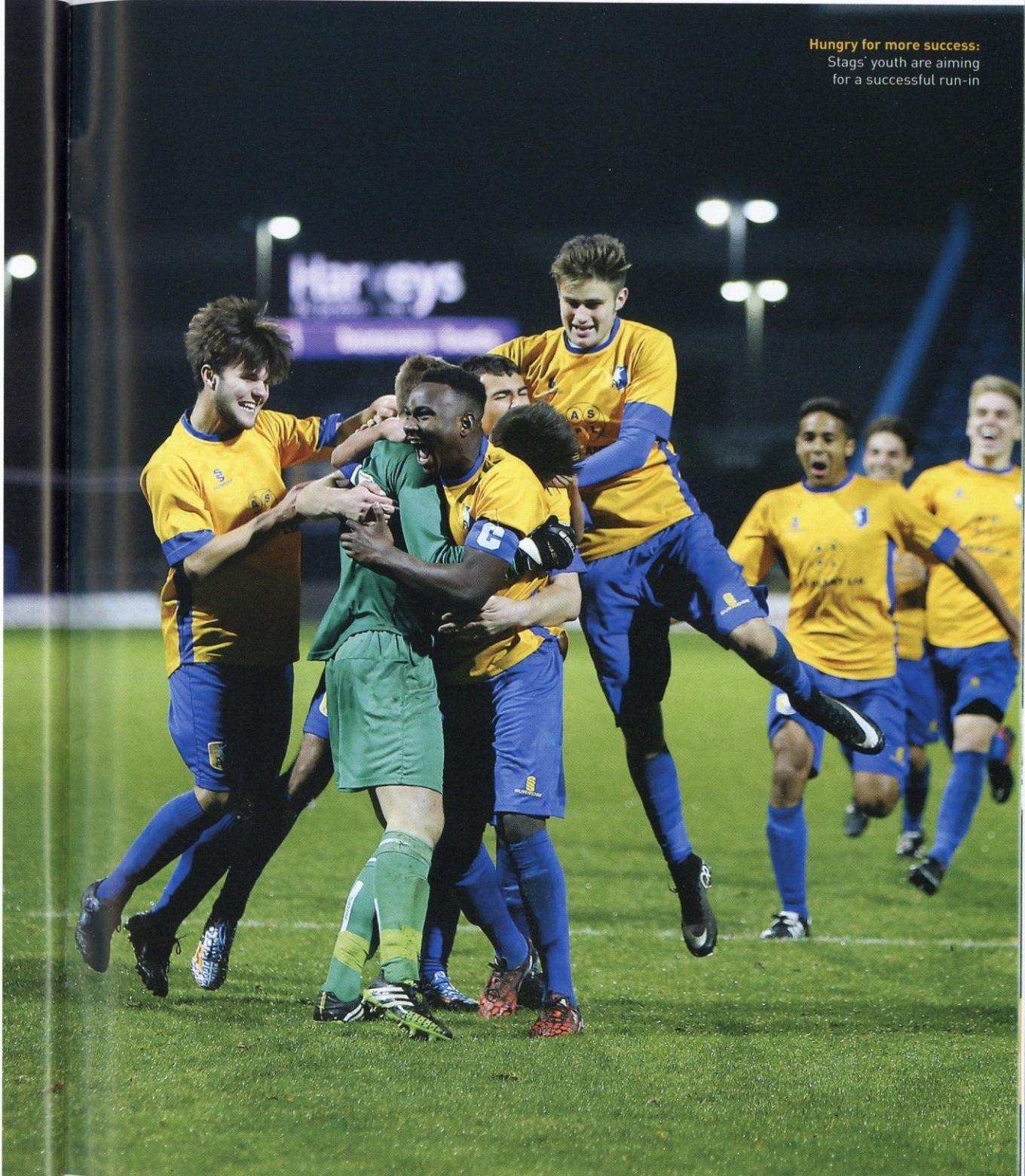
"At the start of the season I think our aim was to just get through the season, but now we're at this stage and we're doing as well as we are, I believe we can finish very high up the table."

One player who is highly unlikely to feature in tomorrow's game is left-sided playmaker Conor Green, who has been sidelined with a broken toe sustained in a 2-0 success over Notts County in January.

"My recovery is progressing well," said Green. "It's a frustrating injury as you can't really do anything with it other than wait for it to heal, but hopefully I'll be back playing in a week or two."

Reflecting on the campaign so far, the 17-year-old added: "We had a shaky start, but over the past few months we've pushed on and gone from the bottom half up to fourth position, which is pretty good."

Tomorrow's game with Chesterfield will be played at the Worksop Van Hire Stadium, Clipstone. Kick-Off is at 1.00pm.



Hungry for more success:
Stags' youth are aiming
for a successful run-in

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YOUTH PROFILE...

KYLE HEMPSHALL

D.O.B: 15/09/1996
Position: Centre-Half

FAVOURITES

TV programme? Ex On The Beach.

Film? 8 Mile.

Song? The Weekend – King Of The Foil.

Place? Gym.

Drink? Orange juice.

Celebrity? Vanessa Hudgens.

Footballer? Cristiano Ronaldo.

Other sport? Rugby.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

What age did you start playing football?

When I was eight.

Who has been the biggest influence on your career? My family. They always do their best to help and encourage me.

How many GCSEs did you get? I got 11 which were all grades A to C.

Were you any good at other sports at school? I was good at both basketball and rugby.

Do you have any siblings? I've got two brothers and one sister.

What has been your best moment in your time with Mansfield Town? This season's run in the FA Youth Cup, where we reached the fourth round.

If you don't become a professional footballer, what job would you like to do? Become a physiotherapist.

When was the last time you went on holiday? I went to Cyprus last summer with the family.

TEAM MATES

Who are your best mates in the squad?

Jack Hutchinson, Jack Koczalski and Charlie Brownlie are good mates, but the entire squad all get on really well with each other.

Who has the best skills? Joe Fitzpatrick.

Who is the biggest practical joker? Rory Thomson. He's a clever lad with good banter.

Who has the best and worst chat-up lines?

'Neilo' (Anthony Dwyer) has the best and Charlie Brownlie has got the worst by some distance.

Who has the best taste in music? Levi Walker.

Who is the messiest? I'll go for Ollie Roome.

Who would you pick to be on your team in a six-a-side match? I'd have Frazer Hampson in goal, then myself, Jack Koczalski, Joe Fitzpatrick, Conor Green and Dan Fletcher up front.



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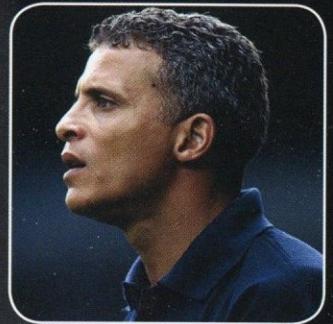
1812: Charles Dickens, author.
1873: Thomas Andrews, architect.
1962: Eddie Izzard, comedian.



STAGS ACTION:

2004: Rochdale 3
Mansfield Town 0

The Stags' promotion hopes suffer a blow as they are thumped 3-0 by relegation-threatened Rochdale at Spotland. Gary Jones opens the scoring with an early spot-kick, before Paul Connor doubles the hosts' lead on the half-hour mark. A miserable day for Keith Curle's team is compounded when Leo Bertos makes it 3-0 shortly after the re-start.



ON MY BIRTHDAY
LENNY PIDGELEY
(07/02/1984)

ON THIS DAY

1964: Four members of the hit band, the Beatles, arrive in New York for the start of their first tour of the United States.
1992: The Maastricht Treaty is signed, leading to the creation of the European Union.
2005: Great Britain's Ellen MacArthur becomes the fastest person to sail solo around the world.

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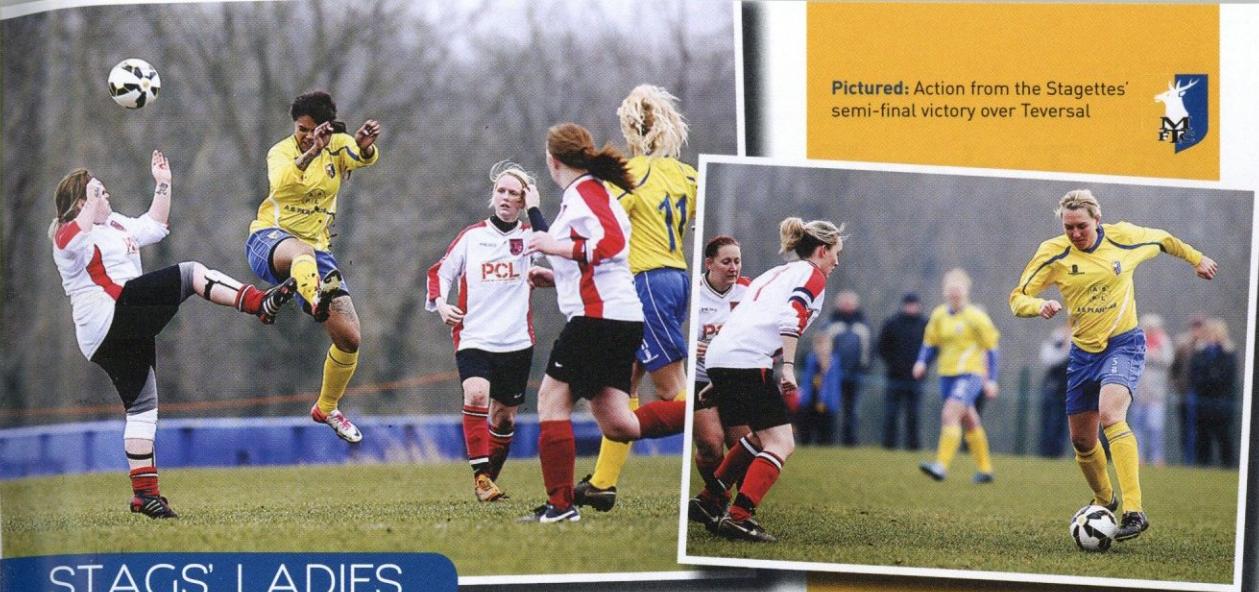
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news...



Pictured: Action from the Stagettes' semi-final victory over Teversal



STAGS' LADIES

Stagettes through to cup final

Our ladies team booked their place in the final of the Nottinghamshire Women's County Cup, with a 4-0 thumping of non-league Teversal on Sunday.

The Stagettes dominated throughout and were more than worthy winners.

Following a goalless first half, Emily Bryan opened the scoring just after half-time, before a goal by Hannah Bodle and a late brace from Stacey Bridge sealed the win.

The Stagettes will now face Radcliffe Olympic in the final of the competition, with a date to be confirmed in due course.

On a mild afternoon, the game, which was played on the pitch adjacent to One Call Stadium, began with the Stagettes pressing well and Bryan forced the Teversal 'keeper into action with a low shot inside the opening minute.

Teversal defended deeply for long periods of the game as they sought to frustrate the Stagettes, who went agonisingly close to an opener on the half-hour mark when Jemma Douglas rattled the upright from just a few yards out, following a series of corners in quick succession.

In-form striker Laura Watton also nearly found the target before the interval when she broke past the

Teversal defence, but was foiled by the visiting shot-stopper in a one-on-one situation.

Nevertheless, the Stagettes finally managed to break the deadlock within a couple of minutes of the re-start. Watton had a shot blocked inside the area, before the ball span straight into the path of Bryan, who was able to poke a shot into the net.

It proved to be the defining moment in the game as the floodgates soon opened.

Georgina Unthank was brought on and with her first touch crossed the ball into the six-yard box for Bodle, who knocked it home to make it 2-0.

Just two minutes later, following a succession of corners, skipper Bridge managed to get on the end of a delivery by Bodle and toe-poked an effort into the net, which put the result beyond any reasonable doubt.

Bridge popped up again in the closing minute of normal-time as she headed home from a corner. The final whistle was then sounded shortly afterwards and the Stagettes celebrated reaching the final for the first time in their history.

Team: Gascoyne, Davis, Walton, Bridge (c), Braithwaite, Douglas (Unthank), Bodle (Leech), Allen, Bryan (Burrows), Watton.



FA Women's Premier League (Midland Division One)

24 Aug:	Leicester City Ladies (a)	D1-1
04 Sep:	Rotherham United (a)	L0-3
07 Sep:	Leafield Athletic (a)	L1-2
14 Sep:	Solihull (a)	D5-5
21 Sep:	STEEL CITY WANDERERS (H)	W1-0
28 Sep:	Leicester City Women (a)	D1-1
02 Oct:	ROTHERHAM UNITED (H)	D2-2
05 Oct:	FC Reedswood (a)	L0-3
26 Oct:	Radcliffe Olympic (a)	L0-6
11 Jan:	Leicester City Ladies (H)	D1-1
01 Feb:	Loughborough Foxes (H)	L2-4
08 Feb:	Solihull (H)	W2-1
22 Feb:	FC Reedswood (H)	
01 Mar:	Curzon Ashton (a)	
08 Mar:	Loughborough Students (a)	
22 Mar:	Curzon Ashton (H)	
29 Mar:	Loughborough Foxes (a)	
08 Apr:	Radcliffe Olympic (H)	
12 Apr:	Steel City Wanderers (a)	
19 Apr:	Leicester City Women (H)	
TBC:	Leafield Athletic (H)	
TBC:	Loughborough Students (H)	

League Table

	P	W	D	L	GD	PT
1 Loughborough F	13	10	2	1	20	32
2 Leicester	13	8	2	3	13	26
3 Rotherham	13	7	2	4	11	23
4 Loughborough S	15	7	2	6	2	23
5 Leafield	12	7	0	5	15	21
6 Radcliffe	9	6	1	2	14	19
7 Solihull	12	5	3	4	5	18
8 Leicester	13	4	4	5	-4	16
9 FC Reedswood	11	4	2	5	-11	4
10 MANSFIELD	12	2	5	5	-14	11
11 Steel City	12	2	1	9	-12	7
12 Curzon	13	0	0	13	-49	0



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2014/15 TICKET INFORMATION

HOME MATCHES

Tickets are also currently on sale for our following home matches:

DAGENHAM Saturday 28 February (3.00pm)
BURY Saturday 14 March (3.00pm)
WIMBLEDON Tuesday 17 March (7.45pm)
YORK Saturday 28 March (3.00pm)
SHREWSBURY Monday 06 April (3.00pm)

Tickets purchased and collected prior to matchdays are priced as follows:

£20 Adults • £15 Concessions*
£10 Aged 7-16 • FREE Under 7s.

Tickets purchased on matchday rise by £2 across all categories except for Under 7s. Concessions are defined as: Senior Citizens (Aged 60+), Students (with proof of status in full-time education).

Tickets can be purchased in person, via telephone on 01623 482482, or online at www.stagstickets.co.uk. Disabled supporters should contact the main office for relevant information.

FAMILY TICKET

Our family ticket allows a family of four (two adults and two children) the chance to watch a match at One Call Stadium for just £40 – a potential saving of £28. Family tickets will be available to purchase both in advance and on matchdays. Our designated family sections are Block A and Block H of the Ian Greaves Stand (lower tier).



NEXT AWAY MATCH

OXFORD UNITED

Saturday 21 February (3.00pm)



We have received an initial allocation of 300 tickets for this match, which are currently on general sale to all supporters.

Tickets are cheaper if purchased in advance but can also be bought on matchday at the Kassam Stadium, subject to availability. Travelling supporters will be housed in the all-seater North Stand.

Tickets bought in advance are priced as follows:

£19 Adults
£12 Students (in possession of a valid NUS card), Senior Citizens (65+), Under 18s
FREE Under 7s.

Tickets bought on matchday are priced as follows: £22 Adults, £13 Students (in possession of a valid NUS card), Senior Citizens (65+), Under 18s, FREE Under 7s.

Disabled supporters pay the relevant ticket price and are eligible to claim a free ticket for their carer. We have received three pairs of tickets for wheelchair users.

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MANSFIELD TOWN

MATCH FACTS

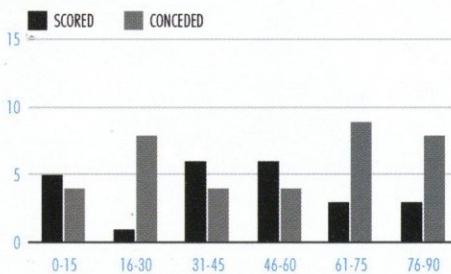
Mansfield are unbeaten in seven home games against Luton in all competitions (W3 D4).

Mansfield have failed to keep a clean sheet in each of their last seven matches versus the Hatters in the Football League.

The Stags have shipped two or more goals in each of their last three against Luton in all comps; this after keeping three clean sheets in the previous five.

SHOTS OFF TARGET	SHOTS ON TARGET	GOALS	PLAYER
12	16	5	OLIVER
25	26	4	BINGHAM
2	7	3	KEE

GOAL TIMES



RESULTS LAST 10 LEAGUE SEASONS

SEASON	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS	FINAL POS
2001/02	29	16	6	7	46	29	54	3
2003/04	29	16	5	8	53	35	53	5
1999/00	29	12	6	11	39	38	42	17
2004/05	29	9	10	10	31	28	37	13
2006/07	29	10	7	12	42	41	37	17
2000/01	29	9	10	10	41	47	37	13
2005/06	29	8	8	13	39	43	32	16
2013/14	29	7	11	11	30	39	32	11
2007/08	29	8	4	17	33	42	28	23
2002/03	29	8	4	17	45	64	28	23

*Data does not include games played on Feb 14-15

LUTON TOWN



MATCH FACTS

Luton's 3-0 win in the reverse of this fixture in November was the first Football League meeting between the sides since March 2003.

Luton are unbeaten in four away games, scoring exactly once in each match (D3 W1).

Luton have kept just one clean sheet in their last nine games on the road.

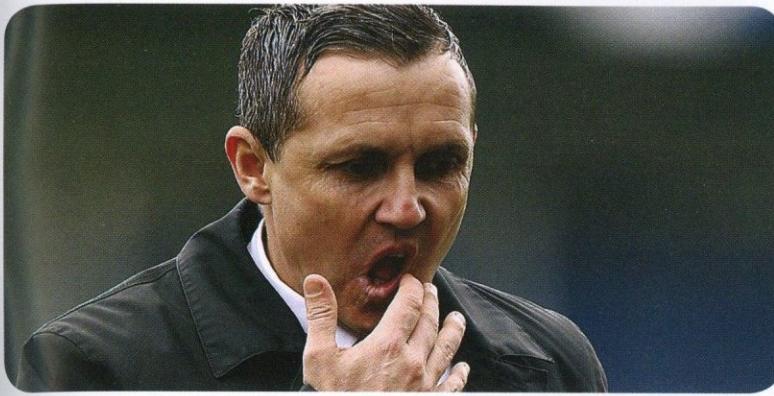
PLAYER	GOALS	SHOTS ON TARGET	SHOTS OFF TARGET
CULLEN	10	20	25
WILKINSON	4	10	14
HOWELLS	3	11	6



RESULTS LAST 10 LEAGUE SEASONS

SEASON	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS	FINAL POS
2004/05	29	17	8	4	52	29	59	1
2001/02	29	16	6	7	57	38	54	2
2002/03	29	13	8	8	44	37	47	9
2003/04	29	12	10	7	44	39	46	10
1999/00	29	11	7	11	41	41	40	13
2005/06	29	11	5	13	41	41	38	10
2007/08	29	9	7	13	31	39	34	24
2008/09	29	7	11	11	39	48	32	24
2006/07	29	8	7	14	37	50	31	23
2000/01	29	7	6	16	36	55	27	22

LEAGUE TWO LATEST



Buckle departs after 79 days

Paul Buckle departed Cheltenham Town last week after spending just 79 days as manager at the Abbey Business Stadium.

The 43-year-old, who replaced previous boss Mark Yates in November, won just once in his unlucky 13 games in charge, which was against Oxford United in early January.

Assistant manager Rob Edwards, who had an ill-fated spell at Tranmere Rovers earlier this term, was also relieved of his post at the club following Buckle's departure.

Academy coach Russell Milton was placed in temporary charge for the Robins' game against Bury three days ago, whilst Steve Elliott, who was released by Buckle only a fortnight ago, has returned to help out.

Those who have applied for the job include ex-manager John Ward, former caretaker boss John Schofield and Grant McCann, who made over

200 appearances for the club. However, chairman Paul Baker has indicated that he is in no rush to appoint a new manager.

He said: "If Russell (Milton) and Steve (Elliott) are in charge at Accrington on Friday, I'll be quite comfortable, but we have been inundated with enquiries.

"There are some good names in there and lots of people who have a previous association with Cheltenham Town, which is interesting.

"We've got great coaches and great facilities here. We don't need to rush to appoint somebody.

"There's no question that we made a big mistake with the last appointment. Chairmen and directors will get these decisions right and wrong, and it was a bad decision.

"We need to make sure this next appointment becomes part of the ethos of what Cheltenham Town is all about."

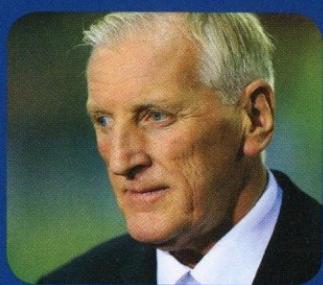
"This was the most important game that this club has had for donkey's years. It was just so important that we won and it was frustrating because we know we can do an awful lot better.

"I just hope we can put this down at an off-day – to be consistently good at this level is hard, but we probably had three or four players who had stinkers so I hope that's the end of that."

Hartlepool's next encounter is an away trip to play-off chasing Bury on Saturday.

Moore: We got bullied

Hartlepool United boss Ronnie Moore believes his team 'got bullied' as their three-match winning streak at Victoria Park came to an abrupt end after a 3-1 defeat to Stevenage last weekend.



Trailing at the break, Moore's men quickly got back on level terms after the re-start, but 'Boro soon restored their lead and it proved the key moment in the game.

A victory would have lifted the Pools, who have been in the bottom two since October, to within four points of safety.

"It was probably the most frustrating afternoon since I've been here," said the 62-year-old. "There was no tempo in the first half and I thought we were bullied throughout the game, both attacking-wise and defensively.

"This was the most important game that this club has had for donkey's years. It was just so important that we won and it was frustrating because we know we can do an awful lot better.

"I just hope we can put this down at an off-day – to be consistently good at this level is hard, but we probably had three or four players who had stinkers so I hope that's the end of that."

Hartlepool's next encounter is an away trip to play-off chasing Bury on Saturday.

Daggers make it five

Dagenham & Redbridge hoisted themselves up to 17th position in Sky Bet League Two as they made it five games unbeaten with a 3-2 victory over Morecambe on Sunday.

The Daggers opened the scoring in the first minute courtesy of a strike by Luke Howell (right), before further goals by Ayo Obileye and Jamie Cureton gave them a precious three points.





SKY BET LEAGUE TWO TABLE 2014/15

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Gd	Pts
1 Shrewsbury	31	18	7	6	45	20	+25	61
2 Burton	31	18	7	6	43	27	+16	61
3 Wycombe	31	15	11	5	42	25	+17	56

	4 LUTON	30	15	10	5	37	23	+14	55
5 Southend	31	15	9	7	34	26	+8	54	
6 Newport	31	14	8	9	39	37	+2	50	
7 Plymouth	31	14	7	10	37	22	+15	49	
8 Bury	31	14	7	10	42	35	+7	49	
9 Stevenage	31	13	6	12	42	39	+3	45	
10 Exeter	32	11	10	11	42	45	-3	43	
11 Northampton	31	12	5	14	48	42	+6	41	
12 Morecambe	31	11	8	12	33	32	+1	41	
13 Wimbledon	30	11	8	11	40	40	0	41	
14 Accrington	30	12	3	15	39	50	-11	39	
15 Cambridge	30	10	7	13	44	38	+6	37	
16 Portsmouth	30	9	10	11	30	33	-3	37	
17 Dag & Red	31	10	7	14	35	41	-6	37	
18 Oxford	31	8	10	13	33	40	-7	34	
19 Carlisle	31	10	3	18	38	53	-15	33	
20 York	31	6	14	11	31	37	-6	32	
21 MANSFIELD	30	8	8	14	25	38	-13	32	
22 Tranmere	30	7	10	13	30	37	-7	31	
23 Cheltenham	31	7	9	15	27	47	-20	30	
24 Hartlepool	31	6	6	19	24	53	-29	24	

STAGS ROLL CALL 2014/15

	Lge	FA Cup	Lge Cup	Other	App	Gl	App	Gl	App	Gl	App	Gl	App	Gl	
Lee Beevers	23 (1)	1	4 (0)	0 (1)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (1)	0						
Cameron Belford*	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0						
Fergus Bell*	10 (6)	1	1 (2)	0 (0)	1 (1)	0	0 (1)	0							
Amari'i Bell*	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0							
Rakish Bingham	12 (5)	3	3 (1)	1 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0						
Adam Bishop	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0							
Matty Blair	2 (1)	0	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0							
Junior Brown	9 (3)	1	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0							
Daniel Carr*	3 (1)	1	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0							
Chris Clements	16 (3)	1	4 (0)	0 (1)	0 (0)	0 (1)	0 (0)	0							
Sam Lucas*	2 (3)	0	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0							
John Dempster	4 (0)	0	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0							
Callum Elder	6 (0)	0	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0							
Dimitar Evtimov*	10 (0)	0	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (1)	0							
Alex Fisher	6 (5)	1	0 (0)	0 (1)	0 (0)	1 (1)	0	0							
Joe Fitzpatrick	0 (1)	0	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0							
Danny Fletcher	0 (1)	0	0 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0							
Kieron Freeman*	11 (0)	0	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0							
Liam Hearn	0 (1)	0	0 (0)	0 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0							
Simon Heslop	15 (4)	2	3 (0)	0 (1)	0 (0)	1 (0)	0	0							
Luke Jones	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0							
Billy Kee	4 (1)	1	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0							
Reggie Lambe	10 (6)	2	2 (2)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0							
Liam Marsden	7 (0)	0	2 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (1)	0							
Jamie McGuire	17 (3)	0	0 (1)	0 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0							
Adam Murray	11 (3)	1	1 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (1)	0 (0)	0							
Vadaine Oliver	15 (0)	6	2 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0							
Ollie Palmer	2 (14)	1	2 (2)	1 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (1)	0							
Lenny Pidgeley	3 (0)	0	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0							
Ricky Ravenhill	5 (0)	0	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0							
Michael Raynes	6 (0)	0	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0							
Matt Rhead	15 (7)	2	1 (2)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (1)	0 (0)	0							
Martin Riley	18 (2)	0	3 (0)	0 (1)	0 (0)	0 (1)	0 (0)	0							
Jamie Sendles-White*	7 (0)	0	1 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0							
Adam Smith*	4 (0)	0	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0							
Sascha Studer	13 (0)	0	4 (0)	0 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0							
Richard Sutton	26 (0)	0	2 (0)	0 (1)	0 (0)	0 (1)	0 (0)	0							
Ryan Tafazolli	22 (0)	1	4 (0)	0 (1)	0 (0)	0 (1)	0 (0)	0							
Rob Taylor*	10 (6)	0	3 (0)	0 (1)	0 (0)	0 (1)	0 (0)	0							
Jack Thomas	1 (0)	0	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0							
Luke Waterfall*	5 (0)	0	2 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0							

*Denotes player who has since left the club.

STATS 2014/15



DATE	OPPOSITION	COMP	RES/K.O.	POS	CROWD	AWAY	REFEREE	STAGS' SCORERS	STARTING XI	USED SUBS	UNUSED SUBS
AUGUST											
Sat 09 Aug	Northampton (a)	Sky Bet L2	L0-1	12	5,202	900	A. Davies	-			
Wed 13 Aug	Sheffield U (a)	Capital One Cup 1	L1-2	-	7,929	1,250	G. Eltringham	Fisher			
Sat 16 Aug	OXFORD (H)	Sky Bet L2	W2-1	13	3,042	405	R. Clark	Tafazolli, Murray			
Tue 19 Aug	NEWPORT (H)	Sky Bet L2	W1-0	9	2,448	98	D. Bond	Clements			
Sat 23 Aug	Dag & Red (a)	Sky Bet L2	L0-2	11	1,558	190	J. Simpson	-			
Sat 30 Aug	BURTON (H)	Sky Bet L2	L1-2	16	2,966	508	D. Drysdale	Rhead			
SEPTEMBER											
Tue 02 Sep	Notts Co (a)	JP Trophy 1	L0-2	-	3,701	1,386	M. Haywood	-			
Sat 06 Sep	Exeter (a)	Sky Bet L2	W2-1	10	2,771	137	T. Robinson	Bingham, Bell			
Sat 13 Sep	Wycombe (a)	Sky Bet L2	L1-2	13	3,106	261	D. Deadman	Rhead			
Tue 16 Sep	MORECAMBE (H)	Sky Bet L2	W1-0	17	2,185	65	S. Martin	Fisher			
Sat 20 Sep	CARLISLE (H)	Sky Bet L2	W3-2	8	3,117	313	S. Stockbridge	Beavers, Bingham (2)			
Sat 27 Sep	Stevenage (a)	Sky Bet L2	L0-3	11	2,820	292	P. Miller	-			
OCTOBER											
Sat 04 Oct	ACCINGTTON (H)	Sky Bet L2	L0-1	15	2,699	125	S. Mathieson	-			
Sat 11 Oct	Portsmouth (a)	Sky Bet L2	D1-1	15	15,585	397	S. Attwell	Heslop			
Sat 18 Oct	CAMBRIDGE (H)	Sky Bet L2	D0-0	17	2,925	410	M. Heywood	-			
Tue 21 Oct	Tranmere (a)	Sky Bet L2	D0-0	17	4,092	122	T. Harrington	-			
Sat 25 Oct	York (a)	Sky Bet L2	D1-1	17	3,370	579	G. Salisbury	Carr			
NOVEMBER											
Sat 01 Nov	SOUTHEND (H)	Sky Bet L2	L1-2	18	2,719	325	G. Sutton	Palmer			
Sat 15 Nov	Shrewsbury (a)	Sky Bet L2	L0-2	19	5,001	356	D. Handley	-			
Tue 18 Nov	CONCORD (H)	FA Cup 1	D1-1	-	2,023	101	K. Wright	O.G.			
Sat 22 Nov	PLYMOUTH (H)	Sky Bet L2	W1-0	17	2,926	581	M. Brown	Oliver			
T											



Parting Shot...

A delve into exclusive classic photographs from the club's archive

The Mansfield Town players applaud the travelling fans after our match at Wrexham in May 1977. The Stags won the game 1-0 - a result which was good enough to secure the Division Three championship. In the following season, 1977/78, the club competed in Division Two (now known as the Sky Bet Championship) for the first time.



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Mansfield Town

Manager: Adam Murray

Pld Gl



- 1 Sascha STUDER
- 2 Ritchie SUTTON
- 3 Martin RILEY
- 4 John DEMPSTER
- 5 Luke JONES
- 6 Ryan TAFAZOLLI
- 8 Alex FISHER
- 9 Matt RHEAD
- 10 Liam HEARN
- 11 Rakish BINGHAM
- 12 Jamie McGUIRE
- 14 Ollie PALMER
- 15 Ricky RAVENHILL
- 16 Simon HESLOP
- 17 Reggie LAMBE
- 18 Lee BEEVERS
- 19 Liam MARSDEN
- 20 Jack THOMAS
- 21 Adam MURRAY
- 22 Matty BLAIR
- 24 Junior BROWN
- 25 Vadaine OLIVER
- 26 Callum ELDER
- 27 Dan FLETCHER
- 28 Chris CLEMENTS
- 29 Billy KEE
- 30 Adam BISHOP
- 32 Michael RAYNES
- 36 Joe FITZPATRICK
- 40 Lenny PIDGELEY



Match Officials

Referee: Kevin Johnson

Assistants: Paul Cook &

Stephen Wade

Fourth official: Christopher Akers



Luton Town

Manager: John Still

Pld Gl



- 1 Mark TYLER
- 2 Fraser FRANKS
- 3 Danny FITZSIMONS
- 4 Jonathan SMITH
- 5 Stephen MCNULTY
- 6 Alex LACEY
- 7 Alex LAWLESS
- 8 Andy DRURY
- 9 Paul BENSON
- 10 Alex WALL
- 11 Jake HOWELLS
- 12 Scott GRIFFITHS
- 13 Mark CULLEN
- 14 Andy PARRY
- 15 Luke ROONEY
- 16 Elliot JUSTHAM
- 17 Pelly RUDDOCK MPANZU
- 18 Ross LAFAYETTE
- 19 Ricky MILLER
- 20 Shaun WHALLEY
- 21 Luke GUTTRIDGE
- 22 Michael HARRIMAN
- 23 Matthew ROBINSON
- 24 Curtley WILLIAMS
- 25 Jayden STOCKLEY
- 26 Nathan DOYLE
- 27 Ryan HALL
- 28 Jim STEVENSON
- 29 Paul CONNOLY
- 30 Luke WILKINSON
- 31 Nathan ODUWA
- 32 Brett LONGDEN
- 33 Mark ONYEMAH
- 34 Zane BANTON
- 35 Charlie WALKER
- 36 Charlie SMITH
- 39 Ian REES

Mansfield Town's award-winning official matchday programme was brought to you by:

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Deputy editor: Andrew Webb

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