

Reserves

Stags 0-1 Port Vale (Central League Division 2)

Wednesday 29th August 2012
Kick-off 7pm

One Call Stadium



Reserves narrowly beaten in positive opening game



They say clubs should always take positives from a defeat, well that's certainly something the Stags will do following Wednesday's 1-0 defeat to Port Vale in our opening Reserve team match of the season, an evening where Adam Murray returned to action with a man of the match display along with a solid display from new addition Ryan Tafazolli and attacking midfielder Lee Stevenson. Up against a strong Port Vale side it was the Stags that enjoyed the best of the opening exchanges with quick flowing football on the floor seeing Nick Wright come close on eight minutes before an Adam Murray corner two minutes later was scrambled away.

The visitors saw nothing of the Mansfield half in the opening ten minutes but on twelve minutes followed the 'take your chances' rule to full affect as they opened the scoring with their first corner of the game. The Stags we're a little sluggish to prevent a short corner and allowed Tom Morris to get a cross in from the edge of the box, Shane Redmond failed to get a proper connection on his punch clear and skimmed the ball into

the path of Port Vale's Reserve boss Gareth Owen who tucked home from close range.

Mansfield remained dominant in possession and had several chances to level prior to the break, Lee Stevenson fired over the bar from just inside the box following good play from Rhead on 26 before the latter saw two further efforts go astray.

Defender Ryan Tafazolli then set the Stags next chance with ten to go before half time with a surging run from box to box, a final pass into the feet of Jamie Hand's saw the midfielder drill narrowly wide of the target. Matt Rhead was denied thrice more before the break as the visitors protected their one goal lead.

After the break it was the visitors who enjoyed the early pressure, a slip from John Thompson on 50 minutes saw Kingsley James' pass find its way to the lively Rob Taylor who curled around Redmond but saw his effort clip the post and trickle out for a goal kick.

Thompson was then shown the games only yellow card on 65 minutes following a late challenge on Taylor and a coming together of both sets of players, however once the mist had cleared skipper Murray rallied the troops and the Stags continued to show tremendous fight and desire, coming a whisker away from levelling on 70 minutes following a fine flowing move which saw Nick Wright fire acutely wide after an excellent chip from substitute Louis Briscoe.

Five minutes from time skipper Murray was instrumental in starting yet another move, great vision and energy saw him play a long range give and go before being denied by the keeper following a ferocious left footed effort from the edge of the box. Two minutes later Shane Redmond was alert to deny Ryan Lloyd with his legs as the Vale hit man broke the Stags defensive barrier. Mansfield, driven by Murray, showed fight to the last and both Lee Stevenson and Louis Briscoe were denied in the final two minutes, Port Vale clinging on to take all three points home.

Man of the match: Adam Murray

Referee: Matthew Walsh

Line Up: Redmond – Thompson – Pilkington – Tafazolli (Poku 52) – Beevers – Hand – Murray (C) – A Trialist – Stevenson – Rhead (Briscoe 55) – Wright **Subs not used:** Flint – Turner – J Green

Name	Start (Sub)
Adam Murray	1
Alan Marriott	
Andy Owens	
Andy Todd	
Anthony Howell	
Ben Hutchinson	
Chris Clements	
Colin Daniel	
Exodus Geohagbon	
Gary Roberts	
George Pilkington	1
Godfrey Poku	0 (1)
Jake Green	
Jake Speight	
Jamie Hand	1
Jamie Tolley	
Jobe Shaw	
Joe Flint	
Joel Holland	
John Dempster	
John Thompson	1
Kurtis Turner	
Lee Beevers	1
Lee Stevenson	1
Lindon Meikle	
Louis Briscoe	0 (1)
Luke Jones	
Matt Green	
Matt Rhead	1
Michael Boateng (T)	1
Nick Wright	1
Ritchie Sutton	
Ross Dyer	
Ryan Tafazolli	1
Scott Rogers	
Shane Redmond	1

DATE	OPPONENT	H/A	Fixture Category
29-Aug	Port Vale	H	L1-0 Central League DIVISION 2
11-Sep	Wrexham	A	W3-1 Central League DIVISION 2
03-Oct	Gateshead	H	7pm Central League League Cup 7pm
16-Oct	Bradford City	H	7pm Central League DIVISION 2
24-Oct	Burton Albion	A	2pm Central League DIVISION 2
31-Oct	Rotherham United	A	2pm Central League EAST DIVISION
13-Nov	Hartlepool United	H	2pm Central League EAST DIVISION
28-Nov	Hull City	A	7pm Central League League Cup 7pm
11-Dec	Bradford City	H	7pm Central League EAST DIVISION
16-Jan	Hull City	A	7pm Central League EAST DIVISION
30-Jan	Grimsby Town	A	2pm Central League EAST DIVISION
19-Feb	Gateshead	H	2pm Central League EAST DIVISION
12-Mar	Chesterfield	A	2pm Central League EAST DIVISION
20-Mar	Grimsby Town	H	2pm Central League DIVISION 2
25-Mar	Gateshead	A	2pm Central League DIVISION 2
17-Apr	Morcambe	H	7pm Central League DIVISION 2
TBC	Hartlepool United	H	Central League League Cup 7pm

The Central League - Division Two TABLE

	PL	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	POINTS
Bradford	1	1	0	0	3	1	2	3
Port Vale	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	3
STAGS	1	0	0	1	0	1	-1	0
Wrexham	1	0	0	1	1	3	-2	0
Burton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gateshead	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grimsby	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Morcambe	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0



Written by Craig Priest and Emily Sykes. Designed by Emily Sykes.

The views expressed in this publication are those of the writers and not those of Mansfield Matters.