



Young Stags Fight Back to take the point

A sublime fight back from Adam Murray and Richard Coopers youth team saw our youngsters maintain their unbeaten league record at the expense of MMU Newcastle, turning over a one goal deficit to run out 2-1 winners at Kirklington Road.

Goals in the final five minutes from defender Ben Birch and Captain Kurtis Turner were just the tip of the iceberg for the young Stags who put on a professional show of patience as they saw three clear cut penalties turned away but had two debatable spot kicks awarded against them in the second half.

Mansfield were the better side throughout and came close to opening the scoring on eight minutes, Nuha Jabbi battling well to win back possession for Joe Flint, the hit man teeing up Matt Jones who fired narrowly over, Jones getting a second chance seconds later but again missing the target following Ross Lambs cut back.

The visitors offered little but did have Stags stretched on 19 minutes with a dominant run down the left channel, Liam Marsden on hand to clear as Mansfield remained in controlled, seeing further efforts on goal from Flint who was denied by an excellent save from the MMU keeper on the half hour mark following a Jordan Vilums corner.

Three minutes later it was Turner who had a pop after solid work from Lamb on the right hand side, cutting inside before sending Matt Jones into space. The central man the crossed into the middle where Turner saw an ambitious volley blocked, the sides going into the dressing room at the break on level terms.

After the break the penalty madness began on 47 minutes after Vilums had smartly stolen possession back for the Stags. Canterng forward into the area the lively front man had his legs taken from underneath him but failed to convince the officials he was fouled.

Four minutes later it was the visitors who, from nowhere, were awarded a spot kick after Liam Marsden was judged to have fouled inside the box. The felled MMU Front man dusted himself down to convert past Hopkins who guessed incorrectly

Mansfield's quest for a leveller then stepped up as shortly after the restart, Villums' deep free kick was headed narrowly over by Birch before Jabbi wasted a set-play opportunity when Lamb was felled on the edge of the area.

The Stags then had yet another call for a spot kick when Flints 58th minute strike clearly struck the arm of a defender, the referee again said no. Further efforts from substitute Matt Harris and Jordan Villums then followed, Harris heading wide before Villums was thrice denied by the keeper from close range.

With seven minutes remaining Jordan Jones was penalised for handling inside the box, MMU's second spot kick of the afternoon was wasted however as the opening goal scorer fired tamely wide.

This proved enough inspiration for Murray and Coopers boys to fight back, finally grabbing a deserved goal in the 85th minute. After Vilums' deep free kick cannoned off the post a goal mouth scramble saw centre half Birch slam into the back of the net from close range.

In the final minute Nuha Jabbi was denied a penalty when he was upended, not that it mattered as from the resulting throw, Mansfield struck gold. Liam Marsden launched a long one into the mix which eventually found its way to Turner, the Stags skipper thundering home a peach of a volley moving Stags four points clear of Gateshead at the top of the table.

Line Up	
1	Ryan Hopkins
2	Jordan Jones
5	Ben Birch [1]
4	Liam Marsden
3	Tom Clarke
7	Ross Lamb OFF BARKE (60)
6	Kurtis Turner (C) [1]
8	Nuha Jabbi
10	Matt Jones OFF HARRIS (60)
9	Joe Flint OFF CHAMBERS (77)
11	Jordan Vilums
Used Substitutes	
12	Danny Barke ON LAMB (60)
15	Lewis Chambers ON FLINT (77)
17	Matt Harris ON M JONES (60)
Unused Substitutes	
Jordan Fell - Dean Robinson	
Jack Hawkins - Remi Davies	

05-Sep	Glossop North End	A W3-0
12-Sep	Birmingham City	A W2-0
17-Sep	Notts County	H L1-0
21-Sep	Gresley	H W6-0
02-Oct	Lincoln City	A L8-1
10-Oct	Chasetown	H D2-2
15-Oct	Guiseley	A W4-3
31-Oct	Stalybridge Celtic	H W2-1
03-Nov	Grimsby	P-P
07-Nov	MMU Newcastle	H W2-1
14-Nov	Gateshead	A
21-Nov	Harrogate Town	A
05-Dec	Boston United	A
12-Dec	Gateshead	H
19-Dec	FC Halifax Town	A
16-Jan	Birmingham City	H
23-Jan	Ilkeston	A
30-Nov	Boston United	H
06-Feb	FC Halifax Town	H
13-Feb	Halesowen Town	A
27-Jan	Ilkeston	H
06-Mar	Guiseley	H
13-Mar	Chasetown	A
20-Mar	Halesowen Town	H
27-Mar	MMU Newcastle	A
17-Apr	Harrogate Town	H
TBC	Stalybridge Celtic	A

Football Conference Youth Alliance North Division

POS		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	<u>Mansfield Town</u>	5	4	1	0	12	7	5	13
2	<u>Gateshead</u>	4	4	0	0	15	2	13	12
3	<u>Ilkeston</u>	3	2	1	0	3	0	3	7
4	<u>FC Halifax Town</u>	3	1	2	0	7	6	1	5
5	<u>Chasetown</u>	3	1	1	1	8	4	4	4
6	<u>Guiseley</u>	5	0	4	1	9	10	-1	4
7	<u>Boston United</u>	4	0	3	1	10	12	-2	3
8	<u>Harrogate Town</u>	4	1	0	3	5	10	-5	3
9	<u>Stalybridge Celtic</u>	4	1	0	3	7	14	-7	3
10	<u>MMU</u>	5	0	2	3	8	13	-5	2
11	<u>Birmingham City</u>	4	0	2	2	4	10	-6	2

