

The 32,000 seater stadium at Bramall Lane enjoys a few famous names watching the football of Sheffield United, with Michael Palin, Richard Caborn MP and Sean Bean all known to support the team.

Sheffield United FC (SUFC) wanted to ensure that the famous and the not so famous can be certain of getting their refreshments, before the game or at half time, without missing any of the excitement on the pitch.



There is no doubt that football stadiums are some of the most complex bar operations in existence. You only have to consider the vast sprawl of the ground area, the open structure and the unbelievable peaks in trading, which take place when the team are playing.

Bramall Lane was one such stadium and to meet the needs of the site meant an unwieldy amount of gas cylinders on site requiring constant change on match days when demand was at a peak. A disproportionate amount of time was also being spent by staff on transporting cylinders around site to cope with demand not to mention the safety risks associated with cylinder handling. Such a large number of cylinders on site requiring constant replenishment also created an asset management headache for site management.

That was until SUFC heard about the 'Accellarate Midi' Gas Management System from CryoService. Almost overnight SUFC were able to install a solution that removed their current site issues.

Three Accellarate Midi systems were installed. The first Accellarate Midi system supported the two major bars in the club's John Street Stand whilst two more were installed in the Kop Corner stand to supporting two further busy bars.

The Accellarate Midi systems utilises a CO2 CarboStore tank and nitrogen generator, with no cylinders required meaning an end to manual handling and asset management issues. All CarboStore tanks were also supplied with a remote fill facility, located on the outside wall of Bramall Lane, meaning deliveries could be made without even entering the stadium or the bar cellars.

In addition, all the Accellarate Midi systems were installed with Intelligent Gas, a concept which enables the systems to be remotely monitored and deliveries arranged accordingly.

With the three installations now replacing the many cylinders on site, Andy Daykin commented: "We are delighted to have installed a system which meets the needs of our customers and provides best practise for our staff. No longer are they handling 100's of cylinders causing potential damage to themselves or the Stadium."

He continued "We have been delighted with the CryoService Accellarate system. We have reduced any financial exposure due to cylinder loss and the Intelligent Gas concept means we no longer have not had to pick up the telephone chasing a cylinder delivery."

"We are now exceptionally confident that we have installed best practise in our cellar and that we can cope with any demands that hosting a game at Bramall Lane could ask of our bars."