



SWANSEA CITY SUPPORTERS' TRUST

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Programme Notes – Blackburn Rovers, Saturday 22nd February 2025 – Dave Dalton writes:

Welcome to the Swansea.com stadium for today's game against Blackburn Rovers; it's been a difficult period for the club, and like today's opponents, we find ourselves in the process of searching for a new Head Coach.

Earlier this week the Trust were informed by the Club of their intention to relieve Head Coach Luke Williams of his duties alongside that of his coaching team of Ryan Harley and George Lawtey at Swansea City. I rarely see departures like this as positive as it ultimately means we are underperforming on the field and none of us revel in that.

However, as we stated in our Trust release on Tuesday [here](#), performances nor results have been consistent enough of late to warrant staying the course, and so we understand and support the decision taken.

We'd like to reiterate our sincere thanks to Luke, Ryan and George and wish them and their families all the very best for the future. I really hope to see them back in football before very long.

And so, the search for a replacement Head Coach is now underway. There's no magic wand to ensure the next appointment will be a success but I do feel we need to have a clear vision as to the type of football we'd like to see once again. This was touched upon when new Director of Football, Richard Montague, took part in his first full interview earlier this week that I'd recommend supporters take a few minutes to watch [here](#).

Personally, while I understand the importance of the so called "Swansea Way", we have seen how the failure to implement it has held back our performances and results, and how enthusiasm amongst supporters has dropped. We must be progressive and positive in our play, as I believe that is how we will bring supporters back into the stadium in numbers, both for the remainder of this season and for 2025/26.

Our Trust Board officers have shared your views to the club, emphasising the need to seek out those who know the Swans both inside and out to define what we want in a Head Coach. To me this should include playing positive, attacking and a quicker style of football than what we have perhaps seen over the past few seasons, which can re-connect the team with the Jack Army.

Football has been through a long period of being possession-based, and whilst that has its merits, it was recently pointed out to me that in Nottingham Forest's 7-0 demolition of Brighton a couple of weeks ago, they only had 37% of the ball!

Football is cyclical, and it appears that the fundamentals of the game are changing again, and we should take this as a real opportunity to carefully re-assess what we want to see from the Swans.

I must admit that since the New Year totting up a 120-mile round trip from Mid Wales to our home games with my 13-yr old son has become more a sense of duty than something to look forward to at times, and that is simply not a sustainable way forward for the club of our size to compete in the Championship.

We need the stadium to be full of supporters and their families from right across South, West & Mid Wales & beyond enjoying themselves again. I fear that without this, the next generation of the Jack Army will be few and far between and matchdays won't be something to look forward to again. That simply has to change.

But while the search for a new gaffer goes on, I urge all of our supporters to get behind interim coach Alan Sheehan and the team. Today's game against play off chasing Blackburn Rovers is going to be another tough encounter, but Alan has stood in before and was instrumental in steadying the team around a busy festive period in 2023, including an exciting 1-0 win against promotion chasing WBA.

I'm sure we'd all be delighted with something similar to provide us some breathing space so we can aim to finish the season well. As supporters who only want the best for the team, we can play our part by generating a positive 90-minute atmosphere to help the players raise their game and begin to make us feel proud to be a Jack once again.

Dave