



# SWANSEA CITY SUPPORTERS' TRUST

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## Programme Notes – Derby County, Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2025 – Paul Thomas writes:

Good evening and welcome back to the Swansea.com Stadium for this midweek fixture against Derby County. We come into this game following a heavy 3–0 defeat on the road at Bristol City. They're a side pushing for automatic promotion, but even acknowledging their quality, the result was disappointing. Supporters were right to expect more from the players, regardless of the opposition. We know this squad is capable of better than what we saw at Ashton Gate.

Of course, the big talking point this week is the confirmation that Vítor Matos has become our new head coach, - as just officially announced by the Club as I'm writing these programme notes [HERE](#)

His arrival has generated plenty of debate online. As with any new appointment, especially mid-season, that's completely natural. Some of the scepticism has centred on the fact that Matos currently manages in the Portuguese second division. It's no slight on that league to acknowledge that it's not the same level as the Championship, and many supporters have understandably questioned whether that experience will have prepared him adequately for the intensity of England's second tier.

But despite his relative lack of experience in the hot seat, Matos arrives with impressive coaching pedigree. Not only did he serve under Jürgen Klopp at Liverpool during one of the most successful periods in the club's history, he has also previously held coaching roles at Red Bull Salzburg and Porto. These are big clubs known for developing players, embedding clear tactical identities and, most importantly, winning football matches.

Every managerial appointment carries risk. Even experienced, successful coaches are not guaranteed success. Just ask Manchester United fans. While it's fair to say that Matos isn't exactly a household name in these parts, this is a club that has rolled the dices on unknown managers before – and with great success.

Matos certainly fits the desired profile of a Swansea head coach. His Marítimo side play front-foot, attacking football built on aggressive pressing and fast transitions. That doesn't sound a million miles from Klopp's Liverpool. For a club like Swansea City, whose supporters place huge value on identity and intent, that is an encouraging starting point. Entertaining the fanbase is also clearly important to him. As *The Athletic* recently reported him saying: "I want to create a feeling where every supporter is excited about the next game. I want them to be already thinking about the next game when they leave our stadium and be waiting for that moment."

That sentiment will resonate with many in our fanbase. If Matos can build that anticipation and connection – on and off the pitch – he'll be a success here in Swansea. He also inherits a squad with talent, even if it is one low on confidence at present. But a fresh tactical approach is sometimes all that is needed to break a team out of a rut. That said, success won't happen overnight. Patience will be needed – in the stands, in the dressing room and in the boardroom.

Thankfully, the short-term fixture list looks fairly favourable. After tonight's match against Derby, currently sitting 12th, we face West Brom (17th), Oxford (21st) and Portsmouth (19th). All of them are winnable, even with our recent form. A few positive results could quickly change the mood and give Matos a platform to build from.

Away from the pitch, can we thank everyone who has booked to come along to our sold-out Quiz Night which is taking place on Wednesday 4th December at 7pm at the Penderyn Distillery. It's always a fun and sociable evening, with teams competing for bragging rights and some great prizes.

Whether you're a seasoned quizzier or simply fancy a night out with fellow Swans fans, we're looking forward to what should be a great event with all profits going towards the amazing work carried out by our 2025 Charity of the Year [Faith in Families](#)

Enjoy the game. Let's get behind the team and ensure that the Matos era gets off to the best possible start.

*Paul*