



SWANSEA CITY SUPPORTERS' TRUST

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Programme Notes – Derby County, Saturday 5th April 2025 – Peter Thomas writes:

Today we welcome the Rams Chairman David Clowes, head coach John Eustace, players and officials to the Swansea.com stadium. John Eustace took over the reins of the Rams following his departure from Blackburn Rovers in February losing his first 3 games before winning the last 4 games on the bounce with a victory over Preston on Wednesday evening. Although still flirting with the relegation zone they are heading upwards and one can see he has made a difference with his coaching style.

Congratulations to Alan Sheehan on his appointment as head coach of the Swans for the rest of the season. Also appointed to assist Alan on his coaching team are Mark Fotheringham and Richard Stearman. We trust they will enjoy their tenure with the players, the facilities and not least our family friendly club. We wish them all the very best as we too look to finish the season positively.

The international break saw eight Swansea City players - Eom, Vipotnik, Allen, Tjoe-A-On, Cabango, Cullen, Cooper and our shot stopper goalkeeper Vigouroux - all on international duty. They have now all returned with Wales earning a well-deserved away World Cup qualifying point in North Macedonia with David Brooks equalising in the 96th minute. We should also mention the commitment of the remainder of the players training with some well-earned rest between training sessions with the coaching staff.

Last Saturday saw the Swans play Leeds United at Elland Road before 35,000 fans, including 800 from the Jack Army. The match statistics illustrate we were fairly even, with Leeds shading it 55% to the Swans 45% on possession. But that's only part of the story as our team held steadfast after conceding an early goal and considering our penalty miss rightly deserved a point and arguably could have won it against a side who have taken more points at home than any other championship side this season. Harry Darling's performance speaks volumes of him as a player. He leaves nothing out on the pitch and will no doubt be a worthy contender for player of the season. We sincerely hope he signs a new contract and opts to stay, with his formidable partnership with our captain Ben Cabango. His goal was just reward for his performance, with his 64th minute equaliser. What was also pleasing was Alan Sheehan's substitutions. Eom came on in the 74th minute, with Cooper, Allen and Vipotnik coming in the 83rd and 89th minute just after we went behind to a second goal by Gnonto in the 86th minute. These were inspired substitutions with Vipotnik's class strike to equalise in the 96th minute to make the score 2-2 and see the game out. What a result for the players, manager and coaching staff to one of the best teams in the championship. Leeds stay second, having won only once in their past 5 games while the Swans are 16th, 5 points above the relegation zone with 7 matches remaining this season.

Behind the scenes this week we saw an ownership update from Brett Cravatt and Jason Cohen and the long-awaited fans forum at the stadium to hopefully reassure supporters we are heading in the right direction. We've also recently seen some announcements around our leadership team and we hope those whose tenure will come to an end in the coming weeks will find some solace in the contribution they have made with their families and I thank you for everything you have done for us as a club.

Let's get behind the team today and shout your loudest for them. We know the players respond to the crowd and are acutely aware of your support as the 12th player. Alan Sheehan seems to have instilled confidence and belief in the them which has raised their energy levels. His substitutions are timely and respond to the oppositions changes as the game progresses. This renewed vigor will settle the team down to play positive football with a slightly different style as we head into these really important final few games of the season.

Finally, for those who haven't yet renewed their season tickets I'd urge you to do so at the earliest opportunity.

As always, if anyone has any questions please come and see us at the Trust kiosk prior to any of our home matches or email us at supporters@swanstrust.co.uk

Enjoy the match, get behind the team to help them achieve another win followed by a safe journey home.

Peter