



SWANSEA CITY SUPPORTERS' TRUST

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Programme Notes – Norwich City, Wednesday October 4th 2023 – Paul Thomas writes:

Welcome back to the Swansea.com Stadium for our latest home match of the season against Norwich City. It's been 10 days since we played Sheffield Wednesday, and I'm sure you'll agree it feels as though we are in a better place now than we were going into that game. Back then heads were down, confidence was low and pressure was building on manager Michael Duff to find some cohesion in the squad and that elusive first league win of the season.

Less than a fortnight later, with two wins, six points, six goals and two clean sheets under our belt in two games, it feels like we've taken a step in the right direction.

I'm under no illusion about the challenge posed by today's opponents. They may have only won one of their last three league games, but one of those defeats was against league leaders Leicester City, who were a Premier League club a little more than four months ago. A mid-table finish last season belies the quality within this Norwich squad, which contains a fair dollop of top-flight experience in the shape of Ashley Barnes, Shane Duffy and Josh Sargent among others.

A win today would set us up nicely for a run of tough games against the likes of Leicester City, Watford and Plymouth Argyle - who put six past today's opponents just last month. Given our past two results, I'm sure the boys are up for the challenge. Unfortunately, we'll be without Josh Ginnelly, Joe Allen and Nathan Wood, who are all out for lengthy injury spells. From all of us on the sidelines, we wish you all a speedy recovery.

Elsewhere, it's been interesting to watch the situation develop at Sheffield Wednesday over the past few days. For anyone who hasn't been keeping up with the developments there, chairman Dejphon Chansiri has threatened to stop pumping money into the club due to alleged abuse he and his family have received.

As a football fan, I understand how frustrating it can be when it feels like the club is underperforming, underspending or generally being mismanaged. As a distant observer, I'm not close to what is happening there, but there is no place for abuse and threats of violence in football.

In my short time on the Supporters' Trust board, it has become obvious how little financial wiggle room most EFL clubs have. Cash is tight. As much as we would like to see money from player sales pumped back into the squad in a bid for promotion, the economics of life in the second tier mean that much of that cash is hoovered up with the day-to-day running costs. That is often misunderstood - and until recently, especially by me. It's our job as a Trust, to maintain good lines of communication with the Swans board to ensure that our members have the truest picture of where we are — and where we're going — as a club. We promise to do that.

In Trust news, in August we started work on the restoration of the iconic former players' entrance at the Vetch Field. I'm pleased to announce great strides have been made. The wall has been safely rebuilt and painted white; the replica sign has been commissioned; and the old gate is in the final stages of being carefully repaired and repainted in its original yellow.

We cannot wait to show you the final results. In the meantime, we need your help, to send us any old pictures and cuttings you may have of the entrance so we can create a lasting legacy of the remaining areas of the old Vetch Field. Any pictures you have will be gratefully received and will be posted on our website and social media accounts. If you have something you are willing to share, please email them to us at info@swanstrust.co.uk

If you want to learn more about the work we are doing to preserve the history of our great club, have suggestions about how to improve the matchday experience, or would like to join the Trust, please come and see us at the Supporters' Trust pod, next to the Club Shop, before any home match and we'll be happy to help. You can also join the Trust online at <https://www.swanstrust.co.uk/join-the-trust/> Alternatively, please email us at supporters@swanstrust.co.uk

Enjoy the game.

Paul