



SWANSEA CITY SUPPORTERS' TRUST

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Programme Notes – Preston North End, Friday 22nd December 2023 – Paul Meller writes...

Good evening and welcome back to the Swansea.com stadium for tonight's match against Preston. For fans of a certain age games against Preston evoke recollections of two historic matches, memorable for contrasting reasons. The 2-1 FA Cup semi-final defeat at Villa Park on 14th March 1964 after being 1-0 up at half time – the closest we have been to an FA Cup final. Then there's Deepdale on 2nd May 1981. Goals that day from Leighton James, Tommy Criag and Jeremy Charles secured a 3-1 win which clinched the club's promotion to the topflight of English football for the first time – a rise from fourth division to first in just 4 years.

Last Saturday saw an improved performance against Middlesbrough, but ultimately a combination of missed chances and a defensive lapse cost us the game. Games are coming thick and fast over the Christmas period with tonight's match brought forward to allow players greater recovery time before the fixture at Southampton on Boxing Day. Friday night before Christmas is traditionally a celebratory night out on the town, so here's hoping we kick the evening off with something to celebrate on the pitch.

Off the pitch the focus has been on recruiting a new manager. Such appointments do not happen overnight. As frustrating as it may be, it is important the club takes the time to carry out due diligence to ensure the person we do appoint is the right fit for the club going forward. It's only correct and proper that such business is carried out behind closed doors, not in the public domain, and the Trust fully supports the club's commitment to stopping the leaking of information and potentially damaging the recruitment process. This is something no true supporter should want. Patience will also be required on the Swansea City roller coaster ride over the course of the next month or so whilst long term injured players return to full fitness and any new recruits bed in with the squad.

This past week has been Swansea City Foundation's 'Christmas Week of Giving' festivities, and the Trust were very pleased to contribute to this as part of our community engagement work through funding the Cwtch Coffee Morning Christmas Treat. This is a health and well being catch up hosted by the Foundation at the stadium every Tuesday for those in the local community who are most at risk of becoming isolated. For further details see [Christmas Week of Giving | Supporters' Trust provide Christmas treat for Cwtch Coffee Morning participants | Swansea \(swanseacity.com\)](#)

If you want to learn more about the work of the Trust please come and see us at the Supporters' Trust pod, next to the club shop, before any home match. You can also join the Trust online at <https://www.swanstrust.co.uk/join-the-trust/>. Alternatively, email us at supporters@swanstrust.co.uk

Paul