



# SWANSEA CITY SUPPORTERS' TRUST

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## Programme Notes – Preston North End, Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2026 – Peter Thomas writes:

Today, we welcome Preston North End chairman, Ian Penrose, his directors – including Peter Ridsdale, Head Coach Paul Heckingbottom and his team to the Swansea.com Stadium for what should be a competitive game despite them losing their Friday evening Lancashire derby 1- 0 to their rivals Blackburn Rovers to a 94th minute goal. This was clearly a disappointing result to lose a match so late in the game, leaving them 10th in the championship. However, we should not underestimate their prowess as they challenge for a top six finish.

We also welcome the referee for the match David Webb and his team of officials. He has refereed 7 matches at the Swansea.com Stadium with the following outcomes: Swansea City Won 2 Drawn 3 Lost 2. In total he has refereed the Swans 16 times away [Won 4 Drawn 5 Lost 7].

Meanwhile, the Swans moved up to 14th in the championship after a Vipotnik first half strike, his 16th goal in the league which was enough to win the game in a hard-fought contest against Bristol City on Saturday, where possession stats were 57% to 43% against us. This was our seventh win in eight games at home since Vitor Matos has taken over as head coach. In the early stages it was cat and mouse as the game swung back and fore with Bristol City hitting the woodwork early in the game and the same again hitting the upright in the second half by Armstrong, who was a threat throughout the match, and Riis respectively. This was the fifth defeat in a ten league game outing for the visitors. The Swans struck with a clear-cut chance when the ball was headed back by the 'Robins' defender Borges for Vipotnik to guide the ball into the net for his 18th goal of the season in all competitions. It just goes to show possession stats are not the sole derivative of the game but if you don't score you won't win the game. The Swans are just 6 points off the top six positions so dare we think we can make the play offs? On balance the 'Robins' asked questions throughout the game and one may consider they were unlucky to leave without a share of the points.

The game tonight is a sell-out thanks to the attendance of 'Snoop Dogg' for the first time since becoming a shareholder in the club. Bearing in mind the Swans were only outside the bottom three on goal difference in Matos's first week in charge but since then they have won 9 out of 15 league games. It's this impressive form that will have to continue for another 6 weeks or so if the Swans are to be in play-off contention come the end of the season. However, we should applaud whatever happens from here on, Matos has transformed the mood of the club with his application of football 'Know How' and player transformation, staying organised, concentrated and with time found ways to bounce back.

This coming Thursday evening, the Trust is proud to be hosting what will probably be our final public screening of *Ivor Allchurch – Golden Days* before we release it on streaming platforms around Easter. We commissioned this new documentary to honour the greatest player in Swansea City's history. The film features in-depth interviews with Ivor's wife, Esme, and their sons, John and David, offering the deeply personal story of the humble and gifted man behind the legend. With never-before-seen photographs from the family archive & intimate reflections on his life & achievements, the documentary provides a unique & moving portrait of a footballer whose legacy still resonates generations later.

Created by filmmakers David Brayley and Max Webborn, two of the team behind the acclaimed *Wonderland – The Alice Street Story*, the documentary has already received a fantastic response. With the support of the Swansea Jack and Swansea City AFC, we are delighted to confirm that the latest screening will take place at 7pm on Thursday 26th February at the Swansea Jack, Little Wind Street, Swansea and you can book your free places by scanning this QR code



Finally, it's very easy to join the Trust online in just a few minutes at <https://www.swanstrust.co.uk/join-the-trust/> Alternatively, visit the Trust kiosk outside the West Stand on a matchday. If you have any difficulties with the online system or have any other queries, you can contact us via [info@swanstrust.co.uk](mailto:info@swanstrust.co.uk).

Enjoy the match and a safe journey home.

*Peter*