



SWANSEA CITY SUPPORTERS' TRUST

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Programme Notes – Sheffield Wednesday, Wednesday 12th February 2025 – Oliver Meller writes:

A warm welcome to all Swans fans and visiting supporters on this cold February night, as we return to the Swansea.com Stadium following our first win of 2025, there's a genuine reason to be optimistic. Recent weeks have brought challenges, however the team dug in and our new loan signing Lewis O'Brien slotted in magnificently with a level headed performance. Sunday's 1-0 victory over Bristol City at Ashton Gate has provided much-needed hope - especially given how difficult that ground has been for the Swans in recent years.

The first 20 minutes of Sunday's game were tough, with Vigouroux making two excellent saves to keep us level. In the first half we were under pressure with the new formation, as players adapted to the new set up. But as the game progressed, we grew into it, creating chances through Kyle Naughton, who was outstanding in the centre of the back three. His incisive passes helped set up Ronald and Vipotnik, who were unfortunately unable to convert. Despite the earlier setbacks, there were signs of life.

As a team we stood up to the high press with Bristol in good form from a recent run of wins and a draw, and we could have conceded two or three goals. But instead, we came out a team possessed - defensively fearless and unafraid to attack and Josh Tymon netted his first league goal for the club with a poacher's finish.

The substitutions were then made at the right time, injecting fresh energy that helped secure the victory. We hope that with the new captain, Ben Cabango, we can build on this result and look forward rather than reverting to the inconsistency of previous months. Our new captain's leadership will be vital as we continue to move forward rather than sideways and backwards.

In our last ten matches against Sheffield Wednesday, we've won five, drawn four, and lost just one, scoring 16 goals and conceding 9. Earlier this season at Hillsborough, we drew 0-0, but last season saw us win 3-0 with goals from Lowe, Patino, and Yates, while we also drew 1-1 in a hard-fought game at home, with Lowe scoring from a Harry Darling assist.

Speaking of Darling, it's exciting to have him back after completing his suspension following the controversial red card in the match against Sheffield United. Despite interest from top sides and uncertainty surrounding his contract, he remained with the club in January, and fans will be eager to see him back in action tonight. However, he'll face stiff competition to break into the back three, which performed brilliantly against Bristol City, with each defender making crucial contributions, celebrating every tackle, block, and clearance like it was a goal.

Off the pitch, the Trust has been advocating for a fans 'forum, which has now been scheduled for Tuesday 18th February. Club Chairman, Andy Coleman has agreed to host the event, and we expect a strong turnout. If you haven't done so already and wish to register your interest in attending, please do so via the club's website.

Tonight's match gives us the chance to build on Sunday's performance and create a fantastic atmosphere under the floodlights. Your support is invaluable as we fight for crucial points. Whether you've been a Swansea City supporter for decades or are attending your first game, your presence makes a real difference.

Let's get behind the team and push for another important result.

Enjoy the game, and as always - up the Swans!

Ollie