



SWANSEA CITY SUPPORTERS' TRUST

Stadium, Plasmarl, Swansea, SA1 2FA

www.swanstrust.co.uk

✉ info@swanstrust.co.uk



Programme Notes – Sunderland, Saturday 14th December 2024 – Paul Meller writes:

Welcome back at the Swansea.com Stadium after a busy week on the road with a welcome and deserved 4 points gathered. Swansea and Sunderland have often produced thrilling encounters, and we expect no less this afternoon. The first time I saw Sunderland play was at the Vetch in Nov 1979. We won 3-1 in what was our one pause season during the climb from bottom to topflight under Tosh. Sunderland went on to win promotion that season, but what left the greatest impression on me was seeing Sunderland fans around the city centre days before the game, sleeping rough having hitchhiked. Like us their club is remote on the football map which requires a lot of dedication, time and effort to attend away games. In the circumstances of storm Darragh our support at Luton last weekend was amazing (hats off to the lads who forked out £900 for a taxi), followed then by another lengthy mid-week trip to Plymouth.

Long trips with early kick offs requiring unearthly hour start times have been the story of our season. The fixture list and TV scheduling gives no consideration to travelling fans, and at this time of year the costs hit hard on the pocket. Therefore, as a small token of our appreciation and noting the difficulties of travelling on New Year's Day all supporters who book and travel by official coach to our scheduled away fixture against Portsmouth will receive £10 from the Supporters' Trust as outlined [HERE](#). More details of how this will be implemented will be announced later.

The Championship season has been, as always, a rollercoaster of emotions. We've seen moments of brilliance, and momentary lapses of concentration which have cost us dearly. There has clearly been a shift in attacking mindset on the pitch as the season has progressed. The first 15 games saw us score just 11 goals including a depressing run of 5 successive blanks, but our defence was very tight with only 10 conceded and no more than one in any match. However, over the past five games we have scored 10 and conceded 9 with an increasingly entertaining style of play – long may that continue.

This time of year is pivotal in shaping the season's final stretch and we certainly have the capability of making a strong push for the play-offs. The congested fixture list will however test the depth of the squad, and the resolve of players. The passion of our supporters provides a crucial boost to the team and every chant, clap, and cheer will help to make the Swansea.com Stadium a ground opponents find intimidating.

The Supporters' Trust continues to work tirelessly behind the scenes to represent the interests of all fans. Your input helps guide our efforts, whether through surveys, meetings, or simply by engaging with us on matchdays at the Trust kiosk near the club shop. We recently held discussions with the club regarding ticket pricing, heritage initiatives, and ensuring matchday experiences remain enjoyable for all. This week's announcement by the Club [HERE](#) of a freeze on Season Tickets for 2025/26 is therefore very much welcomed with the hope that it will see increasing numbers filling the stadium - especially more families and younger supporters to be now given the opportunity to watch us play at the .com at more affordable prices.

On behalf of the Supporters' Trust, thank you for your unwavering dedication and love for Swansea City. Whether you're a lifelong fan or new to the Swans family, your presence and passion make a real difference. Let's unite our voices today and show Sunderland the strength of the Jack Army!

Here's to a thrilling match and, hopefully, three valuable points.

Paul

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