



SWANSEA CITY SUPPORTERS' TRUST

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Programme Notes – Wycombe Wanderers, Wednesday 28th August 2024 – Adam Lewis writes:

Welcome back to the Swansea.com Stadium for tonight's Carabao Cup Second Round clash against Wycombe Wanderers. It's the fourth game in a row at home, and it's been great to have seen the team up close so many times this early in the season. There are plenty of positive signs to go off, and the squad looks to have great chemistry and harmony.

It would be remiss however not to mention Sunday's draw against our arch-rivals, Cardiff City, in a game that we started well but ultimately faded in the second half and lacked the intensity to close out the game. I said in the notes for the game that form would go out the window, and that is exactly what happened.

The Carabao Cup is a tournament that is special to all Swansea fans – it's 11 years since we lifted what was then the 'League Cup' trophy against Bradford, and is a day etched in the memory of every supporter who was at Wembley (as well as those who cheered us on from around the world). Our progress to the final also included a memorable two-leg victory over Chelsea in the semi-finals.

The magic of cup tournaments is that teams like Swansea can take on Premier League giants and win – every year there are giant killers, and these types of games are always a banana skin for teams at the higher end of the pyramid. Wycombe will undoubtedly be looking to create one of those stories in tonight's game.

A cup game is also a chance for the manager to rotate the squad and give some players on the periphery extra minutes – this is especially important as we approach the last few days of the Transfer Window and assess the number and type of player that we need for the next few months. We understand that there is likely to still be some movement within the squad in the coming days and are encouraged by the efficiency and effort from the Football department this Summer.

Off the field there has been a lot of work going on between the Trust and the club. Our Matchday Experience Working Group continues to progress, and fans will hopefully now be seeing and experiencing improvements across the stadium. Our joint forum is lively and active, with plenty of ideas being shared directly between club, Trust, and supporter representatives – this has included ways to bring supporters together more visually (e.g., through 'White nights' where everyone is encouraged to wear white), as well as how music can play an increasingly important role during the game (pre, during, and post-match).

Our major efforts so far have focussed on key items such as catering, where new menus have been developed and new offers are being rolled out. This includes a new coffee stand outside the West Stand for those who want to grab a cup before heading inside.

We are hoping to run a similar survey again later this year to gather updated views from supporters, and continue to ensure that the club is doing everything possible to make the experience as inclusive and enjoyable as possible for all who attend.

If you are grabbing your coffee outside the stadium this evening, why not pop along to the Trust POD and meet some of the Board Members. You can pick up a team sheet and sign up to be a member for the new season at the same time. It only takes a few minutes.

As in a derby game, form is not usually a determining factor – cup games are the same. Therefore, it's hard to predict what version of Wycombe we will face tonight. Either way, hopefully our boys will put in a high intensity, attacking display that delights everyone in attendance and stamps their mark on a place in the squad beyond 31st August.

Enjoy the game tonight.

Adam