



So, Danny of Huddersfield Town fan site [www.htfc-world.com](http://www.htfc-world.com), you are up against Forest on the first day of the season? It must be a great honour for you to be playing such a successful and famous club...

That's right. Failing to reach the play-offs in the final week of last season was never a problem once we realised we'd be able to visit the City Ground. When each League One team faces Forest, you're giving their fans a small taste of what it's like to be in the Championship or Premiership by facing such a prestigious club. And your ticket prices only further enhance this pretence.

**You get what you pay for, young man. I do feel sorry for you though. After this game, the rest of your season will be an anti-climax, won't it? This is your cup final, after all!**

We'll still have the November 26 return fixture to look forward to in between another campaign of mid-table mediocrity. But you're right, the likes of Doncaster, Bradford and Barnsley don't capture the imagination in quite the same way. I'm especially looking forward to seeing Stuart

## Your handy guide to forthcoming opposition

Pearce and Des Walker. Will they be parading the European Cup around the pitch before kick-off?

**We might let you have a quick glimpse of one of our smaller pieces of silverware – that'll at least bring back a few memories of the 1920s for you... And who needs Pearce and Walker when you've got the likes of Gareth Taylor, Wes Morgan and Krissy Commons to strike fear into the hearts of the opposition! Go on, admit it – you're scared already!**

If I were you, I'd be concerned about how players named 'Wesley' and 'Krissy' will cope in this division. It's full of 'Andys', 'Steves', 'Johns' and 'Brians'. Have you

then we'd miss out on the pleasure of sticking six past you – is that what you had in mind? Either way, we'll be promoted by February, I'm sure. Any chance we'll have to go through the bother of playing you lot again next season?

We're being tipped as outsiders for promotion after finishing last season on a run of eight wins and one draw, but we've not really added much to the squad. I think we'll finish mid-table as the difficult start to the season (yourselves and Bristol City, the two favourites) could leave us down the wrong end of the table.

On the other hand, your fans might turn on the team if we force a corner inside the



got any of those? We've got a 'Nathan' in defence, though, to be fair, he's very good. Not as good as his defensive partner, 'David', however.

**Well, we have a 'David' and an 'Alan', but the less said about them the better. And our manager's called 'Gary' – a real man's man, and no mistake! What about your manager? Peter Jackson – isn't he the fat, beardy bloke who directed *Lord of the Rings*?**

Our Peter Jackson is much more well-groomed than his namesake. He takes great pride in his appearance, especially his hair. A real hero among our fans and for good reason – both as a player and manager he's served us with great passion and loyalty as well as providing us with constant improvement during his tenure. Unfortunately, he sometimes talks about himself in the third person which is a little worrying.

**A nut-job in charge of the team – you haven't a hope in hell of beating us!**

We may well try and play for the draw anyway. Is it possible to show Forest *too much* respect?

**Well I suppose if you just did the sensible thing and handed us the points,**

opening 15 minutes and things could go the same way as our last couple of visits to your place when we gave you a sound beating.

**Pah! And look where it got you! You've been doing even worse than us these past few years...**

It's true, we've plunged the depths. We went down the 'big money signings on high wages' route and it left us right on the brink of liquidation, but now we're recovering thanks mainly to a superb academy set-up which has produced home-grown players who actually look comfortable with a football at their feet.

Whether they're good enough to mount a serious promotion challenge – I'm not convinced. I think we need another season of consolidation, but some of our fans will expect nothing less than a play-off place.

**That's it. You keep your feet on the ground. It'll save your disappointment later on...**

**More of this nonsense in the next issue when we'll be finding out how much Hartlepool are looking forward to visiting the City Ground.**

**DOUBLE TAKE** **DOUBLE TAKE**

**Marlon King George III**

By Col