

# Doughty backing Megson

BY DARYLL BEADERDAY

After emergency crisis talks last month, Forest chairman Nigel Doughty is reportedly giving boss Gary Megson his full public backing.

Despite poor results at the start of the season and growing frustration among supporters, the board of directors made a public announcement that Megson's job is safe.

A spokesman said: "Nottingham Forest Football Club is sorry to announce that Gary Megson's contract as first team manager has been termi... oh wait, that statement isn't due for release for another month or so."

Chief executive Mark Arthur said: "It's important that the club is seen to be giving the manager its whole-hearted public support, even if he is tactically inept and constantly falling out with his players, the ginger twat."

Meanwhile, Nigel Doughty is reported to have told close friends that he will not sack Megson because change is never a good thing: "My moto is 'if it ain't broke, don't fix it' - so I'll be sticking to my traditional system of waiting until the last possible moment before sacking the manager and skipping all the blame."



## Replacement for Taylor lined-up

GARY MEGSON is believed to have an audacious plan up his sleeve to replace out-of-favour striker Gareth Taylor.

The Reds boss and his scouts have been running the rule over a number of potential new buys to take Taylor's place when the transfer window opens in January - but they're not looking in the sort of places fans might expect.

"Taylor gets five grand a week and all he does is just stand there and let centre-halves jump all over him," said an unnamed source at the club. "So Gary figured the club may as well save a whole load of money by offloading him, and

replacing him with a climbing frame."

Megson has been spotted on numerous occasions recently at various garden centres, looking furtively at outdoor furniture.

Rumour has it that Dunster House Leisure and Garden's 'Mini Fort Discovery Climbing Frame and Swing Set' model is currently top of his shopping list.

However, a spokesman for Dunster has already laughed off any speculation that a straight swap deal may be on the cards. "We couldn't let kids climb on Taylor - not with those elbows," he said.

## Rogers 'misquoted' over Stoke snub

ALAN ROGERS claims that he was misquoted by recent press reports that he considered himself "too big" for a loan move to Stoke City.

"I did indeed say that was I was 'too big' for Stoke," says Rogers. "But it was by no means a comment on the status of the club.

"It would be silly for me to turn down the move on that basis considering the club's respective league positions.

"What I actually meant was that I was too big to fit through the doors.

"Clubs like Stoke are not used to dealing with players of my stature and, until



Alan Rogers in action with the reserves

they widen the entrance, negotiations with them will not be able to progress any further."