

# Two points go up the Swansea

**Where:** Swansea  
**When:** Saturday, Sept 25  
**Result:** 1-1

Despite looking impressive from the outside, Swansea's brand new ground proved to be yet another mini Pride Park inside. As unoriginal as its appearance is its name, 'The New Stadium'

Luckily, unlike many similar new grounds (and there are many similar new grounds!), the atmosphere at kick-off was very good. The Swansea fans obviously saw this game as suitable to befit their 'New Stadium' and their increased expectation of facing Forest only added to the atmosphere.

Forest fans, rising to the challenge, were in good voice, adding the national anthem, "We're going to Germany, you're staying in Swansea" and "1-0 to the England" to the

usual repertoire of songs to suit our Welsh hosts!

As for the match itself, Forest were impressive. Friio began to look more like 'Le Magnifique' (as he was called at Plymouth) than 'Le Headless Chicken' (as he has looked for us since signing). The Lester-Johnson partnership also continued to impress and outshone the awkward and prolific combination of Akinfenwa-Trundle that has served the Swans so well thus far. Ironically the threat of this dangerous duo actually brought the best out of Morgan and Breckin.

For seventy-five minutes, all was well with the world. But, just as the belief had permeated through the Nottingham folk in the ground, Forest seemed to drop back and invite the league leaders on to them. In desperation for a



Unfortunately, the unusual growth on Jack's head could see him miss the next few games

win they dropped deep, so deep they were almost halfway back home to England, and were duly punished as Roberto Martinez lived up to his exotic name with a superb finish.

All in all it was an enjoyable day out in the principality for

the Tricky Trees. A good atmosphere and an entertaining game made it a worthwhile trip, the only disappointment being that Forest didn't hang on for all three points.

**By Andrew Brookes**

**Where:** Barnsley  
**When:** Saturday, September 10  
**Result:** 2-0 to them

It hadn't been a particularly pleasant season for the long-suffering Reds who regularly brave the invariably disappointing away visits, so a visit to Yorkshire was the last thing anybody needed.

Everybody felt miserable before the game started. That's what Yorkshire does to people - it hauls them into a great depression, suffocating them with the smog of despondency and unemployment.

I felt massive sympathy for the home supporters, most of whom were mute - years of living so close to Rotherham had clearly left them inwardly scarred. Many of them are so disturbed that they can't even make it to games anymore; others suffer from obsessive compulsive disorders, rocking back and forth yelling "scab" over and over again...

The game was something of a League One cliché: scrappy and boring. Barnsley were atrocious, Forest were worse.

The mood of the supporters deteriorated in synchronisation with Forest's performance. The close of the game saw the unwelcome return of "You're not fit to wear the shirt". There was an appearance

for a couple of the classics, "pineapple on his head" for Mr Dadi and "we all live in a world of Brian Rice" when things were particularly boring. It's not the same though; we're not very good anymore y'see. At one point there was a rousing performance of "stand up if you hate long ball". It wasn't a very accurate survey though, I think some people were merely

afraid of catching something if they sat down - I know I was.

The peculiar chap on the tannoy said that there were 2,500 people from Nottingham, living proof that Yorkshiremen can't count. Or perhaps that's how many people had left before the final whistle...

**By Alex Campbell**



No, not Forest's latest performance, but the worst in cheap Forest tat on the market today. This month's offering was spotted by not one, but three of our intrepid reporters - a set of Russian Dolls lovingly painted as Reds players, on sale in Prague.



Send pictures of any Forest tat you have spotted (or purchased!) to [rubbish@tiff.co.uk](mailto:rubbish@tiff.co.uk)