

Location, location, location

BY ELLIOT STANLEY

If our rivals are to be believed, we, the once-mighty Nottingham Forest, “aren’t famous anymore”. It doesn’t matter how many times Jeff Stelling spouts the words “former double European Champions” on *Soccer Saturday*, we have fallen far from our once proud position. It’s not just a stumble, a slight trip, but a hefty fall landing smack on our faces.

And it is yet to be determined if the wounds are fatal, but at the very least the scars will take some time to heal.

So, if we have fallen so far, why do players still want to come here? Why do we currently have several players who turned their backs on Premiership football

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to play in League One? It may have been tough for Brecks and Eaden to stay permanent fixtures in the Wigan team, but just to be part of a squad at that level is an achievement.

More recently, Nathan Tyson turned down Sheffield Wednesday before agreeing to join us here on Trentside.

There may not have been major interest from many Championship clubs, but there certainly were murmurings from a few. Besides, he could have done a Freddy Eastwood and held out for a bigger move later in the season.

We as fans are guilty of one thing when considering this question and that is a myopic view of a footballer’s mind. Unlike us, they don’t think only about the club. They think about the place, the schools, the distance from home – factors anyone looking for new employers would consider before scribbling on the dotted line.

Nottingham, despite its constant bad press, is a desirable place to live. Prosperous, vibrant and within easy reach of just about anywhere when you start to miss your mum’s Sunday roast.

Of course, we all want to believe that players come here because of the magic of Nottingham Forest, but unfortunately that just isn’t the case.

What could be – and hopefully is – closer to the truth is that they have been let in on the great plan to bring some kind of success back to the club. Many emerge from the City Ground shortly after signing citing the vision for the future as a reason for joining up. Perhaps if we were also privilege to this great masterplan, we too could share in the optimism.

Many also state that this is a “Premiership club” with “Premiership

facilities”, but that is neither here nor there. There is no point in Harrods buying in a job lot of Poundland stock; it doesn’t matter how good the facilities are, it’s the league position that matters.

Forgive my cynicism over this matter – I assure you there are times on a Saturday afternoon that I ‘feel the magic’ and I am sure the players do too. If we can pull ourselves out of the mud and regain Championship status I am sure we will continue to belie our position and pull in quality players. What we could do in the transfer market with Premiership status and a bit of cash really could cause some excitement, but for now it’s back to the job in hand.

With the January transfer window nearly upon us, it’s time for Megson to use everything good about our club to get players here. Whether it be history, potential or geographical location, we honestly don’t care as long as they perform once they’re here!



A bottle of classy wine, as purchased from Benidorm by Martin five years ago. He says: “It only cost the equivalent of about £3, so needless to say, I’ve never considered drinking it!”



Send pictures of any Forest tat you have spotted or purchased to rubbish@tlf.co.uk

DOUBLE TAKE DOUBLE TAKE

Jack Lester Piggott



By Col