

# Away hoodoo has coaches baffled

FOREST'S FAILURE to win on their league travels since August has Assistant Manager Frank Barlow completely flummoxed.

"We just can't figure it out," he commented after Forest's latest winless game. "We've thrown all kinds of theories around.

"At the moment we think that cramming our enormous squad into the team coach for every away trip was giving the players cramp from being uncomfortable – after all, it's not easy squeezing 107 players onto the tiny bus our budget affords – so we're going to start 'accidentally' losing players every time Ross Gardner makes us stop for a piss."

In order to end the team's bad luck, Forest have reportedly spent half of their January transfer budget on four-leaf clovers, rabbit's feet and horseshoes – although these charms have had a small effect, manager Gary Megson is now believed to be targeting Irish players for loan moves.

Meanwhile, the players are being trained to avoid stepping on cracks in the



By NOEL UCK

pavement (believed to be the main cause of David Johnson's injuries this season), walking under ladders and crossing the path of black cats (thankfully, early cup exits this season meant the Reds avoided a tie with Sunderland).

According to Barlow, this kind of superstition is not unusual at the club.

"A while ago we started to think there may be a curse on the team that was stopping them winning," he says.

"We were going to hire an exorcist to travel to each away game and rid the ground of its daemons, but John Pelling said that it would be too expensive to do every single League One ground.

"In the end we just decided to get a priest to bless the City Ground to make sure that we'd always win at home."

## Bennett not 'new Psycho'

NEW BOY Julian Bennett says that although he was his boyhood hero, he does not want to be the "next Stuart Pearce".

The left-back, who joined Forest from Walsall in January, says: "I obviously look up the Stuart a lot, but I don't see myself as the 'new Psycho'.

"I have no ambitions to England manager at the present time and I think any speculation linking me to the job is ridiculous.

Nevertheless, bookmakers William Hill have already given Bennett odds of 25/1 of succeeding Pearce when he is sacked as England boss.

## Rogers transfer is 'no joke'

ALAN ROGERS' departure to Hull has been met with dismay in Nottingham.

The left-back's loan move to the Championship club looks set to end his career with the Reds, much to the disappointment of *LTLF Fanzine* editor, Alex Walker.

"We're all really gutted about Alan leaving," commented Walker. "He was by far our best source of comedy material at the club.

"Rogers is just the sort of player we need at Forest and Gary Megson has made a real mistake by letting him leave.

"Who else is going to provide us with the same amount of fat, lazy and incompetent jokes? We'll have to go back to making fun of Joe Kinnear now!"

The next issue of the *LTLF Fanzine* is now expected to be delayed by several years while the editorial team try to come up with some new gags.

## FOREST LUXURY HEALTH SPA

Guaranteed: all your life's problems solved in a relaxing riverside facility. But don't take our word for it, read what some of our recent guests have said...

**'Like so many before me, I was a lacklustre striker, but by the time I left Forest Health Spa I was scoring goals for fun'**



**'I had terrible health problems, but now, thanks to the Forest Health Spa, I can just sit back and relax'**

**'I would recommend the Forest Health Spa to any retired people wanting to spend a few months having fun and topping-up their tan'**



Book your luxury break on 0115 PAMPERED