

# Travel sickness and

## Awayday woes continue

For this issue of *LTLF*, we literally 'held the front page' until after Forest's trip to Rotherham in the hope that we could report joyous news of a long-awaited end to the 37-year run without an away win.

Needless to say though, it was a case of 'Close, but no cigar' with the Reds maddeningly contriving to snatch a draw from the jaws of victory.

Still, looking on the bright side, recent weeks have seen Forest's fortunes on their travels pick up a little with consecutive draws at Brentford and Rotherham representing a marked improvement on the horrorfests served up in Reds' previous three away games: the Colchester injury-time debacle was possibly the most farcical performance Forest have subjected us to this season, while the FA Cup second round exit at Chester was certainly the most embarrassing.

But hey – following the Reds failure to clear the first hurdle in both the Carling Cup and the LDV Vans trophy, at least we can now actually claim to having had a cup run this season!

## In...

Recent weeks have seen the opening of the transfer window – and Gary Megson has wasted no time in bringing in new faces.

First in was Walsall's Julian Bennett, a Nottingham lad and, by trade, ANOTHER centre-half! We can't help but fear this is part of some sort of long-term Megson masterplan to build an entire team of centre-halves. But on the bright side, Bennett's arrival in the short term has at least relieved us of the harrowing sight of John Thompson at left-back!

Hot on the heels of Bennett was Rochdale's Grant Holt, who has made an excellent start to his Reds career. Let's not get TOO carried away though – after all, the last two Forest players to score on their debuts were Eoin Jess and Andy Impey, and both turned out to be about as useful as a pair of chocolate teapots!

## ...and out

The transfer window has also seen some departures, with Gareth Taylor, Eugene Dadi and Kevin James having all off out on loan for the rest of the season – to Crewe,



Harty recovers from an epic tennis marathon against John Robertson

Notts and Walsall respectively.

Following in the footsteps of Marlon King and Neil Harris, James has proved to be the latest in an increasing series of players who – having been a complete waste of space for Forest – has miraculously transformed into a goal machine for his new club. Infuriating!

After the defeat at Scunthorpe, meanwhile, it also looked like Megson himself may have been on his way out of the club, with one disgruntled fan having taken the liberty of putting him up for sale on eBay! Inevitably though, the auction was swiftly pulled.

## Mark Arthur speaks!

It's been our intention ever since we launched *LTLF* to try and bring you some insightful interviews – only many of our attempts to date have proven fruitless.

Two people we did approach were David Platt and Larry Lloyd, with our ulterior motive having been to try and stage both interviews at the same place at the same time, only without either Platt or Lloyd knowing until arrival!

Given Lloyd's infamous comment in Daniel Taylor's *Deep Into the Forest* that he'd give Platt a good kicking if he ever bumped into him again, the consequences could have been 'interesting' to say the least. But sadly, the plan was kiboshed when Platt's 'people' blew us out. Tossler!

In this issue, however, we're pleased to bring you an exclusive interview with Reds interview Mark Arthur, which we hope you will agree makes for insightful reading.

That said, we're a bit worried by Mark's tastes in music, which smack of an '80s footballer answering the obligatory 'Who's your favourite band?' question in an interview for *Shoot!* magazine!

Let's just hope his love of Genesis doesn't result in Forest following up last years' R.E.M. gig by staging a Phil Collins concert at the City Ground this summer – although 'In the Air Tonight' could be an accurate description of Nicky Eaden's distribution.

## A good Hart these days...

A member of the *LTLF* team recently found himself chatting with none other than former Reds manager Paul Hart.

Looking very tanned, Harty was appearing as a special guest at an event for mental health patients. [Insert your own well-you'd-have-to-be-bloody-mental-to-ever-want-to-manage-Forest gag here.]

So, what's Harty up to? Well by the sounds of it, pretty much bugger all besides the occasional game of tennis against John Robertson!

He spoke fondly though about the club, although said it's unlikely that he'll ever return in any capacity as long as Nigel Doughty is running the show.