

Millmoor misery on the road

Where: Rotherham
When: Monday, January 21
Result: 1-1 and still no away win since August!
Attendance: 7,222

It takes a brave man to be a Forest supporter, but it takes an even braver man to spend any substantial period of time in Yorkshire. Full credit, therefore, to the 2,000+ Reds who made the short journey North – if only to be subjected to the very same banal dross to which away regulars have become accustomed to.

Say what you like about Millmoor; it's certainly a place of outstanding natural beauty, alive with the pattering of innocent wildlife. Firstly there's the extraordinary abundance of weeds, sprouting arbitrarily from the rusting tin of the stand. And then there's the locals – drooling, gormless, mongrels with a penchant for gravy and Arthur Scargill.

Rotherham United are surely the only club that provide 90 minutes of football as well as most of the traits of a David Attenborough documentary – and all for the price of a plate of chips at Harry Ramsden's.

The game itself was predictably abysmal, although many important lessons were learned. It turns out that David Friio is actually a hologram and has never played



for Forest, thus explaining his uncanny ability to run incessantly without ever getting near the ball. Gary Holt also seems to have had one of his 'three lungs' filled with lead – or a substance of comparable weight.

The home supporters were unconscious for the first 87 minutes, until the equaliser, at which point they emerged from their slumber to chant 'scabs!' for several minutes. In many respects, I'm glad that

they did; a Nottinghamshire/Yorkshire fixture is never complete without a good spot of miners' strike nostalgia.

Rotherham certainly deserved their share of the spoils; they dominated possession throughout and managed four times as many shots on target as us. This doesn't necessarily mean that Rotherham are any good, merely that – on our travels – Forest are perpetually and inexorably shite.

Alex Campbell

Where: Brentford
When: Tuesday, Jan 17
Result: 1-1 and a three-game suspension for Julian Bennett
Attendance: 7,859

In some ways it's not surprising that this game was delayed by fifteen minutes. With a pub in each corner of the ground, and a few more just round the corner, there was plenty to keep the travelling Trickies occupied before stumbling the short distance to the away end!

Although not to everyone's tastes, Griffin Park is a good old-fashioned ground, with some terracing at each end for those who preferred the days of standing and plenty of character that is sadly lacking from the more modern 'stadia'.

In fact the only thing 'sadly lacking' from the ground was some heat for the pies!

It seems customary to moan about refereeing standards these days, but the performance of this particular individual seemed ridiculously inept! From the moment George 'I'm sure I used to be called Ademole' Bankole punched the ball outside of his area and escaped with a yellow card, the game was littered with poor decisions, not least the very harsh sending off of Julian Bennett.

Given Forest's away day woes, it seemed as though the writing was on the wall. Having not long conceded with some indecisive defending and now, once again, without a left-back, the omens were not good.

For that reason it was a pleasant surprise that Forest continued to look dangerous breaking forward and at set pieces. They were never truly out of what was an excellent game and a decent advert for League One. Despite spending the majority of the last half hour camped in their own penalty area, the pace of Tyson and strength of Holt offered good outlets. Counter attacks became more and more sporadic as the game wore on, but they still offered hope and some decent chances.

The defence held firm too, with Wes Morgan performing heroics to thwart a dangerous

looking front line, including the pacy DJ Campbell. Wes' performance was capped off superbly with a fantastic goal-line clearance in the dying moments. When breached, the defence was backed up well by Paul Gerrard and earned any luck gained by some wayward Brentford finishing.

The travelling fans were sent home shocked, not only at a poor referee, but at the fact Forest had at last dug deep to find some fight away from home! 110% effort from all gained a much needed away point, the first since November 12th.

Andrew Brookes



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