



Trust Matters

It wasn't part of the plan, but we're delighted to have found a new home for our programme notes ahead of each Swindon match, here at the Swindon Advertiser. The 'Adver' was formed 25 years before the Club started in 1879, so it's somewhat apt that the Trust is contributing to a publication which has covered Swindon Town Football Club from its very earliest days.

As we said in our comments last week, we respect that the matchday programme is published by the Club and that they should have the final say on what does and doesn't get included. But given all of the talk by Club officials in recent weeks about supporter engagement being so important, it was particularly disappointing that they simply pulled our previous programme notes without discussion and without letting us know.

So as one door closes, another opens. You'll find all of our future pre-match thoughts here in the Adver, freely available to a larger audience both in print and on their website.

With the season now up and running, we've seen a mixed set of results, not helped by probably by the longest injury list any of us can remember in a long time. The weekend's rain may come too late to get the squad back at Beversbrook this week, but we have to be thankful for the incredible work put in by Matt Povey which has allowed the team to stay local and train on a top-quality surface at the Nigel Eady County Ground.

But it does beg the question about the long-term strategy for Club training facilities. Those with longer memories will remember the promises made by previous Chairmen about developing our own facilities, with Highworth being the most recent project which came and went (together with its horse paddock and luxury houses). Having the first team squad located closer to home grouped together with the academy and the behind-the-scenes team has to be the way forward. Whilst there has been lots of talk, there are currently no clear plans for a permanent home, but with the weather now turning, training at the County Ground isn't going to be an option for much longer.

Talking of the County Ground, the Joint Venture Board met last week and finalised the stadium Business Plan for this season. Trust members will be getting a copy in the coming days ahead of a vote so keep your eyes open for that. Minutes from the meeting will also be circulated as soon as they are agreed.

Swindon fans know all about the highs and lows of following our beloved club, so let's finish this week with a both a positive and then something not so positive.

Since the squad returned to pre-season training, one noticeable change from last year has been Ian Holloway's comments about the importance of supporters and the local community. In most interviews, the manager has passionately spoken about us, the fans, and how we are the essential lifeblood of the Club. This was backed up last week with the family fun day – an opportunity for all generations to meet the players, take some photos and have a chat. It was a well-attended event and something which we have been saying for some time that the Club needs to do more of. Swindon's kids need to feel connected to their local club before they get taken in by one of the premier league big boys! We applaud Ian's new strategy and look forward to seeing players out in the community in the weeks and months ahead.

Finally, for this week, we need to talk about a cloud forming which we are keeping a close eye on. For some time, an Australian liquidator has been investigating the events which led to one of the companies in Clem Morfuni's Axis group collapsing, owing considerable sums to a range of people. That investigation, focused on assets being moved around the Axis group, has now turned into formal court proceedings which were launched by the liquidator in April of this year.

What does this have to do with Swindon Town? One of the companies named in the court papers is the same company which has lent money to the Club through a legal debenture, with the shares of the Club (together with its other assets) being used as security against the loan. Should a demand be made for the loan to be repaid, the shares of the Club could be taken if funds were not available to make the payment.

We have approached the Chairman about the case who has stated that it's nothing to do with Swindon Town and that we shouldn't be worried. Nonetheless, the legal trail is clear and backed up by documents in the public domain. This isn't a "today" problem, but something we will continue to monitor.

So that's it for now. Our focus turns to Port Vale under the floodlights with hope we can quickly get back to winning ways. If you'd like to join the Trust, take a look at www.trustSTFC.com.

COYR's!