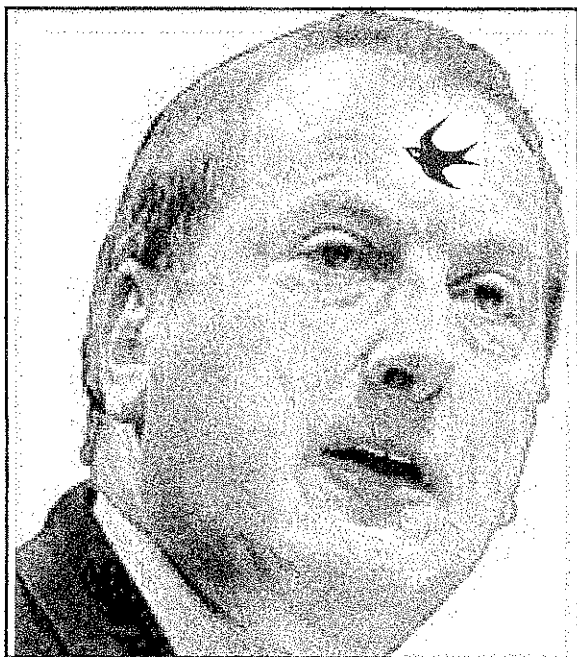


**You Can Stick
Your Welsh Assembly
Up Your Arse**



**And All Your
Happy Shoppers !**

A Swansea City Fanzine

Jackanory

Issue Eight

Apr/May 1998

50p

Cork Lines Up Pre- Season Tour Of Ireland



Inside : Tribute to Robbie James, An Interview with Tony Cottee, Paul Raynor, Mouthful Of Lead, Snatched from the Cradley, Wandering Stars, 97/98 Supporters Poll, T-Shirt Corner, Beer and Footy plus lots more.....

WHAT'S THE STORY ... JACKANORY

PO Box 372, SWANSEA. SA1 6YY.

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Dunvant Jack and Uplands Swan.

Next Issue :

1998/99 Pre-Season Friendlies

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Back Issues :

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Note :

All profits from *Jackanory* are donated to Swansea charities.

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Disclaimer :

The views expressed in this fanzine are not necessarily those of the Editors, SCFC, FOSCFA, TITS, MAGS., Silver Shield, the Evening Post, my Sunday Roast, Burnt Toast or the Gower Coast!

Swansea City Trivia

Q1. Who was the manager of the Swans in their re-election and what was the result in the season of 1974/75 ?

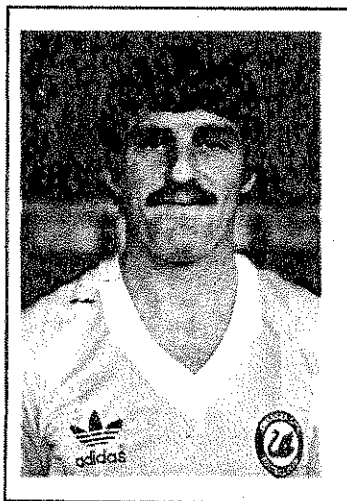
Q2. Who holds the post-war record for the most league goals in one season and how many did he score ?



Q3. Who were our opponents Swans first ECWC match ?

Q4. Name the three players who scored hat-tricks in the 1994/95 season ?

"OH ROBBIE ROBBIE"



AN ODE TO THE KING

Oh Blaa Deee - Oh Blaa Daaa

When Robbie won the ball on the centre spot,

He'd pass it out to Leighton on the wing,

Leighton beat his man and put in the cross,

Who'd be there ? It was Robbie, he was the King.

Oh Blaa Deee life goes on !

You know you're getting on when footballers you were brought up on, footballers you modelled yourself on, reach that great dressing room in the sky. Today has been one of those days. In 1977 when I first saw the Swans at the tender age of 12 Robbie James was on the verge of greatness. After returning from Arsenal because he missed his home town, at 20 he'd already played a hat full of

games. Scored more than his fair share and was an integral part, if not the pivotal cog, of a young team that was going to touch immortality. I for one will never forget Robbie James and even when he returned to the fold after too many years away, he was still...well....Robbie - a god like colossus of a man with a barrel chest that made Duncan Edwards look like he had shingles. I still have a picture of him in my mind that will always be with me, his white Patrick shirt so tight the seams are almost bursting, from the Match of the Day video v Manchester City at the Vetch.

In fact there were two Robbie James who represented Swansea. When Robbie returned from forced exile to the east he was unfortunately only 40% of the player he'd been between the years 1977 and 1983, and that is not being disrespectful, but he was still for me the King of the Vetch. Whilst Leighton James has always been my favourite ex Swan, Robbie will always be the King of the Vetch to Leighton's Prince. Leighton was sublime, he was petulant, moody, all those things that make a great player. But Robbie was different, he was Swansea through and through. He didn't appear at first sight to have all the ball skills that Leighton, or indeed Curtis, might have had but he had heart, he had balls. He was to me someone you'd like in your corner when the going got tough. Anfield in '81 Robbie was in the thick of it, Preston, the promotion day, he sweated blood for the cause, against Man United at the Vetch in '82 he was so keen to ensure the ball crossed the line he almost took the net, goal posts, fencing and half of the West Terrace half way to Mumbles. And those who were at Bramall Lane, Sheffield will never forget the look of embarrassment on his face



after scoring a late consolation penalty in a dreadful 5-1 defeat. And what about the look of delight when he scored the winner away at Nottingham Forest to end our long barren run searching for an away win. The list is endless.

The first Robbie James who served with such distinction in his first spell was possibly the most exciting footballer I have ever seen. One moment receiving a short goal kick from the Swans keeper, the next skirmishing for possession in midfield. Then the most astute of passes to Curtis or Waddle, Charles or Toshack. The cunning and awareness second to none, the brain working twice the speed of ordinary mortals. He had no fear of flying boots, no fear of the consequences. Always involved. And to finish it off he had, a lethal shot. Ripping them in from all distances.

Robbie was a gladiator. Throw him in the pit and he'd fight for the shirt, something that I'd never appreciated before and have rarely seen since.

Goodbye Robbie and thank you. You will never be forgotten.



Advertisement

Swans Diary of '97 A Year in 45 minutes



Professionally made audio tape. Includes match reports, commentary extracts from the play offs and Wembley, and interviews with Sharpe, Hamer, Adams, Molby etc.. - plus full length interview with Molby on the day he was sacked. Also full coverage of the takeover saga. Price £4.99 - cheques to Wyn Evans, PO Box 379, Swansea. SA1 1YB.

Dickie Davies' Football Rumblings

Hello once again Swans fans, Dickie here and seeing that this is my last article before the summer break, I thought I'd begin by revealing a shocking revelation from the glamour world of Premiership football. It surrounds the departure of Frank Burrows from West Ham for Cardiff City. It appears that Frank bought Harry Rednapp's niece a toy manufactured by the Merthyr based toy makers Bluebird. So incensed by this were John Hartson and Frank Lampard Jr that they issued the board with a "him or us" threat. Consequently Frankie was sent packing and only the Kumah brothers would touch him once this despicable act had become general knowledge. The fact that Frank's wife drives a Nissan Bluebird and refuses to drink Swan Lager were also cited as reasons for his dismissal by the Hammers.

Sometime ago my wife, Mrs Davies to you and me, read aloud the headline "Allsop's at the Vetch". Lovely jubbly I thought and legged it down to the ground. Once in the Harry Griffiths bar I asked for an Allsop and was immediately confronted by a grinning giant of a man. "Out my way you oaf" I said "I'm having an Allsop". "Too right" came the reply. How was I supposed to know it wasn't the dark beer Allsops Ale. I've been wearing dark glasses for five weeks now and sticking to the Hemelings. I'm always getting things wrong. Saw on Teletext the other day the headline "SWANSEA New signing speaks". Well that's a good start I said let's hope he can move his legs as well!



Told Frank to get out

On the field matters which grabbed my attention recently have been the change in our style of play and Roger's continual slicing of goal kicks. No doubt the return to passing football is due to the Curtis 'take off your boots and wear slippers' tactics used in training and boy it seems to be working well. As for Roger, all he has to do to stop slicing goal kicks into the North Bank is to aim for the Centre Stand, failing that let the ballboys take the kick instead.

Thought beating the Scum depended on how many times Coates and Appleby could get round the Cardiff fullbacks and put in difficult crosses. The plan nearly worked, though I must say the lack of drive by the players surprised me. While Curtis' job was too bring skill to our play, my job in the Centre Stand was to twat 'Jimmy' Saville and Judas himself. The only thing stopping me was a Cardiff director offering Happy Shopper carrots and bog roll at rock bottom prices. Anyway, there were no carrots left as Steve White ate them all when he came off. Coatesy scored a cracking derby goal to send the North Bank ballistic. I tipped the wink to the Post photographer to capture the ecstasy on film.

I'll finish my contribution by giving air to a song I heard filtering across the pitch from the North Bank that Sunday. It made me smile. It was of course to the theme of Comershop:

"Cardiff have been shit since '45,

Cardiff get crowds of 45,

Cardiff sell tea-bags at 45.

Everyone hates a scummer baby,

Everyone hates a scummer,

Everyone hates a scummer baby,

Everyone hates a scummer."

Please Note:

Dickie will be holidaying with Frank Bough and Des Lynam in Skegness. Police are advising tourists to stay as far away as possible. This is for your own safety.

In The Opposition's Box

The away game at Colchester United continues our series of match reports seen through the eyes of the opposition.

Colchester United

The U's fielded an unchanged side apart from the bench where Buckle and Duguid came in for Betts and Adcock who received a broken nose in a reserve game earlier in the week. The U's started brightly and although most of the play was in the Swansea half of the field in the opening 20 mins they were unable to get shots in on goal. Swansea always looked dangerous their cause helped by slack defending. Emberson had to use his body to stop a rocket from Price after 15 mins and only got the ball at the second attempt, and then Appleby who had earlier shot just wide of the post saw a shot go just over the bar with the keeper beaten.

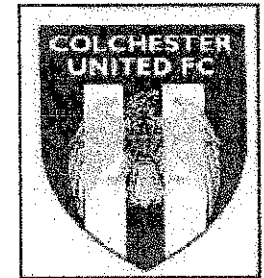
Neil Gregory nearly put the U's ahead on 25 mins after leaving two defenders trailing in his wake. The U's training regime has seen him shed half a stone and he is now looking a lot fitter that when he joined the club and on 27 mins a through ball from Sale or, brother David, saw him reach a ball that a week or so back he would have failed to have reached and he calmly placed the ball clear of the advancing Freestone and the U's were in the lead. On 38 mins he should have had a second when Sale pushed a long cross from Dunne to him but a desperate Edwards managed to block the goal bound shot. After the referee had blown for half time he summoned Sale and delivered a lecture as they left the field, no doubt unhappy at the big boot the lofty one had used to deliver the ball to the official

Half Time: U's 1 - 0 Swansea

Haydon who had picked up a leg injury in the first half was replaced by Duguid. The U's were put under the hammer from the restart and it came as no surprise when on 52 mins the defence allowed a long throw from Bound to reach an unmarked Coates and allowed him to head the visitors into the lead. Minutes later Bird hit the bar twice with Emberson beaten on both occasions. On the hour two defenders were shielding a harmless looking ball as it rolled towards Freestone who had come off his line to gather it. Suddenly David Gregory appears, gets the ball, lobs the keeper who somehow gets a fingertip to it and deflects it onto the underside of the bar - the U's luck being what it is the balls bounces back straight to Freestone. After 78 mins Watkin is allowed to make his way unchallenged into the area, passes to Coates whose shot across goal is tapped home by Price. Buckle saw the equalizer stopped on the line by Edwards on 81 mins but after that it was just of question of how many more would Swansea score.

Full Time: U's 1 - 2 Swansea.

Another disappointing display from the U's and although some blame can be attached to Carl Emberson he can't be expected to cover up all the mistakes made by his defensive colleagues. MOM: Has to be Neil Gregory, only trouble is will each goal he scores put the price up!



In a recent Cambridge United programme, Mark Johnson described his trip to the Vetch just before Christmas. In a paragraph entitled **State of the Ground**, he commented that "the redevelopment at the ground seems to have stalled shortly before the drawing board stage, which makes the ground look like the various stands had been dumped at random by a bored, giant child". In **Food/Drink**, he says that "the staff had been told to expect 200 travelling U's fans, which meant that hot dogs were reduced from £1.20 to 80p at half-time. One U's fan's munched his way through seven". Daft bugger !!

The Ex-Files : Tony Cottey

your P45. One thing is for certain, all the players featured were once proud to pull on the white shirt of our great team.

For our first case, **Greg Matthews** dons his Mulder and Scully trench coat and tracks down a man who after being shown the door by the Swans decided to swap his football boots for a career of bouncing googlies.

Although only making a few league appearances, a handful as sub, **TONY COTTEY** was at the Vetch for 3 years from 1982. After leaving he joined the Glamorgan County Cricket team and helped them win the 1993 Sunday League title and the 1997 Championship.

Jackanory : You were released, by John Bond, at the same time as Dean Saunders. I know Deano is bitter towards Bond and has since proved his worth. How do you feel after all this time ?

Cottey : I would say John Bond is the one person in sport or in my life, that I have least respect for. If you had a personality clash with him you were out. For instance, one day in training, a player (who'll remain nameless) received a pass from John Bond. Bond screamed for a return but the player turned and passed to someone else. Bond stopped the game, rubbished the player in front of everyone and said "You'll never play for Swansea again" and the player didn't.

Also, he had a rule of no sport or drinking 48 hours before a game. I accepted this but one Thursday I decided to play golf with my father. We had a game on the Saturday but I was 18 years old, at my fittest, and we only played a leisurely 9 holes. In front of us all the way around were a few directors and John Bond. The Directors said hello but Bond would not acknowledge me. The next day he called me into his office and fined me a week's wage for playing sport 48 hours before a game.



Jackanory : Do you wish you'd stuck at football? Deano didn't have any alternative but to pursue a career in football and he ended up playing for Liverpool and Galatasaray ?

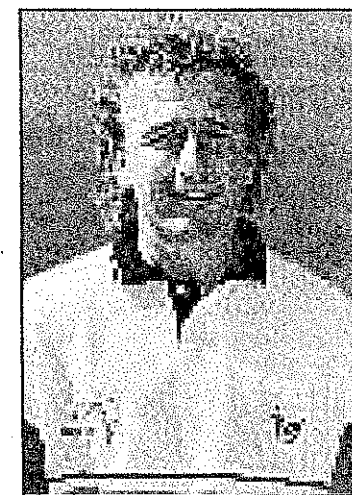
Cottey : Well, we'll never know, but one thing Deano had was pace. If you've got pace someone can teach you to trap a ball, pass etc. He was also a trier. As a teenager he'd had a couple of operations on his knees and to come back

Over the forthcoming issues of *Jackanory* we will take you into the world of The Ex-File. A world either brimming with hero-worship and glittering careers, or a place where halcyon days are soon eclipsed by injury or

showed a lot of guts. He also had a good touch and I've followed his career since he left the Swans and the way he's come on 3/4 years after leaving the Vetch - I couldn't believe it was the same player.

With regard to my own game. I remember playing a midweek home game against Spencer Works, in the Welsh Cup. We drew 1-1 and I was the only Swans player Colin Appleton, the manager, singled out for praise. I knew I was in the team for Saturday's game - Appleton got sacked the next day and Bond was in charge for the weekend's game.

As a teenager it was very hard proving yourself time and time again. I'd often think I'd done enough to warrant a first team place and the something else would happen to knock me back



Championship Winner

Looking back this may sound like sour grapes but now I wouldn't change anything really because I love my cricket so much.

Jackanory : What was life like as an apprentice in the First Division days ?

Cottey : Well as an apprentice it was hard. We would have a yellow jersey for the worst player in training. Phil Boersma would select one player and rubbish him through training. It was done to test your character and at 16 years of age I found it very hard. Everyone seemed to come through it but you couldn't concentrate on your game. One thing it gave me was a national service grounding. Thankfully, the fitness side I've never lost.

We also had many laughs. All the apprentices had different duties and I was responsible for cleaning the boots for Bob Latchford, Max Thompson, Dzamal Hadziabdic and a couple of other pros. The other apprentices included Colin Pascoe, Darren Gale and Jimmy Loveridge. Each day the apprentices would get in about 8:30am. Everything would be pitch black and the first one down the corridor would switch all the lights on. One time Darren Gale got in before everyone else but heard someone coming down the corridor behind him. So Darren didn't switch the lights on but instead sneaked into the home changing room and hid behind the door. As the door opened a lone figure walked in. Darren then jumped on the person and started screaming and thrashing about. The person, in turn, screamed with fright and struggled to the light switch with Darren Gale on his back. The person finally made it and switched the light on. Darren Gale nearly died of shock. It was John Toshack! Tosh dryly said "Darren, I think you should get off my back don't you?"

Various other apprentices were blackballed or tied naked to the goal posts. I once climbed the floodlight for a 50p bet. I did it, but on my return from the top Les Chappell walked around the ground and stopped by the Double Decker for a chat to one of the

apprentices. If I'd been caught it would have been a week's wage fine. So I had to stay up there for about 20 minutes with the wind blowing, rocking the floodlight back and fore.

Jackanory : Ever thought it may have been different if you'd played in a different era ?

Cotley : I'll never know but when I went to Swansea it was the second year in the First Division and the reserve side would often contain Chris Marustik, Ray Kennedy or Garry Stanley and it was hard to get into. I didn't expect to get into the first team as an apprentice but the first year as a professional in the Combination (Reserve League) I enjoyed because it was pure football. However, by the time I got to play first team we'd slipped into the lower divisions and it was too physical. I was 5'5" and it was always a battle because at 19 years old I hadn't filled out. My one regret is that I'll never know if I could have competed when I got stronger.

When Tosh was in charge he was fair to younger players. John Bond's personality was up and down. He got rid of nine of us about the same time. I think I would have had another contract for a year or two if Tosh had been in charge.

Jackanory : You've reached the pinnacle of English cricket. If you had done the equivalent in football you'd probably be a millionaire and engaged to a Spice Girl by now. Are you envious of the difference between the two sports ?

Cotley : At 15 years of age I wanted to play cricket but then got the chance of an apprenticeship at the Swans. Les Chappell told me that I could play football and if I failed I could go back to cricket. But if I chose cricket - I could never go back to football.

When I left the Vetch I had the chance to go to Birmingham City but I opted for cricket at Glamorgan instead. If I'd stayed in football I probably wouldn't have won as much as I have done at Glamorgan.

Also, the social side in cricket is better and I've been able to travel to places that I couldn't have if I'd been with the Swans.

Jackanory : Do you follow the differing fortunes/results of the Swans ?

Cotley : I don't go much as I'm coaching or playing most weekends but I still follow the results. Even though I didn't quite make it I was involved in many Combination games and played against many great players in some of the top grounds in England. I played against Tony Adams at Highbury and competed in midfield against Hoddle and Ardiles.

You don't forget that, so yes I'll always be a fan.

Thanks to Tony Cotley for giving us his time and a fascinating insight into his sporting career. We wish him all the best for the forthcoming cricket season.

TALES OF THE UNEXPECTED

Every now and then, points out Phil Davies, a team comes along who you just don't like! Something happens like they score a last minute winner against you or their fans chase you through unknown streets!

Everyone knows Swansea fans don't like Cardiff City. We always have and always will cheer yet another defeat for the Bluebirds but over the last ten years or so, the teams who have battled it out for second place in our list of those we love to hate have included the likes of Bristol City, Wolves, Bolton and Birmingham. And after last season you can probably add Northampton and Carlisle to the ever growing list.

But after a trip down to the south east of England this season, a new candidate has emerged namely that of Brighton and Hove Albion. Admittedly we're not too fussed about this team hundreds of miles from south west Wales but the hatred this club has for us can only be appreciated by those who have attended the games between the two sides home and away over the last few seasons. Even then if you hadn't witnessed what I've seen then what stories I have to tell will come as a surprise.



A few seasons back Swans fans didn't endear ourselves to the followers of the Seagulls after invading the pitch and attempting to climb into the West Terrace. Last season at the Goldstone Ground, fans exchanged punches best they could through a fence which separated the two sets of fans. A line of police prevented further trouble but the verbal exchanges continued. The Swans support that day was split between those who felt sorry for Brighton's plight and those who couldn't give a shit about them and wouldn't miss their presence in the league one little bit.

At Gillingham this season, the Swans played them in front of what was then Brighton's biggest league crowd of the season. In the pub beforehand, the Swans fans who displayed colours were subjected to intimidating taunts. A story later emerged that a car load of Swansea fans had been attacked by a group of Brighton hooligans. The Jacks protecting themselves and the car fought back but, sod's law, the police turned up and witnessed the Swans fans beating back the hordes and promptly arrested three of them!

Inside the ground every other chant was anti-Swansea. Their favourite seemed to be "You're Welsh and you're wife's a sheep". To which our response was "You're queer, and you're wife's a bloke"! If there's something that Brighton fans hate then it's chants relating to the fact the Brighton is Britain's Gay capital. "Hamsters up your arse" and "Chase Me" songs upset them no end. They should learn to turn verbal abuse into their favour as we do by chanting "One-nil to the sheepshaggers" after going a goal up.

Pushing and shoving behind the main stand was as bad as it got after the game mainly due to the presence of two police vans. The moral of this story is "Watch Your Back". Be alert and careful.

'Swansea Till I Die'

Name: John Williams
(21)

Home: Leicester
(originally Sketty)

First Swans Game: v

Halifax Town 1987. Lost 3-0 on a Sunday afternoon.

Best ever Swans game: v Scum, FA Cup Nov 1991

Favourite Current Swans player: Nick Cusack

Least Favourite Current Swans player: None

Favourite Swans player of all time: Jan Molby, closely followed by John Williams

Least Favourite player of all time: Shaun Garnett, his mistakes still give me nightmares.

Best Swans goals: (3) Harris v Stoke, April 1991 (2) Gilligan v Scum, FA Cup 1991 (1) Legg v Stoke, March 1993

Best Atmosphere: v Wycombe away, March 1994

Proudest moment: Wembley 1994

Lowest moment: Wembley 1997. Having been to the majority of games that season home and away, I missed the final as I had an exam that afternoon.

Ambition: To win the lottery, buy Scum City and close it down. Sell the ground to Asda, with the profits, buy the Swans and take them to the Premiership, with the Vetch refurbished.

Clubs most detest: Scum City & Inter CableTel

Favourite Swans XI: (since watching the Swans)

Roger Freestone

Des Lyttle Keith Walker Andy Melville Robbie James

John Williams Colin Pascoe (1st spell) Jan Molby Andy Legg

Sean McCarthy Jimmy Gilligan

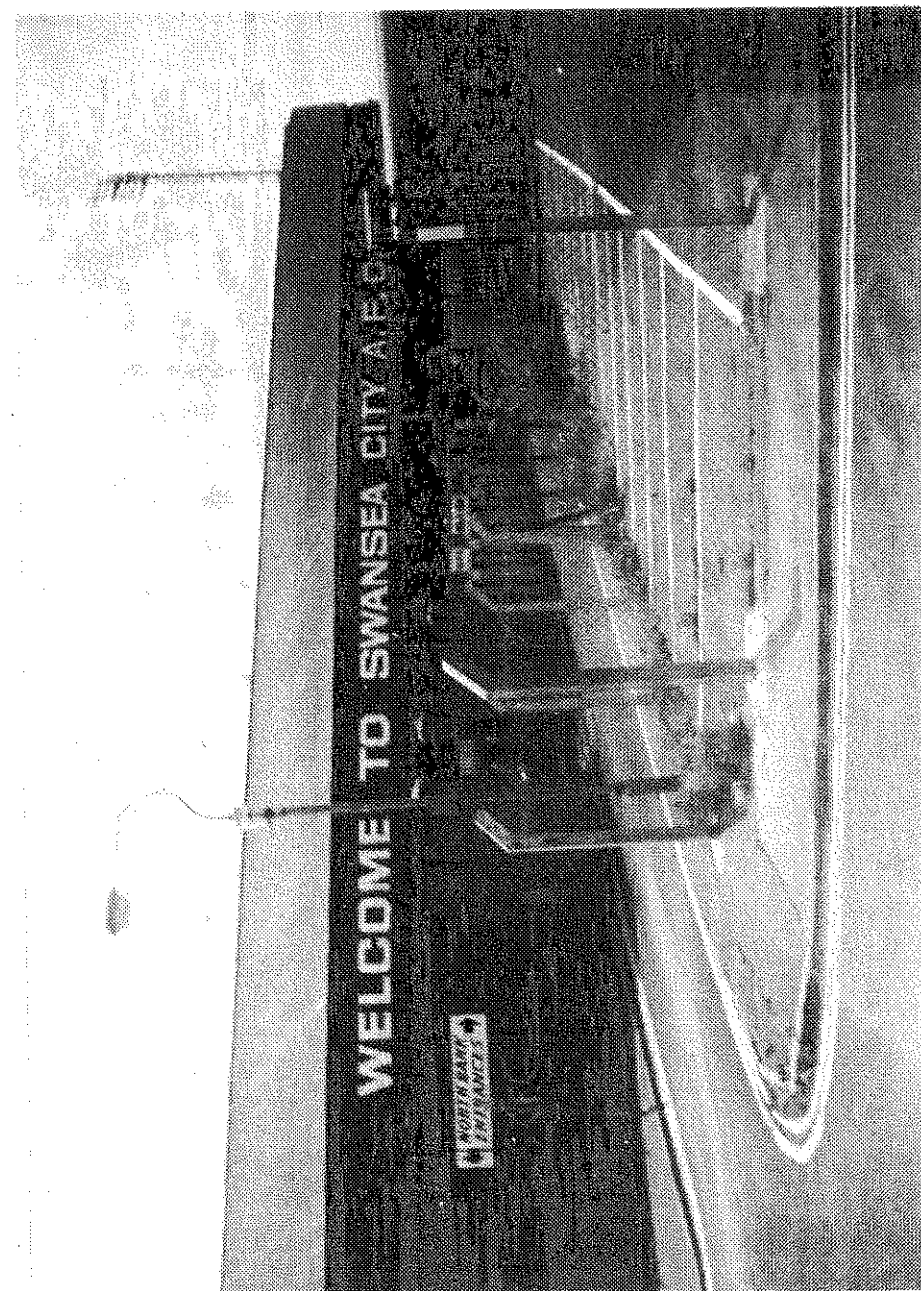
Regularly Occurring Dream:

Claims to fame

1. The day after we beat Middlesbrough in the FA Cup, I was on a train back from Leicester, where I met Nathan Blake. He told me he nearly signed twice for us when he was at the Scum, but Dougie wouldn't pay the wanting price. He also called me a Jack B@STARD but it was in good humour!

2. Speaking to Richard Keys on Sky, asking them to show the Autoglass win over the Scum in 1993.

Next Issue : Neil Griffiths



Supporters Poll 1997/98

About You

Q1. Age ?

Q2. Place of Residence ?

Q3. How many years have you been following the Swans ?

Q4. From which part of the Vetch Field do you watch most games ?

About This Season

Q5. Best Player ?

Q6. Worst Player ?

Q7. Best Game ?

Q8. Worst Game ?

Q9. Best Goal ?

Q10. How many home league games would you have attended by the end

of the season ?

Q11. How many away league games would you have attended by the end of the season ?

Q12. Do you rate the FAW Invitation Cup more important than the Auto Windscreens Shield ?

Q13. Give one word which describes how you felt upon hearing the news that Doug Sharpe had left the club ?

Q14. Give one word which describes how you felt upon hearing the news that Jan Molby had left the club ?

Q15. Did the takeover by Silver Shield fill you with hope for the future ?

Q16. Do you still feel the same way about the new board now ?

Q17. Did Alan Cork's appointment

fill you with hope for the future ?

Q18. Do you still feel the same way about Alan Cork now ?

General

Q19. What will you miss most about the Vetch if a move to the Morfa goes ahead ?

Q20. Would you like to see stands at our new ground named after the two late greats Ivor Allchurch and Robbie James ?

Q21. Who would you most like to see come to Swansea for Keith Walker's testimonial game ?

Q22. Favourite North Bank chant ?

Q23. Favourite All-Time Swans :

Goalkeeper

Defender

Midfielder

Forward

About Jackanory

Q24. Do you think profits should go to charity, improving the fanzine or the club ?

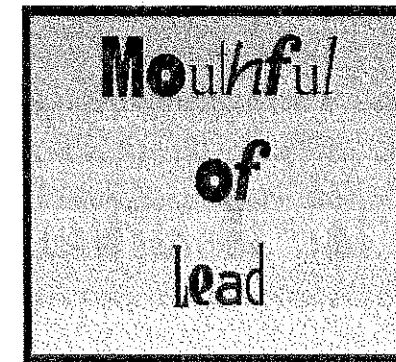
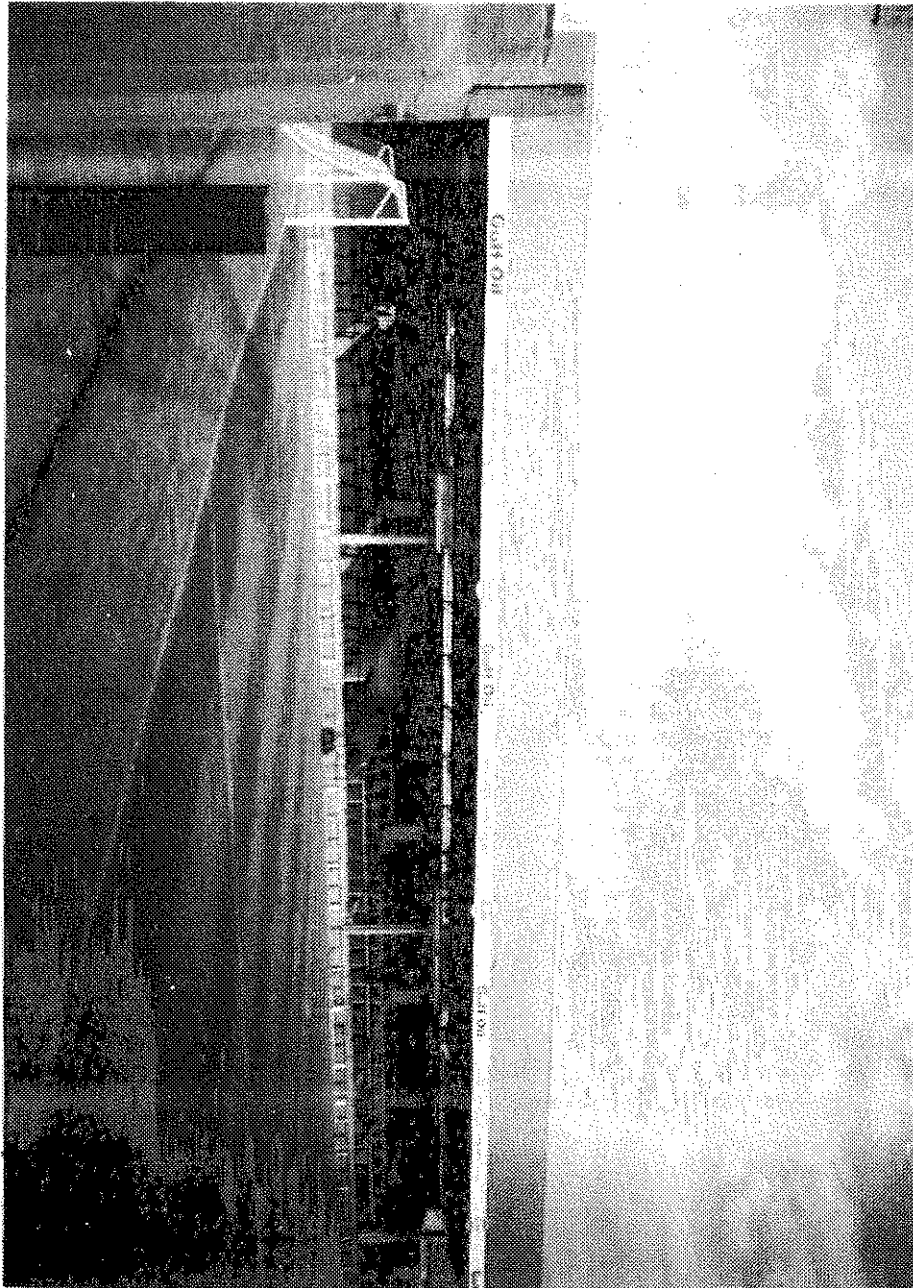
Q25. Favourite Front Cover ?

Q26. Favourite Article ?

Q27. What do you think is an acceptable percentage of Cardiff abuse in each issue ?

Q28. What suggestions have you for future issues ?

Please send the middle pages (or a photocopy of them) to *Jackanory*, PO Box 372, Swansea. SA1 6YY. Alternatively, hand them to any of the fanzine sellers or the FOSCFA hut. Thanks.



Why Our Toilets Are Special

by Prof. C.A. Manaboutadog

Swansea has always been home to architectural curiosities. From the Hanging Bastards of Dyfatty, to the neo-baroque Georgian facade of the Union Street Spud-U-Like, the city's buildings have a diversity all of their own.

The Vetch is no different. Swans supporters have their very own unique heritage in the form of the North Bank urinals. Built in 1645 by a chain gang of Nubian murderers, it has stood the test of time and continually offered itself as a primitive shrine for the discerning slack-bladdered Jack who demands the very basic in urinary facilities.

There are plans to achieve listed status to preserve the unique 3mm terracotta drainage system which spews back 80% of human waste over all & sundry; and lottery funding to make a themed section where Peter Day will be employed in period costume to direct adrenaline junkies into the '7th Wave' - an exciting ride on the yellow foaming surf which propels one violently towards the hamburger stall.



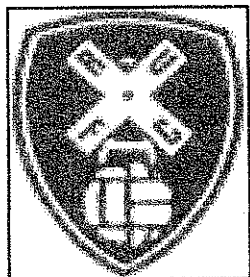
New Exciting Ride

Exciting times. Swans fans should respect the history - not moan about their camels smelling of piss.

Mouthful of Lead

<http://www.btinternet.com/~A.S.Thomas/SCFC.html>

Beer And Footy



Apr 11th

The
Millers

Rotherham (L) - Millmoor

Rotherham is so dull it's advisable to get completely pissed before entering the town before the surroundings get you reaching for the Smiths tape. But if you really want to drink in Rotherham then go to the supporters bar, the Tivoli Club, which backs onto the home end.



Apr 18th

The
U's

Cambridge (L) - Abbey Stdm

The pub where Jacks congregate is the Greyhound in Coldham's Lane, which is five minutes walk across the Common to the ground. The food there last season wasn't bad and there's a pool table there too. United fans drink there but they were outnumbered last season.



May 2nd

The
Stags

Mansfield (L) - Field Mill

The usual haunt is a pub called the Lord Byron in Quarry Lane which is the road that runs alongside the ground. It has a large open main bar and a separate room for pool. Ideal place to sink a few pints and check your face paint for the last game of the season.



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SNATCHED FROM THE CRADLEY

I am part of a very select band of Swansea City supporters explains Richard Major.

After all, there can't be many who can honestly say they have seen every game under one manager. Unfortunately, this manager was Kevin

Cullis. I remember clearly the day the mysterious Mr Thompson first announced his plans to take over the club as I spent a fortune on a BT payphone listening to his ramblings on clubcall. He promised "Premier League football in 5 years" and "new all-seater stadia" and the fans went happily away to a snowy Chesterfield loudly proclaiming "New Ground New Fans" to anyone who cared. It seemed that years of under-investment in the club was at an end.

And then, the "ambitious" Mr Thompson poached Kevin Cullis from his prestigious position as youth team manager of Cradley Heath in time for his home debut against top of the table Swindon. I was at University at the time but I just had to travel back to Swansea for this one. We lost 1-0 but the scoreline actually didn't do us justice. For much of the game we were better than the eventual champions and a win, or at least a draw, would have been a fair result.



Brummie Rocker

This game was followed by a Tuesday night away trip to Blackpool. Only 37 fans made it to a chilly Bloomfield Road to watch a display which makes the current squad look world beating. This time, a 4-0 drubbing flattered us and we finished the game with 10 men. The next day, I probably found out around the same time as Cullis that he had been dismissed by returning saviour Dougie by checking out the clubcall headlines on teletext.

Mr Thompson departed shortly after, £150,000 worse off, and a re-re-re-revitalised Doug Sharpe took over the reigns again. Later on in the season, I blagged my way into the players bar at Bournemouth and got chatting to John Hodge who told me that Cullis wanted to play some bizarre system which the players didn't understand. At Blackpool, it showed. It got to the stage where the players had to take over the half-time talk as he was completely incapable!

As usual, nothing changes down the Vetch. Where have we heard promises of Premier League footie and a new ground more recently? The number of people who can claim to see the entire reign of a new manager has increased dramatically since the rapid departure of Mickey Adams for "personal reasons". The only thing we have got better at is getting reduced to 10 men more often!

T-Shirt

Connor

A Jeckyll and Hyde design this one; a naff version of the City Arms on the front, yet an excellent map with every venue the Jack's Tour would hit on the reverse. I can't

exactly remember who flogged this one or where, but a holdall and the wrenching of a fiver out of my hand are embedded in the memory.

1990/91 meant one thing to me; the continued existence of argh, it still hurts Yorath. True he had returned the season before, but fate decreed he'd still be haunting us well into '91. 'Never mind' said Nirvana, 'Bollocks' said the North Bank and so did Sharpe, eventually sacking him.

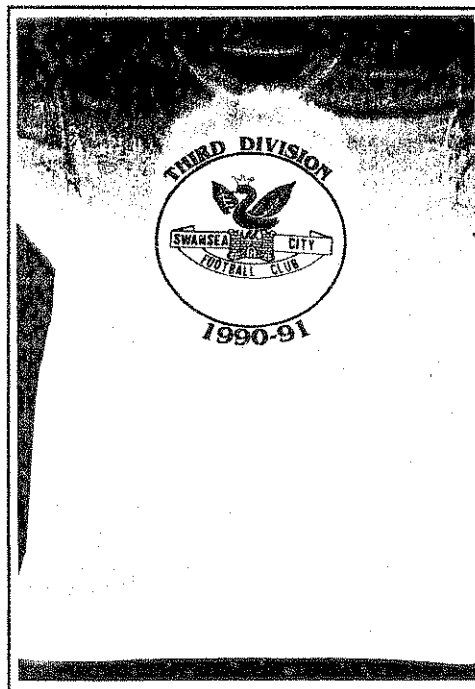
The season began badly, there was a death and a fracture at the Vetch, that is the Double Decker and the drainage system; one still hurts, the other haunts. Long live memories of a full West Stand and a flood resistant Vetch Field. Anyway on with the football.

The campaign began in east London, not with the hoped for win (goals from the new strike force of Connor and Gilligan) but with a 3-0 defeat, an away strip more unlucky than Man Utd's grey one and a full scale riot in and out of the ground, with a Leyton council estate taking the brunt of Jack angst. Defeat bit hard that year.

As usual City fell at the first hurdle of the Cola Cup, this time to Stoke, 1-0 on aggregate, but this was after a 1-0 home league win over Huddersfield (thanks to old Gimmeegoals) in front of 4,800. September and flying Swans nose dived, an away win at Bradford hardly eased the trauma of losing to Bury at home and Exeter away.

October and a gubbing by Southend and a defeat at Grimsby hardly eased matters. 'Sit Down' James said, but the fans got up and voted with their feet, only 3,800 turned up for the Crewe game. Still having heard of the Vetch Field miracle (Raynor actually scoring) 4,561 turned up to see Jimmy Hill's Fulham at the Vetch. The game ended 2-2 Gilligan on the score sheet again. By the end of the month the Swans had amassed 15 points out of a possible 42. Someone was going to pay. Pity it was Wyndham's Llanelli Town. Gilligan and Chalmers both got hat-tricks as the Swans won 8-1. At last the Welsh Cup looked a good bet.

November and time for fireworks? Hardly, two draws and a defeat at Mansfield meant Yorath seemed more likely to be placed on the bonfire than old Guy Fawkes. Whether it was the fear of a rocket up his backside or a return to Bradford, Yorath turned things around. Welling were disposed of 5-2 in the FA Cup (only after Swans recovered from being 2-1 down) then Chester were defeated by yet another Paul Raynor goal. The Leyland Daft Cup arrived in the shape of Shrewsbury. 1,540 of us suffered a meaningless 1-1 draw.



Next up were Birmingham City at the Vetch. Anyone who has seen TV footage of Connor's two goals will find it difficult to believe that such a packed North Bank and West Terrace only generated a crowd of 4,896. Still the atmosphere that day was superb and the Swans actually began to look like a good outfit. The FA Cup was next and this time Walsall were dumped out, the match featured on *Match of the Day* and Garth Crooks gave Jimmy and Terry the bug thumbs up.

Into the festive period. Reading gave us early pressies 3 goals and 3 points. Stoke then donated a further one at the Victoria Ground. Our White Christmas was complete with a 4-2 win at Wigan. James Gimmeegoals bagging a hat-trick. Jingle all the way!

Into 1991 and after conceding 5 goals at the Vetch the Millers weren't quite so Merry. Just short of 6,000 saw the rout. Pity we had them next game in the FA Cup, 6,500 saw a Rotherham defensive performance that out did us in the replay. Keith Walker was badly injured (out for the season) and we ended up with only 10 men on the pitch. Bugger. But Shrewsbury paid for all that with their customary Vetch Field stuffing and the month ended with the annual jaunt to Merthyr in the Welsh Cup and the usual away win, 2-1 this time.

February and 5 games no wins. No love lost between Yorath and the fans either.

March and 9 games only 2 wins, Yorath got the boot. Frankie Burrows arrived and as if by magic... we beat Stoke 2-1. Harris scoring a cracker from surprise surprise open play. Roll on April we all thought!

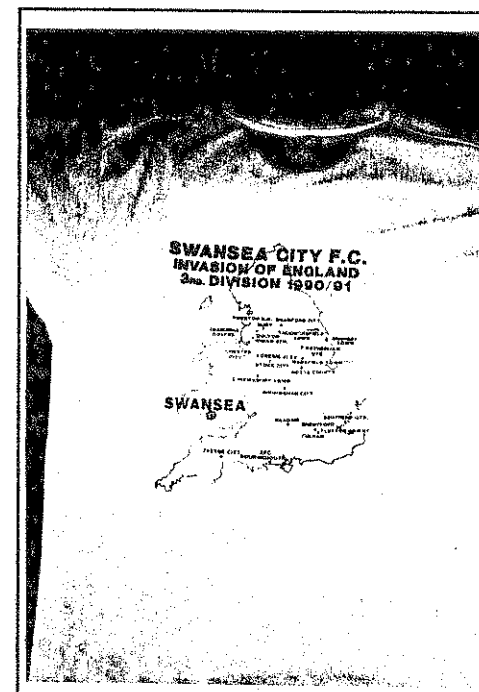
Did we really only draw with Barry? Did we really concede 6 goals at home to Wigan? Did we still get to the Welsh Cup Final and beat Preston and Rotherham in the league? Yes fellow Jacks these momentous events did occur all in the space of 30 days. A draw with Orient meant we wouldn't drop into the mire that Cardiff and Wrexham called home (the 4th Division), but we still needed something extra to prove that we were undoubtedly Wales' finest.

"How about the Welsh Cup?" said Frankie

"We'll take it!" answered the North Bank.

We did, and Cardiff city centre too! On a warm sunny Sunday in May, Dave 'the Judas' Penney and Paul Raynor scored the goals that beat Wrexham, enabled Terry Connor to lift the Cup, gave Sharpe the excuse for his existence and the rolling call that the capital still fears and we all love "JACK ARMY".

And that was it; Swans were back in Europe, the Gulf War broke out the same night as Chelsea played Spurs (coincidence?) "Raynor for England" was held to be the wittiest chant of the year and ominously Shaun Chapple made his senior debut. What a hell of an experience!



EXCLUSIVES !

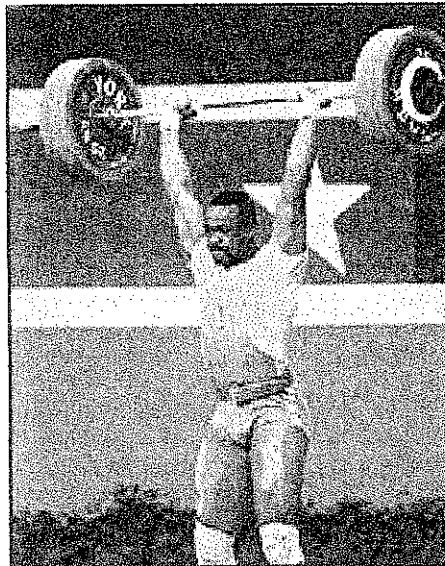


Supporter prepares to risk his life as he enters North Bank toilets

Safety experts say they don't expect him to return within the next seven days. Rescue teams have been put on stand-by and his relatives have been informed.

Club's hypnotist goes too far as Ampadu sets new World Record in training

Self belief, claims the club, is the reason behind Ampadu's amazing show of strength. A spokesman has said a fight with Lennox Lewis has not been completely ruled out.



Steel Town Swans

Can we once and for all, writes David Corcoran, nail the myth that Port Talbot is predominately a Scum City town.

The fact is, Swansea City has a large and very loyal following in the steel town. Yes it is true there are some sad buggers who prefer to suffer and support our bitter rivals but that doesn't mean that Port Talbot is a lost cause. In the distant past, it was fashionable to be a Scum supporter because they happened to play in a higher division. Of course since the late 70's, the Swans apart from one season have always been above the old enemy. This has ensured a lot of Port Talbot's younger football fans took to following the Super Swans and have remained loyal ever since. However even before the Swans meteoric rise up divisions there was still a dedicated band of supporters from Port Talbot who regularly attended the Vetch during the dark days of re-election in the early seventies.

Over the years, supporters from Port Talbot have been instrumental in furthering the cause of Swansea City. *Jackanory* is the latest in a series of Swans fanzines but let's not forget the very first, entitled *Jackmail*, was produced by a Port Talbot boy. Of the current web sites on the Internet dedicated to the Swans, one *A Mouthful Of Lead* featured in the last issue of *Jackanory* is run by a Port Talbot Swans fan. The present Chairman of FOSFCA comes from that beautiful town across the bay and the group I belong to namely THE PORT TALBOT SWANS have been involved in kit and match sponsorship.

However it isn't just the fans that make Port Talbot a Swans town but also the players that have come from there. Colin Pascoe, Michael Hughes, Huw Morgan, Darren Gale have all worn the white jersey with pride. Of the current side, Kris O'Leary is another from the seaside town. Certainly, Port Talbot boys play for the Swans and not since Rod Thomas and Alan Durban in the early 70's has a Port Talbot lad disgraced the town by playing for the Scum.

Despite Swansea being the nearest professional football club and undoubtedly the best, some Port Talbot residents still profess to being Scum followers. However few go to watch the boys in blue on a regular basis, whereas the Swans followers are regular attendants at the Vetch. In fact I would suggest that Swans fans from outside the city are far more loyal than those who actually live in Swansea.

So next time you condemn Port Talbot as being a Scum stronghold just think on and remember all the loyal Swans fans that live there.

In Shrewsbury this season, there was a pub (with knock on the door entry), which contained 10-12 Port Talbot Swans fans all aged between 18 and 24.

Myths

What about the other nearby towns of Neath and Llanelli? Has support for Cardiff City died in these towns? Does support for the Swans predominate? Write and let us know.

Raynor Raynor

Sometime in 1987 Brian Clough made his biggest managerial mistake he accepted a bung. At exactly the same moment Terry Yorath made a bigger mistake, he paid old Big 'Ead for a certain Paul Raynor. Terry Yorath swallowing the lie that all ex-Forest players are superb football players and bought Raynor convinced he was a right sided midfield genius.

Paul Raynor, the name speaks for itself and the nickname speaks volumes - Clare. Paul Raynor - oh don't the memories flood back from the five years he graced/haunted the Vetch. How many arguments was the moustached one responsible for in the North Bank, given that his performances ranged from the sublime to the ridiculous. Who doesn't remember that goal against Wrexham? Who doesn't remember that 15 minute substitution at Merthyr?

Raynor joined the Swans in March '87 going straight into the team to play Halifax at the Vetch. Such was Paul's overwhelming influence the team promptly lost 2-0. Eleven games later, the season at a close, Raynor had scored 1 goal and claimed 4 yellow cards. His stall had been set.

The 1987/88 campaign however was a great success for club and player alike. Paul settled in at right back and put in great early performances; soon the Vetch faithful grew accustomed to seeing "No 8 Raynor" on the score sheet. Five goals were scored in the first 13 games, however it was his near post belter against the Scum on New Year's day that ensured cult status and in turn laid the foundations for future escapades in the south Wales derby. Paul finished the season with 10 goals, missing only 2 games and was a member of the last City squad (to date) to win promotion.

His first goal of the following season was at Southend and rather than a kick-start to his season it was something of a backfire. After only 2 more appearances he was dropped not reappearing until the end of November for that game at Merthyr. His part in this match had long since gone down in the annals of Swans history but here it is once again. With the Swans 3-0 up Yorath brings on Raynor. Within 30 seconds Paul's on his arse, he gets up, checks his studs then only minutes later is on the seat of his pants for the second time.



Old Big 'Ead

"He's on his arse again, He's on his arse again" sang the 600 travelling Jacks. A final tumble a minute later and the cry "Raynor for England" was born. We all laughed so hard it hurt. A night the guy will always want to forget, a night 600 will always remember. It was pure Raynor.

Despite all this, by February, Paul was back in the manager's good books and "No 8 Raynor" was a permanent roll call on match days. It was during this period of time that two of the high spots of Paul's career occurred. The first was an outstanding display against that rabble from east Wales at the Vetch in March. 1-0 down Raynor picks up the gauntlet and starts to boss midfield, Cardiff's only answer is to give Terry Boyle the task of marking Mr Raynor. The Cardiff goofball takes this literally and stamps all over Paul as he lies on the ground. Off goes Boyle; cue Raynor's annual blast against the Scum. The North Bank erupts "Raynor, Raynor, Raynor". The man was a class act - honest.

Three weeks later and Raynor scores the first Swans hat trick of the season. A trio, against Barry in the Welsh Cup semi, assures the Swans of European football come September and the chance for Paul to win honours in back to back seasons, this time as a Welsh Cup winner. 6,000 see Raynor's great performance in the 5-0 rout of Kidderminster. The player duly picks up his electroplated nickel silver

tankard as a result.

1989/90 started brightly, a place in the first 16 line ups of the season and 5 goals as well, this involved both goals in 2-0 win over Chester and a memorable strike in a memorable game against Panathnikos in Athens. A mid season dip in form saw Ian Evans drop Paul from the side and the chance to face Liverpool in the FA Cup was lost. Incredibly Evans turned to Raynor following the loss of 3 games in January and from there on in despite Evans sacking and Yorath's return, the player missed only one more match until the season ended, scoring three more goals on the way. After three and a half seasons at the Vetch Paul Raynor was a success and proven scorer, yet an object of North Bank ridicule. Funny game football.

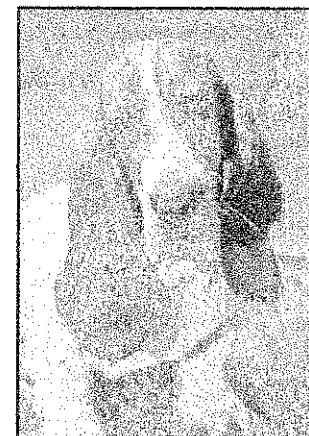
In the summer of 1990, Yorath had a second bout of Raynor-itus. This time time he decided to turn Paul into a right back. None of the 800 fans at Orient on the first day of that season have recovered from the shock of seeing Paul running out with a No 2 on his back. Seeing that Paul Raynor had the tackling ability of Chris Waddle and Glen Hoddle combined, it was no surprise that most of the 22 goals the team conceded in their first 17 games came from the right flank. Still Paul redeemed himself by getting on the score sheet twice. Ousted from the team by the defensive dynamo David Hough, Raynor battled for his midfield place but lost out to the likes of D'Auria, Davey and one one occasion Des Trick.

Following Yorath's departure and Burrow's arrival Paul returned to the side sometimes as right wing and sometimes as a forward. With Gilligan injured, Raynor took his chance up front and with a few good games and one goal, clinched a second Welsh Cup Final place. This time Wrexham were the opponents and the venue was the National Stadium. The enigma that was Raynor rose to the occasion and a 50 yard run on goal duly ended with Paul scoring the clinching goal. The ground echoed to the chant "Raynor, Raynor" time and time again. Tankard number two, a third honour in four seasons was Paul's.

The next season was a watershed; 20 starts but more significantly the appearances as sub illustrated the fact Burrows viewed Paul as past his 'best before' date. One goal was a meagre return for early season faith and with competition from Bowen, Chalmers and John Williams Paul was out. He left not in a blaze of glory, but in a flicker as a sub in a 0-0 draw with West Brom. He never did play for England.

Paul went to Cambridge and the bugger even scored against us at the Abbey Stadium last season. On his Vetch return he was a victim of a new Raynor chant and was so disturbed at this that he left Britain for China. One can't help feeling that someday soon Beijing fans will suss Raynor's crap and the chant "Raynor ror ra ranker" will echo around the Chinese grounds. A funny story that did emerge from China was that his Chinese team mates made 'Woof' and 'Mee-Oww' noises every time they saw Paul eating meat!

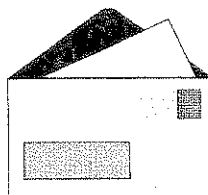
All in all though Paul Raynor was an honest club player and a character at a time the side needed one. He scored 30 goals in five and a half seasons near enough a 1 in 7 strike rate. Never the most gifted, he was a bustling player capable of scoring classic goals. The Swansea fanzine *South Of Morfa* dubbed him the "greatest con artist the Swans ever had". Most fans regard him as one of the best triers. The fact he was always sponsored by Alfredo Coiffures summed him up. When his form dropped so did his fringe. Paul Raynor folks, we may never see his like again.



Raynor's pre-match meal looks a little nervous

Letters

PO Box 372, Swansea. SA1 6YY.



Dear Jackanory, Thanks for sending me the latest issue. The Geordies love the anti-Cardiff stuff. Keep up the good work.

cheers,

Andrew, Whitley Bay.

Dear Jackanory, The following was taken from the Reading v Cheltenham FA Cup programme. It was about the winners of the tie having to go to Cardiff in the next round.

"I realise we [Reading] have a lot of relatively new fans who may not have been watching the Royals long enough to have been to Ninian Park before (this applies equally to Cheltenham fans if you go through), but it's a very nasty place to visit. It's not the place itself, but rather the people. I am by no means saying all of them, but the Bluebirds have a large following of complete nutters who will be in great evidence for a big game such as the FA Cup fourth round. Do not walk outside the ground with your colours uncovered - in fact, if you have any sense don't wear colours at all.

Get in and get out as quickly as possible and, although the police were a little naive in thinking they had to keep us in at Cheltenham last week, don't knock them for keeping us in after the Cardiff game. Believe me, it IS for our own safety. Don't forget these are the same Cardiff fans who attacked Luton supporters with acid at a FA Cup game last season. I don't want to stop people from travelling - if we get through, I'll certainly be going, I am just

saying BE CAREFUL!"

thanks,

Huw, Oxford.

Dear Jackanory, Congratulations on an excellent fanzine, and long may you continue to publish.

The fact all profits from the sale of go to Swansea charities is very commendable. However as a large number of Swans supporters live outside the city, and purchase the fanzine, is it fair that their money only helps Swansea charities.

The majority of people contribute to charity when asked, but perhaps you could ascertain whether the fans who buy Jackanory would prefer to see future profits spent to benefit the club we all support. Some may feel that any money donated to the club may not actually benefit the Swans, as under the previous regime rather than donate money, equipment could be bought for the youth team, or for the schools of excellence which the club runs. That way our money would be helping to secure the future of the club we all support.

As I said donating to charity is an excellent way to use the profits of the fanzine, but some supporters may wish to see their money used to help the Swans.

Keep up the good work,
best wishes,

David Corcoran, Port Talbot.

Eds - What do you think we should do with any profit? Tell us in the supporters poll.

Wandering Stars

Magic Mog went all religious last week, he went browsing for new tunes in Llanelli's Woolies. Totally at random he picked out Genesis, 'Judas' Priest, Madonna and the Jesus and Mary Chain. He claimed this was totally due to Divine Intervention; but his common law wife Morganna insists it was the direct effects of the mushrooms

from Griff's farm. Either way he didn't doubt his new found faith when it revealed to him that Alan Curtis and the Prodigal Son were one and the same. This Jackanory acknowledges will come as a bit of a shock to 90% of the North Bank who still maintain Curtis is God, but just analyse the following questionnaire and believe.

Prodigal Son

Alan Curtis

Fave Actor:	Tony 'Curtis'	'Sonny' Garcia
Fave Band:	King 'Kurt'	'Sonny' and Cher
Fave Song:	Anything by 'Curtis' Mayfield	Return to Sender
Fave Programme:	'Alan' Partridge	'Sons' and Daughters

Further and conclusive proof that both are one and the same lies in the fact that the Prodigal Son returned home from life in a Pigsty and Alan Curtis returned to the Vetch Field from Ninian Park - so similar it's spooky!!! Swansea really is a Twin Town.

Swansea City Trivia

Ans1. Harry Griffiths was the caretaker manager when re-election was sought. Harry Gregg had been the manager for most of that season.

Ans2. Alan Curtis with 32 goals in 1977/78.



Ans3. Our first ECWC match was against Motor Jena and the scoreline was 2-2.

Ans4. Jason Bowen against Taffs Well, Darren Perrett against Rhyl and Martin Hayes against Porthmadog.