

Nostalgia Champion Seasons

CHAMPIONS

1924-1925
1948-1949
1999-2000



➔ To be a champion is to be the best, and this season it's undoubtedly our own Swansea City who are the best team in League One. After a long season it is Roberto Martinez's side that deserves the praise lauded upon them on being declared champions, and they are one of only four Swans teams that have achieved that distinction.

1924-25 Division Three (South)

The club had only been in the Football League for five seasons, and was captained by the legendary Joe Sykes at centre half, a recent signing from Sheffield Wednesday, and also contained another legend in Wilf Milne at full back. A mixed opening to the season saw the Swans lying in mid table in November, but a great run,

highlighted by a Christmas victory over leaders Plymouth Argyle, saw the Swans sit proudly at the top by the end of the year.

Much of this success was due to the goals from Jack Fowler, including an amazing five in a 6-1 victory over Charlton Athletic.

Despite the occasional lapse, the team would feature in the top three for the rest of the season, and when in April, with only six games left, the team travelled to leaders Plymouth and gained a creditable 1-1 draw, it was clear to all that it would "go down to the wire." The Swans needed to win their final fixture at home to Exeter to pip Plymouth, as in those days only the champions were promoted.

In a tense match the home side established a two goal first half lead through Fowler and Thompson, but a breakaway Exeter goal from Smelt ten minutes from time ensured a heart stopping final few minutes. The final whistle was greeted with relief and joy by a record crowd of 24000 deliriously happy fans celebrating the first



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championship side to come from the town. But spare a thought for Plymouth, who would end up as runners-up on six consecutive occasions.

1948-49 Division Three (South)

The team of 1948-49 has been recognised by many as possibly the best side to come out of the town. In goal Parry was a sound, uncomplicated keeper, with Irish internationals Feeney and Keane at full back, and the legendary half back line of Paul, Weston and Burns at the heart of the team.

In attack the wing pairing of O'Driscoll and Scrine were themselves goalscorers, whilst also acting as providers for the lethal Stan Richards at centre forward, and the dynamo and general of the side was Billy Lucas. This team was top of the league for most of the season, with the distinction of only drawing one home game

and winning all others.

Such was the dominance of the team that they set many club records. Amongst these were seventeen successive home wins, twenty seven victories in total

for the season, and clean sheets in successive games (five).

Promotion was assured on 18th April with a hard fought 2-1 victory over Newport County, and with six games left the title was won with a 2-0 victory at Brighton.

1999-00 Division 3

The previous season had seen John Hollins take charge of the team that was to eventually lose out in a two-legged semi final play off with Scunthorpe United.

Although disappointing, the signs were good for another tilt at promotion, but unlike the previous championship sides, this one was built on a strong defensive base, with Roger Freestone in goal and Matthew Bound and Jason Smith the central "rock."

