

Nottingham Forest 1953/54

Nostalgia Score: 2-1

Today's match was played on Valentine's Day in 1953. Forest in seventh place, us in seventeenth.



was played on Valentine's Day in 1953, with Forest in seventh place and us only six places off the bottom, with over half the season completed. To the credit of both sides attack was the order of the day on a heavy Vetch surface. The game kicked off with the East Midlanders creating the first chance, with centre forward Ardron firing over when well placed. Then, in the first real attack by the home

Today's opponents came up from Division One as runners-up to ourselves, and are determined to recapture the glory of the Clough era of the eighties, that saw them at the top of the domestic game and twice European Cup winners.

We were regular opponents during the decades encompassing the 1920s through to the 1950s, with all these matches being played in the Second division (Championship). We did not then meet one another for nearly a quarter of a century until, under John Toshack, we entertained Forest during our two seasons in the First in the early eighties.

With our own slide down the divisions it would be a further twenty three years before we would meet again in competitive action, with the last three seasons seeing us battling it out with one another in League One. The Forest side come to South Wales today to open up our home League programme in the knowledge that we have not beaten them at home in seven league fixtures stretching back fifty four years, when we last gained a 3-2 victory.

Today's featured match ➔

Official Programme 2d.

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Matchday programme cover



Harry Griffiths comes close to scoring in front of a packed North Bank

side, Forest were fortunate not to concede, as keeper Walker failed to deal with a Cyril Beech cross, and Billy Lucas' first time shot was chested off the line by the well positioned Gager.

The Forest goal led a charmed life for the next twenty minutes, with Beech on two occasions given great opportunities to put the Swans ahead. With his first chance, he delayed his shot, allowing Gager again to clear, and the second time he slipped and lost possession having outpaced the visiting defence.

On thirty two minutes the deadlock was broken, when a solo run by Harry Griffiths ended with a cross that was well finished by Dai Thomas. This was a great tonic for the home side, who left the field with a half time interval lead, but with the worry of an injury to full back Arthur Morgan, who was to spend the rest of the match out on the wing.

There was a dramatic start to the second period, with Forest level within a minute

of the resumption. A free kick given against Williams led to Groves in the Swansea goal appearing to lose the ball in flight, leaving winger Moore to shoot into an empty net. There was excitement at both ends, and the Swans were indebted to Groves for several fine saves to keep them on level terms before, on seventy one minutes, the home side edged ahead with a well struck free kick from Ivor Allchurch.

The final quarter saw ten man Swansea battle hard to keep Forest at bay, but they could count themselves lucky with seven minutes remaining, when Ardron appeared to have earned the visitors a point, only for referee Burgess to disallow the goal, despite vigorous Forest protests. A welcome final whistle arrived with the Swans earning a precious two points as they attempted to haul themselves clear of relegation danger, and dealing a blow to Forest's promotion aspirations.

Swansea City/Town Nottingham Forest

At Swansea City/Town 26

Results	Total	%
Swansea C/T	14	54
Notts Forest	7	27
Draws	5	19
Goals	Total	APG
Swansea C/T	41	1.58
Notts Forest	32	1.23

At Nottingham Forest 27

Results	Total	%
Notts Forest	14	52
Swansea C/T	6	22
Draws	7	26
Goals	Total	APG
Notts Forest	56	2.07
Swansea C/T	38	1.41

Overall 53

Results	Total	%
Swansea C/T	20	37
Notts Forest	21	40
Draws	12	23
Goals	Total	APG
Swansea C/T	79	1.49
Notts Forest	88	1.66