

Town to City, Lows to Highs

A step up in status for the town meant that the Swans became Swansea City in March 1970. In 1974 average attendances slipped below 3,000 for the first time, threatening the Swans with financial ruin. The City Council stepped in and saved the club by buying the ground for £50,000, and paying off a large part of the debt. Things got worse the following year when the Swans had to apply for re-election to the Football League after finishing 91st out of 92 clubs.



The team did improve under former player Harry Griffiths, a devoted Swansea City man. Exciting young players were coming through, (Curtis, James) allowing some grounds for optimism. Despite this, Griffiths resigned over lack of resources.

Former Cardiff City and Liverpool striker John Toshack was appointed player-manager in March 1978. The Swans were promoted to Division 3 at the end of his first season. The triumph was tinged with sadness when Harry Griffiths died of a heart attack at his beloved Vetch Field. 'Tosh' went on to secure promotion to Division 2 the following season. That season also saw the Swans' first appearance on TV's Match of the Day.



Tref i Ddinas, Drwg i Dda



John Toshack

Roedd codiad statws ar gyfer y dref yn golygu bod y Swans wedi troi'n Ddinas Abertawe ym mis Mawrth 1970. Ym 1974, disgynnodd y presenoldeb cyfartalog yn is na 3,000 am y tro cyntaf, gan fygwth distrywio'r Swans yn ariannol. Roedd Cyngor y Ddinas wedi helpu i achub y clwb drwy brynu'r maes am £50,000, gan dalu cyfran fawr o'r ddyled. Aeth pethau'n waeth y flwyddyn ganlynol pan roedd yn rhaid i'r Swans wneud cais i gael eu haillethol i'r Gynghrair Bêl-droed ar ôl gorffen yn 91ain allan o 92 o glybiau.

Nid oedd y tîm wedi gwella o dan reolaeth Harry Griffiths, cyn-chwaraewr a dyn a oedd yn ymrwymedig

i Ddinas Abertawe. Roedd chwaraewyr cyffrous, ifanc yn dod i'r amlwg (Curtis, James) gan roi lle i fod ychydig yn optimistaidd. Er gwaethaf hyn, gwnaeth Griffiths ymddiswyddo oherwydd diffyg adnoddau.

Penodwyd John Toshack, cyn-ymosodwr Dinas Caerdydd a Lerpwl, yn rheolwr-chwaraewr ym mis Mawrth 1978. Dyrchafwyd y Swans i Adran 3 ar ddiwedd ei dymor cyntaf. Bwriwyd cysgod dros y fuddugoliaeth pan fu farw Harry Griffiths o drawiad ar y galon ar gae'r Vetch yr oedd mor hoff ohono. Aeth 'Tosh' ymlaen i helpu'r clwb i gael dyrchafiad i Adran 2 y tymor canlynol. Yn y tymor hwnnw, ymddangosodd y Swans ar Match of the Day ar y teledu am y tro cyntaf.

