

FullerFlavour



Blues fan Karl Fuller with his weekly take on Town from the terraces

twitter: @fullerflavour email: tff25@hotmail.co.uk



PATIENT: Town fans supporting their team at Blackburn on Saturday.
Picture: PHILL HEYWOOD/PAGEPIX LTD

Milts or Mills could be face of the Blues

THE announcement of Simon Clegg's departure from the club last week came to me as somewhat of a surprise but ultimately, I have often advocated a change has been much needed off the pitch as much as on it, the way this season is proving to be another huge disappointment like the last few seasons. I don't know Clegg, so I've nothing personal against the man, but purely from the way he has come across at times and his general manner towards us supporters meant that there was no spark in my liking of him.

I can only base this on how others before him have come across and integrated themselves into Town's fan base.

I have just felt that the club under Marcus Evans and Clegg has been too business-like.

Sure, as we all know, football at this level is a business but it's a unique one.

I don't walk into any other business declaring undying love, spending an absurd amount of money for little back by way of product and then do it all again a week or two later.

I want those in charge of my club to show that they are feeling the same pain as me when we lose, to have the deep-rooted passion that comes from the bottom of the heart that really only supporters have.

No matter how much Clegg would admit to having these feelings, I'm sorry, but in my opinion, that is impossible and in time, no defeat will hurt him as much as you and I, the supporter whose passion for the club has been injected into our blood stream from a young age.

Personally, I don't think there will be little change with Jonathan Symonds and Ian Milne at the helm.

So this, in my opinion, is where Evans should not miss a trick this time around and, working with the

new duo to bridge the board to the supporters, he should appoint a 'Town man'.

That is someone who shares our joys and despairs that every game brings, someone who knows what the history of the place really does stand for, a history that a small club like ours has no real rights to have when you compare the history of much bigger clubs that has far less of a story than our own.

In this respect, I go along with the shouts for Simon Milton, who has already had a long involvement with the club as both a player and a member of staff doing sterling work for the academy.

Milts has had a good grounding and will be aware as much as most of the importance of the academy.

He earned the respect of the supporters as a player, would still retain that now in a liaison role and would be the perfect fit as the new 'face' of the club.

As too would be Mick Mills. I've

championed his inclusion into some kind of capacity at the club before and it's a shameful waste that his experience is not utilised in some shape or form.

A player, a captain and an all-round leader at the highest level, he has also managed clubs.

He had to work his way up through our youth system and would be more than engaged with all the ingredients of how to make our club a success again. I would certainly trust Milts or Mills as a link between us and the board.

I am pleased to hear also that Evans is going to play a more 'hands on' role.

Quite what this will be is anyone's guess, but I do not expect him to be any more visible than previously.

Nevertheless, the more he is involved day-to-day the more the club should benefit and never forget how lucky we are to have Evans at the club as without him, we could be in a lot worse position.

Learning from the Canaries

FOR almost two seasons now, some supporters have been saying, 'Let's get relegated and do a Norwich'. I know what they mean but being relegated does not guarantee 'doing a Norwich'. So my line of thought has been let's do what they have done over the last couple of years without getting relegated!

I believe foundations are being built to do this, but we cannot expect to build much further until next season.

Comparing ourselves to our friends in Norfolk, who were having serious struggles of their own not so long ago, we now have a manager in place that has the pedigree to take us forward, we have the coaching staff to supplement him and the right reinstatements have taken place earlier this season to get our academy back on track.

We've started to bring in players that suggest a longer-term plan rather than those coming to the end of their careers and like Norwich, we've even lured a Colchester player to the club (may be a lucky omen?)

But what Norwich also did was have a change at the top with their own chief executive Neil Doncaster leaving, along with the then chairman Roger Munby.

The similarities are in place now. Let's avoid relegation this season, negate the reliance on loans and see if our own story can have as bright a future moving forward as that our feathered friends have enjoyed.

Poetry in motion

I WOULD like to welcome Anthony Wordsworth to Town, who amazingly has become only the second-ever player to join us directly from Colchester having played first-team football for the U's.

Some 87 players have represented both clubs over the years, many of whom of course travelled down the A12 in the opposite direction and it staggers me to note that Wordsworth is just the second to come in our direction.

Mind you, in my lifetime of watching Town, and admittedly a lot of watching Colchester too on Friday nights in the late 70's and early 80's, I do not recall many that we should have ever been in for.

I guess the two stand-out names that Town should have tried to sign were Mark Kinsella and Lomana Tresor Lua Lua.

Colchester have enjoyed taking our experienced players at some point in a long list that includes, Kevin Beattie, Allan Hunter, Roger Osborne, Micky Stockwell and also at the time, a record signing in Neil Gregory.

They've had loan players from us too including Billy Clarke, Craig Forest and Titus Bramble, which incidentally dispels the myth that Bramble has spent his entire career in the Premier League, and of course current Town centre-back Tommy Smith was also loaned there too.

Good luck to Wordsworth and let's hope the second import from across the North Essex border really is poetry in motion and provides the spark that we need from the middle of the park.

And by the way, can you name the first such player to join us from the U's? I couldn't - until I was informed by an on the ball sports editor!