

Nottingham Forest Jokes (2026): 155+ Tricky Trees Banter Lines in a Pub Quiz

157 original puns, ready to copy

Pull up a stool. This is a pub quiz where every answer is a joke. Below are 155+ clean Nottingham Forest jokes, set out in quiz rounds, from the 1865 founding to the mist rolling in from the Trent. Each round starts with a real fact, so you learn something between groans. The banter is friendly enough for any table in Nottingham.

Quick summary

Nottingham Forest jokes are friendly banter lines and puns about the Reds, also called the Tricky Trees. This page has 155+ original, clean jokes set out as pub quiz rounds: the 1865 founding, Garibaldi Red, the City Ground, two European Cups, Mull of Kintyre and the East Midlands derby, each with checked facts.

- 155+ original Nottingham Forest jokes and tree puns.
- Set out as pub quiz rounds, from history and kit to music and a picture round.
- Checked facts on the 1865 founding, shin guards, the whistle and two European Cups.
- Friendly derby banter with Derby County and Notts County fans.
- Updated 2026-10-25. No quotes credited to real players or managers.

*Read the full guide with search, filters and FAQs: <https://homespunsecret.com/nottingham-forest-jokes>
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Round 1: History Jokes From the 1865 Founding

Quiz fact: Nottingham Forest F.C. was formed in 1865 at the Clinton Arms by a group of shinty players. They switched sticks for a football and never looked back.

1. Forest were founded by shinty players in 1865. They put down the sticks and picked up a habit.
2. The Clinton Arms meeting had one agenda item: football. And one more pint.
3. Why did the shinty players switch to football? Their sticks kept getting stuck in the trees.
4. Forest are older than the telephone. Fans still prefer to shout.
5. Founded in a pub, raised on a riverbank, crowned in Europe. Every great story needs a good local.
6. The first Forest team talk lasted two minutes. The argument about the kit lasted two hours.
7. What was the first Forest training drill? Branching out.
8. In 1865 the offside rule was simpler. You were either on the pitch or in the pub.
9. A few friends, a pub table and a ball. That is how the Reds began.
10. 1865: the year Nottingham planted a club and watched it grow.
11. My history teacher asked what happened in 1865. I said, "Forest," and she gave me half a mark.
12. Why are Forest fans good at history? They have deep roots.

Round 2: Kit Jokes in Garibaldi Red

Quiz fact: the founders bought 12 tasselled caps in Garibaldi Red, named after the Italian hero's Redshirts. That shade became the club's colour.

13. Forest's first kit was a hat. Talk about starting at the top.
14. Twelve red caps for eleven players. Someone always plans for a substitute.
15. Why did Forest choose Garibaldi Red? Because it was a capital idea.
16. My nan calls any red shirt "Garibaldi." She also calls biscuits that, so it gets confusing.
17. One red cap in 1865, thousands of red shirts today.
18. Forest fans do not see red when angry. They see red every Saturday.
19. What did the tassel say to the cap? "I'm hanging on every word."
20. Most clubs pick colours. Forest picked a tribute to a nineteenth-century general.
21. I asked for a Garibaldi at the café and got a lecture on Forest's kit history. Ten out of ten.
22. Why did the red cap get promoted? It was always heading in the right direction.
23. Our Forest scarf is so old it predates colour TV and still outshines it.
24. Garibaldi Red: the only shade of red that comes with a history lesson.

Round 3: Science and Inventions Jokes

Quiz fact: Forest's Sam Weller Widdowson is credited with shin guards in 1874, and a referee's whistle was first recorded in a Forest match in 1878.

25. Forest gave the world shin guards and the referee's whistle. Basically, protection and punishment.
26. Before 1874, shins were just a suggestion.
27. Why did the shin guard love Forest? They always had its back. Well, its front.
28. The first referee to use a whistle at a Forest match probably got told off for being too loud.

- 29. Forest invented the whistle, which means every rival booking is technically our fault.
- 30. What did the whistle say to the ref? "Blow me away."
- 31. My son's school asked for a famous inventor. He wrote "a 19th-century Forest player" and got extra credit.
- 32. Some clubs give the world trophies. Forest also gave it safer legs.
- 33. Shin guards: the only Forest invention that has saved more ankles than seasons.
- 34. Why did the whistle join Forest? It wanted to make a lot of noise.
- 35. A club that invented the whistle should get a say in when it stops blowing.
- 36. Forest fans think every referee should send a thank-you card to Nottingham.

Round 4: Geography Jokes on the River Trent

Quiz fact: the City Ground has been Forest's home since 1898. It sits on the banks of the River Trent, just across the water from Notts County's Meadow Lane.

- 37. The City Ground is so close to the Trent that clearances need a lifeguard.
- 38. Forest's address: River Trent, front row seat.
- 39. Why is the City Ground never thirsty? It is right next to the river.
- 40. Every Forest goal kick is a test of how far the ball can swim.
- 41. The Trent has seen more Forest celebrations than any fan.
- 42. I tried to row to the City Ground once. My season ticket did not cover the boat.
- 43. Forest's ground is on the south bank, which technically makes every home game a short trip across the water.
- 44. What do you call a ball in the Trent? A river-tinho.
- 45. The City Ground is named after a city, but it is in another borough. Even the ground likes a quiz question.
- 46. My dad uses the river as a weather forecast. Misty Trent? Home win.
- 47. Why did the fish go to the City Ground? It heard there were good nets.
- 48. The Trent swans have been to more Forest home games than most pundits.

Round 5: Neighbours Round (Notts County and Meadow Lane)

Quiz fact: the City Ground and Meadow Lane are among the closest pairs of professional grounds in England, with only the Trent between them.

- 49. Forest and Notts County are neighbours. You can borrow sugar and a goalkeeper on the same walk.
- 50. Notts County were founded in 1862, three years before Forest. Forest call them "the old folks over the river."
- 51. Why do Forest and County never fall out for long? They live too close to sulk.
- 52. On derby day, the bridge over the Trent becomes the world's shortest away trip.
- 53. Two clubs, one river, a city that never has to pick just one football ground.
- 54. You can hear Meadow Lane cheer from the City Ground car park. You can also hear the groan.
- 55. The Trent Bridge is the only bridge in England with its own opinions about football.
- 56. What do you call a Forest fan at Meadow Lane? Lost, but within walking distance.

57. Nottingham has three sporting venues by the river: two football grounds and a cricket ground. The river has seen everything.
58. My County mate says the walk is short. My Forest mate says it is far enough.
59. Why did the duck stay neutral on derby day? It had friends on both banks.
60. Nottingham kids learn early: you can wave across the river, whatever the scarf.

Round 6: Silverware and European Cup Jokes

Quiz fact: Forest won the league in 1977 to 1978, the season after promotion, then lifted the European Cup in 1979 and 1980. The two stars above the badge mark those wins.

61. Forest have won more European Cups than league titles. They prefer the long-haul flights.
62. Promoted, champions, kings of Europe. Forest did the express route.
63. Why does the Forest badge have two stars? One star felt a bit lonely.
64. My grandad wears his 1979 scarf to every wedding. Nobody asks anymore.
65. Two stars over a tree. The night sky looks good on a Forest shirt.
66. In 1980 Forest kept the European Cup. Most of us cannot keep a houseplant.
67. The 42-game unbeaten league run proved Forest could stay rooted for a long time.
68. What did Forest's trophy cabinet say? "I'm feeling a little European."
69. Forest won the League Cup four times. The fourth time the cabinet said, "Same again?"
70. I told a quiz table Forest won the European Cup twice. The table next to us stood up and sang.
71. Every Forest kid knows the two stars before they know their times tables.
72. Why was the European Cup comfy in Nottingham? It had a lovely cup-board.

Round 7: Music Round (Mull of Kintyre)

Quiz fact: Forest fans adopted Wings' 1977 hit Mull of Kintyre, changing it to "City Ground, oh mist rolling in from the Trent." The tune is a matchday ritual. Our music puns have more song wordplay.

73. Forest fans are the only crowd that sings about the weather and means it as a compliment.
74. Mull of Kintyre in Nottingham: proof a Scottish song can find a home by an English river.
75. Why did the mist love the City Ground? It always got a warm welcome.
76. Hearing Mull of Kintyre at a wedding is dangerous for Forest fans. Someone always starts swaying.
77. Mist, a tune and a crowd swaying together. Some traditions do not need a reason.
78. Our sat nav plays Mull of Kintyre when we reach the Trent. We did not set that up.
79. What do bagpipes and Forest fans have in common? Both sound best in a big group.
80. My kid thinks Mull of Kintyre is the Forest anthem and was surprised it is about Scotland.
81. Most football songs are about players. Forest's best one is about fog. Iconic.
82. At the City Ground, a foggy evening counts as atmosphere and set design.
83. Why do Forest fans sing about mist? Because it always comes back for more.

Round 8: Nicknames Round (Tricky Trees Puns)

Quiz fact: Forest are the Reds, Forest or the Tricky Trees. Tree puns are compulsory in this round. Twisty fans might enjoy our chess and card games puns too.

84. Why are Forest called the Tricky Trees? Because they keep branching out.
85. A Tricky Tree never panics. It just leaves.
86. Forest's defence is like a hedge: hard to get through and neat on a good day.
87. What is a Forest fan's favourite drink? Root beer.
88. My Forest scarf has more twigs in it than a bird's nest after a windy match.
89. Why did the tree join Forest? It wanted to be part of the sap-port.
90. Forest fans are like oak trees. They grow slowly and stay forever.
91. Every Forest season is evergreen. There is always hope.
92. What do Tricky Trees do on holiday? They go for a long pine.
93. The Tricky Trees nickname means every Forest crossbar is technically family.
94. Why are Forest fans good at quizzes? They know their stumps.
95. I called my mate a Tricky Tree. He said, "Thank you," and asked for a bigger leaf.

Round 9: Robin Hood and Sherwood Forest Jokes

Quiz fact: Nottingham is linked to the legend of Robin Hood, and Sherwood Forest lies to the north of the city. Arrows and outlaws are fair game here.

96. Robin Hood stole from the rich and gave to the poor. Forest steal three points and give fans a heart attack.
97. Why did Robin Hood love Forest? They always hit the target.
98. Sherwood is the forest. Forest is the club. The city keeps it simple.
99. Robin Hood had Merry Men. Forest have nervous men, women and children.
100. What did Robin Hood say after a Forest win? "Arrow-some."
101. My son dressed as Robin Hood for a Forest match. The steward checked his bow.
102. Every Nottingham kid grows up with a legend and a football club. Both wear a bit of red.
103. Why was Robin Hood's team so good at free kicks? They practised in Sherwood.
104. Robin Hood never paid for a ticket. Forest stewards are still looking for him.
105. A legend in green, a club in red. Nottingham covers the whole Christmas palette.
106. What did the Sheriff of Nottingham say at the City Ground? "I'm here for the outlaws."
107. Robin Hood's aim was legendary. Our striker is still working on his.

Round 10: East Midlands Derby Banter

Quiz fact: Forest against Derby County is the East Midlands derby. Fans of both sides are serious about it. These lines keep things friendly, and our football puns offer plenty of neutral options.

108. The East Midlands derby: two cities, one motorway and no agreement on anything.
109. Derby County fans call it the A52 derby. Forest fans call it Tuesday's argument.
110. Why do Forest and Derby fans never share a cab? They cannot agree on the route.
111. My Derby cousin says hello. I say, "Good luck." Christmas lunch is going to be fun.

- 112. On derby week, I check the fixtures more than the weather.
- 113. Rivalry is just a strong friendship with a different coloured scarf.
- 114. What do you call a Forest fan in Derby? Very careful on the way back to the train.
- 115. My office has a derby rule: losers bring biscuits on Monday.
- 116. Forest won the FA Cup in 1898 by beating Derby in the final. Some fans still bring it up.
- 117. Derby day nerves: I was so jittery I ironed my bobble hat.
- 118. Why did the Derby fan bring a map to the City Ground? He had never been that far up the A52 with hope.
- 119. Our family derby truce lasts exactly ninety minutes plus stoppage time.

Round 11: Kids' Round

Quiz fact: young fans learn the songs before the rules. These short Forest jokes are made for lunch boxes and walk-to-school laughs.

- 120. What is a baby Forest fan's favourite tree? A little red acorn.
- 121. Why did the leaf go to the City Ground? It wanted to be a fan-tree.
- 122. What do Forest fans eat for breakfast? Branch-flakes.
- 123. Why are trees good at football? They know how to stand their ground.
- 124. What did the oak say to the striker? "Wood you pass me the ball?"
- 125. What do you call a Forest fan who loves maths? A square root.
- 126. Why did the squirrel buy a season ticket? It loves the nuts in the crowd.
- 127. What did the tree say after the final whistle? "Leaf it out, we won."
- 128. Why did the owl stay up for the Forest match? It wanted to see a night game.
- 129. What do you call a tiny Forest goalkeeper? A sapling stopper.
- 130. Why did the little tree love the City Ground? It was a great place to put down roots.
- 131. What is a Forest fan's favourite story? Little Red Riding Hood. Obviously.

Picture Round: Photo Captions and Group Chat Lines

Quiz fact: every pub quiz needs a picture round. These short captions fit a scarf selfie, a stadium photo or a quiz team name.

- 132. Caption: Mist rolling in, standards rolling out.
- 133. Caption: Two stars, one tree, endless opinions.
- 134. Caption: Rooting for the Reds since birth.
- 135. Quiz team name: The Tricky Teas.
- 136. Quiz team name: Mull of Quiz-tyre.
- 137. Caption: Red scarf on, kettle flask packed, heart ready.
- 138. Caption: Feeling un-be-leaf-able today.
- 139. Group chat rule: no score predictions until the team sheet. Superstition beats science.
- 140. Caption: Founded 1865. Still arguing about the line-up.
- 141. Caption: The forecast said fog. The fans said atmosphere.
- 142. Caption: Branching out, staying red.

143. Half-time text: "All fine. Don't ring. I'm holding a pie for emotional support."
144. Quiz team name: Two Stars and a Pint.
145. Caption: Leaf the drama to us.

Tie-Breaker: Quick Forest One-Liners

Every quiz needs a tie-breaker. These one-liners are short enough to read out before the scores are in.

146. Forest fans do not have mood swings. They have season swings.
147. Forest: a club with deep roots and a taste for European travel.
148. What do Forest fans call a perfect weekend? Tree points and a pint.
149. I am not superstitious, but I put my lucky socks on before Mull of Kintyre.
150. Forest is not a team you choose. It is a tree you grow up under.
151. My mate asked why I love Forest. I said, "The mist, the history and the stress."
152. The Trent flows one way. Forest fans' emotions flow every way at once.
153. My season ticket and my umbrella are the two most-used items I own.
154. What did the acorn say when it grew up? "Gee, I'm a tree." Then it bought a Forest scarf.
155. I tried to quit stressing about Forest. Lasted until kick-off.
156. Red scarf, grey sky, green trees. Nottingham in three colours.
157. Forest's trophy story proves you do not need to be big to be first.

Frequently asked questions

What do Nottingham Forest fans call themselves?

Nottingham Forest fans usually call themselves Forest fans or Reds, and many use the nickname Tricky Trees for the team. The club itself is often just called Forest. You will hear all three on matchday, along with the Mull of Kintyre chant. The nickname section above turns Tricky Trees into plenty of friendly tree puns.

Does Nottingham Forest have a nickname?

Yes. Nottingham Forest are known as the Reds, Forest and the Tricky Trees. The Reds comes from the Garibaldi Red kit chosen in 1865. Tricky Trees is a playful fan nickname based on the club name and the tree on the badge. Use any of them in a joke and fans will know who you mean.

What do Nottingham Forest fans sing?

Forest fans are famous for singing Mull of Kintyre, the 1977 Wings song, with new words about the City Ground and the mist rolling in from the Trent. Fans adopted it during the 1977 to 1978 title season, and it has become a matchday ritual. They also sing chants about the two European Cups.

Why do Nottingham Forest fans sing Mull of Kintyre?

Mull of Kintyre was a huge hit in late 1977, while Forest were winning the league. Fans swapped the lyrics to "City Ground, oh mist rolling in from the Trent," and it stuck. It became tied to a great era, so singing it still feels like a link to the club's best days.

What are some funny soccer jokes?

Try "Why are trees good at football? They know how to stand their ground." Another is "Forest invented the whistle, which means every rival booking is technically our fault." Good soccer jokes tie a pun to a real detail. For a different club, see our Everton football jokes.

What are forest fans called?

Fans of Nottingham Forest are called Forest fans, Reds or Tricky Trees fans. In general, people who love real forests might be called nature lovers or tree huggers, which is great for wordplay. On this page we stick with the football club and its friendly nicknames.

Where do Nottingham Forest play?

Nottingham Forest play at the City Ground, on the banks of the River Trent in West Bridgford. It has been the club's home since 1898. Notts County's Meadow Lane sits just across the river, which makes the two grounds among the closest pair of professional grounds in England.

Did Nottingham Forest invent the referee's whistle?

Forest did not invent the whistle itself, but the first recorded use of a referee's whistle came in a Forest match in 1878. A Forest player, Sam Weller Widdowson, is also credited with introducing shin guards in 1874. Both facts make great quiz questions and even better jokes.

Did Forest give Arsenal their red shirts?

It is a popular story, but it is disputed. Some sources say Forest donated a set of red shirts to the new Woolwich club in 1886, while Arsenal's own historians say the first shirts were bought locally. Because of that, we do not treat it as fact in the jokes. The 1965 kit gift from Arsenal to Forest is better documented.

Are these Nottingham Forest jokes clean?

Yes. Every joke is clean, with no swearing and no attacks on real players, managers or fans. The derby banter teases Derby County and Notts County in a friendly way. That makes the page safe for families, pub quizzes, school projects and mixed groups of fans.