



# Wolverhampton Wanderers

LONDON SUPPORTERS CLUB

founded 1966



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April 2020



# FROM THE CHAIR



## WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS LONDON SUPPORTERS CLUB

### Honorary Life President

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1968-2007

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Carol Randall

### Travel Secretary

Peter Woodfield

### Entertainment Officer

Roy Eagles

### Minutes Secretary

Matthew Hawthorne

### Newsletter Editor

Steve Ray

### Committee Members

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Peter Bartlett  
Bob Goddard  
Matthew Hawthorne  
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Hi and Greetings to Everybody,

When I first penned my “From the Chair” article, I reflected on what a fabulous year both the team and our club had experienced under the leadership of Nuno Espírito Santo and his team of coaches.

Unfortunately after I wrote that article, and just as the newsletter was set to go to print, the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has spread throughout the UK causing nearly all sporting events, including football, to be cancelled until further notice. Most of us would share the opinion that although football plays an important part in our life, it falls into minor significance compared with the health of our families and friends.

Hopefully the country will overcome this severe health crisis soon, the season will restart at some point, and we can continue where we left off when the season came to a sudden halt midway through March.

On a happier note, and as I have already stated, Nuno Espírito Santo and his team of coaches have achieved the goal of helping our beloved Wolves qualify for European competition for the first time in nearly forty years, and London Wolves are going from strength to strength, despite for the first time in thirty five years not being able to arrange a “Meet the Players” evening. This was mainly due to the fixture changes forced by The Europa League Thursday night games and our old friends at Sky TV.

A great boost for us was the visit of Steve Bull (see Steve’s article inside) who gave his time to visit Central London for “An Evening with Bully”. Around fifty members and guests gathered to be hugely entertained by the Wolves Legend. He spent over two hours telling anecdotes of his time as a player, and answering member’s questions. My thanks go to Alan Perrins of Worldwide Wolves who kindly arranged the event.

At the time of writing, we have been unable to arrange for our Player of the Year trophy to be presented, but rest assured your committee are working on this.

Finally I would like to wish all our members and their families’ good health, and to stay safe during these challenging times.

*Stuart*

# Jeff Shi



*Wolves chairman Jeff Shi issued the following message to supporters following the Europa Cup game in Athens against Olympiakos, and the Premier League's subsequent decision to postpone all football activity, initially until Saturday 4th April (although this has now been extended to at least 30th April), and the club's decision to close Molineux and its associated functions until the same time.*

I write this note at a time of great adversity, not just for football, or for the country my family and I are honoured to now call our home, but for the population of the entire world that we share.

I've been in close contact with friends, family and colleagues in China since the coronavirus pandemic began in Wuhan, which has afforded me an acute awareness of the virus' threat and impact, and a deep desire to take all measures possible to protect our players, staff, supporters and the community that we live in.

Firstly, I would like to heap praise on our coaches, players and staff who travelled to Athens this week to take part in a fixture that none of us felt was appropriate to play. They showed great professionalism and dedication to take to the field in a stadium devoid of atmosphere, in a continent gripped with anxiety, and still deliver a performance and positive result.

Of course, we took all appropriate measures to ensure that the staff and players who travelled were protected where possible from the threat of contracting coronavirus, and we will continue to keep improving these measures all the time to help them remain safe and healthy.

At Wolves we have a responsibility to protect not only our players, but also every employee at the club, which is why we have taken the further step of asking all of our staff to work from home over the forthcoming days and weeks. From my knowledge and understanding of the virus, social distancing is crucial to the fight against it, so this is a necessary course of action and a sacrifice we all have to make.

We have also taken the decision to temporarily close important parts of Molineux, such as the Megastore, Ticket Office and Wolves Foundation to ensure that our staff are able to stay at home where possible and make their contribution to limiting the spread of the virus. All of our staff will of course continue to be paid for the duration of the club's closure and this period of uncertainty.

I appeal to our supporters to follow our lead, and to stay as safe as possible during what will no doubt be a very testing time. Please don't underestimate the threat of this virus, to you or those around you, and employ best practice to limit the spread, including good hygiene and proper social distancing, which are both key.

Our ownership group Fosun are also very keen to do all they can to help, and have been in contact with us, and the City of Wolverhampton Council, to express their support for Wolves and the people of this city.

Finally, I would like to make a promise to all Wolves supporters: Throughout the challenges of the forthcoming weeks and months, everyone at Wolves will continue to work as hard as we possibly can to keep progressing, keep innovating, and return even stronger and more hungry to achieve success. We will not rest.

Until then, please stay safe and don't take any risks. Look after yourselves and look after each other. We will get through this.

## **Jeff Shi**

*Following Jeff Shi's message, and true to his promise, Wolves and its ownership group Fosun have donated 2,300 pieces of protective equipment to the city of Wolverhampton, to support its efforts against the COVID-19 Pandemic. Procured and facilitated by Fosun Foundation, the charitable arm of Wolves' owners Fosun International, the cargo consists of 500 tape-sealed 'red-zone' coveralls, 800 medical coveralls and 1000 N95 masks.*

*The donation plan and consignment were coordinated by Wolves Foundation at Molineux on Friday 20th March, before being distributed to The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust and Public Health teams to support and protect front-line services.*





## Wolverhampton Wanderers London Supporters Club AGM 2018-2019

Our Annual General Meeting was held on Saturday July 20th at the Horse & Groom in Great Portland Street. It was great to see so many of you attend and voice your opinions. As promised in the last newsletter the full minutes are shown below.



### Minutes

Meeting held at the Horse and Groom, Great Portland Street, London on Saturday 20 July 2019

#### 1. Apologies for absence:

Apologies for absence were received from A Perrins, D Gilson, S Ray, J Leonard, M Jacobs and A Allsop.

#### 2. Chairman's address:

Stuart said that in the past members had questioned the amount held in our accounts and felt it to be too high. The last season showed why it was needed to be at the level it is and justified the club's stance. Stuart said he would like to particularly thank Peter Woodfield for his remarkable hard work last season. Tickets and travel were very difficult and the club owes Peter a huge debt of gratitude.

#### 3. Minutes of Last AGM

Approved.

#### 4. Matters arising from 2017 AGM:

No matters arising.



#### 5. Secretary's report:

Dave Slape reported that the membership stood at 263. Subs paid were £3,622 and the Golden Gate up to the same date had brought in £412.50. Other income included the train completion (£104.00), Programme and wallet sales (£12.50) Badge sales (£33.50). The secretary's expenses were £957.66.

Dave Slape said he would like to thank Peter Woodfield, Rob Goddard, Peter Bartlett, Steve Ray, Stuart Earl, Peter Abbott, Peter Carvell, Matthew Hawthorne and A Allsop for their help over the last year.

*A vote of thanks was given to Dave Slape for all his work over the last year.*

#### 6. Treasurer's Report:

A copy of the financial Statement for 2018/2019 is shown at the end of these minutes. There is only £1 owed for tickets (£60). At the end of the season there is a slight profit of £580.20. The reason for there being expenditure at the WWFPS event is that LW paid for the drinks.

Acceptance of the Statement was proposed by Stefan Leonard and seconded by Roy Eagles. Carried unanimously.

#### 7. Travel Secretary's report:

Peter reported that we ran trips to all 27 home games and 8 away games. He thanked Morris Jacobs who provided transport to a number of midweek games. The highest attended trips were:

Home – Southampton (37) and Bournemouth & Brighton (34)  
Away – Manchester United (19) and Leicester (17)

There was a slight increase in the average number travelling to home games and a slight decrease in away games. Fare prices varied throughout the year because we have to compete with other travellers in order to get the cheapest fares. The fare for home games varied between £16 and £30. Train companies demand immediate payment once the booking is confirmed. Bookings with all train companies can be made up to 3 months in advance, but this is not always possible with matches being re-scheduled.

There was a deficit from trips of £271.70 as the Club part subsidised some of the more expensive long away trips. The outstanding money from 2017/18 has now been collected.

# WOLVES' NEWS



We have renewed 6 club season tickets under the “Early Bird” scheme for the 2017/18 season at a cost of £2,955. A loss of £444 was made from the sale of match day tickets. Peter passed on his thanks to members who loaned their season tickets to the Club when unable to attend home matches. Members have also purchased 14 away season tickets.

Wolves have increased season ticket prices for next season but as yet no information is available on match day ticket prices. The loyalty points system will be used once again.

Peter thanked the Wolves ticket office, particularly Dave Wood and LEIGH BUCKNALL, in meeting our requests for match tickets last season and thanked Dave Slape for his help during the season.

Derek Archer asked about the loss on club season tickets and Stuart replied that next season we will be able to make sure that they are used for every game.

*A vote of thanks was given to Peter for his hard work over the year.*



## 8. Social Secretary's report:

Roy reported that the number of fixture changes made it very difficult to organise events. An event was held with Steve Daley and Steve Kindon at the Mount before the Manchester United Cup tie. We experienced a lot of problems with the Blue Brick and Roy was asked to find a different venue for the Christmas event which was held at the City Bar. The response to the event was that the members liked the event and the guests but the food was poor. Roy will be looking for a new venue this Christmas.

Roy said he would like to thank Peter Woodfield, Peter Bartlett and Dave Slape for their help over the season.

*A vote of thanks was given to Roy for his efforts over the season.*

## 9. Newsletter Editor's report:

Peter Bartlett passed on Steve Ray's apologies for not being able to attend. Steve said that the newsletter is currently with the printer and he expects to get a quote from the printers in Twickenham. The newsletter will include match reports, and update on the charity event, the Billy Wright Story event taking place on 4 September 2019.

## 10. Website Editor's report:

Peter Bartlett reported that the major change from last season is a reduction in advertising. Adverts that were offering \$2-300 have now dropped to £30 per ad. In summary the website cost was £211 (£204 in 2018) income from ads was £44 (£514) resulting in a loss of £167 (Surplus of £339).

Peter said that we currently have approximately 4,000 followers on twitter. Jack and others run the Facebook entry which is used for news info, Peter's travel and also for others to contact us.

eNews goes to all members who have given Dave Slape an email address and includes a soft copy of the Newsletter. Peter would like to thank Sue Wharton, Peter & Steve Carvell, Carol and Peter, Dave Slape, Peter Abbott, Mark, Rob Goddard and Roy for pictures of events and Steve Ray for providing the important content with the magazine.

## 11. Election of Officers:

After all the committed confirmed their willingness to continue to stand, and were elected unopposed.

## 12. Membership Fees:

The membership fee has not increased since 2011 and it was agreed to remain unchanged. The committee will consider ways to attract new and younger members at the next meeting.

## 13. Any other business:

### (i) Wolves Women

Peter Bartlett raised the issue of sponsorship of Wolves Women. Previously this has been for sponsoring a player but going forward it would be used to assist travel to games. It was proposed that we continue sponsorship for another season at a cost of £500. Proposed by Peter Bartlett and seconded by Roy Eagles. Carried unanimously.



# WOLVES' NEWS



*(ii) 5-a-side*

Stuart has been contacted by Everton LSC who would like to play us at football. MF will look into arranging something.

*(iii) Fans Parliament*

Peter Abbott reported that the last meeting of the fans parliament was cancelled due to the departure of Lawrie Dalrymple. The next meeting is set for September and Wolves have confirmed that they are fully behind the fans parliament and that other premier league clubs are far less organised.

*(iv) Crusaders game*

Stuart said that anyone planning to go to Belfast for the Crusaders game should see him after the meeting. Mark Griffiths is organising a coach from Wolverhampton.

*(v) Billy Wright*

Peter Bartlett said that Vicky Wright is planning a tribute event to Billy Wright in Wolverhampton on 5 September 2019.

*(vii) 55th Event*

Stuart was asked about an event to celebrate the 60th which could possibly be the last. The time is coming round very quickly if we want to organise something. Peter Bartlett will sound out the membership via the website.

*(viii) Bank transfers*

Carol asked that if people make payments to Peter via bank transfer if they can please identify what the payments are for to assist with matching payments to amounts owed.

***There being no further business the meeting was closed.***

WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS LONDON SUPPORTER'S CLUB 2018 – 2019 FINANCIAL STATEMENT			
INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
Fares	£15,792.55	Fares	£16,064.25
Match Tickets	£21,450.50	Match Tickets	£21,332.00
Season Tickets	£2,511.00	Season Tickets	£3,430.00
Membership	£3,622.00	Magazine Expenses	£670.00
Website Sponsorship	£15.00	WebSite	£166.38
Programme Sales	£2.50	Chairman's Expenses	£19.00
Badge Sales	£33.50	AGM/Committee Expences	£40.00
Goalden Gate Draw	£412.50	Secretarial Expenses	£727.66
Card Holders	£12.00	Travel Secretary Expenses	£228.84
Donations to Club	£71.81	Wolves Women Sponsorship	£500.00
Xmas Lunch	£600.00	Membership Cards	£40.00
Train Competitions	£104.00	Xmas Lunch	£600.00
Postage	£14.14	Company House	£13.00
WFPA Dinner	£505.00	Domain Name	£15.72
Fares/Match Tickets 17/18	£76.00	WPFA Dinner	£605.45
		POY Trophies	£190.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>£45,222.50</b>	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>£44,642.30</b>
<p>End of season <i>gift</i> deficit of £580.20. There is £1.00 still outstanding for Match Tickets/Fares.</p>			
<p>HSBC CURRENT ACCOUNT BALANCE AS ON 18/06/2019 £6291.06</p>			



## Wolves' Transfer Breakdown

In our previous edition of the newsletter at the end of last season we gave a breakdown of all the transfer dealings made in the pre-season transfer window by Wolves prior to the big kick-off in August. Since that newsletter there were four new additions to the squad before the season started and then four more in the January transfer window. When the transfer window reopened on the 1st January, Nuno made minimal changes to the squad, this was with a view of only bringing in players who would benefit the team, and provide much needed cover in the knockout stages of the Europa League and also in their quest for the highest possible finish in the Premier League.

All the details of the major additions and departures are detailed below.

### **Bruno Jordao and Pedro Neto**

*August 2019*

In a double swoop Wolves snapped up Portuguese duo Bruno Jordao and Pedro Neto from Lazio at the start of August. Left-footed wide player Neto, aged 19, and 20-year-old midfielder Jordao will be in and around the first-team squad rather than heading to the under-23s. Both have penned long-term deals until 2024.



Jordao made his breakthrough at Uniao de Leiria in Portugal where he made a first-team debut at 16 and scored four goals in 21 appearances in his debut season, before joining Braga and then Lazio.

Neto, a Portugal Under-20 international, came through Braga's youth system and scored his first professional goal minutes into his Primeira Liga debut to become Braga's youngest ever scorer in the competition.

### **Meritan Shabani**

*August 2019*

Wolves also signed attacking midfielder Meritan Shabani from Bayern Munich, initially for Rob Edwards' under-23s. The attacking midfielder has signed a three-year contract at Molineux. Shabani is a product of the world-famous Bayern Academy system, having risen through the system over the past 13 years to reach the first-team.



The 20-year-old made his debut for the German giants in April 2018 in a 4-1 victory over Eintracht Frankfurt and featured against the same opposition in the Bundesliga last season.

### **Renat Dadashov**

*August 2019*

Wolves announced the signing of Azerbaijan international Renat Dadashov for an undisclosed fee, with the striker immediately heading out to Pacos de Ferreira on a season-long loan. The 20-year-old striker joined the club from Portuguese side Estoril, and has signed a four-year deal at Molineux.



Dadashov, who scored four times in 22 Liga Pro appearances last season, is a full Azerbaijan international with three caps, the most recent of which came in this summer's Euro 2020 qualifiers against Hungary and Slovakia.





## January Transfer Window

### Players In

#### Daniel Podence

The 24-year-old signed for £17million from Greek club Olympiakos, and is the third most expensive signing in the club's history, behind Raul Jimenez (£32m) and Adama Traore (£18m).

Podence joined Olympiakos in the summer of 2018 as part of a Portuguese influx at the Athens-based side. He ended last season with eight goals in all competitions, with Olympiakos finishing second in the Super League behind PAOK. His Wolves arrival comes after a total of 13 goals in 68 matches for the Greek team.

Daniel made his gold and black bow on the 1st February when he came off the bench in the 0-0 draw at Manchester United.



#### Leonardo Campana

The 19-year-old has joined the club on a three-and-a-half-year deal. Wolves have paid a nominal fee to Barcelona SC, in Ecuador's top flight for the 6ft 2in target man.

Campana has four senior Ecuador caps to his name, and those have been earned on the back of a goal-laden run for their under-20s. The teenager helped Ecuador win the South American Under-20 Championships last year, and finished the tournament as top goal scorer with six goals in nine tournament games.



#### Luke Matheson

Wolves have signed highly-rated full-back Luke Matheson for around £1million from Rochdale, and immediately loaned him back there for the rest of the 2019-20 season.

The 17-year-old England under-18 international has played 24 times for Rochdale in all competitions and stole the headlines when scoring against Manchester United in the Carabao Cup last September.



#### Enzo Loiodice

The 19-year-old moved to Wolves from French outfit Dijon on-loan until the end of the season, but the club has an option to turn the midfielder prospect's loan move into a permanent deal if he impresses while at Wolves.

Loiodice, who came through the youth systems of SC Paris and FC Gobelins before joining Dijon in 2015, has earned 11 youth caps at under-19 and under-20 level and was part of the French side which reached the round of 16 in last summer's U20 World Cup.



### Departures

#### Ivan Cavaleiro

The "Cav" was a popular figure among the Wolves fans, the Portuguese international spent the first half of the season on loan with Fulham, who have now triggered their option take him on permanently.

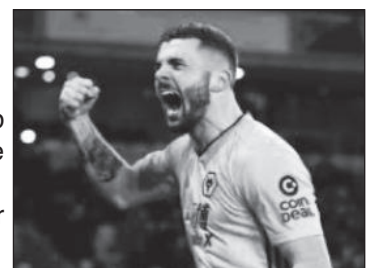
In his three seasons at Molineux, Cavaleiro scored 19 times in 106 appearances, and helped the club to promotion to the Premier League in 2018.



#### Patrick Cutrone

Patrick Cutrone's short stay at Wolves has ended and he has moved to Italian club Fiorentina. The striker heads back to Italy after only half of a season at Molineux, joining the Serie A side on an 18-month loan which will become permanent in the summer of 2021.

Wolves will receive £15.3million for the striker, £900,000 less than they paid AC Milan for his services last summer. There is no buy-back clause.





# WOLVES' NEWS



## Ryan Bennett

Wolves defender Ryan Bennett has joined Premier League rivals Leicester on loan with a view to a £5million permanent move. The defender made 92 appearances in gold and black following his move to Molineux at the start of the 2017/18 Championship-winning campaign.

Ryan will always be remembered for scoring the dramatic last-minute winner against Bristol City in the last game of 2017, sending Wolves ten points clear at the top of the Championship table.



*All of us at WWLSC wish Ivan, Patrick and Ryan all the best at their new clubs.*

Other players to leave Wolves are goalkeeper **Harry Burgoyne** who has left Wolves after 11 years at the club, joining Shrewsbury Town on a short-term deal. Burgoyne most memorably played for Wolves in their FA Cup victory against Liverpool at Anfield a few years ago. **Sylvain Deslandes**, meanwhile, has left for Romanian club FC Arges on a free transfer.

Another player to leave Wolves is **Jesus Vallejo**, the 22-year-old had not featured since October after failing to impress. Vallejo's season long loan deal at Molineux from Real Madrid has come to a conclusion and he has joined the La Liga side Granada CF on a sub-loan until the end of the season.

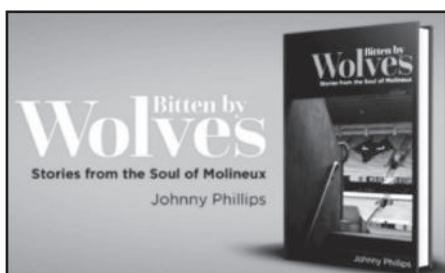
**Rafa Mir** who joined Wolves in January from Valencia, and made four appearances in all competitions for Nuno Espirito Santo's side, has completed a season-long loan move to Las Palmas. Mir has four years left on his Molineux contract but will spend the next season in La Liga 2 with Las Palmas.

## Loan Deals

Wolves have sent several of their promising youngsters out on loan for the rest of the season to gain valuable first team experience. These include **Benny Ashley-Seal** who has joined Accrington Stanley; **Ryan Giles** has joined Coventry; **Connor Ronan** has joined Blackpool; **Austin Samuels** has joined Kidderminster Harriers; **Dion Sanderson** has joined Cardiff City; **Callum Thompson** has gone to Irish club Bohemians and **Elliot Watt** has joined Carlisle United. Winger **Jordan Graham** has joined League One outfit Gillingham until the end of the season, his current contract at Molineux expires in the summer.

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## Wolves Book Review



Sky and Wolves fan **Johnny Phillips** published a book in early October 2019. '**Bitten By Wolves - Stories from the Soul of Molineux**'. Some new voices and untold stories of the club's pathway over recent decades up to present day. Indeed Chapter 2 is headed "Devotion" and describes the formation of London Wolves, and a typical trip on the train from Euston to the Golden Palace.

"Bitten by Wolves" takes us on a glorious yet tumultuous journey through the modern history of Wolverhampton Wanderers. From lifting league titles and pioneering European club competition to twice going bankrupt and languishing in the Fourth Division, Wolves have experienced extreme highs and lows. The author spent a year speaking to former players, staff, supporters and others who witnessed or played a part in some of the most successful, turbulent and defining moments in the club's recent history. Wolves have always been about much more than the results on the pitch. It's the club's place in the Wolverhampton community that underpins its identity. Today, Wolves are going through existential change under the ownership of a Chinese investment conglomerate. The author has gained behind-the-scenes insight into the current ownership and management while revealing how Wolves became the club it is today. Filled with fascinating untold stories and eye-witness accounts, Bitten by Wolves tells the definitive story of the club's evolution.

## HOW TO ORDER YOUR COPY

This must have book is available at the Wolves Megastore, Waterstones, WH Smith and Amazon. Johnny is kindly offering London Wolves members a £2 Editors discount and you can order by emailing him at: [johnnyphillipsmedia@gmail.com](mailto:johnnyphillipsmedia@gmail.com)



## Pre-Season Wolves Win Premier League Asia Trophy



Wolves, Man City, Newcastle United and West Ham United all competed in the biennial tournament which took place in two locations, Nanjing and Shanghai. All four teams played in a double-header at Nanjing Olympic Sports Centre on Wednesday 17 July, followed by the third/fourth place playoff and the final at Shanghai's Hongkou Stadium on Saturday 20 July.

In the first semi-final Wolves trounced Newcastle 4-0. Two goals from Diogo Jota, one from Morgan Gibbs-White and a Thomas Allan headed own saw Nuno's Boys comfortably reach the final where they played Man City who easily despatched West Ham 4-1 in the second semi-final. Newcastle went on to beat West Ham 1-0 in the third/fourth place playoff.

Wolves got off to a dream start to their pre-season schedule by lifting the Premier League Asia Trophy in Shanghai. They beat current Premier League champions Manchester City 3-2 on penalties after the game had finished 0-0 after 90 minutes. Rui Patricio was the hero as he saved three spot kicks in the shootout

### Premier League Asia Trophy Final WOLVES 0-0 MANCHESTER CITY Wolves Win 3-2 on Penalties *Saturday 20th July 2019*

What a great performance against the Premier League Champions, so that's two games played against Premier League opposition, no goals conceded, some great football played, and a trophy in the bag.



An exceptional performance from Rui Patricio saw Wolves beat Manchester City 3-2 on penalties to win the Premier League Asia Trophy. The goalkeeper saved three of City's five penalties and made a number of vital stops over the 90 minutes, all while suffering a deep cut to the face that saw a long injury stoppage.

City started the game brightly and could have taken the lead inside eight minutes. De Bruyne played a ball into the area and it was almost on a plate for the incoming Sterling. However, he appeared to slow his run as Patricio also came to deal with the cross, seeing the ball fly wide of the goal.

Patricio was Wolves' saviour not long after as he made two saves in quick succession. Rodri flicked on a De Bruyne corner at the near post with Laporte sending the ball goalwards, but Patricio got low to see it away with his legs. He then got down again to swipe the ball from the path of Sterling after another perfect pass from De Bruyne, but picked up a nasty cut to the face which saw play stopped for around seven minutes.

Just after play restarted in the 20th minute, City were awarded a penalty. Sane managed to get ahead of Traore, with the Wolves wing-back pulling at him before the pair tangled feet, sending Sane to the floor. Sterling lined it up but drove his powerful effort into orbit.



# WOLVES' NEWS



The second half was a much quieter affair with Wolves just edging the chances. Nuno's Boys produced a lovely move on the hour mark, with Jota driving into the area and sending Danilo the wrong way to have a clear sight of goal. However, the defender got himself across in time to see Jota's fierce drive behind for a corner.

City's best chance of the second-half came in the 77th minute as David Silva produced a precision free kick, curling the ball over the wall. It looked to be sneaking into the top corner, but Patricio made a sensational save to keep him out.

With neither side able to force a winner, the game went straight to penalties, and that's where Patricio was at his very best. Three of the first five penalties were saved, two by Patricio and one by Bravo, while Bennett was the only player to score in the sequence.

The following four were scored by each side before Nmecha stepped up for Man City's fifth, needing to score to take the game to sudden death. But Patricio was across to keep him out and seal a first Premier League Asia Trophy win for Wolves.

## Penalties:

- Wolves 1 – Coady missed (saved by Bravo)
- Man City 1 – Gundogan missed (saved by Patricio)
- Wolves 2 – Bennett scored
- Man City 2 – David Silva missed (saved by Patricio)
- Wolves 3 – Kilman missed (wide)
- Man City 3 – Danilo scored
- Wolves 4 – Perry scored
- Man City 4 – Garcia scored
- Wolves 5 – Vinagre scored
- Man City 5 – Nmecha missed (saved by Patricio)



**Venue:** Hongkou Stadium

**Team:** Patricio, Bennett, Coady (c), Boly (Kilman, 80), Traore (Sanderson, 63), Moutinho (Hong, 80), Neves (Taylor, 80), Dendoncker (Cundle, 80), Otto (Vinagre, 63); Gibbs-White (Perry, 63), Jota (Ennis, 63)

**Unused Subs:** Ruddy, Norris, Francis, Marques, Samuels

**Referee:** Martin Atkinson

## Premier League Asia Trophy Semi-Final

WOLVES 4-0 NEWCASTLE

Wednesday 17th July 2019

Wolves got off to the perfect start to their pre-season schedule with a comfortable win over Mike Ashley's Newcastle, the victory was the biggest winning scoreline between two Premier League sides in the history of the Premier League Asia Trophy. Two goals from Diogo Jota, one from Morgan Gibbs-White and a late own goal sealed a place in the Final against Manchester City.



The game got off to a slow start, mainly due to the sweltering sticky conditions. Wolves were moving the ball with more creativity and they soon began to venture forward in search of goals, and it was a superb break that saw them take the lead in the 15th minute. Jota flicked the ball into the path of Jonny who raced down the left flank, he then squared the ball back to Jota, whose fierce finish was turned home via a deflection.



Wolves were well on top and showed their clinical edge again just after the half-hour mark. Jonny won possession of the ball from Lazaar in a cluster of players before squaring it to Gibbs-White, he then took a touch before firing another quality finish past goalkeeper Darlow,

Seven minutes later, and it was a defensive blunder from Newcastle that led to a third Wolves goal. Hayden had initially stopped a cross from Dendoncker on the right. However, he was slow to clear and Jota nipped in to steal the ball from his feet, before finding some space and sending the ball past Darlow for the second time.

# WOLVES' NEWS



As with most pre-season friendlies, the second period was littered with large rafts of substitutions. Taylor Perry and Sanderson came on for their Wolves debuts in the 65th minute, and not long after Perry nearly grabbed a goal. Ennis made a wonderful run down the right-hand side, getting ahead of Watts before cutting the ball back for Perry. Newcastle goalkeeper Woodman came out to try and smother, but the midfielder got his shot away, only to see it cleared off the line by Watts.



Wolves put the icing on the cake, and the day went from bad to worse for Newcastle as Allan rounded off the game with an own-goal in the 84th minute. Vinagre swung a corner into the area, and the Newcastle teenager inadvertently headed the ball goalwards and it pinged off the post before beating Woodman.

**Venue:** Nanjing Olympic Sports Center

**Team:** *Patricio (Ruddy, 45); Bennett, Coady (c), Boly; Traore (Sanderson, 62), Moutinho (Hong, 81), Neves (Taylor, 81), Dendoncker (Cundle, 81), Otto (Vinagre, 62); Gibbs-White (Perry, 62), Jota (Ennis, 62)*

**Unused Subs:** *Norris, Miranda, Francis, Marques, Kilman, Samuels*

**Referee:** Martin Atkinson



## WOLVES IN EUROPE "THE ADVENTURE BEGINS"



After a seventh place finish last season, Wolves started their first competitive European competition for close to forty years with the possibility of three qualifying rounds to enter the group stages of The Europa league.



First up was Northern Irish side Crusaders, where Wolves looked a tad rusty, but they were still able to carry a 2-0 lead over to Belfast thanks to an injury time goal from Vinagre.

In the second leg a shock early own goal from Bennett gave the home side hope, but that was short lived, as Raul equalized before Bennett made amends, heading Wolves in front. Raul added his second before the break too leave Wolves with a commanding lead, before a Forsythe own goal rounded off the scoring to give Wolves a 6-1 aggregate win.

In the second round, it was the long trek to Armenia to play Pyunik, where a 4-0 victory all but ensured progress to round three. Doherty, on his return from injury, opened the scoring, two more assists from Jota all but wrapped up the tie, with the icing on the cake supplied by a Neves penalty, following a foul on Cutrone.



With such a commanding lead, Wolves exploited Pyunik in the return leg, with Neto and Gibbs-White scoring their first senior Wolves goals. Vinagre and a spectacular overhead kick from Jota, rounded off the 8-1 aggregate win.



On to round three, and a trip to Torino looked far more daunting, but Wolves put in a good defensive shift, with the home side having the bulk of the play until, on 43 minutes, Wolves forced an own goal from Bremer. Jota made it 2-0 when he slammed home from a Traore cross, before De Silvesti pulled one back for Torino.

Raul looked to have sealed victory, breaking away to score a superb solo effort, but the home side reduced the arrears in the final minute, when a wild challenge by Vinagre resulted in a penalty.



# WOLVES' NEWS



The Italians came to Molineux unprepared to surrender, but came unstuck when a typical Wolves attack saw Raul somehow squeeze a fierce shot, from a tight angle, in at the near post.

Belotti pulled a goal back before half-time, but when Jota had a fierce shot saved late in the game, Dendonker followed up to ensure a 5-3 aggregate victory, and the group stages were waiting.



## THE ADVENTURE CONTINUES



Wolves were drawn with Braga, Slovan Bratislava and Besiktas in the group stage of the competition with the top two qualifying for the knockout stage. The group stage commenced with Wolves looking leg-weary in the home leg against Braga from Portugal, who set up defiantly to take a point away from home.

Wolves dominated possession, but had little to show for it, despite Cutrone having several chances. The visitors snatched all three points when Bennett was too casual with a back pass, and it was pounced on by Horta, who raced away to score a barely deserved winner.

A trip to Turkey followed, and Besiktas dominated for long periods, and hit a post in the opening spell, but Wolves always looked dangerous on the break, and stood firm at the back.

Wolves were far superior in the second half, and thought they had won the points when Saiss slotted home near the end, only for the assistant referee to flag for offside. However, deep into injury time Neves picked out Boly with a superb ball, and he smoothly fired home.



In Bratislava, a FIFA ruling meant that the match was to be played behind closed doors, so there was a strange atmosphere when a crowd, mostly comprising of under 14s, numbered around 20,000. Wolves looked second best in a drab first half, and went into the break a goal down.



However, the second period proved a different story, with Saiss levelling before Jimenez was upended in the area, and the Mexican scored from the spot. With a few minutes remaining, Jota was dismissed for a second, needless, yellow card.

The final away group match saw Wolves needing a draw in Portugal, or the other results to go their way, but on the Night Wolves looked really in the mood to get the job done, and despite the early setback of another goal from Horta, deflected away from Patricio when there was no real threat, they equalized through Jimenez seven minutes later.

The game continued to be dominated by Wolves, and they duly took the lead, with what will possibly be goal of the season, when Neves spotted a run from Doherty, who burst fully twenty yards into the area, and lofted a pass onto the onrushing head for a text-book header.

The game seemed destined to be wrapped up when Traore thundered a shot home, but the hosts were far from finished as first Paulinho and then Fransergio made for a tense end, before the result saw both sides qualify for the knock-out stages.



Besiktas rolled into Molineux looking for revenge from a defeat on their own patch, but after a drab first period Wolves looked a different side after the break, and the first touch of substitute Jota, 72 seconds after coming on, broke the deadlock, and the Spaniard completed a hat trick in eleven minutes, with a towering header from Dendonker sandwiched in between.

A four goal rout was completed, and a late victory by Braga in Bratislava meant that Wolves had qualified in second place in the group, and after twelve matches, had finally reached the knockout stages.

# WOLVES' NEWS



## THE KNOCKOUT STAGE

Wolves were drawn against Spanish side Espanyol in the knockout stages of the Europa League. The first leg was played at home, and Wolves blew their Spanish opponents away 4-0, and put one foot into the Europa League's last 16.

Wolves' intentions were clear from the off, get the ball forward and look to break the deadlock early on. Moutinho and Neves both tried their luck from distance in the first few minutes, and while those efforts went wayward, Nuno's Boys did open the scoring a quarter of an hour into the encounter. Moutinho's outswinging corner was flicked on by Jimenez to Jota, who adjusted quickly and finish on the volley via a deflection.



The score remained 1-0 until a Ruben Neves goal lifted the Molineux roof off seven minutes into the second-half. Traore's cross was headed out by Gomez and Neves beat Vargas to the clearance, chested it down and rifled a right-foot rocket into the roof of the net from 22 yards, a truly special goal from a truly special player.

From that point on Wolves ran riot against the Spanish strugglers, and Jota added a third in the 67th minute after holding off Gomez before slamming the ball home. The Portuguese maestro's hat-trick clinching goal was even better, as he ran Espanyol's defence ragged before drilling a low shot into the net from the edge of the area.



Jota received a standing ovation when he was replaced by Podence towards the end of another memorable night under the Molineux floodlights.

A last-gasp second-leg loss was not enough to deny Wolves from getting past Espanyol and reaching the last 16 of the Europa League, they were beaten 3-2 on the night, but won 6-3 on aggregate.



With the hard work done in the first-leg Nuno made five changes to the team who starred in the weekend's 3-0 league win against Norwich, and in the opening stages Wolves looked lacklustre and were on the back foot.

So it came as no surprise that Espanyol got the early goal they needed, sloppy defending down Wolves' right allowed Pedrosa to get to the byline and his ball across the six-yard box was met by Calleri, who made it 1-0. However, Wolves all but booked their place in the last 16 when Traore fired in on the rebound to level midway through the half.

The game slowed down as Espanyol now had the impossible task of scoring five more goals without reply to go through. The game livened up a little after the break and Espanyol restored their lead on the hour mark. Kilman took down Lopez in the box with a high challenge, and Calleri converted the penalty.

Wolves were, determined to maintain their unbeaten European away run this season and equalised 11 minutes from time as new signing Podence picked out Doherty to slam in from close range.

With a couple of minutes left Pedro Neto missed a glorious chance of giving Wolves the lead, he latched on to a poor backpass, rounded the keeper, but shanked his effort wide with the goal at his mercy.



Espanyol made Wolves pay for that shocking miss by grabbing the winner in stoppage time, Calleri headed in for his hat-trick to make the score 3-2 on the night, but it was Wolves who sealed their place in the last 16.

The last 16 Europa League draw saw Wolves paired with Greek side Olympiacos, conquerors of Arsenal in the previous round. The first-leg in Athens was played behind closed doors due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. They say silence is Golden, and during this game Nuno's Boys made sure silence was Old Golden. Sadly no Wolves fans were in the stadium to support their team, but Nuno's Boys gave those fans who did make the trip plenty to cheer about as they watched the action on giant screens in nearby bars.



# WOLVES' NEWS



The game was an eerie sort of an affair, for much of the 90 minutes, this match was played in the spirit of two teams who didn't seem sure there was actually any point to what they were doing. The lack of atmosphere meant the match was like a training game at times, with both teams affected by the lack of passion.

Olympiacos had the lion's share of the play in the early stages, but without seriously testing Patricio. The first real talking point came just before the half hour mark when the Olympiacos centre-half Ruben Semedo was red-carded. Jimenez released Diogo Jota through on goal, and though Semedo tried to pull out of the challenge on the edge of the box, he made enough contact to send the Wolves man crashing to the ground.

Wolves grabbed the initiative and took the game to the Greeks on their own patch, but ten minutes into the second-half they broke the deadlock as Wolves were caught dozing in defence. Camara was allowed to advance down the right and slipped a pass inside to Guilherme, who raced to the byline before firing the ball across goal for El Arabi to tap home.

The goal was the signal for Wolves to wake up, and Jota had an appeal for a penalty ignored after he was sandwiched by Jose Sa and Ousseynou Ba before Neves curled a fraction over. The pressure finally paid off on 67 minutes when Neto scored a priceless equalizer, Moutinho back-heelled a free-kick to the youngster who's shot from 25 yards out hit the legs of Bouchalakis, leaving the keeper completely wrong-footed as the ball flew beyond him and into the net.



Just 24 hours later, as the increasing spread of the COVID-19 led to more and more sports leagues across the world suspending their schedules, Wolves' second leg with Olympiacos was postponed following UEFA's decision to halt all Champions League and Europa League matches due to the spread of COVID-19. However since that statement UEFA have provisionally confirmed that if played, the Europa League Final is now re-scheduled for Wednesday 24th June at the Stadion Energa Gdańsk.

We now wait to see if the European adventure has finished, or whether the dream continues, the second-leg won't take place for several weeks or possibly months, or perhaps not ever....



# FA CUP QUIZ



## Wolves FA Cup Quiz

1. Who were Wolves first opponents in the FA Cup after the war?
2. Who broke his leg playing against Crystal Palace in the FA Cup 5th Round in 1978/79?
3. Against which teams have Wolves played FA Cup Semi Finals since the War?
4. After beating Tranmere Rovers in the FA Cup 3rd Round in 1982/83 who were the next team Wolves beat in an FA cup tie?
5. Which six players took penalties for Wolves in the penalty shoot-out against Sheffield Wednesday in 1994/95?
6. Who scored a last minute goal away at Kidderminster Harriers to earn a replay in 2003/04?
7. Bob Hazell was sent off for punching which Arsenal player at Highbury in 1977/78?
8. Which teams did Wolves play in the first FA Cup tie of each decade from 1950-2020?
9. Who scored for Wolves in the 3-2 FA Cup win against Newcastle in 2002/3?
10. Which Wolves graduate played the pass that put in Don Goodman to score against Leeds in 1997/98?
11. Who scored for Wolves in the FA Cup ties against Chorley in 1986/87?
12. Name the two brothers who captained the opposing sides in a FA Cup tie in 1978/79?
13. Why did Steve Kindon get a telling off from Bill McGarry before the FA Cup Quarter Final against Coventry City in 1972/73?
14. Which team did Wolves play in three consecutive seasons during the 1970's?
15. Which team knocked FA Cup holders Wolves out of the 1960/61 FA Cup?
16. Who scored Wolves goals in the 3-1 third/fourth place play-off match against Arsenal in August 1973?
17. Who was sent off for Wolves in the 6-0 defeat to Rotherham in 1985/6?
18. Against which teams have Wolves FA Cup ties gone to a second replay since 1960?
19. Who was in goal for Wolves when they lost 0-2 to Bolton Wanderers in the FA Cup 4th Round in 1992/3?
20. Since Wolves lost to Chorley in 1986 they have played against 3 other non-league teams, name them?
21. Wolves beat two London teams 3-0 to reach the quarter finals of the FA Cup in 1975/76 which teams?
22. Who was the designated penalty taker for the FA Cup semi-final against Tottenham in 1980/81?
23. Which London team did Wolves beat 2-0 in the FA Cup third round in 2004/5?
24. Who scored for Wolves in the 2-2 Fourth Round draw with Crystal Palace in 2009/10?
25. Which team knocked Wolves out of the FA Cup in consecutive seasons in the 1960's?

*Compiled by Matthew Hawthorne*

*Answers on the inside back cover.*



# SOCIAL NEWS



## Social Diary Season 2019-2020



London Wolves Entertainment Officer Roy Eagles has put together a diary of events since our last newsletter. Members are treated to some fabulous social events. If you haven't attended any of these functions then just ask the members who do attend to hear about what you're missing. We have more and more special guests including former players who ask to attend these events, such is the job that Roy is doing.

All social events are detailed on the regular eNews communications that are sent by our Webmaster Peter Bartlett, or can be seen on our very own website at <https://www.londonwolves.com/>

It's been a busy few months since the end of last season. We had the usual Summer Walk which this year took place in Twickenham, and there was also a special evening organised for London Wolves members with Wolves and England Legend Steve Bull.

### It's Not the Christmas Party (December 2019)

As I have stated many times before it has become increasingly difficult to organise events due to the ever meddling of the fixtures by Sky TV. However, there is now the added problem that following our magnificent 7th place finish last season, our mighty Wolves are involved in the Europa League where all games are played on a Thursday night.



This means that as Wolves progressed through the qualifying stages, and then onto the group stages most of our Saturday Premier League fixtures were moved to the Sunday. The success of the team meant there was to be no home Saturday games during December, and the annual Christmas Lunch couldn't go ahead.



Just by chance an alternative became available in the form of the "Wolves Allstars Christmas Dinner". The event took place on Thursday 5th December at the long standing Wolves hotel, The Mount Hotel in Tettenhall, which was the night after the West Ham game at The Golden Palace. The cost was a bargain £22.50 per person and involved a three course dinner in aid of Breast Cancer now and Legacy4Lucy. Our old friend Jason Guy organised the event which included live entertainment in the form of 'Souled Survivor' Simon Dunkley.

So I quickly got the Webmaster to publicise the event on an eNews email to see if we could fill a couple of tables. It was a great response from our members, attendees from London Wolves included Stuart Earl, Peter Bartlett, Dave Slape, Peter Woodfield, John Goulding, Lynne Moores, Bill Singleton, Phil, Fred, Alan, Bernadette and myself.

There were 17 former players present with over 4000 appearances between them, including Wolves Allstars manager Mel Eves. Players Introduced by Jason Guy Included Steve Daley (whose introduction needed immediate correction and who came back to "say grace" (without swearing!) Lofty, Geoff Palmer, John McAlle, Derek Parkin, Kenny Hibbitt, John Richards, Dale Rudge, Willie Carr, Norman Bell, Gerry O Hara, Mel Eves, Colin Brazier, Terry Wharton, Jon Purdie, Paul Jones, and former Allstars Manager Phil Nicholls,.



We had a great three course Christmas Dinner followed by the soul entertainment. We were on two separate tables, but as the night went on we all managed to sit together on one table, and yes, we were the only full table left at the end. It was a great evening with lots of fun and chat, and to be surrounded by so many former players was amazing.

*The All Stars have helped raise over £500,000 for charitable causes since 1997.*

# SOCIAL NEWS



## Daventry Wolves Event (January 2020)

I decided to go along to a Daventry Wolves event on Saturday 8th January along with Dave Slape, John Goulding, Lynne Moores and Peter Abbott and his wife. It was another great evening, with former players John Richards, Willie Carr, Wolves directors John Gough and Richard Skirrow also present, there was also a disco. It was a well organised event by Daventry Wolves and good to catch up with old friends.

Breakfast was even better the next morning as we were joined by King John and his wife Pam. Keep watching this space as I will be holding an event soon, or depending on fixtures an end of season event.

As Entertainments Officer it would have been impossible to organise any of these functions without the help of all my fellow Committee members, so my gratitude goes to everybody concerned.

Finally without the constant support of all our members and our special friends there would be no functions, and I wouldn't have the privilege of working with such special supporters.

## Thanks Again and Up the Wolves!

*Roy Eagles*

Entertainments Officer

email: [social@londonwolves.com](mailto:social@londonwolves.com)

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## Wolves Book Review

### "Cometh Light"

Written by lifelong fan and friend of the Doog, David Dungar, Cometh Light is a profusely illustrated A4 size hardback book detailing the footballing and industrial history of Wolverhampton between Wolves becoming one of the first 12 Football League clubs in 1888 to the start of the Second World War in 1939. By this time Wolves were the best football team in England and almost pulled off the first League & Cup double of the 20th Century.



The intention, with this being the centenary of the end of the Great War, is to give all the profits to the local Ex-Servicemen's Association. Nothing beyond meeting my third party costs will come to me as:

***Writing the book has been a labour of love.***

#### HOW TO ORDER YOUR COPY

This profusely illustrated 340-page hardback A4 Book, with many coloured and previously unpublished pictures is available from Waterstone's, Amazon (where buyers have given the book a top 5 Star rating) and the Wolves Club Shop.

Alternatively you can order directly from the author.

Contact David Dungar at [david.dungar@nexus-contract.com](mailto:david.dungar@nexus-contract.com) or phone **01902 701487**





## London Wolves Naked Ladies Walk 2019



The venue for this year's Summer Walk was Twickenham, home of England rugby, numerous poets and artists, the footballer of Loos, Eel Pie Island (a former famous rock venue), and the inventor of the clockwork radio, those famous naked ladies and, not to mention a plethora of pubs.

Committee member Matt Hawthorne identified the event as our 25th anniversary walk and it was arranged for Saturday 29th June, kicking-off at 11:30am. The starting point of this historical event was the Weatherspoon's pub "The William Webb Ellis", apparently named after The Reverend William Webb Ellis, an English Anglican clergyman and the supposed inventor of rugby football while a pupil at Rugby School. According to legend, Webb Ellis picked up the ball and ran with it during a school football match in 1823, thus creating the 'rugby' style of play.

### Geoff's travel narrative of the day's events

After a quick drink in the William Webb Ellis, I led the group down Water Lane to the Thames and the view across to Eel Pie Island where I talked about its history (rock groups, hotel, fires etc) and present uses :- 50 homes, 120 inhabitants, boat yards and art studios.

I then took them to St. Mary's Church and spoke of Alexander Pope (18th century satirist - famous for sayings such as "Blessed is the man who expects nothing, for he shall never be disappointed") who is buried in front of the altar. Thomas Twining, the tea merchant is also buried there. The name of Frank Edwards - footballer of Loos, who led a charge kicking a football towards enemy lines in 1915 - is on a bench and Billy Nevill - who did a similar thing at the battle of the Somme the following year - has his name on the war memorial. The Twickenham Museum opposite the church contains some of Popes' works and stones from the grotto he built underneath his house in Twickenham;



I then gave people the opportunity to visit Eel pie Island, the church and the Museum while I went to the Eel Pie pub (itself full of 1960's memorabilia featuring the island). Most people chose to visit the pub!



We then walked into York house gardens to see the "Naked Ladies" and hear my words of wisdom - people were very impressed with the naked ladies - and then on to "The White Swan" where we sampled a pint or two of the "Naked Ladies" bitter;

Onwards to Montpellier Row, via Marble Hill House and gardens (built for George the second's mistress Henrietta Howard) to view the former homes of Tennyson, Pete Townshend (same house but now moved) and Walter De La Mere. Then a pint in the Crown.

Bus to Twickenham Green for a visit to "The Sussex Arms" - people could not believe it when I said the bus stops directly outside and it did - great pub with about 12 real ales on. About 12 of us then made it to the "Albert" for a pint of ESB !!!

*A good day was had by all.  
Geoff*

*A massive "Thank You" to Geoff for another superb event, and he did another great job in organising our now (in)famous Summer Walk*

# SOCIAL NEWS



## A London Wolves Evening with Steve Bull



Our Chairman Stuart Earl helped organise a memorable evening for London Wolves members with Wolves and England Legend Steve Bull (MBE).

The event took place on Wednesday 20th November 2019 at the Grapes Pub which is located in Central London close to Fenchurch Street.

Stuart kicked off proceedings by introducing Alan Perrins, who referred to his visit to us as a founder member of Worldwide Wolves. He explained how Worldwide Wolves is the official network of supporter clubs for Wolves. The official directory currently stands at 144 clubs, spreading across the globe as far as USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Vietnam, Dubai and Mexico.



In Europe, the Wolves word has spread rapidly, with clubs now in place in France, Italy, Germany, Sweden, Malta, Spain and Portugal. Alan explained that during his recruitment that the ambitions of the board is for the team to be 8th in the first season, 6th in the second, and then top four onwards.



Then came the main event with Steve Bull starting a two and half hour questions and answers session, with the Wolves Legend answering on a whole range of subjects including his England career, his loyalty to Wolves, and his opinions on the current owners, manager and squad.

Alan Perrins put the member's questions to Bully, who then gave his response on a wide range of subjects including: Mutchy, Gazza, Ole Big Ears, Bobby Robson and today's players. There were many other stories from his time as Wolves record scorer, as an England

international and through to SJH renaming a stand for him. There was only one subject that was off the agenda, and that was his views and opinions on our favourite neighbours twelve miles down the road.

There was a brief interval, where members were able to tuck into some fabulous food, and also take time to talk and get autographs from Bully, with his perpetual smile also gracing many selfies.



Also with us was Sky's Johnny Phillips whose new book Bitten by Wolves is featured in the Wolves Book Review inside this newsletter.

**The whole evening was courtesy of Worldwide Wolves and Special Thanks go to Alan Perrins who made this memorable night possible.**

There are additional pictures of the event on the back cover and many other photos can be found on the WWLSC official website at <https://www.londonwolves.com/> where a higher resolution image can be obtained by emailing [webmaster@londonwolves.com](mailto:webmaster@londonwolves.com)

Many thanks to Jane Clarke Official Wolves Photographer  
[janemariephotography.co.uk](http://janemariephotography.co.uk)





## Johnny Phillips on Adama Traore

*Johnny Phillips is a broadcaster, writer and lifelong Wolves supporter. A regular reporter on Sky Sports' Soccer Saturday programme, he has also produced and directed three documentaries about Wolves for Sky. The most recent of these, Wolves in China, was a one-hour behind-the-scenes film about the club's 2019 summer tour in Shanghai. Johnny also writes a weekly football column for the Express and Star newspaper. Here Johnny has kindly written an article about Adama Traore for the WWLSC newsletter.*



One of the many joys of watching Nuno Espirito Santo's Wolves team is the sight of Adama Traore on the ball. For a side whose identity lies in its strength as a unit, Traore's individualism is edge of the seat stuff. Watching the Spaniard in full flight, it is genuinely impossible to predict the outcome of his movement, and Wolves supporters are enjoying it all the more for that.

In The Championship, it was Diogo Jota who shone as the player with the ball at his feet. Jota can still captivate in this way but it is Traore who has assumed the mantle in the Premier League. The Spaniard's emergence has also highlighted a more sinister side of our game. He is a marked man. Fans watch on from the stands at Molineux, sometimes fearing the worst, as would-be-assailants use every tactic in the book to halt his progress.

As a kid, I remember the famous 1985 European Cup Winners' Cup semi-final when Howard Kendall's Everton progressed against European giants Bayern Munich at Goodison Park. It was a brutal night on the pitch, with many players going unpunished for some reckless play. But the man who endures as the main offender was the Everton skipper Kevin Ratcliffe. On a handful of occasions he chopped down his man when he was beaten in the personal duels with his opponent. Ratcliffe had the good sense to do it far away from goal and avoided dismissal. In that sense it was a master-class in professional fouling. He was known throughout his time with Everton as the king of the 'reducer'.

The game has thankfully evolved since the mid-80s but the tactics being used on Traore are straight out of that old school. Jose Mourinho's targeting of the player via rotational fouling when Spurs played at Molineux in December was deplorable. Toby Alderweireld, Jan Vertonghen and Harry Kane were all booked for blatantly stopping Traore with no intention to play the ball. It took the total yellow cards against him to 24 in 26 games. That statistic changed to 25 in 27 the following weekend when Norwich City's Sam Byram was booked for bringing him down.

For all Traore's strength, skill and pace it is his bravery that deserves the most accolades. He enters the field of play every week in the knowledge that he is a moving target. He may have the beating of his man but he also knows his opponent will resort to cheating in order to stop him. It takes a particular strength of character to be able to handle that. There are none of the theatrics that other players resort to when hacked down. Jota, for all his bravery, is not afraid to milk it a bit on the pitch when he is on the wrong end of a foul. Traore seems to operate above the gamesmanship of this sport.

When meeting up with him at Compton Hospice before Christmas at one of the club's seasonal charity events, I was keen to learn how he coped with this attention and why it did not appear to bother him on the pitch. He is a remarkably sanguine 23-year-old. There is none of the petulance of youth or the cynicism of age about him. Just a determination to go about his job and let the referees go about theirs. He came out with this wonderful line regarding his own approach to training and developing: "I'm working every day. If I am the same Adama as yesterday, then it is one day I have lost."

In my lifetime following the club there has been nobody like Traore. Robbie Dennison was the first creative winger that came to the attention as a youngster. He was a different type of player; fleet of foot but with a languid style that gave the impression that it all came so easily. Michael Kightly and Matt Jarvis had their moments when Wolves were promoted under Mick McCarthy; there was pace and energy in their DNA. Where Traore stands out is that his unquestionable flair has not been compromised in a team environment. His individualism runs parallel and in sync with the team's. They get better together.

Endurance is the hardest part of all for any flair player. Graham Taylor's mid-1990s Wolves wingers, Steve Froggatt and Tony Daley, were beset with injury problems, as both Kightly and Jarvis were at later stages in their own careers. That is the next test for this unique footballer. If Adama Traore can stay on the pitch, he could become an all-time Molineux great.

*Johnny Phillips*

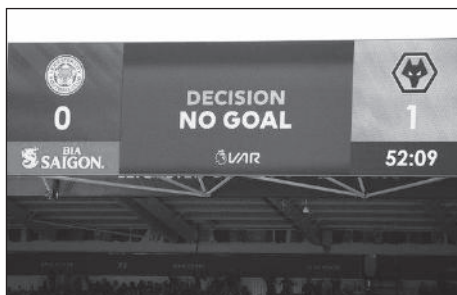
# MATCH REPORTS



## SO NEAR AND YET SO VAR

### LEICESTER 0-0 WOLVES

Sunday 11th August 2019



It was the opening day of the season and expectations at our beloved Wolverhampton Wanderers Football Club were sky high after the seventh place finish at the end of last season, and hopes were that we could finish even higher this time around. However, during that campaign Leicester City finished just five points below Wolves in ninth place, so it was a tough opener against our East Midland rivals.

This season sees the introduction of the Video Assistant Referee, or VAR for short, and Wolves were on the wrong end of what could be the start of some contentious decisions in the season ahead. Leander Dendoncker had a goal ruled out by VAR in a goalless draw, although that decision proved one of few major incidents in a game lacking clear-cut opportunities.

In the opening stages Wolves looked a bit leggy, and it was no wonder following their 6,000-mile round trip to Armenia just a few days earlier. Nuno's Boys had already played over four and a half hours of competitive football in the Europa League before a ball was even kicked in this opener, and with another game against Pyunik in a few days there would be no respite.

It was a close first-half with clear cut chances at a minimum. Jota was the pick of the Wolves players in the opening period, he kept taking the ball on the turn before driving at the Foxes defence, but he had little support from his teammates, who continually gave the ball away.

Dendoncker smashed a shot high over the bar from 20 yards in the second minute after good work by Jota. Following that effort Wolves found it hard to get out of their own half with the Foxes closing them down at every opportunity, the home team had several shots from outside the area but didn't really threaten Rui Patricio.

Wolves came close to the opening the scoring in the 36th minute when Neves delivered a free-kick into the area and Bennett rose above Evans to meet it. He nodded across the area to Boly, who couldn't control the ball, and Evans took a swipe at it and it deflected off Bennett and behind for a goal-kick.

Just two minutes later the Foxes were on the attack and created the best chance of the half. Maddison sent the ball to the left-hand corner for Tielemans to pick up out wide. He fizzed a low ball into the middle which somehow went through Vardy's legs and away.

Nuno sent out his team at the start of the second-half with all guns blazing, and they should have taken the lead in the first minute after the restart. Neves set Jimenez racing into the Foxes half with a precision through ball, the Mexican took Soyuncu on in the box, but his effort was weak and too close to Schmeichel.

Wolves' positive attitude saw them score what everyone in the stadium thought was the game's opening goal in the 50th minute. Moutinho's outswinging corner hit Boly and broke for Dendoncker who fired into the back of the net from close range. However, after several checks by VAR the goal was ruled out for handball, with the ball having grazed Boly's upper arm. It was certainly not intentional, but the goal didn't stand, causing a furious reaction from Nuno and the travelling away fans.

That disappointment seemed to knock the stuffing out of Wolves' resurgence and the Foxes wrestled themselves back onto the front foot, even though they still struggled to find a route to goal. Boly made a couple of vital clearances as Leicester pushed for a winner, but Wolves saw it through for an opening-weekend point.

**Man of the match:** Boly

**Team Rating:** 8/10

**Attendance:** 32,015

**Team:** *Patricio, Bennett, Coady (c), Boly, Doherty, Neves (Saiss, 81), Dendoncker, Moutinho, Otto, Jimenez, Jota (Cutrone, 76)*

**Unused Subs:** *Ruddy, Vinagre, Traore, Neto, Gibbs-White*

**Bookings:** Otto (31), Neves (60)

**League Position:** 13

**Referee:** Andre Marriner

## A PAT ON THE BACK FOR RUI

### WOLVES 1-1 MAN UNITED

Monday 19th August 2019

After a tepid first-half Wolves put in an extra shift after the break to earn a well-deserved point against Man United at Molineux. That's now nine consecutive Premier League games without defeat at fortress Molineux.

Martial deservedly gave Man United the lead in the first-half against a subdued Wolves. Nuno's Boys upped the ante in the second-half with a much improved performance, and Ruben Neves found the net with a brilliant curling strike from outside the box. United had an opportunity to re-take the lead via a Pogba penalty, but Patricio made a superb save to earn Wolves a point.

Neither side created much in a cagey opening that saw United dominate possession and Wolves defend deep and soak up the pressure. Apart from a barnstorming Jimenez run when he raced from halfway, taking on three players and leaving Maguire for dead to win a corner, Wolves offered absolutely no attacking threat in the first-half.

The first clear sight of goal saw the deadlock broken, the ball was quickly worked from Lingard and Rashford onto Martial, he got half a yard on Boly and in-behind Coady, before smashing the ball into the net with a powerful left-footed shot past a helpless Patricio. Wolves offered little in response and United comfortably saw out the rest of the first-half.

Adama Traore replaced the unwell Doherty at half-time and Wolves immediately improved in terms of their approach and attitude. Traore's pace and intent seem to lift Wolves, and they went agonisingly close to equalising in the 54th minute as Jimenez glanced a header against the post, and the ball rebounded off de Gea and somehow ricocheted to safety.



However, with Wolves in the ascendancy the equaliser came just a minute later



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following a stunning 20-yard strike from Neves that curled into the top corner. The celebrations were momentarily cut short by a VAR check, the concern among the fans was that the goal was going to be disallowed after a check for offside in the build-up. The problem was whether Moutinho was offside in the build-up to the goal down the right, but the goal was allowed to stand.

The goal looked to have swung the momentum as Wolves went for the kill, but out of nowhere United were awarded a penalty in the 68th minute. Coady tripped Pogba in the box and referee Jon Moss pointed to the penalty spot. Pogba stepped up to take the penalty himself but Patricio produced an absolutely stunning save to keep out the powerfully-hit effort.

That proved to be the last real effort on goal, with both teams pressing for a winner, but not really creating any clear cut chances. All in all the draw seemed the right result.

**Man of the match:** Neves

**Team Rating:** 7/10

**Attendance:** 31,314

**Team:** *Patricio, Bennett, Coady (c), Boly, Doherty (Traore, 46), Neves, Dendoncker, Moutinho, Otto, Jimenez (Cutrone, 90), Jota (Neto, 86)*

**Unused Subs:** *Ruddy, Saiss, Vinagre, Gibbs-White*

**Bookings:** Neves (51), Bennett (67)

**League Position:** 13

**Referee:** Jonathan Moss

## SEVEN UP

### WOLVES 1-1 BURNLEY

*Sunday 25th August 2019*

With seven minutes of time added on, and time all but up, Raul Jimenez calmly stepped up and despatched a penalty to earn Wolves a last-gasp point. Burnley had looked to be heading for an away win at Molineux with Nuno's Boys struggling to respond to Ashley Barnes' early strike.

The afternoon got off to a great start if you're an England fan. Hundreds of Wolves supporters packed the City Centre pubs as cricketer Ben Stokes single-handedly took on the Aussies in the 3rd Ashes Test at Headingley. All stayed as the game reached its conclusion at about 4:15pm before streaming out and heading down to Molineux for the 4:30pm kick off against Burnley.

Whereas the cricket will be remembered for many a year following one of the greatest

finishes in text cricket history, the day certainly won't be remembered for the exploits of the Wolves team on the Molineux pitch. They just couldn't get going, were off the pace, uninspired and bereft of ideas.

The danger signs were there early on as Barnes shot just wide from the edge of the area after he was given too much room by the Wolves back line. However, the lesson wasn't learnt and the same player put Burnley 1-0 up just three minutes later. Not one defender came to claim the ball and Barnes fired an excellent volley past Patricio from 20 yards.

The goal rocked Wolves and Burnley nearly doubled their lead four minutes later, Mee's looping header hit the bar with Bennett and Patricio making a mess of clearing the ball, and only just stopping it from going over the line. Wood then fired wide from an angle, before taking a long ball down, beating Coady in the box and seeing his low effort just kept out by Patricio's arm on the half-hour mark.

Things didn't improve after the break, Gibbs-White sliced a shot wide for Wolves, and Barnes should have made it 2-0, but side-footed wide from six yards in yet another let-off. Chances were at a premium before stoppage-time and Wolves' first shot on target only came in the 87th minute, one which hardly tested Pope.



In the 5th minute of added time it looked like Wolves weren't going to get anything from the game, especially after Jimenez hit the post with a smart shot on the turn from a Bennett long throw. But with seconds left Jimenez was brought down in the box, and after a VAR check the penalty decision stood. Jimenez picked himself off the floor and sent Pope the wrong way to earn Wolves a vital early-season point.

**Man of the match:** Patricio

**Team Rating:** 3/10

**Attendance:** 30,522

**Team:** *Patricio, Bennett, Coady (c), Boly, Doherty (Traore, 76), Moutinho*

*(Dendoncker, 58), Neves, Gibbs-White (Neto, 66), Otto, Jimenez, Jota*

**Unused Subs:** *Ruddy, Vallejo, Vinagre, Cutrone*

**Bookings:** None

**League Position:** 15

**Referee:** Craig Pawson

## DEFENSIVE DELIRIUM

### EVERTON 3-2 WOLVES

*Sunday 1st September 2019*

Last season Wolves turned up at Goodison Park and gave Everton a lesson in finishing as they beat the Toffee's 3-1 on their own patch in a ten out of ten performance. There was to be no repeat this time around as they were beaten following a series of defensive howlers you usually associate to an under 10's Sunday league team.

Both teams started with intent and it proved to be a hectic first twelve minutes. Sigurdsson provided a taste of things to come in the 4th minute when he got plenty of power on a header when left wide open by the Wolves defence, but the ball flew over the bar.

However, Everton went ahead just 60 seconds later following a horrible mix-up between Coady and Patricio. The usually dependable defender didn't know whether to wait for his keeper to come for the ball or help it along. When he finally prodded it towards Patricio the keeper could only stick a leg out and knock it away from goal.

The ball fell to Richarlison who got on top of his shot, but he still managed to send it bouncing past the despairing Coady on the line. That goal set the tone for the standard of Wolves' defending for the rest of the afternoon.



The game continued at a frenzied pace and Wolves hit back and levelled the scores just three minutes later. Traore skipped past Digne as if he wasn't there and his low cross from the byline rebounded to Saiss who fired home from close range.

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The lead lasted only four minutes though, before more woeful Wolves defending allowed Everton to regain the lead. Sigurdsson found himself in acres of space on the right-wing and swung over a cross where Iwobi was waiting unmarked at the back post to head home.

The game dropped in tempo after that, as it became more of a scrap in midfield with quality in short supply. However, Wolves did find an unlikely way through with 15 minutes to go as Jimenez took advantage of Digne's slow reactions to bravely head home despite getting a kick in the face.

After getting themselves level Wolves shot themselves in the foot again with more woeful defending. Digne, swung one in from the left which looked set to be headed clear by Boly, but Richarlison bullied his way in front of the big defender and headed the ball into the bottom corner, giving Patricio no chance.

The defensive horror show was summed up when, in a moment of madness Willy Boly was shown a second yellow card deep into stoppage time for barging into Richarlison, he will now miss the home game against Chelsea.

**Man of the match:** Jimenez

**Team Rating:** 5/10

**Attendance:** 39,374

**Team:** *Patricio; Bennett, Coady (c), Boly; Traore, Neves (Neto, 84), Saiss (Moutinho, 59), Dendoncker, Vinagre; Jimenez, Cutrone (Jota, 68)*

**Unused Subs:** *Ruddy, Vallejo, Otto, Gibbs-White*

**Bookings:** Vinagre (38), Jimenez (44), Boly (49), Bennett (58), Neto (90+4)

**Sending's Off:** Boly (90+5)

**League Position:** 17

**Referee:** Anthony Taylor

## BOO IS THE COLOUR

### WOLVES 2-5 CHELSEA

Saturday 14th September 2019

Wolves picked up where they left off at Goodison Park last time around with another defensive horror show. In the process they dropped down to 19th in the league, and must lick their wounds, and quickly try to regather before they face Braga in the Europa League next week.

It was Molineux's 130th anniversary, and it was hoped Wolves would put in a performance to grace the occasion.

However, they were second-best all over the park as Chelsea spoiled the party with a five goal salvo, three of which were scored by Tammy Abraham, a close season Wolves target.

The rout started as the half-hour mark ticked over. The ball came out to Tomori twenty yards out and the defender hit a first-time curling shot into the far corner of the net, although Patricio would have been disappointed he didn't do better as it floated past him.

Before Wolves could draw breath Abraham made it 2-0, the striker fired home on the turn after referee Graham Scott waved play on as Coady appeared to pull back Mount in the box. And Wolves were 3-0 down in the 41st minute when Alonso's cross found Abraham who nodded home his second.

Wolves paraded a clutch of their former players at half-time as they desperately tried to keep a happy atmosphere. Nuno must have wished some have them had brought their boots with them, especially the defenders who couldn't have done any worse than those being tormented by Chelsea in the first-half.

With ten minutes of the second-half completed Chelsea made it 4-0, Abraham latched onto a long pass from Jorginho with Coady putting the pressure on. As with his second, he managed to get away from the defender before dinking past him and leaving an easy finish into the far corner for his hat-trick.



With 20 minutes remaining Wolves pulled one back. Moutinho swung in a corner from the right and Saiss powerfully met the ball with his head, Kepa could only push the ball into the hand of Abraham on the way through as it found the back of the net.

Cutrone then opened his account in Wolves colours. Doherty, who had earlier been denied a penalty appeal as he went down under a challenge from Alonso, got a shot away from a tight angle, and

Arrizabalaga could only parry, allowing the Italian to poke in from point-blank range.

The torment was completed when Mason Mount added Chelsea's fifth goal with virtually the last kick of the game.

**Man of the match:** Cutrone

**Team Rating:** 1/10

**Attendance:** 31,534

**Team:** *Patricio; Vallejo, Coady (c), Saiss; Traore (Doherty, 56), Neves, Dendoncker (Cutrone, 46), Moutinho, Otto; Jimenez (Gibbs-White, 70), Jota*

**Unused Subs:** *Ruddy, Kilman, Vinagre, Neto*

**Bookings:** Saiss (79)

**League Position:** 19

**Referee:** Graham Scott

## JOTA GIVEN KEYS TO UNLOCK PALACE REARGUARD

### CRYSTAL PALACE 1-1 WOLVES

Sunday 22nd September 2019



Wolves looked to get back to winning ways after losing three games on the spin, and had Diogo Jota not been on hand in the 95th minute to smash home an equaliser, then they would have suffered four defeats on the run for the first time in Nuno Espirito Santo's reign as manager.

After a slow start the first real opening fell to Wolves in the 10th minute, Dendoncker strolled in unmarked at the back stick to meet Moutinho's corner from the right, but his strike was blocked by James McArthur on the line.

The game was compact with chances far and few between, Palace has the lion's share of the possession, but not much in terms of genuine goal scoring opportunities. Wolves looked more dangerous on the counter, and on the half-hour mark had the best opportunity of the game so far.

Wolves worked it nicely down the left and Jimenez floated in a peach of a cross from the edge of the area, Doherty ghosted in



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at the back of the six yard box and his close-ranger header was superbly tipped over the bar by Guaita.

After failing to produce a decent effort on goal before the break, Palace took the lead in the first minute of the second-half when Ward's strike from the edge of the area was deflected past Patricio off Dendoncker for an own goal. It was the worst possible start to the half for Wolves, and immediately put them on the back foot.

Minutes later Saiss picked up his first yellow card for taking out Zaha on the right after the winger had left him dead with his lightening pace. Then in the 72nd minute, the Moroccan had a rush of blood as he stupidly fouled Zaha again in the same place. The referee had no choice but to show the red card, and Wolves' chances seem to have evaporated.

Five minutes later Palace should have sewn it up but Benteke fluffed his lines, he received the ball inside the box and with the goal at his mercy shot straight at Patricio from 12 yards. That miss proved pivotal as Wolves equalised in the 5th minute of time added on. Traore's cross to the back post caused panic in the Palace defence, Ward slipped over and Jota thumped the ball home from close range with virtually the last kick of the game.

When the players entered the pitch just under two hours previously the Palace anthem "Feeling glad all over" by the Dave Clark Five rang around the stadium. What a contrast at the final whistle when Wolves had stolen a point, it should have been "Five minutes and you're almost there" by The Stranglers!

**Man of the match:** Patricio

**Team Rating:** 4/10

**Attendance:** 25,122

**Team:** Patricio, Saiss, Coady (c), Boly; Doherty (Neves, 57), Dendoncker (Neto, 65), Moutinho, Jonny, Traore, Jimenez (Cutrone, 76), Jota

**Unused Subs:** Ruddy, Vallejo, Vinagre, Gibbs-White

**Bookings:** Coady (44), Saiss (48)

**Sending's Off:** Saiss (73)

**League Position:** 19

**Referee:** Stuart Attwell

## RUDDY GOOD SHOW

### WOLVES 1-1 READING

Wednesday 25th September 2019 (Carabao Cup 3rd Round)

Wolves win 4-2 on penalties



With the score standing at 1-1 at full-time, Wolves finally beat Reading 4-2 on penalties in the "Nobody cares and really wants to take part in Carabao Cup". However, with seven Europa Cup games already played before the end of September, we can give Nuno the benefit of the doubt after he made ten changes to the team that drew at Palace over the weekend.

After a relatively pedestrian start it was Patrick Cutrone who got the crowd on their feet in the 13th minute when he smashed a left-foot shot in from an acute angle and goalkeeper Joao Neves Virginia parried the ball away.

Wolves then had a big shout for a penalty in the 20th minute when Neto tumbled under a challenge from Tyler Blackett, but referee Peter Bankes wave away the appeals and instead booked the youngster for diving.

However, the jeers turned to cheers in the 27th minute when Jordao put Wolves in front. The Portuguese youngster took a square pass from Neves and unleashed a low drive from 30 yards that should have been an easy stop for the Reading keeper, but he inexplicably allowed the ball to go through his hands and trickle into the net.

However Jordao's debut went from joy to misery when his night came to a premature end after he was stretchered off in the 41st minute following a nasty collision with Reading's Teddy Howe.

Wolves looked sharp after their half-time cup of tea, and three minutes after the break Ruben Vinagre drifted in from the left flank and let fire from the edge of the box, however it was on his weaker right foot and he shanked the ball high and wide.

Reading went close to equalising in the 69th minute when Yakou Meite's goalbound header was nodded off the line by Bennett, and things got worse when substitute Shabani became the second Wolves player to be stretchered off after going down awkwardly off the ball.

Shabani's injury meant Wolves were down to 10 men for the last nine long minutes of stoppage-time, and in the 10th minute of stoppage-time the Royals made their pressure pay, Wolves failed to clear the a corner and Boye headed firmly past Ruddy into the net to force the penalty shoot-out.



In the shootout, captain for the night Ruben Neves, Jesus Vallejo, Ryan Bennett and Ruben Vinagre kept their nerve to score for Wolves, while John Swift's effort was saved by John Ruddy and Boye ballooned over the bar giving Wolves a 4-2 shootout victory.

**Man of the match:** Jordao

**Team Rating:** 4/10

**Attendance:** 20,702

**Team:** Ruddy, Vallejo, Bennett, Kilman; Doherty, Neves (c), Jordao (Perry, 42), Gibbs-White (Shabani, 73), Vinagre; Cutrone, Neto (Cundle, 83)

**Unused Subs:** Patricio, Coady, Sanderson, Moutinho

**Bookings:** Neto (20), Perry (90+4)

**Referee:** Peter Bankes

## WAT A WIN CAN DO

### WOLVES 2-0 WATFORD

Saturday 28th September 2019

Wolves picked up their first Premier League win of the season against Watford to claim all three points, and in the process move out of the relegation zone and up six places to 14th in the table. The win was no consolation for losing the FA Cup semi-final between the sides at Wembley in April, but it hopefully sees Wolves kick-start their season and start to move up the table.

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Wolves started slowly and too many passes went astray as they tried to get to grips with the game. This was typified when Jimenez found space on the right of the box but his fierce angled effort rocketed into the side netting. Slowly but surely Wolves started to put their game together and get in behind a Watford defence that had suffered an 8-0 defeat in their last game against Man City.

Using width was a tactic Wolves had deployed in the first half at Selhurst Park, and they started this clash with a similar plan. And it was Neto who would finally find a way to unlock Watford's defence. He breezed in to the box and sent the ball flying across the face of goal into the path of Doherty who tapped in from close range in the 18th minute.



After the break, Watford did show some signs of a comeback as they pushed forward in search of an equaliser, but they couldn't find a way past Rui Patricio. The Wolves shot-stopper acrobatically batted away Holebas' header and dusted himself down to thwart Cleverley on the rebound at the near post.

Wolves ended any hopes of a Watford come-back just after the hour mark with a second goal. However, it was more of a case of Watford being the architects of their own downfall. Doherty raced down the right flank again and whipped the ball into the box, Gibbs-White flicked the ball on and it hit Janmaat and rebounded past a wrong-footed Ben Foster to seal victory.

**Man of the match:** Doherty

**Team Rating:** 6/10

**Attendance:** 30,711

**Team:** *Patricio; Boly, Coady (c), Saiss; Doherty, Moutinho, Dendoncker, Otto; Traore (Neves, 87), Jimenez (Cutrone, 80), Neto (Gibbs-White, 57)*

**Unused Subs:** *Ruddy, Bennett, Kilman, Vinagre*

**Bookings:** None

**League Position:** 13

**Referee:** Paul Tierney

## TRAORE TWO GOOD FOR CITY

### MAN CITY 0-2 WOLVES

Sunday 6th October 2019



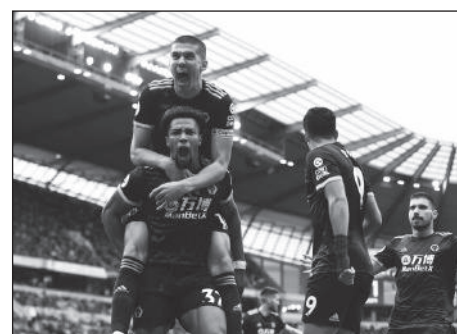
Wolves produced undoubtedly their best performance since the appointment of manager Nuno Espírito Santo. Adama Traore's second-half double helped Wolves stun Manchester City 2-0, and inflict a first home defeat of 2019 on the Premier League champions, it was only the second time in 45 league games that City have failed to score.

There can be no doubt about just how well Wolves performed. Nuno's men might have been three goals to the good inside the opening 22 minutes. In the 5th minute Moutinho played Cutrone through on goal with only Ederson to beat, he looked to open up his body but shanked his effort well wide.

Minutes later Fernandinho produced a double block, first from Jimenez after he skipped through on goal and then from Cutrone's follow up. Ederson then denied Jimenez as he again raced through unchallenged, but a combination of poor finishing and brave goalkeeping denied the striker.

The Wolves goal was not seriously threatened until nearly midway through the second-half, Ruben Neves brought down Sergio Aguero 20 yards out and David Silva curled in a free-kick that crashed back off the crossbar.

Wolves were slipping deeper as City pushed forward, but Wolves hit them with a perfect counter-attack with 10 minutes remaining. Jimenez led the break past Otamendi and squared one for Traore who kept his cool to slide the finish under Ederson. City almost levelled a minute later but Patricio displayed superb reflexes to claw away Aguero's header.



However, Wolves had the last say and it was that man Traore again with almost a carbon copy of the opener. Jimenez accelerated away down the left and found the lightning quick Spaniard who stayed as cool as a cucumber before slotting the ball into the bottom corner.

This was a timely result for Nuno's Boys, who were recording their first Premier League away of the season in a performance full of defensive cohesion and superb counter-attacking.

**Man of the match:** Traore

**Team Rating:** 10/10

**Attendance:** 54,435

**Team:** *Patricio, Boly, Coady, Saiss (Bennett 13), Adama, Moutinho, Neves, Dendoncker, Vinagre (Jonny 74), Jimenez, Cutrone (Doherty 68)*

**Unused Subs:** *Ruddy, Vallejo, Gibbs-White, Kilman*

**Bookings:** Neves (84), Moutinho (86)

**League Position:** 11

**Referee:** Craig Pawson



# TRAVEL DETAILS



## Current Travel Arrangements Suspended

Professional football in England has been suspended until at least the end of April due to the coronavirus pandemic. In a joint statement issued on 19th March by the sport's major stakeholders it was confirmed the Premier League and EFL will remain suspended until at least April 30, though the deadline for finishing the season has been extended indefinitely.

Professional football was originally suspended until the first weekend in April but this further extension, in the wake of a deepening national crisis, meant football is likely to be played deep into the summer and possibly beyond.

At the time of going to print no decision has yet been made by UEFA regarding Wolves outstanding second-leg Europa Cup game against Olympiacos at Molineux. Wolves are currently half-way through their last-16 tie with Olympiacos after drawing 1-1 in Athens. All Europa League last-16 games have been postponed until further notice.

All up to date travel information can be found on the official London Wolves website at [www.londonwolves.com](http://www.londonwolves.com) or by contacting the Travel Secretary.

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### FA Cup Quiz Answers:

1. Rotherham United 2. Norman Bell 3. Manchester United (1949), Newcastle United (1951), Aston Villa (1960), Leeds United (1973), Arsenal (1979 & 1998), Tottenham Hotspur (1981) & Watford (2019) 4. Cheltenham Town (1986/7) 5. Andy Thompson, Robbie Dennison, Gordon Cowans, David Kelly, John De Wolf and Don Goodman 6. Kenny Miller 7. Graham Rix 8. Plymouth Argyle (1950) Newcastle United (1960) Burnley (1970) Stoke City (1980), Sheffield Wednesday (1990 & 2000) Tranmere Rovers (2010) Manchester United (2020) 9. Mark Kennedy, Paul Ince and George Ndah 10. Carl Robinson 11. Andy Mutch and Matt Forman 12. Kenny and Terry Hibbitt 13. He knocked out Derek Dougan in the warm up 14. Ipswich Town 15. Huddersfield Town 16. Derek Dougan (2) Jim McCalliog 17. Nicky Clarke 18. Aston Villa (1964/65) Coventry City (1983/84) Chorley (1986/7) 19. Dave Beasant 20. Cheltenham Town (1987/88) Cambridge United (1990/91) Luton Town (2012/13) 21. Arsenal and Charlton 22. Kenny Hibbitt 23. Millwall 24. Dave Jones and Ronald Zubar 25. Manchester United

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### **FEEDBACK**

Please do write to us on all, or any, aspects which you feel would be of any interest or benefit to the Club from a supporter's perspective.

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# AN EVENING WITH STEVE BULL

