



**WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS**

**1966 <sup>50</sup><sup>th</sup> Anniversary 2016**

**LONDON SUPPORTERS CLUB**



**“50TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION”**

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# FROM THE CHAIR



## WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS LONDON SUPPORTERS CLUB

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Matthew Hawthorne

### Newsletter Editor

Steve Ray

### Committee Members

Peter Abbott  
Peter Bartlett  
Bob Goddard  
Matthew Hawthorne  
Steve Ray

### Club Contacts

Stuart Earl  
02036 207901

Dave Slape  
0208 764 8023

Peter Woodfield  
01634 363704

### e-mail

[londonwolves.66@btinternet.com](mailto:londonwolves.66@btinternet.com)

### website

[www.londonwolves.com](http://www.londonwolves.com)

Hi and Greetings to Everybody,

Fifty years, who would believe where that time has gone?

I can still picture the first meeting with Wolves, the first committee meeting, the first organised coach trip leaving Fulham Broadway, our first WWLSC football match and our first London Wolves Dinner. Such a shame I can't remember what I did yesterday!

Over the years, we have been blessed with a wonderful committee of devoted selfless members, prepared to give up their own time to keep our club on a sound footing. Dave and I have been there since day one, and have seen the incredible jobs done by the three guys who followed me as Travel Secretary; Terry Peachy, Steve Roe and now Peter Woodfield. I know how hard they have to work to organise the trips, and believe me, it's no easy task.

Production of the magazine and it's progression from a photocopied news sheet to the elaborate production we now offer you has been a marvel to behold, and once again, I know what it is like to be chasing for new articles to fill the empty spaces.

Of course, technology now plays a huge part in our running of The Club, who would have thought that a London Wolves web-site would be at the forefront for members to glean their information of everything Wolves and London Wolves? A far throw from the days when my parents ceased to answer their phone because most of the calls were Wolves related.

Those of us there from the beginning, have made lifelong friends thanks to this club, and although there have been a few hiccups along the way, we have a financially stable and efficiently run organisation, and my heartfelt thanks go to all who have oiled the wheels on the way to fifty fun-packed years of Wolverhampton Wanderers London Supporters Club.

The icing on the celebration cake would be a promotion season for The Wolves. Do have an enjoyable one.

*Stuart*

50  
2016  
LONDON SUPPORTERS' CLUB



## London Wolves Player of the Season 2015-2016 Matt "The Doc" Doherty



It was a first ever dead heat on first votes between Matt Doherty and Jack Price, but the decision went to the Doc for the London Wolves fortieth Player of the Season trophy.



A switch to left back has paid dividends for Matt, who'd told us a year earlier that he should be scoring more, and he did just that with his thunderbolt in the home game against Fulham which was voted goal of the season. Matt is now our number one choice at left back and a great competitor.

The trophy was presented by John Golding, Peter Woodfield, Dave Slape, Peter Abbott and Harley Bill at Molineux on 23rd August before the EFL Cup second round match against Cambridge.

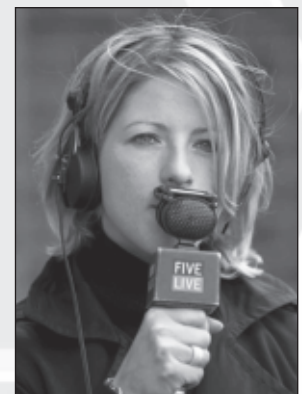
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## Jacqui Oatley MBE

Congratulations to former London Wolves member Jacqui Oatley who was awarded an MBE in the 2016 New Year's Honours for services to broadcasting and diversity in sport. Jacqui is a Wolverhampton girl who moved to London after finishing university, she then played for Chiswick Ladies on a Sunday, but more importantly supported the Mighty Wolves as part of the London Wolves following on a Saturday. As they say, "You can take the girl out of Wolverhampton but you can't take Wolverhampton out of the girl".

Jacqui is best known for being the first female commentator on BBC1's "Match of the Day", which she went on to present in March 2015. As well as Match of the Day she has also fronted "Final Score" for the BBC and "The Football League Show". She was also the first female presenter of the BBC's flagship sports news radio show "Sportsweek" on BBC Radio 5 Live, an impressive CV indeed.

Jacqui turned up at our big 50th bash on the 16th July, and duly introduced all of our special guests. Applying all of the professional presentation skills acquired over the past few years she showed all the enthusiasm and excitement, as all of us present on the night were, at welcoming some of the legends of the past.



# WOLVES' NEWS



## Wolves Women

Many congratulations on behalf of WWLSC to the Wolves Women team for a great season and finishing runners up in the Midlands Division One League. After the disappointment of the previous season it was great to see the ladies enjoying success again and getting back to winning ways. More good news followed when it was announced that the club were awarded an FA Girls' Regional Talent Club licence. This FA licence will enhance opportunities for young female players to develop with Wolves through an elite development process, so exciting times and opportunities lie ahead for all concerned.

We at London Wolves appreciate the friendship built between the ladies and ourselves and we continued to sponsor the Wolves Women team last season. Let's hope that the winning trend continues and that this season the ladies can go one step better and go on to win the league title.



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## Dave Edwards



Congratulations to Dave Edwards on his inclusion in the Welsh squad for Euro 2016. Duracell Dave came on against England as substitute for Joe Ledley in the second-half to play against old lodger and England keeper Joe Hart. The England keeper used to rent a room from Edwards when the pair were at Shrewsbury Town together more than a decade ago.

Edwards revealed that the Manchester City player was a messy lodger although he admits he was always destined for success. "When I bought my first house in Shrewsbury, it was just a two bed terrace, Joe rented a room off me and helped me with the bills," Edwards told the Shropshire Star. "It was £50 a week, mates' rates. We split the shopping, but he was terribly messy".

Dave and Peter have been able to renew their sponsorship of "Dangerous" for the 2016-17 season in continued celebration of London Wolves 50th Anniversary.





## Mark Feehan and sons' line-up at Molineux

Lifelong Wolves fan Mark Feehan (53) from South London got to realise a lifetimes ambition to 'live the dream' when he played at Molineux in a Football Aid hosted charity game, alongside his two Wolves supporting sons, Jack and Joe, aged 20 and 18 respectively. His sons were introduced into following Wolves in 2000 when they were aged five and three respectively.

Mark's first match watching Wolves was in 1973 when he went with his brother-in-law to see a 3-1 away victory at Tottenham, and he has been hooked ever since. Now a season ticket holder and a member of London Wolves Supporters Club since 1976, he travels from his home in Surrey to every home, and most away games. He rates the League Cup Final in 1980 for the occasion and the win as his favourite memory from his time following Wolves over the years.



Mark said, "I've been an active participant of the Football Aid Charity for thirteen years, the first couple just playing at Molineux myself, then I got persuaded to play at a couple of other venues after a few years and caught the 'let's do the rounds' bug, having visited and watched football at every league, and most non-league grounds, mostly watching Wolves as they descended and climbed the leagues in the late eighties, I decided I'd try to do as many as I could playing on them. After this year I will have played at all bar two grounds that Football Aid arrange annual games at. I thought this year I would 'pass on the charity game reins' to my two children as they reached the age they could play, and originally arranged for all three of us to play at a special 'bow out' game, and when the opportunity for all three of us to participate at the place where my heart lies (Molineux), it was just the perfect setting for the event for me. This is a great cause and more importantly I've have made some lifelong friends all over the country".

Former players Matt Murray, Tony Daley, Rob Edwards, Lee Naylor and Adam Proudlock joined both teams' for the game at Molineux to add to the Football Aid experience. The concept of Football Aid is simple - to allow fans, who have only been able to dream about it, the chance to experience the thrill of match day, to pull on their favourite shirt, walk down the tunnel to the sound of the crowd and play an adrenaline fuelled ninety minutes on the hallowed turf of the Club they support.

Since Football Aid's debut season in 2001, 614 games involving 16,285 players have taken place on a UK Club, European and International level. Football Aid was created as a unique way of raising money for charity and voluntary organisation's. Through their parent charity, Field of Dreams' multi-beneficiary grant award scheme, the funds raised from the Football Aid events are distributed to diabetes research, education and management projects plus charities nominated for funding by the Clubs that take part. The charity is extremely proud to have donated over £2.2m in charitable grants since 2001.



(Photos courtesy of Shane Wilkinson at [www.chillpics.co.uk](http://www.chillpics.co.uk))



## “Legacy 4 Lucy”

We would like to give a special mention about the “**Legacy 4 Lucy**” fund-raising website on behalf of Jason Guy, a long-time friend of London Wolves. Following the heart-breaking news that his wife Lucy had been diagnosed with Triple Negative Breast Cancer in 2013, both Jason and Lucy started organising fund-raising activities for the charity **Breast Cancer Now**, this included setting up the “Legacy 4 Lucy” website.

Sadly Lucy passed away in June 2015 at the age of 33, but Jason still continues to devote himself to fund-raising in her name for Breast Cancer Now. Up to now the fund has raised over a staggering £100,000, however the fight goes on to find a cure for this vicious illness that kills thousands of women each year in the UK. Lucy’s legacy still lives on and more funds are still needed in the relentless search for a cure. If you would like to make a donation, no matter how large or small, then please visit [www.legacy4lucy.co.uk](http://www.legacy4lucy.co.uk) which also gives a link to the **JustGiving** site.



*Jason and Lucy were our guest of honour at the London Wolves 2014 Christmas Lunch, where all the proceeds were donated to the “Legacy 4 Lucy” fund. Here we can see Lucy sitting with ex Wolves legend Mel Eves.*

*A truck owned by big Wolves fans JJX Logistics has been dedicated to making the public aware of the Legacy 4 Lucy campaign. The truck will be travelling all over Europe this year, so thanks to JJX and let’s hope it’s successful in generating much needed funds for the Breast Cancer Now charity.*



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## Kenny Jackett



On behalf of London Wolves I would like to say a big Thank You to Kenny Jackett for his support and friendly relationship with our club. Kenny was always responsive and accommodating to all our requests for our annual Meet the Players events, and turned out for our 50th Anniversary Dinner even though he had a flight early the next morning for the pre-season tour of Ireland.

Kenny Jackett joined Wolves at the beginning of the 2013/14 League One season, and achieved the impossible task of regaining promotion to the Championship at his first attempt with a record total of 103 points. In the following season, Wolves finished in seventh position, just missing out on the play-offs on goal difference. He inherited a team at rock bottom in confidence and turned around the fortunes of the club and put smiles back on the supporter’s faces.

We would like to wish Kenny all the best for the future and will always have fond memories of meeting one of the genuinely nice people in football.

# SOCIAL NEWS



## Social Diary Season 2015-2016



*London Wolves Entertainment Officer Roy Eagles has put together a diary of events since our last newsletter. Roy puts a lot of time and effort into organising these events and the members are treated to some fabulous days out. 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. Roy has written an outline of Social Events arranged this season:*

In the previous newsletter I outlined the social events prior to Christmas, these were the very successful "Burger 'n' Ale at the Bluebrick" at the end of November and the "It's Not the Christmas Party" in December".

### Season 2015-2016 (after Christmas)

Since Christmas it had become increasingly difficult to arrange any social functions, a lot of time and effort is used finding appropriate dates and themes, but the re-arrangement of games at the last minute due to Sky live TV coverage means that events have to be cancelled and the process of organising started again from the beginning. It must also be remembered that a lot of time and effort was also spent by other members of the Committee and myself arranging our 50th Anniversary Dinner in July.

### Wolves Tribute for the 50th Anniversary of WWLSC (23rd April 2016)



In honour of London Wolves celebrating their 50th Anniversary, Wolves paid tribute by organising a special reception in the Stan Cullis Stand Wolves Museum before the Rotherham game on St George's Day. Peter Abbott was the man who was mainly instrumental in helping make the event happen following an invite from the Wolves board, and below he explains what a wonderful experience it was for all those who attended:-

# SOCIAL NEWS



I was at first surprised, and then excited, when I took a call from Wolves proposing to host a special event at Molineux to celebrate London Wolves' 50th anniversary year before the end of last season. Matt Grayson, Head of Marketing and Communications, suggested for around 40-50 members, a buffet-style grub, meet and chat with club personnel, officials and players (where possible) in say, a cordoned-off area of the museum, for a designated time pre-match, and that he would put this to Board members saying "the club wanted to thank London Wolves for it's amazing and long-time support..."

In discussion with the London Wolves Committee, it was obvious they were delighted Wolves were making this marvellous gesture in recognising our dedication, and that it would be a great opportunity and honour for the supporters club. We were especially grateful for this marvellous recognition of our long standing support and very keen to participate, we agreed it would be held pre-match of the Rotherham game.

I thus liaised with Paul Richards, Head of Safeguarding & Supporter Liaison Officer, to make all the necessary arrangements at Wolves, appropriately enough given our 50 years, according to Chairman Stuart Earl, to be held in the club's Stan Cullis Stand Wolves Museum.

Jez Moxey, Chief Executive, welcomed us in the matchday programme and after a bite to eat, hosted proceedings, presenting London Wolves with a framed copy of the match day programme against Rotherham, matched with the Rotherham programme from 1966-67 season. This will be housed, symbolically, in the North Bank Bar near where it all started, and which has been home to many members down the years. Stuart then presented Jez with a special version of our player of the season trophy to also be hung nearby.

Jez was accompanied by the Baroness of Wolves, Rachel Heyhoe-Flint, Club Secretary Richard Skirrow, Head of Marketing Matt Grayson, Head of Commercial Affairs Laurie Dalrymple, and Head of Ticketing, Lynne O'Reardon. We were also delighted to see our friends from Wolves Women FC, Anna Perks, high scoring first team coach, Claire Hakeman and manager Steve Cullis.

Naturally, being a match-day the day's team could not be with us. However, as an added bonus star striker Nouha Dicko, who we hope soon to see back on the pitch, and centre back Ethan Ebanks-Landell, also injured at the time joined in the celebrations. Also present to join us were since departed Adam Le Fondre (ALF) who had been due to start but had picked up an injury, and reserve goalkeeper Aaron McCarey.

On the membership's behalf, a few days later, I dropped Wolves an email, to which Matt Grayson responded thus...

*An absolute pleasure, Pete.*

*It's been a tough few weeks (for the Wolves club) so to get together – mark your tremendous anniversary – and to talk Wolves and football amongst friends was brilliant, appreciated and very timely. Please pass on the Club's thanks and congratulations again to all concerned at London Wolves.*

*Best, Matt*





My special thanks also go to Head of Safeguarding Paul Richards, for executing a great pre-match event, symbolic of the wonderful relationship Wolverhampton Wanderers FC has with London Wolves Supporters Club.

***Peter Abbott***

## **End of Season Night at the Dogs, Monmore Green (Saturday 7th May 2016)**

The arrangement of social events is also dependent on giving our Travel Secretary Peter Woodfield plenty of notice as train seat reservations have to be made well in advance to obtain the special group discounts. As I've already mentioned Sky TV re-arranging fixtures at the last minute means that events that are organised for specific dates have to be cancelled.

So it was left to the final weekend of the season to organise an "End of Season" night out, not even Sky can get this football game moved as all games have to be played on the same day at the same time. A trip to see a dog chasing a stuffed hare around a track has always proved popular with some of the simpler of our members in the past, and there's quite a few who like to have a little bet on which dog gets nearest to the hare after a couple of laps, so Greyhound Racing was order of the day.

Because of the lack of social activity since Christmas I decided that we would make the last event of the season a two day affair, "Double Bubble" as the Cockney members of London Wolves would say. The warm-up started with a curry and drink-up on the Friday night, the main event followed the next day with a pre-game drink, a post-match meal and then the crème de la crème, off on a Saturday Night beano to the dogs at Monmore Green.

### **Friday Night**

The proceedings started on Friday evening in fine style with a Curry. Long-time London Wolves member Harley Bill Singleton was the man making arrangements, and he kindly booked an Indian restaurant for 11 people in his hometown Perton. It was a very enjoyable meal with a nice atmosphere amongst fellow supporters.

After the meal it was off on a pub crawl, and the first up was a local micro-brewery where other non-curry eaters met up for a few alcoholic beverages to help the diners wash down their Indian meal. However, the establishment called orders at 10pm so it was a quick walk to the nearest pub where we were met by even more friends and fellow supporters. With the vindaloo and madras still tickling the back of a few throats, all concerned got stuck into the beer and set about the task of consuming as much alcohol as possible before last orders were finally called.

Not only did Harley Bill organise the night out, but he kindly invited myself and some other London based members who had travelled the day before the game to stay overnight at his house. A nightcap was a great end to an enjoyable night before we all retired to bed ahead of the game on Saturday.

### **Saturday**

We all knew that Harley Bill had a talent for eating curry and drinking real ale, but he showed another string to his bow on the Saturday morning by cooking all the overnight guests a full English breakfast. The delicious breakfast set the day up nicely, and after a brief digestion period and loosening the belt a notch or two we all jumped on a bus to Wolverhampton town centre. It was there we met up with other London Wolves members including those who had made the trip on the train from Euston. It was

# SOCIAL NEWS



more early morning beers before setting off to take our seats for the last game of what had been a very poor season.

After the game we all met at the Bluebrick to enjoy our end of season social meal and reminisce over what had turned out to be a disappointing season. On a brighter note, after four consecutive goalless home draws the team ended up with a last game win, so we did the decent thing and celebrated with yet more beer.

## Monmore Dogs

Then it was off to get changed ready for the final leg of our “shindig”, an evening of Dog Racing which was attended by 14 London Wolves members. It was great value for money, just £16 a head which included admission, a snack meal and complimentary drinks. We were also joined by fellow London Wolves member Mark Griffiths who was celebrating his 50th birthday.



We arrived at Monmore Stadium at about 6:00pm, and after taking stock we managed to find a table where we all sat together and decided on our betting strategy, but most importantly we went to the bar first to make sure we had some more alcoholic drinks to help us concentrate.

As the night progressed there were a few winners among us, but inevitably Ladbrokes had the better of the deal at the end of the day. However it mattered not, we had yet more food and more drink, there was the usual banter and fun and a real enjoyable night was had by all.

The dog track lights went off at 10:30pm and the night came to an end. The hardened drinkers headed back to Wolverhampton Town Centre to carry on with the serious job of finishing off the season by getting legless. For me the revelry had come to the end, so I said my goodbyes and headed to the Rail Station to get the last train back to Shrewsbury.

It was great to see all those who attended, it was a great weekend, great company and plenty of laughs. Finally a special thank you to Harley Bill, my new event organising right-hand man and Masterchef, who has just got himself a new job. It's a great pleasure being the London Wolves Social Secretary, and it makes all the hard work worthwhile when an event like our end of season drink up comes together like it did.

## London Wolves 50th Anniversary Dinner (16th July 2016)

What an absolute fantastic night. There is a section in this newsletter dedicated to the event of the year, so I just want to say well done to Stuart and Stefan for organising such a great event. It was a massive turnout with some Wolves legends attending the celebration of the 50th anniversary of Wolverhampton Wanderers London Supporters Club. I had the honour of sharing a table with Jacqui

# SOCIAL NEWS



Oatley MBE and some of my long time drinking buddies from London Wolves. Another massive thank you to all our members and special guests who attended and make it such a special occasion to mark the special anniversary of our dedicated supporters.

After the disappointment of last season let's now look forward with hope and optimism, and that when the new season starts in August new owners are in place and ready to invest in our beloved Wolves. Once again thanks for your all your support throughout the season and enjoy your summer break.

Thanks again

**Roy Eagles**

**Entertainments Officer**

## London Wolves Summer Walk 2016 Castro's Crafty Clerkenwell Tour



Geoff's Castronomic Tours surpassed themselves yet again. More walkers, more pubs, more pubs skipped, and a more eclectic collection - from Falstaff's tavern, a one-up one-down Olde Red Cow, A Golden Boy blaming the Great Fire on Gluttony, 1666 survivors - St Bart's Gateway and the oldest house in the City. The death of a fractious Scot, a pre-Tyburn top-up tavern, and a Bike Shop ("Look Mum No Hands"). Shakespeare, Betjeman, More, Old Carthusians, even back to the ancient Roman Walls - there's no end to Castronomic History lessons.

We were pleased that Charlie and his new sister also joined us to visit some of his locals as we circumnavigated Smithfield Market. A few stalwarts staggered on to meet the Black Friar at Blackfriars, while enough was enough at Our Father square, where the manager of the Paternoster turned out to be the daughter of a Wolves fan and who remembered our trips to the Harpenden Arms to visit Luton Town with Harley Bill. Hopefully she'll be joining us on the North Bank in Charlton for the 50th with her Dad. Amazing the number of Wolves fans we meet behind bars on these trips.... as ever, though, our thanks for a brilliant tour organised by Geoff Castro.



## Pintsize Paul's Pub Review

### The Bluebrick in Wolverhampton



If you're ever unsure of where to go for a few beers when you get off the train at Wolverhampton then carry on reading. Our very own Paul "Pintsize" Coles will be evaluating all the local hostelryes and giving you the ins and outs of the pubs favoured by the London Wolves members, and help you decide where you can have your pre-match drink. The first up is The Bluebrick which has hosted a number of our Social Events over the past few years.

The Bluebrick is quite a large pub and its location is next to the Wolverhampton Railway Station and the Premier Inn, it mostly caters for diners but drinkers are more than welcome. There is ample seating and I would say a medium bar area. There are a couple of large TV screens showing the news and a few quiz machines if you like that sort of thing.

Now for the beer: There are three hand pumps, Pedigree, Hobgoblin and the third is for guest ales, if you're lucky you may get a Banks's which is always a nice drop. As for lagers there's the usual suspects; Stella (Yorkshireman John's favourite) and Carling etc.. etc.. There is Guinness extra cold and one cider on tap, but you can buy bottles of cider, there is all the usual spirits and shots a couple of wines to choose from, and those that know me I always celebrate a victory with a glass of Red "Large of course".

The food is mostly standard pub food, having said that I had a lovely steak there on the last game of the season. There are a couple of tasty meal deals on the food menu so you could have a nice cheap meal if you need to save some coppers as Dave or Roy will try to sell you something. There is a large outdoor sitting area so if it's a fine day you may like to pop outside for a beer'n'tan. The bar staff are very friendly, but on match days things can get a little hectic. London Wolves members use The Bluebrick for their meeting place on match days (Saturdays only). Roy and Peter have loyalty cards so if you go to the bar be sure to ask them for the card as points make prizes. I hope you like my review and you raise a glass or two!!

Here's to the next one  
Cheers

**Pintsize Paul**

## Meet the Players 2015-16

Once again the fixture computer did us no favours whatsoever with the last Saturday match anywhere near London being in early February at Reading. Kenny Jackett kindly agreed to the meeting going ahead in spite of a sparse turnout, and suggested that we should go for a London match earlier in the season for 2016-17.

James Henry and Adam Le Fondre, two "local lads", were both hoping to start against their former team, and score "to show them what they were missing". A Royals fan joined their company and had a long chat with them about how they missed them both, while we were intrigued how scouser Conor Coady was understood by some of his colleagues.

# SOCIAL NEWS



Before getting together with the team we asked them to vote on the design for the London Wolves 50th Anniversary Badge, which is how we ended up with the chosen design. One of those voting was surprise visitor Benik Afobe, who had just signed for The Cherries, and who is pictured with the later triple end of season award winner Matt Doherty.



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## Walter Zenga



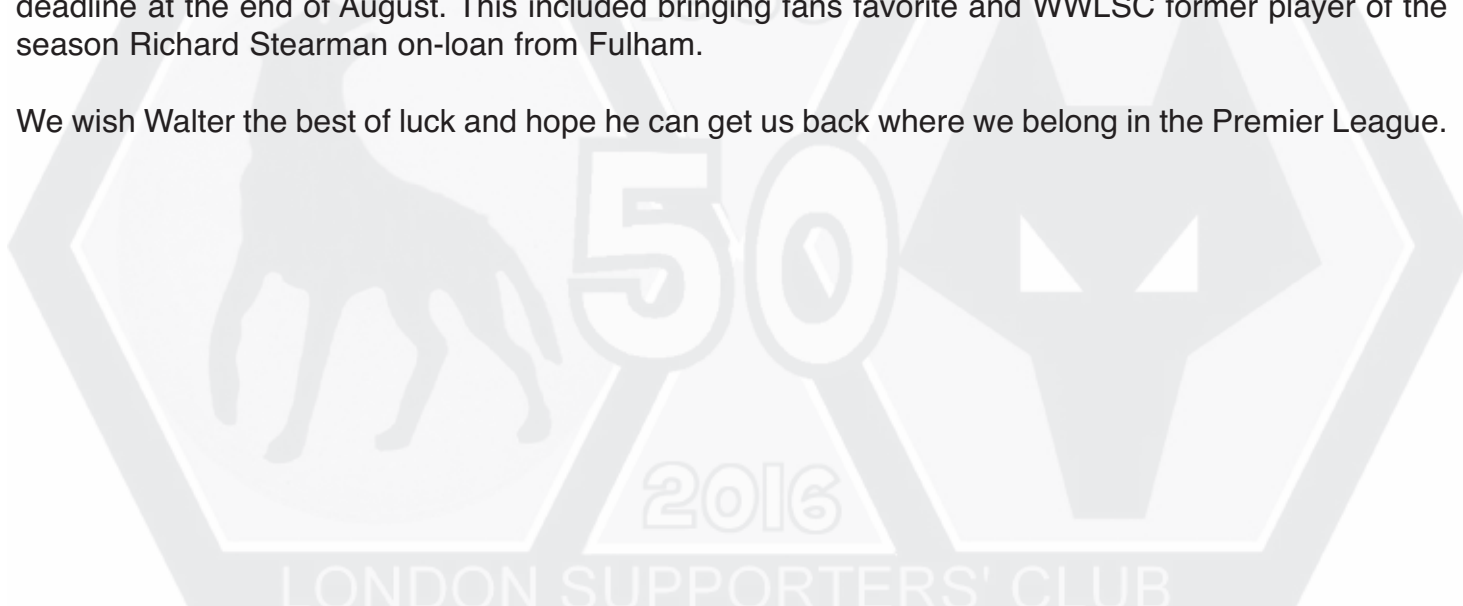
WWLSC would like to give a warm welcome to new Head Coach Walter Zenga who replaced Kenny Jackett shortly after the takeover by new owners Fosun.

Walter's previous management record includes spells at Steaua Bucharest, Red Star Belgrade, Catania, Palermo and Sampdoria. His spent his playing days as a goalkeeper for Inter Milan and Sampdoria and was capped 58 times for Italy, Walter was also his country's first

choice goalkeeper when they hosted the World Cup in 1990, helping the home country to a third-placed finish.

At the time of going to print Walter' record is P12, W6, D3, L3 including the EFL Cup. This shows Walter has settled in well and started to build a new team which is hopefully capable of winning promotion. It was a hectic start to his spell at Wolves with 13 new players brought in before the transfer deadline at the end of August. This included bringing fans favorite and WWLSC former player of the season Richard Stearman on-loan from Fulham.

We wish Walter the best of luck and hope he can get us back where we belong in the Premier League.



# 50TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER



## London Wolves 50th Anniversary Dinner

Hi and Greetings to Everybody,



So, after two years of planning, our 50th Anniversary Dinner was held at The Valley on 16th July, and what a night it was, with the Wolves manager Kenny Jackett, Director John Gough, our celebrity guest announcer, the lovely Jacqui Oatley MBE, and former players Mike Bailey, Paul Butler, Dean Edwards, Mel Eves, Robbie Dennison, Graham Hawkins and our Honorary President John Richards.

It was such a shame that, due to personal reasons, we had last minute cancellations from Kenny Hibbitt and Wolves Secretary Richard Skirrow who had been of great assistance to me in trying to entice guests.

After a splendid meal, speeches were dispensed with, and an unexpected, well by me anyway, presentation to me, the dancing, socialising and an unexpected guitar solo from Dean Edwards.

We were entertained during the meal by some very clever magic tricks by my friend Karl Rose, who also provided some excellent musical entertainment.

My thanks go to everyone who helped to make this a most memorable evening, especially Stefan, who spent many hours liaising with Charlton and working out the seating plan, which seemed to change every day as the big night approached. Peter and Carol organised the raffle and table decorations. Also, to Peter Bartlett and Steve Ray for their really special menu cards. And special thanks to all those who helped decorate the room and turn it into a Golden Palace.

I was particularly moved by the effort Kenny Jackett made to attend, as he was at a pre-season friendly on the previous evening, and flying from Heathrow the following morning for the tour of Ireland.

If you have memories of earlier days with London Wolves, from the sixties to the noughties, and would like to share them in a future issue of the newsletter, please email the editor at [wolvsey@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:wolvsey@hotmail.co.uk)

And finally, a massive Thank You to all those who turned out to support this landmark event.

**Stuart Earl**  
**Chairman**

# 50TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER



## 50 Years of London Wolves In the Beginning

Wolverhampton Wanderers London Supporters Club was founded in 1966. Over the next few pages we will learn how the club was formed with some articles written by those who were there from the very early days when it all began. Dave Slape gets the ball rolling with a detailed account of how it all started, a few of his favourite memories, and as its Dave a few facts and figures.

Our hard working Travel secretary Peter Woodfield is next. Stuart may have organised the inaugural coach trip to the Plymouth game, but Peter is the “Travel King” these days. He thanklessly puts in the time and effort to get the best travel deals and supply tickets for every Wolves game both home and away. He mentions some of his favourite games over the years and he should know he’s seen them all.

Next up is the Big Fella Stuart Earl, who has been there and seen it all. In his short article he reminisces about one of his favourite away trips to Huddersfield, and it really shows how football has changed over the years to how it is now.

Finally long time London Wolves member and Wolverhampton born Harley Bill Singleton tells how he first came across London Wolves, moved to London and became one of those who travelled week in week out following the Mighty Wolves.

In between there are the photos from the superb 50th Anniversary Dinner held at Charlton Football Ground on 16th July 2016.

So Here We Go.....

🎵 **Once upon a time there was a tavern  
Where we used to raise a glass or two, or three or four! ....**



The Club originally started with about 12 people meeting Wolves’ Secretary Jack Howley before the Portsmouth home game in the 1966-67 season. Before that infamous day I would travel with Barrie Avis and then at a later date with Malcolm Woods, but mostly solo. I would run into our now Chairman Stuart Earl who used to travel with Jeff Bail, and Terry O’Connor would always be around along with Jack Samuels, Tony Paradise and Ray Finch.

We would all travel from Paddington to Wolverhampton Low level Station. Anyway, after meeting Jack Howley, Stuart was voted “Leader” and organised the travel to the Plymouth game using Cresta Coaches. We would travel by coach every Saturday from Fulham Broadway, and at a later date from Elizabeth Bridge at Victoria. Fares would be 50p or 75p to Molineux, but after a couple of years support waned and we changed from Golden Miller coaches back to the trains. We ran a train trip to a cup match at Burnley and have used the trains more or less ever since.

# 50TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER



Initially, the travelling London Wolves members would be admitted to Molineux free of charge thanks to Jack Howley. We would pass the reception and walk along the main corridor, out the doors onto the pitch and then along the perimeter to the North Bank. But after two or three years we felt we were causing a problem, so we thanked the club and paid at the turnstiles thereafter.

There were two coach trips that come to mind, both to Manchester City in the 1967-68 season and then also the season after. During the first trip the coach broke down and a replacement was sent, we finally arrived at Maine Road at 4:00pm. The gates were locked until 4:20pm, and when we did finally get inside the ground, it was just in time to see the Doog have a headed goal disallowed. The day didn't get any better, we lost 2-0 and got soaked by probably the heaviest rain I have ever seen.

The next season we ran a coach to the midweek fixture, and the few who went had to pay £2.50 each, which at the time was a third of a weekly wage. The equivalent these days is a plane ride to Europe, but we didn't care, we were proper Jack the Lads and there was no expense spared watching our beloved Wanderers.

In 1967-68 we shared coaches with the London Man United Supporters Club for the two games over Christmas, to start with it was equal numbers of supporters occupying each coach. Gerry Hirth's mate, Dave Bell, had joined London Wolves but was an ex-Red so there was some heavy banter between the sets of fans on one of the coaches. It got so heated at one stage that during a service station stop both sets of fans separated onto their own separate coaches. Wolves lost both games.

In 1979, 38 of us went to Grimsby in the League Cup and it was Trevor Peachey and John Harvey's birthdays. The guard of the local train stopped the train at New Clee so we could exit the nearest station to Blundell Park. After the match the driver came to the rail bar at Cleethorpes to remind us of the departure time, imagine that now. At Doncaster we had one and a half hours to kill while waiting for the London Train, so we all paid 40p admission into a local disco. The trip finally arrived back at Kings Cross at 6:30am in the morning.

Club membership topped 400 twice around 1980, but dwindled dramatically to about 120 in the dark ages of the Bhatti Brothers when we sank into Division 4 and teetered on the brink of extinction. The club has held various events over the years, from East to South London pubs, a BT club, and the Caernavon Hotel in Ealing to Charlton Athletic's Valley Ground. It's at the Valley where we held our 40th, 45th and most recently our 50th Anniversary celebration dinners. At the 40th most of the team from the 1966 Plymouth Argyle match attended the celebration dinner.

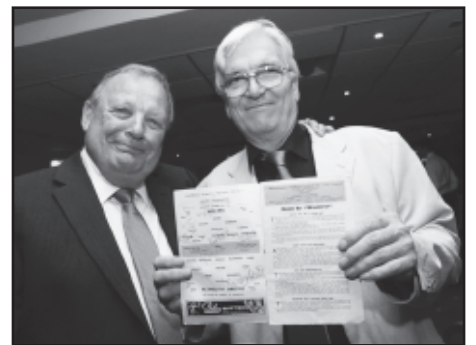
***Dave Slape***  
***Secretary***

♪ **Where we used to while away the hours**  
**Thinking of the things we used to do ....**

2016  
LONDON SUPPORTERS' CLUB



# 50TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER



# 50TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER



♪ Those were the days my friend  
We thought they'd never end ....



The first person I met from London Wolves (before the club was officially formed), was of course Dave Slape. He was standing by the away turnstiles at Crystal Palace in April 1966, asking every Wolves fan who entered the ground if they lived in London or the South. I didn't meet Stuart until the first official London Wolves trip in October 1966 to the Plymouth home match.

I've seen many great matches, and quite a number of poor ones, too numerous to mention. However, a couple of games versus the Albion away stand-out. We drew 3-3 in one game and won the other 4-2, possibly one of Waggy's best ever games in a Wolves shirt. Of course, seeing Wolves at Wembley for the first time in 1974 against Man City was another great occasion, and no Wolves fan will ever forget the Play-Off Final in 2003 when we beat Sheffield United 3-0. There was also the game versus Leicester in the Premier League when we were 3-0 down at half time, but a great second half display resulted in a 4-3 win. Another memorable game was Peter Knowles last league game in a Wolves shirt before quitting football, a very sad occasion for all Wolves fans.

Fortunately, most of the trips we've run have been trouble free, but I can remember some which have been memorable for the wrong reasons. One that stands out is when we hired a minibus to take us to Leeds in the early 1970's. The company must have supplied the worst vehicle and driver. We arrived in Leeds at about 7:20pm after a very eventful journey. The vehicle had no reverse and inevitably, after watching us lose 4-1, we broke down at Harrow and the company had to send out a relief minibus.

Also a few of us travelled on a Spurs special train to the League Cup semi-final at Molineux in 1973 which broke down at Bletchley, and we didn't get to the ground until about half-time. Never Again!! In 1993, the train from Newcastle to London was delayed by about four hours, after two signal failures and the train catching fire. The train company laid on taxis at Kings Cross to take passengers to their destinations. I think I arrived home at about 4:30am on the Sunday morning, just in time to watch a repeat of Match of the day, but we'd won 2-0 at Sunderland, so most of us weren't too concerned about the delay.

**Peter Woodfield**  
**Travel Secretary**

♪ We'd sing and dance  
for ever and a day....

# 50TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER



♪ We'd live the life we choose  
We'd fight and never lose .....



50 years of memories of London Wolves, as you can imagine, there are many, mostly good, that spring to mind. However, the one I'll bore you with is a game at Huddersfield, 1967 I believe.

Our coach, from Cresta Coaches, had broken down on several occasions, and it finally gave up the ghost trying to ascend a hill in Huddersfield. As it turned out, this was the final hill of our journey, and after all de-bussing, we pushed it to the summit, and jumped aboard as it free-wheeled down towards the ground, arriving well into the match, with Wolves already ahead thanks to a Terry Wharton goal.

Post-match, the driver informed us that we had to await the arrival of a replacement from London. We all decided to see the team aboard their bus, and as usual, Sid Kipping called me to help him load the kit basket into the boot.

Whilst standing outside the player's entrance, I got into conversation with a gentleman who commented that I had neither a Wolves nor local accent, and I relayed our story to him.

He then asked why we did not travel back by train, and I explained that we could not afford to. On hearing this, the gentleman said, "If I lend you the money for the train fare, will you return it?" I replied that we would, and without another word he disappeared into the main entrance, and returned with a fistful of cash and his name written on a piece of paper.

There were more than twenty of us, so the fares were quite substantial. It transpired that this was none other than Mr Kayne, Chairman of Huddersfield Town FC. What are the chances of this happening today? (Must get round to sending him a cheque!)

**Stuart Earl**  
Chairman

♪ For we're The Wolves  
oh yes we are The Wolves! .....

# 50TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER



La la la la la ...

La la la la La la la laaa la, la la la la .....



I can remember the very early days of London Wolves. I would be standing on the North Bank and all the supporters in the stand would chant a loud welcome as London Wolves appeared out of the old Waterloo Road Stand player's entrance onto the pitch. They would walk down the touchline and join us in the infamous North Bank. At the time I didn't know they had an agreement with the then Wolves' Secretary Jack Howley to get in for free, or I would have mingled in with them.

I regularly started to meet up and socialise with those London Wolves fans who I saw walking down the hallowed turf into the North Bank every other week. These boys went to all the games, and I would catch up with them at many of the away games, especially those in London. I became good friends with Dave Slape, Pete Woodfield and the other London Wolves members who they travelled with.

In 1969 I moved to the Metropolis, became a member and used to travel with them on the coach to the games. Wherever they travelled they always liked a few beers and there were many memorable trips. In those days there was no ban on coaches stopping at service stations, and on the way back from many games the coach would park up at Watford Gap Services for a pit stop.

There was no nipping to the cafe for a cup of tea and ham sandwich, it was a mission to find a pub somewhere nearby so we could grab a beer. I can still remember Stuart Earl's famous last words "I know where there's a pub". We clambered over fences and fields, and then eventually, after what seemed like miles at the time, found a pub. It was a quick couple of pints and then a dash back to the coach, we've been dashing around ever since with Dave and Pete to find the best pubs on our travels.

I left the Wolves for a while to support my other team, I won't go into who they were, but came back when I saw the light! In the mid-90s, and as it's my home town club I felt the lure and pride of the Black Country, but more than anything I missed Dave, Pete, and even Stuart, and the rest of the London Wolves following. It was very humbling as they welcomed me back into their fold.

If you ever need a question answering about Wolves or their history then talk to Dave Slape, he typifies what London Wolves is all about. He has an abundance of football rhetoric and remembers everything, especially who scored for Wolves in any match, any year from 1966.

Finally I would like to say that the London Wolves are some of the best and loyal football fans in the country, supporting our beloved Wolves through the good and bad times, and I will always treasure the fond memories of their company and friendship over the years.

Come on you Wolves !!!!!

**Harley Bill Singleton**

**Long Time London Wolves Member**

# 50TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER



"A Big Thank You to Rob Clayton for his superb photos taken at our 50th Anniversary Dinner"

# MATCH REPORTS



## IT'S NOTT HAPPENING

### WOLVES 1-1 NOTTINGHAM FOREST

Friday 11th December 2015

Wolves threw yet another two points down the drain against Nottingham Forest in this Friday night televised TV game for Sky. It's now five home games without a win and a play-off place looks a million miles away. The story of Wolves season so far is one of inconsistency and failing to finish off teams after dominating games, and this was no exception. After taking an early lead they missed a host of chances to put the game to bed, and in the end Forest conjured up a late equaliser to snatch a point.



It was forest who started the brighter and Lichaj should really have scored with an early header from a corner but he was wide of the target, and as it looked like it was going to be one of those nights Wolves scored with their first real attempt on goal. After being brought down out on the left flank Jordan Graham dusted himself down and whipped in a beauty of a free-kick into a crowded Forest goalmouth, and Ebanks-Landell came charging in at the far post to bury a powerful header into the net.

Forest responded immediately, and they were again guilty of some poor finishing when Mills found himself in acres of space on the edge of the six-yard area, but like Lichaj before him he could only direct his free header straight into the arms of the grateful Ikeme. It should have been 2-0 to Wolves in the 36th minute, but old Wolves boy and WWLSC sponsored player Doris De Vries pulled off a superb one handed save to deny Le Fondre after the striker had charged down an attempted clearance by Mancienne.

Wolves continued to push forward and they missed another golden opportunity just before half-time when Le Fondre released Graham inside the area, but the youngster fired his shot into the side-netting with only the goalkeeper to beat.

It was pretty much more of the same from Wolves after the interval, and after his goal Ebanks-Landell went in search of glory, his aerial power was a constant threat to Forest and it needed a goal line clearance from Mancienne to prevent him scoring a second with another header seven minutes into the second half. Ebanks-Landell again went close to scoring with a 75th minute header before Graham was denied by De Vries two minutes later.

Wolves were made to pay for their wasteful finishing with just ten minutes left, substitute Blackstock who had only been on the pitch for only three minutes stole in at the far post to volley home the equaliser from a Lansbury corner. There was to be one last gasp chance for Wolves, Graham's left-wing corner dropped nicely to McDonald who lashed a 20-yard screamer on the volley, but fortunately for Forest Pinillos blocked the goal bound shot with De Vries beaten.

**Opinion:** Missing that bit of quality to finish mediocre teams off.

**Man of the match:** Graham

**Team Rating:** 6/10

**Attendance:** 20,000

**Team:** *Ikeme, Iorfa, Golbourne, Edwards, Bath (capt), Ebanks-Landell, Henry, Price, Le Fondre (Afobe 83), McDonald, Graham*

**Unused Subs:** *McCarey, Doherty, Wallace, Byrne, Coady, Holt*

**Bookings:** Price (17 – foul), McDonald (31 – foul)

## LEEDERLESS

### WOLVES 2-3 LEEDS

Thursday 17th December 2015

For the second week in a row the Sky cameras were at Molineux to broadcast a Championship League game. This was part of a 14 day sequence where there was a Football League game on Sky every night, unfortunately for Wolves this game was on a Thursday? It's now six consecutive games at home without a win for Wolves and the way they capitulated after being a goal up will set the alarm bells ringing for Kenny Jackett.

After a bit of cat and mouse at the start of the game Leeds almost took the lead in spectacular fashion in the 7th minute, the ball fell to Dallas 25 yards out and his volley rattled the post with Ikeme rooted to the spot. A minute later Afobe missed a glorious chance to rub salt in the Leeds wounds



when he dragged his shot across the face of goal after Graham had set him up. Fortunately, the striker didn't have to wait long to make amends for his howler, in the 10th minute he pounced onto a knockdown from Henry and coolly slotted the ball past Silvestri to put Wanderers one up.

As with the last game against Forest Wolves took control after the early goal and went for the kill. Afobe failed to hit the target from two good openings and Graham forced Silvestri into a smart save as Wolves piled on the pressure. However it was a case of déjà vu as Wolves paid the ultimate price for not converting any of those chances into goals, right on the stroke of half-time Byram played a one-two with Wood on the edge of the area and then stabbed the ball past Ikeme for the equaliser.

The defending for the goal was poor to say the least, and that basically set the trend for what can only be described as a second-half horror show, you could watch better defending at any under 8's game on a Sunday morning. Leeds were made to look like Barcelona and they poured further misery on Wolves just six minutes into the second-half. Dallas played a one-two with Doukara and then drilled the ball past Ikeme from just inside the area, although the keeper will be disappointed at being beat at his near post.

Wolves were totally shell shocked and as Leeds ran riot Ikeme kept them in the game when he pulled off a stunning save to deny Wood. The big keeper came to the rescue again just a few minutes later when he pulled off another breath-taking save from Wood after his central defenders Ebanks-Landell and Bath collided going for the ball in a scene that could have come from any old Keystone Cops film. Wolves luck finally ran out on the hour mark, Taylor's cross from the left to the far post found one of Leeds shortest players Byram who easily beat the clueless Golbourne in the air to head home.

# MATCH REPORTS



With the Wolves fans stunned into silence the prospect of another 30 minutes to play had the local Samaritans on full alert, however they somehow managed to pull a goal back out of absolutely nothing with about ten minutes to play. Graham sent a curling ball to the back of the six-yard area where Byrne hit a sweet volley past Silvestri. It was too little too late, and even though Wolves huffed and puffed at the end they finished up with exactly what they deserved from the game, nothing!!!

**Opinion:** Not even Jekyll and Hyde changed to the extremes that this team did.

**Man of the match:** Graham

**Team Rating:** 3/10

**Attendance:** 19,592

**Team:** Ikeme, Iorfa, Golbourne, Edwards (Le Fondre 58), Bathth (capt), Ebanks-Landell, Henry (Byrne 67), Price (Coady 84), Afobe, McDonald, Graham

**Unused Subs:** McCarey, Doherty, Wallace, Holt

**Bookings:** None

## NO METTLE SHOWN IN THE CITY OF STEEL

### **SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY 4-1 WOLVES**

Sunday 20th December 2015

If Wolves thought that they could bounce straight back after the Leeds fiasco then they were sadly mistaken. They continued where they left off in the last game, only this time it was a real drubbing. Wolves were previously unbeaten in their last ten games with the Owls but that statistic was well and truly shot to pieces as another poor performance made it two defeats on the spin and seven goals against.

As with the previous two games Wolves got off to a cracking start, they started with intent and deservedly took the lead on the quarter of an hour mark. Doherty made a break down the left and when he continued his run into the penalty area Wallace chopped him down for a stone wall penalty, Afobe stepped up and calmly sent the keeper the wrong way from the spot-kick to make it 1-0.

Unfortunately the joy was short lived, after getting themselves in front Wolves' recent defensive frailties reared their ugly head just four minutes later as the lead was surrendered cheaply. A long ball was sent into the Wolves half and Joao was chased by both Bathth and Ebanks-Landell, naively both defenders challenged the forward at the same time and then had to watch the



theatricals as the player performed a dive Tom Daley would have been proud of. The end result a harsh penalty that was converted by Forestieri to level the scores.

No sooner had Ikeme picked the ball out of the net heads we're already dropping, and the early positive attitude disappeared as Wednesday started to push forward. Just ten minutes after taking the lead Wolves were suddenly behind, a poor defensive header from Bathth fell to Forestieri who lashed in a fierce shot from 12 yards that deflected off a defender and into the net.

Within a blink of an eyelid the game had been turned on its head with Wednesday now in the ascendance, however Wolves missed a glorious chance to equalise against the run of play. Graham sent over a glorious cross from the left and Byrne somehow managed to head it over from three yards. Wednesday also had chances to increase their lead before the interval, a goalmouth scramble saw Ikeme save from both Joao and Forestieri before the ball fell to Wallace who blazed the ball wide with the keeper still on the deck.

The game became like a Freddy Krueger movie for Wolves in the second-half, a real horror show. They were second best to every ball, and the inevitable came on the hour mark when Wednesday added a third. A cross from the left was cleared by Doherty but only as far as Pudil, he was given the time and space as the Wolves defence stood off him, and he picked his spot before firing past Ikeme from the edge of the area.

As Wednesday stormed forward the Wolves defence were all over the shop and Kenny Jackett's boys never looked like getting back into the game, if anything it had become a damage limitation exercise. Forestieri missed two good chances to complete his hat-trick from good positions and Bannan also blazed just over from distance. The closest Wolves came to pulling a goal back came

in the 71st minute when Ethan Ebanks-Landell saw his header cleared off the line by Hunt.

With time running out Wolves showed no signs of a comeback and Hooper put the final nail in the coffin in the last minute, Nuhui slipped the ball through inside the area and the on-loan striker made no mistake from eight yards. The result means Wolves have won just once in their last eight games.

**Opinion:** Another good start but embarrassing for the last three quarters of the game.

**Man of the match:** Ikeme

**Team Rating:** 2/10

**Attendance:** 19,529

**Team:** Ikeme, Iorfa, Doherty, Byrne (Holt 63), Bathth (capt), Ebanks-Landell, Henry, Price, Afobe, McDonald, Graham

**Unused Subs:** McCarey, Golbourne, Edwards, Wallace, Coady, Le Fondre

**Bookings:** Price (30 – foul), McDonald (42 – foul)

## POINTS WIN IN BOXING DAY BATTERING

### **WOLVES 1-0 READING**

Saturday 26th December 2015

After two shocking performances against Leeds and Sheffield Wednesday Wolves got back to winning ways against Reading at Molineux. The performance wasn't that much better than the previous two games, the defending was still frantic, Reading had more of the possession, had more shots on and off target, but the one thing that Wolves had plenty of was resolve.

Reading started the better of the two sides and had a big shout for an early penalty when claiming the ball had struck Iorfa's arm, however referee Simon Hooper was well placed and waved play on. It was all hands to the pump for Wolves as Reading poured forward, and in the 12th minute Vydra caused carnage in the Wolves defence, his initial shot was charged down by Ebanks-Landell before McCleary's follow up was cleared off the line by Coady.

However, Wolves rode their luck and went 1-0 up against the run of play in the 18th minute. Iorfa was brought down on the right hand side of the area and from the free-kick Graham sent over a peach of a cross straight onto the head of Henry who powered the ball into the roof of the net.

# MATCH REPORTS



Afobe then had a massive shout for a penalty turned down when it looked like Quinn had clipped his ankle inside the area, but this time it was Reading who breathed a huge sigh of relief as the referee waved play on. It was now Wolves turn to attack and that man Afobe was within a whisker of doubling the lead on the half hour mark, but his flick on from Henry's cross came agonisingly back off the post.

As the first-half reached its conclusion Reading again regained the upper-hand and more frantic Wanderer's defending saw Iorfa and Bathth diving in with crucial blocks to deny Robson-Kanu and somehow keep the score at 1-0 to the home side at the break.

The Reading offensive continued in the second-half and they came within a whisker of levelling straight after the restart when Norwood let fly from 30 yards, but his shot crashed back off the post with Ikeme well beaten. The Wolves goal continued to live a charmed life and Ikeme saved from Vydra before Robson-Kanu headed a corner over the bar when he looked certain to score.

Wolves seemed unable to keep hold of the ball with Reading dominating possession, but for all the huff and puff they were unable to find the back of the Wolves net, although they went close on more than one occasion. Afobe had a chance to ease the Wolves nerves two minutes from time but he shot wildly over the bar from the edge of the area.

**Opinion:** On the ropes for most of this Boxing Day encounter but still won on points.

**Man of the match:** Bathth

**Team Rating:** 6/10

**Attendance:** 21,147

**Team:** Ikeme, Iorfa, Doherty, Coady, Bathth (capt), Ebanks-Landell, Henry (Byrne 74), Edwards, Afobe (Holt 90), McDonald, Graham

**Unused Subs:** McCarey, Golbourne, Wallace, Sigurdarson, Le Fondre

**Bookings:** Edwards (45+1 – foul), Iorfa (62 – kicking the ball away)

## CRACK ADDICKS

### CHARLTON 0-2 WOLVES

Monday 28th December 2015

It was back to back victories for Wolves for the first time since the beginning of October, it wasn't the prettiest football game you're ever going to watch, but at the end of the day a win's a win. That's now six points out of six for the holiday period and it just about keeps alive Wolves' slender hopes of a top six finish.

Both teams have been scratching for results lately and this showed as the two struggled to get going, it was a scrappy game and as a result chances were at a premium. Wolves just edged the first-half and created the only real chance of note in the 28th minute, Bathth flicked on a free-kick into the path of Afobe, but the striker struggled to get a good contact on the ball and Henderson in the Charlton goal rushed to claim it.

With the entertainment factor at a minimum some of the fans must have been wondering whether they should have stayed at home and faced the prospect of more turkey sandwiches and watching the rerun of *The Great Escape*. However, in time added on in the first-half there was brief respite from the football when Charlton substitute Lookman collided with referee Keith Hill and much to the amusement of the fans the official went down like a roll of lino.

Referee Hill failed to make the field after half-time causing a 15 minute delay to proceedings, that wiped the smiles off the faces of the laughing supporters when they realised they would be detained even longer in what had already been an endurance test at Stalag Valley.

Wolves showed more purpose when the game finally got underway again, and Graham went close in the 48th minute when he curled a shot just wide of the post following a rapid break on the left. However, just five minutes later the youngster managed to break the deadlock, Afobe made a powerful run down the right and when he pulled the ball across the box the winger was on hand to ram it home from eight yards.



The goal was just what Wolves needed and suddenly there was a higher tempo to their play, and they nearly doubled the lead just two minutes later when Afobe struck a low drive from outside the area, but Henderson just managed to get a hand on the ball and turn it round the post.

Charlton tried to push forward but there was an obvious lack of confidence in their overall passing and build-up play. Wolves comfortably coped with everything Charlton could throw at them and sealed all three points with a second goal in the 83rd minute, Graham sent over a corner into the six yard box and Lennon poked it past his own keeper with Bathth breathing down his neck. With only a few minutes left Wolves easily played out time to finish 2015 with a win.

**Opinion:** Not the best game you'll ever see but a massive three points to end the year.

**Man of the match:** Graham

**Team Rating:** 7/10

**Attendance:** 18,059

**Team:** Ikeme, Iorfa, Doherty, Coady, Bathth (capt), Ebanks-Landell, Henry (Byrne 71), Edwards, Afobe, McDonald, Graham (Ojo 88)

**Unused Subs:** McCarey, Golbourne, Wallace, Sigurdarson, Le Fondre

**Bookings:** None

## ALL THINGS BRIGHTON BEAUTIFUL

### BRIGHTON 0-1 WOLVES

Friday 1st January 2016

As at Charlton in the previous game it wasn't the best game of football you're ever going to see but the New Year started on a high for Wolves with a 1-0 win against Brighton, their first win over the Seagulls for 20 years. A first half own goal by Wolverhampton born and Wolves supporter Connor Goldson ensured maximum points for the holiday period as the dream of promotion back to the big time is suddenly back on the agenda.



# MATCH REPORTS



Brighton dominated the early stages but the Wolves back four and the midfield stood firm and reduced any goal bound efforts to long range pot shots. In fact it was Wolves who carved up the first chance of the game when Henry's through ball sent Afobe clear, but his angled shot was saved by the feet of Stockdale. A few minutes later it was Ikeme's turn at the other end when he pulled off a tremendous save to tip Wilson's 18 yard volley over the crossbar.

Brighton continued to dominate possession, this was helped by some sloppy Wolves passing which resulted in them continually giving the ball away and putting themselves under pressure. However, lady luck cast her eye on Wolves in the 32nd minute when they went in front. They broke through midfield and the ball was sprayed out to Graham on the left wing, he attacked the full-back and sent over a wicked low cross that Goldson stuck out a leg at and inadvertently sliced it past Stockdale into the net.

What a tonic for Wolves, the Amex Stadium went silent except for the end holding the away supporters. Wolves threatened again as Brighton wobbled and Stockdale prevented another goal when he parried away a low drive from Henry. Wolves went into the break a goal to the good having seemed to have eliminated the all too often schoolboy errors made at crucial times over the season so far.

Brighton started the second-half with all guns blazing and Dunk missed a glorious chance to equalise in the 53rd minute when he was clean through ten yards out, luckily for Wolves he had a rush of blood and blazed it over the bar. Murphy found himself in a similar position just moments later, but again the result was the same with the ball heading for the heavens.

With Brighton throwing men forward in search of an equaliser Wolves manipulated the gaps and almost scored on the counter attack, the ball ended with Coady 20 yards out and his superb drive was tipped over by Stockdale. Back came Brighton again and with five minutes left Wolves had a major let-off. Full back Bruno who bears a canny resemblance to South African cricketer Hashim Amla let fly from 25 yards out, the ball beat Ikeme all ends up but smashed back off the crossbar.

Wolves breathed a sigh of relief but there was still one more scare to come. With five minutes of added time already played a cross from the right was met by the head of Dunk just six yards out, but Ikeme



pulled off a wonder save to tip it over the bar. That was it, job done and another three points in the bag. After the defeats against Leeds and Sheffield Wednesday Wolves have shown great character to come back fighting and get the season back on track.

**Opinion:** Great start to the year and time to crack on.

**Man of the match:** Ebanks-Landell

**Team Rating:** 7/10

**Attendance:** 26,321

**Team:** Ikeme, Iorfa, Doherty, Coady, Bath (capt), Ebanks-Landell, Henry (Sigurdarson 66), Edwards, Afobe (Le Fondre 90+4), McDonald, Graham (Byrne 86)

**Unused Subs:** McCarey, Golbourne, Wallace, Price

**Bookings:** Iorfa (50 – foul)

## A LAST DITCH HAMMER BLOW

### WEST HAM 1-0 WOLVES

Saturday 9th January 2016 (FA Cup 3rd Round)

It was the last time I will ever travel to Upton Park to watch a game. As kick-off approached I took my seat positioned in the bottom left-hand corner in the lower tier of the Bobby Moore Centenary Stand. I sat staring at the corner flag and as it turned out there was more movement from that flag blowing in the wind than there was to be in the whole game from the Wolves forward line.

Wolves kicked-off defending the end housing their supporters and within a minute van La Parra sent over a wicked low cross that evaded everybody, unfortunately that was about as close as Wolves came in the first-half. However, they can't be criticised for lack of effort, they showed spirit and a willingness to get stuck in, and defensively they looked solid and unusually organised.

Considering West Ham were the high riding Premiership team they weren't much better going forward on their own patch, they had about as much life as the bubbles floating



around the stands before the beginning of the game, and with about as much energy as when they burst soon after being released by the contraption generating them.

All in all it was pretty much cat and mouse with West Ham just having more of the possession, although the first time Ikeme was called into action was in the 18th minute when Obiang forced him into a sharp save at his near post. Right on the stroke of half-time Ikeme again came to Wolves' rescue when he pulled off a superb save to tip over a Jenkinson thunderbolt from outside the box.

With nothing to lose Wolves seemed to have a bit more appetite in the second-half, although the quality of penetration in the last third of the field left a lot to be desired. New boy Michal Zyro playing in his debut showed promise, but he was left exposed on his own up front, especially when Sigurdarson was stretchered off with what looked a serious injury.

The game looked destined for a replay with Wolves keeping the West Ham attack at bay, but disaster struck with just five minutes left, substitute Andy Carroll fed Jelavic on the left-hand side of the box and his first-time shot flew across Ikeme into the bottom corner of the net. It was harsh on the Wolves defence, who up until that point had restricted their opponents to long-range hit and hope efforts.

It was too late for Wolves to up the tempo and grab a late equaliser which they more than deserved, and West Ham held on until the final whistle. Le Fondre had an effort in the last seconds of time added on when Iorfa fed him six yards out, but he scuffed his shot and it trickled wide, and with it ended Wolves hopes of a cup run.

**Opinion:** I'll miss those picturesque walks from Upton Park Tube and down Green Street to the ground.

**Man of the match:** Zyro

**Team Rating:** 4/10

**Attendance:** 34,547

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**Team:** Ikeme, Iorfa, Doherty, Coady, Bath (capt), Ebanks-Landell, van La Parra (Graham 81), Sigurdarson (Le Fondre 57), Edwards, McDonald, Zyro (Henry 81)  
**Unused Subs:** Martinez, Golbourne, Saville, Byrne  
**Bookings:** None

## AFOB 'WHO IS' E?

### **WOLVES 3-2 FULHAM**

Tuesday 12th January 2016

On the day that Judas Afobe made his debut for Bournemouth an unknown Polish striker by the name of Michal Zyro made his Molineux debut for Wolves. Zyro was signed from Legia Warsaw after Afobe spouted his desire to play in the Premiership, nothing to do about money!! And what a sensational debut it was for Zyro who scored two goals in the opening 13 minutes as Wolves won 3-2 to record their fourth consecutive league win.

After a delayed start due to a traffic accident outside the ground Wolves wasted no time in getting their noses in front. With their first attack Jordan Graham made a good break down the left and sent a low cross into the area, when the Fulham defence failed to clear the danger Zyro was on hand to plant the ball into the net from the edge of the six yard area... Who needs Afobe?

In the 13th minute things got even better for Wolves as they went further in front. A long ball was punted forward and it was that man Zyro again who ran onto the through pass, raced into the area and then as cool as you like slotted it under Lonergan to make it 2-0... Who needs Afobe? Some more good passing play down the right from Wolves nearly ended with a third goal. At the end of the move Graham sent over a great cross and Edwards did everything by the book and headed the ball downwards, but Lonergan made a brilliant save down low to his left to deny the Welshman.

As the half progressed Fulham came back into the game, but lately the Wolves defence have been in mean form with three clean sheets in their last three league games, but in the 24th minute they conceded cheaply with some of the poor defending seen previously during the season. Richards was given oceans of space down the right flank and he sent over a cross that Christensen powerfully headed past Ikeme to reduce the deficit to 2-1.

Right on the stroke of half-time Zyro came within a whisker of a first-half debut hat-trick, Doherty broke down the right and when he passed to Zyro his shot was just wide of the post. It was a good end to the first-half in which Wolves had put in a good performance and looked positive when pushing forward.



Wolves started the second-half in absolute spectacular fashion, just three minutes after the restart. A van La Parra free-kick was cleared to Doherty about 35 yards out, the defender put his foot through the ball and his shot fled like an exocet missile into the bottom left hand corner of the net... Who needs Afobe?

It was all Wolves and in the 52nd minute van La Parra was within a whisker of making it 4-1, but his shot from an acute angle hit the right-hand post. Wolves continued to push forward and Lonergan again kept the score at 3-1 with good saves to deny both Zyro and Bath.

Not killing off teams when dominating games has come back to haunt Wolves on more than one occasion this season, and the fans were put through the mincer again when Fulham pulled one back with 15 minutes to go after McCormack beat Ikeme with a deflected shot from 20 yards. However Wolves hung on for the three points, even though there were a few nervy moments in and around the penalty area as the time ticked down.

**Opinion:** Who needs Afobe?

**Man of the match:** Graham

**Team Rating:** 7/10

**Attendance:** 17,387

**Team:** Ikeme, Iorfa, Doherty, Edwards, Bath (capt), Ebanks-Landell, Graham (Byrne 86), Coady, van La Parra (Le Fondre 89), McDonald, Zyro (Henry 81)

**Unused Subs:** Martinez, Golbourne, Saville, Price

**Bookings:** None

## HIGH NOONE

### **WOLVES 1-3 CARDIFF CITY**

Saturday 16th January 2016



Wolves came back down to earth with a mighty bump as they lost 3-1 at home to Cardiff. Out the window went their four match winning streak, and it was mainly due to Cardiff striker Craig Noone who scored with two stunning strikes and then set up the third for fellow striker Ralls. Michal Zyro scored for Wolves but it was small consolation in what was a poor performance following the recent good run.

It was a quiet opening to the game where the only threat on goal was a half-chance for Coady who headed a cross from Jordan over the bar. Cat and mouse pursued and van La Parra spurned a good opening in the 14th minute when he selfishly shot wide when his team mates were queuing to slot the ball home from much better positions.

Cardiff slowly got into the game and showed a glimpse of their shooting power in the 18th minute when O'Keefe let fly from long range and his shot came back of the underside of Ikeme's crossbar. Just ten minutes later Noone hit an absolute thunderbolt from the same kind of distance and his shot smashed into the back of the net giving Ikeme no chance.

Despite falling behind Wolves seemed to get back a foothold in the game and van La Parra shot just wide after he was put through by Coady, but it was all to no avail as Noone produced another fantastic strike in the 36th minute when he cut inside Bath and curled another unstoppable shot into the top corner to make it 2-0.

Wolves were given a lifeline four minutes later when Zyro pulled a goal back, Cardiff keeper Marshall parried van La Parra's shot into the path of the Polish striker who made no mistake from close range. It was no more than Wolves deserved following their endeavour and effort and they went into the break on the up.

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Unfortunately for Wolves it was Cardiff who made the flying start after the interval and they added a third goal just three minutes into the second-half. Once again it was that man Noone who tormented Wolves with a quick counter attack down the right before releasing the ball to Ralls who hit another unstoppable shot from outside the area into the back of the net.

Wolves huffed and puffed but failed to breakdown a resolute Cardiff defence, and as the game reached its conclusion the visitors piled men behind the ball to shut out a Wolves team devoid of any attacking ideas or invention.

**Opinion:** Fresh blood required urgently or the season is over.

**Man of the match:** McDonald

**Team Rating:** 3/10

**Attendance:** 24,238

**Team:** Ikeme, Iorfa, Doherty, Edwards, Bath (capt), Ebanks-Landell, Graham (Enobakhare 65), Coady (Henry 45), van La Parra, McDonald, Zyro

**Unused Subs:** Martinez, Golbourne, Saville, Price, Byrne

**Bookings:** Ebanks-Landell (31 – foul)

## HENRY THE PINBALL WIZARD

### QPR 1-1 WOLVES

Saturday 23rd January 2016

Well that's another two points thrown away in the quest to reach the promotion play-offs. Talk about the old adage it was a game of two halves! After an absolutely appalling first 45 minutes where an apathetic approach resulted in Wolves going a goal down early on, they were rejuvenated after the break and were more than good value for a point with a performance that made their first-half efforts look somewhat baffling.

Kenny Jackett said after the game that he still has his sights set on a play-off place, anybody who watched on can only come to the conclusion that there is more chance of resurrecting the Space Shuttle program. Such was the lack of ability on show that a minimum of four class signings before the transfer window shuts next week will end with Wolves lucky to finish mid table.

Wolves got off to the worst possible start when going a goal down after just two minutes. Captain Danny Bath was penalised for a needless foul midway in his own half, and when Phillips sent over the free-kick Ebanks-Landell allowed



Polter as much room as you like to power a header into the bottom left hand corner of the net. It was sloppy defending with the young defender more interested in tugging the striker's shirt than challenging for the ball.

QPR continued to push forward with Wolves making life easy for their opponents with a lack of enthusiasm, lack of ball control and generally a lack of know how. When Wolves did venture forward the final ball continued to be poor with Le Fondre left on his own up front chasing balls that had been hoofed up field in his general direction. Edwards had Wolves' only notable effort on goal in the first half when he headed against goalkeeper Smithies following a van La Parra free-kick.

Whether it was the half-time slice of orange or a Churchill "We shall fight them on the beaches" style speech by Jackett, Wolves were a different team after half-time. It was as if all eleven players had been offered a free trip to Las Vegas if they came from a goal down to pick up all three points.

Within three minutes of the restart thoughts were already on The Strip as Henry equalised. To say the goal was a tad lucky is an understatement, Henry picked up the ball 30 yards out and took two steps forward before hitting a speculative shot from 25 yards, the ball deflected off two defenders like a pinball before nestling in the net with Smithies going totally in the wrong direction.

With a draw no good to either team the game became an open affair with QPR looking dangerous at set pieces and Wolves looking threatening on the break. Wolves had the greater share of the possession and the better chances with Smithies in the thick of the action. In the space of a few minutes he produced a superb tip-over save to deny Doherty, then another to push away a Coady pile driver and then the best of all when he somehow managed to get down low to his right and tip away a header from Edwards that looked a goal all the way.

With the seconds ticking down Wolves had a lucky escape when QPR missed a glorious chance to nick all three points. Washington found space on the edge of the penalty area and picked out Chery on his own ten yards out, but he smashed the ball against the post with the goal at his mercy, however it would have been a massive injustice on Wolves who deserved at least a share of the spoils.

**Opinion:** A game of two halves, typifies the whole season.

**Man of the match:** Henry

**Team Rating:** 6/10

**Attendance:** 15,266

**Team:** Ikeme, Iorfa, Doherty, Edwards (Saville 82), Bath (capt), Ebanks-Landell, van La Parra, Coady, Le Fondre, McDonald, Henry

**Unused Subs:** McCarey, Golbourne, Rowe, Price, Byrne, Enobakhare

**Bookings:** None

## WANDER'ER WHAT HAPPENED THERE?

### WOLVES 2-2 BOLTON

Tuesday 2nd February 2016

Now that's what you call grabbing a draw from the jaws of victory with Wolves somehow managing to throw away a two goal lead against arguably one of the worst teams in the Championship. Up to now Bolton are the only side in all four divisions without an away league win this season, drawing four and losing 11, but they were still the better team on the night and went away from Molineux with a deserved point.



Wolves got off to an absolute flyer with a goal after just three minutes. A mix up by the Bolton defence allowed Sigurdarson a break towards goal but he shot straight at the keeper, however new signing Joe Mason was quick off the mark to seize on the rebound and slot the ball home to open the scoring. A few minutes later it

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was panic stations again in the Bolton defence when Sigurdarson again raced onto a through ball, but this time he couldn't quite get to it as Amos got there first and cleared his lines.

Wolves failed to capitalise on their good start and instead of going for the jugular Bolton were not only allowed back into the game but allowed to dictate the play as well. With 30 minutes on the clock Feeney went close to an equaliser when his shot from the edge of the area flew just over Ikeme's crossbar. I doubt if any other home team had given Bolton as much room as Wolves were, and they again went close when Feeney set up Davies from a left-wing cross but his header failed to hit the target from ten yards.

All in all it was a poor game to be watching with Wolves stuck in slow motion mode, and after their fine start they had to wait until just before the break for another opening, van La Parra turned his man and broke into the box but his half-hearted effort was blocked by Holding. Thankfully for the suffering supporters there was only a few seconds longer before the referee brought the first 45 minutes to an end.

Bolton continued to dominate possession after the break, although this was due largely to Wolves lethargic approach rather than Bolton having to do anything out of the ordinary. Ikeme kept Wolves slender advantage intact when he denied Vela who smashed in a powerful shot from a tight angle, and Silva then saw another shot fly over the bar as Wolves desperately held on to their lead.

Wolves who hadn't had a single shot in the second-half sent on talisman Henry in the 76th minute, and within two minutes the winger made an immediate impact by making it 2-0. And what a superb goal it was, he went past two defenders down the right as if they wasn't there and then cut inside to the edge of the area before curling a beauty into the bottom left hand corner of the net.

That should have been it, game set and match, and none of the Wolves supporters could have imagined the inept defending and naivety that was just about to unfold and allow Bolton to snatch a point. Just three minutes after Henry's goal Bolton pulled one back when Silva found himself alone at the far post and he nodded the ball past Ikeme.

With just a minute left the embarrassment

was complete, Dobbie smashed a hopeful free-kick in the direction of goal and it took a wicked deflection to wrong-foot the unlucky Ikeme into the bottom left-hand corner of the net. The equaliser was no more than Bolton deserved and signalled the exits for the long suffering Wolves fans.

**Opinion:** Totally devoid of any idea whatsoever, another one to forget.

**Man of the match:** Henry

**Team Rating:** 3/10

**Attendance:** 17,825

**Team:** *Ikeme, Iorfa, Doherty, Rowe (Saville 82), Batth (capt), Ebanks-Landell, van La Parra, Coady, Sigurdarson (Henry 75), McDonald, Mason (Price 86)*

**Unused Subs:** *McCarey, Deslandes, Byrne, Le Fondre*

**Bookings:** None

## NOT SO MADEJSKI'

### READING 0-0 WOLVES

Saturday 6th February 2016

It was a much improved performance from Wolves following the shambles witnessed against Bolton on Tuesday, but they still failed to win against another out of form team who have won only two games in the last twelve. Swirling wind and the rain bucketing down for most of the afternoon didn't help matters on the silky football front, but Wolves at least showed a bit of desire and effort so clearly lacking on Tuesday.

It was a totally different Wolves to that on show against Bolton, there was a lot more energy and it was James Henry leading by example and causing the home team early problems down the right flank. In the 10th minute he raced through on goal only to see home keeper Al Habsi close him down and block his shot with his feet.

Both teams tried to push forward despite the awful weather conditions and it was Reading's turn to go close when they caught Wolves napping at a throw-in from the right, McLeary picked up the quick throw and crossed to Hal Robson-Kanu whose close-range effort was superbly blocked by Batth.

However, it was Wolves who pushed on and Henry was in the thick of the action again when he let fly from 20 yards, but his effort clipped the outside of the post. As Wolves continued to threaten Al Habsi had to be alert as he tipped over a cross-shot from Sigurdarson on the 30 minute mark,



and then spectacularly save a long range free-kick from Henry a few minutes later.

Wolves missed a glorious chance to take the lead just four minutes into the second-half. A mix-up between Gunter and Al Habsi allowed Henry to get through on goal, however the winger took a second touch before shooting, allowing Al Habsi to scramble back and make the save.

Reading had their chances too with Norwood placing a 20 yard shot just over Ikeme's upright after the Wolves defence failed to clear the ball. But it was Wolves who finished the stronger and Coady had a good chance in the 66th minute but pulled his shot horribly wide after slick passing between Henry and Doherty had played him in. For all their huffing and puffing Wolves still lacked that cutting edge in the final third, and a lack of ambition and investment in the transfer market ultimately means the play-offs are a million miles away.

After the game Kenny Jackett was still optimistic Wolves could still reach the play-offs if we can put a decent winning run together, anybody watching the last few games knows that's not going to happen. It's time to start planning for next season and if that means losing a few more games but giving the younger players at the club a chance then so be it.

**Opinion:** Lack of investment during the transfer window has ended all play-off hopes.

**Man of the match:** Henry

**Team Rating:** 5/10

**Attendance:** 17,771

**Team:** *Ikeme, Iorfa, Doherty, Saville, Batth (capt), Ebanks-Landell, van La Parra (Byrne 79) Coady, Sigurdarson, McDonald, Henry*

**Unused Subs:** *McCarey, Mason, Rowe, Price, Deslandes, Le Fondre*

**Bookings:** Coady (20 – foul), Saville (70 – foul)

# MATCH REPORTS



## NOT EVEN THE MASONS CAN HELP

### WOLVES 1-2 PRESTON

Saturday 13th February 2016



Just as you thought it couldn't get any worse....

Wolves' fans are having to watch some shocking displays at home at the moment. Their last home game was 2-2 draw against bottom of the league Bolton after leading 2-0 with less than 10 minutes left. In this game they produced one of their worst performances of the season, there was no interest, no effort, no chasing back and worst of all no heart.

Preston showed their hand straight from the kick-off, they played as a team, looking to push forward and looking for the three points to take them above Wolves into the top half of the table. All the warning signs were there as early as the 3rd minute when a cross from the right wing to the near post found Garner, but Ebanks-Landell managed to get in a last-ditch challenge to deny him.

Preston continued to probe and inevitably broke the deadlock in the 17th minute, Gallagher beat the amateurish attempt to play him offside by the Wolves defence and lobbed the on-rushing Ikeme from just outside the six yard area to make it 1-0. As well as falling behind Wolves also lost James Henry to injury at the same time to compound their problems.

As woeful as they were Wolves almost grabbed an equaliser against the run of play when Byrne's 25 yard free-kick smashed against the outside of the post with the keeper beaten. That was about it as far as the first-half was concerned with Preston continuing to run the show and Wolves chasing shadows, the half ended to a chorus of boos from the frustrated fans.

Preston virtually put the game to bed eight

minutes into the second half. The Wolves defence failed to deal with Woods' cross and Ikeme's attempted punch out was a weak effort that fell straight to the feet of Roach, and the striker drilled the ball into the bottom corner from ten yards to make it 2-0.

Joe Mason who had come on for the ineffective van La Parra gave the Wolves fans a glimmer of hope when he reduced the arrears in the 66th minute. The recently bought striker, who for some unknown reason started from the bench, raced onto Coady's through ball, rounded Lindegaard and slammed the ball into the net for his second Wolves goal in two appearances.

However it proved to be a rare venture into Preston territory with the pattern of play returning to how it was prior to the goal, Wolves unable to put two passes together and constantly giving away possession. They never looked like they would penetrate the Preston defence for a second time and were booed from the field at the end.

**Opinion:** Not a clue where Jackett goes from here, things are going from bad to worse.

**Man of the match:** Price

**Team Rating:** 2/10

**Attendance:** 21,204

**Team:** Ikeme, Iorfa, Doherty, Saville (Rowe 85), Bath (capt), Ebanks-Landell, van La Parra (Mason 45), Coady, Sigurdarson, Price, Henry (Byrne 18)

**Unused Subs:** Martinez, McDonald, Deslandes, Le Fondre

**Bookings:** None

## TOWN AND OUT

### HUDDERSFIELD 1-0 WOLVES

Saturday 20th February 2016



Well that's it for another season, barring divine intervention its Championship football again next season. It was another sub-standard performance against yet

another average Championship side, and Wolves were again found wanting as they went down 1-0, their 6th game without a win.

Right from the off it was an evenly matched game, although the football on offer was far from fluent. Wolves were happy to sit deep and absorb the pressure and then hit Huddersfield on the break when the opportunity presented itself, Saville got on the end of these breaks in the 10th minute but his long range effort was deflected wide.

Huddersfield went within a whisker of taking the lead in the 24th minute, Paterson cut inside and let fly with a low left-footed drive which beat Ikeme and clipped the outside of the post. Wolves had an opportunity themselves five minutes later, but Rowe smashed his effort well wide after a clever lay-off by Mason.

The pattern of the game continued in the same vein after the interval, although the Wolves midfield were now seeing a bit more of the ball. Van la Parra won possession as Huddersfield tried to play the ball out of defence in the 55th minute, but Sigurdarson's shot was deflected wide. Mason thought he had broken the deadlock in the 72nd minute when he tapped home from close range, but his celebrations were cut short with the linesman flagging for offside.

Just as it seemed Wolves were taking control of proceedings a lapse in concentration combined with poor defending led to Huddersfield taking the lead, Husband's low cross from the right found Wells at the back post and as the defence stood off and watched the striker as he fired home to make it 1-0. Wolves threw everyone and everything forward in response, Mason and Sigurdarson went close in stoppage time, but it was all too little too late.

**Opinion:** Rapidly tumbling down the table with three toughies coming up.

**Man of the match:** Sigurdarson

**Team Rating:** 3/10

**Attendance:** 12,714

**Team:** Ikeme, Iorfa, Doherty, Saville, Bath (capt), Ebanks-Landell, van La Parra, Coady, Mason, Sigurdarson, Rowe (Byrne 78)

**Unused Subs:** Martinez, McDonald, Deslandes, Le Fondre, Price, Hause

**Bookings:** van La Parra (45+1 –foul), Saville (71 – dissent)

# MATCH REPORTS



## THREE FALL

### BRENTFORD 3-0 WOLVES

Tuesday 23rd February 2016



It was case of déjà vu as Wolves were again given a lesson by Brentford at Griffin Park. The score was only 3-0 compared with 4-0 at the same venue last year, but if anything the performance was worse, and Wolves seem to be going backwards rather than forwards with the tally now seven games without a win. Just under a 1,000 fans travelled to South West London to watch another shocking performance, which was unbelievably grimmer than some of those in the recent run of winless games.

Rajiv van La Parra just about summed up the contempt shown for the suffering supporters when referring to them on Instagram as "One week they love you. Next week they hate you. Both weeks I got paid." Well Mr van La Parra it's the overwhelming opinion of the supporters that you may get paid every week, but you certainly don't warrant the vast amounts of money that hit your bank account based on a string of what can only be described as inept performances.

It all looked so promising at the start of the game with Wolves producing more shots on target in the first ten minutes than they did in all of the game against Huddersfield. In the opening exchanges van La Parra sent over a decent cross from the right, but Sigurdarson headed straight at Button from six yards with the goal at his mercy. Mason then played the ball inside for Sigurdarson who setup Byrne, but like Sigurdarson a few minutes earlier he wastefully curled his shot straight into the arms of the Brentford keeper from the edge of the box.

Wolves' early charge soon lost momentum and Brentford gradually took control, and in the 23rd minute they had a massive let off when the Bees danger man Alan Judge

rattled the outside of the post from 20 yards. Suddenly the Wolves area became like the Alamo with Bath making a superb block to deny Swift, and Canos heading over from close range when it seemed easier to score.

Brentford laid siege on the Wolves goal with both Judge and Canos going close, Yennaris then missed an absolute sitter before the hosts finally went ahead six minutes before the break. Judge swapped passes with Swift on the edge of the box, and as he tried to bundle the ball home his shot hit Ebanks-Landell and rolled into the net.

After a barrage of abuse leaving the field at half-time Wolves players tried to retrieve the situation after the break, Byrne came close to getting on the end of a cross from the left, and McDonald went close with a daisy cutter from range. But the revival was short lived and Brentford broke away in the 56th minute to extend their lead, Judge teed up Canos in the box and he had as much space as you like to smash it past Ikeme.

Ten minutes later and it was game over as Brentford added a third, Canos took on Hause on the by-line and squared the ball to Swift who had the simple task of side-footing home from six yards. It was painful viewing with many supporters including myself waiting for an avalanche of goals, but Brentford satisfied with 3-0 took their foot of the pedal to save our team further humiliation.

**Opinion:** Plummeting to new depths

**Man of the match:** Not one of them fit to wear the shirt.

**Team Rating:** 1/10

**Attendance:** 8,769 (938 away supporters)

**Team:** *Ikeme, Doherty, Hause, McDonald, Bath (capt), Ebanks-Landell, van La Parra (Le Fondre 63), Coady, Sigurdarson, Mason, Byrne (Saville 63)*

**Unused Subs:** *Martinez, Iorfa, Rowe, Price, Hunte*

**Bookings:** McDonald (71 – foul)

## JACKETT RESTYLED AT SAVILLE ROW

### WOLVES 2-1 DERBY COUNTY

Saturday 27th February 2016

Four days ago we witnessed probably Wolves worst performance of the season away at Brentford, so bad was that effort that the team were abused and booed off at the end of each half by their own supporters.



What a difference a few days can make, a 2-1 win against one of the best footballing teams in the Championship, and a do or die attitude to at last give their long suffering fans something to smile about.

George Saville was the hero of the day with a goal in either half, his first goals for the club since signing from Chelsea. Saville, making just his 16th appearance since signing in August 2014, scored with a classy curler and a bullet header near the end, and ended Wolves' dreadful run of seven games without a win.

Right from the kick-off the attitude of the Wolves players was on a total different level to that witnessed in the Tuesday night horror show, they charged forward straight from the kick-off and within 30 seconds an opening appeared and Byrne's cross was just about sliced over his own bar by Christie.

Unlike Tuesday there seemed to be a purpose to the play, there was bite in the tackle and players were running back to cover, all traits missing in the recent run of seven games without a win. It still wasn't the slick silky passing game associated with the team at the start of the season, but it was a significant improvement to the football on offer recently.

And in the 14th minute Wolves opened the scoring, Byrne cut in from the right and slipped the ball into the path of Saville who picked his spot and curled the ball into the bottom left-hand corner of the net from just outside the area.

The early goal seemed to help Wolves settle down, and even though Derby were having more of the play they were limited to a few pot-shots from outside the area. However, just two minutes before the break Derby drew level. Saville turned villain when he conceded a needless foul on the edge of the area, Martin stepped up, lifted the free-kick over the Wolves wall and beat Ikeme to his right-hand for the equaliser.

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Derby, one of the favourites for promotion took control in the second-half, and Ince missed a glorious chance to put them in front in the 55th minute, he found himself ten yards out with only Ikeme to beat but shot wide.

Wolves sat deep and looked to catch Derby on the break, and in the 92nd minute they came within a whisker of taking the lead. Sigurdarson, whose last goal in the gold shirt was 918 days ago, nearly ended that awful run when he found himself unmarked just outside the penalty area, he rifled in a shot that beat Carson only to bounce to safety off the foot of the post.

Suddenly the momentum swung Wolves way and just four minutes later Doherty send over a peach of a cross from the left and Saville met it with a bullet header that flew into net for a glorious winner. It gave Wolves a much needed morale boosting victory and allow their supporters at least one Saturday night where they could drink their pint with a smile.

**Opinion:** Where has those performances been over the last seven games?

**Man of the match:** Saville

**Team Rating:** 7/10

**Attendance:** 19,389

**Team:** Ikeme, Doherty, Iorfa, Saville, Bathth (capt), Ebanks-Landell, Byrne (Mason 76), Coady, Sigurdarson, McDonald, Helan

**Unused Subs:** Martinez, Hause, Rowe, Price, Le Fondre, Hunte

**Bookings:** Bathth (51 – foul), Sigurdarson (56 – foul), McDonald (80 – dissent), Saville (90+3 – foul)

## KAR CRASH

### MIDDLESBROUGH 2-1 WOLVES

Friday 4th March 2016

A Big Thanks to Sky TV for re-arranging our fixture away to Middlesbrough to a Friday Night. A total of 291 supporters (not including our WWLSC Committee members who broke down en route) managed to reach the Riverside for what turned out to be another night of frustration, with Wolves coming back down to earth with a massive bump following our win against Derby less than a week earlier.

Wolves were on the back foot right from the off with Adomah and old Wolves boy George Friend causing havoc down the right-hand side. After an uneventful start Middlesbrough took the lead midway through the half. Wolves failed to clear a



free-kick and Clayton picked up the ball and sent over a cross from the right, Ramirez was left totally unmarked at the back post and he made the most of his freedom by picking his spot and nodding past Ikeme to make it 1-0.

Wolves again frustrated with an apathetic attitude and approach, all apparent in the seven games without a win prior to the game against Derby. They failed to make any impact in the last third of the field and the Middlesbrough keeper was a mere spectator in what can only be described as another insipid display.

The second-half had only just started when Ikeme brilliantly tipped over a header from Rhodes, but Middlesbrough continued to press and eventually increased their lead in the 56th minute. And it was Ramirez who added his second for the night, Friend's pass fell into his path and his cross flicked off the shin of Bathth before dropping inside Ikeme's far post.

Wolves rarely looked like fighting their way back into the game, but they did get a consolation goal in the last minute, Doherty sent over a cross from the left and Gibson inadvertently glanced a header into the top corner of his own net. It was far too little, and much too late for Wolves as Middlesbrough played keep ball to close the game.

**Opinion:** Another bad day at the office.

**Man of the match:** Doherty

**Team Rating:** 2/10

**Attendance:** 22,110

**Team:** Ikeme, Doherty, Iorfa, Saville, Bathth (capt), Ebanks-Landell (Hause 19), Byrne (Mason 65), Coady, Sigurdarson, McDonald (Price 79), Helan

**Unused Subs:** Martinez, Deslandes, Le Fondre, Hunte

**Bookings:** Iorfa (23 – foul), McDonald (72 – unsporting behaviour)

## JUST WHAT THE DOC ORDERED

### WOLVES 2-1 BRISTOL CITY

Tuesday 8th March 2016

Wolves got back to winning ways again with a 2-1 win over Bristol City, but they left it late with an injury time winner coming from Matt Doherty. However, it was another poor performance in front of a sparse crowd, attendances at Molineux are plummeting by the game and there was nothing on show here to encourage the stay away mob to come rushing back.

The game started at pedestrian pace and that's basically how it stayed throughout the first-half. Both teams were devoid of any attacking ideas and struggled to string two passes together. Bristol City had not won at Molineux since 1931 and if previous teams over the years had played like this it's not hard to see the reason why.

We had to wait 10 minutes for the first attack and that ended with a Helan free-kick sailing just over the bar from 20 yards. Wolves then went close two minutes later when Saville hit a low drive from the edge of the area which O'Donnell spilled, but Mason failed to get to the rebound and the ball was scrambled clear by the City defence.

There was no atmosphere at all and nothing for the crowd to cheer about, the game was more like a Sunday pub game with passes going astray and desperately needing of a bit of inspiration, although the pub team at least have the excuse of playing with the effects of ten pints from the night before. Wolves left the field at half-time to a loud chorus of boos, well at least from those supporters who were still awake.

Kenny Jackett sent on Zyro straight after half-time for the disinterested McDonald in a switch to a 4-4-2 formation, and hey presto within two minutes Wolves were in front. Doherty, Wolves best player by a country mile over the season, made a great run down the left and slid the ball back across from the byline where Byrne somehow bundled the ball into the net.

Although it was still wasn't the best game you're ever going to watch both teams at least made a go of it, with City just shading the possession, and with 13 minutes left they got an equaliser. Bryan sent over a deep cross to the back post and Flint got in behind Iorfa to slide the ball past Ikeme,

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As the game approached the last few seconds of time added on Wolves won a free-kick out on the left, Helan sent the ball deep into the area and Doherty capped a fine performance when he outjumped all the City defenders at the back post to head home a dramatic winner. It was a satisfying end to what was otherwise a very poor game, but a desperately needed win for the under fire manager.

**Opinion:** With nothing to lose lets finish the season with a bit of style.

**Man of the match:** Doherty

**Team Rating:** 5/10

**Attendance:** 17,459

**Team:** Ikeme, Doherty, Iorfa, Saville, Batth (capt), Hause, Byrne (Hunte 82), Coady, Mason (Enobakhare 85), McDonald (Zyro 45), Helan.

**Unused Subs:** Martinez, Rowe, Price, Deslandes

**Bookings:** None

## NOTHING FOR SUNDAY LUNCH

### WOLVES 0-0 BIRMINGHAM

Sunday 13th March 2016

What a difference a year makes, at the same stage last year Wolves were pushing for a play-off place and Birmingham fighting off relegation. It was a bit of role reversal this time around with our hated neighbours the team more likely to slip into that top six slot, and potentially earn a share of the biggest ever Premiership TV money pot ever.

In the early stages Wolves were the better team and pushing forward with some neat build-up play. They looked to continue their mini run of home form which included wins against Derby and Bristol City, and Byrne found himself in a bit of space on the edge of the Brum area in just the 2nd minute but steered his shot wide of the post.

Coady then forced Kuszczak into his first save with a header, fortunately for the keeper the youngster couldn't quite get enough power on the ball. Coady was on a mission and he so nearly opened the



scoring in the 12th minute, his shot from 20 yards took a deflection forcing Kuszczak into a full length save which he almost spilled into the path of Sigurdarson.

On the half-hour mark Iorfa tried his luck with a mazy run into the area, unfortunately his final shot was partially blocked and it looped into the hands of the fortunate Kuszczak. Saville had the final say of the half when he met a cross from the right, but he was always struggling to get to the ball and his header was well saved by Kuszczak. That was the final action of the half, and apart from a shot that dipped over the bar from Davis it had been all Wolves.

In an effort to get the breakthrough Kenny Jackett sent on Zyro at half-time for the ineffective Byrne, and the change almost paid dividends when the striker smashed a great shot just wide of Kuszczak's right-hand post less than 40 seconds after the re-start. Wolves continued to carry on where they left off before the break and Helan charged forward on a mazy run, but his final shot was charged down by a defender.

With more to play for it was inevitable Brum would get into the game at one point, even though the stats showed they had won just one of their last 10 away games, and had failed to score in the last four of those. In the last half an hour they had more than their fair share of chances to take all three points. Their first real chance of the game fell to substitute Maghoma, he ran onto a through ball and rounded Ikeme but man of the match Coady was on hand with a superb last-ditch challenge.

With just over a quarter of an hour left Donaldson squandered probably the best chance of the game, he was put through on goal with only the keeper to beat, but somehow managed to drag it wide. After Donaldson's miss his team mate Toral dragged a similar chance wide before Ikeme pulled off an absolute stunning save to deny Davis in the 81st minute.

It was a typical derby with a few tasty challenges flying in, but on the whole the

game lacked that bit of quality with both teams missing somebody up front with a goal scoring instinct. Wolves form has been slightly better over the last couple of home games, but that final pass always seeming to let them down, and this combined with the inability of the front man to hold the ball up led to a disappointing goalless draw.

**Opinion:** With promotion almost impossible let's try and finish the season with a bit of flair.

**Man of the match:** Coady

**Team Rating:** 5/10

**Attendance:** 21,464

**Team:** Ikeme, Doherty, Iorfa, Saville, Batth (capt), Hause, Byrne (Zyro 45), Coady, Sigurdarson, Price, Helan (Mason 85)

**Unused Subs:** Martinez, McDonald, Rowe, Deslandes, Hunte

**Bookings:** Saville (70 – foul)

## CLARETS SCOLDED BY HOT BATHH

### BURNLEY 1-1 WOLVES

Saturday 19th March 2016

Well where did that come from? Wolves put in one of their best performances of the season against probably the best football team in the Championship. Even though in the end it took a last gasp Danny Batth equaliser to earn a point, but on reflection it was no more than Wolves deserved.

Burnley, a team who had won their last six games on the spin, made a confident start and went close early doors when Gray just failed to get on the end of a Vokes cross. However, Wolves seemed in defiant mood, and shortly after Hause saw a good header blocked following an inch perfect cross by Wallace.

Even though Burnley bossed the early stages the usually suspect Wolves defence looked surprisingly solid, and as the half progressed the confidence went up a couple of notches to the point where Wolves looked more at home than the hosts. This was highlighted in the 35th minute when a superb break ended with Saville blasting a goal bound shot from the edge of the box, but unfortunately for Wolves Mee just happened to be in the right place to clear the ball off the line.

That was Wolves best effort of the half, and just before half-time they went close again when Helan found himself in a great position six yards out, but he rushed his



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shot and it ended up wide via a deflection off the full-back. It was a good end to the half with plenty to be optimistic about for the second-half.

The theme continued after the break with Wolves opening purposefully. Within a few minutes of the restart Zyro was fed the ball by Helan, but his shot from the edge of the area was blocked by one of the mass of Burnley defenders. Wolves continued to look an attacking threat and it was pleasing to see that when they pushed forward they broke in numbers with players supporting the front man, so many times this season we've seen the solitary forward left alone trying to hold the ball up while waiting for reinforcements.

Around and about the hour mark Wolves had a ten minute purple patch, Doherty saw a shot blocked from a corner and the ball fell to Wallace who's volley was well saved by Heaton. Then a few seconds later Wolves came within a whisker of taking the lead, the ball fell to Jack Price all of 30 yards out and his rasping shot came back off the foot of the post with the keeper well beaten.

It seemed only a matter of time before the breakthrough would come, but then in the 68th minute Burnley broke away and scored against the run of play. Barton sent over a cross from the right and ex Wolves boy Sam Vokes rose above the defenders to head home.



The goal knocked all the momentum out of Wolves play and even though they tried to fight back Burnley approached time added on with all three points seemingly in the bag. However Danny Batth had different ideas, and when Byrne sent over a corner in the 92nd minute the Wolves skipper powered a superb header into the net for the equaliser. The players celebrated in front of the loyal supporters, let's hope this form continues and we can finish the season on a high.

**Opinion:** Great performance, unfortunately two months too late.

**Man of the match:** Wallace

**Team Rating:** 8/10

**Attendance:** 17,411

**Team:** Ikeme, Doherty, Iorfa, Price, Batth (capt), Hause, Wallace (Byrne 80), Coady, Zyro (Mason 72), Saville, Helan (Sigurdarson 72)

**Unused Subs:** Martinez, McDonald, Deslandes, Le Fondre

**Bookings:** Saville (63 – foul)

## **BORING, BORING, BORING**

### **WOLVES 0-0 IPSWICH**

Saturday 2nd April 2016

Last Thursday there was an article on the official Wolves website written by Kenny Jackett, the article came under the heading "Give Our Supporters Optimism", he must have forgotten to tell the players ahead of this game because the performance was soulless, lacking any imagination, unenthusiastic and to put it mildly, plain dour.

After the promising performance against Burnley before the international break Wolves fans were looking ahead to this game with a bit of expectation and hoping for another high tempo performance. All they got was a turgid affair where they had to wait 75 minutes for their teams' first shot on target. If that's what giving the supporters "Optimism" is about then those stands are going to start emptying very quickly.

It was a lifeless opening spell, as if both teams had their holiday suitcases packed ready for the exotic destinations footballers frequent these days. Wolves with nothing to play for laboured and toiled, constantly gave away possession and showed no interest in winning the ball back after giving it away.

After what appeared to be a 15 minute warm up Ipswich came close to scoring, Feeney picked up the ball 20 yards out and he let fly with a low drive that hit the foot of the post. After that the game went back to sleep until four minutes before the break when Ipswich went close to opening the scoring again. Pitman stole the ball from the dithering Hause on the goal line and chipped the ball over Ikeme, however the shot lacked any power and Hause made up for his error by running back and clearing the ball off the line.



Henry replaced the ineffective Sigurdarson after the break, but it had little effect on a Wolves team who would have needed to replace the other nine outfield players to improve on the performance. Ipswich who have play-off ambitions continued to have more of the possession, but on this showing the other play-off contenders will be rubbing their hands together and hoping to play them in the end of season shoot out.

Henry at least tried to get thing going for Wolves, and on the hour mark a good run through the centre of the park ended with the striker driving the ball over the crossbar. Unfortunately for Wolves that was something of a false dawn and they needed the intervention of Ikeme to prevent Ipswich taking the lead just five minutes later. Pitman met a cross from the left with a stooping header but Ikeme made an excellent stop at his near post.

Wolves finally forced the Ipswich keeper into his first save of the game in the 75th minute, Henry was part of a lovely one-two that created an opening for Doherty, but his fierce low shot was beaten out by Bialkowski and Saville blazed the rebound over the bar.

The Wolves fans chanted "boring, boring" as the game reached its conclusion, but take it from me it was much worse than that. In the end they didn't lose which was a small mercy, but if the remaining seven games are like this one their supporters might want to take their summer holidays early.

**Opinion:** Absolutely shocking from start to finish.

**Man of the match:** Henry

**Team Rating:** 2/10

**Attendance:** 20,225

**Team:** Ikeme, Doherty, Iorfa, Price, Batth (capt), Hause, Sigurdarson (Henry 45), Coady, Zyro (Le Fondre 68), Saville, Helan (Mason 58)

**Unused Subs:** Martinez, McDonald, Deslandes, Hunte

**Bookings:** None

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## THE PRICE IS RIGHT

### MK DONS 1-2 WOLVES

Tuesday 5th April 2016

It was back to winning ways at last for Wolves as they came from a goal down to beat relegation threatened MK Dons 2-1. After a first-half where they carried on where they left off in that awful game against Ipswich, they at last found a bit of spirit and fight in the second-half to score two quick fire goals and give their long suffering fans something to cheer about.

It was a memorable night for local boy Jack Price who scored the winning goal in the 66th minute, and it made local radio commentator Mikey Burrows season. He told of his recent interview with Price prior to the game where the player explained his love and desire to play for his beloved Wolves, and how desperate he was to play for the team he has supported all his life. How refreshing that was to hear after the efforts of his team mates in the last game against Ipswich, where there was about as much enthusiasm as showing your kids around the local churches on holiday.

Wolves carried on where they left off against Ipswich looking lethargic and uninterested, and they made a dreadful start when conceding after just six minutes, Carruthers found Baker overlapping on the right and his low cross was inadvertently turned into his own net by Hause to give MK Dons the lead.

Wolves looking to react to the early setback tried to up the pace and Henry flashed a shot just over from a narrow angle in the 15th minute. The game however was lacking any kind of quality and as the half progressed Wolves resorted to desperate long range efforts at goal. The half ended in disaster for Wolves when Zyro was stretchered off after a horrendous tackle by Kay, the defender was lucky to escape with just a yellow card, had it been a Wolves player I'm sure the colour would have been red.

Wolves came out looking more determined after the break and as the second-half progressed they took control and enjoyed a modest spell of pressure. Cropper got down well to stop Le Fondre's low cross from reaching Mason, but it was only brief respite for the MK Dons before Wolves levelled in the 62nd minute. Henry sent over an inch perfect cross from the right

and Saville powerfully headed past Cropper from the edge of the six yard area.



There was now a spring in the steps of the Wolves players and just four minutes later they took the lead, a move which saw players streaming forward ended when Henry sent over another superb low cross which Price slotted home from the centre of the area.

From that point onwards it was Wolves calling the shots and the game harmlessly petered out with Wolves playing keep ball and killing the game off. That's now a five game unbeaten run, but the highlight of the night was Jack Price's first goal of the season.

**Opinion:** Hopefully the team can crack on now and provide the fans with some entertaining football.

**Man of the match:** Price

**Team Rating:** 6/10

**Attendance:** 12,131

**Team:** Ikeme, Doherty, Iorfa, Price, Batth (capt), Hause, Henry, Coady, Zyro (Le Fondre 45), Saville, Mason (Edwards 90+2).

**Unused Subs:** Martinez, Helan, Byrne, Deslandes, Hunte

**Bookings:** Doherty (85 – foul)

## HOME GOALS PUT ON THE BLACK BURNER

### WOLVES 0-0 BLACKBURN

Saturday 9th April 2016

After the glimmer of hope following the second half performance and subsequent win at MK Dons it was back to square one for Wolves in this game against Blackburn. It's been 117 years since Wolves last had three consecutive goalless home draws, and after watching this performance if things aren't changed very quickly it might be another 117 years before they get another home goal. It looked promising initially as Wolves



looked to continue their five game unbeaten run, they made all the early running, but as in previous games and most of the games this season they lacked that clinical touch in the final third of the field. The closest they came to scoring in the first half was in the 17th minute when Mason's goal bound shot was blocked by Duffy.

Rovers, in the same boat as Wolves when it comes to investment in quality players weren't much better, their first effort of note in a turgid first half came when Bennett's corner created bedlam in the Wolves six yard area, and Batth's attempted headed clearance flew just over his own crossbar.

Wolves had a massive let-off right on the stroke of half time, Gomez picked the ball up inside the their half and suddenly let fly from 25 yards, Ikeme somehow managed to get his fingers to the ball and turn it onto the angle of post and crossbar with the ball bouncing to safety.

If you thought that the first half was bad then the second half can only be described as appalling. After the break the game was played at snail's pace and neither team had a sniff at goal in the first ten minutes. Both teams continued to play without any zest or enthusiasm and this was emphasised when Henry won possession and broke into the box, but with three of his team mates screaming for the ball he carelessly blazed it over the bar.

With nothing happening Jackett sent on Sigurdarson for the disappointing Le Fondre in the 74th minute, and with his first touch he smashed a 20 yard daisy cutter that forced Steele into his first save of the match. The shot was greeted with a sarcastic cheer having been the first shot on target for Wolves. It's been 954 days since Sigurdarson's last Wolves goal, and the reason was there for all to see when he stood motionless as a lovely low cross from Henry in the 80th minute was asking for somebody to get in where it hurts and attack the ball.

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Blackburn went for it in the last five minutes, but it was Ikeme who salvaged a point for Wolves with two stunning last ditch saves. Firstly he denied Gomez when he tipped the strikers header over the bar at full stretch following a cross from the right. Then from the resulting corner Duffy got his head to the ball and the Wolves keeper made an even better save when he somehow managed to get a hand to it and push it over the bar from point blank range.

**Opinion:** How they've managed to go six games unbeaten is a complete mystery to me.

**Man of the match:** Ikeme

**Team Rating:** 2/10

**Attendance:** 19,538

**Team:** Ikeme, Doherty, Iorfa, Price, Bathth (capt), Hause, Henry, Coady, Le Fondre (Sigurdarson74), Mason (Enobakare 58), Saville (Hunte 58).

**Unused Subs:** Martinez, Helan, Edwards, Deslandes

**Bookings:** Iorfa (73 – foul)

## HEAVEN N' HULL

### HULL CITY 2-1 WOLVES

Friday 15th April 2016

It was a night of mixed emotions for Wolves. It started with a Carl Ikeme clanger that gifted Hull an early lead, then a fightback that resulted in a deserved equaliser for Duracell Dave Edwards, and finally the dismay of conceding a 95th minute goal that gave Hull a 2-1 win. However, it was a display a million miles away from the dross served up in the previous game against Blackburn, and a good showing against a team who have lost only once at home all season.

Wolves got off to the worst possible start with a Keystone Cops moment gifting Hull the lead. A long through ball was headed on by Elmohamady and Iorfa made a mess of an attempted clearance, Ikeme should still have comfortably gathered the ball, but instead scooped it into the path of Diomande who rolled it into the empty net.

It was a calamitous start which could have been even worse had Clucas not driven wide with the goal at his mercy just a few minutes later. However, Wolves hit back and Edwards went close when he glanced a header onto the top of the bar from a corner. Wolves gaining in confidence by the minute went close again when Price headed just over after Helan picked him out with a pinpoint cross.

In the 19th minute Wolves were level, Sigurdarson found Helan in space on the left and his peach of a cross was headed in from six yards by Edwards. It was no more than Wolves deserved after the dreadful opening ten minutes.

Wolves began the second half brightly with three corners in the first four minutes, but the game fell into stalemate with Wolves looking resolute in defence and Hull struggling to make any penetration and lacking in ideas in midfield. As the home side struggled Wolves looked the most likely team to grab a winner and Sigurdarson's shot forced McGregor to tip over late in the game.

With 95 minutes on the clock it looked like Wolves had grabbed a decent point against one of the play-off contenders. However, with seconds remaining Hull were awarded a free-kick 25 yards out, Snodgrass stepped up and hit a shot that went over the wall, hit the underside of the bar and went into the net off the back of Ikeme, what an absolute choker....



**Opinion:** Need to transfer this spirit into the home games.

**Man of the match:** Edwards

**Team Rating:** 5/10

**Attendance:** 15,504 (365 away supporters)

**Team:** Ikeme, Doherty, Iorfa, Price, Hause, Deslandes (Coady 76), Henry, Edwards, Sigurdarson, Saville (Enobakhare 89), Helan

**Unused Subs:** Martinez, Mason, Le Fondre, Hunte, Hayden

**Bookings:** None

## TO ELLAND AND BACK

### LEEDS 2-1 WOLVES

Tuesday 19th April 2016

Wolves found themselves on the wrong side of a 95th minute goal at Hull City in the Sky game just four days ago, losing 2-1 in



the process. On that occasion they were unlucky to have lost, here at Elland Road they again went down 2-1, but this time they were well beaten with their opponents Leeds hitting the woodwork twice and going close on several other occasions.

Things looked promising early on as Wolves knocked the ball about nicely and pushed forward into the Leeds half, and in the 5th minute Saville went close when his shot from outside the area was just wide of the post. A minute later and it was Leeds turn to attack, and they went within a whisker of taking the lead when Wood's 20 yard shot smashed against Wolves' right-hand upright.

Back came Wolves again on the quarter of an hour mark and they missed a glorious chance to go in front. Sigurdarson beat the offside trap down the left and crossed to Henry who found himself unmarked five yards out, but the usually reliable winger volleyed the ball into the ground and wide. It was close again just moments later when Henry's shot was deflected behind the home defence into the path of Edwards, but Silvestri was first to the loose ball as the midfielder lost his footing. It was a false dawn for Wolves and Leeds took control with former Wolves target Chris Wood mounting a one man assault on Danny Bath and his defence. The striker watched his 30 yard free-kick go just wide of the Wolves post, and then he blew his easiest opportunity so far when he guided an effort straight in to the arms of Ikeme from point blank range.

Wolves threatened briefly at the start of the second-half when Doherty went on a winding run down the left and beat two defenders before lashing a shot wide from the edge of the box, but it was Leeds soon on the ascendancy again, and they eventually took the lead on the hour mark. Bamba took the ball down on his chest 25 yards out and let it bounce before lashing a half volley into the top corner of the net, giving Ikeme no chance.

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Leeds went for the jugular and four minutes later it was 2-0, and it was poor defending all round by the Wolves defence. Cook wasn't closed down on the right-hand side and was allowed to pull the ball back across the area from the by-line, the ball fell to Diagouraga who was completely on his own 12 yards out and the striker picked his spot and swept it past Ikeme.

Wolves suddenly pulled one back against the run of play in the 77th minute, Henry picked out Saville on the edge of the box and he curled a right footed shot into the corner of the net. The game suddenly opened up and Botaka rattled the Wanderers crossbar, while at the other end Mason had a shot kept out by the feet of Silverstri.

Wolves threw men forward in the search of an equaliser and in the last minute of normal time a corner taken by Henry flashed right across the face of goal, unfortunately evading all the Wolves shirts in its path. That was to be the last chance with Leeds playing keep ball and easing to the winning post

It was another bad day at the office for Kenny Jackett with his tactics and selection again under scrutiny. He continues to leave out Mason and persist with Sigurdarson who has now failed to find the net in a Wolves shirt in over 28 hours of football, that kind of tells you he's just not good enough.

**Opinion:** Thank God there's only three games left.

**Man of the match:** Doherty

**Team Rating:** 4/10

**Attendance:** 17,694

**Team:** Ikeme, Doherty, Iorfa, Price, Hause, Batth (capt), Henry, Edwards, Sigurdarson (Mason 73), Saville, Helan (Le Fondre 55)

**Unused Subs:** Martinez, Coady, Hunte, Deslandes, Enobakhare.

**Bookings:** Iorfa (31 – foul)

## DÉJÀ VU, NOTHING NEW

### WOLVES 0-0 ROTHERHAM

Saturday 23rd April 2016

On a glorious Saint George's Day our beloved Wolves opened their doors and welcomed in London Wolves members in order to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the formation of Wolverhampton Wanderers London Supporters Club. Prior



to the game a buffet was laid on in a cordoned-off area of the museum, and a presentation was made by Jez Moxey in order to celebrate our 50th Anniversary.

It was a fabulous gesture by the club, unfortunately the football that followed didn't match the hospitality shown before the game. For the fourth consecutive home game Wolves failed to find their opponents net. This time it was relegation threatened Rotherham who shut up shop and gain the point they required to enable them to play in the Championship again next year.

That's now eight games without a win for Wolves and eight scoreless draws during the season, seven of them at home. However, it wasn't through the lack of effort, they hit the bar, had one cleared off the line and missed a couple of sitters. But in the end the stats still show four nil-nils at home on the spin, and a lack of firepower up front to break down visiting teams' intent on defending.

Wolves looked determined at the start and created a good chance to get that all elusive goal in the 8th minute, a good passing move ended with Mason sending in a low cross from the left, but Edwards made a real hash of things and dragged the ball horribly wide. They came even closer midway through the half when Batth's header was brilliantly tipped onto the underside of the bar by Camp.

Following the initial Wolves pressure the game petered out into the same kind of dross as the previous goalless bore draws. Henry had a pot shot from distance which drew ironic cheers from the fans, with further efforts from Edwards and Doherty never looking like threatening Camp in the Rotherham goal, in fact the most noise the fans made was when they booed the players off at half-time.

Wolves tried to gather the initiative again after the break and created a string of chances, but they still couldn't find the back of the Rotherham net. Mason shot

straight at Camp when put through, and then Deslandes missed an absolute sitter from two yards. There was an even better chance in the 58th minute when a great ball from Henry set Mason clear, but yet again he squandered the opportunity when his shot was smothered by the onrushing Camp.

Wolves must have known that it wasn't to be their day when they were denied twice in a matter of seconds as Camp denied Saville, and Kelly somehow managed to clear Wallace's rebound effort off the line after an almighty scramble in the box. More chances were created but not converted, and so the familiar sound of boing rang in the player's ears at full time.

**Opinion:** Not even Saint George could help this mob.

**Man of the match:** Enobakhare

**Team Rating:** 3/10

**Attendance:** 18,757

**Team:** Ikeme, Doherty, Deslandes, Coady, Batth (capt), Iorfa, Henry, Edwards, Mason, Saville, Enobakhare (Wallace 64)

**Unused Subs:** Martinez, McDonald, Price, Hause, Hunte, Collins

**Bookings:** None

## NOTT TOO BAD

### NOTTINGHAM FOREST 1-1 WOLVES

Saturday 30th April 2016



That's now nine games without a win, but at least Wolves scored a goal in the 1-1 draw at Nottingham Forest. After another poor first-half it was a much improved performance in the second-half and something for the fans to cheer about, and a glimmer of hope for next season.

It was Forest who just about started the brighter of the two teams, and in the 4th minute they created the first real chance when Gardener's long range shot clipped

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the head of Iorfa and dropped onto the roof of the Wolves net.

Wolves gradually gained a foothold in the game, and Edwards went close with a curling effort after eight minutes. The game was a scrappy affair and Forest were next to engineer an opening when Blackstock headed just over following a cross by Osborn. And soon after another long range drive by Cohen was too close for comfort as it went just wide of Ikeme's right-hand post.

Play then swapped to the other end, and on the half hour mark Mason came close with a good effort from outside the box which just cleared the angle of post and bar. A few minutes later and it was yet another long range effort, this time from Henry, but his shot lacked power and it deflected safely into the arms of De Vries. The best chance of the half fell to Gardner in the dying seconds, Fox's header brought a superb save from Ikeme and then Gardner's rebound was cleared off the line by one of a melee of Wolves defenders. Yet again it was a poor performance from a Wolves team totally lacking confidence and unable to string two passes together, and it was a massive relief when the referee brought the first 45 minutes to its conclusion.

Wolves at last showed a bit of impetus at the start of the second-half, and Doherty sent a back-post header agonisingly wide from an in-swinging Saville free-kick in the 51st minute. Their best chance of the game came just five minutes later when Bath's shot from a corner on the left was cleared off the line, and then it was the Wolves Captain in the action again when he headed wide following an excellent cross by Wallace.

It was all Wolves and they finally got their noses in front just before the hour mark, Mason collected the ball outside the box and when it looked like there was little on he swivelled and bent a tremendous left-footed shot into the net via the post.

Five minutes later Wolves missed a glorious chance to double their lead, a three man move ended with the ball at Henry's feet in the centre of the area, he looked up and picked his spot but smashed it wide. It was a miss that would prove costly as Forest equalised in the 68th minute, Edwards conceded a free-kick on the edge of the area and Gardner stepped up and struck the ball over the wall and to Ikeme's right for the equaliser.

Both sides had opportunities to win it late on, Conor Coady had the best of them for Wolves, but his dipping volley from distance sailed narrowly wide. That was basically it with both sides seeing out time for what was probably a fair result.

**Opinion:** Let's finish in style with a win at Molineux next week.

**Man of the match:** Mason

**Team Rating:** 6/10

**Attendance:** 22,291

**Team:** Ikeme, Doherty, Deslandes (Hause 69), Coady, Bath (capt), Iorfa, Henry, Edwards, Mason, Saville, Wallace

**Unused Subs:** Martinez, Price, Hunte, Reid, Byrne, Enobakhare

**Bookings:** None

## OWL'S ABOUT THAT THEN ?

### WOLVES 2-1 SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY

Saturday 7th May 2016



Well Wolves finally managed to score a home goal after four consecutive goalless score draws and over SIX hours of tedium for their long suffering supporters. Ironically the goal was scored by one of their opponents after just six minutes and Wolves ended up 2-1 winners. Sheffield Wednesday who were already in a guaranteed play-off place made ten changes from their previous game, but nothing should be taken away from a Wolves team who at least finished the season with a win.

Wolves started confidently even though their fans hadn't seen a home goal for two months, and they must have feared the worst again when Wallace had a goal disallowed for offside in the fifth minute following a superb through ball from Doherty. However lady luck was well and truly on Wolves side just 30 seconds later and the goal drought was finally ended. Doherty broke into the Wednesday area

and rolled the ball across the box where the unfortunate Turner got himself in a real mess and sliced the ball into his own net via the post.



The Owls immediately tried to respond and almost levelled in the 15th minute from a free-kick, but Ikeme made a superb save to deny McGugan, although his wall provided to be about as much use as a chocolate fireguard. Wednesday again went close a few minutes later when McGeady let fly from 20 yards, the ball took a wicked deflection off Hause and luckily for Wolves curled inches wide of Ikeme's left-hand post with the keeper rooted to the spot.

Back came Wolves and they came within a whisker of increasing the lead from a corner ten minutes before half-time, but Saville arguably looked on as his shot from twelve yards thundered back off the inside of the post. However he shook off the disappointment and less than a minute later he fired home from close range following another good cross from Doherty.

After the high tempo up and at em' in the first-half it became a bit of an anti-climax after the break with Wolves going back into the all familiar "Already on the beach" attitude. Wednesday were the more positive of the sides and the most likely to score, although chances at either end were far and few between. Mason, who was Wolves best attacking option by a country mile was substituted for Edwards with 15 minutes left, if Wolves fans were hoping for a swashbuckling finish to the season then their hopes were ended there and then.

The Owls finally pulled a goal back a minute from the end when Doherty was harshly penalised for a handball in the area, and McGugan sent Ikeme the wrong way from the penalty spot to make it 2-1. Wednesday could even have snatched an injury time point as the panic alarms suddenly started sounding in the Wolves box, however Ikeme denied both Helan and

# MATCH REPORTS



Sasso with two fine saves as Wolves hung on for victory.

As a footnote it was announced a few days later that Bjorn Sigurdarson will not have his contract renewed next season and Le Fondre is going back to Cardiff. With nothing at stake during the last dozen games or so why did the manager pursue with these players instead of giving the youngsters a chance... baffling to say the least!!!!

Well that's it for another season which failed to deliver anything in terms of achievement, quality of football, entertainment or prospects. Let's all hope for a minor miracle and the arrival of some quality players in the close season, miracles do sometimes happen like Leicester can testify to, however you need the players who have the quality, skill and hunger for a fight.

**Final Position:** 14th - Points: 58

**Man of the match:** Doherty

**Team Rating:** 7/10

**Attendance:** 25,488

**Team:** Ikeme, Doherty, Hause, Coady, Bath (capt), Iorfa, Henry, J. Price, Mason (Edwards 76), Saville, Wallace (Le Fondre 45).

**Unused Subs:** Martinez, Hunte, Deslandes, Byrne, Enobakhare

**Bookings:** None

## Provisional travel arrangements for matches during October and November are:-

### Home Matches

Meeting place: Station concourse outside main ticket office, at least 20 minutes before train departure.

**Fare :** To be advised.

**Sat 1/10/16 v Norwich**  
(k/o 5:30pm – Live on Sky)

- ◆ Outward - Depart Euston 11:43 Arrive Wolverhampton 13:37
- ◆ Return - Depart Wolverhampton 20:45 Arrive Euston 22:56

**Sat 22/10/16 v Leeds**

#### London Wolves 50th Anniversary to the Very Day

- ◆ Outward - Depart Euston 09:43 Arrive Wolverhampton 11:37
- ◆ Return - Depart Wolverhampton 18:45 Arrive Euston 20:55

**Sat 5/11/16 v Derby**  
(k/o 12:30pm – Live on Sky)

- ◆ Outward - Depart Euston 08:43 Arrive Wolverhampton 10:37
- ◆ Return - Depart Wolverhampton 15:45 Arrive Euston 17:33

**Sat 26/11/16 v Sheffield Wed**

- ◆ Outward - Depart Euston 09:43 Arrive Wolverhampton 11:37
- ◆ Return - Depart Wolverhampton 18:45 Arrive Euston 20:55

### Away Matches

**Sat 15/10/16 v Aston Villa**  
(k/o 5:30pm – Live on Sky)

- ◆ Outward - Depart Euston 12:23 Arrive Birmingham New Street 13:45  
- Local Train to/from Witton
- ◆ Return - Depart Birmingham New Street 20:10 Arrive Euston 21:57

**Tue 18/10/16 v Brighton**  
(k/o 7:45pm)

- ◆ No Official club trip arranged.  
Any member wanting to go to this game please contact Travel Secretary.

**Sat 29/10/16 v Blackburn**  
(k/o 5:30pm – Live on Sky)

- ◆ No Official club trip arranged.  
Any member wanting to go to this game please contact Travel Secretary.

**Sat 19/11/16 v Preston**

- ◆ Outward - Depart Euston 08:43 Arrive Preston 11:51
- ◆ Return - Depart Preston 17:58 Arrive Euston 20:19

**TRAVEL SECRETARY - PETER WOODIFIELD**

94 FARNHAM CLOSE RAINHAM KENT ME8 8NS  
Telephone - 01634 363704 E-mail - peteraw@globalnet.co.uk

# Wolves Women



## Wolves Women - End of Season Review

We've had another positive season at Wolves Women both on and off the pitch. Our aim was always to achieve promotion, but matching Leicester City Women's unbeaten season was a huge ask. We started the season well and stayed in touch with Leicester until the New Year, after a slightly bumpy middle part, we ended the season strongly securing second spot with ease. Unfortunately for us only the Champions are promoted but we still take lots of positives into next year with promotion our prime aim. By the end of the season we seemed to have found the perfect mix of youth and experience, culminating in some fantastic performances.

The Wolves Women board and Wolves Community Trust have worked extremely hard this season and we have recently been awarded an FA Girls Regional Talent Club Licence. Our girls section have been extremely successful this season and the RTC will now give our most talented players a platform to progress even further in the game. As the oldest player in the squad with potential retirement looming, I'm very proud to watch some fantastic young players progress with us at Wolves, albeit just a little jealous of the amazing opportunities in front of them!



Another huge achievement off the pitch was the inclusion of the Wolves Women Player of the Year at the Men's End of Season Awards evening. This year's award went to Natalie Widdal who had a fantastic season at Centre Back. She got to attend the men's awards evening mixing with the men's first team, along with other club representatives. It featured full video interviews provided by Steve Cullis, our gaffer, Anna Perks, captain and Brian Churm as well as a live interview with 'Widds' on the stage. As you can imagine she's had a bit of stick from the girls, we're just making sure she keeps her feet on the ground!

On a personal level, it's been a frustrating season, probably as fit as I can remember apart from my Birmingham City days in the Premier until I got injured in November. A twist to my knee when crossing the ball away to Rotherham, resulted in a Scan revealing a medial ligament tear. I finally had the operation in March after a long wait but I am finally hitting the ground running now ready for pre-season. An injury free season and promotion would be just perfect! This year I took on a new role for the club as Digital Ambassador, which puts me in charge of social media from a player's perspective, I've had a fair bit of stick for this as there is always a selfie on the go, but it's all about raising the profile of the club which can only be positive. As the most senior squad member and the only Mum in the team, I am often subjected to plenty of banter, but lucky enough I give as good as I get!



Finally, I wanted to take this opportunity to thank all of London Wolves Supporters Club for their support and sponsorship this season. It is very much appreciated by all of the girls and to be invited myself and to attend some of your events this season was a privilege. As a big Wolves fan it's great to meet other like-minded supporters and the fact so many show such an interest in our progress makes me proud to be a Wolves fan and player. Onwards and upwards for both ourselves and the men's team next season! Look forward to catching up with you again next season.

*Claire Hakeman*

# 50TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER

