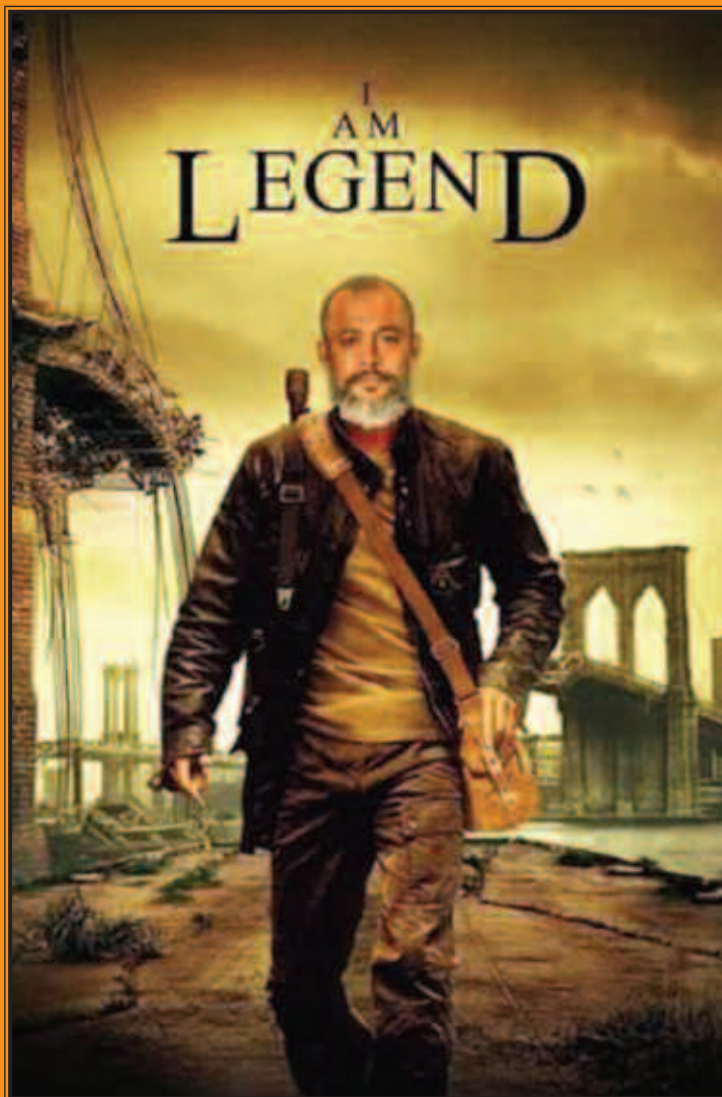




# Wolverhampton Wanderers

LONDON SUPPORTERS CLUB

founded 1966



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July 2019



# FROM THE CHAIR



## WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS LONDON SUPPORTERS CLUB

### Honorary Life President

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1968-2007

### Honorary President

John Richards

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Stuart Earl

### Deputy Chairman

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Steve Bull MBE

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Dave Slape

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Peter Woodfield

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### Newsletter Editor

Steve Ray

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Hi and Greetings to Everybody,

Well, that was a season that few of us could have predicted and all of us savored. Fine performances in all but a few matches, with scintillating football to boot, a seventh place finish in The Premier League and crowds of over 30,000 for every home fixture for the first time in seventy years

Let me proceed by thanking all of you who sent good wishes, cards or visited during my spell of incapacitation last year.

Hopefully I am on the road to full recovery.

London Wolves Player Of The Year, Raúl Jiménez, was a well deserving winner, showing the class that seemed well worth the large amount of money spent acquiring him, although he was closely run by Matt Doherty, a much cheaper acquisition.

My thanks, as usual, go to all of our Committee for their work during the season, especially Peter, who was bombarded by requests for home, away and Wembley tickets.

I know there was disappointment in the ranks by those who did not receive semi-final tickets, but I can assure you that both Peter and I tried everything to get extra places for those not holding season tickets, they were just not available.

The recently launched Worldwide Wolves group has taken off with a bang, with a lounge, open on match days, situated in The Steve Bull stand. The lounge is mostly full pre-match, and access is by ticket only, available from me, and thanks must go to Alan Perrins at Wolves for his efforts to get this project off the ground.

The total number of supporters groups officially recognized by Wolves is 111, with London Wolves proudly sitting top of the list.

Unfortunately, it was not possible to hold our usual "Meet the Players" evening this year, and this was due to the fixture list being very unkind with London dates for matches. It is hoped that Nuno will agree next season, to what has become a great tradition for London Wolves.

Our Annual General Meeting was held on Saturday July 20th, and this year it took place at the Horse & Groom in Great Portland Street. It was great to see so many of you attend and voice your opinions. The full minutes will be printed in the next newsletter.

My Thanks go to Geoff Castro who once again planned the "Summer Walk" to perfection. This year the invasion took place in Twickenham where a large collection of pubs were visited, and large amounts of alcohol were consumed. All of us who joined in the festivities thoroughly enjoyed the fun filled day and had the hangovers next morning to prove it.

Finally, I would like to say how saddened I was to learn the news that our old friend Terry Peachey had passed away last July at the age of 80. Terry was our Club Treasurer and then Travel Secretary from the mid 1970's. Dave Slape has penned an article about Terry which you will find inside this edition.

*Stuart*



## London Wolves Player of the Season 2018-2019

### Raúl Jiménez

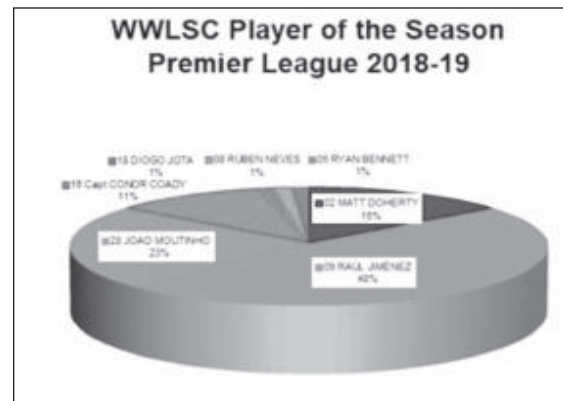
London Wolves Members have voted Raúl Jiménez as their “Player of the Season” for 2018-2019. In his first season at Wolves, Raúl chipped in with 13 goals and 7 assists, and also scored 4 goals in the memorable FA Cup run.

In Wolves first season back in the Premier League all the players throughout the team deserve a special mention for some outstanding performances. However, it was Raúl who polled 45% of the votes from the members and our congratulations go to the Mexican striker for an impressive season. Joao Moutinho was runner-up with 24% of the vote.



### Voting

Raúl Jiménez	45%
Joao Moutinho	24%
Matt Doherty	15%
Conor Coady	11%
Ryan Bennett	1%
Diogo Jota	1%
Ruben Neves	1%



The 27-year-old centre-forward initially joined Wolves on a season long loan, becoming Nuno Espirito Santo’s first new signing of summer 2018, before his move from Benfica became permanent on July 1st 2019 for a fee of £32 million.

Jiménez began his career for Club América, helping his boyhood side clinch two Liga MX titles, before securing a move to Europe and Atlético Madrid.

After a season and 21 appearances in Spain, the six-foot-two-inch striker moved to Benfica where he helped fire the Lisbon outfit to back-to-back Primeira Liga titles. In 120 appearances for Benfica he scored 31 goals and created 15, and averaged a goal or assist every 75 minutes in their 2017-2018 title winning campaign.

As of yet there hasn’t been the opportunity to present Raúl with his award, but Club Secretary Dave Slape is already looking at a potential presentation, once this has been arranged the members will be notified accordingly. Pictures of Raúl receiving his award will appear in the next newsletter.

Raúl’s season had the perfect ending as he was named player of the tournament as Mexico beat the USA 1-0 to win the Gold Cup. Raúl scored five goals and provided two assists during six appearances to help Mexico lift the trophy in Chicago.

Those assists included a back-heel pass to Jonathan Dos Santos for the winning goal in the final, and after the game he was given the 'Golden Ball' for being the stand-out player of the competition.







## Wolves' Transfer Activity for the Season 2019-2020

Since the 2018-2019 season finished, the transfer market has been relatively quiet with regards to the arrival of new players. There have been numerous rumours in the press, but at the time of going to print there have been no major signings, apart from making the loan deals for Raúl Jiménez and Leander Dendoncker permanent ones.

At the same time six players have left the club. Helder Costa has gone to Leeds United on loan for a season, with an obligation for the Yorkshire club to make the deal permanent for an undisclosed fee. Ivan Cavaleiro is another player who has gone on a season long loan, this time to Fulham with the London club having the option to sign him on a permanent basis next summer. Ethan Ebanks-Landell has moved to Shrewsbury Town for an undisclosed fee, and Kortney Hause has made the move to Aston Villa for £3 million following a period on loan. Dutch winger Sherwin Seedorf has left to join Motherwell, and Michal Zyro has been released. Finally, Ryan Giles has gone to Shrewsbury Town on loan for the season.

### New Signings

#### **Raúl Jiménez**

*1st July 2019*

Wolves smashed their transfer record to sign striker Raúl Jiménez in a £32million deal.

Jiménez has been a revelation since joining from Benfica on loan, netting 15 times and providing a further seven assists in the Premier League, and scoring 4 goals in the FA Cup. Wolves have taken up their option to sign him on a permanent deal, handing the Mexican a bumper four-year contract to tie him to Molineux until 2023.



#### **Leander Dendoncker**

*1st July 2019*

Wolves have signed Leander Dendoncker for £12 million. The 24-year-old midfielder joined Wolves on a season-long loan from Anderlecht last August, with the club having an obligation to sign him this summer.

After taking a while to break into the team, he made a big impression as Nuno Espirito Santo's side reached the FA Cup semi-finals and finished seventh in the Premier League.



#### **Jesus Vallejo**

*27th July 2019*

Wolves have signed 22-year-old Real Madrid defender Jesus Vallejo on a season-long loan.

The club confirmed the news after the defender watched his new team mates play against Crusaders in the Europa League. Vallejo joins on the back of captaining Spain to European Under-21 Championship glory this summer. He has made a total of 22 appearances for the Spanish under-21 team.



#### **Patrick Cutrone**

*30th July 2019*

Italy striker Patrick Cutrone has joined Wolves from AC Milan in a potential £20million deal. Wolves will initially pay £16m for the forward, with the deal including a further £4m in add-ons. The 21-year-old has penned a four-year contract and will become the first Italian to ever play for Wolves.

Cutrone scored 16 goals in 42 games in his breakthrough season in 2017/18 before netting nine in 43 last year.





## Captain Jack Leonard



As members set off for their summer holidays, those flying to sunny European climes with easyJet should listen to the cockpit announcement you get at the start of the flight. Lo and behold, they may well find themselves in the hands of young Jacko, now officially re-branded Captain Jack! At the start of August he was notified that he'd passed the strenuous Civil Aviation Authority and easyJet Command Course with distinction.

If a member out there is flying on one of Jack's planes, he says that they're more than welcome to pass their boarding card to one of the Cabin Crew and he'll come out and meet and greet them.

Here we see Jack and his proud Dad and Deputy Chairman Stef Leonard presenting Keith Curle with the WWLSC Player of the Year Award in 1988.

## London Wolves Member Peter Davies at Wembley

When Wolves played Spurs at Wembley on Saturday 29th December 2018 it was reported that it was their first visit there for 40 years. We can disclose that our very own WWLSC member Peter Davies graced the Wembley turf on Saturday May 30th 2015, the first time a Wolves shirt had been there since May 29th 1988. It was twenty seven years, almost to the day after Wolves beat Burnley 2-0 in the final of the Sherpa Van Trophy with goals from Andy Mutch and Robbie Dennison. Steve Bull, the fourth divisions top goal scorer that year, didn't manage to get on the score sheet that day but played his usual huge part.

Peter has kindly penned an article about the time he represented Wolves as one of 64 clubs' fans chosen to sing the traditional pre-match cup final hymn, 'Abide with Me' ahead of the Arsenal vs Villa FA Cup Final. And what a great idea that was, bringing together the football family to symbolise what the competition represents. Sadly the idea seems to have been abandoned by the FA despite it being a huge success. Arsenal went on to win an entertaining game comfortably by 4-1 on this occasion.

Fans from each of the sixty four clubs who got through to the 3rd round of the FA Cup in 2015 were invited to submit a short FA Cup-related story about themselves and their love for their club, and I won it for Wolves despite some strong competition from within the club itself (I was told). The competition was run by the Songs of Praise unit of the BBC in partnership with the FA and judged by an independent panel.

### The Winning Entry

My Dad went to the Wembley FA Cup Final to see Wolves beat Leicester City 3-1, six days after I was born on April 24th 1949; two happy events for my parents. I still have Dad's program and Sporting Star for that day. I was born and lived for my first two years at 10, Molineux Fold, one of the closest houses to Molineux and in the shadow of St Peter's Church. Long since demolished, the little end-terrace house was adjacent to the Molineux Hotel right behind the South Bank. I was named after and christened at St Peter's. My first clear childhood memory was of being really frightened with Mom holding me behind our picket fence on a Saturday afternoon, watching thousands pouring past just before three o'clock. Mom and Dad stayed together for the next 35 years until their death. They were married and were buried at St Peter's, where Billy Wright, captain of Wolves and England was too. Mom knew Billy as an acquaintance, living in the Molineux vicinity in the early 1950's. Sir Jack Hayward, fan and one-time club owner was also recently buried there. In the 1998-9 season, I attended a London-Wolves 'meet-the-players' event in Slough ahead of the away QPR game where two of my Wolves hero's, Steve Bull and John Richards, autographed my 1949 birth certificate. I took it there for that very purpose! So my support for Wolves is as close to genetic as it can be! As a Wolverhampton choirboy, Abide with Me was a regular hymn at evensong, so to sing this again at Wembley at the 2015 Cup Final would be such an emotional moment, connecting the football generations and in tribute to my Mom, Dad, Billy, Sir Jack and Wolves.



# WOLVES' NEWS



## Wembley FA Cup Final Day, Saturday May 30th 2015



On the left Wolves (Peter) standing on the hallowed Wembley turf, and on the right with new Premiership rivals Bournemouth, but remaining friends united at rehearsals.

## The FA Cup Fans Choir at Wembley to sing Abide with Me



The photo shows the choir on the Saturday morning of the final for rehearsal on the pitch while the mowers were giving the grass a final cut and the BBC crew (with Dan Walker) were doing their pre-match preparations. At the front you can see Steve Thompson our musical director standing next to the Arsenal fan Peter with his grandson Edwin who was there to be Peter's guide for the day as he is totally blind. Steve's wife Velveta (not in the picture) happens to be from Wolverhampton and a Wolves fan!

The Newcastle fan, sadly since deceased, was 100 years old and we had two Elvis impersonators in Ken (Gateshead) and Darryl (PNE). Vicky (Scunthorpe) was featured in an aired BBC feature showing us her house, including the toilet, decorated throughout in claret and blue, wall paper, toilet paper, furniture and carpets. Charlton's Christine was a retired police officer and we had three men of the cloth in Dan (Villa), Graham (Bournemouth) and Peter (Southampton), now vicar of Stroud but who officiated at Zara and Mike Tyndall's wedding. David (Liverpool) is a Hillsborough survivor and watercolour artist and designer.

What an incredible privilege to represent my team at Wembley and an amazing experience on the day. Walking out of the Villa end tunnel to the ear-splitting din of 90,000 fans in full voice, flags waving, acrobats whirling Cirque-du-Soleil-style and the heat of the 20 foot high pyrotechnic flames blasting through the heat of the already hot late May sunshine; an experience none of us will ever forget.

And among the fans choir ourselves, we also made friends we'll never forget. Sadly about a third of the choir did disappear after that weekend without a trace but with the help of our 'FA Cup Fans Choir' Facebook page, the remainder of the choir took on a life of its own thereafter and various meet-ups continue to this day and hopefully will into the future.

'Abide with Me', pre-FA Cup final, for most of us in the 2015 choir, hasn't been the same in 2016, 2017, 2018; no similar fans choir, less impactful, less well organised technically and most importantly, missing the main message of uniting the football family with representatives from across a good selection of the clubs which enter the FA Cup competition across all the leagues. It's a real opportunity missed by the FA. Not the same individuals, no, not the 2015 choir of course, nor even the same 64 clubs as was represented in 2015, but, that a choir made up of a cross section of clubs and wearing their club shirts on the Wembley turf before the FA Cup final, singing football's traditional and unifying 'Abide with Me', can only complement the underlying message and ethos of the FA Cup competition itself, something which I find so surprising the FA seem not to have wanted to perpetuate since; surprising, because it was such a massive success in 2015.

If anyone, anywhere else would like us to know more about the choir you can get in touch through our Facebook page ('FA Cup Fans Choir').

*Peter Davies*



## **Terry Peachey** **London Wolves Member** **1938 – 2018**

Terry Peachey was a London Wolves member for forty five years and a club official for more than ten, he sadly passed away on Friday the 27th July 2018 at the age of 80, after spending five weeks in hospital.

Terry was our Club Treasurer and then the Travel Secretary from the mid 1970's. He oversaw the allocation of hundreds of match tickets for the 1980 League Cup Final and the 1981 FA Cup Semi Final.

Terry first came to see a Wolves match with me, and although he was a fan of Chelsea, he was soon converted by the Doog and Waggy and the rest of the Wolves team of the time. He soon became a member of London Wolves and avidly followed the Wolves until ill health curtailed his travelling days.



Terry was a self-employed window cleaner in Leatherhead, Surrey but still attended every match. He was a big guy, six feet four inches tall with an appetite to match. I remember after a match, being last from a chip shop, to meet him coming out from a KFC with a 'dessert'?

Also, after a night match in Derby, we ate in an Indian restaurant, after which Terry went straight to a Chinese take-away to get something to eat for the train home. He also liked a drink and more than once slept from Liverpool Victoria to the end of the line and back.



After Committee meetings in Central London, we would pop into the bar on Victoria Station. Terry would follow his pint with a scotch, and once told me he'd spent £40 that day and was still sober.

A large number of people, including a good representation from London Wolves, attended the cremation service, and there was standing room only in the chapel.

Although Terry continued to be a valued member of your committee for many years, quite a few as Minutes Secretary, ill health forced him to step down at the AGM, not having been able to attend meetings for some time.

Terry will never be forgotten and always remembered for being one of the boys.

*Dave Slape*

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## **A Tribute to Bill Slater CBE** **1927 - 2018**

On December 12th 2018 it was announced that former Wolves legend Bill Slater had passed away at the age of 91 following a long battle with Alzheimer's disease and illness. Slater was the last great amateur of English football. Initially operating as an inside forward, and then most frequently as a "they-shall-not-pass centre-half". He played more than 300 games for Wolves during their 1950s golden age, winning three League titles and the FA Cup. He also played 12 times for England, putting in four solid performances in the 1958 World Cup.

In 1951, when he turned out for Blackpool at Wembley alongside Stanley Matthews, Bill Perry and Stan Mortensen, he was the last amateur to play in the FA Cup final, the Tangerines lost 2-0 to Newcastle United. He had better luck nine years later when, by then a part-timer, he became the last man to date to lift the Cup for our beloved Wolves following their 3-0 victory over Blackburn Rovers.



William John Slater was born at Clitheroe, Lancashire, on April 29 1927, attending the grammar school and going on to study Physical Education at Carnegie College in Leeds. In September 1949 he made his debut as an amateur for Blackpool. He did his National Service in Germany, and after the 1951 Cup Final defeat moved to London to be near his future wife.



# WOLVES' NEWS



After finishing college, in December 1951 he signed for Brentford, playing wing-half alongside Ron Greenwood and Jimmy Hill. After a handful of games he moved to the Midlands to take up a post as a lecturer in PE at Birmingham University, and joined Wolves, making his debut in a 6-2 thumping of the recently crowned champions, Manchester United.

By then he had already won the first of 20 caps for the England Amateur side, and that summer he had played for Great Britain at the Helsinki Olympics, scoring an extra-time goal in the 5-3 preliminary-round defeat to Luxembourg.

At home, however, it was the perfect time to be joining Wolves, who were a major force. They won the League Championship in 1954, 1958 and 1959, as well as the Cup the next year, but they are equally remembered for their epic floodlit fixtures with top European sides.

His full England career began in 1954, though his opportunities were restricted by the emergence of the legendary Duncan Edwards. But by the time of the 1958 World Cup, Edwards had died in the Munich air disaster, and Slater played four games in Sweden in midfield.

Wolves won their second League Championship in a row the next season, lost out on the hat-trick in 1960, but took the FA Cup. Slater was named Footballer of the Year. He left Wolves in 1963, having played 339 games, and without a single booking. He retired after a brief stint back at Brentford.

In retirement, Slater became deputy director of the Crystal Palace sports centre, and was later director of physical education at Liverpool University and Birmingham University. He also coached his gymnast daughter, Barbara, who competed at the 1976 Olympic Games. In 1989 he was elected president of the British Gymnastics Association.

Bill Slater was appointed OBE in 1982, upgraded to CBE in 1998. He was married to Marion, with whom he had four daughters: Barbara became the BBC's first female Director of Sport in 2009.

*Bill Slater, a True Gentleman and Legend  
Born April 29 1927, died December 18 2018*

## Ernie Hunt RIP 1938 – 2018

Another sad loss in 2018 saw the death of Ernie Hunt, a long term friend of WWLSC. Ernie attended many of our special dinners and get together's including the 40th and 50th Anniversary celebrations.

Ernie scored the first Wolves goal I saw at Molineux way back in 1966, and later that year was in the line-up for London Wolves official first match against Plymouth. Forty years later he joined others from that team at our 40th Anniversary Dinner at The Valley, and his great sense of humour certainly helped the party swing, so it is with great sadness we learnt of his passing at the young age of 75. If you haven't read his book, "Joker in the Pack", it's worth a read. Robert Goddard even got a kiss from him when he bought the book.



*On the left Ernie poses with our special guests at the 40th Anniversary Celebration Dinner at the Valley, and on the right is seen having a laugh with our very own Paul Coles.*

Ernie will always remain in the thoughts of everyone at WWLSC.

**Steve Ray**  
Newsletter Editor





## Wolves' Europa League qualifiers explained



Wolves qualified for the Europa League after Manchester City defeated Watford in the FA Cup final. That meant Nuno Espirito Santo's team entered the Europa League at the second qualifying stage. They'll need to get past three two-legged ties if they're to reach the 48-team group stage, which runs from September to December.

Europa League games all take place on Thursday nights and Wolves' games will be broadcast live on BT Sport, which has the UK rights to the competition. Below is an explanation of how the qualifiers work and who Wolves potential opponents might be.



Wolves will face either Crusaders from Northern Ireland or B36 Torshavn the Faroe Islands in their first European tie in 39 years. The two minnows will play each other in the first qualifying round on July 11 and 18, which means Wolves won't know their opponents until a week before their second qualifying round tie.

Wolves will host the winners at home in the first leg on July 25, with the away leg taking place a week later on August 1. Crusaders finished fourth in the NIFL Premiership League season, while B36 Torshavn were third in the Faroe Islands Premier League in 2018.

### Qualifiers Explained

All the qualifying rounds before the group stage see teams split into seeded and unseeded teams, based on the 2019 UEFA club coefficients. They are two-legged ties played home and away.

After a small preliminary round the Europa League qualifiers start in late July with the first qualifying round, which Wolves won't take part in.

Some 94 teams, mostly including minnows from far-flung European destinations such as Macedonia, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Iceland and Finland, as well as sides from Ireland and Northern Ireland, will take part. A few more established teams such as Rangers and Malmo will also compete in the first round, which takes place on July 11 and 18.

The second qualifying round is where Wolves enter the competition and takes place on July 25 (five days after Wolves play their final game in the Asia Trophy in China) and August 1. All the winners from the first round join a host of new teams and the competition is split into two separate sections:

- "Champions Path" (for all the league champions and a host of clubs who lose in Champions League qualifiers)
- "League Path" (for cup winners and league non-champions, such as Wolves).

The draw of the 94 teams took place on June 19, before round one, meaning Wolves won't know their opponents until that first round has been completed just a week before (July 18).

As well as Wolves, teams joining the draw at this stage include this year's semi-finalists Eintracht Frankfurt (who finished seventh in the Bundesliga), Spanish side Espanyol (seventh in La Liga), Sparta Prague and Dutch side AZ. As Wolves will likely be seeded they should avoid these well-established sides.

If Wolves triumph over two legs they will move to the third qualifying round. There will be 72 teams and the draw takes place on July 22, before the second round takes place. The third round ties are on August 8 (on the eve of the Premier League season which starts on August 10) and August 15. Teams joining the "League Path" at this stage will include Feyenoord, Braga and AEK Athens but, again, Wolves will likely be seeded.

Finally, there is a play-off round, which is for 26 League Path winners from the third round (this is Wolves' part of the draw) and a further 16 in the Champions Path.

The seeded draw is on August 5 and the ties take place on August 22 and 29.

Should Wolves progress through all three rounds they will join the Europa League group stage, which runs from September 19 to December 12 (draw on August 30). This is 12 groups of four teams, with sides playing each other home and away in a round robin format. Again, it's drawn based on seeding pots.

This is where some of Europe's big boys join the competitions. Manchester United, Arsenal, Sevilla, Wolfsburg, Lazio, Sporting Lisbon, Rennes and Borussia Mönchengladbach are confirmed to take part. A number of Champions League qualifier losers also go into the Europa League group stage.

Then after that, the top two teams in each group go through to the last-32 knockout stage. The Europa League final takes place in Gdansk, Poland on May 27, 2020.

### Key dates

Third qualifying round draw – July 22

Second qualifying round – July 25/August 1

Play-off round draw – August 5

Third qualifying round – August 8/August 15

Play-off round – August 22/August 29

Group stage draw – August 30

Group stage – September 19 – December 12

# CHARITY NEWS



## Breast Cancer Now fundraising



Please join us in congratulating Jason Guy. You will remember Lucy attended our Christmas lunch after her cancer diagnosis. Jason has just broken through the **£200,000** mark in **Legacy4Lucy** fundraising.

One of Jason's next events is another super evening at the Mount Hotel. Another Breast Cancer Now Fundraising Dinner with Carl Ikeme 10th October at the Mount Hotel. Roy is considering, based on fixtures, whether we can book a table.

Tweet/message Jason at @wolvespremier if you wish to book individually. Note that there is a no-food option.



## The Billy Wright Story



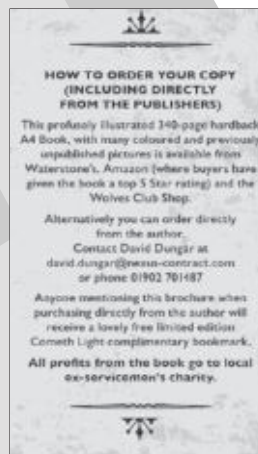
Vicky Wright, Billy's daughter, is planning a special show on Billy's life in which she will tell his story. In order to fund the production she is selling some special Billy memorabilia, and seeking donations at:

<https://www.kickstarter.com/profile/thebillywrightstory/created>

We believe the evening will not be serving food, but there will be a pay-bar.

## Cometh Light

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



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

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





## Minutes of Wolverhampton Wanderers London Supporters Club AGM 2018

Meeting held at the Paternoster, St Pauls, London on Saturday 21st July 2018

### 1. Apologies for absence:

Apologies for absence were received from R Eagles, C Randell, D Braecher & A Allsop.

### 2. Chairman's address:

Stefan was standing in for Stuart who had an operation a week or so ago but was now on the mend at St Thomas'.

### 3. Alan Perrin

Alan Perrin WW Supporter's club Co-Ordinator gave a brief talk to the members about the clubs plans for the future.

### 4. Matters arising from 2017 AGM:

No matters arising.

### 5. Secretary's report:

Dave Slape reported that the membership stood at 256 at the end of last season (17/18). Subs paid were £3,281 and the Golden Gate up to the same date had brought in £497. Other income included the train completion (£164.00), Programme sales (£9.84) Badge sales (£22.00) and Credit Card Wallet sales (£18.00). The secretary's expenses were £849.58.

Dave Slape said he would like to thank Peter Woodfield, Rob Goddard, Peter Bartlett, Steve Ray, Peter Abbott and Roy Slape for their help over the last year.

Dave reported that the Player of the Year for 2017/18 was Conor Coady with 30 Votes, with other votes going to Ruben Neves (23) Diogo Jota (5) Matt Docherty (3) and Willy Boly (2).

Geoff Castro asked if membership was increasing and Dave Slape replied that yes it was.

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

### 6. Treasurer's Report:

In Carol's absence Peter Woodfield gave the report. A copy of the financial Statement was also handed to members attending the meeting. There is a small balance owed for tickets (£60). At the end of the season there is a slight profit of £1,082.87.

*Acceptance of the Statement was proposed by Peter Abbott and seconded by Dave Gilson.*

### 7. Travel Secretary's report:

Peter reported that we ran trips to all 27 home games and 14 away games. He thanked Morris Jacobs who provided transport to a number of midweek games. The highest attended trips were:

Home – Sunderland (37) and Sheffield Wednesday (37)

Away – Ipswich (34) and Bolton (21)

Unsurprisingly there was an increase in the average number travelling to both home and away games.

Fare prices varied throughout the year because we have to compete with other travellers in order to get the cheapest fares. The fare for home games varied between £16-£25. Train companies demand immediate payment once the booking is confirmed. Bookings with all train companies can be made up to 3 months in advance, but this is not always possible with matches being re-scheduled.

There was a deficit from trips of £534.95 as the Club part subsidised some of the more expensive long away trips. The Club also suffered a loss on the cancelled Reading home trip. The outstanding money from 2016/17 has now been collected with one person owing money from 2017/18.

We have renewed 6 club season tickets under the "Early Bird" scheme for the 2017/18 season at a cost of £2,702. A loss of £300.50 was made from the sale of match day tickets. Peter passed on his thanks to members who loaned their season tickets to the Club when unable to attend home matches. Members have also purchased 13 away season tickets.

Wolves have increased ticket prices for next season. Adult prices for Category A matches range from £25 - £40, and Category B from £22 - £35. A loyalty points system will be used. The ticket Office have suggested that it is advisable for Non-season ticket holders to join My Wolves Membership. As well as priority they will also receive Wolves cash on all their purchases (retail or ticketing). It is £25 to join.



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

## **8. Social Secretary's report:**

Dave on behalf of Roy reported that the Christmas event had been "a bit of a squeeze" but money had been raised for Mel Eves' charity. Colin Brazier had attended. Two smaller events were held at the Blue Brick. A table is reserved at the Blue Brick for every home game with table service so no need to queue for drinks.

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

## **9. Newsletter Editor's report:**

It was decided to have a smaller sized magazine. Steve Ray reported that 200 copies of the magazine were printed in each run and asked members for articles or suggestions. The next newsletter should be with Dave Slape for the start of the season. Steve thanked Stuart Earl and Stefan Leonard for their assistance with Match reports and Peter Bartlett for sending photos.

## **10. Website Editor's report:**

Peter Bartlett reported that a Betting Company sponsors us £330 for a profile on the website which covers the costs. Peter is currently considering a re-design of the site. Peter said that we currently have approximately 3,500 followers on twitter. The latest travel news now goes on the London Wolves Facebook page, normally on the day that we have notice of it. Peter also said that the Express and Star news feed is now working again.

## **11. Election of Officers:**

After all the committed confirmed their willingness to continue to stand, Derek Archer proposed that the committee be re-elected en-bloc. Seconded by Dave Gilson. Proposal carried unanimously

## **12. Membership Fees:**

A proposal was put forward that the membership fee remains the same. Proposed by Dave Gilson seconded by Geoff Castro. Carried unanimously.

## **13. Any other business:**

### **(i) Wolves Women**

Peter Bartlett raised the issue of sponsorship of Wolves Women. London Wolves have sponsored Anna Price (nee Perks) and the team for the past four years. A query was raised as why this was not showing in the accounts and Peter Woodfield said he and Carol would investigate. It was proposed that we continue sponsorship for another season at a cost of £500. Proposed by Steve Ray and seconded by Simon Iverme. Carried unanimously.

### **(ii) Flag Parade**

Thanks were given to those who took part in the flag parade before the Sheffield Wednesday game. Dave Slape said that someone had seen the flag and joined the club as a result.

### **(iii) Fans Parliament**

70 fans form the Wolves Fan's Parliament and Peter Abbott represents "remote fans".

### **(iv) Safe Standing**

Peter Abbott said that Lawrie Dalrymple wants Wolves to incorporate safe standing into the new South Bank if it is allowed.

### **(v) Club Credit Card**

Stuart has recently moved and with his hospitalisation this has not yet been taken further.

### **(vii) Commentary**

Live commentary of matches will be free on the Wolves website next season.

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





## Social Diary Season 2018-2019



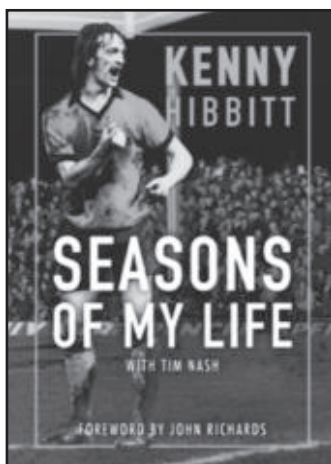
*London Wolves Entertainment Officer Roy Eagles has put together a diary of events since our last end-of-season newsletter.*

*Members are treated to some fabulous social events. If you haven't attended any of these functions then just ask the members who have to hear about what you're missing. We have more and more special guests including former players who attend these events, and booking places at these occasions is like getting tickets to the Europa Cup Final in Baku. Details of all functions are available on the eNews emails sent by Webmaster Peter Bartlett or by contacting any of the committee members.*

Following our magnificent promotion to the Premier League, the success of the team means that quite a few of our fixtures last season were changed for the benefit of the Television Armchair Mob. This makes organising social events and the invitation of special guests (a complicated business in itself), nigh on impossible. However, there have been two big events worthy of a mention.

### Kenny Hibbitt Book Signing

**The Grain Store, Saturday 29th September 2018**



Just over 50 years ago Ronnie Allen made one of his best ever signings when, in November 1968, as manager of Wolves he paid £5000 to Bradford Park Avenue for a certain Kenny Hibbitt.

After 16 years he finally left Wolves in 1984 on a free transfer. In total, he played 544 games for Wolves, scoring 114 goals, only Derek Parkin on 571 has made more appearances.

Kenny has written about his experiences, good and bad, in a well-illustrated book called "**Seasons of My Life**" with Tim Nash.

With Kenny being a long time associate and friend of London Wolves I decided to try and arrange a book signing event for our members. So one Monday evening in early August I travelled to Bridgnorth to attend the launch of Kenny's new book, and to also meet Tim Nash and have a chat with them both about London Wolves promoting the new book.

With most members travelling from London on match days, the perfect scenario for staging the event would be prior to a traditional Saturday lunchtime 3:00pm kick-off. But it was going to be a difficult ask with Sky and BT now dictating when games are played for TV coverage, the added problem of Kenny and Tim working most Saturdays made any window to stage the event even more difficult.

Luckily, after checking his diary and the fixture list, Kenny confirmed that we could go ahead with a book signing event prior to the Southampton game on Saturday 29th September. It was all steam ahead, and with the Grain Store based in central Wolverhampton, and often used by London Wolves members when it was known as the City Bar, it seemed a good idea to hold it there.



On the morning of the Southampton game Tim and Kenny arrived at The Grain Store at 11:30am, just as it was opening. It was a quiet start, but after mid-day the arrival of the Euston train carrying the London based supporters meant numbers inside the Grain Store rose rapidly. Both members and local supporters queued for their copy of the book, happily chatting with Kenny and Tim, having pictures taken, and getting their copy of the book signed.

# SOCIAL NEWS



There was a friendly atmosphere throughout the whole event and it was well supported by our members and all the locals who turned up. A planned question and answers session failed to materialise due to a DJ playing at the venue, but apart from that both Kenny and Tim were over the moon with the turn out, and the number of books sold.

Proceedings started to wrap up at 2:00pm as people finished their drinks off and started to get ready to make the ten minute walk down to the Golden Palace for the game against Southampton.

The whole event was a great success, so I would like to thank all the London Wolves members who attended for their continued and loyal support. I would also like to say a big "Thank You" to The Grain Store (<https://www.facebook.com/Grainstorewolverhampton>) for hosting this event

## **London Wolves 10th Annual Christmas Lunch The Grain Store, Saturday 15th December 2018**

Following the successful Kenny Hibbitt book signing event at the end of September the social calendar was fairly empty, with the next big event on the agenda our 10th Annual Christmas Lunch.

Over the previous years the planning of our Christmas Lunch has been a bit of an ordeal, this season the last Saturday 3:00pm game at home before Christmas was against Bournemouth, so the date of 15th December was decided for me.

By popular demand, I decided to change venue this year and return to the City Bar or, as many of you who supported the Kenny Hibbitt signing know, is now known as The Grain Store. This popular bar is just around the corner from Queen's Square and just a short walk to the Golden Palace. Demand always outnumbers supply, so it was tickets available at a bargain £15 each on a first come first serve basis, with a maximum of 40 places available.



This year we changed the format, most of our previous Christmas Lunches have been a traditional sit down affair with turkey and all the trimmings. This year I arranged exclusive access to the upper floors and bar, with a special hot and cold buffet, to be finished off with a dessert for those with any space left to put it.

Before the event started London Wolves members travelling from Euston started the day with a meeting on the train with Sky's Johnny Phillips, also a Wolves fan.

The lunch kicked off at 12:00 sharp with our guests including former players from the 80's Dean Edwards, Jon Purdie and Micky Holmes, and also Jason Guy, who amongst many activities sponsors Wolves Allstars shirts as well as helping the FPA. Jason has raised an unbelievable £200,000 for the Breakthrough Breast Cancer charity in memory of his wife Lucy ([legacy4lucy.co.uk](http://legacy4lucy.co.uk)), so what better cause do donate all the proceedings raised from our lunch.

Doors opened at midday with members and guests arriving to their complimentary glass of bubbly or juice, ready for a 12:30pm start. Once old stalwarts Peter Woodfield and Dave Slape arrived following their pre-match detour to the ground, the party began. I kicked off with a small speech to welcome members, and of course our special guests.

Carol took charge of the raffle which she ran like clockwork, I would like to thank Jason and World Wide Wolves for their generous raffle prizes. All in





# SOCIAL NEWS



all £170 was raised with Jason topping the total up to £180, so a massive thank you to all who participated.



Another friend of London Wolves Dave Dungar also gave a speech on the release of his new book 'Cometh Light'. The intention, with this being the centenary of the end of the Great War, is to give all the profits to the local Ex-Servicemen's Association. Another great cause, and there are further details of how to get your own personal copy in this newsletter.

Following a couple hours of chatting and merriment it was time to swill down the last mouthfuls of alcohol ready for the game ahead. So those with a match ticket made their way down to the ground for the game against

Bournemouth. The Cherries were put on the cake as Nuno's Boys ran out 2-0 winners to take us up to 7th in the Premier League table.

Many thanks to our distinguished guests, Jason, Dean, Jon and Micky, all friends of London Wolves for attending the pre-match party. It is always a pleasure to welcome them into our company and I hope they will continue to attend our functions in the future. Lastly I would like to say a big "Thank You" to Carol Randall for sorting out the raffle, plus Peter Woodfield, Peter Bartlett and Dave Slape for all their help.



As Entertainments Officer it would have been impossible to organise any of these functions without the help of all my fellow Committee members, and the support they have given me throughout the season is always invaluable, my gratitude goes to everybody concerned.

Finally without the constant support of all our members and our special friends there would be no functions, and I wouldn't have the privilege of working with such special supporters. All the best to the boys and ladies at Wolves for the new season, and here's to a successful Europa Cup run for Nuno and the team, the first time in nearly 40 years our beloved Wolves have been in Europe.

**Thanks Again and Up the Wolves!**

*Roy Eagles*  
*Entertainments Officer*

# Wolves Women



## Wolves Women

WWLSC continue to sponsor the Wolves Women team. At the end of a fine campaign the ladies finished the 2018-2019 season as runners-up in the Division 1 Midlands League. Their record boasted 17 wins from their 20 league games, with a massive goal difference of 84.



Let's wish the ladies the best of luck for the coming season, and hope they can go one step better by finishing as the division winners this time around.

Pictured are Joe and Mark Feehan presenting a sponsorship cheque of £500 to Courtney, Steve, Anna and Chloe before the Wolves v Arsenal game on Wednesday 24th April 2019

### Wolves Women - End of Season Review

#### August

Two league games, two league wins is all you can ask for to open the campaign. Lowri Walker netted four times as Steel City Wanderers were put to the sword to the tune of 11-0, whilst in the home opening Solihull Moors were defeated 7-0 with five different players finding the net.

#### September



The excellent start continued throughout September. A tight League Cup Determining Round tie was settled by Jade Cross's first of the season before three further league wins had Wolves Women sat at the top of the table. Three early goals at Birmingham & West Midlands Ladies secured the points, before the home clash with Sporting Khalsa was postponed due to floodlight issues at Queen Street, Bilston. A 4-1 win at Burton Albion was followed by a goal fest at the Aspray Arena, Willenhall where the net was found a dozen times, ten times for Wolves including a four-timer for Jade Cross. Six WFA Cup goals dispatched Kingfisher Ladies from the tournament

before the month concluded with a 3-0 win over newly-promoted Nettleham.

#### October

Wolves eased to a 3-0 win over The New Saints under the floodlights at the CKW Stadium, Castlecroft, before a second win at Birmingham & West Midlands Ladies eased them into the next round of the WFA Cup. The month's other game saw Wolves' first defeat of the season when Sunderland Ladies from the Northern Division knocked Wolves out of the League Cup, with Wolves conceding two own goals on the day.



#### November

A first league defeat of the season came at Bedworth United, where Farnsworth bagged the winner for the Greenbacks as the game went into added time. Wolves then progressed in the national cup competition as a Kidderminster Harriers side containing a number of ex-Wanderers players were defeated 6-1. Wolves were dumped out of the Birmingham County Cup at the first attempt when suffering defeat to a strong Coventry United side, 1-5 being the final score line.

#### December

Wolves' poor run continued with defeat in the WFA Cup, once again to higher division opposition. Blackburn Rovers netted three times late in the first-half before a further strike completed a 0-4 defeat. The final game of the year saw Wolves swiftly return to form with a 7-0 crushing of Long Eaton United as they started the New Year in second place in the table.





# Wolves Women



## January

A brace from Jade Cross and another from Tammy George eased Wolves to a comfortable 3-0 win over Solihull Moors before the league campaign's biggest game to date. Wolves visited unbeaten top of the table West Bromwich Albion, and an excellent game ensued with both teams giving their all. Goals either side of half-time from Davies and Murray were enough for Albion to capture all three points. However, Wolves can feel very aggrieved not to have grabbed at least a draw.

## February

A surprising home defeat to Birmingham & West Midlands Ladies put Wolves further behind Albion at the top of the table. However, Wanderers were soon back to winning ways after sending Burton Albion packing after an 8-0 victory, Jess Jennings netting her first brace of the season, and Jade Cross netted four times. Victory over local rivals Sporting Khalsa concluded the month, Price, Morphet and Anslow netting in the first-half as a 3-1 win was secured.



## March

Three games in March were all won, the first in midweek at The New Saints as Jade Cross bagged her third hat-trick of the campaign in a 4-0 win. Cross also netted the only goal of the game as three points were secured at Long Eaton United, before bottom of the table Steel City Wanderers were comfortably beaten, Tammy George netting her first hat-trick at this level in an 11-0 win.

## April

With their league title hopes all but extinguished, Wolves' two fixtures either side of Easter saw them hit the goal trail. A 9-1 win at home to Bedworth United was followed by a 6-0 victory at Nettleham, where Jade Cross again netted a hat-trick, taking her league goals total to 27.

## May

The last game of the season saw Wolves Women finish their season in style with a fantastic 3-1 win over league champions West Bromwich Albion Women in the Black Country derby. A brace from Jade Cross and a Lowri Walker goal ended West Brom's perfect league record, with Wolves finishing as runners-up.



Division 1 Midlands Table 2018-2019									
Pos	Team	Pld	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1	West Bromwich Albion Women	20	19	0	1	82	57	43	99
2	Wolves Women	20	17	0	3	84	51	33	88
3	Birmingham & West Midlands	20	13	2	5	42	41	30	83
4	Sporting Khalsa Women	20	11	3	6	9	36	22	76
5	Bedworth United FC Ladies	20	11	1	8	0	34	22	75
6	Long Eaton United Ladies	20	9	2	9	7	29	11	73
7	Nettleham FC Ladies	20	9	1	10	-5	28	11	72
8	The New Saints LFC	20	8	1	11	8	25	10	69
9	Burton Albion Ladies	20	4	3	13	-41	15	7	69
10	Solihull Moors FC Ladies	20	2	0	18	-70	6	9	67
11	Steel City Wanderers FC	20	0	1	19	-116	1	-28	37

## Final Table

WWLSC would like to express our thanks to Steve Cullis and WWWFC programme editor Mike Capewell.

Photos kindly shown courtesy of Simon Faulkner Photography @simonphoto

## Wolves U18 Girls

Congratulations to the Wolves U18 Girls team who won the U18 National Schools Trophy. After the victory Wolves Women Captain and coach Anna Price tweeted: Anna Price @AnnaPrice-100

What a day! Girls you have known since 11 lifting the national schools trophy, it does not get any better!! Special mention to all the U18 girl footballers, not just those who played today! All have played an integral part!

#champeeones #proud #talent #squad



# MATCH REPORTS



## ***TWO TOFFEE HAMMER BLOWS***

### **WOLVES 2-2 EVERTON**

Saturday 11th August 2018

Wolves are back in the big time and the early signs are looking good, they twice fought back to start the new campaign with a 2-2 draw. However, playing with the big boys showed Wolves that if you give Premier League opponents an inch of space, then you are going to get punished, and Nuno's boys learned a harsh lesson, in that life in the Premiership is very unforgiving when the smallest of errors are made.

Wolves kicked off in front of a massive Molineux crowd of 31,231, the highest since 1981, and the game started at a brisk pace as Wolves continued where they left off at the end of last season in the Championship, with their patient passing game and lightning quick breaks from the back.

All seemed to be hunky-dory until the 17th minute when Wolves got a reality check, that if you lose concentration for a split second in the premiership then you are going to get punished. A free kick from the left wasn't dealt with by Boly, who made a real hash of a headed clearance, and as the ball dropped to the ground Richarlison stabbed home from close range.

Wolves slowly played their way back into the game, and it suddenly swung in their favour five minutes before half-time when Everton were reduced to ten men. Jagielka stretched to win the ball ahead of Jota after a heavy touch, and caught the Portuguese Maestro with his studs as he raced through on goal. It seemed harsh but the referee had no hesitation in showing a straight red card to the Everton defender.



Up stepped that man Neves who carefully placed the ball on the turf about twenty yards out, the Portuguese Wizard took two strides into the ball and stuck it right in the top right-hand corner of the net. The noise went through the sound barrier as Neves celebrated in front of the North Bank.



As the game restarted after the break the rain poured down on Molineux, and the ten men of Everton took a more defensive formation, hoping to catch Wolves on the break, and nearly scored from one of those breaks on the hour mark. Tosun gathered the ball in a bit of space just outside the box and fired a shot towards the far corner, but Patricio was equal to the task.

The action immediately went to the other end and Bennett put Jiménez in behind Keane, who was outpaced by the Mexican, but his effort was too close to Pickford who clawed his shot away. Another mistake by the Wolves defence resulted in Everton regaining the lead. Tosun laid the ball off for Richarlison to run into the box from the left, and Coady failed to get close enough to the Brazilian who bent the ball around the skipper, and into the far corner beyond Patricio.

Wolves looked to be heading for defeat, but with ten minutes left up stepped that man Neves again, he curled in a superb cross from the left, and Jiménez peeled off Keane and placed his header into the back of the net for the equaliser. Wolves pressed for the winner, but that killer touch was missing in the final third and the game ended 2-2.

**Man of the match:** Neves

**Team Rating:** 7/10

**Attendance:** 31,231

**Team:** Patricio, Doherty, Bennett, Coady, Boly, Otto (Vinagre 76), Moutinho (Gibbs-White 85), Neves, Costa (Bonatini 71), Jiménez, Jota

**Unused Subs:** Ruddy, Hause, Saiss, Enobakhare

**Bookings:** None

**League Position:** 10

**Referee:** Craig Poulson

## ***DOH!***

### **LEICESTER 2-0 WOLVES**

Saturday 18th August 2018

Wolves went into this match with vim and vigour, and controlled most of the game,



only to be robbed by two cruel quirks of fate.

A lead of three goals would not have been unfair, as in the first thirty minutes, Moutinho hit the bar after lively work from Jiménez, Doherty had a shot cleared off the line, and then Jiménez had a long range shot clatter the post.

All this early enterprise was undone when Coady got the slightest deflection on a cross, and Doherty placed an unstoppable header into the Wolves net.

Wolves went two behind as Coady could not get out of the way of a long range effort, and Rui Patricio was wrong footed by the deflection.

Adama Traore was introduced for the second half, causing countless problems for the home defence with his speed and ball control.

Vardy was shown a red card following a horrendous challenge on Doherty, which saw the Wolves man limp from the game with twenty five minutes remaining, but the visitors were unable to press home the advantage.

The goal frame was again rattled as Otto unleashed a shot from outside the area which had Schmeichel flapping, and then saved a vicious dipping shot from Neves, which he didn't seem to know much about.

**Man of the match:** Jiménez

**Team Rating:** 8/10

**Attendance:** 32,033

**Team:** Patricio, Doherty (Gibbs-White 69), Bennett, Neves, Jiménez, Costa (Traore 46), Boly, Coady, Jota (Bonatini 46), Otto, Moutinho

**Unused Subs:** Ruddy, Saiss, Vinagre, Hause

**Bookings:** Gibbs-White (74 – foul)

**League Position:** 14

**Referee:** Mike Dean

*Match Report courtesy of Stuart Earl*



# MATCH REPORTS



## HAND' BOLY'IN

### WOLVES 1-1 MAN CITY

Saturday 25th August 2018

Anne Boleyn may have been Queen of England, but Big Willy Boly was King of Molineux as Wolves took last year's Premier League champions Manchester City right to the wire with a performance that suggests that they're not just satisfied with survival, but here to make a strong challenge and finish in the top half of the table.

Nuno's men were rank outsiders to win this game, but they showed no signs of settling for second best and went for the jugular straight from the off. There was no sitting back and hoping to catch City on the break, Wolves were in it to win it.

After a fully committed first 20 minutes Wolves went within a whisker of taking the lead as they attacked with purpose yet again, Jota and Jiménez were two-on-two with two City defenders, and when Jota played the ball across to Jiménez he slotted in at the far post, but the cheers soon faded as the referee disallowed the goal for offside.

City suddenly upped the tempo and rattled the woodwork twice within two minutes. Aguero slid a first-time effort against the foot of the post from 12 yards, before Sterling fired in a shot from 25 yards that looked destined for the top corner, before Patricio somehow got a hand on it and tipped it onto the bar.

The teams went in goal-less at half-time, City had just about shaded it with regards to possession, but Wolves left the field to a standing ovation after a performance of full blooded commitment, desire and a fair amount of skill thrown in as well.

City came out after the break and took the game by the horns as they tried to break Wolves resolve, but a moment of magic from Costa sent the sound levels up a decibel and changed the face of the game. He left Kompany and Laporte for dead as he raced through on goal, he should have scored but tried to round Ederson who blocked his shot at the expense of a corner. Moutinho played it short, it came back to him and he delivered a peach of cross that was bundled over the line by Boly at the far post.

The goal stood even though later replays showed the ball had in fact been directed into the net by the big defenders hand. Wolves were finding more space on the



counter now and Jota was in a great position in the City box, but a heavy touch saw him pushed wide and Neves drove the resulting 20-yarder wide.

With twenty minutes to go City were on level terms. Neves went to tackle Sterling on the edge of the area and the striker theatrically went down, even though Neves didn't appear to touch him. Gundogan sent over the free-kick and Laporte smashed his header home beyond Patricio who had no chance.

There were chances for both Wolves and City as the game reached its climax, and Aguero came closest when his free-kick from 25 yards clipped the top of Patricio's crossbar with two minutes left on the clock, but Wolves hung on for a deserved point to announce their return to the big time.

**Man of the match:** Moutinho

**Team Rating:** 9/10

**Attendance:** 31,322

**Team:** *Patricio, Doherty, Bennett, Coady, Boly, Otto (Vinagre 85), Neves, Moutinho, Costa (Traore 72), Jota, Jiménez*

**Unused Subs:** *Ruddy, Hause, Saiss, Gibbs-White, Bonatini*

**Bookings:** 41 - Coady

**League Position:** 13

**Referee:** Martin Atkinson

## DA DOO BON BON BON DA DOO BON BON

### SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY 0-2 WOLVES

Tuesday 28th August 2018  
(Carabao Cup 2nd Round)

Well it was that time of the season again, where after just a few games managers rest their weary players in a cup competition belittled by nearly every team in the league. The Carabao Cup has become a mechanism where fringe players get a game whilst first team players get a night off.

Here at Hillsborough, Sheffield Wednesday manager Jos Luhukay made eleven

changes to the team picked for Saturday's Championship win over Ipswich, while Nuno made nine changes to the Wolves team that held Man City on Saturday, and so the game commenced with 13,597 supporters watching on in a half-empty stadium.

Even lowly Fleetwood Town managed by the notorious, sorry reformed Joey Barton fielded eleven changes to his previous line-up, after he admitted the League Cup was not a priority. His team was duly spanked 4-0 at Premier side Leicester, but the days of FA fines for fielding weakened teams have long gone.

As far as our game was concerned Wolves cruised into the 3rd Round of the Caribou Cup with a comfortable 2-0 victory. However, with so many players playing their first game of the season the first-half was low on quality with lots of passes going astray, and very little going on with regards to goalmouth action.

Wolves' best chance of the half fell to Gibbs-White, but he failed to capitalise on a great opening on the half-hour mark when he dragged his shot wide of the Wednesday left-hand post after being put through on goal by Bonatini. The young England international then had a shot deflected just over before the interval after exchanging passes with Bonatini.

Wolves looked more determined at the start of the second-half, with record signing Adama Traore causing bedlam on the right flank with his blistering pace, and when he set up Gibbs-White in the 52nd minute the youngster was again wasteful when shooting straight at Wildsmith.



However, Wolves did take the lead just a minute later, and it was Leo Bonatini who scored. After a wait of eight months and 24 days, and 27 appearances, the popular Brazilian finally found his goal scoring boots again. Another burst of scintillating pace from Traore saw him skip past his marker before pulling the ball back from the right-hand byline where Bonatini drilled home from 12 yards out.

# MATCH REPORTS



Wolves were now in full flow, and Gibbs-White went close to scoring a second with a long-range effort which struck the outside of Wildsmith's left-hand post. In a rare attack Wednesday nearly levelled when Fletcher's overhead kick appeared destined for the net, but Ruddy pulled off a superb save to maintain the Wolves lead.

Wolves finally wrapped up the victory with five minutes left on the clock, Costa raced past his man and was hauled down in the box for a penalty. The Portuguese Maestro picked himself off the floor to fire home the spot-kick and make the final score 2-0 to Wolves. Nuno's Boys now play Leicester at home in the third-round.

**Man of the match:** Traore

**Team Rating:** 6/10

**Attendance:** 13,597 (2,495 Wolves fans)

**Team:** Ruddy, Doherty, Dendoncker, Coady, Hause, Vinagre, Saiss, Watt (Goncalves 62'), Traore, Gibbs-White (Costa 71'), Bonatini (Asley-Seal 80')

**Unused Subs:** Norris, Bennett, Otto, Giles

**Bookings:** None

**Referee:** Robert Jones

## A VICTORY OF OLYMPIC PROPORTIONS

### WEST HAM 0-1 WOLVES

Saturday 1st September 2018



A late strike from Adama Traore secured a well-deserved victory at The New London Stadium, as Wolves continued their impressive start to life in the top division, and secured their first victory of the season.

Raúl Jiménez terrorised the home defence, going close on several occasions, and Ryan Bennett stood firm at the centre of the defence, thwarting The Hammers whenever they ventured into Wolves territory, but these were few and far between, with Rui Patrício only occasionally called into action.

The introduction of Traore, with his speed and skill totally mesmerised West Ham, and it was he who broke away in the third minute of added time to smash the ball into the net, with the home defence trailing in his wake.

**Man of the match:** Bennett

**Team Rating:** 8/10

**Attendance:** 56,947

**Team:** Patrício, Doherty, Bennett, Coady, Boly, Otto, Neves, Moutinho, Costa (Bonatini 72'), Jota (Traore 61'), Jiménez (Vinagre 87')

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

**Bookings:** Bennett (79)

**League Position:** 9

**Referee:** Chris Kavanagh

*Match Report courtesy of Stuart Earl*

## MEXICAN HAT DANCE

### WOLVES 1-0 BURNLEY

Sunday 16th September 2018

A fantastic performance from Wolves saw the biggest 1-0 massacre of all time, with thirty attempts on goal, as they forced an international performance from former England custodian Joe Hart, who somehow, threw himself in the way of everything they could muster in attack.

Matt Doherty was the best of an outstanding bunch, with marauding runs down the right, and could and should have scored, in the outstanding move of the match, bursting out of defence then running the length of the field, only to mishit his shot with only Hart to beat.



The winner came on the hour mark, Doherty played a silky one-two with Costa, raced into the box and picked out Jiménez who side-footed into bottom corner to finally beat Hart.

Once again, Ryan Bennett looked a class defender, dealing admirably with the few attempts that Burnley could muster.

**Man of the match:** Doherty

**Team Rating:** 8/10

**Attendance:** 30,406

**Team:** Patrício, Doherty, Bennett, Coady, Boly, Otto, Moutinho, Neves, Costa (Traore 66'), Jota (Gibbs-White 87'), Jiménez (Bonatini 76')

**Unused Subs:** Ruddy, Vinagre, Hause, Saiss

**Bookings:** Jota (72), Neves (86 – foul)

**League Position:** 9

**Referee:** Andre Marriner

*Match Report courtesy of Stuart Earl*

## GOLD TRAFFORD

### MANCHESTER UNITED 1-1 WOLVES

Saturday 22nd September 2018

Wolves went to the Theatre of Dreams, or Old Trafford as it is more commonly known, and came away with a well-deserved 1-1 draw. We're just over six weeks and league games into the new season and Wolves have already taken a point off the two Manchester clubs, and lost just once in their first away game at Leicester.



Wolves were the much better of the two sides in the opening stages, and were only denied the lead by two superb saves from de Gea between the United posts. Firstly he denied Jiménez, who was leading the line by example with a low save with his feet, moments later he then produced a stunning reflex save to deny Boly who sent a bullet of a header goal bound from a corner.

It was all Wolves, but in the 18th minute United opened the scoring against the run of play, and it showed Nuno's Boys you can't lose concentration for a second against one of the Premier's big boys. Coady headed a cross clear but only as far as Pogba, he slipped a short pass to Fred who fired a shot past the diving Patrício into the bottom corner of the net.

The goal put United on the front foot, and right on the stroke of half-time Wolves



# MATCH REPORTS



were indebted to Patricio for keeping the score at 1-0. Fred curled a free kick from just outside the area over the top of the Wolves wall, and the Portuguese veteran made a stunning save to his top right.

Wolves started the second-half in the same manner as they started the first, and in the 53rd minute they finally got their just rewards for their fearless performance. Costa's low cross was controlled by Jiménez who could have had a shot on the turn, but he laid it off perfectly for Moutinho who smashed the ball into the top corner from the edge of the box, it was no more than Wolves deserved.

With their tails up and the away supporters making all the noise Wolves went for the win, and Costa fired high from distance before de Gea easily saved a Neves long range daisy cutter. United also had their chances, Patricio tipped a Lingard piledriver over the bar, and then saved a Fellaini header at his near post. Wolves had a chance to win it in stoppage time, but de Gea saved substitute Traore's shot from just inside the area with his feet.

**Man of the match:** Moutinho

**Team Rating:** 10/10

**Attendance:** 74,489

**Team:** *Patricio, Doherty, Bennett, Coady, Boly, Otto, Moutinho (Saiss 80), Neves, Costa (Traore 74), Jota (Gibbs-White 86), Jiménez*

**Unused Subs:** *Ruddy, Vinagre, Hause, Bonatini*

**Bookings:** Neves (61)

**League Position:** 10

**Referee:** Kevin Friend

## NO PEN PALS IN THE CITY

### **WOLVES 0-0 LEICESTER CITY**

*Leicester City Win 3-1 on Penalties*

Tuesday 25th September 2018

(Carabao Cup 3rd Round)

Wolves were dumped out of the Carabao Cup on penalties as Leicester went through at Molineux, it's the second year in a row that they've gone out of the competition after a penalty shootout following a goalless draw.

Wolves looked subdued in the opening stages, and Leicester dominated possession as Nuno's Boys laboured and carelessly gave the ball away. However, for all their possession they didn't test Ruddy in that opening period.

Wolves finally started to find their rhythm, and on the half-hour mark Cavaleiro



forced Ward to tip an effort over the bar from a tight angle. Leicester then came close with Silva's low shot and a header over the bar, and with half-time approaching City created the best chance of the half when Ghezzal turned Albrighton's cross towards goal, and Coady cleared the ball off the line from under his own bar.

Wolves improved after the break, but still lacked that extra spark needed to make inroads into a solid Leicester defence, and you knew it just wasn't going to be our night when Cavaleiro missed a sitter on the hour mark. The Portuguese striker was played clean through by Bonatini, he shrugged off Pereira's desperate challenge, but planted the ball beyond the far post from eight yards.

A late run from Albrighton forced a smart save from Ruddy at the other end in the 67th minute when Ghezzal's cross evaded everyone, before more questionable Leicester defending from another break allowed Morgan Gibbs-White a free shot, but it was straight at Ward. Both teams went for the win as the game closed in, but after nine minutes of extra-time the game went to the inevitable penalty shoot-out.

Leicester goalkeeper Danny Ward stepped it up a gear for the ensuing spot-kicks, he kept out two poor penalties from Saiss and Jota, before saving his best for a full-length dive to keep out Traore. City were grateful to Ward after Fuchs struck the bar and Choudhury's penalty was saved, but they went through when Iheanacho waited for Ruddy to move before firing into the other corner.

**Man of the match:** Otto

**Team Rating:** 5/10

**Attendance:** 21,562

**Team:** *Ruddy, Otto (Bennett 75), Dendoncker, Coady, Hause, Vlnagre, Saiss, Gibbs-White, Cavaleiro (Jota 57), Traore, Bonatini (Ashley-Seal 83)*

**Unused Subs:** *Norris, Giles, Watt, Goncalves*

**Bookings:** Jota (67)

**Referee:** Paul Tierney

## NUNO SENDS FOR THE CAV'ALRY

### **WOLVES 2-0 SOUTHAMPTON**

Saturday 29th September 2018



Wolves continued their climb up the Premier League with three more points against a dogged Southampton side, with victory lifting them up to eighth, a point outside the top six. Nuno's Boys were far from their best, but goals from Ivan Cavaleiro and Jonny late in the game were enough to see off their opponents.

Wolves were quickest to settle on a sunny Molineux afternoon, they dominated play with the ball predominantly in the Southampton half. However, Mark Hughes and his Southampton team had come with a game plan, and that was to kick, foul, and by any other means at their disposal to stop anything in a gold shirt playing football.

Referee Stuart Attwell booked five and sent-off Neves and Doherty last time he was in charge of a Wolves game at Middlesbrough. In this game he deemed the constant clogging by the Saints players unworthy of even a yellow card, and so on it went on with Wolves players constantly on the end of a spoiling game.

Despite the tactics Wolves still played some fluent football, although a Doherty header and a Jiménez shot on the turn were all that Wolves had to show for their efforts in that opening salvo. The best chance fell to Jonny, whose right-footed effort from 15 yards was pushed away by McCarthy, after good play from Costa to free Doherty on the right.

The game became a drab affair as Southampton continued the spoiling tactics, it was typical Mark Hughes style as his team looked to catch Wolves on the break. And it nearly worked on the half-hour mark, when they were denied the opener following a good stop from Patricio who denied Elyounoussi when the winger was put through on goal.

# MATCH REPORTS



The game continued in a scrappy manner after the break with neither team managing to take any kind of grip on the game. With 17 minutes left to play Wolves hadn't managed a single attempt on goal in the second half. It was insipid and pretty dull to watch, and none of the champagne football seen so far this season.

Nuno decided a change of personnel was required to try and swing the game in Wolves favour, so Cavaleiro replaced Jota in the 78th minute. A minute later that tactical masterstroke came up trumps, Traore got to the byline, Hoedt slipped as he blocked the cross and Jiménez teed up Cavaleiro to slam the ball high into the net. A goal just moments after coming on for his Premier League debut.

The goal was the signal for Wolves to go for the jugular, and just minutes later it was nearly 2-0. The ball was crossed in after a corner was played short, Jiménez flicked it goalwards and McCarthy leapt to his right to make a stunning save, tipping the ball over the bar at full stretch when it seemed to be past him.

With three minutes left Wolves wrapped up the three points with a vital second goal. Doherty went past Armstrong as if he wasn't there and pulled the ball back from the byline for Jonny, his first touch wasn't great but the wing-back showed determination to get to the ball first and fire it past McCarthy from close range.

**Man of the match:** Doherty

**Team Rating:** 7/10

**Attendance:** 31,147

**Team:** *Patricio, Doherty, Bennett, Coady, Boly, Otto, Moutinho, Neves, Costa (Traore 53), Jota (Cavaleiro 77), Jiménez (Bonatini 90)*

**Unused Subs:** *Ruddy, Saiss, Vinagre, Hause*

**Bookings:** Jota (51), Otto (57), Saiss (74)

**League Position:** 9

**Referee:** Stuart Attwell

## EAGLE EYED DOC

### CRYSTAL PALACE 0-1 WOLVES

Saturday 6th October 2018

That's four wins, three draws and just the one loss in their first eight games back in the Premier League for Wolves, and Nuno's Boys moved up to the dizzy heights of 7th place following a 1-0 victory over Crystal Palace. Matt Doherty scored the winner in the 54th minute, firing past

Wayne Hennessey at the near post after a one-two with Raúl Jiménez.

Palace made the brighter start as the rain bucketed down at Selhurst Park, but for all their possession there was still a distinct lack of goalmouth action as Wolves comfortably defended their area. The only close call came when Zaha went past Boly with a lucky deflection off the defender's leg, and as he stuck the ball across the face of goal Ayew was a foot away from turning the ball in.

Wolves showed how dangerous they can be as they broke with phenomenal speed in the 23rd minute, the ball was swept upfield as Jota fed Jiménez, the striker cut inside on the edge of the box but dragged his shot wide. Wolves suddenly enjoyed a small spell of possession in the Palace half and a few minutes later Jiménez was again played through in the box by Jota, and the striker hit a powerful shot which Hennessey saved superbly with one hand at close range.

There wasn't much in it as the half-time whistle blew, Palace had the better of the opening 20 minutes but Wolves grew into the game as it went on. Wolves came out with renewed purpose and vigour at the start of the second half and began to look themselves again, and the game opened up with Neves firing a 20-yard half volley over the bar in the opening minutes.



Wolves broke the deadlock in the 56th minute, and it was some great play and perseverance from Matt Doherty. The in-form wing back picked up the ball on the right-hand side, he cut inside Van Aanholt and played a one-two with Jiménez before beating Hennessey with a low shot at the near post.

Palace suddenly came looking for an equaliser and with twenty minutes remaining started to lay siege on the Wolves goal. Ayew headed a corner over from close range, and then Patricio pulled off a superb double save to stop Mayer's volley

from 15 yards, and then block Schlupp's close-range follow up.

Palace continued to press and there was some more last-ditch defending from Wolves as Townsend's free-kick dropped in the box for Schlupp, and his shot from 8 yards out was blocked by Boly. It seemed Wolves had weathered the storm, and should have put the game to bed in the 81st minute. Moutinho's cross took a deflection and fell to Cavaleiro, he thundered a shot goalwards from six yards, but it crashed back off the crossbar.

The final minutes saw Wolves revert to 'backs to the wall' mode, and there was some defending of the last ditch variety with bodies thrown on the line and the ball hoofed clear. But Patricio didn't have another save to make and Wolves saw it through.

**Man of the match:** Boly

**Team Rating:** 8/10

**Attendance:** 25,715

**Team:** *Patricio, Doherty, Bennett, Coady, Boly, Jonny, Neves, Moutinho, Costa (Saiss 84), Jota (Traore 87), Jiménez (Cavaleiro 76)*

**Unused Subs:** *Ruddy, Gibbs-White, Hause, Bonatini*

**Bookings:** Coady (78), Otto (88), Cavaleiro (90+1), Moutinho (90+4)

**League Position:** 7

**Referee:** Michael Oliver

## WHO KICKED THE HORNETS NEST

### WOLVES 0-2 WATFORD

Saturday 21st October 2018



Wolves produced, probably, their worst performance for many months as Watford scored two goals in under a minute, in a first half in which the home side rarely produced anything like their recent form.

The off-day was shared around the team, with Neves for the first time looking nothing like the player we have delighted in seeing.



# MATCH REPORTS



Watford went ahead after 20 minutes, when, with Rui Patrício unsighted, Capoue sent in a screamer from 25 yards which went in through Captain Coady's legs.

Less than a minute later, straight from the restart, the visitors went further ahead when Pereya wriggled free on the left and flicked the ball into the far corner of the net with the outside of his boot.

Three second half substitutions did little to liven up Wolves, and Watford came closest to scoring, but Neves came up with a splendidly timed tackle to thwart Doucoure in the area, when the Watford man looked odds on to score.

**Man of the match:** Costa

**Team Rating:** 4/10

**Attendance:** 31,144

**Team:** Patrício, Doherty (Traore 72), Bennett, Coady, Boly, Jonny (Vinagre 46), Moutinho, Neves, Costa, Jota, Jiménez (Cavaleiro 60)

**Unused Subs:** Ruddy, Saiss, Hause, Bonatini

**Bookings:** Neves (35), Jota (73), Bennett (90+1)

**League Position:** 8

**Referee:** Lee Mason

*Match Report courtesy of Stuart Earl*

## SHOT TO PIECES

### **BRIGHTON 1-0 WOLVES**

Saturday 27th October 2018

The Amex Stadium has some forgettable memories as far as Wolves fans are concerned, it was there that they were relegated in the last game of the season in 2013. That day they set the unenviable record of being the first team to twice suffer back-to-back relegations from the top flight. Those were the bad old days, now we're back in the top flight again.

However the outcome was the same as that awful day as Wolves somehow managed to lose even though they had 60% of the possession and 25 shots at goal to Brighton's 7. Due to a combination of poor finishing, some bad luck and a couple of inspired saves from Brighton keeper Mat Ryan, they instead drew a blank for a second week in a row.

Wolves bossed the proceedings from the off, the passing was slick and build up play back to the levels witnessed earlier in the season, and not the sub-standard effort



showed against Watford in the previous game. The defence easily dealt with the Brighton attack, it was pretty much one way with Wolves dominating possession.

Doherty was the driving force on the right flank, and was instrumental in the three key moments of the first-half. Firstly, he latched on to Coady's pass and flashed the ball across the face of goal, with nobody able to get on the end of it. He then picked up Traore's pull back on the edge of the area that he smashed towards goal, and though it stuck Izquierdo's arm in the box referee Taylor waved play on.

Doherty was then involved in Wolves best effort of the half, he and Jiménez exchanged a neat one-two on the edge of the area. But after striding into the box, the wing back placed his shot just inches past the far post.

Even though Wolves had dominated, Brighton broke away and nearly scored against the run of play as half-time approached. A corner from the right found Duffy just a yard out, but he somehow put his free header past the post. For all their dominance Wolves paid the price for the host of missed chances as they fell behind just three minutes after the break. Bruno came charging into the area, and he drove the ball back to the unmarked Murray to convert at the far post.

Doherty was involved yet again when he smacked one from range that keeper Ryan pushed wide, and from the resulting corner Neves' long-range effort was blocked by the keeper as Wolves started to push for an equaliser. With 15 minutes to go it was all Wolves, Neves lined up a free kick from just outside the area, but it clipped the top of the wall and drifted just over.

The closing stages were dominated by Wolves and everyone thought they'd nabbed an injury time equaliser when Bennett's shot headed for the corner, but Ryan pulled off a stunning save to deny Wolves a point at the death.

**Man of the match:** Doherty

**Team Rating:** 7/10

**Attendance:** 30,654

**Team:** Patrício, Doherty, Bennett, Coady, Boly, Otto (Bonatini 85), Moutinho, Neves, Costa, Traore (Cavaleiro 61), Jiménez (Jota 61)

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

**Bookings:** None

**League Position:** 9 (15 points from 10 games)

**Referee:** Anthony Taylor

## KANE STILL ABLE

### **WOLVES 2-3 SPURS**

Saturday 3rd November 2018



Wolves slipped to their third league defeat in a row as they were beaten at home in front of the Sky Sports camera's in a Saturday night 7:45pm kick-off. It's a joke of a time to play a game and with no obvious consideration given to those fans with long distances to travel. Any WWLSC member attending had to drive or stay in a hotel, with the last train back to London leaving before the final whistle.

It all looked good for Wolves in the early stages as they attacked Spurs, and Jiménez had the first real effort in the 10th minute when he flashed a shot over the bar from just outside the area. Wolves driven on by the noisy home fans continued to chase and harry the Spurs players when in possession, but Spurs showed how dangerous they could be on the break when Patrício kept out Kane's effort from the edge of the box.

After soaking up the pressure Spurs opened Wolves up like a surgeon to take the lead in the 27th minute. It was poor defending from Wolves as Lamela was given oceans of space in-between Boly and Castro Otto, he played a one-two with Son and beat Patrício through his legs with a clinical finish.

# MATCH REPORTS



Wolves were reeling and just three minutes later it was 2-0 to the visitors, and again it was all down to awful defending. Son played the ball out to Trippier on the right, and he floated a cross in to the back post where the 5ft 8ins Lucas was waiting, completely unmarked, to head home.

Just before the break Wolves collectively made up for that error as Jiménez swept home Moutinho's pull-back, but the Portuguese midfielder was wrongly pulled up for offside by the assistant referee, despite being half a yard behind Alderweireld.

Wolves grew their momentum after the break and tested Lloris with strikes from Jiménez and Neves, but Spurs showed their clinical touch again to secure a three-goal lead when Kane fired past Patricio from an angle after the goalkeeper had kept out his initial effort.

The game looked all over, but Wolves refused to lie down and die, and with the fresh legs and enthusiasm of Bonatini and Gibbs-White pulled a goal back with 23 minutes to go. Trippier found himself in trouble when trying to nutmeg Bonatini, and when he failed the ball was played to Jiménez, who was bundled over in the box by Foyth for a Wolves penalty. Neves stepped up as cool as you like and rolled it into the bottom left corner, with Lloris going the wrong way.

In the 78th minute Wolves were awarded another penalty when Foyth again fouled a Wolves man in the box, this time it was Otto who took Bonatini's pass and had beaten his man. It was a stone wall decision and this time Jiménez stepped up instead of Neves, and he also sent Lloris the wrong way.

The roof went off at Molineux as Wolves went for an unlikely equaliser, however there was to be no grand finale as Spurs brought on a third central defender and shut up shop. Lloris remained untroubled and it's the third defeat on the spin for Wolves who move down two places to 11th in the Premiership table.

**Man of the match:** Gibbs-White

**Team Rating:** 6/10

**Attendance:** 31,185

**Team:** Patricio, Doherty, Bennett, Coady, Boly, Otto, Neves, Moutinho (Bonatini 62), Costa (Traore 84), Cavaleiro (Gibbs-White 62), Jiménez

**Unused Subs:** Ruddy, Hause, Vinagre, Dendoncker

**Bookings:** Bennett (24)

**League Position:** 11

**Referee:** Mike Dean

## A TRIP TO THE EMI GREATS

**ARSENAL 1-1 WOLVES**

Sunday 11th November 2018

Wolves' last win against Arsenal was 3-2 at Highbury in September 1979, when Andy Gray scored twice, and after losing their last three games, and Arsenal unbeaten in their last nine, all the stats suggested an Arsenal victory.

Another fine away performance was spoiled in the final few minutes, when Mkhitarjan fluked a free-kick over the defensive wall and into the net, without another player touching the ball, denying Wolves a deserved victory.



Attacking on the break, Wolves, once again, had the better of the chances in the first session of play, and the half-time lead was well merited, after a well worked move was finished off by Cavaleiro.

This was a great team effort with Bennett, Boly and Coady coping efficiently with any attacks Arsenal could muster.

The introduction of Gibbs-White, and the pace of Traore, had Wolves looking the more likely to score next, and in the final few minutes, the former hit the angle of the goal frame with a blistering shot.

**Man of the match:** Bennett

**Team Rating:** 8/10

**Attendance:** 60,030

**Team:** Patricio, Doherty, Bennett, Coady, Boly, Jonny, Moutinho, Neves, Costa (Traore 76), Cavaleiro (Jota 61), Jiménez (Gibbs-White 84)

**Unused Subs:** Ruddy, Dendoncker, Vinagre, Saiss

**Bookings:** Doherty (71), Costa (74)

**League Position:** 11

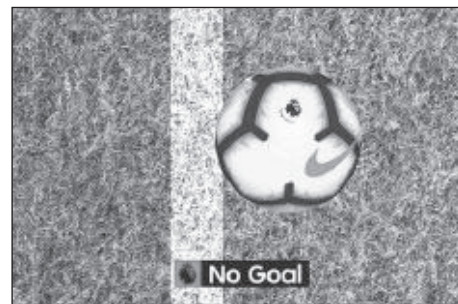
**Referee:** Stuart Attwell

Match Report courtesy of Stuart Earl

## HUDDERS FELLED

**WOLVES 0-2 HUDDERSFIELD TOWN**

Sunday 25th November 2018



That's five games without a win now, and there was nothing in this Wolves performance to suggest they can turn things around. Two weeks ago they earned a superb point at the Emirates, but following the international break it seemed like they were playing in deep sea diving boots, it was lethargic and all movement looked like it was in slow motion.

There's something not right about playing at 4:00pm on a Sunday afternoon, but the usual spectacular pre-match fireworks set the stage perfectly for Wolves to do their thing. However, what followed was, by a country mile, one of the worst first-half performances since Nuno strolled into town.

Right from the kick-off Wolves were poor, they looked uninterested, there was no fight and Huddersfield were in no mood to give them an easy time, given their own precarious position at the wrong end of the table. And, with their first venture into Wolves territory Huddersfield took the lead in the 6th minute.

Lazy defending by Doherty and Bennett allowed Durn to drive forward and cut the ball back to Mooy, he had the all the time and space needed to slot it past Patricio. That set the tone of what was to come, thereafter came 40 minutes of dross which Huddersfield out passed, and outfought a lacklustre Wolves team.

Wolves were duly booed off at half-time, and it was no surprise to see Nuno replace the ineffective Cavaleiro and Moutinho with Adama Traore and Morgan Gibbs-White after the break. Traore injected some much needed pace and in the 57th minute he was instrumental in Wolves best chance of the game, his chipped cross was headed goalwards by Jiménez, but Billing somehow managed to hook the ball off the line.



# MATCH REPORTS



With no goal signalled by the officials the goal decision system replay showed Jiménez's effort was mere millimetres from being over the line, it was as tight as it could be with just 1.8cm of the ball still on the line. It was the first of a couple more openings for Jiménez, but the striker seemed well off the mark inside the box, and his final finish reflected the lack of confidence running through the whole of the team.

With just over 15 minutes left Huddersfield put the game to bed with a second goal, Mooy stepped up and sent in a 20 yard free-kick which beat Patricio at his near post, but strangely and criminally there was a huge gap between Neves and Costa at the end of the wall, which Mooy duly put the ball through.

**Man of the match:** Coady  
**Team Rating:** 2/10  
**Attendance:** 30,130  
**Team:** *Patricio, Doherty, Bennett, Coady, Boly, Vinagre, Moutinho (Gibbs-White 46), Neves, Costa (Jota 75), Cavaleiro (Traore 46), Jiménez*  
**Unused Subs:** *Ruddy, Saiss, Dendoncker, Bonatini*  
**Bookings:** Neves (87 – foul)  
**League Position:** 11  
**Referee:** Kevin Friend

## HOILETT IS COLIN'S TRUMP CARD

### CARDIFF CITY 2-1 WOLVES

Friday 30th November 2018

This was the first time Wolves have lost a league game that they opened the scoring in since February 2017 (1-2 v Burton Albion), ending a run of 44 such games without defeat. This Friday night game in the teeming rain was a game lacking in quality and left Wolves suffering their fifth defeat in six games.

Wolves took to a physical style of play in this Friday night encounter, moved for the purpose of the Sky armchair supporters. Romain Saiss was a surprise inclusion into the team at the expense of Ryan Bennett, and slotted in at the back three with Willy Boly and Captain Coady.

It's well noted that Cardiff have struggled defending set pieces this season, and Nuno exploited this with Joao Moutinho used as the architect to cause mayhem at every opportunity. And it was his right-wing

corner in the 17th minute that resulted in the opening goal for Wolves.

The corner was swung in by Moutinho and Jiménez headed goalwards at the far post, Etheridge somehow kept the ball out with a brilliant reaction save low down to his right, but Doherty was quickest to react and made no mistake as he coolly slotted the ball home from four yards.



Wolves got out of jail right on the stroke of half-time, Joe Ralls' corner was not properly cleared and Arter's effort curled against the post with Patricio beaten. Other than the goal and the Arter effort, the half was bereft of chances and also quality.

The game didn't improve much after the break, but Wolves looked comfortable with Cardiff just relying on long balls to their front three. Arter very nearly equalised just after the hour-mark, but his goalbound volley was deflected behind for a corner by Coady on the line, however Cardiff equalised from the resulting corner.

The Wolves defence made a real mess of trying to defend an up and under into the box from the cleared corner. The ball ended up at Gunnarsson's feet and he had the time and space to take a touch and volley home from six yards past a flapping Patricio, who neither came nor went to collect the high ball. It was awful defending and a bad time to concede with Cardiff now in the ascendancy.

With 13 minutes left Cardiff got their noses in front in spectacular fashion. Wolves made a couple of blocks in the box and the ball came out to Hoilett who curled a 20-yard stunner into the net via the underside of the bar.

Nuno went for broke and replaced Vinagre with Cavaleiro, and the Portuguese forward almost made an instant impact but shot straight at Etheridge from a good position. Wolves threw everything but the kitchen sink at the hosts in the last few minutes, but there was to be no repeat of the heroics at the same venue last season.

**Man of the match:** Boly  
**Team Rating:** 4/10  
**Attendance:** 30,213  
**Team:** *Patricio, Doherty, Saiss, Coady, Boly, Vinagre (Cavaleiro 82), Moutinho, Neves, Costa (Jota 66), Traore (Gibbs-White 72), Jiménez*  
**Unused Subs:** *Ruddy, Bennett, Giles, Bonatini*  
**Bookings:** Neves (61), Saiss (66)  
**League Position:** 11  
**Referee:** Andre Marriner

## HAZ HE PLAYED

### WOLVES 2-1 CHELSEA

Wednesday 5th August 2018

Back to a display that had the home fans buzzing.

A goal down to the high flying Blues, and what looked like a penalty in the first couple of minutes of the second half, Wolves steeled themselves and came back for a memorable victory.

Loftus-Cheek had fired Chelsea ahead in the first half after great work from Hazard.

With Morgan Gibbs-White, showing that he has such a bright future, driving them forward, the equaliser came with Wolves first shot on target. He found Jiménez with a great through ball from the edge of the area, and the Mexican burst forward to hammer a shot home, through Arrizabalaga's legs.



Just after the hour, Wolves took the lead after Moutinho stole the ball on the half way line and fed Doherty on the right. His superbly placed cross left Jota the fairly simple chance of putting the ball past Arrizabalaga.

From this moment on, Wolves rarely look like conceding, and despite only 30% possession, run out worthy winners.

# MATCH REPORTS



**Man of the match:** Gibbs-White

**Team Rating:** 8/10

**Attendance:** 31,300

**Team:** *Patricio, Doherty, Bennett, Coady, Boly, Vinagre, Saiss, Moutinho, Gibbs-White (Costa 72), Jota (Cavaleiro 88), Jiménez (Dendoncker 81)*

**Unused Subs:** *Ruddy, Hause, Traore, Bonatini*

**Bookings:** *Saiss (37), Moutinho (54), Coady (61), Vinagre (68)*

**League Position:** 12

**Referee:** Jonathan Moss

*Match Report courtesy of Stuart Earl*

## FERGIE TYNE?

### NEWCASTLE 1-2 WOLVES

Sunday 9th December 2018

Six points in five days, another fine victory to get the Premier campaign back on course. Wolves looked to have regained the early season confidence, and took the lead after seventeen minutes, Costa freeing Jota, who smashed the ball straight through the goal keeper for his second goal of the week.

Newcastle levelled six minutes later when Perez pounced on a rebound off the bar, to place the ball high to the right of Patricio.



Newcastle were reduced to ten men just before the hour mark when Yedlin was dismissed for a cynical challenge, and it looked very much as if Wolves would not let the man advantage pay, but deep into added time, Jota, always a live wire, forced a diving save from Dubravka and Matt Doherty was handily placed to head home.

**Man of the match:** Doherty

**Team Rating:** 8/10

**Attendance:** 50,223

**Team:** *Wolves: Patricio, Doherty, Bennett, Coady, Boly, Vinagre, Neves, Saiss (Gibbs-White 61'), Costa (Moutinho 76'), Jota, Traore (Jiménez 61')*

**Unused Subs:** *Ruddy, Dendoncker,*

*Cavaleiro, Bonatini*

**Bookings:** *Doherty (33), Costa (65), Coady (72), Jota (73), Bennett (80)*

**League Position:** 10

**Referee:** Mike Dean

*Match Report courtesy of Stuart Earl*

## SEVENTH HEAVEN

### WOLVES 2-0 BOURNEMOUTH

Saturday 15th December 2018

The dizzy heights of seventh in the Premier League seemed unachievable mere weeks ago, but following this victory, it has duly been accomplished.

With their first shot on target, Wolves took the lead when Jota pounced on a back-pass from Daniels, to free Raúl with a glorious through ball, and the Mexican easily beat the oncoming keeper.



Cook should then have received a second yellow card for a foul on Jota but somehow escaped the wrath of the referee.

Gibbs-White provided the perfect pass, splitting the Bournemouth defence, for Costa to increase the lead, but the Portuguese Maestro blasted over. Bournemouth then hit the bar from Stanislav, but any efforts were restricted to outside the area.

Wolves sealed the points when Cavaleiro stole the ball inside the Wolves half, he quickly found Costa who laid a delicious pass straight back to him to run half the length of the field and easily beat the oncoming keeper.

**Man of the match:** Gibbs-White

**Team Rating:** 7/10

**Attendance:** 30,997

**Team:** *Patricio, Doherty, Bennett, Coady, Boly, Jonny, Moutinho, Neves, Jota (Costa 46), Gibbs-White (Saiss 74), Jiménez (Cavaleiro 88)*

**Unused Subs:** *Ruddy, Vinagre,*

*Dendoncker, Traore*

**Bookings:** *Costa (66)*

**League Position:** 7

**Referee:** Simon Hooper

*Match Report courtesy of Stuart Earl*

## NOTHING TO SALAH-BRATE

### WOLVES 0-2 LIVERPOOL

Friday 21st December 2018



After three wins on the spin came a reality check as Liverpool gave Wolves a lesson on how to finish. It was a good performance from Wolves, who went toe to toe with the league leader's right from the start, but Liverpool stay top of the Premiership over Christmas after running out 2-0 winners.

It was a pretty even start, but the first chance fell to Wolves. An early Christmas gift came from Fabinho as he played a slack pass out from the back straight to Jiménez who then slipped it to Traore, he ran at Van Dijk into the box, but his shot from inside the area was just wide.

Just a few moments later it was Traore again who failed to capitalise on another good chance, a superb piece of hold-up play from Jiménez set the Spaniard flying towards the box, and another one-on-one with Van Dijk, but as the defender backed off he drilled his shot tamely wide.

On the 15 minute mark another chance went begging, Doherty played a clever pass inside to Saiss, but his shot was saved by Alisson who dived to his left and palmed it away. That miss proved to be pivotal as Liverpool opened the scoring a couple of minutes later with their first real chance.

Fabinho played a one-two with Mane down the right, he got to the byline and picked out Salah who flicked the ball with the outside of his boot and past Patricio. It was clinical finishing by the Liverpool striker, and showed that if you give him an inch of space you're going to get punished.



# MATCH REPORTS



The goal put Liverpool on the ascendancy, but Wolves don't lie down and give in these days and they fought back towards the end of the half, creating further chances for Jonny and Doherty. However, the difference between the two sides at the break was the finishing in front of goal

Liverpool looked far more comfortable after the interval, and went close to extending their lead on two occasions, but Patricio saved well from Salah and Keita. However, shortly after Lallana had a shot blocked by Coady the Reds did eventually go 2-0 up.

A corner was played short and came to nothing, but Salah kept it alive and chipped a delicate ball over the top and Van Dijk nipped in between the centre-backs to volley home from close range. Within two minutes Wolves should have pulled one back, Doherty headed a cross back into a crowd of players, the ball dropped perfectly for Saiss but his snap-shot from only 12 yards was straight at Alisson.

Thereafter the game died a death, but in the closing minutes Wolves again should have reduced the deficit. A cross hit Robertson's heel and Gibbs-White should have netted from six yards, but could only find the side netting.

**Man of the match:** Doherty  
**Team Rating:** 6/10  
**Attendance:** 31,358  
**Team:** *Patricio; Bennett, Coady (c), Boly; Doherty, Saiss, Neves, Otto (Vinagre, 81); Moutinho (Gibbs-White, 63); Traore (Cavaleiro, 63), Jiménez*  
**Unused Subs:** *Ruddy, Dendoncker, Costa, Bonatini*  
**Bookings:** None  
**League Position:** 7  
**Referee:** Craig Pawson

## STILL FUL OF HAM AND TURKEY

### FULHAM 1-1 WOLVES

Wednesday 26th December 2018

The last time we played Fulham at the end of February the day started on a high with a superb beano on a Thames Riverboat Cruise from Waterloo to Putney. However, things went downhill a tad after that when we were comprehensively beaten 2-0.

That said, the stats say that Wolves are Fulham's bogey team, we had won 6 of

the last 8 league games against Fulham (Drawn 1 and Lost 1), having scored 3 or more goals on 5 occasions. In this Boxing Day 12:30 kick-off (due to Sky coverage) Wolves scored a late equaliser to earn a point and stay in the top half of the Premier League.

It was a positive opening for Wolves with Jiménez going close following an acrobatic scissor kick from about 10 yards that fled inches over the bar. Just before that Odoi made a mess of an attempted header and the ball hit him on the arm, however it was no surprise to Wolves fans that old foe Andre Marriner waved play on, he'd never given us anything in the past why start now?

It was Fulham who cracked on after Wolves lively start, and Mitrovic caused plenty of panic in the Wolves half. Coady stopped the Serbian in his tracks with a superb sliding tackle, but the Fulham striker should have scored thereafter with a header he sent wide when well placed.

Mitrovic then created the best chance of the half, he seized on a poor headed clearance in the Wolves area before beating Coady and Boly on a mazy run, however Patricio saved the day when he came off his line and blocked the striker's shot from point blank range.

Wolves were on the end of another shocking decision by referee Marriner, after that missed hand-ball earlier he then failed to book Chambers when he went straight through Saiss with a leg-breaker of a tackle. Chambers did the same to the Moroccan again just before half time, leading to a skirmish and this time he was given a yellow, although it clearly warranted a red.

Wolves were much better after the break, but they struggled to pick that killer pass through the middle of the packed Fulham defence, and the hosts took advantage of Marriner's earlier generosity to make the crucial breakthrough with just 16 minutes to go. Wolves' struggles with defending set pieces were evident again as Patricio, under pressure, shanked a punch straight to Sessegnon whose right-footed volley crossed the line before Coady could clear it.

Nuno sent on Vinagre for Otto and upped the tempo in search of an equaliser, and with five minutes left the pressure finally paid off as Wolves levelled the scores. Cavaleiro sent a wicked low ball across the face of goal, Costa couldn't reach it but after the ball bounced off a defender Saiss prodded the ball home from a yard out.



**Man of the match:** Moutinho  
**Team Rating:** 5/10  
**Attendance:** 24,382  
**Team:** *Patricio; Bennett, Coady (c), Boly; Doherty, Moutinho, Saiss, Otto (Vinagre, 82); Gibbs-White (Costa, 63); Jiménez, Traore (Cavaleiro, 45)*  
**Unused Subs:** *Ruddy, Kilman, Neves, Bonatini*  
**Bookings:** Saiss (44)  
**League Position:** 9  
**Referee:** Andre Marriner

## KANE WE PLAY YOU EVERY WEEK

### SPURS 1-3 WOLVES

Saturday 29th December 2018



In their last game of 2018, Wolves produced undoubtedly their finest performance of what had already been one of the best years in their recent history. In a season that so far had seen them draw with both Manchester clubs and Arsenal, and also beat Chelsea, they capped the year off with a 3-1 victory against title chasing Spurs on their first trip to Wembley since 1988.

Spurs came into the game on the back of thrashing Everton 6-2 and Bournemouth 5-0, all in the space of just a few days. Wolves, on the other hand, had only earned a single point from two matches against Liverpool and Fulham. The bookies had them 9/1 to win, but once again they defied the odds despite all the usual excuses from a top six manager, this time Mauricio Pochettino, who blamed his team's demise on tiredness.

# MATCH REPORTS



As usual Nuno had his battle plan all worked out and ready to execute, and in the first half Wolves sat back and sucked the life out of Spurs, allowing them as much possession as you like but making their own penalty area an exclusion zone to anything in a white shirt.

Spurs were restricted to long shots as Wolves soaked up all the pressure. However, but for the brilliance of Patricio Spurs would have taken the lead in the 20th minute. The Wolves keeper pulled off a wonder save as he threw up his left arm to acrobatically tip over Eriksen's long range effort which was bound for the top left-hand corner.

Unfortunately, just two minutes as Spurs did break the deadlock, and it was Harry Kane who did the damage. The England captain carried the ball down the right flank, cut inside onto his left before arrowing an effort into the net from 25 yards, leaving Patricio with no chance.

There was the occasional break from Wolves, but nothing that came to fruition. Spurs continued to dominate possession and went into the break with Kane's goal separating the two teams. However, Wolves had stood their ground and were still in it against a team scoring for fun in their previous two games.

After a first half in which they looked to counter Spurs, and did well to stay in the game at 1-0, they upped the tempo after the break, pushed the hosts deeper, were tenacious at winning the ball back and played some sublime football.



The game was turned upside down, and after a sustained period of pressure Wolves got their just rewards with an equaliser in the 72nd minute. A corner on the right was beautifully delivered into the danger zone by Moutinho, and it was Boly who rose highest to power an unstoppable header into the far corner, sparking wild celebrations from the travelling fans.

Wolves could smell blood and went for the Tottenham jugular, and with seven minutes left it was Christmas all over again as the game was turned on its head. Cavaleiro broke forward and fed Jiménez who cutely side-footed through Alderweireld's legs, and into the bottom corner past Lloris.

Wolves weren't finished yet and with three minutes left they put the icing on the cake. Doherty fed an intricate through ball to Costa who raced clear of the Spurs defence and coolly finished past a despairing Lloris dive. Nuno's heroes had defied all the odds and played the perfect tactical game to finish 2018 on a high. A day to remember and what a year, the Wolves are well and truly back.

**Man of the match:** Jiménez

**Team Rating:** 10/10

**Attendance:** 46,356

**Team:** *Patricio, Bennett, Coady (c), Boly; Doherty, Dendoncker (Moutinho, 68), Neves, Jonny, Traore (Costa, 59), Jiménez, Cavaleiro (Gibbs-White, 85)*

**Unused Subs:** *Ruddy, Vinagre, Saiss, Bonatini*

**Bookings:** Jonny (81), Jiménez (84)

**League Position:** 7

**Referee:** Stuart Attwell

## NO BREAKING THE PALACE STRONGHOLD

### WOLVES 0-2 CRYSTAL PALACE

Wednesday 2nd January 2019

Just four days ago Wolves were winding up 2018 with a magnificent win against Spurs at Wembley. If supporters were hoping to see a similar performance in the first game of the New Year, then they would have been bitterly disappointed as Wolves made it five losses in their last seven Premier League games at Molineux.

The game failed to live up to the pre-game firework display, and both teams struggled to find any tempo or fluency. Palace played the spoiling tactics, packed their defence, and easily coped with anything that Wolves attempted as Nuno's Boys struggled to find any kind of creativity in the final third.

Palace enjoyed more of the possession, and looked more threatening on the break, but it was still a poor game with nothing to warm either set of fans on what was a bitterly cold night. Palace went close to opening the scoring in the 20th minute when a Boly



error gifted possession to Townsend, and the winger picked out Milivojevic on the edge of the penalty area, but his shot was tipped over the bar by Patricio.

However, the best chance of a sub-standard half fell to Wolves in the 36th minute. Cavaleiro's inswinging corner from the left went straight to Boly who was totally unmarked on the penalty spot, but the defender made a total mess of his header, and when the ball bounced kindly for Doherty at the far post he wasted a glorious chance and sent the ball over the crossbar.

There was more gusto from Wolves at the start of the second-half, Jiménez almost teed up Costa for a tap-in before Patrick van Aanholt's crucial interception, while a Cavaleiro cross was almost diverted in by a Palace defender, and then Jiménez was a precise pass away from releasing Costa through on goal, but it was blocked.

Wolves were much improved and in the ascendancy, but still lacking that cutting edge in the final third, and their evening was summed up when Jonny struck a shot high over the crossbar from the edge of the penalty area on the hour mark.

As the game reached its mundane conclusion Palace had their first spell of sustained pressure in the whole of the game, and we could all see what was coming, and it did as Palace opened the scoring with seven minutes left. The ball dropped to Patrick van Aanholt on the edge of the area, and his shot fell to Ayew who produced a nice first touch to bring the ball down before striking home past Patricio from six yards.

Wolves finally produced their first shot on target in stoppage time as they went in search of an equaliser, but Neves' drive was pushed away to safety by Guaita. With 94 minutes on the clock Milivojevic secured the victory for the visitors by scoring from the penalty spot after Bennett had tripped Zaha inside the area.



# MATCH REPORTS



Next up for Nuno's Boys is Liverpool in the third round of the FA Cup, and dauntingly their next Premier League game is on Monday January 14 when they take on Manchester City at the Etihad Stadium. There will have to be an enormous improvement on this performance if anything is to be gained from the top two teams in the Premier.

**Man of the match:** Bennett

**Team Rating:** 2/10

**Attendance:** 30,666

**Team:** *Patricio, Doherty, Bennett, Coady, Boly, Jonny, Saiss (Neves 72), Moutinho, Cavaleiro (Traore 84), Costa (Gibbs-White 64), Jiménez*

**Unused Subs:** *Ruddy, Vinagre, Dendoncker, Bonatini*

**Bookings:** Boly (23), Saiss (45+1), Bennett (54), Jonny (90+1)

**League Position:** 9

**Referee:** Roger East

## KINDERGARTEN KLOPP

### **WOLVES 2-1 LIVERPOOL**

Monday 7th January 2019  
(FA Cup 3rd Round)

Liverpool came to Molineux in the 3rd round of the FA Cup as one of the favourites to win the competition. However, somebody forgot to tell Liverpool's new version of Red Rum, aka Jurgen Klopp that Wolverhampton Wanderers are no longer the whipping boys for the Premier league's so called elite.

Top manager's these days use the FA Cup to give fringe players a chance of a run out, in what is now a degraded version of the famous competition. Teams like Liverpool rest overpaid, underworked players in this historical event, well Liverpool have now got the weekend off at the end of the month and Wolves now head down to Shrewsbury for the 4th round.

Wolves' midfield dominated proceedings, Leander Dendoncker was exceptional in the centre, working overtime in the boiler room, Ruben Neves was just Ruben Neves, the genius who calls all the shots and dictates events. Alongside them was Joao Moutinho twisting and turning and being a constant menace all over the pitch.

Nuno's Boys were well and truly up for it, in search of the opener from the kick off, and in the end it came from a mistake by Milner. The overrated midfielder lost possession in the Liverpool half and Diogo Jota took full advantage, sending Raúl

Jiménez sprinting clear. Fabinho could not help his mate Milner, and he was left eating dust as Jiménez raced through. The finish was composed and classy as the Mexican slotted the ball past Mignolet.



Liverpool caught Wolves napping at the start of the second half and got themselves back in it with an equaliser. Shaquiri dinked the ball towards the Wolves penalty area and Milner's effort on the spin was charged down, with the ball falling to Origi. He shifted it quickly and struck a shot that whistled through the legs of Dendoncker and past the despairing dive of Ruddy.

Wolves, full of industry, enterprise and endeavour responded as their gifted ball players came back for more. It took them just four minutes to regain the lead, and it was none other than that man Neves. There seemed to be little threat when he received possession from Vinagre 30 yards out, but then he let fly with a rocket that wobbled through the air, one way then the other, as if flew past Mignolet into the back of the net.

The desperate Klopp sent on Firmino and Salah, but it mattered not, the night belonged to Wolves as they dare to think of progressing on a cup run, and perhaps bring a fairy tale finish to what has already been a season to remember.

As for Jurgen the German, all the excuses came flooding out at the end. It was too windy, a hectic Christmas schedule, Wolves having the audacity to take the lead, hence putting paid to all the carefully laid down plans, and a catalogue of injuries restricting his team selection (even though Salah, Mane, Firmino and Alexander-Arnold were all on the bench?). Anyway, Jurgen not to worry, you'll be in the draw again in December 2019.

**Man of the match:** Neves

**Team Rating:** 9/10

**Attendance:** 25,849

**Team:** *Ruddy, Jonny (Doherty 75), Bennett, Coady, Boly, Vinagre,*

*Dendoncker, Neves, Moutinho, Jota (Cavaleiro 52), Jiménez (Costa 83)*

**Unused Subs:** *Norris, Gibbs-White, Saiss, Traore*

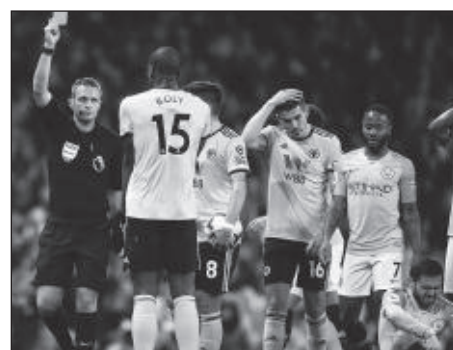
**Bookings:** None

**Referee:** Paul Tierney

## BLUE MURDER

### **MAN CITY 3-0 WOLVES**

Monday 14th January 2019



It was a bad Monday night at the office for Wolves as they were well beaten 3-0 by Man City at the Etihad. It was backs against the wall for Wolves, who were already 1-0 down when Willy Boly was shown a straight red card for a lunge on Bernardo Silva on 19 minutes.

It was a steady start from Wolves who had the better of the early proceedings, but City showed that if you give them one inch of space you're going to get punished. Laporte played Sane in down the left with Doherty caught flat-footed, Sane sent the ball into the six-yard box where Jesus easily got there in front of the centre halves and Patricio to fire City in front.

Patricio tipped a deflected David Silva shot over on 16 minutes, but Wolves' hopes of getting back into the game became almost impossible three minutes later when Boly received a straight red card for a challenge on Bernardo Silva. The centre-back won the ball but referee Craig Pawson deemed the challenge to be dangerous and sent him off.

City were enjoying almost all the possession as they played a patient build up game against a resolute Wolves defence, even so Wolves created a golden chance to equalise seven minutes before the break. Against the run of play Jiménez broke forward on the break and passed to Jonny on the left of the box, he sent a cross-come-shot across the area, but it just eluded Jota's outstretched boot and went harmlessly wide.

# MATCH REPORTS



Just two minutes later Wolves were made to pay for spurning that rare opportunity as City all but killed the game off with a second goal. Sterling wriggled his way into the box and was given the slightest of touches from Bennett's knee, as he often does the seasoned diver needed no excuse to go down and duly did. Jesus despatched the penalty and Wolves' night was all but over.

City wrapped up proceeding with a third goal in the 78th minute. Patricio made a smart save at his near post do deny De Bruyne, but it came at the expense of a corner. Gundogan played it short to De Bruyne and Saiss's attempt to clear his inswinging cross only obscured Coady's view, and the captain turned the ball into his own net.

**Man of the match:** Patricio

**Team Rating:** 2/10

**Attendance:** 54,171

**Team:** *Patricio, Doherty, Bennett, Coady, Boly, Jonny, Dendoncker, Neves, Moutinho (Gibbs-White 72), Jota (Saiss 59), Jiménez (Traore 46)*

**Unused Subs:** *Ruddy, Vinagre, Cavaleiro, Costa*

**Bookings:** None

**Sending's Off:** Boly (19)

**League Position:** 11

**Referee:** Craig Pawson

## DIOGO THE THREEDOM FIGHTER

### WOLVES 4-3 LEICESTER

Saturday 19th January 2019

It's difficult knowing where to begin this report, trying to describe one of the best games seen at Molineux in many a year. A game that had everything, attacking football, goals, chance after chance, saves, and more incident than you could shake a stick at. Wolves ended up 4-3 winners after Diogo Jota netted an injury time winner and send Molineux into absolute bedlam.

Ruben Neves set the tone in the second minute with a rasping 30-yarder that Schmeichel magnificently tipped over at full stretch. A minute later Wolves were ahead, Dendoncker won possession in midfield and fed Jiménez who played wide to Moutinho, and his on-the-button cross was met by Jota who edged ahead of Simpson to finish from close range: 1-0.

In the 12th minute Wolves doubled their lead following another Moutinho assist. This time it came from a corner as the midfield

maestro whipped a cross into the six-yard box, Maguire had two Wolves defenders to mark, and couldn't prevent the late-arriving Bennett powering a header into the net: 2-0.

Wolves got off to the worst possible start in the second-half, conceding just two minutes after the break. Leicester punished some poor Wolves defending in a swift counter-attack. Bennett misjudged a City clearance, allowing Vardy to get on the ball, he then found Gray who skipped past the non-existent challenge of Saiss before slotting the ball into the far corner of the net: 2-1.

Four minutes later and some more shocking defending resulted in Leicester levelling the scores. Jonny stumbled in his own area and gifted the ball to Barnes, he drilled his shot through Coady and into the corner from 15 yards for the equaliser: 2-2.

Wolves hit back again and began to flourish, with the inspirational Neves at the heart of everything, and it was the Portuguese Magician who created the third Wolves goal in the 64th minute. Neves picked up the ball on the edge of his own area, had a quick look up and drilled an inch-perfect diagonal pass into the path of Jota, he took the ball on his chest and brought it down before lashing it past Schmeichel. Brilliant, brilliant goal: 3-2.

With three minutes left on the clock a spell of Leicester pressure ended with a needless free-kick given away on the right. Maddison delivered the ball into the danger zone and Morgan bullied his way past three surrounding Wolves defenders to get on the end of it, sending a header back across goal and into the far corner: 3-3.

It all looked set to finish 3-3 but Wolves had other ideas. With just seconds remaining on the clock Neves sprayed another exquisite through-ball wide to Jiménez, he then squared the ball back across the area into Jota's path, and the striker calmly sidefooted home to send Molineux absolutely delirious.



The dramatic finale saw Nuno Espirito Santo race onto the field to celebrate with his players, but he was deemed to have overstepped the mark by the referee who sent him to the stands. But absolutely no one cared as soon after the full-time whistle sounded to end a breathless encounter: Final Score - 4-3.

**Man of the match:** Diogo José Teixeira da Silva

**Team Rating:** 10/10

**Attendance:** 31,278

**Team:** *Patricio, Bennett, Coady (c), Boly, Doherty, Dendoncker (Moutinho, 68), Neves, Jonny, Traore (Costa, 59), Jiménez, Cavaleiro (Gibbs-White, 85)*

**Unused Subs:** *Ruddy, Giles, Traore, Costa, Cavaleiro*

**Bookings:** Bennett (44), Jota (45+2), Jonny (86)

**League Position:** 8

**Referee:** Chris Kavanagh

## DOC ON CALL FOR INJURY TIME

### SHREWSBURY 2-2 WOLVES

Saturday 26th January 2019

(FA Cup 4rd Round)



Wolves came back from the brink of a disaster to salvage a draw at League 1 Shrewsbury Town in this FA Cup 4th round tie at the New Meadow Stadium. Matt Doherty's last-gasp header rescued Wolves as they hit back from 2-0 down to force a replay. The defender struck in the second minute of stoppage time to earn a 2-2 draw, and a potential 5th round tie away at Bristol City.

It was cold, wet and windy in Shrewsbury, and different surroundings to what Nuno's Boys are usually accustomed to. The pitch was more like a cow's field than the usual green carpet his players usually strut their stuff on, and in the first-half the football quality matched the condition of the pitch.



# MATCH REPORTS



Wolves were lacklustre, mundane and short of ideas. Their League 1 opponents played with plenty of aggression, and the chance of a Premier team scalp meant that every tackle by a Shrewsbury player was made as though their lives depended on it.

Traore, brought back into the team for the game, did his best and was involved in the brightest moment of the opening 20 minutes when he superbly spun his man, raced deep into the Shrewsbury half and played in Costa, but a poor touch in the box allowed a defender to close him down and the chance went begging.

Traore was also involved in the best chance of the half for either team. Doherty skipped past a couple of challenges to the byline and pulled the ball back for the Spaniard who ballooned over the bar from 12 yards. The £18m man has scored just once this season, and it was Doherty who looked more of a danger in front of goal when he had Wolves first shot on target after 35 minutes, however it was saved by the keeper.

It had been a drab first half and devoid of much goalmouth action, but all that changed at the start of the second half. Just two minutes after the restart Neves couldn't reach a Gibbs-White pass and suddenly Okenabirhie was racing towards the Wolves box, he played in Greg Docherty who lashed the ball goalwards from a tight angle, it took a deflection off Saiss and flew past Ruddy into the net.

Wolves suddenly realised they had a game on their hands and tried to respond, and Neves' effort deflected just inches wide after hitting Norburn. Goalkeeper Arnold then came to Shrewsbury's rescue when his excellent save kept out Costa's six-yard header.

However, Shrewsbury stood firm and doubled their lead in the 71st minute. They won a corner out on the left and Norburn swung it in, Waterfall climbed higher than all the Wolves defenders and powered in a header from six yards.

Nuno immediately sent on Cavaleiro for Giles, and within three minutes Wolves had pulled one back. Cavaleiro twisted and turned near the corner flag on the right and whipped a wicked ball across the face of goal where the menacing Jiménez turned it in.

Wolves threw everything but the kitchen sink at Shrewsbury in the final minutes with a succession of crosses and corners, but without creating a clear-cut chance. But it finally arrived in the 93rd minute when Doherty powered home a header from Traore's cross to salvage a dramatic late draw.

**Man of the match:** Doherty

**Team Rating:** 4/10

**Attendance:** 9,503

**Team:** *Ruddy; Bennett, Coady (c), Saiss; Doherty, Neves, Gibbs-White (Moutinho, 79), Dendoncker (Jiménez, 59), Giles (Cavaleiro, 73); Traore, Costa*

**Unused Subs:** *Norris, Kilman, Jonny, Vinagre*

**Bookings:** None

**Referee:** Roger East

## HAMMER TO FALL

### WOLVES 3-0 WEST HAM

Tuesday 29th January 2019

It was a top-notch performance from Wolves as they did a demolition job on West Ham at Molineux. It was a dominant display as Nuno's Boys dominated from start to finish. West Ham would have gone above Wolves in the table had they won, but the score ended 3-0 to the Wanderers and could have been higher had it not been for Fabianski between the West Ham posts.

Wolves started the game cautiously, gradually building up momentum, and around the quarter of an hour mark they stepped up a gear and started to tear into West Ham. As the tempo increased there was a contentious decision in the 20th minute when a strong penalty appeal was rejected, Doherty's legs tangled with Masuaku who appeared to bring him down, but referee David Coote waved play on.

Suddenly Wolves were all over West Ham like a rash, creating chance after chance. Jonny headed inches wide on the half-hour mark following a peach of a cross by Jiménez. They then had the ball in the net via Dendoncker's follow-up after Jiménez had turned a Jonny cross on to the bar, but the Mexican was flagged offside.

Wolves again went close when further efforts on goal by Jota, whose long-range shot was tipped round the post, and Doherty whose effort from a tight angle was blocked by Fabianski, but somehow the game was still goalless at the break.

After the break Nuno's Boys carried on where they left off at the end of the first-half, with Fabianski again making it a one man mission to stop Wolves. He denied both Jota and Saiss with decent saves and then tipped a Jonny piledriver over the bar in the 65th minute, however the breakthrough finally came when the resulting corner by Moutinho found Saiss, who rose unchallenged to head home.

Wolves had another big shout for a penalty turned down just a few minutes later. Jota was played in by Jiménez and Zabaleta seemed to push him from behind before winning the ball, but despite all the appeals referee Coote awarded just a corner.

The continuous siege on Fabianski's goal finally paid off in the 80th minute as Wolves gave themselves some breathing space with that all important second goal. A free-kick on the left was delivered into the area by Moutinho, and Jiménez got in front of Rice to find the far corner from eight yards.



With West Ham looking for an unlikely route back into the game in the final minutes, 2-0 became 3-0 with four minutes to go. Moutinho lifted the ball forward into the path of Jota who then played Jiménez through, and the Mexican delicately lifted the ball over Fabianski to put the icing well and truly on the cake.

**Man of the match:** Raúl Alonso Jiménez Rodríguez

**Team Rating:** 9/10

**Attendance:** 31,122

**Team:** *Patricio, Bennett, Coady (c), Saiss; Doherty, Dendoncker, Neves, Moutinho (Gibbs-White, 88), Otto (Vinagre, 90); Jiménez, Jota (Cavaleiro, 88)*

**Unused Subs:** *Ruddy, Kilman, Costa, Traore*

**Bookings:** Saiss (32), Neves (70), Bennett (73), Jiménez (86)

**League Position:** 7

**Referee:** David Coote

# MATCH REPORTS



## NUNO GETS GOLD, EVERTON THE SILVA

### **EVERTON 1-3 WOLVES**

Saturday 2nd February 2019

Wolves are starting to get the hang of this Premiership lark. In this reverse fixture on the opening day game at Molineux, an experienced Everton side showed a naive Wolves team what you can, and can't do playing in the Premier League. In that 2-2 draw Wolves were embarking on a learning curve, and were punished for a couple of defensive errors that you so often get away with in the Championship.

This game was in stark contrast as Wolves continued their recent good form with a convincing 3-1 victory, making it three Premier League wins in a row. They outclassed Everton in every single department from front to back. They were solid defensively, adventurous in attack, tenacious in midfield, and showed how far they have come in such a short space of time.

With half of the season now completed Wolves have acclimatised to the Premier, and the ambitions now are not only to stay up and survive, but make a real statement in the best league around. They are now giving all the big boys a run for their money, and are well placed to finish in the top half of the table, and dare we dream a place in Europe.

Wolves had produced a perfect performance in midweek against West Ham, with granite-like solidity at the back and scintillating power and skill by the bucket-load up front. And here at Goodison Park it was a case of *deja vu* as Nuno's Boys picked up exactly where they left off following that 3-0 demolition job.

Wolves got off to the perfect start with a goal in just the 7th minute. Matt Doherty charged forward into the area, only for his run to be ended by a clumsy challenge by Leighton Baines, and referee Lee Mason instantly awarded the penalty. Up stepped Ruben Neves who kept his cool to send Pickford the wrong way from the spot.

It was all Wolves, playing with confidence, and their sublime passing causing Everton to run round like headless chickens. Then on 20 minutes Everton almost equalised with their first shot on target, Sigurdsson's released Walcott through on goal, but Patricio raced off his line to make a vital block. However, just 2 minutes later they

did draw level, Tosun fed Gomes who strode forward to the edge of the area before hammering an unstoppable drive into the roof of the net.

Just before half-time Wolves were deservedly back in front following a needless foul by Keane on Jota. Moutinho floated an absolutely glorious free-kick on to the head of Jiménez, and he guided the ball into the corner of the net past the helpless Pickford.



Wolves all but confirmed their win after 66 minutes when Everton were again made to pay for giving away possession near halfway. Within a flash the brilliant Jota was bearing down on goal, and when his effort was blocked the rebound fell straight to Dendoncker, who thumped home a volley into the net.



Everton's miserable afternoon was then summed up by a stray black cat who held up play for a full five minutes. Wolves fans mocked and sang "Sign him up" as ground staff tried and failed, to catch and remove it from the field of play. Not that the cat couldn't have done any worse than the players wearing blue shirts.

**Man of the match:** Jota

**Team Rating:** 10/10

**Attendance:** 39,380

**Team:** *Patricio; Bennett, Coady (c), Boly; Doherty, Dendoncker, Neves (Saiss, 49), Moutinho, Otto; Jiménez (Traore, 89), Jota (Costa, 77)*

**Unused Subs:** *Ruddy, John, Gibbs-White, Cavaleiro*

**Bookings:** Coady (56)

**League Position:** 7

**Referee:** Lee Mason

## THE TAMING OF THE SHREW

### **WOLVES 3-2 SHREWSBURY**

Tuesday 5th February 2019

(FA Cup 4rd Round Replay)

Wolves had to do it the hard way as they had to come from behind to book their place in the FA Cup fifth-round with a narrow 3-2 victory over League 1 side Shrewsbury Town. The reward for Nuno's Boys is a fifth round tie against a resurgent and promotion-chasing Bristol City at Ashton Gate.

Wolves got off to the perfect start by opening the scoring after just 78 seconds, Morgan-Gibbs-White sent over a corner from the right that wasn't cleared, the ball fell to Doherty and he slammed it into the corner of the net from eight yards.

That goal should have settled the nerves, but nobody told Shrewsbury, and they were level within nine minutes. A corner on the left was swung over and met by Bolton in the heart of the six-yard box, and a static Wolves defence allowed him a free header, and the striker made no mistake.

Wolves quickly regrouped and began to dominate, and Waterfall deflected Jonny's volley behind before Boly miscued a free header after 27 minutes. But they were wasteful, and Traore the main culprit after repeatedly getting into good positions and then delivering a poor final ball.

Wolves were made to pay for not turning possession into goals when Shrewsbury took a shock 2-1 lead six minutes before the break. Laurent tried his luck from 20 yards, it seemed a fairly harmless shot but the wet ball slipped through Ruddy's hands and spun back over the line.



Ruddy wasn't the only keeper having a nightmare, and in the 6th minute of time added on at the end of the half Wolves were level following a real gaffe by Arnold in the Shrewsbury goal. The keeper dropped Jonny's deep cross and Doherty was the scavenger as he nodded in his second from close range.



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The goal wrestled the momentum back for Nuno's Boys, and they bossed the second half, even though they struggled to provide that cutting edge in the final third of the field. The supporters waited for that little bit of magic from somewhere, and Cavaleiro was the man to provide it.

Doherty received the ball from Traore and played a through ball to Cavaleiro in the area, the Portuguese forward showed strength to shrug off his man, and then arrogance and sublime skill to roll his foot over the ball, sublimely swaying inside and beating the keeper.

With their noses in front Wolves superior passing ability and ball skills allowed them to take control and play time out. There were a few scares in the closing stages, but that little bit of Cavaleiro class proved to be the defining moment in a close encounter.

**Man of the match:** Doherty

**Team Rating:** 6/10

**Attendance:** 28,844

**Team:** *Ruddy; Bennett, Coady (c), Boly; Doherty, Gibbs-White, Saiss, Otto; Traore (Jiménez, 77), Cavaleiro (Ennis, 88), Costa (Moutinho, 69)*

**Unused Subs:** *Norris, Dendoncker, Giles, Neves*

**Bookings:** None

**Referee:** Lee Probert

## MADE OF STEAL

### WOLVES 1-1 NEWCASTLE

Monday 11th February 2019

Wolves left it late as they scored a 95th-minute equaliser to earn a deserved point against relegation threatened Newcastle at Molineux. It was the 6th time this season Wolves have scored in the 90th minute or later, and showed the "Never say die" attitude of the team that Nuno and his backroom staff have built.

Monday Night televised football seems to bring the worst out of teams, and this Wolves performance was well below the standards set this season. They had the lion's share of the possession, 22 shots and 13 corners, but found it difficult to break down a dogged Newcastle defence.

There was little to choose between the two sides in the first half, with both defences well organised and thwarting most attacking moves. There were a few half chances here and there but nothing to really test either goalkeeper.

Jiménez looked the most dangerous of the strikers on the park, when for once he was afforded some space he lashed wildly over from 12 yards. The Mexican was then at it again when he took a pinpoint pass from Neves, took on Yedlin and found an angle from the left to test keeper Dubravka, who palmed clear.

Wolves had a glorious chance to open the scoring just three minutes into the second-half. Jota flicked on at the near post from a corner, and the ball travelled across the six-yard box where Doherty came flying in, but he somehow managed to head the ball over the crossbar from six yards.

That miss proved costly just a couple of minutes later as Newcastle took the lead with the softest of goals, and it was all down to some poor play by Patricio. The usually reliable stopper misplaced a pass out of play, and from the resulting throw Newcastle worked the ball to Hayden whose effort looked to be straight at the keeper, but Patricio dived slightly to his right and the ball went straight through his grasp.

Wolves responded well, Jota fired one at the keeper from 18 yards, and then a Jiménez cross was met by Dendoncker whose header was well saved. Jiménez then showed great strength to get to the byline and pull back for Doherty, but his shot was blocked by Moutinho.



All looked lost as the fourth minute of time added on had elapsed, but there was to be a final twist in the tale. Traore charged down the right and his looped cross looked to be very poor one. However, the goalkeeper made an absolute mess of the high ball at the back post and Boly headed into the net from three yards.

**Man of the match:** Moutinho

**Team Rating:** 5/10

**Attendance:** 30,687

**Team:** *Patricio, Bennett, Coady (c), Boly; Doherty (Traore, 81), Neves, Dendoncker (Costa, 68), Moutinho, Otto; Jiménez, Jota (Cavaleiro, 68)*

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

**Bookings:** Jota (51)

**League Position:** 7

**Referee:** Ken Lupton

## NUNO SENDS ON THE CAV'ALRY

### BRISTOL CITY 0-1 WOLVES

Sunday 17th February 2019

(FA Cup 5th Round)

Wolves overcame resilient Bristol City at Ashton Gate to reach the FA Cup quarter-finals for the first time since 2003. On paper this was a tricky tie with City on a nine-game winning streak, but Wolves ended up 1-0 winners thanks to Ivan Cavaleiro's first-half goal, and in the process landed themselves a mouth-watering tie at home to Man United in the last eight.

Before the game kicked off there was a minute's applause for England goalkeeping legend Gordon Banks who passed away on the previous Tuesday at the age of 81.

It was the archetypal game of two halves with Nuno's boys in control in the first half. There actually wasn't a single shot from either team in the first 20 minutes with both sides looking to get a foothold in the game, but it was Wolves mainly dominating and playing the better football.



Wolves deserved took the lead on 28 minutes, after a patient build-up of several passes Doherty took Coady's pass and skipped by Chelsea loanee Dasilva, he then squared for Cavaleiro who coolly finished with his right foot from 12 yards.

Wolves were up and running like a finely tuned piano, and on the half-hour mark, Doherty came agonisingly close to making it two, but his fierce shot after a fine one-two with Jiménez smashed off the inside of the post.

# MATCH REPORTS



If the first-half belonged to Wolves, it was Bristol City who dominated affairs after the break. City changed to a three-man defence with substitutes Taylor and Pack both squandering good goal-scoring opportunities. But Wolves held on to reach the last eight for the first time in 16 years.

**Man of the match:** Doherty

**Team Rating:** 7/10

**Attendance:** 24,394

**Team:** Ruddy; Bennett, Coady (c), Boly; Doherty (Neves, 81), Dendoncker, Saiss, Moutinho, Otto; Jiménez (Traore, 90+2), Cavaleiro (Gibbs-White, 70)

**Unused Subs:** Norris, Vinagre, Costa, Ennis

**Bookings:** Moutinho (83), Gibbs-White (86)

**Referee:** Martin Atkinson

## REFFIN' HELL

### BOURNEMOUTH 1-1 WOLVES

Saturday 23rd February 2019



This game ended with Wolves eventually grabbing a point following a late Raúl Jiménez penalty, but it should have been all three. Yet again, like so many occasions in the Championship, they were robbed by a referee who shouldn't be allowed to officiate a Subbuteo game never mind a Premier League game.

The man in charge under the title of referee was Roger East, and he made sure that it was he who was centre of attention and not the football game he was supposed to be in charge of. Unfortunately for Wolves most of his shocking decisions went against them, probably because the first part of their name wasn't Manchester.

On paper Bournemouth was a difficult task, at home they hadn't been beaten by a non-top six side since November 2017. However, Wolves do not fear any opposition

these days, they took the game to their hosts and were the better team from start to finish, playing the attractive football we all now appreciate.

The first contentious decision came in the 12th minute, Jota won the ball in the box, and set up Raúl Jiménez who put the ball in the back of the net, but Mr East harshly penalised the Portuguese forward for a foul.

A minute later came Mr East's second poor decision. Moutinho appeared to play the ball when challenging Josh King in the area, and made minimal contact with the Bournemouth man who went down theatrically to win a penalty. The referee had no hesitation and pointed to the spot. King sent the penalty into the corner to put Bournemouth one up.

Mr East wasn't done with Wolves yet. A few minutes later he denied them a stonewall spot kick, missing a clear handball by Chris Mepham with the ball rolling down his arm in the box. Every Wolves play appealed for a penalty, but to no avail.

Wolves began the second-half on the front foot and piled on the pressure winning a series of corners taken by the majestic Moutinho. From successive flag kicks Dendoncker forced Artur Boruc to push over the bar with a powerful header, and then Willy Boly nodded on to the roof of the net.

Mr East decided his profile needed raising another point, and again it was Nuno's Boys on the end of another baffling decision. Bournemouth midfielder Jefferson Lerma, was only given a yellow card when he deliberately thrust his elbow into Moutinho's face, leaving the midfielder bleeding from the mouth.

With 8 minutes left on the clock Mr East finally gave a decision in Wolves favour. Doherty lined up a shot inside the box and was clattered from behind by Adam Smith, this time Mr East awarded a penalty to Wolves. Jiménez stepped up and coolly sent Boruc the wrong way to level the scores.

Mr East wasn't finished yet. With five minutes left Cavaleiro was adjudged to have fouled Fraser in the area and a penalty was awarded. First opinions, and then replays clearly showed that Cavaleiro pulled out of the tackle, and if it was a foul then it was outside the box, another shocking decision by the official. This time though justice was done when King put his penalty wide via the post.

With five minutes of extra time on the clock Mr East blew the final whistle, the first thing he had got right all afternoon.

**Man of the match:** Moutinho

**Team Rating:** 6/10

**Attendance:** 10,671

**Team:** Patricio, Bennett, Coady (c), Boly; Doherty, Dendoncker (Traore, 77), Neves, Moutinho, Otto; Jiménez (Saiss, 88), Jota (Cavaleiro, 66)

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

**Bookings:** Jota (21), Dendoncker (42), Bennett (57), Jiménez (77), Neves (85)

**League Position:** 8

**Referee:** Roger East

## WOLVES NOT ON THE MOUNIE

### HUDDERSFIELD 1-0 WOLVES

Tuesday 27th February 2019



Wolves saved their worst performance of the season, for the game against the worst team in the Premier, as they succumbed to an injury-time defeat at lowly Huddersfield. The stats showed that Wolves didn't have a single shot on target against the team 11 points adrift of safety. Huddersfield have earned 14 points all season, almost half of them coming against Nuno's Boys.

Wolves were limp in attack, short of ideas and inspiration, second best in the tackle and at times outplayed by Huddersfield. If they have aspirations of a place in the Europa League next season then they will have to offer a lot more than they did here at the John Smith's Stadium.

Wolves started very cautiously, but Huddersfield didn't possess the quality in the final third to make their slackness pay. Raúl Jiménez headed wide from a free-kick and Matt Doherty fluffed his lines from a tight angle as the first-half passed with little incident.



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Huddersfield showed more spirit in the tackle, yet they didn't seem capable of adding to their paltry tally of just six goals at home this season, especially when Mounie headed into the side netting from close range on the hour mark.

The game seemed to be heading for an uneventful stalemate, but the hosts mustered one last attack and punished Wolves for their shabby performance. Mooy pinged a ball into the danger zone which was turned towards goal by Grant, and his shot was turned home by Mounie inside the six-yard box.

**Man of the match:** Patricio

**Team Rating:** 1/10

**Attendance:** 22,714

**Team:** *Patricio, Bennett, Coady (c), Boly; Doherty, Dendoncker, Moutinho (Gibbs-White, 66), Neves, Otto; Jiménez (Costa, 78), Jota (Cavaleiro, 66)*

**Unused Subs:** *Ruddy, Saiss, Vinagre, Traore*

**Bookings:** Bennett (43), Doherty (89)

**League Position:** 8

**Referee:** David Coote

## TWO CARD TRICK

### WOLVES 2-0 CARDIFF

Saturday 2nd March 2019

Wolves looked to bounce back after the Tuesday night's horror show at Huddersfield, and did so with a dominating performance against relegation bound Cardiff. After taking an early two goal lead they laid siege on the Cardiff goal, but their keeper Neil Etheridge put in a man of the match performance and kept the score down with a series of fine saves.

Cardiff started the brighter of the two teams and took the game to Wolves, although having little in the way of success. The closest they came to scoring was when John Ruddy, who came in for Rui Patricio, almost gifted them a goal in the 7th minute after spilling Gunnarsson's shot, but thankfully he landed on the ball at the second attempt.

It seemed Wolves were still suffering a hangover from Tuesday night, but they turned the game upside down with two goals in the space of just two minutes. The first one was an absolute stunner, Boly brought the ball upfield and then Jota, Jiménez and Gibbs-White combined with some gorgeous interplay, slicing through Cardiff's defence like a hot knife through



butter with some sublime one-touch football, before Jota then coolly sidefooted home.

It was a breathtaking goal, and things got even better two minutes later. Bamba was pick-pocketed on the right and Jiménez made tracks towards goal, he crossed to the unmarked Jota who brought the ball down, drew Etheridge and played it back for Jiménez to tuck the ball into the net.

Wolves were suddenly on the rampage, with Jiménez and Jota causing bedlam in and around the Cardiff box. It was almost three when Leander Dendoncker hit the post from a Gibbs-White corner, and when the ball broke loose his second attempt was somehow pushed over the bar by Etheridge.

After the break, Wolves had numerous chances to add to their lead, as Cardiff never looked like staging any kind of second-half comeback. Traore twice missed the target with efforts from outside the box, while Etheridge made save after save to deny Wolves the chance of boosting their goal difference figure.

**Man of the match:** Saiss

**Team Rating:** 7/10

**Attendance:** 31,309

**Team:** *Ruddy, Bennett, Coady (c), Boly; Traore (Cavaleiro, 75), Dendoncker, Saiss, Gibbs-White (Moutinho, 63), Vinagre; Jiménez, Jota (Doherty, 47)*

**Unused Subs:** *Otto, Neves, Costa*

**Bookings:** Bennett (34)

**League Position:** 7

**Referee:** Andre Marriner

## HAZARD SIGNS TAKEN DOWN A MINUTE TOO EARLY

### CHELSEA 1-1 WOLVES

Sunday 10th March 2019

So near and yet so far, a colossus defensive effort almost paid dividends as Wolves just failed to hold onto three points when conceding in the 92nd minute against

Chelsea at Stamford Bridge. The result continued Wolves' unbeaten record in London this season, that's six games now with wins against West Ham, Crystal Palace and Spurs, and draws against Arsenal, Fulham and Chelsea.

Wolves hardly made it out of their own half before the interval with Chelsea dominating and having 79% of the possession, but for all their dominance the team from West London could only register one genuine effort on goal from Higuain, and Patricio easily blocked that attempt from an acute angle.

In the first 45 minutes Wolves only venture into the Chelsea half came when Neves picked out Jota beyond the back line, and it was a fantastic strike from Jota as he smashed the ball into the net on the half volley, but he was clearly offside when he picked the ball up and the goal was ruled out.

The second-half continued where the first-half finished off, with Chelsea pushing deep into the Wolves half. However, ten minutes after the break Wolves took the lead against the run of play. The move started on the edge of their own box, Jota combined superbly with Jiménez before slipping a pass back to the Mexico international, his shot took a heavy deflection off Azpilicueta, but still looped over Kepa into the net.



The noise coming from the area of the ground seating the Wolves supporters was deafening. Chelsea tried to strike back but the pattern was all too predictable as Wolves continued to block anything Chelsea could muster. Clearances and interceptions were made with apparent ease, and all of the back five were absolutely outstanding against the likes of Hazard, Pedro and Higuain.

However, with two of the four minutes of stoppage time already played Wolves hearts were broken. Hazard collected a short pass from Willian, and for the first time in the whole of the game was given

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half a yard of space on the edge of the penalty area, and he curled the ball past Patricia into the bottom right-hand corner of the net.

With an FA Cup Quarter Final coming up next week against Manchester United at Molineux, let's hope that it's not the last time Wolves will play in London this season. A win will ensure a return to the capital in the form of an FA Cup Semi Final at Wembley, it's something we could have only dreamed of a few years ago, now nothing seems impossible for this majestic team.

**Man of the match:** Dendoncker

**Team Rating:** 7/10

**Attendance:** 40,692

**Team:** *Patricio, Saiss, Coady (c), Boly; Doherty, Dendoncker, Neves, Moutinho, Otto, Jiménez (Traore, 89), Jota (Gibbs-White, 81)*

**Unused Subs:** *Ruddy, Kilman, Vinagre, Costa, Cavaleiro*

**Bookings:** Doherty (37), Saiss (66), Boly (75), Jota (80)

**League Position:** 7

**Referee:** Michael Oliver

## SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER

### WOLVES 2-1 MANCHESTER UNITED

Saturday 16th March 2019  
(FA Cup Quarter Final)



It was one of those special nights that Wolves fans will remember for a long time, the night that Nuno Espírito Santo's Boys reached the FA Cup semi-finals for the first time in 20 years. The mighty Manchester United came, and were conquered by a group of special players now donning the famous gold shirt.

After a goalless first-half, Wolves stepped up their intensity in the second-half with Raúl Jiménez and Diogo Jota grabbing the all-important goals, before Marcus Rashford grabbed a late consolation for United.

Man United dominated possession in the early stages, but without hurting a resolute Wolves, and for all their control of territory their only chances were a shot that Pogba dragged wide, and an optimistic 30 yarder from Rashford that Ruddy easily dealt with.

It was around about the half-hour mark that Wolves started to up the tempo, Coady intercepted the ball in midfield and sprayed to Jonny, who then won a corner on the right. From that Moutinho picked out Neves on the edge of the box and his first-time effort was held by Romero.

Jota then latched on to Doherty's cross, but hit his volley into the ground, allowing Romero an easy save. And it was Jota who had best chance of either team just before the break. Wolves made a rapid counter attack after a poor United corner, and Neves threaded the ball through to Jota who broke towards goal, but Romero rushed off his line to block the shot.

It was déjà vu as United started the brighter at the start of the second-half, but as in the first-half didn't create any clear openings. Then in the 54th minute, a corner from the right found Jiménez who rose above Lindelof and powered a superb header towards the top corner, but Romero made a stunning one-handed save to tip the ball onto the crossbar and away for a corner.



The volume went up a several decibels as the crowd sensed that something special could be happening, and with 20 minutes left it did. The magical Moutinho attacked from the edge of the box and left three United defenders in his slipstream before passing to Jiménez, he somehow kept possession despite being surrounded, and with his back to goal he squeezed a low shot into the corner from 10 yards.

The roof came off and the noise was deafening, but six minutes later, just as the roof was returning to its natural place Jota



had the Wolves fans blasting it off into the stratosphere again.

With United pressing for an equaliser, Wolves broke with lightning speed and Neves found the in-form Jota on the halfway line. He brushed aside a Shaw challenge, headed for the penalty area and struck a superb left foot shot past Romero to make it an unbelievable 2-0.

It was a cauldron of noise as Wolves went for the jugular, and United were lucky to escape further misery in the 81st minute when Lindelof was initially sent off for a foul on Jota, however VAR was used to switch the defender's punishment to just a booking.

Wolves' fans were already celebrating victory when Rashford pulled a goal back in injury time, but it mattered not, they were already on their way to Wemberlee. It was night that Wolves fans who were lucky enough to have a ticket, will never forget.

**Man of the match:** Moutinho

**Team Rating:** 10/10

**Attendance:** 31,004

**Team:** *Ruddy, Saiss, Coady (c), Boly; Doherty, Dendoncker, Neves, Moutinho, Otto; Jiménez (Costa, 90), Jota (Traore, 87)*

**Unused Subs:** *Norris, Bennett, Vinagre, Gibbs-White, Cavaleiro*

**Bookings:** Boly (41), Neves (43), Coady (86)

**Referee:** Martin Atkinson

## CRASHED AND BURNED

### BURNLEY 2-0 WOLVES

Saturday 30th March 2019

On the day that Huddersfield were relegated from the Premier League with just 14 points from 32 matches (SIX of those points won against Wolves), Nuno's Boys once again disappointed against a Burnley team who themselves were in the bottom five and in a desperate fight against relegation.



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It couldn't have got off to a worst start for Wolves as they gifted Burnley a goal start within 90 seconds. Burnley took a quick free-kick from just outside the box, Wood who was unmarked controlled with his thigh taking him wide of Patricio, his angled shot clipped the post and the rebound then struck the unfortunate Coady and ended up in the back of the net.

It was shocking defending, and the goal knocked Wolves for six, the usual silky silks seemed to have been left back in the dressing room as Wolves struggled to string two passes together. It seemed as if all eyes were focussed on the impending Cup Semi Final against Watford as Burnley dominated the early proceedings.

After the shaky start Wolves started to press, and there was a massive shout for a penalty on the 20 minute mark. Following a right-wing corner Otto fired a shot from the back of the box that struck Barnes on the hand, and even though it looked blatant handball referee Chris Kavanagh decided 'no penalty'.

Wolves made an immediate impact after the break, and twice went close in the first five minutes. In a quick break Traore ghosted past a posse of Burnley players before finding Jota out on the left, he then cut inside and flashed a dangerous-looking ball inches past the far post.

A minute later should have seen Wolves equalise, Mee missed his tackle near the right touchline allowing Dendoncker to get free to the byline, he looked up and picked out Cavaleiro 12 yards out, but the usually deadly finisher blazed over the bar from a superb position with the goal gaping.

With more than an hour gone neither team had managed to register a shot on target. Wolves were probing away and trying to get in down the flanks, but with Burnley happy to sit on their lead they were proving a tough nut to crack with Mee and Tarkowski dominant in the air.

The 74th minute saw the first shot on target as Moutinho was given time and

space to chip a lovely ball to the back post where Otto's header was well saved by Heaton. However, it looked game over for Wolves just two minutes later when Burnley added a second, McNeil picked up possession outside the box, and as Saiss backed off he drilled a low drive into the bottom right-hand corner of the net.

Wolves tried to respond, and Moutinho whipped a cross to Doherty who headed over at the back post. However, there was to be no comeback, and no way through the Burnley stronghold. Nuno will be again scratching his head as to why his team continue to underperform against one of the Premier's strugglers.

**Man of the match:** Traore

**Team Rating:** 3/10

**Attendance:** 20,990

**Team:** *Patricio, Saiss, Coady (c), Boly; Traore (Costa, 71), Neves, Dendoncker (Doherty, 59), Moutinho, Otto; Cavaleiro (Jiménez, 59), Jota*

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

**Bookings:** Neves (90+3)

**League Position:** 7

**Referee:** Chris Kavanagh

## ASH TO ASHES

**WOLVES 2-1 MANCHESTER UNITED**

Tuesday 2nd April 2019



For the second time in just over a fortnight Wolves beat Manchester United 2-1 at Molineux. After going an early goal down many thought that Wolves may have had one eye on Sunday's date at Wembley. However, Nuno's Boys produced an exhilarating comeback to earn yet another unforgettable win in what has become a season to remember.

Molineux was again packed to the rafters with Wolves fans hoping to see a repeat of their quarter-final win just a couple of

weeks earlier. If the first 20 minutes was anything to go by then they would have been prepared for disappointment, United attacked Wolves who defended too deep, allowing them to take the initiative.

United could have been out of sight in that opening period, Lukaku should have scored in the 5th minute but headed straight at Patricio from six yards out. But they did get the goal they had been threatening in the 13th minute, McTominay was given the ball just outside the Wolves area and he smashed a daisy cutter past Patricio.

United went for the jugular, and just five minutes after McTominay's opener Lingard fluffed a golden chance to double United's lead, from just six yards out he steered a header towards the corner but Patricio launched himself to his right and clawed it away.



That let-off seemingly acted as a wakeup call to Wolves, and in the 25th minute the roof came off when Diogo Jota levelled the scores. De Gea played the ball out from the back and Fred was caught in possession by Jiménez, he then slotted a peach of a ball to Jota who coolly drilled it into the corner of the net.

The game continued to ebb and flow, and Dendoncker should have made it 2-1 but crashed it over from six yards after great work from Doherty. Then Lukaku was inches away when he fired inches past the post just before the break.

Young handed the initiative to Wolves on the hour mark when, having already been booked for a tugging Jota's shirt, he slid in recklessly on the Portuguese Maestro and caught him with a leg breaker of a challenge. It was an easy decision for referee Mike Dean to make as he took out his red card for the 100th time in the Premier League and waved it at Young.

Wolves' players could smell blood and went for the kill. The second goal was inevitable and it came in the 77th minute, although the manner was a bit farcical. Moutinho's cross caused mayhem and Jiménez prodded the ball towards goal,



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Dendoncker attempted to make contact, and as Smalling challenged he fell to the ground and nudged the ball over the line with his hand.

As with the quarter-final the noise levels became deafening, and there was no taking the foot off the pedal for Nuno's Boys. De Gea produced a good save to prevent a second Smalling own goal, while Cavaleiro had time to hammer the ball against the crossbar before the referee eventually blew the final whistle.

Wolves now head to Wembley with their best chance of reaching the FA Cup Final for the first time since 1960 when they defeated Blackburn Rovers 3-0.

**Man of the match:** Jota

**Team Rating:** 10/10

**Attendance:** 31,004

**Team:** *Patricio, Bennett, Coady (c), Boly, Doherty, Neves (Saiss, 84), Dendoncker, Moutinho, Vinagre (Otto, 75); Jiménez, Jota (Cavaleiro, 73)*

**Unused Subs:** *Ruddy, Gibbs-White, Traore, Costa*

**Bookings:** Otto (90+4)

**Referee:** Mike Dean

## WAT HAPPENED THERE?

### WATFORD 3-2 WOLVES

*(after extra time)*

Sunday 7th April 2019

This will take some getting over, we could smell it and we could taste it, the first FA Cup final in 59 years was within our grasp. With just 12 minutes remaining we were 2-0 up, but somehow managed to throw the lead away. Watford pulled one back in the 79th minute, and with 180 seconds left they won a penalty when Dendoncker tripped Deeney inside the Wolves box, the striker picked himself up to blast in the spot-kick. In extra-time Deulofeu scored his second to make it 3-2 and break Wolves hearts.

Wolves showed they were up for it right from the kick-off, and could have taken the lead inside the first 20 seconds when Jonny curled a shot narrowly wide after cutting in from the left. And just a few minutes later Jota was fouled just outside the Watford box and Moutinho curled a teasing free-kick onto the roof of the net.

The game went a bit quieter after that initial opening burst, with both defences well drilled and on top of their game. On the half-hour mark Watford had the first big chance to take the lead. A ball from the left was curled into the six-yard box where Gray acrobatically tried to divert it past Ruddy, but he got under the ball and fired it over the bar, a big let-off for Wolves.

It was Dendoncker who had the first shot on target in the 32nd minute, his speculative 30 yard pile driver took a deflection and was tipped over by Gomes. However, Wolves went in front from the resulting corner. Doherty escaped the attention of Doucoure and the unmarked Irishman headed in Jota's cross to break the deadlock.



Wolves were on the up, and Watford could have fallen further behind when Jota ran from deep, easing past three defenders in a mazy run and then curling his shot a fraction wide, it would have been a worldie had it gone in. Wolves then had a real scare on the stroke of half-time, Watford should have levelled when Gray's goalbound effort cannoned off Coady's head and behind for a corner.

Wolves re-emerged after the break looking to build on their one-goal lead, and nearly made it 2-0 inside the first 30 seconds after the restart when Jiménez chased a ball over the top, held off his man and fired goalwards with Gomes having to palm it away.

Wolves seemed to have one foot into the final when they doubled their lead in the 62nd minute. Holebas brought down Jota for a Wolves free kick, and Doherty swung the ball over for Jiménez who chested the ball down and volleyed first-time past Gomes, a superb goal oozing quality.



With nothing to lose Watford piled pressure on the Wolves defence, but Ruddy remained untroubled until the 79th minute when Deulofeu, who earlier should have been sent off for thrusting his head into Moutinho's face, was left unmarked and curled it in from the left of the area to make it 2-1.

Suddenly Wolves were on the back foot, a succession of corners, crosses and long throws had them pinned deep into their own half. In the last few minutes Bennett replaced Neves, with Saiss pushing into midfield, and then Cavaleiro surprisingly came on for the outstanding Jota as Nuno sacrificed his best player.

Watford pushed, and pushed as Wolves defended deeper and deeper. Then in the 92nd minute, and with Wolves just 180 seconds from the final, Watford plunged a dagger into Wolves hearts. Dendoncker was adjudged to have tripped Deeney in the area, even though it looked a dive. Michael Oliver pointed to the spot, VAR agreed and Deeney stepped up to drive the ball past Ruddy and take the game into extra time.

Both sides struggled to maintain the intensity of a manic second half until Gray and Deulofeu exchanged passes on the break, and the latter held off Bennett to put Watford ahead for the first time.

Cavaleiro had Wolves' only real chance during the additional half-hour when beating Mariappa for pace and rounding Gomes. But with the goal at his mercy from a tight angle, the ball rebounded on his heel and away.

**Man of the match:** Jota

**Team Rating:** 7/10

**Attendance:** 80,062

**Team:** *Ruddy, Saiss, Coady (c), Boly, Doherty, Neves (Bennett, 86), Dendoncker, Moutinho (Traore, 101), Otto (Vinagre, 106), Jiménez, Jota (Cavaleiro, 88)*

**Unused Subs:** *Norris, Gibbs-White, Costa*

**Bookings:** Saiss (10), Neves (25)

**Referee:** Michael Oliver



# MATCH REPORTS



## THREE HAIL ST MARYS

### **SOUTHAMPTON 3-1 WOLVES**

Saturday 13th April 2019

Call this horror show whatever you want, but don't blame last week's semi-final heartache for this absolute shambles of a performance. After a magnificent season, with some games that will be etched in the memory for many a year to come, this game against Southampton was a feeble attempt to push on for that 7th position, and potentially qualify for the Europa Cup League.

Yet again Nuno's Boys slipped up against a team struggling at the wrong end of the table, and there seems to be no explanation as to why Wolves can give the top six a run for their money, but struggle when playing against teams fighting for their Premiership survival like Southampton.

As with the last away game at Burnley, Wolves found themselves a goal down with less than two minutes on the clock. Sims got in behind Boly and Jonny down the right, and was given as much time as you like to look up and cross the ball into the six-yard box where Redmond nipped in front of the static Saiss to slot the ball home and give Southampton the lead.

It was schoolboy stuff, and the last thing needed after last week's result against Watford. However, Wolves responded well and came close to an equaliser when Dendoncker headed over from a free-kick, Jiménez also went close when his low shot was saved by Gunn.



Wolves continued to push forward and deservedly levelled in the 28th minute when Boly attacked a beautifully flighted corner by Moutinho and headed into the roof of the net. Game on, not a chance, within 2 minutes Southampton were back in front after another horror show at the back. Redmond was played onside by the sleeping Coady and latched onto a pass from Sims before chipping the ball over the stranded Patricio.

Suddenly all the attacking and build-up play ceased, and Wolves were on the back foot. Southampton were on the ascendancy and the fifteen or so minutes up to the break were a tortuous time for Captain Coady and his defensive team mates. On more than one occasion Southampton came close to adding a third goal, and Nuno must have breathed a sigh of relief it was just 2-1 down at half-time.

Wolves improved after the break and Jota slashed a shot wide from the penalty spot, before Jiménez then wasted a glorious chance to equalise when he shanked a volley from 10 yards that was so wide it nearly hit the corner flag.

That was the chance Wolves had been waiting for, and a minute later Southampton made them pay for not taking it. Another poor clearance from a corner was sent back goalwards, and Shane Long who was played on by the sleeping Traore flicked the ball past Patricio to make it 3-1.

Southampton comfortably held out to move a step closer to survival, and Wolves continued their poor record against struggling sides, against the current bottom five they've played eight, won two and lost five.

**Man of the match:** Patricio

**Team Rating:** 2/10

**Attendance:** 31,708

**Team:** *Patricio, Saiss, Coady (c), Boly; Doherty (Traore, 60), Dendoncker, Neves (Gibbs-White, 70), Moutinho, Otto; Jiménez, Jota (Costa, 87)*

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

**Bookings:** Moutinho (40), Jiménez (45+2), Saiss (74)

**League Position:** 8

**Referee:** Jonathan Moss

## ***A BOX FULL OF SEAGULLS***

### **WOLVES 0-0 BRIGHTON**

Saturday 20th April 2019

It was a case of déjà vu as Wolves had the lion's share of possession against a poor Brighton team, as was the case in the corresponding fixture at the Amex Stadium back in October. In the two games Wolves have had 47 shots at goal, but have still failed to find the back of the net in the three plus hours against the team struggling to avoid the drop into the Championship.

Nuno took his team for a week in the Spanish sun to try and generate some



enthusiasm for the five game run in to what has been an incredible season, and they started brightly with some neat interchanges and build up play. However, as in the game at the Amex the killer touch in front of goal was again missing.

Brighton put on the tin hats and set their stall from the first minute, the stats showed they had suffered five successive defeats in all competitions without scoring a single goal. There was no way they were going to attack in any shape or form, packing the defence with as many bodies as possible was the order of the day, and unfortunately for all those watching it worked a treat.

The in-form Jota was Wolves' liveliest attacking threat. He wriggled into some space 20 yards out and fired across goal and just wide. And then on the stroke of half-time he latched onto a deflected Ruben Neves' shot and his looped shot clipped the top of the crossbar.

A Moutinho corner on the hour-mark saw the ball land nicely for Jota, but his shot was smothered by Ryan, although the goalkeeper should have been given no chance with 17 minutes remaining when Duffy's slip allowed Jota the chance to meet Jiménez's cross, but his header struck the post before Dendoncker's rebound was brilliantly saved.

Dendoncker was well-placed to meet Boly's knock-down from Moutinho's deep corner with two minutes of normal time left but his header was gathered by Ryan as Brighton achieved their mission and went back to the south coast with a point.

**Man of the match:** Jota

**Team Rating:** 4/10

**Attendance:** 31,096

**Team:** *Patricio, Bennett, Coady (c), Boly; Doherty (Traore, 83), Gibbs-White (Dendoncker, 73), Neves, Moutinho, Otto (Vinagre, 66); Jiménez, Jota*

**Unused Subs:** *Ruddy, Saiss, Costa, Cavaleiro*

**Bookings:** None

**League Position:** 8

**Referee:** Craig Pawson

# MATCH REPORTS



## GUNNED DOWN

### WOLVES 3-1 ARSENAL

Wednesday 24th April 2019

The heartbreak of the FA Cup semi-final defeat was finally laid to rest as Wolves got back to winning ways against another top six side. It's been 40 long years and 20 matches in all competitions since Wolves last beat Arsenal, but Nuno's Boys again confirmed that something special is just beginning to happen at our beloved Wolverhampton Wanderers Football Club.

This game was reminiscent of the two home games against Man United, Wolves sat back and let Arsenal have the ball, in fact in the first 20 minutes the visitors had 80% of the possession. However, for all the pretty football Patricio was a virtual spectator as the visitors lacked that clinical touch in front of goal.

It was hard work viewing, but a run by Jota from his own box to the edge of Arsenal's suddenly had the crowd buzzing, and from that point onwards Wolves exploded into life. Within a minute came Wolves' first real opportunity, Doherty rolled the ball across the edge of the penalty area to Moutinho, and his first time strike flashed just wide of the upright.

It was Jota again who stretched his legs to scamper forward from deep, playing to Jonny who was cynically wiped out just outside the box. From the free-kick up stepped that man Neves who lifted the ball up and over the wall and found the bottom corner with an absolute beauty, giving Leno absolutely no chance.



Soon after it was 2-0. Yet again Jota was the inspiration, taking Jonny's pass and crashing one into the six-yard box, forcing Leno to push the ball behind for a corner. From that Moutinho played it short to Jonny who floated the ball into the penalty area, and Doherty got in front of the flapping Leno to head into the empty net.



Right on the stroke of half-time it was 3-0, and it was the superb Jota whose name was on the scoresheet. The Portuguese Magician went on another trademark run from deep, and skipped past Sokratis as if he was wearing deep sea diver's boots, he then fired a shot under Leno who allowed the ball to roll underneath him.

After the break it was a case of déjà vu with Arsenal controlling and dominating possession, and Wolves creating the clear-cut chances. In fact the more Arsenal pushed forward the more Wolves kept their shape, and the more likely they looked to add to their 3-0 lead.

With 20 minutes remaining Wolves should have increased their lead but Jiménez lashed a wild shot wide after a pinpoint defence splitting pass by Jonny. It looked like being a procession, but Arsenal gave themselves a lifeline with 10 minutes to go when Sokratis headed home a Xhaka corner to make it 3-1.

The goal proved to be only a consolation as Wolves easily played out the remainder of the game, and get their quest for 7th place well and truly back on course.

**Man of the match:** Jota

**Team Rating:** 10/10

**Attendance:** 31,436

**Team:** Patricio, Bennett, Coady (c), Boly; Doherty, Dendoncker, Neves, Moutinho (Gibbs-White, 90), Otto; Jiménez (Traore, 82), Jota (Cavaleiro, 78)

**Unused Subs:** Ruddy, Vinagre, Saiss, Costa

**Bookings:** Doherty (17), Bennett (84)

**League Position:** 7

**Referee:** Stuart Attwell

## RAÚL CANNOT MASK HIS JOY

### WATFORD 1-2 WOLVES

Saturday 27th April 20 19



Wolves avenged their semi-final defeat by beating Watford 2-1 at Vicarage Road, and in the process strengthen their bid for a Europa Cup place. The Wembley nightmare will remain in all supporters' memory for a while yet, but this victory was oh so sweet, and the perfect response to the bitter disappointment of missing out on a Cup Final place against Man City on 18th May.

Following the 3-1 mauling of Arsenal on Wednesday night Nuno kept the same starting eleven. With European football at stake, the game was a tight affair amid a tense atmosphere both on and off the pitch. Chances were far and few between in the early stages but the game suddenly came alive on the half-hour mark when Jiménez went close to scoring.

Following a lightning quick counter-attack Jota fed Doherty who was overlapping down the right side of the area, and his pinpoint cross across the six-yard box created the opening for Jiménez, but he was denied by Capoue with a last-ditch goal-line clearance. Goal-line technology confirmed that the whole of the ball did not cross all of the line.

However, Wolves did take the lead four minutes before the break, a right-wing corner eventually found its way through to Jota waiting unmarked on the left edge of the box. His inch perfect cross to the far post was met by Jiménez who headed home from virtually on the goal line.

After getting their noses in front Wolves threw away the lead within four minutes of the restart. Bennett attempted to pass the ball back to Patricio and did not see Deulofeu behind him, the keeper smothered the strikers shot, but the ball fell straight to Gray who thumped it into the unguarded net.



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With 20 minutes remaining it was on a knife edge with both sides going for the win. Coady threw himself at the ball to block a Hughes shot, while a Moutinho screamer from range was deflected just over the bar. However, with 12 minutes left Wolves struck the killer blow, Neves swung over a cross from deep to the back post where a flapping Foster missed the ball and Jota guided a first time volley into the net.



Patricio's goal wasn't seriously troubled in the closing stages or five minutes of stoppages time, with the Wolves defence organised and calm. Jota was denied a stone wall penalty when taken out by Kabasele late on, but fortunately it didn't matter with Wolves seeing out time and strengthening their hold on 7th place.

**Man of the match:** Jota  
**Team Rating:** 8/10  
**Attendance:** 20,323  
**Team:** *Patricio, Doherty, Bennett, Coady (c), Boly, Jonny, Dendoncker, Neves, Moutinho, Jota (Gibbs-White 90), Jiménez (Cavaleiro 86)*  
**Unused Subs:** *Ruddy, Vinagre, Saiss, Costa, Traore*  
**Bookings:** Moutinho (61), Jota (84)  
**League Position:** 7  
**Referee:** Simon Hooper

## **SLAM DONK**

### **WOLVES 1-0 FULHAM**

Saturday 4th May 2019

Wolves finished on a high in their last home game of the season with a comfortable win over Championship bound Fulham. Leander Dendoncker's late strike sealed a 1-0 win. After a quiet first half the visitors penalty area became a war zone with Jota, Jiménez and co laying siege on the Fulham goal.

For whatever reason, Wolves have struggled against teams in the bottom half of the table this season, in stark contrast to their

impressive form against the top-six sides, and it was no different in the first half of this clash. Wolves dominated both possession and territory before the break, but without really testing Fulham goalkeeper Sergio Rico.

A brilliant move involving Moutinho, Jiménez and Jota in the 11th minute nearly led to the opener, Moutinho played beyond the back-line to Jiménez, a gorgeous back heel by the Mexican gave Jota a shot on goal from the edge of the area. However Rico was there to make an excellent fingertip stop at the expense of a corner.

A few minutes later Fulham were caught in possession on the edge of their own box, allowing Jota a clear run on goal, but from a tight angle the forward flashed a shot inches past the far post.

The closest Wolves actually came to making a first-half breakthrough was on the half-hour mark when they worked a left-wing corner short to Moutinho. However, Dendoncker was only able to head the Portuguese Maestro's inviting cross against the bar from six yards out.

In a rare foray into Wolves territory Fulham should have opened the scoring in the 63rd minute, Sessegnon broke down the right flank and cut the ball back perfectly for the unmarked Mitrovic some 10 yards from goal, but the Serb sent his shot high over the bar.

Wolves hit back with three chances inside two minutes. A Neves thunderbolt from outside the box was tipped wide by Rico, before the keeper saved Doherty's goalbound header with his legs. Moutinho had crossed to Doherty for that chance, and from his resulting corner Jiménez flashed a header past the post.

Wolves continued to press and in the 73rd minute a free kick was taken short to Jonny, his shot from the edge of the box fell nicely at Doherty's feet, but despite the Irishman smashing the ball into the roof of the net the goal was ruled out for offside.

Nuno's Boys finally broke the deadlock with 15 minutes left on the clock. Fulham gave the ball away to Doherty who played a neat one-two with Moutinho down the right flank, and from the wing back's inch-perfect pull back there was Dendoncker to cushion a brilliant volley past a helpless Rico at his near post.

Wolves piled forward in search of a second with Jota doing everything bar finding the net. His rasping half-volley was tipped onto the bar by Rico in what turned out to be the last goalscoring chance. There was just about time for Will Norris and Max Kilman to get onto the field before the full-time whistle blew and Wolves' wonderful home season drew to a close.

**Man of the match:** Moutinho  
**Team Rating:** 7/10  
**Attendance:** 30,456  
**Team:** *Patricio (Norris, 90), Bennett, Coady (c), Boly (Kilman, 90); Doherty, Dendoncker, Neves, Moutinho, Otto (Vinagre, 90); Jiménez, Jota*  
**Unused Subs:** *Gibbs-White, Traore, Costa, Cavaleiro*  
**Bookings:** Jota (7)  
**League Position:** 7  
**Referee:** Jonathan Moss

## **NO GOLD ICING ON THE CAKE**

### **LIVERPOOL 2-0 WOLVES**

Sunday 12th May 2019



There was to be no perfect ending to what has been one of the best seasons for the followers of the Boys in Gold and black in many a year. They narrowly lost 2-0 to a Liverpool side who were scrapping with Man City in a final day battle to be Premier League Champions.

At the end of the day Wolves finished the season in 7th position, the highest by a newly-promoted side in the Premier League since Ipswich Town finished 5th in 2000-2001. And with 7th place already in the bag, their only reward for winning this game would be to potentially stop Liverpool winning the League.

Wolves looked confident and remained unruffled by the big occasion and, as they have against other big sides this season, sat deep in the early stages to get a

# MATCH REPORTS



foothold in the game. Apart from a low shot from Origi that Patricio easily dealt with, it was a case of both teams finding each other out.

Then in the 17th minute Liverpool took the lead, and the goal was very similar to the opener that Salah scored in the corresponding fixture at Molineux. Alexander-Arnold sent over a low cross from the right and unfortunately for Wolves it fell to Mane who was given too much space in the area, and he clinically slotted home to make it 1-0.

It was all Liverpool as they took control, and Patricio had to be alert in the 25th minute when he clawed away a pile driver from Robertson, but gradually Wolves were gaining confidence and starting to play some of the slick sexy football seen so many times during the season.

With just a minute to go to half-time Wolves went within a whisker of an equaliser with some magical football down the left hand side. Moutinho played a sublime back-heel to Jonny who powered down the wing and cut the ball inside where Jiménez dummied for Jota, he then fed Doherty and his superb effort from the edge of the box smashed off the top of the crossbar.



Nuno's Boys came out with all guns blazing at the start of the second-half and pushed Liverpool back. Doherty couldn't quite get a shot away when well placed, and then Jiménez and Jota were both a whisker away from being played in via promising through balls which Liverpool's centre halves got to first.

Wolves were dominating the game and they should have equalised in the 68th minute when Doherty lifted a piercing pass over the top, and Jiménez dummied for Jota who was through on goal, but Alisson raced from his line to smother the shot.

Further chances were squandered as Wolves failed to punish Liverpool with their pressure and lightning quick passing, and it was the hosts who sealed the win with a

goal against the run of play with ten minutes left. As with the first goal it was the same pair combining, with Mane converting Alexander-Arnold's cross, albeit from an offside position.

That was it, the end of the game, the end of a magnificent season watching a Wolves team play magical football. Nuno's Boys qualify for the Europa League, and who knows what lies ahead for this outstanding collection of players? Dare we dream of silverware in the not too distant future?

**Come on you Wolves !!!!!**

**Man of the match:** Doherty

**Team Rating:** 7/10

**Attendance:** 53,331

**Team:** Patricio, Bennett, Coady (c), Boly; Doherty (Traore, 80), Neves, Dendoncker, Moutinho (Gibbs-White, 84), Otto (Vinagre, 84); Jiménez, Jota  
**Unused Subs:** Ruddy, Kilman, Costa, Cavaleiro

**Bookings:** Bennett (49), Jota (50)

**Finishing League Position:** 7

**Referee:** Martin Atkinson

**Final Position 7th**

*W 16, D 9, L 13, F 47, A 46, GD 1*

Premier League Table 2018-2019									
Pos	Team	Pld	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1	Manchester City	38	32	2	4	95	23	72	98
2	Liverpool	38	30	7	1	89	22	67	97
3	Chelsea	38	21	9	8	63	39	24	72
4	Tottenham Hotspur	38	23	2	13	67	39	28	71
5	Arsenal	38	21	7	10	73	51	22	70
6	Manchester United	38	19	9	10	65	54	11	66
7	<b>Wolverhampton Wanderers</b>	38	16	9	13	47	46	1	57
8	Everton	38	15	9	14	54	46	8	54
9	Leicester City	38	15	7	16	51	48	3	52
10	West Ham United	38	15	7	16	52	55	-3	52
11	Watford	38	14	8	16	52	59	-7	50
12	Crystal Palace	38	14	7	17	51	53	-2	49
13	Newcastle United	38	12	9	17	42	48	-6	45
14	Bournemouth	38	13	6	19	56	70	-14	45
15	Burnley	38	11	7	20	45	68	-23	40
16	Southampton	38	9	12	17	45	65	-20	39
17	Brighton & Hove Albion	38	9	9	20	35	60	-25	36
18	Cardiff City	38	10	4	24	34	69	-35	34
19	Fulham	38	7	5	26	34	81	-47	26
20	Huddersfield Town	38	3	7	28	22	76	-54	16



# TRAVEL DETAILS



## Travel Arrangements for August and September 2019:-

### Home Matches

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

**Fare** : To be advised.

**Mon 19/8/19 v Man United**  
(k/o 8:00pm – Live on Sky)

- ◆ Outward - Depart Euston 13:03 Arrive Birmingham New Street 14:26
- Depart Birmingham New St 14:31 Arrive Wolverhampton 14:47
- ◆ Return - Depart Wolverhampton 22:45 Arrive Euston 01:13

**Sat 24/8/19 v Burnley**

- ◆ Outward - Depart Euston 09:31 Arrive Wolverhampton 11:37
- ◆ Return - Depart Wolverhampton 18:45 Arrive Euston 20:56

**Sat 14/9/19 v Chelsea**

- ◆ Outward - Depart Euston 09:31 Arrive Wolverhampton 11:37
- ◆ Return - Depart Wolverhampton 18:45 Arrive Euston 20:56

**Sat 28/9/19 v Watford**

- ◆ Outward - Depart Euston 09:31 Arrive Wolverhampton 11:37
- ◆ Return - Depart Wolverhampton 18:45 Arrive Euston 20:56

### Away Matches

**Sun 11/8/19 v Leicester City**  
(k/o 2:00pm)

- ◆ Outward - Depart St Pancras 09.56 Arrive Leicester 11:33
- ◆ Return - Depart Leicester 17.10 Arrive St Pancras 18:20

**Sun 1/9/19 v Everton**  
(k/o 2:00pm)

- ◆ Outward - Euston 09:16 Arrive Liverpool Lime Street 12:11
- ◆ Return - Depart Liverpool Lime Street 17:47 Arrive Euston 20:03

*N.B. There may be a 2 day trip to this match - contact Peter Woodfield if interested*

**Sat 21/9/19 v Crystal Palace**

The nearest railway stations are Selhurst, Thornton Heath or Norwood Junction, all of which are served by London Victoria mainline station. Thornton Heath and Norwood Junction are also served by trains from London Bridge. Journey time approx 30 minutes. It is then a 10-15 minute walk to Selhurst Park from each of these stations.

*N.B. If we progress in the Europa League, some Saturday games will be moved to Sunday*

**TRAVEL SECRETARY - PETER WOODFIELD**

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Telephone - 01634 363704 E-mail - peter.woodfield@outlook.com

### **FEEDBACK**

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

**address:** Flat 11, 100 Fairthorn Road, London, SE7 7SE

**e-mail:** WWLSC@post.com

**contacts:** Stuart Earl 0203 620 7901

Dave Slape 0208 764 8023 Peter Woodfield 01634 363704

**Quiz Answers.**  
A. Wolves 1-1 Man City. B. West Ham 0-1 Wolves. C. Wolves 2-0 Southampton  
D. Wolves 2-1 Chelsea. E. Newcastle 1-2 Wolves. F. Wolves 2-1 Liverpool  
G. Wolves 4-3 Leicester. H. Chelsea 1-1 Wolves. I. Wolves 2-1 Man Utd.(FA Cup)  
J. Wolves 2-2 Everton. K. Watford 3-2 Wolves (FA Cup). L. Wolves 2-1 Man Utd.

# QUIZ



Wolves had a superb season back in The Premier League but can you remember the games which these celebrations came from?  
Answers on the inside back cover



**A**



**B**



**C**



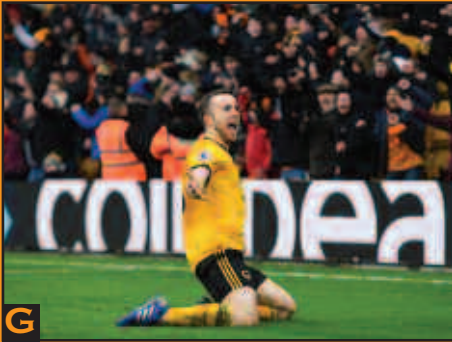
**D**



**E**



**F**



**G**



**H**



**I**



**J**



**K**



**L**