



**WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS**

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

**LONDON SUPPORTERS CLUB**



**“50TH ANNIVERSARY TO THE DAY”**



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# FROM THE CHAIR



## WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS LONDON SUPPORTERS CLUB

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1968-2007

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Hi and Greetings to Everybody,

A very happy New Year to you all. At mid-way through the season which started full of apprehension as to what was to come, and following the sale of Wolverhampton Wanderers and the injection of funds that came with it, the arrival of more than a dozen new faces in the squad, I for one thought that we were about to witness something special.

However, some very poor performances saw the team sink to within touching distance of the relegation zone and a yet another new manager was installed, a mini revival led to a Merry Christmas only for a damp New Year's Eve performance to send us away to 2017.

Let us hope that Paul Lambert, to whom we send a very warm London Wolves welcome, gets the show on the road soon and the results start to match all that potential.

Whilst welcoming Paul we sadly say farewell to Club Secretary Richard Skirrow, who over his time at Wolves has always been helpful and a great friend to London Wolves, he put up with my numerous phone calls whilst trying to arrange our 50th Dinner, to mention just one occasion. We wish Richard and Jane well on his retirement.

It does seem that this edition is filling up with obituaries as we compile it.

Sadly, the football world lost Graham Taylor on January 12th. During his short spell as manager of Wolves, he kindly gave up his time to visit us in the West End, to engage in a question and answer session with our members. A tribute is in this edition.

I was also deeply shocked and saddened at the passing of Graham Hawkins very shortly after he had attended our 50th Dinner in July.

Graham had been in constant touch with me in the run-up to our event, and was determined to make the trip down to London if at all possible. He phoned me about ten days before the Dinner telling me that his specialist had given him the all clear, and he looked so well at The Valley. On behalf of London Wolves I would like to pass on our deepest sympathy to Jane and the rest of the family.

## STOP PRESS

Just as we are about to go to press, another sad passing. Rachael Heyhoe-Flint. The Baroness, sadly, passed away on 18th January.

Always a great supporter of London Wolves, Rachel attended our 50th anniversary presentation in the Wolves museum, and I'm sure that Steve will include a tribute in the next newsletter.

*Stuart*



## Paul Lambert



On behalf of WWLSC I would like to say a warm welcome to new Head Coach Paul Lambert. The Glaswegian is the second managerial appointment made by Chinese owners Fosun International since their takeover in July. Paul took over from Walter Zenga after the likeable Italian had spent a disastrous 87 days in charge. Unfortunately for Walter, performances on the pitch deteriorated after a great start to the season.

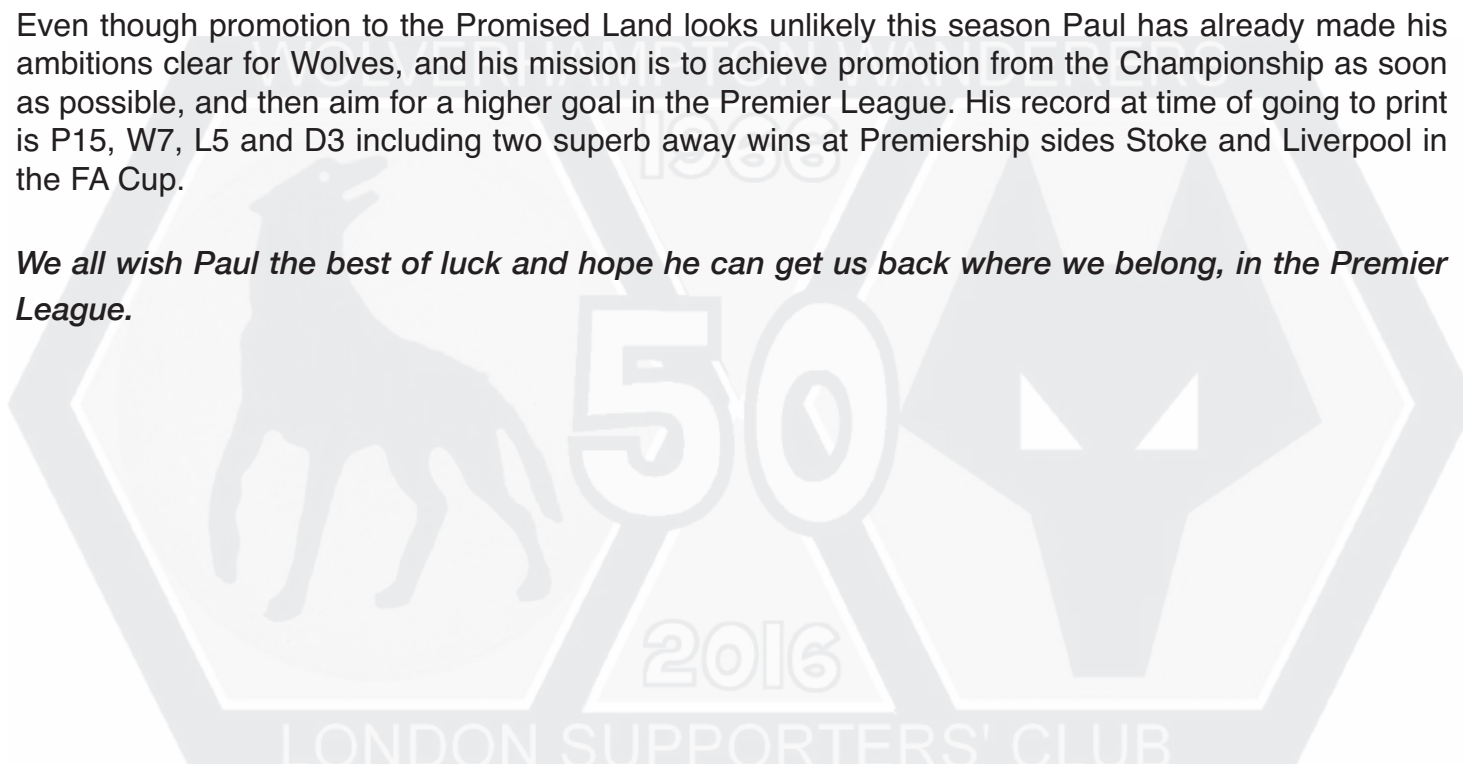
Lambert's previous experience as manager includes spells at Livingston, Wycombe, Colchester, Norwich, where he won two promotions, and Blackburn. He was joined at Molineux by former Limerick boss and Aston Villa development squad coach Stuart Taylor, who became first-team coach alongside existing first-team coach Rob Edwards.

Lambert took Norwich from League One to the Premier League in the space of two seasons, before struggling to make an impact at Villa. He finished 15th in his first two full seasons and reached the semi-finals of the League Cup in 2013, when Villa were beaten by League Two side Bradford City. Lambert joined Blackburn in November 2015 and Rovers won 10 of his 31 league games in charge to avoid relegation from the Championship. But he activated a clause in his contract to leave after their final game of the season.

Lambert took over the reins at Wolves on November 5th last year and it's certainly been fireworks since as he tries to steer Wolves clear of the relegation zone. Before his arrival Wolves were in the habit of shipping early goals, in fact they hadn't kept a clean sheet in the previous seven games before his arrival. His first game ended in a goalless draw at Preston, only their third point gained from the previous eight games.

Even though promotion to the Promised Land looks unlikely this season Paul has already made his ambitions clear for Wolves, and his mission is to achieve promotion from the Championship as soon as possible, and then aim for a higher goal in the Premier League. His record at time of going to print is P15, W7, L5 and D3 including two superb away wins at Premiership sides Stoke and Liverpool in the FA Cup.

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





## Wolves' new signings for the Season 2016-2017

Altogether Wolves have made 14 new signings to help strengthen their squad since the Fosun takeover at the start of the season. Out of those 14 players 13 were signed before the first transfer window that closed at the end of last August. During the January transfer window three more players had arrived: Duckens Nazon a Haiti international who signed as a free agent, Andreas Weimann who signed on loan from Derby until the end of the season and Ben Marshall who signed from Blackburn on a permanent deal. The full breakdown of the new additions is shown below, and the order in which they arrived at the club. Also shown is the games played up to and including 31st December, how many times as substitute and goals scored.



### **Andy Lonergan**

8th June 2016

The former Preston, Leeds and Bolton goalkeeper arrived from Fulham on a two-year-deal.

**Played 8 (2) - Unused Sub 13**



### **Silvio**

30th July 2016

The Portuguese international defender moved to Wolves on a one-year-deal from Atletico Madrid.

**Played 3 - Unused Sub 3**



### **Joao Teixeira**

2nd August 2016

The highly-rated Benfica attacking midfielder arrived on a season-long loan. Teixeira had limited opportunities in the first team following the arrival of new manager Paul Lambert, last appearing in Wolves' 2-1 loss to Cardiff in December. At the end of the January transfer window he departed to Nottingham Forest on loan for the rest of the season.

**Played 20 (8) - Unused Sub 3**

# WOLVES' NEWS



## **Jon Dadi Bodvarsson**

2nd August 2016

After competing with Iceland during their Euro 2016 campaign, the 24-year-old forward signed on a three-year deal.

**Played 14 (11) - Unused Sub 0**



## **Prince Oniangue**

16th August 2016

Oniangue signed from Ligue 2 side Stade de Reims, the Congo captain signed a four year contract at Molineux. He made 11 appearances, nine of them starts, and scored goals against Burton Albion and Wigan Athletic. Following the arrival of new manager Paul Lambert Oniangue has since departed to join French side Bastia on loan for the rest of the season.



## **Cameron Borthwick-Jackson**

22nd August 2016

The England Under 19 international and Manchester United defender arrived on a season-long loan.

**Played 7 - Unused Sub 4**



## **Ola John**

22nd August 2016

The 24-year-old Benfica winger who spent last year with Reading joined Wolves on a season-long loan. John has since departed to Spanish side Deportivo La Coruna as part of a rare 'sub-loan' agreement in which he is technically being loaned by Wolves. The 24-year-old played just 27 minutes of Championship football in a Wolves shirt.



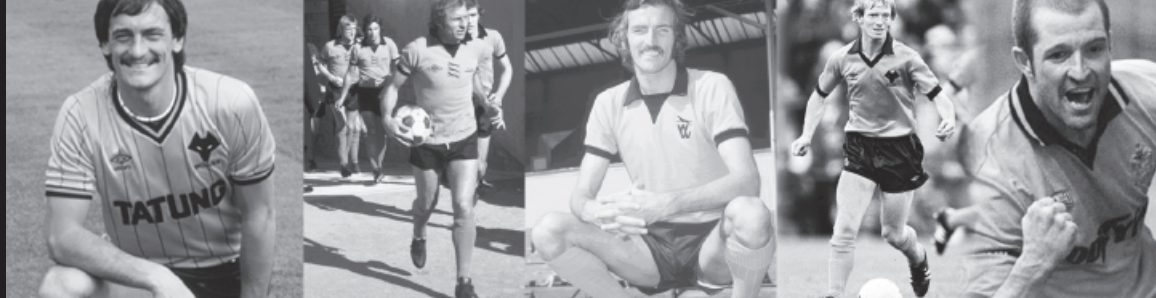
## **Paul Gladon**

26th August 2016

The Dutch striker signed on a three-year-deal at Molineux from Eredivisie side Heracles Almelo.

**Played 3 - Unused Sub 4**

# WOLVES' NEWS



**Jack Ruddy**  
29th August 2016

The promising young goalkeeper arrived from Bury to join up with Wolves' Under 23 side.

**Played 0 - Unused Sub 0**



**Romain Saiss**  
30th August 2016

The Moroccan international midfielder arrived from Ligue 1 side Angers on a four-year-deal.

**Played 11 (1) - Unused Sub 3**



**Richard Stearman**  
31st August 2016

Stearman returned to Molineux for his second spell with the club on a season-long loan from Fulham.

**Played 8 - Unused Sub 9**



**Ivan Cavaleiro**  
31st August 2016

The highly-rated Portuguese international arrived from AS Monaco on a five-year-deal. He became Wolves record signing for a fee reported at £7 million.

**Played 10 (8) - Unused Sub 0**



**Duckens Nazon**  
13th January 2017

Duckens Nazon became Wolves first signing in the January transfer window. The 22 year old from Haiti signed a six month contract with the option of extending his stay by another season should the youngster impress.

# WOLVES' NEWS



## **Andreas Weimann**

19th January 2017

Wolves signed striker Andreas Weimann on loan from Derby County until the end of the season. The 25-year-old Austrian international striker joins up again with Head Coach Paul Lambert, under whom he enjoyed a successful spell with Aston Villa.



## **Helder Costa**

30th January 2017

Signed On loan from Benfica on 29th July 2016 the 22-year-old attacker was the second summer addition. After a string of outstanding performances in the first team the Portuguese Magician was signed on a permanent deal for a fee reported to be in the region of £13 million

**Played 24 (5) - Unused Sub 2**



## **Ben Marshall**

31st January 2017

Just before the transfer window closed Wolves made Ben Marshall their third senior signing of the transfer window with the versatile player joining from Blackburn for an undisclosed fee.

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## 50th Anniversary

On Saturday 1st October 2016 Wolves correspondent for the Express & Star Tim Spiers joined WWLSC on the train from Euston to Wolverhampton on route to the home game against Norwich. After speaking to members he then published the article below in the Express & Star. Our thanks to Tim and the Express & Star who have very kindly agreed for permission to reprint the article published on 11th October 2016.

### Golden moments from 50 years of supporting Wolves

Wolves correspondent Tim Spiers takes a train ride with a diehard group of fans celebrating a special anniversary.

*Members of London Wolves outside Wolverhampton Railway Station ahead of Wolves' recent game versus Norwich*



One of their members has missed only one home game in 40 years, they used to run out of the players' tunnel at Molineux to supporters chanting their name, and they've travelled to matches with players, Sir Jack Hayward and a famous pop star.

### **Welcome to London Wolves.**

The club's longest-running supporters' club – and one of the oldest of its kind in the country – is about to turn 50. They've experienced dizzying highs and endured devastating lows over the past five decades – and that's before you even get started on the football.

It all began, though, in a very different era. Stuart Earl, who was there from day one and is the club's chairman, takes up the story as we travel from London to Wolverhampton ahead of the Wolves v Norwich game.

"Me and Dave (Slape, current secretary) met on the 9.15 out of Paddington," he said. "We saw each other every week and just thought there had to be a cheaper way of doing it, so we set about organising coach travel and it took off from there. It struck me at Wolves away games in London that there were a lot of Wolves fans around the ground. We put a couple of adverts in Football Monthly, Soccer Star and wrote to all the London clubs asking if they'd put something in their programme, which Fulham and Arsenal did. We got a few phonecalls and that was that."

Dave added: "I was on the first trip. Two weeks earlier we met Jack Howley, the Wolves secretary, with about 12 people saying we wanted to form a club. The first trip was Plymouth (October 22, 1966, a 2-1 home win)."



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Football worked very differently back then. London Wolves would be let in to Molineux matches for free, with chairman John Ireland believing fans who travelled so far to get to games shouldn't have to pay. They would board a coach from Victoria station (they switched to train travel after a couple of years) and have a corner of the North Bank allocated to them.

Stuart added: "We used to come out of the players' tunnel and the North Bank would chant 'London Wolves' and point at us! The commissionaire used to salute us. We'd go outside at quarter to three and all go into the stand together. It was quite embarrassing."

The club's numbers soon grew. At their peak, in the late 1970s and early 1980s, they had almost 400 members, with the 1981 FA Cup semi final against Spurs at Hillsborough attracted a record booking of 108 fans. Just a few years later, with Wolves' rapid decline in full flow, things were very different.



*London Wolves present their annual player of the year award to Steve Bull in 1996*

Travel secretary Peter Woodfield has been with the club since its formation and still kept attending in the dark days of the 1980s. Yes, he even went to all three Chorley FA Cup games. "In the Bhatti era you had to be a bit more dedicated!" he said. "The Third Division, when we were still on our way down, it was a real effort to go to those games."

Mark Feehan had joined in 1976, aged 12, after spotting an advert in a Millwall programme. "You hear people complain today about bad games, but you really had to be a diehard in the 1980s," he said. "You didn't even know if they would put a team out some days. "We even had the conversations about what we'd do if the worst happened and Wolves no longer existed."

But London Wolves, like the club, survived – and thrived. Sir Jack Hayward used to travel with them for midweek games (even taking part in Dave's 'guess the score' competition), as did a host of former players. Dexys Midnight Runners singer Kevin Rowland is a former member, as is BBC presenter Jacqui Oatley. John Richards is the club's honorary president and the likes of Carl Ikeme, David Edwards and Karl Henry have travelled back to London with them after matches in recent years. "We have interaction with the players, especially some of the older ones," Mark added. "You bump into someone like Mel Eves, or John De Wolf, and they'll always chat to us. And some of the current players too – Richard Stearman was still in touch with us the entire time he was at Fulham."

That's not to say that travelling from London to every game hasn't been without its pitfalls. There have been several mishaps, delays and breakdowns over the years, even as recently as last season when horrendous motorway traffic on the way to Middlesbrough forced the group, who travelled to that particular game by coach, to abandon in Sheffield and watch the match in a pub.

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Peter, who sorts out the club's bookings and match tickets, added: "Travelling to Blackpool in 1985 we got as far as Reading. Some of us went to a game in Aldershot or somewhere. "There was one at Huddersfield in the 1960s when the coach broke down just on the outskirts of Huddersfield and we ended up pushing it up a hill! I'll never forget that. We missed the first 25 minutes of that one. "After the game we were playing football in the Huddersfield car park and one of their directors invited us into the boardroom. He paid for everyone who couldn't afford it to get the train back home. "We also played Darlington in the FA Cup (in 1998) and we got all the way up there and the game had been postponed, purely on a bad weather forecast that never materialised. We got a 4-0 win in the rearranged game though." And then of course there's the story that the majority of Wolves fans seem to have heard of - that of London Wolves member Peter Abbott, who missed his first home game for 37 years due to his stepdaughter's wedding being scheduled on the same day as the clash versus Coventry in 2013.

*Andy Thompson and Steve Bull presented Peter Abbott with a framed picture after he missed his first home game for 37 years in 2013*



These days the group have around two dozen or so travelling to most games, with some of the older fans converting their sons and daughters to create the next generation of London Wolves. Chairman Stuart said that without his dear old friends Dave and Peter Woodfield the club would struggle to keep going. "It's down to Dave and Peter, the work they do," he said. "They're conscientious and honest as the day is long. "I don't know what we'd do without them. Nothing is too much trouble. They spend the whole day up and down the train doing raffles, or competitions, or collecting ticket money bookings. People give their time for absolutely nothing to make sure the club keeps going."

The 50th year was marked in style with a golden anniversary dinner at Charlton's ground, The Valley, in July, attended by a host of ex-players and then-boss Kenny Jackett. A special reception will be held in Molineux's WV1 bar on the day of the Leeds game on October 22, marking 50 years to the day since that first ever trip.

And whether it's an early 12.30pm kick off at home to Derby next month, or a Tuesday night trip to Cardiff in December - games that will involve unspeakably early starts or unfathomably late nights - this likeable, hardy bunch of fiercely loyal supporters will be there, cheering on their boys in gold and black, like they have done for the past five decades.

"I think the reason we all enjoy it so much is the social side of it and the camaraderie," Mark said. "We have a lot of away fans travelling with us too. Brentford brought a bag of Chinese fortune cookies with them the other week to share out. "Everyone knows everyone and we're all friends. "Stuart added: "My mother thought I'd grow out of it, but 50 years later I'm still here."

Let's hope that in another 50 years, London Wolves will still be here too. Football – and Wolves – would be a poorer place without them



## Social Diary Season 2016-2017



*London Wolves Entertainment Officer Roy Eagles has put together a diary of events since our last newsletter. The focus for 2016 has been our 50th Anniversary celebrations, and Roy has spent many hours to ensure that everything organised has gone to plan with military precision.*

*Members are treated to some fabulous social events. If you haven't attended any of these functions then just ask the members who do attend to hear about what you're missing. We have more and more special guests including former players who ask to attend these events, such is the job that Roy is doing.*

## Welcome to the new 2015-16 Season.

Most of last season was largely dedicated to organising the WWLSC 50th Anniversary Dinner at The Valley, it was a magnificent occasion where the Valley was turned into a Sea of Gold. Once again I would like to say a big "Thank You" to everyone involved in the organisation of the dinner (especially Stuart and Stefan), also to everybody who attended including our special guests, and to the all the other volunteers who gave so much of their time in making it such a memorable celebration.

As I have previously stated before it has become increasingly difficult to organise events due to the ever meddling of the fixtures by Sky TV. However, I still managed to arrange three events that were well attended and enjoyed by the members of London Wolves. In October we had another 50th Anniversary celebration event in the North Bank WV1 Restaurant, and on the same day members again gathered after the game for a meal at Catellani's Restaurant in Wolverhampton. We finished the year with our perennial Christmas Social which was followed by a half-time pitch presentation of a sponsorship cheque to the Wolves Women team.

## Wolves Tribute for the 50th Anniversary of WWLSC (22nd October 2016)

### *Part 1: Lunch in the North Bank WV1 Restaurant before the Leeds United game*

In honour of London Wolves celebrating their 50th Anniversary, Wolverhampton Wanderers Football Club very generously organised another event at Molineux for our members. The Club's official reception to celebrate our 50th was held in the Museum before the Rotherham match on 23rd April, and our official 50th Dinner was of course at The Valley in July. On this occasion it was 50 years to the day that travel was first organised from London to Molineux (22nd October 1966) for a home match against Plymouth Argyle.

Matt Grayson, who was Wolves Head of Marketing at the time, was the man who approached me to say he was organising another event prior to the game against Leeds United, and very kindly contacted me to finalise the arrangements. The event took place in the WV1 Restaurant at the spiritual home of London Wolves, the "North Bank".

The day started when I met other London Wolves members in the Sunbeam Pub near to the Station, this included welcoming members arriving on the train from Euston at about 11:30. The official meeting

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time for the event was in the North Bank Bar at about 12:45 and entry into the WV1 Restaurant was at 1:00pm, so we enjoyed a couple of beverages before heading off to the ground.

Even though there were other hospitality commitments in this busy new restaurant, Wolves Football Club still managed to allocate 30 places for our travelling members, this shows the wonderful relationship Wolverhampton Wanderers FC has with the London Wolves Supporters Club. Those members who did attend were treated to a delicious, waitress served three course meal.



Naturally, being a match-day the first team players could not be with us. However, we were joined on our tables by old friends Mike Bailey and Terry Wharton and their lovely wives. The hospitality on a match day includes the appearance of former players and associates, and during our meal seventies stalwart and centre-half John McAlle was making one of his speeches, such is the esteem in which he is held at Wolves that he was introduced to the Wolves Hall of Fame in 2015. Other former players were also present chatting with members, signing autographs and posing for selfies, these included the legendary Steve Bull and Steve Daley.

After the meal a few more beverages were consumed before exiting to our seats in the stand. Unfortunately the football wasn't quite as enjoyable as the pre-match event, Wolves went down 1-0 to Leeds in what was a disappointing performance from the boys in Gold and Black. However, the performance by the players cannot overshadow the fabulous gesture shown by Wolverhampton Wanderers Football Club in recognition of our 50th Anniversary, and I would like to say a Special Thank You to the club on behalf of everybody associated with London Wolves.

I would particularly like express my gratitude to Matt Grayson who has been strongly supportive of WWLSC over the years for arranging this special event with me. Since the event Matt has moved onto pastures new, and on behalf of London Wolves I would like to congratulate him on his appointment as Group Director of Communications for Steve Morgan's Redrow group of companies. Over the years Matt has been behind many of the initiatives to support Wolves fans at Molineux including the Fan's Parliament. Matt helped set up the Trust, and it was his decision to place the Museum in the rebuilt North Bank. He will be greatly missed by Wolves and everybody associated with London Wolves. He will still be seen at Molineux with his family though, following the mighty Wanderers from his seat in the Family Enclosure.

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## Part 2 – Evening Meal at Catellani’s Restaurant



Well what can I say after such a fabulous afternoon at the North Bank WV1 Restaurant, it was certainly going to be a hard act to follow. For those London based members who decided to stay, along with a few locally based members, it was time for further celebration and consumption of more alcohol. The next rendezvous point was the Lych Gate at 7:00pm, some of our more hardened drinkers went there straight from the game, the more civilised of us went to change and freshen up first.

With all members present and accounted for it was down to a local Italian restaurant called Catellani’s for a meal, not forgetting the consumption of alcohol. This eatery has a fantastic reputation across the West Midlands for serving great food and is known for its friendly atmosphere and excellent service.

We were met at the restaurant by Wolves legends and long-time friends of London Wolves, Phil Parkes and Mel Eves. Unknown to me Mel was a friend of Vic Catellani the restaurant owner, and his personal welcome was second to none, all 16 diners including our guests were shown to and then seated on a round table, the only person missing was King Arthur!

Under starters orders and we were off, food ordered and drinks sitting on the table, the night was well and truly under way. We all sat and chilled out as we awaited the starter, the ambience was friendly and relaxing, which is just what was needed after an exciting afternoon. When the main course arrived Carol very kindly treated everybody to a glass of Prosecco, so I made a toast congratulating London Wolves on reaching their 50th Anniversary, and also to absent friends which seems to be all too many over the past year or so.

Our guests reminisced with stories about their days as footballers and kept us entertained with their dry sense of humour. Phil Parkes mentioned that he had left the responsibility of looking after the house with his 17 year old grandson, and insisted he was a well behaved boy. The seeds of doubt were well and truly put in his head when I mentioned the word party and over the limit youngsters redesigning his décor, it was all good fun and banter.

With everybody fed and watered, and the night rapidly reaching its conclusion it was time to move on. Harley Bill mentioned that he had to be back to his hotel by 10:30 or he would be locked out, it was pretty obvious his thoughts were on a late night visit to the pub. Phil Parkes left by taxi to go home,

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that was if there was still one there to go to, and Mel Eves accompanied us and Bill on the short walk to the Wheatsheaf for a night cap.

With booze affecting the legs in the usual manner it was one step forward and two steps back in what seemed an eternity to reach the final leg of the tour. However, we reached the hotel, sorry Wheatsheaf by 10:30 and the front door was still open, the music was playing and the place was rocking. So yet more alcohol and chat rounded off a fabulous day spent in such delightful company.

With midnight fast approaching it was time to say all my goodbyes and get some much needed shut eye. It was an honour and pleasure to organise the proceedings for the day and when the members support these events, and in the numbers like they did today it makes it all worthwhile.

## *It's Not the Christmas Party (Saturday 10th December 2016)*



The last event in our 50th Anniversary year was our "It's Not the Christmas Party" social gathering. Believe it or not it was exactly a year and a day that we celebrated our last Christmas get together, and the event again took place at the Bluebrick. As mentioned on previous occasions the Bluebrick no longer runs the marquee, so together with the continuous fixture date issues I was forced to arrange a more select traveller's Christmas Social Lunch prior to the Fulham game.

Part of the afternoon included making a presentation of a cheque on the pitch at half-time to the Wolves Women, who we are again sponsoring this season. The ladies are having a storming season under new manager Tim Dudding and first team player/coach Anna Perks, results have been very impressive and the ladies are currently sitting second in the league. I therefore decided to dedicate the social event as the Wolves Women Day, so we were joined at the Bluebrick by new manager Tim Dudding along with players Jen Anslow and Claire Hakeman.

We met at the Bluebrick at 11:45am ready to be seated and then served by 12:15pm. It was great to see so many members participating, this included new faces as well as the usual suspects, and not forgetting our special guests from the Wolves Women team. As with previous visits to the Bluebrick we enjoyed a superb meal which was washed down with a series of alcoholic beverages. After the meal Tim Dudding made an excellent speech on behalf of Wolves Women and thanked WWLSC for the continuing sponsorship of the ladies team.

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Following a couple hours of chatting and merriment it was time for the game, so we all made our way down to the Golden Palace for the game against Fulham. I've always considered myself a Jonah when we go to a game after the Christmas Doo because we've never won, although I must admit Mike Bailey could be the underlying reason because he's always been in attendance as well. At half-time things looked bleak again when we were 3-1 down, but the duck was finally broken by a superb come back after the break and the game ended in a 4-4 draw, a perfect end to the day.

## *Half-time Cheque Presentation*

It was my absolute pleasure to join old London Wolves member Dave "I'll have a pint of cider" Hodges for the presentation of a cheque for £500 at half-time during the Fulham game. The donation by WWLSC was to Wolves Women for our continuous support of the ladies team. The rain was absolutely pouring down as Dodges and myself awaited inside the tunnel ready to walk out onto the Hallowed Turf for the presentation.

We finally walked out with our special guests for the day, and it was a great honour for both of us to present the cheque and consolidate our fabulous friendship with the Wolves Women team. You may have heard rumours about us wimping out in the tunnel to save getting wet, Dodges and myself were concerned about poor Claire who was worried about getting her hair wet and it going frizzy, well that's my story and I'm sticking to it.

Many thanks to our distinguished guests for attending the pre-match party and the half-time presentation, it is always a pleasure to welcome them into our company and I hope they will continue to attend our functions as special friends of all at London Wolves in the future.

The second-half comeback by the team on the pitch was an added bonus as we came back from 3-1 down to earn a 4-4 draw and almost win at the death. That just put the icing on the cake to end a superb day as far as I was concerned.



*Shown in the photo from left to right are Left Back Jen Anslow, Dave Hodges, Manager Tim Dudding, Entertainments Officer and decorator if you ever need one Roy Eagles and Communications Maestro, Captain in the Cup and Right Back Claire Hakeman.*

In conclusion I would like to say what a superb year it was regarding the celebration of our 50th Anniversary. From the magnificent Dinner at The Valley to the events organised by Wolves Football Club, 2016 will remain in the memories of all who attended.

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 during our 50th Anniversary year, so my gratitude goes to everybody concerned.

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

Thanks Again and Up the Wolves

*Roy Eagles*

**Entertainments Officer**



## Pintsize Paul's Pub Review



If you're ever unsure of where to go for a few beers when you get off the train at Wolverhampton then carry on reading. Our very own Paul "Pintsize" Coles continues to evaluate all the local hostelrys and give you the ins and outs of the pubs favoured by the London Wolves members, and help you decide where to go for a pre-match drink. The second of his superb reviews introduces you to another one of London Wolves favourite pubs, "The Lych Gate".

### The Lych Gate Tavern

The Lych Gate Tavern is located in Queen Square in the heart of Wolverhampton, and is a listed building blending sixteenth, seventeenth and eighteenth century architecture. Recently acquired and refurbished in style by Black Country Ales, the tavern offers a haven from the busy city for lovers of real ale and traditional inns. A real fire and ten hand pumps help create the perfect ale experience.

The Lych Gate Tavern opened in the summer of 2012. The main entrance is at the side of the pub and as you walk through you have two bar choices, there is a small upstairs bar which is where you are most likely to find fellow London Wolves members after a Saturday afternoon game. The main bar is downstairs, and alternatively this is where you will probably see the London Posse having a pint or two or three before and after a midweek game.

As you walk downstairs the main bar is in front of you with a small to medium seating area to the left (a bit like my boxers), don't worry too much about the stairs as there is a lift if needed. For me the Lych Gate is what I would call a proper old fashioned pub, the walls are decked out of pictures of local history. The upstairs lounge bar has a small bar serving limited ales, and the seating is a bit compact with a low ceiling with dark wooden beams.



Now on to the beer, there are three main ales: B.F.G which a big favourite with most members, the other two are Pig on the Wall and Fireside Bitter, but the ale range is second to none with loads of guest ales (keep an eye on the beer board as it changes from week to week). There's only about three lagers, which means no Stella or "Wife Beater" as its better known by John the Fireman, but there are some nice cask ciders and of course Guinness. There's a substantial range of bottled beers, some alcopops and a small selection of wines.

The Lych Gate is not the place to go for fine dining as the only food they serve are cobs and a few sandwiches, but having said that they taste nice and always have plenty of filling. So on the whole I would recommend a visit or two, although on match days it does get a bit packed, however the friendly bar staff are quick and you shouldn't be waiting too long to be served. Hope you have enjoyed my latest pub review and any feedback would be welcome.

*Mine's a Pint  
Pintsize Paul*



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## WHO'S THE DADI

### ROTHERHAM 2-2 WOLVES

Saturday 6th August 2016

Well what a start to the season, new billionaire owners, new head coach, four new signings, hopefully the dawn of a new era, and all the supporters buzzing with expectation. But Wolves players failed to read the script beforehand, and with 20 minutes on the clock it was business as usual, 2-0 down, under the cosh and not able to string two passes together. However, an opportunist goal just before half-time and a tub-thumping second half meant Wolves eventually went home with a point.

Apart from winning a corner within the first 60 seconds it was all downhill for Wolves in a torrid opening period. Rotherham ran riot with wave after wave of attack and winning corner after corner, and they inevitably went in front in the 9th minute. Ward got in front of his marker at one of those corners and headed past Ikeme to make it 1-0. Worse was to come eleven minutes later as United doubled their lead. Saville gave the ball away cheaply in his own half and the ball ended up at the feet of Vaulks who smashed the ball home from the best part of 30 yards, although he was given enough space to start an allotment.

After an awful first half Wolves were unexpectedly thrown a lifeline by poor Rotherham defending six minutes before the break, they stood still and appealed for offside as Doherty's ball found Saville through on goal. The midfielder made up for his earlier mistake by rounding the keeper and slotting neatly home from an acute angle. At that moment it was as if a switch had been flicked and half-time came too soon as Wolves suddenly had their best spell of the match.

Even though Wolves started the second-half brightly their hopes seemed to have been dashed in the 51st minute when Iorfa was shown a ridiculous red card for supposedly pulling back Taylor 30 yards out, and there was also a strong suggestion of handball in the build-up. Everything seemed to be going against Wolves so Zenga brought on Teixeira in the 63rd minute, and it proved a masterstroke as the tricky winger set up the equaliser just a minute later, he ran at the Rotherham defence and slid an inch perfect pass to Dadi Bodvarsson who smashed an unstoppable shot into the roof of the net.



Wolves now looked the more likely to go on and win it and Dadi Bodvarsson who was the 1000th player to don the Wolves shirt was in the thick of everything, and with two minutes left of normal time he made a superb run down the left and cut inside to setup Mason, but the strikers shot was weak and the keeper made a comfortable save.

**Opinion:** Let's hope we'll be celebrating in 46 games time like at the end of this one.

**Man of the match:** Saville

**Team Rating:** 7/10

**Attendance:** 11,291 (2,567 away)

**Team:** Ikeme, Doherty, Iorfa, Edwards, Bath (capt), Hause, Henry (Teixeira 63), Saville, Bodvarsson (Costa 88), Evans, Wallace (Mason 45)

**Unused Subs:** Lonergan, Coady, Price, Deslandes

**Bookings:** Saville (63 – foul)

**Sending's Off:** Iorfa (52 – Nothing – Professional Foul)

## JUST ABOUT CRAWL HOME

### WOLVES 2-1 CRAWLEY TOWN

Tuesday 9th August 2016 (EFL Cup 1st Round)

Year after year Wolves always seem to struggle against lower league teams in the League Cup (as it was originally known), and this game was no exception with Crawley Town from League 2 the opponents. Wolves eventually ran out as 2-1 winners, but it was a mighty struggle in Walter Zenga's first game in charge at Molineux.

Zenga made five changes to the team that struggled against Rotherham, but it made no difference to the performance and the football matched the lack of atmosphere in the stadium which was three parts empty. Crawley made the first real scoring opportunity in the seventh minute when Coady headed off the line from Boldewijn's shot following a corner. However, from the clearance Wallace stormed down the right and into the box, he then let go with a

cross shot that come back off the foot of the post, fortunately it fell to Mason who tapped home to give Wolves the lead.

Instead of cracking on and finishing off the task in hand Wolves let their opponents dictate the play, and just seven minutes later paid the price when Crawley equalised. Against Rotherham Wolves conceded an early goal from a near-post header from a corner, they obviously learnt nothing from that schoolboy defending as Boldewijn found himself wide open at the near post to place a glancing header past Lonergan into the net.

Wolves continued to labour and it was left to Teixeira to show the way forward, and the midfielder was the closest to another goal when he sent in a superb shot from outside the area that curled just wide. However, the Wolves defence continued to make mistakes and it was Lonergan to the rescue when he rushed out to deny Adi Yussuf after he had been sent clear by Smith.

Chances were far and few between in the second-half and the game looked to be heading for extra time, but with 15 minutes left Wolves went within a whisker of retaking the lead. Price sent over a free-kick that Bath got his head to and Connolly somehow managed to head the ball off the line.



However, two minutes later Wolves scored that all important second goal, Price sent over another inswinging corner from the left and Bodvarsson headed back to Coady who stabbed the ball home from six yards.

Mason had the chance to make the score-line 3-1 with five minutes left but his effort from just inside the box came back off the inside of the post, but it would have been harsh on Crawley who had given a good account of themselves on the night.

**Opinion:** Won't expect to go much further in this competition based on this performance.

**Man of the match:** Teixeira

**Team Rating:** 5/10

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**Attendance:** 8,252

**Team:** Lonergan, Doherty, Coady, Teixeira (Edwards 84), Bath (capt), Hause, Henry (Costa 45), Price, Mason, Evans, Wallace (Bodvarsson 45)

**Unused Subs:** Ikeme, Saville, Enobakhare, Johnson

**Bookings:** Teixeira (57 – simulation)

## GO JOAO GO

### WOLVES 2-0 READING

Saturday 13th August 2016

Only two weeks in charge and Walter Zenga seems to have that magic touch, Wolves produced one of their best performances since giving some of the League One teams a few drubbings two years ago. The cool and collected Italian seems to speak from the heart and seems to be instilling the same kind of mentality into his players. The game finished 2-0 in Wolves favour but that doesn't reflect their total dominance over the 90 minutes.

It was the first league home game since the Fosun Takeover and the installment of Zenga as Head Coach, and Wolves were in no mood to let Reading spoil the party. It was an energetic start with Teixeira at the heart of everything, and the little Portuguese Man of War created the first big chance when he picked out Mason who cut inside the area and let fly with a shot that was blocked by Ali Al Habsi.

Wolves continued to pile forward with Saville, Bodvarsson and Teixeira all shooting wide after good build up work, the only thing missing was the ball hitting the back of the Reading net. It was all Wolves and the only time Reading ventured towards Ikeme's area Kermorgant's hit and hope volley flew well over the bar.

Five minutes before the interval Al Habsi and McShane played Russian Roulette when passing the ball between themselves in the area. Teixeira nipped in like a flash to intercept Al Habsi's clearance and squared to Saville who smashed the ball goalwards from 16 yards, somehow Al Habsi managed to palm the ball away with a stunning one-handed save. However there was nothing Al Habsi could do a minute later, Teixeira fed Doherty who rounded McShane and rifled in an unstoppable shot to give Wolves a deserved lead.

What a superb first half by Wolves, 1-0 up at the interval but it could easily have been three or four more, what a far cry from the



drab goalless draws served up at the end of last season. It was straight for the jugular again after the break and Wolves doubled their lead just two minutes after the restart. Saville sent over a corner from the right and Mason nipped in front of his marker to head home from six yards.

It was all Wolves with Teixeira running the show, and he again showed his class when he went on a mazy run inside the box that left three defenders for dead, unfortunately the finish didn't match the dribble and he fired over from a tight angle. A minute later Teixeira played in Bodvarsson, who then fed Mason and the striker should have scored a third but he shot straight at Al Habsi.

Teixeira was substituted a few minutes later to a standing ovation, but it didn't matter, Wolves easily finished the game 2-0 winners with one of their best performances for a long time. Bodvarsson twice went close as the game reached its conclusion, and he encouraged the home fans to join him to celebrate at the end with the Icelandic thunder clap.

**Opinion:** Best attacking display since League One.

**Man of the match:** Teixeira

**Team Rating:** 9/10

**Attendance:** 20,425

**Team:** Ikeme, Doherty, Coady, Edwards, Bath (capt), Iorfa, Teixeira (Wallace 71), Evans, Bodvarsson, Mason (Price 84), Saville (Henry 88)

**Unused Subs:** Lonergan, Costa, Deslandes, Hause

**Bookings:** Bath (12 – foul), Evans (79 – foul)

## TRACTOR BLOCKADE

### WOLVES 0-0 IPSWICH

Tuesday 16th August 2016

After the highs of the superb attacking display against Reading on Saturday it was back to earth for Walter Zenga as he

watched his side toil against a typical Mick McCarthy side that closed down Wolves, and in effect stopped them breathing. It was a game that produced very few goal scoring opportunities and in the end the game predictably ended goalless.

After a quiet compact start Wolves had a golden opportunity to take the lead in the 25th minute. Bodvarsson raced onto a lovely through ball into the box from Teixeira and was bundled over by Webster for a stone wall penalty. The Icelandic striker picked himself off the floor to take the spot-kick, but his low shot to the keeper's right hand lacked power and Bialkowski went the right way to get a hand on the ball and stop it sneaking inside his near post.



Bodvarsson's poor penalty kick seem to give Ipswich the impetus and five minutes later they thought they had taken the lead when Murphy headed home from a corner, but the linesman handed Wolves a lucky escape when he flagged Sears offside when it seemed there was no interference in play from the striker.

Even though the game was tight it was Ipswich who looked most likely to score, and right on the stroke of half-time old Wolves boy Christophe Berra missed a golden chance to put Ipswich in front when he found himself unmarked eight yards out, but fortunately for Wolves he headed wide.

Wolves started the second-half with a bit more urgency and immediately went close. Teixeira won the ball from Webster outside the area and curled a 20 yard effort goalwards that drifted just wide of the post. Stalemate followed as Ipswich packed the midfield to stop the creativity of the Wolves midfield that ran riot against Reading.

Costa replaced Bodvarsson with 25 minutes left and his silky skills combined with those of Teixeira seemed to give Wolves that little bit of momentum, and in the 73rd minute the substitute almost broke the deadlock with a sublime piece of skill. Ipswich failed to clear a free-kick and

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when the ball dropped to Costa 20 yards out he smashed a first time volley that Bialkowski somehow got a hand to and deny Wolves the lead. That was the last real effort worthy of mention and the game petered out with both teams settling for a point.

**Opinion:** Still unbeaten and Zenga learning all the while about the Championship.

**Man of the match:** It has to be Teixeira again.

**Team Rating:** 6/10

**Attendance:** 19,991

**Team:** Ikeme, Doherty, Iorfa, Edwards (Saville 45), Bath (capt), Hause, Teixeira (Wallace 84), Evans, Bodvarsson (Costa 65), Mason, Coady

**Unused Subs:** Lonergan, Henry, Price, Deslandes

**Bookings:** Hause (20 – foul), Saville (75 – foul)

## ZEN-SATIONAL

### **BIRMINGHAM 1-3 WOLVES**

Saturday 20th August 2016

What a performance and what a result. A year ago Wolves would have folded in a game like this, but after going in at half-time a goal down they produced a stunning second-half performance to go on and win by a 3-1 scoreline. Players celebrated at the end with Bodvarsson leading the Thunderclap in front of the jubilant away supporters and Wolves sit third in the table and improving with every game.

It was a typical local derby with both teams battling for the all-important early opening, and it was Wolves who threatened first when Coady stung the fingers of Kuszczak with a daisy cutter from the edge of the area. It was shortly followed by another chance that fell to Mason when Wolves broke from defence and found themselves four on one, but the striker wanted too much time and was crowded out.

Wolves had to re-shuffle when Lee Evans left the field in the 22nd minute through injury, and just a minute later Brum went in front. A cross from the right found Adams all on his lonesome at the back post and he side footed past Ikeme to make it 1-0. Wolves looked to hit back, and Bodvarsson who was looking a constant threat had Kuszczak scrambling to his left to push an effort round the post after catching Shotton napping in defence.

Wolves were unlucky to go in one down at the break, but that problem was rectified just two minutes into the second-half. Mason made up for his first-half miss with an absolute screamer, the ball was delivered to him just inside the area and in one movement he swivelled and curled a shot into the far corner of the net.



From that point on it was always going to be an early Christmas for Zenga's boys, and Wallace went close with a long range pile driver that was deflected just over the bar, but that only delayed the inevitable, and Wolves took the lead just after the hour mark. Price delivered a corner from the right that Doherty headed goalwards, Kuszczak managed to make the save but Bath smashed the rebound home.

Brum's frustration was summed up with seven minutes left when the petulant Storer was shown a straight red card for putting his head into Hause's face. However, it was Wolves day and the icing was put well and truly on the cake when Wolves broke clear in the last minute and Bodvarsson smashed home a powerful shot from just inside the area.

**Opinion:** Can we play you every week.

**Man of the match:** Coady

**Team Rating:** 9/10

**Attendance:** 18,569

**Team:** Ikeme, Doherty, Iorfa, Price (Oniangue 65), Bath (capt), Hause, Wallace, Evans (Edwards 22), Bodvarsson (Saville 90), Mason, Coady

**Unused Subs:** Lonergan, Henry, Costa, Teixeira

**Bookings:** Price (41 – dissent)

## IT'S THE COSTA COFFEE CUP

### **WOLVES 2-1 CAMBRIDGE**

Tuesday 23rd August 2016  
(EFL Cup 2nd Round)

As in the first round Wolves struggled against lower league opposition in the EFL

Cloth Cap Cup, and as in the first round Wolves took an early lead and again failed to push on and finish the job. After a nightmare opening, Cambridge who are currently propping up the Football League, were allowed back into the game by poor Wolves defending and then poor finishing. Wolves got off to a blistering start and opened the scoring in the 6th minute. Oniangue picked up the ball in the middle of the park and released Wallace who raced down the left-wing, his cross was inch perfect for the on-rushing Costa who stroked the ball into the back of the net from six yards.



To be fair to Cambridge they didn't roll over and almost equalised a few moments later, Luke Berry smashed a goal bound effort from the centre of the area but it was brilliantly saved by Lonergan. And that save proved invaluable as Wolves doubled the lead in the 13th minute. This time Costa was the provider, he sent over a cross from the right and this time it was Wallace who was on hand to score from close range.

The crowd had hardly finished celebrating when the Wolves defence gifted Cambridge a goal. It was of Keystone Cops proportions, initially there were three or four chances to get the ball clear before Iorfa and Hause got into a terrible mess between each other, Elito said thank you very much and slammed the ball home from twelve yards.

Cambridge were suddenly in the face of Wolves, but couldn't muster up an equaliser and Wallace should have extended the lead in the 24th minute, the striker put clean through and with the goal at his mercy held his head in his hands after shooting straight at the keeper.

Wolves started aggressively again at the start of the second-half and missed another glorious chance to extend the lead in the 56th minute. It was that man Costa again who created the opportunity when he was bundled over in the box resulting in a

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penalty kick, Henry stepped up to take the spot kick but his effort was weak and saved by Norris.

Fortunately for Henry Cambridge failed to capitalise on his gaffe and Wolves played out the game and ended up 2-1 winners, although there were a few scares in the dodgy Wolves defence. Its Newcastle away in the next round and the performance will need to be a lot better than tonight to progress further.

**Opinion:** Dare we dream of EFL Cup glory?

**Man of the match:** Costa

**Team Rating:** 5/10

**Attendance:** 9,500

**Team:** *Lonergan, Saville, Coady (capt), Price, Hause, Iorfa, Henry, Teixeira (Doherty 57), Costa (Bodvarsson 69), Oniangue (Edwards 62), Wallace*

**Unused Subs:** *Ikeme, Bath, Mason, Borthwick-Jackson*

**Bookings:** None

## TOO LATE TO HIT THE TOWN

### HUDDERSFIELD 1-0 WOLVES

Saturday 27th August 2016



Walter Zenga tasted defeat for the first time since taking over the reins at Wolves. It was all Huddersfield in the first-half as Wolves struggled to find any kind of rhythm, and an early goal conceded proved decisive as Wolves, although much improved in the second-half, failed to turn things around.

Wolves got off to the worse possible start in more ways than one. Firstly they conceded an early goal in the 6th minute, and secondly it was scored by non-other than ex Wolves waste of space Rajiv van La Parra. As Huddersfield attacked Danny Bath missed a clearance and the ball slipped past him, Palmer nipped in and hit a first time shot that struck the post, van La Parra followed up and fired the rebound into the net. He then went and celebrated in front of the away fans, he never did that

in his days at Wolves, he hardly ever got anywhere near goal.

Wolves continued to struggle, and they had to wait 15 minutes for their first sniff at goal as Saville tried his luck from long range, but his effort went sailing over the bar. However, Huddersfield couldn't take advantage of their dominance and as the half progressed Wolves steadied the ship and started stringing a few passes together. The first-half ended with Mason putting the ball into the net but the goal was ruled out for offside.

It was a different story after the break, Zenga brought on Teixeira for Wallace in a move which saw the Portuguese maestro play up front alongside Bodvarsson and Mason. It highlighted the attacking intentions of the manager and within three minutes of the restart Coady let fly from 20 yards and his shot was deflected just wide. Wolves continued to pour forward and soon after Doherty broke into the Town area and forced Ward into a good save at the foot of his right-hand post.

Wolves went within a whisker of getting a deserved equaliser on the hour mark, Coady broke down the right-hand flank and hit a low centre to the edge of the area, the ball fell to Teixeira who smashed his shot against the foot of the post with the keeper well beaten.

Wolves continued to pile on the pressure and won a series of corners, and from one of those you knew it just wasn't going to be our day. With 20 minutes left Teixeira sent over a corner from the right and from close range Bodvarsson headed the ball downwards, but Ward somehow managed to get a hand to the ball and deny the Icelandic striker. Despite late chances for Prince Oniangue and Danny Bath, Wolves couldn't break down Huddersfield's defence and Wolves tasted defeat for the first time this season

**Opinion:** Need to start playing before half-time, can't keep chasing the game each week.

**Man of the match:** Coady

**Team Rating:** 5/10

**Attendance:** 19,972

**Team:** *Ikeme, Doherty, Coady, Edwards (Oniangue), Bath, Iorfa, Saville (Costa 61), Price, Bodvarsson, Mason, Wallace (Teixeira 45)*

**Unused Subs:** *Lonergan, Henry, Borthwick-Jackson, Hause*

**Bookings:** Saville (50 – shirt pulling), Price (74 – foul)

## THE PRINCE AND THE SO CALLED PAUPERS

### WOLVES 1-1 BURTON

Saturday 10th September 2016

Burton Albion left Molineux with a point after an injury time equaliser, Wolves had taken the lead through Prince Oniangue, but Burton fought back and deserved a point having taken the game to Wolves. Walter Zenga made SEVEN changes to the team that lost in the previous game against Huddersfield, and his decision backfired as Wolves looked disjointed and unorganised, which you would expect in the circumstances.

Mind you referee James Adcock didn't help the Wolves cause, he had an absolute shocker, as always with him it was the "Me", "Me", "Me" show and some of his decisions had both sets of players scratching their heads. In the first-half he gave an absolutely appalling hand ball decision for a penalty against Richard Stearman, and late in the first-half he missed Kyle McFadzean smashing his elbow into the back of the head of Paul Gladon, no surprises there.

It was a slow stop start beginning to the game with neither team seeming to be able to gain any momentum, and the referee didn't help matters by his continuous and unnecessary use of the whistle. However, Wolves thought they had broken the deadlock in the 12th minute when Paul Gladon, who was making his Wolves debut had the ball in the net, but his effort was ruled out when the referee blew for a foul on the keeper, even though it seemed McLaughlin had spilled the ball.

Contentious decision number two came in the 20th minute when Stearman was adjudged to have handled in the area following a corner, funnily enough there were no Burton players appealing and only Adcock seemed to think a foul had been committed. Justice was done when Ikeme guessed correctly and saved Akins penalty low down to his left.

Clear cut chances were far and few between with neither side creating what you would call real goal scoring opportunities. As the half-time whistle approached Wolves finally managed a shot on target when Cavaleiro, who was another player making his debut, tested McLaughlin with a curling shot from just inside the penalty area.

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With Wolves still struggling for cohesion Burton pushed on after the break and created the odd half chance, but again nothing to worry Ikeme. Zenga introduced Mason and Bodvarsson in the last quarter of the game, and Wolves at last applied a bit of pressure. Both missed good chances, Bodvarsson sending a free header wide from close range and Mason firing a shot just wide from the centre of the area.



Wolves finally opened the scoring in the 77th minute, following a goalmouth scramble the ball was eventually poked into the path of Oniangue who lashed his shot home from six yards out. That goal looked good enough for victory but Burton had the last say. In the 95th minute Borthwick-Jackson carelessly gave the ball away just outside his own penalty box, the ball was eventually played into the area by Dyer and Miller found himself the simple task of firing home from eight yards.

**Opinion:** It wasn't that bad by the eleven who finished at Huddersfield, so why so many changes?

**Man of the match:** Ikeme

**Team Rating:** 6/10

**Attendance:** 22,049

**Team:** Ikeme, Doherty, Borthwick-Jackson, Coady, Stearman, Batth (capt), Oniangue, Costa, Gladon (Bodvarsson 70), Teixeira (Mason 60), Cavaleiro (Edwards 83)

**Unused Subs:** Lonergan, Wallace, Iorfa, Price

**Bookings:** Stearman (51 – foul), Costa (64 – simulation), Coady (81 – simulation)

## LED A MERRY BARN DANCE

### WOLVES 0-4 BARNSELEY

Tuesday 13th September 2016

On the website prior to the game Walter Zenga said that he would forgive his team anything providing they continue to play with the heart, courage and passion which he believes every fan deserves. Well



Walter you should think about relaying that message to the players before spouting it in public, because this performance lacked every aspect of what his pre-match speech portrayed, in what can only be described as an absolutely gutless display.

Walter also acknowledged that the new players at his disposal arrived mostly after the season had kicked off. Squad rotation will apparently play a major part in the big picture of achieving promotion, and with seven changes on Saturday and five before this game the rotation factor seems to have already been well and truly deployed. However, Walter will have to quickly establish what the main spine of his team will be before he starts making the kind of team changes seen over this and the previous game, to pay seven million for a player and leave him on the bench beggar's belief.

It was Wolves who started the brighter of the two teams and they went close in just the 2nd minute when Davis tipped a Jack Price free-kick over the crossbar, and then from the corner Stearman could only watch on as his close range effort was somehow kept out by a melee of defenders boots in a proper old goalmouth scramble. In the 10th minute Jed Wallace went close when he intercepted a miskick from Davis and drove forward before firing a shot just wide.

From that point onwards it was all downhill as Barnsley took command, and old Wolves boy Sam Winnall missed an absolute sitter from six yards when his legs got into a proper old tangle after a cross from the left by Armstrong. That was probably the best chance of the half and it's an understatement to say that Wolves were a lucky to go in at half-time still level.

Apart from a Bodvarsson volley that flew just over the bar in the 66th minute it was still Barnsley in control, and they finally made the breakthrough in the 73rd minute. Danny Batth made two superb blocks in the area, but his fellow defenders hung

him out to dry as Hourihane was given the time and space to rifle home the rebound from the centre of the box.

There was to be no fight back from Wolves and that set the stage for Barnsley to run riot, and they made it 2-0 in the 83rd minute. As is the norm it was old Wolves boy Adam Hammill who got the goal as he waltzed through the entire defence before slotting past Ikeme, you would have thought he had the Ebola virus the way the defenders stood off him.

Two minutes later it was 3-0, Janko pulled the trigger from outside the area and the ball hit the net like a bullet. The embarrassment of a performance from an abysmal Wolves team didn't end there, Bradshaw added a fourth in 92nd minute to cap one of the most inept performances from a Wolves team in a long while.

**Opinion:** Things rapidly going pear shaped.

**Man of the match:** Batth

**Team Rating:** 1/10

**Attendance:** 18,668

**Team:** Ikeme, Doherty, Iorfa (Cavaleiro 75), Coady, Stearman, Batth (capt), Oniangue, Price (Costa 45), Bodvarsson, Mason, Wallace (Teixeira 64)

**Unused Subs:** Lonergan, Saville, Gladon, Hause

**Bookings:** None

## TOON NIL TO THE WANDERERS

### NEWCASTLE 0-2 WOLVES

Saturday 17th September 2016

Where on Gods earth did that come from? Coming into this game Puke'astle had won five in a row, four of them without conceding a goal, they won their last game 6-0 away at QPR and we lost 4-0 at home to Barnsley. All the signs were that Wolves were going to get a hiding, but the fact was that we came bouncing back to trounce the so called Championship favourites 2-0 on their own patch, and what's more it was fully deserved.

Wolves had everything to prove after the "Car Crash" against Barnsley, and even though that will stick in the memory for a while yet they went a long way to making amends for that shocking performance. Wolves were superb from the kick-off and were first to every ball, the passing was crisp and the hunger missing in the last game was abundant by the bucket load. In the 9th minute Wolves went within a whisker of taking the lead when Bodvarsson's rising

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shot from the edge of the box clipped the top of the bar.

At the other end Carl Ikeme came to the rescue when he pulled off a terrific reaction save to deny Perez, but that was a minor blip as Wolves went in front on the half hour mark. Bodvarsson crossed from the right and Mbemba produced a superb diving header to score, unfortunately for him it was in his own net.

Wolves continued to attack and didn't allow Puke'astle to breathe, and midway through the second-half they doubled their lead. Costa won possession by taking the ball off Perez and then strode towards the edge of the area before curling an absolute beauty into the bottom left hand corner of the net.

It was all Wolves and Bodvarsson went close to adding a third when his powerful shot from just inside the box went just over the bar. Newcastle were reduced to ten men with three minutes to go, Anita went over the top with a leg breaker on Cavaleiro and quite rightly the referee showed him a straight red card.

At the end Bodvarsson led the Icelandic Thunderclap in front of the jubilant Wolves Supporters, the fickle Geordies had long left the stadium leaving just a few to boo their team off, and that just about sums them up. They deserve Benitez as their Manager, and you mark my words as soon as things start to go a little bit wrong he'll be off like a rat up a drain pipe.

After the game Puke'astle boss Rafa Benitez was magnanimous in defeat. He moaned that his team were in control but they made mistake after mistake, they then gave Wolves an opportunity with an own goal and then made yet another mistake for the second. This was a typical reaction coming from one of the most hated men at Wolves alongside the likes of Lee Hughes. Any Wolves Supporter who went to Anfield on Boxing Day 2009 will remember this figure of a role model running the length of the pitch waving an

imaginary red card to help get Stephen Ward sent-off.

**Opinion:** Stick that in your trophy cabinet Benitez.

**Man of the match:** Bodvarsson

**Team Rating:** 10/10

**Attendance:** 52,117

**Team:** Ikeme, Doherty, Borthwick-Jackson, Edwards, Batth (capt), Iorfa, Saiss, Oniangue, Bodvarsson (Coady 88), Costa (Mason 75), Teixeira (Cavaleiro 71)

**Unused Subs:** Lonergan, Saville, Gladon, Hause

**Bookings:** Batth (35 – foul), Saiss (35 – dissent), Teixeira (56 – foul), Borthwick-Jackson (72 – time-wasting), Edwards (80 – foul)

## OUT OF TOON

### NEWCASTLE 2-0 WOLVES

Tuesday 20th September 2016  
(EFL Cup 3rd Round)



After the superb display against the same opposition on the same ground only two days earlier the result was reversed as Newcastle won 2-0 to send Wolves out of the EFL Cup for another season. The Wolves performance was in stark contrast to the commitment shown on Saturday, and another eight changes by Walter Zenga didn't exactly help matters.

In comparison to Saturday Wolves' passing was poor, the hunger and tackling which was so evident in that game was missing, and they gave Newcastle the time and space to dominate the game in the early stages. But despite sitting deep Wolves had a glorious chance to take the lead in the 24th minute, Gladon flicked on a ball into the path of Wallace who found himself clean through on goal, however the midfielder fluffed his lines and his weak shot was easily saved by the keeper.

Wolves were made to pay dearly for Wallace's miss five minutes later as Newcastle took the lead. Ritchie picked up the ball on the right hand side of the area, and then went between Borthwick-Jackson and Saville as if they were giving him a guard of honour before slotting the ball into the far corner of the net.

Things got even worse from the restart, another stray pass in midfield gave the ball straight back to Newcastle, the ball was passed to Richie who broke down the right and sent a deep cross to the far side of the area where Goffran volleyed home to make it 2-0. However, Wallace who was tracking the striker will be disappointed that he didn't put more pressure on Goffran when he was shooting, good strike though!

It was all Newcastle both up to and after the break, and four minutes into the second-half it should have been 3-0. Diame spotted Lonergan off his line and chipped the keeper, fortunately for Wolves the ball came back off the crossbar and Gouffran blazed the rebound over from six yards. Newcastle continued to pressurise the Wolves defence and both Richie and Colback both went close to increasing the lead.

Wolves nearly pulled one back in the 77th minute following a superb move. John started a move in his own half and played to Saville who then fed Price, in one movement the fans favourite chipped a peach of a ball over Newcastle's back line. John continued his run to latch onto the pass but his touch deserted him and the keeper pounced to block his effort.

That was about it as far as Wolves were concerned, and this was the tenth straight season they have been knocked out of this cup by opposition from the same division. Long gone are the days we believed we could actually go all the way and on to win it, like the 15th March 1980 against Nottingham Forest.

**Opinion:** It's about time to knock this competition on the head.

**Man of the match:** John

**Team Rating:** 4/10

**Attendance:** 34,735

**Team:** Lonergan, Borthwick-Jackson, Silvio, Saville, Hause, Iorfa, Teixeira (John 45), Coady (capt), Gladon, Mason (Price 62), Wallace (Bodvarsson 78)

**Unused Subs:** Ikeme, Doherty, Batth, Oniangue

**Bookings:** Saville (80 – dissent)

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## EASY THREESY AGAINST THE BEES'EY

### WOLVES 3-1 BRENTFORD

Saturday 24th September 2015

Last season Brentford won both games against Wolves, this included the 2-0 win at Molineux which was probably the worst home performance of the season. There was to be no repeat of that shocking display as Wolves turned on the style to easily beat a good Brentford side 3-1 with winger Joao Teixeira outstanding in midfield. The Portuguese maestro chipped in with two goals and causing havoc in the Brentford defence.

Wolves took early control of this game, but chances were far and few between in the first-half as you would expect against a skilful Brentford line-up. It was in fact Brentford who created probably the best chance of the half in the 6th minute, MacLeod dispossessed Borthwick-Jackson and rolled the ball into the path of Hogan who let fly from ten yards, but the snapshot was brilliantly tipped around the post by Carl Ikeme.

Another game another poor refereeing decision against Wolves, Teixeira dribbled his way past three Brentford defenders inside the area before he was brought down from behind by Colin, it was a stonewall penalty but referee Andy Davies thought different and waved play-on.

The second-half began much brighter than the first, and Wolves made the all-important breakthrough just two minutes after the restart, and what a superb goal it was. Costa won the ball midway in his own half and raced the full length of the pitch into the Brentford area, he then fed Teixeira who dummed a defender before sliding the ball under the keeper.

Wolves doubled their lead in the 57th minute, and it was Costa who was again involved when he won a free-kick out wide on the left hand side, Teixeira stepped up to take the kick and delivered a cross-shot that deceived everyone including Bentley whose desperate dive failed to stop the ball curling in at the far post.

Wolves seemed to be coasting to victory when Brentford suddenly pulled a goal back, KaiKai found himself in oceans of space at the far post and rifled a shot from eight yards that flew past Ikeme into the roof of the net.



Brentford laid siege on the Wolves defence, but valiant defending kept the score at 2-1 until two minutes from time when Wolves added a third from a break-away. Bodvarsson won possession just inside the Brentford half, he carried the ball to the edge of the area and rolled the ball into the path of Cavaleiro who fired into an empty net with Bentley out of position.

The win saw Wolves leapfrog Brentford and within touching distance of the top six. But let's not get carried away, October looks a pretty tough month with games against the likes of Villa, Norwich and Brighton.

**Opinion:** Not only are we winning but the performances are getting better by the week.

**Man of the match:** Teixeira

**Team Rating:** 8/10

**Attendance:** 20,637

**Team:** Ikeme, Doherty, Borthwick-Jackson, Edwards, Batth (capt), Iorfa, Saiss, Oniangue (Coady 88), Bodvarsson, Costa (Cavaleiro 69), Teixeira (Mason 77)

**Unused Subs:** Lonergan, Stearman, Price, Gladon

**Bookings:** Saiss (74 – foul)

## NO BLUE RIBBON AT WIGAN

### WIGAN 2-1 WOLVES

Tuesday 27th September 2016

Conceding late goals is becoming a nasty habit Wolves have acquired. Wigan are currently propping up the rest of the teams in the division and are the kind of team that you have to beat if there's any chance of finishing in the top six. After a disastrous start Wolves fought back and missed a host of chances before falling to a late sucker punch resulting in a 2-1 defeat.

Wolves got off to the worst possible start by conceding a goal in the 6th minute, and it was Adam Le Fondre who made the breakthrough, a cross came in from the



right and the ex-Wolves player stole a yard on his marker before tucking the ball into the net from six yards. Le Fondre became the fourth ex-Wolves player to net against them this season, van la Parra, Ebanks-Blake and Hammill being the others.

Wolves immediately went on the attack and were denied an equaliser by a mad scramble in the Wigan box that goalkeeper Adam Bogdan eventually gathered. They went even closer in the 22nd minute when Costa charged through on the left and fired a shot past Bogdan that touched the crossbar on the way over.

It was all Wolves and they got their rewards ten minutes from half-time when they deservedly equalised. Cavaleiro passed his man on the right and pulled the ball back to the edge of the area where Oniangue was on-hand to stroke the ball skilfully into the bottom right-hand corner of the net.

After a good first-half which should have seen Wolves winning, the game petered out into a tedious affair after the break with goal scoring chances at a minimum, and both teams frequently giving the ball away. The only chance of note came in the 55th minute when a corner from the left was met by a Danny Batth header, Bogdan was well beaten but Warnock was in the right place to hack the ball off the line.

Although Wolves looked dangerous on the break they failed to get that elusive goal and paid the ultimate price with a minute left on the clock. Wigan sub Will Grigg latched onto a long ball up field and left Batth for dead in a one-on-one situation before side-footing the ball into the net.

**Opinion:** Two great league wins against Newcastle and Brentford followed by a car crash.

**Man of the match:** Oniangue

**Team Rating:** 3/10

**Attendance:** 10,723

**Team:** Ikeme, Doherty, Silvio, Edwards,

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*Bath (capt), Iorfa, Costa, Oniangue (John76), Cavaleiro (Gladon 65), Saiss, Teixeira (Saville 65)*

**Unused Subs:** Lonergan, Stearman, Coady, Borthwick-Jackson

**Bookings:** Silvio (41 – foul), Saiss (53 – dissent), Oniangue (71 – foul)

## EARLY BIRD CANARIES

### WOLVES 1-2 NORWICH

Saturday 1st October 2016



Wolves slumped to back-to-back defeats for the first time since Walter Zenga became head coach. They conceded yet another early goal to give Norwich the initiative in a poor first-half performance, they did improve after the break but missed a hatful of chances to equalise before Norwich scored a second killer goal. Dave Edwards pulled one back with ten minutes to go but Norwich held on for all three points.

As against Wigan in midweek Wolves conceded another early goal, one minute and 45 seconds to be exact, and as against Wigan it was again sloppy defending which led to the goal. Danny Bath allowed Cameron Jerome to get in front of him and head home from close range, the Wolves Captain wasn't even watching the ball as it came over from the left and Jerome made him pay dearly.

The goal shocked Wolves and they couldn't seem to get going, passes were continually going astray and the midfield seemed to be constantly located deep in their own half. Costa chased a lost cause in the 11th minute and ended up shooting wide from the edge of the area, but that was your lot, for the rest of the first-half they played second fiddle to a Norwich side flying high in the Championship.

Norwich should have doubled their lead on the half-hour mark, Hoolahan received the ball in space in the area, he squared the ball to Murphy all on his lonesome four

yards out, but he let Wolves off the hook by shooting straight at Ikeme with the goal at his mercy.

Wolves started the second-half with much more purpose and shape, and Teixeira should have done better after jinking into the area in the 51st minute only to lift his shot wide. In the 67th minute another big miss for Wolves, Nouha Dicko in his first game back from injury, this time responsible for missing an absolute sitter, Cavaleiro picked out the striker three yards out but he shot straight at the keeper with the goal gaping in front of him.

Just six minutes later Wolves were made to pay for all the missed chances. Norwich who'd been under the cosh for the previous 15 minutes broke away and the move ended with Jerome feeding the ball to Brady, and he curled an unstoppable shot into the top left hand corner of the net from 25 yards out.

Wolves eventually pulled a goal back with ten minutes left, Doherty sent over a pinpoint cross from the left and Duracell Dave Edwards rose to plant a perfect header into the roof of the net. It made the final ten minutes interesting, especially after Norwich's defeat against Newcastle in midweek when they lost after leading 3-2 in the 94th minute. However, Wolves couldn't find that elusive equaliser and now its 4 defats in the last seven games.

**Opinion:** Need to get back to winning ways, and quickly.

**Man of the match:** Edwards

**Team Rating:** 5/10

**Attendance:** 18,793

**Team:** Ikeme, Doherty, Borthwick-Jackson (Mason 87), Edwards, Iorfa, Bath, Oniangue (Coady 57), Teixeira (Dicko 62), Cavaleiro, Saiss, Costa

**Unused Subs:** Lonergan, Silvio, Stearman, Price

**Bookings:** Costa (46 – foul), Edwards (79 – foul), Saiss (85 – foul)

## REFEREE HANDS VILLA A BRUCIE BONUS

### ASTON VILLA 1-1 WOLVES

Saturday 15th October 2016

Wolves will be bitterly disappointed to come away from this Midlands derby with only a point. After both teams traded penalties in an evenly fought first-half Wolves totally dominated the second-half and missed

chance after chance to let Villa off the hook. The star of the show was Helder Costa, the Wolves midfielder constantly left the Villa defence for dead with his pace and lightning quick feet, he is now beginning to adapt to the Championship and once he gets his shooting boots on some team is really going to suffer.

Wolves started the brighter but still fell behind in the 14th minute to a questionable refereeing decision. Grealish ran side by side with Iorfa in the penalty area, and when the midfielder ran the ball too far he seemed to trip over his own feet, however referee David Coote still pointed straight to the spot. Kodjia stepped up to take the spot-kick, and even though Ikeme guessed the right way the ball still beat him to his left.



The goal put Villa on the front foot and they pinned Wolves in their own half, although Ikeme's goal remained relatively unthreatened. However, Wolves were back in it in the 34th minute, Costa received the ball on the edge of the area and his goal bound shot was handled in the box by Cissokho for the second penalty of the game. Costa stepped up and smashed the penalty home to make it 1-1. Villa immediately hit back again, and two minutes later Kodjia hit a 25 yard dipping volley that Ikeme just got his fingertips to and push the ball around the post. As the tempo increased Grealish should have been red carded for a deliberate stamp on Coady, however the incompetent referee booked McCormack and Coady, and Grealish walked away without even a yellow card.

After the break Wolves took control with the pace of Costa causing nightmares for the Villa defence. On three occasions the Portuguese Maestro left defenders for dead, twice he went narrowly wide with shots from the edge of the box. On the other occasion he fed Bodvarsson who was just about to pull the trigger when he



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was hacked down from behind by Richards, an absolute stonewall penalty in everybody eyes except for the referee. Now it was wave after wave of attack by Wolves, in the 65th minute a beautiful flick on by Badvarsson put Edwards through on goal, but he dragged his shot across goal and wide of the far post. A few minutes later another chance went begging when Prince Oniangue hit his low shot wide. Adomah then saved an almost certain goal when he whipped the ball off Cavaleiro's feet just as he was to put it into the net.

The last and probably best chance fell to Wolves again, a low cross came over from the right and a wild swing at the ball by Hutton let in Cavaleiro, the striker's shot beat the keeper but Hutton somehow managed to get back and block the shot. The game finished all square and Wolves players held their heads in their hands knowing they should have won.

**Opinion:** Need to find that killer touch in front of goal and get the points in the bag.  
**Man of the match:** Costa  
**Team Rating:** 7/10  
**Attendance:** 32,533  
**Team:** Ikeme, Doherty, Iorfa, Edwards, Bath, Hause, Costa, Saiss, Dicko (Teixeria 68), Coady (Bodvarsson 45), Oniangue (Cavaleiro 45)  
**Unused Subs:** Lonergan, Stearman, Saville, Wallace  
**Bookings:** Bath (21 – foul), Iorfa (34 – foul), Bodvarsson (90+6 – ungentlemanly conduct)

## GIVEN THE OLD HEAVE HOVE

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

Tuesday 18th October 2016

Following the second-half display against Villa on Saturday the Wolves fans had great expectations of their team for this midweek clash at the Amex Stadium. However, the performance was a million miles away from where it ended at Villa Park as Wolves lost 1-0 to another early goal at Brighton. Since the superb victories against Newcastle and Brentford only one point has been won out of a possible twelve.

Brighton set the standard from the off, their passing was accurate and they played the patient build-up strategy causing Wolves to sit deep. There were a few early scares for Wolves when Knockaert headed wide when well placed in the 7th minute, and then



the same player forced Ikeme into a fine save from another header in the 11th minute.

However there was no let-off in the 14th minute when Brighton took the lead, a patient build up that started in their own half ended with Bong crossing from the left and Baldock heading past Ikeme from ten yards, Ikeme did manage to get a hand on it but he couldn't keep it out.

It was Brighton who continued to be dominant, and Wolves had to wait until the final seconds of the first-half to register their first attempt on goal, Costa cut in from the left by-line and from the edge of the area he smashed a ferocious goal-bound effort that was brilliantly tipped over the bar by Stockdale.

Zenga rang the changes at the start of the second-half, bringing on Bodvarsson and Cavaleiro for Coady and Oniangue, and the pair combined to almost bring Wolves level within a minute of coming on. Cavaleiro cut the ball back from the left hand side and Bodvarsson bulldozed his way through to fire in a shot from the centre of the box, unfortunately he couldn't keep it down and the ball flew over the bar.

It was a rare moment of promise for Wolves, and as in the first-half Brighton continued to dominate play and pin Wolves in their own half, they created a host of chances but failed to capitalise on their dominance. Wolves somehow managed to keep the score at 1-0 and suddenly realised that with time running out a point might be there for the taking.

With eight minutes left Wolves started piling forward and Danny Bath joined the attack to hit a piledriver from 25 yards that Stockdale pushed around the post. Two minutes later Costa let fly from the other side of the area and Stockdale made another good save.

Wolves continue to apply the pressure in the six minutes of time added on, they won a series of corners as Brighton hit the

panic button, and in the very last seconds Wolves won a corner on the right. Ikeme joined the cavalry charge and as the corner was delivered Cavaleiro flicked on at the near post, however the ball somehow evaded everybody as it flashed across the six yard box, and that as they say was that.

**Opinion:** That's 3 defeats in 4 games now and the alarm bells are ringing.  
**Man of the match:** Ikeme  
**Team Rating:** 3/10  
**Attendance:** 25,231  
**Team:** Ikeme, Doherty, Iorfa, Edwards, Bath, Hause, Costa, Saiss, Dicko (Teixeria 68), Coady (Bodvarsson 45), Oniangue (Cavaleiro 45)  
**Unused Subs:** Lonergan, Stearman, Saville, Wallace  
**Bookings:** Bath (21 – foul), Iorfa (34 – foul), Bodvarsson (90+6 – ungentlemanly conduct)

## NO SILVIO LINING ON ANY CLOUD FOR ZENGA

### **WOLVES 0-1 LEEDS**

Saturday 22nd October 2016



It was a day of celebration for WWLSC as it was FIFTY years to the day that the first organised travel to Molineux from London took place. To celebrate the special day Wolverhampton Wanderers Football Club held a celebratory dinner in the North Bank in honour of London Wolves. The Wolves players obviously had no intentions of joining in the celebrations as they turned in one of their poorest performances of the season and went down 1-0 to old foes Leeds United.

It was a low-key scrappy game for more or less for the whole 90 minutes, the passing was poor, the build-up play was poor and the finishing was poor. If anything Wolves were slightly the better in the first-half as they enjoyed a half decent spell of pressure on the 20 minute mark, and it was Teixeira who was pulling the strings. In one attack it was his pass that forced O'Kane into a

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poor back-header which fell to Dicko, but the striker lobbed his shot over the bar.

Another chance fell to Dicko again just minutes later after Teixeira had picked him out with a peach of a pass, but he wanted too much time on the ball and Jansson managed to get a block in. Leeds were struggling to keep the lively Teixeira quiet and they were relieved to see the on-loan winger curl his shot narrowly wide of the far post in the 24th minute. Teixeira then turned provider for Costa, who saw his drive from 25 yards just dip over the bar.

Having been under pressure Leeds almost went in front in the 38th minute, a long ball out of defence by Bartley, and then hesitation from Doherty let Sacko in, the forward let fly from just inside the area and the ball clipped the top of the crossbar and went out for a goal kick. A minute later play switched to the other end and Bodvarsson saw his shot blocked before Teixeira's follow-up was saved by Green.

The game died after half-time and there wasn't a lot of quality on show from either side, even Teixeira struggled to get going again and was eventually substituted in the 76th minute. Costa went close with a long range effort in the 64th minute with the ball flying just over the bar, but there was little else up front in the way of goal scoring opportunities.

With 20 minutes remaining the inevitable happened as Leeds got their noses in front, and it was an absolute horror of a mistake by Doherty. The full-back lost cheap possession in the area and Sacko nipped in and rolled the ball across the six yard box, unfortunately Silvio slid the ball into his own net to give Leeds the all-important goal. Wolves' dismal afternoon was summed up in stoppage time when Costa failed to hit the target at the far post from only six yards.

**Opinion:** Rumour's rife that poor old Walter is on his way out.

**Man of the match:** Edwards

**Team Rating:** 3/10

**Attendance:** 23,607

**Team:** Ikeme, Doherty (Coady 76), Silvio, Edwards, Batth (capt), Hause, Costa, Dicko (Cavaleiro 62), Bodvarsson, Teixeira (John 76), Saiss

**Unused Subs:** Lonergan, Stearman, Oniangue, Gladon

**Bookings:** Doherty (34 – foul), Edwards (45+5 – foul)

## IT'S KING EDWARDS ON THE EWOD MENU AGAIN

### BLACKBURN 1-1 WOLVES

Saturday 29th October 2016

Rob Edwards was given the job of filling Walter Zenga's shoes following his midweek dismissal after just 87 days at the helm, but he could only watch on as Wolves winless run stretched to six games. No other team in the league has conceded more goals in the first 15 minutes than Wolves this season, and yet again they found themselves one down within the first quarter of an hour. However they fought back after the break with Dave Edwards nodding the equaliser and the game eventually finishing 1-1.

If you thought we had problems at Wolves you should look at the team we were playing, Blackburn are now in the same position as we were in the early 80's during the disastrous reign of the Bhatti Brothers. At Blackburn they have a company of chicken farmers called the Venky's who own the club, and just like the Bhatti's did at Wolves they are bleeding the club dry and have plunged the club into freefall.

Despite languishing in the bottom three it was Rovers who started stronger, and with Wolves off to their usual slow start it was the home side who struck first in the 13th minute, and like previous games poor defending contributed to the goal. A horrible clearance by Hause gave possession to Rovers, and when Lowe crossed from the right Batth gave Gallagher too much room and the youngster fired past Ikeme, although the finish was as good a volley you will see from any player this season.

After 25 minutes Wolves ventured into the Rovers half for more or less the first time and created two good chances within a minute. Firstly Coady got on the end of a Bodvarsson knock-down, but wastefully blasted over the bar from close range. Bodvarsson was again the provider a minute later when he pulled the ball back from the by-line and Edwards's flick back across goal trickled agonisingly wide.

Rovers went within a whisker of increasing their lead in the 38th minute following more careless defending. Batth and Doherty allowed Marshall far too much space and the striker let fly from the edge of the area, but Ikeme saved his defenders blushes by pulling off a stunning save to his left and tip the ball wide for a corner.

Lonergan replaced the injured Ikeme after the break and produced a superb save on the hour mark to keep the deficit to just one goal. Emnes found Gallagher in the area but he was denied by Lonergan's out-stretched legs from point-blank range.

With a quarter of an hour left the Rovers supporters protest against the Venky's hit stage two as hundreds of their fans left the ground. For Wolves it was just what the doctor ordered, and three minutes later, as the ground emptied, Rovers players lost concentration and Wolves conjured up an equaliser. Second half substitute Teixeira let fly from the edge of the area and his shot was pushed wide by Steele, but Doherty was on hand on the right to send in an excellent cross that was met by a powerful header from Dave Edwards and into the Rovers net.



Wolves need to start playing from the first minute, in such a competitive league you cannot keep giving teams a goal start. For long periods of this game Wolves played as they did towards the end of last season, poor defending, passes going astray and a lack of cutting edge in front of goal. Any promotion or top six bid needs to happen sooner rather than later before another season goes down the pan.

**Opinion:** Proven manager required as quickly as possible.

**Man of the match:** Coady

**Team Rating:** 6/10

**Attendance:** 19,652

**Team:** Ikeme (Lonergan 45), Doherty, Borthwick-Jackson, Edwards, Batth (capt), Hause, Costa, Wallace (Cavaleiro 65), Bodvarsson, Saiss (Teixeira 56), Coady

**Unused Subs:** Silvio, Stearman, Saville, Dicko

**Bookings:** Batth (26 – dissent), Teixeira (67 – dissent)

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## INCE'NCED BY PENALTY FARCE

### WOLVES 2-3 DERBY COUNTY

Saturday 5th November 2016



In front of the Sky Sports cameras Wolves produced probably the worst 45 minutes of football seen for many a year at Molineux. You would have seen better football from eleven blokes on a stag doo, walking out of a nightclub after 24 hours on the beer and then tie their boot laces together. There was a big improvement in the second half but it was too little too late as Wolves eventually lost 3-2.

Wolves were absolutely shocking from the kick-off, lethargic, unable to string two passes together, clueless in defence and giving Derby more space than an elephant with the Delhi Belly. However the one thing you can say about Wolves is they are consistent, and they proved that once again by conceding another early goal. In just the 6th minute a cross from the left was headed towards goal, and even though Lonergan managed to keep the ball out Ince was waiting all on his own at the back post to smash the rebound home and make it 1-0.

Derby must have thought they were playing a local pub team as they piled forward at every opportunity, and it was no surprise that they increased their lead on the quarter of an hour mark. It was yet more horrendous defending as Bent was left all on his own in the area, and when the ball was lifted over four Wolves players into his path he volleyed a first time shot past Lonergan.

Derby continued to dominate and spurned a series of chances to increase their lead as Wolves opened up like a can of beans. Chances were created and chances were missed, and only Lonergan stood between Derby and a potential cricket score, his best effort a stunning full length save to tip Butterfields effort onto the post. Somehow Wolves went into the break only two down, but that didn't stop the crowd voicing their dissatisfaction as the players left the pitch.

After the first-half car crash Wolves at least rallied after the break, and in the 57th minute created their first real goal scoring opportunity. Doherty played a one-two with Costa before passing the ball to Cavaleiro, the record signing steadied himself before watching his shot cleared off the line by Keogh.

Wolves didn't have to wait much longer to reduce the deficit. On the hour mark Carson was caught in two minds as the ball came over from the left, and when Bodvarsson pulled the ball back across the area Costa was on hand to fire home. What a difference a goal makes, Costa who was now involved in almost everything, went close to an equaliser when he smashed a shot just past the angle of post and bar from a tight angle.

Just as Wolves were looking dangerous the game was cruelly turned back in Derby's favour by two controversial penalty decisions, one that was given and the other one not. Firstly Ince went down when challenged by Cavaleiro, he went down as if someone had tasered him, it certainly wasn't Cavaleiro tripping him although the referee thought otherwise. Ince picked himself off the floor to take the spot kick and restore Derby's two goal lead.

Just seconds after the goal the roles of the two players were reversed, Ince blatantly checked Cavaleiro inside the box for a stonewall penalty, although the referee again thought otherwise. Four minutes later Wolves did pull a goal back, and not even the referee could rule this one out. Cavaleiro send over a corner from the right and Dangerous Dave was there at the near post to glace a header past Carson to reduce the deficit.

Wolves huffed and puffed for the last eight or so minutes plus injury time, but it wasn't to be. It all means that they haven't won for seven games, have taken only two points from the last 21 and have lost three successive home matches for the first time since 2012.

**Opinion:** Another case of too little too late after the first-half shambles.

**Man of the match:** Edwards

**Team Rating:** 5/10

**Attendance:** 19,858

**Team:** Lonergan, Doherty, Borthwick-Jackson, Edwards, Batth (capt), Iorfa, Costa, Teixeira (Saville 32), Bodvarsson (Dicko 67), Coady (Wallace 89), Cavaleiro  
**Unused Subs:** Flatt, Silvio, Stearman, Saiss

**Bookings:** Saville (34 – foul), Edwards (76 – dissent), Doherty (79 – foul), Coady (79 – dissent), Borthwick-Jackson (90+3 – foul)

## UNF'LAMB'OYANT START

### PRESTON 0-0 WOLVES

Saturday 19th November 2016



Paul Lambert watched his side grind out a dire goalless draw in his first game in charge of Wolves, and will already be mindful of the immense task ahead of him. Rome wasn't built in a day and there was a positive aspect in that Wolves didn't concede their usual early goal. However, the 2,500 or so fans that travelled to the game will find it hard to find any positives to come out of this awful game.

The first-half was absolutely woeful, Lambert wanting to set a benchmark picked a defensive formation with the obvious intention of stopping the ball constantly bulging the Wolves net, something that has become a common event lately. Wolves managed to pass their first task under the eye of the new manager, and that was not to concede in the first quarter of an hour, something they hadn't managed to do in six of their last seven matches.

Entertainment was in short supply with Wolves hardly venturing into the Preston half, never mind create anything in front of goal. Preston weren't much better, apart from a couple of long range pot shots there was nothing to concern Andy Lonergan in the Wolves goal. All in all it was like watching paint dry, and as the teams went off at half-time the supporters must have been considering having a flyer and avoiding the traffic chaos encountered on the way in to Preston.

The early stages of the second half were a minor improvement on the tedium served up in the first 45 minutes, and the first real effort from either team came in the 53rd minute. A cross from the left was only

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partially cleared as far as Gallagher and he fired in a powerful volley from outside the area that went inches over the bar. Wolves finally had their first effort on goal after 57 minutes, Saville laid the ball back to Doherty whose low strike from the edge of the area was just wide of the near post.

Preston had a half chance midway through the half when Hugill headed wide following a free-kick from the right, and two minutes later the hosts missed the best chance of the match when another right wing cross found Makienok all on his own six yards out, but luckily for Wolves he headed over.

Wolves finally registered their first effort on target in the 87th minute when Cavaleiro swung over a lovely cross, but Dicko headed straight at the keeper from close range. The same two players combined again in the fourth minute of time added on to produce Wolves best chance of the game, but Dicko headed wide from six yards out with the goal at his mercy.

In the final seconds Preston should have snatched it when Hugill was through on goal, but he hit the panic button and lifted the ball over the bar with only Lonergan to beat. So it was a point for Lambert and a clean sheet "to boot", and considering the contrasting form of the two teams coming into this game the new manager will be more than happy with a point.

**Opinion:** Don't show the kids the highlights unless they suffer from insomnia.

**Man of the match:** Bath

**Team Rating:** 4/10

**Attendance:** 12,863

**Team:** Lonergan, Iorfa, Doherty, Coady, Bath (capt), Hause, Costa (Dicko 78), Price (Cavaleiro 87), Enobakhare (Wallace 64), Bodvarsson, Saville

**Unused Subs:** Flatt, Stearman, Teixeira, Saiss

**Bookings:** Price (45+1 – foul), Hause (64 – foul), Wallace (70 – foul), Bath (71 – foul)

## TWO DEFENSIVE H'OWL'ERS

**WOLVES 0-2 SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY**  
Saturday 26th November 2016

That's now nine games without a win and Wolves sit 21st in the Championship just one place above the drop zone, and that's only because Cardiff have a worse goal difference. It was Paul Lambert's first home game in charge, and if he wasn't aware about the task in hand then he certainly does now. It was an absolute shocking



performance, and if anything the team has gone backwards since the bright start to the season that saw the team climb to 3rd after a cracking result away to Birmingham.

Wolves created the first chance of the game in the 10th minute, some quick one touch football in the middle of the park ended up with Bodvarsson feeding Coady, the midfielder produced a delightful chip over the centre-half, but spoilt the whole move by shanking the ball wide from the edge of the area.

That miss proved to be very costly just four minutes later as Wednesday took the lead. Matt Doherty, WWLSC Player of the Year, nearly cut Forestieri in half with a challenge inside the six yard box and the referee pointed straight to the spot. It was poor defending from one of the most consistent performers over the last season or so, and Wolves paid the price as Forestieri picked himself up and sent Lonergan the wrong way from the spot kick.

It was all Wednesday and on the half-hour mark it was 2-0 after more woeful defending. Iorfa played a suicide pass back to Stearman and Forestieri nipped in to intercept the ball, he left Stearman for dead and played the ball to Joao on the right of the area, he cut the ball back to Lee who made no mistake from six yards. Wolves' confidence was shot to pieces with passes going astray, just as in the previous home game against Derby, luckily Wednesday failed to capitalise on a series of chances and Wolves were lucky to go into the half-time break just two goals down.

As with the Derby game Wolves were slightly better in the second-half, but never looked like breaking down the Wednesday defence. Dicko who came on at half-time looked lively and in the 53rd minute he should have reduced the deficit when put through by Price with only the goalkeeper to beat, but he fired high and wide. Hause then got on the end of a Price corner but headed straight into the arms of Westwood for the keepers first save of the match.

In a last ditch effort to salvage something from the game Lambert sent on Cavaleiro for Bodvarsson. The record signing had only been on the pitch for a minute or so when he missed an absolute glorious chance to pull a goal back, he was unmarked at the far post when Edwards picked him out with a header, but he somehow managed to drag his shot right across the face of goal. It just about summed up the day with the stands almost empty by the time the final whistle blew.

**Opinion:** Kenny Jacket was sacked for less.

**Man of the match:** Costa

**Team Rating:** 3/10

**Attendance:** 27,293

**Team:** Lonergan, Doherty, Iorfa, Edwards (capt), Stearman, Hause, Costa (Teixeira 71), Price, Bodvarsson (Cavaleiro 76), Coady, Saville (Dicko 45)

**Unused Subs:** Ikeme, Enobakhare, Saiss, Ronan

**Bookings:** Iorfa (59 – foul), Teixeira (79 – foul), Price (90+2 – foul)

## HIP HOOP HOORAY

**QPR 1-2 WOLVES**

Thursday 1st December 2016

Before this game you had to go back to the 3-1 win over Brentford to find the last time Wolves had won a game. Since then it's been a grim run of nine games without a win, taking only three points out of a possible 27. It certainly wasn't pretty at times but Wolves finally ended the barren run with a 2-1 victory and give Paul Lambert his first win at the third attempt.

Right from the start the game highlighted the lack of confidence shown by both teams due to a run of recent poor form. However it was QPR who were marginally better in the early stages and they created the first opportunity in the 10th minute. Hall hit a ferocious volley from the edge of the area and Bath stopped the goal bound shot by thrusting his head into the path of the ball.

Wolves were struggling to make any inroads into the game, even so they almost broke the deadlock in the 21st minute. Doherty broke down the left and fed Cavaleiro who sent over a lovely cross into the area, as the ball dropped Costa hit a low volley that forced Smithies into a good save low down to his right.

On the half-hour mark QPR had a big shout for a penalty when the ball struck the arm of Doherty in the box, but for the

# MATCH REPORTS



first time in a long while the decision went Wolves way when the referee waved play on. A few minutes later the game well and truly swung in Wolves direction when Perch was sent off for a second bookable offence, yet another decision that went our way.

Both teams continued to labour, but Wolves gradually took control after the break and made the all-important breakthrough on the hour mark. Doherty played a perfectly weighted pass into the path of the overlapping Iorfa, the young defender pulled the ball back across the area where Duracell Dave was waiting to smash an unstoppable shot past Smithies.



It was as if somebody had flicked a switch as Wolves poured forward, full of confidence and with a newly found swagger. Edwards was in the thick of it again when he headed goalwards from Coady's right wing cross, but Smithies produced another fine save to keep the score at 1-0.

However just two minutes later Wolves did increase the lead with a goal from Costa that was right out of the top drawer. The midfielder collected the ball out on the right, cut inside and left three defenders for dead before rifling the ball into the bottom left hand corner, a piece of pure magic from the Portuguese Maestro.

Wolves continued to open up QPR like a can of beans with both Doherty and Bodvarsson missing good opportunities to put the game to bed when they were clean through. Those misses nearly come back to haunt Wolves as QPR pulled a goal back in the last minute when Lynch bundled the ball home from close range.

The fourth official somehow found SEVEN minutes of added time to ensure a heart stopping end to the game, and in the 92nd minute Wolves breathed a massive sigh of relief when Lynch missed an open goal with an air shot from two yards out. Wolves somehow hung on for victory and had the following army of supporters happily singing along to their version of the Jingle Bells theme.

**Opinion:** How to nearly snatch a draw from the jaws of victory.

**Man of the match:** Costa

**Team Rating:** 7/10

**Attendance:** 12,222

**Team:** Ikeme (Lonergan 82), Doherty, Iorfa, Edwards, Stearman, Bath (capt), Costa, Saiss, Dicko (Bodvarsson 76), Coady, Cavaleiro (Saville 72)

**Unused Subs:** Wallace, Price, Enobakhare, Hause

**Bookings:** Cavaleiro (48 – foul), Bath (78 – foul), Saiss (90+2 – foul)

## AYITE A SHAME

### WOLVES 4-4 FULHAM

Saturday 10th December 2016

When Fulham played at Molineux just under a year ago the game ended with Wolves edging it by a 3-2 scoreline, this time the game ended 4-4 in a game that produced a staggering 46 attempts at goal. Kortney Hause put Wolves 1-0 up before Fulham scored 3 goals in a 10 minute spell to go into the break 3-1 up. Wolves then staged a remarkable second-half comeback to level the scores at 3-3 before Edwards scored again in the last minute to make the it 4-3. However, Fulham hit back to share the spoils with a 94th minute equaliser.

Right from the kick-off it was end-to end attacking football from both teams and full credit to Fulham who came to win and not circle the wagons and hope to catch Wolves on the break. There were a couple of early half-chances falling to Cavaleiro and Bath for Wolves, and Ayite went close for Fulham, but it was Wolves who made the breakthrough **22 Mins:** Helder Costa sent over an inswinging corner from the right and Hause ghosted in at the back post to power a header into the net from eight yards **1-0**.

Wolves should have made it 2-0 when Dicko forced Button to spill the ball, but he pulled his shot across the face of the empty goal, less than a minute later Fulham made Wolves pay **32 Mins:** Fredricks fed the ball to Johansen in the Wolves box and he smashed it past Burgoyne into the net to make it **1-1**.

Another chance went begging for Wolves and Costa was the provider again, he pulled the ball back from the byline and Cavaleiro scooped his shot over the bar from close range. Two minutes later

Wolves were punished again **39 Mins:** The ball was crossed to the back post from the right and Ayite, probably the smallest player on the field, was left all on his own by Iorfa and he headed past Burgoyne **1-2**.

**43 Mins:** A free-kick on the left was floated to the back of the Wolves area and Cairney unleashed a first time volley that nearly broke the net, Burgoyne again no chance **1-3**.

Wolves went agonisingly close to pulling one back a few minutes after the break when a free-kick by Costa found Edwards, his shot was saved and Doherty's shot from the rebound was kicked off the line. A further spell of pressure ended with Wolves pulling a goal back **65 Mins:** Coady's cross was flicked on by Dicko and Doherty was on hand to steer the ball in from close range **2-3**.

**74 Mins:** Wolves level the scores. Cavaleiro picked up the ball halfway in the Fulham half and headed full steam ahead for goal, he reached the edge of the area and fired a screamer into the top right-hand corner of the net **3-3**.



Play continued to flow from end to end, but as time was running out it was Wolves who looked to have won it **90 Mins:** Molineux Erupts. There was bedlam in the Fulham box and the ball eventually fell to Edwards at the back post, and from an impossible angle he lashed the ball into the roof of the net **4-3**.

**90+4 Mins:** There were five minutes of time added on for Wolves to play out. However, with seconds to go the ball was played back across the area from the left, and that man Ayite was all on his own again to head home the equaliser **4-4**.

**Opinion:** Defensive frailties deny Wolves the win after a monumental comeback.

**Man of the match:** Cavaleiro

**Team Rating:** 9/10

**Attendance:** 19,020

# MATCH REPORTS



**Team:** Burgoyne, Doherty, Iorfa, Edwards, Hause, Batth (capt), Costa (Teixeira 87) Saiss (Bodvarsson 58), Dicko, Coady (Price 87), Cavaleiro  
**Unused Subs:** Flatt, Saville, Enobakhare, Borthwick-Jackson  
**Bookings:** Edwards (16 – foul), Coady (26 – foul), Dicko (63 – foul), Burgoyne (90+2 time wasting)

## TOP OF THE BILL TO THE UNDERCARD

### CARDIFF 2-1 WOLVES

Tuesday 13th December 2016

Wolves were cruelly denied a second successive win following a 94th minute Fulham goal on Saturday. The 2-1 win against QPR two weeks ago was Wolves only win in the previous eleven games, so when Matt Doherty scored an early goal things were looking up. However, the inconsistently shown throughout the season reared its ugly head again as Wolves failed to turn up for the second-half and were beaten by a late Cardiff winner.

Wolves got off to the perfect start with a goal in just the second minute. Matt Doherty picked up the ball on the left-hand side and then cut inside before unleashing a thunderbolt from about 25 yards, Amos in the Cardiff goal did get a touch on the ball, but could only help it into his own net. That's now two goals in two games for last year's WWLSC Player of the Year.

It was the perfect opportunity for Wolves to settle and dictate the game, but unfortunately the players didn't read the script, and as the half progressed the game became a tedious affair. Wolves never looked in trouble, but on the other hand neither did the Cardiff defence. The home side resorted to the long ball into the Wolves area, but Stearman and Batth were solid as a rock, in fact the only chance of any note came when a Gunnarsson's long throw found Richardson who blasted over from close range.

It was a totally different ball game after the break. Our old mate and new Cardiff Manager "Colin", at yet another club who can't attract a decent manager, must have given his "We will fight them on the beaches" half-time speech, because Cardiff were a different animal at the start of the second-half. Half-time subs Noone and Zohore made an immediate impact, and Burgoyne was forced into a good save to tip a curling shot from Noone around the post.



The pressure mounted on the Wolves defence and Zohore was too high with a scissor kick that went just over the bar. Burgoyne made another good save from a Whittingham free-kick and Noone went close with a shot similar to the one that produced Doherty's goal. The pressure finally paid off in the 68th minute when a Whittingham corner was met by Connolly's close range header for the Cardiff equaliser.

Two minutes later and Wolves went painstakingly close to restoring the lead, Teixeira sent over a corner and the ball fell to Saville whose shot looked in all the way until Amos somehow got a hand to the ball and keep it out. The save proved to be a defining moment, with four minutes left to play Zohore teed up Pilkington who fired the winner past Burgoyne from the edge of the area.

**Opinion:** No quick fix for the new boss, need to start with getting the basics right.

**Man of the match:** Edwards

**Team Rating:** 3/10

**Attendance:** 14,853

**Team:** Burgoyne, Doherty, Iorfa, Edwards, Stearman, Batth (capt), Costa (Teixeira 45), Saiss, Dicko (Bodvarsson 76), Saville, Cavaleiro (Enobakhare 66)

**Unused Subs:** Flatt, Coady, Price, Hause

**Bookings:** Saiss (58 – foul)

## PORTUGUESE MEN OF WAR

### NOTTINGHAM FOREST 0-2 WOLVES

Saturday 17th December 2016

After the horrific performance served up at Cardiff on Tuesday Wolves got back to winning ways with a 2-0 win away at Forest. It wasn't all pretty but it was a solid performance and in the end a comfortable win. In a game where chances were far and few between Wolves scored a goal in either half to earn a massive three points in their quest to move away from the relegation zone.

The game started slowly and the supporters had to wait until the half-hour mark for the first goal scoring opportunity, and it fell to old Wolves boy Michael Mancienne. Former players always seem to come back and haunt Wolves, and Mancienne who never really did anything in a gold shirt found himself in oceans of space inside the box, but he showed his footballing skills haven't improved since leaving and headed over the bar when well placed.

With half-time approaching Wolves suddenly went in front following a brilliant piece of skill by Costa. There seemed to be nothing on when the ball was fed by Price into the path of the Portuguese midfielder, but from an impossible angle he rifled the ball past Stojkovic into the roof of the net and make it 1-0.



Forest almost levelled two minutes before the break when Osborn glanced a shot that flashed across the goal and narrowly wide of the upright, and just a minute later Mills forced a save from Ikeme with a shot from the edge of the box. However, it was Wolves who went in at the break a goal up and looking good value for their lead.

Forest chased the game at the start of the second half and Osborn went close when he side footed wide after a low cross from the left from Carayol. Lambert already seems to be finding a system that suits his players and Wolves played some neat possession football and made it difficult for Forest to get any kind of foothold in the game.

Wolves high pressing and tackling put Forest on the back foot, and Costa forced Stojkovic into a good save from a free-kick on the edge of the area after Enobakhare had been brought down. Cavaleiro then latched onto a loose pass and smashed the ball narrowly over the bar in the 63rd minute. Cavaleiro was suddenly in the thick of everything and missed another good opportunity three minutes later when he found the side netting after running onto a through ball from Doherty.

# MATCH REPORTS



Wolves continued to push forward and sealed victory in the 79th minute. The ever consistent Edwards won the ball in midfield and played a one-two with Costa, he then played the ball to Cavaleiro who slotted past Stojkovic from the edge of the area. Again a well worked goal, albeit poor defending by what looked a poor Forest side.

**Opinion:** Time to crack on and put a decent run together.

**Man of the match:** Costa

**Team Rating:** 8/10

**Attendance:** 19,037

**Team:** Ikeme, Doherty, Coady, Edwards, Stearman, Bathh (capt), Costa (Ronan 81), Price, Dicko (Bodvarsson 83), Enobakhare (Saiss 69), Cavaleiro

**Unused Subs:** Burgoyne, Saville, Iorfa, Hause

**Bookings:** Price (27 – foul), Doherty (78 – foul), Cavaleiro (79 – goal celebration)

## THOSE PORTUGUESE DO LIKE THEIR BRISTOLS

### WOLVES 3-2 BRISTOL CITY

Monday 26th December 2016

The last home game ended in a 4-4 draw against Fulham in what was one of the most entertaining games at Molineux in years. This Boxing Day encounter ran that game a close second with Wolves gaining their first home win since beating Brentford in September. This game was up and down like two darts players on a see-saw, Wolves surrendered a lead before a stunning second half display saw them come back from 2-1 down to win with a Cavaleiro penalty near the end. That's now back-to-back wins for Wolves, and Bristol City still without a win at Molineux since 1931.

Wolves usually save Boxing Day for their worse performance of the season, this game was anything but that with the supporters treated to another superb attacking performance. If Paul Lambert can sort out the frailties at the back then there may be a shout for a play-off place.

Wolves got off to the perfect start with dependable Dave Edwards scoring with one of his trademark headers in just the third minute, Costa send over a corner from the right and Edwards was there at the near post to nod home from close range.

Wolves dominated play and in the 20th minute went within a whisker of making it



2-0, Cavaleiro lashed in a shot that Fielding parried away, the ball fell into the path of Edwards but the keeper somehow managed to get up and block the rebound. Wolves paid a heavy price for that miss when Bristol suddenly scored against the run of play in the 38th minute, the ball was threaded through the centre of the Wolves defence by Tomlin and Abraham brushed Bathh aside before firing home.

A minute before the break Wolves supporters were stunned as Bristol went in front following their very first corner, Brownhill sent over the flag kick from the right and Flint scored with a close range header. The defending was appalling and highlights why so many points have been thrown away during the course of the season.

After a few scares at the back at the start of the second half Wolves got themselves on level terms in the 57th minute, and it was yet another stunning goal by Costa. The ball was crossed in from the right by Coady and Costa was on hand to fire home a volley that can only be described as breath-taking. If Wolves can keep hold of this genius at the end of the season then he can single-handedly take us back to the Premiership.

Wolves, roared on by the crowd, sent on both Bodvarsson and Mason in search of the winner, and the substitution came up trumps when Flint handled a flick on by Mason in the area and the referee awarded Wolves a penalty with five minutes to go. Record signing Cavaleiro stepped up to the mark and smashed an unstoppable spot-kick past Fielding to make it 3-2.

There was one more twist to the tale in the very last second of the five minutes of time added on. A Bristol head on a cross in the Wolves six yard area was brilliantly blocked on the line by Doherty, it was then followed up by Stearman diving in to complete a stunning clearance. Every Bristol player surrounded the referee claiming the ball had crossed the line, but

the referee waved play-on and then to the relief of the Wolves fans blew for full time.

**Opinion:** Fosun's should break the bank to keep that man Costa.

**Man of the match:** Costa

**Team Rating:** 8/10

**Attendance:** 24,669

**Team:** Ikeme, Doherty, Coady, Edwards, Stearman, Bathh (capt), Costa, Price, Dicko (Bodvarsson 78), Enobakhare (Mason 78), Cavaleiro

**Unused Subs:** Burgoyne, Saville, Iorfa, Hause, Ronan

**Bookings:** Coady (53 – foul), Cavaleiro (90+1 – foul)

# IN MEMORY



## A Tribute to Graham Taylor OBE (1944 - 2017)



On January 12th it was announced that former Wolves manager Graham Taylor had passed away after suffering a suspected heart attack at the age of 72. Sir Jack Hayward appointed Taylor as Wolves manager in March 1994 as Graham Turner's replacement. It was to prove a short-lived reign with Taylor departing just over 18 months later, but even in that time he set in place plans for a reformed youth policy, the foundations of a new training ground and a vision for the future. The Academy and its new facilities at Compton Park is now regarded as one of the best in the country, and a tribute to the memory of a real football man.

After his appointment at Wolves Taylor brought the likes of Tony Daley, John de Wolf, Dean Richards and Don Goodman to the club for the best part of £4.5 million, but he was desperately unlucky with ongoing injuries to key players in a roller coaster of time in charge. In his only full season at Wolves in 1994-95 he led them to the FA Cup quarter finals, on route they knocked out two Premier League sides in Sheffield Wednesday and Leicester, but eventually went out to Crystal Palace 4-1 in a replay after initially drawing 1-1 at Molineux.

In the same season his injury laden side accrued nine wins in 14 at the start of 1995, and narrowly missed out on promotion to the premier league when they lost to Bolton in the play-offs. In that season Wolves scored more goals (77) than anyone else, including 10 more than champions Middlesbrough, but no one in the top half conceded more than our 61, and that itself was the main factor in our failure to reach the Promised Land.

Taylor's career as a full-back with Scunthorpe, Grimsby and Lincoln was ended by a hip injury in 1972, when he then became boss of the team from Sincil Bank. After winning the Fourth Division with Lincoln he was recruited by Watford chairman Elton John, whose team were then languishing in the Fourth Division. Incredibly Taylor led Watford to the First Division in just five years, finishing second to Liverpool in 1983, he then took them to the 1984 FA Cup Final where they were beaten by Everton. He moved to Villa in 1987 after they were relegated, and swiftly guided them back into the top flight at the first time of asking before England came knocking at his door.

Taylor became England manager in 1990, succeeding Bobby Robson after the World Cup finals in Italy. He helped England qualify for the 1992 European Championships, but resigned after they failed to qualify for the 1994 World Cup finals after losing 2-0 to Holland, a match remembered for some questionable refereeing decisions and gamesmanship by the Dutch players. It should be remembered though that he lost only 1 of his first 23 England games, unfortunately for Taylor he went on to lose the games that mattered.

Graham Taylor was a real football person, respected, honest and a humorous man who never bore grudges, especially towards the press who hounded him out during his England reign. Former players have already paid their respects with references to his humility, telling of how he helped them with booze and drug problems by showing real care and compassion. Sir Elton John who took Taylor to Watford credited his former manager with saving his life and likened him to a brother, and on the day of his death Wembley was lit up in his honour by FA chiefs, tributes don't get any higher than that. It's yet another sad day for all at Wolverhampton Wanderers, *"Do We Not Like That" .....*

*Steve Ray*  
Newsletter Editor



# IN MEMORY



## Leo Masters (Mastbraker)



Leo Masters aka Mastbraker, long term London Wolves member, committee member and minutes secretary sadly passed away on Sunday the 27th November 2016. Stuart Earl said that he would miss a special friend and that all our thoughts are with Leo's family. Son Garry also inherited his love for Wolves, and had his school class design the WWLSC 40th anniversary badge. Stuart pays a special tribute to his long-term friend and explains how he first met Leo in 1968, and how he became a supporter of the Mighty Wanderers.

It is with great sadness that I received a phone call, on the return leg of our journey from the match with Derby, informing me that Leo was not expected to last through the night in Lewisham Hospital. He did, but passed away the following afternoon with his family in attendance. 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.

I first met Leo in 1968, when I attended a trial for the basketball team, LLSK, for whom he played and captained. He played for England many times, and represented Great Britain before leading LLSK to the National Championships, the last non National League team to achieve this honour, in March 1973. The club then joined the National League as Embassy All Stars, with Leo leading us to become runners up in both League and cup, before retiring from playing to coach the side to league and cup double success the following season.

Prior to his basketball successes, he had been on the books of both Millwall and Crystal Palace as a goalkeeper, only kept out of the Palace side by a certain John Jackson. Leo was, in fact, one of those people who was good at all sports, and when the rest of us had to practice to be any good, he had a natural talent, he was also an excellent all round cricketer and played a mean game of darts.

In the early seventies, he sang in a duo with his sister Rita, and they played the pubs and clubs of south London for many years, until Leo took over The Shard Arms on the Old Kent Road.

Leo 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. Although he 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 last AGM, not having been able to attend meetings for some time.

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

*Stuart Earl*



## Provisional travel arrangements for matches during February are:-

### Home Matches

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

**Fare** : To be advised.

#### Sat 11/3/17 v Rotherham

(k/o 3.00pm)

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

### Away Matches

#### Tue 7/3/17 v Ipswich Town

(k/o 7:45pm)

- ◆ Outward - Depart Liverpool Street 14:00 - Arrive Ipswich 15:07
- ◆ Return - Depart Ipswich 21:43 - Arrive Liverpool Street 22:55

#### Tue 14/3/17 v Brentford (k/o 7:45pm - Postponed from 18 February)

No Club trip arranged. The nearest railway station is Brentford. This is around a five minute walk away from the ground. This station is on the London Waterloo to Reading line, which normally has services running every 15 minutes. To get from the station to the ground, exit onto Station Road. Take the first right into Orchard Road, right again into Windmill Road and then first left into Hamilton Road which leads into New Road and the ground.

The nearest Underground Station to the ground is South Ealing, which is on the Piccadilly Line. The tube station is around a 15 minute walk from the ground, down Ealing Road. Turn right out of the station and go straight down Ealing Road, and then cross the A4. Otherwise as you come out of the station cross over to the other side of Ealing Road and catch a number 65 bus down to the ground.

#### Sat 18/3/17 v Fulham (k/o 3:00pm)

No Club trip arranged. The nearest London Underground station is Putney Bridge (District Line). The ground is about a 15 minute walk. Cross over the main road and walk through Bishops Park alongside the Thames, and you will reach the ground ahead. Alternatively, Hammersmith (Piccadilly Line) is about a 20 minute walk to the ground, and Putney Main Line station (from Waterloo and Clapham Junction) is about a 15/20 minutes walk to the ground. Regular pubs Bricklayers Arms (Watermans St) and The Duke's Head (Lower Richmond Rd) both just south (and turn West) of Putney Bridge.

**TRAVEL SECRETARY** - PETER WOODIFIELD

94 FARNHAM CLOSE RAINHAM KENT ME8 8NS

Telephone - 01634 363704 E-mail - peteraw@globalnet.co.uk

### **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

# FIXTURES / RESULTS



## Championship Fixtures 2016-2017

### August

Sat 06	Rotherham	15:00	A	2-2
Tue 09	Crawley (EFL)	07:45	H	2-1
Sat 13	Reading	15:00	H	2-0
Tue 16	Ipswich	19:45	H	0-0
Sat 20	Birmingham	15:00	A	1-3
Tue 23	Cambridge (EFL)	07:45	H	2-1
Sat 27	Huddersfield	15:00	A	1-0

### September

Sat 10	Burton	15:00	H	1-1
Tue 13	Barnsley	19:45	H	0-4
Sat 17	Newcastle	15:00	A	0-2
Tue 20	Newcastle (EFL)	19:45	A	2-0
Sat 24	Brentford	15:00	H	3-1
Tue 27	Wigan	19:45	A	2-1

### October

Sat 01	Norwich	17:30	H	1-2
Sat 15	Aston Villa	17:30	A	1-1
Tue 18	Brighton	19:45	A	1-0
Sat 22	Leeds United	15:00	H	0-1
Sat 29	Blackburn	17:30	A	1-1

### November

Sat 05	Derby County	12:30	H	2-3
Sat 19	Preston	15:00	A	0-0
Sat 26	Sheffield Wed	15:00	H	0-2

### December

Thu 01	QPR	19:45	A	1-2
Sat 10	Fulham	15:00	H	4-4
Tue 13	Cardiff	19:45	A	2-1
Sat 17	Notts Forest	15:00	A	0-2
Mon 26	Bristol City	15:00	H	3-2
Sat 31	QPR	15:00	H	1-2

### January

Mon 02	Sheffield Wed	15:00	A	0-0
Sat 07	Stoke (FAC)	15:00	A	0-2
Sat 14	Aston Villa	17:30	H	1-0
Sat 21	Norwich	15:00	A	3-1
Sat 28	Liverpool (FAC)	15:00	A	1-2
Tue 31	Barnsley	19:45	A	1-3

### February

Sat 04	Burton	15:00	A	2-1
Sat 11	Newcastle	17:30	H	0-1
Tue 14	Wigan	19:45	H	0-1
Sat 18	Chelsea (FAC)	17:30	H	0-2
Fri 24	Birmingham	19:45	H	

### March

Sat 04	Reading	15:00	A	
Tue 07	Ipswich	19:45	A	
Sat 11	Rotherham	15:00	H	
Tue 14	Brentford	19:45	A	
Sat 18	Fulham	15:00	A	

### April

Sat 01	Cardiff	15:00	H	
Tue 04	Notts Forest	19:45	H	
Sat 08	Bristol City	15:00	A	
Fri 14	Brighton	17:00	H	
Mon 17	Leeds United	15:00	A	
Sat 22	Blackburn	15:00	H	
Tue 25	Huddersfield	19:45	H	
Sat 29	Derby	15:00	A	

### May

Sun 07	Preston	12:00	H	
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## A Tribute to Graham Hawkins "A Wolves Man Through and Through"



Barely a month after our 50th Anniversary Dinner we heard the very sad news that another true Wolves Legend had passed away. Graham Hawkins died on 28th September 2016, aged 70, following a battle with non-Hodgkin Lymphoma. Even though suffering with this terrible disease Graham still attended our 50th Dinner as one of our special guests, but sadly that would be the last time we saw him. It was touch and go whether he would make the 50th, but being the person he was he still attended, showing all his usual enthusiasm and chatting to members and signing autographs.

Graham battled his condition with the kind of determination which epitomised his career both as a player and manager. He devoted some of his later years to raising funds for the cancer unit at Shrewsbury's Royal Hospital, where he had undergone his chemotherapy treatment, and to Wolverhampton's New Cross Hospital, this included joining one of Roy's Christmas parties in 2012 where all the proceeds went towards Graham's charities.

Graham was a Wolves man through and through, he has the unique record of the only person to serve the club as a fan, a player, manager and briefly as a club scout, he was also the sub in WWLSC's first "official" match against Plymouth Argyle on 22nd October 1966. In total he made 35 first team appearances for Wolves, helping them win promotion to the top flight in 1967, before leading them to promotion as manager in the 1982/1983 season. Graham also went on to be assistant to Graham Turner at Shrewsbury and later coached in Bahrain.

Jim Barron summed up the general feelings for Graham when stating "I'm shocked and saddened to hear of Graham's passing. He was just a lovely fella and was Wolves daft". "I don't think he, or any of us for that matter, got the credit he deserved for winning promotion against all the odds. Who knows what he might have achieved if he had got the right kind of financial backing once we got into the top flight." Graham and I became friends over the years and I knew what Wolves meant to him. While he regretted the manner of his departure, he refused to criticise those responsible and never harboured any grudges. He would never do that. He was Wolves through and through. Right to the end.

Like our beloved Sir Jack Hayward OBE, Graham Hawkins will always be part of Wolves history and will always be regarded as one of our own, he will be sadly missed by everyone at WWLSC and all our thoughts are with his wife, Jane, his sons, Ian and Richard and the rest of his family and friends.

*Steve Ray*

*Newsletter Editor*

