



WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS

1966 **50**th Anniversary 2016

LONDON SUPPORTERS CLUB



“WOLVES WOMEN CHAMPIONS”
SPONSORED BY LONDON WOLVES

WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS

1966

50

2016

LONDON SUPPORTERS' CLUB

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FROM THE CHAIR



WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS LONDON SUPPORTERS CLUB

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Hi and Greetings to Everybody,

The season fizzled out with a dull thud, rather than with a huge bang as many had hoped. The penultimate home match against Blackburn was rated in some minds (mine included) as the worst performance witnessed in many years of following Wolves.

Yes there were injury problems, but I feel that the real reason was too many new faces were thrown together in the expectation that they would form a good side.

There were of course some pluses. The form of Dave Edwards and Helda Costa, and the emergence of some promising young talent. The fine away performances, especially in The FA Cup were a pleasure to watch, but home performances did little or nothing to give cause for hope.

Our annual "Meet the Players" was a huge success, for which I thank Paul Lambert and the lads, who were all engaging and receptive with the near forty members who turned out on the evening prior to the Fulham game at Craven Cottage.

At the end of the season new owners Fosun decided to appoint a new manager which meant Paul Lambert's departure from Wolves and the arrival of new Head Coach Nuno Espirito Santo, to whom we extend a huge London Wolves welcome. I had the pleasure of meeting Paul and found him eager to engage with supporters and having an honest outlook on the side he was managing. We wish him well for the future.

The annual "London Wolves Summer Walk" took place at the end of June, and thirty plus game souls ventured off into the wilds of south-east London, a great day was enjoyed by all. Strangely the walk involved a visit to a few of the hostelrys during the Geoff Castro organised expedition, for which huge thanks are extended.

"Needless to say, but London Wolves were sorry to hear of Carl Ikeme's diagnosis that he was suffering from Acute Leukaemia, we all wish him effective treatment and a speedy recovery #TeamKemes"

Stuart



Nuno Espirito Santo



On behalf of WWLSC I would like to say a big warm welcome to new Head Coach Nuno Espirito Santo. The 43 year-old became the club's fourth manager in just 10 months after replacing Paul Lambert at the end of the season. Nuno has been joined by assistant Rui Pedro Silva, goalkeeping coach Rui Barbosa and Antonio Dias as fitness coach.

The former Porto boss is the third managerial appointment made by Fosun since their takeover last July, he took over the reins from Paul Lambert after the Glaswegian spent just seven months in charge. Wolves had a disastrous spell of six successive defeats in February and a series of poor performances as the season reached its conclusion, unfortunately the heroics of a magnificent FA Cup run counted for nothing in the eyes of the ambitious Chinese owners.

Espirito Santo left Porto earlier this month halfway through a two-year deal, the Portuguese giants finished second in the Primeira Liga, six points behind Benfica. On the managerial side he helped guide Rio Ave to Europa League qualification for the first time in their history after reaching Portugal's two domestic cup finals in 2014. Espirito Santo was also in charge of Valencia between 2014 and 2015 and guided them to fourth in La Liga in his only full season in charge.

Espirito Santo was part of the Porto side managed by the self-acclaimed special one, aka Jose Mourinho who managed the Portuguese club between 2002 and 2004. He picked up numerous trophies during his playing career including the Copa del Rey, Primeira Liga titles on four occasions and the Taca de Portugal three times. On top of that he's won the Champions League and UEFA Cup, as well as the Portuguese Super Cup.

Espirito Santo has already begun the task of re-shaping his squad, bringing in eight players while eleven more have either left the club or gone out on loan to other clubs. We all wish Nuno the best of luck and hope he can get us back where we belong, in the Premier League.

London Wolves Player of the Season 2016-2016

David Edwards



As with last year the WWLSC Player of the Season poll was a very close affair after all the votes had been counted. As with the General Election in June the voting was neck and neck right up until the very end, but the winner of the coveted award in our 50th Anniversary Season was none other than "Dangerous" Dave Edwards.

Dave joined Wolves from Luton in January 2008 and this season made 49 appearances in all competitions, scoring a superb tally of ten goals from midfield in the process.

The loyal Welshman was sponsored by our very own Dave Slape and Peter Woodfield during our 50th Anniversary campaign, and his success goes hand in hand with the Wolves Women team who are also sponsored by WWLSC. This season the ladies gained promotion to the FA Northern Premier League after finishing top of Midlands Division One.

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

WOLVES' NEWS



Carl Ikeme

Wolves fans around the world were joined by star members of the goalkeepers' union in being shocked at the news from Wolves on 6th July 2017 after Carl Ikeme returned for pre-season testing to find that routine blood tests revealed he is suffering from Acute Leukaemia. Messages of support came from Nigerian teammates, top world goalkeepers like David De Gea, Joe Hart, Marc ter Stegen from Barca, and Iker Casillas who said "Much much strength @Carl_Ikeme! I send you a big hug!" as well as clubs around the country, including the Blades and Richard Stearman.

Wolves number 1 since the departure of Wayne Hennessey, Carl kept Wolves' 25th clean sheet of the season in 2014, one of six club records to be broken (along with least away goals conceded), in the League 1 Champions season, and has been ever since. He was named in the League 1 team of the season. Carl had, however, played a key role in the previous promotion to the Premier League, keeping Wayne out of the team for a while. One of Wolves' most popular players, always showing his dedication, including smashing the tactics board after a back-pass own goal(!), but he is ever helpful to the continuing stream of youth team goalies following him through the youth system, especially Aron McCarey, Jonathan Flatt, and now Harry Burgoyne. Harry was able to open the "Carl Ikeme Stand" at Wednesfield FC, aided by keeping legend Phil "Lofty" Parkes, one of the many warm gestures made across the football community.



Carl joined Wolves at 16 in 2003 and has put in 204 appearances so far (League 253 and Cups 18) as well as 10 for the Super Eagles since 2015.

Steve Plant, author of *They Wore the Shirt*, set up a 24 hour penalty shoot-out at Molineux, leading up to the Boro match which kicks off the 2017-18 season. Boro fans joined in as a tribute to Antony Renton, one of their academy players who has a similar diagnosis. Fans are expected to applaud in the first and 19th minutes in tribute to both players. The marathon raised over £5,000 to support @CureLeukaemia a week in advance before a ball had been kicked. This picture was used to publicise the book launch and is 1988/9 championship winning keeper Mark Kendall's shirt. Meanwhile, 10 year old Louis Connor was running a cake sale at Codsall garden centre, and Johnny Norgrove (known to Peter Abbott and Fireman John as Nogga) is running the Birmingham marathon to raise funds for the charity.



Wolves players Danny Bath and Dave Edwards have kept fans in contact on social media (look for #TeamKemes) while messages may be sent to Carl via fans@wolves.co.uk

The main fundraising page is at <https://twitter.com/CureLeukaemia/status/889792546523811840> and Carl's sister Stacey's page here <https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/letsraiseawareness>





Wolves' new signings for the Season 2017-2018

Altogether Wolves have made eight new signings to help strengthen their squad since the arrival of new head coach Nuno Espirito Santo. The full breakdown of the new additions is shown below, and the order in which they arrived at the club.

At the same time eleven players have left the club. Dominic Iorfa and Ethan Ebanks-Landell have both gone out on loan, to Ipswich Town and MK Dons respectively. Mike Williamson, Silvio and James Henry were released, Jed Wallace and George Saville joined Millwall, Jon Dadi Bodvarsson joined Reading, Paul Gladon went back to former club Heracles on loan and both Richard Stearman and Andreas Weimann went back to their respective clubs.



Ryan Bennett
31st May 2017

Centre half Ryan Bennett became Wolves' first signing of the Nuno Espirito Santo era after joining on a free transfer from Norwich. The need for a new centre half became paramount after Mike Williamson left the club and Richard Stearman's loan deal from Fulham expired.



Roderick Miranda
13th June 2017

Roderick Miranda became the second centre half to sign in the space of a fortnight when arriving from Rio Ave for a fee believed to be in the region of £2.5 million.



Phil Ofosu-Ayeh
20th June 2017

Phil Ofosu-Ayeh is a 25-year-old right-back who came on a free transfer from German second division side Eintracht Braunschweig.



Barry Douglas
1st July 2017

The 27-year-old Scottish left back became Wolves' fourth signing of the summer. Douglas made 34 appearances for Turkish club Konyaspor last season, and has also had spells at Lech Poznan, Dundee United and Queen's Park.



Rúben Neves
8th July 2017

Defensive midfielder Ruben Neves became Wolves record signing when he arrived from Porto in a deal costing £15 million. He penned a 5 year deal at Wolves despite interest from Man United, Chelsea and Liverpool.

WOLVES' NEWS



Willy Boly
8th July 2017

The 26-year-old French centre half moved to Molineux on a season-long loan deal from Porto. He became the second player to swap Porto for Wolves on the same day as the stunning £15m club record capture of Ruben Neves.



John Ruddy
10th July 2017

Following the devastating news that Wolves keeper Carl Ikeme had been diagnosed with leukaemia Wolves rushed into the transfer market to secure the signing of former England international goalkeeper John Ruddy on a free transfer from Norwich



Will Norris
11th July 2017

Will Norris was then second goalkeeper to sign in two days as understudy to John Ruddy. The 23 year old signed from Cambridge United for an undisclosed fee.



Ruben Vinagre
20th July 2017

The 18-year-old left back has made the temporary switch on loan from Monaco. Vinagre has been capped at junior level by Portugal all the way up to the Under-18s. He was part of the Portuguese Under-17 squad which won the European Championships last summer.



Diogo Jota
25th July 2017

The 20-year-old Portuguese attacking midfielder has joined on a season long loan from Atletico Madrid. Jota spent last season on loan at Portuguese club Porto and scored in the victory over Leicester City in the Champions League. He made 35 appearances for Porto and scored nine times.



Leo Bonatini
1st August 2017

The 23-year-old Brazilian frontman made the temporary switch from Saudi Arabian club Al-Hilal. Bonatini was capped by Brazil at Under-17 level, scoring twice in the Under-17 World Cup Finals in 2011.

WOLVES' NEWS



Paul Richards

We at London Wolves would like to say a big “Thank You” to Paul Richards for all his help and assistance when liaising with Wolves over the past six years. Those of you who have enjoyed the Meet the Players over the past few years, as well as the excellent pre-Rotherham 50th event last year at Molineux will know that we are indebted to Paul for arranging all of these privileges, to name but a few. Paul has now moved to a new position at Molineux with the responsibility for Safeguarding across the whole of the business, we wish him all the best in his new role. Below is an email sent by Paul to our very own Webmaster Peter Bartlett.

Dear all,

This is just a short note to express my sincere thanks to all of you at London Wolves who I have come to know over the last five and half years as sadly it is time for me to move in a slightly different direction at Wolves.

In light of the recent revelations in respect of historic abuse in football we have made the absolutely correct decision this subject must be at the very top of the club agenda and we remain vigilant and proactive in our stance in making this club a totally safe haven for our young players, fans and vulnerable people. Therefore I now have total responsibility for Safeguarding across the whole of the business which will ensure we deliver the best possible environment we can to assist the development of young football players, protect the young and the vulnerable fans and everyone who comes to see us at Molineux.

I have engaged with multitudes (and I do mean literally hundreds or even thousands), of Wolves fans across the globe, all dedicated in their own way to this fantastic club, but I can honestly say that London Wolves are the model by which I set the standard. The enthusiasm, commitment and passion simply shines through you all and have made my role easy. If only it were the same with everyone else! I'm not leaving so please stay in touch, I'll still be around on match-days, I will be chair of the Fans Parliament so Mr Abbot and I will no doubt partake in a small beer occasionally, and I will most definitely be around to answer any questions you guys may have. I know Tracey Randle has been in touch to introduce herself and I know some of you have met her previously, I'm sure she will be as helpful as hopefully you feel I have been.

*So finally, thank you again, stay positive – we will get there, and keep supporting the lads...
COYW, Wolves Aye We and Up the Wolves!*

*Kindest regards
Paul*

Paul Richards
Club Safeguarding Services Manager



Presentation to Paul Richards from Stuart and Stef.



Wolves Women - End of Season Review

A season full of excitement and unpredictability would summarise our road to the title.

Beating Loughborough Foxes, away from home both in the FA Cup followed by in the league early on the season were fantastic results and ones that kept our belief going throughout the season that we could potentially win the league, as they sat top for the majority of it.

With a couple of unfortunate results v Solihull and Long Eaton away where we struggled to make the most of our possession and take our chances set the league up for an exciting last 4 weeks of the season.

The highlight for me was the 3-2 win at home v Loughborough Foxes which closed the gap on their lead. This set us up nicely for our final 4 games. Steele City away in the closing week of the season was where we played our best football, with an Amber Quick hat-trick within the first half. The preparation for this game is what we aspire towards going forward having a luxurious coach sponsored by London Wolves, allowed the girls to relax and focus on the game ahead, so we can't thank you enough for that. It was a definitely different to 4 of us going in a car or going on the minibus that's for sure.

The Steele City win took us into Loughborough Students away with the pressure on, as winning there would put us top in the league for the first time this season with one game to go. It was a tough game playing on a narrow pitch, and the pressure was on to get the win. Eventually we broke them down with a terrific strike from Jen Anslow. The game ended 3-0 setting us up nicely for the final game of the season v Leicester to clinch the title. Only down point for me personally was being fouled in the 72nd minute and breaking my collarbone, devastated was an understatement but it was all about the team going into the final game 3 days later.

Nerves were high and Leicester had a lot to play for with the risk of relegation if they lost and results didn't go their way. Both teams battled in a game that was overall dominated by us but Leicester did threaten and initially we found it hard to create any clear cut chances. Second half however great play down the right saw Emma Cross pull the ball back to Laura McQuilken who struck from distance, hitting underneath the bar and potentially over the line, however Emma Cross made sure slotting the rebound past the keeper to crown us champions!



From all the players and staff at Wolves Women we are so thankful for the support you give us both financially and in person when individuals can come to the games. The support on twitter too has been fantastic and is really helping us raise the awareness of the club and we really appreciate it. Being my individual sponsor, I am very grateful and proud to be able to represent such a committed group of Wolves fans both in the men's and women's game. This season can only be described as the best I have been part of and that is a statement playing for Wolves since I was 8 and I am now 31! The girls are already in the gym and getting ready for next season in the FA Northern Premier League, which again we want it to be a successful one!

Thanks again for everything and we hope to catch up with some members very soon.

Anna Perks

Wolves Women Club Captain

SOCIAL NEWS



Meet the Players 2016-17

Our thanks go to Paul Lambert and the players for the latest “Meet the Players” event on the night before the Fulham match on 18th March 2017. The event took place at the team hotel at the Hilton London Kensington, near Shepherd's Bush. There was a large turnout with over 40 members turning up to chat with the players and take the opportunity to have their photos taken with them. The meeting which took place on St Patrick's Day seemed to bring Wolves the luck of the Irish, they went to Craven Cottage the next day and thrashed Fulham by a 3-1 scoreline.

Our thanks go to Paul Richards and Alison at Wolves for arranging the function and communicating with our very own Dave Slape and Peter Abbott.



Our very own legends Dave Slape and Peter Woodfield meet up with “Dangerous” Dave Edwards, our London Wolves Player of the Year and whom Dave and Peter have sponsored this season.



Former Wolves manager Paul Lambert chats with Chairman Stuart Earl and his Deputy Stefan Leonard.

(See more photos on the back cover)

Social Diary Season 2016-2017



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

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

In the previous newsletter I outlined three major events that were all well attended and enjoyed by the members of London Wolves prior to and including Christmas. Firstly there were the special events to celebrate the 50th year to the day that London Wolves first organised travel from London to Molineux. It included a lunch in the North Bank WV1 Restaurant before the Leeds United game, and this was followed by a special evening meal at Catellani's Restaurant which was attended by Phil Parkes and Mel Eves. Lastly there was our annual “It's Not the Christmas Party” knees-up prior to the Fulham game in December.

SOCIAL NEWS



Seagull Pie Lunch in the Bluebrick Pub (Friday 14th April 2017)



With the season petering out and the chances of reaching the play-offs a distant dream I decided to arrange something new to try and lift the chins of our disillusioned members. The day was Good Friday, the time was 12:30 and the event was “Roy’s Seagull Pie Lunch”, and it took place at one of our favourite watering holes, the Bluebrick Pub.

For once the transfer of the game to Sky TV worked in our favour, with our game against Brighton kicking off at 5:00pm rather than 3:00pm like all the other Championship games that day, thus giving us an extra two hours of invaluable drinking time. With the festivities starting at 12:30pm people started turning up at about 11:00am with the numbers bolstered at midday by the arrival of the Euston train to the Black Country carrying the London based members.

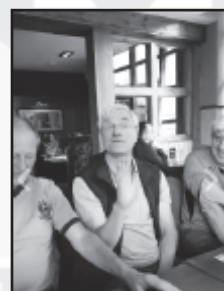
We finally kicked off when travel guru aka Peter Woodfield returned from his short walk to the ticket office, making the attendance 14 in total. The cost for taking part in this magnificent extravaganza was a mere £10, this included the meal, a complimentary drink of your choice, and yes... a free ticket to our exclusive raffle.

Our guest of honour was former Wolves legend and long term friend Mel Eves, but being a legend entitles you to nothing at London Wolves, he drew the short straw and was made to sit by and listen to my old buddy and Masterchef candidate Harley Bill Singleton. As during his playing days with the ball at his feet, Mel took it all in his stride and happily chatted to Bill and the rest of our members, telling all kinds of funny stories and reminiscing about his time at Wolves. I would like to say a massive “Thank You” to Mel for being a great sport and attending our lunch, he has been a friend of London Wolves for many a year and long may it continue.



After the meal and a sustained period of drinking it was raffle time and there were six exclusive prizes on offer, although I have to hold my hands up and openly admit that the quality of those prizes left a lot to be desired. Basically it was one of those raffles you didn’t want to win so you didn’t have the hassle of getting the prize home, but it was all good fun with lots of mickey taking and everybody having a good time.

With kick-off time approaching it was time to stop having fun and go to the Golden Palace for our punishment. However, it was a great afternoon that was enjoyed by all and I will look to arrange more of these events during the up and coming new season.



SOCIAL NEWS



End of Season Dinner at The Fox (Saturday 6th May 2017)



As a prelude to the last game of the season against Preston at Molineux I decided to organise an End of Season Dinner at the Fox in Shipley. The Fox is a bar and restaurant that is owned and run by Neil Taylor who is an avid Wolves Supporter. The inside is a shrine to Wolverhampton Wanderers FC, so where better to finish off the celebrations of the 50th year of London Wolves.

The festivities kicked off at 7:00pm at the Lych Gate Tavern, our now traditional meeting place after home games or before one of my organised events. For the beer connoisseurs amongst us it was BFG's all round, that's Bradley's Finest Golden, a 4.2% pale gold quaffing bitter that goes down quicker than rat in a drainpipe.

Once everybody arrived taxis were booked to take us to the Fox, a 15 minute trip to the west of Wolverhampton. We arrived to a warm welcome and were taken to the restaurant where we were all seated together. First on the agenda was a trip to the bar, then it was off for a wander around looking at all the all the Wolves memorabilia gathered over the years by our dedicated host.

We then relocated back to the restaurant to eat, the food was excellent, as was the company. The Fox is renowned for its choice of real ales and by the end of the meal most of them had been sampled, though I wouldn't be able to tell you which beers there were on tap, there were far too many consumed to remember.



After the main meal came Dave Slape's favourite part of the night, the Ice Cream menu. Dave, illustrious for his jokes usually aimed at the 5 to 10 year old age range picked an ice cream usually intended for the same group of children. After a performance usually seen at Dudley Zoo feeding time it was all outside for the customary group photo. With the night reaching its conclusion taxis were called to take us back to Wolverhampton for a night cap, and put the finishing touches on what had been a superb night out.

A big thank you to Neil for making us so welcome, the food was delicious, the service was excellent and plans are already in place for another visit during the up and coming season.

SOCIAL NEWS



Fans Flag Parade (Sunday 7th May 2017)



After our meal at the Fox the night before it was down to Molineux for the last game of the season against Preston at Molineux. Before the game Wolves organised a Flag Parade, and London Wolves members joined the parade and guard of honour. Featuring in the parade were Alan Herbert”, Steve and Pam Tetlow, Rob Mallett, Roy Williams, Harley Bill and Mark Feehan. My thanks go to Peter Abbott and Dave Slape for arranging this special treat for our members.

After the game we received a message from parade organiser Paul King that read as follows:

“Well done to London Wolves and all of our brilliant supporters clubs throughout the UK, Ireland and the world. So pleased that everyone took part so enthusiastically. Your support and the extra effort that you guys make to get to the games was often overlooked. Not any more, you are appreciated beyond measure. Same time next season for more of the same. Thank you one and all. ”

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

Finally without the constant support of all our members and our special friends there would be no functions, and I wouldn't have the privilege of working with such special supporters. All the best to the boys and ladies at Wolves for the new season, and here's to a successful year that will hopefully bring promotion.

Thanks Again and Up the Wolves

Roy Eagles
Entertainments Officer

2016

LONDON SUPPORTERS' CLUB

SOCIAL NEWS



London Wolves Summer Walk 2017 *Castro's Crafty Greenwich Tour*



The venue for this year's Summer Walk was Greenwich, home of the National Maritime Museum, the Royal Observatory with the Prime Meridian Line, and the tea clipper Cutty Sark, not to mention a plethora of pubs. The starting point of this historical annual pub crawl was the Weatherspoon's pub "The Gate Clock", apparently named after the clock fixed to the gate of the Royal Observatory (first of many captivating facts spoken by notorious ex-school teacher and walk organiser Geoff "Time to Move on Chaps" Castro).

Our thanks again to Geoff for providing such an educational and liquid itinerary. The Walk was also arranged for June 24th, the 10th anniversary of Derek Dougan's passing, so an opportunity to raise a glass to The Doog. It was also great to see "life member" (he's been to every one since a baby) Charlie arrive early, and he brought sister Molly along too.



A broad selection of the many pubs in Greenwich were on the itinerary, although it did get complicated when three pubs were offered at the same time, and the collective decision making capability of the membership stretched to breaking point. But all three were visited, with the barman of the Greenwich Union whooping with delight when a large contingent chose his pub, which stretched way out to the back and into the garden, even though next door's neighbouring pub called the "Richard I" sold genuine Neck Oil.

Some interesting facts were propounded, including that the Prime Meridian passes through Richmond, although that's rather a detour between Greenwich and East Greenwich as straight lines, or even great circles, go. However, there's no disputing that, like the view from Hampstead two years ago, the view from the observatory is one of the 10 best in London.



WOLVES' QUIZ



London Wolves Quiz – June 2017

1. How many players have played for Wolves while their father was manager since WWLSC was founded?
2. Who were the joint top league goal scorers for Wolves in season 1984/85?
3. Which member of Wolves 1974 League Cup winning squad was on the pitch when Steve Bull and Andy Thompson made their league debuts for Wolves in November 1986?
4. Who has scored most goals for Wolves in the Texaco Cup?
5. Who, later to become a full international, made his debut against Chelsea at Molineux in May 1977?
6. How many players have scored hat-tricks for Wolves since WWLSC was formed?
7. Who played in goal in Wolves first ever Premier League game in August 2003?
8. Which teams visited Molineux for Wolves 100th anniversary in May 1977 and Molineux's 100th anniversary in July 1989?
9. Who is the only player to have played for Wolves in all four divisions?
10. Against which teams did Steve Bull score his first and last league goals for Wolves?
11. Which two teams did Wolves only play once in the 1980 League Cup winning run?
12. Born in Dublin in 1973, who joined Wolves from Home Farm and left Molineux in 1978 having won two international caps for Eire?
13. Who were the five named substitutes for the Play-off Final in Cardiff in 2003?
14. Who were Anthony and Eric?
15. Against which team did Molineux last host an attendance greater than 50,000?
16. What brought an end to Mike Stowell's loan spell to Wolves in April 1989?
17. Who is missing from this list – Barry Powell, Nigel Vaughan, Jackie Gallagher?
18. Which teams have Wolves played in Play-off matches?
19. Name the scorer of Wolves 7,000th league goal?
20. Apart from Molineux at which Football League ground have Wolves played most games since WWLSC was formed?

*Answers can be found inside the back page
Quiz compiled by Matthew Hawthorne*

MATCH REPORTS



TWO TOUCH TWO GOAL FOOTBALL

WOLVES 1-2 QPR

Saturday 31st December 2016



It was a disappointing end to 2016 for the 21,132 supporters who turned up for this 3:00pm New Year's Eve kick-off. Wolves dominated from start to finish but a combination of poor finishing and the recurring schoolboy defending meant that QPR went home with all three points. QPR arrived at Molineux on the back of six defeats and hadn't scored a goal in six hours since the one against Wolves at the beginning of December, but their negative approach and continuous time wasting paid dividends as they stole victory with a late winner.

Wolves who had scored seven goals in their last two games against Fulham and Bristol City lacked the same cutting edge as in those games early on. However the rhythm of the game wasn't helped by QPR defending in numbers and playing the spoiling tactics, and even though Wolves were not firing on all cylinders at least they were having a go, and in doing so dominating the game.

It turned out to be a goalless first-half, but based on possession and attempts on goal Wolves should have been ahead by the break. There was a shot by Dicko that was deflected away by Hall, and the best chance of the half fell to Enobakhare when he took a return pass from Dicko, but goalkeeper Alex Smithies stuck out a leg and the chance went begging.

Wolves came racing out of the traps at the start of the second-half, and it seemed only a matter of time before the inevitable breakthrough. Costa had a swerving shot from the edge of the area saved by Smithies and Edwards's header from eight yards out went just wide.

In the 53rd minute the unthinkable happened, and Ian Holloway must have been pinching himself after watching his team take the lead after spending the previous 52 minutes virtually on the back foot. Wszolek broke away from his own half, and after being onlookers up until that point the Wolves defence were slow to respond to a low cross from the right and it was turned in by Sylla.



The Reaction from Wolves was positive and they got a deserved equaliser in the 61st minute. Coady's pass from the centre of midfield was collected by Costa and when he sent over a low cross from the right it was met by Edwards who found the net with a crisp close-range volley. Edwards was inches away from scoring again six minutes from time when he just failed to connect with Cavaleiro's cross.

Wolves continued to press for the winner but more chances were squandered with poor finishing to blame, and with two minutes left disaster struck. A catalog of errors with Wolves failing to clear the danger ended with Wszolek prodding the ball home from eight yards for the winner. Despite having 20 shots to QPR's five Wolves failed to win the game and give Holloway the last laugh.

Opinion: Predictable end to the year, One Step Forward, Two Steps Back.

Man of the match: Price

Team Rating: 5/10

Attendance: 21,132

Team: Ikeme, Doherty, Coady, Edwards, Stearman, Batth (capt), Costa, Price, Dicko (Bodvarsson 82), Enobakhare (Mason 71), Cavaleiro

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

Bookings: Price (32 – foul)

Referee: Lee Probert

REFEREE DROPS REAL H'OWL'ER

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY 0-0 WOLVES

Monday 2nd January 2017



The goalless scoreline suggests the after effects of New Year's Eve over indulgence, but this game was far from it. Wolves put in a quality performance, and after reflecting back on the game will feel that they should have left Hillsborough with all three points. Not for the first time this season they were the wrong end of another shocking refereeing decision, add to that the miss of the season by Joe Mason and it just wasn't Wolves day.

With the home team in contention for a play-off place it was always going to be a difficult task on paper for Wolves. Wednesday started brightly and created the game's first goal scoring opportunity, Bannan floated over a free-kick from the left and Sasso got in a powerful header which looked in all the way until he was denied by an absolutely superb save from Ikeme.

As the half progressed Wolves started to take control, they played some neat passing football and after creating a few half chances carved out their first real opportunity in the 33rd minute. Costa picked up the ball in midfield and went past three Wednesday defenders in a mazy run before lifting his effort over the bar from the edge of the area.

Wolves have been at the wrong end of some poor referee decisions during the season, and with half-time just five minutes away came a decision right up there with the worst of them. Ronan floated over a free-kick from the left flank to the Wednesday far post, Doherty gathered the ball and pushed it past the diving Westwood who performed a rugby tackle on the defender for what looked a stonewall penalty. Incredibly the referee waved play on to again outline the appalling standard of refereeing in the Championship.

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Two minutes later Wolves missed a glorious chance to take the lead. Coady knocked the ball into the box from the right and the ball was headed on by Edwards into the path of Bodvarsson, his effort from eight yards came back off the bar to the unmarked Mason just a yard out, but somehow the Welshman managed to scoop the ball over the bar with the goal at his mercy.

Wolves continued to push forward at the start of the second-half and again went within a whisker of opening the scoring in the 47th minute. Ronan received the ball just inside the area and he knocked it back to Mason who rattled the post from the edge of the area, in the ensuing Wolves pressure the ball fell to Price who blazed over from 25 yards.

It was refreshing to see Wolves looking to take all three points away from home to a very good footballing side, but they must have known it wasn't going to be their day when the scores somehow stayed level on the hour mark when Doherty's low drive from 12 yards was cleared off the line by Sasso.

Wednesday looked to take advantage of Wolves' misfortune and their best spell of pressure came in the last 20 minutes, but the Wolves' defence stood strong with Stearman in particular dealing with everything that Wednesday could throw at them. However, neither side was able to make the breakthrough and the teams played out a 0-0 draw.

Opinion: Another game where mystifying referee decisions cost us big time.

Man of the match: Ronan

Team Rating: 7/10

Attendance: 30,549

Team: Ikeme, Doherty, Coady, Edwards, Stearman, Bath (capt), Costa (Cavaleiro 61), Price, Bodvarsson, Mason, Ronan (Dicko 68)

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

Bookings: None

Referee: Simon Hooper

POTTY TRAINERS

STOKE CITY 0-2 WOLVES

Saturday 7th January 2017
(FA Cup 3rd Round)

Wolves produced an absolute stunning display to beat local rivals Stoke City in their own back garden, it was for the first time in six years Wolves had won an FA Cup tie. The star of the show was keeper Carl

Ikeme who made a series of breath-taking second half saves to deny their premiership rivals, but all of his teammates played their part in the best away performance for many a year.

Wolves carried on where they left off in their previous away game against Sheffield Wednesday, they looked sharp from the outset and played with a positive attitude and looking to settle the tie at the first attempt. Twice in the opening eight minutes Bodvarsson sent shots just wide of the Stoke left-hand post, and with the returning Mike Williamson barking the orders in defence it was Wolves who were looking more like the premiership side.

Wolves' bright start was finally rewarded with a goal in the 29th minute, Costa cut inside from the right-wing and rode Pieters' challenge before unleashing a low drive that beat Grant at his near post and send the 4,600 Wolves Supporters delirious.



The goal was no more than Wolves deserved and such was their possession that they denied Stoke any kind of sniff at goal until Shawcross looped a header over the bar in the 39th minute. The only other chance of note came two minutes before half-time when Crouch ballooned the ball into orbit from eight yards.

Even though Stoke were fielding a strong line-up they brought on two more of the big boys at half-time with Joe Allen and Charlie Adam taking the field, and Adam was involved straight away forcing Carl Ikeme into his first save of the game with a low left-footed shot. Inevitably Stoke upped the pace and started to put the Wolves' defence under the cosh.

On the hour mark Ikeme performed the first of what was a series of stunning saves when Arnautovic shrugged Iorfa aside and the big keeper deflected his powerful shot clear from close range. Ikeme was suddenly in the thick of everything and he produced another great save on 67 minutes getting

across well to turn Afelley's rising shot wide, and then minutes later he turned Crouch's effort wide when the striker looked certain to score.

Allen was next to be thwarted, as Ikeme got his fingertips to the Welshman's rising strike in the 73rd minute, while Crouch was again inches away from turning in Adam's low shot just moments later. Stoke piled on the pressure but it was to be Wolves' day, and in the 80th minute they wrapped up the tie. Indi fouled Bodvarsson on the edge of his own area and from the free-kick Doherty struck a beauty over the wall into the back of the net. It was party time for the following Wolves supporters and the reward for the superb win was an away draw at Anfield.

Opinion: Bring on the Scousers.

Man of the match: Ikeme

Team Rating: 10/10

Attendance: 21,479

Team: Ikeme (capt), Doherty, Iorfa (Dicko 77), Evans, Hause, Williamson, Costa, Saville, Bodvarsson, Mason (Gibbs-White 62), Enobakhare (Edwards 72)

Unused Subs: Burgoyne, Bath, Coady, Price

Bookings: Costa (7 – foul)

Referee: Mike Jones

TAYLOR MADE

WOLVES 1-0 ASTON VILLA

Saturday 14th January 2017

Before the match, floral tributes were laid in memory of Graham Taylor who had sadly passed away the week before. He managed both Wolves and Aston Villa and both teams and their supporters honoured him with a minute's applause before the game, a round of applause also broke out in the 72nd minute in recognition of the former England manager.

It should also be remembered that even though Taylor's reign at Wolves only lasted just over 18 months he still 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.

Well after the previous weeks FA Cup triumph against Stoke it was back to the business of winning league points in the faint hopes of an end of season play-off

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place. It was a typical start to a local derby with a big crowd creating an electric atmosphere. With only two defeats in the last eight league games and that momentous cup win Wolves' confidence was sky high, and it showed in their early play.



With Wolves in the ascendance it was only a matter of time before they opened the scoring, and they eventually did in the 15th minute, Costa fed Dicko and the striker fired in a low cross that Johnstone could only parry into the path of Mason who rolled the ball back into the empty net to make it 1-0.

Villa looked a poor side, but should still have equalised in the 27th minute with their very first effort on goal, Amavi broke down the left and sent over a good cross that McCormack rose to meet on the edge of the six yard box, but with the goal at his mercy he headed over the bar.

It was a rare attack from Villa and Wolves again pushed forward, and with five minutes to half-time they went within a whisker of increasing their lead, Elphick failed to deal with a cross and Mason rounded keeper Johnstone, but Chester raced back and cleared his shot off the line.

The same pattern continued after the interval with Wolves in the ascendance, Villa offered very little and it looked as if Wolves could score a second goal at any moment, and they wasted a glorious chance to do so in the 56th minute. Costa made a surging run into the Villa half before feeding Dicko, but the chance went begging when his powerful near post shot was too close to Johnstone and it was blocked by the keeper.

The game petered out with neither side creating much in the way of goal scoring chances, however substitute Enobakhare wasted the perfect chance to make the game safe in the final minute when he fired wide after being set-up by Bodvarsson. That was it and Wolves earned their first home win against their local rivals in 12 attempts stretching back to 1978.

Opinion: Three easy points against a poor Villa side.

Man of the match: Edwards

Team Rating: 7/10

Attendance: 27,255

Team: Ikeme, Doherty, Coady, Edwards (Saville 74), Bath (capt), Stearman, Costa, Price, Dicko (Bodvarsson 77), Mason, Cavaleiro (Enobakhare 63)

Unused Subs: Burgoyne, Iorfa, Hause, Gibbs-White

Bookings: None

Referee: Tony Harrington

NO END TO CARROW SORROW

NORWICH 3-1 WOLVES

Saturday 21st January 2017



In Wolves last away league game at Sheffield Wednesday they were denied a win when Matt Doherty was blatantly scythed down in the area by the keeper and the referee waved play on. In this game we saw the other end of the spectrum when Carl Ikeme was adjudged to have brought down Wes Hoolahan, even though it seemed he was nowhere near him. Ikeme was sent off in the ensuing melee and the Wolves keeper will now miss the big game at Anfield next week.

It was a sluggish start to the game for Wolves, there was none of the aggression or the up and at em' attitude showed in the last three games, the passing was poor and possession was given away cheaply. Even though Norwich weren't much better they at least showed a bit of enthusiasm, and they went ahead in the 12th minute from their first real attack of the game. Howson hit a pile driver from 30 yards that rebounded back off the crossbar and Naismith drove the rebound past Ikeme.

Nothing else really happened for the rest of the half with Norwich slightly the better of the two teams, Jerome blasted over from a good position after poor Wolves

defending and Ikeme produced a good reflex save to deny Howson from close range. The fact that Wolves first clear chance came in the 45th minute, and it was fired wide by Mason, indicated how they had failed to reach the standards set in the previous three games.

Norwich continued the better after the break and Wolves had a massive let off in the 54th minute when a Jerome thunderbolt from outside the box rattled the post and bounced to safety. Just three minutes later, and with Norwich looking like they were going for the kill Wolves got themselves right back in it. The referee awarded a penalty after a clumsy push by Pinto on Doherty and Costa emphatically stuck the penalty in the top left-hand corner for the equaliser.

With just under 20 minutes to go came that contentious penalty, Ikeme was adjudged by the referee to have fouled Hoolahan inside the area after the striker producing a dive that Tom Daley would have been proud of. Tempers flared and when Ikeme pushed Hoolahan in the chest the Norwich man went down as if struck by a sniper's bullet, Ikeme was red carded and from the spot-kick Brady scored past stand-in keeper Doherty.

Wolves were faced with the impossible task of searching for an equaliser with just ten men and an outfield player in goal, and the situation proved beyond them. Howson scored number three with a deflected shot just as the match entered five minutes of injury time.

Opinion: Hard done by with the penalty but always second best on the day.

Man of the match: Doherty

Team Rating: 4/10

Attendance: 26,303

Team: Ikeme, Iorfa, Doherty, Coady, Bath (capt), Ebanks-Landell, Henry (Byrne 71), Edwards, Afobe, McDonald, Ikeme, Doherty, Iorfa, Edwards, Stearman, Bath (capt), Costa, Price, Mason (Enobakhare 58), Bodvarsson (Dicko 66), Cavaleiro (Weimann 45)

Unused Subs: Burgoyne, Saville, Evans, Coady

Bookings: Edwards (70 – foul), Doherty (72 – dissent)

Sending's Off: Ikeme (72 – violent conduct)

Referee: David Coote

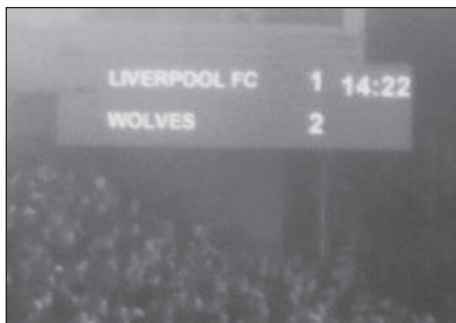
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AIN'T NO KLOPPING US NOW

LIVERPOOL 1-2 WOLVES

Saturday 28th January 2017
(FA Cup 4th Round)



Forget all that Liverpool reserve team rubbish, they were beaten by a team with more hunger, more heart, more desire and support that breeds from the heart and not where their team are in the league. For the vast majority of the game Liverpool were comprehensively outplayed both technically and tactically and given a lesson in the art of counter attacking football.

We were all hoping it was going to be one of those days, and with less than a minute on the clock, 53 seconds to be precise, it was Christmas all over again. Lucas was caught in possession wide on the right and Moreno gave away a foul when he lunged at Dicko. Up stepped the Portuguese magician Costa who swung over the free-kick that found Stearman at the back post, and the big defender duly headed past Karius to give Wolves the dream start.



That was the signal for 8,300 travelling fans to start one of biggest Wolves away day parties in years. It was all Wolves and Costa was running the show, and in the 10th minute he was inches away from scoring a goal that only the likes of Messi are capable of. He picked the ball up in his own half and raced the whole length of the pitch leaving four Liverpool players in his slip stream, he was only denied at the death when he sliced his shot wide following a desperate last ditch tackle by Woodburn.

Liverpool were all at sea and with half-time just a few minutes away Wolves suddenly found themselves in dreamland. Moreno again gave the ball away, this time to Doherty on the edge of the Wolves area. The defender then fed that man Costa who again broke with pace, this time he angled a pass across midfield into the box slicing the heart of the Liverpool defence like a surgeon, Weimann ran on and skipped around Karius before slotting home to give Wolves a 2-0 lead.

If the first-half highlighted Wolves' incision, the second was a demonstration of their grit and determination. Even the introduction of Coutinho and Sturridge from the subs bench failed to threaten the Wolves rear-guard, and 20-year-old Harry Burgoyne, who with just two league appearances behind him, didn't have a save to make until Coutinho's weak effort on the hour mark.

For all Liverpool's huff and puff the Wolves defence stood firm, but the inevitable late Liverpool pressure saw the Wolves resistance finally broken. With four minutes to go Origi pulled one back with a scruffy goal after some pinball football in the area.

The final four minutes plus time added on were nail biting times for the mass of Wolves supporters. Bodvarsson nearly scored a third to finish it off when he made a superb run from the right and cut into the Liverpool area, but the finger nails continued to shorten as his shot was kicked off the line. Burgoyne was finally called on to make a save in the dying seconds but he denied Origi by blocking the shot with his legs.

In an Express and Star article in the aftermath of victory David Edwards said "If Carlsberg did Saturdays"..... I'll drink to that.

Opinion: Kop that, bring on the Chelski.

Man of the match: All eleven Heroes

Team Rating: 10/10

Attendance: 52,469

Team: Burgoyne, Doherty, Coady, Edwards (capt), Stearman, Hause, Costa (Ronan 67), Evans, Dicko (Bodvarsson 71), Saville, Weimann (Mason 76)

Unused Subs: Loneragan, Bath, Enobakhare, Morgan-White

Bookings: Stearman (29 - foul), Hause (48 - foul), Evans (89 - foul)

Referee: Craig Pawson

CHOP, CHOP, CHOP

BARNESLEY 1-3 WOLVES

Tuesday 31st January 2017



After their FA exploits at Anfield on Saturday it was back to the bread and butter job of earning league points. Next up was an away trip to Barnsley on a dreary Tuesday night, not the most appealing venue that comes to mind, especially after the forgettable experience of the last time the teams met and Wolves lost 4-0 at home. However, there wasn't a cup hangover in sight as Wolves romped to an easy 3-1 victory and so exorcise the demons of that Molineux defeat in September

Despite six changes to the team that started in that historic win against Liverpool, Wolves continued where they left off on Saturday. Winning breed's confidence and Wolves made the perfect start by taking the lead in the fifth minute. Ronan swung over a corner from the right, Edwards flicked it on at the near post and Hause was on the line to smash the ball into the net.

Wolves nearly scored again in the 17th minute from another Ronan corner, but this time Edwards' effort was deflected just over the bar. Next it was Barnsley's turn to go close with Watkins heading a corner kick from the right over the bar. Burgoyne was called into action a few minutes later when he made a superb reflex save from Mowatt who was through on goal and one on one with the young keeper.

Barnsley inevitably started to push forward as the game went on, but Wolves almost doubled the lead when good work from Enobakhare set up Ronan, the youngster let fly from 20 yards but his shot came back off the Barnsley post. However, Wolves didn't have to wait much longer before they increased their lead, Ronan curled over a free kick from the right and Edwards rose highest to bury a header in the corner.

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Things got even better for Wolves three minutes before half-time as Mowatt was shown a red card for a shocking studs-up tackle on Price. Absolute pandemonium followed in the last seconds of the half when referee Chris Kavanagh awarded a penalty to Wolves for a foul on Enobakhare in the box, but he inexplicably changed his mind after a discussion with one of his assistants and awarded Barnsley a free-kick instead.

With both teams feeling hard done by the contest became a scrappy affair in the second-half with lots of niggly fouls, but Wolves finally increased their lead in the 77th minute with some classic counter-attacking play. Enobakhare raced forward and threaded a through ball to Bodvarsson, his shot was saved by Davies but dangerous Dave Edwards was on hand to hammer the rebound into the net.

Barnsley pulled a consolation goal back just three minutes later when a free-kick from the left wasn't held by Burgoyne and Roberts nipped in to score from six yards. It mattered not as Wolves easily played out the remaining ten minutes to record a superb victory.

Opinion: Another great performance to end January on a high.

Man of the match: Edwards

Team Rating: 8/10

Attendance: 11,808

Team: Burgoyne, Doherty, Coady (Saville 84), Edwards, Batth (capt), Hause, Mason, Price, Enobakhare (L. Evans 90), Bodvarsson, Ronan (Weimann 71)

Unused Subs: Lonergan, Stearman, Dicko, Costa

Bookings: Coady (17 – foul), Batth (27 – foul), Edwards (65 – foul), Weimann (90+3 – not retreating at free-kick)

Referee: Chris Kavanagh

GONE FOR A BURTON

BURTON ALBION 2-1 WOLVES

Saturday 4th February 2017

When Burton visited Molineux at the beginning of September they left with a point following a 94th minute equaliser, it was a case of déjà vu as they again scored in the 94th minute, but this time they went away with all three points as Wolves again frustrated with another inconsistent head scratching performance. In the previous seven days Wolves had beaten Liverpool and Barnsley and signed Helder Costa for a club record £13m. In

stark contrast they played a Burton side who had lost their last five home games and due to lack of funds taken Michael Kightly and Cauley Woodrow on loan. However, the form book was shredded and it was the paupers who deservedly took the points in their quest for Championship survival.

There's an old saying "If is aint broke don't fix it", but despite the fine win against Barnsley in the week Lambert reverted to the same team that beat Liverpool 2-1 at Anfield, Ikeme being the exception. It was immediately apparent the changes had backfired as Burton started the stronger of the two sides, and in just the 2nd minute Christensen fired over the bar from six yards following a low cross from the right. After the early chance the two teams cancelled each other out in a packed midfield, and it wasn't until the 34th minute that Wolves forced McLaughlin into his first save of the game, Dicko picked up the ball on the edge of the area and his low shot was pushed round the post by the keeper.

However, Wolves did take the lead six minutes later. Some indecisive defending ended with McLaughlin chopping down Edwards in the box, and after some shocking refereeing decisions against us recently it made a welcome change when the official blew the whistle in our favour and pointed to the spot. Our new record signing Mr Costa duly stepped up and smashed it into the top right hand corner of the net.

Burton came out fighting at the start of the second-half and came close to levelling when Kightly's curling free-kick was tipped to safety by Ikeme in the 56th minute. However, there was no denying the former Wolves boy on the hour mark, a pass from Sordell found him unmarked six yards out and Kightly made it 1-1.



With the momentum and crowd behind them Burton upped the tempo after the goal, and with Wolves still struggling to put two passes together they rarely threatened or tested the hosts defence. With the clock

showing time added on Burton won a corner out on the right, and when the ball came over Woodrow turned and fired home from close range for the winner.

Opinion: All the momentum gained over the last month undone by changing a winning team.

Man of the match: Ikeme

Team Rating: 3/10

Attendance: 5,608

Team: Ikeme, Doherty, Coady, Edwards (capt), Hause, Stearman, Costa (Bodvarsson 80), Saville (Enobakhare 62), Dicko, Mills, Weimann (Marshall 80)

Unused Subs: Burgoyne, Batth, Price, Ronan

Bookings: Stearman (58 – foul), Dicko (89 – dissent)

Referee: Keith Stroud

BENI THE BORE

WOLVES 0-1 NEWCASTLE

Saturday 11th February 2017



After this game our old friend Rafa Benitez said he wants Wolves fans investigated for songs aimed at Jonjo Shelvey, this was the man who was made captain by Benitez even though he had just finished serving a five game ban for racist remarks made to Romain Saiss. Funnily enough there was no mention either from Benitez regarding his centre forward Aleksandar Mitrovic, who having already been yellow carded then raked his studs all down the back of Carl Ikeme's calf.

Benitez is the manager and supposed ambassador for Newcastle United, this is a club owned and run by Sports Direct billionaire Mike Ashley, a guy who carries wads of £50 notes in his pockets while he visits his employees who are being paid less than the minimum wage, we should perhaps expect nothing less from the hierarchy of this so called great club.

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Newcastle created the first real opportunity of the game in the 3rd minute, Ritchie played Colback in behind the Wolves defence, but the angle was narrowed down well by Ikeme who got in the way with a good block. Then the Mitrovic one man assault mission started in the 13th minute when he was lucky to avoid a yellow after leading with his elbow on Bath, however he was rightly booked a few minutes later for backing into Stearman.

The game was a tight affair, but Wolves were having far more of the ball and edging the game with some neat build up play, and they created two good chances midway through the first-half. Doherty and Enobakhare played a one-two on the right and the ball was crossed to the far post for Dicko who hit the ball on the volley, but it went just wide of the right post.

Shortly afterwards Wolves had a glorious chance to get their noses in front, Helder Costa floated over a free-kick from the left that was flicked on by Edwards, Stearman got in a great position at the far post to get to the ball but he was just over stretching and stabbed the ball over the bar.

In the 27th minute Mitrovic should have been sent off for deliberately stamping on Ikeme's calf, but for some unknown reason, only known to referee Craig Pawson, the Serbian avoided a second yellow and subsequent red card. It was just another in a series of appalling refereeing decisions Wolves have endured this season.

Against the run of play and right on the stroke of half-time Newcastle went in front, and low and behold it was the walking mercenary Mitrovic who scored it. A free-kick into the box was met by Diame whose powerful strike at goal ricocheted off a number of Wolves defenders, the ball then landed at the feet of Mitrovic who put it into the net. Not only was the goal offside but Mitrovic shouldn't have even been on the pitch anyway.

Wolves' came close to scoring just after the break through Edwards when he headed the ball just wide of the near post after meeting a curling cross from Costa. Following that the second-half was again a tight affair with chances far and few between, Wolves had more of the possession, but Newcastle were more than satisfied with what they already had.

Despite Wolves dominating possession they only had one further shot on target, a powerful strike from Costa that was easily caught by Darlow. Unfortunately for

Wolves they were unable to fashion out any more clear-cut chances and the game ended with another defeat, but that was mainly due to another dreadful refereeing performance.

Opinion: Another in the line of appalling referees taking charge of one of our games this season.

Man of the match: Costa

Team Rating: 5/10

Attendance: 24,876

Team: Ikeme, Doherty, Coady, Edwards, Bath (capt), Stearman, Costa, Price (Evans 45), Dicko, Enobakhare (Bodvarsson 61), Weimann (Marshall 75)

Unused Subs: Burgoyne, Saville, Hause, Ronan

Bookings: Doherty (64 – simulation)

Referee: Craig Pawson

SAINT VALENTINE'S DAY MASOCHIST'S

WOLVES 0-1 WIGAN

Tuesday 14th February 2017



A person who enjoys an activity that appears to be painful or tedious is defined as a masochist, there were 17,156 at Molineux to watch this game. January was a very good month for Wolves, those two superb away wins in the cup at Stoke and Liverpool, and then the 3-1 away win at Barnsley. Since then it's all seems to have gone a bit pair shaped, it's now three defeats on the spin with two of those defeats against teams struggling in the bottom five places. It was another poor home performance that typifies the inconsistency of Wolves this season.

For all those supporters who skipped the romantic night out at the wrath of their other halves will be questioning their sanity after watching the shite served up during this dreary excuse of a game. Wolves saw plenty of the ball but did absolutely nothing with it, there is no middle ground with Wolves these days, they're either superb

or dreadful, and this game came in the dreadful category.

The only action worthy of note in a poor first-half came when a Costa volley was easily dealt with by Wicks, and then Enobakhare should have done better right on the stroke of half-time when he was setup by a through-ball from Doherty, however the young striker dragged his shot into the side netting from the edge of the six yard box.

It was pretty much as you were after the break with Wolves having the majority of the ball, but there was still no invention or cutting edge in the last third of the field. Wigan sat back and easily dealt with the Wolves attack, they showed no intention of looking for the win with a point invaluable in their bid to climb out of the relegation zone.

Wolves finally started to up the tempo midway through the second-half, and even though the cutting edge was still missing the crowd volume at least increased to add a bit of atmosphere. In the 74th minute Wolves at last went close to finding the back of the net, Ronan whipped in a free-kick from the right and Edwards powered a great header towards goal only to be denied by a brilliant save from Gilks. With the game heading for a goalless draw Stearman conceded a corner, and from that Buxton rose above the Wolves defence to power a downward header into the bottom corner of the net. It was Wigan's first attempt on goal and a repeat of the New Year's Eve game where Wolves dominated throughout and QPR stole the points at the death.

Wolves tried to respond, and an impressive Molineux debut by the youngster Ronan was nearly rewarded when he hit a 30-yard pile driver that was acrobatically tipped over the bar by Gilks. Wolves will need to play a lot better when they play Chelsea in the FA Cup on Saturday or an embarrassment is on the cards.

Opinion: Getting sucked into the unthinkable relegation dogfight.

Man of the match: Ronan

Team Rating: 2/10

Attendance: 17,156

Team: Ikeme, Marshall (Coady 76), Bath (capt), Stearman, Doherty, Edwards, Evans (Gibbs-White), Costa, Enobakhare (Weimann 82), Ronan, Bodvarsson

Unused Subs: Burgoyne, Saville, Williamson, Wilson

Bookings: Enobakhare (49 – foul), Weimann (83 – foul)

Referee: Simon Hooper

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SCUPPERED

WOLVES 0-2 CHELSEA

Saturday 18th February 2017
(FA Cup 5th Round)

Match Verdict - I suspect most Wolves fans feared the worst after hearing that Chelsea had all their big gun forwards on parade, and that we might have been out of the Cup after only 20 minutes or so.

Proud to say, no way. Thanks Wolves for a decent performance, good game plan taking the game to them with a bright start and lots of effort, getting the ball into the box and, if only, after George Saville's big chance whacked against the post.

Add a decent early save from Carl Ikeme and with Danny Batth keeping Diego Costa quiet, it was good to still be in the tie at half time and for the first time in a while, feeling good about ourselves, especially when we also had to counter some amazing Premier League refereeing decisions.

Too many dodgy moments to mention but in particular a huge Wolves penalty appeal turned away first half when Weimann was barged and within minutes a similar challenge by Saville away from the box earns him a booking. I, for one, was far from impressed with the officials.

Not surprisingly the Blues took quick control second half. We could no longer sustain our attacks apart from a number of corners and the game was up when Pedro scored.

Player Ratings - After recent below-par Wolves performances it would be churlish not to highly praise the team. The bottom line is we played well and when the excitement of this excellent (and rare) FA Cup run dies down we will obviously need the same again, starting on Friday against the other Blues.

Opinion: All good things come to an end, as Liverpool found out in Round 4.

Team Rating: 7/10

Attendance: 30,193

Team: Ikeme, Doherty, Coady, Edwards, Batth (capt), Hause, H. Costa, Price, Bodvarsson (Ronan 84), Saville (Saiss 84), Weimann (Wilson 76)

Unused Subs: Burgoyne, Stearman, Evans, Enobakhare

Bookings: Saville (20 – foul), Weimann (33 – foul), Batth (70 - dissent)

Referee: Jonathan Moss

Match Analysis by Peter Abbott

SQUEAKY BRUM TIME

WOLVES 1-2 BIRMINGHAM

Friday 24th February 2017



Match Verdict - Depressed and disappointed. Much discontent after another worrying result. We are definitely staring at the wrong of the league table and this rollercoaster lark is certainly no fun now.

Though Wolves started on the front foot and got into Blues' faces early on, Stearman's header apart, we created no real chances on goal.

Then came Ikeme's big drop ball, overstretching and dropping it at Kieftenbeld's feet which threw us completely off balance. And when we gave up so much space for Davis to score, I could have cried.

Heard some calling for Paul Lambert's head at half time. Thought we might see Saiss come on to springboard some attacks at that point but as it turned out, couldn't fault the decision to bring on Dicko.

Bodvarsson's run-in with Paul Robinson carried into the second half ultimately giving us the man advantage. This brought Costa and Weimann back into a game they both (and they probably weren't the only ones) appeared to have departed after Ikeme's mistake.

I was delighted for Nouha then getting on the end of a rare cross to feet and at last, Wolves ever so slightly, gave more of a goal threat.

There were lots of corners, with defenders (including Ikeme) adding to attacks, Doherty bursting into the box more and more. All pretty disjointed at times and so few out and out scoring chances but we should at least have scrambled a draw.

Player Ratings - Wanderers' No.9 was clearly man of the (half) match and I, for one, couldn't be more happy for that man.

Good to get you back Nouha, we're gonna need you...

Opinion: Wake up boys you're out of the cup now and in a relegation dogfight.

Team Rating: 3/10

Attendance: 27,541

Team: Ikeme, Doherty, Coady, Edwards, Batth (capt), Stearman, Costa, Price, Bodvarsson, Saville (Dicko 45), Weimann

Unused Subs: Lonergan, Enobakhare, Saiss, Gibbs-White

Bookings: Bodvarsson (31 – ungentlemanly conduct), Coady (77 – dissent)

Referee: Stephen Martin

Match Analysis by Peter Abbott

ABSOLUTELY HOOPLESS

READING 2-1 WOLVES

Saturday 4th March 2017



Match Verdict - We were definitely unlucky to lose at Reading especially with their first goal, a wicked deflection the like of which I don't think I've ever seen before in a Wolves game.

Wolves were seriously ahead on points in second half before Reading got their headed winner for which there was poor marking of, I think, three forwards, any of whom could have scored.

Fans wanted changes and we got them. There was a wholly reshuffled defence with Saiss sitting in front making up a midfield three and then Marshall playing in front of Saville. We probably set up this way to keep the point we started with and, if only the Gods had been with us, we could have nicked a win.

However it was yet another defeat with our rollercoaster ride stuck at the bottom and, even worse, may have just turned into a dark tunnel that we must endure to the end of the season.

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Player Ratings - *Ikeme* - no clangers however fans around me were pointing out that none of his kick outs were finding a Wolves man.

Saville - surprisingly picked ahead of Doherty and effectively playing out of position at left back? Cracking shot when he advanced, much as Doherty does, in the second half though.

Hause, Iorfa and Williamson - only issue was conceding Reading's winner. I thought Williamson was unlucky to see two yellow cards and be sent off.

Coady - excitable as ever in midfield but little real output apart from one shot bringing the best out of Al Habsi.

Edwards - he picks himself and as deserving captain.

Saiss - at last under Lambert, picked and showed his undoubted class, we need to stick with this approach. My man of the match.

Costa - one decent run five mins before half time but little else except when Wolves were on top.

Dicko - quiet game, but again difficult with very few opportunities coming his way.

Marshall - surprising choice but, boy, did he enjoy his goal and this showed in his play directly afterwards when Wolves were in the ascendancy.

Opinion: Only one place and point above the relegation zone, desperate times.

Team Rating: 3/10

Attendance: 18,629

Team: *Ikeme, Iorfa, Saville (Bodvarsson 84), Edwards (capt), Williamson, Hause, Costa, Saiss, Dicko (Weimann 72), Marshall, Coady (Doherty 90+3)*

Unused Subs: *Lonergan, Bath, Price, Enobakhare*

Bookings: Williamson (38 – foul), Dicko (66 – foul), Saiss (85 – dissent)

Sending's Off: Williamson (85 – foul and second bookable offence)

Referee: Andrew Madley

Match Analysis by Peter Abbott

A BORELESS DRAW

IPSWICH 0-0 WOLVES

Tuesday 7th March 2017

After losing six games on the trot Wolves finally ended their losing streak in the goalless draw at Ipswich. Paul Lambert, still struggling to establish his best eleven, made five changes to the team that started at Reading, including the baffling decision to drop £13m signing Helder Costa.

There were 443 Wolves fans at Portman



Road, and they must have all been wondering why they bothered after watching a first-half where the players showed no effort whatsoever. The second-half was much better and Wolves will consider themselves unlucky not to have won after hitting the woodwork twice in the dying minutes.

With his job potentially on the line following six consecutive defeats Paul Lambert picked a team to grind out a result, and that's exactly what happened. It was grim watching as both sides cancelled each other out early on, and that set the pattern for a first 45 minutes of tedium.

After 20 minutes of uneventful entertainment Wolves had a big penalty appeal when Edwards headed goal wards from a tight angle and Knudsen appeared to stop the ball rolling over the line with his hand, but like most of the contentious decisions going against us this season there was no way the referee was going to give this one either.

Two minutes later came the first chance of the match when Wolves were awarded a free-kick just outside the area, Saiss stepped up to take it but the execution was poor and his attempt sailed harmlessly over the bar. The only other chance in the first 45 minutes came right on half-time when Ikeme had to get down low to save McGoldrick's shot from the left side of the box.

After the woeful exhibition served up in the first-half it couldn't have got any worse in the second-half, and thankfully for both sets of supporters the game opened up after the break, with both sides at last creating chances. Wolves went close ten minutes after the break when Weimann's low cross found Bodvarsson who setup Marshall, but his effort was just wide of the right-hand post.

The game was more or less a carbon copy of the Reading game just three days earlier, where the first-half was a non-event and then Wolves dominated the second-half only to lack the killer instinct in front of goal. Twice in the last five minutes Wolves

went within a whisker of grabbing all three points, but were twice denied by the woodwork, Bodvarsson hit a post from a tight angle and then Marshall's free kick hit the top of the crossbar.

Opinion: A point at last but still deep in the brown stuff.

Man of the match: Weimann

Team Rating: 4/10

Attendance: 15,076

Team: *Ikeme, Doherty, Saville, Edwards,*

Bath (capt), Hause, Saiss, Price,

Bodvarsson, Marshall, Weimann (Costa 82)

Unused Subs: *Lonergan, Stearman,*

Dicko, Coady, Iorfa, Cavaleiro

Bookings: Bath (47 – foul)

Referee: Darren Deadman

PUT THROUGH THE MILL'ERS

WOLVES 1-0 ROTHERHAM

Saturday 11th March 2017

Wolves had been dragged into the relegation dogfight with five defeats and a goalless draw in their last six games. This win against Rotherham helped ease those relegation fears, but the performance was all but convincing against a team that has earned just one solitary point from 18 away matches this season.

This was a "must-win" game for Wolves, but with confidence throughout the team shot to pieces it was lowly Rotherham who ran the show in the early stages. Twice in the opening twenty minutes Adeyemi pounced on stray passes from the edgy Wolves players to send their top scorer Ward through on goal, but on both occasions he shot straight at Carl Ikeme.

Even though Wolves were labouring with every touch of the ball, they had a glorious chance to go ahead in the 35th minute. Matlock wrestled Costa to the ground after being robbed of possession in the penalty area and the referee pointed to the spot. Costa picked himself up to take the penalty, but even the Portuguese Maestro was having one of those days and his spot-kick was saved by the keeper.

With the end of a poor first half approaching fans were already leaving their seats to beat the half-time rush, but with their first decent moment of play Wolves got their noses in front. Marshall played in Weimann and he used pace and power to shrug off Ajayi, round the keeper and roll the ball into the net.

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The second-half was a non-event, apart from the Rotherham keeper saving well from a Costa snapshot and Bodvarsson lashing the ball just over the bar in the 67th minute. With the game coming to an uneventful end Rotherham had a glorious chance to grab a point three minutes into injury time, but Ajayi somehow managed to put the ball over the bar from six yards out.

Opinion: I've never seen Wolves booed off after winning, says it all.

Man of the match: Williamson

Team Rating: 3/10

Attendance: 20,007

Team: Ikeme, Coady, Saville, Edwards (capt), Williamson, Hause, Costa (Bodvarsson 66), J. Price (Gibbs-White 82), Weimann, Saiss, Marshall (Cavaleiro 85)

Unused Subs: Lonergan, Doherty, Bath, Dicko

Bookings: Weimann (45+2 – foul)

Referee: Jeremy Simpson

BEES UP MOTHER BROWN

BRENTFORD 1-2 WOLVES

Tuesday 14th March 2017

Match Verdict - Although a long time coming, finally a happy and deserved win. I wouldn't say Wolves stole the honey but Brentford certainly didn't warrant the points.

More player bingo team selection and back to possibly our strongest defensive setup of a back four with Williamson replaced by Bath. The Saville and Evans combo back in favour in midfield and a new forward line of Weimann, Dicko and Costa.

For the first half hour we were well on top with Weimann excelling, then a goal down and time to worry. In the second period we were stronger and more forceful, particularly once Cavaleiro came on.

It's not over the top to say we battered them, all essentially starting after Dicko tried to break the net with a glorious chance, but instead smacked the ball against the bar.

More and more goal attempts were wasted and that in itself showed how much we had got on top. Then, at last, Doherty equalised from Marshall's cross and the winner just had to come. Edwards' interception found its way to Costa at the back post, and for the first time in a while, cue mayhem in the away end.



Player Ratings - Man of the match...first half; Weimann was dominant and a shout out also for Dicko's persistence. Second half; free spirit Cavaleiro was just what we needed and heads perked up all around as he buzzed around the Bees defence.

I lost count of the number of players he directly brought into the game and in the end Wolves got their just rewards. Well done lads. Same part of London again Saturday, same performance please.

Opinion: Great win at a ground where we were given a footballing lesson last season.

Team Rating: 9/10

Attendance: 8,732

Team: Ikeme, Doherty, Coady, Edwards, Bath (capt), Hause, Costa, Weimann (Gibbs-White 90+4), Dicko (Marshall 82), Evans, Saville (Cavaleiro 61)

Unused Subs: Lonergan, Stearman, Bodvarsson, Saiss

Bookings: Bath (74 – foul)

Referee: Keith Stroud

Match Analysis by Peter Abbott

WEST END BOYS

FULHAM 1-3 WOLVES

Saturday 18th March 2017

Match Verdict - Let's get this out of the way first and foremost - this was a stonking good win against one of the best footballing sides we've come up against in a long while.

Fulham's pretty passing game was defended stoutly by Wolves in the first half hour resulting in them having few, if any, goal chances.

Ignoring the obvious colour clash (and I abhor us ever needing a changed strip) with their goalkeeper, Costa's persistence set up Cavaleiro and we were away. Then there was a great start to the second half in feeding Weimann exactly where he wanted the ball for the second goal.

Fulham picked up the pace after getting back into game (unlucky deflection against Ikeme) and a good move then bringing on Saiss.



Costa was there again to set up super Dave Edwards to score his 10th of the season (he held up both hands to the away end to confirm) from almost the same spot as when Weimann scored. Wolves were home and dry, three wins in a week and a happy international break before two home games.

Player Ratings - Costa's assists sway my decision however the whole team played their part and I've no problem in also singling out Evans and Hause for particular praise.

Opinion: Wow, didn't see that coming. Superb end to a fantastic week in West London.

Team Rating: 10/10

Attendance: 20,668

Team: Ikeme, Doherty, Coady, Edwards, Bath (capt), Hause, Costa (Saville 69), Evans, Weimann, Marshall (Saiss 68), Cavaleiro (Dicko 61)

Unused Subs: Lonergan, Bodvarsson, Gibbs-White, Williamson

Bookings: Cavaleiro (39 – foul), Evans (40 – foul), Coady (77 – time-wasting)

Referee: Chris Kavanagh

Match Analysis by Peter Abbott

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DOUBLE BUBBLE BATHH

WOLVES 3-1 CARDIFF

Saturday 1st April 2017



Match Verdict - Home game nervousness at the Mol was blown away early by fast-footed attacks from all of Costa, Cavaleiro and Weimann. Then Ben Marshall loaded two excellent "thank you very much" balls into Danny Bathh to score a couple of decent headed goals.

In between, Andy Lonergan, playing due to Carl Ikeme's slight hamstring injury, was caught out by a Cardiff attacker quite literally, right in front of him, before equalising.

Away form transferred to the Mol, same outfield line-up with new found confidence so no half time blues this week and an exciting game to boot.

Although Cardiff started the second half slightly on top and with the referee agitating all home fans after two successive fouls gleaned them the free kick even though their guy was booked, noise levels heightened. Evans and Edwards were now beginning to run the game in midfield and Cardiff knew it.

Costa's breakaway set up Weimann for what I thought was going to seal the victory but he and then Edwards contrived to allow the goalkeeper to win that one.

Soon making amends though, Edwards' perfect tackle and quick pass brought the moment of the match as Costa completely dummied both defender and goalie to score the easiest of, but superb goals - great skills not often seen at the Mol. 72 points still on!

Player Ratings - Mulling over whether Bathh for his goals, Evans or Edwards for taking over the midfield, Costa for his great goal or Weimann or Marshall for their effortless appetite in the game. Decisions, decisions.

Opinion: Let's have more of the same and finish as high up the table as possible.

Team Rating: 8/10

Attendance: 20,519

Team: Lonergan, Doherty, Coady, Edwards, Bathh (capt), Hause, Costa, Evans, Weimann (Saville 87), Marshall (Saiss 73), Cavaleiro (Bodvarsson 73)

Unused Subs: Burgoyne, Dicko, Gibbs-White, Williamson

Bookings: Marshall (69 - foul)

Referee: Andy Davies

Match Analysis by Peter Abbott

HIGH FIVES

WOLVES 1-0 NOTTINGHAM FOREST

Tuesday 4th April 2017

Match Verdict - Five wins in a row - who would have thought it?

So what's so different from just a few weeks ago? Certainly a new found confidence, plus a settled back two and a now familiar full back pairing. Also the addition and bedding in of both new signings, Weimann and Marshall, the ever roaming and cajoling Dave Edwards and Cavaleiro back from injury.

And course the form of my player of the season Costa, although as it happens he wasn't able to start last night. Plus winning games that we would have lost a month ago. Or just getting some of the breaks?

For the first 40 minutes there was nothing really of note, just Dicko's close effort and then he was impeded - but no penalty.

In the second half we had a decent Marshall free kick shot and we then needed to check the referee as Doherty caught a forward on the edge of the box.

Generally a quiet night from the referee but then a ridiculous booking for Danny Bathh and later an eventual sending off for their Danny Fox, seemingly reminded to the official by Lee Evans.

It was a memorable winning goal...brilliantly defended off the line by Coady and in a flash, a quick Weimann break and perfect cross for Dicko to merely tap in.

Worryingly there was far too much excitement towards stoppage time but we got through it.



Player Ratings - Lonergan had almost nothing to do apart from one decent save. Bathh and Hause, no worries until Kortney allowed one of their players, late on, to get behind him to test all of our nerves. Doherty and especially Coady were both on their game. Evans looks better every game and a message to many Wolves fans, "I just don't think you understand" Super David Edwards' consistently positive match contributions.

Match-winner Dicko never stopped working unlike Cavaleiro who I thought had a slow game and was again subbed.

Man of the match was between Weimann for all his running and energy or Ben Marshall for a commanding forward mid-field performance.

Opinion: If only we had shown this consistency all season.

Team Rating: 7/10

Attendance: 21,408

Team: Lonergan, Doherty, Coady, Edwards, Bathh (capt), Hause, Dicko (Bodvarsson 77), Evans, Cavaliero (Gibbs-White 67), Weimann, Marshall (Saiss 77)

Unused Subs: Burgoyne, Saville, Price, Bodvarsson, Saiss, Gibbs-White, Williamson

Bookings: Bathh (68 - foul) Edwards (76 - foul)

Referee: James Linnington

Match Analysis by Peter Abbott

OUTPACED BY RELIANT ROBINS

BRISTOL CITY 3-1 WOLVES

Saturday 8th April 2017

Match Verdict - It may well have been the Grand National at Aintree but Wolves weren't at the races after the quarter hour mark.

In those early minutes Nouha failed to score his one chance and City managed to get on the front foot whereas we slipped back. From my viewpoint, Patterson's goal

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looked to be straightforward for Lonergan, so need to see that again, Danny Bath managed an accidental header onto his own bar, Lee Evans was pulled up a few times by the referee and the Bristol players knew what they could get away with.

For Tammy Abraham that was to go down in the box for no great reason and, thanks ref, dodgy penalty given and scored.

Second half, a decent move at last, ended however with a Doherty stumble in their penalty area and a breakaway third goal. Deja vu after our winning goal midweek.

Consensus around me was that Bristol City, even though they had let in five midweek, were quicker and faster. We certainly couldn't get our game going and with a "homer" ref, that was that.

To be honest, and knowing we let in three goals, the back four were largely untroubled. The midfield were certainly below par and we lacked any bite up front. Good to see Jon Dadi score though, albeit a late consolation.

Player Ratings - Man of the match, in a poor team performance I would flit between either Doherty or Coady.

Opinion: Back to earth with an absolute shocking performance.

Team Rating: 2/10

Attendance: 20,323

Team: Lonergan, Doherty, Coady, Edwards, Bath (capt), Hause, Gibbs-White (Cavaleiro 53), Weimann, Dicko (Bodvarsson 63), Evans (Saiss 80), Marshall

Unused Subs: Burgoyne, Saville, Price, Williamson

Bookings: Edwards (30 - Foul)

Referee: James Adcock

Match Analysis by Peter Abbott

A KICK IN THE GULL'IES

WOLVES 0-2 BRIGHTON

Friday 14th April 2017

This game showed how far Wolves are from being genuine Championship contenders. Brighton are top of the league for a reason, after 42 games they have been the most consistent team in this division. However I can't see many of the Premier League managers losing too much sleep at the prospect of playing them next season.

This game also highlighted that some of the Wolves players, both new and from previous campaigns are just not good enough, and unless our new Chinese owners dip into the piggy bank again then the three year plan of getting Wolves back in with the big boys is more likely to be light years away.

Wolves started brightly and were the better of the two teams in the first 15 minutes, however like most of this season the final pass was poor and there was no cutting edge up front. Gradually Brighton took control and unlike Wolves consistently found their own man with their slick passing game.

The first real effort on goal came from Brighton on the quarter of an hour mark. Without looking Saiss gave the ball straight to Stephens, the ball eventually fell to Hemed whose shot smashed against the top of the crossbar with Lonergan grasping at thin air.

As the game went on Brighton took control, and despite all their efforts Wolves struggled to get out of their own half with passes going astray and the ball being humped forward in hope rather than purpose. Bodvarsson became a lonely figure on his own up front with the ball easily swallowed up by the two Brighton centre backs. As the visitors pushed forward a header from Hemed just cleared the bar and a shot from March from the edge of the box had Lonergan scrambling across his area.

It was only a matter of time, and Brighton eventually went in front right on the stroke of half-time, and it was a catalogue of schoolboy errors that gifted them the goal. Stockdale cleared the ball downfield from his own area and the ball dropped in front of Hause and then over the half-asleep defender's head. Knockaert picked up the ball and progressed to the edge of the area unchallenged before firing in a daisy cutter, the shot didn't seem to have much

pace on it, but it still had enough to beat Lonergan at his near post with the ball seeming to go through the keepers hands.

It was much of the same after the break with Wolves struggling to gain any kind of momentum and Brighton in control of matters, but Wolves suddenly created a chance out of nothing on the hour mark. Cavaleiro picked the ball up on the left and sent over a peach of a cross straight onto the head of Coady, the full-back headed the ball downwards but Stockdale was quickly down on his knees to make his first save of the game.

With 18 minutes left there still seemed to be a glimmer of hope for Wolves when another chance went begging against the run of play, Bodvarsson made a break from the middle of the park and played the ball into the path of Marshall, but the striker failed to get much power in his shot and Stockdale saved easily.



Any thoughts of getting back in the game were short lived as Brighton increased their lead with eight minutes to play. As Wolves pushed forward in numbers the ball was pumped forward deep into their half, and with their defence all over the shop Murray headed the ball on to Knockaert who crashed the ball home at Lonergan's near post.

Opinion: If anything the development of the team has gone backwards.

Man of the match: Marshall

Team Rating: 3/10

Attendance: 23,221

Team: Lonergan, Doherty, Coady, Edwards, Bath (capt), Hause, Cavaleiro, Weimann, Bodvarsson (Wilson 76), Saiss, Marshall (Dicko 76)

Unused Subs: Burgoyne, Saville, Evans, Gibbs-White, Williamson

Bookings: Saiss (86 - dissent)

Referee: Geoff Eltringham

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IRON MIKE DISHES OUT THE NOSEB'LEEDS

LEEDS 0-1 WOLVES

Monday 17th April 2017



After the Brighton debacle in what was the Good Friday horror show, the prospects of getting anything at in-form Leeds on their own patch looked very slim, but as on various other occasions this season Wolves defied the odds and became the coupon busters as they turned in a superb performance to take all three points.

After the defensive shambles in the previous game Paul Lambert restored Stears and Iron Mike as his centre backs in place of the injured Danny Bath and out of form Kortney Hause, and what an outstanding performance by the returning duo. In a second-half where Leeds upped the tempo and laid siege on the Wolves goal it says everything that despite all the pressure Loneragan was only called on once to produce a superb save and keep Leeds out.

Leeds knew they had to keep on winning in order to maintain their play-off hopes, but it was Wolves who started like the team eyeing promotion to the Premier League. The Brighton game was exorcised from the memory as Wolves played like a team on a mission, the passing was crisp and precise and the energy levels were unrecognisable from that last game.

The first real chance fell to Weimann on the 15 minute mark following a mix-up between two Leeds defenders, but Green raced out of his goal and spread himself in front of the Austrian and blocked his shot. It was all Wolves and just moments later Green found himself in the thick of the action again when he dived low to his left to push an Edwards shot around the post. Wolves deservedly took the lead seven minutes before half-time, Marshall threaded a pass that split the Leeds defence like a surgeon's knife and Dicko ran onto the ball and slotted a low drive past the advancing Green to make it 1-0. It was no more than

Wolves deserved and reward for the die-hard supporters who battled with the Bank Holiday traffic to follow the team.

With a top six place at stake Leeds laid siege on the Wolves goal after the break, but for all their huffing and puffing goal scoring opportunities were at a premium as the Wolves defence stood resolute. The hosts finally managed to create a goal scoring chance when a corner came over from the right on the hour mark, but Jansson headed over from close range when well placed.

It took Leeds until the 73rd minute to get their first effort on goal, but Loneragan produced a brilliant save to tip Doukara's close-range header over the bar. With Iron Mike barking the orders and Stears continuously putting his body on the line the defence looked solid as a rock. There was one final scare with a minute left on the clock, Roofe's looping header back across goal appeared to be dropping into the back of the net, however a posse of backtracking defenders got back with substitute Hause heading the ball off the line

Wolves continue to frustrate right to the end of the season. There has been superb away victories in the cup at Stoke and Liverpool and league wins at high flyers Newcastle, Fulham and Brentford. Then in between they continue to bewilder with baffling no shows against teams in the bottom half of the table like Wigan, Burton and Barnsley, throw in a six game losing streak around February and that's where the head scratching starts.

Opinion: With safety now secured lets crack on and see some entertainment in the last four games.

Man of the match: Iron Mike Williamson

Team Rating: 9/10

Attendance: 32,351

Team: Loneragan, Doherty, Coady, Edwards (capt), Williamson, Stearman, Marshall (Hause 85), Saiss, Dicko (Bodvarsson 67), Weimann, Saville (Evans 67)

Unused Subs: Burgoyne, Iorfa, Price, Gibbs-White

Bookings: Saville (43 – foul), Bodvarsson (76 – foul)

Referee: Jeremy Simpson

BACK TO THE BLACKBOARD

WOLVES 0-0 BLACKBURN

Saturday 22nd April 2017



There's an old cliché "Both teams were lucky to get nil", well that really was the case here. It was yet another shocking performance in front of another twenty odd thousand supporters who turned up to be entertained, and yet again went home short changed. Six days previously the very same Wolves team put in an outstanding away performance to an in-form Leeds side and deservedly won 1-0. Today most of those players came in the "Not fit to wear the shirt" category.

After securing Championship football for next season, and with nothing now to lose, Paul Lambert promised us a feast of football that would have the mouth-watering, if this was supposed to be entertaining then I wouldn't like to be around when we're having an off day. From the first whistle to the last it would have been more entertaining watching paint dry. Even though there are still three games to go it was as if the Wolves players had been given the day off and then hauled out of the pub to come and play.

You can pick any word you want to describe the performance; clueless, drab, lifeless, insipid, dull, inept, yes it really was that bad. In the first-half the uninterested players didn't manage one attempt on goal, it was as if everything was in slow motion. We were made to believe some of these players are fighting for their future at the club, if this game is anything to go by they must already have other arrangements in place. Blackburn didn't do much better, though Conway did flash an early effort wide from 12 yards before Lenihan glanced a header just wide of the post on the quarter of an hour mark.

That was it basically, not just until half-time but right to the excruciating end. At half-time Fulham were 4-1 up at Huddersfield, this remember was a team Wolves had visited about a month ago and played off the park

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on their own patch. Here we struggled against a team sitting in the bottom three with no intention of playing for anything but a point. Wolves finally managed their first shot on target in the 94th minute, but Cavaleiro's weak effort was straight at the keeper. However those who hadn't already left or were still asleep didn't really care at that stage anyway.

After the game Blackburn manager Tony Mobraay said he thought Rovers were the "dominant outfit and Wolves were there for the taking", did he actually watch the game? Obviously still as deluded as when he managed the s***e. At the end of the day Rovers were just as bad as Wolves, and if that's the best they can muster up, especially given the perilous position they're in, then they'll be playing in League One next year.

Opinion: One of the worst matches witnessed at Molineux in years.

Man of the match: The Steward opening the gates at the end.

Team Rating: 2/10

Attendance: 20,249

Team: Lonergan, Doherty (Cavaleiro 21), Coady, Edwards (capt), Stearman, Williamson, Saiss, Saville, Dicko (Bodvarsson 45), Weimann, Marshall (Gibbs-White 67)

Unused Subs: Burgoyne, Mason, Evans, Hause

Bookings: Saiss (71 – foul)

Referee: David Coote

ANOTHER CHEAP TAKEAWAY AT THE GOLDEN PALACE

WOLVES 0-1 HUDDERSFIELD

Tuesday 25th April 2017

After the snore bore witnessed at home against Blackburn just three days previously Wolves didn't have long to wait before attempting to rectify the wrongs of their abject performance served up to their long suffering supporters. Paul Lambert made six changes to his line-up with Dominic Iorfa, Danny Batth, Silvio, Jack Price, Morgan Gibbs-White and Jon Dadi Bodvarsson all given the chance to show they could do better. Alas it was not to be, even though the performance was slightly improved the lack of quality in the squad was highlighted even further.

Wolves struggled to find any cohesion in the early stages, but it came as no surprise



considering the amount of changes made. They played like eleven individuals with no leader to guide them or bark the orders, the passing was again poor and up front there was no clinical edge or anybody looking capable of getting us a few goals. Things didn't bode well with the fact the recalled striker Jon Dadi Bodvarsson was looking to score his first ever home goal at the 24th attempt.

At least Wolves supporters didn't have to wait until the 94th minute before witnessing a shot on goal, after just ten minutes Iorfa sent over a cross from the right, but Edwards's header at the near post was straight at the keeper. A minute later Huddersfield also went close when Hogg fired over from a tight angle.

Town continued to push forward and Wells again came close to putting the visitors in front when he met a cross from the left, but he fired straight at Burgoyne from 15 yards. However, Town didn't have to wait much longer to break the deadlock, Edwards gave the ball away in midfield and Brown drove forward before unleashing a shot from 25 yards that Burgoyne got a hand to but couldn't prevent from finding the back of the net.

Even though Wolves were being outrun, especially in midfield, they had a glorious chance of an instant reply. Marshall swung in a free-kick from the right and Edwards again got his head to the ball at the near post, but yet again as in the 10th minute he headed straight at Ward whereas a few yards either side of the keeper would have brought an equaliser.

Mason replaced the ineffective Bodvarsson at half-time and at least showed a bit of enthusiasm, in the 51st minute he wriggled free down the inside left and thumped a shot that crashed into the side netting. Just two minutes later Wolves went within a whisker of levelling it up, Silvio cut the ball back for Weimann and his low shot was brilliantly tipped away by Ward, the

ball then fell to Edwards who crashed in an effort from a tight angle that bounced back off the post.

After hopes were raised following the bright second-half start, that was unfortunately as good as it got for Wolves, who were always vulnerable to the Huddersfield counter attack. Quaner had three good opportunities to wrap up the points in the last 20 minutes but fired wide from 12 yards, was denied by Burgoyne and also missed a good opportunity from close range.

Opinion: Eleventh home loss this season, it's just not good enough.

Man of the match: Marshall

Team Rating: 2/10

Attendance: 17,505

Team: Burgoyne, Silvio (Dicko 84), Iorfa, Edwards, Batth (capt), Stearman, Weimann, Price, Bodvarsson (Mason 45), Gibbs-White (Graham 62), Marshall
Unused Subs: Brown, Saville, Coady, Hause

Bookings: Price (27 – foul), Iorfa (43 – foul), Silvio (68 – foul)

Referee: Tim Robinson

NO PRIDE AT THE PARK

DERBY 3-1 WOLVES

Saturday 29th April 2017

All those supporters who travelled to Derby for the last away game of the season in the hope of the team in the gold shirts finishing the season with a bit of pride and style were again let down by yet another woeful performance. Man for man they should be ashamed of their performance as they were totally outclassed by another average underachieving Championship side.

Before the game Paul Lambert spoke to the media saying that his players needed a break, they're not the only ones. No doubt they will soon be seen in the papers lapping it up in luxurious locations all over the world, pictured with numerous wags on private yachts, things that the fans who travel to watch these losers each week can only dream of.

Paul Lambert's opinions aside, there was still three hours of league football to be played before the pampered superstars could pack their suitcases and enjoy their expensive holidays, while in the meantime the ticket paying fans could continue to ramp up the overtime and pay for next season's season ticket.

MATCH REPORTS



Right from the kick-off it was all Derby, they started the game on the front foot and showed the commitment and desire which was so embarrassingly missing from the Wolves players. As early as the eight minute a half-hearted effort of a pass by Saiss allowed Ince to push forward and he hit a curling shot that Burgoyne did well to parry, and when the ball came back to Johnson he smashed a shot against the underside of the crossbar.

Ince missed another chance just a minute later as he miskicked when clean through, but it was only a matter of time before Derby scored and that turned out to be just three minutes later. Ince was given oceans of space on the right and allowed to send over a cross where a totally unmarked Nugent was waiting to nod home from six yards.

Derby continued to dominate and in the 30th minute they increased their lead. Russell sent a low ball into the area from the right and Wolves defenders stood still and watched as Johnson ran onto the ball and side footed it past Burgoyne from 15 yards. There was no respite as Derby streamed forward in numbers, and Wolves task was made more or less impossible when Cavaleiro was shown a straight red for moving his head towards Johnson's face after he had fouled him in the 33rd minute.

With Wolves desperately hanging on for the interval Derby twice went close, firstly Edwards cleared off the line after Burgoyne flapped at the ball from a corner and then Russell rattled the Wolves crossbar again with a right-foot volley. However, right on the stroke of half-time Wolves pulled one back straight out of the magician's hat, Dicko broke on the right of the area and pulled the ball back to Marshall who finished smartly from ten yards to make it 2-1.

Somehow Wolves went into the interval with the score at just 2-1 when it could not have argued had they been five of six goals down. But any chance of an unlikely

comeback ended in the 57th minute when Derby again strolled through a static defence and Russell set up Bryson who found the bottom right corner from just inside the area to make it 3-1. For some reason Derby took their foot off the pedal and used the second-half as a training session, and save Wolves from a potential hammering, but don't let the score line paper over the cracks which were as wide as the San Andreas Fault.

Opinion: No pride, no honour and not fit to wear the shirts.

Man of the match: The 3,000 Loyal Wolves Fans

Team Rating: 1/10

Attendance: 31,051

Team: Burgoyne, Saville, Coady, Edwards (capt), Williamson, Hause, Cavaleiro, Saiss, Dicko (Bodvarsson 77), Evans, Marshall (Enobakhare 72)

Unused Subs: Ruddy, Silvio, Bath, Mason, Graham

Bookings: Williamson (23 – foul)

Sending's Off: Cavaleiro (33 – violent conduct)

Referee: Chris Kavanagh

AN EARLY BATTH AT THE END

WOLVES 1-0 PRESTON

Sunday 7th May 2017

After the dross served up during the last three games Wolves at last put in a performance to send their supporters home with a smile on their face. After an indifferent season they finished off with a 1-0 home win against Preston. With the game being meaningless with regards to promotion or relegation issues it was a typical end of season, nothing to play for encounter. However, compared with some of the horror shows at Molineux this season it was a refreshing change to see Wolves playing some decent football.

Wolves got off to a dream start on a glorious sunny day at Molineux. From the kick-off Wolves immediately pushed forward and a break on the left flank ended with Jordan Graham forcing a corner in the very first minute. The young midfielder, making his first start since January 2016 following a knee injury, floated over an inch perfect cross which Bath met with a powerful header at the far post to give Wolves the lead.

After the explosive start the game took to a more pedestrian pace with Wolves having a lot of possession, and for once



this season managing to find their own men with some nice passing football. Bath was again in the thick of the action on the 15 minute mark, and it was another corner from Jordan Graham which this time was headed high and wide by the skipper. Wolves easily handled Preston's attack and the closest they came to threatening Burgoyne's goal in the first-half was six minutes before the break when May tried his luck from 25 yards.

Wolves stepped up another gear after the break and they should have made the game safe in what turned out to be a frantic start to the second-half. In the 48th minute Dicko dispossessed Baptiste and pulled the ball back across the area from the by-line to the unmarked Enobakhare who hit the post from 12 yards when it looked easier to score.

A minute later Silvio got himself into the action and hit a screamer from 25 yards that was just wide. It was all Wolves and Dicko missed another good chance when he was put through by Edwards, but he allowed Maxwell enough time to spread himself and turn his shot away. It was Maxwell to the rescue again on the hour when he stuck out a foot to save Enobakhare's low drive after the youngster latched onto a through ball from Saiss.

The game ended with a rare flourish from Preston but Wolves deservedly held on to finish the season on a high. Whether Paul Lambert is given the chance to rebuild the team and push for promotion next season remains to be seen, but there will need to be a vast improvement to the performances seen towards the latter stages of this season.

Opinion: Too little, too late.

Man of the match: Bath

Team Rating: 7/10

Attendance: 20,163

Team: Burgoyne, Silvio, Coady, Edwards, Bath (capt), Hause, Weimann (Iorfa 87), Saiss, Dicko (Bodvarsson 77), Enobakhare, Graham (Mason 64)

Unused Subs: Lonergan, Stearman, Saville, Evans

Bookings: Saiss (63 – foul)

Referee: Darren England

IN MEMORY



A Tribute to Baroness Heyhoe Flint "A True Wulfrunian"



On January 18th 2017 it was announced that Wolves vice-president and ex-England cricketer Rachael Heyhoe Flint had passed away after a short battle with cancer. The Baroness was a lifelong Wolves fan and always a great supporter of London Wolves. She attended our 50th anniversary presentation in the Wolves museum, and it was an honour to chat and listen to someone who was genuinely interested in what everybody had to say.

She was born Wolverhampton on June 11, 1939, and educated at Wolverhampton Girls High School. Having been awarded an MBE in 1972, and OBE in 2008, she was made a life peer in 2011 taking the title Baroness Heyhoe-Flint of Wolverhampton.

She was best friend of former Wolves folklore hero Sir Jack Hayward. She first contacted Sir Jack in 1970, when she asked him to sponsor the England ladies cricket team which led to their lasting friendship. When Sir Jack took over at Molineux in 1990 she became involved in the club's public relations department. From 1997 to 2003 she served as a club director, later being made a Vice-President.

She was the first in her field in so many ways: the first woman to hit a six in a Test match; the creator of the first women's World Cup in 1973 (two years ahead of the inaugural men's tournament); the England captain in 1976, against Australia, when women were first allowed to play at Lord's; the first woman to be elected to the full MCC committee, almost as great an honour as being appointed to the House of Lords as a working peer in 2010.



Thousands of tributes flooded in from all quarters for the Baroness, and two Wolverhampton legends summed up perfectly the character of this special lady. Rock legend Robert Plant, one of Rachael's fellow Vice-Presidents, said: *"This is sad news indeed as Rachael was a unique and wonderful lady, straight talking and no messing with bundles of energy, sensitivity and great humour. She loved the city, the people and, of course, the football. She was a great ambassador to all three. My condolences go out to her family at this sad time."*

Steve Bull, also a club vice president, said: *"Rachael was like my right arm when we used to work at the club together. She really took me under her wing. We would work on community events together and just built up a great relationship from there, and went on to become very good friends. Just a top top lady, so bubbly all the time, and it is just really sad that she has gone. She will be sorely missed but will always be remembered at Wolves."*

Like our beloved Sir Jack Hayward, Baroness Heyhoe-Flint will always be part of Wolves history and will always be regarded as one of our own, Director John Gough summed up this special lady by quoting the Baroness as regularly saying "We'm all yam yams ay we?". She will be sadly missed by everyone at WWLSC and all our thoughts are with her husband Derrick, their son Ben and the rest of her family and friends.

Steve Ray
Newsletter Editor



Provisional travel arrangements for matches during August and September are:-

Home Matches

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

Fare : To be advised.

Sat 19/8/17 v Cardiff City	◆ Outward	- Depart Euston 09:43 Arrive Wolverhampton 11:37
	◆ Return	- Depart Wolverhampton 18:45 Arrive Euston 20:53
Sat 9/9/17 v Millwall	◆ Outward	- Depart Euston 09:43 Arrive Wolverhampton 11:37
	◆ Return	- Depart Wolverhampton 18:45 Arrive Euston 20:55
Tue 12/9/17 v Bristol City (k/o 7:45pm)	◆ Outward	- Outward - Depart Euston 13:43 Arrive Wolverhampton 15:37
	◆ Return	- Return - Depart Wolverhampton 22:45 Arrive Euston 01:15
Sat 23/9/17 v Barnsley	◆ Outward	- Depart Euston 09:43 Arrive Wolverhampton 11:37
	◆ Return	- Depart Wolverhampton 18:45 Arrive Euston 20:53

Away Matches

Sat 12/8/16 v Derby County	◆ Outward	- Depart St Pancras 09:26 Arrive Derby 11:03
	◆ Return	- Depart Derby 19:21 Arrive St Pancras 21:03
Tue 15/8/17 v Hull City (k/o 7:45pm) No Official club trip arranged. Any member wanting to go to this game please contact Travel Secretary.		
Sat 16/9/17 v Nottingham Forest	◆ Outward	- Depart St Pancras 09:29 Arrive Nottingham 11:18
	◆ Return	- Depart Nottingham 18:05 Arrive St Pancras 19:56

Tue 26/9/17 v Sheffield United (k/o 7:45pm)
No Official club trip arranged. Any member wanting to go to this game please contact Travel Secretary.

Sat 20/8/16 v Burton Albion	◆ Outward	- Depart Euston 09:03 Arrive Birmingham New Street 10:26
		- Depart Birmingham New Street 10:49 Arrive Burton-on-Trent 11:20
	◆ Return	- Depart Burton-on-Trent 18:24 Arrive Birmingham New St 18:55
		- Depart Birmingham New St 19:10 Arrive Euston 20:53

TRAVEL SECRETARY - PETER WOODIFIELD

94 FARNHAM CLOSE RAINHAM KENT ME8 8NS

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

FEEDBACK

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

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e-mail: WWLSC@post.com

contacts: Stuart Earl 0203 620 7901 Dave Slake 0208 764 8023 Peter Woodifield 01634 363704

FIXTURES / RESULTS



Championship Fixtures 2017-2018

August 2017

Sat 05	15:00	Middlesbrough	H
Tue 08	19:45	Yeovil (Carabao Cup)	H
Sat 12	15:00	Derby	A
Tue 15	19:45	Hull	A
Sat 19	15:00	Cardiff	H
Sat 26	15:00	Brentford	A

September 2017

Sat 09	15:00	Millwall	H
Tue 12	19:45	Bristol City	H
Sat 16	15:00	Notts Forest	A
Sat 23	15:00	Barnsley	H
Tue 26	19:45	Sheffield Utd	A
Sat 30	15:00	Burton Albion	A

October 2017

Sat 14	15:00	Aston Villa	H
Sat 21	15:00	Preston	H
Sat 28	15:00	QPR	A
Tue 31	19:45	Norwich	A

November 2017

Sat 04	15:00	Fulham	H
Sat 18	15:00	Reading	A
Tue 21	19:45	Leeds	H
Sat 25	15:00	Bolton	H

December 2017

Sat 02	15:00	Birmingham	A
Sat 09	15:00	Sunderland	H
Sat 16	15:00	Sheffield Wed	A
Sat 23	15:00	Ipswich	H

Tue 26	13:00	Millwall	A
Sat 30	15:00	Bristol City	A

January 2018

Mon 01	15:00	Brentford	H
Sat 13	15:00	Barnsley	A
Sat 20	15:00	Notts Forest	H
Sat 27	15:00	Ipswich	A

February 2018

Sat 03	15:00	Sheffield Utd	H
Sat 10	15:00	QPR	H
Sat 17	15:00	Preston	A
Wed 21	19:45	Norwich	H
Sat 24	15:00	Fulham	A

March 2018

Sat 03	15:00	Reading	H
Tue 06	19:45	Leeds	A
Sat 10	15:00	Aston Villa	A
Sat 17	15:00	Burton Albion	H
Fri 30	19:45	Middlesbrough	A

April 2018

Mon 02	15:00	Hull	H
Sat 07	15:00	Cardiff	A
Tue 10	19:45	Derby	H
Sun 15	13:00	Birmingham	H
Sat 21	15:00	Bolton	A
Sat 28	15:00	Sheffield Wed	H

May 2018

Sun 06	12:00	Sunderland	A
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Quiz Answers 1: Three (Cavan and Campbell Chapman and Mark Turner) 2: Alan Ainscow, Mark Buckland and Tony Evans 3: Barry Powell 4: Bobby Gould 5: George Berry 6: 25 7: Matt Murray 8: Manchester City and Moscow Dynamo 9: Geoff Palmer 10: Hartlepool and Bury 11: Crystal Palace and Nottingham Forest 12: Maurice Daly 13: Michael Oakes, Alex Rae, Dean Sturridge, Adam Proudlock & Marc Edworthy 14: The Molineux Ants 15: Coventry City – FA Cup 6th round 1973 16: A rusty nail 17: Colin Brazier 18: Colchester United, Aldershot, Bolton Wanderers, Crystal Palace, Norwich City, Reading, Sheffield United, WBA 19: Ki-Hyeon Seol 20: Portman Road – Ipswich.

MEET THE PLAYERS

