

W. W. LONDON



OCTOBER / NOVEMBER / 1972

WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS
LONDON SUPPORTERS CLUB

Founded 1966

Dear Sir,

Please find enclosed the October/November issue of the newsletter.

Due to a tight schedule, one or two omissions were made by the printer, notably the addresses of one or two of the committee. Just to refresh you, the important addresses to remember are:

Secretary: Brian Restall,
81 Lansbury Crescent,
Temple Hill,
Dartford, Kent.

Editor: Tony Roche,
105A Salisbury Road,
Barnet, Herts.

Sales Officer: David Slape,
26 Brockenhurst Way,
Narbury, S.W.16.

Travel Officer: Steve Roe,
10 Selborne House,
Great Dover Street,
S.E.1.

In the previous newsletter (August/September) we asked members to write about their match of the 1971-2 season. You will see that the winner proved to be Chris Dwyer, he wins either £4.00 or free travel to any three home matches of his choice. We hope to run another competition later in the season.

If Wolves manage to overcome Blackpool in the league cup quarter-final, we will run a coach trip to the home leg of the semi-final. Write to Steve Roe for details of meeting place, fares and so on.

You may be interested to know that Wolves are playing in a testimonial at Watford on November 28th. Bill McGarry has promised to field his strongest side. Why not pop along?

In the meantime happy reading. The next newsletter will be issued in the 3rd week of January 1973.

WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS LONDON SUPPORTERS CLUBFounded 1966

Hon. President - Derek Dougan

Vice-President - Stuart Earl

Secretary - Brian Restall

Treasurer - Morris Jacobs

Minutes Secretary - Sid Green

Chairman - Martin Rutherford

Travel Secretary - Steve Roe

Sales Officer - David Slape

Editor - Tony Roche

Editorial

At the time of writing, Wolves are going through a lean spell. Prior to the game with Palace, the goals were being scored as if a gold shirt gave you a divine right in front of goal. But, as happens to all clubs, Wolves have spluttered from fifth to mid-table.

The injury bug has taken its toll and certain players have hit indifferent form. But the team has shown enough to indicate their ability to both recover and make this their most successful season for years.

I must apologise for a rather confusing reference to John Holsgrove in our last edition. At the time of writing, I happened to mention to an office colleague that John had a lean time towards the end of his stay and the crowd were often on his back. Without knowing it, he typed a paragraph and inserted it in my league cup report. I had already gone over the copy so simply sent it off without a second look.

My colleague informed me of his action, thinking I had seen and removed the page. Unfortunately, despite knowing it was about to be printed, I decided against changing the whole copy. That, I hope explains what was an unnecessary criticism of a former Wolves player who did serve the club well.

Thank you for your letters. I hope my replies were to your satisfaction. Please don't hesitate to be critical if you feel it is necessary. I will do my best to answer and amend if required, any point you bring up.

Roll on the League Cup quarter-final!

TRAVEL NEWS by Steve Roe

Times and fares for matches from December 2 to January 27.

Home games: Derby County on Dec. 2nd. Meet at Euston booking office - Train departs at 11.10 a.m. ... arrives Wolverhampton 13.04 p.m. Departs 17.55 ... arrives Euston 19.49.

Chelsea (h) December 16; Leicester City (h) December 26; Southampton (h) January 6; and Liverpool (h) January 27 ... times exactly as for Derby game.

Fares for all home games are £1.75p return. (£1.50 for females or under 14's.)

Away games: Everton on Dec. 9th. Depart Euston 11.00 a.m. ... arrive Liverpool 13.52. Depart 17.40 ... arrive Euston 20.16. Fare £2.75p.

Norwich City on Dec. 23rd. This trip is by coach. Meet at Elizabeth Bridge, Victoria. Coach departs 9.45 a.m. ... arrives Norwich approx. 2.15 p.m. Depart Norwich 5.00 p.m. ... arrive Victoria approx. 8.30. Fare £1.50.

Birmingham City on Jan. 20th. Depart Euston 11.40 a.m. ... arrive Brum 13.15. Depart Brum 17.45 ... arrive Euston 19.23. Fare £1.60p.

Please note the FA Cup third round on January 13th. If we are at home, times and fares are as usual. If drawn away, contact me for more information.

Steve Roe,
10 Selbourne House, Great Dover Street, S.E.1.

SALES NEWS by Dave Slape

SCARVES - University £1.25p, 90p plus 5p postage. Barred 75p plus 5p postage. Silk 50p plus 3p postage.

PENNANTS - All first division 28p plus 3p postage.

METAL BADGES - All first division plus 3p postage.

EMBROIDERED BLAZER BADGES - All first division plus 3p postage.

METAL BADGE KEY RINGS - All first division plus 3p postage.

PROGRAMME BINDERS - 50p plus 10p postage.

PVC CAR STICKERS - Round 5p plus 3p postage. Long 10p plus 3p postage.

Write to: Dave Slape,
26 Brockenhurst Way, Norbury, S.W.16.

MATCH REPORTSUnited so sad!

Wolves 2 (1) v Manchester United 0 (0) - 16/9/72

The class of Derek Dougan proved too much for a sad and pathetic shadow of the once almighty Manchester United, and with Wagstaffe making a welcome return to his left wing berth, Wolves were unlucky not to finish four or five goals ahead. The sight of Bobby Charlton mis-fielding passes time and again just about summed up the problems facing what is now a very real relegation battle haunted United.

Wolves on the other hand are full of confidence, and on this display must present a threat to the top four. Dougan was always the master of Sadler, while Wagstaffe was content to simply cross the ball as he felt his way back into the first team.

United were incapable of worrying Munro and Co so tragic is their plight, much to the obvious delight of Wolves fans who recall our humiliation in a number of FA Cup ties where we led 2-0 and finally crashed.

The talents of Jim McCalliog were evident as he carved the United defence for the first goal. With 24 minutes gone, he weaved through two defenders, heading a difficult ball as he went before measuring a perfect through ball for Dougan to race onto and blast wide of Stepney.

Stepney, once the butt of the crowds frustration at success spoilt Old Trafford, performed minor miracles to keep Richards and Hibbitt at bay. In the second half, Wolves built up almost ceaseless attacks with the brave 'keeper atoning for the abject confusion before him as McCalliog, Bailey and Hibbitt tormented the jittery red shirted defenders into panic stations.

There has to be a question mark about Richards' goal as he looked yards offside when Dougan played the ground pass, but he succeeded in keeping his head and coolly chipped it over Stepney into the far corner before bothering to check as to its validity.

At the close, it was Wolves in total command. They could have scored more ... credit Stepney with courage and a cool head as the remains of a once proud if not arrogant soccer empire crumbles before his very eyes.

Wolves: Parkes; Shaw, Munro, McAlle, Taylor; Bailey, McCalliog, Hibbitt; Richards, Dougan, Wagstaffe. Sub: Kindon.

A Point well earned

Leicester City (1) (1) v Wolves 1 (0) - 23/9/72

If Wolves do win anything this year, Brian Owen will have just cause to feel proud. With Munro injured, the brave Owen donned the No.5 shirt for the second time, only this time he was boss in an unfamiliar back division.

Leicester created a number of fine chances, but found the defence determined if not always the most subtle unit imaginable. McAlle, looking very sound, backed Owen well and McGarry must feel delighted for the way he has gleaned a polished defender from what was once a third and fourth division injury-prone left-winger!

As a match, it was good fare for both sets of supporters. Incidents abounded from the start and Leicester gave false hopes of a free-scoring afternoon by sweeping into a fourth minute lead. Once again, Farrington was the executer, turning home a low hard drive by Worthington. How many more times will this former Wolf torment his alma-mater.

With McCalliog suspended, Hegan made an impressive return to the first team and posed the question once again: "how can they afford to leave him out?"

Wolves played in patches of mixed panic and brilliance. Dave Wagstaffe looked more his old self while Richards continues to improve with every knock.

It was Richards who set up the vital equaliser in the 54th minute, shielding a headed flick from Dougan for Hegan to ram home. Leicester had chances to clinch the points, but Richards rather wasted two equally fine 'winners' and no-one could really argue that a share of the spoils rather summed up the afternoon.

Wolves: Parkes; Shaw, Owen, McAlle, Taylor; Bailey, Hegan, Hibbitt; Richards, Dougan, Wagstaffe. Sub: Kindon.

Richards Reminds Ramsey!

Wolves 5 (2) v Stoke City 3 (2) - 30/9/72

A blistering hat-trick by centre-forward John Richards shot Wolves to fifth position and flattened an entertaining City side, showing better away form than of late. But once again, that worrying question mark hangs over the defence. Shaw gave Hurst a third-minute penalty by sheer carelessness and Parkes had some nightmare moments when he seemed to think the ball was a hot potato.

There is no substitute for genius however, and with Munro, Hegan and Dougan showing world-class form, Stoke could not fill the holes torn in their defence fast enough to prevent the dam from its inevitable fate. Richards slammed a low cross past Farmer to equalise and with Hegan and Hibbitt working like Trojans, it was no surprise when Dougan, showing more fire than seen for some time, positioned himself perfectly to flick home another fine low cross. Stoke stormed back via an error by Parkes that left Greenhoff the simple task of tapping home Robertson's pass.

In the second half, Munro brought the house down with a magnificent cross-field pass to Wagstaffe. He cut inside, beat his man and left Richards with the task of rapping number three past Farmer.

Once again, Stoke levelled following a free kick. Bloor thumped it home with Parkes helping it over the line. Hurst hit the bar and the game looked very even until Wagstaffe split the visiting defence for Hegan to beat Farmer by a split second to score number four. When Richards picked up Dougan's flick, held off Smith and Pejic and scored, the crowd went wild.

Wolves: Parkes; Shaw, Munro, McAlle, Taylor; Hegan, Bailey, Hibbitt; Richards, Dougan, Wagstaffe. Sub: Kindon.

Wednesday's Blook Wednesday!

Wolves 3 (2) v Sheffield Wednesday 1 (0) - 4/10/72

Wolves marched into the Football League Cup 4th round with a satisfactory elimination of Wednesday. They have never managed to get past the fourth round, so the home draw augurs well. Wolves did enough in this game to show the difference between divisions. Dougan was always master of Swan while Hibbitt and Hegan opened the visitors defence when the mood took them. Wednesday fell behind following an unnecessary foul on Richards by Swan. Hibbitt drove the penalty home although the 'keeper got a touch. John McAlle once again looked very at home on the left.

For a while, Wolves bombarded the Wednesday goal, and it was no surprise when they went further ahead. Dougan headed across goal, Munro headed on target and Eustace, trying to clear, deflected it into his own net.

Credit where it is due ... Wednesday turned on some exciting form after the interval and Parkes was called upon to prevent Joicey and Eustace from scoring. Just when it seemed the game might take an unexpected turn, Dougan, timing his run to the inch, left Swan gaping as he guided Kindon's cross high into the net.

Munro scored his second own-goal of the season when heading a left wing cross past Parkes, but Wolves were well worth their place in round four, and a chance to avenge their Watney Cup defeat at Bristol.

Debutant Derek Jefferson marred an otherwise workmanlike display by getting booked.

Wolves: Parkes; Taylor, Munro, Jefferson, McAlle; Bailey, Hegan, Hibbitt; Richards, Dougan, Kindon. Sub: McCalliog.

Dougan Strikes for a Point

Manchester City 1 (0) v Wolves 1 (0) - 7/10/72

Derek Dougan emphasised his pricelessness once again when he scored a vital equaliser at Maine Road. It was a mixed afternoon that produced some fine play from Wolves, a spirited display by a patched-up City side and a warning from the referee.

Wolves looked very impressive in the first half. Richards and Dougan went so close to scoring, while Jefferson and Munro gave the defence a new-found faith in itself. But City slowly battled into the game and a few names went into the book. Jefferson added to his debut booking while McAlle's name joined him soon after.

Dougan had a goal disallowed and Richards screwed in a fine drive, well saved at the foot of the post by Healey. It was City, however, who took a rather shock lead. Lee lobbed the ball from the touchline, fooled Parkes completely by the bounce and left Marsh the simple task of scoring. Inside ten minutes, Wolves were back on par. Kindon drove a cross into the area, beat Healey and Dougan returned the compliment to fire home.

City showed some inspired form in the later stages but Wolves were not only worth their point ... they could feel angry at themselves for not taking two. Things, on this form, are looking very bright indeed.

Wolves: Parkes; Taylor, Munro, Jefferson, McAlle; Bailey, Hegan, Hibbitt; Richards, Dougan, Kindon. Sub: McCalliog.

Wolves hit Palace Level!

Wolves (1) v Crystal Palace 1 (1) - 14/10/72

Wolves always fall victim to their own inability to rise above a poor side. Palace are far from the worst team to visit Molineux, but better sides have trod the turf. Wolves can handle those with distinction as a rule ... but line them up against a mediocre outfit and they quickly sink to their visitor's level.

Such was the case when Palace, surely hot favourites for the drop already, came to face a Wolves side boasting a 100 per cent home record. But, as most games of this nature have left me disgusted and disappointed, I marked this off as a draw before it started, and felt even sicker about being right once again.

Richards and Dougan were not quite their usual selves. Dougan fired over the bar in the six yard area twice while Richards made little impact. It took an error by Shaw to give Palace a 15th minute lead. He completely missed a left wing cross, and Hinshelwood had time to bring it down and beat Parkes for his first league goal.

For a spell, the golden tide surged forward and Wagstaffe supplied the cross on the half-hour for Dougan to head cleverly home. But the expected goal-glut never arrived. Despite some fine driving by Bailey, the team looked sluggish and off-key. Palace had a fine chance through Craven to cause the upset of the day, but he typified his club's position by missing.

Wolves: Parkes; Shaw, Munro, Jefferson, McAlle; Bailey, Hegan, Hibbitt; Richards, Dougan, Wagstaffe. Sub: Kindon.

Derby Disaster!

W.B.A. 1 (0) v Wolves 0 (0) - 21/10/72

Billed as the game with the goals, this derby affair was far from thrilling. It saw Wolves fail to score in a league match for the first time since they played ... yes ... W.B.A. last year.

Add to the disappointment of defeat the loss of Dougan with a broken nose and spirits have understandably nose-dived. Wolves were expected to make amends for the debacle with Palace, but went one worse. With Jefferson suspended, credit the defence for some sterling work. But Richards had a dismal afternoon while Bailey was unnoticed. Only Kindon's powerful runs produced any real threat and although he did see a shot pushed onto the bar, Merrick did the same at the other end so Albion were narrowly worth their 1-0 win. The goal came in the 79th minute when Gould volleyed Brown's cross via Owen past Parkes.

Wolves: Parkes; Shaw, Munro, Owen, McAlle; Bailey, Hegan, McCalliog; Richards, Dougan, Kindon. Sub: Daley.

Wolves Fail on Basics.

Wolves 0 (0) v Leeds United 2 (2) -

If Wolves are ever to make a serious challenge for the title, they will have to learn some basic facets of the game that is, after all, their bread and butter.

On Saturday, they were outclassed in all departments by an equally injury stricken Leeds side, determined, but not in excess of perspiration, to avenge last season's exhausted subject ... Wolves 2-1 win.

It is enjoyable to watch a side string ten passes together as Leeds did so often. But when your side are on the receiving end, it's not so good. Wolves were pathetic. Passes went astray, tackles were mis-timed and the attack just didn't impress at all. Kindon was sewn up by Madeley while Richards and Eastoe were too quiet.

Eddie Gray opened the score in the 17th minute, and when Jefferson handed Loriner the ball on the half hour he hit his 100th league goal in typical character fashion. Not a Wolverhampton performance to remember.

Wolves: Parkes; Shaw, Munro, Jefferson, McAlle; Bailey, Hegan, McCalliog; Richards, Eastoe, Kindon. Sub: Sunderland.

First Quarter Final!

Wolves 4 (3) v Bristol Rovers 0 (0) - 31/10/72

Wolves reached the league cup quarter-finals for the first time with a convincing win over Rovers ... and made amends for their early season Watney Cup lapse as well.

John Richards opened the score in the 11th minute with his 15th goal of the season, whipping a shot past Sheppard from Parkes' long clearance. Wagstaffe's cross beat the keeper for McCalliog to knock home for number two and when the dazzling Dave swerved down the line and crossed again, Steve Kindon showed his heading prowess with a powerful downward nod for number three.

Rovers made a spirited effort after the break, aided by Wolves' loss of concentration. But when Rudge blazed over from three yards, their hopes visibly died. Wolves completed the scoring towards the end when Jim McCalliog punished another error by Sheppard to roll the ball accurately into the far corner.

Wolves: Parkes; Shaw, Munro, Jefferson, McAlle; Bailey, Hibbitt, McCalliog; Richards, Kindon, Wagstaffe. Sub: Daley.

Killer Kindon!

West Ham United 2 (0) v Wolves 2 (0) - 4/11/72

Two dynamic goals by Steve Kindon shook high-riding West Ham to the core of their flowing football and only a superb headed goal by Brookling in the 89th minute gave Hammers the point they merited.

West Ham are always a good side to watch. They play open positive football and their style brought the best out of Phil Parkes on a number of occasions. One save from McDowell equalled the Banks' save from Pele in many opinions. Wolves had to concede a goal the way they were dicing with death at the back. But Robson's shot, covered by Phil spun off Shaw's heel and swerved wide of the prostrate 'keeper.

A wonderful through ball from Bailey split West Ham and Kindon sped the length of their half before crashing an amazing cross-shot past Ferguson. Before they had settled, Wagstaffe found him across the box and his first time drive hit the net with such force, it rebounded into Richards' arms. Tormenting poor young Locke, he almost hit a third, but his deflected shot just went wide. Add to this a blistering drive from the edge of the box by Hibbitt that almost broke the intersection and a glaring miss by McCalliog and it's clear Wolves could have taken the points.

Moore crossed from the right, Holland headed back and Brookling, selecting position rather than pace, guided a fine header into the far corner.

Wolves: Parkes; Shaw, Munro, Jefferson, McAlle; Bailey, Hibbitt, McCalliog; Richards, Kindon, Wagstaffe. Sub: Owen.

SECRETARY'S REPORT by Brian Restall

First of all, I must give a belated welcome to all new members that have joined us this season. I hope the club is to your liking and you are enjoying the magazines.

Last season, our membership dwindled to 86. In order to boost membership, we placed adverts in GOAL, SHOOT, INSIDE FOOTBALL and also the West Ham v Wolves programme. As a result, many new members have enrolled and we now have 120 members to date. We hope to advertise further during the rest of the season and see if we can regain our peak membership which was 190.

Now that Wolves have a reasonable chance of reaching Wembley, I must clear up a matter concerning all-ticket cup matches. If Wolves do have an all-ticket match, please either write to me or tell the club trip how many tickets you require. The club will endeavour to see that everyone gets the tickets they want. If, however, we obtain only a limited amount of tickets, they will go to those who have attended the most club trips.

Well, I think that's all for now. Any complaints or comments, please write to me. If you are quiet, we assume everything is satisfactory.

Brian Restall - Secretary.

Wolverhampton Wanderers ProgrammesHome

1952-3 v Stoke City	Div.1	40p
1957-8 v Chelsea	Div.1	25p
1960-1 v Arsenal	Div.1	20p
1962-3 v Leicester	Div.1	10p
1963-4 v Man United	Div.1	15p
1964-5 v Man United	Div.1	15p
1965-6 v Norwich C.	Div.2	15p
1965-6 v Man United	FAC-5	15p
1966-7 v Preston	Div.2	10p
1966-7 v WBA	FAC	10p
1966-7 v Everton	FAC	10p
1967-8 v Stoke City	Div.1	7½p
1967-8 v Coventry C	Div.1	7½p
1967-8 v Everton	Div.1	7½p
1967-8 v Man United	Div.1	7½p
1967-8 v Liverpool	Div.1	7½p
1967-8 v Newcastle	Div.1	7½p
1968-9 v QPR	Div.1	10p
1968-9 v Chelsea	Div.1	7½p
1968-9 v West Ham	Div.1	7 p
1968-9 v Man City	Div.1	7 p
1968-9 v Liverpool	Div.1	7 p
1968-9 v Ipswich	Div.1	7 p
1968-9 v Southampton	Div.1	7 p
1968-9 v Coventry	Div.1	7 p
1968-9 v Man United	Div.1	7 p
1969-70 v West Ham	Div.1	5 p
1969-70 v Notts For	Div.1	5 p
1969-70 v Stoke C.	Div.1	5 p
1969-70 v Sunderland	Div.1	5 p
1969-70 v Spurs	FLC-2	5 p
1971-72 v Spurs	Div.1	5 p

Also: Stoke v Aldershot FA Cup
Fourth Rd, Second Replay at
Molyneux - 8p

Aways

1955-6 v Chelsea	Div.1	35p
1957-8 v Arsenal	Div.1	35p
1958-9 v Barrow	FAC-3	40p
1959-60 v Leeds U	Div.1	30p
1959-60 v Fulham	Div.1	30p
1959-60 v Arsenal	Div.1	30p
1959-60 v Chelsea	Div.1	30p
1959-60 v Blackpool	Div.1	30p
1960-61 v Chelsea	Div.1	30p
1960-61 v Preston	Div.1	30p

Aways - continued

1961-62 v Shoff W	Div.1	20p
1961-62 v Aston V	Div.1	22p
1962-63 v Man City	Div.1	14p
1962-63 v Burnley	Div.1	14p
1962-63 v Fulham	Div.1	14p
1962-63 v Notts F.	Div.1	12p
1962-63 v Notts F.	FAC-3	15p
1962-63 v Leicester	Div.1	10p
1963-64 v Spurs	Div.1	8 p
1963-64 v Arsenal	Div.1	8 p
1963-64 v Arsenal	FAC-3	10p
1963-64 v Blackburn	Div.1	8 p
1963-64 v Bolton	Div.1	8 p
1963-64 v Man United	Div.1	8 p
1963-64 v Liverpool	Div.1	8 p
1963-64 v Notts F.	Div.1	8 p
1963-64 v West Ham	Div.1	8 p
1963-64 v Birmingham	Div.1	8 p
1963-64 v WBA	Div.1	8 p
1964-65 v Aston V	Div.1	8 p
1964-65 v Blackburn	Div.1	8 p
1965-66 v Orient	Div.2	7 p
1966-67 v Carlisle	Div.2	7 p
1966-67 v Coventry	Div.2	7 p
1966-67 v Huddersfield	Div.2	7 p
1967-68 v Leeds U	Div.1	5 p
1967-68 v Arsenal	Div.1	5 p
1967-68 v Man City	Div.1	5 p
1968-69 v Chelsea	Div.1	5 p
1968-69 v West Ham	Div.1	5 p
1968-69 v Newcastle	Div.1	5 p
1968-69 v Man City	Div.1	5 p
1968-69 v WBA	Div.1	5 p
1968-69 v Spurs	Div.1	5 p
1968-69 v Ipswich	Div.1	5 p
1968-69 v Stoke City	Div.1	5 p
1969-70 v Spurs	Div.1	5 p
1969-70 v Arsenal	Div.1	5 p
1969-70 v Southampton	Div.1	5 p
1969-70 v Chelsea	Div.1	5 p
1969-70 v Ipswich T.	Div.1	5 p
1969-70 v Sheff Wed	Div.1	5 p
1969-70 v West Ham	Div.1	5 p

CONTACT:

Mike Collett, 3 Crest Court,
The Crest, London NW4 2HL.

COMPETITION

The match of last season for me was Wolves' hard fought victory over ADO Den Haag in Holland. This UEFA Cup match had just about everything.

Wolves, under constant pressure, held out so well, it was difficult to understand how they had lost 1-4 to Spurs a few days earlier.

Superb goalkeeping by Phil Parkes was the key to a goal-less first half that saw the eager Dutchmen swamp his area. Taylor and McAlle, playing his best game ever for the club, contributed equally to some sterling defensive work. The forwards were led magnificently by the experienced Doog and dexterous John Richards. O'Grady, always very constructive ... and McCalliog, man of the match with a world class display were the main reasons why Wolves held their own in midfield.

Wolves took complete command in the second half. With 61 minutes gone, Richards fastened onto a perfect through ball from McCalliog and appeared to be robbed by an eager Dougan who rounded the 'keeper to score.

Minutes later, Mac hit the bar, but he made amends in the 80th minute when he sent the 'keeper the wrong way with a glorious shot.

Limping, he was replaced by an equally goal-hungry Ken Hibbitt who took no time in raring home a Dougan pass.

In the dying minutes, Shaw handled to give ADO a penalty, but overall, this was delightful football from Wolves. It gave their loyal followers so much to cheer as they made for the train home.

Chris Dwyer,
12 Croft Road,
Poulner,
Ringwood,
Hants.

HUGH CURRAN by Phil Curtis

When Hugh Curran arrived at Molineux in 1969, we did not have a very impressive goals for column. In fact our 20 compared with Everton's 60 just about summed up the problem.

It was not long before we saw just how well worth the fee he really was. A fine point grabbing goal at White Hart Lane, another cracker against Manchester United, a goal up at Newcastle ... Hughie was here to stay.

But, as always, the knockers were the loudest voices. One goal, at Hillsborough, in the opening seven games of season 1969-70 brought the critics down on him and McGarry for buying him.

But Curran had guts. He was goal-hungry and having vowed to repay Wolves for his first division status, he went on to do just that ... very often single handed when more naturally talented colleagues had given up.

There was something magical about his presence near goal. You always had the feeling he was about to burst the net once he got the ball. That was very often the case!

Two goals in Peter Knowles' final appearance against Forest ... another couple of crackers to save a 0-2 situation at Chelsea ... two great solo efforts under dreadful torture at Brighton and yet another two in the classic home match with Chelsea. The fans were in raptures of sheer adoration.

Bobby Brown, then Scotland's manager, called him up for his first full cap against Austria. He netted .. was judged offside and later replaced by Cooke.

On to the dream of every Scot ... facing England at Wembley. Guess who beat Banks to equalise England's first goal ... Hugh Curran was, for a fleeting moment, the most beloved of Scots by all north of Hadrian's wall.

Three more caps followed before Brown was sacked and injury laid hands on the gutsy Curran. How Wolves missed him. But he bounced back ... a winner at Tottenham ... a hat-trick at home to Forest ... two against eventual champions Everton .. a winner against Sunderland, Huddersfield, two at W.B.A., and so on. He scored 40 goals for Wolves in 70 appearances.

How fitting that Wolves' first tangible honour for many years ... the Texaco Cup, should be won by Hugh Curran. His two great goals at Tynecastle Park against Hearts gave Wolves a 3-1 lead and eventually the cup. But the injury bug claimed him again ... a disrupted transfer ... a complete season without a single first team goal ... pain, disappointment ... ignored by Scotland and Wolves, he took the opportunity of joining lucky, lucky Oxford United who, without doubt, have the buy of the century. Thanks Hugh for goals never to be forgotten.