

W. W. LONDON



DECEMBER / JANUARY / 1973

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WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS LONDON SUPPORTERS CLUB

Founded 1966

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Editorial

Happy New Year one and all, despite the bitter disappointment of White Hart Lane. I am delighted to say our membership is now 142 and still increasing.

No doubt, the League Cup semi-final is uppermost in most minds but let us be realistic. Spurs had the edge in a direct line through the middle of their team. Jennings, with due respect to Parkes, is a world-class custodian and England held our President, as he did in the UEFA Cup. Up front, Richards will better Chivers as he matures, but, once again, the big striker smashed our hopes single-handed.

Wolves have an unfortunate habit of repeating mistakes. They lost this semi-final at home (sounds familiar) and gave their all in the return (even more familiar). They also failed and lost - two habits one finds it difficult to forgive, especially when so much verbal nonsense finds its way from Molineux prior to such games. Perhaps in future hopeful silence will make it that much easier to bear.

But 1973 is a new year and brings new hopes. If I for one did not basically believe in the club, I would hardly spend time writing this. Although we are comparatively small in number, let's try and humiliate our Wolverhampton counterparts into something more stirring than the total silence they call an atmosphere. Small wonder the team's recent away record has looked more impressive than their home displays.

TRAVEL NEWS by Steve Roe

Travel arrangements from February 3rd to March 24th.

Home games: February 17th, Newcastle United. Meet at booking office, Euston Station. Depart 11.10 a.m. - arrive Wolverhampton 13.04 p.m. Depart 17.55 p.m. - arrive Euston 19.49. Fare: £1.75p. (Females and under 14's, £1.50p.)

The games against Manchester City (March 3rd) and W.B.A. (March 17th) - prices and times the same as for the Newcastle game.

Away games: February 10th, Manchester United. Meet at booking office, Euston. Depart 10.00 a.m. - arrive Manchester 12.44 p.m. Depart Manchester 17.40 p.m. - arrive 20.26 p.m. Fare: £2.60p.

March 24th, Leeds United. This trip will be by coach. Meet at Elizabeth Bridge, Victoria, for a 9.30 a.m. departure. Arrive at Leeds approx. 2.00 p.m. Depart at 5.00 p.m. and arrive at Victoria approx. 9.00 p.m. Fare: £2.75p.

The FA Cup fourth round will be played on February 3rd. These notes were completed before our game with Manchester United. If we got through and are at home in the fourth round, the normal train arrangements from Euston apply. If, however, we are drawn away, please contact me at the below address for details.

If you wish to come to a match, please write and let me know not later than two days prior to the game. Your seat will be reserved. Please make sure you have booked up.

Any correspondence requiring a reply should be sent with a S.A.E. Enclosed cheques and postal orders should be crossed and made payable to W.W.L.S.C.

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 scarves 75p plus 5p postage. Silk 50p plus 3p postage.
PENNANTS - All first division 28p plus 3p postage.
METAL BADGES - All first division, varied prices plus 3p postage.
EMBROIDERED BLAZER BADGES - All first division plus 3p postage.
METAL KEY RINGS - All first division plus 3p postage.
PROGRAMME BINDERS - 50p each plus 10p postage.
PVC CAR STICKERS - Round 5p plus 3p postage. Long 10p plus 3p postage.

Dave Slape,
26 Brockenhurst Way, Norbury, London, S.W.16.

MIKE O'GRADY by Steve Roe

When Mike O'Grady joined Wolves from Leeds United in September 1969, he seemed a natural successor to the prematurely retired Peter Knowles. His signature on the dotted line ended a chase that started back in his Huddersfield Town days and after a season of glory and a championship medal with Leeds, he looked well worth the £80,000 fee.

He quickly developed a fine understanding with Bailey and McCalliog, and scored against Sheffield Wednesday.

November 1, 1969 and no one in the near 40,000 crowd will ever forget his stunning 80th minute winner against W.B.A. This goal helped establish him as a firm favourite with the crowd.

But if the fans were good to him, the gods were not. He became plagued by one injury after another and his achilles tendon gave more trouble than anything else.

He came back towards the end of the season and scored another incredible goal against W.B.A. in the thrilling 3-3 draw at the Hawthorns. His shot from all of 40 yards almost took the net into the Smethwick End.

Incredibly, at the start of the following season, he was back on the treatment table where he remained for six months. Back he came with another bang ... a great volleyed goal to give Wolves a 1-0 win over Liverpool.

But more bad luck dogged him and he was injured, this time in the face at Maine Road and missed four weeks.

Season 1971-72 saw him back on the treatment table, the achilles tendon playing up. He managed a few league and UEFA Cup games before Birmingham took him on loan, but his injury bug followed him and Brun sent him home to Molineux.

At the start of the season, Mike O'Grady found himself fully fit and was sub in the opening game at Newcastle. But McCalliog and Hibbit were playing well while Bailey was always favoured by Bill McGarry, O'Grady walked out in October, sick of being on the line.

A few days later, he joined Rotherham for £10,000. It's likely he will end his playing days at Millmoor, but we won't forget him.

Thanks Mike, and good luck.

THE SLIDE

Following Wolverhampton Wanderers can be an upsetting way of life. It's almost like watching your worst fears come true in slow motion. Then, when that worst fear of all is almost a reality, they come up trumps and you feel there is something to celebrate because they didn't let you down.

At the moment, their vague hopes of joining the title contenders have disappeared. Why? Because the team is not good enough to win the First Division.

They are good enough to beat the best in the World, but they are too inconsistent and capable of losing to the worst.

How many of you really thought they would beat Spurs? Never mind the brave struggle at White Hart Lane. That should never have been necessary. They knew what they faced and they knew what happened before, yet the same errors were made, the same result occurred and the same second leg was played out.

The dreadful truth is that the people of the town have come to the conclusion there is no point in following a mid-table team.

A good cup run would change the whole face of the problem, but if that is not achieved, the bitter disappointment of that semi-final will take a long time to fade.

The questions must be faced and answered. Is Bernard Shaw a top-class full back? Is Gerry Taylor? Can Wolves' defence sew up the alarming gaps, evident, apart from some promising spells, for four years!

Is Mike Bailey the right skipper? Is Phil Parkes likely to join the Wilson's, Shiltons, Clemences and Jennings of this league? God knows the talent is there in vast depth, but why does it not click? I am asking you, not stating opinions. Just asking questions you will hear at Molineux these days.

Write and tell me if you agree or disagree with these statements. My opinion is of no matter. I would like to know yours. Do you feel the players we have are the right blend for success? The letters will be read carefully and the best will be published in our next edition.

Editor.

MATCH REPORTSArsenal repeat two-in-a-minute trick

Wolves 1 (0) v Arsenal 3 (0) - 11/11/72

For the third time this season, Wolves conceded two goals in about 60 seconds and handed Arsenal two points at a time when one point would have been gratefully accepted.

Newcastle did it on the first day of the season. Arsenal repeated the trick at Highbury three nights later. Now, Wolves possess a treble to be ashamed of.

Both sides scorned the more negative aspects of modern football to provide fine exciting play. Arsenal, with George and Marinello always dangerous, used the offside trap fully and by playing so far forward, caught Wolves adventurous defence on the hop.

Richards had a fine game, tormenting McIntock and cracking one drive against the bar and another inches over the struggling Barnett. Hibbitt hit the side netting and Wagstaffe brought the best out of Barnett before the first half closed.

Radford shot Arsenal ahead from George's cross as he stood, unmarked on the right of the area.

Richards cracked a wonderful equaliser, turning to beat three men before shooting home from 20 yards off the foot of the post. Minutes later, McIntock kicked another effort off the line as Arsenal came under heavy pressure.

But George spotted Radford, still ignored by Shaw, on the right and the former England striker beat Parkes too easily from the same spot.

Before the buzz had faded, George caught Munro too level and sent Marinello sprinting past, around Parkes, to slide home a simple goal and clinch the points.

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

Pathetic Wolves

Wolves 0 (0) v Ipswich Town 1 (0) - 18/11/72

The attendance of 14,888 sums it up. From a title-chasing fifth position, Wolves have taken seven league failures to slide to 14th place at the time of writing.

Ipswich beat Wolves for the third time this season and I dread our visit to Portman Road. They did the easy things well. Passes found their target. Shots went in vague direction of Parkes. Marking and tackling were both efficient and crisp. Wolves were woeful!

Clearly, they are going through a rough spell. Any hopes of challenging for the title died a natural in the snow. But it is during times like these that the team needs encouragement from all sides.

Man for man, they are top-class professionals. But as a unit, they often resemble a team of talented strangers hurriedly thrown together for a representative match.

Those players going through poor form are the same we cheered into Europe and the same who topped the goal charts week after week only a couple of months back.

Saturday's match is best forgotten. Mills hit the post, Johnson missed a sitter and Whymark scored a goal that should have been prevented. Wolves produced a header by Dougan and a snap drive by McCalliog in reply. Yes ... best forgotten.

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

Mac Rescues Wolves

Wolves 1 (0) v Blackpool 1 (1) - 21/11/72

A searing header by Jim McCalliog in the 46th minute saved Wolves from the jaws of defeat in a disappointing League Cup quarter final.

Blackpool attacked powerfully in the second half after Wolves had promised so much in the opening 20 minutes. Chances were missed, then Dyson put the second division visitors ahead minutes before the interval.

But when Kindon crossed from the right, McCalliog headed home under the bar and hopes were raised. Shaw, heading off the line at the other end, saved the day as Blackpool, far from finished, began to dominate midfield, not difficult to do these days, and Wolves were fortunate to earn a replay.

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

A Win at Last

Sheffield United 1 (1) v Wolves 2 (0) - 25/11/72

Just when it seemed as if Wolves would never win another match, they produced a stirring second-half performance to snatch two points from an entertaining game at Bramall Lane.

Kindon replaced Wagstaffe on the left and Dougan made a welcome return, but when Dearden gave United the lead after 18 minutes, it required some fine work by Munro and some good goal-keeping from Parkes to keep Hockey and Currie at bay.

McKenzie made an incredible twisting save from Richards just before the break and it seemed as if the tale of woe would continue.

But when Wolves turned on the heat in the second half, Sheffield conceded midfield and Bailey chose the 70th minute to centre for Richards to head home at the back post.

United sagged and Dougan tormented their defence with his aerial prowess. It paid handsome dividends when he soared above two defenders to head down and Hibbitt slammed a low drive inside the post.

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

Dougan Wins It!

Blackpool 0 (0) v Wolves 1 (0) - 28/11/72

Derek Dougan, so often a saviour and inspiration, scored the vital 85th minute goal to put Wolves in the League Cup semi-finals for the first time in their history.

Driven forward by in-form Bailey, Wolves shook Blackpool with some sterling football, out of context with their recent struggling form at home.

But Richards and Dougan brought groans from their fans with some dreadful misses as Blackpool struggled to recapture the form that almost brought them victory at Molineux.

Extra time seemed on the menu when Wagstaffe hared down the line, crossed to Richards who laid it off for Dougan. The striker made amends for his early blunders with a firm shot and Wolves are one step from Wembley!

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

Another Home Defeat

Wolves 1 (0) v Derby County 2 (1) - 2/12/72

Meanwhile, back at Molineux, Wolves continue their amazing collapse from the title-contenders of August and September to the brink of the danger zone.

Not for one minute do I think Wolves will drop down. But they are trying hard. Derby are coming back to form. But they should have been beaten. Wolves lack the imagination and skill at the moment to beat midfield combinations such as Derby's ... and there are better combinations around.

Parkes was badly positioned when Hennessey headed Hinton's corner over him.

In the second half, Richards, Wolves' best forward, slammed the equaliser after a clever build up, but Hector got behind Wolves' shaky defence, as everyone seems to, to give them the lead and, finally, both points.

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

Another Away Success!

Everton 0 (0) v Wolves 1 (0) - 9/12/72

Wolves' home record is all the more confusing when one studies their recent away form. This was their third win in four games ... the other was drawn. Everton were never in the same class as this Wolverhampton side, reshuffled to the complete good. Shaw was out of the side, replaced and capably replaced, by Taylor. Jefferson gave a solid display, although booked again for a tackle.

Everton are sliding fast. They troubled Parkes rarely and Richards must still wonder how he came home without three goals to his credit. He twice fired at Lawson, then hit the post.

Wolves were by far the superior team. They gave Everton a tough afternoon and showed they have no intention of sliding down the table simply because of a good cup run. Wagstaffe showed more of his old form and had a hand in the all-important 76th minute winner. He combined well with Richards and Hibbitt was on hand to blast home from 18 yards leaving Lawson helpless.

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

Sunderland's a Winner!

Wolves 1 (1) v Chelsea 0 (0) - 16/12/72

A brilliant goal by 19-year old Alan Sunderland ended one of Wolves' most frustrating periods and gave them their first home victory since September.

Chelsea had barely settled when Bailey fired a throw into the middle. Sunderland raced through and belted a rising drive wide of Phillips.

Wolves, delighted to make such a breezy start, pinned Chelsea back by their ears and Richards impressed Sir Alf Ramsey with a display that will give Webb nightmares for weeks to come. Family illness meant Derek Dougan was missing, but Kindon gave an all-action performance and has established himself as a real favourite. If Jefferson maintains his renewed form, he should follow suit. The defence, a few lapses apart, look stronger than for many weeks.

Wolves were unlucky not to score at least two more. One goal was no fair reflection of their superiority ... cheering news for a very worried Bill McGarry and even more worried and frustrated supporters.

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

Fumbling Failure

Wolves 1 (1) v Tottenham Hotspur 2 (2) - 20/12/72

Wolves' hopes of reaching Wembley via the Football League Cup Final took a sickening blow in this disappointing first leg semi-final. Two pathetic errors in the opening 15 minutes handed Spurs the game, if not the entire semi-final, on a plate.

Wolves were struggling to put two passes together when Peters drifted into the area, collected a flicked pass and measured his steps before firing past Parkes. He had too much room to believe! Spurs stormed forward with this fourth minute incentive and went two ahead when Pratt let fly from all of 30 yards. Parkes had it covered, but seemed to move sideways and push it into his own net. A terrible blunder.

Wolves never recovered. They increased the pressure as the half wore on and when Sunderland was bundled off the ball by Knowles, Hibbitt, who had a good game, sent Jennings the wrong way from the penalty.

The second half opened at an incredible pace. Spurs somehow survived a series of corners and free kicks and by the time Wolves had burnt themselves out, Gilzean had the last word, firing over the bar.

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

Dougan Pinches Point!

Norwich City 1 (1) v Wolves 1 (0) - 23/12/72

A tale of two halves saw Norwich storm into an early lead, torment a shaky Wolves' defence, missing suspended Frank Munro, then surrender midfield to a tenacious combination of Bailey, Hegan and Hibbitt.

Hegan started quietly, but soon made his presence felt. Sunderland was pushed up front with Kindon, Wagstaffe and Dougan stepping down. Wolves suffered as a result. Kindon took 35 minutes to get into the game while Sunderland, later replaced by Dougan, made no impact. Jefferson and McAlle made an uncertain opening during which Bone nodded home a flick-on from Cross from a Paddon corner. McAlle conceded two incredible corners and gave his pals heart trouble before settling down for a much improved second half. Wolves survived some testing pressure, Richards hit the post and Norwich led at the interval.

But the second half saw Wolves edge into the driving seat and in the 70th minute, Shaw flighted a long ball into the area for Dougan to climb above Goveir and Keelan and head home yet another match saver.

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

That Old One-Two

Wolves 2 (1) v Leicester City 0 (0) - 26/12/72

Dougan and Richards provided the goals, Leicester provided the opposition and Munro's suspension provided McAlle with a second opportunity to show his prowess as a centre-half.

Wolves were far the better side. Shilton and Rofe did well to prevent Wolves from changing ends with a four goal lead, while City's expensive collection of £100,000 stars made no impression on the defence.

Despite their domination, Wolves had to wait until just before half-time for their first goal. Jopling took too long over a back pass and Richards was there to pounce and whip it past Shilton. City, with Worthington their only real threat, tried to get on terms, but with five minutes remaining, Bailey flung one of his long throws to the near post and Dougan fooled them all by heading in the far corner.

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

Pipped in Extra Time!

Tottenham Hotspur 2 (0) v Wolves 2 (1) - 30/12/72

Martin Chivers scored a goal in the 112th minute of this titanic League Cup semi-final to put Spurs into the Wembley Final and Wolves into 1973 with their North London hangover.

It was the UEFA CUP FINAL all over again, only worse. Wolves took the initiative as Spurs dithered indecisively in midfield, and having weathered some early attacks, pushed forward with growing confidence. Bailey and Hegan pushed forwards while McAlle and Jefferson looked cool and classy at the back. A fine through ball by Hibbitt sent Sunderland racing into the area. His low shot rebounded off Jennings' legs and hit Naylor on the head before bouncing into the net. Wolves were level.

A change of tactics saw Spurs dominate the second half with the defence taking but surviving a terrible battering. A goal had to come, however, and it was that elusive Peters who stole in to head home at the back post. The Spurs crowd awoke and all seemed lost.

But in the 88th minute, Jefferson flighted the ball to Dougan and when he nodded down in the area, Richards turned in a flash to blast a low drive wide of Jennings' right hand. Level again! The excitement was incredible, especially when Jennings made a great diving save to stop Kindon clinching the game in the 103rd minute.

Alas, with Dougan only in the game for spells and without the cunning of Wagstaffe, Wolves had shot their bolt. Richards was well watched and Kindon looked lost and forlorn.

A free kick on the right was taken down and thumped home in one fine move by Chivers as weary legs buckled with sheer disappointment and Wolves faced the reality of going home with nothing after giving so much.

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

Robbery!

Wolves 0 (0) v Southampton 1 (0) - 6/1/73

Mike Channon maintained his amazing record against Wolves - six goals in seven matches - by netting the only goal of the game two minutes from the end of a match Wolves should have had sewn up long before.

Richards was the culprit responsible, missing three open goals. One shot hit the side-netting from two yards ... another went over the bar from four yards when Dougan paved the opening.

In all exchanges, Wolves were the more positive side. But Daley's attempts to do too much wasted a lot of good work. Hegan had a poor game, as did Hibbitt, while Bailey struggled to do his own job, and supplement Hegan.

The appalling attendance can be put down to the All Blacks rugby international and bitter disappointment on the part of the fans ... wondering how that lesson Spurs were going to receive went astray for the second successive year. It is clear that if Wolves don't win something soon, they will have lost a lot of fans for a long time.

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