



***December 1998***

# **London Wolves**

***London Wolves Official Club Magazine***





# WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS LONDON SUPPORTERS CLUB

Founded 1966 .....

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Committee Members:	<i>Stan Armetti</i> <i>Stefan Leonard</i> <i>Geoff Newbound</i>

# ***From the Chair***



Stuart Earl

Think of a swear word, multiply it by a couple of hundred or so, and you'll begin to realise how frustrated the Committee are at the continued production problems being experienced with the magazine. Having sorted out the physical production end of things, glitches then occurred with the recording and presentation of information for printing. At least my excursions to evening classes on a computer course have eventually begun to pay dividends and we are now on top of that side of things. Bear with us, because the finished article will be a first class publication.

We are progressing on other information fronts as well, as we'll soon be able to give you information on our own website; watch this space for details. In the meantime, we can now be E-mailed on [Londonwolves.66@btinternet.com](mailto:Londonwolves.66@btinternet.com).

Later in this edition, we are fortunate to have an article from my old mate Tony Roche, a former editor of our magazine and now a respected journalist with The Sun, and who was voted leading rugby writer of last year. He recounts one of his early visits to an away match. Thanks Tony.

So, having got a couple of you writing, how about some more of you contributing to our production. As you can see, you can write about anything, and we don't even censor it if it takes the rise out of The Chairman. Hear from you soon?

With Leo Masters joining the committee at the AGM, I should like to express my thanks to Michael Jacobs for his help over the past couple of years as Minutes Secretary. Michael had to step down due to personal circumstances, and we wish him all the best.

And finally, what can I say about the demise of Mark McGhee? It's sad when anyone loses their job, but results and progress were not up to the standards expected by the Club and the fans. On a personal note, I'll always be grateful to Mark for allowing us access for our Meet the Players days which were so successful. Thanks Mark, good luck to you and your family.

As this is the last magazine in 1998, I hope you all have a great Christmas, prosperous New Year, and happy supporting.

***Stuart Earl, Chairman***





# Profile on Leo Masters

Compiled by John Engleman

Leo, was a Wolves convert at the end of the sixties, when he started to go on trips with Stuart, as opposed to going to Stamford Bridge, where he was under the misapprehension that he supported Chelsea, (soon corrected).

At fifty five years of age, Leo has now been a member of London Wolves for over twenty five years, and was elected as Minutes Secretary at the recent AGM.

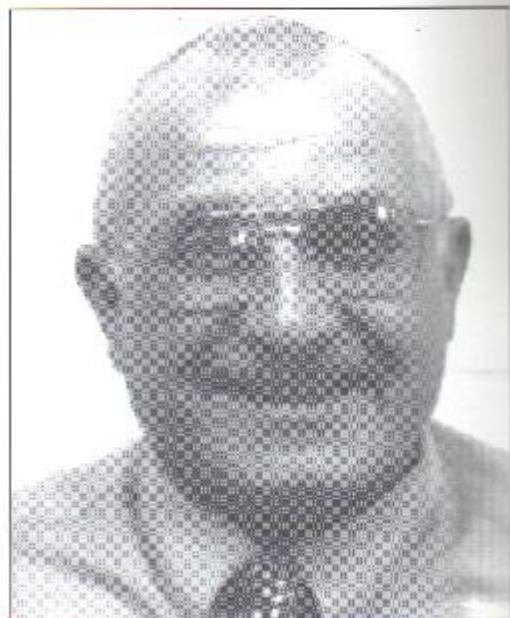
Brother in law of Stuart, living in Brockley, South London, Leo earns his living as a maintenance technician, repairing computers, photo copiers etc., he is only allowed to matches during the period October-February, unless given a special pass by Mary, his partner of twenty-eight years.

In the sixties and seventies, Leo was captain of LLSK and Embassy All Stars basketball teams, played for England and Great Britain, and also had the honour of captaining his country on several occasions.

On his retirement from playing, Leo became coach of Embassy, and they brought back both National League and Cup trophies, the later being won in front of a full house at The Wembley Arena in the final minute of a nail-biting game.

Now he likes to spend his time on less energetic sports, and regularly plays for a local darts side, Brockley WMC., and has many trophies to prove his prowess at the game.

Now a grandfather to eight grandchildren, Leo likes to get away on a Friday during the summer, to his country residence, his caravan in Kent, for a relaxing weekend away from the big smoke.





# ***Wolves Diary***

Compiled by Peter Woodfield



- May 22** Dave Merrington resigns as Chief Scout after 15 months.
- May 23** Another impressive display by Robbie Keane for Republic of Ireland v Mexico earns him the Man of the Match award.
- May 27** Wolves reportedly interested in a swap deal with Portsmouth involving Steve Claridge and Paul Hall, with Wolves paying a cash adjustment for Hall who is valued at around £1.5 - £2 million.
- May 30** Mark McGhee says he is not interested in any swap deal with Portsmouth. He wants a cash deal only for Claridge of £350,000. Don Goodman is set to join Japanese side Hiroshima on a 12-month contract.
- Jun 3** Ryan Green becomes the youngest in Welsh football history to win a cap for his country, and earns glowing praise from Wales manager Bobby Gould after an impressive debut in Wales 3-0 win over Malta in Valetta.
- Jun 6** Ryan Green wins 2nd cap for Wales in their 4-0 defeat v Tunisia in Tunis.
- Jun 15** Wolves will be at home to Tranmere in the opening match of the 1998/99 season. Their first away match is at Oxford.
- Jun 16** Wolves linked with a move for Albion keeper Alan Miller
- Jun 18** Tony Daley has turned down an offer to play in Malta on a short-term contract and may now link up with Graham Taylor at Watford. Wolves matches at Watford and at home to Birmingham have been switched for live showing on Sky TV.
- Jun 24** Graham Taylor wants to sign Dominic Foley permanently for Watford. The player was on loan with the 2nd Division champions last season. Watford are however some way off Wolves' valuation of the player. Wolves matches against Albion next season have both been switched to Sunday with 1pm kick offs, on police advice.
- Jun 28** Man City defender Kit Symons who is available on a free transfer, is the latest player to be linked with a move to Wolves
- Jul 1** Wolves confirm interest in Mark Hughes who has been transfer listed by Chelsea and is available at £500,000.
- Jul 2** Wolves will play Barnet in the 1st round of the Worthington League Cup. The first leg will be played at Barnet.
- Jul 6** Wolves players report back for pre-season training. Mark McGhee ready to admit defeat in his ambitious bid to lure Mark



- Hughes to Molineux, because he has no money to spend. He still hopes to deal in the transfer market but must generate his own cash by selling players.
- Jul 7 Wolves have agreed to release Robbie Slater from his contract for family reasons, so he can move back to his home near Lens in France
- Jul 10 Mark McGhee denies press reports that Tranmere are to sign Steve Bull. Tony Daley to have a 6 week trial with Watford.
- Jul 12 Wolves rocked by a transfer request from Keith Curle after a breakdown of talks on an extension to his contract. He has asked for a free transfer despite having one year left on his existing contract.
- Jul 13 Wolves refuse to give Keith Curle a free transfer and say they will want a fee of £200,000 for him. John Richards says that he is very disappointed with his attitude and very annoyed with his comments to the Press.
- Jul 15 Wolves leave for pre-season tour of Austria and Germany Wolves are defeated 2-0 in first match of tour v Wustenrot Salzburg, and the injury problems continue as Steve Sedgley is carried off with damaged ligaments and could be out of action for 6 weeks.
- Jul 17 Steve Sedgley is to return to Wolverhampton for treatment to his injury.
- Jul 18 Lask Linz 2 Wolves 2
- Jul 22 Carl Zeiss Jena 0 Wolves 1 (Bull)
- Jul 23 Robbie Keane scores twice as Republic of Ireland beat Cyprus 3-0 in the UEFA Under-18 Championship. They will meet Germany in the final.
- Jul 24 Keith Curle still unsure whether he will be at Molineux for the start of the season. Wolves beat Union Berlin 2-1 in the final game of their 12-day tour. Scorers are Robinson and Simpson.
- Jul 26 Republic of Ireland beat Germany after a penalty shoot-out to win the UEFA Under-18 Championship, with Robbie Keane the only Irish player to miss from the spot.
- Jul 27 Wolves draw 1-1 with Blackburn in Robbie Dennison's testimonial match. Lee Naylor is Wolves scorer.
- Jul 28 Keith Curle is given 36 hours to declare his allegiance to Wolves or risk being frozen out of Molineux. Dougie Freedman set to sign for Nottm Forest after Wolves accept bid of £900,000. Hans Segers is thinking over a move to Spurs. Surrey-based businessman Derek Harrington appointed as new deputy chairman.
- Jul 29 A mainly reserve side lose 2-1 in a friendly at Northampton, with Wolves goal coming from an own goal. Wolves may have to wait another 24 hours to learn whether Dougie Freedman is to join Nottm Forest as his agent is abroad, but the deal should be either completed or aborted before the weekend.



**Jul 30** Dougie Freedman's move to Forest is now likely to go through on Monday (3/8). Keith Curle meets with Mark McGhee and he has apparently now settled his differences with the club. Glen Crowe is set to go on a long-term loan to Greek club Panionis after scoring in a trial game for them. Hans Segers has joined Spurs as goalkeeper coach.

**Aug 1** Wolves lose 3-2 to Barcelona in an entertaining friendly at Molineux. Wolves scorers are Steve Bull and Simon Osborn. Czech international keeper Pavel Srnicek on trial from Newcastle, plays for half of the match. Dougie Freedman's transfer to Forest is in the balance after he says that the deal is not right for him at present. Wolves are not forcing him to go and Mark McGhee says that he would prefer him to stay. Glen Crowe looks likely to miss out on an extended loan to Panionios after playing a second trial game for the Greek club.

**Aug 2** Mark McGhee stresses that the Freedman transfer does not affect his spending powers, but he has ruled out a move for David Connolly preferring a target man to ease the burden on Robbie Keane. He says he is hoping to bring in a few new faces before Saturday. Steve

Claridge is in Portsmouth hoping to tie up a move with a fee already agreed. Mark McGhee is hoping to recoup most of the fee he paid Leicester. Crystal Palace manager Terry Venables is rumoured to be lining up a sizeable bid for Steve Froggatt, but

Mark McGhee says he has not had any recent contact from Palace.

**Aug 5** Wolves hoping to sign former Spanish international Fernando Gomez from Valencia on a free transfer in time to play in Saturday's opening match v Tranmere. Nottingham Forest are having further talks with Dougie Freedman, and three more strikers, Steve Claridge, Jason Roberts and Mixu Paatelainen could be leaving Wolves in the next few days. Glen Crowe joins Exeter on loan for 1 month.

**Aug 6** Dougie Freedman finally signs for Forest for a fee of £950,000. Jason Roberts joins Bristol Rovers for £250,000.

**Aug 7** Mixu Paatelainen set to move to Preston for £75,000. Wolves have not been able to secure clearance for Fernando Gomez's transfer so he is now likely to make his Wolves debut in next week's League cup-match at Barnet.

**Aug 8** TRANMERE ROVERS (Home) 2-0 (Keane, Curle(pen)). Robbie Keane stars as Wolves produce a winning start to a season for the seventh time in eight years against a mediocre Rovers side. Mark McGhee targets two strikers as he plans to spend the proceeds of his late-summer sale. There is a hint of a renewed move for David Connolly as well as the club's main priority, a big target-man.

**Aug 10** Wolves sign Fernando Gomez and he will make his debut at Barnet on Tuesday (11/8)



subject to receiving international clearance. Steve Claridge joins Portsmouth for an undisclosed fee. Mixu Paatelainen turns down move to Preston after failing to agree personal terms.

**Aug 11** BARNET (Away) Worthington League Cup 1st rd 1st leg 1-2 (Osborn). Barnet stun Wolves with a last minute goal to take a slender lead to Molineux. Mark McGhee and John Richards miss match as they are in Germany looking at players.

**Aug 12** Dundee Utd striker Robbie Winters is believed to be Wolves latest transfer target.

**Aug 15** OXFORD UTD (Away) 2-0 (Bull, Osborn). Wolves record their first-ever victory at the Manor Ground. Gomez makes debut. Mark McGhee issues a "hands-off" warning to Premiership clubs aiming to lure Robbie Keane from Molineux.

**Aug 17** Mark McGhee denies any interest in Robbie Winters.

**Aug 18** BARNET (Home) Worthington League Cup 1st rd 2nd leg 5-0 (Bull 3, Keane 2). Aggregate score 6-2. Barnet are torn apart by a rampant Wolves side who easily overturn Barnet's shock 2-1 first-leg win.

**Aug 20** Wolves sign David Connolly from Feyenoord on a 1 year loan deal with a view to a permanent deal.

**Aug 21** Adrian Williams is in the Welsh squad for the European Championship match v Italy at

Anfield on 5th September. Ryan Green is in the Under 21 side at Wrexham the night before. Robbie Keane and Mixu Paatelainen are expected to be called up for international duty the same weekend, and Mark McGhee to consider postponing the match at Ipswich scheduled for the same day.

**Aug 22** SWINDON TOWN (Home) 1-0 (Curle(pen)). Wolves extend their 100% start to the 1st Division season, but have to work hard to take all three points from an unconvincing performance. Connolly makes debut as a second half substitute.

**Aug 26** Wolves drawn against Bournemouth in the Worthington Cup 2nd round, 1st leg to be played at Bournemouth. Wolves match at Ipswich on 5th September has been postponed because of international call-ups.

**Aug 28** WATFORD (Away) 2-0 (Bull, Keane). Wolves top the Division 1 table after a comfortable victory against Graham Taylor's side, to give them their best start to a season for 29 years.

**Aug 31** STOCKPORT (Home) 2-2 (Richards, Gomez). Wolves let slip a 2-goal lead, but Stockport are full value for their point. Mixu Paatelainen to have talks with Wigan about a possible £75,000 move.

**Sep 2** Lee Naylor in England U18 side who beat Republic of Ireland Y18 5-0 in Dublin.

**Sep 3** Coventry City make fresh bid of £1.5 million to sign Steve Froggatt. Mark McGhee says

he will do all he can to keep the player, but it is up to the board to decide whether or not to accept Coventry's offer.

defending leads to both Vale goals, in a match which Wolves dominate for long periods and miss numerous chances.

Sep 4 Ryan Green plays for Wales U21 v Italy U21 at Wrexham.

Sep 11 Mixu Paatelainen signs for Scottish club Hibernian for a fee of £75,000.

Sep 5 Adrian Williams, Robbie Keane and Mixu Paatelainen all on international duty in European Championships. Paatelainen scores Finland's winner in their 3-2 victory over Moldova.

Sep 12 SUNDERLAND (Home) 1-1 (Keane). An injury time goal by Sunderland denies Wolves a deserved win.

Sep 7 Wolves reject Coventry's offer for Steve Froggatt and will discuss a new extended contract with him this week.

Sep 15 BOURNEMOUTH (Away) Worthington League Cup 2nd rd 1st leg 1-1 (Ferguson). A late goal by substitute Darren Ferguson makes Wolves favourites to go through to the next round.

Sep 8 PORT VALE (Away) 1-2 (Keane). Wolves suffer first league defeat of the season. Poor



# Letters to the Editor



20 Sidelands Road,  
Downend,  
Bristol BS16 2TS

*Dear Editor,*

*At last! Wolves supporters can once again hold their heads up! No more will we have to put up with the sniggering of opposition supporters when our team runs out onto the pitch! No, I'm not talking about the encouraging start to the season (13 points out of first 15 at time of writing), but to the banishing to oblivion of the previous home kit (especially the shirt), to be replaced by an excellent new one. Could the new kit herald a promotion season. Lets hope so!*

*Why has the good start occurred. I believe it's due to a combination of:*

- 1. Most of the squad are fit.*
- 2. A settled formation, which appears to work for the players.*
- 3. Robbie Keane's role as an out and out striker (great credit must go to Mark McGhee, although he didn't appear to have many alternatives at the start of the season).*

*Yours sincerely,*

*Ian Sharp*

*P.S. Don't be confused by the Bristol address; I've moved here during the summer from Orpington, and Dave Slape has kindly allowed me to remain a member of London Wolves!*

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67 Rundells,  
Harlow,  
Essex CM18 7HD

*Dear Fellow Supporters,*

*Could someone please help solve a mystery concerning the recent Worthington Cup debacle at Barnet's Underhill ground.*

*No, not how are you supposed to play football on a ski slope, but whether Mark McGhee was actually in attendance at this match. I'm sure I saw him congratulating the Barnet manager after the game, but according to the Press he was in Germany on a scouting mission.*

*Was he there or wasn't he? Does he have a double like Saddam Hussein to avoid assassination, or should I take more water with it?*

*I think we should be told.*

*Regards,*

*Keith Hatwell*

# ***From the Editor***

Stefan Leonard

As I mentioned in the last issue of the magazine, several items for publication were omitted because of the vast amount of match reports that had to be included. Unfortunately, some letters from members were among these omitted items. As they contained, in the main, references to matches and events from as far back as the beginning of the year, it would make little sense to publish them now. However, I would like to sincerely thank Peter Hughes of Gravesend, Martin Crofts of Hoddesdon, Ken Doll of Herne Bay, and G.Christodoulides of London N4 for their efforts. Having sorted out our production problems, we are now able to run with current articles, so if you would like to see your name in print, get writing!



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# ***From the Members...***

Bill Singleton of Harpenden, Herts, has responded to our constant pleas for member's input into the magazine, so we duly take pleasure in printing his article. Hope you enjoy it, and perhaps it may act as a spur for others to come forward.

## **WOLVES - EVERTON**

I was born in the Black Country just off Goldthorn Hill, where Wolverhampton Wanderers were formed in 1877, and played their first matches as St.Lukes, a school which looked it's age when I attended 71 years later, aged 5. Wolves then moved to Dudley Road, a mile away, an area also very familiar to me as I worked nearby. When Wolves moved to Molineux, they built Fallowfield Terrace - Wanderers Avenue on the site of the old ground, with replicas of the FA Cup engraved above the entrance to each house as Wolves had won the Cup at Fallowfield, Manchester, in 1893, the score being 1 - 0 against Everton. So my roots were here in this great history and tradition which graduated to the famous Wolves teams of the 1950's. Unfortunately, I was too young, as I was born in 1949 (another FA Cup victory for Wolves), to appreciate the Cullis era, with the likes of Hancocks, Wilshaw, Swinbourne, Mullen and Wright beating the best teams in Europe of the time.

My Dad never took me to matches so I had to wait till I was in my early teens before seeing the Wolves in the 1960's. My boyhood heroes like Peter Broadbent, Ron Flowers, Murray, Deeley, Slater, etc., were still a fair side, but sadly, Wolves were relegated, Stan Cullis was sacked in 1964 after 30 great years, and it was the end of an era.

I still supported Wolves, travelling everywhere including places like Bury and Plymouth, which have, sadly become all too familiar for Wolves fans in the 1990's. Then came the transition after watching a 2nd FA Cup replay at Molineux between Everton and Man.City in 1966. Everton won 2 - 0, going on to win the Cup in one of the best ever Finals, 3 - 2 against Sheffield Wednesday.



In 1967, Wolves played Everton in the FA Cup. After drawing the first match at Molineux, the replay at Goodison Park was electric, an atmosphere I had very rarely experienced in a 50,000 + crowd. The Evertonians had such vociferous support, it lifted them towards a 3 - 1 victory. Next year, Everton were in the FA Cup Final again, against Wolves' bitter rivals W. B. A., so I dragged a mate down to Wembley with me, hitching a lift. When we arrived, the scene that greeted us was chaotic, at least 35,000 Evertonians must have travelled down from Liverpool, yet the official allocation of tickets in those days was only 16,000 to each of the finalists. The rest went to County Associations, other clubs, and all sorts of foreigners who shouldn't have an entitlement. Anyway, that's how the FA worked, i.e., they still haven't got it right now! So how the hell, we thought, were we going to gain access. God only knew. As we had hardly any money, tickets from the touts was out of the question; didn't have a ladder, so climbing the towering walls was impossible; didn't have a shovel, so tunnelling underneath was not a favourite idea; parachuting in - enough of that nonsense! The situation was desperate with the kick-off imminent and thousands of other Evertonians still desperate to get in. Pandemonium broke around us as a fan was being ejected from the stadium through the iron draw-back gates, which was our chance to push through with all the other supporters onto the terraces. The only trouble was that we were in the A..... end, but nobody seemed to mind as long as we could all see the match. You could walk right around Wembley inside in those days, so we managed to get into the Everton end eventually. The Toffees dominated most of the match, played some great football, did everything but score, but alas, A..... won in extra time with a Jeff Astle goal.

Nevertheless, I was hooked on Everton now, as I found their support and passion for the game overwhelming. Although I didn't have an historical identity with Everton, I still felt there was something special when I entered the Blue Palace, hearing the roars from the Gurladys Street End, and cries of

"Who's the Greatest of them all -  
Little curly Alan Ball.  
Who's the one we all love most -  
Alex Young - the Golden Ghost"

The Golden Vision - Alex Young - what memories, but that's another story, though. I still supported Wolves but watched Everton whenever I could. I moved to London in 1969 and at first travelled back up to Wolverhampton with the London Wolves Club, watching Everton whenever they played in London, but also managing to see a few games at Goodison also. The magnetism of Everton was too much to resist and in the 1970's I travelled to see the Blues



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more and more. In 1975 the Everton Supporters Club London Area was formed, which I joined, and even though I moved back to the Midlands for a while, I continued to be a fanatical supporter through the 1970's.

In 1979 I moved back to the London Area and initiated my children to support the Blue Boys right through the successful 1980's. But deep down I still loved the Wolves. Although Everton were enjoying one of their most successful periods in history and I was travelling to Wembley Cup Finals nearly every year, Championships and big European matches as well, you could not call me a glory hunter, more of a masochist really. For deep down, I still had this feeling for Wolves even though they were experiencing a complete reversal of fortunes. From being one of the top sides in the country, finding themselves relegated to the 4th Division in 1985-86, with gates of 4,000 faithful souls, and fearing relegation from the Football League and bankruptcy. I felt I owed my loyalty and allegiance to the Old Gold. I started watching Wolves again and fortunately saw a gradual improvement and eventually witnessing Them returning in the right direction. With a great leader in Steve Bull and a wealthy benefactor and boyhood supporter, Sir Jack Hayward, building a beautiful new stadium, I have gone back to my roots and come full circle. I now travel more regularly to see Wolverhampton Wanderers than I do Everton.

The Wolves will never die,  
We'll keep the Gold Flag flying high,  
Just like my passion will never die,  
For both Clubs to succeed and qualify.



Stefan Leonard with son, Jack, presenting Wolves' skipper, Keith Curle, his Player of the Year trophy on behalf of The London Wolves Supporters Club. Keith said "Thank you very much".



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# ***Christians among the Lions***

Tony Roche

A closer look at the date might have saved me hospitalisation, weeks of pain, and a much better hooter than now adorns my alcohol-abused countenance. But I was seventeen, naive (the word now used to describe an immature \*\*\*wit), and ready to climb The Eiger in tennis shoes, if Wolves were playing at the summit. Pulling my truly appalling Safari jacket, which carried the unmissable legend "WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS F.C." across the back in absurdly large black lettering, I met an equally naive Steve Broughton (aged 16<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>), at High Barnet tube station. Steve was more subtle. He was only wearing a gold and black scarf, so long that maidens in distress could have descended its length from the most lofty towers, and he was my responsibility. I had introduced him to Stuart, Martin, Dave and co., one windswept morning at Victoria Coach Station, a new club member with an unfortunate preference for Burnside over Knowles.

Despite this rather alarming example of bad judgement, indeed bad taste, Steve shared our love for "The" Club, which is why we chugged our way across London together that balmy April day in 1967. Destination? Why The Den of course. You remember The Den, that good old ramshackle home of London also-rans Millwall, in truth a disused toilet of a place, inhabited, by and large, by what usually resides in toilets. Having never set foot in the place, we had no idea where to stand, so when a kindly crone, I believe she was selling hot chestnuts), pointed along the side of a rusting stand, we made our way around, and found ourselves standing knee-deep in blue and white scarves, draped below a sea of red faces.

Steve and I ignored the increasing level of dampness, seeping through the back of our clothing, most of it hawked up from a choir of South London throats, all we cared about was promotion, and the exiting climax to what had been a marvellous battle for the title with Coventry City. But true football hooliganism was in its infancy, fans still felt confident in their right to sport their team's colours, and confident enough to accept stick and verbal abuse, that was part and parcel of the rivalry, and loyalty to your club. It was serious, but usually hot air, and Steve and I were among the first to sample the real change in trend. All sorts of omens barked warnings at us, but nothing was going to stop me howling abuse in disgust, when Harry Cripps and Eamon Dunphy (I think), combined to provide Len Julians with a well taken goal, nor was I containable when Dougan matched like with

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like at the other end.

Perhaps we should have suspected that we had strayed further than usual from civilisation, when a complete loony, waving a kitchen knife, raced across the pitch to express his disagreement with "The Doog's" right to live. If memory serves, "Waggy" was the first Wolf to bare his dentures at the intruder, and the mute was quickly overpowered. Something vaguely human on my left observed that "we don't like no arrogant f\*\*cking Micks taking the p\*ss at 'The Den'". I resisted temptation to point out, that Dunphy, was also a Mick, and, as it happens, so am I. Resisting that temptation, was the one sensible thing I did all day.

For whatever reasons, Millwall's treatment of The Wolves XI in their programme was almost Satanic, in that they printed our line-up in reverse. 1) Parkes, 2) Parkin, 3) Taylor, 4) Holsgrove, 5) Woodfield, 6) Bailey, 7) Wagstaffe, 8), Knowles 9) Dougan, 10) Burnside, 11) Farrington. Omens, omens everywhere. Even as our spittle-stained clothing dried out en route to New Cross Gate station, neither of us could see beyond the delight of another excellent away result, a 1-1 draw in London. It was only a matter of minutes before we were surrounded on the platform, by a circle of grunting, snarling morons in those charming, stylish head-denting boots of the era, seemingly shrunken jeans, shaven heads, and alarmingly limited vocabularies.

As every lad should learn, once they get you on the floor, you are finished. But when you are being booted in the back and stomach at the same time, it is tough to retain your dignity. Something snapped, and I lashed out at everything within distance. It was a strange few moments, because you don't feel the pain at first, not when you are really mad as hell. But in the end, two station employees, and two policemen broke it up, dragging us into the guard's room, where we lay on the floor. The mob refused to disperse, so, when a tube train pulled into the platform on the other side, we were helped into it at the last minute, and the morons chased it out of the station in a frustrated fury, their prey too knackered to give a toss.

I spent a week in hospital, Steve was strapped up, and allowed home after three days. It was only when I picked up my match programme days later, that the date struck me with more force than any Millwall fan had managed. APRIL 1ST



