



# THE LONDON WOLVES

NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2001

Founded in 1966

## FROM THE CHAIR

STUART EARL

As you will have read in the belated last edition, publishing, postal and personal troubles contributed to your mag arriving late, and so hopefully, you will now be reading your second issue within a couple of weeks, be this only an interim edition to bring you up to speed!!!! on the travel situation.

To complicate matters even further, we actually suffered from a loss of all the material for the last edition, and it all had to be re-written, hence the "even longer delay. We can only apologise, and hope that it does not spoil your enjoyment of our efforts.

May I, on behalf of the membership, extend a very warm welcome to David Jones on his appointment as Wolves' manager, and wish him the success that every supporter craves, and may his injury list be ever shrinking. Travel of late, as you will know, has been more than a little frustrating, but my thanks go to Peter for his efforts to get you all to the games on time, which cannot have been easy.

On New Years Day, I spoke at length with former Chairman Martin Rutherford, who wishes to be remembered to you all, and who is limping for Australia after having a hip replacement just before Christmas. I'm sure you will all join with me in wishing him a speedy return to fitness.

I would like to express appreciation to Katy Lewis for her efforts in getting out this edition so promptly.

## BARNSTORMER

**WOLVES 2-0 BARNSELEY**  
**2nd December 2000**

Wolves, still without a recognised striker, tore into the visitors despite giving a succession of early corners away. Only a fine display by Miller prevented Wolves going into the break three or four goals to the good, but even so they "Were ahead after 28 minutes when a fine run and superb outswinging cross from the right left Miller finger tipping the ball into the path of Robinson, who chested the ball down, and smashed it into the net from close range. The second half was the same story, with Wolves putting the visitors goal under siege, and the match was finally put out of reach by possibly the move of the season. The ball was moved about with style, dissecting the pith and the Barnsley defence, before Dinning smashed in a shot, which, although he parried it, Miller was unable to stop crossing the line. Bamsley managed only one shot on target, which Oakes dealt with efficiently.

**Attendance: 17,340**

**FROM THE EDITOR** The next full copy of your magazine is due out in April. Please e-mail your contributions to [londonwolvesnews@hotmail.com](mailto:londonwolvesnews@hotmail.com). Or, if you prefer snail-mail, call Katy on 01727830361, to find out where to send your letters/articles.

## BLUE SUNDAY

### BOTTOM'S UP

HUDDERSFIELD 3-0 WOLVES  
9th December 2000

So once again, the charity to the team at the bottom of the division was evident.

Town, with only one previous home win, were gifted the points in three mad second half moments, after Wolves had more than held their own during the first. All three goals were gifts from the Wolves' defence, the first, just after the break, saw Ndlovu pounce on some dire defending by Butler, to bear down and round Oakes. Wolves were now looking more than ragged at the back, and the match was all over five minutes from time, when Facey curled a shot past Oakes. But the mistake of the day came on the stroke of time, when Lescott made the boob of the season, to once again allow Ndlovu to round Oakes and complete another miserable away day.

Attendance: 11,506

WOLVES 0-1 BIRMINGHAM CITY  
17th December 2000

Wolves suffered from the moment Dinning was stretchered off after 29 minutes, and moments later Adebola latched onto a through ball from Burchill, to slot the ball under the advancing Oakes. But, that goal apart, it appeared as if City were going to try and kick Wolves off the park and there were some nasty incidents developing. Wolves' only real chances came late in the match, as first Ndah missed a good opportunity, and then substitute Camara, with a clear sight of goal, blasted possibly the hardest shot seen at Molineux for years, high and wide, a ball last seen heading for the American space station.

Attendance: 19,938

### CHRISTMAS PRESSIES

WOLVES 0-1 PRESTON NORTH END  
Thesday 26th December 2000

Wolves turned up with little or no idea, had one shot at goal, and even gifted the visitors the goal that decided it.

Muscat needlessly conceded a corner in the 14th minute, and when it came over, the unmarked Anderson nipped in to score with a header.

Some outstanding work by Oakes in keeping the score down was the only other major thing to report.

Attendance: 24,306

### EMERGENCY WARD 10/10

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY 0-1 WOLVES  
23rd December 2000

Wolves, reeling from the departure of Colin Lee and the ever mounting injury list, tore into Wednesday as if they were a different outfit, and early in the opening spell, Ndah had two chances to open the scoring. However, on both occasions he headed wide when it was easier to put the ball away.

It was also Ndah who, in the opening minutes, had what looked to be a legitimate appeal for a penalty denied, when he was brought down by Pressman.

But, the continuing pressure eventually paid off. When Walker fouled Proudlock outside the area, Muscat strolled up to place the ensuing free kick wide off the wall - and Pressman!

Ndah was again proving to be a handful, and went close on several second half occasions. Even when he was substituted with about 15 minutes remaining, his replacement, Branch, could have added to Wolves' tally, when he robbed Walker and headed for goal. But when it looked easier to score, he tried a cheeky lob over the advancing keeper, which also went over the bar.

Wolves held out for the last few minutes, but for a change, rarely looked like conceding a goal.

Attendance: 17,787

## LOCK, STOCK & CAROLS

WOLVES 3-2 STOCKPORT COUNTY  
30th December 2000

Wolves saw the old year out with a victory that was less than convincing. In fact, if the match had gone on a few minutes longer, one had the feeling that the result might have gone the other way.

Proudlock opened the account after 21 minutes, firing home after good work from Naylor, and everything looked rosy with an own goal from Wiss, who turned Proudlock's cross past his own keeper.

The all action first half was nearing an end, when the visitors were awarded a penalty, after a foul by Pollet, and Nicholson fired home. But even more drama came in injury time when Branch scored a super goal, firing home a Naylor cross.

Wolves could not produce another goal to ensure that victory was clear cut, and the visitors were somewhat flattered when Wiss further reduced the arrears on the stroke of full time.

Attendance: 16,667

## WE'LL TAKE A CUP IT'S A SIN, JOLEON! OF KINDNESS YET

NOTTINGHAM FOREST 0-1  
WOLVES FA CUP 3rd Round  
7th January 2001

Wolves Cup campaign and David Jones' first match, got off to a winning start at The City Ground, as in the dying minutes, Adam Proudlock jiggled past first Edwards and then Jones to create space on the edge of the Forest penalty area, then crashed a shot into the bottom corner of Beasant's net. This was a game of two halves, the first not worth a mention, the second all action Cup football. Proudlock was a constant menace to the home side after half time, hitting the post and then bringing a marvellous save from the veteran Beasant. At the other end, Muscat cleared brilliantly off the line from Bart-Williams with Oakes beaten, and then the keeper saved well from Freedman as Forest looked to press home a slight advantage. But with Dinning staying firm at the back for the injured Pollet, along with steady performances from Muscat, Naylor and Lescott, Wolves were able to hold out and secure a trip to either Wycombe or Grimsby in the next round.

Attendance: 14,601

## LEE NAYLS 'EM

BURNLEY 1-2 WOLVES  
1st January 2001

Wolves, parading a side with an average age of 23, gave more than a fair account of themselves at a wet and blustery Turf Moor.

Wolves had already had two efforts on target, both from the impressive Andrews, when they fell behind after only nine minutes to a long-range effort from the Bumley branch of the Branch family.

But Wolves produced a fightback to be remembered, and less than half an hour later they were on level terms, when Naylor did well to launch a cross that Proudlock turned in from close range for his second goal in as many matches. This goal inspired the whole side, especially Naylor, who had quite a match, and produced a fine save from Michopoulos.

Wolves were unfortunate to go into the break only on level terms.

They were in control for most of the second half as well, and Naylor again produced efforts to bring fine saves from the home keeper.

The points however, did become safe, when yet another wave of attacks ended as a free kick was awarded way out on the right, and Naylor produced a shot which flew into the net, with the keeper rooted to the spot.

WOLVES 1-1 PORTSMOUTH  
13th January 2001

A new manager brought a larger gate than of late, but they went away under no illusions of the task facing the new man. Outplayed for most of the first period, Wolves conjured a magnificent goal against the run of things in the 20th minute. The ever-improving Proudlock stepped over a fast moving centre to leave Sinton free on the far post, and made no mistake to blast home his first league goal for Wolves. But given this lift, Wolves then chose to ignore it, as Pompey continued to play some attractive football. But despite this, The Pompey Chimes were soon echoing around the ground, as Lescott turned a harmless looking cross past the advancing Oakes just seven minutes later. Looking a bit sharper in the second, Wolves still managed to let Portsmouth have the better chances. But the referee, who had been giving some very strange decisions, gave Wolves a lifeline with just a minute to go. Emblen, having just come on as sub, burst through into the area, was suspended in a 50/50 situation and the official pointed to the spot. The normally reliable Muscat stepped up, but instead of blasting in his usual style, he sidefooted gently against the bar, with the keeper going the other way. But in all honesty, Pompey would have been hard done by to lose all three points.

WYCOMBE WANDERERS 2-1 WOLVES  
FA CUP 4th Round  
29th January 2001

The announcer said, "Ladies and Gentlemen, you have just watched history in the making". I for one am fed up with seeing history being created. After Chorley in 1986 and Cambridge United in 1988, the last thing he needed was Wycombe. This was a match that should have been sewn up by the visitors long before Parkin headed the winner, following a mistake by Lescott. Wolves had hit the woodwork twice, one being a super chipped effort from Branch, the outstanding Wolves player. They equalised from a super goal, created by Naylor, with a cross that had 'goal' written all over it from the moment it left his boot, and scored by Robinson. This equalised a first half effort from Rammell, who had his first shot cleared off the line, but followed up to score. Wolves had long spells of pressure but failed to capitalise. And no wonder. Corner after corner was wasted, as the ball failed to even reach the penalty area. After the equaliser, Wolves seemed to relax, and it was really no surprise when the home side bagged the tie with just minutes to go.

Attendance: 9,167

## BIGDRAW

WOLVES 1-1 GILLINGHAM

3rd February 2001

With prices on the gates down, the crowd flocked in, only to see yet another disappointing display from Wolves, who blundered their way through another 90 minutes of mayhem.

In fact, for long periods, Gillingham looked the classier side, although that wasn't too difficult, and it was left to Oakes on several occasions to save the day. But even he could do nothing to stop the visitors going ahead after 26 minutes. Shaw centred from the right, but it took a wicked deflection, falling neatly at the feet of King, who promptly buried a shot in the net.

Once behind, Wolves picked up the pace, and Bartram had to save smartly from Naylor. The equaliser came when Dinning released Branch on the right, and the pacey forward cut inside to rifle a shot into the corner of the net from just inside the area.

In the second period, Oakes again saved well from King, and Naylor headed a shot off the line, before the introduction of Ndah, whose lively pace almost brought an undeserved winner, when an attempted back heel was fortunately saved by Bartram.

So the biggest crowd of the season went home disappointed.

Attendance: 26,627

## BRANCH BLOSSOMS

TRANMERE ROVERS 0-2 WOLVES 11

th February 2001

Wolves, and in particular Branch, looked a different proposition than of late, as they ran Rovers ragged, not giving much away, and creating plenty of scoring opportunities.

However, the opening goal was down to some very strange defending from home skipper Flynn who, whilst trying to clear a fairly harmless looking centre from Branch, smashed a shot past the helpless Achterberg in the 21st minute. Wolves could and should have had more to show for their efforts, especially as Robinson missed an open invitation to bury a header, when it was more difficult to miss. But a minute into the second period, the match was effectively over as a contest, as once again, Branch wormed his way tree down the right and crossed for Proudlock to net from close in.

Apart from the outstanding Branch, recent signing Butler and skipper Muscat also gave outstanding performances, on a good day for an all round team effort.

Attendance: 9,678

## LONDON WOLVES TRAVEL NEWS

Travel arrangements for matches during March are:  
Home Matches

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

Fare: Members £15; Guests £18.

Sat 3/3/01 v Nottingham Forest

Outward - Depart Euston 09.55 Arrive Wolves 12.12

Return - Depart Wolves 17.19 Arrive Euston 19.32

Sun 18/3/01 v W.B.A\*.ALL-TICKET MATCH Outward

- Depart Euston 08.35 Arrive Wolves 11.12 Return -

Depart Wolves 15.49 Arrive Euston 17.53

\* A two-day trip will also be run to this match. Train departs Euston 10.55, Saturday, returning on Sunday after the match, return times as above. Contact the Travel Secretary for more details.

Away Matches

The following times are provisional. Please contact the Travel Secretary for confirmation of travel arrangements. Please also note that the majority of away matches are likely to be all-ticket for Wolves fans.

Sat 10/3/01 v Grimsby Town (Fare TBA) ALL-

TICKET MATCH

Outward - Depart Kings Cross 09.30 Arrive Doncaster 11.22

Depart - Depart Doncaster 19.04 Arrive Kings Cross

21.06 Local train between Doncaster & Cleethorpes

Wed 14/3/01 v Preston North End

ALL-TICKET MATCH

No club trip arranged. Any member wishing to go to this match please contact the Travel Secretary.

Sun 25/3/01 v Fulham ALL-TICKET MATCH

No club trip arranged. Nearest underground station is Putney Bridge (District Line), approx. 10-15 minutes -walk to ground. Any member wishing to travel to home or away matches should contact the Travel Secretary for Saturday/Sunday matches by the preceding Wednesday and for midweek matches by the preceding Sunday at the latest. Members requiring match tickets please contact Travel Secretary AT LEAST 16 DAYS prior to the match. For all-ticket matches, particularly away matches, it is advisable to contact the Travel Secretary AT LEAST 4 WEEKS before the match.

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