



Barclaycard Premier League Fixture list 2003/04

AUGUST

16 Blackburn (A)
23 Charlton (H)
27 Man Utd (A)
30 Portsmouth (H)

SEPTEMBER

13 Southampton (A)
20 Chelsea (H)
27 Bolton (A)

OCTOBER

4 Man City (H)
18 Fulham (A)
25 Leicester (H)

NOVEMBER

1 Middlesbrough (A)
8 Birmingham (H)
22 Everton (A)
29 Newcastle (H)

DECEMBER

6 Tottenham (A)
13 Aston Villa (A)
20 Liverpool (H)
26 Arsenal (A)
28 Leeds (H)

JANUARY

7 Blackburn (H)
10 Charlton (A)
17 Man Utd (H)
31 Portsmouth (A)

FEBRUARY

7 Arsenal (H)
10 Leeds (A)
21 Fulham (H)
28 Leicester (A)

MARCH

13 Aston Villa (H)
20 Liverpool (A)
27 Chelsea (A)

APRIL

3 Southampton (H)
10 Man City (A)
12 Bolton (H)
17 Middlesbrough (H)
24 Birmingham (A)

MAY

1 Everton (H)
8 Newcastle (A)
15 Tottenham (H)



Wolverhampton Wanderers London Supporters Club

Annual General Meeting

Saturday 5th July

4pm at the:

PIED BULL public house
498 Streatham High Road
London
SW16 3QB
Tel: 020 8764 4003

Nearest train stations: Streatham and Streatham Common

The Agenda will include:
reports from officers of WWLSC
election of the committee
and an opportunity to meet and question Andy Morgan (marketing)
and Cliff Egan (football in the community) from Wolverhampton Wanderers FC.



Wolverhampton Wanderers LONDON SUPPORTERS CLUB

founded 1966

NEWSLETTER

From the chair

There's nothing left to say, the headlines in the press said it all. "GOLDEN GREATS," "GOLD AND BACK," "GOLDEN BOYS", "GOLD TOPS" and "THE BANNER SAYS IT ALL AFTER 19 YEARS OF TEARS AS WOLVES HUFF AND PUFF AND BLOW THE DOOR DOWN" they screamed. Oh what joy and pride after all these years of embarrassment!

The banner in question was: "19 years 13 days 22 hours 20 minutes," but surely one of the sights of the day was Lee Naylor, jiggling around the pitch with a banner crying "Bye Bye Baggies."

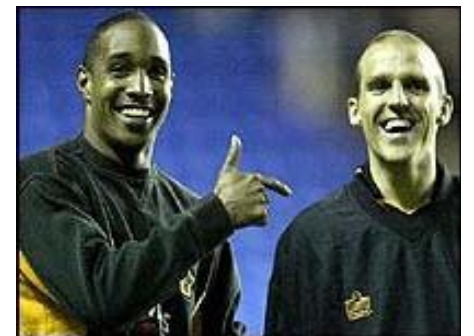
What a day, but please spare a thought for those who couldn't go, or worse still, could go but couldn't get a ticket. To those of you, we on the committee apologise, but we did everything in our power to try. Peter, who was driven mad by the phone ringing, worked tirelessly to attempt to get all our members into Cardiff, but only managed to obtain fifty tickets for our season ticket holders, just to hear on the day, that tickets had been on sale at Molineux on the Sunday.

As you will see, we have brought you four colour pages with this last issue from The Nationwide. There are pictures from our recent function and also the aftermath of Cardiff. Four of us were lucky enough to be staying at the same country club as the team and not only were we able to talk to Dave Jones and the lads, but as you can see, were privileged to be able to wear their winners medals, hold the trophy and (the icing on the cake) get a late invite to the function room where the players were celebrating.

Our function, before the match with Leicester, went extremely well, and I have heard nothing but glowing reports from everyone. You can read a letter from member Robin Prickett which will give you some idea of what went on at the "do" inside this issue. I know John Engleman is already working on something for next season's event.



In wishing you what I am sure will be a better than average summer, I would remind you of the date for our AGM. It's Saturday July 5th at 4pm at "The Pied Bull" on Streatham Common, SW16. A buffet will be provided, so if you can make it please let Dave Slape know so that we can cater for you. Don't forget that this is where the decisions concerning your club, i.e. functions, membership fees etc., are voted on, so if you want a say, we'll be more than pleased to see you.



JUNE 2003



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WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS

LONDON SUPPORTERS CLUB

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Committee Members
Stefan Leonard
Stan Arnett
Geoff Newbound
Matthew Hawthorn

Newsletter Editor
Phil O'Connor

Club Contacts

Stuart Earl
01760 756278

Dave Slape
02087 648023

Peter Woodfield
01634 363704

e mail
londonwolves.66@btinternet.co

newsletter design and layout by

moonstone
t: 020 7493 3274

What can I say that hasn't already been written, spoken or commentated on regarding Wolves triumphant return to the big-time? Inside this issue are a number of recollections from journalists associated either directly with WWLSC or with members, and so many professionally paid writers have put their words into print that there is nothing left for me to say except ponder the question... Why this season?

Well, let's have a look at the factors that made this a winning season instead of any of the last 19...

Firstly, the club. Wolves still has the same Board membership and management team as last season so it can't be that. There was a switch of roles between the coaching staff with Terry Connor and John Ward swapping duties, but would that be the main spur towards promotion? It's certainly a possibility and one for the melting pot. My opinion is that it's unlikely, if anything it was more likely to cause a bit of friction between the two.

The playing staff? Almost the same as last season but with two crucial changes. Paul Ince and Denis Irwin joined the club at the start of 2002/03. Both men in the second half of their 30s, but with decades of playing at the highest level between them. Was the arrival of these two 'old-timers' the big difference? Maybe, but Wolves have had great players (Steve Bull for one) in the past and none of them managed to get Wolves promoted.

There was a change of goalkeeper early in the season with Matt Murray stepping in to cover for the injured Michael Oakes. Was this the difference? Murray's first touch of a ball in league football was to pick the ball out of the net at Selhurst Park as Wolves went on to record a dismal 4:2 defeat. This is not a fair reflection on Murray who subsequently proved himself to be a very classy keeper and made some vital saves which earned Wolves at least a point in several matches. But was he the difference? I can't convince myself.

The defence was mostly identical to last season with Lee Naylor regaining his place from Mo Camara (injured) and Denis Irwin coming in for Kevin Muscat (departed). Paul Butler had a lengthy spell out of the side, started by a disciplinary ban, and Mark Clyde stepped up to the mark and had an awesome run of performances which helped his "senior" partner Jo Lescott find his confidence and start performing as we all know he can. When Butler eventually returned he had clearly decided that he didn't like sitting

unused on the bench and starting playing out of his skin.

The Midfield saw the main addition of Paul Ince and a relatively injury free season for Mark Kennedy. Alex Rae started the season well but lost a regular place just as the team started to pick-up crucial points and found himself on the bench for much of the latter part of the season. So, it could be the midfield that proved to be the major difference between this season and all the others but, again, it is not a convincing argument.

The most significant changes in the team were up front. George Ndah got a good run in the team- Dean Sturridge didn't. Kenny Miller finally found his scoring boots and Nathan Blake started the season with the sort of goal run that Bully used to have. This must have been the most problematical area for Dave Jones in that when they are all fit, Wolves have a great strike-force. Miller really got his break when Portsmouth travelled to Molineux and literally kicked Blake and Ndah off the pitch. But we've had proven goal-scorers in past seasons; Bull and Keane in particular, but have failed to go up.

Was it the overall team performance then? Just going on a straight comparison with last season then the answer is an emphatic NO. Last season we gained 86 points to 76 this year - 10 points fewer is not an argument for an improved team. Admittedly Wolves entered the end of this season in far more confident form than last and that could be the factor, but it's impossible to judge.

Was it the competition? Certainly the 3 relegated clubs were not as competitive as they could have been. Ok, Leicester are going straight back up but Ipswich floundered around the middle of the table for much of the season and Coventry only avoided relegation by 4 points. Portsmouth had a very consistent season and were worthy winners and Leicester were equally dominant.

I genuinely don't know the answer. Perhaps there isn't one. Possibly it's a case of we were just that little bit more lucky than in previous years and it was simply our turn. Whatever it is I'm so unbelievably happy that Wolves are finally taking their rightful place at the top of the domestic football tree that I don't really care. The most important task ahead is to consolidate our position. There are worse teams than Wolves clinging on to their Premiership status and we must ensure we only move upwards and onwards from here.



2002/03 Wolves Squad Statistics including play-offs

	League Appearances	Cup Appearances	League Goals	Cup Goals	Strike Rate %	Yellow Cards	Red Cards	%
1. Michael Oakes	6 (0)	1 (0)	0	0	-	0	0	-
3. Lee Naylor	31 (1)	9 (0)	1	1	4.9	0	0	-
4. Alex Rae	30 (8)	2 (3)	3	3	14.0	9	0	20.9
5. Joleon Lescott	44 (0)	8 (0)	1	0	1.9	1	0	1.9
6. Paul Butler	31 (1)	9 (0)	1	0	2.4	10	0	24.4
7. Shaun Newton	29 (4)	8 (1)	3	1	9.5	5	0	11.9
8. Denis Irwin	43 (0)	8 (1)	2	0	3.8	6	0	11.5
9. Nathan Blake	22 (1)	6 (0)	12	2	48.3	5	1	24.1
10. Colin Cameron	29 (4)	7 (0)	7	0	17.5	3	0	7.5
11. Mark Kennedy	30 (1)	7 (0)	3	2	13.2	4	0	10.5
12. Adam Proudlock	2 (15)	0 (5)	2	1	13.6	1	0	4.5
13. Matt Murray	40 (0)	8 (0)	0	0	-	0	0	-
14. Ludo Pollet	2 (0)	1 (1)	0	1	25.0	2	0	50.0
15. Kevin Cooper	13 (13)	0 (2)	3	0	10.7	5	0	17.9
16. Kenny Miller	35 (8)	8 (1)	19	5	46.2	5	0	9.6
17. Mo Camara	0 (0)	0 (0)	0	0	-	0	0	-
18. George Ndah	17 (8)	5 (0)	7	4	36.7	7	0	23.3
19. Keith Andrews	2 (7)	1 (0)	0	0	-	1	0	10.0
20. Michael Branch	0 (0)	0 (0)	0	0	-	0	0	-
Ivar Ingimarsson	10 (3)	2 (0)	2	0	13.3	2	0	13.3
23. Paul Ince	35 (2)	7 (1)	2	1	6.7	13	0	28.9
24. Marc Edworthy	18 (4)	1 (0)	0	0	-	3	0	13.0
29. Dean Sturridge	17 (22)	1 (5)	11	0	24.4	5	0	11.1
30. Mark Clyde	15 (2)	0 (1)	0	0	-	1	0	5.6
32. John Melligan	0 (2)	0 (0)	0	0	-	0	0	-
33. Graham Ward	0 (0)	0 (0)	0	0	-	0	0	-
35. Kenny Coleman	0 (0)	0 (0)	0	0	-	0	0	-

Squad members loan details (no appearances for Wolves included in stats)

12. Adam Proudlock (1)	5 (0)	1 (0)	0	0	-	1	0	16.7
12. Adam Proudlock (2)	3 (2)	0 (0)	2	0	40.0	0	0	-
14. Ludo Pollet	1 (0)	0 (0)	0	0	-	1	0	100
20. Michael Branch	4 (1)	0 (0)	3	0	60.0	1	0	20.0
21. Ivar Ingimarsson	15 (0)	0 (0)	0	0	-	1	0	6.7
30. Mark Clyde	4 (0)	0 (0)	0	0	-	0	0	-
32. John Melligan	19 (1)	3 (0)	7	2	39.1	2	0	8.7
35. Kenny Coleman	13 (1)	5 (0)	0	0	-	1	0	5.0

Loan Players from other clubs

39. Carlton Cole (Chelsea) 5 (1) 0 (0) 1 0 16.7 0 0 -

Adam Proudlock (1) was at Tranmere Rovers.

Adam Proudlock (2) was at Sheffield Wednesday

Ludo Pollet was at Wallsall.

Michael Branch was at Hull City.

Ivar Ingimarsson is at Brighton & Hove Albion.

Mark Clyde was at Kidderminster Harriers.

John Melligan and Kenny Coleman were at Kidderminster Harriers.

Surprisingly, Nathan Blake was Wolves most consistent goalscorer with a strike rate of a goal every 2.07 games. Our topscorer, Kenny Miller, wasn't too far behind with a goal every 2.16 matches. These are both fantastic strike-rates and if they continue in this form next season then they will clearly cause problems for defences.

On the disciplinary front Paul Ince was the worst performer although there is a strong argument that, as a player renowned for his volatility, the opposition picked on him to get a reaction. It will be fascinating to see what happens if he does decide to bow-out with a final season in the Premiership.



Opening Dave Slape's Wolves Diary of 1965-1966 we find...

Wolves in the Second Division and some rather high scoring. Also the emergence of Martin Chivers, who was to haunt Wolves a few years later in the UEFA Cup Final.

4/9/65: **Cardiff City 1** (Johnstone pen) v **Wolves 4** (McIlmoyle 2, Wagstaffe, Williams og)
 Team: MacLaren; Wilson; Thomson; Flowers; Woodfield; Millar; Wharton; Woodruff; McIlmoyle; Knowles; Wagstaffe.
 Position: 13th

P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
5	1	0	1	5	4	1	0	2	6	5	4

 Goalscorers: Knowles 4; McIlmoyle 3; Wagstaffe 2; Woodruff 1, Own Goals 1.

7/9/65: **Rotherham United 4** (Pring, Lyons, Williams 2) v **Wolves 3** (Wagstaffe, Knowles, Wharton pen)
 Team: MacLaren; Wilson; Thomson; Flowers; Woodfield; Millar; Wharton; Woodruff; McIlmoyle; Knowles; Wagstaffe.
 Position: 13th

P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
6	1	0	1	5	4	1	0	3	9	9	4

 Goalscorers: Knowles 5; McIlmoyle 3; Wagstaffe 3; Woodruff 1; Wharton 1; Own Goals 1.

11/9/65: **Wolves 4** (Knowles 3, Woodruff) v Derby County 0
 Team: MacLaren; Wilson; Thomson; Flowers; Woodfield; Millar; Wharton; Woodruff; McIlmoyle; Knowles; Wagstaffe.
 Position: 15th

P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
7	2	0	1	9	4	1	0	3	9	9	6

 Goalscorers: Knowles 8; McIlmoyle 3; Wagstaffe 3; Woodruff 2; Wharton 1; Own Goals 1.

13/9/65: **Wolves 4** (McIlmoyle, Knowles, Wagstaffe, Woodfield) v **Rotherham United 1** (Pring)
 Team: MacLaren; Wilson; Thomson; Flowers; Woodfield; Millar; Wharton; Woodruff; McIlmoyle; Knowles; Wagstaffe.
 Position: 8th

P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
8	3	0	1	13	5	1	0	3	9	9	8

 Goalscorers: Knowles 9; McIlmoyle 4; Wagstaffe 4; Woodruff 2; Wharton 1; Woodfield 1; Own Goals 1.

16/9/65: **Ernie Hunt** signs from Swindon Town for £40,000

18/9/65: **Southampton 9** (Chivers 4, Sydenham 2, Paine 2, O'Brien) v **Wolves 3** (Knapp og, Knowles, Woodruff)
 Team: MacLaren; Wilson; Thomson; Flowers; Woodfield; Millar; Wharton; Woodruff; McIlmoyle; Knowles; Wagstaffe.
 Position: 14th

P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
9	3	0	1	13	5	1	0	4	12	18	8

 Goalscorers: Knowles 10; McIlmoyle 4; Wagstaffe 4; Woodruff 3; Own Goals 2; Wharton 1; Woodfield 1.

20/9/65: **Six players** dropped to the reserve team to play at Liverpool (3-3 draw)

25/9/65: **Wolves 3** (Wharton, Knowles, Wagstaffe) v **Bury 0**
 Team: MacLaren; Wilson; Thomson; Woodfield; Flowers; Holsgrove; Wharton; Hunt; McIlmoyle; Knowles; Wagstaffe.
 Position: 11th

P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
10	4	0	1	16	5	1	0	4	12	18	10

 Goalscorers: Knowles 11; Wagstaffe 5; McIlmoyle 4; Woodruff 3; Wharton 2; Own Goals 2; Woodfield 1.

25/9/65: **George Millar** requests a transfer.

LONDON WOLVES SALE

BERT WILLIAMS BADGE SET. Limited edition of 3 badges which depict: Bert's Wolves career, domestic honours won and England caps £15 for the set which has been personally signed by the great man.

LONDON WOLVES T-Shirts (reduced) Small / Medium £7.00 + 86p p&p eXtra Large £9.00 + 86p p&p

WWLSC enamelled badges £2.50 (+sae) **WWLSC car fobs** £3.00 (+sae) **WWLSC key rings** £3.00 (+sae)

PROGRAMMES

2002-2003 home £2.00 away £2.00 (approx)
 Friendlies £24 the complete set - Sporting Lisbon and Maritimo (team sheets), Kettering, Cardiff City, Kidderminster Harriers, Stockport County, Worcester City and Newcastle United.

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OLD PROGRAMMES A few 60's and 70's plus, more from the 80's and 90's are available. Prices from 10p.

125 YEARS OF WOLVES Commemorative badge set £35.00 + £1.00 p&p Comprising eleven badges commemorating:- 4 FA Cup wins; 3 Football League titles; 2 Football League Cup wins; 2 Second division titles; 1 Third division title; 1 Third division (North) title; 1 Fourth division title; Sherpa Van Trophy winners; Texaco Cup winners; FA Charity Shield winners and League Founder Members.

All the above are available from: Dave Slape, 26 Brockenhurst Way, London SW16 4UD



READING BETWEEN THE LINES

Reading 0-1 Wolves 12 March 2003

Wolves turned in a fine away performance to get important play-off points from a side just above them in the table.

Apart from an early few minutes, during which Reading hit the bar, and a late flurry, Wolves were in complete control, with Butler marshalling the defence superbly.

Miller scored the all-important goal a minute from the break, pouncing on a Newton effort which came back off of a post.

Minutes earlier, Hahemann had somehow tipped a Miller header over the bar, after a fine cross from Kennedy.

Just before the final whistle, Murray was forced into a fine save from Chadwick, and blocked well from a Hughes header as Wolves held firm.

Opinion: Fine, workman-like performance.
Team rating: 8/10
Man of the match: Murray.
Team: Murray, Irwin, Naylor, Rae, Lescott, Butler, Newton, Cameron (Clyde 90), Blake (Proudlock 79), Miller (Sturridge 87), Kennedy, Oakes, Cooper.
Unused subs: Oakes, Cooper.
Bookings: None
Attendance: 19,731



STONE COLD CERTAINTY!

Portsmouth 1-0 Wolves 15 March 2003

These two sides looked anything than average as they contested a dull event with a second minute strike from Stone being one of the few efforts to be anywhere near the target.

Wolves had bad news before the off, as Lescott, Butler and Naylor were ruled out by injuries, and the defence seemed to be caught cold by the early surge of Stone, whose shot went in via a deflection from the unfortunate Murray.

Wolves offered little in the way of goal attempts, apart from a shot each by Miller and Ince.

Stupid bookings were again a feature with Ince and Rae having their names taken within a minute of each other, Ince for dissent and Rae for a clumsy tackle.

Opinion: Could have spent the day in the garden.
Team rating: 3/10
Man of the match: Pollet - took a while to get to the pace of the game but played well.
Team: Murray, Edworthy, Irwin, Rae, Pollet, Clyde, Cameron (Newton 45), Ince, Sturridge, Miller (Proudlock 83), Kennedy.
Unused subs: Oakes, Cooper, Naylor.
Bookings: Cameron (41 - foul), Ince (53 - dissent), Rae (57 - foul)
Attendance: 19,558



SOMEBODY STOKE THE FIRE

Wolves 0-0 Stoke City 19 March 2003

From the moment Stoke fielded a 4-5-1 formation, we knew this was not going to be pretty. The formation worked, and Wolves seemed to have absolutely no idea how to break the visitors down.

In fact, until the late introduction of Cameron, nobody had even half troubled the visiting keeper.

But despite this late rally, the result never really looked in any doubt.

Opinion: These are the teams that need to be beaten.
Team rating: 4/10
Man of the match: Naylor.
Team: Murray, Irwin, Naylor, Rae (Cameron 76), Lescott, Butler, Newton (Cooper 76), Ince, Sturridge (Proudlock 58), Miller, Kennedy.
Unused subs: Oakes, Clyde.
Bookings: Miller (55 - diving), Butler (79 - foul)
Attendance: 25,235

10, CC's GREATEST HIT

Wolves 6-0 Gillingham 24 March 2003

An awesome display of firepower from Wolves attack left Gillingham reeling, and it could quite easily have been double figures, as apart from the net being severely tested, Wolves also hit the post, the bar, and the target almost at will.

The mid-field was in superb form, with both Cameron and Ince irrepressible.

The only surprise was that it took so long to open the scoring, with just over a quarter of an hour gone when Blake fired home from the edge of the area. And the score was soon doubled as Cameron blasted a volley past Bartram.

Kennedy calmly slotted in a third, before late in the half a quick double strike left The Gills shell-shocked. First Ince fed Miller who easily beat the advancing keeper, and, from the restart, Kennedy followed up on a Blake belter, that Bartram failed to hold. Ince was again the provider for Miller, lofting the ball skilfully into his path for the sixth minutes after the break.

Opinion: Were we in the right stadium? Fantastic Performance.
Man of the match: Cameron/Ince. Inspiring.
Team rating: 9/10
Team: Murray, Irwin, Naylor, Cameron (Rae 60), Lescott, Butler, Newton, Ince, Blake, Miller (Sturridge 77), Kennedy (Proudlock 90), Oakes, Clyde.
Unused subs: Oakes, Clyde.
Bookings: None
Attendance: 25,171



JUST A LITTLE ELBOW ROOM

Wolves 0-0 Rotherham Utd 5 April 2003

Blake was sent off in the first quarter of an hour, but despite the lack of numbers, there was no lack of effort from the remaining team members. In fact, Wolves outplayed Rotherham for long periods of this game and but for some outstanding keeping

match reports



from Pollitt could easily have won by a couple of goals.

Pollitt saved early on from Blake, and then pulled off outstanding stops from Ndah and Newton.

Kennedy was causing lots of problems for the visitors, but the attack, with Miller in particular, failing to take advantage of the offered chances.

Then, with only seconds remaining, Sturridge surged into the box, only to be felled by Talbot. Penalty.

This was the icing on the cake! Oh no it wasn't! Cameron stepped up to take the spot kick, only to weakly place it to Pollitt's right, and the keeper saved easily.

Opinion: Fair display by the ten men. Shame not to win in the final minutes.

Team rating: 6/10
Man of the match: Naylor.
Team: Murray, Irwin, Naylor, Cameron, Lescott, Butler, Newton (Sturridge 82), Ince (Rae 60), Blake, Miller (Ndah 67), Kennedy.

Unused subs: Oakes, Clyde.
Sendings off: Blake (15 - elbowing)
Bookings: Cameron (34 - foul)
Attendance: 25,944



A GRIM TRAWL TO VICTORY Grimsby Town 0-1 Wolves 8 April 2003

Wolves made hard work of this victory at relegation threatened Town, especially as they had the cushion of the early strike.

Miller fed Blake from inside the Wolves' half, and the big striker set off at full pelt towards the opposition danger area, avoiding lunging tackles enroute, and firing a low shot past the advancing Coyne.

Wolves were rarely troubled and Murray was called upon only once, saving well from Santos late in the game.

But they laboured over what should have been a stroll, with Ince and Miller major culprits when they both headed wide from great crosses from Kennedy.

But the points were secured to give a little cushion to those teams chasing for a play-off spot.

Opinion: At last a victory against Town under floodlights. Even if it was hard work.

Man of the match:
Team rating: 5/10
Team: Murray, Irwin, Naylor, Cameron, Lescott, Butler, Ndah (Cooper 65), Ince, Blake, Miller (Sturridge 82), Kennedy.

Unused subs: Oakes, Rae, Edworthy.
Bookings: Miller (24 - foul), Ince (39 - foul)
Attendance: 4,983



POINTS DROPPED BY MURRAY Nottingham Forest 2-2 Wolves 11 April 2003

A clanger by Murray gave Forest a point from a match which Wolves should have held onto.

Blake had opened the scoring, latching onto a great through ball from Irwin, bursting from the halfway line, strongly holding off a couple of challenges, and firing into the far corner of the net for his second consecutive match. Irwin was again the provider as Wolves took a hold on the game. His long pass out of defence curled around from the right, and Cameron pounced to put Wolves two ahead.

Sloppy defending just before the break allowed Forest back into it, as Johnson headed home after Wolves had failed to clear.

In the final ten minutes, Wolves should have made the game safe, but chance after chance went begging, and the price was paid when Dawson latched onto a high ball, which Murray should have dealt with, to rifle the equaliser.

Opinion: Once again the points were given away.
Man of the match: Irwin. If only for the two magical passes which led to the goals.

Team rating: 7/10

Team: Murray, Irwin (Edworthy 45), Naylor, Cameron, Lescott, Butler, Rae, Ince, Blake, Miller (Ndah 78), Kennedy. Oakes, Cooper, Sturridge.
Unused subs: Rae (54 - kicking ball away), Cameron (66 - kicking ball away), Edworthy (73 - foul)
Bookings:
Attendance: 27,209



NEWTON'S LAW Wolves 3-0 Millwall 21 April 2003

Newton and Cameron had an excellent match and both scored outstanding goals during a game that should have been sewn up long before it was. The front-runners looked extremely nervous as they were fed chance after chance during a one-sided first half, despite taking an early lead through Newton, who fired home the rebound after Cameron had his shot blocked.

Wolves then piled into the visitors, and wasted everything. The chief culprit being Miller, who twice would, on most days, have found it easier to score.

With Cameron leading the charge, the second half seemed to be going the same way, as yet another visiting keeper picked Molineux to have his "game of the season", and a couple of lively breaks jangled the nerves, as Murray saved well from Livermore and Ifel.

But the lively Cameron gave ten minutes of ease, when he fooled a defender just inside the Millwall half, and lobbed the advancing keeper, to score one of the goals of the season.

Then, straight from the restart, Newton, out on the right, cut inside a defender, and Warner was again lobbed for a fine goal from an acute angle.

Opinion: Could, and should have scored lots more.
Man of the match: Cameron. International performance.
Team rating: 7/10
Team: Murray, Irwin, Naylor, Cameron, Lescott, Butler, Newton (Cooper 90), Ince (Rae 90), Ndah, Miller (Sturridge 69), Kennedy. Oakes, Edworthy.

Unused subs: None
Bookings: None
Attendance: 27,015



letters

Dear Stuart,

I would like to express my appreciation, through the magazine, for the excellent function held at The Connaught Hotel, Wolverhampton on Saturday May 5th 2003.

This event was a dream come true for any Wolves fan, John Engleman and the committee deserve full praise for their efforts.

The function provided an evening buffet, and gusted no fewer than twenty-four former Wolves stars. Players represented teams from the fifties, sixties and seventies. Names such as Broadbent, Slater, Finlayson, Parkes, Wagstaffe, Richards and Dougan, to name but a few. One wonders that if still in their prime, and playing today, what would be their value on the transfer market?

I attended the "do" with my fiancée Linda and friend Simon, and we are all agreed that it was an excellent evening.

Linda is a new recruit to The Wolves cause, and is rapidly becoming a knowledgeable fan, but for me, mixing with my boyhood heroes of yesteryear, and talking with them, it cemented my fondest memories. I must admit that the dormant anorakist in me escaped, and I found myself collecting all the autographs of the Wolves stars in attendance, a souvenir that I shall treasure.

The event was arranged on the eve of the Leicester match, and whilst watching this, I could not help but wonder how the stars I had mixed with the previous evening would have fared against City.

Keep up the good work. Any member not able to attend this function missed a treat!

Yours sincerely,

Robin Prickett

(see pictures - right)

The following letter was received by our Chairman within an hour of Wolves winning promotion to the Premiership. How many Wolves fans were doing similarly daft things that Monday evening. (Ed.)

Hi Stuart,

Last time I felt this truly ecstatic was at the birth of my son Daniel. Thought the boys were outstanding and the support awesome.

I get a bit second hand when it comes to Wolves games and this was the worst for some time. Felt the old chest tightening up and had to p*** off round the garden for 15 minutes, during which Matt saved the penalty. Wasn't a pen anyway, very harsh.

Had a ticket to go but the f***** office rang at 8am and informed me that, as rugby correspondent, I was ordered to write a lump of drivel about next week's tour to New Zealand and Australia which I am covering.

And now, if you'll excuse me, I'm going into my garden naked apart from my 1962-63 scarf to pour red wine over my head and sing loudly. Neighbours either side support Arsenal and Watford. Tough.

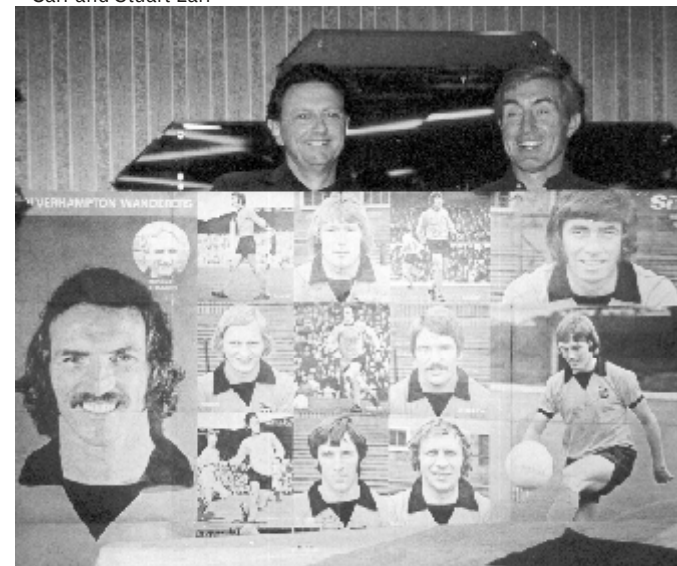
Love,
Tony



(l-r) Brian Restall, Phil Parkes, Stuart Earl, Willie Carr and Alan Blount



(l-r) back row - Alan Blount Phil Parkes. Front row - Frank Munro, Willie Carr and Stuart Earl



(l-r) Mick Ffello and John Richards with poster bought at auction

match reports



RAE-SING THE ROOF OFF MAJEDSKI Reading 0-1 Wolves 1st Division Play-off semi-final 2nd leg 14 May 2003



I was fortunate to be given our beloved Chairman's ticket for this match and found myself standing taking in the atmosphere some 45 minutes before kick-off. The ground was packed to the rafters and, understandably, there were more than a few nervous Wolves fans.

Murray appeared to drop a relatively straight-forward cross in the six yard box within the first minute and you could hear every Wolves fans heart miss a beat before Lescott confidently hoofed the bobbling ball out for a corner.

For the first 20 minutes it was all Reading action. Wolves midfield and defence combined and got between Reading and the goal but allowed them to set-up attack after attack. Fortunately they were incapable of breaking through the solid gold defensive wall and mostly found themselves having to shoot from the edge of the area.

The longer the half went on the more unlikely it looked that Reading would score until in the 40th minute Henderson rose to meet a corner with his head and what looked like a certain goal turned into one of the best saves of the season as Murray blocked and Naylor cleared.

Half-time brought a few nervous smiles as people reassured themselves that Wolves were still winning the tie and that it was up to Reading to score.

The second half started with another flurry of Reading activity. Wolves continued to soak up the pressure and only occasionally gave themselves any respite by clearing the ball upfield. On 60 minutes Henderson again thought he had scored but again Murray managed somehow to parry the ball before Lescott clattered it into the seats behind the goal. There was some relief that this was Henderson's last action in the game as the old "third time lucky" saying was starting to circulate.

It wasn't the last of Reading's chances though as 8 minutes later Little took the ball into the penalty area and scooped it over the bar when it looked easier to score. It started to feel as though Reading were going to "do a Wolves" and do everything but score.

But then, in the 81st minute, with virtually his first touch of the ball, Alex Rae collected a pass from Cameron about 25 yards out. Jinked his way past a couple of defenders and cracked a shot into the far

corner of the goal to ensure Wolves were on the way to Cardiff. Wolves scored again a few minutes later through Newton but his effort was disallowed for offside. It didn't matter - Reading fans were already on their way home and Wolves were through to the play-off final. The jubilation and tears of joy on Wolves fans faces were fantastic. This was football at its very best and for once the emotion was ecstasy.

Opinion: Stunning.
Man of the match: Butler. He threw himself at everything.
Team rating: 8/10
Team: Murray, Irwin, Naylor, Cameron, Lescott, Butler, Newton (Cooper 90), Ince, Blake (Sturridge 84), Miller (Rae 75), Kennedy.
Unused subs: Oakes, Pollet.
Bookings: Newton (49 - foul)
Attendance: 24,060



PARTY TIME Sheffield Utd 0-3 Wolves (Play-off final, Millennium Stadium) 26 May 2003

No report needed as you either seen it, read it, or were there!

see pages 6 & 7



Other interesting Wolves statistics from season 2002/03

Final League Position : 5th

Biggest Home Win
Wolves 6 : 0 Gillingham

Biggest Away Win
Gillingham 0 : 4 Wolves

Biggest Defeat
Brighton 4 : 1 Wolves

Clean Sheets : 20

Average Attendance : 25,475

Highest Attendance
28,190 v Leicester

Disciplinary Record
83 Yellow Cards, 1 Red Card

Players Used : 24

Shots on Target : 251

Shots off Target : 249

Corners : 275

Hit Woodwork : 11

Caught Offside : 141

Fouls : 560

GOALS SCORED

Wolves	Where from	Opposition
65	inside box	31
3	penalties	4
11	outside box	8
2	set pieces	1



match reports

KEN WE DO IT! Norwich City 0-3 Wolves 21 April 2003

Wolves turned in a performance to rate amongst their best this season, as they showed no sign of nerves to take their place in the play-offs with this fine all round show.

Apart from a couple of hiccups just before halftime, when Murray lost sight of the ball, forcing first Kennedy, with a header, and then Butler, to clear from the line, Wolves looked to be able to take the game at any time.

They did so quite clinically in the second period, as Miller sent a through ball to Ndah, who scored even though Green got a hand to his shot.

Victory was assured, with fifteen minutes remaining, as Irwin sent a superb cross ball over the defence to find Kennedy on the left. Using skill and speed he beat two men to unleash a cross that had Wolves queuing up to convert, however Sturridge, on for the injured Ndah, thundered a bullet header past Green.

In the dying minutes Kennedy again set up the goal, feeding Miller, who fired into the far corner.

Opinion: Shame we can't play like this at home.
Man of the match: Kennedy. A class act.
Team rating: 9/10
Team: Murray, Irwin, Naylor, Cameron, Lescott, Butler, Newton (Cooper 88), Ince, Ndah (Sturridge 66), Miller, Kennedy.
Unused subs: Oakes, Edworthy, Rae.
Bookings: Butler (62 - foul)
Attendance: 20,843



PESCHY MAKES A NUISANCE OF HIMSELF Sheffield Utd 3-3 Wolves 26 April 2003

Amateur mistakes by the usually reliable Lescott spoiled an otherwise good performance to deny Wolves all three points.

After just two minutes, Peschisollido was able to charge down a clearance, and lob the ball over Murray, and the Canadian was denied twice more by great saves by the Wolves keeper, before equalling deep into injury time.

In between, Wolves went into the break ahead with goals from Ndah and Sturridge, who were leading the home defence a merry dance, prompted by Cameron, in sparkling form at just the right time.

Sturridge fed the ball through for Ndah to pull Wolves level, and then just before the break he controlled a cross from Rae, to beat Kenny easily.

Brown levelled things from the spot after 56minutes, when Lescott needlessly charged Kabba in the back.

Wolves were not finished, and Sturridge then netted from the spot after Cameron, set free by Rae, was bundled over in the area.

Opinion: Three goals scored for the third match running, but careless defending. Great ntertainment.
Man of the match: Cameron
Team rating: 6/10
Team: Murray, Edworthy, Naylor, Cameron, Lescott, Butler, Cooper, Rae, Ndah, Sturridge, Kennedy.
Unused subs: Oakes, Pollet, Miller, Clingan, Newton.
Bookings: Naylor (55 - dissent), Rae (68 - foul)
Attendance: 22,211



PENALTY! NOW THERE'S A SURPRISE Wolves 1-1 Leicester City 4 May 2002

With Leicester already promoted and Wolves in the play-offs there seemed little to play for. So it went UNTIL Miller suddenly woke just after the break.

Collecting the ball wide on the right, just on the half-way line, he cut inside one man and ran. The crowd sensed something and began to rise. Miller burst between two defenders and ran, he swayed past a fourth and ran, and as the keeper narrowed the angle, placed a shot, inch perfect into the far corner.

A goal of true class, executed by a player oozing with confidence, and not a bum was left on a seat anywhere in the stadium.

Then, as in the two previous meetings this season, the script returned to normal. Yes a penalty to Leicester, but no it wasn't Dickov for a change, but Pollet, who slipped in the area, the ball rolled into his arm, and, yes you guessed it, penalty.

Undeserved point for City, yet another two points dropped at home for Wolves, but worth the entrance money just for that goal.

Opinion: A goal to grace any stadium in the world.
Man of the match: Miller, just for that goal, but Naylor really.
Team rating: 6/10
Team: Murray, Irwin, Naylor (Edworthy 45), Cameron, Pollet, Butler, Newton, Ince (Rae 87), Blake, Miller (Sturridge 84), Kennedy.
Unused subs: Oakes, Ndah.
Bookings: Pollet (85 - dissent)
Attendance: 28,190

TINKER NAYLOR SOLDIERS BY Wolves 2-1 Reading 1st Division Play-off semi-final 1st leg 10 May 2003

For the first hour, Wolves seemed to forget this was the most important game of the season, and only Naylor, giving yet another stirring performance, seemed likely to do any damage.

They looked unbalanced with three strikers and Kennedy was not proving at all effective. It was really no surprise when Reading took the lead after 29 minutes. A cross coming in from the left avoided Murray, who had little to do up until then, and Forster thumped the ball home from seven yards.

Even though the performance was less than impressive, Wolves should have been ahead, making more chances than their opponents.

However, the game changed dramatically when Newton appeared for Ndah, with almost his first touch, he fired a cross shot which took a deflection to beat the helpless Hahnemann.

The last thirty minutes was all one way, as Wolves pounded the visitors, penning them deep in their own territory, and Butler sidefooted wide, from three yards, when it was easier to score.

In the dying minutes they got their just deserts, Naylor firing home a low free kick from just outside the area, to give Wolves a slight advantage for the second leg.

Opinion: Shame they did not play for the first two thirds like they did the final third.
Man of the match: Naylor. Just outstanding.
Team rating: 1st half 4/10, 2nd 8/10
Team: Murray, Irwin, Naylor, Cameron, Lescott, Butler (Pollet 90), Ndah (Newton 66), Ince, Blake, Miller (Sturridge 86), Kennedy.
Unused subs: Oakes, Rae.
Bookings: Butler (22 - foul), Ince (36 - foul)
Attendance: 27,678

continued on page 8

Nationwide League Division One - Play off Final



19 years, 13 days, 22 hours and 20 minutes ...



Wolverhampton Wanderers 1 : 0 Sheffield United
By Henry Winter of the Daily Telegraph

Stefan Leonard yesterday scored the goal that saw Wolverhampton Wanderers secure a place in the Premiership after 376 consecutive failures to win promotion from the first division.

Many doubted the wisdom of Wolves manager Dave Jones to bring the ageing Leonard out of retirement for the game against Sheffield United in the Millennium stadium.

Critics had pointed to the fact that Leonard was almost 55; that he was 15 stone overweight; and that even when he was young, fit and slim he was still useless. However, Jones put his neck on the line and with one minute remaining of extra-time sent Leonard on.

The former Polish international lumbered his way towards the United goal for what was surely Wolves' last hope and when the corner came over lady luck was with Leonard, known locally (and in the outlying areas too) as El Gianto.

United goalkeeper Jack Carmel made a right pig's ear of the corner and the ball dropped on Leonard's replacement right knee (NHS 1963). Before Leonard could react the ball had rebounded over the line and El Gianto was being kissed, albeit reluctantly, by team-mates wearing SARS masks.

It was the first goal in 5,903 games for Leonard who is also known as El Blindo because of his inability to score - or indeed pass, trap the ball, head it or run.

"I never gave up hope of scoring," said Leonard, in a minority of one in that respect.

As film and book offers poured in for Leonard, he said: "I owe my success to Christopher Davies who taught me all I know."

Davies confirmed that "so far" he had received no book or film offers or even an offer of a drink.

left

(top) Stefan Leonard and Stuart Earl protecting the play-off final trophy. (middle) Stuart Earl and Paul Butler (bottom) WWLSC member Dave Bracher with the trophy



WWLSC MATCH REPORT

PARTY TIME
Sheffield Utd 0-3 Wolves
(Play-off final, Millennium Stadium)
26 May 2003

No report needed as you either seen it, read it, or were there!

Opinion: Greatest day for many a year, when the whole team actually looked proud to be wearing THE shirt.

Team rating: 11/10

Man of the match: Colin Cameron/ Paul Ince/ Lee Naylor/ Matt Murray. The rest were not far behind.

Team: Murray, Irwin, Naylor, Cameron, Lescott, Butler, Newton, Ince, Blake (Proudlock 88), Miller (Sturridge 75), Kennedy.

Unused subs: Oakes, Rae, Edworthy.

Bookings: Irwin (44 - foul)

Attendance: 69,473

THE KENNEDY GOAL!



Tony Roche, Sun man and Wolves fan for 48 years (and WWLSC member) on the club's return to the big-time ...

(By kind permission of Tony Roche, The Sun newspaper)

"Halifax Town were worth their win, a fact noted by the throbbing Molineux crowd of 4,380. "I should know, I was one of the idiots yelling derision at a ground that once held more than 60,000.

"It was October 1986 and Wolves, founder members of the Football League, European pioneers, scorers of more than 100 league goals in the top flight four seasons in a row, winners of nearly every pot going, were sagging in the old Division Four.

"The drive home that night was long, cold and disappointing. Along with a truly dire 3-0 FA Cup replay defeat by Chorley Town, it's probably the lowest point in a lifelong obsession with my football club.

"Who doesn't identify with those words, 'My football club'? The passion that burns a hole in your chest every time you hear their name.

"Wolves had parted company with the big-time - as that fabulous banner in Cardiff spelled out - 19 years, 13 days, 22 hours and 20 minutes before Monday's play-off final against Sheffield United.

"Fans became so negative that two at last season's play-off semi-final second-leg against Norwich had a banner that read "You've let us down - again". And that was before the game kicked off. Mind you, the boys turned out to be right - again.

"But not on Monday night. Not in Cardiff. Not in front of Sir Jack Hayward, nearly 80 and responsible for keeping Wolves alive.

"It's as if nothing can wean you off - not Halifax at home, Chorley away or watching a great old club crash through the floor of the Football League three years in a row and end up



losing a Fourth Division play-off semi-final to that most feared of Euro powers... Aldershot.

"For a season at least, those memories can be finally shelved.

"And hopefully the boys can do better than our neighbours West Brom, flying high as kites this time last year but now just Baggies of wind. In any case, who could support a club with a 'hen' on its badge?

"Now wasn't that childish? But that's part of the madness.

"Monday was unforgettable. Last time I felt that kind of joy, my youngest son was born.

"Grown men don't cry. Oh yeah?"

Shortly after this article appeared in The Sun, the author sent the following e-mail to our Chairman, Stuart Earl which we are happy to reproduce in full.

Hi Stu, my office is plagued by phone calls from irate Baggies accusing me of demeaning their club and being "typical type of bigoted tosser who causes fan trouble" Me and Frank Skinner then. TR

