



Wolverhampton Wanderers

LONDON SUPPORTERS CLUB

founded 1966



“A WARM WELCOME TO KENNY JACKETT”

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June 2013



FROM THE CHAIR



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This just has to be the most difficult article I have had to write for this magazine. From the top of the Premier League to the third tier of the league in just twenty months. How on earth could that happen? I just cannot comprehend it. Four managers in that time! Where were Wolves going with that? We've had Premier standard players making Sunday league mistakes and international players looking like amateurs. The whole situation beggars belief! To say I am puzzled is an understatement of the greatest magnitude.

Indeed for a while now, I've had a letter on my computer starting "Dear....., a very warm welcome as Manager from London Wolves". I've spent more on postage with welcome letters to all the incoming managers than I have on beer recently! Still, as I write, the said standard letter will be winging its way to Kenny Jackett who is the new incumbent of the Manager's hot-seat. Needless to say, we wish him well and hope that his experience of the lower leagues leads us to a speedy promotion or, better still, two.

The unrest at the final home match disturbed me, and I do hope that none of our members were among the trouble makers, as The Committee would not hesitate in assisting in identifying any wrongdoers to Wolves.

The last time we visited the lower regions of the footballing world, we were lucky enough to find a fifty goal striker and his partner for peanuts. I don't foresee the same thing occurring this time around, and those we have with goals in them, they are on the verge of moving on as we go to print. I'm sure we all enjoyed Sylvan's goals, and wish him well, wherever he lands his next role.

On the home front, we have delayed this issue to include the fixtures for next season, and have also changed the venue and date for the Annual General Meeting, in an attempt to persuade more of you to attend. This will now be held before one of the first home matches, and will be in our adopted home, The City Bar, where Lawson will provide refreshments and, no doubt, a few flagons of hop juice.

Many congratulations to our Secretary Dave Slape on watching Wolves for fifty years. I'm sure the past few months it has seemed a lot longer.

Have a great summer, and let's hope things take a turn for the better.

Stuart

WOLVES' NEWS



Dave Slape, a true Wolves Supporter



On the anniversary of Dave Slape travelling to Molineux for the last 50 YEARS his fellow London Wolves Supporters presented him with a cake on the train trip to the Burnley game. Dave's first game at Molineux was to watch Wolves play Fulham on 27th April 1963 where he was part of a crowd of 18,894. On that day Wolves were 2-1 victors with the goals coming from Ron Flowers and Alan Hinton, that year Wolves finished 5th in Division One, ahhh those were the days !!!!



Bakary Sako - London Wolves Player of the Year

The London Wolves "Player of the Season" winner for 2012-2013 was midfielder Bakary Sako. Below we can see Dean Saunders receiving the award on Bakary's behalf from Chairman Stuart Earl at the Meet the Players function.



Annual General Meeting

We are planning to hold the AGM at the City Bar in Wolverhampton before the first home game of the season; this will probably be a league game, although arrangements may change if there's an early cup game. The precise date will be confirmed once the fixtures are published and Peter Woodfield will schedule the London Train to arrive early to accommodate the AGM. We'll publish the agenda once the date is confirmed, but if you have an item you would like to see on the agenda then please discuss this with Dave Slape by 1st July 2013. The previous minutes from the last AGM were published in the January 2013 Newsletter, or you can see them online at www.londonwolves.com in the members' section.

Dave Slape's Sales

There are three different badges available each costing £3.00 (Club, 25th anniversary and 40th anniversary). Also, we have one (medium) crested badge weather jacket at a cost of £45.00

WOLVES' LADIES



Wolves' Ladies

On Sunday 6th January London Wolves Members turned out in force to cheer on our sponsored team Wolves' Women in their FA Cup 2nd round tie against Millwall Lionesses at Beckenham Town FC. The Wolves' Ladies were notably welcoming to those members who turned up and put in a good performance for them before eventually losing out 3-1.

As far as the game was concerned Wolves Ladies dominated the early play, but then conceded a goal against the run of play in the 17th minute when Whitter raced through to open the scoring for Millwall. The pattern of play continued with Wolves comfortable in possession, but unable to penetrate the Millwall defence and find a way past their in-form goalkeeper. As the game approached its conclusion with Wolves pushing for an equaliser, Millwall hit them twice on the break in the last four minutes to take an unassailable 3-0 lead. Wolves Captain Anna Perks headed a fully deserved consolation goal at the death to leave the final score as Millwall Lionesses 3 Wolves' Women 1.



Wolves' Women Presentation Night

“Chairman Stuart Earl presented warm-up hoodies to the Wolves Women at their end-of-season awards with London Wolves sponsorship of the Ladies' Club”.



WOLVES' LADIES



Wolves Women Season review

Wolves Women Matchday Reporter Matt Sacco gives his analysis on the club's first season back in the FA Women's Premier League:

Coming into the season as a newly promoted side, it was difficult to know what to expect. Last season saw us win the League and the League Cup double, losing just three times all season, so confidence was at a high.

Stepping up to the third tier of Women's football was always going to be a challenge; but losing our first three games was a real eye opener for the girls, who were coming to terms with the harsh realities of the Northern Premier League. Every mistake was being punished, teams are bigger, stronger and fitter, better technically and are better organised than the sides we faced last season.

The next game saw another defeat, this time at title-chasing Sheffield FC, however Wolves really stepped up their game and pushed them all the way, narrowly losing out 3-2 to a late goal.

A trip to Derby followed, and Wolves showed their battling qualities to come from behind and take all three points. This restored confidence to the team, as they next took on the challenge of Premier League side, Manchester City. Despite playing one division below, we played incredible football and scored a couple of stunning goals, but couldn't hold City off, drawing 4-4 in the League Cup.

Back to back defeats against Preston and Albion halted our progress, and the threat of relegation back to the Midlands Combination was becoming a real concern.

A cup win over Preston once again boosted confidence, and the next league games saw us take a point off high-flying Nottingham Forest, before star striker Dani Selmes scored a 90th minute winner to see off bottom of the league Leicester, pushing us away from the relegation zone.

Our first game of the New Year saw the girls travel down to Millwall for an FA Cup tie. Superb support from the London Wolves Supporters Club unfortunately wasn't enough to inspire the girls to victory.

A flurry of Cup games and water-logged pitches meant that the girls didn't play another league game until the third of March, during that time they reached the semi final of the County Cup, losing out to fierce rivals Albion 2-0.

As we stepped back to league action, we felt that a few more wins would secure our place in the league for next season, and we set about doing just that against Preston. The girls felt aggrieved after conceding two late goals to let the win slip through their fingers earlier this season, so two goals in the last three minutes felt like justice had been done as three more points were added to our tally.

Another series of waterlogged pitches halted our momentum; one whole month passed before our next game at home to Newcastle, where a combination of bad luck and poor decisions cost us a 1-0 defeat.

The girls quickly put that disappointment behind them, with a convincing 3-0 win over Leicester City to guarantee survival for the season. What followed was a succession of three difficult away defeats, which took the shine off what had already been achieved. However the final game of the season saw Wolves beat Derby in a closely-fought contest to end the season on a high, and do justice to the efforts put in over a long, hard season.

It has been a tough season for the squad, with some bad injuries along the way, but the girls feel that they have learnt a lot, and are confident of pushing on next season.

Matt Sacco

SOCIAL NEWS



London Wolves' Summer Walk 2013

Follow in the footsteps of Samuel Pepys, Charles Dickens, I.K. Brunel, the Pilgrim Fathers and countless pirates by joining the now customary "London Wolves Walk" on Saturday 6th July 2013. Travel from the historic South Bank by Shanks' Pony, Omnibus, Train and Boat via the North Bank to a destination towards (and possibly beyond?) the Prime Meridian Line dividing East from West. For those of you who like a beer or two then there are many historic hostelrys along the way selling beers which will help you walk (Wainwright ale) and keep you seaworthy (Scurvy Ale).



If you want to take part in this annual event then proceedings will start at 11:00am at the Market Porter Pub which is situated at 9 Stoney Street, Borough Market, London Bridge, SE1 9AA. To fortify yourselves for the voyage you might like to try Maria's Market Cafe in the Borough Market (opposite the Wheatsheaf in Stoney Street by the Market Porter).



End of Season Weekend in Brighton

This year's annual "End of Season Weekend" was planned around our last game of the season which was away to Brighton. Match Day started bright and early with a bus ride from our hotel to a pub near the ground. There we met up with some "Brighton Wolves" fans and had a few pre-match beers before embarking our minibus for the short journey to the new Amex Stadium. Even though there was a drizzle in the air we arrived at the ground in good spirits hoping for the miracle needed to avoid relegation, unfortunately we were late getting to our seats and by the time we had sat down we were already 1-0 down.

After the disappointment of losing the game and ultimately being relegated we headed to Lewes where I had organized a meal and drinks for 14 people at the Snowdrop Inn. The pub was a traditional pub with a wide variety of beers, this was handy because after the meal we were joined for drinks by more Wolves fans intent on having a good old booze up and drown our sorrows. Among us were a small number of Brighton fans who happily chatted along with us creating a warm atmosphere.

After a couple hours of alcohol consumption we headed to the local railway station to catch a train to Hove where the Dog Track was located, in total there were 17 of us who attended the dog meeting. On the night there were a number of us who had winners. In the sixth race there was one dog called "Newtown Skiptipp" ("Newtown" is my home town), so ignoring the form I backed it at 7/1, and bingo home it romped.

The alcohol consumption continued and we also had another snack meal as part of the package. The whole ambiance of the event was very friendly and there were quite a few Brighton fans there that spoke to us, mainly to shake our hands and say how "sorry" they were "to see us relegated".

We left the dogs at approx 11:00 pm and set back to our hotels by Taxis, ending what had been a long day. All in all it was a great weekend, and even though we were relegated we didn't let the huge disappointment spoil the social occasion. So a big "Thank You" to all London Wolves members for their support and to our Chairman who joined us for drinks at the Snowdrop Inn.

Roy Eagles

London Wolves Entertainment Officer



SOCIAL NEWS



League Cup Final Winners Reunion Dinner

The League Cup Final Winners Reunion Dinner took place on 15th March and was organised by former Wolves player and current Wolverhampton Rotary Club President Mel Eves. The dinner was organised to help support local charities and was attended by several members of the London Wolves Supporters Club. The dinner brought together several members of the 1980 League Cup winning team that beat Nottingham Forest 1-0, the last time that Wolves won a major trophy.



PHOTO GALLERY



Player's Open Training Day & Kit Sponsors' Lunch (Molineux 9th April)



MATCH REPORTS



NO NEW YEARS HONOURS FROM THE PALACE

CRYSTAL PALACE 3-1 WOLVES

Tuesday 1st January 2013

Does Stale Solbakken really know what system he wants his team to play? Because if he does then the message doesn't seem to be getting through to his players. Having let that man Wilfred Zaha run riot in the corresponding fixture at Molineux, he was again allowed to strut his stuff with Solbakken's team having learnt nothing from losing that game 2-1 at the start of October.

After a bright start where a Davis right foot thunderbolt came back off the Palace crossbar, Wolves soon found themselves on the back foot. Zaha was at the centre of everything and he easily skipped passed Ward before cutting the ball back to Moritz who scuffed his shot wide from eight yards. He then fired a shot just over the bar before coming even closer with an effort that was cleared off the line.



It was only a matter of time and the goal eventually came in the 31st minute, Sako fouled Zaha on the edge of the area and Moritz struck the free-kick over the wall and into the top right hand corner of the net. Stearman was having a nightmare against Bolasie, and the Palace winger made it 2-0 just five minutes before the break when he latched onto a through ball from Zaha and poked the ball home past the advancing Ikeme.

Palace made it 3-0 with just seven minutes on the clock in the second half. Ward gave away a needless foul on the edge of the box and Moritz produced a carbon copy of his first goal, except this time he put the ball into the top left-hand side of the net. Against the run of play Wolves managed to pull one back in the 75th minute through Ebanks-Blake, the striker reacted quickly to collect a free-kick from O'Hara and turned sharply before firing past Speroni. However,

Wolves never looked like mounting a serious comeback and Palace finished the stronger of the two teams to claim all three points. It was a shocking performance in front of 1000 loyal fans that cut short their New Year's Eve celebrations to watch their team give nothing back in return.

Opinion: Massive improvement needed or Solbakken might be looking for a new job.

Man of the match: Sako

Team Rating: 2/10

Attendance: 17,453

Team: *Ikeme, Stearman, Ward, Davis (O'Hara 60), Johnson, Berra, Foley (Pennant 80), Henry (capt), Ebanks-Blake, Doyle, Sako (Forde 60)*

Unused Subs: *De Vries, Jonsson, Bath, Margreitter*

Bookings: Johnson (60 – unsporting behaviour), O'Hara (87 - foul), Stearman (89 – foul), Ebanks-Blake (90+6 - dissent).

SOLSACKEN

LUTON TOWN 1-0 WOLVES

Saturday 5th January 2013 (FA Cup 3rd Rnd)



Stale Solbakken's reign as manager of Wolves came to an end after one of the worst displays in many a year by a team wearing the old gold and black. Wolves went crashing out of the F.A. Cup to Blue Square Premier League side Luton Town, and afterwards manager Solbakken said he was "not embarrassed" by the defeat and was the right man to "put it right", Jez Moxey and the board decided otherwise and sacked him just three hours later.

It was a full-strength Wolves team that started with four internationals, but they were no match for Luton who deservedly went into the hat for the 4th round draw. However, Solbakken should not take all the blame for such an incompetent display, the Wolves players should hang their heads in shame after being outplayed and outfought by a team 59 places below them in the football league ladder.

Both sides enjoyed clear openings inside the first six minutes. O'Donnell fired over from the edge of the penalty area, before Doyle got in behind the Luton defence and send his effort wide with only the keeper to beat. Luton were handed a golden opportunity to open the scoring in the 22nd minute, the Wolves defence waited for an offside flag which never came and Ikeme had rush from his goal to block a shot from Gray. Wolves had to wait until the 43rd minute for their first shot on goal, and Doyle must have thought he had scored when he flicked a Sako corner goalwards, but his effort was pushed onto the post by Tyler in the Luton goal.

That save proved crucial with just a minute of the second half gone. A throw-in from the left was sent into the Wolves area and the ball fell to Lawless on the edge of the box who volleyed it into the bottom left-hand corner of the net. If Solbakken was hoping for a reaction from his players then he would have been disappointed. Berra nodded against the top of the bar in the 53rd minute, but otherwise Wolves were second best to a team that showed more spirit in one game than Wolves had done all season. There were nine minutes of injury time after O'Donnell was stretchered off, but there was little for Luton to worry about apart from a long range effort from O'Hara which Tyler tipped over the bar.

Opinion: Even worse nightmare than the 1986 FA Cup exit to non-league Chorley.

Man of the match: Supporters

Team Rating: 0/10

Attendance: 9,638

Team: *Ikeme, Foley (Davis – 75), Ward, O'Hara, Berra, Johnson, Forde (Peszko 67), Henry (capt), Ebanks-Blake, Doyle (Cassidy 67), Sako*

Unused Subs: *Stearman, Pennant, De Vries, Margreitter*

Bookings: Peszko (71 – foul), Ebanks-Blake (88 – foul)

JOLLY ROGER FLIES HIGH

WOLVES 1-1 BLACKBURN

Friday 11th January 2013

Wolves deservedly earned a point in this televised Friday night fixture. It was Dean Saunders first match at the helm, and even though he's had less than a week in the job it looks like he's already organised what's been at best a chaotic mess in defence all season. It would have been a win had the referee not awarded a disputed penalty to Rovers in the first half, TV

MATCH REPORTS



replays clearly showed that Rochina flicked out a leg in Sako's direction before executing a dive Tom Daley would have been proud of.

It was Wolves who started firmly on the front foot in the opening quarter, applying plenty of pressure and looking the livelier; however for all their endeavor the Rovers keeper was only forced into one real save from a Foley header. Then midway through the first half, and against the run of play Rovers took the lead through that disputed penalty. Rochina ran with the ball into the area before receiving minimal or no contact from Sako, the referee initially failed to award the penalty before his assistant flagged and Rhodes made no mistake from the spot.

Wolves continued to push forward in the second half and Murphy headed an in-swinging Sako corner off the line while Johnson nodded another Sako corner on to the roof of the net. Saunders introduced Jamie O'Hara in the 73rd minute and he made an instant impact. The midfielder had literally taken two steps onto the pitch when Ward rolled a short free-kick to him, without taking a first touch he arrowed a glorious cross into the Rovers area where Johnson was on hand to head home the equaliser.

Despite plenty of Wolves pressure that was the way it remained. Wolves' fans went home happy after watching a much more committed performance than those produced under Solbakken who seemed unable to motivate the team.

Opinion: Good solid start for new manager.
Man of the match: Johnson
Team Rating: 6/10
Attendance: 20,264
Team: Ikeme, Zubar (Peszko 67), Ward, Davis (O'Hara 74), Berra, Johnson, Foley, Henry (capt), Cassidy (Ebanks-Blake 79), Doyle, Sako
Unused Subs: Stearman, Batth, Forde, De Vries
Bookings: Henry (78 – foul),

Davis (66 – dissent), O'Hara (83 – flare up), Doyle (88 – foul)

FROSTY THE IKE'MAN

SHEFFIELD WEDS 0-0 WOLVES

Saturday 19th January 2013

Not a performance for the purists, but its two matches unbeaten for new manager Dean Saunders, and for Wolves their first clean sheet in eight matches. Wolves failed to force the Wednesday keeper into one single save during the game, but Saunders has already added a bit of steel to a defence who for most of the season have been watching Carl Ikeme pick the ball out of the net.



On a cold frosty pitch things initially looked promising for Wolves when a shot from Ebanks-Blake just cleared the crossbar with less than a minute on the clock, but for the next 20 minutes the supporters who had to endure the near Arctic weather conditions to get to the game must have wished they had stayed at home. Wednesday nearly scored when Ikeme smashed a clearance into the face of Antonio and knocked him sparko, but luckily for the keeper the ball went wide. But Ikeme made up for his lack of concentration when he made a great save to keep out Antonio's ferocious volley, he then denied Jermaine Johnson before grabbing and holding the ball on the line from a point blank Johnson header.

At the start of the second half Dean Saunders reverted to a 4-5-1 formation when he switched Doyle to the right wing leaving Ebanks-Blake to play as a lone striker. The tactic led to a scrappy affair with efforts on goal again at a premium, the best of a series of half chances went to Wednesday notably when a Berra slip allowed Antonio to gain possession in the area, but his shot was poor and sailed over the bar.

There was little else for the freezing

Wolves fans to cheer about and the only notable effort from the team was a fierce Doyle shot that went narrowly over the bar with four minutes left. Wednesday had a flurry of attacks late on which came to nothing and the game eventually petered out for the draw.

Opinion: Another point for Deano and clean sheet to boot.

Man of the match: Ikeme

Team Rating: 5/10

Attendance: 21,142

Team: Ikeme, Zubar, Ward, Davis (O'Hara 60), Berra, Johnson, Foley, Henry (capt), Ebanks-Blake (Cassidy 77), Doyle, Sako (Peszko 81)

Unused Subs: De Vries, Stearman, Sigurdarson, Batth

Bookings: Ebanks-Blake (36 – foul), Davis (52 – unsporting behaviour)

BLACKSPOT

WOLVES 1-2 BLACKPOOL

Saturday 26th January 2013

Dean Saunders lost his first game since becoming the new manager at Wolves, and on this showing will be fighting to keep his team in the Championship. This was definitely a game of two halves. Wolves enjoyed the lion's share of the possession in the first half and then conceded an awful goal right on the stroke of half time, thereafter some of the bad habits shown in the Solbakken reign came back to the forefront for what turned out to be a woeful second half performance.



Wolves were buzzing from the off and deservedly took the lead in the 15th minute with a superbly worked goal. Peszko found Zubar overlapping on the right and his perfectly weighted cross was met with a bullet of a header by Ebanks-Blake. Doyle then saw a fierce shot charged down when an inswinging Sako free-kick caused bedlam. Ebanks-Blake then burnt the fingers of Gilks in the Blackpool goal as Wolves stormed forward. Next up was Doyle again when he headed onto the top of the bar from another Sako

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free-kick. But then, right on the stroke of half-time and just when it seemed Wolves would have to settle for a one goal lead at the break Blackpool equalised. Johnson attempted to shepherd the ball back to Ikeme when he should have put it over the Stan Cullis Stand, and as quick as a flash Ince nipped in between the two to fire the ball into the back of the net.

Ebanks-Blake came close to restoring Wolves lead seven minutes after the break, but even though there was plenty of power behind the shot it was straight at the keeper who saved with his legs. That miss proved decisive and Blackpool took control of the game. There was none of the build-up play shown by Wolves in the first half and most of the players were now playing as individuals rather than a team.

Blackpool's dominance in the second-half finally paid off in the 78th minute when Ince grabbed his second and what proved to be the winning goal. He drove forward deep into the Wolves half and unleashed a long range effort that Ikeme would have been disappointed to let in after he got a full hand on the shot. Wolves were unable to find a response, and Johnson finished off what was a dreadful performance for him when he was shown a straight red card right at the death following a tussle with Martinez.

Opinion: Six games without a win and falling down the league like a brick.

Man of the match: Doyle

Team Rating: 4/10

Attendance: 20,100

Team: Ikeme, Zubar (Hunt 69), Foley, O'Hara, Johnson, Berra, Peszko (Davis 86), Henry (capt), Ebanks-Blake, Doyle (Sigurdarson 86), Sako

Unused Subs: De Vries, Bath, Doumbia, Cassidy

Bookings: Peszko (19 – foul)

Sending Off: Johnson (90+2 violent conduct)

HOUNDED OUT AT THE FOX HUNT

LEICESTER CITY 2-1 WOLVES

Thursday 31st January 2013

That's just 2 points out of a maximum 12 for new boss Dean Saunders who seems unable to stop the rot set in during the Solbakken era. It's an old cliché but this really was a game of two halves, Leicester totally dominated the first half, but Wolves were much brighter in the second half, and

in the end can consider themselves unlucky to not get at least a point.

Leicester were by far the better team in the early stages and came close to opening the scoring with close efforts from Nugent and Knockaert. But it was Wolves almost went ahead against the run of play in the 15th minute, from two yards out Sigurdarson completely miss-headed the ball from a corner, Schmeichel then punched the ball into the path of Sako who aimed a pass across the six-yard box which was within an inch of Ebanks-Blake's outstretched foot. Leicester continued to press forward and finally made the breakthrough in the 24th minute. Schmeichel kicked the ball out of hand to Knockaert on the left, and even though he brought the ball under control with his arm he was allowed to play on, he dribbled the ball into the Wolves area unchallenged and fired past Ikeme. Karl Henry was lucky not to receive a red card a minute after the goal following a shocking tackle on King, but referee Madley felt a free-kick was punishment enough.



After being totally outplayed in the first half Wolves got off to the perfect start after the interval with an equaliser after just six minutes of the second half played, the ball fell to Sako 25 yards out and he hit an absolute screamer into the bottom-right corner that gave Schmeichel absolutely no chance.

Wolves looked re-juvenated after the goal, but went behind again with 15 minutes left following more disappointing defending. Nugent picked the ball up in his own half and like the first goal was allowed to the edge of the area unchallenged before slotting it past Ikeme. Wolves had a host of chances in the closing stages as they looked to get back on level terms. Ebanks-Blake missed a glorious chance when he headed wide from six yards, and then Sako forced Schmeichel into a good save with a shot from outside the area. Then in the dying seconds Ebanks-Blake went agonisingly close with an effort that struck the foot of the post.

Opinion: More effort shown like that in the second half should soon see Saunders soon picking up a few wins.

Man of the match: Sako

Team Rating: 6/10

Attendance: 21,677

Team: Ikeme, Foley, Ward, Henry (capt) (Edwards 81), Bath, Berra, Sigurdarson (Peszko 76), O'Hara, Ebanks-Blake, Doumbia (Davis 83), Sako

Unused Subs: De Vries, Doyle, Margreitter, Cassidy

Bookings: Foley (73 – unsporting behaviour)

ON ILKLEY MOORE BAT'TH

WOLVES 2-2 LEEDS UNITED

Saturday 9th February 2013

Our old friend Colin came back to Molineux with his new team Leeds United, and how nice it was to see him leave Wolverhampton with that cretinous snarl on his face. It all seemed to be going pear shaped for Wolves until Danny Bath popped up in the area in injury time to score his first league goal and snatch a dramatic late point.



Wolves were without a win in seven league games and their early play reflected the lack of confidence among the players. Leeds had the lion's share of the play, although Ikeme was hardly threatened by efforts at goal. Wolves eventually started to settle down and although they constantly gave the ball away Ebanks-Blake did find the back of the net midway through the half, but he was flagged for offside. A general lull in proceedings followed with very little action of note in either final third until Sako forced Kenny to tip his effort around a post on the half hour mark.

The second half continued in much the same way as the first half finished, but a slice of luck allowed Wolves to open the scoring in the 53rd minute. A nice period of passing on the left hand side finally ended with Ward firing over a low cross that Peltier sliced into his own net. The goal finally instilled some self belief into the

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Wolves players, but it was Leeds who struck next to equalise in the 64th minute when panic within the Wolves defence ended with Varney firing past Ikeme from ten yards.

Bathth saw a header cleared off the line as Wolves responded positively, although Ikeme had to produce a great fingertip save to deny Varney and keep the scores level. However the keeper was unable to do anything 15 minutes from time when Sako fouled Byram in the area and McCormack converted from the penalty spot to put Leeds 2-1 in front. That looked to be the winner until Bathth had the final say, in the second minute of injury time O'Hara sent over a cross and the young defender rose magnificently to power a downward header past Kenny and grab a vital point.

Opinion: Point could be crucial come the end of the season.

Man of the match: Bathth

Team Rating: 6/10

Attendance: 23,463

Team: Ikeme, Foley, Ward, O'Hara, Bathth, Berra, Doumbia (Sigurdarson 79), Henry (capt) (Edwards 87), Ebanks-Blake, Doyle, Sako

Unused Subs: De Vries, Hunt, Davis, Margreitter, Cassidy

Bookings: None

JUST DRAWFUL

DERBY COUNTY 0-0 WOLVES

Saturday 16th February 2013

The winless sequence continues including six games since Dean Saunders took the helm, and on this showing the run looks set to continue. It was an awful game as a whole and "Like watching paint dry" comes to mind when trying to sum up the contest. This season Wolves defence has been awful no matter which formation either Solbakken or Saunders has tried, so a clean sheet is the only real plus, especially after the inclusion of central defender Kaspars Gorkss on loan from Reading.

It all looked so promising for Wolves in the early stages and O'Hara had a 20 yarder brilliantly saved by Legzdins after just four minutes, and then Sako's inswinging corner just moments later found the head of Bathth, but it drifted wide. But the early promise faded and Derby started to enjoy far more of the possession, but apart from an effort that Jamie Ward scuffed wide the hosts rarely threatened.



If the closing stages of the first half seemed poor then the opening stages of the second half were even worse with only a wayward shot on the turn from Bathth worthy of a mention, and even that effort ended up in the back of the stand. We had to wait until the hour mark before any team went remotely close and it was Sako who burnt the fingers of Legzdins with a low shot from the edge of the area.

Jamie Ward appeared to shove Henry inside the penalty area in the final minute but the referee was unmoved by the Wolves appeals and waved play on. Ward then very nearly rubbed salt in the wounds but his free-kick deep into stoppage time was easily kept out by Ikeme.

Opinion: Wolves, now winless in nine and remain hanging precariously just above the drop zone.

Man of the match: Sako

Team Rating: 5/10

Attendance: 23,036

Team: Ikeme, Foley, Ward, Henry (capt), Bathth, Gorkss, Edwards (Peszko 89), O'Hara (Davis 74), Sigurdarsson, Doyle (Ebanks-Blake 70), Sako

Unused Subs: De Vries, Berra, Doherty, Cassidy

Bookings: Henry (28 – foul), O'Hara (62 – foul)

BARN HOWLERS

BARNLSLEY 2-1 WOLVES

Tuesday 19th February 2013

That's no win in seven games since Dean Saunders took charge and Wolves could have no complaints about the result as they dropped into the relegation zone of the Championship. It was a great start by Wolves who went in front early on, but Barnsley slowly built up the momentum and put the pressure on to eventually run out 2-1 winners.

Wolves got off to a dream start with a goal after just six minutes, and it was two of previous manager Stale Solbakken's signings who created the goal. Sako

produced an inch-perfect defence splitting pass that put Sigurdarson through on goal, and the striker coolly rounded keeper Steele and slotted the ball into the empty net.



Midway through the first half Wolves twice came within inches of doubling the lead. Firstly Ebanks-Blake went agonisingly wide after he let fly from the right-hand side of the area, and then O'Hara curled a wicked 30-yard effort crashing into the underside of the bar. The ball looked a good foot over the line when the ball bounced down, but decisions like that don't go in your favour unless you're wearing a red shirt at Old Trafford. With that decision going against them the early momentum Wolves had built up somewhat disappeared, and it was virtually one-way traffic as Barnsley searched for an equaliser. Both Harewood and Dagnell missed good chances, but Wolves still managed to go in at the interval a goal to the good.

The half-time interval did little to stem the tide and eventually Barnsley levelled the score when Dagnall made up for his earlier misses by heading home following a cross from the left. The travelling Wolves fans must have feared the worse, but the Barnsley onslaught never really materialised and Wolves created the better chances with Ebanks-Blake curling a shot just wide, and then Sigurdarson denied a second by a good save by Steele. But it was Barnsley who went ahead with 17 minutes left on the clock, the ball was laid back in the box to the unmarked Mellis who side-footed a deflected effort into the bottom corner.

The game was summed up when Wolves won a corner in the last minute of time added on, up went Ikeme to add presence, but Sako put the ball straight into the crowd allowing Barnsley to run down the last few seconds on the clock.

Opinion: Disappointing result after a bright start.

Man of the match: Sako

Team Rating: 3/10

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Attendance: 10,972

Team: Ikeme, Foley, Robinson, Henry (capt), Bath, Gorkss, Edwards (Hamill 76), O'Hara (Davis 65), Sigurdarsson (Cassidy 84), Ebanks-Blake, Sako

Unused Subs: De Vries, Ward, Johnson, Doyle

Bookings: None

CAMPBELL LEAVES WOLVES IN THE SOUP

WOLVES 1-2 CARDIFF CITY

Sunday 24th February 2013

That's eight games and counting since Dean Saunders took charge and a total of eleven league games without a win since Wolves last tasted a victory at Blackpool over two months ago. If the trend continues Wolves will find themselves cut adrift in the relegation zone and playing their football in League One next season.

League leaders Cardiff dominated proceeding more or less from the start and even though the work-rate was good from Wolves point of view it was only a matter of time before the inevitable. There were 20 minutes on the clock when the league leaders broke the deadlock, and the simplicity of the breakthrough revealed so much about the leaky Wolves defence. A long throw-in from the left-hand touchline was flicked on into the path of Campbell, and with no defender within two yards of him he had time to pick his spot and place his header past Ikeme. There were the odd signs of promise for Wolves as the first half progressed. Firstly Sako headed just wide following a cross from Sigurdarson, and then the midfielder wasted by far the best chance of the half when he miscued from close range after another pass across the box by Sigurdarson.

There was a lucky escape for Wolves within a couple of minutes of the restart, Bellamy had the ball in the net for Cardiff but his effort from Ikeme's fumble was ruled out for offside. There was no such luck in the 67th minute as Cardiff went 2-0 up. Campbell was given acres of space in the area from Bellamy's free-kick on the left-hand side, and he again picked his spot to head past Ikeme. Within three minutes Wolves gave themselves a glimmer of hope when they pulled a goal back. Doyle was fouled just outside the area and Sako's subsequent free-kick found the back of the net after a deflection sent the keeper the wrong way.



With the seconds ticking down Ebanks-Blake missed a glorious chance to grab a point for Wolves. Sako made a great run down the left-flank and sent over a wicked cross that found the striker a yard out with the goal at his mercy, but somehow he managed to put the ball over the crossbar.

After that miss Cardiff run down the clock to leave Wolves rooted in the relegation zone.

Opinion: No signs of improvement with the defence as ropey as ever.

Man of the match: Sako

Team Rating: 4/10

Attendance: 20,930

Team: Ikeme, Doherty (Foley 78), Robinson, Henry (capt), Bath (Ebanks-Blake 45), Gorkss, Johnson, O'Hara, Sigurdarson, Doumbia (Doyle 45), Sako

Unused Subs: De Vries, Edwards, Davis, Ward

Bookings: Doherty (25 – foul)

ITS NOT ALL ZOLA TILL THE FAT LADY SINGS

WOLVES 1-1 WATFORD

Friday 1st March 2013

Wolves' best player of the season by a mile Bakary Sako scored in the third minute of injury time to grab an equaliser, and more importantly a point which may be vital come the end of the season. Watford completely dominated proceedings in the first half, and even though Wolves showed more intent in the second period the visitors will be kicking themselves that they left Molineux with only a point.

Even though Watford dominated the early stages it was Wolves who should have taken the lead in the 19th minute with the first real clear cut chance of the game. Doyle's left-foot shot from the edge of the area was parried out by Bond into the path of Sigurdarson, but the keeper got up quickly to superbly keep out the strikers stinging shot that looked a goal all the way. However, it was a minor blip for Watford who soon regained control of the game,

and right on the stroke of half-time the visitors broke the deadlock. Karl Henry was pulled up for a petty challenge on the edge of the box and Abdi stepped up to float a stunning free-kick over the wall into the left hand corner of the net.

Watford should have doubled their advantage in the 66th minute. Cassetti found Anya all on his own in the six yard box, but he wildly swung at the ball and sliced it back across the area when he looked odds-on to score. It was then Wolves who wasted a chance to draw level in the 77th minute, after Sigurdarson's shot was saved by Bond it was Robinson who was well off target with a wild shot after the rebound fell at his feet.



Then when all seemed lost Wolves stunned Watford with an equaliser in the third minute of injury time, and it was that man Sako who was on hand to convert from ten yards when Doherty's long throw-in fell at his feet. Incredibly Watford went straight up the other end from the kick-off and Forestieri had a chance to snatch all three points for Watford but he blasted his shot over the bar.

Opinion: Let's hope that little bit of luck at the death turns things around.

Man of the match: Sako

Team Rating: 5/10

Attendance: 18,571

Team: Ikeme, Doherty, Robinson, Henry (capt) (Davis 70), Gorkss, Johnson, Sigurdarson, O'Hara, Doyle (Ebanks-Blake 64), Hunt (Cassidy 64), Sako

Unused Subs: De Vries, Edwards, Ward, Bath

Bookings: Sigurdarson (48 – foul)

FIRST WIN IN TEN FOR DEAN AT THE DEN

MILLWALL 0-2 WOLVES

Tuesday 5th March 2013

At last it's a win for Dean Saunders in his tenth game in charge. His Wolves team was well worth all three points with a fully deserved 2-0 win at the ever hostile Den. And to put the icing on the cake Wolves moved out of

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the relegation zone to hopefully boost the morale of the club as a whole.

It was a positive Wolves side from the off and they duly went in front after just nine minutes. Ward broke down the left and crossed for Ebanks-Blake at the back-post; he then controlled the ball and directed it to Edwards in the middle of the box who sweetly swept the ball on the volley into the net. Wolves continued to control play and nearly doubled their lead just five minutes later. Sako was fouled on the left and Henry's free-kick was partially cleared by Shittu, but the ball fell for Cassidy whose first time volley was blocked by Lowry.

The more Wolves dominated the more frustrated Millwall became, and the game became a bit heated at times with a few altercations taking place between various players. But for all their tactical intimidation Ikeme had to wait until five minutes before the break to make his first save from a Lowry header that lacked any kind of pace to trouble the keeper.



Millwall started the second half with a bit more purpose and came close to an equaliser in the 52nd minute when Keogh was inches away from connecting with Taylor's low driven cross across the area. But just as Millwall enjoyed their best spell of pressure in the game Ebanks-Blake struck in spectacular fashion on the hour mark to put the game beyond all doubt. His initial shot was blocked by a Millwall defender, but when O'Hara headed the ball back into the middle the striker unleashed a brilliant overhead kick from twelve yards that hit the net like a rocket. That goal gave Wolves the breathing space they needed, and Millwall never threatened a way back into the game leaving Saunders celebrating success for the first time since his appointment.

Opinion: Time to kick on now that Saunders has that first win under his belt.

Man of the match: Ebanks-Blake

Team Rating: 8/10

Attendance: 8,727

Team: Ikeme, Doherty, Ward, Henry (capt), Johnson, Gorkss, Edwards, Cassidy (Sigurdarson 71), Ebanks-Blake, O'Hara, Sako (Hunt 71)

Unused Subs: De Vries, Batth, Davis, Doyle, Foley

Bookings: Sako (39 – foul), Gorkss (43 – foul)

TIED UP IN NOTTS

NOTTINGHAM FOREST 3-1 WOLVES

Saturday 9th March 2013

After the great win at Millwall in midweek normal service was resumed with a 3-1 defeat at promotion chasing Nottingham Forest. Fortunately for Wolves they still remain just outside the drop zone, but only on goal difference from Bristol City who they now play at Molineux next week in what has become an early six pointer.

It was in form Forest who made all the early running and they had soon had the ball in the net, but luckily for Wolves Cox was flagged for offside by the referee's assistant. Wolves struggled to match the tempo set by Forest and had to wait until the 26th minute before their first real chance. Following a goalmouth scramble the ball broke to Doherty on the edge of the area, but he sent his shot high and wide despite given plenty of time and space. And they were made to pay five minutes later as Forest took the lead, former Wolves boy Adlene Guedioura setup Lansbury who fired a right-foot shot into the bottom left-hand corner from 20 yards out.

Within a few minutes Wolves almost grabbed an equaliser when Ebanks-Blake won a free-kick 25 yards out. The ever impressive Sako stepped up and his magnificent effort smashed against the underside of crossbar with the goalkeeper well beaten, Sigurdarson then wastefully blasted the rebound high into the crowd.

At the start of the second half Wolves upped the pace and started to play the kind of football that gained them all three points at Millwall, and they rewarded their efforts with an equaliser after 65 minutes. An outswinging corner taken left-footed by Sako found Doherty whose looping header found the top left hand corner of the net. However, all the hard work was undone just 90 seconds later when Forest regained the lead, sloppy defending outside the area allowed Lansbury to collect the ball and turn unchallenged before curling in a shot past the left hand of Ikeme and into the net.

With just seven minutes left and Wolves leaving themselves exposed at the back while looking for an equaliser their task was made almost impossible when Ward was sent off for a professional foul on Halford. Forest took full advantage and made it 3-1 in the final minute when they caught out Wolves with another counter attack that culminated in McGugan curling in a shot via the crossbar from the edge of the area.

Opinion: Outfought by a Forest side with more hunger and desire.

Man of the match: Sako

Team Rating: 4/10

Attendance: 23,350

Team: Ikeme, Doherty, Ward, Henry (capt) (Doumbia 62), Johnson, Gorkss, Edwards, Sigurdarson (Doyle 68), Ebanks-Blake, O'Hara (Davis 62), Sako

Unused Subs: De Vries, Hunt, Robinson, Batth

Sending's Off: Ward (83 – professional foul)

CALAMITY CARL

WOLVES 2-1 BRISTOL CITY

Saturday 16th March 2013

A win for Barnsley and draw for Peterborough in midweek fixtures meant that Wolves started the game second from bottom of the table, and only goal difference kept them above their opponents Bristol City who occupied bottom spot in the Championship table.

The game was a shocking affair from the off with both teams showing why they were occupying the bottom two places in the division, and it was always going to need something extraordinary to break the deadlock. That certain moment was provided in the 25th minute when Carl Ikeme and David Davis made Wolves the laughing stock of the day with one of the most ridiculous own goals seen in many a season. Davis returned Ikeme's short goal-kick back to his goalkeeper, but he took his eye off the ball and it went straight through his legs and into the back of the net. The goal rocked Wolves right to the soles of their boots and the closest they came to any kind of an equaliser was when Doyle was denied by a fantastic block from Fontaine in the Bristol goal. The final chance of a really poor half saw Ebanks-Blake fire well over the crossbar with a 20-yard effort after Doyle had knocked the ball into his path.

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Calamity Carl Ikeme was withdrawn at the interval, and it came to light later that it was due to a broken hand caused by punching the tactics board in the dressing room at half time, not the best of days for the Wolves keeper. The second half could never have been any worse than the first and Wolves actually started to string a few passing movements together after the interval. Doyle had the first real chance of the half after a goalmouth scramble, but he fired wide from six yards out. Bristol then had Heaton to thank when he pulled off a great save to keep out Ebanks-Blake's 18-yard effort.



With a quarter of an hour to go Wolves got the break they needed with a well worked goal. Ebanks-Blake collected Hunt's pass and spun on a sixpence before unleashing a fantastic volley into the roof of the net. And just two minutes later the game was turned on its head. Hunt delivered another great cross for Doyle who headed home at the near post to make it 2-1. Wolves held on to gain a crucial three points in the race to avoid relegation.

Opinion: Ikeme's infantile punch ends player of season hopes in one tactical hit

Man of the match: Doyle

Team Rating: 5/10

Attendance: 21,711

Team: Ikeme (De Vries 45), Doherty, Robinson, Edwards (Sigurdarson 38), Gorkss, Johnson, O'Hara, Davis, Doyle (capt), Ebanks-Blake, Sako (Hunt 31)

Unused Subs: Henry, Batth, Dombia, Foley

Bookings: Doyle (78 – goal celebration)

BORO FAIL TO RAISE THE BAR

WOLVES 3-2 MIDDLESBROUGH

Saturday 30th March 2013

This was a great game of football for the neutrals but heart attack material for either set of supporters following these two teams. The game flowed from end-to-end with Wolves eventually ending up 3-2 winners and claiming three precious points in their survival hopes, although it

was not enough to climb out of the npower Championship drop zone.

Dorus De Vries was making his first league start of the season in place of the injured Carl Ikeme, and was soon called on to make a stunning save when his own defender Gorkss sliced the ball towards goal. As both teams pushed forward Boro went within a whisker of taking the lead when Hoyte smashed the ball against the crossbar from all of 40 yards. But it was Wolves who opened the scoring in the 17th minute. Hunt made a run down the left and his persistence paid dividends when he made the byline and fired in a low cross that McManus diverted into his own net.

However Boro were soon on level terms. De Vries made a great parried save to deny Jutkiewicz, Leadbitter then fired the rebound against the underside of the crossbar, and after another follow-up effort had hit a post the linesman flagged to signal Leadbitter's original effort had crossed the line. The game continued with both teams creating a number of chances, but Wolves could have considered themselves a bit fortunate to be level at half time due to the fact that Boro had hit the crossbar a total of four times.



Wolves needed just three minutes to retake the lead after the interval. Some nice passing play ended with Ebanks-Blake back heeling the ball into the path of Sigurdarson who went past two defenders before rounding Steele and slotting home. But Boro hit back and equalised again just four minutes later when Leadbitter added his second of the afternoon with a 25 yard strike that flew past the helpless De Vries. It was Wolves turn to up the pace yet again and Boro twice cleared off the line before the lucky McManus escaped with what seemed a penalty for a stone wall handball. Steele then made a great save to deny Sigurdarson before Wolves went in front again with just 20 minutes left on the clock. Doherty's long throw-in was flicked on by Johnson and Doyle applied the finishing touch and headed home to make it 3-2. In the end Wolves safely saw

the game out to hang on for their third win in four games.

Opinion: Three priceless points in the fight to avoid relegation.

Man of the match: Hunt

Team Rating: 8/10

Attendance: 21,277

Team: De Vries, Doherty, Robinson, Davis, Gorkss, Johnson, Sigurdarson, O'Hara (Henry 76), Doyle (capt) (Batth 81), Ebanks-Blake, Hunt (Ward 86)

Unused Subs: Hammill, Dicko, Dombia, McCarey

Bookings: O'Hara (6 – foul),

Davies (80 – foul)

HAPPY ST ANDREWS DAY

BIRMINGHAM CITY 2-3 WOLVES

Monday 1st April 2013

Each year St Andrew's Day usually falls on 30th November, but Wolves celebrated on 1st April this year with the fools wearing the blue shirts on this Bank Holiday Monday. Wolves celebrated their fourth win in five games as well as their first league double over Birmingham in 14 years.

Early doors it was a typical Midlands Derby with chances far and few between, in fact the only chance of any note came in the 4th minute when De Vries got down well to comfortably save a Redmond daisy cutter. That was as close as either side came until Wolves opened the scoring in the 20th minute. Ebanks-Blake who was continually making a nuisance of himself won the ball outside the area and fed Davis who let fly from 20 yards, Butland could only parry the ball to his right and Hunt latched on to the loose ball and fired in from a tight angle.



Things got even better seven minutes later when Wolves went two up. Doherty took a short throw to Davis on the right and he provided the perfect cross for Ebanks-Blake to head home from two yards. Birmingham were in total shock and tried to strike back, and they went close to pulling a goal back just two minutes later

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when Ferguson clipped the outside of a post with a free-kick from just outside the area. It was almost party time in the 37th minute when Wolves added a third goal. Davis sent Doyle clear with a perfect through ball, the striker then rounded Butland who stuck out a leg and brought him down, Ebanks-Blake stepped up and made no mistake with the spot-kick.

With Wolves three goals to the good Birmingham threw caution to the wind after the interval and pulled a goal back following a 55th minute penalty. O'Hara seemed to be nowhere near Thomas as he went down in the area, but the referee pointed to the spot and Elliot sent De Vries the wrong way to make it 3-1. Birmingham continued to push forward creating numerous chances, but for once the Wolves defence stood strong and De Vries watched on as most of the goal attempts went either wide or over the top of his crossbar.

With time ticking down and four minutes of time added on already played Birmingham pulled a consolation goal back from yet another penalty. Robinson was penalised for handball and Elliot converted the rebound after the original spot-kick had been saved by De Vries. There was no time for a Birmingham equaliser and Wolves marched on to their fourth victory in five games.

Opinion: Two more wins from the last six games should just about see us safe.

Man of the match: Ebanks-Blake

Team Rating: 8/10

Attendance: 19,630

Team: De Vries, Doherty, Robinson, Davis, Gorkss, Johnson, Sigurdarson O'Hara (Henry 57), Doyle (capt), Ebanks-Blake (Dicko 63), Hunt (Batth 86)

Unused Subs: McCarey, Ward, Hammill, Doumbia

Bookings: O'Hara (29 – foul), Johnson (45+1 – foul), Davis (49 – foul), Robinson (51 – foul)

DE VRIES GOES SOLO

BOLTON 2-0 WOLVES

Saturday 6th April 2013

The last time Wolves won at Bolton in the league was 1994 and after just ten minutes of this game that statistic was never going to change. A slow and lethargic start enabled Bolton to effectively wrap up the points with two early goals from set pieces that must have had Dean Saunders tearing his hair out. It was a poor performance from

the boys in gold and painstaking for the mass of supporters who loyally follow the team week in week out. Wolves lie 19th in the table just one point above the drop zone and have just five games left to secure their Championship status.

It was a disastrous start for Wolves when conceding after just three minutes. A corner from the right was headed goalwards by the unmarked Dawson, and even though De Vries made a good reflex save he was unable to hold onto the ball and Ngog was on hand to fire home. There was further misery in the 10th minute when the Wolves defence was again carved open from another set-piece. Alonso's shot squirmed under De Vries after another blocked shot from Kamara was deflected into his path.

Following the catastrophic start Doyle had a great chance to pull a goal straight back just two minutes later, but he could only watch on as his header clipped the top of the crossbar. That was just about it as far as the first half was concerned and the Wolves defence looked on as De Vries single handedly kept Bolton at bay, saves from Chung-Yong Lee, Kamara and Sordell made sure the score was only 2-0 at half time.

Little changed in the second half with Wolves seemingly uninterested in trying to get anything from the game, in fact the only effort of note was a Doyle header that was brilliantly tipped over the bar by Bogdan. At the other end De Vries continued his one man show watched on by his other ten team mates.

Opinion: Massive six pointer at home against Huddersfield next week.

Man of the match: De Vries

Team Rating: 3/10

Attendance: 18,432

Team: De Vries, Doherty, Robinson, Davis (Henry 25), Gorkss, Johnson, Sigurdarson, O'Hara (Hammill 75), Doyle (capt), Cassidy (Doumbia 45), Hunt

Unused Subs: McCarey, Ward, Dicko, Batth

Bookings: Doherty (44 – foul), Doumbia (57 – foul)

HUDD CASE O'HARA

WOLVES 1-3 HUDDERSFIELD

Saturday 13th April 2013

Its back in the bottom three again after Wolves lost this must win game against



relegation rivals Huddersfield at Molineux. With only four games remaining the prospect of a second successive relegation is very real. Dean Saunders told the press after the game that Wolves probably need three wins from the last four games to avoid the drop, perhaps he should try instilling the gravity of the situation to his players.

Wolves started as if their lives depended on it, and they got off to a dream start when they opened the scoring after just four minutes. Sigurdarson found Doyle on the left hand side of the area and his ball back across the box found Ward who slid the ball home from six yards. Wolves continued to dominate possession and Huddersfield had to wait until the 17th minute before Vaughan sent their first attempt at goal narrowly wide of De Vries left hand post. Wolves were punished for not turning their dominance into goals when Huddersfield scored against the run of play in the 27th minute. Scannell beat Doherty for pace on the left and then cut inside the penalty area, he then left Hunt for dead before slotting the ball past De Vries.

Wanderers started the second half as they had the first, on the attack. Efforts from Doyle, Ward and Sigurdarson all went close, but Johnson was guilty of a horrible miss in the 65th minute when he somehow dragged his shot wide from six yards with the goal at his mercy. Within a couple of minutes the significance of the miss was rammed home. Vaughan headed goalwards from a corner, and even though De Vries produced a superb save to keep the ball out Beckford was on hand to tap home from close range. Within a minute Beckford made it 3-1 after Wolves made a mess of the resulting kick-off, the Huddersfield striker left the hapless Johnson for dead and then calmly lobbed the ball over the advancing De Vries.

Matters went from bad to worse straight from the subsequent kick-off, Southern charged into O'Hara and the brainless midfielder was given a straight red card for

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raising his hands in retaliation. It was game over and Huddersfield easily played out time to move two points clear of the relegation zone. As for Wolves things are looking desperate, an injury list as long as your arm coupled with a three match suspension for O'Hara leaves their Championship survival hanging by a thread.

Opinion: Nothing less than three points against Hull in next home game will do.

Man of the match: Robinson

Team Rating: 2/10

Attendance: 23,185

Team: De Vries, Doherty, Robinson, Henry, Gorkss, Johnson, Hunt (Hammill 81), O'Hara, Doyle (capt), Sigurdarson (Dicko 81), Ward (Doumbia 73)

Unused Subs: McCarey, Bath, Foley, McAlinden

Bookings: Ward (59 – foul),

Doherty (72 – ungentlemanly conduct)

Sending's Off: O'Hara (72 – violent conduct)

IT'S A BRUCIE BONUS

WOLVES 1-0 HULL CITY

Tuesday 16th April 2013

At the end of the game you would have thought it was Wolves who were second in the Championship promotion race and not opponents Hull who were on the brink of automatic promotion. The celebrations that surrounded Molineux at the final whistle signified that Wolves had crept out of the bottom three courtesy of a Kevin Doyle winning goal after 55 minutes and a last minute goal by Derby at relegation rivals Barnsley.

The first half was a bit of a shocker with both teams creating little in the way of clear cut chances, and when Doumbia had a long range shot that went wide in the 37th minute it brought ironic cheers from the home supporters. The second half followed the same kind of pattern as the first, and then suddenly out of the blue Wolves broke the deadlock in the 55th minute. Doumbia dispossessed Fathi 25 yards from goal with the ball falling into the path of Sigurdarson, he then fed the advancing Doyle who rammed the ball home from ten yards. The volume at Molineux went up by several decibels as the crowd started to cheer every tackle, clearance and pass from the boys in gold. Doumbia missed a glorious chance to seal the points with 20 minutes left, the ball fell to the midfielder ten yards out but he shot wide with only the keeper to beat. That miss could have proved so very costly five



minutes later. Simpson collected the ball on the left side of the area and his shot come back of the bottom of the post with De Vries beaten. The game was now swaying from end to end and it was Wolves' turn to go close. Hunt stayed on his feet following a challenge by Elmohamady in the area, where had he gone down he would have surely have won a penalty, however when the ball fell at Sigurdarson's feet the striker could only find the side netting when just two yards out and the goalkeeper nowhere.

Four minutes of injury time did little for the nerves of the home followers, but Wolves held out to claim the three points and boost their chances of avoiding a second successive relegation to England's third tier for the first time since 1989.

Opinion: Not very pretty, but a massive three points.

Man of the match: Doyle

Team Rating: 7/10

Attendance: 19,641

Team: De Vries, Doherty, Robinson, Henry, Gorkss, Johnson, Hunt, Doumbia, Doyle (capt), Sigurdarson (Bath 89), Ward (Foley 78)

Unused Subs: McCarey, Hammill, Dicko, Cassidy, McAlinden

Bookings: Henry (72 – foul)

VALLEY OF DESOLATION

CHARLTON ATHLETIC 2-1 WOLVES

Saturday 20th April 2013

Wolves dropped back into the relegation drop zone following a 2-1 defeat at in-form Charlton. Dean Saunders bemoaned his team's luck after they conceded a scrappy goal in the last minute of normal time, but ask any of the 2000 travelling supporters and the general consensus was that defeat was mainly due to more woeful defending by a defence that has haemorrhaged goals all season.

It was a poor first half with neither team taking the initiative; in fact it wasn't until



the 10th minute that either keeper had a save to make when De Vries parried away a shot by Fuller. Considering the desperate situation they were in you would have thought maximum effort and commitment were the order of the day as far as the Wolves players were concerned? Apparently not, even though Charlton seemed to be there for the taking the long suffering fans had to wait until the 25th minute before Wolves even mustered up an effort on goal. Karl Henry chested down a clearance and hit a volley from about 40 yards that crashed against the underside of the bar and back into the arms of Hamer.

Wolves emerged for the second half with added purpose and had an early sight of goal when Hunt fired a cross-shot wide of the left-hand post. However it was Charlton who took the lead in the 63rd minute from a corner on the right, the usual defensive bedlam broke loose and Dervite got the decisive touch on a goal line scramble to poke home the opener. It was as if the reality of relegation suddenly dawned on the Wolves players and within three minutes they were on level terms. Johnson flicked on a cross from Robinson on the left and Doyle produced a delicate header into the bottom right hand corner of the net.

With a quarter of the game left Wolves pushed forward in search of the winner, but with injury time approaching they were hit by a sucker punch after more shocking defending. Green's deflected shot was blocked but fell into the path of substitute Obika who forced the ball over the line. It was far too late for Wolves to recover the situation and they have now slipped back into the bottom three with just two games left.

Opinion: Must beat Burnley at home next week or the unthinkable relegation looms.

Man of the match: Doyle

Team Rating: 5/10

Attendance: 19,023

Team: De Vries, Doherty, Robinson, Henry, Gorkss, Johnson, Sigurdarson, Doumbia, Doyle (capt), Ward (Bath 90+2), Hunt (Hammill 86)

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Unused Subs: *McCarey, Dicko, Foley, Cassidy, McAlinden*

Bookings: Gorkss (67 - foul), Doherty (73 - diving), Sigurdarson (76 - foul), Hunt (78 - foul)

BURNT DOWN

WOLVES 1-2 BURNLEY

Saturday 27th April 2013

Defeat in this must win game almost certainly means successive relegations for Wolves. Only a last day miracle can save our beloved Wanderers from the drop after another gutless performance from the players wearing the old gold shirts. It was another bad day at the office with the goals coming from two set-pieces that a schoolboy team could have defended better than the Wolves defence.

After a bright start disaster struck in the eighth minute as Burnley took the lead. Danny Ings was left totally unmarked inside the box and then given the time and space to turn before rifling a shot into the bottom left hand corner of the net. There was then a massive let off for Wolves in the 21st minute when De Vries produced a superb double save to firstly deny Vokes and then the follow up from Ings.



Even though there was lots of huff and puff from Wolves they still had to wait until the 28th minute for an attempt on goal. Sigurdarson took a corner out on the right and most the fans in the South Bank thought that Gorkss had scored with a powerful header, but unfortunately for Wolves the defender couldn't manage to hit the target from just three yards.

With just eight minutes gone in the second half Burnley struck again following more shocking defending of a corner. The ball was half cleared back to Ings, and when he returned the ball into the middle of the area not one of the masses of Wolves players bothered to pick up Paterson who fired home from close range.

With the boos from frustrated fans ringing in the managers and players ears Wolves were given a glimmer of hope with 25 minutes left. Duff was shown a red card for a cynical foul on Doyle, but little did it matter because we had to wait until the 88th minute before managing to pull a goal back. A corner from the left was hooked back by McAlinden for Dicko to smack into the roof of the net from six yards. It made for a frantic finale, but ultimately fruitless with Wolves unable to muster up an equaliser in the four minutes of time added on.

After the final whistle frustrated supporters invaded the pitch and clashed with players and stewards as the defeat left their team on the brink of a second successive relegation, however even divine intervention makes survival highly improbable.

Opinion: Not single one of them is fit to wear the shirt.

Man of the match: You must be joking

Team Rating: 1/10

Attendance: 24,199

Team: *De Vries, Doherty, Robinson, Henry, Gorkss, Johnson, Hunt*

(McAlinden 68), Doumbia, Doyle (capt),

Sigurdarson (Dicko 58), Ward (Sako 58)

Unused Subs: *McCarey, Jonsson, Batth, Foley*

Bookings: Dicko (68 - foul)

BIG TIME LEWES'ERS

BRIGHTON 2-0 WOLVES

Saturday 4th May 2013



Well the unthinkable has happened with consecutive relegations now meaning that Wolves will be playing the likes of Crawley and Stevenage in League One next season. With Wolves having to win at Brighton to at least give themselves a chance of staying up it was another woeful performance from a team with no heart or pride in playing for our club. With things the way they are the moment the situation is now as bad as it was during the horrific reign of the Bhatti brothers in the early 1980's. That was when Wolves last suffered relegation from

divisions one to four in successive seasons, and after this drop into League One Wolves now have the unenviable record of being the first team to twice suffer back-to-back relegations from the top flight.

As far as the game was concerned Wolves hinted early on that they might put up a fight when Sako hit the outside of a post in the opening minutes, but their survival hopes lay in tatters in the fifth minute. Doumbia carelessly lost the ball on the edge of his own box and LuaLua took full advantage by smashing the ball past De Vries from the edge of the area. Wolves responded with efforts from Dicko and Johnson but neither could find a way past Kuszczak. Relegation was all but confirmed when LuaLua added a second for Brighton six minutes before the break with another strike from the edge of the area. Wolves brought on Hunt for Sako at the start of the second half and at least the midfielder tried to inject some of his enthusiasm into the rest of the team, but Doherty's up-and-down header that went over the bar in the 55th minute was the only real threatening effort on the Brighton goal.

After the game Dean Saunders said "We're at rock bottom now. When the whistle went, I shook hands and started rebuilding the club", excuse me isn't that what he was brought in to do twenty games ago after the sacking of Solbakken.

There is now talk of an exodus of the big earners such as Kevin Doyle, Roger Johnson, Bakary Sako, Sylvan Ebanks-Blake and Jamie O'Hara, but after the shocking performances week in week out there's probably only Doyle and Sako who will attract any interest from clubs in higher divisions. The arrogance of the so called top players was summed up towards the end as O'Hara sarcastically clapped the long suffering fans when responding to chants regarding his wages, he sloped off at the end without acknowledging those supporters who help pay those wages... let's hope he never comes back....

Opinion: Club needs re-structuring from top to bottom or the Conference awaits.

Man of the match: Hunt

Team Rating: 1/10

Attendance: 30,003

Team: *De Vries, Doherty (Sigurdarson 62), Elokobi (Ward 72), Henry, Gorkss, Johnson, O'Hara, Doumbia, Doyle (capt), Dicko, Sako (Hunt 45)*

Unused Subs: *McCarey, Robinson, Batth, McAlinden*

Bookings: Johnson (84 - foul)

See You All in League One Next Season Steve

FIXTURES



Here are some dates for your pre-season diaries:

Wednesday, 10th July	East Fife (away)	Bayview Stadium,	kick-off 7.30pm
Saturday, 13th July	Livingston (away)	Braidwood Motor Company Stadium,	kick-off 2.00pm
Tuesday, 16th July	Wrexham (away)	Racecourse Ground,	kick-off 7.45pm
Saturday, 20th July	Barnsley (away)	Oakwell,	kick-off 3.00pm
Tuesday, 23rd July	Chesterfield (away)	Chesterfield's Proact Stadium,	kick-off 7.45pm
Saturday, 27th July	Real Betis (home)	Molineux,	kick-off 3.00pm

"Anybody wishing to book travel for the Real Betis game at Molineux on 27th July should contact Peter Woodfield before the end of June. Whilst there are no other club trips yet planned for the away friendlies please contact Peter Woodfield if you are interested in going to any of these matches, as trips may be arranged to these games if there is sufficient interest."

FOOTBALL LEAGUE DIVISION ONE FIXTURES 2013-2014

AUGUST

- 3 Preston North End (A)
- 10 Gillingham (H)
- 17 Bristol City (A)
- 24 Crawley Town (H)
- 31 Port Vale (A)

SEPTEMBER

- 7 Walsall (H)
- 14 Swindon Town (H)
- 21 Shrewsbury Town (A)
- 28 Sheffield United (H)

OCTOBER

- 5 Colchester United (A)
- 12 Carlisle United (A)
- 19 Coventry City (H)
- 22 Oldham Athletic (H)
- 26 Bradford City (A)

NOVEMBER

- 2 Stevenage (H)

- 16 Notts County (A)

- 23 Brentford (H)

- 26 Tranmere Rovers (H)

- 30 Peterborough United (A)

DECEMBER

- 14 Milton Keynes Dons (H)
- 21 Rotherham United (A)
- 26 Crewe Alexandra (H)
- 29 Leyton Orient (H)

JANUARY

- 1 Tranmere Rovers (A)
- 4 Gillingham (A)
- 11 Preston North End (H)
- 18 Crawley Town (A)
- 25 Bristol City (H)
- 28 Oldham Athletic (A)

FEBRUARY

- 1 Bradford City (H)
- 8 Stevenage (A)

- 15 Notts County (H)

- 22 Brentford (A)

MARCH

- 1 Port Vale (H)

- 8 Walsall (A)

- 11 Swindon Town (A)

- 15 Shrewsbury Town (H)

- 22 Sheffield United (A)

- 25 Colchester United (H)

- 29 Milton Keynes Dons (A)

APRIL

- 5 Peterborough United (H)

- 12 Crewe Alexandra (A)

- 19 Rotherham United (H)

- 21 Leyton Orient (A)

- 26 Coventry City (A)

MAY

- 3 Carlisle United (H)

FEEDBACK

Please do write to us on all, or any, aspects which you feel would be of any interest or benefit to the Club from a supporter's perspective.

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MEET THE PLAYERS

