

W. W. LONDON



DECEMBER / JANUARY / 1974

2.

WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS LONDON SUPPORTERS CLUB

Founded 1966

Hon. President - Derek Dougan

Chairman: Martin Rutherford	Vice-President: Stuart Earl
Secretary: Brian Restall	Treasurer: Morris Jacobs
Travel Secretary: Steve Roe	Sales Officer: Dave Slape
Minutes Secretary: Sid Green	Committee Member: Bob Broadley

Editor: Tony Roche

EDITORIAL

When Bill McGarry danced in front of the North Bank in his pink pullover he did more to cement relations with the supporters than if he had scored a hat-trick himself.

After the most soul-destroying series of disappointments, he has led Wolves back to Wembley after 14 years in the comparative void of almost but not quite.

But his display of sheer emotional delight and relief only went to show how much pressure both he and his nervous players have been under. Victory over Norwich represents a major breakthrough. I know the trophy has yet to be won, but if it is, it could herald a new atmosphere of confidence ... the one ingredient missing from this and many past Wolves teams who have struggled to shake off ghosts of the past.

Words are inadequate to describe scenes like those I witnessed at the final whistle. Old men cried ... people went berserk and through a haze of rather embarrassing tears I eventually found the station still unable to believe Wolves had made it. But they have!

3.

TRAVEL NEWS FOR FEBRUARY AND MARCH

Bookings for home and away games must be received not later than three days before the game. I must ask you not to 'phone me at work.

Please be at the meeting place not later than ten minutes before departure time. Also, please make sure a S.A.E. is enclosed where letters require a reply.

HOME GAMES:

Birmingham (February 16), Ipswich Town (March 9) and Liverpool (March 23).

Meet at local booking office, Euston.

Depart 10.10 a.m., arrive Wolverhampton 12.05.

Depart 16.55, arrive Euston 18.49.

Fare £1.85p (Females and under 14's £1.60).

Games with Leicester and Derby to be arranged.

Our scheduled home game with Sheffield United will not be played midweek if the current crisis exists. It will be played later in the season.

AWAY GAMES:

Manchester United (February 23), Manchester City (March 30).

Meet at local booking office Euston.

Depart 10.00 a.m., arrive Manchester 12.45.

Depart 17.40, arrive Euston 18.32.

Fare £2.60.

Steve Roe,
10 Selborne House,
Great Dover Street,
London, S.E.1.

4.

TRAIN TICKETS: A WARNING

An unfortunate incident a few weeks ago nearly brought our train travel to a halt, and not through strike action!

Somebody rather foolishly - or as we hope by accident - handed in the return half of a two-week old ticket to the ticket collector instead of a current one. The result was that the ticket found its way back to the office at Euston where we book our trips, accompanied with a complaint accusing us of using old tickets left over from previous trips to help us get extra people through on trains at later dates. In other words accusing us of fraud. And as far as British Rail is concerned, fraudulents are taken to court. Fortunately, we were able to convince the people concerned that the ticket was handed in by accident and no action was taken.

However, it was and still is a serious matter, so in future could you all please make sure that any ticket (or part of a ticket) that you have left over at the end of a journey is destroyed and not left to linger in your pocket with the possibility of being produced on any trip other than that for which it was intended.

Morris Jacobs.

SALES NEWS

Pennants - 32p and 3½p postage; Cufflinks - 90p and 5p; Ties (Brown, Grey, Blue, Maroon, Black) - £1.25p and 3½p; Scarves - 99p and 5p or £1.40p and 8p; Wolves Rings - 35p and 3½p; Gold and Black Towels - 82p and 10p; Team Photos - 20p and 3½p; Rosettes - 27p and 3p.

For any of these articles, please write to

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

enclosing the correct money.

PROGRAMME SALE

Here is your chance to catch up on your Wolves programme collection and also obtain programmes of matches you missed but would like to have.

All the following programmes listed are seven pence each. This includes postage. They can be bought from travel secretary, Steve Roe. Please send stamps to his home address and state clearly what you want.

<u>HOME:</u>	1960-61	- FK Austria.
	1962-63	- Aston Villa, Leicester City.
	1963-64	- Manchester United.
	1964-65	- Rotherham United (FA Cup).
	1965-66	- Southampton.
	1966-67	- Carlisle United, Blackburn Rovers.
	1969-70	- Spurs (L. Cup), Stoke, Southampton, Manchester United, Derby, Nottingham Forest, Burnley, Everton, Sheffield Wednesday, West Ham, W.B.A., Arsenal, Sunderland, Newcastle, Ipswich, Spurs, Manchester City, Palace, Leeds, Liverpool.
<u>AWAY:</u>	1966-67	- Fulham.
	1967-68	- West Ham, Arsenal.
	1968-69	- West Ham, Arsenal, Spurs, Chelsea, Q.P.R.
	1969-70	- Palace, Spurs, West Ham, Chelsea, Leeds, Newcastle, Brighton, Q.P.R. (both L. Cup), Manchester City, Liverpool, Ipswich, Arsenal, Coventry, W.B.A., Sheffield Wednesday, Nottingham Forest.
	1970-71	- Chelsea, Nottingham Forest, Coventry.
	1971-72	- Ipswich.

Fixtures and scorers to 26-1-74. League, UEFA Cup, FA Cup and League Cup separately tabulated.

F-A		Scorers			
Norwich City	(h) 3-1	Dougan (2)	McCalliog		
Sheffield United	(h) 2-0	Dougan	McCalliog		
Southampton	(a) 1-2	Dougan			
Leeds United	(a) 1-4	Dougan			
Burnley	(h) 0-2	---			
Leeds United	(h) 0-2	---			
Newcastle United	(a) 0-2	---			
Everton	(h) 1-1	Dougan			
Chelsea	(a) 2-2	McCalliog (2)			
Manchester United	(h) 2-1	Dougan	McCalliog		
Birmingham	(a) 1-2	Richards			
Q.P.R.	(h) 2-4	Richards	own goal		
Ipswich Town	(a) 0-2	---			
Manchester City	(h) 0-0	---			
Liverpool	(a) 0-1	---			
West Ham United	(h) 0-0	---			
Tottenham	(a) 3-1	Powell	Palmer	Hibbitt	
Arsenal	(a) 2-2	Dougan	Richards		
Coventry	(a) 0-1	---			
Stoke City	(a) 3-2	Munro	Richards	Hibbitt	
Chelsea	(h) 2-0	Richards (2)			
Leicester	(a) 2-2	Sunderland	Richards		
Burnley	(a) 1-1	Powell			
Southampton	(h) 2-1	Wagstaffe	Richards		
Newcastle United	(h) 1-0	Richards			
Norwich City	(a) 1-1	Dougan			
<u>U.E.F.A. Cup</u>					
O.S. Belenenses	(a) 2-0	Richards	Dougan		
O.S. Belenenses	(h) 2-1	Eastoe	McCalliog		
Loko Leipzig	(a) 0-3	---			
Loko Leipzig	(h) 4-1	Kindon	Munro	Dougan	Hibbitt
<u>F.A. Cup</u>					
Leeds United	(h) 1-1	Richards			
Leeds United	(a) 0-1	---			
<u>League Cup</u>					
Halifax Town	(a) 3-0	Sunderland	Dougan	Richards	
Tranmere Rovers	(a) 1-1	Sunderland			
Tranmere Rovers	(h) 2-1	Dougan	Powell		
Exeter City	(h) 5-1	Richards (2)	Hibbitt (2)	Dougan	
Liverpool	(h) 1-0	Richards			
Norwich City	(a) 1-1	Richards			
Norwich City	(h) 1-0	Richards			

THE LAST TIME THEY WERE THERE! by Steve Roe

On Saturday, March 2, Wolves will emerge from the famous Wembley players' tunnel to contest the Football League Cup's destination. It's 14 years since they last emerged from that tunnel and Steve Roe takes a step back to that 1960 FA Cup Final

Wolves came to Wembley as firm favourites. They were first division runners-up after narrowly losing what would have been a hat-trick of championships. Their opponents, Blackburn Rovers were 17th in the table, three points above the relegated Leeds United.

But what could have proved a fine footballing final was spoiled by the infamous Wembley Hoodoo. Blackburn full-back Dave Whelan broke his leg before half-time and with the substitute rule far away, it left Rovers with 10 men. In the end, Wolves were convincing winners by 3-0. But it was no great spectacle. Despite their wonderful fitness and well-drilled team-work, the Wanderers did not let their best game emerge, keen to make sure this trophy did not escape their grasp.

The offside trap worked effectively. But this is rather a dull spectacle and although it finished Rovers talented but errative front line, it did little to satisfy anyone not wearing a black and gold rosette. The opening exchanges were tame. Rovers leader Derek Dougan was carrying an injury and Wolves were content to take their time. But Peter Dobing brought a great save from Finlayson from only five yards and this got the game stirring. With 42 minutes gone, Wolves went ahead when defender Mick McGrath turned Barry Stobart's cross-shot into his own net instead of clearing for a corner.

In the second half, after long periods of Blackburn trying to find their way through, Wolves clinched the cup. Des Horne sped down the left and his low cross was hammered home by Norman Deeley.

Deeley set the Midlands alight when he scored the third towards the end and one could not help feeling sorry for a Rovers side left with 10 men at Wembley on such an occasion. But without doubt, the Wanderers possessed the superior fitness and technique for the big occasion.

Blackburn Rovers: Leyland; Bray, Whelan; Clayton, Woods, McGrath; Bimpson, Dobing, Dougan, Douglas, McLeod.

Wolverhampton: Finlayson; Showell, Harris; Clamp, Slater, Flowers; Deeley, Stobart, Murray, Broadbent, Herno.

QUIZ

Answer the following questions correctly, send the answers to The Editor and win two free trips to any two home games of your choice. The questions are on and about Wolverhampton Wanderers. But think carefully before putting pen to paper. Don't take too long deliberating, however, as the first completely correct reply I receive will be immediately informed of his victory.

- (1) Name the birthplace of the following three players: Derek Jefferson, Alan Sunderland and Barry Powell.
- (2) What was the highest and lowest home league attendance for season 1972-73?
- (3) How many appearances did the following players make for England? W.M. Beats (1901-1902); A. Fletcher (1889-1890); T. Galley (1937); W. Morris (1939).
- (4) How many appearances did the following players make for Wales? E. Jones (1935-1938 excluding caps won while with Arsenal in later years); E.J. Peers (1914-1920 excluding caps won with Port Vale in 1922-23); R.W. Richards (1920-1922 excluding caps won with West Ham in 1924).
- (5) How many league appearances did Stan Cullis make for Wolves?
- (6) Who was the first Wolves player to play for Scotland?
- (7) What is the highest number of league goals Wolves have ever scored and when were they scored?
- (8) Wolves beat Everton 1-0 in the 1892-93 Cup Final. Who scored the only goal? Surname will suffice.
- (9) In 1955, a Wolves player slammed four goals for England against Scotland. Who was he?
- (10) How many league goals did the following players score for their former clubs before coming to Molineux? Steve Kindon (Burnley); Mike Bailey (Charlton Athletic); Derek Parkin (Huddersfield); Dave Wagstaffe (Manchester City).
- (11) Last season, Alan Sunderland scored his first league goal for Wolves. Who was it against?
- (12) Who was the Wolves manager immediately before Stan Cullis?
- (13) Wolves moved to Molineux in 1889 from Dudley Road. But where did they play before moving to Dudley Road?
- (14) When did Wolves first enter the Football League Cup competition, who were their first opponents and what was the result?
- (15) Who was the last player at Molineux to play for England?

Send your answers to: The Editor, 10 Fallowcourt Avenue, Finchley, N.12.

GLORY. GLORY .. AND UP YOU SPURS!

Tottenham Hotspur 1 (1) v Wolves 3 (2) - 24/11/73

When my final will and testament is read out, the 11 Wolverhampton players who made this a day to remember will find themselves that much richer. Long have I waited to see this pack of arrogant, fickle rabble rubbed into their own North London mud and this was the day. After a shaky start in which Big Chiv (please pause for sardonic smile) converted a penalty after Palmer had handled, Wolves took midfield control with Bailey, Hibbitt and Powell outstanding.

It had to come. Wolves finally clicked and regained their confidence with a typical display of positive attacking football worthy of television. Parkes was confident and safe; Munro gave Chivers that 'hang up your boots' feeling while McAlle left Gilzean in no doubt about the way to retire while still standing.

But up front, it was heart-warming to see Dougan give England the run-around and Richards regain that vital speed to torment Beal. My man of this match, however, was David 'leave 'em on their pants' Wagstaffe who took on players at will, used brilliant passing skills and almost decapitated Jennings with a blistering shot.

The goals are worth remembering. Powell, shrugging off that dynamic has-been Chivers, sped past two more super-Spurs and clipped a 25 yarder inside the far post to equalise. That changed the whole match. Wolves powered forward and Dougan headed against the underside of the bar before one of countless attacks ended with Palmer blasting a wonderful first-time drive home off the far post with Jennings helpless.

Hibbitt netted the third when Richards extracted the ball from the area and laid it straight in the player's path. His left foot did the rest. It could have been six goals and no surprises. Spurs were outclassed despite a late rally that saw Parkes make two great saves. What more can you say without sounding just a little biased!

Wolves: Parkes; Palmer, Munro, McAlle, Parkin; Bailey, Hibbitt, Powell; Richards, Dougan, Wagstaffe. Sub: Sunderland.

POWELL POWER!

Arsenal 2 (1) v Wolves 2 (1) - 4/12/73

Barry Powell and Charlie George would have graced the midfield in this game wonderfully. George, however, injured himself scoring Arsenal's first goal after 16 minutes and Powell was left to outshine the rest with his aggression, skill and distribution.

Being realistic, Kennedy and Radford missed chances from six and eight yards that would have buried Wolves early on. George gave them a deserved lead bending a free-kick around the wall and in off Parkes and the post. But he hurt his thigh and limped off for Hornsby.

Wolves took time to settle and one felt sorry for Wagstaffe who could not put a foot right despite having more of the ball than anyone else. But they got better with every attack and as Powell and Bailey stamped their authority, the equaliser had to come; Parkin drilled a shot towards the far post and Dougan dived past Simpson to head a spectacular and brave goal.

Lousy luck struck early in the second half when Hornsby watched a poor shot become a goal after striking McAlle's legs with Parkes already committed.

Richards had already seen a shot hooked off the line and it was becoming clear, however, that Wolves were taking command. This they did and Wilson made some good saves before Wolves equalised. Dougan worked hard on the right to retrieve Wagstaffe's over-hit cross ... laid it into Bailey's path and his clever chip into the box saw Richards dive amid the boots to flick a header under the diving Wilson for a fine goal.

A draw was a fair result. Wolves had the chances to win this, but so, during their peak in the afternoon, did Arsenal.

Wolves: Parkes; Palmer, Munro, McAlle, Parkin; Bailey, Hibbitt, Powell; Richards, Dougan, Wagstaffe. Sub: Sunderland.

HIGHFIELD BLUES!

Coventry City 1 (0) v Wolves 0 (0) - 8/12/73

Wolves and Coventry deserved a point each from this fine game but Colin Stein poked the winner six minutes from time after a Tom Hutchinson cross had rebounded off Cross's heel. Parkes had no hope from five yards.

Derek Parkin must have been kicking himself. Minutes earlier he dallied when put through by Bailey and a genuine chance was gone. Prior to this Richards missed two reasonable chances and Dougan saw a brilliant header from Wagstaffe's stunning run and cross, saved in spectacular if reflex fashion.

Both sides played good football and clearly, on this form, Wolves have at last turned the first corner even if there are another couple to negotiate.

Parkin had a superb game as did Bailey. Parkes was sound while both Munro and McAlle played well at the back. Powell again showed why he is keeping McCalliog in the reserves. Perhaps it could be time to switch Jim with Ken Hibbitt for a while. A more aggressive Wagstaffe has made a lot of difference up front and all in all, Wolves looked the more likely to snatch the single goal before Coventry obliged.

To lose any game is disappointing. But to lose a good game is a lot better than losing a poor one.

Wolves: Parkes; Palmer, Munro, McAlle, Parkin; Bailey, Powell, Hibbitt; Richards, Dougan, Wagstaffe. Sub: Sunderland.

DERBY THRILLER

Stoke City 2 (0) v Wolves 3 (2) - 15/12/73

This win completed an amazing series of away games in which Wolves recorded two wins and a draw to a single goal defeat and scored eight goals. I cannot remember the last time a team destined for the drop achieved this sort of consistent away form!

Five goals ... as many near-misses and some exciting incidents made this a cracking Midland Derby. Wolves, without Palmer or Parkin, brought in Taylor and Sunderland and while they are not as good, they filled their respective roles well on the day.

Wolves looked set to run riot when Frank Munro scored a bullet goal followed inside a minute by a well-placed header by John Richards. But Stoke held on despite Dougan's efforts and shook one-and-all by pulling level in identical style.

Rugged pivot Dennis Smith pulled one back when he headed home a fine Robertson cross ... then before Wolves could say "here we go again" Robertson pounced on a Pejic rebound to equalise with a fine volley.

Just when we had settled for a draw, Wolves snapped back - Dougan drove across goal and Ken Hibbitt appeared from nowhere to head a cracker. Stoke came too close for comfort to snatching another goal - but Munro and Co. held on for a well-deserved bonus.

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

SHOW-STOPPER!

Wolves 1 (0) v Liverpool 0 (0) - 19/12/73

It was the sort of goal that made John Richards England's goal king last season ... the sort of goal to make the fans forget the weather ... the sort of goal to actually silence Bill Shankley.

Tommy Smith made the error, heading an intended square pass wide of Hughes. Richards was there like a flash, outstripping Lloyd, taking aim and bending a left foot rocket-shot wide of Clemence into the top corner. Wolves lifted their faltering heads and now face their third successive semi-final and second in the League Cup.

It was a cracking match. Liverpool were very unlucky not to be ahead at the interval having done most of the attacking. Parkes made some good saves, Munro and McAlle defended doggedly and a little luck helped.

But when Richards struck after 47 minutes, Liverpool were on their heels. Dougan almost made it two when his fierce drive struck Clemence, then Richards twice turned the defence inside-out only to see Heighway ... yes Heighway, kick one off the line and Clemence hold another fine shot. He then headed inches over the bar and Wagstaffe sent a diving header inches wide.

Liverpool regained the upper hand by pushing Lindsay and Hughes forward. Keegan looked set to equalise when Parkes made a great block-save. Then Palmer headed Lindsay's volley off the line with the fans on their feet screaming. It was unbearable excitement as Liverpool battled for an Anfield replay. But Munro had control of Waddle and McAlle tackled like a tank. Bailey had the edge on the midfield duels and this proved a decisive factor. At the final whistle the crowd went wild as Wolves trooped off with heads high and the makings of a much happier New Year in store.

Wolves: Parkes; Palmer, Munro, McAlle, Parkin; Bailey, Powell, Hibbitt; Richards, Dougan, Wagstaffe. Sub: Sunderland.

CHRISTMAS CRACKERS!

Wolves 2 (1) v Chelsea 0 (0) - 22/12/73

Two superb goals by John Richards and flowing incisive football in the middle of the field proved too much for star-studded Chelsea. In fact, Peter Bonetti made a number of brilliant saves to prevent a rout.

Yet had Kember made more of an opening from six yards early in the match it might have been different. But at last it seems that element of fortune has come our way for a while and Kember fired over.

The rest was well worth watching. Wagstaffe, applying back-spin with his radar-controlled left-foot, dropped the ball inches over Harris and as the renowned King's Road 'Boot' scowled in dawning realisation, Richards appeared with the rub of a lamp, chested down and beat a frightened Bonetti with an unexpected left foot thunderbolt.

Other chances were created and with Bailey again outstanding in midfield Wolves were always winners for sheer class and positive attitude. Hudson's beer pot made a few expensive swerves and Osgood tried a few threats here and there - but when Richards left the defence counting his studs yet again, Bonetti visibly blanched as the ball screamed past him from 25 yards.

All in all, the fans, their howls for blood and rolling heads slowly abating, rose once again to applaud a Wolves team with plenty to offer and plenty more to come. The ever-improving style of Powell and Sunderland makes the transfer market seem quite a thing of the past.

Wolves: Parkes; Palmer, Munro, McAlle, Parkin; Bailey, Powell, Sunderland; Dougan, Richards, Wagstaffe. Sub: Kindon.

ROBBED!

Leicester City 2 (2) v Wolves 2 (1) - 26/12/73

Peter Shilton was the only reason Wolves left Filbert Street with one point instead of two, not to mention a substantial boost to their goal-average. He was brilliant in a first half that saw City's central defenders struggle to contain Kindon and Richards as Wolves hit a series of long balls down the middle. Richards was always that yard faster and Shilton made some astonishing saves to keep his side alive. But with 12 minutes gone, Alan Sunderland thundered a shot wide of him following Richards' clever work.

It was one-way traffic until McAlle appeared to up-end Samuels in the box and Frank Worthington blasted City level from the spot. To really make a farce of the score-line, Earle laid a good ball back and Worthington slammed it wide of Parkes a minute later.

Wolves opted to employ Wagstaffe in the second half and slowly regained the upper hand. Leicester looked better and came close to increasing their lead, but the last 15 minutes were a repeat of the first half with City reeling under the pressure. Finally, to balance the odds, Kindon broke down the line and crossed low to the near post where John Richards turned the ball past a surprised Shilton to earn Wolves one of the two points they clearly deserved.

Wolves: Parkes; Palmer, Munro, McAlle, Parkin; Bailey, Powell, Sunderland; Richards, Kindon, Wagstaffe. Sub: Hibbitt.

NICE ONE BARRY!

Burnley 1 (0) v Wolves 1 (0) - 29/12/73

Wolves waved goodbye to a year of glory and despair with a fine draw at title-chasing Burnley, one of the finest sides in football at the moment. In a year of two semi-final defeats, injury problems, fans howling for mass sackings and relegation rumours, it was nice to see those fears dispelled once and for all.

It was a good match to watch although Wolves were not as sharp as in recent games, they earned a point and gave Burnley a few frights. Burnley were the better side on the day. They were close to scoring a number of times but either wasted chances or found the Wolves back division stubborn. The first half was slightly in Burnley's favour but Wolves made their mark by attacking, albeit somewhat raggedly at times.

Kindon was injured in the first half and looked slow from then on. But after a goal-less first half, Barry Powell shook Burnley when he spun to crack a left footer into the net after 50 minutes for another fine goal. Burnley wasted no time in replying and here the defence were at fault. James cross left Taylor floundering, McAlle ducked to leave it for Parkes who in turn watched as Paul Fletcher dashed in to head Burnley level with 55 minutes gone. That was the end of the scoring but there was plenty of action before the end with Burnley kept at bay by Bailey and Co. in determined style. Happy New Year.

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

SAINTS AND SINNERS

Wolves 2 (1) v Southampton 1 (1) - 1/1/74

Happy New Year and goodbye to any remaining hints that this Wolverhampton team will be relegated. With two more home games in hand following a glut of away success, they took on consistent Southampton without Dougan and should, in the end, have won by a bigger margin.

Yet when a poorly cleared 10th minute corner was forced between Parkes and Parkin by Stokes, things looked bleak. But Wolves, slowly taking a midfield grip thanks to Bailey and Hibbitt, exerted pressure and Sunderland, playing up front, raced away on the right before chipping over five defenders. Dave Wagstaffe chested down, stepped forward, and with all the devastating accuracy of his last league goal, two years ago, blasted past Martin to equalise. But stumbling Mike Channon managed to win a penalty, the ninth Wolves have conceded this year, and Phil Parkes made a wonderful save. Minutes later, John Richards, always a menace, was hauled down and Alan Sunderland rolled a tame shot too close to Martin.

The second half was 10 minutes old when Sunderland held off a challenge in the box to put the ball in John Richards' path. His calm low push-shot gave Martin no hope and from then on, with Kindon on for the injured Powell unlucky not to grab a couple, Wolves marched on.

Wolves, also without suspended Munro, looked none the worse for the presence of rugged Derek Jefferson, and during such crisis periods, his acquisition from Ipswich seems well worth the money.

Wolves: Parkes; Palmer, Jefferson, McAlle, Parkin; Bailey, Powell, Hibbitt; Richards, Sunderland, Wagstaffe. Sub: Kindon.

VICTORY FOR FOOTBALL

Wolves 1 (0) v Leeds United 1 (0) - 5/1/74

This FA Cup third round masterpiece was packed with breathless excitement, near-misses and end-to-end football of the highest order. Wolves played as they really can, despite missing Dougan and Munro. Leeds were worth a draw, but only just. Powell's foul on Bremner was incapable of affecting whether anyone scored or not as the ball had already gone. Explain that Kirkpatrick!

Jones was always a menace and twice had 'goals' disallowed for offside. His heading power was unharnessed, otherwise he would surely have found the net. But for Wolves, Jefferson had his best game to date, Bailey was outstanding ... Wagstaffe thrilling ... Sunderland an amazingly transformed front-runner and Richards, well, he scored and that's his job.

Both sides had their spells of pressure, but Wolves looked more likely to score. Harvey made incredible saves from Sunderland, Bailey and Richards, then Reaney headed a Bailey shot off the line. At the interval, Wolves were on top. This was finally reflected when Richards came leaping out of Leeds box having watched Sunderland's curling cross deflect off his chest inside the post with Harvey already moving the wrong way.

A Richards shot that cleared the bar from six yards might have done the trick, but back came Leeds and when Powell raped Bremner in the box, Lorimer slammed the equaliser from the spot.

Wolves: Parkes; Palmer, Jefferson, McAlle, Parkin; Bailey, Powell, Hibbitt; Richards, Sunderland, Wagstaffe. Sub: Kindon.

McGARRY'S RAGE!

Leeds United 1 (0) v Wolves 0 (0) - 9/1/74

"Leeds were lucky to beat us tonight ... bloody lucky. That referee robbed us of two definite penalties." So raged the normally quiet and coldly aloof Bill McGarry after what must rate as the biggest con-trick since the Trojan Horse.

Despite the return of Clarke, Leeds relied almost completely on the beefy Mick Jones for their rather limited, unimaginative attacks. Wolves, with Munro back and Dougan sub, took the game by the scruff of the neck and had Leeds defence stretched to its limits.

It was another wonderful game, played in a sporting atmosphere. But neither side flinched from their aims and the crowd had plenty to keep them on their toes. Wolves, playing the more positive and varied football, found Hunter and Reaney their biggest stumbling blocks and Powell (twice) and Sunderland wasted good chances.

Leeds found Parkes in great form when they did attack. In fact their attacks were quite frequent ... but they lacked the usual Leeds bite. However, with six minutes remaining, Yorath crossed from the wing and Mick Jones climbed to power a great header inside the far post to put Leeds ahead. What followed, however, is enough to make any sane person paranoid. First of all it was Jones, in his own box, blocking a shot with his hand that looked set on target. But 'Pickwick' Kirkpatrick lost his nerve and waved play on. The mass protests had barely died down when Dougan, on for Powell, was sent reeling with a push in the back. This had to be a penalty ... but no! again, he waved play on. Leeds won, but even their own fans blushed slightly.

Wolves: Parkes; Palmer, Munro, McAlle, Parkin; Bailey, Hibbitt, Powell; Richards, Sunderland, Wagstaffe. Sub: Dougan.

MEANWHILE

Wolves 1 (0) v Newcastle United 0 (0) - 12/1/74

Some fans were puzzled and angry to find Derek Dougan wearing the substitute's shirt for the second successive match. But while Sunderland continues to encourage an end to Wolves obsession with the high ball, it is possible to utilise both players, on their current form and on merit.

Whatever the personality arguments, there is no doubting Wolves wonderful all-round improvement. They shook off the bitter disappointment of the Leeds games to beat a very positive and skilful Newcastle, well engineered by Hibbitt.

Mike Bailey, playing better now than at any time in his career must have made an impression on Alf Ramsey, especially when he laid on what proved the decisive goal after three minutes. Newcastle cleared the ball, Bailey headed it back into the right side of the box and Richards pounced to whip the ball wide of a surprised McPaul.

Wolves went on to pound the United defence for the opening 20 minutes but without further reward and slowly, Newcastle settled down to make this a highly entertaining match. Gibb, Cassidy and Hibbitt prompted Tudor and the bustling MacDonald, but Munro and McAlle, a few slips apart, kept them in check. Richards was always the superior striker on view while Sunderland and Wagstaffe both contributed their skills to torment McDermott and the burly Howard. In the end, Wolves were worth both points, but both sides created openings that could have altered the final score line.

Wolves: Parkes; Palmer, Munro, McAlle, Parkin; Bailey, Hibbitt, Powell; Richards, Sunderland, Wagstaffe. Sub: Dougan.

DOOG'S BACK!

Norwich City 1 (1) v Wolves 1 (0) - 19/1/74

Sluggish Wolves found Norwich sharper and more skilful than one might expect from a side in their league position. In fact with a bit more luck, Ted MacDougall could have scored three goals in a cracking first-half.

In many ways, this was a repeat of last year's meeting at Carrow Road. City made the early running and the defence did well to cope with some inventive attacks.

Alan Sunderland took the midfield honours while Wagstaffe did his bit on the wing. But when Bailey collided with Stringer, he visibly slowed up and so did Wolves.

Norwich took the lead on the stroke of half-time when MacDougall launched himself to power a splendid header wide of Parkes.

City tried to sew it up after up break but when they failed, Wolves began to tick over more smoothly and it was Derek Dougan who equalised when Keelan appeared to misjudge Wagstaffe's cunning cross allowing Dougan to head home.

Both sides had chances to clinch both points, but with City's need greater than Wolves, Bailey went off to be replaced by Hibbitt and Wolves completed 90 academic minutes to extend their league improvement and move up another place in the table.

Wolves: Parkes; Palmer, Munro, McAlle, Parkin; Bailey, Powell, Sunderland; Richards, Dougan, Wagstaffe. Sub: Hibbitt.

TENSION MOUNTS!

Norwich City 1 (0) v Wolves 1 (0) - 23/1/74

What are the odds against any striker hitting a shot from the same side of an area - against the same post in two cup semi-finals, and watching it beat the keeper then fly out ... twice! John Richards toppled those odds in a dramatic finish to this League Cup semi-final first-leg as Wolves suddenly emerged from the brink of disaster to almost snatch a 3-1 victory.

They looked narrowly the classier side in the first half and Bailey and Dougan were foiled by Keelan while Munro and Co. dealt well with Mellor and Silvester. Only a Suggett snap-shot that caught Parkes going the wrong way looked serious.

But when Parkin limped off and Sunderland moved to left-back, Norwich threw all they had forward and Parkes must accept the blame for allowing Mellor's low skidding shot under his body.

For a while, Norwich looked capable of building a two-goal lead. But with Hibbitt playing wide, Wolves regained the initiative and with Dougan winning more of his aerial tussles with Forbes, the City goal began to look bigger.

Finally, Bailey, a real driving force, slammed a low pass at goal from fully 30 yards. Keelan stopped it but could not hold it and John Richards flashed it into the roof of the net. Before the cheers had faded, he slipped Stringer brilliantly, turned inside and whipped a cross-shot that beat Keelan, hit the far post and incredibly flew out ... memories of Leeds!

In the dying minutes, Keelan chose to tackle Dougan near the line and hit the ball up to Palmer. The full-back cleverly lifted the ball goalwards from about 40 yards and it was entering the empty net when Stringer jumped to head over his own bar. But 1-1 was a fair result as City had an equally good chance of going ahead when Silvester fired wide of an open net.

Wolves: Parkes; Palmer, Munro, McAlle, Parkin; Bailey, Sunderland, Powell; Richards, Dougan, Wagstaffe. Sub: Hibbitt.

THEY'VE MADE IT!

Wolves 1 (0) v Norwich City 0 (0) - 26/1/74

With one of those brilliant sweeping three man moves that takes the ball from Parkes, via Dougan to Richards, the young genius swept Wolves into the 1974 Football League Cup Final at Wembley.

We had endured 49 minutes during which City's 4-4-2 defence had survived countless corners and a string of free-kicks following the sort of fouls that smack of desperation. Keelan had produced saves in that agonising first-half to keep his side in the game. But even he was helpless when that well-known, well-studied but still unstoppable move was instigated. Richards was on to Dougan's astute flick like lightning and as Stringer struggled, he calmly whipped the ball low past Keelan as he raced out. Molineux erupted. The tension was lifted and Wolves began to take City apart. Yet already, Richards had seen a great header saved, Wagstaffe bent a free kick inches over the bar and Forbes scrambled a shot off his line.

City attacked on the break. One error by Parkes allowed Silvester a shot at an open net. But Munro must have impressed Willie Ormond while McAlle had another fine match. Sunderland did a great job at left-back while Hibbitt showed his better form and had what I felt a perfect goal disallowed at a crucial stage. The rest is academic. Wolves could and should have scored more. Always the superior side they suffered from understandable nerves. But, finally, they made it.

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