

WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS LONDON SUPPORTERS CLUB



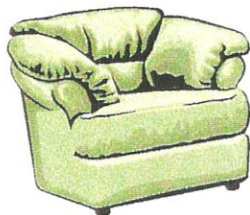
FOUNDED 1966

NEWSLETTER

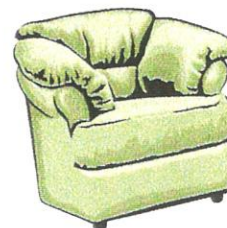
MARCH 2002



FOUNDED 1966



FROM THE CHAIR STUART EARL



This edition has yet again reached you later than planned. But as you will understand, we had a few technical problems involving our new editor Karl Colon and the rest of the team whilst I was away sunning myself in Barbados, and I have had to re do a lot of the work since my return.

What a performance from the team while I was away, four wins and two draws from six matches. Promotion form if ever I saw it, although I do hope Saturday's Grimsby result was just a hiccup.

As you may have read in the press, Sir Jack has made next years season tickets available, for a limited period, at last season's prices, and the Committee have, thanks to not a little help from Treasurer Dave hodes, aquired our usual Club allocation in readiness for what we anticipate to be a Premiership campaign.

Please let Dave Slape have your Player Of The Year nominations as soon as possible, as we should like to present the trophy at a special "End Of Season" get together at "The Pied Bull" on 4th May, one week after the end of the season. I have already spoken to the Club regarding a couple of players, including your nominated POTY, attending, and am in contact with "The Doog," and I hope to be able to bring him down as well.

I hear whispers that a couple of officials from Wolves wish to attend our AGM this year, so please make an effort to attend. We will notify you of the date later in the year.

We will get an edition out to you at the end of the campaign, but please bear with us as we will try to include a report and photos of the "do" in what will hopefully be the last edition from this division.

Stuart

**WOLVERHAMPTON
WANDERERS LONDON
SUPPORTERS CLUB**

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OUR NEW EDITOR

Well, thank you for having me back as editor of the London Wolves Newsletter. When the Committee invited me to take the post of Editor on board I had no hesitation in accepting.

And what a time to be returning . As we all know this is a very exciting tin for Wolves' supporters, with David Jones doing a fantastic job we have at long last got a manager who has the Club going in the right direction. No more has --beens arriving at the Club ready to collect a last big fat pay cheq being interested only in the money and not the Club.

David appears to be building a squad capable of holding their own in The Premier League. Not only that, but pride and passion in wearing the gold and black seems to be being instilled in players' minds.

With no disrespect intended to teams such as Crewe, Rotherham and Bradford, but we are now doing what we should have been doing for years, and beating them, even if on occasions we find ourselves a goal in arrears.

Yes, the future sure looks bright, and, fingers crossed, next season really will be our first in The Premiership.

Supporting Wolves always.

Karl

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Don't forget 4th May at The Pied Bull

Player Of The Year Presentation

Get your vote in now

WOLVES' HALF TERM REPORT

Well maybe it's not quite half term, with only just over two months of the season left. However, those of us who had attended the first game of the season, against Portsmouth, must have been painting a very bleak picture of the season about to unfold before them. Playing at home against Portsmouth; a dawn of a new season, expectations are high and three points expected. Suddenly two goals to nil down and the doom and gloom is back rearing its ugly head. Somehow Wolves turned the game round, pulling back the deficit and in the end could have won the game. What stood out about the team was a new never-say-die spirit, something hugely missing from last season. As well as this new never-say-die spirit, there seems to be a better team spirit. Every player is playing for each other and not for themselves. Dave Jones' purchases have been fantastic. He has strengthened where necessary and not for the sake of it. Like most Wolves supporters I prefer not to see them a goal or two down, but now this situation would not worry me as I believe this team is now capable of turning a situation like that around. Now, with the risk of upsetting a few people, I am going to give my thoughts of the squad that Mr. Jones has put together. As we all know, Oaksey, as I call him has been ever present all season. I think he has done a marvelous job and pulled off some vital saves at important times in games. My only small criticism of him would be, I would like him to dominate his box more. I feel that at times the defense and the crowd don't know whether he is going to come or stay. The defense has also played a major part in the Wolves revival. Butler seems a great guide for young Lescott, who in turn seems as though he is going to be a Wolves great, so long as we keep hold of him. Muscat for me is Wolves through and through. He has his critics, but at the end of the day if he doesn't get the ball he usually gets his man. not

because of malice, its just that he wants, like us, to be a winner. His contract runs out in the summer and there has been talk of him being sold before then. To me this would be a waste, how much would it cost to replace him? Let's offer him a new contract, something I think he deserves. The left hand side has always been a worry for me. Nayk and Camara have both been great getting forward, but I am not so sure on their defending duties. Saying this, Camara has won the battle for the spot and seems to be getting better with each game. As a big fan of Pollet, it would be a crying shame to lose him, but I'm not sure how to keep him happy, maybe we should play with three center halves and two wingbacks. The midfield has greatly improved since Dave Jones has taken over; passing, attacking play, battling, it has everything. My only criticism would be that at times they sometimes sit back a little too much allowing the opposition to get back into games. Upfront, we must have the biggest pool of players for this position in the Football League. It goes without saying Dean Sturridge must be the bargain of the season, no crocodile tears for Leicester, please! He and Blakey are forming a great partnership and there is still Kenny Miller come. Last, but not least, the Manager. Brilliant, fantastic, could become a God - only criticism, believe it or not, don't sell Branch, he can fill in when Newts or Kennedy are injured and he can play up front.

FOURTY FIVE MINUTES IS ALL WE NEED

Crewe A 1 – 4 Wolves
20th February 2002

For the second game in a row Wolves decided not to really play in the first half. In fact, had Crewe not wasted some very good chances, Wolves could have been dead and buried by half time. The Wolves midfield was totally overran by Crewe's free-flowing football. As a Wolves supporter, it was very painful to watch; only the Wolves players and Dave Jones knew the reasons for this poor first half display.

Whatever the reasons were for the first half display, Dave Jones had the answers to rectify matters. For in the second half, a totally different Wolves team emerged. From the whistle, Wolves were first to the ball and eager to put their first half display behind them. After 53 minutes, Nathan Blake latched on

to a through ball and crashed a shot from the edge of the area into the back of the Crewe net. A few minutes later, Alex Rae picked up the ball just inside Crewe's half, took a couple of strides forward then unleashed a shot from some 30 yards. To be honest, the shot wasn't that powerful but to everyone's amazement, and the traveling army's joy, the ball crashed of the keeper and into the net. Wolves were now in the mood to murder Crewe and shortly after, Blake and Newton worked a lovely one-two for the move of the match. Again Blake strode on to the ball and smashed an unstoppable shot into the back of the net. By this time the Wolves team was on a high, they were passing the ball about with authority and some of the players were showboating to the Wolves fan's joy. The fourth goal was a little bit lucky, but deserved due to Kennedy's determination. A Wolves attack had been half cleared wide on the left, some players might have given up on the loose ball. But Mark Kennedy showed his determination sprinted

on to the loose ball and unleashed a wicked shot across the Crewe 6 yard box; unfortunately for them a defender stuck out a leg and deflected the ball past his own keeper. However, with the points safe, Wolves allowed themselves a lapse in concentration and sub Rodney Jack planted a sweet volley into the back of Michael Oakes' net.

Attendance:

League position: 2nd

Team rating: 8/10

My man of the match- Nathan Blake never stopped working and rewarded with two fine goals.

Travel section is not included in this copy

BORE DRAW

Grimsby Town 1-1 Wolves
7th December 2001

This match even helped me to fall asleep during the second half as Wolves failed for the second time in five days, to retake the top spot. Jeavons got the game off to a lively start when, after just six minutes, he put Grimsby ahead with a brilliantly taken overhead kick, after a long throw had eluded the Wolves defense. Wolves were level four minutes later, when Groves, under pressure from Sturridge, deflected a Kennedy free kick past his own keeper. But it was down hill from this point, and Wolves failed to make any further impression on the game. Roussel went close with a header near the end, and Shaun Newton even had the ball in the net in the last minute, only to lose out to a linesman's flag.

Attendance: 5,143

League position 2nd

Team rating 6/10

MAINE'S FAILURE

Manchester City 1-0 Wolves
11th December 2001

Wolves plodded gamefully on after losing Lescott, sent off for a dreadful two-footed tackle, in the dying minutes of the first half. This was after Wolves had dominated the early play, but went behind on twenty-one minutes. Rae had sent Huckerby sprawling just outside the box and from the resulting free kick Hurlock curled a fine ball into the net, despite a brave effort from Muscat to stop it. Wolves had good chances from Newton and Camara, the latter being foiled by a late desperate tackle by Dunn as he closed on goal. A late surge by Wolves almost brought rewards, but the added inconvenience of being a man short always weighed down in City's favour.

Attendance: 33,639

League position 3rd

Team rating: 6/10

GRIM REAPERS

WOLVES 0-1 GRIMSBY TOWN
16th march 2002

Let's just hope this performance was a one off! One shot in the first half, and one in the second. In fact relegation threatened Town often looked the more likely team to get a result, and the reduction to ten men following the dismissal of Muscat really put the spanner in the works.

Already struggling to show their alleged superiority, Wolves hopes all but disappeared just after half time, when Muscat appeared to elbow Boulding right in front of the referee, and was promptly red carded.

With the initiative handed to them, the visitors wrapped up the points when Todd headed firmly home with just ten minutes remaining.

Attendance: 25,967 League position: 2nd Team rating: 4/10

RAE'S TITANIC

**Wolves 2-1 Birmingham City
16th December 2001**

Yet another Sunday match for the inconvenience of the fans, ended with Wolves securing the points after a fine performance in which Rae was outstanding. He turned in a performance possibly not seen since the days of Mike Bailey. Either side of half time, Rae could have added to Sturridge's goal which had been quickly cancelled out by Marcello. But he was denied, firstly by Bennett and then by a cruel bounce. Sticking gamefully to their task, Wolves got the winner they thoroughly deserved when Rae stormed into the area to outrun every one else and stab the ball home from a superb Kennedy cross in the sixty-sixth minute. This was after Wolves had dominated the second period of a lively encounter.

Attendance: 21,482

League position: 3rd

Team rating: 7/10

VICARAGE TEA PARTY

**Watford 1-1 Wolves
22nd December 2001**

After looking the better side for long periods, Wolves failed to get maximum points from this match and should have done better, especially Blake who missed one of those opportunities to score that your granny would have tucked away. A yard out and with the goal at his mercy, he somehow managed to miss. Then in the dying minutes Muscat unleashed a shot that struck the upright with Chamberlain beaten. All had been going to plan when after only eight minutes, Newton headed home a fine cross from Kennedy. But a slip by Naylor twenty minutes later allowed Smith to equalize. The ref also did his best to keep to the script by denying Blake a penalty after being felled by Vega.

Attendance: 17,389

League position: 2nd

Team rating: 7/10

OAKES HAS DEVL IN MIND

**Birmingham City 2-2 Wolves
9th March 2002**

Wolves, despite playing in a wind that took the top off the stand, took a two goal lead, with goals from defenders Butler and Lescott, and should, despite heavy City pressure, taken all three points.

But a mistake from Oakes, allowing a shot from Devlin to slip under his body, let the home side back in the game.

And with this occurring just before half time, Wolves were then fortunate to return home with a share of the spoils.

Attendance: 22,104 League position: 1st Team rating 6/10

SCHOOL REPORTING

**Wolves 3 – 1 Bradford City
16th February 2002**

This game against Bradford City read like a school report; first half very poor, needs to improve if to achieve your goal. In the first half, everything was missing from Wolves' game. The free-flowing football, their passing, goal chances, their authority on the game. Wolves had created a couple of chances but found the visiting keeper in fine form.

However, it was Bradford who broke the deadlock, the normally reliable Joleon Lescott failed to clear in the 6-yard box, and Ashley Ward stole in to bury the ball in the back of the net. This was Bradford's only effort of an overall dull half played out by both teams.

The second half started similar to the first, Wolves huffing and puffing but not their usual authoritative self. Again, the visiting keeper made a couple of great saves to keep the boys out. With the home fans beginning to get restless and only fifteen minutes left on the clock Wolves kicked into top gear. Shaun Newton nodded down a Kennedy cross into the path of Dean Sturridge, who made no mistake from 6 yards. A few minutes later Newton picked up the ball wide on the right of the area, he breezed past a defender then curled a superb shot into the bottom left hand corner of the goal. With a few minutes of the game remaining, man of the moment Dean Sturridge ran on to a through ball and was brought down by the keeper. The referee never hesitated and pointed

to the spot. Deano dusted himself down and coolly slotted the ball into the back of the net. Some might say the score flattered Wolves, but at the end of the day the lads kept plugging away, not giving up knowing they needed the correct result.

Attendance:

League position: 2nd

Team rating: 7/10

My man of the match- Dean Sturridge scored the all-important goals.

BARNS DOOR

**BARNESLEY 1-0 WOLVES
29th January 2002**

Wolves did everything but score at Oakwell. They had 85% of the play, but just could not put the ball into the net.

And the price was paid when, after forty minutes, that old adversary Sheron slipped away from Lescott and fired a shot past Oales.

This after Blake had set up Sturridge only for the in form striker to blast his shot high

In fact Blake was causing a lot of panic amongst the home defence, holding the ball well and feeding his teammates.

It was all Wolves in the second half as they pressed for the equaliser, and Sturridge was again guilty of a glaring miss, and mid way through the half they thought they should have been awarded a penalty when Branch was felled by Barker.

But, despite the domination and pressure Wolves just could not hit the target.

Attendance: 13,825

League position: 2nd

Team rating: 6/10