



# Wolverhampton Wanderers LONDON SUPPORTERS CLUB founded 1966

# NEWSLETTER



## From the chair

Good news at last. After a year of turmoil, Barry Baker has agreed to sign over the name "London Wolves" to Wolverhampton Wanderers London Supporters Club and, after agreeing to certain conditions, Dave Slape and I signed the transfer of ownership forms for London Wolves Limited before the match against Derby. Our thanks go to Barry although I do feel that this situation should never have arisen.

So, after a fine start when the performances were very impressive, Wolves appeared to hit rock bottom with a pair of dire performances at Watford and Brighton. Fortunately a performance worthy of praise was delivered against Norwich. And not before time! In terms of league position, Wolves did not lose too much ground on the play-off places due largely to the kind results of the other contenders. Let's hope that the Christmas and New Year fixtures help get things going again as a really good run of results is badly needed.

I recently attended the annual Daventry Supporters Club dinner and dance at Molineux, which was arranged with his usual efficiency by Chris Cox. I was very pleased to be introduced to Wolves new Director of Marketing and Communications during the evening who has expressed an interest in restarting Fans Forums and meetings with recognised supporters clubs. I will keep you informed of progress in that area.

London Wolves supporters were well represented as were former players, with an impressive guest list, including eight of the League Cup winning side of '74.

Preparation for our fortieth anniversary dinner and dance are well under way. As you will already know the venue is now The Valley, Charlton Athletic FC, on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2006. The invitations to guests are on their way and other arrangements are taking shape. Hotels are booked and entertainment is being organised. The menu will be available shortly and will be available on the web site

[www.londonwolves.com](http://www.londonwolves.com) Many thanks to Peter Bartlett for making the website look very, very good. If you've yet to have a browse, I can recommend it. There is now a wide-range of WWLSC merchandise which is definitely worth checking out.

The Committee of London Wolves and I wish you all a very happy Christmas and an exciting New Year.

Stuart



Dec 2005



Page 2

Editorial

Page 5

Travel News

Pages 7-9

Match Reports

Page 11

Statistics

# editorial



WOLVERHAMPTON  
WANDERERS  
LONDON  
SUPPORTERS CLUB

Honorary Life President  
Derek Dougan

Honorary President  
John Richards

Chairman  
Stuart Earl

Honorary Member  
Sir Jack Hayward OBE  
Steve Bull MBE

Secretary  
Dave Slape

Treasurer  
Tim Richards

Travel Secretary  
Peter Woodfield

Entertainment Officer  
John Engleman

Minutes Secretary  
Leo Masters

Committee Members  
Stefan Leonard  
Stan Armett  
Dave Hodges  
Matthew Hawthorn  
Guy Holland

Newsletter Editor  
Phil O'Connor

Webmaster  
Peter Bartlett

Club Contacts  
Stuart Earl  
01760 756278

Dave Slape  
0208 764 8023

Peter Woodfield  
01634 363704

e mail  
londonwolves.66@btinternet.com

website  
www.londonwolves.com

## An apology

Apologies to all London Wolves members who have been wondering why they haven't received a magazine this season - basically it's because the active membership, i.e. those who attended the Annual General Meeting in July, decided that they only wanted one magazine at the end of the season. This decision was approved by a majority of members present. So why are you getting an issue now when the season is only half-way through? To be honest I don't really know but here it is. I hope you enjoy it. I'm sorry but I've had to drop the Player Statistics section in order to accommodate all the match reports.

You probably noticed the different design and lay-out in the last issue of the magazine back in May. This was because I was sitting my end-of-year exams and simply couldn't find the time to produce the magazine. My thanks go to Alp Print Services, our printers, for pulling everything together and getting a stylish newsletter published. The only complaint I heard, which also contributed to the decision at the AGM was:

Just like to make a couple of comments about the new stile mag!  
i like the cover. but the rest is total crap!!  
1st chairmans report..do we as members, really interested in stef's travels,! plus his air miles  
!plus last mag was about barbados !!  
2nd .chairman says a.g.m 16th july.editor says a.g.m 9th july. main feature on a.g.m.doesnt  
even give a date ?so as a member when is the a.g.m.? as i dont live in london i need to book my  
rail ticket in advance.i would like to save the club postage as i dont want to recieve any more  
magazines.the magazine in my own opinion should focus more on members !!  
im not interested in stuart's or stef's travels .!

I'll save the blushes of the member by not naming them, especially in light of the spilling missteaks, but it's disappointing to receive such negativity especially when it's all done voluntarily by people who have other full-time jobs and commitments. As always, I welcome contributions from members - if you don't like what you're reading then you can do something positive to change it. Just to give you advance notice I won't be producing the end of season issue as I'll be doing exams again. If there are any willing volunteers out there to pull it together in late-May then please get in touch with Stuart.

## Farewell to a legendary Wolves fan

George Best was a Wolves fan. Best confessed that as an 8-year-old he was a Wolves fan from watching them on the TV. Whilst Wolves never managed to sign him in his short but glorious career he did pull on the Old Gold shirt once, on 18th October 1976, in Mike Bailey's testimonial match against the Baggies. A crowd of 19,733 watched Best score twice for Wolves with Willie Carr netting a third in the 3-0 win. Another legend, Bobby Moore also turned out for Wolves that day.

WWLSC Honorary Life President, Derek 'The Doog' Dougan was a pallbearer at the funeral, see page 10 for details.

## The 40th Anniversary Dinner

This will be the biggest event of Wolverhampton Wanderers London Supporters Club for at least the next 9 years and every member should be booking a place to attend. As part of the organising committee I can promise you that the agenda for the evening is already mightily impressive and there are still 7 months to go. Please see details inside the magazine or on the [www.londonwolves.com](http://www.londonwolves.com) website for more information on places and former-player sponsorship.

If there is a particular player you would like to have invited to the dinner then please let Stuart know and we'll see what we can do to accommodate your request.

I'm in the process of producing a commemorative brochure for the event and would be delighted to receive a few words from each member recounting memories of travelling with London Wolves over the years. If you want to contribute then please read page 3 and send your thoughts to me for inclusion. If you have a passport sized photo then I'll publish that alongside your words.

## London Wolves Website (WWW.LONDONWOLVES.COM)

Hopefully you'll all have received access to our Members Only section on the website - if you haven't then please contact Peter Bartlett, our webmaster, at londonwolves66@ntlworld.com.

Two important reasons to visit the website are:

1. There is currently a competition to design the official WWLSC 40th Anniversary club badge. There have been a number of entries already and these can be found on the **40th Badge** tab under **WWLSC**. The competition closes in February 2006 and there is a prize, other than simply seeing your badge worn by the membership, so please get your crayons out and put those creative thoughts down on paper.

2. WWLSC are in the merchandise business courtesy of spreadshirt.co.uk who provide a wide-range of Official WWLSC gear all of which can be viewed in the **merchandise** tab under **WWLSC** on the home page. There are t-shirts, polo-shirts, jackets, scarves and mugs amongst other items including the official WWLSC thong, modelled on the website by Ruth.

But there are loads of other reasons to check the website out and keep up to date with activities. Peter has really done a terrific job in pulling all the information together.



# WWLSC 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner - 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2006



It's at The Valley, home of Charlton Athletic Football Club on Saturday 22nd July.

Tickets cost £45 for members and £50 for non-members.

## CAN YOU SPONSOR A WOLVES EX-PLAYER TO COME TO THE 40th?

WWLSC want to make the 40th celebration as memorable and enjoyable as possible. Many of our members often talk about the Wolves "greats" they have seen play over the years. WWLSC events are frequently attended by some of these great players. We have already asked Derek "The Doog" Dougan and "King" John Richards, as Presidents' of the Club to grace the event with their presence, and we are tempting more of the "greats" to join us.

Traditionally, WWLSC has picked up the travel and accommodation expenses for our guests since we benefit greatly from their presence. As you know, some of the older ex-players never experienced the high earnings that players enjoy and we have always tried to give them every chance to join us, see some of their old mates and give us the pleasure of their company.

To keep the event price affordable for members we only have a very limited budget and can't invite as many ex-players as we are in contact with and would like to invite, so the Committee is seeking sponsors: the reward is that you will be seated at the same table as the player you sponsor. Full sponsorship is £150, accommodation sponsorship £80, ticket sponsorship is £50, sponsoring a player and their partner is £200. Joint (eg family sponsors) are also welcome to share the costs amongst members.

Please phone or email Stuart Earl as soon as you can at londonwolves.66@btinternet.com or ring him on 01760 756278

Haven't booked your place at the dinner yet? Then please photocopy the form below and send it off to the address shown along with a non-refundable deposit for £10 per person to guarantee your seats for this extravaganza.

---

## WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS LONDON SUPPORTERS CLUB 40th Anniversary Dinner 22nd July 2006 Reservation Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Town/City \_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_ Post code \_\_\_\_\_

Country \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile \_\_\_\_\_

Number of **member** tickets (£45 each) \_\_\_\_\_ Number of **non-member** tickets (£50 each) \_\_\_\_\_

Please send a cheque payable to WWLSC for £10 non-refundable deposit for each ticket reserved

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please state any dietary requirements \_\_\_\_\_

Once you have printed, completed and signed the form please send it, together with the appropriate deposit, to:  
**John Engleman, WWLSC Entertainments Officer, 54 Pinks Hill, Swanley, Kent BR8 8AQ**

---

## Souvenir Brochure

The newsletter editor is pulling together a souvenir brochure to mark the 40th Anniversary of WWLSC and needs your input as members.

Can you please help by jotting down 100 words or more on any of the following topics:

- Why I joined London Wolves?
- Why I love the Wolves?
- A funny thing happened on the way to the match?
- Remember that time when xxxxx did yyyyyy in the zzzzzz?

But really any memory of travelling and attending matches with London Wolves is welcomed as well as any thoughts of previous events.

Please send your scribbles to:

**Philip O'Connor** by e-mail to: phil\_oconnor@hotmail.com or by post to: **76 Wardour Street, London W1F 0UU**

Please enclose a passport-sized photograph if you want to appear in the brochure alongside your memory.

# match reports



## **THE BELLES OF ST MARY'S**

### **SOUTHAMPTON 0-0 WOLVES**

6th August 2005

Newly relegated Saints were given the run around for most of this first match of the new season. Wolves attacked from the off and with the lively Naylor overlapping down the left always looked dangerous. Only a very alert Niemi in the home goal kept a rampant visiting side at bay.

Niemi saved well from Kennedy who had burst through on the left and fired a thunderous shot goalwards. But he was nowhere to be seen when Cort thudded a header against his crossbar from a Naylor corner and the rebound was scrambled to safety. Niemi then denied Miller, whose darting runs had been causing the home defence a multitude of troubled moments.

The first period saw Oakes in the Wolves goal without a save to make, but he was called sharply into action halfway through the second half when he turned a Quashie belter around for a corner.

But Wolves came again and possibly should have taken advantage when the home side lost Lundekvam, red carded for yet another foul, in what was not really a dirty match.

Verdict: Fine start to the new campaign.  
Man of the match: Naylor.  
Team rating: 8/10  
Attendance: 24,061  
Team: Oakes, McNamara, Naylor, Ince, Lescott, Edwards, Seol (Olofinjana 78), Ricketts, Cort, Miller (Clarke 85), Kennedy  
Unused subs: Ikeme, Craddock, Cameron  
Bookings: Seol (54 – foul); Kennedy (58 – foul); Miller (65 – foul); McNamara (87 – obstruction)



## **CORT BREECHES PALACE SECURITY**

### **WOLVES 2-1 CRYSTAL PALACE**

9th August 2005

Wolves turned in a sparkling performance to equal the Club's unbeaten record of twenty-one matches although, after dominating for long spells, it took a late strike from Cort to break a stubborn Palace side.

A well worked move from Kennedy, Miller and Ricketts provided Seol with the simplest of chances from five yards out to give Wolves the lead after just three minutes and this after Miller had twice gone close as Wolves tore into the visitors from the off.

Palace always looked dangerous on the break, and it was no surprise as they equalised minutes before half-time as McAnuff scored a fine solo goal. More

Wolves pressure in the second period provided an entertaining match but it brought little reward as Kiraly in the Palace goal kept out efforts from Ince and Kennedy.

However six minutes from time the pressure was rewarded when Cort rose at the far post to deflect a header into the net off the back of Hall and past Kiraly for a well deserved winner.

Opinion: I don't think we would have won this sort of match last season.  
Team rating: 7/10  
Man of the match: Naylor.  
Attendance: 24,745  
Team: Oakes, McNamara, Naylor, Olofinjana, Lescott, Craddock (Edwards 64), Seol (Clarke 64), Ricketts, Cort, Miller (Ndah 78), Kennedy  
Unused subs: Ikeme, Cameron  
Bookings: Lescott (90 – flare-up)



## **SEOL SINKS HULL**

### **WOLVES 1-0 HULL CITY**

13th August 2005

This was a blistering display from Wolves and their efforts should have been reflected in a much wider margin of victory.

From the whistle Wolves went marauding into the Hull area but a combination of fine keeping by Myhill and missed chances by the attack kept Wolves at bay. It was twenty minutes before Seol, who was teasing the visitors defence throughout, skipped past two defenders to fire across the area and a huge deflection from Delaney took the ball home.

Wolves kept the pressure up and were perhaps a little fortunate to enter the break still ahead, as a linesman ruled out a Barmby effort for offside when it looked a perfectly good goal.

Miller was always a constant threat to the visitors and in defence Lescott stood head and shoulders above anyone else on the field. Try as they might Wolves could not improve on their lead but they succeeded in setting a new club record for unbeaten matches. This in itself no mean feat in this difficult division.

Opinion: Someone needed to put the ball in the net.  
Team rating: 6/10  
Man of the match: Miller,  
Attendance: 24,333  
Team: Oakes, McNamara, Naylor, Ince, Lescott, Edwards, Seol, Ricketts (Cameron 64), Cort, Miller (Clarke 87), Kennedy  
Unused subs: Ikeme, Olofinjana, Ndah  
Bookings: Kennedy (29 – dissent)



## **TO ELLAND BACK**

### **LEEDS UTD 2-0 WOLVES**

20th August 2005

So the record run of unbeaten matches has ended at 22. It had to at some time but what a way to lose it. Having dominated the match from start to finish, the home side had two shots on target and scored with both.

Wolves came out and attacked from the off with Miller looking absolutely rampant and it seemed only a matter of time before three more points would be in the promotion bag. But lack of finishing (again) put paid to any hopes of staying top of the table.

Naylor was a constant threat down the left but it was he who unwittingly let in Leeds for the opening strike as a ball rebounded off of his back and Lewis slotted home from close range. It was all Wolves now as they pressed for the equaliser and first Cameron and then Ricketts set Miller up on goal – the first effort straight at the keeper and the second crashing off the bar.

All this pressure meant nothing as lack of finishing cost dearly as Hulse found space, turned and fired past a stranded Oakes to secure the points for United.

Opinion: Oh for a striker.  
Man of the match: Miller.  
Team rating: 6/10  
Attendance: 21,229  
Team: Oakes, McNamara, Naylor, Olofinjana, Lescott, Edwards, Seol (Ndah 64), Cort, Ricketts (Davies 59), Cort, Miller, Cameron (Clarke 69)  
Unused subs: Ikeme, Gyepes  
Bookings: Cameron (58 – foul)



# match reports



## **WOLVES PUT CURLE STRAIGHT**

**WOLVES 5-1 CHESTER  
CARLING CUP 1<sup>ST</sup> ROUND  
23<sup>rd</sup> August 2005**

Wolves dominated and, for a change reaped the rewards, with five goals and the sort of sparkling performance that should have been dished out to "lesser" sides over the years.

Ahead as early as the sixth minute when Miller fired home a corner from new signing Anderton, Wolves could have had a hatful by the break and only a questionable offside decision prevented Miller adding an almost identical second.

The substitution of Ndah for Seol opened the visitors wide and he found Cameron with a precision pass for the later to sweep in for the second. Only a fine save from Mackensie prevented Ndah scoring the third.

Anderton added a third with a well taken free kick from twenty-two yards before Davies, sweeping forward from inside his own half, found Cameron to put Wolves in command. Vio Ganea, making his first appearance for over twelve months, added a fifth after Edwards beat two men before passing to Cameron who spotted Ganea poaching just inside the box.

Chester gained some small consolation with seven minutes remaining. Gyepes gave away a free kick outside the area and their Davies curled the resultant dead ball round the wall to beat the despairing dive of debutant Ikeme.

Opinion: About time "small" teams were despatched efficiently.

Man of the match: Anderton.

Team rating: 7/10

Attendance: 9,518

Team: Ikeme, Edwards, Kennedy, Davies, Lescott (McNamara 78), Gyepes, Seol (Ndah 55), Anderton, Miller, Cameron, Clarke (Ganea 71)

Unused subs: Postma, Olofinjana

Bookings: Gyepes (82 – foul)



## **LESCOTT'S TRUMP CARD**

**CARDIFF CITY 2-2 WOLVES  
27<sup>th</sup> August 2005**

For the second successive away match Wolves dominated from the off and delightful football it was, but all to no avail. Two minutes in Jerome caught Oakes wrong-footed and headed the home side in front.

Miller terrorised the City defence but was booked for complaining as Wolves failed to capitalise on their superiority. Frustration turned to despair as Jerome added a second minutes after the restart.

Super keeping and defending kept Wolves trailing, but there was hope when Miller, Ndah and Anderton all went close before Clarke pulled one back with eighteen minutes left.

Naylor was thwarted twice and Anderton again went close before, with the seconds ticking away, Lescott got on the end of a long throw from Naylor to tuck the ball away for a share of the points.

Opinion: A more than deserved point, but let's get the ball put away.

Man of the match: Lescott

Team rating: 6/10

Attendance: 11,502

Team: Oakes, McNamara, Kennedy, Olofinjana, Lescott, Edwards, Ndah (Naylor 68), Anderton, Miller (Clarke 57), Cort, Cameron (Ricketts 57)

Unused subs: Ikeme, Gyepes

Bookings: Miller (44 – dissent), Anderton (90 – obstruction)



## **CORT ROLLS ROYCE** **WOLVES 3-1 QUEENS PARK RANGERS 30<sup>th</sup> August 2005**

Was this the day the manager's call for an avalanche was to be answered? It certainly looked like it as Wolves tore into the visitors and only brave saves from Royce kept out Cort, Miller and Ricketts.

Eight minutes in and Ricketts fired a shot which the keeper could only parry and Cort was on hand to fire home. Was this it? No. Within minutes the defence leaked a goal. Naylor was clearly out-jumped by Gallen who headed past Oakes.

Twelve minutes of frustration had to be endured before Cort restored the lead. Miller went away from a defender and centred for Cort to prod home from close range. Miller again caused anxiety in the Rangers half and skipped round two defenders before crossing, where, pressured by Cort, Shittu slid the ball home but the goal was ruled offside

A goal in the dying seconds for the second match running settled the issue when Cort scored latching onto a fine through ball from Ricketts and firing in the third.

Opinion: Should have been five up by the break.

Man of the match: Clarke. A constant threat.

Team rating: 6/10

Attendance: 22,426

Team: Oakes, McNamara, Naylor, Kennedy, Lescott, Edwards, Anderton (Ndah 80), Miller, Cort, Clarke (Olofinjana 62), Ricketts

Unused subs: Ikeme, Gyepes, Davies

Bookings: Naylor (89 – time-wasting)



## **ONE WAY TRAFFIC** **LUTON TOWN 1-1 WOLVES 10<sup>th</sup> September 2005**

Wolves withstood a fierce pounding from division newcomers Luton to come away with a point and could have snatched all three.

With their backs to the wall for twenty-five minutes, Wolves suddenly broke from defence for Kennedy to deliver the perfect cross and Cort slid in his fifth goal of the season.

But for most of the remainder of the half it was an onslaught. Cort and Ricketts cleared shots off the line and Robinson thundered a shot against the crossbar. However a minute before the break Cort had the chance to give Wolves a cushion but, put clear, he scuffed his shot wide.

The second half was the same story but a resolute defence stood firm until, with ten minutes remaining, Nicholls drove home an unstoppable shot to give the Hatters a share of the spoils.

Wolves could still have stolen all the points in the last minute. Olofinjana fired a fierce shot which Beresford flew across his goal to palm away.

Opinion: Points given away unnecessarily.

Man of the match: Gyepes – solid as an ox

Team rating: 5/10

Attendance: 10,248

Team: Oakes, Edwards, Naylor, Kennedy, Lescott, Gyepes, Anderton (Olofinjana 61), Cort, Miller (Clarke 28), Cort, Ricketts, Seol (Cameron 88)

Unused subs: Postma, Craddock

Bookings: Kennedy (30 – kicked ball away); Gyepes (59 – foul)



# match reports



## **HAYLES, AND FAREWELL TO 'FORTRESS MOLINEUX' WOLVES 1-2 MILLWALL 13<sup>th</sup> September 2005**

So... the boss's cry for home results lasted until the bottom side arrived. Typical!

Given the early boost of yet another strike from Cort, Wolves turned in a show of horrific proportions and gave the visitors their first taste of victory for the season.

Cort rose at the far post to head home a perfect centre from McNamara and give Wolves the early platform for an avalanche of goals. Sadly it did not happen and a weak defensive header allowed Wright to strike the perfect volley to level matters.

Wolves then contrived to miss four clear chances to put the match beyond reach, Cort firing high, Clarke skidded into a post instead of converting, Ricketts and then Kennedy shooting straight at the keeper.

The football was, to say the least, poor and the second period fared no better so it really came as no surprise that Millwall, getting stronger by the minute, snatched a deserved victory with seconds to go. The defence tip-toed about and presented Hayles with the ball which he promptly lifted over the advancing Oakes.

Opinion: Worst performance for quite some time.

Man of the match: A struggle to find one, but Lescott just creeps in.

Team rating: 2/10

Attendance: 21,897

Team: Oakes, McNamara, Naylor, Kennedy, Lescott, Gyepes, Anderton (Olofinjana 24), Cort, Clarke (Ndah 68), Seol, Ricketts (Cameron 28),

Unused subs: Postma, Craddock

Bookings: McNamara (89 – foul)



## **FOXY FOXES FOX WOLVES WOLVES 0-0 LEICESTER CITY 17<sup>th</sup> September 2005**

For the third game running, Wolves lost the plot. The flowing football that had been abundant for the early part of the season has gone. Leicester were partly to blame by throwing a blanket of defenders across the pitch and smothering anything Wolves had to offer.

Oakes had only one save to make and it was an important one throwing himself to his right to palm away a fierce shot on one of the rare occasions City came up to the Wolves end.

Edwards was looking a class act, timing tackles to perfection, but otherwise it was difficult to find a mention for any of the others.

Wolves were marginally better in the second half but only a shot from Ndah went anywhere near troubling Douglas who had been well protected by his defence all afternoon.

Comment: Bore draw.  
Man of the match: Edwards.  
Team rating: 3/10  
Attendance: 24,726  
Team: Oakes, McNamara, Naylor, Kennedy, Lescott, Edwards, Olofinjana, Clarke (Ganea 68), Cort, Seol (Ndah 68), Cameron (Davies 75)  
Unused subs: Postma, Gyepes  
Bookings: McNamara (8 – foul)



## **HOR-NETS EXTRA TIME WINNER WATFORD 2-1 WOLVES (AET) CARLING CUP 2<sup>ND</sup> ROUND 20<sup>th</sup> September 2005**

Wolves fielded a relatively weak team with 7 changes from the weekend in this cup match against a very junior Watford team.

Kenny Miller returned to the side and looked dangerous from the off having a shot well-saved by Chamberlain in the Watford goal in the opening minute.

Ganea went close shortly afterwards and in the 11th minute Miller put Wolves ahead from a Naylor free-kick on the left of the box after Seol was chopped by Stewart.

Wolves continued to dominate and it wasn't until the 34th minute that Postma was forced into action comfortably gathering a Spring header. 5 minutes later Edwards cleared a shot off the line after Postma could only block a Bouazza shot. Watford were clearly stepping up the pressure and in the 2nd minute of first-half injury time Carlisle headed in a well placed corner with Oakes rooted to the spot.

Wolves started the second-half like the first with Ganea just failing to connect with an inch-perfect Davies cross but that proved to be the best chance of a rather dull half until Cameron forced Chamberlain into a point-blank save in the dying seconds following a Naylor throw-in and Lescott knock-on.

Ndah nearly made it 2-1 in the first period of extra-time with a powerful header that was well saved by Chamberlain. In the 104th minute Carlisle again rose to score from a Watford set-piece, this time a free-kick that left Postma stranded.

Comment: Time to concentrate on the league.  
Man of the match: Edwards.  
Team rating: 3/10  
Attendance: 9,296  
Team: Postma, Edwards, Naylor, Craddock, Gyepes (Lescott 45), Davies, Ganea (Ndah 73), Olofinjana, Miller, Seol, Cameron (Ricketts 97)  
Unused subs: Oakes, Clarke  
Bookings: Ndah (100 – foul); Lescott (113 – foul)



## **WOLVES RULE BRITANNIA STOKE CITY 1-3 WOLVES 24<sup>th</sup> September 2005**

Wolves returned to winning ways at Stoke with a comprehensive victory that pushed them back into the play-off zone.

The opening 30 minutes saw excellent chances for both sides with Cort, Miller and Seol all going close whilst good defending was needed at the other end.

In the 42nd minute Cort forced a Seol cross over the line to give Wolves a deserved lead.

Three minutes after half-time Miller finally netted his first Championship goal of the season when he headed a deflected Seol cross past the helpless Simonsen in the Stoke goal.

# match reports



Lee Naylor added the third with a blistering free-kick from fully 35 yards out which curled over the Stoke wall and into the top corner of the goal.

There was a disappointing end to this very good performance when in injury time Buxton converted from a set-piece.

Opinion: Back to winning ways with style.  
Man of the match: Naylor, what a free-kick  
Team rating: 7/10  
Attendance: 18,183  
Team: Oakes, Edwards, Naylor, Ricketts, Lescott, Gyepes, Kennedy, Cameron, Cort, Miller (Ndah 85), Seol  
Unused subs: Postma, Olofinjana, Craddock, Davies  
Bookings: None



## **CREWE-SING TO VICTORY** **CREWE ALEXANDRA 0-4 WOLVES** 27<sup>th</sup> September 2005

A second emphatic victory in 3 days showed that whilst Wolves are struggling to win at Molineux their away form is rock solid. Ironically the first save of the game was made by Oakes who was forced to deflect a searing drive from Jones wide.

The opener was scored by Cort in the 13th minute from a Naylor corner and within minutes he hit the side-netting after latching on to a Miller through-ball.

In the 27th minute Miller made it two after heading a Naylor cross onto a defender and then, with the ball falling nicely, he drove the ball past the keeper.

In the 34th minute Miller latched on to an excellent Edwards cross to make it 3-0 and a minute later Cort got his second of the game and Wolves 4th with a strike from 12 yards after making room for himself. Ricketts, Gyepes and Kennedy all went close before half-time.

The second half was played at a high-tempo and Wolves went close several times through Miller, Cort and Kennedy before Crewe managed to net a disallowed goal in the 78th minute.

Clarke went close in the closing seconds but somehow managed to put his shot past the post when scoring looked the easier option.

Opinion: A belter of a match.  
Man of the match: Miller or Cort - can't decide  
Team rating: 9/10  
Attendance: 7,471  
Team: Oakes, Edwards, Naylor, Ricketts, Lescott, Gyepes, Kennedy, Cameron (Davies 72), Cort (Clarke 77), Miller, Seol  
Unused subs: Postma, Olofinjana, Craddock  
Bookings: None



## **FRIDAY NIGHT FARCE** **WOLVES 0-1 BURNLEY** 30<sup>th</sup> September 2005

Every manager in the Championship appears to have seen how Leicester coped with Wolves at Molineux and Burnley used that knowledge fully to their advantage.

On a very wet evening Burnley put 10 men behind the ball from the off and were determined to escape with at least a point. Amazingly, they walked away with all three after Ricketts needlessly fouled James O'Connor on the edge of the area and Garreth O'Connor curled the free-kick around the wall and beyond Oakes in the 23rd minute.

Wolves had dominated the match up to that point and continued to do so up to half-time but to no avail and the half ended with Seol hitting the side-netting following a flurry of activity in the penalty area.

The second-half started where the first left off with Wolves going all out for the equaliser and Burnley both soaking up the pressure and having huge chunks of luck.

Effort after effort came to nothing until the 78th minute when a Ricketts cross was headed on by Cort to Miller who headed against the bar, the ball fell to Naylor who also headed against the bar. This summed up a night of sheer frustration when you simply knew that Wolves weren't going to score.

Hodde will have his work cut-out to overcome the negative, but successful, style of play that visiting teams are bringing to 'fortress' Molineux.

Opinion: If only we could win at home.  
Man of the match: Lescott  
Team rating: 3/10  
Attendance: 21,717  
Team: Oakes, Edwards, Naylor, Ricketts (Clarke 79), Lescott, Gyepes, Cameron (Davies 57), Kennedy, Cort, Miller, Seol, Postma, Olofinjana, Craddock  
Unused subs: Postma, Olofinjana, Craddock  
Bookings: None



## **WOLVES CAN'T CUT IT AT BLADES** **SHEFFIELD UNITED 1-0 WOLVES** 15<sup>th</sup> October 2005

After a 2 week rest for internationals Wolves went on their travels to runaway league leaders Sheffield United.

United dominated the early play and went ahead in the 16th minute when Neil Shipperley headed the ball home from a corner, needlessly conceded following a mix-up between Oakes and Lescott.

It wasn't until the 20th minute that Wolves had their first shot at goal with Miller shooting straight into the arms of Paddy Kenny.

With 4 minutes of the first half remaining Steve Kabba hit the post for the home side and Wolves ended the half lucky to be only a goal down.

Wolves started the second half much better and Seol's cross-come-shot bounced harmlessly off the top of the bar in the 4th minute.

Carl Cort missed a golden opportunity in the 82nd minute to level the scores when, latching on to a Mark Davies cross in the penalty area he lifted the ball over the bar from close range.

That was Wolves last chance of the match and was a disappointing end to a disappointing day.

Opinion: Losing more ground to the leaders.  
Man of the match: Lescott  
Team rating: 4/10  
Attendance: 25,533  
Team: Oakes, Edwards, Naylor, Olofinjana (Anderton 45), Lescott, Craddock, Kennedy, Cameron (Davies 66), Cort, Miller (Ndah 66), Seol  
Unused subs: Postma, Gyepes  
Bookings: Lescott (34 - foul)



## **SCORE DRAW FOR DERBY** **WOLVES 1-1 DERBY COUNTY** 18<sup>th</sup> October 2005

How many times in the past few home games have Wolves fans left the ground thinking if only we could get ahead in a match the negative tactics of the opposition simply wouldn't work.

After just 6 minutes those Wolves fans must have been rubbing their hands with glee as Miller put the home side ahead with a cracking finish to a Naylor cross. Derby clearly couldn't afford to simply sit back now and soak up the pressure like all those teams before them. But they did.

# match reports



As a result, Wolves were rampaging with Miller, Naylor, Kennedy and Cort all forcing fine saves from Poole in the Derby goal and despite dominating the half went in only a single goal up.

The start of the second-half was a disaster. After just 46 seconds, El Hamdaoui got on the end of a Seth Johnson deflected shot and fired past Oakes to equalise.

Derby immediately changed their formation to put 10 men behind the ball and Wolves spent the next 44 minutes battling away to no avail. Chance after chance was missed and the closest call was when Cort forced Poole into a save which many of the players and much of the crowd believed was executed behind the line – the referee disagreed.

At some point Wolves will work out how to overcome these tactics but it wasn't going to be tonight.

Opinion: Another frustrating night.  
Man of the match: Miller - tried and tried.  
Team rating: 5/10  
Attendance: 22,914  
Team: Oakes, Edwards, Naylor, Anderton (Clarke 84), Lescott, Gyepes, Kennedy, Davies, Cort, Miller, Seol (Ganea 61)

Unused subs: Postma, Cameron, Craddock  
Bookings: Davies (19 – foul)



## VIO LOCO

**WOLVES 1-1 PRESTON NORTH END**  
22<sup>nd</sup> October 2005

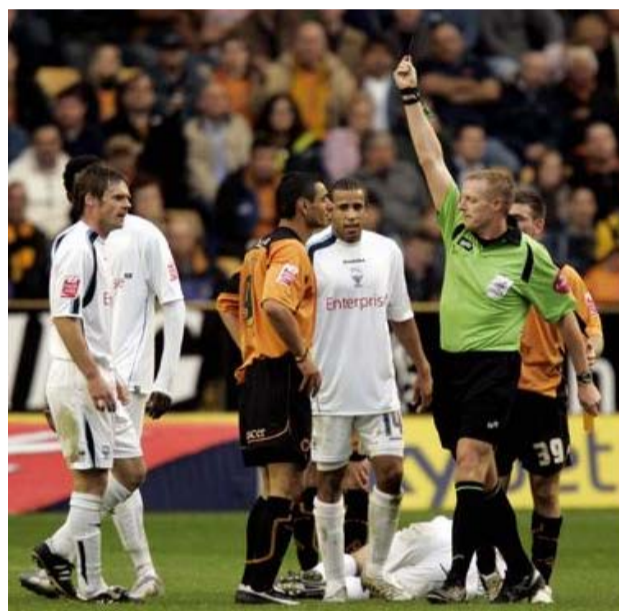
Yet another performance to forget, as "Fortress Molineux" turns into a Cash and Carry for visiting teams.

Wolves huffed and puffed for the first period getting nowhere, and then fell for the usual sucker punch on the stroke of half time. A harmless looking corner from McKenna was floated across. Oakes stayed put and Etuhu powered a header past him. Whistle. Troop off to a chorus of boos.

Wolves livened up after the restart and apart from one scare, when Jones thundered a cracker against the post, Wolves dominated but it was all unproductive until Ganea intervened. Just on the hour Seol swept a precision cross in the direction of Ganea who swivelled and hit the ball in one motion to crash a super volley past a startled Nash. Ganea rushed into the crowd in the Stan Cullis stand to celebrate and was promptly booked. 10 minutes later he put in a poorly timed tackle on McKenna and was shown a second yellow to be sent from the field.

With only 10 men there appeared to be no way Wolves would get the win and this proved to be the case as the match petered out into yet another draw.

Opinion: What has happened to the side we saw earlier in the season?  
Team rating: 5/10  
Man of the match: Gypres.  
Attendance: 22,802  
Team: Oakes, Edwards, Naylor, Anderton (Olofinjana 75), Lescott, Gyepes, Kennedy, Davies (Cameron 75), Ganea, Miller, Seol (Clarke 85)  
Unused Subs: Postma, Craddock  
Bookings: Ganea (59 – over celebrating); Ganea (70 – foul – sent off); Miller (76 – dissent)



**WAT A WASTE**  
**WATFORD 3-1 WOLVES**  
29<sup>th</sup> October 2005

This was one unbelievable match. It would be no exaggeration to say that Wolves should have gone into the break five goals to the good. Watford were reeling before Oakes made three boos to hand the points over.

The woodwork and the on loan Foster kept Wolves at bay. Miller curled a great shot from the edge of the area only to see it rebound off the post to safety. Clarke was presented with a prime chance from four yards but somehow contrived to steer the ball wide.

More chances fell to Clarke, who was having a stinker, before Anderton forced a fine save from Foster followed shortly by an amazing reflex save from Miller who had connected perfectly from three yards.

The second half started with much the same story but this turned to be false hope as with twenty minutes left Oakes flapped at a corner and DeMeritt nodded in. Ten minutes to go and King rounds Oakes to slide the ball home and two minutes later Devlin fired home after King, unmarked, flicked on a corner which Oakes should have come for.

Olofinjana somehow missed a header from three yards which even the keeper was waiting to pick out of the net before Seol fired in a consolation for the visitors.

Opinion: Most one-sided first half ever witnessed.  
Team rating: 6/10  
Man of the match: Miller.  
Attendance: 14,561  
Team: Oakes, Edwards, Naylor, Anderton (Seol 77), Lescott, Gyepes (Ross 45), Kennedy, Huddleston, Miller (Olofinjana 83), Clarke

Unused Subs: Postma, Cameron  
Bookings: Gyepes (13 – obstruction)



**LIVEN UP!**  
**BRIGHTON & HOVE ALBION 1-1 WOLVES**  
1<sup>st</sup> November 2005

The opinions were unanimous. This was possibly the worst performance by a Wolves side that many of us had ever seen. The players could not pass to anyone in their own side. They could not stand up. They could not shoot at the target. In fact they had no idea what so ever.

The only good thing was that they were not conceding hatfuls of goals and that was down to the on loan Postma who pulled off a string of fine saves to keep Wolves in with a chance. In with a chance that is until he fumbled a simple shot from Frutos which went tamely over the line to give The Seagulls a first half lead.

We all thought it couldn't get any worse in the second period but we were wrong. Clarke in particular was having a nightmare missing the few chances that came Wolves way.

Things got slightly better when Seol came off of the bench near the end and, operating down the right hand side, gave Brighton a few scares. But he was trying too hard beating two men before attempting to beat a third and the home side snuffed out most of his threats.

Wolves redeemed an undeserved point six minutes from time when a Ganea shot rebounded from the bar to allow Cameron to blast the equaliser.

Opinion: Unbelievable rubbish.  
Team rating: 1/10  
Man of the match: Lescott.  
Attendance: 6,642  
Team: Postma, Edwards, Naylor, Anderton (Cameron 45), Lescott, Craddock, Kennedy, Ganea, Huddleston, Clarke, Olofinjana (Seol 66)  
Unused Subs: Murray, Ross, Gobern  
Bookings: Clarke (19 – skirmish); Huddleston (43 – foul)





# travel



## **CANARIES GO CHEEPLY! WOLVES 2-0 NORWICH CITY 5<sup>th</sup> November 2005**

Following the recent run of poor performances it was a pleasant change to witness a very professional performance from Wolves who were troubled by only one direct shot for the whole match which was ably dealt with by Postma.

From the first whistle Wolves went for the throat and within two minutes were ahead. Seol collected the ball on the right and advanced to the edge of the area from whence he fired a low shot past Green into the far corner.

With Naylor rampant down the left it looked only a matter of time until a second goal arrived and less than a minute later Clarke contrived to head an easy chance over the bar.

Green saved well from Naylor and then tipped a fierce shot from Kennedy, playing his best game for a long time, over the bar.

It was two-nil after thirty-seven minutes when Seol crossed and Ganea smashed an unstoppable shot into the roof of the net.

Despite all the pressure in the second half Norwich held out for a scoreline that flattered them but fine performances all round from Wolves and an impressive debut from the young Goben.

Opinion: Far better than of late.  
Man of the match: Naylor. Outstanding on an afternoon of fine performances.  
Team rating: 8/10  
Attendance: 23,808  
Team: Postma, Edwards, Naylor, Cameron, Lescott, Craddock, Kennedy, Huddlestone, Ganea, Seol, Clarke (Goben 75)  
Unused Subs: Harrison, Gyepes, Olofinjana, Anderton  
Bookings: None



## **PRIDE RESTORED AT DERBY DERBY COUNTY 0-3 WOLVES 18<sup>th</sup> November 2005**

Wolves dominated this televised match from start to finish and loan star, Tom Huddlestone, achieved something the opposition usually manage i.e. a former player scoring against his old side.

The first-half, despite being goalless, was full of chances for Wolves and there will have been many in the travelling contingent who thought it was going to be another one of those nights. Especially with Huddlestone, Ganea and Cameron all going close.

The second-half saw Wolves dominance pay-off but it was Derby who went closest first when former-Wolves target, Idiakez, drew a fine save from Postma with a deflected shot.

## **Travel Details: December - January**

Provisional travel arrangements for matches during December 2005 and January 2006 are:-

### **Meeting place:**

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

Fare : Members £16; Guests £19

### **HOME MATCHES**

#### **Sat 17/12/05 v Leeds Utd Kick off 15:00**

·Outward - Depart Euston 10:10  
- Arrive Wolves 12:14  
·Return - Depart Wolves 17:36  
- Arrive Euston 19:35

#### **Mon 26/12/05 v Reading Kick off 15:00**

·No official club trip arranged as there are no trains running on Boxing Day. Any member wishing to travel please contact the Travel Secretary

#### **Sat 31/12/05 v Plymouth Kick off 15:00**

Outward - Depart Euston 09:31  
- Arrive Wolves 11:51  
·Return - Depart Wolves 17:44  
- Arrive Euston 20:17  
(Change at Stafford)

#### **Sat 7/1/06 v Plymouth Kick off 15:00**

##### **FA Cup 3rd Round**

·Outward - Depart Euston 10:10  
- Arrive Wolves 12:14  
·Return - Depart Wolves 17:36  
- Arrive Euston 19:35

#### **Fri 13/1/06 v Luton Kick off 19:45**

##### **(Live on Sky)**

·Outward - Depart Euston 14:40  
- Arrive Wolves 16:35  
·Return - Depart Wolves 22:39  
- Arrive Euston 01:22

#### **Tue 31/1/06 v Stoke City Kick off 19:45**

·Outward - Depart Euston 14:40  
- Arrive Wolves 16:35  
Return - Depart Wolves 22:39  
- Arrive Euston 01:22

### **AWAY MATCHES**

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

#### **Sat 10/12/05 v Palace Kick off 15:00**

No club trip arranged. There are three stations near the ground, all about 10 minutes walk. Trains to Thornton Heath, Selhurst run from Victoria; to Norwood Junction from Victoria and London Bridge. Journey times approx. 25 mins.

#### **Wed 28/12/05 v Sheff Wed Kick off 19:45**

##### **ALL-TICKET MATCH**

No official club trip arranged. Any member wishing to travel please contact the travel secretary

#### **Mon 2/1/06 v Coventry Kick off 15:00**

##### **ALL-TICKET MATCH**

Trains from Euston are at:

·Outward - Depart Euston 10:10  
- Arrive Coventry 11:13  
·Return - Depart Wolves 18:19  
- Arrive Euston 19:33

·(note Coventry moved to the Ricoh stadium this season)

#### **Sat 21/1/06 v Millwall Kick off 15:00**

All ticket match.

No official club trip arranged.

Nearest railway stations: South Bermondsey.

Journey time from London Bridge 5 mins.

There is a walkway for away fans only from the station to the ground. Nearest underground station: Surrey Quays (East London line).

Any member wishing to book a train ticket for travel to home or away matches from Euston, must now contact the Travel Secretary AT LEAST 9 DAYS prior to the match. Bookings for travel with other train operators, must be made 3-4 weeks before the match. This is because early booking is essential in order to obtain the cheapest tickets. Fares will be collected on the outward journey. Payments in advance are accepted. Cheques/P.O.'s payable to WWLSC.

Any member booking a train ticket, who subsequently cannot travel, must contact the Travel Secretary at least 9 days before the match to cancel, or they will have to pay for the ticket. This also applies to members who book a ticket and fail to show up on the day, as the train companies will not offer any refunds on unsold tickets, except in exceptional circumstances.

Members requiring match tickets for HOME matches please contact Travel Secretary AT LEAST 16 DAYS prior to match. Please enclose s.a.e. with postal applications.

Please note that for all-ticket away matches where Wolves allocation is limited, ONLY AWAY SEASON TICKET HOLDERS CAN BE GUARANTEED A MATCH TICKET. Tickets for every away match go on sale 21 days before the match to away season ticket holders & also to home season ticket holders, unless Wolves have a limited allocation. Home season ticket holders can apply for away tickets, by ringing the ticket office on 0870 442 0123 between 9 am - 5 pm, and giving their Supporter Number.

There are 7 club season tickets available to members on a match to match basis. Full match day price will be charged. Members must travel on the official club trip for the particular game for which the ticket is required.

**TRAVEL SECRETARY:** PETER WOODIFIELD, 94 FARNHAM CLOSE, KENT ME8 8NS.  
Tel: 01634 363704  
E-mail: [peteraw@globalnet.co.uk](mailto:peteraw@globalnet.co.uk)

# George Best

Remembering a footballing genius...



**London Wolves Honorary Life President, Derek Dougan, carried George Best's coffin alongside Gerry Armstrong and Billy Bingham into the funeral service at Stormont Parliament Building on Saturday 3rd December.**

**The Doog, who roomed with Best as a Northern Ireland player, said: "George Best carried so many teams I was in that it was a pleasure to carry him today."**

**Best On Johann Cruyff...** A journalist asked Best about Cruyff before a Northern Ireland international in Holland and if he thought he was the best in the world. George laughed and said "Are you kidding? First chance I get I'm going to nutmeg him"

In the first half George got the ball out on the wing and ignoring the route to goal went hunting for Johan. Traversing the pitch he beat 3 dutchmen and ran at Cruyff. He shimmied and then put the ball through his legs, running past him to collect it, punching the air as he did so.

#### Best on Best

"I might go to Alcoholics Anonymous, but I think it would be difficult for me to remain anonymous." (1979)

"It's a pleasure to be standing here. It's a pleasure to be standing up." (On being made *Footballer of the Century*, 1999)

"I was born with a great gift, and sometimes with that comes a destructive streak. Just as I wanted to outdo everyone when I played, I had to outdo everyone when we were out on the town."

"Well, I suppose that's the knighthood f\*\*\*ed. (After being sent to jail in 1984 for drink-driving)

"They'll forget all the rubbish when I've gone and they'll remember the football. If only one person thinks I'm the best player in the world, that's good enough for me."

"All the bad times cannot wipe away the good memories, and despite all the ups and downs, when I look at my life as a whole, it is impossible for me not to feel blessed." (From his autobiography, *Blessed*.)

#### Best on football

"I set off. I beat one player, then another. By the end I had beaten five of them in the space of 10 yards. I didn't know how I did it and still don't ... When I see it on television, it still dazzles me." (On what many consider his greatest goal, for *San Jose Earthquakes* against *Fort Lauderdale strikers*)

"Footballers today are millionaires by the time they're 22 or 23. More and more of them are going out and looking for something to give them a buzz outside football, be it gambling, drugs or booze. I got my buzz from playing. Players now have a groin injury for months and months and I often think they don't really give a toss whether they're playing or not because they're getting paid anyway."

"He cannot kick with his left foot, he cannot head a ball, he cannot tackle and he doesn't score many goals. Apart from that he's all right." (On *David Beckham*)

"I used to dream about taking the ball round the keeper, stopping it on the line and then getting on my hands and knees and heading it into the net. When I scored against *Benfica* in the *European Cup Final* I nearly did it. I left the keeper for dead, but then I chickened out. I might have given the boss a heart attack."

#### Football men on Best

"We had our problems with the wee fella, but I prefer to remember his genius." (Sir *Matt Busby*, 1988)

"If I was reincarnated, I'd like to come back as *Bestie* because he was a genius and had all them women and drank all that wine." (Barry Fry, former *United* youth colleague of Best's, 1998)

*Graham Williams, West Bromwich Albion full-back: Will you stand still for a minute so I can look at your face?*

*Best: Why?*

*Williams: Because all I've ever seen of you is your arse disappearing down the touchline. (Meeting, years after both players had retired)*

#### Writers on Best

Keegan is not fit to lace Best's drinks. (John Roberts, football writer, after Best said *Kevin Keegan* was not fit to lace his boots, 1982)

We have all heard that *Einstein* is a genius, but very few of us are in a position to judge. Football is one of the few areas of life where even if you're untutored, you can go to a ground and see *George Best* beat three men, and you can realise, "I have seen genius." (Simon Kuiper)

## London Wolves Sales

WWLSC enamelled badges £2.50 +sae

WWLSC car fobs £1.00 +sae

WWLSC large key rings £1.00 +sae

#### PROGRAMMES

Programmes and ALOB's (fanzine) available at various prices

2004-05 *Stoke City* away £2 (reduced) +35p p&p

*A Load of Bull* – £1.50 & £2.00 + 35p postage each.

*Wolves Official Magazine* £2.99 available quarterly

#### OLD PROGRAMMES

A few 60's and 70's plus, more from the 80's and 90's are available.

Prices from 10p.

#### DVD

2002/03 *Season Highlights* £5 +sae

*Stan Cullis Memorabilia Pack* £9.00 plus £2.75 postage.

All the above are available from:

**Dave Slape, 26 Brockenhurst Way, London SW16 4UD**



#### London Wolves Caption competition.

Please study the picture below and come up with a suitable caption to capture the moment. There is a prize, kindly donated by Roy Eagles, of £30 of *Wolves Shop* vouchers for the wittiest caption. Entries cost £1 and you can enter as many times as you like. Please send your caption, with a cheque payable to

WWLSC for £1 x the number of entries to:

Dave Slape, 26 Brockenhurst Way, London SW16 4UD

The competition is also being run on the train.



# match reports



It was George Ndah rising highest to meet a Naylor corner that opened the scoring with a well-placed header in the 67th minute.

Huddlestone broke Derby hearts in the 80th minute when he received a Ganea back-heeled pass and coolly slotted the ball home.

Ganea wrapped up the points 6 minutes later when he smashed the ball home following a Naylor through-ball.

Opinion: Terrific performance.  
Man of the match: Huddlestone - can we keep him?  
Team rating: 9/10  
Attendance: 22,869  
Team: Postma, Edwards, Naylor, Cameron, Lescott, Craddock, Kennedy, Huddlestone, Ganea, Seol, Clarke (Ndah 55)  
Unused Subs: Oakes, Gyepes, Olofinjana, Anderton  
Bookings: None



## **NO CUTTING EDGE AT MOLINEUX** **WOLVES 0-0 SHEFFIELD UNITED** **22<sup>nd</sup> November 2005**

The visit of Sheffield United to this eagerly anticipated match should have been the start of Wolves bridging the massive points gap between the two sides. It wasn't to be as both sides effectively cancelled themselves out and chances were few and far between.

The only Wolves chance of note in the first half was from Tom Huddlestone who fired a dipping shot over the bar from the 30 yards.

The second half was no better although Huddle tried to change things around with a triple substitution in the 77th minute. Unfortunately this was to no avail and it wasn't until the 88th minute that Wolves had a shot on target and that was only a tame header from Ganea that went straight into the keepers arms.

It still looks as though teams know how to come to Molineux and get a result, even if it's only a draw.

Opinion: Disappointing.  
Man of the match: Huddlestone.  
Team rating: 5/10  
Attendance: 24,240  
Team: Postma, Naylor, Lescott, Edwards (Gyepes 77), Cameron (Anderton 77), Craddock, Kennedy, Ganea, Huddlestone, Seol, Ndah (Clarke 77)  
Unused subs: Oakes, Olofinjana  
Bookings: Ndah (48 – foul), Seol (80 – foul), Clarke (86 – foul)



## **BATTLE OF THE DRAW KINGS** **WOLVES 0-0 SOUTHAMPTON** **26<sup>th</sup> November 2005**

Southampton arrived for an early afternoon kick-off that saw London Wolves members meeting at 8am for the train.

Following the disappointment of Tuesday night this was a Wolves team that came out looking sharper and more likely to score. Unfortunately they were playing a team whose reputation for draws this season is even greater than Wolves.

The end result showed yet again how easy is it to contain a dominant Wolves team and almost sneak away with a victory.

Numerous scoring chances were squandered and Postma was called into action to make two vital saves, one in each half, that kept the score-line level, if not entirely reflective of the overall match.

Opinion: Frustrating  
Man of the match: Ndah.  
Team rating: 6/10  
Attendance: 24,628  
Team: Postma, Edwards, Naylor, Lescott, Gyepes, Kennedy, Cameron (Olofinjana 71), Huddlestone, Ganea, Seol, Ndah (Clarke 45)  
Unused subs: Oakes, Ross  
Bookings: Ndah (16 – foul), Seol (71 – dissent)



## **CAMERON IS THE NEW LEADER** **IPSWICH TOWN 1-1 WOLVES** **3<sup>rd</sup> December 2005**

With Ince still absent injured, Cameron took the role of leading Wolves and it was a pity others did not follow his example.

After a first half where neither keeper was tested with a direct shot the Scot gave Wolves the lead

six minutes after the break with a fierce shot that was deflected over the stranded Price.

Ipswich undeservedly levelled things with a penalty given for an innocuous challenge from Gyepes, which only the referee saw. Richards slammed the resultant spot-kick through the hands of Postma.

Wolves then squandered chance after chance in front of goal, the worst offenders being Clarke, who missed several, Anderton, who when clean through in the area chose to centre when it was easier to score and Seol who managed to miss the target from six yards when any sort of shot on target would have beaten the bemused Price who could not believe his luck.

Postma had only one save to make in the whole match, and in terms of chances, this was a most one-sided match.

Opinion: Someone needed who knows how to put the chances away.  
Man of the match: Cameron.  
Team rating: 6/10  
Attendance: 23,563  
Team: Postma, Edwards, Naylor, Cameron, Lescott, Gyepes, Kennedy, Ganea, Seol, Huddlestone (Anderton 45), Ndah (Clarke 45)  
Unused subs: Oakes, Olofinjana, Craddock  
Bookings: None

## **HONOURS EVEN AT THE PALACE** **CRYSTAL PALACE 1-1 WOLVES** **10<sup>th</sup> December 2005**

Wolves dominated seventy percent of this match and came away with only a point after Johnson scored a late first half equaliser when Palace had looked to be under the cosh.

Fine saves from Kennedy and Miller by Speroni had kept Wolves first half tally to a single strike which had been a rather fortunate cross-cum-shot from Seol that sneaked in at the far post.

Wolves outplayed the home side and apart from a couple of efforts, well dealt with by Postma, looked to be on course for a well earned victory.

The second period was much the same story as Speroni kept out a super shot from Kennedy. The keeper then could not believe his luck as Anderton jinked inside three defenders to send a dipping shot over his head only to watch it rebound off the post to Miller who promptly despatched it into the crowd in a similar fashion to Seol the previous week.

So yet again a point was scant reward for what should have been a match winning performance.

Opinion: Unbelievable that a draw was all that was achieved.  
Team rating: 8/10  
Man of the match: Huddlestone.  
Attendance: 19,385  
Team: Postma, Edwards, Naylor, Anderton, Lescott, Gyepes, Kennedy, Huddlestone, Seol, Ganea (Clarke 75), Miller  
Unused subs: Oakes, Olofinjana, Ross, Ricketts  
Bookings: Seol (31 – foul); Kennedy (45 – foul), Gyepes (76 – foul)

# Marathon & Hoddle



The last committee meeting of the Wolverhampton Wanderers London Supporters Club agreed to adopt Phil Bant, who was the Official Wolves London Marathon Runner in 2005, as the Official WWLSC runner in next years Flora London Marathon. Phil completed the 2005 marathon in 4 hours and 15 minutes - a whole 15 minutes quicker than "Baggie Bird" runner, Adrian Childs of the BBC.

Phil got on so well with the London Wolves team last year that he's now joined us and will be running as the official WWLSC marathon entrant. Phil raised £6,000 for two autism charities and will be looking to fundraise again this year.

Rachel Heyhoe-Flint organised the raffling of a Wolves shirt signed by the squad and here is a picture of the winner, Paul Walker of Telford Wolves, being presented with the shirt by Bully.



## HODDLE - ONE YEAR ON... (Steve Marshall - Express & Star)

Ask Jez Moxey whether Wolves made the right decision in appointing Glenn Hoddle as manager and the answer is an emphatic 'yes'. Twelve months on from the coup of unveiling Hoddle as Dave Jones's successor at Molineux and on the face of it little has changed. Wolves are still playing catch-up in the Championship promotion race after a spluttering first half to the campaign. Even a return of 15 wins and 25 draws - or 70 points - from the equivalent of a full 46-game season would see the club miss out on the play-offs nine times out of 10.

But this is Hoddle's first full season and it only reaches its halfway point on Saturday.

Reaching the play-offs last time around was always going to be a tall order. This time he's been in charge from the off and although Wolves are 18 points adrift of the automatic promotion places, only a point separates them from the play-off place that will be the minimum requirement at the end of a campaign in which promotion is viewed as a must.

Wolves' record of 31 points from the first 22 games is nothing special, but they do have more points in the bank than two of last year's top six finishers Derby and Preston had at this stage of the campaign. With so many twists and turns in the season still to come Moxey's belief in Hoddle is unwavering. And the Wolves Chief Executive is looking beyond the sole parameter of results in his assessment that, actually, Wolves have made significant strides under Hoddle.



"On the field I think our team has improved," said Moxey. "We are playing attractive football that is pleasing on the eye and nearly every manager and a lot of chairman and directors talk of us as being the best team they have played.

"We are a team that is pretty difficult to beat. We've only lost eight games out of 50 and one of those was against Arsenal.

"And we broke a club record by going 21 games unbeaten over the course of last season and the start of this. You don't do that if you're not a good side. However, after 50 games of Glenn Hoddle being in charge we all accept that we have drawn far too many of those games and while you don't look to lose any game you do want to win them."



Moxey has been as frustrated as anyone at Wolves' inability to take the chances that could have resulted in a much superior points haul.

But without making excuses for his manager he is quick to point out some of the reasons behind Wolves' slip from fourth place at the end of September to their current placing of ninth - ironically where they ended up finishing last season.

"We are not happy with not having won as many games as we would like or expect, but there are reasons for that," he said. "I don't mean this as an excuse but this season we have lost our two top strikers (Carl Cort and Kenny Miller) for some period of time and we've not had a settled team. We've had players like Vio Ganea who has come back from an horrendous injury and who has taken time to get up to speed. We also have a long term policy to develop young players but we have had to play Leon Clarke who, like a lot of young players, has come in and done well, but then not been effective as we hoped he would be. But Glenn has had to keep playing him because of the injuries we've had."

Moxey is quick to point out how things have changed behind the scenes. One of reasons behind Hoddle's agreement to stay on in the summer was the installation of the expensive ProZone analytical system, allowing a student of the game like the Wolves boss to examine each of his own team's, and indeed opponents', strengths and weaknesses during the course of a game. And the chief executive is equally pleased with the way Hoddle's forward thinking approach in training and coaching prowess has improved a number of the players already on the club's books.

"Glenn is very good with the players who have spoken highly of him and respond well to his methods," Moxey added "He's also identified some very good players and brought them in like Jackie McNamara, Rohan Ricketts, Gabor Gyepes and Darren Anderton. "And he's a guy that will not buy a player just because he's available."

Such pressure will no doubt be exerted again once the January transfer window opens and clubs can start buying and selling players. But the chief executive is confident Hoddle will not only use it wisely to strengthen the squad, but will also offer Wolves value for money with his buys.

"This football club has always backed its managers," said Moxey. "We are not afraid to spend but we want value for money. Everyone at Molineux from the fans right through to the board want us to return to the Premier League. But in order to do that we must start winning more games."

