



Wolverhampton Wanderers

LONDON SUPPORTERS CLUB

founded 1966



CHAMPIONS!!!

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JUNE 2009

FROM THE CHAIR



WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS LONDON SUPPORTERS CLUB

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Well deserved and heartfelt congratulations are due to Mick and the boys on a job well done. The achievement of being crowned Champions, when leading the division (for all bar three weekends) from 30th August to its finale, was a phenomenal feat. Despite some performance hiccups, the atmosphere at the matches towards the end of the season, both home and away, was electrifying, and I've no doubt that we supporters will keep this going throughout the next season. And what a season it promises to be. I can't wait for the summer recess to see what personnel Mick chooses to strengthen the squad with. News from within the Club suggests that lessons have been learned from our previous foray into the Premiership and that finances are available for team strengthening. Incidentally, I notice that my 'friends', the bookies, have already made us favourites to be the Premiership's whipping boys next season. I've got a feeling that we won't be!

I'm sure you all must have shared my delight in seeing Jody Craddock and Karl Henry lift the Championship trophy, almost fifty years to the day that the late, great, Billy Wright did so in yesteryear's Premiership, the old Football League First Division. Not a dry eye in the stadium anywhere! Congratulations are also due to the WW London Supporters Club 'Player of the Year', Sylvan Ebanks-Blake, who was a surprisingly clear winner of the award despite some tremendous performances from other members of the squad, Kevin Foley in particular. Roll on the Premiership!

A date for your diary is June 27th, our Annual General Meeting, which, again, is to be held at the Brockley Social Club. Details are elsewhere in this newsletter and also on our website. Do please try to join us as last year's turn-out was the lowest for many years. This is also the ideal time for new members to meet your committee and some of the other members.

During the summer I am hoping that we can organise a trip to the Fullers Brewery in west London. Keep an eye on the website for details, although I can't imagine too many of our members will be that interested as there may be some drinking involved!

Finally, have a great summer gloating on the promotion, watch out for the publication of the fixture list on June 16th, and for those of you following the team to Australia, have a great trip.

Stuart

'WOLVES'

If you are like me, anytime I see the name wolves mentioned in the newspapers, billboards or on TV, my eyes are instantly drawn to the name. Often as not the name refers to the hairy dog variety, at which point I immediately ignore it. But there must be something in the stars at this moment in time, that brings the name 'Wolves', in a sporting context, to the fore. First of all, we, the Wolves, are Champions of the Championship Division of the Football League. In Germany, Wolfsburg have just won the Bundesliga Football Championship. And in the Elite Division of the National Speedway League, Wolves sit comfortably at the helm. Not a bad time to be a Wolf, eh? The only Wolves that are letting the name down at the moment are the rugby boys from Warrington!

Stef

CHAMPIONS

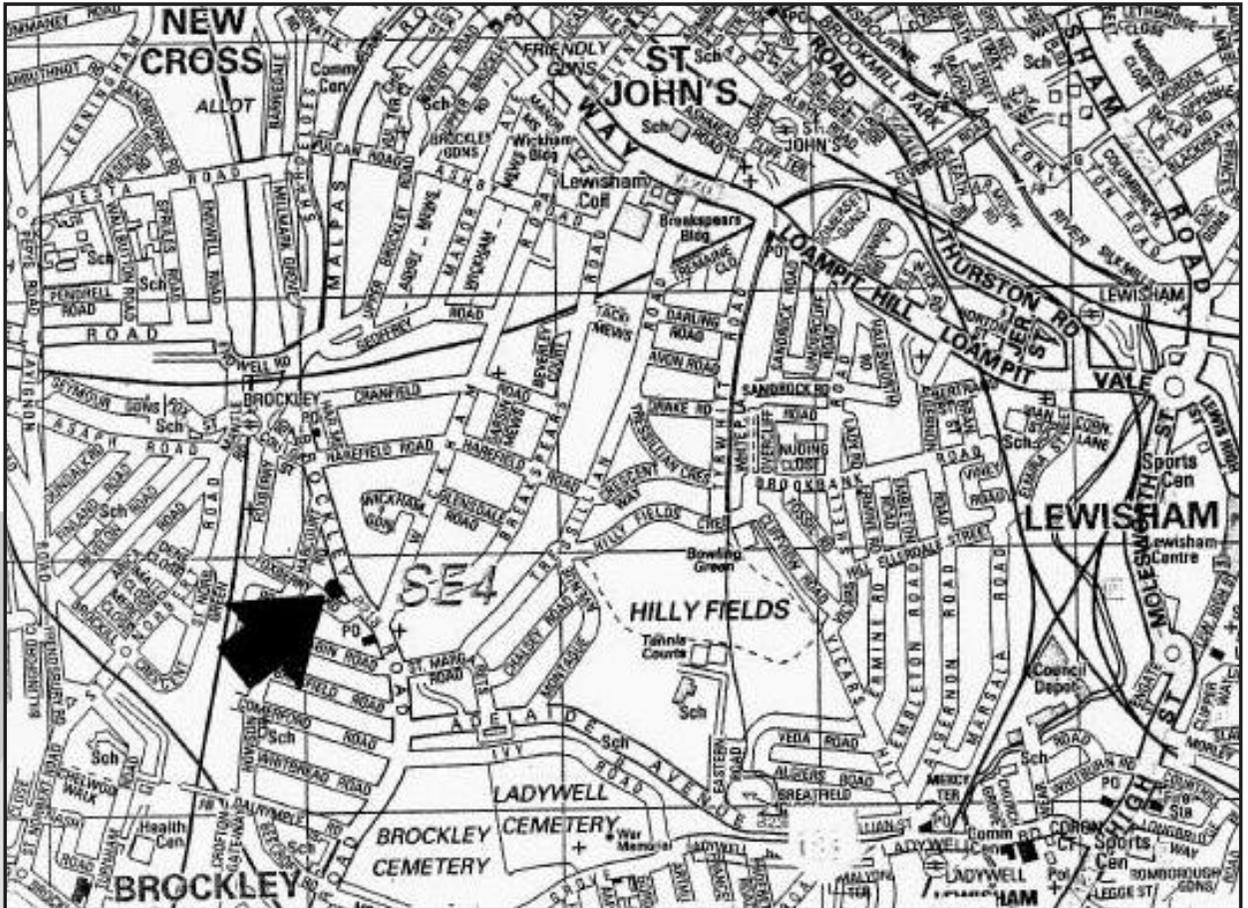




ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday 27th June 2009

This year's AGM is again being held at the Brockley Social Club, 240 Brockley Road, London SE4 at 3.00pm sharp. As you can see from the location map, it is a 5 minute walk from Brockley mainline station.



THE AGENDA FOR THIS YEARS AGM

1. CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS
2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
3. MINUTES OF 2008 AGM
4. MATTERS ARISING
5. SECRETARY'S REPORT
6. TREASURER'S REPORT
7. TRAVEL SECRETARY'S REPORT
8. ENTERTAINMENT OFFICER'S REPORT
9. NEWSLETTER EDITOR'S REPORT
10. ELECTION OF OFFICERS
11. MEMBERSHIP FEE
12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS



THE CAMPAIGN FOR A POSTHUMOUS KNIGHTHOOD FOR BILLY WRIGHT CBE

Bryan Yeubrey, a Licensed Player's Agent, has opened up a website, www.sirbillywright.com in order to try and attain a posthumous knighthood for one of England and Wolverhampton Wanderers' finest footballers, William Ambrose Wright CBE. I think it is something worthwhile supporting, as I've always wondered what made Sir Stanley Matthews' or Sir Tom Finney's achievements worthy of receiving that honour compared to those of Billy Wright. I've no need to list Billy's achievements here as they are well documented, but I would urge you to look at the website because it is very comprehensive.

There is precedent for posthumous awards being bestowed, golfer Sir Henry Cotton to name but one recipient, and, with support already received from Downing Street, Buckingham Palace, MP's, MEP's, Members of the House of Lords, the PFA and football leaders worldwide, strong general public support on the website's proforma would be a great help towards that justified goal.

SOCCER AM'S CROSSBAR CHALLENGE



On the popular Saturday morning Sky TV show, Soccer Am, Wolves recently took part in the 'Crossbar Challenge'. For those of you who haven't seen the programme, players in turn, attempt to kick a ball from the centre spot onto the crossbar. There are many misses, some beyond description, but successes only bring one or two at the most.

On our day, up stepped George Friend, Christophe Berra, Matt Hill and Graham Stack to set the record. It was great to see George Elokobi 'testing out his knee', but not so great to see Karl Henry's effort - it was in the 'beyond description' class! Watch the video at <http://link.brightcove.com/services/player/bcpid1126121770?bctid=21019411001>

APOLOGIES

I must correct a couple of items which appeared in the last Newsletter. Excuses such as pressure of work, deadlines to meet, etc, cannot excuse us for mistakenly announcing the passing of Roy Swinbourne. In Stuart's 'From The Chair', it was Bill Shorthouse's sad passing that we meant to mourn. My apologies to Peter Creed, Secretary of the Wolves Former Players Association, for disrupting his Christmas Eve with this news and our gratitude to him for tracking Roy down, on holiday somewhere in Devon/Cornwall, to tell him that he was in fact still alive! When Stuart and I met Roy after Christmas, we were mightily relieved that he laughed the whole matter off. We were very humbled.

After that, trivially, the eagle-eyed among you noticed that the League Table should have read 2008-2009 and not the previous season, and, of course, Steve Morgan flies a Falcon 2000 and not a Gulfstream G200. So I'm told!!!

Stef



END OF SEASON AWARDS EVENING.

Despite the fiercely constant protestations that the “P” word would not be mentioned, I suspect that some people at the club must have been expecting. Otherwise, why would they have moved the Awards Evening to the International Centre at Telford? Jez more or less admitted this in his opening address when he said the move had been made to accommodate the unprecedented number of people who wanted to attend.

Over 700 of us sat down to dinner in the splendid surroundings, including Billy Wright's daughter Vicky and Bully. The evening was hosted by Claire Tomlinson and Bobby Davro who was there as well to do the auction at the end. Considering the large number of people, the service was excellent, as was the food.

And then came the speeches. Both Steve Morgan and Jez talked about the achievements of the season; there was strong hints about money being made available although nothing specific was mentioned. The new kit was paraded and then came the highlight of the evening! The chief executive or chairman of Sporting bet.com came up and in his speech he said what a privilege it was to be sponsoring a club with the tradition of Spurs! Howls of laughter mixed with derisory boos. Steve brushed it aside and referred to the sponsor as Ladbrokes, but Mick said maybe it should be renamed droppedabollock.com!! Mick made some veiled but pointed remarks about his time at Sunderland and why he was unable to keep them up. He was full of praise for everyone at the club.

Then came the presentations. When Kevin was announced as Player of the Year, I had a brief moment of fame! Before the QPR game a TV crew were asking fans who their player of the year was and why. On the night they only showed those who had picked Kevin, so I was beamed to all 700 people - for about 10 secs!!

The team then appeared on stage for a shortwhile to rapturous applause, but then Mick sent them all off home to bed as there was training the next day.

It was a thoroughly enjoyable evening but to be honest I probably would not have gone under normal circumstances - pricey and a day and a half off work! But quite by chance it was held on the 60th anniversary of the 1949 Cup Final, which was my first ever Wolves match - which is another story! (Strange that we got promotion exactly 50 years to the day after the last time we won the old First Division title!)

Dave Bracher



A Happy Dave meeting with his hero Steve Bull



Dave and Chairman Steve Morgan celebrating the Promotion

WOLVES' NEWS



PLAYER OF THE YEAR



In this Championship winning season, there were many contenders for this accolade. I can't name them all but, for me, Stephen Ward produced several man of the match performances. Karl Henry was often brilliant in midfield, Michael Kightly and Matt Jarvis tore opposing fullbacks apart, Jody Craddock was a solid rock at centre half, and his efforts spurred Richard Stearman to greater heights. Andy Keogh worked tirelessly for the whole team, Chris Iwelumo had a fantastic first half of the season, and Sam Vokes showed us his potential.

However, two players stood out from the crowd with their performances and justifiably vied for this accolade, Kevin Foley and Sylvan Ebanks-Blake. I'm sure that all of us, individually, at London Wolves expected a close contest between these two for the top honour. It was, therefore, a surprise that Sylvan, with his second consecutive Golden Boot award for his marvellous

25 goals, easily topped our poll. Kevin, though, had to content himself with winning the parent Club's award of Player of the Year. Without a doubt, justice was done that both these fine players achieved recognition in this Championship winning season. More of the same next year, please!!!



PFA AWARDS

Congratulations to Kights, Stears, and Sylvan for making the PFA Championship team of the season - but what happened to Kevin Foley?



the HISTORY MAN

DENNIS WESTCOTT, the last visiting player before Andrey Arshavin to score four goals in the League at Anfield, did so as Wolves beat Liverpool 5-1 in December 1946. Born in Wallasey, on the Wirral, in 1917, Westcott's 12-year Wolves career spanned the Second World War. He scored 124 goals in 144 games and won the Wartime League Cup in 1942, scoring a hat-trick in the final. He died in 1960 of leukemia aged 43.

In the recent Liverpool v Arsenal league match at Anfield, which resulted in a fantastic 4-4 draw, Arsenal's Andrey Arshavin scored all the Arsenal goals. The following day in the Daily Mail newspaper there was a short article, which we print below, about the last time any player scored four goals against Liverpool at Anfield. Step forward Wolves' Dennis Westcott who achieved this feat in a 5-1 thrashing of the Reds. Note his 124 goals from just 144 matches! He must have been an early mould from which Steve Bull emerged!



PRE-SEASON MATCHES

Here's the pre-season schedule from the Travel Secretary:

Friday July 10: Perth Glory

Wednesday July 15: North Queensland Fury

Tuesday July 21: Walsall

Saturday July 25: Bristol City

Tuesday July 28: MK Dons

Saturday August 1: Doncaster Rovers

Tuesday August 4: Scunthorpe Utd

Saturday August 8: Home game v Real Valladolid We hope to be able to present the WWLSC Player of the Season Trophy at this match or the first home match of the season.

Don't forget to tell Dave Slape if you are interested in participating.

Note: Weekend of August 15 The Premier League begins and the fixtures announced on June 16th

We will arrange trips to some of these games (Not Australia - there's a good value Wolves package or a Soccerbet competition!!), if there is sufficient interest. Please contact Peter Woodfield if you are interested.

WANT SOME WOLVES FOOTBALL NEXT MONTH?

The NIA is the place to be on Saturday 13th June as the Masters' Champions, Wolves, start to defend their national crown. The squad includes Mick Gooding, Scott Taylor, Darren Roberts, Mark Burke, Andy Thompson, David Kelly, Don Goodman, and Phil Robinson plus goalie tbd. If you want to book at http://www.mastersfootball.com/masterscup2009_midlands.htm or phone 0844-3388000.

PHIL'S A WINNER

Phil O'Connor finally won a WWLSC competition - a new England shirt courtesy of www.soccerpro.com - who offer special deals on national and major European and South American team shirts. Only 3 entries forecast that Wolves would win on 90 points with the Blues second on 83. Congratulations also to Chris from the www.wolfesfansite.co.uk, the non WWLSC winner

..... AND ANOTHER PHIL'S A WINNER

Phil Bant completed yet another London Marathon - this time as Spiderman - still collecting for the children's charity.... Well Child. Well Done, Phil. You can still donate at <http://www.justgiving.com/spidermanmarathon> or contact Peter Bartlett for Phil's address.



A NIGHT AT THE DOGS



I organised a "London Wolves..Gone to the Dogs" at Monmore Green Wolverhampton on Saturday 2nd May 2009. It was open to Members & Guests. We all met at 2pm in the Brittonia Hotel Bar with beer at £1.50 per Pint..wow. First thing was to wear our Special London Wolves Polo Shirt, then we paid a visit to our local, The City Bar. Taxis were waiting for us at 5.15pm to take us to the DOGS!! And what a night!! There were 28 of us... a voice from the tannoy... London Wolves... you have brightened the place up tonight. Very colourful.. haha.



We had lots to drink, lots to eat and fun backing the dogs. We Sponsored a Race called LONDON WOLVES STAKES. Roy had the Winning Dog..in albion colours ahah!! We then had a presentation with the Winning Dog & Owner. Most people seem to have backed a winner or two.



Taxis waiting at 10.20 pm, off to the Red Fort Indian, for yet more food! 22 hungry WOLVES!! Great food, great fun. Finished the evening at 12.30am, all tired, merry and walking back to our hotel.



I had great pleasure in organising this event, and would like to thank everybody for their company and fantastic support... pics available on Face book, and the London Wolves Website.



I can also supply copies if required.

It then put everybody in a party mood on Sunday for our Final game with all the Presentations. So a Fantastic Weekend!!!

**Good Luck to Wolves in the Premiership!
Roy Eagles.**



MATCH REPORTS



NO NEED TO ROB THE JEWELL'ERY STORE

WOLVES 3-0 DERBY COUNTY

Tuesday 9th December 2008

After the disappointing display against QPR in front of the SKY cameras it was business as usual as Wolves cruised to a comfortable 3-0 win against Paul Jewell's Derby team at Molineux. Michael Kightly returned to his work like best and pulled all the strings in midfield and Sylvan Ebanks-Blake also got back on the goal trail as he helped himself to a double as the points tally for the season hit 50.

Wolves got off to the perfect start when they were awarded a penalty for handball with less than a minute on the clock, Ebanks-Blake stepped up and made no mistake when sending Bywater the wrong way from the spot. After the early setback Derby missed a chance to level in the sixth minute when Hennessey spilled a cross from the left, but Emanuel Villa couldn't force the ball home and it was good night as far as the visitors were concerned.



Wolves piled forward for a second and Keogh missed a golden chance on the half hour when he dragged his shot wide after good work by Ebanks-Blake, who then hit the post himself in the 39th minute following a cross by Kightly. However there was to be no respite and the next attack resulted in Wolves second when Edwards turned and fired in an angled shot across Bywater from the edge of the six-yard box after an attempted headed clearance had fallen into his path.

Wolves picked up where they left off in the first half but the expected goal fest never materialised and the expectant supporters had to settle for just one solitary second half goal. It was Ebanks-Blake with his second of the night who finished off the scoring, Keogh's shot from the right-hand side of the area was saved by Bywater's feet but the ball ricocheted back to the striker who rolled it back across the six-

yard box for Ebanks-Blake to tap into an empty net. Derby rarely posed any kind of threat and when they did venture forward Mancienne was always on hand to clean up.

Opinion: Impressive display against team in the Premiership last season.

Man of the match: Mancienne

Team Rating: 8/10

Attendance: 21,326

Team: *Hennessey, Foley, Stearman, Mancienne, Hill, Kightly (Collins 70), Henry, Edwards, Ward (Jarvis 86), Ebanks-Blake (Vokes 74), Keogh*

Unused Subs: *Higgs, Jones*

Bookings: None

KEV'ASTATING

WOLVES 2-0 BARNESLEY

Saturday 13th December 2008



Wolves strolled to an easy 2-0 win over a very average Barnsley side in what was an eventful game at Molineux. Following some of the champagne football played in previous weeks the home team struggled to put the game to bed after they had taken the lead midway through the first half, but they showed a little bit of steel and determination to hold onto the advantage before man of the match Kevin Foley finally sealed it with a goal five minutes before the end

Wolves started the game the livelier of the two teams and Foley forced Muller into a good early save with a shot from the edge of the area. Barnsley were caught on the counter in the 18th minute when Wolves finally took the lead, Mancienne passed the ball out from the edge of his own area and some nice inter-passing ended when Foley on the overlap collected a pass from Kightly and sent in a cross that Hassell turned into his own net. It was almost 2-0 moments later as Foley, who was causing Barnsley all sorts of problems down the right wing, drilled a great shot just wide of the

post from 20 yards. More intense pressure from Wolves resulted in another goal opportunity for Keogh who should have done better with a close-range header following good play from Foley.

The second half was basically a non entity with Wolves happy to sit back and defend their lead but they nearly paid the penalty in the 65th minute for their complacency when Cureton found himself with space in the area, but the striker sent his header over the bar when he should have at least hit the target. Vokes replaced Keogh in the 66th minute and missed a golden chance to finish the game off four minutes later, Kightly broke from inside his own half and when the winger cut a cross back from the right into the path of the substitute his shot was smothered by Muller.

It was that man Foley who finished Barnsley off with four minutes left, he collected a pass from Kightly and ran through the middle playing a one-two with Vokes before smashing a shot goalwards that Muller got a hand to but couldn't keep out.

Opinion: Flying again and we'll still be top of the league at Christmas with 50 goals scored, not bad so far.

Man of the match: Foley

Team Rating: 6/10

Attendance: 22,399

Team: *Hennessey, Foley, Stearman, Mancienne, Hill, Kightly (Jarvis 85), Henry, Edwards (Jones 78), Ward, Ebanks-Blake, Keogh (Vokes 66)*

Unused Subs: *Ikeme, Collins*

Bookings: None

DON AND DUSTED

DONCASTER ROVERS 0-1 WOLVES

Saturday 20th December 2008

It was top against bottom but you wouldn't have thought it as Wolves were made to struggle all the way against a Doncaster side fighting for their Championship lives. In the end Wolves grabbed the points with a late goal scored by stand-in centre half Neill Collins who only played because Mancienne cried off injured at the last minute.

Rovers piled on the early pressure but had to wait until the 26th minute for the first clear cut opportunity of the game, a Wellens pass sent Heffernan racing clear and he held off Stearman before hitting a rising shot that Hennessey tipped onto the top of the crossbar. But that was as good as it

MATCH REPORTS



got for the home side and Wolves edged a tight game as it wore on. An incredible sequence of events five minutes before half time saw Keogh hit the bar and then smack the rebound against the post, Stearman follow up and have his shot saved by Sullivan and then a final effort from Stephen Ward cleared off the line, all within the space of twenty seconds.



Wolves improved after the break as Iwelumo and Jarvis replaced Keogh and Hill respectively, but they still created very little in the way of goal scoring attempts, apart from the 72nd minute when Kevin Foley cut in from the right flank and hit a low shot straight at Sullivan. But as the game looked to be petering out into stalemate Collins made the breakthrough in the 80th minute, he towered above the Rovers defence to connect with a Kightly free-kick from the left and plant a firm header past Sullivan for the winner.

Opinion: Not very pretty but we were losing games like this last season.

Man of the match: Collins

Team Rating: 5/10

Attendance: 13,669

Team: Hennessey, Foley, Stearman, Collins, Hill (Jarvis 46), Kightly, Henry, Edwards, Ward, Keogh (Iwelumo 46), Ebanks-Blake (Vokes 68)

Unused Subs: Ikeme, Shackell

Bookings: Kightly (56 – foul), Collins (61 – foul)

CHRISTMAS TURKEYS

WOLVES 1-1 SHEFFIELD UNITED

Friday 26th December 2008

It was a point each as Wolves and Sheffield United played out a 1-1 draw in the Boxing Day encounter at Molineux, but Wolves had goalkeeper Hennessey to thank as he pulled off a string of superb saves to deny United all three points.

Webber had the first real chance of the game in the fourth minute when he was put clean through, but Hennessey performed the first of his afternoon heroics



when he rushed out to smother at the striker's feet. Wolves took the lead against the run of play in the 18th minute with their first real attempt on target, Collins netted for the second time in two games when he was on hand to power a header into the net from a Kightly left wing corner, but the joy was short lived as the visitors struck back three minutes later. Hennessey made a superb reaction save to deny Beattie's first turn and shot, but when the ball was eventually delivered back across the six-yard box the keeper could only palm it into the path of Beattie who tapped home the equaliser.

United finished the first half in the same manner in which they had started and Wolves were again indebted to Hennessey for keeping the scores level just before half-time when he was at full stretch to tip Ehiogu's ferocious volley round the post.

Chances for Iwelumo and Ebanks-Blake were few and far between and their day was just about summed up in the 48th minute when in one instance they both failed to score from inside the six-yard box when denied by United keeper Bennett. Both sides took a more cautious approach as the second half wore on and when United did create a chance Hennessey again came to rescue when getting down low to palm Montgomery's long-range drive wide in the 72nd minute. It wasn't Wolves day but they still managed to hold on after being second best for more or less the whole afternoon.

Opinion: Typical festive season game with players seemingly more interested in Christmas parties than football.

Man of the match: Hennessey

Team Rating: 4/10

Attendance: 27,106

Team: Hennessey, Foley, Stearman, Collins, Ward (Mancienne 53), Kightly, Henry, Edwards, Jarvis (Vokes 80), Ebanks-Blake (Keogh 59), Iwelumo

Unused Subs: Ikeme, Jones

Bookings: Edwards (26 – foul), Henry (62 – foul)

DEFENSIVE BLACKOUT

BLACKPOOL 2-2 WOLVES

Monday 29th December 2008

In sub-zero temperatures Wolves threw away two precious promotion points when conceding a late goal at Blackpool. After dominating the game they committed defensive suicide when Rob Edwards popped up to equalise five minutes from time in the last Championship game of 2008.

It was a high tempo start to the game and Wolves had a dream start when they took the lead after just two minutes, Edwards dragged down Iwelumo in the area and Ebanks-Blake made no mistake from the spot. However the lead didn't last long and Blackpool equalised in the 10th minute, a long throw deep into the Wolves area was flicked on by Evatt and Taylor-Fletcher ghosted in at the far post to divert the ball past Hennessey. Blackpool were in the ascendancy after the goal and went close on the half hour mark when a curling shot from the edge of the area was turned round by the post by Hennessey. Wolves also had their moments and a lightning counter-attack saw Jarvis race from the halfway line and shoot just wide after leaving Harte for dead.



Jarvis nearly snatched back the lead back for Wolves following the break, another quick counter attack saw Ebanks-Blake cross in from the right and Jarvis's effort was somehow scrambled away for a corner. Another good chance to take the lead went begging on the hour mark, a poor clearance by Evatt was seized on by Iwelumo who fed that man Jarvis again, but his shot was saved by Rachubka with the ball deflected away for a corner. Wolves finally regained the lead with twenty minutes remaining, a swift move from the edge of their own area ended with a perfectly weighted pass from Ebanks-Blake into the path of Jarvis who this time made no mistake as he lifted the ball over the onrushing Rachubka.

MATCH REPORTS



With only five minutes left Ward gave away a needless foul on the left and when the free-kick was floated in Hennessey made a hash of things trying to punch the ball clear, that left Edwards the simple task of forcing the ball over the line for the equaliser.

Opinion: Had more than enough chances to finish off the game before gifting Blackpool the equaliser.

Man of the match: Jarvis

Team Rating: 4/10

Attendance: 8,906

Team: Hennessey, Stearman, Mancienne, Collins, Hill (Ward 57), Foley, Edwards (Jones 26), Henry, Jarvis, Ebanks-Blake, Iwelumo (Vokes 67).

Unused Subs: Ikeme, Keogh

Bookings: Stearman (43 – foul), Jones (77 – foul), Ward (84 – foul)

ELL'S BELLS

WOLVES 1-3 PRESTON NE

Saturday 10th January 2009



Stephen Elliot who was offloaded to Preston because he couldn't hit a barn door from five yards in his spell at Wolves returned to score two goals for his new club in their 3-1 win at Molineux. Elliot who scored just 5 goals in 32 games in 13 months at Molineux returned like a man on a mission, and he tormented his old team mates who gave him the time and space to prove his point in what can only be described as an abject display from a below par Wolves team.

The game started well for Wolves and they were gifted the lead in the 20th minute after a real howler from Preston keeper Lonergan, he struck an attempted clearance straight to Ebanks-Blake who slotted the ball into the net from the edge of the area. That was about as good as it got for Wolves as Elliot, who will always be remembered as the man who missed the open goal at QPR, started his one man

crusade. He almost equalised in the 23rd minute but was denied by a brilliant save from Ikeme, however a minute later there was no chance for the keeper when the new Elliot was on hand to nip in front of the sleeping Collins and stab the ball home from close range. St Ledger then put Preston 2-1 up four minutes before the break, Parkin headed an effort against the crossbar and as the defence stood static St Ledger reacted the quickest to tap the ball in from close range.

Just minutes after the restart Parkin had the ball in the back of the Wolves net again following a goalmouth scramble, but fortunately the linesman ruled out the strike for offside. Collins fluffed a good chance to pull Wolves level in the 57th minute and it proved costly when Elliot scored Preston's third goal four minutes later, Ikeme fumbled a left wing cross straight to Sedgwick and although his shot was blocked the ball fell to Elliott who scored from six yards.

Iwelumo crashed a header against the crossbar as Wolves chased the game, and in a bizarre incident 15 minutes from the end referee Colin Webster inexplicably reversed a decision to award a penalty following a blatant handball by Parkin, that just about summed up Wolves day.

Opinion: Poor performance all round.

Man of the match: Ward

Team Rating: 2/10

Attendance: 26,138

Team: Ikeme, Stearman, Shackell (Keogh 89), Collins, Ward, Kightly, Henry, Edwards, Jarvis, Iwelumo (Vokes 71), Ebanks-Blake

Unused Subs: Higgs, Potter, Hill

Bookings: None

HERE WE KEO

BIRMINGHAM CITY 0-2 WOLVES

Tuesday 13th January 2009 (FA Cup 3rd Rd)

Following the Preston shambles three days earlier Wolves upped their game ten-fold and deservedly booked their place in the FA Cup fourth round with a 2-0 victory over Birmingham City. Wolves made five changes to the team that lost 3-1 against Preston and played as though they had a point to prove.

Wolves showed a positive attitude from the off and this was typified by George Friend who was one of players drafted in by McCarthy, he had the first real chance



after 15 minutes when he cleverly jinked his way through the Blues defence only to have his close-range effort blocked by Taylor. Wolves continued to push forward and really applied the pressure as the half entered the final 15 minutes, and they got the goal they deserved on 38 minutes when Kightly flicked a clever ball through to Keogh who rammed his shot past Taylor. After the goal Wolves then had a lucky break as referee Howard Webb waved away a close penalty appeal when Stearman appeared to bring down Bent, but that was against the run of play during a rare Blues attack. A minute before the break Wolves just failed to increase their advantage when goal line clearances by Queudrue and Ridgewell in quick succession from Vokes and Kightly kept the score at 1-0.

With the second half less than two minutes old Wolves had another great chance to double their advantage, neat interplay between Vokes and Ward put Keogh clean through but Taylor somehow managed to get down to his right and push the ball to safety. However two minutes later the killer goal finally arrived and for once with a little help from a referee. Jaidi attempted to play a pass that referee Webb got in the way of and it diverted straight into the path of Keogh who broke quickly into the Blues penalty area, he then played in Kightly who squared the ball for Vokes to tap home from close range.

With nothing to lose Blues threw caution to the wind, but the closest they came to scoring was in the 67th minute when Jerome saw his volley cannon back off the bar, but it was too little too late and the Wanderers who went marching on to play Middlesbrough in the next round.

Opinion: Great result in hostile surroundings.

Man of the Match: Keogh

Team Rating: 9/10

Attendance: 22,232

Team: Hennessey, Stearman, Collins, Ward, Kightly (Ebanks-Blake 82), Edwards, Henry, Jones, Vokes (Iwelumo 77), Keogh, Friend

Unused Subs: Ikeme, Jarvis, Shackell, Potter, Hill

Bookings: Stearman (21 – handling the ball)

MATCH REPORTS



PAIN IN THE RAIN

BRISTOL CITY 2-2 WOLVES

Saturday 17th January 2009



Wolves threw away a golden opportunity to go seven points clear at the top of the table when they let a two goal lead slip at Ashton Gate after more or less controlling the game from start to finish, they carried on where they left off in the midweek cup game at Birmingham as they adapted better to the monsoon conditions.

With only two points out of the last nine Wolves were looking to get back to winning ways, and with the elements restricting the two teams to only a few half chances it was the swirling wind which contributed to the opener in the 44th minute, thanks to a real howler by Basso in the Bristol goal. The Brazilian missed Kightly's lofted ball into the heart of the area and Collins made absolutely sure with a header as the ball was drifting towards the empty net.

The conditions continued to dictate events at the start of the second half and were mainly responsible for Wolves second



goal in the 54th minute when Basso made clanger number two. With the wind and rain blowing in his face he mis-kicked a clearance straight to Kightly about 35 yards from goal, he quickly found Jarvis with a through ball who beat the offside trap to finish clinically from about ten yards. With the wind behind their backs Wolves were now cruising and two minutes after the goal only a superb save by Basso from Ebanks-Blake kept the score at 2-0.

With virtually their first attack of the second

half substitute Adebola pulled one back for Bristol in the 58th minute, the striker ran onto Maynard's pass and left Collins for dead before lashing the ball past Hennessey. Bristol gained momentum after the goal and even though there were a few scares as the final whistle approached Wolves still looked to be heading for all three points. However, with only three minutes left Adebola again broke clear down the left flank, he then blatantly bundled Collins to the ground before passing to the unmarked Maynard who took one touch before slotting the ball home from 10 yards.

Opinion: What is it with conceding late goals when the Sky cameras are around?

Man of the match: Kightly

Team Rating: 6/10

Attendance: 16,749

Team: Hennessey, Foley, Collins, Stearman, Hill (Shackell 90), Kightly, Henry, Jones, Jarvis (Edwards 78), Ebanks-Blake (Vokes 78), Keogh

Unused Subs: Higgs, Iwelumo

Bookings: Stearman (36 – foul)

REFEREE HAS NO STYLE

WOLVES 1-2 MIDDLESBROUGH

Saturday 24th January 2009 (FA Cup 4th Rd)



A superb win at Birmingham in the previous round gave Wolves a crack at Premier League strugglers Middlesbrough in the 4th round of the FA Cup at Molineux. With a top-of-the-table league clash at Reading next on the agenda Mick McCarthy made five changes to the team that played against Bristol City, and his weakened team lost out to Middlesbrough who progressed to the next round with a 2-1 win.

With nothing to lose Wolves played some neat football in the early stages, but chances were at a minimum and a Kyle Reid shot blocked by Wheeler in the seventh minute was the closest they came to a goal. Eventually Boro began to get a foothold in the game and Alves forced Hennessey into action with a shot from just inside the

area after cutting in from the left, a few moments later Hennessey did even better when Alves put Johnson clear and the keeper blocked the shot when the striker looked certain to score.

Boro missed a golden chance to take the lead five minutes before the break. Downing beat the offside trap and put Johnson in the clear inside the area, he took the ball round Hennessey and looked certain to score but Edwards got back to save the day with a superb goal line clearance. Boro's pressure finally paid off a minute before half time, Tuncay was the provider with a pass into the path of the unmarked Alves and he was able to chip the ball over the advancing Hennessey from ten yards.



After a period of sustained pressure at the start of the second half Vokes caused Wolves fans to lift the roof on Molineux when he levelled the scores in the 63rd minute, the young striker met Edwards right-wing cross with a towering header that found the bottom corner of the net. With ten minutes remaining Jarvis missed a glorious chance to make the score 2-1 when he shot wide with the goal at his mercy after the keeper parried Keogh's cross into his path. Wolves were made to pay for the miss three minutes later when Emnes scored the winner thanks to referee Rob Styles. In the build up to the goal both Ebanks-Blake and Karl Henry had claims for a foul turned down before Downing set-up Emnes whose low shot found the back of the net via the post.

Opinion: Can now concentrate on the league thanks to Rob Styles.

Man of the match: Edwards

Team Rating: 6/10

Attendance: 18,013

Team: Hennessey, Edwards, Shackell, Collins, Hill, Jarvis (Ebanks-Blake 81), Henry, Jones, Reid (Kightly 65), Iwelumo (Keogh 52), Vokes

Unused Subs: Craddock, Friend, Ikeme, Foley

Bookings: Jones (26 –foul)

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COLL'ATERAL DAMAGE

READING 1-0 WOLVES

Tuesday 27th January 2009

It was a bad night all round as Wolves lost to second in the table Reading with the game decided by a horrific own goal from Neil Collins with just a minute on the clock. The gap at the top of the Championship was reduced to two points between Reading and Wolves and Birmingham also closed to within four points. The unfortunate Collins's night was capped off when he was sent off in injury time for swearing at a linesman.

Wolves got off to the worst possible start when conceding a goal after just sixty seconds, a poor clearance to Armstrong on the left was punished when the full back sent a high looping ball back into the area and the unfortunate Collins lost his bearings and headed past the stranded Hennessey. As the game progressed it became a scrappy affair with both teams determined to give as little as possible away. The closest Wolves came to scoring in the first half was when Ebanks-Blake released Jarvis on the left and his cross was put wide by Keogh from a yard. Reading finished the half the stronger of the teams and Wolves were lucky to stay just one down thanks to Hennessey, firstly he was in the right place when Harper shot straight at him from ten yards, and secondly when he pulled off a brilliant save to keep out a Noel Hunt free-kick right on the stroke of half-time.

Jarvis had the first sight of goal after the break but after exchanging passes with Ebanks-Blake he sliced his drive wildly across the face of goal. Once again the game descended into a midfield tussle and apart from a couple of half chances which fell to Jarvis and Kightly it just wasn't happening for Wolves. In the last of the four minutes of injury time and with Reading time-wasting in the corner Collins was given his marching orders when he argued with a linesman about a decision which ended in a corner, referee Booth



was called over for a consultation and he showed the defender a straight red card, the sending off came as no surprise as the referee was shocking all night.

Opinion: Awful defending early doors costs dearly.

Man of the match: Ward

Team Rating: 5/10

Attendance: 23,009

Team: *Hennessey, Foley, Collins, Stearman, Ward, Kightly, Quashie (Edwards 86), Henry, Jarvis (Vokes 84), Keogh (Iwelumo 63), Ebanks-Blake*

Unused Subs: *Higgs, Hill*

Bookings: Ward (29 - foul)

Sending-off: Collins (90 - foul and abusive language)

EBANKS-BLAKE FINISHES WITH A BULLS EYE

WOLVES 3-1 WATFORD

Saturday 31st January 2009

After five league games without a win Wolves got back to winning ways when overcoming Watford by a 3-1 score line. The kick-off was delayed by 10 minutes because of a turnstile problem at Molineux, and contrary to rumours it certainly wasn't due to the late arrival of Watford supporters stuck in motorway traffic, the mini-bus bringing their entire allocation arrived nice and early.



After weathering some early Watford pressure Ebanks-Blake settled the nerves for Wolves when he grabbed the opener in the 23rd minute, Reid sent over a corner from the left and Stearman rose at the back of the area to direct a header into the danger zone where Ebanks-Blake was waiting to smash the ball into the net for his 50th career goal. Straight from the kick-off and in the very next attack Watford thought they had equalised when McAnuff bundled Smith's centre into the net, but the goal was disallowed for a foul on Hennessey. There were certainly no doubts about a referee decision helping the keeper out when he made a stunning double save

on the stroke of half-time, firstly stopping Hoskins and then recovering to tip Cork's dipping volley over the bar.

Wolves produced the killer blow when they doubled their lead in the 67th minute, Kightly broke at speed down the right wing during a counter-attack and he sent in a cross that was chested down by Keogh before he rifled it past Loach in the Watford goal. Watford were given a lifeline by a goal from Mariappa in the 81st minute, a long ball across the face of goal was headed back by Rasiak for the centre-back to sidefoot in from close range. With the nerves jangling Vokes put the game to bed in stoppage time when he made it 3-1, the substitute timed his run to perfection to powerfully head home a cross supplied from the left by Jarvis.

Opinion: Pathetic away support, what idiot allocated the whole bottom tier of the Steve Bull for these lightweighters?

Man of the match: Kightly

Team Rating: 7/10

Attendance: 23,571

Team: *Hennessey, Foley, Stearman, Craddock, Ward, Kightly (Edwards 89), Henry, David Jones, Reid (Jarvis 70), Ebanks-Blake (Vokes 84), Keogh*

Unused Subs: *Higgs, Iwelumo*

Bookings: Henry (26 - holding), Ward (76 - foul)

SYLVAN THREE BANKS-BLAKE

WOLVES 3-3 NORWICH CITY

Tuesday 3rd February 2009

An army of volunteers who helped clear snow from the walkways both inside and outside the stadium along with aid of the undersoil heating ensured that this match was played, but it was the Wolves defence that was in total meltdown against strugglers Norwich. Even a hat-trick from Sylvan Ebanks-Blake courtesy of three assists from Matt Jarvis couldn't ensure all three points against a poor team struggling at the wrong end of the Championship.



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After a series of near misses which included Ebanks-Blake hitting the crossbar early on it was Wolves who opened the scoring in the 25th minute, Marshall spilled a cross to Jarvis who then passed to Ebanks-Blake to slot home his first from a close range (1-0). On the half-hour mark Norwich levelled after their first gift from the Wolves defence, old boy Sammy Clingan put a ball over the top of the defence and Stearman made a real mess of clearing, his weak header was short of the mark leaving Croft to round Hennessey and fire home the equaliser (1-1).

Two minutes after the break came gift number two, another old-boy Carl Cort who didn't really know his arse from his elbow in his time at Molineux punished some slack defending when he hit a screamer into the bottom corner from 25 yards (1-2). In the 54th minute Ward played the ball through to Jarvis on the left-hand side of the area and his low cross was only half cleared to Ebanks-Blake who rammed home the rebound for his second (2-2). Within two minutes Wolves were ahead for the second time as Ebanks-Blake notched his first senior hat-trick, some more great work from Jarvis saw the winger win possession and pull the ball back to the edge of the area where Ebanks-Blake was on hand to smash it through a crowd of players into the bottom corner (3-2). Gift number three came in the 65th minute when Norwich completed the scoring following their first corner of the game, Clingan sent over the kick and Doherty was left completely unmarked to head in at the far post (3-3).

Opinion: Golden opportunity to go seven points clear at the top missed because of woeful defending.

Man of the match: Ebanks-Blake

Team Rating: 6/10

Attendance: 21,654

Team: Hennessey, Foley, Stearman, Craddock, Ward, Kightly (Vokes 39), Henry, Jones, Jarvis (Iwelumo 90), Ebanks-Blake, Keogh (Reid 79)

Unused Subs: Higgs, Edwards

Bookings: Henry (11 – foul)

BIRTHDAY BLUES

COVENTRY CITY 2-1 WOLVES

Saturday 7th February 2009

Mick McCarthy's was hoping to celebrate an away win on his 50th birthday, but it was Coventry who must have thought it was their birthday as Wolves continued



their recent trend of committing defensive suicide when gifting City two goals in a 2-1 defeat at the Ricoh Stadium. There were three changes to the Wolves starting line-up with Christophe Berra making his debut at the expense of Jody Craddock, Quashie came in for Jones in midfield and Iwelumo returning up front with Keogh taking a place on the bench.

Wolves made all the running in the early stages but still found themselves trailing in the 25th minute after conceding a dreadful goal, Morrison's attempt came back off the post following some indecision in defence and Doyle was on hand to tap in the rebound. Wolves continued to press forward but wasted an excellent chance to equalise two minutes before the break when Kightly's corner from the left was wastefully headed over the bar by the unmarked Berra.

McCarthy's half-time team talk seemed to uplift the team as Coventry's defence was at last put under a bit of pressure, and the breakthrough finally came in the 72nd minute when Kightly's corner from the left was met at the far post by substitute Sam Vokes who headed the ball into the top corner. Wolves had a big let-off two minutes after the goal when McKenzie blazed the ball over the bar from six yards following a mistake by Berra, but he made no mistake when given a second opportunity a minute later as he slotted the ball into the bottom corner after running onto a through ball.

Wolves were thrown a dramatic lifeline in the fourth minute of stoppage time when Ebanks-Blake was fouled inside the area and awarded a penalty. McCarthy's miserable day was made complete when the striker picked himself off the floor and tried his usual technique of blasting the spot-kick down the middle, but keeper Westwood had obviously done his homework and he easily saved the weak effort which went all along the ground.

Opinion: Back to the bad habits of last season when losing after dominating the game.

Man of the match: Kightly

Team Rating: 4/10

Attendance: 21,167

Team: Hennessey, Foley, Stearman, Berra, Ward, Jarvis, Henry (Edwards 84), Quashie, Kightly (Reid 86), Ebanks-Blake, Iwelumo (Vokes 62)

Unused Subs: Higgs, Keogh

Bookings: Ward (53 – foul), Henry (57 – dissent)

FINGERS BURN'T

BURNLEY 1-0 WOLVES

Saturday 14th February 2009



Another loss and now its just one win in their last nine league games for the out of sorts Wanderers. The Championship band wagon is not just coming off the rails but hurtling downhill at a massive rate of knots and at the moment Mick McCarthy can't buy a win for his out of form team.

It was a poor start for Wolves as Burnley took the lead after only five minutes, Elliott sent in a deep cross from the right and McCann was waiting unmarked at the far post to head the ball past Hennessey. After the early shock Wolves settled down and looked to find an immediate response and they should have drawn level in the 16th minute when a Kightly corner from the right was met by the head of Berra, but unfortunately for the defender it went agonisingly wide. After that it was Burnley who poured forward and it was only Hennessey who prevented a second goal as he made a great double save from Caldwell and Paterson.

Burnley piled on the pressure at the start of the second half and again went close in the 56th minute when McCann's shot was again saved by Hennessey with Paterson firing the rebound into the side netting. Moments later Thompson flicked on a through ball leaving Paterson clear on goal, this time Hennessey was beaten to the ball and rounded by the striker, but Stearman came to the rescue and raced back to hack the ball off the line. As the final stages approached Stearman and

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Henry went close for Wolves but on the day they were well beaten by a better Burnley side.

Opinion: Confidence at lowest point for the season, need a win from somewhere
Man of the match: Hennessey

Team Rating: 2/10

Attendance: 13,515

Team: Hennessey, Foley, Stearman, Berra, Ward, Kightly, Henry, Quashie (Edwards 60), Jarvis, Ebanks-Blake, Vokes (Iwelumo 59)

Unused Subs: Higgs, Collins, Keogh

Bookings: None

DIMI SWITCHES OFF

WOLVES 2-2 CARDIFF CITY

Sunday 22nd February 2009

Following the Reading and Birmingham results on the previous day this was a golden opportunity for Wolves to increase the gap at the top of the table between themselves and their two closest rivals. But it was honours even and a point each as the teams produced an entertaining 2-2 draw, the main talking point involved an own goal from Cardiff keeper Dimi Konstantopoulos who dropped the ball into his own net nine minutes from time.



With only one win in their previous nine games Wolves started brightly against the in-form Cardiff and nearly made the early breakthrough in the fifth minute, Chopra was dispossessed in his own area and Keogh's subsequent strike across goal came back off the post. The opener eventually came in the 11th minute, Kightly worked a short free-kick with Foley on the left and cut inside before laying the ball out wide to Jarvis, the winger floated an inch-perfect cross to the far post where Ebanks-Blake ran in to head home. It should have been 2-0 on the half hour mark when some great one-touch passing around the Cardiff area found Ebanks-Blake clean through, his shot was well saved by the

keeper but with the goal at his mercy Keogh blasted the rebound over the bar from six yards. Within a minute Wolves were made to pay dearly for Keogh's howler when Cardiff went straight up other end and equalised with virtually their first shot. Ward should have done better when attacked by Parry but naively dived in and was left on his backside, the ball was squared back to Chopra who was given more space than an Iraqi suicide bomber to pick his spot and fire past Hennessey. After totally dominating the first half Wolves had a disastrous start to the second when they fell behind just three minutes after the restart. Henry was denied a clear foul on the half way line by an outrageous decision by the referee, and sure enough the resulting corner ended up with Johnson rising unchallenged to power home a header into the left hand corner of the net. There was lots of endeavour from Wolves but if anything it was Cardiff who looked more like extending their lead by defending in numbers and then trying to catch the Wolves on the break. It was almost game over in the 74th minute when Rae threaded the ball through for Parry who managed to slip the ball past Hennessey but to the relief of the defence it drifted the wrong side of the post.

With ten minutes left and all seeming to be going pear shaped Wolves got that little bit of luck that they thoroughly deserved when they were gifted an equaliser. There seemed no danger when the on-loan Reid sent in a swirling cross from the left but keeper Konstantopoulos completely lost the plot and with nobody anywhere near him he dropped a routine catch and the ball went over his own goal line. It was an absolute shocker but who cares.

Opinion: Lets hope that bit of luck kick starts a good run.

Man of the match: Edwards

Team Rating: 7/10

Attendance: 22,093

Team: Hennessey, Foley, Craddock, Berra, Ward (Stearman 80), Kightly, Henry, Edwards, Jarvis (Reid 76), Keogh (Vokes 76), Ebanks-Blake

Unused Subs: Higgs, Iwelumo

Bookings: Berra (78 – foul)

HORROR SHOW

WOLVES 0-1 PLYMOUTH ARGYLE

Saturday 28th February 2009



This performance was summed up in one sentence by Mick McCarthy in the after match obituary when he said "We were hopeless, let's cut to the quick, the way we played we were hopeless and we didn't deserve anything from the game". Following a run of just one win from their previous 10 league games Wolves needed to get back to winning ways and had the perfect opportunity against a side whose current form was even worse than their own with only one win in their previous 16 games. But it all went wrong as Plymouth nicked a goal inside the first 40 seconds and then hung on for the next 94 minutes. Right from the kick-off things went pear shaped, in fact a lot of supporters hadn't even got to their seats and Wolves were one nil down. Plymouth gained a very early throw-in on the left-hand side which was launched into the penalty area, a combination of hesitance and failing to clear the ball away between Craddock and Berra allowed Mackie to help the ball onto Gallagher, the striker set himself before executing an overhead kick which flew past Hennessey who was stuck in no-mans land. The early goal gave Plymouth the signal to put on the "Tin Hats" and position the wagons around the goal area and Wolves streamed forward in numbers in search of an equaliser, but they failed to show the cutting edge needed to penetrate the stronghold.

After being booed off at half time Wolves continued to pile forward after the break and to be fair had three good shouts for a penalty waved away by yet another awful referee to visit Molineux this season. Wanderers' day was just about summed up when Ebanks-Blake was released by Edwards in front of goal with 15 minutes left, but with only the keeper to beat the usual clinical finisher blasted the ball over from 12 yards.

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Opinion: A real horror display, I can't remember a worse display from a team in Gold and Black.

Man of the match: Edwards

Team Rating: 1/10

Attendance: 25,710

Team: Hennessey, Foley, Craddock, Berra, Ward (Friend 88), Kightly, Henry, Edwards, Reid (Iwelumo 58), Ebanks-Blake, Keogh (Vokes 85)

Unused Subs: Higgs, Stearman

Bookings: Henry (65 - foul)

SAME OLD COLIN

CRYSTAL PALACE 0-1 WOLVES

Tuesday 3rd March 2009



Following the shambles of losing at home to Plymouth three days earlier Wolves at last got back to winning ways when taking all three points against Crystal Palace in monsoon conditions at Selhurst Park. Sylvan Ebanks-Blake who was the villain after missing a sitter against Plymouth made amends when slotting home a second-half penalty that sent Wolves five points clear at the top of the Championship.

It was a slow start from both teams but it was Wolves who adapted better to the atrocious weather conditions as they confidently passed the ball about, but the fans still had to wait until the 17th minute before the first shot of the game from Ebanks-Blake who forced Speroni into a save after some schoolboy defending by Lawrence and Fonte in the Palace defence. After a couple of half chances from Kightly and Iwelumo the home side managed to create a chance of their own in the 37th minute when Craddock sliced a clearance onto the outside of his own post for a corner.

Palace created the first clear cut chance after the break when Ifill's low free-kick from 25 yards flew through the wall and was finger-tipped onto the post by Hennessey at full stretch. Wolves continued to take the initiative and finally made the breakthrough



in the 74th minute, Hill was adjudged to have hauled down Kightly in the box and Ebanks-Blake made no mistake from the spot. Neil Warnock (anagram of Colin Wanker) whose constant rants about referees make Arsene Wenger look like a diplomat went on Sky TV to accuse Kightly of cheating after the incident, what he failed to mention was that the referee gave every other decision on the night to his sub standard Palace team, including waving away two other stone wall penalty decisions in their favour. Andy Keogh made a late entrance and failed to grab a bit of glory for himself when he wasted a superb chance to finish matters when put clean through, nevertheless Wolves comfortably held on for all three points which ended a spell of five games without a win.

Opinion: Three days into March and already more points gained than all of February.

Man of the match: Kightly

Team Rating: 8/10

Attendance: 14,907

Team: Hennessey, Foley, Craddock, Berra, Hill, Kightly (Stearman 90), Henry, Edwards, Friend, Iwelumo (Vokes 89), Ebanks-Blake (Keogh 84)

Unused Subs: Darren Ward, Reid

Bookings: Berra (56 - foul), Craddock (66 - foul), Hill (86 - time wasting), Henry (90 - kicking ball away)

WHAT A HOOT

SHEFFIELD WED 0-1 WOLVES

Saturday 7th March 2009

Wolves made it two away wins in a week as they easily beat Sheffield Wednesday by a solitary goal at Hillsborough. The game was more comfortable than the 1-0 score line suggests and apart from the odd breakaway by Wednesday it was Wolves who totally controlled the game to send their massive following of over 3000 fans home happy.



Following their midweek victory at Palace it was Wolves who started the more confident of the two teams and they needed only five minutes to take the lead. Kightly collected a throw-in from Foley and his cross was met at the far post by Ebanks-Blake who ghosted in front of his marker to head home. It was all Wolves and they could have easily doubled their lead in the 15th minute, but Grant in the Wednesday goal did well to block out Kightly at the near post after the winger connected with a low cross from Ebanks-Blake. Following further chances including a header from Friend and a drive from Edwards Wednesday nearly equalised against the run of play on the half hour mark. The home team broke rapidly after a Kightly corner and the ball was hoofed up the field to Johnson, the striker powered into the box past the retreating Hill and Foley, but with the goal at his mercy he hoofed the ball into orbit. Ebanks-Blake caused more panic in the Wednesday defence eight minutes before the break when he raced on to a long ball, but his shot was deflected on to the roof of the net by a defender.

After a dominant first period Wolves shut up shop in the second half and never looked in trouble, chances were far and few between and the biggest cheer of the half came when Michael Gray was substituted with 20 minutes remaining and was applauded off by both sets of fans. Wednesday did carve up a half chance in the 77th minute when Tudgay pulled back a cross for Johnson, but his shot didn't have the power to beat Hennessey. Wolves

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should have killed the game off in the closing minutes when Grant only half cleared with a header to the edge of his area, but Keogh's follow up shot was weak and Spurr was on hand to block the strikers' effort.

Opinion: Two away wins in a week and things suddenly look rosy again.

Man of the match: Ebanks-Blake

Team Rating: 7/10

Attendance: 23,703

Team: Hennessey, Foley, Berra, Craddock, Hill, Friend (Stephen Ward 70), Edwards, Jones, Kightly (Stearman 85), Ebanks-Blake (Keogh 77), Iwelumo
Unused Subs: Darren Ward, Vokes
Bookings: Hill (56 – holding), Keogh (83 – foul), Stearman (89 – foul)

TRACTOR BARRACADE

WOLVES 0-0 IPSWICH TOWN

Tuesday 10th March 2009

Negative Ipswich Town with one of the best away records in the Championship obviously didn't fancy their chances at Wolves as they packed their penalty area with as many bodies as possible in the hope of taking something away from the game, and the tactics proved effective as they left Molineux with a point following a 0-0 draw.

Jim Magilton adopted a 4-5-1 formation from the off in an attempt to stifle Wolves' attacking philosophy and at the same time hope to catch them on the break. And that's how the game developed with Wolves enjoying the majority of the play in the opening stages albeit without creating much in the final third of the field. The home support had to wait until the 22nd minute for the first real attempt on goal when Richard Wright touched a 25 yard free-kick from David Jones over the crossbar. When Wolves did manage to attack the Ipswich defence any progression was brought to an abrupt end by the crude defending of Thatcher and Campo in the Ipswich defence. The only other effort of any note came from a free kick when Reid picked himself off the ground after being clattered by Thatcher, only to blast the long range effort just the wrong side of Wright's upright.

Kightly was introduced at half-time in place of Reid and even though he helped up the tempo he too was starved of time and space, with the second half continuing in more or less the same fashion as the



first. The best chance of the match came on the hour mark when for once Ebanks-Blake was given a yard of space in the area, but he could only watch in despair as his shot came back off the crossbar, Kightly then followed up but smashed the rebound wide when he should have hit the target.

As full time approached Wolves nearly threw the game away when their defence failed dismally when attempting to play offside by running out at a free-kick, Jon Stead beat Hennessey but Berra raced back to clear the ball off the line. It was a lucky escape for Wolves but would have been a travesty had it gone in.

Opinion: After two good away wins it was disappointing to drop yet more precious points at home.

Man of the match: Edwards

Team Rating: 7/10

Attendance: 22,227

Team: Hennessey, Foley, Berra, Craddock, Hill (Keogh 80), Reid (Kightly 46), Jones, Edwards, Stephen Ward, Iwelumo (Vokes 57), Ebanks-Blake
Unused Subs: Darren Ward, Stearman
Bookings: Craddock (65 – foul)

IWELUMO GIVES CHARLTON THE CHRIS OF DEATH

WOLVES 2-1 CHARLTON ATHLETIC

Saturday 14th March 2009

It was top against bottom but Wolves didn't have it all their own way even though they won 2-1 to put one of the final nails in Charlton's Championship coffin. It was a dour game where chances were far and few between and it took an own goal from Matt Holland twelve minutes from time to give Wolves three more precious points in their quest to reach the Premiership.

Even though they were desperate for points to help them avoid relegation Charlton copied Ipswich's negative midweek approach by adapting a 4-5-1 formation in an attempt to stifle the game in midfield.



And the tactics worked a treat as chances were at a premium and neither keeper was forced into a save of any kind in the first half hour. But then just as the home fans were getting restless Chris Iwelumo who hadn't scored for sixteen matches struck with Wolves first real effort. Ebanks-Blake collected the ball just inside his own half and fed Kightly on the right wing, the winger lifted a cross into the area where there seemed little danger until Iwelumo stuck out his right leg and hooked the ball past Elliot and into the Charlton net from eight yards.

Charlton stunned the home supporters when they cancelled out Wolves lead in the 51st minute. Zheng found himself with a clear shooting opportunity from around 25 yards out, and with Foley and Edwards failing to close him down the Impressive midfielder picked his spot before hitting a fierce drive past Hennessey. But then Wolves took control again and should have taken the lead in the 70th minute, a spot-kick was awarded for an alleged push on Berra after a goalmouth scramble, but Charlton keeper Elliot guessed the right way to palm away Ebanks-Blake's effort to safety. A sustained period of pressure was finally rewarded ten minutes later when a Jones corner was headed on at the near post and in the panic that followed Holland turned it over his own goal line to give Wolves the winner.

Opinion: Grinding out results at just the right time.

Man of the match: Iwelumo

Team Rating: 6/10

Attendance: 24,319

Team: Hennessey, Foley, Craddock, Berra, Hill, Kightly, Edwards (Keogh 63), Jones, Stephen Ward (Henry 46), Ebanks-Blake (Vokes 87), Iwelumo

Unused Subs: Higgs, Reid

Bookings: Kightly (39 – persistent fouling)

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NOT EVEN ROBIN HOOD CAN SAVE THIS FOREST

NOTTINGHAM FOREST 0-1 WOLVES

Saturday 21st March 2009

You would have been excused if you were one of the thousands of Wolves supporters at this game if you thought it was at home. As with the previous two games which were played at Molineux the opponents shut up shop and suffocated any kind of fluency by using three or four players to dive in at the feet of any Wolves player in possession of the ball. It was typical Billy Davies defensive type tactics which makes for zero entertainment, and his Forest side got exactly what they deserved out of the game which was nothing.

Neither side really managed a serious shot on target during the first 75 minutes and it was difficult to see any side breaking the deadlock in a tight game where Forest were clearly playing for a point. In the 73rd minute McCarthy turned to Sam Vokes and David Edwards in the hope of trying to make the elusive breakthrough and three minutes later the double substitution paid dividends. Ebanks-Blake picked up the ball 20 yards from goal and drove down the right side of the penalty area before squaring the ball across the six-yard line to Vokes, he held his marker at bay before laying the ball off to Kightly who fired a low drive past Turner and into the corner of the net to send the 5,300 visiting Wolves fans wild.



At last we had a game with Forest suddenly realising they now had to venture into the unknown territory of the final third of the field in search of a goal. The game opened up and Ebanks-Blake saw an effort cleared off the line, this was followed by a moment of inspiration from Keogh that nearly led to a second goal, a spectacular lob from 40 yards almost caught Turner off his line, but agonisingly it dropped inches wide of the post. But in the end it didn't matter and Mick McCarthy greeted the final whistle with pumped fists in the air knowing the significance of the win.

Opinion: Probably the most important win of the season and it showed as the players applauded the supporters and threw them their shirts at the end of the game.

Man of the match: Berra

Team Rating: 5/10

Attendance: 24,510

Team: Hennessey, Foley, Craddock, Berra, Hill, Kightly, Henry, Jones (Edwards 72), Stephen Ward (Keogh 54), Iwelumo (Vokes 73), Ebanks-Blake

Unused Subs: Higgs, Stearman

Bookings: Berra (46 – foul), Kightly (76 – goal celebration)

IWELUMO IN CAR CRASH

BIRMINGHAM CITY 2-0 WOLVES

Monday 6th April 2009

Just when a big game performance was needed Wolves players went on the missing list and served up one of their worst displays of the season, the passing was poor, there was nothing up front and the defending was just schoolboy standard, although that's being a bit disrespectful to schoolboys.

The final score ended up 2-0 to Birmingham who were gifted both goals after playing over 50 minutes with ten men, Lee Carsley was the player that saw red after a horror tackle on Chris Iwelumo who was subsequently stretchered off. Mick McCarthy defended Carsley after the game saying that "he didn't think it was intentional"... Sorry Mick but anybody who witnessed the assault on Iwelumo (including Carsley's own team mates and supporters) and then watched the TV replays can clearly see that the tackle bordered on GBH.

It all started brightly enough for Wolves as David Edwards twice went close with early attempts that both went just wide. It was in the 22nd minute that we witnessed the first signs of the awful defending to follow when Ward picked up the ball halfway inside the Birmingham half, he was hustled back 40 yards before he sent a suicide back pass into the path of Jerome, but Hennessey did well and smothered the strikers first effort before the loose ball was fired wide. The ten men of Birmingham took the lead in first half stoppage time after some more shocking defending, a harmless free-kick pumped into the area should have been cleared by Hill but the full-back left it for Hennessey and Jerome bulldozed the keeper along with the ball into the net.



The second half started in the same manner as the first half finished with lots of hesitancy in the Wolves defence and the midfield unable to string two passes together. Jarvis who was introduced at half time to bring some width against the ten men of Birmingham must have thought he had upset his teammates as he watched them continually pump aimless long balls down the throats of the home defence. It was all over in the 69th minute after more confusion in the Wolves defence, Murphy launched a long ball from his own area up to the edge of the Wolves box and Berra's header back to Hennessey fell well short of the mark, O'Connor stepped in and accepted the gift and easily rounded the keeper before sliding the ball home. Jarvis did force a good save from Taylor in the closing stages but it was much too little, much too late.

Opinion: Got what we deserved out of the game, NOTHING!!!!

Man of the match: Foley

Team Rating: 2/10

Attendance: 25,935

Team: Hennessey, Foley, Craddock, Berra, Hill (Jarvis 46), Edwards (Vokes 62), Henry, Jones, Stephen Ward, Iwelumo (Keogh 40), Harewood

Unused Subs: Higgs, Stearman

Bookings: Henry (53 – foul)

AVE SAM OF THAT

WOLVES 3-0 SOUTHAMPTON

Friday 10th April 2009

Wolves beat the Sky TV camera jinx and made it a Good Friday to remember as they strolled to a 3-0 victory over a poor Southampton side and increased their lead at the top of the Championship to five points. With Ebanks-Blake and Iwelumo both out injured Sam Vokes stepped in to partner Andy Keogh up front with Matt Jarvis coming into the side at the expense of Stephen Ward.

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Any thoughts that Wolves might suffer a hangover following the Monday night shambles at Birmingham were dismissed in the opening minute as they tore into Southampton from the kick-off, in fact there were only 40 seconds on the clock when Vokes headed in the opener from a corner taken by Jones on the right. Things got even better five minutes later, another Jones delivery from the right found the head of Craddock who steered the ball into the corner of the net from ten yards. Wanderer's continued to pile forward and added a third in the 19th minute when the referee pointed to the penalty spot after Edwards was brought down in the box, the impressive Jones stepped up and blasted an unstoppable shot into the top right hand corner of the net.

The nearest Southampton came to scoring a goal arrived in the 25th minute when Jarvis sliced a clearance towards his own goal but Hennessey produced a good reflex save to push the ball around the post for a corner. Wolves continued to pile forward but the score at half-time remained at 3-0, even though there was another close penalty call turned down when Keogh was tripped from behind after he was put clear through with only the keeper to beat.

The game had already been won in the first half and Wolves went into cruise control for the second period. There was only one team in it and it was Wolves who came closest to adding to their tally with Vokes, Keogh and substitute Marlon Harewood all going close, and as the clock ran down the crowd celebrated their first home victory over Southampton since 1979.

Opinion: Nice to see the boys steaming into and beating the poorer teams in the division.

Man of the match: Foley

Team Rating: 8/10

Attendance: 24,636

Team: Hennessey, Foley (Stearman 83), Craddock, Berra, Hill, Edwards, Henry, Jones, Jarvis (Harewood 60), Keogh, Vokes (Stephen Ward 66)

Unused Subs: Higgs, Reid

Bookings: Berra (86 - holding)

THAT'S ANDY

DERBY COUNTY 2-3 WOLVES

Monday 13th April 2009

Wolves took a massive step nearer to the Promised Land with a dramatic late winner from Andy Keogh that gave them all three points at Pride Park. The 3-2 victory at Derby means that only two more points are required from three games for automatic promotion to the Premier League. Keogh, the frequent target of the "Boo Boys" came up trumps with two goals to put McCarthy's men within a whisker of visits to Old Trafford, Anfield and Stamford Bridge etc.

Wolves got off to a dream start with a superb goal from Keogh in the seventh minute, he latched onto a long clearance by Berra and held off the challenge of Albrechtsen before volleying the ball first time as it dropped over his shoulder, leaving Bywater in the Derby goal with no chance. Derby responded well and nearly equalised midway through the half when a cross into the box just evaded Hulse, then Foley's subsequent clearance struck the striker and the ball rebounded narrowly wide. But the let-off was short lived and the home side equalised in the 30th minute when Kazmierczak bent a 25-yard free-kick around the defensive wall into the bottom right hand corner of the net.

Wolves came closest to regaining the lead five minutes after the break when Foley collected a reverse pass from Jarvis and his angled shot rebounded back off the post to safety. It was then Derby's turn to push forward and a mistake by Hill nearly let in Sterjovski, but he was denied a goal when Hennessey raced off his line to save at his feet. The same player made up for his miss in the 55th minute when he collected a corner from Commons and was given an acre of space to take aim and place his shot into the corner of the



net from 15 yards.

Derby were clearly the better team and although Wolves seemed to be struggling they managed to equalise in the 74th minute, substitute Reid sent in a low cross from the left and it found its way through a rook of players before finding Jarvis who slid in at the far post to force the ball over the line. Wolves were in the ascendance and got a dramatic winner with three minutes remaining, Keogh sent the travelling Wanderers faithful into seventh heaven when he stooped to head Harewood's right-wing cross home from six yards out.

Opinion: Dream finish for Wolves and Keogh...You couldn't make it up...

Man of the match: Keogh

Team Rating: 7/10

Attendance: 33,079

Team: Hennessey, Foley, Craddock, Berra, Hill (Stephen Ward 70), Edwards (Reid 61), Jones, Henry, Jarvis, Vokes (Harewood 58), Keogh

Unused Subs: Higgs, Stearman

Bookings: Keogh (87 - goal celebration)

PROMOTED

WOLVES 1-0 QPR

Saturday 18th April 2009

In front of a packed house at Molineux Wolves rejoined the elite when a Sylvan Ebanks-Blake strike just after half-time ensured all three points and promotion back to the Premier League after an absence of five years. Following the drama at Derby on Easter Monday this game was all about winning and the script was written before the game even kicked off, Wolves had been top of the league since October and fully deserved this win and the promotion that came with it.

Understandably it was a tense affair with the crowd waiting for that all important goal, and QPR not wanting to be the whipping boys shut up shop with party spoiling on their agenda. Dave Edwards

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and Matt Jarvis were denied by goalkeeper Cerny in the opening 10 minutes before Jody Craddock volleyed over the bar when well placed. Edwards then tried his luck from 30 yards in the 26th minute in an attempt to find the crucial breakthrough. But it failed to materialise and six minutes before half time Jarvis looked in disbelief after watching his inswinging corner rebound off the crossbar.

Within a minute of the restart all the tension was released and the party was under way. Stewart looked to shepherd Stephen Ward's through ball out of play, but Keogh nipped in front of the defender and pulled the ball back to Ebanks-Blake who had the simple task of side-footing the ball into the net from six yards. You could have heard the noise as far as Sandwell Town with the crowd knowing that promotion was tantalisingly close. It was at this point that QPR ventured forward for the first time and they came within a whisker of an equaliser in the 53rd minute when Vine's effort from the edge of the area deflected off Berra's back and struck the crossbar. As the nerves started to jangle it was Hennessey who came to the rescue when awful defending allowed Helguson a clear run at goal, but the Wolves keeper blocked the strikers shot.

Substitute Marlon Harewood wasted a golden opportunity to put the game, and promotion beyond all doubt shortly after but he fired straight at Cerny from 12 yards with an open goal staring him in the face. Nevertheless, it didn't matter because a few minutes later the final whistle went and we were back in the Promised Land and the real party began as thousands of supporters ran on the pitch to celebrate.

Opinion: Now for the Championship title...

Man of the match: Edwards

Team Rating: 8/10

Attendance: 27,511

Team: Hennessey, Foley, Craddock, Berra, Stephen Ward (Stearman 79), Edwards, Henry, Jones (Vokes 65), Jarvis, Ebanks-Blake (Harewood 60), Keogh

Unused Subs: Higgs, Reid

Bookings: Stephen Ward (50 – foul)



CHAMPIONS

BARNESLEY 1-1 WOLVES

Saturday 25th April 2009

The icing was put well and truly on the cake as Wolves celebrated their return to the Premier League as "Champions". Six thousand away fans turned Oakwell into a giant party and went home ecstatic as the one point that was needed was gained in a 1-1 draw. The game itself was a grim affair but the occasion wasn't about entertainment it was all about getting that all important point.

The game started at practice match pace and nothing of any significance happened until the 15th minute when Barnsley created the first real chance. Winger Campbell-Ryce cut in from the right and hit a low shot towards goal that Hennessey spilled, but his defence came to his rescue and cleared the danger as Macken tried to stab home the rebound.

Barnsley who were fighting for their Championship existence were in no mood to roll over and give Wolves the point they needed and they silenced the away support when they opened the scoring in the 58th minute. Bogdanovic wriggled his way into the area and despite scuffing his shot the ball fell to Macken, his first shot was blocked by Hennessey but when the ball fell back into his path he steadied himself and scored at the second attempt.



The goal shocked Wolves into action and five minutes later Vokes might have levelled the scores but for a super point-blank save from Steele, and the young striker again went close when he pounced on a mistake by Moore but this time his shot was off target. As the game reached its conclusion Wolves stormed forward in search of the elusive equaliser, and six minutes from time the travelling support erupted when the goal finally came. Jarvis collected the ball on the left and left two Barnsley defenders for dead before sending over a dangerous cross which Reid controlled before rifling home from ten yards.

The final whistle was the signal for the magnificent away support to start the mother of all promotion parties. Wolves were already back in the big time and after being top of the league since October it was now confirmed that's where they would finally finish. There was to be no lap of honour from the Champions due to a massive pitch invasion, but that will wait until the last game along with parading of the Championship winner's trophy, and undoubtedly the start of another party.

Opinion: Away games don't come any better than this.

Man of the match: Jarvis

Team Rating: 4/10

Attendance: 18,288

Team: Hennessey, Foley, Craddock, Berra, Stephen Ward, Jarvis, Edwards, Henry, Friend (Reid 46), Keogh (Hemmings 68), Harewood (Vokes 46)

Unused Subs: Stearman, Higgs

Bookings: Edwards (76 - dissent)

PARTY TIME

WOLVES 1-0 DONCASTER ROV'S

Sunday 3rd May 2009

With the Championship title in the bag nobody seemed to be bothered that there was a game being played because all the Wolves supporters wanted to see was their team parading the Championship trophy around Molineux. Nobody cared what was

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happening elsewhere and for once they didn't have to suffer 90 minutes of nerve jangling close misses and listening to radios to see what the scores were elsewhere. It was a far cry from a year ago when Wolves finished just outside the play-off places by the virtue of goal difference.

With Wolves place in the Premier League already guaranteed after a five year absence the game inevitably started at pedestrian pace. The only chances of note in the first half came when Hayter had a goal bound effort from about eight yards blocked by Craddock and Foley hit the



outside of the Doncaster post after a through ball by Ebanks-Blake.

With only 45 minutes of the season left Wolves were just going through the motions and waiting for the final whistle. Doncaster realised that the game was there for the taking and nearly scored on the hour when Hennessey pulled off a superb reflex save from a close range header by Hayter. As if by fate and with injury time being played the goal that all Wolves fans were waiting for finally arrived. Henry played a short corner that Ward who whipped in a precise cross that

Stearman met and headed into the opposite corner of the net.

Less than a minute later the final whistle signalled the end of the game and season, all that was left to do was for club captain Jody Craddock to lift the Championship trophy to a packed Molineux to the sound of "We are the Champions".

Are you watching Frank Skinner.....

Opinion: Bring on the Big Boys.....

Man of the match: Foley

Team Rating: 5/10

Attendance: 28,252

Team: Hennessey, Stearman, Craddock, Berra, Stephen Ward, Foley, Henry, Edwards (Elokobi 85), Jarvis (Vokes 61), Ebanks-Blake (Hemmings 65), Keogh

Unused Subs: Collins, Hill

Bookings: None

CHAMPIONSHIP Table 2008-2009 SEASON

Pos	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Wolverhampton Wanderers	46	27	9	10	80	52	28	90
2	Birmingham City	46	23	14	9	54	37	17	83
3	Sheffield Utd	46	22	14	10	64	39	25	80
4	Reading	46	21	14	11	72	40	32	77
5	Burnley	46	21	13	12	72	60	12	76
6	Preston North End	46	21	11	14	66	54	12	74
7	Cardiff City	46	19	17	10	65	53	12	74
8	Swansea City	46	16	20	10	63	50	13	68
9	Ipswich Town	46	17	15	14	62	53	9	66
10	Bristol City	46	15	16	15	54	54	0	61
11	Queens Park Rangers	46	15	16	15	42	44	-2	61
12	Sheffield Wed	46	16	13	17	51	58	-7	61
13	Watford	46	16	10	20	68	72	-4	58
14	Doncaster Rovers	46	17	7	22	42	53	-11	58
15	Crystal Palace	46	15	12	19	52	55	-3	57
16	Blackpool	46	13	17	16	47	58	-11	56
17	Coventry City	46	13	15	18	47	58	-11	54
18	Derby County	46	14	12	20	55	67	-12	54
19	Nottm Forest	46	13	14	19	50	65	-15	53
20	Barnsley	46	13	13	20	45	58	-13	52
21	Plymouth Argyle	46	13	12	21	44	57	-13	51
22	Norwich City	46	12	10	24	57	70	-13	46
23	Southampton	46	10	15	21	46	69	-23	45
24	Charlton Athletic	46	8	15	23	52	74	-22	39

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SALES



To commemorate the Doog's life and his Presidency of London Wolves, we have produced a DVD with excerpts of his life. Included are his home debut hat trick, his goal for LA Wolves, his goal against Brazil, the post match interview at Wembley, interviews about George Best and his appearance on BBC's Question Time.

For availability, check the London Wolves website www.londonwolves.com or email doog@londonwolves.com. All proceeds will go to The Doog's International charity for ex Professional Footballers, (Xpro).

We have some autographed copies of "The Doog's" book, '**The Sash He Never Wore...Twenty Five Years On**' for sale, as well as some signed limited edition prints of him celebrating his goal for us in the 1974 League Cup Final. If you'd like to be the proud owner of one of these rare items then contact Dave Slape. The book is £10.00 + p&p and the picture is £35 framed or £20 unframed.



WWLSC
large key ring
£1.00 + sae.

WWLSC
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£3.50 + sae.

WWLSC 40th
Anniversary badge
£3.50 + sae.

WWLSC 25th
Anniversary badge
£3.50 + sae.

WWLSC
car fob
£1.00 + sae.

Programmes from the 1980's also available.

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

FEEDBACK

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

address: 26 Brockenhurst Way, London SW16 4UD **e-mail:** londonwolves.66@btinternet.com

contacts: Stuart Earl 01760 756278 Dave Slape 0208 764 8023 Peter Woodfield 01634 363704

SPONSOR'S LUNCH



KIT SPONSOR'S LUNCH

On Thursday 23rd April we, as a club, were again invited to attend this annual lunch and Peter Woodfield, Roy Eagles, John Golding and Trevor Read ably represented us.

The boys gathered in the Boardroom at Molineux for a brief reception, and were then taken on a tour of the stadium. The tour even included the jail below the South Bank which, incidentally, is painted blue and white! I wonder who that could be for? It was then back to the Boardroom for a glass of champagne and then onto the coaches for the trip to the training ground. It was held at Compton and the boys enjoyed a guided tour of the facilities.

As you can see from the photographs, all the players were available for chat, pictures and autographs. Our kit recipient, Neil Collins, was delighted with our sponsorship, very amenable and pleasant company.

