



THE LONDON WOLVES

APRIL 2001

Founded in 1966

GOALS! GOALS! GOALS!

By the Editor

When are they scored . and when are they let in?!

If all you are interested in is the goals, read our quick guide to when they happen so you can decide which bits of the match to watch. Of course, a football match is much more than the ball going in the net, but if you're ever tight for time or need an extra beer, read on....

HOME

You can be late for the match if you must, but don't miss more than the first 15 minutes, and whatever you do, don't go to the bar early! Despite the half time crush in the rush to get a drink, the last 15 minutes of the first half is when it all happens. However, Wolves have conceded as many as they've scored in this period so a beer might well be in order!

You can relax in the first 15 minutes of the second half because, so far this season, the Wanderers have not let a goal in during that period. However, they have also never scored during the last 15 minutes of a match so if you want, you can get to the train early without missing a goal! In fact, the opposition are more likely to score at this time so you may well want to disappear!

AWAY

If the vagaries of the British railway system mean that you are late for the match, you are very unlikely to miss a Wolves goal but happily you will also probably miss them conceding. Again, you'll need to cross your legs after 15 minutes and don't get to the bar early or all the action will pass you by.

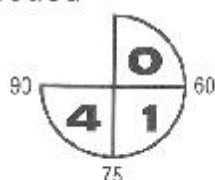
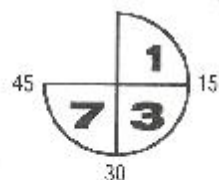
The Away half-time facilities often leave much to be desired, but there's an even greater incentive to hurry back from the break - Wolves are quite likely to score in the first 15 minutes of the second half! In fact, they are equally likely to score in any period of this half but during the last fifteen minutes of Away matches, they have conceded more than at any other time so, if you've had a miserable afternoon, do yourself a favour and get that early train!

HOME

Goals Scored



Goals Conceded

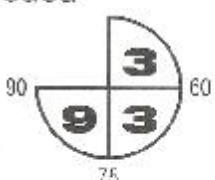
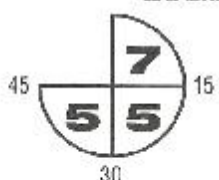


AWAY

Goals Scored



Goals Conceded



* matches up to and including 18th March 2001

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

The next issue is due out at the beginning of June with a copy deadline of 18th May. You can e-mail your articles to londonwolvesnews@hotmail.com or if you prefer snail-mail, you can phone Katy on 01727 830361 to find out where to send your contributions.

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FROM THE CHAIR

STUART EARL

So, I'm back from my annual jaunt to Barbados, looking and feeling a lot healthier than the beginning of February. In my absence, Katy Lewis, our new Editor, and Stefan (or old [whoops] one), managed to get out the interim news sheet so, with this edition you should be back up to date.

I have contacted, and received a positive response from David Jones, regarding our annual "Meet the Players" event, which he has kindly agreed to continue. This will, provisionally, take place after the Palace away fixture, and will be held at the 'Pied Bu on Streatam Common. Dave Slape will confirm this in a circular to be posted later.

Please let Dave have your completed Player of the Year forms back before the 18th Apr as we hope to make the presentation at the function on the 28th. Alternatively, you can mail me at londonwolves.66@btinternet.com.

Sad news received whilst I was away, was the passing of Stan Cullis. As you will be aware, Stan was the last Wolves manager to land the two major domestic trophies and you will have seen from our last edition of the magazine, Wolves are to erect a permanent memorial at the corner of the Stan Cullis stand in Waterloo Road. A fine tribute to a Wanderer.

I understand from Dot, who was Stan's, and is David Jones' secretary, that all surviving members of those great sides attended the church service, and couldn't we use a few of them now!

Stuart

BID FOR A PRINT

Into our possession has come a print which has been autographed by:

Sir Jack, Kenny Hibbitt, Steve Bull (he signs MBE now!) Bert Williams, John Richards, Derek Parkin, Eddie Stuart, Ron Flowers, Bill Slater, Bill Shorthouse and Peter Broadbent.

It was a gift generously donated by The Former Players Association.



In order to increase the Club's coffers with the 35th Anniversary Party shortly upon us, the Committee have decided to sell the print by way of SEALED POSTAL BIDS. So, if you want to have this unique item, simply send your written bid, in confidence to

Stuart Earl, 21 Watton Road, Great Cressingham, Norfolk, IP25 6NQ

If your bid has been successful, arrangements will then be made to collect your money. Bids are to be received by 31st May 2001

WOLVES PAY THE PENALTY

SHEFFIELD UNITED 1-0 WOLVES

20th February 2001

Wolves had most of the early play in a niggly but entertaining first half during which seven players were booked, but even so, they went behind in the 21st minute, when D'Jaffro miskicked his shot into the ground and the ball looped up and over the stranded Oakes. And despite a spate of corners, Wolves did not really come close to scoring.

Soon after the restart, Ndah centred for Proudlock, but the young striker was inches away from touching the cross home.

Just on the hour Wolves were given the chance to draw level when Proudlock, going for Sinton's corner, was fouled by the United defence, but Muscat fluffed the ensuing penalty by blasting it wide.

Wolves continued to press until the final whistle, but the home defence stood firm with ex-Wolves man Curle at its heart.

Attendance: 20,282

MOLINEUX DIARY

COMPILED BY PETER WOODFIELD

NOVEMBER

11th Sir Jack and Jez Moxey are the target as Wolves fans stage an angry demonstration after the defeat against Crystal Palace.

13th Forty-eight hours after the angry protests outside Molineux, Wolves call a press conference. There was a statement of confidence in Colin Lee and a promise that everyone at the club was working towards finding the answers that are obviously needed, but a warning that further heavy expenditure in the transfer market was out of the question.

Sir Jack says he tried to talk to the fans on Saturday, but he said it was impossible because of the venom directed at him and Jez Moxey, although he admits he would have had no immediate answers.

Sir Jack has flown back to his Bahamas home, still distressed by the scale of ill-feeling being directed towards him and the board. He is thought to be giving serious thoughts to severing links with the club.

Wolves are considering taking action against former player Dougie Freedman, if video evidence supports claims he stamped on Ludo Pollet at Molineux on Saturday. Freedman is adamant the collision was accidental.

Colin Lee withdraws Lee Naylor and Joleon Lescott from their respective England squads.

Swedish trialist Joakim Alexandersson breaks his nose in his first match for the reserves v Port Vale.

Cont. on page 4

HUFF & PUFF BUT NO FINISH

NORWICH CITY 1-0 WOLVES

24th February 2001

I think we've been to too many matches like this one. I'm sure I could reprint any one of a dozen or so previous match reports that would all read the same. Does the following sound familiar? We play quite well, show lots of good touches, good movement, have the opposition stretched for large parts of the game, indeed, we control probably 80% of the match, but yet still leave with a Norwegian nil point. It took all of two minutes for the smallest player on the field to pounce with a close-in strike against us and then we had to watch as the Canaries hung on for the rest of the game. "The team really do need to stop the sloppy defending and improve the finishing" moaned David Jones afterwards. We couldn't agree more!

Attendance: 17,288

Members on trip: 22

PINT SIZED PAUL'S PUBS

Pint Sized Paul takes on one of the most important things about match day - which pub to go to?!

So, we're on the train going to Grimsby with one important decision to make - what pub do we go to?! It seemed to be a toss up between two, The Swashbuckler or The Smuggler. A tough decision to make if you like your ale.

As the train pulled into Cleethorpes, it was decided that it had to be The Smuggler as it's a Banks's pub! The Smuggler is a five minute walk from the station, or fifteen if you fancy a stroll along the beach, but as it's the beginning of March and a bit chilly, the five minute option was best.

As we got to the pub, my first impression was that it looked like a converted guest house and once inside, I found the pub to be warm and friendly. There were about five or six regulars sitting in the Lounge Bar and the bar itself wasn't very long, so once Slape's posse were at the bar, the area was full! Once the whip was sorted out and the drinks ordered, we all sat down in the anticipation.

The pub had a good selection of fine ales and lagers. Most of us had the Banks's and a couple of the lads had Camrons which went down well. The food was good, the usual pub grub but unfortunately there seemed to be a lack of haddock in the North Sea and Jolly John the Fireman caught the last one, which left a couple of us disappointed.

The pub also had a pool table and Sky TV, so we watched the second half of the Hereford v Burton Game and who should pop up on the screen but Wolves' modern day hero, 'Bully', who was on the bench for Hereford.

All in all, we had an enjoyable couple of hours in The Smuggler - definitely a pub I'd recommend that you visit if you fancy a weekend away up in Cleethorpes!

14th Colin Lee has promised that lack of cash and chronic injury problems will not halt his efforts to drag Wolves away from the foot of the First Division.

15th Colin Lee is hoping to bring two players in on loan ahead of Saturday's trip to Blackburn.

Swedish trialist Joakim Alexandersson has flown back to Scandinavia after breaking his nose.

Colin Lee is reportedly set to make a loan move for Coventry defender Colin Hendry. The move depends on Hendry's fitness and wage demands, with the option of a permanent move if the player impresses.

16th Wolves decide not to take any action over Dougie Freedman's challenge on Ludovic Pollet. Pollet is expected to be fit to face Blackburn Rovers at the weekend.

Kevin Muscat plays for Australia in their 2-0 win v Scotland in Glasgow.

17th Wolves sign Sunderland defender Paul Butler on one month's loan, with a view to a permanent transfer. He is expected to make his debut at Blackburn on Saturday.

Lee dismisses suggestions that either Liverpool's Steve Staunton or Colin Hendry could be potential targets.

18th Press reports link Wolves with a loan move for Blackburn winger Keith Gillespie, with a view to a permanent transfer.

19th Reports in Scotland suggest Wolves are interested in replacing Colin Lee with Hibernian manager Alex McLeish.

20th Colin Lee will step up his hunt for a striker, with Liverpool's Titi Camara said to be the likely target. Lee is also hoping to add another defender to the squad.

21st Dunfermline striker Junior Mendes has arrived at Molineux for a trial, with a view to a permanent move.

28th Colin Lee reveals that he recently made a 'cheeky' loan enquiry for Robbie Keane, but Inter Milan responded by telling the football world that he was still very much a part of their plans.

29th Rhyd players Lee Trundle and James Brewerton, both on a week's trial, impress in the reserves match v West Brom.

DECEMBER

1st Lee Naylor has signed and extended his contract until 2005, and Mohammed Camara has signed a two-and-a-half year contract.

Wolves are poised to clinch the signing of Finnish international striker Saeiki Kuqi. If the deal goes through, he is likely to be on the substitutes bench for tomorrow's home clash with Barnsley. The deal for the HJK Helsinki striker is for a loan-trial period until the end of the season.

2nd Wolves fear they may have missed out on Finnish international Saeiki Kuqi despite his presence at Molineux for training and talks. Negotiations have stalled over personal terms.

Cont. on page 5

SAME OLD FOREST - THANK YOU

WOLVES 2-0 NOTTINGHAM FOREST
3rd March 2001

Football and boxing fans will already be making plans for next year's fixture after Forest, for the second year running, finished the match with only nine men. Up to the 44th minute both teams sparred with each other, then Forest's Andy Johnson took exception to a Kevin Muscat tackle and landed him a right cross that 'our Tmry' would have been proud of. Ten man Forest were made to pay dearly for that moment of madness, when two minutes after the break Andy Sinton's centre from the right was flicked on by Tony Dinning and it landed on Forest defender Edds' head, who neatly placed it past a startled Dave Beasant.

From that moment on, Beasant had to endure the fans' vociferous singing of "Beasant, Beasant what's the score?" In the 62nd minute he was able to show the singing fans, with a finger gesture that it was 2-0, when Adam Proudlock raced onto a defence-splitting pass from George Ndah to shoot past a leaden footed goalkeeper. In the last minute of the game, Forest's sub, Harewood, got his marching orders for a crude lunge on Andy Sinton. Can't wait for next year!

Attendance: 20,291
Members on trip: 37

GRIM, BUT NOT TOO GRIM!

GRIMSBY TOWN 0-2 WOLVES
10th March 2001

Our annual visit to this perennial banana-skin fixture ended with a welcome three points from a somewhat scrappy match. Ugly and scrappy it may have been, but whereas over the last few seasons we failed to turn our dominance into positive results, this time the team well and truly ground out the right result. It may not have been pretty to watch but David Jones' influence can be seen to be working. The team worked hard throughout and were rewarded in the 66th minute when Tony Dinning put Wolves ahead with a deflected free kick.

Adam Proudlock showed again what a fine talent he is by cracking a tremendous 83rd minute, 25-yard cracker into the top corner to seal all the points. Proudlock was a handful throughout the game and easily nominated as Man of the Match. There must have been some great forward displays in the other First Division games that day, because he didn't make it into one newspaper's 'Team of the Day' whereas Oakes and Dinning did.

Attendance: A pauly 4,899
Members on trip: 16

3rd Wolves have reportedly made a £500k bid for Brighton's Matthew Wicks.

6th Temuri Ketsbaia is on course for an earlier than expected comeback from knee surgery.

7th Colin Lee is to continue his search for a goalkeeper after failing in a loan bid for Blackburn's Alan Kelly and Alan Miller.

8th Wolves sign keeper Carlo Nash from Stockport on loan for three months.

Keith Andrews has signed an extended contract until June 2003. He is also returning to Oxford for a 2nd month's loan.

9th Wolves are to cancel Steve Sedgley's contract by mutual agreement.

10th Wolves drawn away to Nottm Forest in the FA Cup 3rd round.

11th Cardiff are poised to make a move to sign Ryan Green.

18th Colin Lee's contract at Wolves is terminated with immediate effect, following a meeting between the manager and Jez Moxey. The difficult but unanimous decision, was taken after a post-match meeting of the club's directors at Molineux yesterday, which included phone calls to Sir Jack Hayward at his home in the Bahamas, and further calls between the chairman and the directors today. John Ward has been asked to take temporary charge of team affairs.

19th Former Southampton boss Dave Jones is strongly tipped for the vacant manager's job, along with ex-Wimbledon boss Joe Kinnear.

Former boss Mark McGhee has challenged Jack Hayward to 'put his money where his mouth is' following Lee's dismissal.

Brian Little plays down speculation that he is in line to become Wolves' next manager.

Former AIK Stockholm boss, Stuart Baxter reveals that he would love the chance to become Wolves next manager.

20th Paul Butler has confirmed he won't be making a £1m switch from Sunderland to Wolves, whilst they are searching for a new boss.

Jez Moxey has stressed that the Molineux board will not be rushed into appointing a successor to Colin Lee. John Ward will take charge of first team affairs for at least the next three games. Ward is hoping to be considered for the post on a full-time basis if he is successful in the short term.

Cont. on page 7

CRESS IS MUSTARD

PRESTON NORTH END 2-0 WOLVES

14th March 2001

Wolves held their own for much of a lack-lustre first half, and indeed could have twice taken the lead.

First Carl Robinson was inches off target with a free kick, and then Michael Branch picked up a loose ball, and attempted to lob keeper Moilanen, only to see Jackson slide in to clear as the ball headed for the net.

But a minute before the break, ex-Wolves man Rankine put McKenna into space, and the midfielder fired a rocket of a shot that flew past Oakes into the net.

Wolves battled well after the break, but failed to find a way through a stubborn North End defence, and they finally succumbed to defeat eight minutes before the end when Cresswell fired a shot from the edge of the area, after shrugging off a challenge and making space for himself to shoot.

Attendance: 15,457

NDAH THE HAMMER

WOLVES 3-1 WEST BROMWICH ALBION

18th March 2001

Two first half strikes from George Ndah put the Baggies firmly to flight, as Wolves dominated almost totally in this Black Country derby.

With Michael Branch also outstanding, it's no exaggeration to say that Wolves could have been four up by the break, but indifferent refereeing and good fortune from the visiting keeper Hoult, kept the score line to just the two.

Apart from the opening exchanges, Wolves kept possession throughout the half, and this was due to good passing of the ball, and some aggressive defensive work to dispossess Albion when they did manage to venture into our territory.

Wolves deservedly, went in front after 23 minutes, when Ndah latched onto a pin point pass from Robinson, to round the keeper and blast a shot between two goal-line defenders.

It was the ever dangerous Ndah who gave the comfort of a two goal lead minutes before the break when, following a corner on the right, Sinten crossed for the hitman to power his header past Hoult.

One sided was the understatement for the second half, and the only surprise was the absence of a hatfull of goals. But when Sinten again lost his man, his cross was met by Pollet, who beat the unsighted Hoult from six yards, with a downward header.

Proudlock twice fought his way past rugged defenders' tackles, only to be denied by the sprightly Hoult. Then, despite never having looked over-dangerous, Albion were gifted a consolation by the usually reliable Muscat, who for some strange reason gifted the ball to Clement, who rifled an unstoppable shot past the advancing Oakes and high into the roof of the net.

Attendance: 25,069

STAN THE MAN

**by Tony Roche - a Wolves fan for 46 years, pays tribute to a Molineux legend
From The Sun, 1st March 2001**

Wolves plan to erect a statue to Stan Cullis, the man who gave them greatness and in return was given the sack.

His family had time to convey this information to Cullis before his death, on Tuesday night, aged 85. Only those passionately involved with the club will understand why that means so much. We feel better knowing that he knew - because the two most heartbreaking football moments of his life occurred at Molineux.

The first was in 1947, the day Cullis played his 171st and final game for his one and only Wolves. Liverpool were in town, with more than 50,000 fans to greet them. One point meant a first League title for Wanderers, while defeat sent the crown to Anfield. Centre-half Cullis was desperate to sign off with a winner's medal.

He played in the 1939 FA Cup Final side surprisingly beaten 4-1 by Portsmouth and was the backbone of the Wolves team who finished League runners-up in 1938 and 1939. On top of that, a specialist had warned him to hang up his boots two months earlier after he collapsed on a train. The diagnosis was neurological damage caused by years of heading those heavy, old leather footballs. But an incident in the second half not only decided the outcome but summed up the character and morality of Cullis.

Liverpool forward Albert Stubbins takes up the story: "I broke clear but Stan was right behind me as I bore down on goal. He could have tripped me, pulled my jersey or stopped me in any number of illegal ways and probably not even have been booked. But Stan was too big a man to stoop to such tactics. Had he been able to tackle me fairly, I would have felt it for weeks. But he could not bring himself to resort to illegal play. I scored, we went on to win 2-1 and won the title. When I went up to Stan after the game, he was crying and that's not something you ever believed you'd say of Stan Cullis".

Tempted

The second time he wept was in 1964 as manager at Molineux. Off work and ill, Wolves made a poor start to the season and were bottom, without a win, by the time he returned. West Ham were seen off 4-3 in a thriller but Cullis sat there, knowing he had already been sacked. It was a despicable act by small, scared men unfit to buff the toe-caps of Cullis' boots.

Stan was born in Ellesmere Port in October 1915. He was eager to be a journalist but his love of football tempted him to try his luck in sport. It paid off and he made his Wolves debut soon after his 19th birthday.

Gifted on the ball and hard as flint, Cullis stuck out his elbows and angered opponents a decade his senior. But he was better than them and Ferenc Puskas said of him: "Cullis was simply the most classical centre-half of his time, a true footballer as well as a tough defender".

He took over the Wolves captaincy aged 20, and became England's youngest skipper a week into his 22nd year. Surrounded by the likes of Joe Mercer, Tommy Lawton, Stanley Matthews, Eddie Hapgood and Wilf Copping, Cullis won 12 caps before World War Two and added 20 more Wartime games while serving in the army.

When his playing career ended, Cullis became Wolves' manager in 1948 and won everything. They picked up the FA Cup in 1949 and 1960 and the Championship in 1954, '58 and '59. It was a time when English football had been rocked by Hungary's 6-3 and 7-1 wins over the national side. But Wolves took on the best clubs in the game and beat them.

Under Cullis they became the fittest team in Britain because his players were forced to slog up and down hills with rocks on their backs. But when he proclaimed his boys the best team in the world, Europe rose in anger and so were sown the seeds of the European Cup.

I met Stan Cullis only a few times. He loved talking football but never swore. "Flippin" meant he was cross, "Floppin" meant he was furious. But he didn't need foul language.

Stan, known as the Iron Manager, once hauled a midfielder on to the pitch after a night game and walked him back and forth. The young lad finally asked: "Have you lost something Mr. Cullis?" He replied: "Yes son, the hole you hid in for most of the second half."

Wolves have done their best to make amends down the years and Cullis went 'home' and was a very honoured guest. He was a great English football man. And it hurts like hell when your heroes die.

Ex-Barnsley boss, Dave Bassett, is still the hot favourite to become the new boss, although the club have confirmed that Steve Bull and Kenny Hibbitt have already applied for the job. Ray Graydon of Walsall and Jan Molby of Kidderminster Harriers have also been linked.

21st John Ward recalls Keith Andrews from his loan at Oxford, because of a midfield injury pile-up. Youth player John Melligan will also be included in the squad for Saturday's game at Sheffield Wednesday, after impressing in reserve and youth team matches.

22nd Jez Moxey fires an angry return shot at Mark McGhee over suggestions that the Molineux board should 'put their money where their mouth is.' Moxey has told the ex-Wolves boss to keep his nose out of the affairs of his former club.

Dave Bassett dismisses suggestions that he walked out on Barnsley to pave the way for a move to Wolves, saying it was merely a coincidence. John Ward is refusing to comment on the possibility of him taking over on a full-time basis.

24th Sami Al Jaber has been given compassionate leave to return home to Saudi Arabia where his father is seriously ill. For the duration of his return he has been loaned out to United Emirates club Al-Ain.

28th In an exclusive newspaper report, Wolves are said to want Bolton boss Sam Allardyce to be their new manager, and are planning to make him one of the top-paid managers in the First Division with a four-year contract worth £500,000 a year.

29th Bolton deny any approach from Wolves for Sam Allardyce, and state he will be offered a 10-year contract to remain with them.

30th Dave Bassett has emerged as the favourite to succeed Colin Lee as manager of Wolves with Dave Jones a strong contender for the post Bassett vacated at Barnsley recently. Bassett confirmed that he had been approached by Wolves and hoped to meet officials for talks before the New Year.

31st John Ward is hoping to make a late bid for the managerial vacancy.

Because of an injury crisis, Stockport recall Carlo Nash from his three-month loan at Molineux.

JANUARY

2nd Wolves have called a press conference for 10.30am on Wednesday morning (Jan 3) when the club will announce the new manager. The hot favourite for the position is reported to be former Stockport and Southampton boss, Dave Jones.

An X-ray reveals that Ludo Pollet broke his nose at Burnley on New Year's Day, and he is expected to be out of action for three weeks.

3rd Dave Jones is confirmed as Wolves' new manager and his message to the supporters was that he intended to bring the good times back to Molineux.

5th Wolves give permission for Steve Bull to be registered as a player with Hereford. He is likely to be used as a substitute.

6th Wolves are considering a renewed bid for Paul Butler and the permanent signing of keeper Carlo Nash.

Sami Al Jaber returns to Molineux, looking forward to the chance of impressing Dave Jones. Al Jaber was given compassionate leave just before Christmas to visit his sick father whose health has now improved.

9th Brentford are considering a loan move for Robert Taylor.

10th Wolves are still hoping to sign Carlo Nash, despite the player being strongly linked to a move to Man City. Wolves have matched City's bid of £100,000 for the player.

Dave Jones has scotched talk of a move back to Brentford for Robert Taylor.

12th Mohammed Camara is on international duty with the Guinea squad for an African Nations Cup match. He will be away for 10 days.

15th Paul Butler is to continue talks with Dave Jones over a proposed £1m permanent switch to Molineux.

22nd Ludo Pollet is ready to return to training after recovering from a broken nose.

Sami Al-Jaber is unlikely to remain with Wolves once his loan spell has expired at the end of January.

Dave Jones is reportedly set to make a shock raid on his former club, to take Saints forward Matt Le Tissier to Molineux on loan.

Wolves have taken Elfsborg central defender Joakim Alexandersson for a second trial at the club.

Robert Taylor needs a calf operation that could rule him out of action until next season. He has a circulation problem that causes cramp-like symptoms and is expected to be sidelined for around three months.

23rd Ludo Pollet has declared himself fit to return for the FA Cup tie at Weymouth at the weekend. He has also agreed a contract for two and a half years and expects to sign it in the next couple of days. He will play in the reserve fixture at Tranmere tomorrow, in a bid to prove his fitness for the trip to Adams Park.

Cont. on page 9

ONCE UPON A TIME THERE WAS A TOWERN!

by Bill Singleton

The way that journalist Caitlin Morgan degraded the merits of the town in a recent article in *The Times*, incensed me, and inspired me to put pen to paper and reply...

So Caitlin Moran celebrates Wolverhampton becoming a city does she? Well, you could have fooled me, as most of her article is very critical of the Black Country capital. I too was a teenager growing up in Wolverhampton in the 1960s; a great place to be in the Rock 'n' Roll era and later, with the musical revolution of the Swinging Sixties and the hippy protests, there was a great feeling for youth culture generally and Wolverhampton was as good a place as any.

There were regular appearances of top groups or bands at the Wulfrun Hall, Arts College, Queens Ball Room, Connaught Hotel and the Gaumont Cinema where the Beatles appeared. In those days we used to go to the dance hall or pub where a live band would invariably be playing good music. Not like the tuneless, thump-thump noise of the discos and bars of today. Today, there are a few places left for live music that have to be searched for and sometimes booked in advance; sadly, this is the case in most towns and cities.

So, from a prosperous town booming with heavy industry, it has become a City with limited job prospects and an 'apparently' blossoming pub and club nightlife. Well, I suggest that *The Times* journalist, was not looking at the same Wolverhampton as I, and many Wulfrunians, are. The town has changed immensely over the past 30 years; some good and some bad. In retrospect, I have such fond memories of the old town and surrounding area - in complete contrast to Caitlin. We used to have trolley buses, an excellent and clean form of transport. Unfortunately, the council, in their wisdom, changed them to polluting petrol buses. Now many towns and cities are reintroducing trams, a return to the aforementioned superior form of transport.

There were two railway stations, one high level, which has now been modernised to accommodate the faster and supposedly more streamlined rail network. The low level station, once a thriving mainline station, closed in the 1970s. I remember going to meet my Aunt Janet, who had travelled from Paddington. The sight of the Iron Horse (the engine, not my aunt!) rumbling into the station made me apprehensive as a young boy, but after more visits, I became quite a steam railway enthusiast. There was quite an excitement about seeing the mighty steam engines pulling trains on the old Great Western Region. The old station lies dormant now and is a listed building - I believe a leisure complex is being planned.

Although the new shopping centre is excellent for modern shopaholics, to have knocked down the beautiful Victorian Central Arcade, with its glass roof and dome in the middle, leading to ornate steps and a balcony, was sacrilege; Queens Arcade was also one of Victorian splendour, leading off the main Queens Square - a unique building with character. Further down Victoria Street, the Star & Garter Hotel was also demolished. This was a fine old mock Tudor building of exquisite character, which was replaced by a concrete jungle of shops.

Wolverhampton was certainly not an empty old town; it had an earthy charm and gritty determination and I feel proud to have been associated with the strong industrial background and folklore, which has been handed down from our great grandfathers.

You know how teenagers seem to get bored easily nowadays, even with their computer games and the Internet etc? Well, we had plenty of activities in Wolverhampton like the rollerdrome, five cinemas, bowling alley, and numerous good sports clubs and youth clubs. If these options were too expensive or out of bounds, we would make our own entertainment, especially in good weather. There were trips to the canal at Dimmingsdale, cycling through beautiful countryside which is second to none, only a few miles west of Wolverhampton, towards Bridgenorth and Kinver Edge. We had good swimming pools - Swancote was a beautiful outdoor swimming pool on the Bridgenorth road.

There are some fine museums in the area defining the unique heritage of the Black Country. Dudley Zoo has always been a favourite place to visit with its castle and there are also many stately homes in the area worth a visit. Contrary to Caitlin Morgan's opinion, there is a wealth of history in and around Wolverhampton. For example, at Boscobel, King Charles II famously hid from the Roundheads in an oak tree.

As one of the main centres of the industrial revolution with its network of canals through to Birmingham, and with Wulfrun being one of the oldest sites of Anglo-Saxon England, Wolverhampton has developed a unique folk lore with a dialect of distinctive sounds dating back to these times.

Modern Wolverhampton should have been designated a City in the 1960s when the population was even larger than it is today, standing at 267,000, the largest town in Britain! And St. Peter's Church should have been designated a Cathedral long ago. I can name a few more famous citizens associated with the town, Rachel Heyhoe Flint, the famous female cricketer and sportswoman and now a director of Wolverhampton Wanderers F.C., Robert Plant, the lead singer of Led Zeppelin and Sir Edward Elgar, the great composer who was also a supporter of Wolves F.C.

ONCE UPON A TIME THERE WAS A TOWERN! Cont. . .

There are many things for the town to be proud of including many stately homes and halls of historic value, a library, art gallery and churches of exquisite architectural interest. The First African and West Indian cultural centre was opened in the late 1950s and the town supplied labour and essential raw materials for the building of the first Iron Bridge across the River Severn at Coalbrookdale.

Wolverhampton Wanderers Football Club have a famous history, being the leading club in the land from the late 1930s to 1960. At a local level, Wolves gave the town and its inhabitants immeasurable pride. Gold stood for glory and this sensation of pride in the team's achievements rippled well beyond the province of Staffordshire. At this time, club football was taking its first tentative steps onto the international stage and under the Molineux floodlights unveiled in 1953, the mighty Wolves put to flight some of the world's finest teams beating Spartak Moscow 4-0, Moscow Dynamo 2-1, Racing Club of Buenos Aires 3-1, Bucharest 5-0, Borussia Dortmund 4-3, Valencia 3-0 and in 1957, Real Madrid 3-2. The biggest game of all was in 1954. In the preceding season, England's superiority was shattered twice by Hungary - 6-3 at Wembley and 7-1 in Budapest. So when Honved came to town, complete with Puskas and half the national team, the usual 50,000 plus crowd crammed into Molineux baying for vengeance. 2-0 down after only 14 minutes, Wolves stormed back to win 3-2. 'Champions of the World' screamed the national papers the following morning. Wolverhampton was not arguing. If there had been an official competitive European Cup in those days, Wolves would have won it a couple of times at least.

The great Billy Wright CBE of course, is another famous citizen and one of the most successful players to serve his club and indeed play for England, gaining a then record of 105 caps and captaining his country 90 times. Stan Cullis, is one of the most successful and prestigious players and managers that the game has ever produced and Steve Bull MBE, a most loyal servant to the club, scoring over 300 goals and playing for England are two more Wolves legends. With the help of Sir Jack Hayward, Wolves now have a beautiful and modern all-seater stadium, one of the best in the country. On the playing side, the team's fortunes have not been so successful, but they have such a history to be proud of, that looking back, the nostalgia of the old gold and black and the old town will always provide a sense of pride and passion in our new City.

A NOTE FOR YOUR DIARY

On Saturday 28th April 2001, we have arranged with David Jones to MEET THE PLAYERS after the away match against Crystal Palace. We anticipate that from about 6.00pm for an hour or so, he will take the team to the "Pied Bull" pub in Streatham High Road - almost directly opposite Streatham Common. We'll have a room and a bar and perhaps some food laid on at a nominal cost. Watch out for Dave Slape's flyer shortly

MOLINEUX Cont. . . JANUARY Cont. . .

Wolves are said to be one of the clubs interested in signing Gillingham striker Carl Asaba.

24th Dave Jones is set to sign Paul Butler from Sunderland and has asked Coventry City about Belgian striker Cedric Roussel.

Matt Le Tissier turns down loan move to Wolves.

Greek side AEK Athens are understood to be ready to make a move for Temuri Ketsbaia.

Wolves search for a new keeper has been put on hold, with the return to full training of Mike Stowell.

25th Ludo Pollet has signed a new two-year contract with the club.

26th David Jones is confident of completing a deal for Cedric Roussel next week.

30th Wolves have reacted with complete surprise to a newspaper report suggesting that Sir Jack is about to sell his interest in the club. Club press officer Lorraine Hennessy said that Sir Jack has no plans to sell the club.

Sami Al-Jaber has left the club after a five-month loan spell.

He was offered an extended trial spell by Dave Jones, but has opted to return to Al-Hilal.

31st Paul Butler completes his on-off move in a £1 million deal. He is expected to make his debut against Gillingham at the weekend. Sunderland will receive an extra £300,000, dependent on appearances.

Former Wolves winger Steve Froggatt has revealed he may be forced to retire after a specialist told him he could need another operation on his ankle.

FEBRUARY

2nd Wolves transfer-list Ryan Green.

Coventry striker Cedric Roussel is again linked with a move to Wolves.

6th Wolves lose 3-0 at home to Wimbledon in the FA Youth Cup 5th rd.

8th Wolves deny reports linking them with Man City defender Spencer Prior.

Hungarian international defender Janos Hrutka is to have a trial with Wolves.

Simon Osborn will be out of action until March, with toe ligament damage.

Cont. on page 19

VIEW FROM THE STAND

by Neil Raphael

WOLVES 2-0 NOTTINGHAM FOREST 3rd March 2001

The game was given a sombre beginning with a respectfully-observed minute's silence in memory of Stan Cullis, followed by a bugler's 'Last Post'. For those of us who began to support Wolves during the Cullis-Wright era this was a very poignant and thought-provoking time.

Normal hostilities were soon joined with some jarring tackles by both teams. The first chance fell to Dinning following a superb Naylor pass and Ndah cross. Branch then continued his roasting of opposing left-backs this time a handy no-hoper named Foy but often the final opportunity left a collective sigh. Driven by Dinning and anchored by Robinson, the midfield provided opportunities for Branch/Proudlock/Ndah but they were either wasted or scrambled away by an inept Forest defence. With the first half fading, Andy Johnson was provoked (what's new!?) into landing a right hook on Muscat and was red-carded. Muscat recovered immediately! Half-time arrived with the inevitable question, 'Would this be another case of Wolves failing to take apart 10 men?'

The answer soon came back, 'No!' Within a couple of minutes, Ndah, clearly charged with pushing forward, cut through the flatfooted Forest defence and forced a corner. Sinton's corner picked out Dinning who wisely picked out Fidds who headed superbly into his own net. Where were you Mr Beasant?

Just after the hour, Ndah scintillated the Forest left side again and crossed into Proudlock's path. He adjusted his stride and slotted the ball easily past Mr Beasant who was spitting mad. The second goal dispirited Forest even more and they had to hang on grimly with Wolves playing fluently and, what's more, playing the ball ON THE GROUND. The last 20 minutes had Roussel straining on the touchline raring to get amongst the goals but Dave Jones wisely kept him back and faith with the team. Just before the final whistle, Harewood crudely took Sinton's legs...and walked. An easy win and fine all-round team performance.

Send your personal match reports
and views to:

londonwolvesnews@hotmail.com

MOLINEUX DIARY Cont. ...

FEBRUARY Cont. ...

9th Cedric Roussel arrives at Molineux for transfer talks. Wolves are refusing to comment on the likelihood of the signing.

10th Cedric Roussel has dramatically increased the chances of a move to Molineux by describing himself as 'fantastically impressed' with Wolves.

13th Wolves have agreed a £1.53 million fee with Coventry City for Cedric Roussel. This could rise to £2 million dependent on appearances, reaching the play-offs and winning promotion. Roussel will become a Wolves player subject to agreeing personal terms and passing a medical.

14th Wolves home match with Wimbledon on Saturday has been postponed because of the London club's involvement in the FA Cup.

15th Wolves complete the deal for Cedric Roussel. Wolves claim that a mystery backer has now invested in the club, and as a result more money could be made available to Dave Jones.

20th Hartlepool manager Chris Turner is to give a trial to reserve defender Gordon Simms.

22nd Wolves are giving a trial to 19-year-old Dutch midfielder Brian Tevreden who will be spending two weeks at Molineux.

Wolves have re-arranged the home matches v Wimbledon and Bolton, for 4th April and 1st May, respectively.

23rd Lee Naylor selected in the latest England U21 squad to play Spain on February 27th.

25th Wolves reportedly interested in Newcastle's Des Hamilton, currently on loan at Tranmere.

27th Dave Jones is reported to be lining up a swoop that will take Blackburn defender Jeff Kenna to Molineux.

Torquay have confirmed they have appointed Colin Lee in a consultancy role to work with their boss Wes Saunders.

28th Stan Cullis has died at the age of 85. He had been living at a Worcestershire nursing home and had been unwell for some time.

Mike Stowell is sent off in the reserves 3-1 defeat at home v Rotherham. Trialists Brian Tevreden and Ryan Baldaccino both play. Robert Taylor and Haavard Flo also play for part of the match after lengthy injury lay-offs, and Cedric Roussel plays his first full 90 minutes in Wolves colours.

Cont. on page 11

MARCH

MAR 1 Wolves have released five youth players - Aaron Kerr, Jermaine Easter, Gerard Leonard, Scott McQuade and Conor Hagen.

Reserve defenders Gordon Simms and Steeve Epessc-Tiri, who have become surplus to requirements at Molineux, are currently training with Hartlepool and Northampton, respectively.

Jeff Kenna has played down reports that he is set for a move to Wolves.

The funeral of Stan Cullis will take place at Colwall Church, Colwall near Malvern on March 8.

Wolves are to appeal against the sending off of Mike Stowell in last night's reserve match against Rotherham.

Jermaine Easter is attracting interest from Hartlepool and Cardiff.

2nd Ryan Green joins Torquay on one month's loan.

3rd Players and fans pay their respects to Stan Cullis, in an immaculately observed silence before the Nottingham Forest match.

7th Wolves appeal against Mike Stowell's sending-off in a reserve match, has been rejected, and he will now serve a one-match ban.

Gordon Simms has returned to Molineux after his recent trial at Hartlepool, but Chris Turner has not ruled out a move for the defender.

Simon Osborn is on the verge of returning to full training after spending almost six weeks on the sidelines with a toe injury.

10th David Jones is said to have opened up transfer talks with a Premiership club, for an unidentified midfielder.

Darren Bazeley is likely to miss the rest of this season because of injury.

Bristol City are rumoured to be looking to sign Robert Taylor in a loan deal, with a view to a possible permanent transfer.

12th Simon Osborn has confirmed that he is on his way out of Molineux in the summer. Dave Jones said that he has already made up his mind who will be staying and who will be going, and has drawn up a list of players he will be keeping.

Wolves match at Fulham, scheduled for 25th March, has been postponed until 24th April, because of international call-ups. Carl Robinson selected in full Welsh squad, and Ryan Green for Wales U21's. Fulham also have four players selected for various national squads.

Wolves are ready to back Dave Jones with further transfer cash as he plans a summer purge of the Molineux playing staff. The boss has confirmed he has completed his assessment of the squad he inherited from Colin Lee and is ready to detail his plans to Jez Moxey.

13th Hartlepool have signed Gordon Simms and Jermaine Easter.

15th Kevin Muscat is one of five English-based Australians believed to have agreed to return to Australia with a new Adelaide club, should it be accepted to the league next year.

16th Kevin Muscat will be suspended for two matches after collecting his tenth booking of the season at Preston. He will miss the matches v Birmingham and Wimbledon.

17th Lee Naylor has been included in the England Under-21 squad to face Finland next Friday at Oakwell.

MATCH SUMMARY

NOV 11 CRYSTAL PALACE (Home) 1-3 (Branch) Pollet was stretchered off for the second time in two weeks with a nasty gash near his left eye caused by stud marks.

NOV 18 BLACKBURN (Away) 0-1

NOV 21 GRIMSBY (Home) 2-0 (Dinning, Ndah)

NOV 25 Q.P.R. (Away) 2-2 (Ndah, Pollet)

DEC 2 BARNSLY (Home) 2-0 (Robinson, Dinning)

DEC 9 HUDDERSFIELD (Away) 0-3

DEC 17 BIRMINGHAM (Home) 0-1

DEC 23 SHEFFIELD WED (Away) 1-0 (Muscat)

DEC 26 PRESTON (Home) 0-1

DEC 30 STOCKPORT (Home) 3-2 (Proudlock, own goal, Branch)

JAN 1 BURNLEY (Away) 2-1 (Proudlock, Naylor)

JAN 7 NOTTM FOREST (Away) FA Cup 3rd rd 1-0 (Proudlock)

JAN 13 PORTSMOUTH (Home) 1-1 (Sinton)

JAN 27 WYCOMBE (Away) FA Cup 4th rd 1-2 (Robinson)

FEB 3 GILLINGHAM (Home) 1-1 (Branch)

FEB 10 TRANMERE (Away) 2-0 (own goal, Proudlock)

FEB 20 SHEFFIELD UTD (Away) 0-1

FEB 24 NORWICH CITY (Away) 0-1

MAR 3 NOTTM FOREST (Home) 2-0 (own goal, Proudlock)

MAR 10 GRIMSBY (Away) 2-0 (Dinning, Proudlock)

MAR 14 PRESTON (Away) 0-2

MAR 18 W.B.A. (Home) 3-1 (Ndah 2, Pollet)

League position 13th

LONDON WOLVES TRAVEL NEWS

Virgin Trains have announced new terms and conditions which apply from 2nd April 2001. The main changes are:-

- 1) An increase in all Group Travel fares. The fare to Wolverhampton will increase by £1, which is the smallest increase of any of the Virgin routes. Children under 16 may travel at further discount of 50%, i.e. child fare to Wolverhampton will be £8 for members and £9.50 for non-members.
- 2) Any member wishing to travel, must contact the Travel Secretary by the preceding Wednesday at the latest for Saturday/Sunday matches, and by the preceding Sunday at the latest, for midweek matches.
- 3) There will be no refunds on any unsold tickets, except in exceptional circumstances. **THEREFORE, ANY MEMBER BOOKING A TRAIN TICKET AND FAILING TO TURN-UP AT THE STATION, WILL HAVE TO PAY FOR THE TICKET.**

Travel arrangements for matches during April and May are:-

HOME MATCHES

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

Fare: Members £16; Guests £19.

Sat 14th April 2001 v Crewe Alexandra

Sat 21st April 2001 v Blackburn Rovers

Outward - Depart Euston 09.55 Arrive Wolverhampton 12.12

Return - Depart Wolverhampton 17.19 Arrive Euston 19.32

Tue 1st May 2001 v Bolton Wanderers

Outward - Depart Euston 14.43 Arrive Wolverhampton 16.45

Return - Depart Wolverhampton 22.49 Arrive Euston 01.17

Sun 6th May 2001 v Queens Park Rangers

Outward - Depart Euston 08.35 Arrive Wolverhampton 11.06

Return - Depart Wolverhampton 16.12 Arrive Euston 18.33

* A two-day trip will also be run to this match. Train departs Euston 10.55 Saturday, arriving Wolverhampton 13.19 and returning on Sunday after the match, return times as above. Contact Bill Singleton 01582 769838 if requiring overnight accommodation.

AWAY MATCHES

The following times are provisional. Please contact 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.

Tue 17th April 2001 v Watford

ALL-TICKET MATCH

No club trip arranged. Nearest railway stations:

Watford Junction 1.2 miles from ground. Journey time from Euston approx. 25 mins.

Watford High St (stopping train from Euston) 15 mins. walk.

Watford underground station (Metropolitan Line) is 1 mile from ground.

Tue 24th April 2001 v Fulham

ALL-TICKET MATCH

No club trip arranged. Nearest underground station is Putney Bridge (District Line), approx. 10-15 mins walk to ground.

Sat 28th April 2001 v Crystal Palace

ALL-TICKET MATCH

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

Any member wishing to travel to home or away matches should contact Travel Secretary for Saturday/Sunday matches by the preceding Wednesday and for midweek matches by the preceding Sunday at the latest.

Members requiring match tickets please contact Travel Secretary AT LEAST 16 DAYS prior to match. For all-ticket matches, particularly away matches, it is advisable to contact the Travel Secretary AT LEAST 4 WEEKS before the match.

Please note that for all-ticket away matches season ticket holders have priority. **FOR AWAY MATCHES WHEN WOLVES TICKET ALLOCATION IS LIMITED, ONLY AWAY SEASON TICKET HOLDERS CAN BE GUARANTEED A MATCH TICKET.**

There are seven 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.

Please also note that some matches are likely to be switched to Friday/Sunday because of live TV coverage by Sky TV. Friday matches kick-off 7.45 p.m., Sunday matches kick-off 1.00 p.m.

**TRAVEL SECRETARY: PETER WOODFIELD, 94 FARNHAM CLOSE,
RAINHAM, KENT, ME8 8NS**

Telephone: 01634 363704

E-mail: peteraw@globalnet.co.uk

35th ANNIVERSARY PARTY

London Wolves is 35 years old!

*We are throwing a
Summer Party to celebrate*

**SATURDAY 23rd JUNE 2001
4.00pm - 11.00pm
PIED BULL PUB, STREATHAM.**

£15 - Members
£20 - Non-Members

to include a hot & cold buffet