



Wolverhampton Wanderers

LONDON SUPPORTERS CLUB

founded 1966

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Smiley faces from Stuart, Steve Morgan and Stef after the match at The Valley.

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JULY 2008

FROM THE CHAIR



WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS LONDON SUPPORTERS CLUB

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Derek Dougan RIP

Honorary President

John Richards

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Stuart Earl

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Stef Leonard

Honorary Member

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Dave Slape

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Tim Richards

Travel Secretary

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Entertainment Officer

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Ah well, so that's another season of "nearly" out of the way. Again, it was probably our home form that was the big let-down, where our young hopefuls plugged away towards the play-offs, only to fail on the final Sunday, once again relying on the failure of others. As we now know, that didn't happen and we missed out by a mere two goals. A reflection, perhaps, of chances not taken? Our failure to punish teams when we were on top, and then conceding, too many times, an all important late equaliser to teams of much less ability even when all the hard work had been done was, to say the least, very disappointing.

Our AGM this year was held earlier than usual, on the 7th June, in an attempt to up the attendance and in the hope of avoiding members' holiday dates. I'm sorry to report that our cunning plan didn't work and although most welcome, it was the same old faces that turned up. We'll re-think that one for next year.

Our usual inside informer and friend from Molineux, Cliff Egan, was not able to attend as family commitments resulted in Cliff leaving Molineux to return south, and has taken up employment with Gillingham FC. He has expressed a wish to stay in touch with us and, of course, he will always be most welcome. Wolves' head of Communications, PR and Marketing, Matt Grayson, had planned to attend but, unfortunately, had to decline at the last minute. We look forward to seeing him next year.

On the day of the away match at Charlton Athletic, it was my great pleasure to meet Steve Morgan and Jez Moxey when, along with Stef and Jack, we spent a very pleasant time in the Boardroom extolling the virtues of London Wolves and our members. What made it even better was that we were the only smiley faces there after Karl Henry's last gasp winner!

On a sad note, you will have heard that we and Wolves FC suddenly lost an old friend who suffered a suspected heart attack on Friday 3rd May. Who, amongst the older members, could forget the evening after the Leyton Orient game, which had seen Wolves promoted as Division Four Champions, when the whole team together with some of the Board, joined us in the pub where Mark Kendall had us all in fits of laughter with his stand-up routine? WWLSC extends its sympathy to Mark's family and friends.

And finally, my thanks as usual at this time of year, go to all those who have contributed to the running of our Club over the past season. On your behalf, special praise goes to Peter Woodfield and Dave Slape for their efforts, Peter Bartlett for his well commented on web-site, and Stef and his team for producing our excellent newsletter. Have a good summer and let's all meet again in August to cheer the team on to success in 2008-09.

Stuart

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WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS LONDON SUPPORTERS CLUB MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THE BROCKLEY SOCIAL CLUB ON SATURDAY 7TH JUNE 2008

The Chairman, Stuart Earl, opened the meeting at 15.00hrs welcoming all those present.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: G.Mastbraker, T.Owers, T.Richards, P.Davies, S.Knapp, D.Bracher, K.Hatwell, S.Hatwell, P.O Connor, M.Grayson, G.Blake, G.Vincent, P.Coles, J.Engleman.

CHAIRMAN S ADDRESS: Instead of starting the meeting in the normal manner, Stuart gave the floor to Roy Eagles in order for Roy to make the presentation of prizes for the recent caption competition. The winner was Bill Singleton who received a signed Wolves shirt, and the runner up, Ken Goulding, received £10.00. Roy thanked everybody who had taken part in the competition. Stuart was then left speechless when Roy presented him with an engraved tankard in recognition of all the work he does on the Club s behalf.

Stuart then explained the reasoning behind holding the AGM a month earlier than usual. It had been hoped that greater numbers would attend by not cutting in to the holiday season. Unfortunately, numbers were more or less the same as in previous years so a re-think for next year is on the cards.

Stuart then proceeded to bestow heartfelt thanks on Peter Woodifield and Dave Slape for all their hard work throughout the year in helping the Club to progress smoothly. He also thanked Peter Bartlett for his tremendous effort in producing the excellent Doog DVD and, of course, our superb website. He also thanked Stef Leonard and Steve Ray for the work they put into the magazine, especially the Doog edition which received much praise from all who read it.

The work on a Doog memorial, in the shape of a bust or a statue at Molineux, was progressing and Stuart would keep the membership informed as and when firm proposals were in place. He did say that estimated costs were in the region of £20,000 and a lot of support had been pledged.

Stuart stated that our regular guest from Molineux, Cliff Egan, had resigned from his post due to family commitments, and taken up a similar role close to his roots, with Gillingham FC. Stuart stated that he would always be welcome to visit us. Cliff s successor, Matt Grayson, had wanted to be here but sent an apology as he was away on holiday.

Finally, Stuart announced that Tim Richards had applied to stand as a member of the Fans Parliament representing London Wolves.

There were no questions for the Chairman.

MINUTES OF THE 2007 AGM: Copies of last year s minutes were available for those who hadn t seen them, although the Chairman reminded the meeting that they had been previously circulated in the Newsletter and by individual e-mail.

MATTERS ARISING: As there were no matters arising, Stef Leonard proposed that they be accepted as a true record and this was seconded by Leo Mastbraker. The Minutes were passed unanimously.



SECRETARY S REPORT: Dave Slape announced that our membership numbers stood at 202 with 34 renewals for 2008. He had received £2,484.00 in subscriptions and £22.00 in donations. On top of that, he had received a total of £1,520.63 for items such as badges, car fobs, programmes, pontoon sales and Doog posters, DVD s and books. His expenses amounted to £458.81 on items such as stationary, stamps and printing. He had detailed costs of all items if anyone wanted a closer scrutiny.

Dave wished to thank Peter Woodfield, Roy Eagles, Steve Ray, Sarah Knapp, Bob Goddard and Peter Bartlett for their assistance throughout the year. There being no questions for the Secretary, Stuart thanked Dave for his usual stirring effort.

TREASURER S REPORT: Unfortunately, Tim Richards was unable to attend the meeting but did send in his Financial Statement which the Chairman and the Travel Secretary presented. In brief, we are happily solvent and have money in both the current and deposit accounts. The Club also made a profit of £2,310.54 in last years trading.

Wolverhampton Wanderers London Supporters Club Financial Statement 2007-2008				
	Income 2007-2008		Expenses 2007-2008	
Fares	£17,910.00		Fares	£17,288.35
Match Tickets	£18,097.50		Match Tickets	£18,303.00
Season Tickets	£2,481.00		Season Tickets	£2,637.00
Membership	£2,484.00		Magazine Expenses	£1,070.00
Postage	£18.88		Secretarial Expenses	£413.81
Fares & Tickets 2006/2007	£188.00		Chairmans Expenses	£111.70
Merchandise	£105.00		Club badges	£168.62
Pontoon	£72.40		Pontoon	£20.00
Golden Gate Draw	£528.50		Internet site	£100.42
Donations	£93.08		AGM & Committee Exp	£125.00
Derek Dougan Book	£807.00		Derek Dougan Picture Frames	£102.00
Derek Dougan DVD	£3,867.08		Derek Dougan DVD	£2,817.20
Bank charges recovered	£4.00		Travel Sec expenses	£360.39
Programmes	£12.03		Membership Cards	£65.18
Attendance Competition	£27.00		Kit Sponsorship	£775.50
Train Competition	£80.00		Bank Charges	£8.00
Bank Interest Received	£37.74		POY Trophies (2 years)	£164.50
Total Income	£44,851.21		Total Expenses	£44,540.67
Account Balances				
HSBC Current A/C	as at 18/05/2008	£6,050.72	Profit for 2007-8	
Investec Deposit A/C	22/05/2008	£2,104.18	£2,310.54	

TRAVEL SECRETARY S REPORT: Peter Woodfield reported that we ran organised trips to all 26 home matches and 14 long distance away games last year, which included a coach trip to the Cardiff City FA Cup match. Most journeys ran to time, with just a couple of delays for which we received voucher refunds. The Marylebone service was used several times when Virgin Trains would not accept group bookings. Peter singled out praise for Morris Jacobs for providing transport to a number of evening matches.

The highest attended home trips were 42 for QPR, and 40 for Preston and Ipswich. The highest attended away trips were 29 for Ipswich, 27 for Cardiff (FA Cup), and 26 for Bristol City. The Club part-subsidised the away trips to Sheffield Wednesday, Scunthorpe and the FA Cup game in Cardiff. The profit on the trips amounted to £611.65.

The Group Travel fare to home games had been increased by Virgin to £17.00, from £16.00, but this was more than reasonable as it was the first increase for some 4-5 years. Peter complained that some members



were still failing to turn up for trips without giving any prior notification. For those members who fail to cancel their trip, a £5.00 discretionary fine will be imposed together with the cost of the fare.

The Club had purchased 7no. season tickets under the Early Bird scheme in March 2007 at a cost of £3,106.00. Unfortunately, a loss of £655.00 had been made on the sale of match tickets, but Peter was grateful to those members who loaned their season tickets to the Club when unable to attend a match themselves. Peter had again renewed our 2008-09 season tickets on the Early Bird scheme. There were 13no. away season tickets purchased by members, including 2no. by the Club. For individual matches, ticket prices have been increased by £1.00 in each stand.

Peter wanted to record his thanks, again, to the Wolves Ticket Office, particularly to Pam & Steve, in meeting all our requests for match tickets for last season. Peter also thanked Dave Slape for all his hard work throughout the year. Peter concluded by announcing that travel details for next season would appear on our website once the fixtures had been published.

There being no questions for the Travel Secretary, Stuart thanked Peter for all his hard, and often, frustrating work.

SOCIAL SECRETARY S REPORT: This position on Committee is still vacant so there was little to report. Stef stated that there had been no activities undertaken other than our annual Meet the Players evening prior to the Charlton Athletic match on Saturday 29th March. This had been a great success, even though it was a rather shortened occasion due to the team coach being seriously delayed in getting to the hotel by heavy motorway congestion. Nonetheless, Mick McCarthy and the team, as usual, did us proud by being very approachable for photos, autographs and chats. The event was made all the better by the following day's 3-2 last minute win.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR S REPORT: Stef pointed out that the Editor's post was still vacant but he was prepared to continue in the short term in this role. He stated that two editions, July and December, had been published last season. He was particularly pleased with the December issue which contained an 8-page tribute section dedicated to the Doog. The meeting wholeheartedly agreed that it was indeed an excellent issue, with many favourable reports coming from outside the Club.

Stef thanked Steve Ray for producing the match reports and Peter Bartlett for the photographs and general information. He lamented that the Newsletter needed fresh articles and news of interest from members, otherwise the production could become stale. He urged members to send in any items of interest. Stef also stated that the decision to send the Newsletter out to some of the membership by e-mail was saving money on the print run as well as the post and packaging.

There being no questions for the Editor, Stuart thanked Stef and his team for the good work.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: It was proposed by Roy Eagles and seconded by Peter Abbott that the Committee be re-elected en bloc. This was agreed and passed unanimously.

MEMBERSHIP FEE: The meeting decided that there was no need for the subscription level to be altered.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS: After a short discussion, the meeting agreed that there was no need to change our Life President position. Our Life President would, therefore, remain Derek Dougan RIP.

There being no other business, the Chairman brought the meeting to a close at 16.05hrs.

MATCH REPORTS



BRISTOLS COME OUT TO PLAY IN SECOND HALF

WOLVES 1-1 BRISTOL CITY

Saturday 3rd November 2007

Honours were shared with a point each in a game of two halves at Molineux. Wolves should have been out of sight by half time after creating and then squandering a hatful of chances, but for all their first half domination they had to settle for a draw as Bristol City fought back in the second half. Mick McCarthy responded to Wolves first defeat in seven games at Ipswich the previous week by making just one change to his starting line up as Andy Keogh replaced Freddy Eastwood in attack.

In front of their highest home attendance of



the season Wolves started the game at a high tempo and attacked the Bristol City goal from the off. Olofinjana went

close after nine minutes when firing just over the crossbar and the home team went close with a host of half chances before deservedly taking the lead in the 22nd minute. The breakthrough eventually came when Jay Bothroyd volleyed home from the edge of the area after the visitors failed to clear a Michael Kightly corner that had been headed goalwards by Darren Ward. Stephen Ward and Bothroyd then wasted two glorious chances to increase the lead before Bristol equalised totally against the run of play. The Wolves defence were caught fast asleep when a free-kick was floated in to the area by McIndoe and Fontaine who was unmarked at the far post easily beat Wayne Hennessey with a close-range header.

Wolves went back on the attack and two minutes later wasted another glorious chance, this time the culprit was Stephen Ward after Basso had spilled a Kevin Foley cross, the striker was only six yards out but he hit his weak shot straight at Bradley Orr who cleared off the line. The half finished in the same manner as it had started when Andy Keogh had a chance to edge Wolves ahead but he dragged his shot wide from the edge of the box.

The visitors seemed to be a bit more adventurous as an attacking force in the second half and Byfield went close immediately after the break when he hit the side netting with an angled shot. Marvin Elliott then saw a long-range shot well saved by Hennessey in the 53rd minute, while at the other end Basso produced two superb saves midway through the half to keep Bristol on level terms, the first was a block to keep out Bothroyd's 20 yard drive before he reacted brilliantly to tip Darren Ward's header over the crossbar from Kightly's corner. Wolves again took the game to Bristol and substitutes Jarvis and Eastwood wasted a couple of half-chances to give their side the three points which really should have been in the bag before half time. However, it was Bristol who could have stolen it right at the death when McCombe powered his header narrowly wide from six yards out.

Opinion: Need to be much more ruthless when dominating games.

Man of the match: Kightly

Team Rating: 6/10

Attendance: 26,094

Team: Hennessey, Foley, Darren Ward, Craddock, Neill Collins, Kightly (Potter 81), Olofinjana, Henry, Stephen Ward (Eastwood 84), Keogh, Bothroyd (Jarvis 69)

Unused Subs: Stack, Little

Bookings: Keogh (62 – foul), Kightly (64 – dissent)

A QUIET NIGHT AT ST. MARY S CHURCH

SOUTHAMPTON 0-0 WOLVES

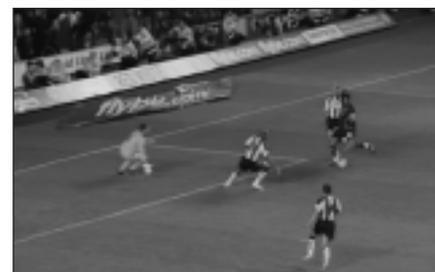
Tuesday 6th November 2007

When Wolves and Southampton last met in the league last season it ended with Southampton winning 6-0 at Molineux, there was never a hope of any kind of repeat score this time round with scoring opportunities for either team far and few between. Wolves manager Mick McCarthy again decided to change his strike partnership opting to start with Freddy Eastwood alongside Andy Keogh which meant that last week's goal scorer Jay Bothroyd started on the bench.

The early stages of the game were very tight with goal scoring chances at a premium, Wolves did have two early corners but the home defence easily cleared both. The first real opening fell to Southampton in the 19th minute when Wayne Hennessey inexplicably picked up a Darren Ward backpass on the edge of the six-yard box, however Skacel



could only blast the resulting free-kick into the 10-man wall that had been placed on the goal line. Wolves only real chance in the first 45 minutes came mid-way through the half when Michael Kightly shot over from just inside the penalty area after getting on the end of a Stephen Ward low cross from the right.



Wolves threatened much more after the break and were unlucky to find Southampton goalkeeper Kelvin Davis in inspired form. Kightly who was continuing to impress found himself one on one with Davis in the 60th minute but the midfielder's touch eluded him as the keeper came out to smother the ball. The busy keeper was again called into action after 65 minutes when pulling off two outstanding saves from long-range efforts, the first was from a Seyi George Olofinjana piledriver which he just managed to fingertip over the bar, and then he dived low to his right to keep out a rasping low shot from Eastwood. Davis's final act of defiance came in the 88th minute when he produced a stunning block at the feet of Bothroyd to deny Wolves a late winner. Euell then had an equally good chance at the other end a minute later and this time it was Hennessey who pulled off a good save to ensure both sides left St Mary's with a point.

Opinion: Good away point in a mortuary like atmosphere.

Man of the match: Craddock

Team Rating: 6/10

Attendance: 19,856

Team: Hennessey, Foley, Darren Ward, Craddock, Neill Collins, Kightly (Jarvis 72), Olofinjana, Henry, Stephen Ward (Potter 77), Keogh (Bothroyd 82), Eastwood

Unused Subs: Stack, Little

Bookings: Neill Collins (22 – foul)

MATCH REPORTS



COULDN'T HIT THE BARN DOOR FROM FIVE YARDS

WOLVES 1-0 BARNESLEY

Saturday 10th November 2007

Wolves unbeaten run at Molineux was extended to five games when they secured a 1-0 victory over Barnsley, they had Neill Collins to thank for victory after he scored the only goal of the game with a header after 13 minutes. In a game they dominated from start to finish the home side should have been out of sight by half time, but a series of fine saves from Barnsley keeper Heinz Muller and some wasteful finishing ensured Wolves encountered a nervous final ten minutes.



Wolves started like a team possessed and put Barnsley under pressure from the first whistle and it came as no surprise when they made the breakthrough in the 13th minute. Kightly sent over a corner from the right and Collins ran in to meet the ball and power an unstoppable header past the diving Muller. The lead should have been doubled in the 19th minute but Stephen Ward wastefully blazed a chance over the bar when well positioned, and three minutes later Barnsley had an amazing escape when Eastwood and Collins both hit the same post in the space of a couple of seconds following a Bothroyd free-kick. Wolves continued to push forward and in the 37th minute Muller came to the visitors rescue again when he showed great reflexes to keep out Darren Ward's volley from six yards following a corner from Bothroyd.

Barnsley had hardly ventured into the Wolves half in the opening period and the same pattern of play continued at the start of the second half with Muller continuing to impress in goal. In the space of a few seconds in the 56th minute he firstly saved a Collins header from a corner and then recovered to block Eastwood's close range shot as the striker followed up. In the 71st minute Barnsley had the ball in the back of the Wolves net when Ferenczi

headed past Hennessey following Howard's free-kick from the right, however to the relief of the home supporters the linesman had the flag up for offside. Wolves keeper Hennessey was finally called into action midway through the second period but he required little effort when easily dealing with a rising shot from Campbell-Ryce. There were some nervy moments as the match neared its conclusion as Barnsley went in search of a point, but the game in reality should have been sewn up in the first half and the visitors should have already been buried out of sight.

Opinion: Even though the Barnsley keeper was outstanding the Wolves finishing was woeful.

Man of the match: Eastwood

Team Rating: 7/10

Attendance: 22,231

Team: Hennessey, Foley, Darren Ward, Craddock, Neill Collins, Kightly (Potter 77), Henry, Olofinjana, Stephen Ward, Bothroyd (Keogh 71), Eastwood

Unused Subs: Stack, Little, Jarvis

Bookings: Olofinjana (84 – foul)

IT'S A HEN PARTY

WEST BROM 0-0 WOLVES

Sunday 25th November 2007

It was honours shared in the Sunday morning Black Country derby at The Hawthorns. The game finished goalless and Wolves keeper Wayne Hennessey made a late penalty save which ensured that the visitors went home with a fully deserved point. Freddy Eastwood was deemed only fit enough to take a place on the bench, and with Andy Keogh ruled out McCarthy opted for a 4-5-1 formation with Jay Bothroyd deployed as a sole striker and Darron Gibson brought in as the extra man in midfield.

The game started at a furious pace in what was a typically tight derby game. Although the home team shaded the opening stages it was Wolves who almost made the breakthrough in the 22nd minute, Craddock rose above three defenders to meet Bothroyd's corner but his header unluckily hit the outside of the left hand post. Wolves confidence was increasing by the minute and Olofinjana missed a golden chance to give them the lead in the 35th minute, Michael Kightly went on a mazy run before he whipped in a superb right-wing cross, then Olofinjana who was unmarked and just three yards out steered his diving header wide of the post with the

goal at his mercy. Just before half-time Wolves went close again following an excellent move on the left wing involving Stephen Ward and Elliot, it ended with Robinson just getting in front of the prowling Bothroyd and heading the ball from Ward's cross over his own bar.

The start of the second-half lacked the same intensity as the first 45 minutes, but the home team were inches away from taking the lead in the 56th minute. Teixeira turned Darren Ward and curled in a shot that was heading for the top left hand corner, but somehow Hennessey managed to fingertip the ball onto the post with the ball rebounding to safety on the far side. Moments later it was Hennessey to the rescue again when he dived bravely at the feet of Beattie, that was before Olofinjana squandered his second excellent opportunity of the game, the midfielder was picked out by a near-post cross from Foley but he stabbed his shot into the side netting when well placed.

With five minutes remaining it looked as though all Hennessey's efforts had been in vain as the home side were awarded a penalty, Beattie who was going nowhere, theatrically went to ground and Collins was penalised for allegedly pulling his shirt.



Gera stepped up to take the spot kick, but to the delight of the Wolves fans Hennessey guessed correctly by diving to his right and pushing the ball away to safety.

Opinion: Penalty save was top notch and a moment to savour.

Man of the match: Hennessey and Craddock

Team Rating: 8/10

Attendance: 27,493

Team: Hennessey, Foley, Darren Ward, Craddock, Neill Collins, Kightly (Eastwood 61), Olofinjana, Henry, Bothroyd (Elliott 63), Gibson, Stephen Ward

Unused Subs: Stack, Potter, Gray

Bookings: Olofinjana (58 – foul)

MATCH REPORTS



A PICKLED GERKEN FEEDS ELLIOT

WOLVES 1-0 COLCHESTER UNITED

Wednesday 28th November 2007

Stephen Elliott marked his return to the Wolves starting line-up with a decisive goal as they kept their Championship promotion bid on track with a slender 1-0 victory over Colchester. Injuries forced Wolves boss Mick McCarthy into three changes with Elliott, Eastwood and Potter all promoted to the starting line-up in place of the injured trio of Olofinjana, Kightly and Bothroyd.

Colchester had won only once on their travels this season but you would have thought that they were the team challenging for promotion on this showing, they were the better of the teams in the opening exchanges and created the first real chance when Yeates forced Hennessey to dive to his right to gather a 20-yard free-kick. In the 11th minute the same player was desperately unlucky again when his 20-yard drive hit the base of the post before bouncing to safety.



Wolves gradually started to get a foot in the game and made Colchester pay for their catalogue of misses when they scored against the run of play in the 31st minute. Gibson whipped in a left-wing cross that Eastwood headed goal wards from six yards, Gerken somehow kept out his point-blank header with a great reflex save, but the rebound flew straight to Elliott who stabbed the ball home from close range. Instead of using the goal as a platform to settle down and get back into the game, Wolves failed to take advantage of their luck and the only other chance of note in the first half came when a half hit shot from Eastwood was easily saved by Gerken.

The second half continued in much the same fashion as the first half until the hour mark when Eastwood conjured a chance

out of nothing, but his 25 yard drive rebounded off the inside of the right hand post and bounced to safety. Elliott made way for Keogh midway through the second half and soon after Wolves came close to a second, Henry turned sharply in midfield and worked the ball out wide to Stephen Ward, the winger cut inside before unleashing a ferocious shot which veered just wide of the right hand post. The home fans were given a scare in injury time when Veteran Teddy Sheringham nodded a long ball into the box into the path of Kemal Izzet, he hit a first time shot from ten yards that beat Hennessey but hit the inside of the post and bounced back into the arms of the grateful keeper.

Opinion: Back to earth and reality after the great performance on Sunday.

Man of the match: Eastwood

Team Rating: 5/10

Attendance: 20,966

Team: Hennessey, Foley, Darren Ward, Craddock (Gray 87), Collins, Potter, Gibson, Henry, Stephen Ward, Eastwood, Elliott (Keogh 68)

Unused Subs: Stack, Little, Jarvis

Bookings: None

HENRY SCORCHER SEALS POINTS

WOLVES 1-0 PRESTON NE

Saturday 1st December 2007

Karl Henry's second half goal extended Wolves unbeaten run to six games as they claimed a narrow victory over Preston North End at Molineux. The victory was anything but convincing and in the end Wolves were just about worth the three points with the win moving them up to third in the Championship table.

Wolves started at a frantic pace and should have settled the nerves with a goal in the first five minutes. It was Eastwood who was in the thick of everything, first of all a Stephen Ward cross was headed out to the striker and his fierce shot looked a goal all the way until it hit Mawene and 60 seconds later he crashed a Gibson cross against the foot of the post with Elliott firing the rebound against the outside of the same upright. The pressure continued on the Preston defence and Eastwood was soon denied again by a stunning save from keeper Lonergan. After soaking up all the early pressure Preston slowly fought their way back into the game and forced a good save from Hennessey when he was called upon to push Whaley's 20-yard drive



around the post, and a minute later Davidson side footed wide from close range after a low cross from the right. In the 17th minute it was Eastwood's turn again when he just failed to reach a cross from Gibson as the ball flashed across the goalmouth. Hennessey saved another long-rang effort from Whaley before Henry's 25-yard drive flashed past the right hand post shortly before the break.

After a slow start to the second half Wolves broke the deadlock in the 55th minute with a superb goal from Henry, the Wolves skipper drilled home a low drive from 25 yards after Eastwood had played a clearance from Hennessey into his path. McCarthy replaced Gibson with Jarvis in the 58th minute and the winger made an instant contribution when Collins headed his outswinging corner just wide. A misplaced Elliott pass then gave Preston substitute Mellor the chance to get in a shot, but he was forced wide by Hennessey who then parried away the striker's angled drive. Keogh came on for Elliott with 15 minutes remaining and there were loud appeals for a penalty as he ran along the by-line and appeared to be tripped by Mawene, but the referee ignored all the appeals and waved play on. Preston pushed forward in the final minutes in search of an equaliser but the nearest they came to a goal was when Hennessey was forced to tip over a piledriver from Sedgwick. From the resulting corner, taken by Whaley, the ball was helped on to Carroll who shot wide at the far post.

Opinion: Need to play the final eighty mins with the same passion as the first ten.

Man of the match: Henry

Team Rating: 6/10

Attendance: 22,836

Team: Hennessey, Foley, Darren Ward, Collins, Gray, Olofinjana, Henry, Gibson (Jarvis 58), Stephen Ward, Elliott (Keogh 75), Eastwood (Potter 85)

Unused Subs: Ikeme, Little

Bookings: Potter (90 – foul)

MATCH REPORTS



HENRY GOES FROM HERO TO TYKE

BARNESLEY 1-0 WOLVES

Tuesday 4th December 2007

A tired looking Wolves suffered a 1-0 defeat at Oakwell and lost the chance of closing in on the top two in the Championship after a poor performance against Barnsley. The game was decided in a three minute spell at the start of the second half when Barnsley scored the only goal of the game at one end of the pitch and then Wolves immediately missed a penalty at the other. The star of the show was goalkeeper Wayne Hennessey who put in a stunning display by keeping the home side at bay more or less on his own. It was a quiet start, and Wolves who were wearing their all blue kit created the first half-chance in the 12th minute when a powerful shot inside the box by Jarvis was blocked and cleared up field by the home defence. The game was 15 minutes old when Hennessey made his first contribution on what turned out to be a busy night for the young keeper when he dived low to his left to parry away a shot from Campbell-Ryce. Ten minutes later Ferenczi headed goalwards from a Werling cross but Hennessey saved comfortably. Barnsley took control in the final 10 minutes of the half and Campbell-Ryce again came close to scoring when Werling's cross made its way to the far side but his shot was deflected wide off the legs of Darren Ward. Hennessey, already in the thick of the action, was busy again when turning away a long-range stinger from Anderson De Silva, before Campbell-Ryce went close with a 30-yarder that just cleared the top of the bar. With the half time cups of tea already being poured Hennessey finished his outstanding first half performance with a super save to turn away a blistering 25-yard free-kick from Werling.

Barnsley started the second half as they ended the first and Hennessey was soon in the thick of the action again when he blocked a shot by Foster at the near post. It was four minutes into the half when Hennessey was finally beaten, Devaney crossed from the right and Henry connected with the ball with a diving header that shot back across his own six yard area, Ferenczi who couldn't believe his luck tapped the ball into the empty net from a yard out. It seemed that Henry had got out of jail following his moment of madness when Wolves were awarded a penalty just two minutes later after a foul on Elliott,



Keogh stepped up to take the spot-kick but his effort was saved at full length by Muller. Barnsley, inspired by the penalty miss took control and never really allowed Wolves any time or space to get back into the game, and if anything Hennessey was still the busier of the two keepers. Eastwood was entered into the fold in the 67th minute and with virtually his first touch he setup Olofinjana who narrowly shot wide from 25 yards. That effort was as near as it got for Wolves and the statistics showed that it was 19-11 on goal attempts in the favour of Barnsley, who on the night were the better team.

Opinion: That boy Hennessey is going places, what a talent.

Man of the match: Hennessey

Team Rating: 3/10

Attendance: 9,956

Team: Hennessey, Foley, Darren Ward, Collins, Gray, Jarvis (Elliott 46), Olofinjana, Potter (Gibson 56), Henry, Stephen Ward (Eastwood 66), Keogh

Unused Subs: Edwards, Ikeme

Bookings: Potter (56 – foul), Gibson (60 – foul), Henry (90 – foul)

HENN-ALL-AT-SEA

WOLVES 2-3 BURNLEY

Saturday 8th December 2007

Wolves fell to their second defeat in a week when losing 3-2 at home to in-form Burnley. The defending by the home team was woeful and the game which was screened live by Sky gave the TV audience a lesson in the art of schoolboy defending. It was also an indifferent game for Wolves goalkeeper Wayne Hennessey who pulled off a series of brilliant saves but then inexplicably dropped a real howler that ultimately helped Burnley to all three points.

After a relatively lively start by Wolves it was Burnley who were within a whisker of opening the scoring in the 17th minute. The diving Hennessey was beaten all ends-up when McCann let fly from 25

yards, the ball then cannoned back off the inside of the post and into the path of the unmarked Gray, but Hennessey somehow managed to get up and spread himself and brilliantly keep out Gray's effort from six yards. However three minutes later Hennessey went from hero to villain following a free-kick that was awarded against Foley for a foul on Blake just outside the left hand corner of the box. Blake got back to his feet and whipped in the ball at what seemed to be at a comfortable height for the keeper to collect, but Hennessey snatched at it and could only watch on in horror as it squirmed through his hands and into the net. Burnley's joy was short lived when four minutes later Gibson hauled Wolves level with his first goal for the club, Stephen Ward cut in from the left flank and the on-loan midfielder side-footed the resulting cross past goalkeeper Kiraly and into the net off the foot of the post.

The goal rejuvenated Wolves and Kiraly was soon in the thick of the action again when he did well to keep out a long-range effort from Jay Bothroyd. However five minutes later Burnley took full advantage of some more shocking defending by Wolves to restore their lead, Elliott's inswinging cross eluded everyone and Lafferty stole in completely unmarked at the far post to slot home from a yard out. Hennessey went some way to redeeming himself in the 40th minute by deflecting Gray's effort on to the top of the crossbar, but from the resulting corner he was given no chance when Carlisle headed the ball home via the hand of the unfortunate Darren Ward to make the score 3-1.



The home side were handed a lifeline on the hour mark when they were awarded a penalty, Gray was penalised for pulling back Olofinjana in a crowded area and Elliott stepped up to rifle the spot-kick into the roof of the net. Mick McCarthy sent on forwards Eastwood and Keogh in the hope of salvaging a point, but if anything Burnley looked like increasing their lead

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and eight minutes from time they were only denied a fourth goal by Hennessey who again produced another class save when tipping a free-kick from Gudjonsson over the bar. In stoppage time Wolves stormed forward in search of an equaliser, but the closest they came was when Elliott headed over from Eastwood's cross right on the final whistle.

Opinion: Stroll on the January transfer window so that the defensive shambles can be addressed.

Man of the match: Hennessey (even after the howler)

Team Rating: 3/10

Attendance: 20,763

Team: Hennessey, Foley, Darren Ward, Collins, Gray, Gibson (Eastwood 60), Olofinjana, Henry, Stephen Ward (Jarvis 71), Bothroyd (Keogh 72), Elliott

Unused Subs: Ikeme, Edwards

Bookings: Collins (56 – foul)

HELD BY THE BUSHRANGERS

QPR 0-0 WOLVES

Saturday 15th December 2007

Wolves stuttering promotion campaign suffered another blow as they failed to break down struggling Queens Park Rangers in a dull goalless draw at Loftus Road, their lack of cutting edge was all too evident as they once again showed a lack of imagination and creativity in the final third of the field. The two dropped points saw Wolves slip out of the play-off places while Rangers who have not beaten Wolves at home since 1984 slipped to the bottom of the table.

Wolves started the livelier of the two teams and created the first opportunity of the game in the second minute, an outswinging corner from the left by Bothroyd fell to Collins but Rangers keeper Lee Camp easily saved his looping header from 12 yards. Goalmouth action then became a rare event until the home side created their first opportunity of note in the



20th minute when Blackstock fired straight into the arms of Hennessey from the right of the area. Wolves missed a good chance to take the lead a few moments later when Foley's cross found Olofinjana, but even though he found the power the header lacked direction and flashed wide of the right hand post. Straight from the goal-kick it was Rangers turn to threaten when Ainsworth latched onto Camp's clearance but his long range effort was easily saved by Hennessey. The Wolves keeper was called into action twice more just after the half-hour mark when turning two long range efforts from Rowlands around either post within the space of two minutes. Wolves had rarely threatened the Rangers goal in a lifeless first 45 minutes but did go close to scoring shortly before the break when Gibson sent a left-foot shot just wide of the target.

Blackstock immediately went close for Rangers as the home team pushed forward early in the second half but his header from Buzsaky's right-wing corner flew over the bar, while at the other end Elliott produced a fine stop from Camp when the keeper acrobatically flicked the striker's header over the bar. Wolves who had looked lethargic for the most of the game missed a golden opportunity to take the lead in the 70th minute, Gibson's right-wing cross presented Elliott with the simplest of chances but he scooped the ball wide from a yard out when it seemed easier to score. Wolves poured forward in the closing stages in search of a winner, but Rangers keeper Camp easily dealt with all the hopeful crosses that were lumped into the area. Right at the death Wolves had Hennessey to thank for earning them a point when he produced a stunning save to turn Rowland's blistering drive over the bar.

Opinion: Need to bury teams at the bottom of the table to have any chance of promotion.

Man of the match: Hennessey

Team Rating: 4/10

Attendance: 13,482

Team: Hennessey, Foley, Darren Ward, Collins, Gray, Gibson, Olofinjana, Henry, Stephen Ward, Elliott, Bothroyd (Keogh 88)

Unused Subs: Ikeme, Edwards, Jarvis, Eastwood

Bookings: None

OUTFOXED

WOLVES 1-1 LEICESTER CITY

Saturday 22nd December 2007

It was another disappointing day at the



office as Wolves dropped yet another two points at home to relegation threatened Leicester City at Molineux. It was a poor first half performance from Mick McCarthy's boys and they went in 1-0 down at the break to a chorus of boos. However they hit back in the second half when Matt Jarvis levelled the scores and were only denied a win when a late Neill Collins effort was disallowed for a narrow offside decision.

Wolves got off to a disastrous start after conceding a goal in only the fourth minute. Gray was penalised for a foul on Chambers 25 yards from goal and Hume stepped up and curled his shot around the defensive wall and past Hennessey into the corner of the net. You would have thought it was Wolves rather than Leicester who were in the relegation zone as the visitors continued to dominate the game and they went close again when Fryatt tested Hennessey from outside the area, but fortunately for Wolves it was straight at the keeper. Leicester should have added to their advantage when N'Gotty sent John clear in the 18th minute but the striker was denied by Hennessey who dived bravely at his feet six yards from goal. Wolves struggled to get into the game and rode their luck again five minutes later when McAuley powered in a header from ten yards that flashed just wide. As the discontent from the crowd echoed in the players ears Wolves at last started to venture into the Leicester half. Firstly it was Bothroyd who saw a long-range effort float narrowly wide before Gibson sent another shot from just outside the area over the bar. Seven minutes before the interval some space opened up for Jarvis for a shot on goal, but again, as with previous efforts the ball went sailing over the bar.

Leicester started the second half in the same manner as the first and should have gone 2-0 up five minutes after the restart. John fluffed his second decent chance of the game when he was played through by Chambers, but one-on-one with Hennessey he hit a shot across goal and into the arms

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of the goalkeeper. Following their lucky escape the home team started to apply a bit of pressure on the Leicester defence and in the 53rd minute goalkeeper Fulop was finally called into the action when saving an Eastwood effort from twenty yards. Andy Keogh replaced Gibson with 20 minutes remaining and made an immediate impact by setting up Jarvis for the leveller, the substitute raced into the penalty area and showed a good turn of pace to go past N'Gotty before squaring to Jarvis who side-footed home with a simple finish. Wolves now looked like the team in command and set about earning a winner and nine minutes from the end they thought they had got it. Gray hoisted a free-kick into the area and when Olofinjana headed the ball down, Bothroyd chested it to Keogh whose low return into the six-yard box was poked home by Collins, but unfortunately for Wolves the linesman had flagged the goal offside.

Opinion: Lack of confidence grows and now without a win in four games.

Man of the match: Keogh

Team Rating: 4/10

Attendance: 23,477

Team: Hennessey, Foley, Collins, Darren Ward, Gray (Stephen Ward 84), Gibson (Keogh 70), Olofinjana, Henry, Jarvis, Elliott (Eastwood 46), Bothroyd

Unused Subs: Ikeme, Edwards

Bookings: None

BOXING DAY TURKEYS

HULL CITY 2-0 WOLVES

Wednesday 26th December 2007

Hull City cruised to an easy 2-0 victory in this Boxing Day fixture at the KC Stadium. The first half was a lacklustre affair and virtually free of any real talking points, however Hull stepped up a gear in the second half and overrun Wolves who looked like they were still suffering from the festive over indulgence. It was a poor display from the visitors who didn't manage a real goal scoring opportunity in the whole 90 minutes.

The game started at a furious pace and in the very first minute Campbell thumped a shot against the Wolves crossbar, however the striker was flagged for offside and the effort wouldn't have counted anyway. Thirty seconds later Wolves responded when Keogh chanced his luck from 40 yards after he spotted Myhill off his line, but unfortunately for the striker the ball flew just over the bar. It seemed that

Keogh was involved in all of Wolves attacks and in the 20th minute he was just beaten to a through ball by Myhill, he then miscued a shot from 20-yards after Eastwood had nodded the ball into his path.

After the lively start proceedings became a bit subdued, that was until the half-hour mark when Hull thought they had scored, Ashbee headed in a cross from Livermore but the linesman ruled the effort offside. Wolves came close to scoring in the closing stages of the half when Eastwood struck an arrowed shot from 20 yards, but keeper Myhill dived to his left and turned the ball around the post. With the last kick of the half Olofinjana fired wide from distance after taking the ball from Eastwood.

It took just two minutes of the second half for Hull to take the lead, Campbell was given acres of space on the left flank and his low cross was met by the unmarked Garcia who rifled his shot past Hennessey from ten yards. The goal sparked Hull into life and with 61 minutes on the clock they doubled their lead despite the heroics of Hennessey, Dawson crossed from the left and Garcia's close range header was brilliantly kept out by the young keeper, but the loose ball fell to the feet of Campbell who swept in the rebound from close range. With 20 minutes remaining McCarthy brought on Elliot for Jarvis and Stephen Ward for Eastwood in the hope of igniting some kind of spark and finding a way back into the game, but it wasn't to be and Hull easily played out the rest of the game to take all three points.

Opinion: The only Christmas turkey on offer was wearing a Wolves shirt.

Man of the match: Keogh

Team Rating: 3/10

Attendance: 19,127

Team: Hennessey, Foley, Darren Ward, Edwards, Collins, Jarvis (Elliott 67), Olofinjana (Gibson 81), Henry, Bothroyd, Keogh, Eastwood (Stephen Ward 67)

Unused Subs: Ikeme, Gray

Bookings: Collins (49 unsporting behaviour)

CANARIES ROASTED BUT NOT STUFFED

NORWICH CITY 1-1 WOLVES

Saturday 29th December 2007

Without a win in five games it was a much improved performance from Wolves even though they only left Carrow Road with a point. In a game they dominated more or less from start to finish they were made to



pay dearly for not turning possession into goals. Andy Keogh's first goal in 17 games just after half-time looked to have given Mick McCarthy's side all three points until Jamie Cureton struck 15 minutes from time to earn Norwich an undeserved point. With all the criticism ringing in their ears following the recent run of poor results, and playing as if they had a point to prove, Wolves immediately went at Norwich like a team possessed. Neill Collins missed the first of many opportunities to give them an early advantage when he headed Bothroyd's corner over the crossbar. Wolves were by far the better team in the early stages but struggled to turn their overall domination into goals. Karl Henry spurned an opportunity to break the deadlock midway through the half when he flashed a right-foot shot wide of Marshall's left-hand post, and on the half-hour mark Marshall once again breathed a sigh of relief when Olofinjana stooped to head another Bothroyd corner just wide of the target. Wolves continued to dominate and in the 34th minute Marshall pulled off a fine reflex save to keep out a snap-shot from Collins after his initial header was blocked, and moments later he pulled off another good stop to keep out Henry's effort from the edge of the area.

Wolves continued where they left off after the break and deservedly took the lead in the 51st minute, Michael Gray crossed from the left wing and Keogh leapt between Shackell and Camara to steer his header past Marshall at the near post. Bothroyd was in the thick of all the action and when he found himself in space he tried his luck from the edge of the area but Marshall made a comfortable save. Ward was then only inches away from making the game safe in the 70th minute with a fierce shot that went just inches wide of the far post.

After dominating the game Wolves were almost caught out in a rare Norwich attack 19 minutes from time when a volley from Dublin forced Hennessey into a fine save, but three minutes later the keeper was

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helpless to stop Norwich equalising, Dublin found Cureton whose right foot shot from the edge of the area found the corner of the net. Wolves had the last say when deep into stoppage time Bothroyd nearly snatched a winner as he outpaced two men in a run in from the right before hitting a shot that Marshall did well to save.

Opinion: Same old story of not finishing off opponents and paying the ultimate price.

Man of the match: Bothroyd

Team Rating: 6/10

Attendance: 24,324

Team: Hennessey, Foley, Darren Ward, Collins, Gray (Edwards 87), Gibson, Olofinjana, Henry, Stephen Ward, Keogh (Elliott 73), Bothroyd

Unused Subs: Ikeme, Jarvis, Eastwood

Bookings: Olofinjana (25 – foul), Henry (59 – foul), Gibson (60 – foul), Stephen Ward (86 – foul)

STRIKEFORCE LACKS CUTTING EDGE

WOLVES 0-0 SHEFFIELD UNITED

Tuesday 1st January 2008

There was little to cheer about on the first day of 2008 as Wolves and Sheffield United played out a goalless bore draw at Molineux. Wolves have now taken just four points from their last seven games and their main problem lies in putting the ball into the back of the net, the record reads only 24 goals in 26 Championship games this season.

The first chance of the game fell to Gary Speed who was making his first appearance since signing from Bolton, in the fifth minute he let fly from 25 yards and forced Hennessey to make a full length save. Wolves had to wait until the tenth minute before they managed a shot, and it was Keogh who supplied it only to see it deflected by a defender and comfortably saved by Paddy Kenny. Two minutes later it was Collins turn to venture forward but his header from a Bothroyd free-kick flew narrowly wide.

It was scrappy stuff all round as both sides struggled to retain possession, not the tonic the supporters had hoped for to help ease those New Years Eve hangovers. The visitors finally created another opening in the 25th minute but Hennessey easily held a shot from Hendrie from the edge of the area. A Bothroyd long range effort 11 minutes before the break flew wide of the left hand upright and that just about



summed up what a poor first half it had been for Wolves. However, they could have broken the deadlock right on the stroke of half-time when Bothroyd's corner found the head of the unmarked Collins, but the defender was unable to keep his header down and it flew just over the bar. It was a little better after the break, but only just. The visitors had their best period of the game eight minutes after the restart when they had three good chances within a ten minute spell. Firstly Stead shot inches wide from the edge of the area before Lee Hendrie was denied by another good save by Hennessey after a Collins clearance had cannoned into his path off Darren Ward, finally Hulse was just off target from 20 yards. Wolves sent on Stephen Elliott for Keogh in a bid to find the spark that was clearly missing and Freddy Eastwood soon followed him on the pitch as the home team looked for that elusive goal, but it was all to no avail. Wolves only created one real chance of note in the second period, in the 76th minute a neat pass from Olofinjana released Bothroyd, but he couldn't find a way past Kenny who bravely dived at the feet of the striker.

Opinion: Now transfer window is open a fresh injection of new faces urgently required to lift gloom hanging over Molineux.

Man of the match: Darren Ward / Gray

Team Rating: 4/10

Attendance: 24,791

Team: Hennessey, Foley, Darren Ward, Collins, Gray, Gibson, Olofinjana, Henry, Stephen Ward (Eastwood 77), Keogh (Elliott 65), Bothroyd

Unused Subs: Ikeme, Edwards, Jarvis

Bookings: None

CUPPA CHEER FROM KIGHTLY

WOLVES 2-1 CAMBRIDGE UNITED

Saturday 5th January 2008 (FA Cup 3rd Round)

Blue Square Premier side Cambridge United gave Wolves a massive scare in the 3rd round of the FA Cup. Cambridge who beat Wolves 1-0 at Molineux in the

same competition 17 years ago were leading at half time, but the introduction of Michael Kightly after the break turned the game in Wolves favour when he scored the equaliser and then set up Collins for the winner in the dying minutes.

Wolves nearly had a dream start to their cup campaign as Gibson and Jarvis linked up well and the ball found Boothroyd whose effort was charged down by Albrighton inside the first 30 seconds. Non league opponents Cambridge were giving a good account of themselves but it was Wolves who again went close to opening the scoring in the 14th minute when Gibson's drive was well saved by visiting goalkeeper Danny Potter. Cambridge had to wait 24 minutes before they gave their 4000 supporters something to cheer about when Wayne Hennessey was called into the action for the first time to pull off a good save from Convery. However, the visitors were soon under the cosh again as Wolves went straight up the other end and Potter pulled off another good stop to deny Stephen Ward from 20 yards. With the crowd starting to show their frustration only a stunning save from Potter kept the scores level, Gibson swung over a free-kick which was met by Stephen Ward but Potter produced a magnificent block with Keogh heading the rebound wide.

With four minutes of the half remaining Potter's heroics paid dividends when Cambridge took the lead after they were awarded a somewhat controversial penalty. Collins lost control of the ball on the edge of the area and it was picked up by Convery. When Convery tried to whip the ball back into the area it was blocked by Collins and the referee ruled that he had used his arm to stop the ball. It led to a furious reaction by Wolves, but Rendell kept his cool and he drilled his spot-kick over the outstretched hand of Hennessey. Cambridge's lead should have been short-lived but Keogh saw his 44th minute header cleared off the line by Albrighton after a cross from Foley.

Manager Mick McCarthy threw on Freddy Eastwood for Keogh at the break and the early stages of the second half saw the home side dominate, Ward and Eastwood both went close but the frustration from the bench was still apparent. Wolves went close again in the 57th minute but Ward fired over the crossbar from a Jarvis corner. Kightly replaced Ward on the hour and nine minutes later he hauled Wolves level when he turned home a low cross from

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Jarvis from six-yards out. With two minutes remaining and a replay looming Wolves grabbed a dramatic winner. Albrighton was penalised for a foul on Kightly near the by-line, the winger got to his feet and lifted the free-kick into the heart of the goalmouth and Collins ran in to head home from close range. Despite the frantic efforts of the visitors in the four minutes of time added on Wolves held on to move into the 4th round.

Opinion: Memories of the Morecambe debacle came flooding back when that penalty went in.

Man of the match: Kightly

Team Rating: 5/10

Attendance: 15,340

Team: Hennessey, Foley, Darren Ward, Collins, Gray, Jarvis (Edwards 90), Potter, Gibson, Stephen Ward (Kightly 60), Keogh (Eastwood 46), Bothroyd

Unused Subs: Ikeme, Elliott

Bookings: Eastwood (63 – foul), Bothroyd (84 – foul)

CRYSTAL BALL REQUIRED

WOLVES 0-3 CRYSTAL PALACE

Saturday 12th January 2008

If Wolves are going to push for promotion this season then Mick McCarthy will need a crystal ball to find out where the goals are going to come from. Even a debut for new signing Sylvain Ebanks-Blake, who joined the club from rivals Plymouth in the week failed to solve the ongoing goal scoring problem. It was the same old story as the home team went down 3-0 at home to Crystal Palace to make it eight league games without a victory, they were again punished for some woeful finishing whereas the visitors converted three of four chances created.

It was a lacklustre start from both teams and all the early play was scrappy consisting of a series of wayward passes from both teams. It took 12 minutes before a goal scoring opportunity arrived and it came from Scowcroft when his header forced



home keeper Wayne Hennessey into a superb save when he tipped the ball over for a corner. Wolves finally created their first chance in the 22nd minute when a neat cross by Karl Henry just evaded Sylvain Ebanks-Blake, Stephen Ward who was just behind the debutant managed to get a head on the ball but failed to hit the target from six yards out. The miss proved expensive as Palace then went straight up the other end and took the lead, the home defence failed to clear a harshly given free-kick and Clinton Morrison took full advantage when it fell to him by firing a right-foot volley into the net from 12 yards. Jay Bothroyd was responsible for Wolves only other chance of the half when he tested Julian Speroni with a left-foot strike from just outside the area five minutes before the break, but the goalkeeper saved easily.

After a shocking first half Wolves began the second half brightly with two quick early corners to put the Palace defence under some early pressure, but disaster struck in the 49th minute when the visitors again broke clear to go into a two goal lead. John Halls crossed from the right to Morrison and his mis-hit shot fortunately dropped at the feet of Scannell who made no mistake to lash a close-range effort past Hennessey. Mick McCarthy immediately made two changes and his decision was met by a chorus of boos from the home crowd when bringing on Freddie Eastwood and Andy Keogh for Ebanks-Blake and Stephen Ward. The change made little difference as Wolves continued to create and then squander a series of chances. The first offender was Kevin Foley who had an opportunity to halve the deficit when he headed Bothroyd's inviting cross wide of the target, Keogh followed that up by heading a pinpoint cross from substitute Matt Jarvis wide from close range. Eastwood then had the opportunity to end his goal drought but shot straight at Speroni from just outside the area.

It was game over with 25 minutes remaining when Scowcroft added a third for the

visitors, the striker gave Hennessey no chance when out of the blue he lashed a 30-yard right foot volley into the back of the net. Wolves continued to venture forward and Eastwood once again called Speroni into action with a long-range strike but it was too little too late. The nightmare afternoon was made complete in the 80th minute when Keogh created a golden chance for Bothroyd to grab a consolation goal but the striker ballooned his shot over the crossbar from only five yards.

Opinion: Result flattered Palace but it was still another poor all-round display.

Man of the match: Hennessey

Team Rating: 3/10

Attendance: 22,650

Team: Hennessey, Foley, Darren Ward, Collins, Gray, Gibson (Jarvis 42), Henry, Potter, Stephen Ward (Eastwood 52), Bothroyd, Ebanks-Blake (Keogh 52)

Unused Subs: Ikeme, Edwards

Bookings: None

FRESH DISH OF KING EDWARDS FOR HUNGRY WOLVES

SCUNTHORPE UTD 0-2 WOLVES

Saturday 19th January 2008

Wolves got back to winning ways at the ninth time of asking with an easy 2-0 win over struggling Scunthorpe at Glanford Road. Debutant David Edwards and Sylvain Ebanks-Blake, in only his second game for the club both opened their goal scoring accounts for Wolves to revive hopes of a play-off challenge.



This game was a one sided affair from the off with Wolves running riot against a very poor Scunthorpe side, and the precedent was set in the eighth minute when David Edwards scored the opener. The new midfielder signed from Luton the previous Monday squeezed a close-range shot under the body of goalkeeper Joe Murphy after good build up play involving Matt Jarvis and Andy Keogh. Just four minutes later Ebanks-Blake was inches away from

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a second after he had taken a pass from Jarvis and turned to curl a shot just the wrong side of the far post.

Scunthorpe fighting for their Championship lives did however have their chances, striker Martin Paterson and midfielder Ian Morris were both guilty of missing good scoring opportunities when they failed to even hit the target with only goalkeeper Wayne Hennessey to beat. However it was Wolves who looked the more dangerous and Murphy had to produce two good saves when firstly tipping over a header from Ebanks-Blake and then keeping Keogh's shot out from the edge of the area. On the stroke of half time Hennessey was called into action for the first time when blocking a close range effort from Paul Hayes, but it was Wolves who created a much better effort a few seconds later when Byrne threw himself in the way of a Jarvis effort after a strong run from Ebanks-Blake.

The second half was less than a minute old when Wolves doubled their lead, Edwards played the ball into the path of Ebanks-Blake who ran at the home defence before lifting a shot over the advancing Murphy and into the net for his first goal for the club. It was game over as a spectacle as Scunthorpe struggled to create any kind of clear opening, instead trying their luck with efforts from long range. As the clock ticked down Ebanks-Blake was denied a second by a good save from Murphy after he had combined well with Jarvis. Keogh then went on to waste a good chance after he did well to create an opening for himself, and just before being substituted Ebanks-Blake went close again when he spun Crosby and fired just wide.

Opinion: Breath of fresh air provided by the new boys.

Man of the match: David Edwards

Team Rating: 7/10

Attendance: 7,465

Team: Hennessey, Foley, Darren Ward, Collins, Gray (Rob Edwards 57), Jarvis, Henry, David Edwards, Elliott, Keogh, Ebanks-Blake (Stephen Ward 88)

Unused Subs: Stack, Potter, Eastwood

Bookings: David Edwards (42 – foul), Ebanks-Blake (65 – kicking the ball away)

FOUR HAIL MARY S DOWN AT THE VICARAGE

WATFORD 1-4 WOLVES

Saturday 26th January 2008 (FA Cup 4th Round)

Wolves produced one of their best performances of the season as they trounced Championship rivals Watford 4-1 at Vicarage Road to reach the last 16 of the FA Cup for the first time in 5 seasons. Watford manager Adrian Boothroyd made five changes to his team and his arrogance at fielding such a weakened side against a side seven places below them in the league spectacularly backfired as his team were outplayed in every department, starting at the goalkeeper and right the way through to the forwards.



Wolves playing in an all white change strip had the perfect start when they opened the scoring after just five minutes. Wayne Hennessey launched a big kick up field and Boothroyd flicked the ball into the path of Keogh who spotted keeper Richard Lee off his line and used the outside of his boot to clip the ball over the stranded keeper and into the net. Wolves continued to enjoy the better of the play but a lapse in concentration nearly cost them a goal in the 17th minute. Darren Ward conceded a needless free-kick outside the box and Ellington stepped up and curled the kick over the wall and out of the reach of Hennessey who could only watch on as the ball rebounded to safety off the post. With 33 minutes on the clock it was Wolves turn to be denied by the woodwork when Ward's header rebounded off the right-hand upright following a Jarvis corner.

It was a typical English cup-tie with chances at either end but it was Wolves who extended their lead in the 58th minute. Deep inside his own half Jarvis lobbed the ball forward and Keogh headed it back into the winger's path, he then raced forward and waited for the exact moment before slipping the ball to the supporting Elliot who then coolly flicked

the ball over the goalkeeper from the edge of the area and into the net. Keogh then had a chance to claim his second goal as he brought a save from Lee but it was not long before Wolves had a third as Bothroyd got his name on the scoresheet. Jarvis and Keogh again combined in the build-up and the striker found Bothroyd in acres of space and with the simple task of tapping the ball into an empty net from two yards.

In the final minute Wolves completed the demolition job when Keogh notched his second and his team's fourth when he took a pass from Potter and sidestepped a defender before beating Lee from the edge of the box.

Opinion: McCarthy should tell his team that they're playing a cup game every week.

Man of the match: Keogh

Team Rating: 9/10

Attendance: 12,719

Team: Hennessey, Darren Ward, Collins, Henry (Kightly 90), Foley, Rob Edwards, Potter, Jarvis (Gray 84), Elliott, Bothroyd (Gibson 90), Keogh

Unused Subs: Stack, Breen

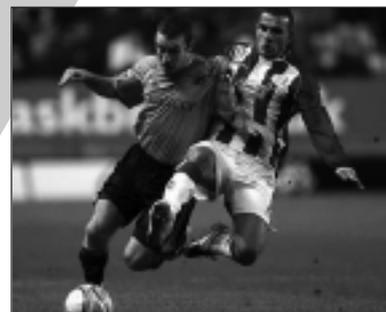
Bookings: Henry (63 – kicking ball away), Bothroyd (86 – dissent)

EBANKS-BLAKE KILLS OFF OWLS RIGHT ON THE HOOTER

WOLVES 2-1 SHEFFIELD WEDS

Tuesday 29th January 2008

After going eight league games without a win it's now six points out of six from the last two games and even though only ninth in the league Wolves are amazingly only eight points from an automatic promotion spot. After being cup-tied for the game at Watford, Sylvan Ebanks-Blake along with David Edwards returned to the starting line up and Michael Gray was also back in the side with Darren Potter, Jay Bothroyd and Rob Edwards the men making way.



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Sheffield Wednesday were the visitors at Molineux for this mid-week clash and were immediately on the defensive as Wolves tore into them from the off. And it took just thirty seconds to cause bedlam in the Wednesday defence as Andy Keogh fired against the crossbar, however the linesman saved the strikers blushes as he ruled the effort offside. Two minutes later and it was Keogh again in the thick of the action when hitting the woodwork after a superb left wing cross from Matt Jarvis. It was all Wolves, although there was a scare on six minutes when Wade Small dragged his effort wide after being put through by Wallwork. The pressure finally paid off when the home team deservedly took the lead in the 11th minute, Keogh who had been in the thick of all the action played a neat one-two with Ebanks-Blake before slotting the ball in off the right hand post from about eight yards.

After being totally outplayed Wednesday equalised against the run of play in the 19th minute following a defensive mix up between Rob Edwards and Darren Ward, as they tried to clear Whelan's cross the ball fell to Tudgay who took full advantage by beating Wayne Hennessey from 15-yards. Undeterred Wolves continued to take the game to their opponents with Elliott, Keogh, David Edwards and Ebanks-Blake all going close to re-storing the home lead before the half-time interval.

In total contrast to the first half it was Wednesday who were the more determined of the two teams after the break. On the hour mark Sodje seemed certain to score when he latched onto Small's pass and rounded Hennessey, but the Owls forward was unable to re-adjust his feet quickly enough to shoot and the keeper recovered when diving at the strikers feet. Edwards had a golden opportunity when he raced through down the other end, but he seemed to get his feet caught up with each other and fired straight at Grant. McCarthy brought on Daniel Jones and Jay Bothroyd in a bid to swing the game in his side's favour and both came close to a winner. Jones, making his first appearance since returning from a loan spell at Northampton, saw one effort from the left fizz narrowly wide of the right hand post and a less spectacular strike from Bothroyd went past the other.

Just as stoppage time started and when it seemed that a draw was likely Ebanks-Blake pounced in the second minute of stoppage time to fire Wolves back into the lead, he

stabbed the ball home from six yards after Bothroyd had headed a centre from Gray back across the face of goal.

Opinion: Need to play consistently for 90 minutes instead of the turn up for the first 45 minutes mentality and then switch off.

Man of the match: Jarvis

Team Rating: 6/10

Attendance: 22,746

Team: Hennessey, Foley, Darren Ward, Collins (Rob Edwards 9), Gray, Elliott (Jones 72), Henry, David Edwards, Jarvis, Keogh (Bothroyd 81), Ebanks-Blake

Unused Subs: Stack, Potter

Bookings: Rob Edwards (89 – foul)

DEFENCE SUFFER WITH ALL THAT THROWING UP IN THE BOX

WATFORD 3-0 WOLVES

Saturday 2nd February 2008

Another 5:20pm Saturday night kick-off due to the demands of SKY Sports and the same old result in front of the TV audience. It was more like a horror show than a game of football as Wolves went down 3-0 to a Watford team who hadn't won at home in the league since October 2007. After three consecutive wins which included a 4-1 trouncing of Watford on their own patch the week before, Wolves hopes were high for a repeat performance.

Wolves got off to a nightmare start when conceding a goal within the first minute. Watford's new signing Leigh Bromby whose alleged claim to fame comes from launching long balls into the box from throw-ins made an immediate impact when sending down one of his specials. The huge throw arrived on the edge of the six yard area where the static Rob Edwards allowed it to drop behind his head, then Darren Ward watched on as the ball hit the floor and bounced back up and over his head, at this point Steve Kabba stepped in at the back post to head the early gift into the net. It was to be the first throw-in of many which caused panic in the Wolves area and predictably there was yet more bedlam a few minutes later as another throw found Kabba again, but this time he headed wide from the centre of the area. After the shaky start Wolves began to settle down and take control of the game with most of the play directed through the in form Matt Jarvis who looked by far the best of the Wolves players. The left sided winger was unlucky when his low shot was deflected behind for a corner and when Gray sent over the resulting kick Ward



headed wide from 10 yards when well placed. For all their dominance and possession there was an alarming lack of penetration in the last third of the field and more notably where it counts in the Watford area.

Stephen Elliott had the first glimpse of goal after the break but fired high over the crossbar after a Jarvis corner fell to him, Hennessey then shanked a clearance straight to Nathan Ellington but the striker shot tamely wide from 20 yards. McNuff then rustled the side-netting from an acute angle before another Hennessey blunder almost gifted the hosts a second. The young keeper came for another long Bromby throw but failed to grasp the ball, McNuff collected and shot low but Rob Edwards was well positioned to hack the ball off the line. Just after the hour mark McCarthy sent on new signing Kevin Kyle for the ineffective Elliot to try and take advantage of his height up front, this signalled a change of tactics which involved the long high ball being pumped into the Watford area to absolutely no effect. It was game over for Wolves when Smith grabbed the second in the 76th minute, Sadler's right-wing corner was volleyed goalwards by Ellington and Smith turned the ball over the line from two yards. Smith made it 3-0 when he grabbed his second in the 78th minute with a breakaway goal, Ellington's aimless punt forward was headed on by Henderson into Smith's path who then strode forward unchallenged before calmly slipping the ball under the body of Hennessey from the edge of the area.

Opinion: I can't remember their keeper having to make a save, and for all the strikers now at his disposal the goals scored column for McCarthy's boys is still the worst in the whole division.

Man of the match: Jarvis

Team Rating: 3/10

Attendance: 18,082

Team: Hennessey, Foley, Darren Ward, Rob Edwards, Gray, Elliott (Kyle 63), Henry, David Edwards, Jarvis, Ebanks-Blake, Keogh (Bothroyd 78)

Unused Subs: Stack, Breen, Potter

Bookings: None

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WOLVES SPEND AFTERNOON ON THE POT

WOLVES 2-4 STOKE CITY

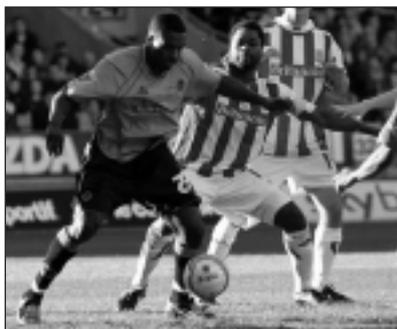
Saturday 9th February 2008

With the game in injury time and the score at 3-2 in the favour of Stoke a controversial refereeing decision robbed Wolves of the chance of a late penalty and possible equaliser in a topsy-turvy game at Molineux. And to rub salt in the wounds the visitors immediately charged to the other end of the pitch and scored again to confirm Wolves sixth home league defeat of the season.

The game was only two minutes old when Stoke took the lead. In a series of Wolves defensive blunders the first one enabled Sidibe to intercept a mishit back pass by Rob Edwards and round Hennessey before clipping the ball back to Delap to head into an empty net. Stoke continued to take the game to Wolves and should have doubled their lead 11 minutes later, Cort found himself in acres of space from a corner but somehow headed over from six yards. That miss sparked the home side into life and in the 22nd minute they created a good opening when Sylvan Ebanks-Blake volleyed over the bar from eight yards after good work by Keogh. Two minutes later Kevin Kyle missed another open goal, he was only two yards out when Simonsen failed to hold a powerful low drive from David Edwards and the striker seemed to get the ball trapped between his feet with the goal at his mercy. The Wolves pressure finally paid off on the stroke of half-time with a deserved equaliser, a cross from the right by Keogh was pulled back across goal by Kyle and Rob Edwards was there to help poke the ball into the net and make up for his error which led to the Stoke opener.



With the psychological advantage of scoring just before the break the home team started the second half on a high and sent their supporters into raptures when they scored again within two minutes of the restart. A Kevin Foley's free-kick was headed into



the path of Keogh by Kyle and the striker slotted the ball home from ten yards out. However, the home crowd were silenced two minutes later when another defensive shambles allowed Stoke to draw level, a through ball was allowed to reach Lawrence on his own on the right hand side of the area and he made no mistake as he smashed the ball past Hennessey from twelve yards out to level the scores at 2-2. Both teams went for the winner with chances falling at both ends but it was Stoke who regained the initiative with a quarter of an hour remaining. The Wolves defence were again left wanting when Sidibe was left wide open from a corner, his header was brilliantly pushed onto the bar by Hennessey, but with no one on the posts Cort thought it was Christmas again as he was left unchallenged to tap the ball into the net from a yard out.

Wolves piled forward in search of a point and in the fourth minute of injury time were denied a stonewall penalty when Rob Edwards went down following a challenge from Diao. As the appeals fell on the deaf ears of the referee, and with most of the Wolves team in the Stoke penalty area, Fuller broke from one end of the pitch to the other to beat Hennessey with an angled shot into the corner and to make it a 4-2 final score line to the visitors.

Opinion: Bad defending made to look easily.
Man of the match: David Edwards
Team Rating: 4/10
Attendance: 25,373
Team: Hennessey, Foley, Darren Ward, Rob Edwards, Gray, Keogh (Eastwood 81), Henry, David Edwards (Elliott 90), Jarvis, Ebanks-Blake, Kyle
Unused Subs: Stack, Potter, Elokobi
Bookings: Rob Edwards (89 – foul), Henry (90 – dissent), Ebanks-Blake (90 – dissent)

MICHAEL JACKSON PLAYS AT BLACKPOOL WITH DICKOV

BLACKPOOL 0-0 WOLVES

Tuesday 12th February 2008

It was stalemate at Bloomfield Road as Blackpool and Wolves played out a dull 0-0 draw at the seaside, the visitors had the better of the chances but rarely looked like breaking the deadlock. Gary Breen returned to the starting line-up after injury while George Elokobi came in for his debut following a January move from Colchester.

It was basically an uneventful first half and what efforts on goal there were never troubled either keeper. The first effort came from Wolves in the 2nd minute when Kyle chanced his luck from 25 yards but Blackpool keeper Rachubka easily gathered the ball. With ten minutes gone it was



Hoolahan's turn from the same kind of distance but this time the ball sailed wide without even troubling Hennessey. Shooting from distance seemed the order of the day and old foe Paul Dickov was the next to try his luck from long range, but inevitably the result was the same with the ball sailing wide. When David Edwards then lashed in another effort from outside the box it was blocked when his own teammate Ebanks-Blake couldn't get out the way. Wolves just about edged a poor first half but striker Andy Keogh did bring a little life into the game with three efforts in the last five minutes before the break. Firstly he had a shot charged down by Crainey, before a goal bound header was saved by Rachubka. In between Dickov flashed an effort just wide before another Keogh effort was volleyed high over the bar right on the half time whistle.

The tedium continued at the start of the second half and the game was just over an hour old when Wolves suddenly realised the points were there for the taking and started to up the pace. Elokobi who was making his Wolves debut sent over a cross that found Kyle's head in the six-yard box, but in the general context of the game Rachubka saved easily. Soon after in the 63rd minute Blackpool came the closest of either team to getting a goal, Taylor-Fletcher cut in from the right and Hennessey brilliantly pushed his drive

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from the edge of the area onto the bar. A minute later and it was Wolves turn to be denied by the woodwork, Ebanks-Blake danced past Michael Jackson and even though he was forced wide by a Blackpool defender he hooked in a fierce shot that crashed against the upright.

Wolves had the better of the last 20 minutes with Ebanks-Blake, Jarvis and Kyle all going close, but it was Keogh who had the last and probably best chance to break the deadlock, but he squandered a glorious chance five minutes from the end when he blasted over from eight yards when put through by Ebanks-Blake.

Opinion: At least the 1700 travelling supporters had a day at the seaside for entertainment.

Man of the match: Ebanks-Blake

Team Rating: 4/10

Attendance: 9,413

Team: Hennessey, Foley, Breen, Darren Ward, Elokobi, Keogh (Olofinjana 85), Henry, David Edwards, Jarvis, Ebanks-Blake (Eastwood 90), Kyle

Unused Subs: Rob Edwards, Elliott, Stack

Bookings: Keogh (63 – Foul), Darren Ward (90 – Foul)

NO KEEPING UP WITH THE JONES S

CARDIFF CITY 2-0 WOLVES

Saturday 16th February 2008 (FA Cup 5th Round)

Any optimism amongst the Wolves fans that it just might be their year in the cup disappeared at Ninian Park in this 5th round tie. Cardiff manager Dave Jones had the last laugh as his team totally outplayed the club who sacked him just over 3 years ago. It was always going to be a difficult task for Wolves with three player's cup tied and Matt Jarvis joining Michael Kightly on the injured list, but that task became impossible in a disastrous first ten minutes.

In the very first attack of the game Andy



Keogh carelessly lost possession just inside the Cardiff half. The ball was passed forward to Hasselbaink on the half way line who then flicked it into the path of the unmarked Whittingham, the striker strolled through the middle in acres of space and slotted the ball past Hennessey. That first goal came after just 84 seconds of play and nine minutes later the defensive incompetence was highlighted again as Cardiff doubled their lead. Bothroyd again gave the ball away cheaply and there was no sign of either Wolves full-back as the play was swiftly switched from the right flank to the left. Jody Craddock and Gary Breen were left hopelessly exposed as Parry found Whittingham at the back post where he cut the ball back for the 35 year-old Hasselbaink to sell Karl Henry a dummy before rifling a shot into the top left corner. Wolves were being overrun and outplayed



in every department and were in such disarray that five minutes before the break Freddy Eastwood was sent on in place of Olofinjana. Within seconds of his introduction the striker took a return pass from Keogh before hitting a low cross shot that was well taken by Enckelman.

There was a chance for Wolves to reduce the arrears a minute after the break when Looovens slipped to let in Kyle, but after he taken the ball to the by-line his low cross was scrambled clear by a defender. But the optimism was short lived with Hennessey having to make three saves in a five minute spell, firstly diving low to cut out a drive from Ramsey, and then he twice denied Parry, who on both occasions was clean through on goal. McCarthy used up his remaining substitutions with half an

hour still to go with Gibson and Elliott coming on for Kyle and Foley. Wolves did enjoy a little more of the possession after the change of faces but Hennessey still remained the busier of the two goalkeepers and he had to be down quickly to deny Whittingham a second.

Shortly before the end, Eastwood headed wide after Gray sent a deep cross into the area, but by this point even the enthusiastic striker who was by far Wolves best player following his introduction succumbed to the apathy that his team mates had shown during the rest of the game. Apart from Eastwood only Hennessey can hold his head up following this woeful effort, and all the others wearing the gold shirt should be digging in their pockets to refund the supporters who are not fortunate to be on the mega bucks of these overpaid prima donna s.

Opinion: Mick McCarthy's post match comment was "It's been an awful day. Hopeless is the word I'd use. We were as bad as we've ever been".... You don't say Mick....

Man of the match: Eastwood

Team Rating: 1/10

Attendance: 15,339

Team: Hennessey, Breen, Craddock, Foley (Gibson 63), Gray, Henry, Olofinjana (Eastwood 40), Potter, Kyle (Elliott 62), Bothroyd, Keogh

Unused Subs: Rob Edwards, Stack

Bookings: Craddock (58 – foul), Gibson (66 – foul), Bothroyd (74 – unsporting behaviour)

NOTHING LIKE A TASTE OF EARL GRAY AT THE PALACE

CRYSTAL PALACE 0-2 WOLVES

Saturday 23rd February 2008

A stunning strike from Michael Gray in the 76th minute and a late Kevin Kyle goal gave Wolves all three points in a disappointing and uneventful game at Selhurst Park, the win allowed Wolves to leapfrog Palace in the table and to within five points of the play-off places. Using a 4-5-1 formation Wolves had the lions share of the play and never looked in any danger of conceding a goal, but on the other hand creating very few openings of their own either.

The game was scrappy from the off and we had to wait 10 minutes before Palace created the first real goal attempt, a long throw-in into the Wolves goalmouth was nodded on to Tom Soares who with the goal at his mercy placed his header wide

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of the post. In the 13th minute it was Wolves turn to threaten when a free kick from Karl Henry found Ebanks-Blake in space but he headed straight at Palace keeper Julian Speroni, five minutes later the same keeper was in action again when tipping Stephen Elliott's long range effort round the post. Darren Potter picked out Jody Craddock from the resulting corner but the centre half headed wide from 12 yards when he should have at least hit the target. The pattern of play continued to be the same with Wolves finishing the half the stronger of the two sides and Elliott trying his luck with a shot from the edge of the area, but his effort was weak allowing Speroni an easy save.

Both sets of supporters were hoping for a hint of some entertainment as the teams came out for the second half but alas it wasn't to be. Ebanks-Blake set the trend when he blazed wide in the opening exchanges and then team mate David Edwards also shot off target from outside the penalty area. The match seemed to be locked in stalemate and going nowhere when Gray produced a moment of magic with a quarter of an hour left, the midfielder picked up the ball after a Potter shot had cannoned off a Palace defender and from 25 yards out hit an absolute screamer past Peroni into the top left hand corner of the net.



With five minutes left Wolves were dealt a blow when Hennessey went off injured following a crude shoulder barge by Matthew Lawrence, referee Woolmer deemed it unworthy of any kind of card and Graham Stack came off the bench to replace the hospital bound keeper. Moments later the points were safe as Kevin Kyle doubled the lead, the on-loan

striker who had come on as a sub collected a long clearance from Collins and turned before cracking a superb effort from outside the area past the helpless Speroni. As the game went into six minutes stoppage time Potter again went close when his shot clipped the top of the bar.

Opinion: Dominated play without creating the usual hatful of chances, but overall deserved the three points.

Man of the match: Gray

Team Rating: 7/10

Attendance: 15,679

Team: Hennessey (Stack 87), Collins, Breen, Craddock, Elokobi, Henry, Potter, David Edwards, Elliott (Foley 87), Gray, Ebanks-Blake (Kyle 81)

Unused Subs: Olofinjana, Eastwood

Bookings: Elokobi (41 – foul)

BREEN HOLDS THE FORT

COLCHESTER UTD 0-1 WOLVES

Saturday 1st March 2008

Wolves put themselves back in the hunt for a Championship play-off place with a hard fought 1-0 victory over relegation candidates Colchester at Layer Road, it certainly wasn't a game for the purists but it was back to back wins in the league for the first time since January. Goalkeeper Wayne Hennessey passed a late fitness test for the visitors which meant it was an unchanged line-up from the one that won 2-0 at Crystal Palace a week earlier.



It was Colchester who began the brighter of the sides with old war horse Gary Breen blocking Clive Platt's 6th minute effort following Kevin McLeod's cross. The home team continued to push forward and almost broke the deadlock a few moments later when Michael Gray handled the ball on the edge of the box, McLeod steered Chris Coyne's free-kick towards goal but Hennessey was well placed to save.

Wolves not to be outdone also created chances of their own and when Stephen Elliott found himself well placed inside the box only Kevin Watson's block prevented

his shot from finding the net. The visitors went ahead on the half-hour mark with their first shot on target, Ebanks-Blake raced onto a long ball out of defence and a slip by defender Adam Virgo let the striker in on goal to beat the advancing keeper Dean Gerken from the edge of the area. Kevin Lisbie wasted Colchester's best



chance of the first half in the last minute of stoppage time when he went racing through clear on goal only to see his shot blocked by Hennessey with Breen following up to complete the clearance.

Wolves always looked comfortable after the break and never looked like surrendering their slender one goal lead. On the hour mark they created the first real opening of the second half but Elliott fired high and wide from 35 yards out. Shortly after it was Elokobi who threatened to score on the return to the club he left in January, Gray's corner was half cleared and in the ensuing melee the loose ball fell to the full back who hit a low drive that was cleared off the line by Ifil.

The Colchester forwards were easily kept at bay by man of the match Breen and his makeshift partner Collins who had joined him in the heart of defence following the substitution of the injured Craddock. There was a scare for Wolves in the last minute of stoppage time when Johnnie Jackson had a free-kick deflected wide off the defensive wall and there was just time for the corner to be taken, the ball flashed across the face of goal but neither Hammond nor Izale McLeod were able to apply the finishing touch.

Opinion: Not very pretty but three points is three points away from home at this crucial stage of the season.

Man of the match: Breen

Team Rating: 5/10

Attendance: 5,989

Team: Hennessey, Collins, Elokobi, Henry, Craddock (Foley 34), Breen, Potter, David Edwards, Ebanks-Blake (Kyle 77), Elliot, Gray (Gibson 77)

Unused Subs: Stack, Eastwood

Bookings: Gray (40 – Foul)

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EUELL HAVE TO DEFEND BETTER THAN THAT

WOLVES 2-2 SOUTHAMPTON

Tuesday 4th March 2008

Wolves have not beaten Southampton at Molineux since 1979 and that statistic will remain the same for at least another season as the home side conceded a goal in the 94th minute to effectively throw away two vital points in their chase for a play-off place.

There was basically nothing to report regarding entertainment in the first half as both teams consistently gave away possession and struggled to string two passes together. Funnily enough the best chance of the half came after only two minutes, Ebanks-Blake raced clear down the left and cut the ball back across goal in the direction of Elliott, he opted to take it first time on his weaker left foot and skewed his shot high and wide. That miss set the tone for the rest of the half and the following 43 minutes can only be described as "shocking" and as the teams left the field for their half time refreshment the crowd made their feelings known with a chorus of boos echoing around the ground.

The boos that greeted both teams at half time had obviously made no difference to the players attitude at the start of the second half, play continued in the same vein as the first 45 minutes with a series of wayward passes and long clearances in the hope that one of the forwards might get on the end of one. After an hour of complete dross McCarthy sent on Keogh and Potter for Kyle and Henry and the substitution looked inspired as the game suddenly came to life. Within a minute of the change Ebanks-Blake opened the scoring when he latched on to a long through ball before powering into the area and smashing the ball past substitute goalkeeper Michael Poke at his near post.



A quarter of an hour later the scores were level when Southampton were awarded a penalty following a horrible decision by

referee Webster when he deemed that Foley had fouled the acrobatic McGoldrick. Firstly it seemed that the incident had occurred outside the area and secondly that no contact had been made at all anyway, Vignal stayed calm during the protests and lashed the resulting penalty past Hennessey. Wolves turned the heat on Southampton as they went in search of a winner and with 10 minutes remaining were given a boost as goal scorer Vignal received his marching orders for a second bookable offence. The home team needed just seven minutes to take advantage of having the extra man, and looked to have grabbed all three points when Ebanks-Blake volleyed home from close range after Keogh had headed down a cross from Elokobi.

The game approached the fourth and last minute of time added on but there was still time for one last twist when a foul on Jarvis who was tackling back went unnoticed by the linesman, who instead awarded a corner. As the corner came over and with both posts left unattended Potter let Euell in front of him to power a header into the top left corner of the net for the equaliser.

Opinion: Schoolboy defending at the death means two vital points thrown down the pan.

Man of the match: Ebanks-Blake

Team Rating: 4/10

Attendance: 21,795

Team: *Hennessey, Foley, Collins, Breen, Elokobi, Henry (Potter 60), Elliott (Eastwood 79), David Edwards, Jarvis, Ebanks-Blake, Kyle (Keogh 60)*

Unused Subs: Stack, Rob Edwards

Bookings: Breen (10 – foul)

A ROLLING BROWN GATHERS FROM MOSS

PRESTON N.E. 2-1 WOLVES

Tuesday 11th March 2008

For the second game in a row Wolves challenge for a play off place suffered a massive blow when a shocking refereeing decision allowed Preston to equalise from the penalty spot at a time when the visitors were in total command. Preston who haven't lost at home on a Tuesday night for seven years kept that record intact as they went on to win 2-1 and ease their relegation fears.

On a blustery evening Wolves had the first goal scoring chance after just two minutes

when Darren Potter put David Edwards clear, but his shot was well saved by keeper Andy Lonergan in a one-on-one situation. Moments later it was Preston's turn as Brown put Priskin through but his 20-yard pile driver was straight into Hennessey's body. Wolves were playing with a 4-5-1 formation with Ebanks-Blake playing the lone striker and in the 24th minute he came close when he fired a shot through a crowded area and just wide of the far post. As if the gale force winds weren't bad enough, conditions became worse as the rain started to bucket down. Wolves were becoming their own worse enemy as they constantly put themselves under pressure when giving the ball away in dangerous positions and Sean St Ledger nearly took advantage when heading onto the roof of the net following a cross from Darren Carter. As the half-time whistle drew near, Preston upped the ante in a bid to gain an advantage and came close with shots from Chris Sedgwick, Davidson and an overhead kick by Whaley.

Keogh replaced Edwards at the start of the second half with manager McCarthy opting to go back to a traditional 4-4-2 formation. The second half started at a frantic pace with both sides looking to break the deadlock. After Stephen Elliott and Ebanks-Blake had fired in early shots it was substitute Keogh who broke the deadlock in the 52nd minute with a brilliant solo effort, the replacement ran at the Preston defence and then shot low and hard from 20 yards into the bottom left hand corner of the net.



Within 10 minutes Preston drew level when they were awarded a penalty, referee Jon Moss adjudged that Craddock had pulled over Brown in the area, but it was a blatant dive that warranted a card for the cheating striker who acrobatically threw himself to the ground, to Wolves dismay the spot kick was then blasted in by Davison. The decision proved the turning point and put Preston in the ascendancy, they took the game to Wolves and piled on the pressure and in the 80th minute the pressure finally paid off, Whaley was left in acres of space in the area and he swivelled sharply before lashing a shot into the corner

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of the net. It was a real choker for Wolves and the goal proved to be the winner courtesy of the penalty gifted to the home side by another Sunday league referee.

Opinion: Game turned on its head by a terrible penalty decision.

Man of the match: Keogh

Team Rating: 4/10

Attendance: 12,090

Team: Hennessey, Collins, Breen, Craddock, Elokobi, Elliott (Gibson 67), David Edwards (Keogh 46), Henry, Potter, Gray (Jarvis 67), Ebanks-Blake

Unused Subs: Stack, Foley

Bookings: None

GIFT OF THE GAB

BURNLEY 1-3 WOLVES

Saturday 15th March 2008

Following the disappointment of only taking one point from their previous two games, and not helped by two outrageous penalty decisions given against them, Wolves got back to winning ways with a terrific 3-1 win away to Burnley. It was the first time Burnley had lost at home in 2008 which makes the victory all that more impressive. It was a bright start by both teams with Wolves old boy Ade Akiinbiyi creating the first opportunity when heading wide in the third minute. Seyi George Olofinjana returning to the side in a more attacking midfield role than usually accustomed was handed Wolves first real chance in the tenth minute, he raced onto a Ebanks-Blake through ball only to fire wide of keeper Kiraly's left hand post. Four minutes later Wolves took the lead when the same two players combined in the same fashion, but this time Olofinjana took the ball a few yards closer to goal before coolly slotting home past Burnley goalkeeper Gabor Kiraly.

Burnley barely had time to take breath when they gifted Wolves a second, Clarke Carlisle under hit a back pass to Kiraly who completed the "Keystone Cops" defending when he blasted an attempted clearance straight at Gray which rebounded back past the hapless keeper and into the



empty net. The home team came back strongly after the double setback but Wolves always seemed comfortable at the back, although keeper Hennessey had to be alert on the half-hour mark when he tipped Alexander's rasping 12 yard drive round the post

Burnley continued to look a shambles in defence and were nearly punished again five minutes into the second half when Neil Alexander was robbed of possession by Gray, but he was rescued by Kiraly who dived bravely at the feet of the midfielder. Having learned nothing from their mistakes Kiraly then made another howler five minutes later when he allowed a soft shot from Ebanks-Blake to slip under his body and trickle over the goal-line and into the net after the striker had played a one-two with Andy Keogh on the edge of the penalty area.



With the score at 3-0 it was game over as far as Wolves were concerned. Burnley did get a consolation goal when Akinbiyi scored from close range at the second attempt after Hennessey had blocked his initial header. The goal gave Burnley a faint hope and they piled forward in the hope of salvaging a point but the Wolves defence held firm in the remaining quarter of an hour for a well deserved victory.

Opinion: About time we had a bit of luck after the penalty decisions in the previous two games.

Man of the match: Olofinjana

Team Rating: 8/10

Attendance: 12,749

Team: Hennessey, Foley, Darren Ward, Collins, Elokobi, Olofinjana (Eastwood 86),

Henry, Potter, Gray (Gibson 70), Ebanks-Blake (Kyle 83), Keogh

Unused Subs: Rob Edwards, Stack

Bookings: Elokobi (79 – Time Wasting)

WOLVES ENDURE A PRESSING TIME AGAINST THE IRONS

WOLVES 2-1 SCUNTHORPE UTD

Tuesday 18th March 2008

Wolves took all three points against lowly Scunthorpe with a 2-1 win at Molineux, but it was a disappointing display from a team pushing for a playoff spot. The home side were booed off by their own supporters at half time but composed themselves in the second half to take the points with goals from Michael Gray and Neill Collins.

One of the Championship's basement boys Scunthorpe shook the home team by taking the lead in only the fifth minute. McCann delivered a pinpoint corner from the right and Butler rose alongside three Wolves defenders and somehow managed to get in a virtually free header that flew into the left hand corner of the net. It was a shocking start for Wolves who then had to endure the usual negative chants from some of the fickle members of the home support.

Wolves continued to labour and were their own worst enemy as they consistently gave the ball away, it was 15 minutes before they even had an attempt at goal when defender Darren Ward headed a Potter free-kick just over the crossbar. Wolves had to wait until four minutes before the break for their next real chance, but Ebanks-Blake had his shot blocked by keeper Murphy after Jarvis had put the striker through. The half finished when the visitors thought they had scored a second, but fortunately for Wolves the linesman had flagged for offside. The home players left the field at half time to a chorus of boos from the disappointed fans, it was no more than they deserved following what can only be described as an abject display.

It was imperative that Wolves got an early goal in the second half and after showing a bit more urgency after the re-start they got the goal that they desperately needed in the 57th minute. A Jarvis free-kick was cleared to the edge of the area where Gray was waiting to unleash a volley that screamed past Murphy into the roof of the Scunthorpe net. The home fans chants for the introduction of Freddy Eastwood were

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finally granted with 25 minutes left on the clock, but his only real chance was blocked for a corner as Scunthorpe packed their own penalty area with 11 players in the hope of hanging onto a point. It looked like the ploy had worked as a furious late assault on the Scunthorpe goal saw Ebanks-Blake crash a volley against the bar and then his header cleared off the line by Baraclough. Wolves finally made the breakthrough in the 82nd minute, Jarvis sent over a cross from the by-line and Collins was on hand to power a header into the corner of the net.



Opinion: Shouldn't be struggling against a bottom three team that have one of the worst away records in the Championship.

Man of the match: Gray

Team Rating: 5/10

Attendance: 21,628

Team: Hennessey, Foley, Darren Ward, Collins, Elokobi, Potter (Jarvis 31), Olofinjana, Henry, Gray (Eastwood 67), Keogh, Ebanks-Blake (Kyle 88)

Unused Subs: Stack, Gibson

Bookings: Gray (42 – shirt pulling)

KEOGH S A PINBALL WIZZARD

WOLVES 3-3 QPR

Saturday 22nd March 2008

Andy Keogh scored a dramatic injury time equaliser to make the score 3-3 and salvage a priceless point for Wolves in their quest for a play-off place. Wolves had the better of the game and it would have been a travesty had QPR gone back down the M1 with all three points.

Wolves had the better of the earlier play even though Mick McCarthy was forced to make an early substitute when Jody Craddock replaced Rob Edwards after



only six minutes due to an ankle injury. Michael Gray, Andy Keogh, Matt Jarvis and Sylvan Ebanks-Blake all had efforts on goal before QPR took the lead against the run of play in the 27th minute. The home defence gave Buzsaky acres of space and he took full advantage by unleashing a 20 yarder into the back of the net down to Hennessey's right hand side. Undeterred, Wolves battled back and even though Lee Camp was in superb form in the QPR goal he couldn't prevent a deserved equaliser right on the stroke of half time, Gray crossed from the right and Keogh was there at the back post to head home from six yards.

With blizzard like conditions greeting the teams at the start of the second half Wolves started the brighter of the two teams after the break, but they were rocked when a penalty was awarded against them in the 49th minute. The luckless Neill Collins was harshly adjudged to have handled when it appeared to have hit his chest and Dexter Blackstock stepped up to blast in the spot kick with Hennessey going the wrong way.

With the crowd behind them the home team again went forward in search of an equaliser and Ebanks-Blake almost pulled them level but Camp again saved well, while a Kevin Foley's effort soon after was also cleared by Buzsaky. As if trying to put things right referee Oliver then awarded Wolves a penalty in the 64th minute even though it seemed Mancienne fouled Jarvis outside the penalty area, but it was poetic justice as Ebanks-Blake stepped up to power the ball down the centre as Camp dived to his right. Wolves had 25 minutes left to go on and win the game they had dominated from the start and more chances were missed before the home team committed defensive suicide with 11 minutes remaining, a weak Craddock clearance was intercepted by Leigertwood and he beat Hennessey from outside the area with a powerful first time volley.

However, in the fifth and final minute of



stoppage time there was to be one final twist to the game. It was a case of pinball football as Ebanks-Blake turned and fired in a shot that Camp pushed away, the striker followed up and shot again only to see his second effort strike the post, Olofinjana then put in another effort that Blackstock cleared off the line. Finally the ball ran to Eastwood on the edge of the box and he slipped the ball to Keogh who hit an angled shot that went just inside the far post to give Wolves the point they deserved and sent their supporters delirious.

Opinion: Never say die attitude earns a point that could prove golden at the end of the campaign.

Man of the match: Keogh

Team Rating: 8/10

Attendance: 24,290

Team: Hennessey, Foley (Kyle 87), Collins, Rob Edwards (Craddock 6), Elokobi, Jarvis, Olofinjana, Henry, Gray (Eastwood 59), Keogh, Ebanks-Blake

Unused Subs: Stack, Gibson

Bookings: Collins (48 - dissent), Jarvis (64 – foul)

EBANKS-BLAKE GETS A SCORING ADDICTION

CHARLTON ATHLETIC 2-3 WOLVES

Saturday 29th March 2008

Wolves beat their Sky TV jinx with a thrilling 3-2 away win at fellow promotion chasers Charlton and move into the top six at exactly the right time of the season. It was birthday boy Sylvan Ebanks-Blake who stole the headlines with a superb brace to give Wolves a fully deserved victory. In an incredible finish to the game there were two goals deep into injury time with Charlton equalising and Wolves then snatching victory with the last kick of the game.

Due to the late kick off Wolves knew that a win would take them into the top six and into the play-off places, and the way they

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went at Charlton from the start it was clear that getting into the top six was top priority. The first chance fell to Olofinjana who headed wide from a Michael Gray corner when he should have perhaps done better. Having taken the game to Charlton from the off Wolves deservedly took the lead in the 15th minute. Andy Keogh was put clear down the right wing and he squared the ball back to Ebanks-Blake who let the ball run across his body before turning his marker and hitting a cracking shot past Weaver, and into the bottom-right hand corner of the net.

Charlton then drew level in the 31st minute, a half clearance broke to Thomas who crossed into the area to the unmarked Halford, he then volleyed the ball through a rook of players and past Hennessey to make the score 1-1. Karl Henry missed a glorious chance to restore the lead for Wolves two minutes before the break, Jarvis put Ebanks-Blake through on goal and his shot came back off the post to Henry who with Weaver on the ground and the goal at his mercy shot wide.

Charlton started the second half much more determined and for the first time in the game it was Wolves who were on the back foot. Halford almost put the home team ahead when Craddock was adjudged to have fouled Iwelumo. Halford curled the free-kick towards the top corner of the net but was denied by a superb fingertip save from Hennessey, minutes later the Wolves goalkeeper was called into action again when he produced another great save to deny Lita who was through on goal. It was Wolves who regained the lead in spectacular fashion with a goal from Ebanks-Blake in



the 80th minute, he collected the ball on the by-line, flicked it through the legs of McCarthy and ran round the defender before lashing the ball into the top corner of the net.

In the second minute of injury time it looked like Wolves had thrown away two valuable points and the chance of moving into the top six when Charlton levelled the scores at 2-2, a long hopeful ball was punted into the box by Sodje and Lita rose above his marker to head the ball into the bottom left hand corner of the net. The drama wasn't finished yet though as substitute Kevin Kyle saw his header come back off the bar from an Eastwood corner. In the final seconds of injury time the same player made a long run down the left flank before hitting a low cross that was met at the far post by Henry who slid the ball into the empty net to make the score 3-2.

Opinion: It all seems to be coming good at exactly the right time.

Man of the match: Ebanks-Blake

Team Rating: 10/10 – Best of the season so far

Attendance: 23,187

Team: Hennessey, Foley, Craddock, Collins, Elokobi, Jarvis (Eastwood 80), Henry, Olofinjana, Gray (Gibson 70), Ebanks-Blake (Kyle 86), Keogh

Unused Subs: Stack, Darren Ward

Bookings: Collins (72-unsporting behaviour), Craddock (78 - persistent fouling), Henry (90 - over celebrating goal)

NOT QUITE SO "SHIP-SHAPE AND BRISTOL FASHION"

BRISTOL CITY 0-0 WOLVES

Saturday 12th April 2008

Following this scoreless draw Wolves will be disappointed that they left Ashton Gate with only a point after a game they dominated for long periods. There was more refereeing controversy in the last five minutes of the game when Matt Jarvis was sent tumbling in the area by two Bristol defenders, but yet again in line with other dubious decisions given during the season the referee inexplicably waved play on when perfectly placed for what seemed a stonewall penalty.

Cheered on by a full allocation of over 2000 away fans Wolves ripped into Bristol from the kick-off and nearly took the lead in the first minute. Ebanks-Blake won possession from McCombe on the by-line



and pulled it back to Gray who miss-kicked his first effort, but then reacted quickly to force Basso into a full length save from 12 yards with his second effort. Wolves continued to press forward and six minutes later Olofinjana spotted Basso off his line and hit a 25-yard volley that just drifted wide of the post, moments later Hennessey then denied Byfield from similar range at the other end.

Just after the half hour mark Jarvis had a glorious chance to put Wolves in front, the lively Gray crossed from the right hand side and Olofinjana flicked the ball on to the waiting winger whose shot from eight yards was brilliantly beaten away by the in-form Basso. As the half drew to a conclusion it was Bristol in the ascendancy but manager Mick McCarthy would have been bitterly disappointed that his team went in for their half time refreshment without the lead considering their overall supremacy.

Chances were far and few between in the second half although it was Wolves who just about had the best of the possession but without having that final cutting edge. In the 69th minute Bristol created their best opening of the game when a long throw by McAllister was half cleared to Sproule whose fierce shot was beaten away by Hennessey. A minute later play swung to the other end and Keogh unleashed a shot from 25 yards that drew another fantastic save from Basso who tipped the ball over the bar. From the resulting corner Neill Collins, with the goal at his mercy got his head to the ball but luckily for Bristol it went straight into the arms of Basso.

With the game at stalemate and with just over four minutes left Wolves were denied a blatant penalty by a shocking decision from another Sunday morning referee. As Jarvis broke into the area from the wing he was taken out from a combined effort by McCombe and Orr, but to the disbelief of the Wolves players and relief of the home supporters referee Taylor waved play on. There was to be one last effort from

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Wolves when Elokobi hooked the ball towards goal following a corner, but Brooker was guarding the post and cleared the ball off the line to deny Wolves the three points that were there for the taking.

Opinion: Destiny in our own hands with two games in hand and four out of five at home.

Man of the match: Gray

Team Rating: 6/10

Attendance: 19,332

Team: Hennessey, Foley, Craddock, Collins, Elokobi, Jarvis, Gibson, Olofinjana, Gray (Eastwood 76), Keogh, Ebanks-Blake

Unused Subs: Stack, Breen, Potter, Kyle

Bookings: Olofinjana (90 - unsporting behaviour)

BAD DAY AT THE OFFICE

WOLVES 0-1 WEST BROM

Tuesday 15th April 2008



As much as it pains me to write it Wolves were comprehensively beaten by their illustrious neighbours in the Black Country derby at Molineux. The 1-0 score line means that Mick McCarthy's side have now lost five of last the seven league, FA Cup and play-off meetings between the sides in the last two seasons. It was a thrill a minute game with the goal attempts figures reading 15-8 in favour of the visitors.

The visitors started the brighter of the two sides and nearly took the lead as early as the fourth minute when a Gera cross from the right was met by the head of Miller, but the ball went just over the bar and landed on the roof of the net. As the play went from one end to the other it was Wolves turn to go close when Olofinjana shot just wide after a clever turn and pass from Sylvan Ebanks-Blake. Gera then cut a low cross back to Miller who turned Craddock before shooting straight into the arms of a relieved Hennessey. It was a pulsating start to the game and Ebanks-Blake should have opened the scoring in the 10th minute. Elokobi's ball through was flicked on by Keogh to put Jarvis clear

down the left, he then sent over a perfect cross onto the head of the waiting Ebanks-Blake, but he failed to control his header and saw the ball sail over the bar from just seven yards out. Sandwell came even closer to opening the scoring in their next attack, Greening's free-kick from the right was met by Gera at the near post but his header rebounded back off the angle of post and bar with Hennessey well beaten. Wolves rode their luck again when Hennessey denied Miller by tipping away his low shot with the ball then bouncing off the intruding Phillips and over the bar from right on the goal line. That lucky let-off sparked Wolves into their best spell of the half and they were unfortunate not to break the deadlock on the half-hour after a right-wing corner from Jarvis. Craddock saw his shot blocked and Barnett then headed an effort from Ebanks-Blake off the line. Morrison collected the clearance for the visitors and ran the full length of the field only to see his shot saved by Hennessey. The Wolves keeper then pulled off the best save of the half three minutes before the break when he acrobatically tipped a Neil Clement free kick over the bar.

It was Michael Gray who had the first chance of the second half, Jarvis sent in a deep ball from the left that eluded everyone in the area and Gray slid in at the far post but his effort went into the side netting. Wolves tormentor from last year Kevin Phillips then came within inches of opening the scoring in the 57th minute, Koren slid the ball into the path of Phillips wide on the right of the area, he then hit a first-time shot from 15 yards which went through Collins' legs and struck the inside of the far post. However a minute later the visitors took the lead with a goal from Gera, a quick ball forward caught the home defence square and Phillips skipped over the challenge of Craddock, he then slid the ball back across the six-yard box when Gera was waiting unmarked to side foot the ball home. In an effort to salvage a point McCarthy sent on strikers Freddy Eastwood and Kevin Kyle and Eastwood did produce one long-range drive that was



well held by Kiely. The home side's last chance fell to Olofinjana the 88th minute but his drive was well held at the near post by Kiely.

Opinion: Wembley play-off final getting further away by the minute.

Man of the match: Hennessey

Team Rating: 5/10

Attendance: 27,883

Team: Hennessey, Foley (Kyle 81), Collins, Craddock, Elokobi, Jarvis, Olofinjana, Gibson, Gray (Eastwood 74), Keogh, Ebanks-Blake

Unused Subs: Stack, Breen, Potter

Bookings: Elokobi (81 - foul)

BREEN GIVES TRACTOR BOYS ENGINES A LAST MINUTE SPARK

WOLVES 1-1 IPSWICH TOWN

Saturday 19th April 2008

Wolves play-off ambitions took a massive blow against fellow contenders Ipswich Town at Molineux. The game finished 1-1 after Tommy Miller scored an equaliser for the visitors in the last seconds of the three minutes of time added on. With Crystal Palace winning at Watford it now means Wolves are depending on other teams dropping points if they are to achieve that elusive final play-off spot.

Ipswich, with only three league away wins to their name all season, started the brighter and had the first real chance in the 5th minute when Walters fired an angled shot over the bar after running on to a pass from Miller. Wolves then suffered a blow after 15 minutes when David Edwards, just back from injury limped off after an innocuous challenge in midfield, and when he failed to run the injury off he was replaced by Breen due to the inexplicable absence of a midfielder on the bench. Breen took up a position in the centre of defence with Craddock, and Collins moved to right-back with Foley taking over the midfield role. Following the re-shuffle the home side continued to press forward and Keogh's left-foot shot from inside the box in the 20th minute went just over. However, a few minutes later Ebanks-Blake squandered the best chance of the first half, he was only two yards out when he latched onto a cross from Elokobi only to volley the ball high over the bar. That miss seemed to rock Wolves and Ipswich enjoyed their best spell of the match with Hennessey in the

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thick of all the action, he made good saves from Walters, Quinn and Counago in the ten minute period leading up to half time. Keogh missed a golden opportunity to hand Wolves the lead two minutes before half-time but he headed over when well placed after being picked out by Jarvis's corner.



Following the numerous amount of chances in the first half it was no surprise when the pace slowed a little at the start of the second half, but there was some good news for Wolves fans with the return of Michael Kightly who replaced Michael Gray at the start of the second half. Desperate for a break the home team upped the pace on the hour mark with Jarvis and Kightly running the Ipswich defence ragged. A cross from Jarvis was cleared from in front of goal by Wright and from another precision centre from the same player, Kightly's diving header was deflected over the bar. From the corner, taken by Jarvis, Ebanks-Blake saw his header beaten away by goalkeeper Bywater and then had a follow-up shot inadvertently blocked on the line by his own team-mate Collins. But the relief for Ipswich was short lived when moments later Ebanks-Blake got his name on the scoresheet, he chested down a long ball into the box from Elokobi and let the ball bounce before volleying a low shot on the turn past Bywater.



Wolves in the ascendency went for a killer second goal with Kightly and Ebanks-Blake both going close. However disaster struck in the final seconds of time added on, Breen gave a needless free kick away on the edge of his own area and Miller

stepped up to ram home the free-kick through the shambles calling itself a wall, and past Hennessey who was given no chance. Five seconds after the restart the referee blew for time and Ipswich went home with a point that keeps them one place above Wolves in the table.

Opinion: Now I know how the Charlton supporters felt three weeks ago.

Man of the match: Foley

Team Rating: 6/10

Attendance: 26,072

Team: Hennessey, Foley, Collins, Craddock, Elokobi, Jarvis, Olofinjana, David Edwards (Breen 17), Gray (Kightly 46), Keogh, Ebanks-Blake (Kyle 86)

Unused Subs: Stack, Elliott

Bookings: Ebanks-Blake (72 – taking shirt off), Olofinjana (77 – foul), Foley (87 – foul)

THREE CARD TRICK

WOLVES 3-0 CARDIFF CITY

Tuesday 22nd April 2008

Following the disappointment of conceding two valuable points at the death against Ipswich in their last match, Wolves kept their slim play-off hopes alive with a 3-0 win over cup finalists Cardiff at Molineux. Michael Kightly returned to the starting line-up for the first time in five months and marked his appearance with a goal, while goalkeeper Wayne Hennessey kept his 18th clean sheet of the season.

Cardiff started the better of the two teams and it was they who had the first real chance when Hennessey easily saved Johnson's header from a corner, but a few minutes later Wolves had taken the lead. Keogh took a free kick on the edge of the area that came back off the wall, the ball rebounded to Kightly who crossed to the back of the area where Foley was waiting to head back towards goal, Keogh then dived in to meet the ball and planted a bullet of a header into the top right hand corner of the net. Cardiff, themselves with an outside chance of reaching the play-offs, fought back and came close to equalising



in the 19th minute when a Ledley thunderbolt hit the legs of Craddock and deflected away for a corner. A minute later they came even closer when Rae headed down a cross into the path of Hasselbaink whose shot was brilliantly saved by the legs of Hennessey.

As the game approached half time, Wolves who had been on the back foot for most of the half started to find a bit of form. In the 38th minute they had a two on one break with Jarvis charging down the left and Ebanks-Blake supporting in the middle, but when the winger tried to find the striker Loovens just managed to get a foot in and deny Wolves a second. However, two minutes before half-time the home side did extend their lead, Foley's cross was headed back across goal by Keogh and Ebanks-Blake got in between two defenders on the line to slide the ball home.



That goal right on half time seemed to rock Cardiff, who after dominating for most of the first half still found themselves two down, and it was game over in the 56th minute when Wolves added a third. Kightly fed Ebanks-Blake on the edge of the area and in one movement turned and fired in a low drive that Enckelman was unable to hold, Kightly reacted in a flash and followed up to stab the ball into the net. On the hour mark, and with the points in the bag, Kightly, who was making his first start since November was replaced by Stephen Elliot. The winger was given a standing ovation as he took his place on the bench and his performance showed how much Wolves had missed him following his injury. Cardiff's day was summed up after 62 minutes when they were denied a consolation goal when Hennessey pulled off another stunning save to deny Hasselbaink for a second time.

The rest of the game became a pedestrian type affair with both teams content to play out time and the only other chance worth mentioning came four minutes from time, Keogh sent in a corner from the left by-line which resulted in efforts from Olofinjana and Ebanks-Blake before the ball was eventually cleared.

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Opinion: Nice to see the killer instinct when under the cosh.

Man of the match: Keogh

Team Rating: 7/10

Attendance: 20,862

Team: Hennessey, Foley (Collins 87), Breen, Craddock, Elokobi, Kightly (Stephen Ward 60), Olofinjana, Gibson, Jarvis (Elliott 76), Keogh, Ebanks-Blake

Unused Subs: Stack, Eastwood

Bookings: None

PLAYERS SEND FANS TO COVENTRY

COVENTRY CITY 1-1 WOLVES

Saturday 26th April 2008



Wolves are now depending on the results of other teams if they are to have any chance of reaching the play-offs following an uninspired 1-1 draw with relegation threatened Coventry City at the Ricoh Stadium. It was a missed opportunity for Wolves, who could have climbed into the top six with a victory after Crystal Palace had been beaten at Hull. And after this sub-standard performance the players couldn't even be bothered to walk over to the massive following of 5000 supporters who had given them such tremendous support throughout the whole of the game, only a few made a half hearted gesture when they turned and faced the supporters before clapping their hands over their heads, and even that was from near the half way line.

The first chance of the game fell to Wolves in the 2nd minute when Ebanks-Blake chased a long ball down the middle, but he shot over when forced wide by two defenders. With a lot at stake for both teams it was a scrappy affair early on, but then Coventry suddenly scored out of the blue with virtually their first chance in the 17th minute. Olofinjana who was poor all afternoon fouled Ward in the centre of midfield in the Wolves half. From the free-kick Hughes floated the ball into the area and

Ward, who was left in acres of space by Elokobi, was all on his own to pick his spot and glance the ball over Hennessey and into the corner of the net. Despite dominating possession Wolves were restricted to a handful of chances and created very little in respect to clear-cut scoring attempts. However they had their best effort of the half in the 37th minute, a cross from Jarvis on the left curled across the area to Keogh and his downward header bounced down and over the bar from the close range.



Wolves showed more endeavour at the start of the second half and levelled the scores eight minutes after the break, Keogh's neat back pass sent Kightly clear on the right of the box until he was brought down by defender Dann. Ebanks-Blake stepped up to take the penalty and wasn't put off by Schmeichel's time wasting tactics as he smacked the ball down the middle and into the back of the net. Seven minutes later and Keogh almost gave his side the lead, he ran on to Kightly free-kick and hit a first-time volley that was brilliantly saved by Schmeichel who deflected the ball onto the top of the bar and behind for a corner.



With both teams needing the points the game opened up and turned into an end to end affair with Mifsud dragging a

shot wide before Ebanks-Blake volleyed over after a build up involving Keogh and Kightly. In the 70th minute Hennessey was quickly off his line to block from Mifsud who was clean through, and seconds later Breen saved Wolves again when he made a vital last gasp tackle on Tabb just as the striker, who was eight yards out went to pull the trigger. As the game reached its conclusion Wolves went for broke and Hennessey denied Mifsud with another full length save as they left themselves open

to the break. Ebanks-Blake almost won it for Wolves with virtually the last kick of the game, his low shot looked a goal all the way until Schmeichel somehow got down to parry the shot before grabbing the loose ball.

Opinion: Another Golden opportunity to get in the play-off places goes out the window.

Man of the match: Ebanks-Blake

Team Rating: 6/10

Attendance: 27,992

Team: Hennessey, Foley, Breen, Craddock, Elokobi, Kightly (Gray 78), Olofinjana, Gibson (Elliott 88), Jarvis (Stephen Ward 89), Keogh, Ebanks-Blake

Unused Subs: Stack, Collins

Bookings: Gibson (9 - foul), Olofinjana (60 - foul), Ebanks-Blake (90 - dissent)

NO PILGRIMAGE TO THE PROMISED LAND

WOLVES 1-0 PLYMOUTH ARGYLE

Sunday 4th May 2008

Seyi Olofinjana's late winner against Plymouth at Molineux was not enough as Wolves agonisingly missed out on a place in the Coca-Cola Championship play-offs, Watford's draw at Blackpool meant that Mick McCarthy's team disappointingly missed out on a top-six finish on goal difference. Frustratingly, they could easily have scored the two extra goals required with Michael Kightly and Andy Keogh particularly guilty of spurning golden opportunities. However, it wasn't the results on the last day that cost Wolves in the end but the dropped points in the run-in, particularly in the match against Ipswich where a goal from a free-kick in the 94th minute after a stupid foul by Gary Breen cost two valuable points that could have made all the difference.



With so much at stake Wolves went straight on the offensive and pinned Argyle into their own penalty area. Jarvis accelerated down the left wing and sent in a pinpoint delivery under the crossbar, but Timar came to the visitors rescue by heading

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over his own bar with the Wolves attack ready to pounce. Plymouth had another massive let off in the 18th minute, a cross from Jarvis was helped on by Keogh into the path of Kightly but with the goal at his mercy the winger seemed to slip and sliced his drive wide. With 20 minutes gone Wayne Hennessey's only contribution had been to field a Craddock back pass, when Plymouth did muster an opportunity the keeper was still not called into action because Fallon selfishly fired into the side-netting from an acute angle when other team mates were better positioned. The Wolves fans anxieties began to translate to the players with the game increasingly



punctuated by loose passes and sloppy errors. However, they almost took the lead moments before the break when Keogh

connected with Olofinjana's low cross only for the ball to creep beyond the far post. It did not appear to be Keogh's day as he came within inches of opening the scoring early on in the second period. Kightly threaded through Olofinjana down the right and his cross was cleared against Keogh, however as with his first half chance the ball trickled past the post. Wolves were nearly left ruing their missed chances as Plymouth enjoyed their best spell of the game at the start of the second half, Mackie shot wide in the 54th minute and then 60 seconds later he headed straight at Hennessey when well placed. Wolves stepped up the tempo and Kightly wasted another excellent chance after being teed up by Sylvan Ebanks-Blake. In an attempt to get the all important goals McCarthy sent on Freddy Eastwood with 25 minutes remaining as a replacement for Keogh, but the out of favour striker failed to make an impact as he dragged his one and only chance wide of the post. While the Wolves players efforts could not be faulted they lacked penetration and a goal seemed a million miles away, but with just three minutes of normal time remaining the gloom was lifted when Olofinjana struck the winner. Foley found Eastwood

and his lofted pass dropped into the path of Olofinjana, as Plymouth keeper McCormick charged out the Nigerian coolly lobbed the ball over him into the net.



Opinion: Season finished as it started highlighting the inability to score goals, ultimately costing us the chance of promotion.

Man of the match: Jarvis

Team Rating: 6/10

Attendance: 26,293

Team: Hennessey, Foley (Elliott 89), Breen, Craddock, Elokobi, Kightly (Gray 85), Olofinjana, Henry, Jarvis, Keogh (Eastwood 65), Ebanks-Blake

Unused Subs: Stack, Collins

Bookings: Henry (61 - foul)

CHAMPIONSHIP 2007-2008 FINAL TABLE

Pos.	Team	Pl	W	D	L	GF	GA	+/-	Pts
1	West Bromwich Albion	46	23	12	11	88	55	33	81
2	Stoke City	46	21	16	9	69	55	14	79
3	Hull City	46	21	12	13	65	47	18	75
4	Bristol City	46	20	14	12	54	53	1	74
5	Crystal Palace	46	18	17	11	58	42	16	71
6	Watford	46	18	16	12	62	56	6	70
7	Wolverhampton Wanderers	46	18	16	12	53	48	5	70
8	Ipswich Town	46	18	15	13	65	56	9	69
9	Sheffield United	46	17	15	14	56	51	5	66
10	Plymouth Argyle	46	17	13	16	60	50	10	64
11	Charlton Athletic	46	17	13	16	62	58	4	64
12	Cardiff City	46	16	16	14	59	55	4	64
13	Burnley	46	16	14	16	60	67	-7	62
14	Queens Park Rangers	46	14	16	16	60	66	-6	58
15	Preston North End	46	15	11	20	50	56	-6	56
16	Sheffield Wednesday	46	14	13	19	54	55	-1	55
17	Norwich City	46	15	10	21	49	59	-10	55
18	Barnsley	46	14	13	19	52	65	-13	55
19	Blackpool	46	12	18	16	59	64	-5	54
20	Southampton	46	13	15	18	56	72	-16	54
21	Coventry City	46	14	11	21	52	63	-11	53
22	Leicester City	46	12	16	18	42	45	-3	52
23	Scunthorpe United	46	11	13	22	46	69	-23	46
24	Colchester United	46	7	17	22	62	86	-24	38

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
enamelled badge
£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

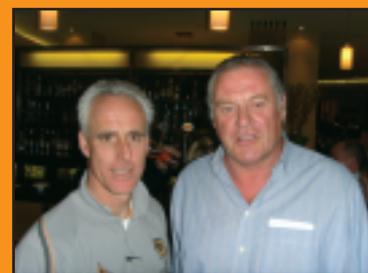
FEEDBACK

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

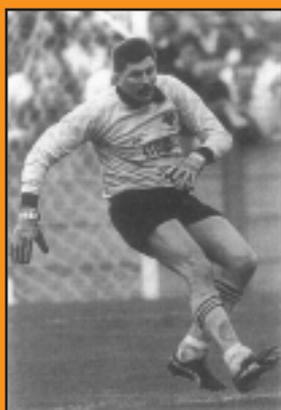
contacts: Stuart Earl 01760 756278 Dave Slape 0208 764 8023 Peter Woodfield 01634 363704

MEET THE PLAYERS



At the "Meet the Players" event, held on Friday 28th March 2008 at the Hilton Hotel in Docklands, Wolves FC again made themselves available to the 40, or so, members keen for autographs and photos. Stuart made the "Player of the Year" presentation to Wayne Hennessey during the evening remarking "oohh, he s a big boy". Now you know how we feel Stuart, when we stand beside you!!

MARK KENDALL R.I.P.



Sad news reached us that goalkeeper Mark Kendall suffered a suspected heart attack on Friday 3rd May and passed away at the tender age of 49. He was a great and lively character and never short of a joke or two.

He joined Wolves towards the end of 1986 and wore the no.1 jersey throughout the 4th and 3rd Division championship winning seasons of 1987-88 and 1988-89, collecting a Wembley winners' medal in the 1988 Sherpa Van Trophy final against Burnley. He played in 177 senior matches for us, setting a club record 28 clean sheets in his first full season.

Born in Wales in September 1958, he won Welsh Schoolboy caps and a solitary Welsh Under-21 cap. From Wolves he signed for Swansea, and eventually retired at the end of the 1991-92 season to become a policeman in Ebbw Vale. He'll be sadly missed, especially at the forthcoming Sherpa Van Trophy re-union dinner.



FIXTURES 2008/2009

August

Sat 9	15:00	A	Plymouth	FLC
Sat 16	15:00	H	Sheffield Wed	FLC
Sat 23	15:00	A	Ipswich Town	FLC
Sat 30	15:00	H	Nottm Forest	FLC

September

Sat 13	15:00	A	Charlton	FLC
Tue 16	19:45	H	Crystal Palace	FLC
Sat 20	15:00	A	Preston	FLC
Sat 27	15:00	H	Bristol City	FLC
Tue 30	19:45	H	Reading	FLC

October

Sat 4	15:00	A	Swansea City	FLC
Sat 18	15:00	H	Coventry City	FLC
Tue 21	19:45	A	Norwich City	FLC
Sat 25	15:00	A	Watford	FLC
Tue 28	19:45	H	Swansea City	FLC

November

Sat 1	17:20	A	Cardiff City	FLC
Sat 8	15:00	H	Burnley	FLC
Sat 15	15:00	A	Southampton	FLC
Sat 22	15:00	H	Blackpool	FLC
Tue 25	19:45	A	Sheffield Utd	FLC
Sat 29	15:00	H	Birmingham	FLC

December

Sat 6	15:00	A	QPR	FLC
Tue 9	19:45	H	Derby County	FLC
Sat 13	15:00	H	Barnsley	FLC
Sat 20	15:00	A	Doncaster	FLC

Fri 26	15:00	H	Sheffield Utd	FLC
Sun 28	15:00	A	Blackpool	FLC

January

Sat 10	15:00	H	Preston	FLC
Sat 17	15:00	A	Bristol City	FLC
Tue 27	19:45	A	Reading	FLC
Sat 31	15:00	H	Watford	FLC

February

Tue 3	19:45	H	Norwich City	FLC
Sat 7	15:00	A	Coventry City	FLC
Sat 14	15:00	A	Burnley	FLC
Sat 21	15:00	H	Cardiff City	FLC
Sat 28	15:00	H	Plymouth	FLC

March

Tue 3	19:45	A	Crystal Palace	FLC
Sat 7	15:00	A	Sheffield Wed	FLC
Tue 10	19:45	H	Ipswich Town	FLC
Sat 14	15:00	H	Charlton	FLC
Sat 21	15:00	A	Nottm Forest	FLC

April

Sat 4	15:00	A	Birmingham	FLC
Sat 11	15:00	H	Southampton	FLC
Mon 13	19:45	A	Derby County	FLC
Sat 18	15:00	H	QPR	FLC
Sat 25	15:00	A	Barnsley	FLC

May

Sun 3	15:00	H	Doncaster	FLC
Sat 30	15:00		FA CUP FINAL	