Wolverhampton Wanderers

LONDON SUPPORTERS CLUB

founded 1966

"OUT OF DARKNESS COMETH STÅLE!!!"

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July 2012

FROM THE CHAIR

WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS LONDON SUPPORTERS CLUB

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Hi everybody,

Dear oh dear, didn't my pre-season prediction of where we'd finish in the Premier League table fail miserably. However, I probably wasn't alone among the supporters with that one! I plumped for a comfortable, mid-table position, thinking that the signings the Club had made justified that cosy feeling. I must admit that as the team got off to a flying start atop of the table, I was really smug around the wilds of Norfolk. However, as results and performances went steadily downhill afterwards, who on earth could have foreseen what was to follow. Many of the displays far exceeded some of the worst performances I have seen in over fifty years of following the Wolves. At times throughout the season, I even lost all interest in travelling to watch the utterly abysmal, embarrassing performances and, I can assure you, I have endured some drivel over the years. At the season end we couldn't even claim that "we were unlucky" or "we were robbed by the ref". As is often said...."the table doesn't lie" so, unfortunately, our good friend, Manager Mick McCarthy, paid the price with his departure with still a third of the season remaining. The internal promotion of Terry Connor to the top job until the end of the season, unfortunately, didn't produce the required results to keep us in the top flight, so, the Championship it is then.

With relegation confirmed, the Club's Board moved quickly to appoint a new manager and so we extend a very warm London Wolves welcome to incoming manager Stale Solbakken. We wish him well as he attempts to take Wolves back to the highest level at the first attempt.

On our Club issues, we have, unfortunately, had to suffer the loss of our printer, ALP, due to the current economic climate in the business world. They did so much to make our Newsletter the great success that it is. Unfortunately, their demise has coincided with our Editor, Stef, needing time off from his arduous Club job to concentrate on family and business matters. My thanks, therefore, go to Stef for all his hard work over many years which, I would hasten to add, were all voluntary and extremely time consuming.

So, hopefully, Steve Ray and I have produced this issue to the regular standard, and my thanks go to Steve for his efforts to get this edition to you. Our Annual General Meeting this year will be at The City of York public house, which is situated at 22 High Holborn, WC1, with kick off at 15.00. It is hoped that the change of venue will encourage more of you to attend. The agenda is in this issue, and also on line at our website if you wish to print it off for the day.

As you'll all be in possession of this Newsletter after the publication of the Championship fixtures on Monday June 18th, let's hope that the new season brings us success in the guise of a swift return to the Premiership. I'm not going to make any more predictions!

Stuart

Wolves' News

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This year's AGM will be held on Saturday July 2nd at the Cittie of York, 22 High Holborn, London WC1V 6BS from 3pm to 6pm - all members welcome.

Agenda

1. **Apologies for absence**
2. **Chairman's Address**
3. **Minutes of 2011 AGM**
4. **Matters arising**
5. **Secretary's report**
6. **Treasurer's report**
7. **Travel Secretary's report**
8. **Social Secretary's report**
9. **Newsletter Editor's report**
10. **Website Editor's report**
11. **Election of Officers**
12. **Membership fee**
13. **Any other business**

London Wolves Sponsored Player

This seasons London Wolves Sponsored player was Dorus De Vries who came into the first team for the last four games of the season when he replaced the injured Wayne Hennessey. Unfortunately for Dorus Wolves were relegated in his Premier League debut, however he did manage to keep a clean sheet in the last home game of the season against Everton.

Here are some dates for your pre-season diaries:

London Wolves on tour to Ireland

Saturday July 21st Bray Wanderers (away) kick-off 3pm

We are looking at a 3 night stay from Thursday 19th July, leaving Euston at 09:10hrs and returning to London by 20:15hrs on Sunday 22nd July, but shorter stays can be booked.

Using a website called 'raileasy' you can book return travel from your nearest mainline station right through to Dublin Connolly Street Station, including the return ferry from Holyhead. The cost from Euston works out at £87 return per person, and it is the same fare from Carol's local mainline station, including the underground fare, so anyone interested should check it out. She also checked out hotels and B&B's and there are two that I think may fit the bill as they are on the local DART rail-line, they are the Ariel House Hotel and the Berkeley Court Hotel, both on Lansdowne Road and work out at around £33 per person per night. You can get to Bray in about 35mins from Lansdowne Road for less than £3. Anyone who decides to travel by plane can get the airport bus to Connolly Street Station and Lansdowne Road is just 4 stops from there. If anyone is interested please let Peter Woodifield know asap and remember that PASSPORTS and EUROS will be required (See the London Wolves website for more details).

Other Friendlies:

Saturday July 28th Walsall (away) kick-off 3pm
Tue July 31st Shrewsbury (away) kick-off 7pm
Sat August 4th Southampton (away) kick-off 3pm
Sat August 11th Aston Villa (home) kick-off 3pm

Whilst there are no club trips yet planned for these other friendlies please contact Peter Woodifield if you are interested in going to any of these matches as trips may be arranged to these games if there is sufficient interest.

Wolves' Ladies

As you all probably know, as Editor of the Newsletter I was always looking at ways to improve the content of the publication, mainly with really interesting articles, but had often failed miserably! More often than not the contents ended up as the same old, same old. Well, just after the start of last season, we were contacted by the Wolves Women's football team who were looking for some sponsorship. I have to say that, without hesitation, I pushed the Committee for a positive response and, boy, what a great return we've had for our £50.00!

The Team play in the Midland Women's Combination League and two Cup competitions, the Midland Women's County Cup and the F.A.Women's Cup. A team photo is included in this article together with a photo of Amber Quick, our sponsored played. My word, what a great return on our sponsorship we've had from this dynamic, midfield playing, goalscoring young lady.

It was unfortunate that circumstances conspired against us in producing a full December Newsletter, because there would have been a very full section on the Wolves Women. However, the Team have performed magnificently. By mid December they were not only unbeaten in the League, but they had progressed in the County Cup competitions. With the ladies doing so well and the men's team so poorly, I was very tempted to call Mick McCarthy and suggest he take a look at the women's team to see if they had any better players than we had! I thought better of it.

While the Team lost in the F.A. Women's Cup First Round Proper in mid December to Loughborough Students 5 - 3, they continued their pursuit of promotion to the Premier Division, and progressed in the County Cup. It would have been an incredible achievement to go through the season unbeaten and so, inevitably, that dream came to an end with a narrow 1 - 0 loss to Curzon Ashton Ladies. However, it was still a great achievement to have that first, and only, loss as late as mid March. On Tuesday 20th March the team gained suitable revenge over Loughborough Students' F.A. Cup win by beating them 3 - 1 in the League Cup Semi Final. Then, on Thursday 13th April, a stylish 4 - 1 away win against Leafield Athletic secured the League title and ensured that the team would play next season in the F.A. Women's Premier League Northern Division. The season finished on Sunday 22nd April at Stafford Rangers' ground, where the Wolves Women beat Stoke City 2 - 0 in the Cup Final to complete a magnificent 'Double'. Our congratulations and best wishes go to all the players and the back-room staff for a great season and we look forward to the next.

Stef Leonard

Social News

Christmas Lunch

This year's Christmas Lunch was held at its now perennial venue The City Bar in Queen Street, Wolverhampton. It was the third year that the event had taken place and due to its ever growing popularity it turned out to be the biggest and best so far. The 50 strong party included guest appearances from our Honorary President King John Richards, his wife Pam, Dave Wagstaffe and his wife Val and 70's legend Steve Daley. After a fabulous Christmas Dinner served by City Bar owner Lawson and his staff we were entertained by a hilarious 40 minute after dinner speech by Steve Daley. The afternoon's feasting and entertainment was brought to an end with a 20 minute question and answer session with our special guests, this was followed by the presentation of tankards as a special thank you from London Wolves members. A lot of work and organisation is required to prepare for events like this, so a massive thanks for the support of our members in making the lunch such a great success.

The Summer Walk

The London Wolves Summer Walk will take place on Saturday 7th July – The starting venue is the Orange Tree in Richmond where proceedings will kick off at 11:30am, from there it's a river walk to Kingston and then potentially a boat trip back to Richmond.

Directions to the Orange Tree are; Out of Richmond Station, cross the road, turn right and then a minutes' walk to the pub who's address is 45 Kew Road, Richmond Surrey, TQ9 2NQ.

Captain Jack

Congratulations to London Wolves member Captain Jack Leonard on passing his final skills tests in Arizona and being granted his Commercial Pilot's Licence.

SOCIAL NEWS

Horse Racing

In mid February it was off to Dunstal Racecourse for a night of horse racing. All the money was on Hennessey's horse which duly won and filled the pockets of those showing faith and placing a wager on it. After the racing the entertainment was provided by an Abba tribute band and a disco, and the older members of the party showed their age by singing along to songs most of us haven't even heard of before. The whole evening was enjoyed by everyone who participated and fortunately the Horse Racing came the day before the Albion game which resulted in a 5-1 defeat and the departure of Mick McCarthy.

End of Season Night Out

The End of Season night out brought an end to the season's social events. Proceedings kicked off with two hours of ten pin bowling and travel guru Peter "Kingpin" Woodifield proved to be a dark horse as he showed us all what a dab hand he was at knocking over skittles. After taking in the Cup Final and several beers a brief visit to the City Bar was followed by a lovely meal in the Made in Thai Restaurant. What was left of the night was spent in lively Gifford Arms where more alcohol was consumed to help digest all the Thai food.

The horse racing, greyhounds and bowling are always very popular and we'll continue with these events, but if anybody has any ideas for other events next season then please contact me.

Roy Eagles (Entertainments Officer).

MATCH REPORTS

ALL CELEBRATIONS IN THE ROVERS RETURN

BLACKBURN 1-2 WOLVES

Saturday 13th August 2011

Just under three months ago Wolves escaped relegation by the skin of their teeth when they were beaten 3-2 at home by Blackburn Rovers in the last game of the season, and it was only a Stephen Hunt goal with three minutes to go that ensured that Wolves started their second consecutive campaign in the Premier League. What a difference three months makes with Wolves coming from behind for the first time in the Premier to win 2-1 and give them an absolute flying start.

Hennessey was the first keeper called into action when he made a tremendous save from Hoilett in the 5th minute, but he would have been disappointed in the 20th minute when Rovers opened the scoring. Roberts was lucky with the bounce after a collision with Berra and the striker laid the ball into the path of Formica whose shot across goal from a tight angle went under the hand of the keeper. However the lead lasted only three minutes, the dangerous Jarvis found himself in acres of space on the right and his pinpoint cross found the head of Fletcher who made no mistake with a header from three yards. The goal allowed Wolves to take the initiative and they finished the stronger at the end of a half that had been in general an even entertaining end to end affair.

Wolves started the second half where they finished the first and took the lead within two minutes of the restart. A penalty was awarded when Salgado hauled down Jarvis, who not for the first time had left the defender for dead. Doyle's spot kick was saved by Robinson low to his left, but the ball was only half-cleared and fell to Ward who lashed home a tremendous left-foot shot from just inside the box. There was no looking back from that point onwards and Wolves took control and looked confident, there were further efforts at goal from Fletcher and O'Hara as Wolves pinned Rovers back in their own half to finish the game comfortable winners.

Opinion: Can't ask for a better start than that, only another 37 points needed for survival.
Man of the match: Jarvis
Team Rating: 8/10
Attendance: 21, 996
Team: *Hennessey, Stearman (Foley 49), Johnson, Berra, Ward, Jarvis (Elokobi 75), O'Hara, Henry, Hunt (Maierhofer 90), Doyle, Fletcher*
Unused Subs: *De Vries, Ebanks-Blake, Hammill, Milijas*
Bookings: Johnson (18 – foul), Stearman (21 - diving)

GOLDEN WONDERS

WOLVES 2-0 FULHAM

Sunday 21st August 2011

What can one say, six points out of six and top of the Premier League for the first time, even if it was for only two hours. The 2-0 win means Wolves have recorded back-to-back league wins at the start of a campaign for the first time since the 1998-99 season. Even though it was all Wolves from the off they still had to wait until the half-hour mark for the first real chance, Doyle got the better of Hangeland as they chased a ball over the top, the striker rounded Schwarzer to carve out a shooting angle but skied his attempt over the bar.

As half time approached and looking like they would be unrewarded for their efforts Wolves eventually took the lead, Doyle received the ball from Jarvis and skipped away from two defenders before turning and lashing it into the net. Jarvis then sent a curling shot narrowly off target before making it 2-0 in first-half stoppage time, tucking away the rebound after Johnson had headed Hunt's cross against the post. The second half was all one-way traffic with Wolves camped in the Fulham half. Jarvis flashed an attempt wide, Schwarzer palmed over Hunts half-volley and Fletcher saw a shot deflected wide before O'Hara volleyed too high. Wolves showed no sign of letting up and Fletcher shaved the post with another effort from outside the box in the 65th minute. In a rare attack Fulham looked certain to pull a goal back in the 79th minute when Hennessey parried a shot from Johnson to the feet of Dempsey, but Ward was on hand to clear the danger with a great last-ditch tackle. O'Hara twice went close in the last five minutes but the score stayed at 2-0 to make it perfect start to the new season.

Opinion: Let's enjoy it while it lasts.
Man of the match: O'Hara
Team Rating: 9/10
Attendance: 22, 657
Team: *Hennessey, Stearman, Johnson, Berra, Ward, Jarvis (Kightly 90), Henry, O'Hara, Hunt (Foley 84), Doyle, Fletcher (Elokobi 90)*
Unused Subs: *De Vries, Ebanks-Blake, Hammill, Milijas*
Bookings: Doyle (42 – taking off shirt after scoring), Hunt (71 – foul)

CLEAN PAIR OF HEELS SHOWN AT THE COBBLERS

NORTHAMPTON TOWN 0-4 WOLVES

Tuesday 23rd August 2011 (Carling Cup 2nd Rd)

Wolves strolled to an easy 4-0 victory in their Carling Cup second-round clash at League Two Northampton Town. Mick McCarthy changed all 11 of his players from Saturday's win over Fulham to take on a side 82 league places below them.

Sylvan Ebanks-Blake who started his first game of the season had an early chance when he flashed a fierce shot across the Northampton goal, and when the ball fell to him in exactly the same spot after 31 minutes he made no mistake to give Wolves a 1-0 lead. The striker was keen to impress and could have added another two minutes later when he rounded Walker in the Northampton goal, but the angle was too acute and he rolled his shot wide. But the second goal did arrive with eight minutes of the first half remaining, Davies fouled Hammill 25 yards out and Milijas stepped up and superbly curled his free-kick into the top right hand corner of the net.

MATCH REPORTS

Northampton to their credit attacked Wolves in the second half, but despite their efforts failed to trouble De Vries in the Wolves goal. The game was put to bed with 13 minutes left when Kightly crossed from the byline to Ebanks-Blake who planted a simple header past Walker. Vokes rubbed salt in the wounds with a minute to go when he smashed Doherty's first time cross into the top corner to make it 4-0.

Opinion: Potential banana skin professionally dealt with.
Man of the match: Ebanks-Blake
Team Rating: 8/10
Attendance: 5,512
Team: *De Vries, Doherty, Craddock, Elokobi, Reckord, Kightly, Foley (Davis 85), Milijas, Hammill (Forde 85), Vokes, Ebanks-Blake (Griffiths 80)*
Unused Subs: *Hennessey, Stearman, Henry, Ward*
Bookings: Milijas (81 - holding)

AST'OUNDING START

ASTON VILLA 0-0 WOLVES

Saturday 27th August 2011

Wolves continued their unbeaten start to the season to make it seven points from three games after gaining a hard fought point in a goalless draw at local rivals Aston Villa. The game was dominated by the defences of both teams with attempts at goal far and few between. Wolves shaded the first half with regards to chances, although they were second best during the second 45 minutes.

The early action centred around the Villa box and after Delph was shown a yellow card for a crude tackle on Jarvis the resultant free-kick was turned behind by Given. The Villa keeper was in action again in the 17th minute when he did well to block a downward header by Hunt from Ward's deep centre. Midway through the first half Villa came close to taking the lead when Heskey dragged Agbonlahor's cross wide at the near post when any decent striker would have scored. Towards the end of the half O'Hara should have done better when he curled his shot over the bar after being teed up by Fletcher.

It was Villa who started the better of the teams in the second half and Wolves had a narrow escape when Agbonlahor beat Johnson for pace and his low drive was turned aside by Hennessey. Another effort saw Doyle head a Dunne header off his own line from a corner, and then Hennessey was in the thick of the action again when he tipped a header from Herd over the bar. With Villa in the ascendancy McCarthy made a double change with Foley and Elokobi replacing Jarvis and Hunt, the tactical change worked a treat as the momentum built up by Villa was suddenly stifled out. Hennessey completed a competent display when he deflected a low centre by Bent away from the onrushing Agbonlahor, it was Villa's last effort on goal and Wolves held on to continue their unbeaten start to the season.

Opinion: Defence now starting to look solid following the addition of Johnson at the back.
Man of the match: Hennessey
Team Rating: 5/10
Attendance: 30,776
Team: *Hennessey, Stearman, Berra, Johnson, Ward, Jarvis (Foley 66), Henry, O'Hara, Hunt (Elokobi 66), Fletcher (Vokes 89), Doyle*
Unused Subs: *De Vries, Kightly, Hammill, Milijas*
Bookings: O'Hara (45 - holding), Henry (63 - holding), Stearman (72 - foul)

BEATEN BY THE OLD ONE-TWO

WOLVES 0-2 TOTTENHAM

Saturday 10th September 2011

It was a disappointing day for Wolves who suffered their first defeat of the season at home to Spurs, and it highlighted that every little mistake against a side like Spurs at this level will be punished. But it wasn't all doom and gloom because for over an hour Wolves matched last year's Champions League qualifiers in every department, but two goals in the final 23 minutes was enough to bring the unbeaten run to an end.

Spurs started the livelier of the two teams and after Hennessey denied Adebayor early on from close range Johnson made a brilliant goal-line clearance to deny Kranjcar in the follow-up effort. Wolves immediately hit back and Friedel had to be alert to beat out a piledriver from O'Hara after Stearman had caught Kranjcar in possession. Minutes later Friedel did even better when turning a low curling shot from Henry around the post at full stretch. However the keeper should have been beaten ten minutes before the break when a wicked cross from the left by Kightly was headed wide by Johnson from a yard.

Wolves were a bit slow to get going after the break, but just as they seemed to be gaining the initiative Spurs struck in the 67th minute. The Wolves defence were caught napping and Parker played the ball into the path of Adebayor who rounded Hennessey before scoring from close range. Wolves tried to retaliate but were caught ball watching again with ten minutes left as Spurs doubled their lead. Defoe played the ball to Kranjcar and pointed to a big space where he wanted it back before collecting the return and drilling a low shot past Hennessey.

Opinion: Played great football for over an hour but then punished for two lapses in concentration.
Man of the match: Johnson
Team Rating: 5/10
Attendance: 25,274
Team: *Hennessey, Stearman, Johnson, Berra, Ward, Kightly (Hammill 75), Henry, O'Hara, Hunt (Jarvis 75), Doyle, Fletcher (Vokes 81)*

MATCH REPORTS

Unused Subs: *De Vries, Elokobi, Milijas, Foley*
Bookings: Hammill (79 – pushing), Johnson (83 – foul)

DISARRANGED

WOLVES 0-3 QPR

Saturday 17th September 2011

Talk about a bad day at the office, this was an absolute shocker of a performance, and the defensive meltdown we saw for most of last season came back with a vengeance. Wolves were on the back foot from the first minute to the last and after gathering seven points from the first three games the honeymoon period looks to be over. To make matters worse the defeat was at home to a team playing their football in the Championship last year.

Our old mate Colin has made Joey Barton the captain of his QPR team and the waste of space used Twitter to air his words of wisdom regarding the wrong doings of "Sunday league player Kelvin Henry" and insult Mick McCarthy after the game, this coming from the man jailed for assaulting one of his own players in training and sticking a lit cigar into the eye of one of the youth team members at Man City.

QPR looked lively from the first whistle and Hennessey had to pull off a superb diving save in the opening seconds to tip Derry's header over the bar. The pressure did not let up and QPR took an early lead when Wright-Phillips cut a bouncing ball back to the despicable Barton, who slotted it past Hennessey as the Wolves defence stood still and watched on. Two minutes later and it was 2-0, Faurlin chested down a failed clearance on the edge of the box and rifled into the net. Wolves were shell-shocked but hopes of a swift response were raised when Henry drove an effort towards goal that clipped the outside of the post.

Wolves left the pitch at half-time with boos ringing in their ears and Mick McCarthy responded by making two changes after the interval in a bid to give his side some impetus, Vokes and Guedioura replaced the inept Elokobi and out-of-form Kightly. Three minutes after the restart Johnson nodded a corner over the bar, but that was about it as far as Wolves were concerned and QPR picked up where they finished the first-half and running Wolves ragged all over the pitch. Wolves misery was completed when DJ Campbell slid home Traore's cross to make it 3-0 three minutes from time.

Opinion: Need to get back to basics and do the simple things right.
Man of the match: Hennessey
Team Rating: 2/10
Attendance: 24,189
Team: *Hennessey, Stearman, Johnson, Berra, Elokobi (Vokes 46), Kightly (Guedioura 46), Henry, O'Hara, Jarvis (Hunt 73), Ward, Doyle*
Unused Subs: *De Vries, Hammill, Milijas, Foley*
Bookings: Guedioura (85 - foul), Vokes (90 – foul)

SPRAY IT AGAIN SAM

WOLVES 5-0 MILLWALL

Tues 20th September 2011 (Carling Cup 3rd Rd)

After the shambles served up against QPR on the previous Saturday Wolves got back to winning ways with an emphatic 5-0 victory over Millwall in the Carling Cup at Molineux. Mick McCarthy used the opportunity to give his fringe players a run out and get back to winning ways after back-to-back league defeats and without a goal in three matches.

Wolves made a dream start and opened the scoring in the third minute. Hunt sent in an inswinging cross from the right and the unmarked Vokes saw his header parried down by Mildenhall before Edwards nipped in like a flash to poke home from close range. And with just seven minutes gone it was 2-0. Milijas was upended 25 yards from goal and Hammill placed the resulting free-kick into the top left-hand corner giving the keeper no chance. Wolves continued to push forward and the tie was pretty much over as a contest seven minutes before the break when Guedioura went on a mazy run into the right hand side of the penalty area, he sent his pass back across the face of goal

where Elokobi was all on his own to tap home from a yard.

After the break and with the game already in the bag at 3-0 the pace slackened, but chances still went begging for Wolves with Millwall on a damage limitation mission and largely toothless in attack. Academy graduate James Spray was introduced for Hunt in the 74th minute and the youngster was on the pitch for only three minutes when his shot from six yards out found the back of the net via a deflection off Vokes. But the best goal of the night was saved until the 88th minute, Guedioura picked up the ball inside the Millwall half and sent an unstoppable thirty yarder into the top right hand corner to put the icing on the cake for Wolves.

Opinion: Won't be quite as easy against Man City in the last 16.
Man of the match: Guedioura
Team Rating: 8/10
Attendance: 7,749
Team: *De Vries, Doherty, Stearman, Berra, Elokobi, Hammill (Jarvis 86), Guedioura, Milijas, Hunt (Spray 74), Edwards (Kightly 46), Vokes*
Unused Subs: *Hennessey, Henry, Ward, O'Hara*
Bookings: None

SCOUSERS FIND NEW BEST FRIEND

LIVERPOOL 2-1 WOLVES

Saturday 24th September 2011

They say that bad decisions even themselves out over a season, let's hope so because it certainly didn't happen last season when we had more than our fair share of crap decisions, usually against the so called bigger clubs. After a bright start when O'Hara should have done better when shooting weakly straight at Spanish cheat Reina, Wolves found themselves a goal down to a controversial call after eleven minutes. A ball came in

MATCH REPORTS

from the left into the Wolves area and the big butch striker with a woman's name and ponytail (Andy Carroll) climbed all over and mugged Roger Johnson, the ball fell to Adam twenty yards out and his shot which was going miles wide was re-directed into his own net by the unfortunate Johnson who had just about got back to his feet.

The goal start given to Liverpool by referee Kevin Friend took the impetus away from Wolves and in the 38th minute the dangerous Suarez made it 2-0, a ball was lifted over the top of the Wolves defence and the striker turned Berra inside out before firing past Hennessey inside the near post.
Just three minutes after coming on at the start of the second half Fletcher gave

Wolves hope when he smashed home a shot from Hunt's cut-back to make it 2-1. Wolves nearly cancelled out the good work a minute later, but Hennessey was on hand to make an unbelievable save when he blocked Suarez's effort from close range. Carroll then missed a sitter when he headed against a post while Hennessey made yet another vital save to deny Downing after Liverpool caught Wolves on the counter-attack. Wolves continued to push forward and an extended spell of pressure almost saw Berra equalise with a far-post header, however despite a few worrying moments towards the end Dalglish's side hung on for the win.

Opinion: A good fight back in the second half after that poor decision that put us on the back foot.
Man of the match: Hennessey
Team Rating: 5/10
Attendance: 44,922
Team: *Hennessey, Stearman (Doherty 46), Johnson, Berra, Ward, Henry, Hunt (Guedioura 81), Edwards (Fletcher 46), O'Hara, Jarvis, Doyle*
Unused Subs: *De Vries, Elokobi, Hammill,* Milijas
Bookings: O'Hara (4 - foul), Henry (32 - foul), Ward (39 - dissent), Hunt (43 - foul)

REFFIN' HELL

WOLVES 1-2 NEWCASTLE UNITED

Saturday 1st October 2011

That's two games on the spin now that the muppet in charge with the whistle has cost Wolves dearly, this time it was our old mate Mark Halsey, who not for the first time has been centre of controversy when in charge of one of our games. Wolves put in a good performance and were only denied the three points by an outstanding display from United keeper Tim Krul and the match officials, even United manager Alan Pardew said "Wolves deserved to get something out of the game and were a bit unfortunate".

It was all Wolves from the off and Krul set the tone from the second minute when he saved at full-stretch to his bottom right-hand corner to deny O'Hara from a free-kick, and just after he denied Doyle on the edge of the area by using his face to block the ball United took the lead against the run of play in the 17th minute. And it turned out to be a real gift, a corner into the near post from the left caught the Wolves defence and Hennessey fast asleep and nobody picked up Ba who nodded the ball home from two yards.

Seven minutes before the break and United made it 2-0 after some more shocking defending by Wolves. Gutierrez picked up the ball 30 yards out and waltzed past three tackles before cutting inside Johnson and slotting past Hennessey from 12 yards. Then right on the stroke of half-time came the first of those shocking decisions mentioned earlier. Taylor's body check on O'Hara was clearly inside the area, but the incompetent Halsey awarded a free-kick outside the area, to make matters worse the resulting free-kick from O'Hara beat Krul but bounced to safety off the top of the bar.

After the break Wolves were still the better side creating chance after chance, and when they did look like scoring that man Krul was on hand making save after save to deny them the chance of a way back into the game. With three minutes left Krul was finally beaten when Fletcher made it 2-1 with a diving header setup by a cross from Hammill.

Then in the first of five minutes time added on came the second of those controversial decisions, and this time it was the linesman who got things horribly wrong. Wolves thought they had grabbed a deserved

equaliser, but Doyle's close-range effort was ruled out as the cross headed back into the area by Jarvis in the build up was adjudged to have gone over the dead-ball line. TV replays clearly showed that the ball was clearly in when headed back, but the hapless officials ruled otherwise resulting in another defeat making it four on the spin.

Opinion: Good performance deserved a point, but denied by officials unworthy of taking charge of a Sunday morning pub game.
Man of the match: Doyle
Team Rating: 7/10
Attendance: 26,561
Team: *Hennessey, Stearman, Johnson, Berra, Ward, Hunt (Guedioura 58), Henry (Hammill 58), O'Hara, Jarvis, Doyle, Fletcher*
Unused Subs: *De Vries, Edwards, Vokes, Zubar, Doherty*
Bookings: Henry (38 – dissent)

SHIRT LIFTERS

SANDWELL TOWN 2-0 WOLVES

Sunday 16th October 2011

It was all doom and gloom in the first of this season's Black Country derbies as Wolves went down 2-0. The game ended in controversy with Stephen Hunt and Mick McCarthy taking exception to Sandwell player Paul Scharner lifting his shirt to the crowd to show something printed on the front of a tee-shirt. I don't know what the fuss was about, we all know that all those who wear the Tesco carrier bag football

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shirt for a living are allegedly renowned as shirt lifters anyway.

Local derbies are renowned to be tight and feisty affairs with chances far and few between, but Wolves got off to a really good start, knocking the ball about and making good movement for the players in possession. In the first few minutes O'Hara had a shot blocked and Hammill forced Foster to turn the ball round his post for a corner after he had skipped past the challenge of Jones.

However it was the home side who went ahead in the 12th minute with virtually their first attack. Ward was a bit slow picking up Brunt as the ball was cut back across the Wolves area and the midfielder scored with a rising shot past Hennessey from ten yards. Wolves retaliated and came close to equalising five minutes later with their best chance so far, Foster blocked Milijas's low drive and the rebound fell to Doyle inside the six yard box only for Olsson to make a block tackle right on the line. The game then started to flow from end to end and even though both teams had a couple of half chances each leading into the break, Wolves left the field 1-0 down having not capitalised on having the lion's share of the possession.

Ten minutes into the second half substitute Ebanks-Blake made an immediate impact when he teed up Hammill whose low drive was finger-tipped around the post by Foster. Then Johnson missed a glorious chance to equalise in the 67th minute, Doyle did superbly on the left wing and sent over an inch perfect cross, but the new captain headed wide from six yards with the goal at his mercy. The miss proved to be costly eight minutes later when Odemwankie made it 2-0, he collected a back-heel from Scharner and found the bottom left-hand corner of the net from ten yards.

Opinion: That's five defeats on the spin now and we can't even buy a point at the moment
Man of the match: Jarvis
Team Rating: 5/10
Attendance: 24,872
Team: *Hennessey, Hennessey, Stearman, Berra, Johnson, Ward, Jarvis (Guedioura 74), Milijas (Ebanks-Blake 55), O'Hara, Henry, Hammill (Hunt 69), Doyle*
Unused Subs: *De Vries, Craddock, Vokes, Zubar*
Bookings: Berra (25 - foul)

DOWN THE SWANNY

WOLVES 2-2 SWANSEA CITY
Saturday 22nd October 2011

After losing five consecutive Premier League games Wolves were desperate for a win over newly promoted Swansea at Molineux. And after a poor performance they managed to grab a point with a 2-2 draw after coming back from the brink of defeat with two goals in the last five minutes. Mick McCarthy feeling the pressure reacted angrily afterwards to fans showing their frustrations and singing for his head by quoting "I'm up for a scrap. If anyone fancies one, I'm more than happy to accommodate them", a few bridges built there then Mick.
Karl Henry drove a stringing shot straight at Vorm in the Swansea goal after just 40 seconds, but from that point on Wolves were absolutely hopeless. Swansea had most of the possession seeming to keep the ball with ease, and it was no surprise when they took the lead in the 23rd minute. A pass was lofted into the Wolves area and Johnson made a hideous attempt at clearing the ball, Graham seized on the opportunity and nipped in to slot it low beyond the advancing Hennessey.

To their credit Wolves never gave up and Vorm did well to tip over a Hammill free-kick just a minute later. But Swansea stunned Wolves by doubling their lead ten minutes before half-time. Graham was given oceans of space down the right, and he was given the time needed to look up and slot the ball across the area where Allen was waiting for a simple tap-in.

Swansea continued to run the show after the break and Hennessey was called upon several times to keep the deficit to just two goals. With just six minutes left and the stands emptying as if there was a fire drill Wolves grabbed a goal back out of nothing, a shot from Vokes was only parried into the path of Doyle who made no mistake from two yards. And two minutes later an unlikely comeback was complete, Doyle raced to the byline and cut the ball back across the area where O'Hara was on hand to blast it into the net. Swansea were suddenly rocking and Doyle had a chance to find a winner in stoppage time but his header just lacked pace and was gratefully grabbed by Vorm.

Opinion: Hopefully those two late goals are the turning point.
Man of the match: Hennessey
Team Rating: 4/10
Attendance: 25,216
Team: *Hennessey, Stearman, Berra, Johnson, Ward, Jarvis (Guedioura 68), Henry, O'Hara, Hammill (Milijas 68), Doyle, Ebanks-Blake (Vokes 83)*
Unused Subs: *De Vries, Craddock, Hunt, Doherty*
Bookings: Stearman (46 - foul), O'Hara (65 - foul)

ONE OF THOSE ARABIAN NIGHTS

WOLVES 2-5 MANCHESTER CITY
Weds 26th October 2011 (Carling Cup 4th Rd)

Mick McCarthy made nine changes to the line-up that played against Swansea on Saturday and his team made a confident start against the multimillion pound second string from Man City. Wolves were posing the City defence plenty of problems and should have had a penalty in the 17th minute when a ball into the area was blatantly shielded out of play by the arm of Kolarov, however the referee adjudged it to be a corner, you can guarantee had it been in the other box what the decision would have been. However Wolves did take a deserved lead just a minute later, Vokes beat Toure down the right and his cross was only half cleared to Milijas who turned and rifled the ball into the back of the net.

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Anybody leaving their seat towards the end of the first half to beat the rush for a Bovril and Chicken Balti Pie would have thought they had been in a time warp by the time they returned to their seat. The game was totally turned on its head in just four minutes when Man City netted three times through Johnson, Nasri and Dzeko, it was bitterly disappointing for Wolves who up until that point had been in virtual control.

With just five minutes of the second half gone the game was put to bed when City added a fourth. Kolarov was given acres of space down the left and he cut the ball back into the danger zone where it was eventually bundled over the line by Scapuzzi, Dzeko then struck again in the 63rd minute with a simple tap-in to make it 5-1. But all credit to the never say die attitude of Wolves and they pulled a goal back just a minute later when substitute O'Hara scored with his first touch following a cross from the left by Ward.

Opinion: May be out of the Carling Cup but carried on fighting right to the end.
Man of the match: Guedioura
Team Rating: 5/10
Attendance: 12,436
Team: *De Vries, Doherty, Craddock, Elokobi, Ward, Edwards (Henry 67), Guedioura, Milijas (Hammill 65), Hunt, Vokes, Doyle (O'Hara 65)*
Unused Subs: *Hennessey, Ebanks-Blake, Johnson, Berra*
Bookings: Craddock (20 - foul), Hunt (57 - foul)

STILL NO WIN DESPITE SHEIKH UP

MANCHESTER CITY 3-1 WOLVES

Saturday 29th October 2011

After sticking five past Wolves at Molineux in the Carling Cup in midweek all the pundits and so called experts were predicting a cricket score for this Premier League game at the Etihad Stadium. As it turned out City only confirmed the victory in injury time when Wolves were caught on the break pressing for an equaliser.

After Doyle uncharacteristically sliced an early effort wide City enjoyed most of the possession, but for all the fancy football they didn't really look like beating Hennessey who stood tall to deal with everything thrown at him. He played a major role in keeping City at bay by denying Nasri from distance, Aguero from point-blank range and then the best of all just before the break when diving full length to push a Dzeko shot around the post.

The relative silence of the City fans as the teams went off level at half-time spoke volumes for the effort given by Wolves, who may not have the silky skills of the millionaire City players but have heart, spirit and fight in abundance, and you can't buy that no matter how much money you may have.

With seven minutes of the second half elapsed and Wolves starting to frustrate City all the hard work was undone by the ever reliable Hennessey. He took his eye off the ball for a split second when dealing with a back pass and the routine clearance was blocked by Aguero, Dzeko followed up and rolled the ball into the empty net.
Midway through the half City made it 2-0, Hennessey failed to hold Silva's shot from the edge of the box and Kolarov tucked away the loose ball. Any thoughts that City were about to go on a goal fest were rudely interrupted with 15 minutes left. Joe Hart spilled a shot from Guedioura and Kompany climbed all over Doyle as the he attempted to get to the rebound, Kompany was shown a straight red card and Hunt dispatched the resulting spot-kick to put his team right back in the game. As Wolves pushed forward in numbers in search of an equaliser they were caught by a quick break in injury time when Johnson collected Toure's pass and scored from the edge of the box for City's third.

Opinion: On the back foot yet again after conceding the first goal, but showed great spirit.
Man of the match: Hennessey (despite blunders)
Team Rating: 6/10
Attendance: 47,142
Team: *Hennessey, Stearman, Johnson, Berra, Ward, Hunt (Jarvis 85), O'Hara, Guedioura (Ebanks-Blake 85), Henry, Edwards (Hammill 68), Doyle*
Unused Subs: *De Vries, Elokobi, Craddock, Vokes*
Bookings: Doyle (50 – foul)

GOBBY UNATHLETIC

WOLVES 3-1 WIGAN ATHLETIC

Sunday 6th November 2011

Wolves ended a run of eight games without a win with a much needed 3-1 victory against Wigan. The game itself epitomised the difference between the foreign and home grown players playing in our leagues. Early in the game Stephen Hunt desperately tried to stay on his feet when tripped in the area by Wigan keeper Al Habsi, his reward for his honesty was no penalty for his team and no sending off for Al Habsi who ironically went on to give a man of the match display. Then as the match neared its end came another unwanted import of foreign players when Wigan captain Antolin Alcaraz despicably spat at Richard Stearman, however the Wolves defender showed tremendous restraint when not chinning the low life from Paraguay.

The game itself was a scrappy affair and apart from having two early penalty appeals turned down Wolves struggled to get any kind of hold on the game. It was Wigan who created the first real chance when Rodallega found himself in acres of space just ten yards out, but he toe-poked a weak effort straight at Hennessey. The game eventually came to life on the half hour mark, Di Santo robbed Stearman outside the box and his floated centre found Rodallega unmarked, but he somehow managed to shoot wide from six yards out. It proved a costly miss as O'Hara put Wolves in front about 30 seconds later, Hennessey's clearance was flicked on by Guedioura to Doyle and his cross from the by-line was met by O'Hara who scored his third goal in four games. But four minutes before half-time Watson levelled for Wigan after Hunt brought down Boyce inside the box, Hennessey saved Watson's penalty kick but was unable to stop the same player converting the rebound.

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Edwards restored Wolves lead in the 55th minute, Henry jinked his way to the by-line before cutting the ball back into the six yard box, Al Habsi made a fine double save to deny Hunt and O'Hara at close range but Edwards lashed the loose ball into the net. Ten minutes later Ward doubled the lead, Edwards and O'Hara had shots blocked from Jarvis's low centre but Ward made no mistake to make it 3-1. The two goal lead settled all the nerves and Wolves were only denied a fourth when Al Habsi produced an incredible save to turn aside Berra's header from O'Hara's free-kick. As the game reached its conclusion Wigan failed to trouble the Wolves defence and their spitting proved to be more accurate than their shooting.

Opinion: Desperately needed win against a team destined for relegation.
Man of the match: O'Hara
Team Rating: 7/10
Attendance: 23,536
Team: *Hennessey, Stearman, Johnson, Berra, Ward, Edwards, Henry, Guedioura (Jarvis 46), Hunt, O'Hara (Milijas 83), Doyle*
Unused Subs: *De Vries, Elokobi, Ebanks-Blake, Fletcher, Hammill*
Bookings: Hunt (77 - foul), O'Hara (80 - foul)

LATE ON BAINES

EVERTON 2-1 WOLVES

Saturday 19th November 2011

Wolves went down to a 2-1 defeat after a controversial late penalty at Goodison Park. It was a lacklustre performance from both teams with chances at a premium. It was a slow start to the game and we had to wait until the 16th minute for the first real chance, and Hennessey at full-stretch was equal to the challenge to tip over Saha's shot. It was a case of smash and grab as Wolves took the lead with virtually their first attack in the 36th minute. Edwards' diagonal run across the corner of the penalty area was halted when Fellaini caught his ankle causing him to go to ground, Hunt smashed home the resulting spot kick to make it 1-0.

With half-time only a minute away Wolves surrendered the lead. Johnson gave away a needless foul 40 yards out and from the resulting free-kick the ball seemed to hit the back of Jagielka's head and go past Hennessey like a rocket for the equaliser, the memories of conceding late goals at the end of the half last season coming back to haunt McCarthy's men.

The second half was a dull affair with both teams constantly surrendering possession and stopping any kind of flow to the game. With 20 minutes left an aerial collision between Cahill and Stearman left the Wolves defender writhing in agony with a suspected broken wrist, he left the field and was replaced by Elokobi. Within a minute Cahill looked certain to score when Saha's flick-on found him six yards out, but Ward and Hennessey combined to somehow block the effort and keep the scores level.

Everton were in the ascendancy and with seven minutes left they took the lead following a controversial penalty. From a corner on the left Ward made minimal contact with Saha and when the striker went straight to ground the referee pointed to the spot, Baines side footed home the penalty sending Hennessey the wrong way. Wolves managed one final effort in injury time but O'Hara's free-kick from 25 yards out went narrowly wide.

Opinion: Poor performance, need to up the tempo in games like this.
Man of the match: Hennessey
Team Rating: 4/10
Attendance: 33,953
Team: *Hennessey, Stearman (Elokobi 58), Johnson, Berra, Ward, Edwards (Fletcher 86), Henry, Milijas (Jarvis 80), Hunt, O'Hara, Doyle*
Unused Subs: *De Vries, Craddock, Ebanks-Blake, Guedioura*
Bookings: Henry (70 – dissent), Hunt (72 - dissent), O'Hara (72 - dissent)

BLUE MURDER

CHELSEA 3-0 WOLVES

Saturday 26th November 2011

Both Wolves and Chelsea started this match under pressure, but for much different reasons, Wolves alarming slump in form with just 4 points in the last 11 games and Chelsea a miserly 4th in the Premier and struggling to qualify for the knockout stage of the Champions League. Wolves performance in the first half was one of the worst for as long as I can remember and even though things improved slightly in the second half the game was already finished as a contest.

Wolves were woeful from the off and went a goal down after just seven minutes. The inept Milijas was in a total daydream when Ramires easily stole the ball from him and fired goalwards, but Hennessey responded with a brilliant save to tip the ball wide. However the keeper was badly let down by his defence when the resulting corner found the head of unmarked Terry who directed his header into the bottom right-hand corner of the net. Wolves continued to give the ball away and they were exposed on the right side again when Chelsea made it 2-0 in the 29th minute. Mata skipped past Zubar with ease and sent over a low cross that Sturridge tapped home from close range after easily muscling past Elokobi.

Wolves looked for an immediate reply and Edwards headed wide from three yards after Chelsea failed to clear a corner on the left. With things in disarray Mick McCarthy looked to change things around when he replaced the lacklustre Milijas with Ebanks-Blake in the 38th minute. It didn't improve anything, Hennessey was in the thick of it again a few minutes later when he turned a Sturride piledriver round the post. Right on the stroke of half-time Chelsea made it 3-0, Drogba's shot was blocked but he still managed to find Cole who crossed to the unmarked Mata to score from close range.

Hennessey pulled off another superb save to deny Ramires just after the break as Chelsea started the second half in the same way they had ended the first. But Wolves were at last starting to show a bit of interest and almost pulled a goal back in the 53rd minute when Ebanks-Blake threaded Ward through, but his shot trickled

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a couple of yards wide.
Hennessey was in the action yet again in the 72nd minute then pulled off another excellent double save from point-blank range to deny Sturridge and then Mata. Wolves swept forward and a minute later they created their best chance of the game, but Ward wasted the opportunity when he shot straight at Cech from six yards. Wolves had one last push for a consolation but Ebanks-Blake's weak injury-time header was the closest they came.

Opinion: Already a must win game against fellow strugglers Sunderland next Sunday.
Man of the match: Hennessey
Team Rating: 3/10
Attendance: 41,648
Team: *Hennessey, Zubar (Forde 75), Berra, Johnson, Elokobi, Jarvis, Henry, Milijas (Ebanks-Blake 38), Ward, Edwards, Fletcher (Guedioura 83)*
Unused Subs: *De Vries, Craddock, Hammill, Doherty*
Bookings: Edwards (17 - foul), Henry (35 - dissent)

FLETCHER ARROWS IN

WOLVES 2-1 SUNDERLAND

Sunday 4th December 2011

Wolves came back from the dead to record a priceless victory against Sunderland at Molineux. Most of the action came in the last fifteen minutes when Sunderland who were leading 1-0 at the time saw striker Larsson have his penalty saved by Hennessey before Fletcher struck twice in eight minutes.

Up until the final fifteen minutes the game was a tight affair, Westwood kept out a header on the half-hour mark from Fletcher and then made a cracking save from Hunt five minutes before half-time. Ward then came to Wolves' rescue when he cleared off the line from Sessegnon in stoppage time.

Sunderland took the lead in the 53rd minute with a quick fire counter-attack, Sessegnon in acres of space on the right released the overlapping Richardson whose rising shot flew past Hennessey inside the near post. Then in the 73rd minute Sunderland were awarded a penalty after a blatant dive by Larsson on the edge of the area, but justice was done when Hennessey dived low to his left to parry the spot-kick away. It was a crucial save because just 26 seconds later Fletcher equalised for Wolves, Jarvis

sent over a curling centre and Fletcher's downward header beat the dive of Westwood. Molineux erupted in the 81st minute when Wolves took the lead, Hammill swung over a cross from the right, the ball took a deflection off Brown's head and bounced into O'Hara and looped up, then when it came down Fletcher was on hand to fire home with a left foot volley.

Opinion: Good performance and result after the poor display against Chelsea.
Man of the match: Fletcher
Team Rating: 8/10
Attendance: 25,145
Team: *Hennessey, Zubar, Craddock (Johnson 74), Berra, Ward, Jarvis, Edwards, O'Hara, Hunt (Hammill 66), Doyle (Ebanks-Blake 66), Fletcher*
Unused Subs: *De Vries, Elokobi, Stearman, Milijas*
Bookings: Zubar (60 - foul)

PUT THROUGH THE MAN'GLE

MANCHESTER UTD 4-1 WOLVES

Saturday 10th December 2011

Wolves were out-played and out-classed in this one sided game in rainy Manchester. It was painful viewing for all us Wolves fans packed away in the corner of the ground between the East and South stands, however it didn't stop us out singing 74,000 Man United fans.

After Fletcher had fired wide after just 20 seconds it was a one-way assault on the Wolves goal and surprisingly United had to wait until the 17th minute before they opened the scoring, and it was another disappointing goal given away by sloppy Wolves defending. Nani gathered the ball on the left and ran past three defenders without a challenge before hitting a low shot past Hennessey's right hand into the net. Ten minutes later and it was 2-0 with Rooney scoring a replica of the first goal, though this time Hennessey was unsighted by the rush of his defenders diving in to block the shot.

Wolves gave themselves a lifeline by grabbing a goal back within 90 seconds of the restart when Fletcher rose above Evra to power home Jarvis's excellent far-post cross. Jarvis had given the cumbersome Smalling a roasting every time he ran at the defender but inexplicably starved of possession by the midfield in favour of the long hoof forward.

United added a decisive third in the 56th minute, Jones put Valencia through on the right and his low cross across the area was turned home from two yards by the unmarked Nani. Six minutes later it was game over when Rooney added his second and United's fourth. At that point it looked like a cricket score might be on the cards, but United eased off the gas and allowed Wolves more possession who in turn started to feed the impressive Jarvis. However the United defence restricted Wolves to a few long range efforts that didn't really trouble their back four.

Opinion: Inevitable backlash from United after being knocked out the Champions League in midweek.
Man of the match: Jarvis
Team Rating: 3/10
Attendance: 75,627
Team: *Hennessey, Zubar, Johnson, Berra, Ward, Edwards (Milijas 31), Henry, O'Hara (Hunt 70), Jarvis, Doyle, Fletcher (Ebanks-Blake 76)*
Unused Subs: *De Vries, Elokobi, Stearman, Hammill*
Bookings: None

STOKE TACTICS TAYLOR MADE

WOLVES 1-2 STOKE CITY

Saturday 17th December 2011

Not for the first time this season Wolves were on the wrong side of some shocking refereeing decisions which cost them at least a share of the poins in this local derby. The inconsistency of refereeing reared its

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ugly head again when Jonathan Woodgate who had already been booked escaped a yellow card when hacking down Jarvis in the area, referee Anthony Taylor deemed it a penalty but incredibly not another yellow. Stoke manager Pulis realising Woodgate was far too slow to handle Jarvis substituted his wood'en centre half to save him the indignity of being sent-off.

Wolves made a promising start and the first effort at goal came from Zubar following a Jarvis centre, but his shot curled just past the post. Jarvis was causing bedlam on the flanks and Woodgate received his first yellow card in the 8th minute for a crude tackle on the winger. Wolves deservedly went in front in the 16th minute when Woodgate earned his lucky escape after chopping down Jarvis again in the penalty area, Hunt stepped up and smashed the spot-kick home before the lucky Woodgate was substituted.

Wolves failed to turn their first half domination into goals and paid the ultimate price as Stoke slowly clawed their way back into the game in the second half, and on the hour mark referee Taylor gave them a route back into the game with another poor decision. Unlike most of the Stoke tackles in the game Johnson won the ball cleanly from Walters, but was penalised by the clueless Taylor. The ball was knocked back to Huth, and to rub salt in the wounds his wayward effort from 30 yards took a massive deflection off Doyle on the edge of the wall and past the wrong-footed Hennessey.

With 20 minutes left Hennessey made a great save when turning over a powerful drive from Etherington, but the reprieve was short lived and Stoke went in front two minutes later, a deep cross from Etherington was converted by a stooping Crouch header after he was left on his own at the far post by Ward. It was knife in the heart for Wolves and apart from an Ebanks-Blake header that went wide from a corner Stoke easily played out time to take all three points and gain their first top-flight win at Molineux in 44 years.

Opinion: Need to take the bull by the horns and put games out of sight when in command.
Man of the match: Jarvis
Team Rating: 6/10
Attendance: 24,684
Team: *Hennessey, Zubar, Johnson, Berra, Ward, Jarvis, Milijas (Guedioura 75), Henry, Hunt (Hammill 80), Fletcher, Doyle (Ebanks-Blake 75)*
Unused Subs: *De Vries, Elokobi, Stearman, Forde*
Bookings: Milijas (50 - foul), Berra (67 - foul)

CANARIES IN LATE FLAP

WOLVES 2-2 NORWICH CITY

Tuesday 20th December 2011

It was a great game of end to end football for the neutrals watching this 2-2 encounter, but Wanderers will look upon this fixture as two more dropped home points in the search for the magic 40 points usually regarded as enough for safety at the end of the season.

A subdued start from Wolves allowed Norwich to take the initiative and after a few early scares the visitors deservedly went in front in the 12th minute. Old Wolves boy Andrew Surman started and finished a move with a diving header, and for the second game in a row Ward found himself out of position when allowing Surman time and space to pick his spot.

Norwich continued to look dangerous each time they attacked, but Hunt missed a great chance to equalise after 26 minutes, Ruddy parried a shot from Ebanks-Blake to Hunt eight yards out, but he side-footed his shot high over the bar from eight yards. The missed chance seemed to ignite Wolves and next off it was Ebanks-Blake who missed another golden opportunity to equalise in the 34th minute when blazing over from 12 yards. However three minutes later the striker made amends when he equalised, the overlapping Ward's cross found Hunt whose shot was blocked, but the ball fell to Ebanks-Blake whose shot was not cleanly struck but trickled over the line.

The second half produced some pulsating football, but the best of the action was packed into the last 15 minutes. Jackson, who had been on the field for only a minute restored Norwich's lead in the 76th

minute, Morrison outpaced Johnson down the left and crossed for Jackson who was all on his own to score from a yard out.

But five minutes later Wolves stormed back and Zubar made it 2-2 when he powered home a header from Jarvis's corner. That gave the signal for an all out assault on the Norwich goal and in injury time Fletcher thought he had scored the winner only to have the goal disallowed by a marginal offside decision. There was still more to come and Johnson was just off target with another header, and then In a grandstand finish Milijas powered a fierce drive just inches wide of Ruddy's right hand post.

Opinion: Great entertainment but another two valuable home points dropped.
Man of the match: Zubar
Team Rating: 7/10
Attendance: 27,067
Team: *Hennessey, Zubar, Johnson, Berra, Ward, Jarvis, Milijas, Henry, Hunt (Hammill 75), Fletcher, Ebanks-Blake (Doyle 80)*
Unused Subs: *De Vries, Guedioura, Stearman, Elokobi, Forde*
Bookings: Zubar (30 - foul), Hunt (32 - foul)

KISS OUR ARSENAL

ARSENAL 1-1 WOLVES

Tuesday 27th December 2011

Wolves came away from the Emirates with a point despite all the efforts of Stuart Attwell, the referee who gave Reading the infamous "Ghost Goal" against Watford, and it seems his eyesight hasn't improved after a joke decision to send off Nenad Milijas for a fair tackle. Despite the inconsistent refereeing decisions Wayne Hennessey turned in a star display with a series of breath taking saves to deny Arsenal all three points.

Wolves started brightly but still went behind with only eight minutes on the clock. Arsenal broke quickly from their own area and the

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ball was threaded through to Gervinno who beat the offside trap to race clear, he then rounded Hennessey before cutting back inside and rolling the ball into the net between two defenders on the line. Wolves were forced to defend deeper and deeper and looked in danger of being overrun, but on went the tin hats and the wagons were circled as they stubbornly defended the constant waves of attack from Arsenal. Suddenly out of nothing Wolves mustered up an equaliser in the 38th minute. From a corner on the left the ball fell to Hunt who lobbed the ball back into the area, his shot was deflected and Fletcher reacted like a flash to get his head on the ball and guide it into the far corner.

Arsenal upped the tempo after the restart and that's when Hennessey came into his own, he made a string of superb saves with two of them out of this world. Firstly he tipped over a Van Persie free-kick that was destined for the top right-hand corner and then produced an even better save from Mertesacker's close-range header. As Wolves continued to frustrate Arsenal the "Spoilt Child" syndrome came into play with the home team appealing every decision and putting in a few crude tackles that went unpunished by Attwell. Then with 15 minutes left Milijas won the ball with a sliding tackle on Arteta, astonishingly Atwell showed a straight red card, mind you his decision was encouraged by the reaction of the Arsenal players, who like routine started the imaginary red card waving antics.

It was real backs to the wall stuff and on the odd occasion where the Wolves defence was breached the magnificent Hennessey was on hand to keep the ball out of the net. Right on time Vermaelen was again denied by the inspired keeper and Wolves held out against all odds and through six minutes of stoppage time to claim a valuable point.

Opinion: Put that in your pipe and smoke it Wenger.
Man of the match: Hennessey
Team Rating: 10/10
Attendance: 59,686
Team: *Hennessey, Zubar (Stearman 50), Johnson, Berra, Ward, Jarvis, Henry, Forde (Guedioura 71), Hunt (Doyle 86), Milijas, Fletcher*
Unused Subs: *De Vries, Elokobi, Ebanks-Blake, Hammill*
Bookings: Johnson (32 - foul), Guedioura (73 - foul), Hennessey (92 – time wasting)
Sent Off: Milijas (75 - foul)

NO KEY TO OPEN BOLT'ED DEFENCE

BOLTON 1-1 WOLVES

Saturday 31st December 2011

Wolves could only muster a 1-1 draw away to bottom club Bolton, it was their third consecutive draw and they really need to be beating teams like Bolton if they're going to avoid being involved in the relegation dogfight.

Bolton were just about the better of the two teams in the first half and it was they who took the lead in the 22nd minute, Ricketts picked up the ball in space 35 yards out and drove forward before curling a long range effort into the top left hand corner of the net. Wolves were struggling to get any hold on the game and create anything, but they did come close to equalising 12 minutes before the break when Ward let fly from 25 yards and his shot crashed against the crossbar.

Mick McCarthy's half-time team talk paid dividends as Wolves equalised after just three minutes of the second half, they won two free-kicks in quick succession and from the second Jarvis sent in a superb cross that Fletcher headed in from close range. The game suddenly picked up and Hennessey was next in action in the 55th minute when he made a superb save to keep out Muamba's volley from the edge of the area.
Doyle came on for Fletcher with 20 minutes left and almost made the breakthrough in the 81st minute, but his header from Hunt's cross was blocked by Jaaskelainen. Wolves surged forward in search of a winner and were unlucky not to score when Tuncay headed against his own post and Davis hacked it off the line. The last chance fell to Doyle who found himself through one-on-one with Jaaskelainen but the keeper

just managed to get a hand on the ball and deflect it away and out of danger.

Opinion: Need to bring in someone with a bit of creativity now the transfer window is open.
Man of the match: Fletcher
Team Rating: 6/10
Attendance: 20,354
Team: *Hennessey, Stearman, Johnson, Berra, Elokobi (Edwards 46), Hunt (Foley 81), Henry, Ward, Jarvis, Fletcher (Doyle 68), Ebanks-Blake*
Unused Subs: *De Vries, Hammill, Doherty, Guedioura*
Bookings: None

LAMPARD JOINS THE WALTON'S

WOLVES 1-2 CHELSEA

Tuesday 2nd January 2012

The first match in 2012 continued where December 2011 finished as far as poor refereeing decisions against Wolves are concerned. Peter Walton continued to show the inconsistency in decisions given against the so called top teams and the lower teams when he failed to send off pretty boy Frank Lampard for a leg breaking two-footed tackle on Hammill, ironically it was Lampard who scored the winner in the last minute when he should have already been showered and changed and sipping a Babycham in the bar. Comparisons were immediately made between Lampard's tackle and that

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of Milijas who was serving part of a three match ban far a tackle that didn't even warrant a booking.

Chelsea started the best of the two teams and there was a subdued feel to the game until that Lampard tackle on Hammill in the 24th minute, what followed was ten minutes of nastiness with referee Walton having absolutely no control of what was happening in front of him. Celebrity philanderer Ashley Cole was also lucky when he didn't even get a yellow card for a wild high kick at Doyle from behind, predictably Walton gave Doyle a yellow for his reaction. Wolves charged forward and a Johnson header smacked against the post before Ward headed wide two minutes later when left all on his own just six yards out.

Wolves paid the price for some sloppy defending in the 54th minute when Chelsea went one up. Terry attacked a Mata corner and managed a slight flick on at the near post, the ball broke to Ramirez who held off Ward's weak challenge before turning and lashing the ball into the roof of the net. Wolves never gave up and in the 84th minute they got a well deserved equaliser, Jarvis chipped the ball across the area and Fletcher stretched to turn the ball back across the six-yard box where Ward was on-hand to smash home an unstoppable left footed volley.

All the good work was wasted with just one minute of normal time remaining, the Wolves defence was caught napping when Torres threaded the ball out wide to Cole, his cross was met by Lampard who volleyed into the net from close range to make it 2-1. However, proceedings didn't finish there and it needed an injury-time save from Cech who tipped over a close-range header from Doyle to deny Wolves a desperately needed point.

Opinion: Point thrown away after terrific fight back, must learn to shut up shop.
Man of the match: Hammill
Team Rating: 7/10
Attendance: 27,289
Team: *Hennessey, Stearman, Johnson, Berra, Ward, Forde (Jarvis 46), Frimpong (Fletcher 61), Henry, Hammill, Edwards (Foley 76), Doyle*
Unused Subs: *De Vries, Elokobi, Ebanks-Blake, Hunt*
Bookings: Hammill (26 - foul), Henry (27 - foul), Doyle (31 – ungentlemanly conduct)

NO CROSSING THE THIN BLUE LINE

BIRMINGHAM CITY 0-0 WOLVES

Saturday 7th January 2012 (FA Cup 3rd Rnd)

Wolves managed to keep a clean sheet for the first time in 20 league and cup matches, but apart from not actually losing this was painful viewing for both sets of supporters. The FA Cup was once upon a time supposed to be the best cup completion in the world, all it is now is a chance for managers to rest overpaid pampered players and therefore devalue the tradition and spirit of the competition.

There was nothing worthy of mention in the first half and we had to wait until the 54th minute for Wolves first clear cut chance, Kightly sent in a low cross from the right and Ebanks-Blake ballooned a golden opportunity over the bar from ten yards. That was about it as far as the action was concerned until the fourth and final minute of time added on. Jarvis unleashed a low drive that was touched onto the post by the fully stretched Blues keeper who then leapt to his feet to parry away the following-up header from Fletcher.

Opinion: A big case for penalty shoot-outs and avoid replays if this game was anything to go by.
Man of the match: Kightly
Team Rating: 4/10
Attendance: 14,594
Team: *De Vries, Stearman, Johnson (Foley 35), Berra, Ward, Kightly, Henry, Jonsson, Hunt (Jarvis 69), Ebanks-Blake, Doyle (Fletcher 74)*
Unused Subs: *Hennessey, Elokobi, Edwards, Frimpong*
Bookings: None

DEFENCE TAKE THE STRAIN AT THE LANE

TOTTENHAM 1-1 WOLVES

Saturday 14th January 2012

All the talk prior to this game centred on Spurs going top of the league and whether they were good enough to stay there and go on to win it. They obviously hadn't accounted for a resolute Wolves team who may not have the neat passing and touches of the Spurs team but have tenacity and grit by the lorry load.

Spurs spent the opening 22 minutes camped in the Wolves half but for all their possession Hennessey was well protected by his defenders, then suddenly against the run of play Wolves took the lead. A disputed corner was taken from the left by Jarvis and Friedel parried Johnson's header in to the path of Fletcher who made no mistake from eight yards. Spurs continued to push forward but Wolves nearly conjured up another goal in similar fashion to the first in the 37th minute, in a rare attack Edwards found space in the Spurs box but totally mis-cued his shot. Spurs finally thought they had equalised in first-half injury-time but Adebayor's toe-poke from eight yards was ruled out for offside.

Straight after the break Frimpong almost put Wolves 2-0 up but his fierce volley was parried out by Friedel, but just as the Wolves defence looked as if they had managed to silence the crowd Spurs equalised. Bale laid the ball off to Modric on the edge of the area and he hammered the ball into the net through a sea of defenders and past the unsighted Hennessey. As the game approached its end there were a few scares as Spurs

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pushed for all three points, but Wolves stood resolute and if anything upped their work rate to earn the point they deserved.

Opinion: Another unexpected but welcome point in North London.
Man of the match: Johnson
Team Rating: 8/10
Attendance: 36,194
Team: *Hennessey, Foley, Johnson, Berra, Ward, Kightly, Frimpong (Hunt 67), Henry, Jarvis (Elokobi 85), Edwards (Milijas 81), Fletcher*
Unused Subs: *De Vries, Stearman, Ebanks-Blake, Doyle*
Bookings: Frimpong (29 - foul), Henry (83 - foul), Johnson (90 - dissent)

SACRE BLEU

WOLVES 0-1 BIRMINGHAM CITY

Wednesday 18th January 2012 (FA Cup 3rd Rnd)

Mick McCarthy's bullish decision to make 10 changes to the side that started at Spurs totally backfired as his second string team humiliated Wolves supporters all over the country when they put in a shocking performance against Championship rivals Birmingham. To say the game was uninspiring was an understatement and Birmingham, who didn't exactly set the game alight themselves, went on to win 1-0 and progress to the next round.

The whole game was a scrappy affair and was decided when Birmingham scored the only goal in the 74th minute. Former London Wolves sponsored player George Elokobi, who endured a nightmare of a game throughout nearly scored an own goal when trying to clear a cross from the right. From the resulting corner Elliott hit the post and Murphy followed up to keep the ball alive, Elliott then stuck out a leg to poke the ball home from three yards.

Realising they could be on their way out of the cup McCarthy brought on Fletcher in search of an equaliser, but the closest they came was right at the death when Doyle produced a superb double save to block bravely at the feet of Fletcher and then turn over the follow up attempt from Hunt.

Opinion: McCarthy joins the long list of managers to devalue the tradition of the FA Cup.
Man of the match: Doherty
Team Rating: 1/10
Attendance: 10,153
Team: *De Vries, Doherty (Ward 83), Stearman, Berra, Elokobi, Hammill, Jonsson (Guedioura 67), Milijas, Hunt, Doyle (Fletcher 72), Ebanks-Blake*
Unused Subs: *Hennessey, Henry, Keogh, Forde*
Bookings: None

HENRY THE VILLAIN

WOLVES 2-3 ASTON VILLA

Saturday 21st January 2012

Wolves went into the bottom three for the first time this season after losing 3-2 at home to Aston Villa. After falling behind to an early goal Wolves stormed back to be leading 2-1 by the break, but they paid the price for not making the most of their first half opportunities and allowed Villa a way back into the game in the second half. Henry Ford once said "Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, and working together is success." pity his namesake who plays in the gold shirt doesn't take in those words of wisdom. Karl Henry badly let down his team mates when he was stupidly sent-off for a petulant kick at Albrighton.

Villa kicked off and could have scored within the first minute but Gardner headed wide when a cross from the left found him unmarked at the far post, however they did take the lead in the 10th minute. Berra was caught dawdling in the box and before he could clear the ball Bent nipped in and was floored by the defender, Bent picked himself up off the floor to send Hennessey the wrong way from the spot kick.

They may not be the most creative team in the premier but one thing Wolves have in abundance is fighting spirit and it was that asset that got them back in the game after 21 minutes. Frimpong showed great skill in midfield before finding Kightly on the right and he cut inside before beating Given with a low drive into the far corner. Wolves were now in the ascendancy and only denied the lead when Albrighton was

forced to head a shot from Henry off the line. A stream of Wolves corners then paid off in the 31st minute when Johnson headed on Kightly's centre and Edwards nodded high into the Villa net.

All the hard work of getting their noses in from was wasted when Villa got back on level terms just five minutes into the second half. Jarvis's wild clearance was met with a cushioned header by Clark into the path of Keane who swivelled and send a right-foot shot past Hennessey from outside the box.

With a quarter of an hour left Wolves were reduced to ten men. Henry tangled with Albrighton who was on the ground, and when the Wolves man finally broke free he sent a back heel in Albrighton's direction, the Villa defender though hardly touched rolled over half a dozen times to make sure that Henry received the red card. Wolves paid the ultimate price for Henry's stupidity with six minutes left, Hutton's cross was cleared to Keane and the former Wolves boy lashed a 20-yard drive past Hennessey into the top corner of the net.

Opinion: Need to rediscover that early season winning form.
Man of the match: Kightly
Team Rating: 8/10
Attendance: 27,084
Team: *Hennessey, Foley (Ebanks-Blake 90), Johnson, Berra, Ward, Henry, Frimpong (Milijas 56), Kightly, Edwards (Stearman 82), Jarvis, Fletcher*
Unused Subs: *De Vries, Elokobi, Hunt, Doyle*
Bookings: Kightly (86 - foul)
Sent Off: Henry (74 – serious foul play)

LIVER DAMAGE

WOLVES 0-3 LIVERPOOL

Tuesday 31st January 2012

After holding their own for the first 45 minutes Wolves put in a woeful second half display to end up the wrong end of a

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3-0 scoreline, in fact the second half defending was so poor even the useless Andy Carroll managed to get on the score sheet. Wolves have now gone nine league games without a win and collected just four points in a spell that has seen them dragged into the relegation dogfight.

It was a pretty even first half although Wolves had to thank Hennessey for keeping the scores level at half time after making good saves from Agger and Bellamy. But it wasn't all one way traffic and Wolves were creating chances of their own, Fletcher was only just too high with a header from a corner and then a few minutes later Kightly was just inches wide with an effort from outside the box.

With only seven second half minutes on the clock things started to go pear shaped, the Wolves defence were caught out by a quick throw-in from Bellamy to Adam, and his cross to the far post was met by the unmarked Carroll who slotted home to make it 1-0. Not learning any lessons from the first goal Wolves served up another example of how not to do it on the hour mark, Bellamy was given acres of space as the defenders stood off and waved him through, he got just inside the area before side footing home a shot that Hennessey would have been disappointed to see go over his left hand.

With 12 minutes left Liverpool completed the scoring when Adam slipped the ball to Kuyt who was all on his own, he was given so much time he could have had lunch before picking his spot and rifling it home from an acute angle. In a show of defiance substitute Ebanks-Blake crashed a 35-yard drive against the post, but it was all too little too late as far as the Wolves fans were concerned and the ones remaining at the death showed their feelings by booing the team off the pitch.

Opinion: Desperately short of confidence, can't buy a point at the moment.

Man of the match: Hennessey
Team Rating: 3/10
Attendance: 27,447
Team: *Hennessey, Foley, Berra, Johnson, Ward, Kightly (Hunt 62), Frimpong (Milijas 84), Jonsson (Ebanks-Blake 62), Jarvis, Edwards, Fletcher*
Unused Subs: *De Vries, Elokobi, Stearman, Doyle*
Bookings: Edwards (72 - foul)

THE HELPING HANDS OF THE LOFTUS STANGLER

QPR 1-2 WOLVES

Saturday 4th February 2012

Before this game kicked off Wolves hadn't kept a clean sheet in their previous twenty games and they again conceded an early goal, however the whole pattern of the game was changed when QPR striker Cisse was sent off in the first half. Wolves took full advantage of the extra man and scored two second half goals to give them a 2-1 win and all three points for only their third victory since August.

Having not won a league game for two months Wolves kicked off devoid of confidence and it showed in their play as QPR bossed the opening minutes, and it was no surprise when they opened the scoring in the 16th minute, Wright-Phillips laid the ball off to Zamora who lashed the ball into the net. The turning point of the game came in the 34th minute when QPR were reduced to ten men, Cisse reacted to a sliding tackle from Johnson and grabbed the Wolves defender by the throat, after a yellow card was shown to Johnson referee Clattenburg issue a straight red card to Cisse for violent conduct.

Mick McCarthy changed things around at the start of the second-half with Doyle replacing Stearman, and within a minute of the restart the change paid dividends. Doyle's right-wing cross wasn't cleared by the QPR defence and the ball fell to Jarvis who cut inside and curled a shot into the right-hand corner of the net. Wolves were now in command and could have gone in front twice in quick succession following the goal, Fletcher crashed a header against the crossbar and then Ferdinand hacked the ball off the line during a goalmouth scramble. Ebanks-Blake, O'Hara and Doyle all flashed attempts wide as Wolves continued to go forward and the pressure finally paid off when they deservedly went ahead in the 71st minute, O'Hara played the ball

through to Ebanks-Blake who laid it off for Doyle to slot home from close range. As the game entered the last ten minutes QPR went in search of an equaliser, but they were denied by the brilliance of Hennessey when he somehow managed to tip over a swerving shot from Taarabt. But that was as close as QPR came with Wolves easily hanging on for a crucial win to take them out of the bottom three.

Opinion: Buy that man Cisse a beer.
Man of the match: Doyle
Team Rating: 8/10
Attendance: 17,351
Team: *Hennessey, Stearman (Doyle 46), Johnson, Bassong, Ward, Foley, Frimpong (Ebanks-Blake 24), Edwards, O'Hara (Milijas 87), Jarvis, Fletcher*
Unused Subs: *De Vries, Elokobi, Hunt, Berra*
Bookings: Johnson (34 - foul), O'Hara (38 - foul), Bassong (45 - foul)

McCARTHY WINS THE SACK RACE

WOLVES 1-5 WBA

Sunday 12th February 2012

Never for many a year have the Molineux faithful been subject to such an inept display from a team where Wayne Hennessey was the only player who could be exonerated as fit to wear the shirt. It was a woeful performance and a team of teenage girls could have defended better than those in the gold shirt. Do the players know that this is the most important game of the season as far as the supporters were concerned, after watching 90 minutes of total crap it didn't seem so.

McCarthy started with a 4-3-3 formation and the stall was set from the second minute when Hennessesy saved at point blank range from Thomas. Things didn't get any better and you would have thought WBA were the home team the way they stormed forward time and time again. With only three recognised midfielders starting

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the game the opponents had that much space they must have thought it was Christmas, and as the game progressed they were queuing up to have a shot. Had it not been for Hennessey Wolves could have been five down by the time Odemwingie was allowed to cut in from the right unopposed and make it 1-0 in the 34th minute with a shot that took a deflection off Edwards on the way in. Having been totally outplayed, out passed and turned inside out Wolves grabbed an equaliser out of nothing in first half injury time, Fletcher combined with Ebanks-Blake before beating the dive of Foster with his shot on the turn.

Wolves began the second half on the offensive and playing at a higher tempo, but gradually WBA started to reassert their dominance and they regained the lead in the 64th minute. From a corner on the right McAuley's initial header clipped the outside of a post and Johnson hoisted his clearance high into the air inside the penalty box, Olsson then fired a shot through a ruck of players, Hennessey should have held his shot but it slipped from his grasp and over the line.

Wolves tried to hit straight back and Johnson came close to equalising when his header was cleared off the line by Mulumbu via the underside of the bar. But the comeback was short lived and WBA made it 3-1 in the 77th minute, Ridgewell turned a Morrison header back across the box and Olsson back back-heeled the ball goalwards where Odemwingie nipped in and hooked it over the line. Andrews made it 4-1 with a deflected low drive after 85 minutes and Odemwingie completed the rout two minutes from time when he added a fifth. After the game Mick McCarthy apologised on behalf of the players who had so badly let him down, but it didn't make a scrap of difference as he paid the ultimate price a day later when he was given the sack.

Opinion: Total disgrace, no passion no idea and now no manager.
Man of the match: Hennessey
Team Rating: 0/10
Attendance: 27,131
Team: *Hennessey, Foley, Johnson, Bassong (Berra 61), Ward, Doyle, Edwards (Milijas 69), O'Hara, Jarvis, Ebanks-Blake, Fletcher*
Unused Subs: *De Vries, Stearman, Hunt, Hammill, Jonsson*
Bookings: O'Hara (27 - foul)

TYNE BOMB

NEWCASTLE UTD 2-2 WOLVES

Saturday 25th February 2012

After making Wolves the laughing stock of the Premiership Steve Morgan finally appointed Terry Connor as the new manager until the end of the season. Putting faith in the man who was part of the management team responsible for the current plight of the side speaks volumes of how much our owner knows about football. Whether Connor saves Wolves from the drop remains to be seen, but to his credit he got off to a great start with a point against high flying Newcastle on their own patch.

After the humiliation of losing 5-1 in the previous weeks Black Country derby Wolves looked dead and buried after Newcastle went into a 2-0 lead with just 18 minutes played. The first goal came after just six minutes when Hennessey pulled off a good save to deny Cabaye, but after the ball was scrambled clear Tiote followed up with a shot that Cisse then flicked into the net. The second came when Doyle's clearing header dropped to Gutierrez 25 yards out and he took one controlling touch before rifling a shot into the top corner. Even though they were two down at half time Wolves had enjoyed as much of the possession as Newcastle but without really troubling the keeper.

Just as Newcastle had done in the first half Wolves repeated at the start of the second when they pulled a goal back with the half just five minutes old. For once Wolves were granted a slice of the sort of good fortune which has eluded them for most of the season to date, Jarvis cut inside from the left and fired in a shot which clipped Simpson and looped high over Krul into the net.
That slice of luck was just what the doctor ordered and suddenly there was a spring in the step of the Wolves players and with 66 minutes on the clock the equaliser

came, and it was that man Doyle. Williamson headed O'Hara's free-kick straight at Doyle who reacted first to the rebound to poke the ball into the bottom corner. It was a frantic finish as Newcastle poured forward in search of the winner, but for once the Wolves defence stood tall and strong and limited their opponents to long shots from outside the area.

Opinion: Great start for Connor and long may it continue.
Man of the match: Doyle
Team Rating: 7/10
Attendance: 52,287
Team: *Hennessey, Zubar, Berra, Stearman, Ward, Foley (Milijas 90), Henry, Edwards, O'Hara (Kightly 70), Jarvis (Hunt 85), Doyle*
Unused Subs: *De Vries, Craddock, Ebanks-Blake, Johnson*
Bookings: Berra (91 - foul)

POG ROUGH

FULHAM 5-0 WOLVES

Sunday 4th March 2012

After the fine comeback at Newcastle the week before new manager Terry Connor was bought back to the real world when his side were totally outplayed from start to finish by Fulham. It was a dark and gloomy day at the Cottage during this Sunday afternoon game, and the performance of Connor's team was just like the weather. He played the same kind of tactics as his predecessor with Doyle playing up front on his own and the Fulham centre halves had probably their easiest game of the season as the Wolves defence by-passed the midfield and humped the ball aimlessly in Doyle's direction.

Fulham dominated from the outset and bombarded Hennessey with shots from all angles, Wolves' only attempt on goal came in the 20th minute when Stearman headed O'Hara's free-kick just wide. Fulham finally opened the scoring after 35 minutes, although the goal came after the

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ever-useless Mike Jones gave a corner when Dembele's shot was adjudged to have hit Stearman on its way out, replays showed it was nowhere near the defender. Duff sent over the corner and Stearman left Pogrebnyak all on his own to head home from close range. Right on the break Pogrebnyak got his second, Foley sent a suicide pass across the park in Stearman's direction and when Fulham intercepted it some quick interplay set up the Russian to make it 2-0 at half-time.

Fulham continued in the same vein at the start of the second half and effectively sealed all three points in the 55th minute, Murphy split the Wolves defence with a long pass and Dempsey collected it and rounded Hennessey to make it 3-0. Connor finally tried to change things round on the hour mark when he brought on Fletcher for Kightly, but moments later Hennessey was picking the ball out of his net once again. The keeper couldn't hold onto a Johnson shot and it squirmed out of his grasp allowing Pogrebnyak to complete his hat-trick and make it 4-0. Dempsey helped himself to another in the 83rd minute and Wolves had conceded five for the second time in three games.

Opinion: Connor back to earth with a massive thud.
Man of the match: Hennessey
Team Rating: 1/10
Attendance: 24,034
Team: *Hennessey, Zubar, Stearman, Berra, Ward, Kightly (Fletcher 61), Foley (Hunt 84), Henry (Milijas 19), O'Hara, Jarvis, Doyle*
Unused Subs: *De Vries, Johnson, Bassong, Jonsson*
Bookings: Zubar (7 - foul), Berra (73 - foul)

ROVER AND OUT

WOLVES 0-2 BLACKBURN ROVERS
Saturday 10th March 2012

It's only March and we're already involved in relegation six pointers, and it was fellow strugglers Blackburn Rovers who took the honours with a 2-0 victory. When you look at the fact that Rovers had not kept a clean sheet in the Premier League for 30 games it shows what a poor display this was from Wolves. Roger Johnson who was fined earlier in the week after reporting for training inebriated was once again among the substitutes, I assume he had been watching video highlights of some of his performances this season.

Wanderers made a bright start with Doyle sending an early header off-target, and then in the 18th minute Jarvis should have given Wolves a deserved lead but put the ball wide of the post from two yards when it seemed easier to score. Wolves have been vulnerable and conceding goals from set-pieces all season and two minutes before half-time it was yet another set-piece sucker punch that gave Rovers the lead. From Pedersen's long throw-in Davis's poor header fell into the path of Hoilett whose half-volley bounced past Hennessey into the net.

That goal just before half-time knocked the stuffing out of Wolves and there was no flow to the play as they continued the old habit of conceding possession cheaply, and they were duly punished in the 69th minute. Hoilett picked up Yakubu's short pass and went round O'Hara who just stood and watched on and then lashed the ball past Hennessey from outside the area for his and Rovers second.

With ten minutes left Wolves finally started to realise the consequnces of a defeat and applied a bit of pressure. Robinson kept out a shot from O'Hara and headers from Fletcher and Milijas missed the target. Ultimately it was too little too late, and after Robinson saved a further Fletcher effort there were boos at the final whistle from the long suffering home fans.

Opinion: Need to be beating the likes of Blackburn if we're going to avoid the drop.
Man of the match: Doyle
Team Rating: 2/10
Attendance: 26,121
Team: *Hennessey, Zubar, Stearman, Bassong, Ward, Doyle (Ebanks-Blake 81), Davis (Milijas 75), Edwards (Kightly 60), O'Hara, Jarvis, Fletcher*
Unused Subs: *De Vries, Johnson, Berra, Foley*
Bookings: Fletcher (63 - foul)

A PILE OF MANURE

WOLVES 0-5 MANCHESTER UTD
Sunday 18th March 2012

For the third time in five games poor old Wayne Hennessey found himself picking the ball out of his net on five occasions. Wolves went bottom of the league for the first time this season and on this showing things look bleak as far as survival is concerned. Since the sacking of Mick McCarthy the team's performances have gone from bad to worse and Terry Connor's tactical nous could probably be recorded on the back of a postage stamp. Wolves started lively and for twenty minutes they held their own with their lack of passing quality more than compensated for with their passion and desire in the tackle. Fletcher nearly opened the scoring for Wolves in the 17th minute when he headed just wide following a quality cross from Jarvis. However it all started to go pear shaped in the 21st minute when they conceded another disappointing goal from a set-piece, a deep corner from Rooney picked out the unmarked Carrick at the far post who had time to turn the ball back across goal for Evans to slot it home from close range.

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Wolves' task was made virtually impossible in the 39th minute when the brainless Zubar unnecessarily clattered Welbeck for his second yellow card. Suddenly the impetus was with United and they ruthlessly exploited the advantage of the extra man with two more goals before the break. From a Wolves corner United broke at lightening pace and within 30 seconds the ball was in the net to make it 2-0 courtesy of Valencia. On the stroke of half-time Welbeck made it 3-0 with a simple finish after he was left wide open and allowed to pick his spot from eight yards out.

United made it a training ground stroll in the second half and it came as no surprise when Hernandez made it 4-0 in the 56th minute after he was allowed a free header from a cross on the right into the box. To their credit the supporters continued to get behind Wolves, but on the hour mark Hernandez got his second and United's fifth when he was again given oceans of space on the edge of the six yard area.

Opinion: Great support, pity Hennessey doesn't get the same from his defence.
Man of the match: Jarvis
Team Rating: 2/10
Attendance: 27,494
Team: *Hennessey, Zubar, Stearman, Bassong, Ward, Foley, Edwards, Davis (Jonsson 43), Jarvis, Doyle (Kightly 58), Fletcher (Ebanks-Blake 77)*
Unused Subs: *De Vries, Hunt, Johnson, Berra*
Bookings: Zubar (28 - foul)
Sent Off: Zubar (39 – second bookable offence - foul)

THINGS GRINDING TO A HOLT

NORWICH CITY 2-1 WOLVES

Saturday 24th March 2012

That's now one point in fifteen for caretaker manager Terry Connor. After taking the lead for the first time in God knows how long Wolves showed why they are currently rooted at the bottom of the league when they conceded an equaliser with yet more suicidal defending just 84 seconds after opening the scoring. During the week Roger Johnson's missus took to Twitter demanding a reason for her hubby's recent absence from the starting line-up, just watch the highlights on the TV sweetheart and the answer is there for all to see.

Considering the mauling they had from Man United a week earlier Wolves started

brightly, Ward fired just wide inside the first minute and then Norwich keeper Ruddy reacted well to stop Doyle heading home a Kightly free-kick. With 25 minutes on the clock Wolves got the goal they so desperately needed, the impressive Kightly darted down the right flank and sent over a cross that was touched by Doyle into the path of Jarvis who slotted the ball home. However, Wolves showed a minute later why they had the worst defensive record in the league as Jackson played through Holt to equalise, the Norwich striker went straight down the middle unmarked and lifted the ball over Hennessey before heading home from six yards.

It was a disastrous end to the half as Wolves went behind in stoppage time. Holt had a fierce shot superbly blocked by Ward, but Hoolahan's follow-up was handled in the box by Jonsson, referee Clattenburg awarded a penalty which Holt slammed down the middle giving Hennessey no chance.

Wolves impressed in flashes in the second half and Fletcher almost connected with a deflected Jarvis cross-shot as they pushed forward in search of an equaliser. However the lack of confidence following an awful run of results was always apparent in the final ball, and their play became frantic as they desperately searched for an equaliser. Holt was given a red card for a crude tackle on Kightly five minutes before the end, but it was too late for Wolves to take advantage of as Norwich's defence remained steadfast to hold off Wolves.

Opinion: Nothing but a win will do against Bolton next week.
Man of the match: Kightly
Team Rating: 6/10
Attendance: 26,752
Team: *Hennessey, Stearman, Johnson, Bassong, Ward, Kightly (Gorman 89), Edwards, Jonsson (Milijas 64), Jarvis, Fletcher, Doyle (Ebanks-Blake 65)*
Unused Subs: *De Vries, Berra, Foley, Price*
Bookings: Jonsson (45 - handball), Johnson (63 – unsporting behaviour)

BOLTED UP BY DAVIS

WOLVES 2-3 BOLTON

Saturday 31st March 2012

Wolves went down 3-2 to relegation rivals Bolton in this "must win" game, it meant that they have lost their last seven league games at home, a new club record which is now an unwanted statistic on the CV of Terry Connor. It was a game where Wolves dominated for an hour, but they paid the ultimate price for not taking their chances when Bolton scored from the penalty spot following a joke of a decision by the referee.

Wolves steamed into Bolton from the off and played some of their best football of the season. They won corner after corner and created chance after chance with Fletcher coming close to opening the scoring on three occasions. Firstly he was denied by a brilliant one-handed save by Bogden in the Bolton goal, he then saw an effort booted off the line by Miyaichi and then he headed against the crossbar in the last minute of the first half.

The second half carried on where the first had finished with Wolves straight back on the attack, and just when it was looking like it was going to be yet another one of those days the magnificent Kightly broke the deadlock with a stunning 53rd minute strike. He received the ball on the right and then cut in and arrowed a shot beyond Bogdan into the corner of the net. Then just after the hour mark came that penalty decision, ex Wolves player Mark Davis conned the ref when he dived as Johnson challenged and Petrov sent Hennessey the wrong way from the spot-kick.

It was a real sickener for Wolves and the cause wasn't helped when with just under 15 minutes to go Jarvis blew a golden chance to make it 2-1 after he headed wide when it seemed easier to score. Three minutes later that miss proved costly when Ngog headed against the bar and

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Alonso converted the rebound from close range to give Bolton the lead. It was game over six minutes from the end when Kevin Davies easily strolled past the incompetent Johnson before rolling a shot into the far corner. Jarvis gave Wolves hope by pulling one back two minutes from time but it was all too little too late.

Opinion: Six points adrift with only seven games left, to say things are looking grim is an understatement.
Man of the match: Kightly
Team Rating: 6/10
Attendance: 25,215
Team: *Hennessey, Stearman, Johnson, Bassong, Ward, Kightly, Davis (Henry 87), Edwards (Milijas 87), Jarvis, Ebanks-Blake (Doyle 81), Fletcher*
Unused Subs: *De Vries, Hunt, Berra, Zubar*
Bookings: Stearman (60 - foul)

CRUEL BRITTANIA

STOKE CITY 2-1 WOLVES

Saturday 8th April 2012

That's six defeats on the spin now and Wolves are propping up the Premier League table six points adrift with a goal difference that's so bad that in essence its seven points from safety with only six games left. Results earlier in the day had presented Wolves with an opportunity to reduce the gap between them and safety, but for the third successive match they took the lead only to surrender it by poor defending and end up with nothing. To rub salt in the wounds Crouch's winner came from a joke of a decision to award a free-kick against Ward for a tackle on Ethrington where his only crime was to win the ball fairly, but when you are down on your luck such decisions seem inevitable and at the moment Wolves are rock bottom.

Desperately needing a win Wolves started brightly and matched Stoke in the early exchanges, but it was Stoke who missed the first real chance of the game, Walters steered a diving header wide from two yards out when he was set up by Crouch's knock down. Wolves swiftly made him pay for that miss when Kightly put them in front within three minutes, he chipped the ball into the box and although Edwards failed to connect at full stretch, his swing at the ball succeeded in putting off Begovic, who allowed it to go straight in. Ten minutes later Stoke drew level, Kightly gave away a free-kick on the edge of the area and the

Wolves defence were unable to clear the ball which came back to Shawcross who teed up the unmarked Huth to power in between Hennessey's legs.

Wolves tried to get some momentum going at the start of the second half and won an early free-kick in a useful position which Fletcher could only clip into Begovic's arms. Kightly then whipped in a great cross from the right which Bassong nodded wide, Jarvis was next to send in a dangerous delivery which Stoke just about managed to clear. However, Wolves went behind in the 61st minute following the award of the free-kick already mentioned, the ball came across the area and Crouch rose unchallenged to loop a header over Hennessey.

Wolves stepped up the tempo in search of an equaliser and when Kightly burst forward with a mazy run Jarvis couldn't put his pass in at the far post. As time ran out Connor threw on Doyle and he immediately brought a save out of Begovic, but all the huffing and puffing was to no avail and defeat means that Wolves are now staring relegation full in the face.

Opinion: Bags of effort but lacking guidance from an incompetent manager.
Man of the match: Kightly
Team Rating: 5/10
Attendance: 27,005
Team: *Hennessey, Stearman, Zubar, Bassong, Ward, Kightly, Henry (Davis 86), Edwards, Jarvis, Ebanks-Blake (Doyle 83), Fletcher*
Unused Subs: *De Vries, Johnson, Berra, Milijas, Forde*
Bookings: Kightly (35 – unsporting behaviour)

GONE FOR A BASSONG

WOLVES 0-3 ARSENAL

Wednesday 11th April 2012

This was always going to be a difficult game for Wolves against an in-form Arsenal team. Arsene Winger's side had won eight of their last nine games, where Wolves on the other hand had managed just the one win in eight. From a Wolves perspective the game was effectively over after only eight minutes when the referee sent off on-loan defender Sebastien Bassong for an innocuous foul in the area, Arsenal then went on to end up comfortable 3-0 winners.

The visitors started brightly and Bassong made a good interception to head clear from a dangerous right wing cross in only the third minute, that ironically was to be the defenders only contribution before he was harshly sent off five minutes later for bringing down Walcott in the area. In line with the Arsenal philosophy of trying to influence the referee's decision, the winger easily went down following the slightest touch from Bassong, and the theatricals that followed ensured that Wolves would play the rest of the game with ten men. When the penalty was eventually taken Van Persie dinked the ball over Hennessey to put the visitor's one up. Three minutes later it was game over, the cheating Walcott played a one-two with Van Persie and then slotted past Hennessey from ten yards to make it 2-0. Wolves looked lethargic and obviously feeling hard done by and the fans had to wait 25 minutes to see the first goal attempt which Berra headed weakly wide from a corner.

Even though they were dead and buried Wolves showed lots of spirit and they were desperately unlucky not to halve the deficit on the hour mark when Szczesny made a stunning save from a Doyle header that looked destined for the net. However all the effort was in vain as Arsenal made it three after 68 minutes, Milijas lost the ball in midfield and Benayoun beat Hennessey

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with a low drive from the edge of the area.
Opinion: Another case of a different interpretation of the rules for the teams at the top of the league and another for those at the bottom.
Man of the match: Stearman
Team Rating: 3/10
Attendance: 25,815
Team: *Hennessey, Zubar, Stearman, Bassong, Ward, Kightly, Henry, Davis (Berra 10), Jarvis, Edwards (Milijas 53), Doyle (Fletcher 78)*
Unused Subs: *De Vries, Ebanks-Blake, Johnson, Forde.*
Bookings: Doyle (40 - foul), Zubar (56 - foul), Kightly (58 - foul)
Sent Off: Bassong (8 – professional foul)

CLEAN SHEETS AT LAST

SUNDERLAND 0-0 WOLVES
Saturday 14th April 2012

Wolves kept a clean sheet for the first time in eight months as Terry Connor saw his side end a run of seven successive defeats by bagging only their second point since he took over as caretaker manager, but Wolves are still five points adrift at the foot of the table with just twelve remaining to battle for.

The game itself was a low key affair with chances far and few between. A big plus for Wolves was the mature display from young Anthony Forde and he nearly opened the scoring with a low drive in 20th minute. On the hour mark Ebanks-Blake missed a golden opportunity to give Wolves the lead, he played a quick one-two with Fletcher and then wildly blazed over from ten yards with the goal gaping. It was then Sunderland's turn to squander a chance when Hennessey saved McClean's diving header from close range.

With ten minutes left Jarvis floated over the perfect cross that Fletcher should have scored from, but he headed straight at Mignolet from six yards. Apart from a few goalmouth skirmishes at both ends that was about the total sum of the excitement.

Opinion: Too little too late to keep us up.
Man of the match: Fletcher
Team Rating: 7/10
Attendance: 37,476
Team: *Hennessey, Forde (Jarvis 61), Stearman, Berra, Ward, Kightly (Edwards 76), Davis, Henry, Fletcher, Foley (Zubar 82), Ebanks-Blake*
Unused Subs: *De Vries, Johnson, Jonsson, Doyle*
Bookings: Stearman (86 - foul)

DOWN AND OUT

WOLVES 0-2 MANCHESTER CITY
Sunday 22nd April 2012

After three games Wolves were in third place in the Premier League level on points with leaders Liverpool, eight months later they are now relegated to the Championship with three games left. Wolves have won just three games in the 32 games that followed the promising start to the season. There has been plenty of effort, but the lack in investment after the nail biting end to last season and the farcical appointment of Terry Connor after the sacking of Mick McCarthy have ended in the inevitable relegation.
Wolves started brightly and went close when Bassong had a shot deflected wide after Kightly's corner had been half cleared, that was followed with Hart parrying away a 20-yard drive from Davis. But City gradually showed their class and both Aguero and Nasri spurned good chances before they took the lead in the 27th minute. Clichy nut-megged Kightly on the half-way line and then picked out Aguero with a long diagonal pass from the left, the striker made no mistake from ten yards to put his side one up.

Wolves again started brightly at the start of the second half and Hart was called into action to turn aside a Fletcher header after Bassong had won the initial aerial battle. However in this league fighting spirit and graft come second best to ball control and slick passing ability and City again spurned a series of chances before putting the outcome beyond doubt with fifteen minutes left. Tevez was on the ground shielding the ball from Davis when the referee inexplicably gave a foul to City, Tevez took the free-kick himself and exchanged passes with Clichy before finding Nasri who netted from ten yards.

The magnificent support from the Wolves fans continued as they sang their hearts out until the fate was finally sealed. Sky cameras panned on Chairman Steve Morgan who was laughing with his cronies in the stands, whatever is funny about relegation is a mystery to me, let's hope he parts with some of his money and invests in a class manager who can get us out of the "division from hell" next season.

Opinion: The suicidal decision to put Terry Connor in charge ends in inevitable relegation.
Man of the match: Jarvis
Team Rating: 6/10
Attendance: 24, 576
Team: *De Vries, Foley, Stearman, Bassong (Berra 75), Ward, Kightly, Davis, Henry, Jarvis, Edwards (Doyle 61), Fletcher (Ebanks-Blake 77)*
Unused Subs: *Ikeme, Johnson, Milijas, Zubar*
Bookings: None

IT'S SWAN HELL OF A COMEBACK

SWANSEA CITY 4-4 WOLVES
Saturday 28th April 2012

What a game, three goals down after just 15 minutes thoughts were on rout, but Wolves battled back to eventually earn a 4-4 draw in one of the games of the season. With relegation confirmed the previous weekend the only thing at stake for the Wolves players was pride, and hopefully something to give their loyal supporters to cheer about.

But just as you thought things couldn't get any worse they did, the travelling diehard's supporting their beloved Wolverhampton Wanderers were watching the ball hit the Wolves net for the 76th time this season after just 23 seconds. Swansea kicked off and moved the ball down the left flank and Orlandi headed in the resulting cross

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before a Wolves player had even touched the ball. Allen made it 2-0 with just three minutes and 42 seconds on the clock when his shot deflected off Stearman and wrong footed De Vries.

Things rapidly got worse for Wolves as a third arrived in the 15th minute, Orlandi turned Foley inside out and his deflected ball across the box was headed in at the far post by Dyer. With the game already seemingly lost Wolves settled down and started to attack Swansea, and Fletcher's looping header after 28 minutes gave them hope. But that only proved brief respite as Graham restored Swansea's three goal lead a few minutes later. It was blink and you miss a goal as Wolves pulled another back three minutes later, they were suddenly over-running Swansea as another Doyle cross came through to Jarvis who cut inside Caulker to place a finish beyond Vorm.

After the late Wolves charge at the end of the first half Swansea changed formation by playing an extra player at the back at the start of second half, but it mattered not a jot as Wolves pulled another goal back after 54 minutes. Edwards played a one-two with Kightly and slotted the ball into the net to make it 4-3. Fletcher then just failed to get a touch on a deep cross from Foley with Wolves fully in control and pressing for an equaliser. And it duly arrived in the 69th minute when Fletcher's first-time ball across the six-yard box was slid home by Jarvis to put the Wanderers supporters into seventh heaven. As the game reached its climax all the momentum was with Wolves and Kightly had a glorious chance to give Connor his first win in his 11th game in charge, but he blazed over the bar from eight yards.

Opinion: Having to score four goals to get a point says everything.
Man of the match: Jarvis
Team Rating: 8/10
Attendance: 19,408
Team: *De Vries, Ward, Berra, Stearman, Foley, Jarvis (Hunt 72), Edwards, Henry, Kightly, Doyle, Fletcher (Ebanks-Blake 76)*
Unused Subs: *Ikeme, Johnson, Milijas, Jonsson, Zubar*
Bookings: Ward (57 - obstruction)

NO PLACE LIKE HOME

WOLVES 0-0 EVERTON
Sunday 6th May 2012

Talk about end of season games with nothing to play for, this one produced a game where the two teams tested the will to live. In the end the only entertainment on offer for the supporters was that created amongst themselves. Wolves fans chanted "Let's pretend we've scored a goal" followed by a mass of cheering in mock celebration. The choice of next manager was next up with Jose Mourinho seemingly preferred ahead of Terry Connor who was being touted as manager for our neighbours down the road at Sandwell Town.

Everton had the lion's share of possession in an all round scrappy game where chances were far and few between and what chances did come their way were wasted, ironically when Everton did actually get the ball in the net in the 27th minute Jelavic was flagged for offside. With relegation confirmed in their last home game motivation for the Wolves players was always going to be a problem, but they did have their moments and Doyle came close to scoring in the 17th minute when his scrambled effort went just wide. The second half followed the same pattern as the first with Everton having all the possession and failing to make the most of what half chances came their way. The game was pretty much summed up when Jelavic beat the Wolves defenders to a long ball only to screw his shot wide of the far post. Everton had the ball in the net for a second time moments later when Jelavic's cross was turned in by Stracqualursi at the far post, but again it

was ruled out for offside.
Ebanks-Blake who came on as substitute tried to up the tempo for Wolves but when he did manage a shot with ten minutes left it was a hopeful long range effort that went wide. That was it at home for the season for Wolves where a promising start back in August ended with only 12 points from a possible 57 in their last 19 games and therefore ending up with the inevitable. As a footnote it says everything when the players couldn't even be bothered to do a proper lap of honour to thank the magnificent supporters who have followed them religiously and who pay for their over inflated wages every week, a total disgrace.

Opinion: The sooner the season ends the better.
Man of the match: Doyle
Team Rating: 3/10
Attendance: 25,466
Team: *De Vries, Zubar, Stearman, Berra (Elokobi 54), Ward, Kightly (Forde 71), Henry, Edwards, Hunt, Doyle, Fletcher (Ebanks-Blake 60)*
Unused Subs: *Ikeme, Johnson, Milijas, Jonsson*
Bookings: None

IT ALL ENDS ON A STALE NOTE

WIGAN ATHLETIC 3-2 WOLVES
Sunday 13th May 2012

Newly appointed manager what's his name Stale Solbakken sat in the stand and watched the kind of rubbish Wolves

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supporters have had to endure for the other 37 games this season. It finished with another defeat as Wolves lost 3-2 to Wigan and the new manager must have wondered what he was letting himself in for.

With only their pride to play for Wolves got off to the perfect start with a goal after nine minutes, Jarvis cut in from the left flank and curled a stunning shot into the top left hand corner of the Wigan goal. The joy was short lived as Wigan equalised just two minutes later, and like most of the season bad defending was to blame, Hunt was caught in possession just outside his own area and the ball was then played to Di Santo who scored from the edge of the area. The goals kept coming thick and fast and after 13 minutes more poor Wolves defending ended with Wigan taking a 2-1 lead. From a corner on the left Boyce was left unmarked at the far post and he thumped his header firmly into the top of the net.

Ikeme came on for De Vries just after half time and immediately produced a good save to deny Maloney. After playing second fiddle to Wigan since taking that early lead Wolves gradually began to make an impression and Ebanks-Blake headed over from his one real chance of the game, while Al Habsi produced an excellent save to deny Doyle. But the comeback was short lived and Wigan made it 3-1 with 12 minutes left when Boyce smashed a volley into the top corner of the net from 20 yards. However Wolves had the final say, with just four minutes left Doyle dispossessed Lopez on the edge of the area and when the ball dropped to Fletcher he knocked in a consolation goal to make the final score 3-2 to Wigan.

So Terry Connor's 13 games in charge came to a end without a win, he amassed just 4 points out of a possible 39 after the sacking of Mick McCarthy, a decision which ultimately led to the relegation of our beloved Wolverhampton Wanderers.

Opinion: New manager now in place, new brush and new faces required to get us back where we belong.
Man of the match: Jarvis
Team Rating: 3/10
Attendance: 21,986
Team: *De Vries (Ikeme 51), Zubar, Stearman, Berra, Ward, Jarvis, Henry, Edwards, Hunt (Forde 58), Ebanks-Blake (Fletcher 75), Doyle*
Unused Subs: *Elokobi, Johnson, Milijas, Jonsson*
Bookings: Stearman (19 - foul), Berra (64 - foul)

Barclays Premier League Table 2011-2012

pos	*CLUB*	*P*	*W*	*D*	*L*	*GF*	*GA*	*GD*	*PTS*
1	**Manchester City**	38	28	5	5	93	29	64	89
2	**Manchester United**	38	28	5	5	89	33	56	89
3	**Arsenal**	38	21	7	10	74	49	25	70
4	**Tottenham Hotspur**	38	20	9	9	66	41	25	69
5	**Newcastle United**	38	19	8	11	56	51	5	65
6	**Chelsea**	38	18	10	10	65	46	19	64
7	**Everton**	38	15	11	12	50	40	10	56
8	**Liverpool**	38	14	10	14	47	40	7	52
9	**Fulham**	38	14	10	14	48	51	-3	52
10	**West Bromwich Albion**	38	13	8	17	45	52	-7	47
11	**Swansea City**	38	12	11	15	44	51	-7	47
12	**Norwich City**	38	12	11	15	52	66	-14	47
13	**Sunderland**	38	11	12	15	45	46	-1	45
14	**Stoke City**	38	11	12	15	36	53	-17	45
15	**Wigan Athletic**	38	11	10	17	42	62	-20	43
16	**Aston Villa**	38	7	17	14	37	53	-16	38
17	**Queens Park Rangers**	38	10	7	21	43	66	-23	37
18	**Bolton Wanderers**	38	10	6	22	46	77	-31	36
19	**Blackburn Rovers**	38	8	7	23	48	78	-30	31
20	**Wolverhampton Wanderers**	38	5	10	23	40	82	-42	25

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.

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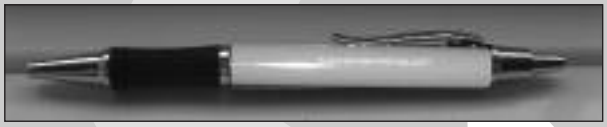
Programmes from the 1980's also available.

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

WWLSC Pens.

Roy Eagles has some great London Wolves pens - £2.50 each or a bargain at 5 for £10.



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.

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Meet the Players