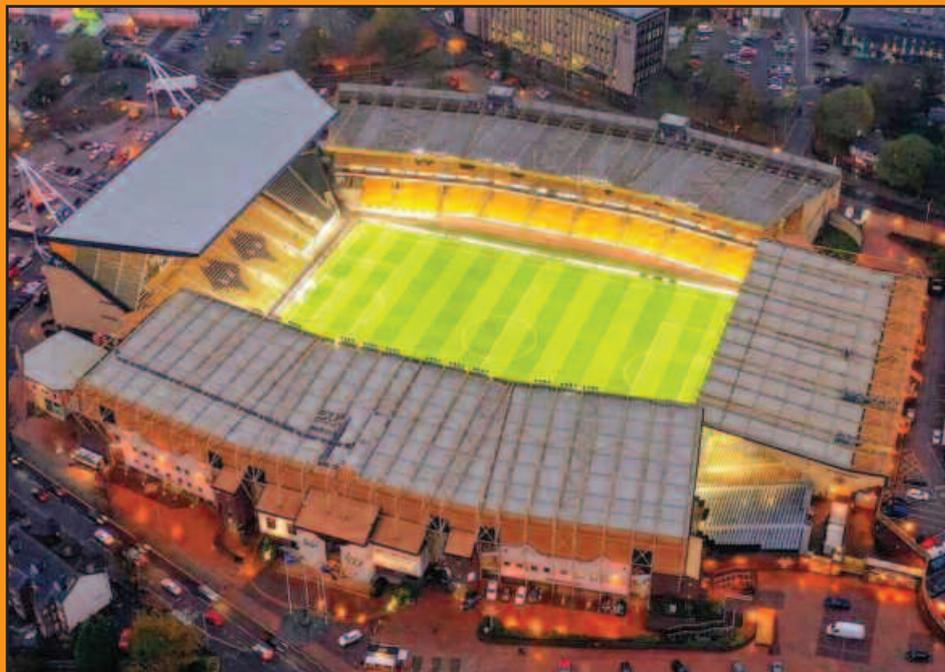




Wolverhampton Wanderers

LONDON SUPPORTERS CLUB

founded 1966



Worldwide
Wolves
London

**Worldwide Wolves
UK Supporters'
Club of the Year
2019-2020**

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January 2021



FROM THE CHAIR



WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS LONDON SUPPORTERS CLUB

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1923-2015
Steve Bull MBE

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Dave Slape

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Carol Woodfield

Travel Secretary

Peter Woodfield

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Roy Eagles

Minutes Secretary

Matthew Hawthorne

Newsletter Editor

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Hi and Greetings to Everybody,

As you may have realized, your end of season magazine, has overlapped the new season. Steve wanted to hold the press for the end of the Europa League road, and as a key worker in the NHS Steve has been rather busy as you can imagine.

I sincerely hope that you are all well, and if any of you had any of the symptoms of Covid 19 that you have fully recovered.

Due to the pandemic and government guidelines, and given the age and vulnerability of some of our members, it has, obviously, not been possible to hold our annual general meeting, so your committee have decided to invoke rule 12 of our constitution and suspend the meeting for the financial year.

This ruling will remain in place until such time that it is deemed safe within UK Government guidelines for England. Statements from the officers relevant to the AGM, and financial report are contained in this issue.

We were also unable to hold our summer walk, and our Player of the Year presentation to Raul Jimenez, and hopefully we will be able to re-schedule this to take place later this year.

Our Player of the season vote closed at the end of August with a narrow win for Adama Traore, with Conor Coady a close second. We hope to present Adama with his award as and when the current climate allows this to take place.

On the pitch, great progress in our first venture to the European stage for almost forty years, with Wolves reaching the last eight of a major competition. There is also lots of optimism for the coming season and improvement on the seventh place achieved in the last two seasons. The season spanned 383 days, for the longest ever played, certainly by a British side, with the team zig zagging across Europe before coming unstuck in the dying minutes against Sevilla in Germany.

It was with great sadness that I heard of the passing of long time members Derek Stedman in the spring, Carl Millward in April and Dave Gilson in August. There was further sad news that former Wolves legends Gerry Harris and keeper Fred Davies had also passed away since our last newsletter.

Dave Gilson was a regular traveler until ill health limited his outings, and if you were ever lucky enough to chat with him, he would regale you with stories of the athletic heroes he knew from the times of Bannister, Brasher and Chataway.

Derek Stedman very kindly left a very generous donation to London Wolves.

As the new season got under way it was great to see the thoroughly deserved England debut of Conor Coady, whose praises were sung far and wide by TV pundits and the England manager.

I would finally like to send all the thoughts of London Wolves members to our old friend Mike Bailey. Mike and Barbara Bailey have been kind enough to join us for many of our events. Andy, Victoria and Barbara have revealed publicly that Mike is another of the 60s and 70s heroes suffering from dementia in an effort to get football to do more.

We were saddened to learn of this when first told and send every best wish to Mike and to his family as they support him, and also express our delight for what Mike gave us all as supporters.

Have a great season and hopefully we'll all meet up soon. Stay safe.

Stuart



London Wolves Supporters Club Virtual AGM July 2020

1. Chairman's address:

Dear Members,

Many of you will have been eagerly anticipating our AGM at the Horse and Groom, and the opportunity to sample fine beer and equally fine company. The committee has decided, though, that such a meeting would not meet Government advice on gatherings, especially given the age of some of our members so we are, reluctantly not holding an AGM this year.

It is important, though, that we do our best to keep you informed as the AGM would have done, so we have produced this report, and which includes the accounts from Carol as well as reports from each of the usual reporting officers. We will also publish this in the AGM section of the website. If you have any matters arising from last year's 2019 minutes which were printed in the April 2020 Newsletter then please raise them with Dave Slape at: Dave.Slape@Londonwolves.com and we will try to address them.

Each year, as well as examining the reports, we have two particular decisions to take at the AGM - to elect committee members and to determine the annual membership fees. I'm pleased to say the current committee have all agreed to continue to serve until we can hold an in-person election. As you know, next year sees our 55th anniversary as a formal Wolves supporters' club. We would normally have taken the planned event into account in setting the fees, as it normally puts a strain on our finances because of deposits etc being required, but have decided, for now, to hold them steady at last year's rates. (e.g £20 for an individual, £24 joint or £28 for a family in UK).

We did consider using the widely publicised technologies to hold the meeting, but this would have excluded some members who frequently attend so decided against it.

I hope you are all keeping well and safe, and look forward to being able to meet up again at a match.

Stuart Earl

Chairman

Chairman@LondonWolves.com

2. Secretary's report:

Dave Slape reported that due to the coronavirus pandemic, and the closing of stadiums all subs and income are down this season. The membership stood at 248. Subs paid were £3,405 and the Golden Gate brought in £305.30. Other income included the train competition £84.00, Programme/Raffle/Badge sales £153.40, Pens £58.00 and Wallets £6.00.

The secretary's expenses were £562.78 consisting of printing £138.04, stamps £293.27, envelopes £33.77 and AGM food £97.70.

Finally I would like to thank all committee members and WWLSC members for their help over the last year.

Dave Slape

Secretary

Dave.Slape@Londonwolves.com



3. Travel Secretary's report:

- Trips were run to all home and 7 away matches, until fans were unable to attend matches from March because of the pandemic. There were no official club trips organised for the Europa League away matches, but a number of members attended these matches. There was again a reasonably good train service from Train Operators. Avanti West Coast are now the train operators on the West Coast Line.
- Highest attended trips - Burnley, Chelsea (home).
- There was a slight decrease in numbers travelling to both home and away matches, due mainly to matches being switched for TV.
- There was a deficit from trips of £607.36 as the Club part-subsidised some of the more expensive long away trips. This includes a loss of £224.80 for the cancelled Olympiacos home trip.
- Fares for home trips varied depending on how early the booking was made. Train companies require immediate payment once booking is confirmed. A number of members have railcards, so these were used for many of the trips.
- There is still money owed from 2018/19, and 2 people owe money from last season, which I am chasing up.
- 6 club season tickets were purchased in June 2019 at a cost of £3430. There is a deficit of £1029.50 from the match day sale of the tickets, but we are due a credit of over £700 for the 4 home matches in which season ticket holders were unable to attend. Thanks are due again to members who loaned their season tickets to the Club when they were unable to attend home matches. We will be renewing the 6 Club season tickets once Wolves have announced prices for the 2020/21 Season.
- There were 14 away season tickets purchased by members. Wolves have not yet announced season or match ticket prices for next season. Loyalty points system will be again be used.
- Thanks were on offer once again to Leigh Bucknall and Claire Peters in Wolves Ticket Office for their help during the season. Thanks also again to Dave Slape for his help.

TRAVEL SECRETARY EXPENSES:

BUS/TRAIN FARES	£ 39.00
STATIONARY	£ 5.00
TELEPHONE: O2	£ 123.02
TELEPHONE: VIRGIN MEDIA	£ 1.37
TOTAL	£ 168.39

Peter Woodfield

Travel Secretary

travel@londonwolves.com



4. Treasurer's Report:

WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS LONDON SUPPORTER'S CLUB 2019-20			
FINANCIAL REPORT			
INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
Fares	£13,969.44	Fares	£14,576.80
Match Tickets	£17,358.70	Match Tickets	£18,504.30
Season Tickets	£2,400.50	Season Tickets	£0.00
Membership	£3,405.00	Magazine Expenses	£1,650.00
Website Sponsorship	£416.60	Website	£227.28
Fares/Match Tickets 2018/19	£60.00	AGM/Committee Meeting Expenditure	£0.00
Pens	£58.00	Chairman's Expenses	£60.00
Badge Sales	£0.00	Secretarial Expenses	£562.78
Goalden Gate Draw	£305.30	Travel Secretary Expenses	£168.39
Donations	£24.32	Stationery	£34.00
Postage	£15.40	London Wolves Jackets	£90.00
Raffle/Programmes	£153.40	London Wolves Pens	£39.00
Train Competition	£84.00	Donation to Breast Cancer	£45.00
Magazine Refund	£50.00	Barcelona Metro Tickets	£8.00
Wallets	£6.00		
Barcelona Metro Tickets	£8.00		
Steve Bull Evening	£20.00		
TOTAL INCOME	£38,334.66	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£35,965.55
At the end of this season we have a profit of £2,369.11. There is £72.50 still outstanding for Match tickets and Fares. The club owes members refunds for matches that were played behind closed doors £273.50 Wolves are also holding credit of £1470.50 for the Olympiacos home and away matches against future ticket purchases.			
HSBC CURRENT ACCOUNT AT 18 th AUGUST 2020 = £7525.47			

Carol Woodfield

Treasurer

treasurer@londonwolves.com

5. Social Secretary's report:

With our venture into Europe for the first time in nearly 40 years, and then the subsequent Coronavirus Pandemic where all games were suspended for just over three months, the organisation of social events this season has been the most difficult I have encountered in my time as Entertainments Officer.

Even so prior to the pandemic there were a few memorable events held, including the Evening with Steve Bull in Central London towards the end of November, where 50 or so members were entertained by the former Wolves Legend. The whole evening was courtesy of Worldwide Wolves, and Special Thanks go to Worldwide Wolves Coordinator Alan Perrins and our Chairman Stuart Earl who made the evening possible.

All in all there were only three Saturday home games before Christmas 2019, the last one being on the 19th October when the visitors were Southampton. So WWLSC members joined in with the "Wolves Allstars Christmas Dinner". The event took place on Thursday 5th December at the Mount Hotel in Tettenhall, the night after the West Ham game at Molineux.

That was the last event before the coronavirus pandemic raised its ugly head, and even though the season was finally completed at the beginning of August 2020 the new season is now under way with all games currently being played in empty stadiums for the foreseeable future. I had planned a Christmas Party at the beginning of December, again with the Wolves Allstars, but Jason Guy who organises the event thinks it's now unlikely the event will take place, the FPA/Hall of Fame dinner is also on the back burner.



As Entertainments Officer it would have been impossible to organise any of these functions without the help of all my fellow Committee members, so my gratitude goes to everybody concerned.

Roy Eagles

Entertainment Officer

social@londonwolves.com

6. Website Editor's report:

The major change from last year is a recovery in advertising revenues to leave a surplus of £202

The website costs:

- Summary – cost = £214 (+£3 OVER 2018-19) income from ads £417 (was £44 = (+£313) net surplus £202 (was loss £167 (= +£369 year-on-year)

Website activity:

- **Social media**
 - i) Twitter is @wwlsc with around 4500 “followers” (+500) including a few members.
 - ii) Jack and others run the Facebook entry which is used for news info, Peter’s travel, and also for others to contact us.
 - iii) Stuart can also get enquiries through World Wide Wolves website.
- **eNews**
 - i) Goes to all members who have given Dave an email address; includes “soft-copy” of Steve’s Newsletter. Several friends, guests and WWFC, and ex-players also take it.
- **LondonWolves.com / Mobile.londonwolves.com / lwarchive.londonwolves.com**
 - i) A new archive site has been opened at <https://lwarch2015-19.londonwolves.com/> to cover the period between Division 1 and the Premier League while freeing space and performance on the main site. It’s accessible from the main desktop website but will need the London Wolves login to access the pages.
 - ii) Thanks to Sue Wharton, Pete & Steve Carvell, Carol & Peter, Dave, Peter A, Mark F and Roy for pictures from several of the events and to Steve for providing the important content with the magazine.

Peter Bartlett

WWLSC Webmaster

webmaster@londonwolves.com

7. Newsletter Editor's report:

Working as a key worker at the West Middlesex Hospital in West London has meant that a lot of my time has been spent working long unsociable hours during the Coronavirus Pandemic. This ultimately means the time usually set aside compiling the newsletter has unfortunately not been available, causing a delay in the production of the end of season newsletter. I can only apologise for the delay, but the wellbeing and health of others is far more important in these very pressing times.

Without the help and time of other people I wouldn't be able to compile the newsletter. Peter Bartlett does an enormous amount of fact finding for me and helps with match reporting and article suggestions. My thanks also go to the other members of the committee who help, including Chief Honcho Stuart Earl who does his various bits and pieces including some of the match reporting, Peter Woodfield for the travel updates, Roy Eagles for the Social News, Matthew Hawthorne for his quizzes and Dave Slape for his efforts, which include the collection of the hard copies from the boot of my car at my workplace.

Lastly I would also like to thank the people who have written various articles over the last couple of years including Johnny Phillips and Dave Dungar, and last but not least Payam the Printer and Dave from Kent who does such a great job with the formatting.

Steve Ray

Newsletter Editor

Editor@LondonWolves.com

That concludes the AGM reports of all the reporting officers.

WYMAN & SONS WOLVES BADGE



THE FIRST LONDON WOLVES BADGE?

*Dave Dungar is a historical researcher of all things Wolves and Wolverhampton and is a serious collector of anything in gold and black. He is a lifelong Wolves fan who was a close friend of WWLSC Honorary Life President Derek Dougan. He is the author of **Cometh Light**, a hardback book which illustrates the footballing and industrial history of Wolverhampton, and showcases Wolverhampton's footballing and industrial heritage between 1888 and 1939.*

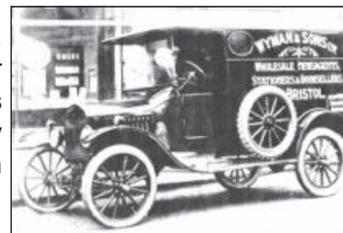


Dave who is a close friend of London Wolves has kindly written the article below for our WWLSC newsletter detailing his investigation into the origin of the first London Wolves Badge.



I picked up this Wolves 'badge' in a general auction. It was described by the auctioneer in the sale catalogue, as; an early 20th Century football badge, the yellow and black badge with wolf to the front, marked **Local Club Badge** to back by **Wyman & Sons Ltd**, with yellow and black ribbons.

Wyman & Sons were based in Fetter Lane, off Fleet Street, London, EC4 and in Reading (also, Cardiff, Swansea and Bristol too in their heyday : which was pre-second world war) and were a very famous printing company in the Victorian & Edwardian periods. Amongst many other things, they printed railway posters & timetables, although their house speciality appears to have been wildlife prints (particularly butterflies).



According to London historian, Stow, Fetter Lane, is a name that could be derived from many possible sources, including from the words faitor, faitour, faytor, felter, and fewter. In earlier times he says the lane was a spot where people in various stages of inebriation would congregate, passing on cheery greetings and advice to passers-by (**Support Wolverhampton Wanderers?**).

Stow also suggests the lane's name might be derived from **“so called Fewters (or idle people) lying there, in a way leading to gardens, but the same is now of latter years on both sides built through with many fair houses”** (presumably Stow meant later preventing such behaviour).

Or alternatively, Stow suggests the old French word 'faiator' meant a lawyer, and by the 14th century the reputation of that august profession had fallen so far into disrepute that the word was synonymous with idlers. There is also his theory that the name could have come from the 'faitours' – fortune tellers who were prevalent there in medieval and Elizabethan times. Other of his theories, include the idea that the name may have come from the lance vests worn on cuirasses (also known as fetters): many armourers had workshops in the area. One final theory is that the name derived from 'felter' – makers of felt who also carried on their business in the lane. **So, basically, Stow hadn't got much of a clue where the name Fetter comes from!**

Anyway, back to the printing firm based there. In 1840, Charles William Henry Wyman (1804-1878) took control of Messrs. Cox & Sons, the famous Oriental printers. Its chief, John Lewis Cox, soon retired in favour of his sons John and Henry Cox who entered into partnership with Wyman. The name of the firm was then altered to Cox (Bros.) and Wyman. Mr Wyman later acquired sole ownership of the business and the printers were called Wyman & Sons / Wyman & Sons Limited from 1858/9 onwards.

Records on the internet confirm Wyman & Sons was very active in the 1930s, printing amongst other things, government publications, particularly legal documents, being well situated to do so, within London's legal quarter. They also seem to have expanded into national newspaper distribution. Again, well placed to do so, being based just off Fleet Street.

After the Second World War, Wyman & Sons / Wyman & Sons Limited became Cox & Wyman Limited in 1959. The earliest items under the name Wyman & Sons I could find on the internet are from the 1890s, but as noted above, this firm existed under the name Wyman & Sons from 1858 onwards, and therefore traded for one year and a century, in that name.

WYMAN & SONS WOLVES BADGE



Interestingly, part of the back-stamp on the rosette badge is the phrase **'Local Club Badge'**. Given that Wolverhampton has never been local to Fetter Lane in London, I am thinking the person making up the print block for the back-stamp, mistook the word 'League' for 'Local'.



The club/rosette badge was sold at the same auction as a 1908 English (FA) Cup Winners photograph of Wolverhampton Wanderers taken in front of the Crystal Palace Exhibition venue (see left). The Final that year was played at Crystal Palace, so the badge/rosette may have been produced for that game.

'A period Wolverhampton Wanderers English Cup Winners 1907-08 block print, having the team line-up in front of the Crystal Palace, 32cm x 39cm, framed and glazed'

On the face of it, the gold on the rosette badge is more akin to the Wolves gold stripe colour of the 1921 Wolves shirt worn in the Final of that year, played at Stamford Bridge. Wyman were active throughout the early 20th Century, in fact right up to when the business changed name in 1959, to Cox Wyman: so that would at least rule out the badge as being produced for Wolverhampton Wanderers for the 1960 Cup Final.



The stripes on the badge rosette are consistent with Wolves wearing stripes at the time the badge rosette was produced but that doesn't particularly help determine whether the badge rosette was made for the 1908 or 1921 Final, as Wolves wore striped shirts in both those finals.

Prior to 1908 English Cup Final, Wolves were wearing shirts with the darker old gold stripes, then there is strong evidence from the 1908 Cup final shirt in the Wolves museum (shown here) to suggest a shirt with a lighter gold stripe was worn in the 1908 final. It can't be ruled out that the Wolves board commissioned a lighter gold striped shirt for the 1908 Final and then reverted back to an old gold stripe until the early 1920s, when I am certain Wolves adopted a shirt with a lighter gold stripe.



On the left are two pictures of the 1920s Wolves shirt colouring. Tancy Lea's 1920 Cup Final Shirt and a 1920s BDV 'Silk'. So rather like the origin of the word Fetter, we are left wondering about the year the Wolves badge was made, but at least I have narrowed it down to either 1908 or 1921. With both Finals played in London, the London based printers were ideally placed to sell their badge at either Final, so no help in tying down the year from that. To me the fact that the badge was sold by the same vendor as the Wolves 1908 English Cup Winners photo, is a strong indication the rosette badge was made for the 1908 Final.

Whichever year, I reckon this is the oldest known London Wolves badge.....? Fittingly, the wolf's head image on this pre-war rosette badge is remarkably similar to the London Wolves 50th anniversary badge.

Up the London Wolves
Dave Dungar





Wolves Transfer News

Following Wolves' Europa League exit at the hands of Sevilla in August boss Nuno Espirito Santo called for club chiefs to increase his squad depth, and owners Fosun duly responded again and showed their ambitions of making Wolves part of the elite by smashing the club transfer record with the £35million signing of Fabio Silva. The spending didn't end there, and other major incomings included Fernando Marçal, Nelson Semedo, Ki-Jana Hoever, Vithina, Rayan Ait-Nouri and Matija Sarkic.

New Signings

Fabio Silva



Wolves broke their transfer record to bring in highly-rated Fabio Silva from Porto in a five-year deal worth £35m, eclipsing the £30m spent for Raul Jimenez in 2019. Regarded as an exciting young talent, Silva has also represented his country at junior level from under-15s to under-19s.

Silva was Wolves' first summer signing after boss Nuno Espirito Santo called for club chiefs to increase his squad depth following their Europa League exit in August. His form for Porto's under-19s, in which he scored 20 goals in 26 matches saw Silva called up by first-team manager Sergio Conceicao at the start of last season, making his senior debut in the Primeira Liga in August 2019. That appearance at the age of

just 17 years and 22 days made Silva the youngest league player in the history of the club, breaking teammate Ruben Neves' club record.

The Portugal U19 international made one league start for Porto's first team last season and scored one goal in 12 Primeira Liga appearances, that made the 18-year-old Porto's youngest ever goalscorer as well as player. A month later he became Porto's youngest player in European competition when he featured for Porto in the UEFA Europa League.

The youngster has also shone on the international stage, boasting extensive experience through the Portuguese age groups, where he has scored 17 times in 37 outings, including a hat-trick for the under-19s in a 4-1 win over Italy. He was also part of the under-17 side that reached the quarter-finals of the 2019 UEFA European Championships, scoring in a 4-2 group victory against Iceland.

Fernando Marçal



Wolves completed the signing of defender Fernando Marçal on a two-year deal from Lyon for a fee understood to be in the region of £1.8m.

The Brazilian made 68 appearances for Lyon after joining the club in 2017, and started in last season's Champions League quarter-final victory over Manchester City, and semi-final defeat to Bayern Munich.

The 31-year-old, who can play at left-wing back and centre-back will add much-needed depth to the Wolves back-line, and was Wolves' second summer signing after they had brought in Fabio Silva for a club-record fee. Having played over 280 games in top leagues, as well as Champions League football, Marçal will add a huge amount of experience to Nuno's young team.

Ki-Jana Hoever

Wolves completed the signing of young Liverpool defender Ki-Jana Hoever in a deal worth up to £13.5million. The 18-year-old Dutchman, who has played as both a centre-back and right-back for the Reds arrives at Molineux on a five-year contract. Wolves will pay £9m initially for him, with add-ons potentially taking the fee to £13.5m, with the teenager signed to bolster the right-wing-back position after Matt Doherty's sale to Tottenham earlier this summer. Liverpool, also inserted a 15 per cent sell-on clause into the deal.

TRANSFER NEWS



Having learnt his trade in his home nation with Ajax, Hoever joined Liverpool in 2018 and made two first-team appearances. Jurgen Klopp handed the then 16-year-old his debut at Molineux, in Wolves' Emirates FA Cup victory over the Merseyside club back in January 2019.

A full debut followed this time last year when Hoever marked his first start with a goal as Liverpool beat MK Dons 2-0 in the Carabao Cup. A headed goal at Stadium MK made the Dutchman Liverpool's fourth youngest ever goal scorer.

At international level Hoever has represented Holland at four separate age groups, up to under-18s, who he currently earns selection for.

Nelson Semedo



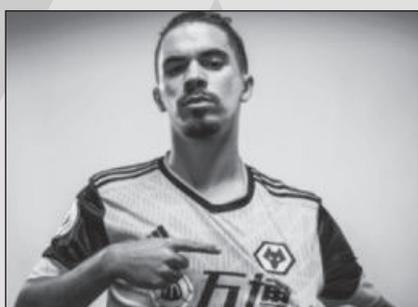
Towards the end of the transfer window Wolves confirmed the signing of Nelson Semedo from Barcelona. The 26 year-old full-back who has earned 13 caps for Portugal, signed as a direct replacement for the departed Matt Doherty, who left the club for Spurs earlier in the summer.

Wolves had already bolstered the position with the signing of Ki-Jana Hoever from Liverpool, but Semedo offered a more experienced option on the right flank, having made more than 100 appearances for Barcelona.

Semedo has signed a deal that will keep him at Molineux until 2023, with an option to extend until 2025. Wolves will pay an initial £27.5m for the 26-year-old, although add-ons could see that rise to £29m and potentially even more should certain triggers be hit. In three seasons at the Nou Camp, Semedo won two La Liga titles and the Cope del Rey following his move from Benfica to Barcelona, playing 42 times for the Spanish giants last season.

Loan Deals with Option to Buy

Vitinha



On September 10th Wolves confirmed the signing of Vitor Ferreira also known as Vitinha from FC Porto on a loan to buy agreement. The Portugal under-21 star has joined on loan from FC Porto with a view to it being made a permanent transfer next summer for a fee believed to be £18million.

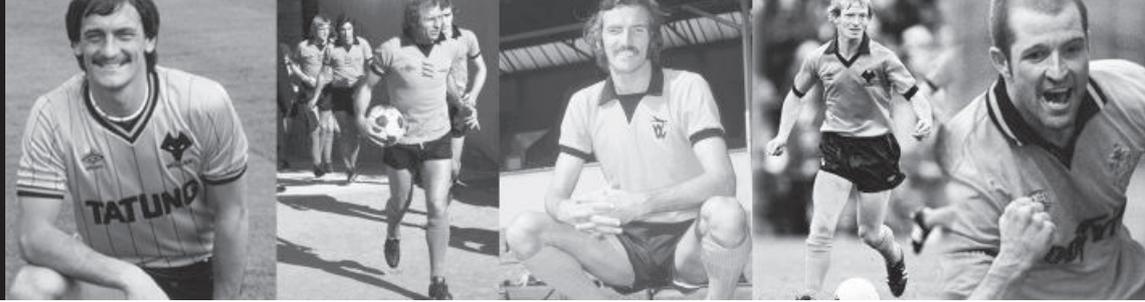
He's been with Porto's academy since he was 11 and apart from a brief youth loan to Padroense in 2015, Vitinha has spent his entire career with the club until now. After starring with Porto's B team at the beginning of this season, scoring eight times and grabbing three assists in 15 matches, Sergio Conceicao promoted him to the first team.

He made his Primeira Liga debut in a 2-1 win over Gil Vicente in January and Conceicao has rewarded him with a further seven appearances since. Vitinha's maiden season with the first team brought him two trophies with Porto, lifting the Primeira Liga and Portuguese Cup titles.

The youngster has enjoyed similar progression on the international stage, representing Portugal in four separate age groups in the past two years. While representing his country Vitinha was voted 2019's breakthrough player at the world-renowned Toulon Tournament, and spent his most recent international stint alongside Ruben Vinagre and Pedro Neto.

In addition to filling the vacancy in central midfield Vitinha has the qualities to thrive further forward. He has played in an advanced midfield position for Porto, as well as on the left on occasions.

TRANSFER NEWS



Rayan Ait-Nouri



The last player to arrive at Molineux at the end of the transfer window was the promising French youth international left-back Rayan Ait-Nouri from Ligue 1 club Angers SCO.

The 19-year-old arrives at Molineux on a season-long loan with an option to make the switch permanent for a fee believed to be £20million. The French Under-21 international made his senior Angers bow in the 2018/19 season before making a name for himself in the top flight the following year.

The exciting 19-year-old, who has represented his country at under-21 level, first joined Angers in 2016, progressing from the youth set-up into the first-team squad during his first two years at the club, before making his league debut against champions Paris Saint-Germain.

During the 2019/20 season, his first full campaign in the senior squad. Ait-Nouri shone in the French top-flight as an attacking full-back, with two assists in his opening three fixtures, and helping Angers to finish 11th in the league. He began the current Ligue 1 season in similar fashion, setting up his side's first goal in a 3-2 victory over Stade Brest.

The youngster has also featured on the international stage, earning 10 caps with France under-18s, as well as making two appearances for his country's under-19 and under-21 sides.

Matija Sarkic



The first player to arrive at Wolves during the transfer window was that of Villa goalkeeper Matija Sarkic on a three-year deal. The 23-year-old Montenegro international arrived at Compton on a free transfer.

The young keeper was subsequently sent on a season long loan to Shrewsbury Town to gain more senior experience.

Sarkic did not play for Villa's first team, but caught the eye during a loan spell at Scottish Premiership side Livingston, making 18 appearances in the first half of 2019/20. He was then recalled by Villa in January due to Tom Heaton's knee injury.

He made his Montenegro bow last November in a 2-0 victory against Belarus.

All of us at WWLSC wish all our new signings a massive welcome to our club.

Departures

As far as outgoing are concerned, we saw the departure of first teamers Matt Doherty to Spurs and Diogo Jota to Liverpool. Doherty and Jota have both played a major contribution in the rise of Wolves' stature in the Premier League over the last few years. It is always sad to see quality players leave the club, but their departures will present new opportunities for incoming players, existing squad players and the introduction of younger players from a talented Youth Academy.

Major Outgoings

Matt Doherty

The popular left-back, who was voted WWLSC Player of the Year in 2015-16, has moved to Spurs for a fee rumoured to be £15m with no add-ons, while his former club Bohemians are due 10 per cent after inserting a sell-on clause into the deal which took him to Molineux in 2010.





Diogo Jota



Diogo Jota was signed by Wolves on a permanent contract in July 2017 for a fee of £13 million, this followed a successful loan spell from Atletico Madrid.

The 23-year-old attacker has signed for Liverpool on a five-year contract for an initial £41m, with it potentially going up to £45m in add-ons.

The Portuguese international scored 44 goals in 131 appearances in all competitions for Wolves.

Other Outgoings

Ruben Vinagre has signed for Olympiacos on loan with the option to make the move permanent for £22.5million next summer.

Elliot Watt has moved to Bradford, **Will Norris** to Burnley, **Cameron John** to Doncaster, **Benny Ashley-Seal** to Northampton Town (all for an undisclosed fee) and **Jordan Graham** to Gillingham on a free transfer.

Other Players gone out on loan are: **Conor Ronan**, **Leo Bonatini**, **Renat Dadashov** (all to Grasshoppers), **Ryan Giles** to Coventry City, **Morgan Gibbs-White** to Swansea, **Bruno Jordao** to Famalicao and **Leonardo Campana** to FC Famalicão.

January 2020-2021 Transfer Window

STOP PRESS: Wolves have confirmed the signing of experienced striker **Willian Jose** from Real Sociedad on loan, with the option to buy him for around £22million in the summer. Jose has been with Sociedad since 2016 and scored 62 times in 170 appearances for the La Liga outfit. Nuno has also recalled **Morgan Gibbs-White** from his starring loan at Swansea and **Patrick Cutrone** from Fiorentina. We welcome our world cup winner back, and no one will forget Italy international Patrick's goal at West Ham. **Oscar Buur** has also gone to Grasshoppers on loan.

Current Travel Arrangements Suspended

Supporters are currently suspended from attending games at Premier League football grounds in England for the foreseeable future due to the coronavirus pandemic. Since the 2019-2020 season was originally suspended on the 19th March 2020 no supporters have been allowed into the Molineux Stadium to attend any form of football matches.

Sports stadiums in some areas of England were allowed to re-open from December 2nd 2020 following a tiered system imposed by the Government. Outdoor venues in tier one areas were be allowed to admit up to 4,000 fans, those in tier two up to 2,000 spectators, while venues in tier three remained shut. There were a small number of games where supporters were allowed into Premier League stadiums, however Molineux was not included due to the tier 3 restrictions.

No travel arrangements for members will be made for the foreseeable future. Until the critical situation regarding the coronavirus pandemic improves, and the relevant authorities announce their decisions regarding the return of football matches to Molineux then no bookings will be taken.

There is also expected to be vastly reduced capacity levels when football does eventually return to Molineux, and a ballot system will be used to determine the distribution of match tickets to season ticket holders and members. As and when these decisions have been taken travel information will be made available on the official London Wolves website.

All up to date travel information can be found on the official London Wolves website at www.londonwolves.com or by contacting the Travel Secretary.

TRAVEL SECRETARY - PETER WOODIFIELD

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Obituaries



IN MEMORY

Gerry Harris



On 28th July 2020, former Wolves double league championship and FA Cup winner Gerry Harris died at the age of 84.

Harris began his Wolves career in 1953 and spent almost his entire playing career at Molineux, making a total of 270 appearances for Wolves during the glory days of the 1950s and 1960s.

A tough-tackling left-back, Harris spent 13 years in gold and black and was a key member of Stan Cullis's First Division title-winning sides of 1957-58 and 1958-59. He also played in the 1960 FA Cup final success against Blackburn and appeared in every European Cup game in the club's history.

Following his retirement from professional football, Harris continued to participate in charity matches for Wolves All Stars, as well as captaining the Bridgnorth-based Bylet bowls team.

A keen supporter of Wolves in his later years, Harris who was believed by many to be the best left-back in England to never win a full international cap, would regularly be seen at Molineux cheering on his beloved team, who would always hold a special place in his heart.

*Gerry Harris, Wolves Legend
Born October 8th 1935, died July 28th 2020*

Fred Davies



On 2nd September 2020 it was announced that former Wolves goalkeeping legend Fred Davies had passed away at the age of aged 81, eighteen months after being diagnosed with pulmonary fibrosis.

Born in Liverpool, Davies began his football career when he joined Wolves in 1957 at the age of 17. His first season at the club was spent in the reserves and Davies became disillusioned with the coaching process at the club, claiming "I couldn't see myself learning anything because I had no one to learn from". However, Davies later met former Wolves goalkeeper Bert Williams in his shop and Williams offered to help train Davies in his spare time, the pair having training sessions at Wolves' Castlecroft training ground.

He had to wait five years before making his senior debut on 27 January 1962 in an FA Cup tie against rivals West Brom. He managed 12 appearances during this season, and made the position his own in the 1962-63 campaign, replacing Malcolm Finlayson.

He faced competition throughout his time at Molineux, but was the club's main goalkeeper during the mid-1960s as they suffered relegation from the top flight, only to win promotion back in 1966-67. He also played for the Wolves team which, playing as the Los Angeles Wolves, won the 1967 United Soccer Association championship.

After making 156 league appearances for Wolves, Davies went on to play for Cardiff and Bournemouth.

*Fred Davies, Wolves Legend
Born August 22nd 1939, died September 2nd 2020*

Obituaries



London Wolves Members

Dave "Ferdie" Gilson



London Wolves were saddened to hear of the passing of long term member Dave Ferdie Gilson in August 2020.

Dave as we knew him, and Ferdie as the Athletics world knew him, first attended a Wolves game in the early 1940's. He participated in many London Wolves events and is pictured here with Kenny Hibbitt before the 1980 League Cup Final dinner in 2013.

Ferdie's first love was athletics, joining Polytechnic Harriers at 15 moving on to Belgrave. He was in the winning relay team and was also associated with South London Harriers, whose membership included Gordon Pirie. He had many stories of these days.

He studied Russian and was often identifiable by his woolly hat (seen here with Entertainment Officer Roy Eagles).

Dave was laid to rest on Wednesday 7th October 2020 at the South London Crematorium in Streatham. Appropriately "The Happy Wanderer" together with Jeff Beck's "Silver Lining" were played during the short service.



Carl Millward



It is with great sadness that we report the passing of Carl Millward, a long standing and very popular London Wolves Member from Covid-19 on 31st March 2020.

Our heartfelt sympathies are with Paula and his family. Carl's funeral was in early May 2020 and Roy Eagles arranged for his mention in the Wolves Memorial Service.

Carl was well known for his love of not only Wolves but also the scooter scene and Northern Soul, and was pleased to meet BBC Midlands Queen; Jenny Wilkes of Soul at a Wolves Women event. Thanks to Barry Baker for picture of Carl in a familiar pose on Blackheath common.



London Wolves lost one of their own today. Carl Millward lost his short battle with the coronavirus. Our thoughts are with his wife Paula, family and close friends.

God Bless You Carl RIP

Barry Baker

Having known Carl for a number of years I was saddened to here of his passing due to Covid-19 at such a young age. Carl was always full of energy. We shared a passion for Scooters, Northern Soul Music, and of course our beloved Wolves.

It was a pleasure to have spent time, and of course a few beers with Carl. Always made me laugh and always full of life. Carl also loved to join in on our London Wolves events. So like all his family and friends it was such a shock when Carl was finally taken by the horrible virus.

RIP Carl

Roy Eagles

Derek Stedman

We were sorry to learn of Derek's death on 19th May 2020. Derek was another long-term London Wolf based around Horsham, and who had an affinity for steam locos as well as Wolves. Our thoughts and prayers are with Diane and Derek's family. WWLSC are grateful for the family donation.

***Our Condolences at London Wolves go to all the friends and family of
Gerry Harris, Fred Davies and our former members Dave Gilson, Carl Millward and Derek Stedman.***

Wolves Women



WOLVES WOMEN FC

It turned out to be bitter disappointment for Wolves Women when their season was ended early and results expunged because of the coronavirus outbreak. At the time they were nine points clear at the top of the National League Division One Midlands, and firmly led the way with seven games left to play.

It had been an outstanding season and they had only lost once during the term, winning all their other 14 games in the league. However, they were denied promotion to the third tier of the women's game as all football between levels three and seven were brought to an immediate end, and the season declared null and void.

Undeterred, Wolves Women sent out a 2020-2021 season statement of intent with some quality signings as they looked to clinch the promotion that was cruelly snatched away from them last term. Manager Dan McNamara significantly strengthened his playing squad with six additions, five of whom were last season involved with clubs who feature higher up the women's football pyramid than fourth tier Wolves.

Three of the new girls were playing in the third tier, central defender **Kelly Darby** at Derby County while both attacking midfielder **Eva Rogers** and striker **Anna Renken** were at Loughborough Foxes.

Kate Evans was with Championship club Coventry United and fellow midfielder **Tammi George** in the Under-23's of Super League outfit Tottenham Hotspur. George and Rogers are 'coming home' having started their careers at Wolves.

The sixth signing, **Alisha Miller**, is set for a return to action after concentrating last year on her Birmingham University studies, having previously had a spell with National League Division 1 North team Durham Cestria.

At the time of going to print the team seemed to have swept the disappointment of last term aside and made the perfect start to the new season, after six games they stood top of the league table with 18 points from six wins and a massive goal difference of 34.

Captain Anna Price

Congratulations to long term friend of London Wolves Anna Price who has become only the third player to make 300 appearances for Wolves Women, and the long-serving central defender celebrated in style. Just two minutes into her landmark outing, October's National League Division 1 Midlands game at Lincoln City, Anna hit a rare goal to set up a vital 3-2 victory over promotion rivals to maintain top-of-the-table Wolves' 100 per cent record.

It was only the 56th goal that the 34-year-old club stalwart had scored in the 19 years since making her senior debut in a Birmingham County Cup tie against Aston Villa, and it was also a goal that settled some pre-match nerves she hadn't expected to be feeling.

As well as passing the 300-appearances mark, Wolverhampton-born and raised Anna has also gone beyond a quarter of a century in Wolves colours. She joined the club as an eight-year-old with her mate Amber Quick, who along with Anna played for their primary school boys' team and who went on to make 323 senior Wolves Women appearances before leaving the club.



MATCH REPORTS



WOLVES PRE-PANDEMIC ROUND UP

October

The last game of September ended with a morale boosting first league win of the season, a 2-0 home win over Watford, that meant at the start of October Wolves sat 13th in the Premier League table on seven points.

The first game in October saw Wolves facing a tricky away Europa League game against **Besiktas** in the intimidating atmosphere of Istanbul, but it was Turkish delight as Nuno's Boys returned home with a superb 1-0 victory. Willy Boly was the hero when he smoothly fired home the winner deep into injury time after Neves picked him out with a superb defence splitting ball.

It was back to league action just 72 hours later with a difficult game at the Etihad against Pep Guardiola's **Manchester City**, and against all the odds Wolves produced undoubtedly their best performance since the appointment of manager Nuno Espírito Santo. A second-half Adama Traore double helped Wolves to a scintillating 2-0 victory, and in the process inflict a first home defeat of 2019 on the reigning Premier League champions.



Six days rest was followed by the visit of **Southampton** and the anniversary of Wolves 100th Premier League game at the Golden Palace. Nuno's Boys were looking to make it three league wins in a row following the home win against Watford, and more notably that superb win at Manchester City.



However, the atmosphere went a bit flat and the game finished 1-1. Wolves seemed to be heading for defeat after two Raul Jimenez first-half goals were ruled out by VAR, and a defensive error let in Danny Ings to give the visitors the lead just after the break. However it was third time lucky for Jimenez and his 61st minute spot-kick saw Wolves fight back and earn a point.

It was off on another long trip to **Bratislava** in the Europa league, and another quality performance full of defensive cohesion and superb counter-attacking football as Nuno's Boys returned home with a 2-1 win. A FIFA ruling meant that the match was played behind closed doors, so there was a strange atmosphere when a crowd, mostly comprising of under 14s, numbered around 20,000.

Wolves looked second best in a drab first-half, and went into the break a goal down. However, the second period proved a different story with Saiss levelling the score before Jimenez was upended in the area, the Mexican picked himself up and scored from the spot for the second game in a row.

Another 72 hours later and another Sunday away game, this time at **Newcastle United**. Nuno was dealt a major blow a day before the game when defensive lynchpin Willy Boly broke an ankle in training, with the talismanic centre-half likely to be missing for several months.

For the second league game in a row Wolves had to launch a second-half fight-back and come from behind to grab a point as the game finished 1-1. Jamaal Lascelles opened the scoring in the 36th minute. But it was "Jonny Come Lately" Otto whose goal helped Wolves to a deserved point, though it could have been all three as Newcastle ended the game with ten men after Sean Longstaff was sent off for a shocking two-footed tackle on Ruben Neves.



October was concluded with Wolves crashing out of the Carabao Cloth Cap Cup against local rivals **Aston Villa**. Nuno changed the entire team that drew at Newcastle the previous Sunday and none of the outfield players from that starting line-up were even in the squad, and Wolves paid the price as their eight-game unbeaten run came to an end with a 2-1 defeat.

El Ghazi opened the scoring for Villa on the half-hour mark before Cutrone equalised just after the break, the joy of the 5,000 away support was short lived as Elmohamady scored what was to prove the winner just two minutes later.

November



November started with a tricky away game against **Arsenal**, and before the game even kicked off most of the 3,000 supporters who packed the away end at the Emirates would have settled for a point. However, at the final whistle most would have been disappointed they didn't leave North London with all three after an impressive performance.

Wolves took the game to the Gunners from the off, brimming with pace, energy and swift counter-attacking football which has now become a trademark of the Nuno revolution. Arsenal somehow opened the scoring against the run of play. Luiz's low pass from the right was allowed to travel right across the area to Lacazette who turned it across the box to Aubameyang, leaving him the time and space to sidefoot the ball into the corner of the net.

MATCH REPORTS



The equaliser came in the 77th minute with Wolves needing just three touches of the ball to find the back of the net. Jonny's throw-in from the right flank flew to the feet of Moutinho in the box, the quick thinking Portuguese magician hooked the ball first-time into the path of Jimenez, and the Wanderer's number nine headed powerfully home.

After a slow start to the season Wolves had now collected 10 points from the last 18 available, in an unbeaten run that saw them climb the table from 19th to 11th place, and just four points behind the Gunners who occupied 6th place.

Up next it was local rivals **Aston Villa**, and there was to be no repeat of the 2-1 defeat suffered at Villa Park just eleven days earlier in the Carabao Cup, this time it was Nuno's first eleven on duty and not the schoolboy eleven fielded on that occasion. Wolves well and truly railroaded their bitter rivals based less than 20 miles down the M6, and the 2-1 scoreline flattered their struggling opponents.



The first goal came when Joao Moutinho's clever free-kick, deceived the Villa defence who allowed Ruben Neves to whip a right-foot effort into the bottom right corner from 18-yards. Raul Jimenez and Diogo Jota then missed good opportunities before Jimenez's sweeping right-foot shot found the back of the net and confirmed Wolves first top-flight win over Villa since 1978.



The last league game of month saw Wolves travel 185 miles to the Vitality Stadium to take on **Bournemouth**, and a 2-1 win made it eight games without defeat in the Premier League. It looked to be plain sailing at half-time after Wolves raced into a two goal lead. Man of the match João Moutinho bent a stunning free-kick into the top far corner from out on the left, before his quick free-kick just after the half-hour mark sent Traore racing down the right to square the ball across goal to Jimenez for a simple tap-in.

Five minutes after the break Jota had a goal controversially ruled out by the offside flag, but Bournemouth who lost Francis to a second yellow card in the 37th minute came back fighting, and just eight minutes later at the other end Cook met a corner at the near post, and his header found the back of the net to set up a tense finish. The Cherries almost equalised eight minutes from the end when Ake's close range volley forced a fine block from Patricio, but Wolves held on for a deserved three points and move up to 5th in the table.

The end of November saw Nuno's Boys qualify for the last 32 of the knockout stages of the Europa League with a game to spare, despite letting a two-goal lead slip in Portugal when eventually drawing 3-3 in **Braga**. The hosts raced ahead, with Horta's strike deflecting off Neves on its way into the net, but Wolves stuck back and were 3-1 up at the interval thanks to some exquisite forward play. Headed goals from Raul Jimenez and Matt Doherty and a fierce drive from Adama Traore put Wolves in total command.

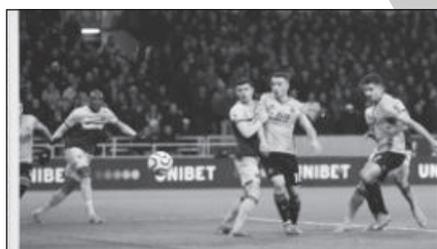


However, Braga managed to find a way back in the second-half with the help of some poor defending by the usually solid Wolves defence. Two goals through Paulinho and Barbosa Fransergio in the 64th and 79th minutes respectively levelled it up on the night for a draw.

December

A tough home game against **Sheffield United** followed Wolves midweek European jaunt, and they found themselves a goal down after just 63 seconds. Nuno's Boys were still shaking off the effects of their midweek trip to Portugal as the Blades took full advantage. A cross from the right flank was uncharacteristically missed by Coady when he and Kilman went for the same ball, leaving Mousset the time and space to pick his spot from eight yards.

Wolves fought their way back into the game and Henderson tipped Jimenez's powerful header over the crossbar in their best chance of the first-half. Fleck and McGoldrick then wasted chances to extend the Blades advantage either side of half-time, and Wolves made them pay dearly in the 64th minute when Doherty met Jimenez's brilliant cross at the back post and guided the ball past Henderson to make it 1-1, and earn Nuno's Boys a point.



Another home game, this time against **West Ham United** made it three games in six days, and the Molineux marathon men clocked up an easy 2-0 victory in their TWENTY-EIGHTH game of the season to extend their unbeaten run to ten, the first time in the top flight since 1972.

Shortly after a Jimenez header was tipped over the bar by Martin in the 21st minute Wolves took the lead from the following corner. The West Ham defence went AWOL as João Moutinho swung the ball over from the left and Dendoncker prodded home from close range.

After the break Jimenez dragged a shot across the face of goal and Saiss nodded another Moutinho corner inches wide as Wolves pressed for a second goal. Martin again denied

MATCH REPORTS



Jimenez with a good save late on, but there was nothing he could do to foil Cutrone as the Italian picked his spot and fizzed the ball into the bottom left corner and finally wrap up the three points in the 86th minute.

Wolves' unbeaten run rolled on to 11 with a 2-2 draw at **Brighton**. A slow first-half exploded with a frenzy of goals as Jota opened the scoring in the 28th minute when Jimenez superbly crossed for the Portuguese maestro to slot home from six yards out. It should have been 2-0 five minutes later as the pair combined again with Jimenez flicking on into the path of Jota who this time saw his shot saved by the keeper.



Moments later Brighton punished Wolves for their wastefulness by drawing level, a ball over the top found Maupay whose low shot found the corner of the net from 20 yards out. Things got worse as Brighton then went in front just 96 seconds later, poor defending from Wolves allowed Trossard to get to the byline and float a cross over for the unmarked Propper to head in from close range.

As half-time approached Brighton tried to play the ball out from the back but gifted possession to Jonny, he slid the ball into the penalty area for Jota who produced an excellent finish on the turn to leave the keeper with absolutely no chance. Neither side could find a winner in the second half as the points were shared.



The busy schedule continued as **Besiktas** rolled into Molineux looking for revenge from a defeat on their own patch, but after a drab first period Wolves looked a different side after the break. Substitute Jota joined the action in the 68th minute and broke the deadlock with a header just 72 seconds after coming on, and within 11 minutes the Portuguese star had completed a stunning hat-trick. A towering header from Dendonker sandwiched in between completed the rout as Wolves ended up 4-0 winners.

A late victory by Braga in Bratislava meant that Wolves had qualified in second place in the group, and after twelve matches, had finally reached the knockout stages.

A 2-1 defeat at home to **Tottenham Hotspur** ended Wolves 11-game unbeaten run. Following a breathless opening period, Moura's finish into the roof of the net had put Spurs ahead after eight minutes. As the rain lashed down Spurs then had to withstand intense pressure as Wolves chased an equaliser, they kept probing but couldn't make their dominance pay, and in the end it was a half where they did everything but score.

Nuno's Boys picked up in the second-half where they left off at the break with Jota, Doherty and Jimenez all having chances soon after the restart, and it was no surprise when Traore finally found a way past Gazziniga in the 67th minute. Spurs tactic to defend deeply, soak up the pressure and hit Wolves on the break came unstuck when their backline decided to drop off Traore outside the box, and the Spaniard unleashed an unstoppable effort into the corner from 20 yards. Wolves pressed for a winner but with a point on the horizon came bitter disappointment in the 91st minute when they failed to fully clear a Spurs corner, and Eriksen whipped the ball back in for the unmarked Vertonghen to nod home the winner.



After the last minute defeat at home to Spurs it was back to winning ways for Nuno and his side against **Norwich City** at Carrow Road. Raul Jimenez scored his 16th goal of the season as Wolves came from behind to win 2-1 in a game of two halves. The Canaries dominated the first half and took the lead in the 17th minute when Cantwell fired home after pouncing on a loose ball when the Wolves defence failed to clear a low cross. But it was a rejuvenated Wolves team after the break, and they hit back when Romain Saiss headed powerfully home on the hour mark. Jimenez then snatched victory eight minutes from the end when he fired in after Tim Krul had denied Matt Doherty.

Wolves gave their supporters a post-Christmas present they will never forget as they came back from two goals down to beat **Manchester City** 3-2 on a memorable Friday night under the Molineux floodlights.

The first defining moment came in the 13th minute when City keeper Ederson was dismissed for a foul on Jota outside the City penalty area, but the visitors still took the lead in the 25th minute following more farcical VAR decision making against Nuno and his men. Video officials awarded City a penalty after the appeal was initially waved away by the referee, and then more controversial intervention as Sterling scored on the rebound after the spot kick was twice-taken, and twice saved by Patricio.



Sterling appeared to have extinguished any hopes of a comeback when he doubled City's lead just after the break. But the new gifted Wolves team are made of up of special talents and desire these days, and just five minutes later it was game on again when Traore thumped a ball into the far corner of the net from outside the area.

MATCH REPORTS



Wolves pressed for an equaliser and with seven minutes to go the roof nearly came off at Molineux when Traore stole the ball from Mendy in the area, and then squared it back across goal to Jimenez for the equaliser. It was all Wolves as they went in search of the winner, and it came in the 89th minute when Doherty played a one-two with Jimenez before scoring left-footed past Bravo.

The last game of 2020 saw Wolves visit Premier runaway leaders **Liverpool**, and it was VAR once again the centre of attention with two huge calls against Wolves as the home side edged to a 1-0 win.



Just before the break referee Anthony Taylor had ruled that Adam Lallana had handled the ball as he pushed it into the path of the unmarked Mane at the back post. Mane went on to fire past Patricio but Taylor disallowed the goal and pointed to his arm. The VAR officials ruled that Lallana had used his shoulder, not his arm to control the ball and Taylor overturned his decision. Ironically a full replay showed a handball by van Dijk in the build-up to Lallana receiving the ball, but teams visiting Anfield these days are never going to get those decisions in their favour.

Wolves, as always, bounced back but they would be floored by the video officials once again. They were celebrating an equaliser following a cracking strike by Pedro Neto's when the VAR officials once again intervened and ruled a slither of Jonny's boot was offside before he fizzed the ball to the on-running Neto at the top of the box. So a defeat in the last game of 2020 but a cracking performance that deserved at least a point.

January

New Year's Day saw Nuno's side visit **Watford** and they became the architects of their own downfall as sloppy defending resulted in a 2-1 win for the home team. Deulofeu, the man who ended Wolves' hopes of an FA Cup final last term was back to haunt them as he fired past Patricio in the 30th minute after Dendoncker had given the ball away. The advantage was doubled four minutes into the second half as Deulofeu turned provider for Doucoure, who scored into the top corner with the help of a deflection.



Pedro Neto's first Premier League goal halved the deficit on the hour mark, and Watford were then reduced to 10 men when Kabasele was dismissed 19 minutes from time for pulling back Jota and denying a clear goalscoring opportunity. Wolves piled on the pressure in the final moments but couldn't find a way past Watford keeper Ben Foster.



The FA Cup 3rd Round saw Wolves drawn out of the hat against **Manchester United** for the second year in succession. However there was to be no repeat of that memorable March night where Wolves won 2-1 in a quarter final that will live long in the memories of those lucky enough to be there.

It was the 4th game in an eight day spell for Nuno Espirito Santo's side and the manager made five changes from the side that lost 2-1 at Watford on New Year's Day. The game turned out to be a lacklustre affair with very few goal scoring opportunities. Doherty forced a good save from Romero in the 13th minute, and he then had the ball in the net in the 76th minute, but was

adjudged to have used his hand in the process, so the game finished 0-0 and went to a replay.

A lack of cutting edge amid a superb display by **Newcastle United** keeper Martin Dubravka saw Wolves have to settle for a 1-1 draw at Molineux. Miguel Almiron gave Newcastle a seventh minute lead when he latched on to Gayle's pass and finished into the top-right hand corner. But Leander Dendoncker equalised in the 14th minute, sweeping in a right-footed finish from Joao Moutinho's corner.

Wolves pressed Newcastle for most of the game but there was no way past Dubravka, the keeper made two outstanding stops when he saved Raul Jimenez's close-range header, and then denying Pedro Neto at his near post.



There was to be no repeat of the FA Cup run of last season as Wolves were beaten 1-0 by **Manchester United** in the 3rd Round replay at Old Trafford. Wolves were on the back foot for most of the game with stand-in keeper John Ruddy putting in a good performance with a string of fine saves.

It was another game where Nuno's side were on the wrong end of another VAR decision. Harry Maguire was caught in possession by Jimenez in the box, but VAR officials ruled the forward used his hand to tee-up the unmarked Neto who smashed the ball into the net. The Portuguese youngster wheeled away before seeing his celebration extinguished as the video officials ruled out the goal. Doherty then hit the post on the half-hour mark as Wolves continued to look dangerous on the break. The tie was settled in the 68th minute when Martial won the ball and slipped in Mata, who beat the offside trap before chipping the ball in over the advancing Ruddy.

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A visit to **Southampton** saw Wolves register their first Premier win in four games, and they had to do it the hard way as they came back from a 2-0 half time deficit to complete a thrilling win with three second-half goals.

The Saints looked set for victory when Jan Bednarek hooked in, and Shane Long headed home to put the home side 2-0 up. However, the momentum shifted after the break and Pedro Neto reduced the deficit after controlling Adama Traore's delivery from the right.

Jimenez then slotted home from the spot to bring the scores level after Jonny had been sandwiched by Jack Stephens and Cedric Soares. Referee Darren England initially pointed for a corner before his decision was overturned by VAR. And with 14 minutes left the fightback was complete when Jimenez stroked the ball home after more good work from Traore.



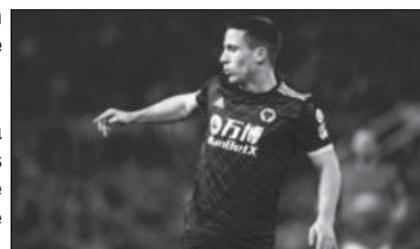
The final game in January saw Premier League leaders **Liverpool** visit Molineux on a Thursday night, but despite a superb performance from Nuno's troops they ended up losing 2-1. Jordan Henderson headed Liverpool in front from Trent Alexander-Arnold's corner after eight minutes, but Wolves drew level six minutes after the break when Raul Jimenez glanced in Adama Traore's cross.

Wolves pressed for the winner, but despite Jimenez's best efforts and some impressive play from Adama Traore and Pedro Neto, they could not find a winner. Just as it seemed the result would be a draw Roberto Firmino popped up in the 84th minute to score the winning goal.

February

Following the defeat against Liverpool a difficult trip to Old Trafford saw Wolves earn a point in a goalless draw against **Manchester United**. Nuno's men picked up their first clean sheet in the league since the 2-0 win over West Ham at the start of December.

In a game of few clear cut chances, new boy Bruno Fernandes making his United debut had a stinging shot from distance kept out by Rui Patricio in the 40th minute. Raul Jimenez had Wolves best chance in the second-half when he met Adama Traore's through-ball with a powerful strike that David De Gea turned over the bar. Daniel Podence made his Wolves debut when he replaced Adama Traore in the 76th minute, but had little impact in what was a close game.



For the second game in a row Wolves played out a goalless draw, this time against **Leicester City** at Molineux, and not for the first time this season VAR took centre stage to frustrate Wolves. Willy Boly thought he had opened the scoring with a close-range header on the stroke of half-time. However, having already fallen foul to the controversial technology several times this term, Pedro Neto was found to be fractionally offside in the build-up and the goal was disallowed. With fifteen minutes left to play Leicester's Choudhury was shown a second yellow for a late tackle on Dendoncker, but Wolves failed to make the advantage pay and the game ended 0-0.

Wolves were drawn against Spanish side **Espanyol** in the knockout stages of the Europa League. The first leg was played at home, and Wolves blew their Spanish opponents away 4-0, and put one foot into the Europa League's last 16.



Wolves' intentions were clear from the off, get the ball forward and look to break the deadlock early on. Moutinho and Neves both tried their luck from distance in the first few minutes, and while those efforts went wayward, Nuno's Boys did open the scoring a quarter of an hour into the encounter. Moutinho's outswinging corner was flicked on by Jimenez to Jota, who adjusted quickly and finish on the volley via a deflection.

The score remained 1-0 until a Ruben Neves goal lifted the Molineux roof off seven minutes into the second-half. Traore's cross was headed out by Gomez and Neves beat Vargas to the clearance, chested it down and rifled a right-foot rocket into the roof of the net from 22 yards, a truly special goal from a truly special player.

From that point on Wolves ran riot against the Spanish strugglers, and Jota added a third in the 67th minute after holding off Gomez before slamming the ball home. The Portuguese maestro's hat-trick clinching goal was even better, as he ran Espanyol's defence ragged before drilling a low shot into the net from the edge of the area. Jota received a standing ovation when he was replaced by Podence towards the end of another memorable night under the Molineux floodlights.

MATCH REPORTS



Diogo Jota took his tally to five goals in three days as Wolves comfortably beat **Norwich City** 3-0 at Molineux. Wolves went in front after 19 minutes when Jota, spun and finished past goalkeeper Tim Krul. Jota then added his second when he tapped in from close range 11 minutes later after Romain Saïss drilled the ball across goal. Krul spectacularly tipped Ruben Neves's free-kick on to the crossbar to deny Wolves a third just before the break.



Raul Jimenez did make it 3-0 on 50 minutes, netting from close range after Jota's shot came back off the post. Nuno's team climb to eighth place in the Premier with 39 points, five behind fourth-placed Chelsea.

A last-gasp second-leg loss was not enough to deny Wolves from getting past **Espanyol** and reaching the last 16 of the Europa League, they were beaten 3-2 on the night, but won 6-3 on aggregate.

With the hard work done in the first-leg Nuno made five changes to the team who starred in the weekend's 3-0 league win against Norwich, and in the opening stages Wolves looked lacklustre and were on the back foot. So it came as no surprise that Espanyol got the early goal they needed, sloppy defending down Wolves' right allowed Pedrosa to get to the byline and his ball across the six-yard box was met by Calleri, who made it 1-0. However, Wolves all but booked their place in the last 16 when Traore fired in on the rebound to level midway through the half.

The game slowed down as Espanyol now had the impossible task of scoring five more goals without reply to go through. The game livened up a little after the break and Espanyol restored their lead on the hour mark. Kilman took down Lopez in the box with a high challenge, and Calleri converted the penalty.



Wolves were, determined to maintain their unbeaten European away run this season and equalised 11 minutes from time as new signing Podence picked out Doherty to slam in from close range.

With a couple of minutes left Pedro Neto missed a glorious chance of giving Wolves the lead, he latched on to a poor backpass, rounded the keeper, but shanked his effort wide with the goal at his mercy. Espanyol made Wolves pay for that shocking miss by grabbing the winner in stoppage time, Calleri headed in for his hat-trick to make the score 3-2 on the night, but it was Wolves who sealed their place in the last 16.

March

Wolves cemented themselves as Champions League contenders as Raul Jimenez's top-drawer goal sealed a superb 3-2 victory at **Tottenham Hotspur**. Spurs first led when Steven Bergwijn poked in and then from Serge Aurier's curling effort before the break.



Wolves levelled through Matt Doherty after 27 minutes, only for Spurs to take the lead again through Serge Aurier's goal on the stroke of half-time. Diogo Jota tapped in from Doherty's cross in the 57th minute to make it 2-2.

Nuno's side saved their best until last, with a goal worthy of winning any game. Diogo Jota turned Lucas inside-out and carried the ball deep into the Spurs half before feeding Jimenez, who worked it onto his left foot and curled it into the net.

Wolves missed the chance to climb into the Premier League top four as they were held at home by struggling **Brighton and Hove Albion**, they controlled the first-half, but could find no way through, with Ruben Neves, Raul Jimenez and Diogo Jota all failing to find the target with shots from distance.

Wolves' first attempt on target came with 15 minutes remaining, Daniel Podence's effort was blocked by Lewis Dunk and the loose ball fell to Jimenez, whose shot took a slight nick off a defender and Ryan saved. But that was pretty much it from the Nuno's side, until Dendoncker shot over in stoppage time as Wolves searched in vain for a late winner.



The Brighton game proved to be the last one Wolves played in the Premier League before all games were suspended due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. At the time the league was postponed Wolves had played 29 games and were in seventh place in the table on 43 points.

The last 16 Europa League draw saw Wolves paired with Greek side **Olympiacos**, conquerors of Arsenal in the previous round. The first-leg in Athens was played behind closed doors due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. They say silence is Golden, and during this game Nuno's Boys made sure silence was Old Golden. Sadly no Wolves fans were in the stadium to support their team, but Nuno's Boys gave those fans who did make the trip plenty to cheer about as they watched the action on giant screens in nearby bars.

MATCH REPORTS



The game was an eerie sort of an affair, for much of the 90 minutes, this match was played in the spirit of two teams who didn't seem sure there was actually any point to what they were doing. The lack of atmosphere meant the match was like a training game at times, with both teams affected by the lack of passion.

Olympiacos had the lion's share of the play in the early stages, but without seriously testing Patricio. The first real talking point came just before the half hour mark when the Olympiacos centre-half Ruben Semedo was red-carded. Jimenez released Diogo Jota through on goal, and though Semedo tried to pull out of the challenge on the edge of the box, he made enough contact

to send the Wolves man crashing to the ground.

Wolves grabbed the initiative and took the game to the Greeks on their own patch, but ten minutes into the second-half they broke the deadlock as Wolves were caught dozing in defence. Camara was allowed to advance down the right and slipped a pass inside to Guilherme, who raced to the byline before firing the ball across goal for El Arabi to tap home.

The goal was the signal for Wolves to wake up, and Jota had an appeal for a penalty ignored after he was sandwiched by Jose Sa and Ousseynou Ba before Neves curled a fraction over. The pressure finally paid off on 67 minutes when Neto scored a priceless equalizer, Moutinho back-heeled a free-kick to the youngster who's shot from 25 yards out hit the legs of Bouchalakis, leaving the keeper completely wrong-footed as the ball flew beyond him and into the net.



Just 24 hours later, as the increasing spread of the COVID-19 led to more and more sports leagues across the world suspending their schedules, Wolves' second leg with Olympiacos was postponed following UEFA's decision to halt all Champions League and Europa League matches due to the coronavirus pandemic.

END OF SEASON ROUND UP

June



Following 100 days of isolation and shielding due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, Wolves finally restarted their Premier League campaign on Saturday 20th June 2020 against **West Ham United**. And they got off to the perfect start in their quest for Champions League qualification with a comfortable 2-0 victory behind closed doors at the London Stadium.

Unbelievably Wolves' season started 331 days previously with a Europa League qualifier against Crusaders on the 25th July 2019. It was their 49th game of the campaign, yet the enforced break didn't seem to have done them any harm as they picked up where they left off prior to the coronavirus lockdown.

Despite enjoying the lion's share of the early possession the best chance of the first-half fell to West Ham's Pablo Fornals, who blazed his volley high and wide when put clear through.

The introduction of Adama Traore and Pedro Neto with 25 minutes remaining proved to be the turning point, with Traore's inch perfect cross finding the head of Jimenez in the 73rd minute for his 14th goal of the season. Then, with five minutes left, Traore set up Doherty to deliver a deep cross from the right and Neto sealed the win with an unstoppable volley past Fabianski.

The result made it seven matches unbeaten for Nuno Espirito Santo's Boys and they moved up to sixth place with 46 points, level with fifth-placed Manchester United, and two adrift of Chelsea in fourth.

With a backlog of another eight league matches still to get through Wolves entertained **Bournemouth** at Molineux four days later. The struggling Cherries proved stubborn opponents and made Wolves fight all the way in a hard-fought encounter.

The only chance of note in the first-half came when Adama Traore fizzed a 30-yard strike over the crossbar. After the break, Wolves began to pile on the pressure, and on the hour mark made the breakthrough that proved to be decisive.

It was Jimenez and Traore who again combined in a near carbon copy of the opener against West Ham in the previous game, as Traore provided a deep cross that Jimenez rose high to and head past Aaron Ramsdale. Nuno's Boys eventually ran out 1-0 winners with the visitors failing to register a single shot on target over the entire 90 minutes.



The win kept Wolves in sixth place and moved them to within two points of the top four.

MATCH REPORTS



The dream of Champions League football continued as Wolves recorded their third win on the spin. A 1-0 win at local rivals **Aston Villa** saw them keep the pressure on the teams above them and keep Villa rooted in the relegation zone.

As an attacking force Wolves were not at their most threatening, but a solid defensive display led by the impressive Coady, Boly and Saiss, meant they didn't have to change gears to get over the finishing line.

It was a typical Midlands derby with very few scoring opportunities. The nearest either team came to scoring a goal in the first-half came when Nyland in the Villa goal almost gifted Wolves an opener when he bizarrely mis-threw the ball straight to Jota 20 yards out, but the usual clinical striker blazed the ball over despite having the time and space to punish the keeper.

Nuno introduced Traore for Jota on the hour mark, and the change proved a masterstroke as the substitute was involved in the breakthrough just two minutes later. A slick team move ended with Jonny Otto laying the ball back for man of the match Dendoncker to score with a low finish.

The match then followed a similar pattern to Wolves' previous wins over West Ham and Bournemouth, with Nuno's team closing the victory out with relative ease after making the breakthrough. A third successive clean sheet ensured Wolves' moved up to fifth place on 52 points.

July



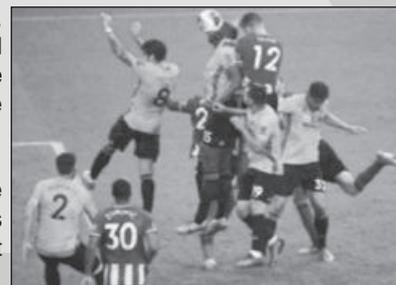
Any illusions that Wolves were well on course for Champions League qualification were given a reality check when **Arsenal** turned up at Molineux at the beginning of July. The visitors from North London highlighted that nothing can be taken for granted as they brought the Wolves charge for the top four to a crashing halt with their first defeat since the restart.

All in all it was a bad day at the office, with Wolves second best in all areas of the game. Bukayo Saka broke the deadlock before the break and Alexandre Lacazette made sure of the three points with a few minutes to go. The 2-0 defeat meant Wolves stayed in 6th place, but lost ground on the teams immediately above them.

With just seven games remaining Wolves travelled to Bramall Lane to play the newly promoted, and season's surprise package **Sheffield United**, and it was a must win game if they were to challenge for a top four place.

The game was played in miserable wet weather as both sides struggled to create chances. Wolves' best spell came midway through the first-half, and on the half-hour mark Jota outpaced the Blades defence from inside his own half, before being crudely stopped by O'Connell just outside the penalty area. Neves took the resulting free-kick and curled it over the defensive wall, but the ball tantalisingly bounced off the top of the crossbar.

As the game progressed, and with the scoreline goalless, it was the Blades who looked the more likely to score, and in the third minute of stoppage time Egan rose highest to head in Norwood's corner and break Wolves' hearts. Back-to-back defeats for only the third time all season left Wolves in sixth place, seven points outside the top four.



The loss was harsh on Wolves and another setback to their Champions League qualifying hopes, although fifth place would still be good enough should the Man City appeal against a European ban for financial irregularities fail.

Following consecutive league defeats only three points against mid table **Everton** in a Sunday midday kick-off at Molineux would keep Wolves in the mix for Champions League qualification.

And it was the perfect response from a rejuvenated Wolves team as they produced their best performance following the restart as they brushed aside Everton 3-0. Daniel Podence who joined in the January transfer window impressed hugely on his first Premier League start. The Portuguese winger who joined the club from Olympiakos in January, was a constant threat and just before the break was brought down for a penalty which Raul Jimenez converted.



From then on it was all Wolves and two minutes into the second-half Leander Dendoncker made it 2-0 when he glanced home a header. Substitute Diogo Jota wrapped up the scoring after being set up by a sensational 60-yard pass from Ruben Neves. Traore came on to replace man of the match Podence with twenty minutes left, and should have added a fourth right at the death, but he smashed the ball against the top of the crossbar from seven yards out with the goal gaping, however that couldn't overshadow what was a fine performance from Nuno Espirito Santo's team.

MATCH REPORTS



The day after Wolves' 3-0 win over Everton it was announced that Man City's two-year UEFA ban for financial irregularities had been overturned by the Court of Arbitration for Sport, so a 4th place finish was now required, and nothing less than nine points from the three remaining games would do in the quest for Champions League football. First up was a midweek visit to **Burnley**, and Wolves suffered last-gasp heartbreak on the road again as a controversial last minute penalty saw Burnley cruelly snatch a point with the game finishing 1-1.

Right from the first game of the season when Leander Dendoncker's goal against Leicester was ruled out by VAR, Wolves have been on the wrong end of some appalling VAR decisions, and here at Turf Moor Wolves' Champions League hopes were all but mathematically over, thanks again to yet another shocking VAR ruling.

In what was a close game Wolves had enjoyed the majority of possession and goal attempts as they went for that all important win, and with 14 minutes remaining came a real moment of class. And it came from Raul Jimenez who broke the deadlock as he readjusted his body to meet the ball knee-high and fire a stunning volley past Pope.



Wolves had barely been troubled all evening, but deep into stoppage time referee Mike Dean and VAR officials stole the spotlight when a penalty was awarded against Doherty for handball. The defender, you could very much argue, was looking to protect himself from Wood's high boot, but that fact was completely overlooked and instead of getting a free-kick for dangerous play a spot-kick was given. Wood stepped up and smashed the penalty home for the equaliser.

Jimenez's superb goal should have given Wolves the three points that would have gone a long way to sealing a Europa League berth, but that equaliser meant they remained sixth, leaving very little room for error in the final two games, whilst hoping other results would go their way.

Wolves had five days to wait to try and rectify the Burnley injustice, and with two games left it was **Crystal Palace** who visited Molineux for the penultimate game of the season. And following a 2-0 win their European dream was still very much alive heading into the final day of the season.



Despite being far from their best in the early stages Wolves got their noses in front shortly before the half-time cup of tea. Joao Moutinho's superb pass found Matt Doherty, who squared the ball for Daniel Podence to head in for his first Premier League goal since joining the club in January.

With just over twenty minutes left it was 2-0 after Adama Traore tore past two players and, after his cross was helped on by Raul Jimenez, Jonny swivelled superbly to fire past Vicente Guaita.

Nuno Espirito Santo's side moved back above Tottenham into sixth place and victory at Chelsea in their final Premier League game of the season would guarantee a Europa League place.

Stamford Bridge – Sunday 26th July

The final day of the season saw Wolves visit the Capital to play **Chelsea**. The maths were simple Wolves had to equal or better the Spurs result to qualify for Europe.

Sadly, it was not to be and "A Bridge Too Far" for Wolves, in what had already been a long and arduous campaign that started just over a year ago in the Europa League. In the end they ran out of steam and ended up losing 2-0. Considering the importance of the game it was a performance that was well below par, and uncharacteristic from a team, who under Nuno Espirito Santo never stops fighting until the final whistle has been blown.

From the off Wolves were on the back foot with Chelsea also looking for a win to qualify for the Champions League. The all important breakthrough came in stoppage time just before the break when Pedro Neto was unfortunately adjudged to have fouled Alonso on the edge of the penalty area. From the resulting free-kick Mount stepped up and curled the ball past Rui Patricio to give Chelsea the lead.



They had no excuses for the second goal which came just seconds later, the backline switched off as Giroud caught Coady cold and rounded Rui Patricio to make it two.

Wolves never really looked like getting back into the game in the second period. Nuno attempted to find a way back into the game by introducing Adama Traore at the start of the second-half, and then by making a triple substitution soon after, but Chelsea maintained their control and ended up easy winners.

MATCH REPORTS



English Premier League Table 2019-2020 (Top 10)									
Pos	Team	Pld	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1	Liverpool	38	32	3	3	85	33	52	99
2	Manchester City	38	26	3	9	102	35	67	81
3	Manchester United	38	18	12	8	66	36	30	66
4	Chelsea	38	20	6	12	69	54	15	66
5	Leicester City	38	18	8	12	67	41	26	62
6	Tottenham Hotspur	38	16	11	11	61	47	14	59
7	Wolves	38	15	14	9	51	40	11	59
8	Arsenal	38	14	14	10	56	48	8	56
9	Sheffield United	38	14	12	12	39	39	0	54
10	Burnley	38	15	9	14	43	50	-7	54

Positions 1, 2, 3, 4: Champions League qualifiers
 Positions 5, 6: Europa League qualifiers
 Position 8: Europa League qualifiers (FA Cup Winners)

Spurs started that dramatic final day in seventh place but leap-frogged Wolves into sixth on goal difference, thanks to a 1-1 draw at Crystal Palace. Nuno will probably look back on the defeats against Arsenal and Sheffield United at the start of the month as the reason they missed out on a top-six place, but should still be proud of his players as they collected 59 points, their highest ever tally in the Premier League.

However, their seventh place finish and Chelsea's subsequent defeat to Arsenal in the FA Cup final the following Saturday meant there would be no place for Wolves in the Europa League. Their only route into Europe would now be winning the Europa League and qualifying for a Champions League spot.



WOLVES IN EUROPE THE FINAL ADVENTURE



The overturning of Man City's two-year UEFA ban for financial irregularities, finishing outside the top six in the Premier League and Chelsea's no-show in the FA Cup final meant that European football for the 2020-21 season at Molineux now depended on winning the Europa League and qualifying for a Champions League spot.

Prior to the pandemic lockdown in the middle of March, Wolves were drawn against Greek side Olympiacos in the last 16 of the Europa League. Just a day before all European football was brought to a halt by UEFA the first-leg was played in Athens behind closed doors, and substitute Pedro Neto scored an invaluable away goal as Wolves came from behind to draw 1-1.

With the domestic season now completed, the competition resumed with the second-leg at Molineux nearly five months later.

WOLVES 1-0 OLYMPIACOS

Thursday 6th August 2020
(Europa League Round of 16 – Second Leg)



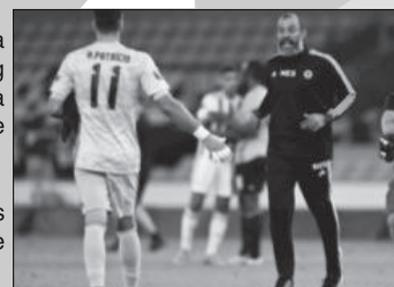
The glorious memories of European floodlight football returned as Wolves reached the quarter-finals of a major European tournament for the first time since 1972, unfortunately supporters were not there to see it as all football stadiums remained empty.

Nuno's Boys survived a nervous night at Molineux after Raul Jimenez's early penalty earned them a 2-1 aggregate win against the Greek champions. The Mexican took his goal tally for the season to 27 with a coolly dispatched spot-kick in the 8th minute after Olympiakos goalkeeper Bobby Allain had bundled over Daniel Podence in the area.

After that it was solid defending all the way as Wolves went through to the knockout stage, although it was Rui Patrício who was the hero on the night with a man of the match performance, and it started in the 20th minute when he produced a stunning fingertip save at his near post to deny Kostas Tsimikias.

However, Wolves rode their luck and Mohamed Camara had a first-half equaliser ruled out after a lengthy VAR check went against Youssef el Arabi by the tightest of margins for offside. Following a season of dreadful VAR decisions against them, and given that Wolves missed out on a European place via the Premier League on goal difference, there was not much sympathy for the Greek champions.

Wolves came close to doubling their lead just after the hour mark when Allain turned Podence's drive over the bar, and then just seconds later Boly failed to convert Jota's deflected shot with the goal at his mercy.



MATCH REPORTS



As time ran down Olympiakos piled on the pressure and Patricio produced another brilliant full-length save to turn away Ahmed Hassan's header, but despite dominating possession the visitors could not breach the magnificent Wolves' defence.

Venue: Molineux

Team: *Patricio; Boly, Coady, Saiss; Doherty, Moutinho, Neves, Otto (Vinagre, 17); Traore (Jota, 57), Jimenez, Podence (Dendoncker, 70)*

Unused Subs: *Ruddy (gk), Sondergaard (gk), Kilman, Marques, Buur, Jordao, Gibbs-White, Neto, Campana*

Referee: Szymon Marciniak (Poland)

Due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic the quarter-finals onwards were played as a single match knockout ties at neutral venues in Germany behind closed doors from 10th to 21st August. The video assistant referee (VAR) system was used in the competition from the knockout stage onwards.

After nearly 13 months, 16 games, 12 wins and over 20,000 miles, the equivalent of flying to Sydney and back, Wolves marvellous European journey moved on to the 'final eight' tournament and a quarter-final meeting with Sevilla in Duisburg.

Wolves were potentially just three wins away from lifting the Europa League Trophy and gaining Champions League qualification for the 2020-2021 season, and the first hurdle saw Sevilla stand between Wolves and a semi-final tie against Man United. However, the Spanish team's record in the competition was second to none having previously won the trophy five times (2006, 2007, 2014, 2015 and 2016) since its inception.

WOLVES 0-1 SEVILLA

Tuesday 11th August 2020

(Europa League Quarter Final)

Wolves went straight for jugular from the start, and in their first attack Raul Jimenez had a header saved after just 37 seconds from Adama Traore's cross. They then had the perfect opportunity to take the lead when a scintillating run from Traore in the 12th minute left a trail of white shirts in his wake, and Diego Carlos cynically took the Spaniard down for a stonewall penalty.



However Jimenez, ruined his 100 per cent record from the penalty spot for Wolves as Bounou palmed away his poor effort. Although replays showed that the goalkeeper was slightly off his line when the kick was taken and a Sevilla defender was encroaching, but as with the rest of the season the VAR ruling went against Wolves, and there was to be no penalty retake.

That miss sucked the life out of every Wolves player on the pitch, and from that moment onwards Sevilla took over and bossed possession. The final stats showed that they did not manage a single shot on target in the 77 minutes following that penalty miss, and were hanging on for large periods due to a solid defensive performance.

The breakthrough finally came with just two of the ninety minutes left to play, a short corner from the right found Ocampos, whose glancing header left Rui Patricio with no chance. The final few minutes ticked away and that goal meant Sevilla had booked a semi-final against Manchester United, the amazing European adventure had come to a heart-breaking end.

The season that started on 25 July 2019 with a 2-0 qualifying home win over Crusaders in front of 29,708 excited fans on Wolves' return to Europe after 39 years had finally come to an end. And it finally came after 59 games in an empty stadium far away from home and their supporters, it was just simply one match too far for Wolves.



There may not have been any supporters in Germany on the night, but they had followed our beloved Wolves every step of the way in a season that will never be forgotten and live for us for many a year. This is not the end of a European dream but the start of something special, that will sooner rather than later become a reality.

Venue: Schauinsland-Reisen-Arena

Team: *Patricio; Boly, Coady (c), Saiss; Doherty, Neves, Dendoncker, Moutinho (Neto, 71), Vinagre; Traore (Jota, 79), Jimenez*

Unused Subs: *Ruddy (gk), Sondergaard (gk), Marques, Kilman, Buur, Richards, Jordao, Gibbs-White, Campana*

Referee: Daniele Orsato (Italy)

BOOK REVIEWS



Cometh Light is a profusely illustrated A4 size hardback book detailing the footballing and industrial history of Wolverhampton between Wolves becoming one of the first 12 Football League clubs in 1888 to the start of the Second World War in 1939. By this time Wolves were the best football team in England and almost pulled off the first League & Cup double of the 20th Century. The intention, with this being the centenary of the end of the Great War, is to give all the profits to the local Ex-Servicemen's Association. Nothing beyond meeting my third party costs will come to me as:

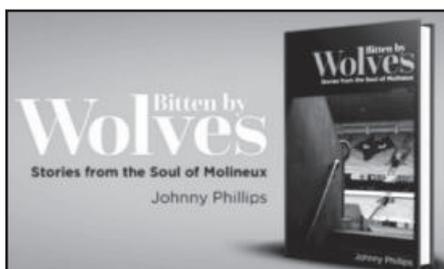
Writing the book has been a labour of love.

HOW TO ORDER YOUR COPY

This profusely illustrated 340-page hardback A4 Book, with many coloured and previously unpublished pictures is available from Waterstone's, Amazon (where buyers have given the book a top 5 Star rating) and the Wolves Club Shop.

Alternatively you can order directly from the author*
Contact David Dungar at: d.r.dungar@nexus-contract.com
or phone: **01902 701487**

*Dave will discount the book (cover-priced at £25.00) to £20.00 (inclusive of postage & packing) to London Wolves Supporters Members.



Sky and Wolves fan *Johnny Phillips* published a book in early October 2019. '**Bitten By Wolves - Stories from the Soul of Molineux**'. Some new voices and untold stories of the club's pathway over recent decades up to present day. Indeed Chapter 2 is headed "Devotion" and describes the formation of London Wolves, and a typical trip on the train from Euston to the Golden Palace.

"Bitten by Wolves" takes us on a glorious yet tumultuous journey through the modern history of Wolverhampton Wanderers. From lifting league titles and pioneering European club competition to twice going bankrupt and languishing in the Fourth Division, Wolves have experienced extreme highs and lows. The author spent a year speaking to former players, staff, supporters and others who witnessed or played a part in some of the most successful, turbulent and defining moments in the club's recent history. Wolves have always been about much more than the results on the pitch. It's the club's place in the Wolverhampton community that underpins its identity. Today, Wolves are going through existential change under the ownership of a Chinese investment conglomerate. The author has gained behind-the-scenes insight into the current ownership and management while revealing how Wolves became the club it is today. Filled with fascinating untold stories and eye-witness accounts, Bitten by Wolves tells the definitive story of the club's evolution.

HOW TO ORDER YOUR COPY

This must have book is available at the Wolves Megastore, Waterstones, WH Smith and Amazon. Johnny is kindly offering London Wolves members a £2 Editors discount and you can order by emailing him at: johnnyphillipsmedia@gmail.com

*Published by Wolverhampton Wanderers London Supporters' Club,
Please contact Steve Ray at editor@londonwolves.com regarding any feedback*

PLAYER OF THE SEASON



LONDON WOLVES
World Wide Wolves
UK Supporters' Club of the Year
2019-2020



London Wolves Chairman Stuart Earl was delighted to receive the news from Worldwide Wolves leader Alan Perrins that London Wolves are this year's UK supporters' club of the year, following Telford Wolves well-deserved inaugural win last year. Stuart said that "It is a great honour to be given this award given the huge dedication of over 150 Wolves supporters clubs around the world, especially in what is one of the most exciting years in our 55 year history. Congratulations, too, to New York Wolves, winners of the overseas club award."

London Wolves Player of the Season 2019-2020

Adama Traoré



London Wolves Members have voted Adama Traoré as their "Player of the Season" for 2019-2020. Over 70 members took part in the poll and the final result was decided by the smallest of margins of just one vote, and it was Traoré who came out on top with a 29% share. Conor Coady was runner-up with 28% of the vote, and last years winner Raúl Jiménez finished in third place.

Our congratulations go to Adama for an outstanding season where he terrorised defences throughout the Premier League and Europe. The icing was put on the cake for the striker when he was given his first cap for Spain in a friendly international match against Portugal.

Taking into consideration it was only Wolves second season back in the Premier League, and with the coronavirus pandemic ripping the heart out of the sporting calendar, all the players throughout the squad deserve a special mention for some

outstanding performances in what was a hugely prolonged season that finally came to an end after 13 months and 59 games.

In his first season at Wolves, Adama made 36 appearances, 24 of them as substitute, scoring one goal in the process. During his second season Adame came into his own with some scintillating displays out on the right flank. The Spanish speed merchant, who formed a telepathic partnership with Raúl Jiménez chipped in with four goals including two memorable strikes against Manchester City, which at the time inflicted a first home defeat of 2019 on the reigning Premier League champions.

