



Wolverhampton Wanderers

LONDON SUPPORTERS CLUB

founded 1966



Worldwide
Wolves
London

**Worldwide Wolves
UK Supporters'
Club of the Year
2019-2020, 2020-2021**

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FROM THE CHAIR



WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS LONDON SUPPORTERS CLUB

Honorary Life President

Derek Dougan
1968-2007

Honorary President

John Richards

Chairman

Stuart Earl

Deputy Chairman

Dave Hodges

Honorary Members

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1923-2015
Steve Bull MBE

Secretary

Dave Slape

Treasurer

Carol Woodfield

Travel Secretary

Peter Woodfield

Entertainment Officer

Roy Eagles

Minutes Secretary

Matthew Hawthorne

Newsletter Editor

Steve Ray

Committee Members

Peter Abbott
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Hi and Greetings to Everybody,

Welcome to what we all hoped would be a near normal season after the upheaval at Wolves during the summer, which saw Nuno make a surprise exit, and Bruno Lage come in to replace him.

Early indications were that we were going to see a different, exciting type of football with the emphasis more on attack, and it has been great to watch despite early undeserved defeats.

A great turn-out at the AGM saw the largest attendance for many years, as the fastest meeting in club history saw a major change on the committee, with Dave Hodges replacing Stef Leonard as Deputy Chairman, Stef having relocated to Cambridgeshire where he has already managed to upset the local refuse collectors.

I would like to thank Stef for his help and support over his years on the committee, standing in as chair during my hospitalisation, and his assistance in organizing the Charlton "do's".

As you may have seen, London Wolves have been voted "Worldwide Wolves UK Supporters' Club of the Year" for the second season running, and the framed signed Wolves shirt proudly hangs in the Worldwide Wolves Lounge.

It was with great sadness that, in early October, I learnt of the passing of long time member Reg Harris. Reg who was from Stafford was a great supporter of all London Wolves functions, and a great personal friend, who will be sadly missed. We also sadly witnessed the passing of a great Wolves and England Captain, Ron Flowers (page 20), and the founder of the FPA, Peter Creed.

Following the ending of lockdown restrictions Geoff Castro managed to arrange the annual London Wolves Walk (17 months late) for the weekend of the international break at the start of October. This annual event has been sorely missed, and he took a lower than usual number of us to the Surrey Docks (oops sorry Quays) area, where we visited some great hostelryes, and were treated to some valuable history lessons. A full report of the day's activities can be found in this newsletter.

I have lined up some very special guests for our 55th Anniversary (one year late) at The Valley on July 16th and Dave Hodges has created a very interesting new theme, see pages 19 and 21. Book now on the website or ask Dave Slape for a form. Look forward to a proper celebration together.

Enjoy the Season

Stuart



Wolverhampton Wanderers London Supporters Club AGM 2020-2021

Our Annual General Meeting was held on Saturday 17 July 2021 at the Hardy's, Trafalgar Road, Greenwich, London. A great turn-out saw the largest attendance for many years, and one of the fastest meetings in club history. It was great to see so many of you attend and voice your opinions.



Minutes

Meeting held at the Hardy's, Trafalgar Road, Greenwich, London on Saturday 17 July 2021.

1. Apologies for absence:

Apologies for absence were received from: D Bracher, D Merrick, D Pearl, G Castro, S Ray, S Finnis, S Leonard, L Moores, T Griffin, P Jenkins, R Eagles, P & S Tetlow, M McAtamney and G Lockwood.

2. Chairman's address:

Stuart said that it had been a very difficult year for the club due to the ongoing pandemic and he was pleased to see so many members today. He thanked Neil from Wolves Supporters Trust for coming to speak at the meeting. Thanks were also due to the committee and especially for Peter Bartlett for keeping the website going and the Steve Ray for getting the newsletter out.

3. Minutes of Last AGM

There being no matters arising the minutes were proposed by Peter Abbott and seconded by Peter Bartlett.

4. Matters arising from 2017 AGM:

No matters arising.

5. Secretary's report:

Dave Slape reported that the membership stood at 187. Subs paid were £2,476 and the Golden Gate up to the same date had brought in £70. Other income included the sales for pens and wallet sales (£48.00) but there had obviously been no income from train competitions or Badge sales. The secretary's expenses were £392.05.

Dave Slape said he would like to thank Peter Woodfield, Rob Goddard, Peter Bartlett, Steve Ray, Stuart Earl, Carol Woodfield and Roy Eagles for their help over the last year.

A vote of thanks was given to Dave Slape for all his work over the last year.

6. Treasurer's Report:

Carol reported that a large donation had been received from the family of Derek Steadman who sadly passed away this year. The committee thanked the family on behalf of the club members. The season "restart" meal was held the night before the Manchester United game and Terry and Sue Wharton were invited.

Carol asked for those who make payments by bank transfer to please make sure they state what you are paying for or send an email to her or Peter to clarify as this makes things easier for them and ensures the correct amount has been paid for tickets, fares and membership. Email addresses can be found on the WWLSC website.



Carol also asked if members could make payments via bank transfer rather than cash or cheques as many of the HSBC branches are losing their counter service and so it takes longer for the money to be paid in.

7. Travel Secretary's report:

Peter reported that a few members were able to attend the Manchester United game at the end of the season but otherwise for obvious reasons no trips were organised.

We have renewed 6 club season tickets under the "Early Bird" scheme and Peter is awaiting clarification from the Ticket Office as to whether we have to submit permanent member's names when renewing the club season tickets. 2017/18 season at a cost of £2,955. A loss of £444 was made from the sale of match day tickets. Peter passed on his thanks to members who loaned their season tickets to the Club when unable to attend home matches.

Members have also purchased 14 away season tickets.

Wolves have increased season ticket prices for next season and there has been a substantial price rise for all stands.

Payments which we made for match tickets for matches which we were unable to attend have been refunded by the Ticket Office, with the exception of £395 which they are holding as credit against future ticket purchases. We are also holding credits for some members who paid for tickets for matches which they were unable to attend due to the pandemic. They will either be refunded or credited when they purchase a ticket next season.

Peter thanked the Wolves ticket office, particularly Claire Peters, in meeting our requests for match tickets last season and thanked Dave Slape for his help during the season.

8. Social Secretary's report:

The only social event held was the "restart" dinner on the evening before the last game of the season.

9. Newsletter Editor's report:

We are hoping to get an edition of the newsletter out by the end of September, we experienced difficulties with the printer who had gone out of business. Stuart thanked Steve for his efforts with the newsletter which gets better with each issue.

10. Website Editor's report:

Peter Bartlett reported that advertising brought in around £100 last year but that there was a small deficit over the course of the year. He is looking to get paypal on the website which will assist with making payments to the club.

11. Election of Officers:

Stuart advised the meeting that having recently moved Stefan was going to have difficulties in attending committee meeting and the AGM and although he is happy to be put up for re-election there is another candidate for the post of Deputy Chairman in David Hodges. David was proposed by Peter Abbott and seconded by Peter Woodfield. The meeting was asked to vote on the two candidates and David Hodges was duly elected as Deputy Chairman.

Stuart wished to put on record his and the committee's thanks and appreciation to Stefan for all he had contributed to the club in his role as Deputy Chairman.

The remaining members of the committee confirmed their willingness to continue to stand, and were elected unopposed.

12. Membership Fees:

The membership fee has not increased since 2011. It was agreed to remain unchanged.





13. Any other business:

(i) Remembrance

Everyone took time to remember those members and former members of WWLSC who had passed away during the pandemic.

(ii) Inclusivity Statement

Peter Bartlett said that a rule change was required to take into account diversity and inclusivity for us to be part of the FSA. Peter proposed this amendment which was seconded by Matthew Hawthorne and no objections were made by the members.

(iii) Award

Stuart was pleased to announce that WWLSC had been notified that it has won the Supporters Club of the Year by World Wide Wolves.

There being no further business the meeting was closed.

Wolves 1877 Trust

Following the AGM, Neil Dady from Wolves Supporters Trust was invited to address the members:

Neil Dady and Julie very kindly travelled down from the Midlands to introduce the newly formed Supporters' Trust, to explain why it was needed, and to encourage our members to join the Trust. Unlike many situations which have precipitated Trust formation (such as the Glazers takeover at Man United, or the plot to move away from Craven Cottage) we don't have such a big issue at the moment, apart from the brief threat to move away from Molineux which was then sat upon. The Fans' Parliament was seen to be dictated to by the club and thus not independent, and thus unable to fully participate in the FSA. There were very bright spots, notably on helping Wolverhampton Wanderers get to the South Bank safe standing decision, of course. And Wolves executives had been assiduous in their participation. However there was no apparent consultation for the price rises in this round, nor on the membership scheme changes and price rises.

Working with the FSA, members of the Trust have participated in notable fan successes in the past - pay per view with Sky, safe standing, the Super League rejections, and, most notably for the future health of the game, getting the current Government Fan-led inquiry set up under the leadership of Tracey Crouch.

Importantly, and unlike the Parliament, The Trust will be democratically run, as their constitution demands, and the interim board will be replaced by a properly elected management team.

The Football Supporters' Association (FSA) has warmly welcomed the Trust and it has already received wide support from other fan organisations. To see messages from other supporter groups go to the following link:

<https://www.wolves1877trust.co.uk/news/message-from-other-supporter-groups>

WWLSC support the formation of the Trust and our members are encouraged to consider joining as individuals, it costs £5. Joining details can be found at:

<https://www.wolves1877trust.co.uk/membership>

WOLVES' TRUST



Wolves 1877 Trust Launched from Neil Dady

Stuart was very pleased to welcome Neil Dady to the AGM to talk about the fan representation with Wolves. He told us:

Our primary objective is to reflect the views of supporters at both a club and national level. The principal reason for individual supporters to join the trust is to be part of structured consultation with the club; we will run member surveys to ensure the views of supporters are represented in meetings with the club.

Following the success of the Wolves Fans Parliament over more than a decade and a half, the club's supporters are now being invited to have a greater say on matters at Molineux and nationally through the organisation's switch to Trust status. The more democratic and inclusive Wolves 1877 Trust was launched in July, with greater independence and membership open to all.

Meetings will still be held several times a year, often with guest speakers, but there will be a move towards creating more focus groups, with subjects such as ticketing and stadium development high among the priorities.

The Trust will be open to all supporters (membership cost £5 per year), so there won't be the accusations the Parliament often faced about it being a closed shop.

London Wolves member Peter Abbott, the Parliament's longest-distance member, said of the switch to Trust format: "I support the change. The Fans Parliament had been struggling for respect among the whole fan base, so that's where the Trust comes in. This approach has worked for fans at so many other clubs and has the backing of the FSA."

Democratic elections for the senior positions will be held every year and there will be the extra credibility of the Trust having a say at national level as associate members of the football supporter's association (FSA) where they have already contributed to the current Parliamentary discussions. Individuals were engaged in the safe standing debate with the club with the very satisfactory South Bank refurbishment. With the current DCMS Government review it is an important time for fan representation.

The interim Trust officers are Chairman Sam Payne, Secretary Anne Bott, Treasurer Mark Bullock, FSA representatives Neil Dady and Ciaran Barker, membership officer Peter Bradburn and media officer Steven Bailey. The constitution demands that discussions of all meetings be minuted, a full AGM will be held within 12 months of the launch, with all members able to stand for election to the committee. Zoom and Teams (and hybrid) arrangements will be made if meetings cannot be attended in person. The first such meeting was 21st September 2021.

Trust Chairman Sam Payne summed things up "this is a really good time to launch the trust, with the fan led review of football governance now underway. The Fans Parliament had run its course, but we should not forget its many achievements as we take this next step"

Our Chairman, Stuart Earl, welcomes this more representative approach and encourages individual London Wolves members to join the trust. Membership, the trust badges, and joining details can be found on the Trust website: www.wolves1877trust.co.uk





LONDON WOLVES
Worldwide Wolves UK Supporters'
Club of the Year
2020-2021



London Wolves Chairman Stuart Earl was delighted to receive the news from Worldwide Wolves leader Alan Perrins that London Wolves were awarded the World Wide Wolves UK Supporters' Club of the year for the second year running, after winning the award for the first time following the 2019-2020 season. Stuart said that "the award is particularly special in our 55th anniversary year and I am doubly proud to have won the award twice".

Under the heading “**Worldwide Wolves end of season awards**” on the official wolves.co.uk website, the award was reported with the following article:

At the end of the 2020/21 campaign, which saw Worldwide Wolves reach the 166 mark for registered branches across the world, wolves.co.uk can reveal their end of season awards. Despite the obstacles the pandemic posed over the season, Worldwide Wolves continued to help supporters from across the globe feel connected with their football club. So, when it came to awarding the Supporters Club of the Year, there were plenty of nominations for both the UK and overseas honour.

Taking the UK award was **London Wolves**, while the overseas honour went to **Viking Wolves**, both for their outstanding contribution to Wolves and their local supporters.

Supporter Clubs of the Year: London Wolves (UK) & Viking Wolves (overseas)



London Wolves took the UK award for the second time running, with Chairman **Stuart Earl** leading his team of dedicated helpers in their 55th season as a supporter club.

Nothing has stopped the club's capital-based fans keeping the ball rolling, ensuring supporters are up to date with their 4,500 followers on Twitter and Facebook.

London Wolves still produce a monthly magazine for their members, packed with information, with their dedicated team of Dave Slape, Stef Leonard, Peter Woodfield, Carol Woodfield and many more playing a pivotal role in their ongoing success.

The support they give not only to the first-team home and away, like so many of Wolves supporter clubs, but also Wolves Women and the Wolves Lottery does not go unnoticed.

Meanwhile, **Viking Wolves** have won the overseas award for the first time as a Worldwide Wolves branch. **Terje Melheim** took the reins last year and, along with his team of helpers, has been outstanding in contributing to their members and backing Wolves as a supporter club.



Viking Wolves are more like an army of gold and black on a pilgrimage to Molineux in normal times and can be seen regularly in large numbers attending the games. Terje created a superb podcast during lockdown to keep the spirits up amongst the Viking Wolves followers, with their end of season edition featuring John Richards and Kenny Hibbitt.

Chairman of the Year | Tony Lawlor (Irish Wolves)

Irish Wolves, and their dedicated chair **Tony Lawlor**, need no introduction to the supporter club network, as previous Overseas Supporter Club of the Year winners themselves.

Tony is the kingpin of the group and organises as many of his members as he can get to Molineux and away games, while a big Irish Wolves gathering annually is another of Tony's jobs to oversee, with a small army of helpers.



His podcasts with special guests are popular, helping fans through lockdown over the past year. A referee in his limited spare time, but his main passion is getting over to watch Wolves at Molineux, away games and recent times across Europe.

Tony's dedication second to none. If he's not on a Ryanair flight, he will be sat in the Worldwide Lounge with his group. Well done, Tony.

(from <https://www.wolves.co.uk/news/club/20210607-worldwide-wolves-end-of-season-awards/> with many thanks to Alan Perrins, Chair of World Wide Wolves)

London Wolves Player of the Season 2020-2021

Pedro Neto



London Wolves Members voted **Pedro Neto** as their "Player of the Season" for 2020-2021. Only 29 members took part in the poll, but the final result was a runaway victory for the Portuguese Wonder Kid.

The final decision saw Neto take a massive 59% of the vote with Captain Conor Coady runner-up on 28% and Rui Patricio in third spot with 17%.

Our congratulations go to Pedro for an outstanding season where he terrorised defences throughout the Premier League. The highlight of his season came when he was given his first cap for Portugal in a friendly international match against Andorra and scored the opening goal.

Neto started his career at Braga, who loaned him to Italian club Lazio in the summer of 2017, he then signed for Wolves on 2nd August 2019 on a five year contract. Twelve days later he made his debut in the second leg of the third qualifying round of the Europa League against FC Pyunik of Armenia and scored a goal, he also provided an assist for Morgan Gibbs-White in the 4–0 home win.

His first appearance in the Premier League came a few days later when he came on for compatriot Diogo Jota late on in the 1–1 home draw to Man United. The young Portuguese starlet continued on a fine run of form throughout the season and his thunderbolt of a volley in a win at West Ham also earned him a nomination for the Goal of the Season Award.

In just his second season at the club, the 21-year-old produced a year to remember as he topped the goalscoring and assist charts in gold and black, while putting in several eye-catching performances for Nuno Espirito Santo's side.

Unfortunately, the Portuguese international's season ended prematurely with a knee injury which forced him off in the first half of Wolves' victory at Fulham towards the end of the season. We wish Pedro all the best for his rehabilitation following knee surgery, and hope to have him back firing on all cylinders again at the start of the 2021-2022 season.





Wolves Transfer News

During a questions and answers forum Wolves Chairman Jeff Shi explained his transfer plans. Shi said: “For a player, and what he is now, it’s not equal to what he could be in the future. If he scores 20 goals in a season, he can definitely score 20 goals again in the next season”. Shi was also adamant that every signing will be made with the future in mind.

“It’s always about the future. When we buy a player, we always think about the future. “There are a lot of failed cases, even in the Premier League spending 30, 40 million for a player who had scored 20 goals in other countries, but it never worked here”.

Shi also went on to say “When you buy a famous player, or a name you know, it doesn’t mean success. I don’t think so. It’s more about, no matter where or how old he is, the potential, that’s what we tell the scouts. Value the player and see the potential”.

“We don’t buy only for the history or record. Young players, older players, it doesn’t matter so much. It’s about a balance and whether the players coming here can be good for the future.”

All close season transfer activity up until Transfer Deadline day are detailed below:

New Signings

Yerson Mosquera



The first major signing made by new manager Bruno Lage was 20-year-old Colombian defender Yerson Mosquera, a signing made with both the present and future in mind, which is the strategy that chairman Jeff Shi insisted Wolves would follow in the summer transfer window.

The young centre-half joined from Atletico Nacional on a five year deal for a fee believed to be in the region of £4.5million.

Mosquera made 16 appearances for Atlético Nacional, scoring 1 goal in the process. His professional debut came in October 2020, where he was sent off in a Copa Sudamericana game against River Plate.

Louie Moulden



Nineteen year old goalkeeper Louie Moulden has agreed a two-year deal at Molineux, and became a Wolves player on 1st July after his contract at Manchester City expired.

After progressing through the Academy systems at both Liverpool and City, featuring for the under-18 and under-23 sides at the reigning Premier League champions, Moulden secured his move to the West Midlands after a successful trial at Wolves earlier this year.

The son of former top-flight striker Paul Moulden, the stopper also boasts a wealth of international experience, having played at every age group for the Three Lions up to under-19s, including appearances between the sticks for England at the European under-17 championships in 2019.

Rayan Ait-Nouri

Wolves agreed a deal to sign Rayan Ait-Nouri on a permanent basis from French club Angers after the promising French youth international spent last season on loan.

The youngster became the third major signing of the summer as the club negotiated a unique deal to bring the left-back to Molineux.

TRANSFER NEWS



Jose Sa

Wolves will pay £10million for him while Angers have a 50 per cent sell-on clause. However, Wolves have a buyout clause should they wish to remove that sell-on at a later date.

The Frenchman made 24 appearances in the famous gold and black last season, scoring once. He then commanded a regular place at the back thanks to promising displays and injuries to Jonny Castro Otto and Fernando Marcal.



Jose Sa became Wolves fourth major signing under Bruno Lage when he arrived from Olympiacos on a five year deal. The 28-year-old 6'4" goalkeeper arrived at Molineux for a fee believed to be £6.8million following the departure of Rui Patricio to Roma.

Jose has been allocated the number one jersey at Wolves, the first time any player has worn the number since Carl Ikeme's retirement in 2018.

Jose originally joined Olympiacos from Porto in 2018 on a season-long loan deal and sealed a permanent transfer to the Greek giants the following summer. He quickly established himself as the club's No.1 and helped them clinch two successive Greek Super League titles in his last two seasons at the club, keeping 62 clean sheets in 124 appearances.

Prior to his move to Greece, Jose spent his career in Portugal, progressing up the youth ranks at Merelinsense and Benfica under new head coach Bruno Lage, before breaking through as a professional at Maritimo.

Loan Deals with Option to Buy

Francisco Trincao



Francisco Trincao became Wolves second major signing of the season when he signed on a season-long loan from Spanish giants Barcelona, with the option to buy for around £25million next summer.

Despite being only 21 years of age, Trincao brings European experience to Molineux, having played Europa League football at Braga, and in the Champions League at the Nou Camp.

It was at Braga where Trincao started his career, scoring or assisting 22 goals in his 48 games for the Liga Nos club. One of those appearances, and his European debut, came at Molineux, as a second-half substitute in the Europa League in September 2019, during a season which catapulted the Portuguese starlet onto the world stage.

A move to Spain to the Catalan Giants followed, and wielded more than 40 appearances and three goals, as well as a first senior international call up.

Hwang-Hee-chan



Hwang Hee-chan has signed from RB Leipzig on a season-long loan with an option to buy. Wolves have the option to buy Hwang for around £12m next summer. Hwang, who is contracted at Leipzig until 2025, has scored six goals in 37 games for South Korea and was part of their 2018 World Cup squad.

The 25-year-old scored three goals in 29 appearances for Bundesliga side Leipzig after moving from sister club Red Bull Salzburg, where he found the net 45 times in 126 matches.

TRANSFER NEWS



Harvey Griffiths

Wolves didn't manage to bring in any major signings on Transfer Deadline Day, but did however manage to complete the signing of teenage midfielder Harvey Griffiths from Manchester City for a fee of £350k.

The defensive midfielder is a product of the City academy, having joined the club at under-9 level and climbed to the under-18 group, who he represented last season. He is said to be calm and comfortable on the ball, and also offers a physical presence in the middle of the park. The defensive midfielder has been bought in to bolster the Under-23 Squad.

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

Departures

As far as outgoings are concerned, we saw the departure of first team goalkeeper Rui Patricio who left for Roma who are now managed by Jose 'the Special One' Mourinho. Rui was a great servant during his three year stay at the club, and who will ever forget that penalty save at Cardiff as Nuno's team stormed to the Championship title.

Major Outgoings



Rui Patricio has joined Serie A outfit Roma for a fee believed to be worth £10.25m.

The move to Italy marks the end of the Portuguese goalkeeper's three-year stint at Wolves, having played an important role in helping the club achieve their most successful top-flight seasons for 40 years.

Since moving to Molineux following the club's promotion to the Premier League, Patricio made more than 135 appearances and kept 37 clean sheets on the way to earning successive seventh place finishes.

Patricio was almost an ever-present in the Wolves goal for the past three seasons, playing every minute of the club's 2019-20 Premier League campaign, while making 10 outings in the run to the Europa League quarter-finals that same season.



Owen Otasowie has joined Belgian side Brugge for a fee believed to be in the region of £3.5m.

Otasowie had been with Wolves since 2017 when he joined their academy. The youngster was spotted by Wolves scouts playing for Mass Elite Academy in London at the age of 15 in 2017 and progressed through the under-18s and under-23s groups.

He made his first team debut in December 2019, coming off the bench against Besiktas in the Europa League. He had to wait until December 2020 for his Premier League debut and impressed in a handful of games that followed, but his opportunities were limited under former boss Nuno Espirito Santo.



Rafa Mir joined Spanish side Seville for a fee of £13.7million, signing a six-year contract in the process. Having helped Spain to a silver medal at the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo this summer, the 24-year-old returned to his homeland, bringing an end to his three years at Molineux.

Wolves' new head coach Bruno Lage held talks with the forward to see whether he was committed to staying with Wolves but the head coach has revealed that the Spanish striker wanted to return home.

Although he only featured four times for Wolves after moving to England back in 2018, Mir enjoyed two successful loan spells in Spain, the first with Las Palmas during the 2018-19 season, before returning to the second tier later in the following season, helping Huesca to the title and La Liga promotion.

A year in the Spanish top-flight followed last season, with Mir scoring 16 times in 39 appearances for Huesca, alerting Sevilla, who have taken the striker back to La Liga on a permanent basis.



Other Outgoings

Loans

The club have confirmed the departure of **Ruben Vinagre** to Sporting Lisbon on an initial season-long loan, which is expected to become a permanent deal. It is understood there are appearance-based clauses that would automatically trigger an £8.5m move to the Portuguese champions, officially ending his Molineux tenure.

The signing of Hungarian defender **Bendeguz Bolla** was confirmed following the arrival of Jose Sa and the club immediately loaned him out to Swiss side Grasshopper for the 2021-22 season. The right-back joins from Hungarian first-tier club Fehervar FC, for a fee believed to be £800,000.

The 21-year-old was part of Hungary's squad for the European Championships and featured on the bench against Portugal and Germany. He made his international debut last month in friendlies with Cyprus and the Republic of Ireland.

Leo Bonatini, **Leonardo Campana** and **Toti Gomes** along with **Bendeguz Bolla** have all joined Swiss Super League side Grasshopper Club Zurich on season-long loans.

Ryan Giles has joined Mick McCarthy's Cardiff City and **Patrick Cutrone** has departed to newly promoted Italian club Empoli, both on season-long loans.

Wolves Academy goalkeepers **Joe Young** and **Jackson Smith** have joined Runcorn Linnets and Kettering Town respectively on loan until January.

Dion Sanderson signed a new four-year deal with Wolves and immediately moved out on a season-long loan to Birmingham along with goalkeeper **Matija Sarkic**. Wolves youngster **Theo Corbeanu** has joined Sheffield Wednesday, **Taylor Perry** has joined Cheltenham, **Austin Samuels** has joined Scottish side Aberdeen and **Luke Matheson** has joined Scottish Championship side Hamilton Academicals, all on season-long loans.

On transfer deadline day there was a flurry of activity in Bruno Lage's attempts to strengthen his first team squad, but without success. However, there were a few loan deals to report on the 31st August:

- Midfielder **Connor Ronan** joined the growing Wolves loan contingent in Scotland this season when he moved to St Mirren for their 2021-22 Scottish Premiership campaign.
- Defender **Nigel Lonwijk** signed a new Wolves contract and will now spend the 2021-22 season on loan at Dutch Eredivisie club Fortuna Sittard.
- Goalkeeper **Andreas Sondergaard** will spend the first half of the 2021-22 season on loan at Danish Superliga side Randers.
- Last but not least, Wolves confirmed the surprising departure of **Morgan Gibbs-White** to Sheffield United on a season-long loan. Before he departed for Bramall Lane the 21-year-old midfielder signed a contract extension through to 2024. The deal is thought to include the option of a January recall if required.

Players Released:

Cyriaque Mayounga, **Hong Wan** and **Sadou Diallo**.

LONDON BORN



The A-Z of London Born Wolves First Team Players Signed Between 1877-2001

Dave Dungar, a close friend of London Wolves, is a historical researcher of all things Wolves and Wolverhampton, and is a serious collector of anything in gold and black. Dave is a lifelong fan who 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 very kindly wrote an article about "The First London Wolves Badge" for our last WWLSC newsletter, and has now written another fact filled article about "London Born First Team Players between 1877 and 2001".

Ade Akinbiyi [1999-2000]



Hackney born centre-forward Ade, or to give him his full name; Adeola Peter Akinbiyi, was a great success for Wolves, getting a goal pretty much every other game (16 in 36 full appearances) including a hat-trick against Grimsby. Wolves paid Bristol City £1.3M for him but could not resist a quick big profit when Premiership Leicester came calling with a cheque (for younger readers that was an ancient paper document for transacting money before internet banking arrived) for £3M and Ade quite rightly fancied moving from the Championship to the Premiership (where his goal ratio became somewhat less). Ade was born on 10 October 1974 and became a much-travelled player which later included a stint with Crystal Palace.

David Barnes [1982-1987]



David Barnes was born in Paddington on 16th November 1961. He was recruited by Wolves in October 1982 by Graham Hawkins in a £30,000 deal. David did well for Wolves, mainly at Left-Back, at a time when the team were on a downward trajectory.

He made 107 appearances according to some sources, and 88 according to other sources: the difference could be substitute appearances. All sources agree David Barnes got 4 goals for the Wanderers. Apparently, 'Digger' was the dressing room joker at a time when humour was in short supply at Molineux.

Dave Beasant [1992]



Dave Beasant, forever associated with Wimbledon/The Crazy Gang and for pulling off a penalty save in an FA Cup Final for the Dons in 1988 as they went on to beat Liverpool in the Final. Beasant was born in Willesden on 20th March 1959.

Dave Beasant played on loan for Wolves in 1992, making 5 appearances between the sticks for the Wanderers

Fredrick Burrill [1920-1923]



Fred Burrill was a skilful inside-forward born in Manor Park, East London in 1894. Wolves recruited Fred from Southend United in May 1920, just in time for the Wanderers FA Cup run to the Final the following year. Fredrick did well for Wolves, scoring 17 goals in 69 appearances and got an FA Cup Runners-Up medal. Maybe Fred got a little homesick, because he returned to London to play for Charlton in 1923.

LONDON BORN



David Connolly [1998-1999]



David Connolly was born on 6 June 1977 (some sources say 8th August 1977) in Willesden, London, of Irish parents, qualifying him to play for the Republic of Ireland, which he did. Wolves manager Mark McGhee loaned him from Feyenoord in August 1998, where he had transferred to after starting his career with Watford. David took a while to settle with Wolves but then bang he hit four goals against Bristol City. That goal-scoring form was not to last, and Connolly only got 6 goals in total spread over 35 starts and substitute appearances and so he returned to Feyenoord.

George Edmonds [1920-1923]



In May 1920, Edmonds moved to Wolverhampton Wanderers for a fee of £1,500. At Wolves, Edmonds played in the Football League for the first time. Wolverhampton Wanderers finished the season 15th in the Second Division, and Edmonds played for Wolves as they were defeated in the 1921 FA Cup Final by Tottenham. George was born in Holborn (some sources say Finsbury), on 4th April 1893 and lived to the ripe old age of 96. Edmonds died in Ryde, Isle of Wight on 10 December 1989. After transferring from Watford, George did well for Wolves, scoring a goal on average every third game. George made 126 appearances for Wolves and scored 42 goals.

Michael Gilkes [1997-1999]



Playing for Reading, midfielder Michael Gilkes was often tormentor in chief against Wolves, which no doubt prompted his old boss Mark McGhee to persuade Sir Jack Heywood to pay £155K to bring him to Wolves in March 1997. Michael was born near Hackney Marshes in London on 20th July 1965. He signed for Leicester as a junior, before moving on to Reading, where he had an excellent time, making 486 appearances and scoring 52 goals.

Unfortunately, Michael was injured shortly after arriving at Molineux (a bit of a tradition at Wolves) and Wolverhampton Wanderers fans never saw the best of him. In his 40 appearances for the club, he scored a solitary goal before moving on in July 1999.

Val Gregory [1920-1938]



As his full Christian name implies, Valentine Gregory was born on the 14th February (1888: the year Wolves became founder members of the Football League). Wolves signed him in 1920 from Arsenal for £3,500.00, and it proved a very astute buy, as Wolves had excellent service out of Val Gregory, who captained the Wolverhampton Wanderers' FA Cup Final team, when Wolves were narrowly beaten 0-1 by Spurs. After retiring from playing, having made 106 appearances, and scored 2 goals for Wolves, Wing-Half Gregory was then a coach at Wolves for 13 years, before retiring with ill-health and tragically dying shortly afterwards on 10th March 1940 in Wolverhampton.

John Holsgrove [1965-1971]



Centre-Half, John Holsgrove was born on 25 September 1945, in Southwark, and signed from Crystal Palace in May 1965 and was a regular in the side that hauled Wolves back into the top flight in 1966/67 and went on to join the Wolverhampton Wanderers 200 club (just) making exactly 200 appearances for the club, plus 2 as sub, scoring 7 goals.

John Holsgrove formed fine partnerships with Dave Woodfield and Frank Munro, before losing his place to John McAlle and then being sold to Sheffield Wednesday in June 1971 where he made another century+ appearances for the Owls.

LONDON BORN



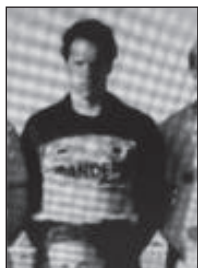
John Humphrey [1977-1985]



Right-Back, John Humphrey was born on 31 January 1961 in Paddington, London and joined Wolves on a youth contract in June 1977 before earning a senior contract in January 1979. Unfortunately, for John and Wolves, this was the start of a topsy-turvy period for Wolverhampton Wanderers. In his relatively short senior career with Wolves, John experience two relegations to the Second Division and a promotion.

After the latter of those Second Division relegations had propelled Wolverhampton Wanderers into the 3rd Division, desperate for cash, Wolves sold John to Charlton. In a fine career John Humphrey made 681 first class appearances, of which 164 were for Wolves and chipped in with 3 goals. Under different circumstances many more of those 681 appearances would have been for Wolves, but at least he put a promotion with Wolves on his CV, in 1982/83, when he was an ever-present in the side.

Tony Lange [1989-1992]



The signing of West Ham born (10/12/1964), goalkeeper Tony Lange, in July 1989, provides another Charlton connection, as Wolves signed Tony from the Addicks for £150,000. Lange never nailed down a Wolves first team place and played just 10 games before being transferred to the Baggies in 1992 after various loan spells while at Wolves. Tony Lange had a much better time of it at the Hawthorns (I guess we owed them something in return for their provision of Bull, Thommo & Dennison a few years earlier!)

Tommy Langley [1984]



Lambeth born Striker Tommy Langley is best remembered for his service at Chelsea and after a good spell with the Pensioners he joined QPR, then he had spells with various clubs, home and abroad, before moving to Molineux in July in 1984. Tommy was born on 8th February 1958, so should have still had some gas in the tank, but his time with Wolves was short, and he fancied a spell of football in Hong Kong and went there just as the author was coming in the opposite direction! Tommy Langley made 26 appearances for Wolves, plus 2 as sub and scored a couple of goals.

Mark Lazarus [1962-1963]



Perhaps Stan Cullis was looking to add more punch to his side when he signed powerfully built, Outside-Right, Mark Lazarus from Leyton Orient in September 1962, as Mark in his pre-football career was unbeaten in ten fights as a boxer. Stepney born (5/12/1938), Mark's association with Wolves was short-lived and he played just 9 games for Wolverhampton Wanderers but scored a creditable 3 goals. Mark was then transferred to QPR where he had 3 different spells and played for other clubs in between. Mark was not done with bringing joy to Wolves fans, though, as in 1967 he scored the winner for QPR against the Baggies in the League Cup Final.

Lawrie Madden [1991-1993]



Born in London on 28th September 1958, Lawrie's career started with Arsenal, but he never made the first team break through with them. A model of determination Lawrie Madden twice got himself back into League football after enduring spells with non-league clubs, before making over 250 appearances for Sheffield Wednesday.

Allowed to leave on a free-transfer to Wolves in August 1991, defender Madden gave Wolves sterling service, racking up 71 appearances and 5 as sub and even weighed in with a goal. Appearing as one of Wolves oldest ever players, Lawrie Madden was 37 years and 222 days when he appeared for Wolverhampton Wanderers against Derby on 8th May 1993.

LONDON BORN



George Ndah [1999-2006]



Born in Dulwich, on 23/12/1974, George Ndah, became a big fans' favourite at Molineux, with his strong running, hard shooting style. In October 1999, he signed for Wolves at a cost of £1 million.

Unfortunately, George's Wolves career suffered an early blow when his leg was broken during his third game, against local rivals West Bromwich Albion. He recovered to resume his Molineux career in the autumn of 2000 and soon made himself a popular figure with the Molineux faithful after his two-goal return in the home victory over West Bromwich Albion. Injuries again plagued hopes for a better 2001/02 Season and Ndah made just one start, although he did score the winner in a 2–1 home victory over Rotherham United in February 2002.

George made a total of 30 appearances in Wolves' promotion-winning season, scoring 11 goals. Injury again blighted the end of Ndah's season. He pulled up with a knee problem in the Play-Off first leg against Reading, which kept him out of the Final.

George failed to recover to make any contribution to the 2003/04 Premier season and then a catalogue of niggling injuries again stopped him making his mark in 2004/05 season. Despite this, Manager Glenn Hoddle offered him a new contract in the summer of 2005 and George enjoyed a strong pre-season. He made his first League appearance in over two years when he came on as a substitute to a standing ovation in Wolves' win over Crystal Palace, in the first home game of the new campaign.

Ndah was a regular in the squad in the first half of 2005/06 and scored his first goal in two and a half years, away to Derby in November. Sadly, George suffered another serious knee injury at Sheffield Wednesday in the December, and he failed to make a return to first-team football. Ndah announced his retirement with immediate effect on 28 April 2006, after another season plagued with injury. He came to the stadium with his close family and said a final emotional goodbye to his adoring fans.

No one present at the FA Cup tie with Newcastle will ever forget him scoring the winner against the Premier League side, after a mazy run. George then scored twice in a 4–1 win over Leicester City. For fans of a certain age, George is remembered for his goals and desire to keep coming back from injury. Despite only making 87 appearances he was a bit of a legend at Wolves, as his 15 goals were rarely less than spectacular and came in big matches.

Shaun Newton [2001-2005]



Born 20 August 1975 in Camberwell, right sided midfielder Shaun Newton was signed by Wolves in August 2001, from Charlton, for £850,000, rising to £1 million if Wolves were promoted while he was registered at the club.

Newton made a bright start at Wolverhampton Wanderers scoring on his debut against Portsmouth and produced a career-best seasonal goal tally of 8. A late slump saw Wolves fall away from the top into the Play-Offs, where they lost to Norwich City. However, the following season saw the midfielder win a third promotion to the top flight as the club won the Play-Offs, beating Sheffield United 3–0 in the final.

The following Season, he was a first choice for the Wolves in the Premier League, something that had evaded him in his Charlton days. He retained his place as the 2004/05 season began, but the arrival of Glenn Hoddle as manager saw his opportunities diminish and he left the club in March 2005. In total, Shaun made 130 appearances for Wolves, scoring 12 times.

Robert Rosario [1985]

Robert Michael Rosario was born on 4 March 1966, in Hammersmith. Robert came on loan from Norwich to Wolves briefly in 1985, playing just two games, scoring in one of those games.

In a career spanning 17 years Robert made 271 first class appearances and scored 34 goals, that career was mainly spent with Norwich, Coventry and Nottingham Forest, before emigrating to play/manage in the USA.



LONDON BORN



William Crispin Rose [1889-1896]



Goalkeeper Billy Rose was born in the St Pancras area of London on 3rd April 1861. He joined Wolves in January 1889 from Stoke, after appearing for several other clubs, including Small Heath (later Birmingham City). Rose had a fine career with Wolverhampton Wanderers, amassing 155 appearances, and an FA Cup winners' medal in 1893 and was a fans' favourite.

Billy also added a 5th England cap with Wolves, to go with the 4 earned before he joined Wolverhampton Wanderers. Billy irked the Wolves' board briefly, when he circulated a letter concerning the setting up of a Players Union. This led to Wolves transferring him to Loughborough, but it all calmed down and being a fans' favourite Wolves got him back from Loughborough. No doubt Billy had a tale or two to tell when for a short time after retirement, he followed the well-trodden route, becoming a Wolverhampton pub landlord, before doing likewise in Birmingham, where he died on 4th February 1937.

Steve Sedgley [1997-2000]



Midfielder-come-Defender; Steve Sedgley was born in Enfield on 26 May 1968. He made more than 180 first-team appearances for Tottenham Hotspur after a £750,000 move from Coventry City in July 1989, before switching to Ipswich Town for £1 million in June 1994. Another 100+ appearances followed for Ipswich before the final move of his playing career, a £500,000 transfer to Wolverhampton Wanderers, in July 1997. Steve made 106 League appearances for Wolverhampton Wanderers, and notched 9 goals, before retiring from the game in December 2000.

Alf Walker [1909-1911]



Left winger Alf Walker was born in London in 1887 and was recruited from Brentford in advance of the 1909/1910 Season and made 35 appearances and scored 2 goals before being sold on to Port Vale in July 1911.

In 1914, Alf moved even further north to try his luck with Dunfermline. Alf later returned to the Potteries and ended his career there coaching young players. Alf died in the Potteries on 14th September 1961, at the age of 74.

Ernie Whittam [1936-1937]

Wealdstone born (7/01/1911) Ernie Whittam, was a utility forward who gave good service with Huddersfield, Chester and Mansfield before Wolves signed him as cover in February 1936. An odd signing in many ways, as Wolves were blessed at the time with many players of this type, and accordingly this limited Ernie to a single first team appearance.

Ernie followed the 1930s popular Wolves exit to Bournemouth in 1937. That may have been the idea, as Major Buckley tended to buy players and sell them on for profit.



Jermaine Wright [1994-1998]



Jermaine Malaki Wright was born 21 October 1975 in Greenwich. Wright started his career at Millwall as a trainee then moved to Wolverhampton Wanderers in 1994. At Wolves, he made 20 appearances between 1994 and 1998, scoring once: his goal coming in a League Cup tie against Fulham in September 1995. In fairness, Jermaine was never given a prolonged run in the first team at Wolves.

After a loan spell at Doncaster Rovers, Jermaine joined Crewe Alexandra in February 1998, for a fee of £50,000. At Crewe, his career took off under the guidance of Dario Gradi, who switched him from the right wing to a creative role in the centre of midfield. In a career spanning 15 years, Wright made a total of 475 appearances and scored 23 goals for the above noted clubs, and later ones: Ipswich Leeds and Southampton, before finishing his career with Blackpool.

SOCIAL NEWS



London Wolves Autumn “Ramble around Rotherhithe” Saturday October 9th 2021



Following the ending of lockdown restrictions, and a 17 month wait Geoff Castro hastily arranged a London Wolves Walk. This annual event has been sorely missed, and returned in spectacular fashion with the "Ramble around Rotherhithe". An intellectual feast of historical facts, and the odd drop of the golden nectar consumed. Geoff has kindly written a diary of the day's events below.

Eleven hardy souls met at “**The Surrey Docks**” pub (Wetherspoons) for a belated London Wolves “Ramble around Rotherhithe”. The pub itself was a useful introduction to a walk with a mainly maritime theme as it contained many interesting photographs of the area in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, as well as information about celebrities including Max Bygraves and Michael Caine who were born in Rotherhithe.



After a hearty breakfast, the walk started in earnest with its first stop at a reconstructed (1993) “Dockers Shelter” just around the corner from the pub. The area had been associated with docks and trade for many centuries hence the local names: Canada water, Greenland Dock, Finland Street, Russia Dock woodland, etc. Most local people worked as casual labourers in the docks, having to queue for work in all weathers every morning. It was up to the contractors foremen to select men for work and, even if successful, a docker might only be employed for a few hours. This was obviously happening at a time when no work meant no pay! It was not until 1889 that Ben Tillet formed a dockers union and campaigned for the “Dockers Tanner” (6d or 2 and a half new pence) as an hourly wage. The dockers went on strike on the 12th August 1889 and by 14th September 1889 had achieved their main aim, together with other improvements to their working conditions which later included shelters for them to queue under.



The next stop, a little further on, was Greenland Dock, so named because in the 1720's it was used by whaling vessels from Greenland. Local pubs including the “**Moby Dick**” and the “**Ship and Whale**” reflect this aspect of the area's history. The dock was later used to import timber from Canada and was even used by ocean cruisers from Canada between the wars. It was heavily bombed during World War 2 and fell into decline in the 1970's as a result of the use of container ships which needed deeper water and a larger turning area. However, whereas most of the surrounding docks were filled in, Greenland Dock survived and, in 1982, was redeveloped as a water sports centre. It is now London's oldest wet dock. Evidence of rails used by cranes to load and unload ships could be seen as we walked beside the dock.



Of course, for most on the walk, the first point of real interest was the “**Moby Dick**”, a large Fullers pub with a full range of bitters including ESB! A short walk away was our second pub “**The Ship and Whale**”, a Shepherd Neame pub selling “Spitfire” and “Whitstable” ales.



From here, a couple - who shall remain nameless - took the C10 bus while the others walked through Russia Dock woodland ecological park which was on the site of the now defunct Surrey Commercial docks. Many of the group were surprised to see such a large open area of countryside in what was otherwise a densely populated urban area. We even saw a number of foxes who seemed quite unperturbed by the presence of Wolves!

Our third pub stop was “**The Blacksmiths Arms**” another Fullers pub but one with a beautiful exterior decked with flowers. A few decided to stay for another beer here while the others took the C10 bus four stops to Rotherhithe Overground station rather than walk a largely uninteresting section of the Thames Path.

Social News



The next point of historical interest was the **Brunel Museum**, an engine house built by Marc Brunel to house the steam powered pumps which were used to pump water from the Thames tunnel, the first tunnel in the World to be constructed under a major river. Originally used by pedestrians, the tunnel was used by trains from 1869 and now by the London overground to connect Rotherhithe to Wapping.



A short distance on, the “**Mayflower**” provided a welcome break offering a good range of ales as well as some tempting food. A high tide prevented us from sitting outside with waves from the tidal Thames splashing water through the gaps in the wooden flooring! Although the pub looks old, much of it has been rebuilt after it had suffered extensive bombing damage during the Second World War. The “**Mayflower**” ship set sail from here in 1620 taking the first English settlers to Newfoundland and a list of passengers can be found on the pub wall. Christopher Jones, the captain of the ship, is buried in an unmarked grave in the church of **St. Mary the Virgin** opposite the pub, where a statue now stands to commemorate the

event. Opposite the church is the “**Old Watch House**” from where watchmen kept order until the Metropolitan Police Force was formed in 1829.

The final stop of this part of the walk was the “**Angel**”, a 19th century pub overlooking the river Thames and offering a full range of Samuel Smith beers. The pub contained one of the shortest doorways I have ever seen! Nearby, are the remains of Edward the Thirds **moated manor house** and **Doctor Salters Daydream Statues**, the latter comprising statues of Dr Salter, Ada Brown (both late 19th/early 20th century philanthropists who supported the Bermondsey poor and helped rid the area of its slums), his daughter and a cat!



For some the walk ended with a short trek to Bermondsey Station but a hardened core went on to tour the breweries of the “**Bermondsey mile**” including the “**Southwark Brewery**” where we met a Sunderland fan who knew a number of the London Wolves members!

A good time was had by all (I hope) and, as predicted, the sun shone throughout the day!

Geoff Castro

London Wolves 55th Anniversary Dinner

A message from Dave Hodges (Dodges) - Deputy Chairman

This summer the committee have prepared an evening to celebrate the 55th anniversary of the formation of London Wolves (Albeit the 56th year!). We have plenty more to celebrate with our back-to-back selection as World Wide Wolves UK Supporters' Club of the year.

We return to The Valley, the home of Charlton Athletic on Saturday 16th July. On this occasion we are breaking with tradition and have opted for a more casual evening. Instead of a set dinner, we have determined that a carvery would be more popular. It will be overseen by the head chef and his staff who will be in attendance for two hours. Typically they have excellent beef and glazed ham, with roast accompaniments as well as a vegetarian option.

The carvery approach enables members and guests to eat when they wish and all will find much more time to enjoy the company of our guests or perhaps have a dance or two, with yours truly “Dodges” providing the sounds. This has also helped us reduce prices for our members compared to the 50th dinner! The lounge we have booked overlooks the pitch. There is a bar, of course, with the dance floor alongside.



On a personal note: to be amongst you guys has provided me with some great times. Please join me and my fellow committee members in celebration of our remarkable Wolverhampton Wanderers London Supporters' Club. We have all the ingredients to make this celebration a success. The most important thing needed to make this a memorable evening is **YOU**... Our members.

So please put this in your diary - **Saturday July 16 at The Valley**



A Tribute to Ron flowers MBE 1934 - 2021



On December 12th 2021 it was announced that former Wolves legend Ron Flowers had sadly died at the age of 87.

The midfield legend was born in Edlington, Doncaster on July 28th, 1934. Flowers was the son of a coal miner but decided at an early age that he wanted to follow in the footsteps of his uncle, George Flowers, who had played professional football for Doncaster Rovers.

Flowers played 515 times for Wolves between 1952 and 1967, placing him fifth on their all-time appearances list, and a star of the most successful era in the clubs history, in which they claimed three first division titles and an FA Cup in 1960.

Flowers earned 49 caps for his country between 1958 and 1963, and was heralded for his ability on the ball and chance creation on the pitch.

He was part of England's 1966 World Cup winning squad, but did not feature as Sir Alf Ramsey's men became world champions on that famous day in July when England beat West Germany 4-2 after extra-time. However his efforts were rightfully acknowledged when he finally received a World Cup winner's medal at Downing Street in 2009 after only those on the field at the final whistle initially got one.

Having previously served in the RAF, Flowers signed from Wolves' nursery side Wath Wanderers in 1952 and made his debut in the September of that year against Blackpool, beginning a lengthy and legendary career in old gold.

A giant on the pitch and approachable to supporters off it, Flowers possessed fine ability on the ball and ability to carve out chances, which quickly established him as Cullis' go-to attacking midfielder, forming a formidable partnership with Peter Broadbent. The duo helped form part of a special Cullis side, which made Wolves champions of England for the first ever time in 1954 and repeated its success in 1958 and 1959, the club's only top flights titles to date.

A year later, Flowers was lifting the FA Cup trophy at Wembley, having helped Wolves defeat Blackburn Rovers in the final, one of many significant Wolves matches Flowers featured in, along with the 1954 victory over Honved, when European football was born.

After an incredible career for both Wolves and England, Flowers was handed an FA award for his contribution to the national team in January 2020 and a year later fittingly received his MBE as part of the 2021 New Year Honours list, a truly fitting award.

***Ron Flowers, a real Legend and Gentleman
Born July 28th 1934, died November 12th 2021***

My Hero - Ron Flowers MBE

Following the sad death of Ron Flowers in November 2021, London Wolves member John Engleman wrote in to pay tribute to who he considers his own person hero during his days of following the boys in "Old Gold".

When I was about six years old the first football player I saw in a Charles Buchan Magazine was Billy Wright in his Wolves strip. The Old Gold and Black were different from most teams, namely Blue, Red, White and Black Stripes. But there was one player who, like Billy, was fair headed, and that was Ron Flowers. I had never seen a player who could kick a football like he did, he did a lot of powerful shooting from a dead ball situation. At school we were given tickets to watch England versus Spain, and if my memory serves me right, Ron took a free-kick and caught the Spanish defender in the nether regions. Talk about making your eyes water. Also I cannot remember if Ron ever missed a penalty for England and he took a few. In the 1962 World Cup he scored a couple of penalties.



Obituaries



Ron, like me, were both stationed at RAF Cosford in Shropshire. Ron was a PT instructor, although he was there many years before I was. I met him at the 1974 League Cup reunion, many years after the successful triumph at Wembley, and at last got his autograph. While we were talking, he said "I actually got 50 caps for England but it was not recognised by the FA, I do believe it was a match against the Italian League".

Two things come to mind. When the London Wolves joined up to play in the Sunday League, me and Steve Roe, went into Ron's sport shop in Wolverhampton, and purchased a football from his shop. With all the 1974 League Cup kit, it was the most recognised Sunday team in the Southern League. It was an honour to wear the same kit although I wore the number 1 shirt, but I think Gary Pierce was a better goalkeeper. On one occasion in 1963, I saw something that I do not know if it ever happened before or has happened again to this day. I think Wolves were playing Stoke City, and Wolves' kicked off in the first-half, but after the restart was told by the referee to kick off in the second-half. The crowd could not believe it, nor could the players. However, Wolves did win.

Ron Flowers will always be my number one at Wolves. And how he came close to playing in the 1966 World Cup Final, he was so close, as Jack Charlton was ill on the Friday, but was deemed okay to play in the final. His MBE was a fitting reward to a splendid football player whose wages were peanuts by today's standards. A certain player once said in my day "you played for your shirt and was proud to run out on the pitch".

I could write more, but I'll just close now. I hope those at Molineux when we play West Ham on the 20th November, give Ron a great send off, by clapping his remarkable career. We have great players come and go but Ron was and will always be my hero.

John Engleman

London Wolves 55th Anniversary Dinner (1966-2022)

Saturday July 16th 2022 (one year late)

Our 55th Anniversary Dinner (one year late) is at 7pm for 7:30 in the Charlton Athletic Football Club 1905 Suite (West Stand), The Valley, Floyd Road, London SE7 8B. Doors open 6:30pm. Bar closes 1am. Carriages 1:15am

Dress code; Smart casual.

Ticket prices:	Members	£50 per head
	Non-members	£60 per head



The ticket includes entry to the event with a carvery meal. All named family members on a current paid up family membership qualify for the member's price (one or two adult members plus registered under 18s)

How to book: Please go to <https://www.londonwolves.com/55th.html>

From here you can reserve member and non-member tickets and a hotel room. Click on the gold leaping wolf logo to go to the on-line booking form and follow the instructions there. The site works from a computer or a mobile phone.

Stuart and Dave have also reserved a limited number of double rooms with breakfast at a nearby hotel (which we used for the 50th), you can also request one of these, which will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

When you press "Submit" a copy will be emailed to you, and to Stuart to make the reservation as well as to the Treasurer to check for payments. Payment by cheque may be made and is explained on the website.

If you have any questions you can email LW55@londonwolves.com

MATCH REPORTS



WOLVES SEASON ROUND UP 2020-2021

September 2020

The season started with all supporters of every Premier league club suspended from attending any games at football grounds in England for the foreseeable future due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Wolves' campaign last season started in July 2019 and ended in August 2020, more than 60 games later, as they reached the last eight of Europe's second-tier club competition, when losing to eventual winners Sevilla.

The late finish to the season meant Wolves did not have time to squeeze in any friendlies before the start of the new campaign. So barely a month after finishing what turned out to be a marathon season, they began the new campaign at Bramall Lane against the previous season's surprise package **Sheffield United**.

Despite the lack of preparation they showed no signs of rustiness and were at their clinical best from the outset, scoring from their first two chances of the game. Jimenez showed great composure to let a cross run across his body before finishing for the opener, and then Saiss headed a second beyond the reach of Ramsdale soon after.



The lack of preparation for the new campaign showed as they saw less of the ball in the second half, although they did still have the better chances on the break. However, they easily saw out the game to record a 2-0 win and get the new season off to the perfect start.



Following the suspension of the 2019-2020 season due to the coronavirus pandemic, no supporters were allowed into the Molineux Stadium to attend any football matches, and its gates remained closed for the opening home game of the 2020-2021 season as Nuno's Boys entertained local rivals **Stoke City** in the 2nd Round of the Carabao Cup.

Wolves' fans lucky enough not to have found a "stream" missed slightly less than nothing, and a poor game saw the home team exit the competition at the first hurdle after falling to a 1-0 defeat.

Nuno named a strong team with £35m summer signing Fabio Silva making his debut. Wolves enjoyed the lion's share of the early possession, but lacked that clinical touch in the final third.

Chances were far and few between, and both keepers remained untroubled.

The second-half followed the same pattern as the first, but Silva had a glorious opportunity to open the scoring with a quarter of an hour to go. The ball fell kindly to him at the far post but he snatched at it, dragging his attempt agonisingly wide from close range. The miss proved costly, and with the tie drifting towards penalties Stoke dealt Wolves a late sucker-punch on the counter. Brown was given plenty of room in the area, and his powerful drive was enough to beat Ruddy, who got a hand to it but couldn't keep it out.

Manchester City were the first Premier League opponents to visit Molineux as Wolves looked to follow up on their impressive start at Bramall Lane the week before. Wolves took six points off City last season as they finished 7th for the second successive year following their return to the top flight, and any improvement on those achievements makes it essential they continue to take points off the big boys.

Wolves looked to get off to a flyer as they did in the first game, but after Marcal limped off in the 8th minute it was City who took charge of proceedings in the first-half, and went ahead after a needless foul by Saiss on De Bruyne inside the box gave the visitors a penalty. It was De Bruyne who got up, dusted himself down and smashed the ball past Patricio to make it 1-0.



Foden doubled City's lead 12 minutes later after Sterling had rolled the ball into his path following neat play involving Jesus and De Bruyne. However, Nuno would have been horrified at the ease of which his defenders were pulled from pillar to post in the build-up, and the space given to Foden to finish.

Wolves would have been happy to reach the break just two down, such was City's dominance. However, after the break they rallied, and after Podence and Jimenez went close, the pair combined when Jimenez pulled a goal back in the 78th minute with a superb header.

Hopes of a comeback rose as a repeat of last season's incredible 3-2 home win against City came to mind. Dendoncker and Fabio Silva were introduced as Wolves chased an equaliser, but a poor first-half had ultimately led to their downfall and City killed the game off when they grabbed a third in time added on, as Jesus found the net following a big deflection off Coady.

MATCH REPORTS



Wolves suffered a bad day at the office the following Sunday as **West Ham United** hit four goals without reply and inflicted back-to-back defeats on Nuno Espirito Santo's team. It was probably the worst performance since the Portuguese manager took the reins, and the manner in which his team were outclassed would have given him serious concerns. Defensively Wolves were shocking, they were pulled all over the field by a West Ham team who had not won a game this season, and serious work is required quickly to get his team back to winning ways.

Bowen opened the scoring after Wolves failed to react to a quickly-taken free-kick, and the same player made it two from close range in the second-half after the ball has rebounded back to him off the post. Soucek put the game out of Wolves reach when he was left all alone from a corner, and headed a ball that flicked in off Raul Jimenez at the near post. Haller completed the rout in time added on when he too was left all alone in oceans of space to head past Patricio.



October 2020

Wolves got back to winning ways with a hard fought 1-0 victory over Premier League strugglers **Fulham**. However, they were still a long way from their best and created very few clear-cut chances against a resolute Fulham side.



It was a tight first-half with very few goal scoring opportunities, the highlight being a superb double-save from Areola in the Fulham goal denying what should have been a first Wolves goal for defender Nelson Semedo.

The start of the second-half saw Wolves up the tempo, and they should have taken the lead in the 55th minute when Raul Jimenez was sent clean through on goal, but his shot was saved by the legs of Areola. However, in a rare moment of quality a minute later Pedro Neto broke the deadlock with a superb strike into the bottom right hand corner.

With Wolves seemingly in control, Fulham sprung a quick counter-attack, and when Mitrovic squared the ball across the area to Kamara, the substitute hit a weak shot straight at Patricio from six yards. That was as close as the visitors came to an equaliser, as an organised Wolves side stood firm to hang onto the three points and move up to 12th in the table.

Wolves moved up to sixth position after snatching all three points in a 1-0 victory over **Leeds United** at Elland Road. It wasn't the greatest performance we've witnessed during the Nuno era, but it was still another win.

Leeds dominated the play in the first-half, pushing forward at every opportunity. As with previous games this season Wolves first-half performance left a lot to be desired, on the back foot and camped in their own half. Even so, it was Podence who came closest to breaking the deadlock right on the stroke of half-time when he forced Meslier into a smart save.

Wolves were much livelier in the second half and Saiss looked to have given them the lead in the 53rd minute when he smashed home a brilliant half volley from 18 yards after Podence's cross had been cleared, but Podence was ruled to be offside from Coady's initial cross field pass.



Wolves were well on top by the time Jimenez took a cross pass from the right flank after 70 minutes, before checking inside to shoot from the edge of the box. Phillips tried to block the Mexican's effort, but only succeeded in heading the ball into the opposite corner, leaving Meslier stranded and unable to stop Jimenez scoring what turned out to be the winner.

It was back to Molineux the following Sunday as **Newcastle United** were the visitors. It was another lacklustre display from Nuno's team, and that clinical cutting edge that has been prominent in the time Nuno has been manager seems to have deserted his team. The sale of Jota and Doherty has not helped, but the players coming in now need to step up to the plate and start delivering.



Wolves did start a bit brighter than previous games, but it was still a relatively poor first half with both teams well below par, the highlight being a low shot by Podence from outside the area that was well saved by Darlow. Wolves again, dominated the second period and finally got the reward for their pressure when Jimenez thundered a strike home in the 80th minute, sending it through the fingertips of Karl Darlow.

After getting their noses in front Wolves threw away two points with one minute of normal time remaining. Murphy curled a free-kick around the Wolves wall, beating Patricio at his near post with Newcastle's only shot on target in the second-half.

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At last we had a first-half to enjoy as Wolves finally turned on the style in the first 45 minutes of a game this season. Nuno's Boys tore into **Crystal Palace** at Molineux right from the off, moving the ball at lightning speed.

However, it was Palace who thought they had taken the lead against the run of play in the 18th minute when Batshuayi found the back of the net, but it was ruled out for offside. And to rub salt in the wounds Wolves immediately went back up the other end and opened the scoring courtesy of a debut goal from Rayan Ait-Nouri. Podence's cross to the far post was met perfectly by the teenager and his first-time shot arrowed into the bottom corner.

It was all Wolves, and Semedo whistled one wide before a Dendoncker pile driver rattled the crossbar from outside the area, and just before the half-hour mark Podence made it 2-0 when he fired home at the back post after Neto has whipped the ball over from the right.



Wolves had several chances to add a third in the second-half, Dendoncker saw a volley go wayward after another superb cross from Neto, Podence dragged a shot past the near post and Jimenez put one straight at the keeper from a few yards out. Palace ended the game with 10 men after Milivojevic was red carded for a crude tackle on Moutinho. Ultimately though, two goals were enough for the three points and Wolves moved level on points with Everton and Liverpool at the top of the Premier League.

November 2020



After amassing 10 points from 12 in October and going joint top of the Premier League, Wolves started November with a 1-0 defeat at **Leicester City** after a contentious penalty awarded against them for handball. VAR was called upon after Max Kilman was adjudged to have handled the ball in the area, the defender could not have done anything to get out of the way after the ball was struck at him with power from close range. After a lengthy review Vardy slotted home the spot-kick.

Leicester then had the opportunity to double their lead after another penalty was awarded. Ait-Nouri failed to deal with a through-ball attempt and brought down Justin in the area. After coolly slotting away his first spot-kick, Vardy was then thwarted second time around by Patricio, who saved with his legs.

As the game reached its conclusion Wolves pushed for an equaliser. Neves came close when he unleashed a pile driver from outside the area that was destined for the top corner, but Schmeichel was equal to the shot and pulled off a superb fingertip save. However, Nuno's troops generally lacked guile and ruthlessness, and failed to build on the promising attacking display we saw against Crystal Palace.

Following the International Break Wolves entertained **Southampton** at Molineux, and the honours were shared as the teams played out a 1-1 draw. The Monday night game saw Wolves line up without Conor Coady for the first time in the Premier League since the start of 2018-19. A change of tactics was the approach Nuno Espirito Santo decided upon, as he set his team up with a back four in a rare change from their regular three-man defence.

The change in shape did little to inhibit his side in the opening minutes, with Semedo and Dendoncker forcing McCarthy into a fine double save. McCarthy was in the thick of the action again when he provided more heroics to tip away Podence's glancing header from a free-kick. However, in general it was yet another goalless first-half devoid of much quality.



Wolves have made a habit of improving after the break, and seven minutes into the second period McCarthy again denied Podence's near-post drive. It was the Saints who broke the deadlock on the hour mark, with Walcott opening the scoring after Adams beat Kilman at the second attempt from the by-line to find the Saints striker, who was left with a simple finish at the far post.

Walcott should have put the game out of Wolves reach when Adams set him away with a superb pass, but he lost his nerve at the crucial moment and fired wide of Patricio's right-hand post. That miss proved costly as Wolves levelled just a few minutes later. Jimenez was put though by Moutinho and his shot beat the diving McCarthy, the ball rebounded off the base of the far post before Neto, who had only come on five minutes earlier, scored the equaliser.

Following a haul of only one point from six in November, Wolves looked to get back to winning ways as they travelled to North London to face a difficult game against **Arsenal** in the Sunday night game. It should have been a night to remember as Wolves won at the Emirates Stadium for the first time, and their first at Arsenal in 41 years, but it was a night marred by the horrific head injury sustained by Raul Jimenez.

Nuno picked an attacking formation with Neto, Traore, Podence and Jimenez all in from the start. But that soon became unimportant in the opening minutes following a sickening injury to Raul Jimenez who was left unconscious following a clash of heads with David Luiz. Players of both Wolves and Arsenal immediately signalled for medical attention, and the Mexican striker was stretchered off and rushed to hospital following a ten minute stoppage.

MATCH REPORTS



The play was understandably subdued for a while following the injury to Jimenez, but the game came back to life midway through the first-half after Dendoncker's header from Traore's teasing cross came back off the crossbar to Neto, who easily slotted home from close range.

The joy was short lived as Gabriel levelled for Arsenal with a strong header following a cross from the right just three minutes later. But Wolves were the better side throughout and re-established their lead just before the break following brilliant individual play from Podence, who cleverly converted after Leno had fumbled Neto's drive.



The win put Wolves up to sixth and just four points off the top of the table, but that was no consolation to what appears a lengthy lay off for star striker Raul Jimenez.

December 2020

Another difficult away fixture followed with a visit to Anfield against reigning champions **Liverpool**. Wolves looked to build on their superb result against Arsenal, but it turned out to be a bad evening as they were thrashed 4-0 in front of approximately 2,000 Liverpool fans, allowed into their stadium for the first time since March.

After some decent Wolves moves early on, Salah gave Liverpool the lead in the first-half when he pounced on a Conor Coady mistake after he misjudged a long ball from Henderson. Things went from bad to worse as Nuno's Boys were totally outplayed in the second period. Wijnaldum added a second when he curled a precise shot into the top-right hand corner from long range, before Matip's thumping header and Semedo's scrambled own goal completed the rout.



The defeat dropped Wolves down to 10th in the table, although only two points behind fifth-placed Manchester United. After the game Nuno Espirito Santo highlighted the need to 'find solutions' while Raul Jimenez is indefinitely out following surgery for a fractured skull.

Following the poor display at Anfield, Wolves had the chance to get back to winning ways when they entertained **Aston Villa** at Molineux. Although it was a much better performance from the boys in "Gold and Black", it ended up two defeats on the spin as Villa snatched all three points when El Ghazi converted a stoppage-time penalty and secure a 1-0 win.



Not for the first time this season Wolves created plenty of chances, but again lacked the finishing touch in the final third. All in all that's only 11 goals in 12 games, and with Raul Jimenez out for the foreseeable future a solution is urgently required to the goal scoring problem.

In a first half of few clear chances, Konsa headed just wide for Villa, while Dendoncker forced a fine save from Martinez. After the break, Fabio Silva came close to his first Wolves goal but saw his strike hit a post, while Martinez brilliantly denied Dendoncker again from close range.

With five minutes left Villa were reduced to ten men when Douglas Luiz was given his marching orders following a second yellow card. Despite a final push for a winner Villa seemed to have hung on for a point. However, with 94 minutes on the clock and just seconds left, Semedo gave away a needless penalty when he brought down John McGinn inside the box, and substitute El Ghazi converted. Wolves then had Joao Moutinho sent off as well for a second booking as defeat drops them to 12th on 17 points.

There was no respite as 5th place **Chelsea** were the visitors to the Golden Palace just three days later, but Wolves defied all the odds to secure a superb 2-1 victory.

It was an uninspiring first-half of flat, pandemic football devoid of any atmosphere, and we had to wait until the 19th minute for the first chance of the game when Giroud sent a header over from Chilwell's corner. Soon after Fabio Silva teed up Neto whose volley towards the bottom corner was turned wide by Mendy, as Wolves started to show some belief.

There was a big let off for Wolves just before the break when Zouma smashed a header against the bar from another Chilwell corner. But just four minutes into the second-half the visitors did take the lead when Giroud met a cross from the left on the volley, and although Patricio scooped the ball away, it had already crossed the line.

Five minutes later Wolves thought they had an equaliser when a cross-shot by Neto was turned home by Silva, but the youngster's goal was ruled out for offside. Nuno's Boys pushed forward and out of nothing got the equaliser in the 66th minute. From a corner Podence found space just inside the box and whipped in a superb effort that beat Mendy at his near post.



In the 80th minute Wolves were awarded a penalty for a challenge on Neto, but a VAR check overturned the decision. That appeared to be Wolves last chance, but in the fifth minute of added time Neto stormed forward on the break and drilled a superb shot past Mendy for the winner.

MATCH REPORTS



After the magnificent result against Chelsea, Wolves travelled to Turf Moor to take on **Burnley** in the Sky Monday Night game. All the momentum gained in that Chelsea win was cast into the dustbin as they produced a shocking performance against a team in the bottom three before the game had started.

The pattern of the match was set from the first whistle with Wolves enjoying the better possession, but Burnley looking far more dangerous with it, and they nearly opened the scoring when Patricio had to save with his feet from Barnes after a long clearance from Pope caught Saiss napping.



Otasowie was playing in an unfamiliar central striking role, and Wolves never really looked capable of creating anything to worry the Burnley defence. The breakthrough came just after the half-hour mark when Taylor sent in a deep cross to the far post and Barnes muscled his way past three Wolves defenders to head home.

Neves flashed a couple of long-range efforts off target, but that was all Nuno's team could muster before half-time, and the problems continued after the break when they were on the back foot almost immediately. Brownhill capitalised on a slip from Neves to bend a shot on to the crossbar, before Wood doubled Burnley's lead in the 51st minute. Mee headed a free-kick across goal, Ait-Nouri failed to clear, and Wood smashed in the loose ball to put Burnley two goals up.

Silva gave Wolves a late lifeline when he wriggled away from Tarkowski, and was then sent sprawling by a challenge from Benson. The youngster got to his feet and hit the spot-kick low and hard to the left to beat Pope. Wolves did pin Burnley back in the closing stages, but it was all too little too late, and Pope was hardly tested.

Jose Mourinho brought his **Tottenham Hotspur** team to Molineux over the Christmas bank holiday period, and looking to climb into the top four, on the other side of the coin Nuno was just looking to get his Wolves side back to winning ways after the awful performance at Burnley.

With lockdown laws not even allowing families to have Christmas dinner together, there were still no supporters in the stadium to get behind the team in what was another eerie atmosphere.



Wolves got off to worst possible start as they went a goal down within a minute. In Spurs first attack Son Heung-Min got in behind the Wolves defence and forced Patricio to push the ball out for a corner, and when the flag kick was cleared to Davies he teed up Ndombele whose 25 yard shot fizzed past Patricio.

After the early goal Spurs sat back, seemingly happy to defend their slender lead and allowing Wolves to push forward in search of an equaliser. Daniel Podence twice went close but was denied each time by Hugo Lloris, while Fabio Silva also shot narrowly wide.

After the break the Wolves pressure intensified and Silva was thwarted again by Lloris on the hour mark. The busy keeper again rescued Spurs when he smothered a Ruben Neves shot as the match entered the final 10 minutes. Wolves finally made the breakthrough in the 85th minute. Saiss got on the end of a pinpoint Neto corner at the near post and flicked a sublime header beyond Lloris into the opposite corner. The goal gave Wolves a deserved 1-1 draw, and the point meant they haven't lost a fixture on December 26th or 27th since 2012.

In the last game of 2020 Wolves travelled to Old Trafford for a difficult game against **Manchester United**, and the year ended with a narrow 1-0 defeat as Marcus Rashford struck a winner late in second-half stoppage-time.

Romain Saiss twice came close to scoring for Wolves in the first half, hitting the crossbar with a header before seeing his near-post flick smartly palmed away by De Gea. Those efforts came either side of United's best first-half chance, when Rui Patricio denied Fernandes from close range in the 34th minute. The second-half was devoid of any real goal scoring chances, and the game seemed to be petering out for a draw.

With seconds left of time added on at the end of the game, a long hopeful punt forward by Fernandes found Rashford on the edge of the area. The forward cut inside the box, and as Ait Nouri stood too far off him the England man let fly with a left-footed shot that deflected off Saiss to leave Patricio with absolutely no chance.



It was harsh on Wolves who deserved at least a point, but the forward line continue to struggle without Raul Jimenez. The year ended with Wolves taking just 4 points from a possible 18, and when the transfer window opens at the start of the New Year, a new striker will be top of Nuno's shopping list.

MATCH REPORTS



January 2021

The New Year started with a trip to the Amex Stadium to play **Brighton and Hove Albion**. Wolves started 2021 in 12th place in the Premier League with 6 wins and 3 draws in the 16 games played so far, well below the standards set in the previous two seasons. For the neutrals the game was an entertaining affair, to the Wolves Fans it was two points thrown away as Brighton fought back from 3-1 down to grab a point as the game finished 3-3.



Wolves had plenty of possession in the early stages, but it was Brighton who took the lead in the 13th minute when Connolly met a cross from the right and nipped in front of Patricio to put the host's one up. However, Wolves roared back with three goals before the break.

In the 19th minute Semedo pulled the ball back from the by-line and Saiss headed back across goal, and into the top corner for the equaliser. Things got even better for Nuno's side in the 34th minute when the ball bounced off defender Dan Burn into the net after Sanchez had saved from Neto. A minute before half-time Burn followed up his own goal by fouling Traore inside the box, and Neves slotted home the penalty to give Wolves a comfortable 3-1 lead at the break.

Just 15 seconds into the second-half Wolves shot themselves in the foot when Moutinho gave away a needless penalty as he hung out a foot and tripped Maupay just inside the area, the Brighton striker dusted himself down to make it 3-2 from the spot. The goal put Brighton in the ascendancy, and they nearly equalised midway through the second-half when Webster hit the bar, but just a minute later Dunk was left all on his own at the back of the six yard box following a corner, and powered a header into the net to make it 3-3.

In a dramatic finale Wolves could have stolen the points with the last touch of the game, but substitute Otasowie headed over from six yards out with the goal at his mercy.

The beginning of January is the signal for the big boys to join in the FA Cup at the 3rd Round stage, and Wolves were drawn at home against fellow premiership rivals **Crystal Palace**. After only one league win in six since the beginning of December Nuno's Boys finally got back to winning ways with a 1-0 victory.

Wolves dominated possession early on, and went close in the 12th minute when an inch perfect cross from Neto was headed over the bar from close range by Silva. A few minutes later Semedo was also within a whisker of scoring when a right footed shot from outside the box was well saved by Butland.



The pressure finally paid dividends and Wolves opened the scoring in the 35th minute following a magical strike from Adama Traore. The Spaniard opened his account for the season in style as he cut in from the right and hit an unstoppable shot into the roof of the net from 18 yards. The smiling Traore ran to the touchline where Nuno was waiting to join in the celebrations.

Palace who barely ventured out of their own half during the first period, failed to improve after the interval and Traore's goal proved decisive as Wolves were rewarded with an away tie in the next round against non-league **Chorley**.

It was back to Molineux four days later, and the bread and butter of earning league points was back on the agenda as **Everton** visited the Golden Palace. Unfortunately, the poor run of league results continued as Wolves were on the end of a 2-1 defeat.

Raul Jimenez sat in the stands, and could only watch on as he recovered from the fractured skull suffered against Arsenal in November. Wolves won that day at the Emirates Stadium, but had picked up only one other victory in the league in the eight games following that, dropping from 7th to 14th in the table.

Wolves got off to the worst possible start following some poor defending. In the sixth minute Iwobi was left completely free on the edge of the box, and he took full advantage as he side-footed the ball home into the bottom corner. However, Everton's lead didn't last long and Wolves hit back in the 14th minute through Ruben Neves. The Portuguese Maestro made it two goals in two league matches with a sublime side-foot finish following brilliant movement from Rayan Ait-Nouri.



The game lost its intensity after the break with neither side creating any notable opportunities. Neves was close to a spectacular second when his 30-yard volley dipped just wide with 20 minutes left, but Wolves never looked like prising open the Everton defence. Everton regained the lead in the 77th minute when Keane rose highest in a crowded box and powered his header beyond the helpless Patricio. The nearest Wolves came to an equaliser was a late Neves' free-kick which hit the bar, however Everton keeper Jordan Pickford was rarely troubled in the second half.

MATCH REPORTS



Saturday the 16th of January 2021 saw Wolves suffer their worst defeat since the tenure of Nuno Espirito Santo began. **West Bromwich Albion** arrived at Molineux for the first Black Country Derby in nine years, and left Molineux with all three points following what can only be described as one of the most abject performances in a long time. Wolves faltering season hit a new low as they unbelievably lost 3-2 to a team who were sitting second from the bottom of the league after 17 games, five points adrift from safety and with only ONE win to their name all season.

Allardyce's team went ahead thanks to an eighth-minute penalty from Pereira, awarded after Willy Boly had fouled Robinson following some sloppy Wolves defending. Wanderer's got themselves back into the game seven minutes before the break when Boly's backheel set up Fabio Silva to slot past Button. Boly then made amends for giving away the penalty when he put Wolves 2-1 up two minutes before the interval with a close-range finish.

The visitors turned the match on its head again with two goals in four minutes after the break. More woeful defending allowed Ajayi to loop in a header on 52 minutes, and things went from bad to worse when Conor Coady needlessly tripped Robinson for yet another penalty which Pereira slotted home.

As the game reached its conclusion, substitute Patrick Cutrone spurned a golden opportunity to level the scores. The ball fell perfectly for him in the box, but he elected to shoot first time rather than take a touch, and hit the ball into the ground and over the bar. That miss summed it all up, the nightmare complete.



Empty stadiums due to the continual Covid restrictions may not have been helping, but at the end of the day it's was still the same for both teams. That's was now 12 matches without a clean sheet for Wolves in the league, and as Nat King Cole once sang "There may be trouble ahead"...

Next up was a Fourth Round FA Cup tie away at non-league **Chorley**, the two teams being separated by 109 places in the football pyramid. For those not around on 24th November 1986, Chorley, then opponents from the sixth tier of English football, beat Wolves 3-0 in the same competition at Bolton's old Burnden Park ground. That horrendous showing 35 years ago is what many class as the darkest chapter in the club's history.

To get this far Chorley had already been through six rounds, beating league teams Wigan, Peterborough and Derby on route, but on this occasion there was to be no repeat of the 1986 giant killing, as Wolves scraped through to the next round to play Southampton after a narrow 1-0 victory.

Wolves needed a goal to settle their nerves and on-loan Vitorinha provided it in stunning fashion on twelve minutes. He collected the ball from a throw-in, and then as the defenders stood off him, he smashed the ball home from 40 yards.



That goal turned out to be Wolves only shot on target, and the performance from that point onwards can only be described as substandard. Passes went astray, not one single clear cut chance created, and they looked second best in every department. Chorley had some decent chances to score, but Wolves held on for the win, thanks to John Ruddy who made a series of fine saves to keep a clean sheet.

Following the cup win against Chorley it was a return to Premier League action with a midweek fixture against **Chelsea** under the floodlights at Stamford Bridge. Never an easy place to visit, but Wolves came away with a deserved point after a goalless draw.

Chelsea had Thomas Tuchel, former Borussia Dortmund and Paris Saint Germain boss at the helm for his first game in charge as manager following the sacking of Frank Lampard. But it was Nuno who showed all the tactical nous, as his team looked more organised, robust and winning challenges, and that resulted in their first clean sheet since beating Crystal Palace on October 30th, ending a twelve game run without one.

Wolves had struggled to score goals since losing Raul Jimenez to serious injury, but it was hoped the arrival of new loan signing Jose from Real Sociedad would hopefully provide the extra firepower needed, and he made his debut when brought on as a substitute for Podence in the 72nd minute. Although on the back foot for most of the game, Wolves went close to securing all three points moments before the substitution when Neto lifted the ball beyond Mendy, but his attempt landed on top of the bar.



After the promising defensive rear-guard at Chelsea in the previous game, Wolves took a step backward again as they put in another woeful performance, and were beaten 1-0 by **Crystal Palace** at Selhurst Park. It was another lethargic effort that lifted Palace above Wolves, who dropped to 14th in the table and were now without a win in eight league games.

MATCH REPORTS



As in previous games during the season Nuno's team desperately lacked a cutting edge, and following an opening half devoid of clear-cut chances, Palace took the lead on the hour-mark as Eze somehow squeezed the ball through Patricio from the edge of the area. It was a poor goal to concede with the defence firstly allowing Eze time and space to set himself up, and then Patricio for letting the ball go straight underneath him.

Wolves offered nothing after the goal and were saved further embarrassment towards the end of the game when Zaha hit the crossbar from close range when he should have scored.

February 2021

Following a poor run of results Wolves were starting to get perilously close to the relegation zone, they were sitting 14th in the table on 23 points, just 9 points above third from bottom Fulham, who had a game in hand. February started with a difficult home game against **Arsenal**, but it was Wolves who came out on top as they registered their first win since the middle of December to ease their relegation worries.

This really was a game of two halves, and any Wolves supporter who watched the first 45 minutes would never have thought their team would end up 2-1 winners. Arsenal attacked from the off and Saka had already hit a post and had a goal overturned for offside, before they took a deserved 32nd minute lead. Pepe slipped past two defenders before curling the ball past Patricio into the top corner of the net.

Wolves were given an unexpected lifeline right on the stroke of first-half stoppage time, when David Luiz brought down Willian Jose in the penalty area and was shown a straight red card for making no attempt to play the ball. Ruben Neves expertly dispatched the spot-kick and Wolves went into the half-time break on level terms after being totally outplayed up to that point.



Just three minutes into the second half Wolves were quick to make the extra man advantage count when Joao Moutinho unleashed an unstoppable long-range strike into the top corner of the net, and complete the turnaround with his first goal at Molineux. Arsenal goalkeeper Bernd Leno pressed the self-destruct button for both himself and his team on 72 minutes when he deliberately handballed outside the box, and was sent off for denying a clear goal scoring opportunity. Wolves pressed for another goal, and should have got one as Jose failed to connect with Traore's cross, but they easily saw the game out and take a valuable three points.

Five days later high flying **Leicester City** arrived at Molineux with hopes of going joint second in the table with Man United, but missed out as the game finished 0-0. Wolves, hoping to carry on where they left off in the previous home win against Arsenal looked solid in defence, but again lacked that killer touch in front of goal.



They passed the ball with greater speed and intent, and they threatened down both flanks throughout the 90 minutes. Pedro Neto continued his excellent run of form and caused the Foxes defence a constant headache with his silky skills and excellent distribution. However the stats show that Wolves had just one shot on target throughout the game, Fabio Silva on as substitute for Willian Jose hit a crisp strike from close range, but it was superbly kept out by keeper Schmeichel at full stretch.

Despite the continued improvement Nuno's team had won just once in ten league games and remained 14th in the table.

It was three consecutive games at Molineux in nine days as **Southampton** were the visitors for a 5th round FA Cup tie. With Wolves sitting 14th in the table Nuno Espirito Santo decided that focusing on a mid-table finish outweighed the glamour of a place in the quarter-finals of the FA Cup. So five outfield changes were made with Jose, Traore, Neto, Semedo and Coady all rested and taking their places on the substitutes bench.



The selection decision severely backfired as Wolves were dumped out of the Cup, losing 2-0 after yet another woeful performance. There was no cohesion throughout the team and ball retention in the final third of the field was non-existent. Ings fired the visitors ahead four minutes after half-time, albeit with the help of VAR after the striker's goal had initially been ruled out for offside. Armstrong sealed the win late on when he found the corner of the net from a tight angle.

Just three days after being dumped out of the FA Cup by **Southampton**, Wolves travelled to St Mary's Stadium to tackle the Saints again on their own patch in the Premier League. Entering this clash on the back of Thursday's defeat, Nuno went for a far more conventional starting line-up. There was one change from the previous league game, the 0-0 draw with Leicester, as Romain Saiss took the place of Max Kilman on the left of the back three.

MATCH REPORTS



Southampton controlled the first half and took a 25th minute lead when Stuart Armstrong crossed for Danny Ings to spectacularly volley home from eight yards. Not for the first time this season Wolves looked disjointed and unable to string two passes together, and lucky they went in at half-time just the one goal down.

However, Nuno changed the formation slightly at half-time by swapping Neto and Traore around and asking them to play a more central role. The switch turned out to be a stroke of genius as the Saints defence struggled to handle the new format. Within eight minutes of the restart Wolves levelled the scores, and it came via a controversial incident that swung the game in their favour. There appeared little on for Semedo when he took aim from the edge of the area, with his shot catching the trailing arm of Bertrand. The referee immediately awarded the penalty with VAR sticking to the original decision after a review. Ruben Neves coolly stroked the equaliser from the penalty spot.



The game was turned on its head by a piece of sheer genius from Pedro Neto in the 66th minute. In a breath-taking display of his prowess he set up to cross the ball towards Jose, but instead left Vestergaard for dead and hammered the ball past McCarthy, with the goalkeeper rooted to the spot.

Despite some late Southampton pressure Wolves held on for the three points to take them up to 12th place in the table.

The Sky Sports cameras were at Molineux the following Friday night when the visitors were **Leeds United**, and a 1-0 victory meant it was four unbeaten in the Premier League as Wolves moved above their opponents into 11th spot.



The game was decided by a long-range Adama Traore thunderbolt that smashed against the crossbar then came down and in off the back of keeper Meslier into the net. Wolves also had Rui Patricio to thank for some important saves throughout the 90 minutes, but they displayed both quality and a heartening work-rate to complete the double over the Yorkshire club.

Both sides went close in the first-half, with Cooper heading straight at Patricio, and Klich striking a post for Leeds, while Nelson Semedo's effort was well held by Meslier. Cooper was again denied from point-blank range by Patricio just after the hour mark, and moments before Traore's thunderous strike from 25 yards that crashed against the crossbar and down into the back of the net via Meslier's back.

Late on Patricio saved from ex Wanderers boy Helder Costa, and Bamford thought he had snatched an equaliser late on when he went through on goal and found the bottom right-hand corner, but he was flagged offside with VAR upholding the video assistant's decision.

February ended with a late Saturday night game at the empty St. James' Park to face **Newcastle United**. Much of the news preceding this game involved the fickle Geordie supporters wanting the removal of their manager Steve Bruce, and the failure to beat Nuno's Troops did nothing to help the under fire Bruce following a 1-1 draw.

Wolves began poorly and were struggling to get out of their own half as they found themselves on the back foot, and the Magpies should have taken the lead when Almiron beat the offside trap, but he struck his shot against the outside of the post. Shortly after Wolves had another escape when Saint-Maximim had a goal ruled out for offside.

Wolves the first half with a bit more urgency, but the Magpies again started strongly after the break and finally took the lead in the 52nd minute when Jamaal Lascelles capitalised on shoddy marking to give the home side the lead. But Wolves pushed for an equaliser and it finally arrived in the 73rd minute. Willian Jose made a great driving run through the midfield before picking out Neto on the right wing. His cross was then thundered home by Neves in the middle, scoring his first ever headed goal for Wolves.



With nine minutes remaining, Joe Linton had a shot cleared off the line by Romain Saiss, while substitute Fabio Silva saw his header superbly tipped on to the crossbar by Dubravka in stoppage time.

March 2021

Undefeated in February, Wolves headed down to the Etihad Stadium to take on runaway league leaders **Manchester City**. But there was to be no repeat of the infamous win of the previous season as City eventually ran out 4-1 winners after scoring three goals in the last 10 minutes.

City set the tempo from the off, dominating play with Wolves not helping their own cause by constantly giving the ball away, and it was no surprise when City took the lead on the quarter of an hour mark when Mahrez's low cross was turned into his own net by Leander Dendoncker.

MATCH REPORTS



Wolves were barely seen as an attacking force, and had to thank Rui Patricio for keeping them in the game with a series of fine saves. However they somehow managed to grab an equaliser with what was their first touch in the City penalty area, Conor Coady heading home from a Moutinho free-kick in the 61st minute.

For a while it looked as if City's 20-match winning streak was coming to an end, but with just 10 minutes remaining Jesus restored City's lead, firing home from close range after Kyle Walker's cross hit the heel of Dendoncker and fell kindly to the City striker. Mahrez added the third following a mistake by substitute Owen Otasowie in the 90th minute, before Jesus got his second, tapping home after Patricio had saved from Gundogan, the goal being restored by VAR after initially being flagged offside.

Four days later it was off to Villa Park, both teams hit the woodwork and Romain Saiss produced one of the misses of the season as the Midlands derby between **Aston Villa** and Wolves ended goalless. It may be an old cliché, but it certainly was a game of two halves, with Villa on top in the first and Wolves the second.

Villa hit the bar twice in the first 16 minutes, first through Ollie Watkins' long-range strike, and then by Konsa's close-range effort on the stretch. Wolves had just four touches inside the Villa box during the opening period as Emiliano Martinez was rarely troubled. Wolves improved considerably in the second period, and Martinez saved Pedro Neto's fierce shot after the Portuguese maestro had made a run from inside his own half.



Wolves' best chance came when Conor Coady headed against a post and the ball fell to Romain Saiss, who blazed his effort over the bar from practically on the goal-line. Wolves continued to hunt for the winner, and they must have thought it had arrived with 15 minutes remaining when Willian Jose's scuffed shot was collected by Coady, but his turn and shot brought a superb stop by Martinez.

There was no respite as **Liverpool** rocked up at Molineux, and Diogo Jota came back to haunt Nuno's Boys with the winner on his first return to Molineux following his summer transfer. However, Liverpool's 1-0 victory was overshadowed by a late injury to Rui Patricio.



On his first return to Wolves since his summer move to Anfield, Jota scored the decisive goal in first-half stoppage time with a near-post effort which Patricio got a hand to but was unable to keep out. Salah could have made Liverpool's win more comfortable, but his late effort was ruled out for offside, but that proved immaterial after Patricio sustained a late head injury which delayed proceedings by 15 minutes before he was carried from the field on a stretcher.

Wolves displayed good intensity throughout, and even applied some late pressure after Patricio's injury. They made Liverpool work hard for the three points, and there were positives for Nuno to take from this game going into the international break.

April 2021

With just one point from nine in March, Wolves looked to get back to winning ways with a home game against **West Ham United**. Unfortunately April started where March finished off with another loss, and the 3-2 defeat saw Nuno's Troops slip to 14th position in the league.

The writing seemed to be on the wall when Patricio touched an early Antonio pile driver onto the post, but the Hammers didn't have to wait too long for the opener. In the 6th Man United outcast Jesse Lingard picked up the ball in his own half, and then went past both Dendoncker and Saiss as if they weren't there before slotting the ball past Patricio to make it 1-0.

The dreadful defending didn't end there, in the 14th minute Lingard caught out the flat-footed Semedo down by the corner flag before giving the ball to Masuaku to cross and leave the unmarked Fornals with a simple finish. The train-wreck didn't finish there, with 38 minutes on the clock it was 3-0 to the Hammers, and it was Lingard again who danced through a bunch of old gold shirts before slipping in to Bowen, and his powerful first-time shot beat Patricio at his near post.

Neto missed a great chance to pull one back before the break, but Dendoncker did head in Traore's cross in the 44th minute to give Wolves a glimmer of hope. Fabio Silva, sent on for Podence at half-time, set up a grandstand finish when he steered his low angled shot past Fabianski in the 68th minute.



West Ham dropped deep as they tried to hold on to their slender advantage, and although Wolves dominated the closing stages, the damage had already been done in the first 38 minutes, and they couldn't find a way through for the elusive equaliser.

MATCH REPORTS



Following the Monday night defeat at home to West Ham United next up was a Friday night visit to the capital to take on **Fulham** at Craven Cottage, and due to the continuation of playing games inside empty stadiums Sky TV continued to screen most matches as and when they wanted to. But it was back to winning ways, as Adama Traore scored his first Premier League goal since December 2019 with a dramatic late winner as Wolves claimed a slender 1-0 win.



With so few opportunities in a poor contest, the biggest talking point of the match threatened to be the decision to disallow Jose's first-half header. In collecting the ball prior to his delivery from the right, Podence's upper arm was a fraction ahead of the toe of the final defender, prompting VAR to rule it out, yet another laughable decision made by a team of so called independent technical experts.

In the end it was Traore who was able to provide the one moment of attacking quality to ensure the game had a winner, smashing home his first goal in 49 Premier League matches. He had contributed little for the previous 92 minutes, but when released down the right and up against some tired defensive legs, he seized his chance by firing a ferocious drive past Fulham keeper Areola.

The win takes Wolves to 38 points, and virtually safe from getting dragged into the relegation fight.

Wolves passed the magic 40 points mark with a narrow 1-0 home victory over **Sheffield United** who were relegated to the Championship after Willian Jose's first goal for Wolves secured victory. The goal broke the Brazilian's Wolves duck in his 11th game for the club, having signed on loan from Real Sociedad in January.

The visitors knew that they had to avoid defeat at Molineux to avoid relegation and were denied a crucial opening goal on 59 minutes when Semedo superbly blocked Enda Stevens' effort. Just 18 seconds later Wolves edged ahead in a lightning counter-attack, Traore broke powerfully down the right and cut the ball back invitingly for Jose who swept the ball home.



The Blades tried to respond and Stevens brought an excellent save from Patricio with a powerful shot from an angle. However, there was no preventing relegation that had been inevitable after the Blades abysmal start to the season, which brought just one point from their opening 13 games.

A Sunday midday kick-off saw **Burnley** visit Molineux looking for points to keep them in the Premiership for another season. With European football now realistically off the agenda as far as Wolves were concerned, Nuno would have been looking to finish the season off in style and hopefully get some momentum going ready for the inevitable return of supporters to football stadiums.

With the home side looking to make it three on the spin for the first time this season supporters' anticipations were high, what they were treated to was an absolute shambles and without doubt the worst performance from any team in the Nuno era,

Chris Wood took advantage of some shambolic defending to grab a first-half hat-trick as Burnley romped home 4-0. The first goal came in the 15th minute when Willy Boly was guilty of missing a bread-and-butter header to cut out a forward pass into the right-hand channel, Wood pounced on the ball and turned Coady inside out before drilling the ball home.



Six minutes later he was in the right place to cash in as Wolves imploded. Traore played a hospital pass back to Semedo who stood like a statue waiting for the ball to arrive at his feet, McNeil nipped in and rolled the ball to Wood to tap-in. Wood completed his hat-trick a minute before the break when McNeil swung over a corner, and everyone in a gold shirt watched on as the striker picked his spot and headed home unchallenged. Burnley added a fourth five minutes from time through Westwood, after you guessed it an assist from Wood.

At the end of the day not one of the players could be considered fit to wear the shirt, an absolute disgrace.

May 2021

There was no time for a repeat of the previous week's chaos as a visit to local rivals **West Bromwich Albion** was next up for Wolves. Having already lost the reverse fixture at home in the middle of January, there was no room for error as Wolves looked to put another nail in the Albion relegation coffin.

Nuno's Boys showed the early initiative and dominated possession as the rain lashed down, but overall the quality of play was poor with neither team covering themselves in glory. Saiss headed straight at Sam Johnstone in the game's first real effort, before Semedo's fierce shot was tipped over the bar by the Albion keeper.

MATCH REPORTS



Albion came close to the breakthrough late in the half when a short corner found its way to Diagne at the far post, but he could only divert across goal rather than into the net. It was to prove costly as Wolves took the lead with a huge slice of luck in first-half stoppage time when Fabio Silva's deflected effort ballooned up over Johnstone and into the net.

Rui Patricio saved superbly to deny Gallagher in the second-half, but Albion did level 17 minutes after the break. Townsend swung over a perfect cross for the unmarked Diagne who nodded the ball home after completely escaping the attention of Saiss, who lost the striker far too easily. The torrential rain continued and towards the end of the game the pitch became a quagmire, preventing both teams from playing with any rhythm, and the game petered out into a draw.



The penultimate home game of the season saw **Brighton and Hove Albion** visit the Golden Palace, and the last game without fans at Molineux saw Morgan Gibbs-White grab the winner at the death and clinch a dramatic 2-1 win over 10-man Brighton.

Brighton started the brighter and went ahead on 13 minutes when Lewis Dunk headed in a Pascal Gross corner following some poor defending by the Wolves defence. Overall the visitors were the better team in the first-half, but the game was turned on its head when Dunk went from hero to villain shortly after the break as he was shown a straight red card for bringing down Fabio Silva when through on goal.



Wolves brought on Adama Traore from the substitutes bench on the hour mark, and it proved a masterpiece by Nuno as the winger equalised in the 76th minute, playing a cute one-two with Silva before smashing the ball into the top right hand corner. Wolves then missed a glorious chance to seal the three points in the 84th minute after Traore dispossessed keeper Sanchez and squared it to Gibbs-White, all he had to do was hit the target from around 10 yards out, but ballooned his strike into the South Bank. However, the youngster made amends in the last minute when he showed quick feet and curled the ball into the top corner of the net from just inside the box.

Brighton then had Neal Maupay sent off after the final whistle for foul and abusive language. The win was Wolves' first top-flight victory over Brighton and moved them on to 45 points and 12th in the Premier League table.

There were now three games left, two away fixtures followed by the final game of the season at home to Man United. First up was **Tottenham Hotspur**, and it was another case of lapses in defensive concentration that cost Wolves, as they fell to a 2-0 defeat.

Fabio Silva missed two first-half opportunities for Wolves, testing Hugo Lloris with a low shot before dragging a shot wide from an identical position in the 29th minute. But it was Spurs who took the lead when Harry Kane rounded Rui Patricio and slotted in the opener from Hojbjerg's pass on the stroke of half-time.

While Wolves carried a threat on the break they were forced to ride their luck at times, with Kane and Dele Alli both hitting the right-hand post within seconds of each other. Hojbjerg doubled Spurs' advantage, reacting first after Rui Patricio had parried a Gareth Bale effort, to slide the ball into the bottom right corner.



Romain Saiss, Adama Traore and Fabio Silva all had good opportunities to reply for Wolves, but not for the first time this season it was a frustrating day in front of goal for Nuno's forwards.

The penultimate game saw Wolves visit Goodison Park to play **Everton**, and it was back to back defeats as Wolves went down 1-0. As the two teams stepped out for kick-off the atmosphere was totally different to any of Wolves' recent games as 6,500 Everton supporters were allowed to attend a game for the first time since the start of covid restrictions.

Nuno's Boys had the better of the opening 45 minutes, and had several opportunities on goal. Adama Traore went closest to scoring, but his powerful drive was tipped over superbly by Jordan Pickford, the Everton keeper also did well to keep out a Morgan Gibbs-White volley.

Only three minutes into the second half Wolves reverted to old habits as they allowed Richarlison to sneak unmarked across goal, and head home from a corner. Wolves failed to create any problems for Everton after falling behind, showing their lack of ruthlessness in the forward areas, and having just one shot at goal in the final 42 minutes. The season was ending with a whimper, and they sat in 12th place with nothing to play for except pride in the last game.

MATCH REPORTS



The last day of the season saw the mighty **Manchester United** visit Molineux, but the football game and the return of 4,500 supporters for the first time of the season, was overshadowed by the announcement 48 hours earlier that Nuno Espirito Santo would be departing after four years in charge.



And it was disappointment all-round as Wolves finished their campaign with a 2-1 defeat, even though their illustrious opponents made 10 changes to the team that played the previous game, left out were Edison Cavani, Bruno Fernandes and Paul Pogba, all of which did not even make the squad.

United started the stronger and took the lead in the 13th minute when Daniel James was played in down the left, and he crossed to Elanga who had acres of space to head home from close range. Yet again, and not for the first time during the season, it was Wolves' poor marking that again proved costly.

The first-half looked like it was fizzling out for Wolves before Semedo popped up with his first goal for the club. Dendoncker charged forward through midfield and fed Silva who had run into the channel, the young striker cut the ball back for Semedo who slid in and found the bottom corner.

However, it was United who regained the lead on the stroke of half-time. Donny van de Beek was caught on the back of his foot by Romain Saiss, and after referee Mike Dean initially decided against awarding a penalty, he reversed his decision following a VAR review. Mata stepped up to tuck the spot-kick home for the final action of the half.

Wolves pushed on again in the second-half, but they couldn't find a way past Dean Henderson. The United goalkeeper saved Rayan Ait-Nouri's curling shot, and then denied Morgan Gibbs-White late on. All in all it was a sad end to what on the whole had been a poor season, this compared to the very high standards set by Nuno and his team over the four seasons we had been lucky enough to have him at our club.

The final table saw Wolves finish 13th position in the league on 45 points, a country mile from European qualification. But this was no normal season with teams playing in front of empty stadiums due to covid, and television companies supplementing live broadcasts with artificial crowd noise to make it seem like there was an atmosphere, all in all one to forget.

English Premier League Table 2020-2021									
Pos	Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	+/-	PTS
1	Manchester City	38	27	5	6	83	32	51	86
2	Manchester United	38	21	11	6	73	44	29	74
3	Liverpool	38	20	9	9	68	42	26	69
4	Chelsea	38	19	10	9	58	36	22	67
5	Leicester City	38	20	6	12	68	50	18	66
6	West Ham United	38	19	8	11	62	47	15	65
7	Tottenham Hotspur	38	18	8	12	68	45	23	62
8	Arsenal	38	18	7	13	55	39	16	61
9	Leeds United	38	18	5	15	62	54	8	59
10	Everton	38	17	8	13	47	48	-1	59
11	Aston Villa	38	16	7	15	55	46	9	55
12	Newcastle United	38	12	9	17	46	62	-16	45
13	Wolves	38	12	9	17	36	52	-16	45
14	Crystal Palace	38	12	8	18	41	66	-25	44
15	Southampton	38	12	7	19	47	68	-21	43
16	Brighton & Hove Albion	38	9	14	15	40	46	-6	41
17	Burnley	38	10	9	19	33	55	-22	39
18	Fulham	38	5	13	20	27	53	-26	28
19	West Bromwich Albion	38	5	11	22	35	76	-41	26
20	Sheffield United	38	7	2	29	20	63	-43	23

TRAVEL DETAILS



Provisional travel arrangements for matches during April and May are:-:-

Home Matches

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

Fare : To be advised.

Sat 30/4/22 v Brighton (k/o 3:00pm)	◆ Outward	- Depart Euston 09:43 Arrive Wolverhampton 11:37
	◆ Return	- Depart Wolverhampton 18:45 Arrive Euston 20:55
Sun 15/5/22 v Norwich (k/o 2:00pm)	◆ Outward	- Depart Euston 08:48 Arrive Wolverhampton 11:10
	◆ Return	- Depart Wolverhampton 18:45 Arrive Euston 20:35

The **Manchester City** home match originally scheduled for Sat 16 April, the travel is to be arranged.

Away Matches

Sun 24/4/22 v Burnley (2 day trip) (k/o 2:00pm)	◆ Outward (Sat)	- Depart Kings Cross 11:35 Arrive Leeds 13:47
		- Depart Leeds 13:57 Arrive Burnley Manchester Road 15:01
	◆ Return (Sun)	- Depart Burnley Manchester Road 17:16 Arrive Leeds 18:27
		- Depart Leeds 18:45 Arrive Kings Cross 21:06

Sat 7/5/22 v Chelsea (k/o 3:00pm)

No official club trip. The nearest tube station is Fulham Broadway (District Line). West Brompton station, on the London Overground line between Stratford and Clapham Junction, is about a 15 minute walk to the ground.

Note: as of 23/3/22 Chelsea can again sell tickets for Stamford Bridge

Sun 22/5/22 v Liverpool (k/o 4:00pm)	◆ Outward	- Depart Euston 09:17 Arrive Liverpool Lime Street 12:11
	◆ Return	- Depart Liverpool Lime Street 19:47 Arrive Euston 22:27

TRAVEL SECRETARY - PETER WOODIFIELD

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Telephone - 01634 363704 E-mail - peter.woodfield@outlook.com

FEEDBACK

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

address: Flat 11, 100 Fairthorn Road, London, SE7 7SE

e-mail: WWLSC@post.com

contacts: Stuart Earl 0203 620 7901

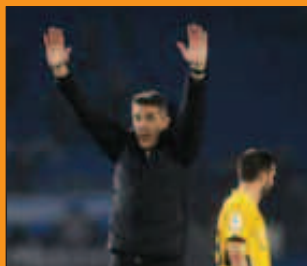
Dave Slape 0208 764 8023 Peter Woodifield 01634 363704

BRUNO LAGE



Wolves new Head Coach -

Bruno Lage



On behalf of WWLSC I would like to give a warm welcome to new Head Coach **Bruno Lage**. Bruno replaced Nuno Espirito Santo whose four year reign as Wolves head coach came to an end after the Premier League season had concluded.

He required a hearing for a work permit as he did not qualify automatically to work in Britain post-Brexit. The hearing was successful and, on 9th June 2021 he was confirmed as the club's new head coach.

Bruno Miguel Silva do Nascimento was born on the 12th May 1976 in Setúbal, Portugal. The 45-year-old made his name as a coach in youth football, spending nearly 20 years coaching academy sides, he joined having most recently spent 18 months at the helm of Benfica, who he led to the Primeira Liga title in his first season in management.

Having coached at Benfica's world-renowned academy, Lage took over the reins of the first-team in January 2019 and guided the Portuguese giants to 18 wins from 19 games and a record-equalling 103 goals.

He already knows the English game too, having assisted Carlos Carvalhal at Sheffield Wednesday and Swansea.

Lage is renowned for Attacking football, fluid formations and developing youth, and as Wolves look to progress to the next level, they believe his track record ticks the boxes to take them there.

Like his predecessor, Lage is a Portuguese manager represented by compatriot super-agent Jorge Mendes.

Following his appointment as the new Wolves head coach, he was shortly followed to the Golden Palace by six colleagues, the majority of whom he has worked with during his time in the game elsewhere:

Alex Silva joined as assistant head coach; Luis Nascimento took on the role of senior professional development coach; Tony Roberts, the new goalkeeping coach; Carlos Cachada, the first-team fitness coach; Jhony Conceicao, head of coaching strategy and last but not least Diogo Camacho the first-team analyst.



WWLSC welcomes Bruno Lage and all his team of coaches to Wolverhampton, and hope he continues with the same success that Nuno Espirito Santo brought to our club during his four years in charge.

