

Wolfpack



The newsletter of the Wolfpack Speedway Support Team

Issue Four: Winter 2023



Chairman's Notes



Hello everyone.

It's fair to say the last few months haven't been easy for anyone associated with the Wolfpack.

It was desperately sad to bid goodbye to Monmore Green. 'The Green' was our home. It was the place where we cheered, laughed, met our friends. And now it's gone.

That final meeting was, in fairness, as good a farewell as we could have hoped. It was heart-warming to see former riders such as Sam Ermolenko, Ronnie Correy, Peter Karlsson, Adam Skornicki, Graham Jones, Stewart McDonald and Ken Eyre present at such an important occasion. The speeches given by Chis Van Straaten and Peter Adams at the end of the night were emotional and will stick in our minds for many years.

Then we had our End of Season party and presentation night at Jones Road WMC. What an evening it was. All of the riders - apart from Rory Schlein, who was on a much-deserved holiday— were present as were the Wolves management.

We were particularly pleased to see CVS there, as he'd told us he'd find the experience a bit too overwhelming. We're glad he changed his mind.

A big thank you too to Fred 'Jennik' Barrett for bringing along a display board showing his brilliant artwork from the 1970s and 1980s (more of which later in this edition). Ian 'Porky' Jones did sterling service on the mic, as always, and we're very grateful to him. And to ace photographer Phil McGlynn for capturing all of the action for posterity.

Now the dust has settled on the season, we look forward. Entain, Monmore Green's stadium owners, don't want us there and no amount of placard waving or protesting will change that.

There's one future for Wolverhampton Speedway, and that's at our own purpose-built facility. CVS is very much on the case and is actively pursuing leads on land available in the Wolverhampton area.

To this end, the Wolfpack Speedway Support Team's work is as vital as it ever was—more so, in fact. When the club gets that all-important planning permission, the money we've raised will be so important to getting Wolverhampton Speedway up and running.

The theme of the final meeting at Monmore Green was 'We'll Meet Again'. And, fingers crossed, we surely will.

Finally, let's all hope for good news in 2024. Keep the faith!

Mark Sawbridge, Chairman

Cover Picture

Zach Cook picks up his 'Rider of the Year' trophy from Wolves legends Ronnie Correy and Sam Ermolenko at the End of Season Party and Presentation Evening. Photo by Phil McGlynn.

SPEEDWAY

DARTS & Social Night

INDIVIDUAL DARTS EVENT

MONDAY 29TH JANUARY 7PM

THE CLEVELAND ARMS

Memorabilia, books, and rider photos on sale

£2.00 Entry to the event. Whether you are playing or not

#KEEPINGTHEWOLFPACKTOGETHER

All proceeds to the WSST for the future of Wolverhampton Speedway



Yes, that's right—speedway darts!

We feel it's important that we continue to run social evenings throughout 2024. In view of the sad lack of speedway at Monmore Green during the year, it's vital that we get together on a regular basis.

We recently asked on social media what sort of social evenings Wolves fans had in mind. Overwhelmingly, supporters requested a speedway darts night. Well, you listened and we'll deliver. We're going to hold our first one on Monday 29 January and we hope to see you there!

You don't have to be Phil 'The Power' Taylor to take part!

The good news is that anyone can play speedway darts. The idea is that we'll hold a tournament similar to a speedway meeting. Each heat will contain four darts play-

ers who'll take it in turns to throw three darts at the board. The one who scores the highest score wins three points, second highest two points and so on.

The evening will be in the format of a twenty-heat individual, so we'll need at least sixteen players to take part. We're hoping to have far more than that, so we can hold semi-finals (hopefully we'll have enough for quarter-finals!).

Back in the late 1980s/early 1990s, there was a highly popular speedway darts league with teams from places as far afield as Stafford and Coventry. Whether we'll quite manage to be that successful remains to be seen. But speedway darts is great fun, and we aim to have another great evening!

Meet the Committee

Hello, I'm John and I'm the Treasurer of WSST. Professionally I have been an Accountant for 45 years.

Outside of speedway I enjoy both entering and presenting quizzes, Astronomy and following National Hunt Racing.

I was introduced to speedway by my cousin who is slightly older than me and had heard about speedway from a work colleague.

My first meeting was on 28th March 1969 when Wolves beat Leicester 41-37 in a challenge match, and I was hooked.

My first speedway hero was Norman Hunter who Wolves had signed that year. Unfortunately, he suffered serious injuries in a Long Track crash otherwise I believe he could have been World Champion that year.

My other speedway heroes are Sam Ermolenko and Ole Olsen who both totally transformed Wolves in their own way.

There have been so many highs and many lows, but the ride has been incredible.

The highest would be our first League Championship in 1991, closely followed by our 2002 Play Off Second Leg at Eastbourne with the absolute lows being losing the 1993 Championship in the final meeting plus losing Gary Peterson in October 1975.

I have been to every current British Track and many, many, more that are sadly like us no longer operating.

My favourite tracks would have to be Long Eaton – Gerald Short was worth the admission money alone and the Isle of Wight – Adam Shields, Jason Doyle and Jason Bunyan were amazing around there.



There have been a few overseas trips, one notably being when three friends and I drove to Wroclaw for the 1992 World Final using an A4 size European Road Map, the experiences from which I could fill a book.

My all-time Wolverhampton Seven would be Sam Ermolenko, Ole Olsen, Norman Hunter, Peter Karlsson, Mikael Karlsson/Max, Freddie Lindgren and Ronnie Correy.

As for so many 2024 is going to be very strange without any Wolves team to follow. Although we closed in the 1980s this time is very different as unlike then the track no longer exists for a potential quick return, and we are relying on a totally new venue being found.

Hopefully the search will be successful, and we will be back sooner rather than later.

End of Season Party

Despite the sad circumstances that surrounded it, we did our best to make the End of Season Party and Presentation Evening a night to remember. The event, which we held at Jones Road Working Mans Club, was a huge success. A big 'thank you' to the riders and management for all joining in. Here are some pictures to remind us of what an evening it was.....



Treasurer's Report

Hello everyone.

We continue to grow our funds healthily and we are extremely grateful for all donations that have been made to help Wolverhampton Speedway.

The balance in our bank account on 13th January is £8,379.12.

Although the team won't be operating in 2024, for the foreseeable future we are continuing to grow our funds and stand ready to help with any fighting fund that might be required.

It is our aim for the finances of the Team to be open to scrutiny by anyone that might be interested, and any queries can be made via our email address.

JohnSmith

Membership Secretary's Report

Hello.

We have lost a couple of members and earned some new ones, so we still have 63 member. We are making around £325.00 each month from membership donations alone. We received some cash donations throughout the last racing season and social events. Over the last year we have raised a total amount from membership donations of £3,900.34.

It was a great last season for Wolves, finishing second in the Premiership table, but couldn't get past the semi-finals. We had an massive attendance for the final two meetings at Monmore Green, which I'm sure we will all treasure and have many memories from until the next time we are back together at a new venue.

I will be attending Birmingham meetings home and away with some other occasional track visits, and I hope to see many members throughout next season watching speedway.

Finally, we've completed our members' prize draw for the end of 2023. The lucky winner was Owen Enefer, who has won £50.00. He was chuffed and surprised to win the prize draw. Our next one will be in the summer.

If you'd like to ask any question, please feel free to visit our Facebook page or email us at enquiries@wsst.co.uk.

Elliot Hunt
Membership Secretary



So farewell then, Monmore
Green.....



Right Said Fred!



A big thanks to Fred 'Jennik' Barrett for this amazing display at our End of Season Party and Presentation Night. 'Jennik' was the artist responsible for the wonderful race jackets we used in the 1970s. He also produced the Wolverhampton Speedway adverts for the *Speedway Star* and the cover of the programme each week.

Fred's designs were looked on with envy by supporters from other clubs and really made Wolverhampton stand out. In fact, Exeter asked Fred to design their 1979 race jacket, so popular were his designs.

The display tells us the story of the controversial, and unloved, 1980 race jacket (see top right in the photo). Some supporters referred to the Wolf's head as the 'Goodyear ferret' although I thought it looked more like a fish.

Fred's original design was a combination of a Wolf and the Goodyear winged shoe logo. However, the marketing folk at Goodyear didn't like it and chopped off the bottom bit, leaving us with the dreaded ferret!

Thanks again to Fred for a wonderful trip down memory lane.

Questions and Answers

Want to know more about the Wolfpack Speedway Support Team. Who are we? What will happen to the money? How can I pay? Here are the answers you're looking for.....

Who are we?

During the COVID-19 pandemic, most businesses suffered financially through not being able to operate as they normally would. Wolverhampton Speedway was no different. The embargo on meetings in early 2021, and the severe restrictions imposed upon crowd levels, caused significant problems to the club's management and its financial position.

Because of the real fear that Wolverhampton Speedway would have to close, a Go Fund Me page was set up to raise money to help keep the club afloat. It was a huge success, and many supporters – concerned about the ability of Wolverhampton Speedway to survive - contributed

The Wolfpack Speedway Support Team aims to build on the success of that initiative.

What is our aim?

Our aim is to raise funds to help guarantee the long-term future of speedway in Wolverhampton.

Who are the committee?

We are all dedicated Wolverhampton Speedway supporters, determined to play our part in creating a successful future for the Parrys International Wolves. We are:

Steve Evans (Committee Member), Alison Hartshorne (Secretary), Elliot Hunt (Membership Secretary), Mark Rabone (Vice Chairman), Mark Sawbridge (Chairman), John Smith (Treasurer), Mary Wakelam (Committee Member)

How does it work?

We're asking fans of the Parrys International Wolves to donate £5.00 per month. You'll then become a member of the Wolfpack Speedway Support Team.

All you need to do is to let us have your email address. We'll then send you a link, on which you can click and enter your bank details.

When are payments taken?

Your payment will be taken 3-4 days after you complete the form. Unfortunately you can't select your own date, so if you need the payment to be taken out on a certain date, you'll need to delay the completion of the application form.

What if I want to pay by cheque or cash?

We can accept payments made by cheque and cash. Please see any committee members to do this. We'll send you a receipt for any money you've given to the Wolfpack Speedway Support Team.

If you want to post a cheque to us, you can send it to:

Wolfpack Speedway Support Team, 4 Silverbirch Grove, Muxton, Telford, TF2 8RH

What if I want to pay more than £5.00 per month?

We'd be delighted to help, although we only can accept monthly sums of £5.00, £10.00, £15.00 and £20.00 at the moment.

What information of mine will you hold?

The only information we'll hold about you is your name, address and email address. We won't know your bank details, as that information will be held securely by Go Cardless – the firm who manage the online payments on our behalf.

Are any payments made by Direct Debit covered by the Direct Debit Guarantee Scheme?

The simple answer is – Yes.

What happens if I want to no longer be a member?

Simply let any committee member know and we'll stop your membership, and cancel your Direct Debit, straight away. No questions asked.

What will it say on my bank statement?

Your bank account will say 'Go Card-

less'.

What do I get for being a member?

We'll send you a newsletter which will give you information about what's happened to the money the Wolfpack Speedway Support Team have raised. We'll also enter you into a prize draw. We'll provide more information about this in the coming months.

What happens to the money we raise?

The funds will remain in our bank account until such time as Wolverhampton Speedway's management need our help. We anticipate that this will be to repair or replace broken equipment. For example, the money raised this year in the Go Fund Me account helped to fix the water bowser, which had ceased working. We know that the Speedway Office, an important part of a Monday evening, is due to be replaced, and we'd be looking to assist with the costs for this.

If, for example, there was another rise in COVID infections and the club's finances suffered as a result, we'd help the club by donating funds to them to help them to keep afloat.

It's important to stress that the funds raised don't go directly into Wolverhampton Speedway's bank account – we'll meet with Chris Van Straaten periodically to review what we've raised and how we can help the club.

How can I contact you?

Please contact us at enquiries@wsst.co.uk. We have a page on Wolverhampton Speedway's website, which you'll find at <http://wolverhampton-speedway.com/wsst>