

THE WOLFPACK

We're a team of supporters dedicated to furthering the long-term cause of Speedway in Wolverhampton

Our committee:

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

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Wolfpack News

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

MARCH 2022

Newsletter no. 1—March 2022

A message from the Chairman

Hello, and welcome to the first newsletter from the Wolfpack Speedway Supporters Team.

As you'll be aware, the purpose of our team is to raise money to help guarantee the long-term future of our favourite sport in Wolverhampton. And what a start we've made, as we've now signed up 43 members and have raised £2,000.

That money will go towards assisting the promotion with costs they've incurred in running speedway. For example, last year the water bowser broke. If that sort of thing happens in 2022, we'd like to be able to step in and replace it without the promotion having to dip their hands into their pockets.

Please rest assured that all the money we raise will be used for this purpose. The committee of the Wolfpack Speedway Support Team (that's Alison, Mary, Elliot, John, Mark and Steve and me) are doing this without taking any expenses for ourselves. We think it's a worthy cause, and I hope you do to.

We're grateful that you've chosen to be one of the Wolfpack. And if you aren't yet a member, we'd be delighted to have you join us. We're asking supporters to contribute a minimum of £5.00 per month. Interested? Then please email us at:

enquiries@wsst.co.uk

You'd be more than welcome.

Best wishes (and up the Wolves!)

Mark Sawbridge
Chairman



WOLFPACK SPEEDWAY SUPPORT TEAM

**SUPPORTING THE LONG-TERM SURVIVAL OF
WOLVERHAMPTON SPEEDWAY**

CVS praises the Wolfpack!

Wolverhampton promoter Chris Van Straaten has praised everyone who has contributed to the Wolfpack Speedway Support Team.

Whilst there were COVID restrictions in place, the club suffered severe losses as a result of restricted crowds.

Van Straaten said, "I will be forever grateful for the kind messages of support Wolverhampton Speedway received throughout the course of last year.

We struggled financially early on due to the restrictions in place, which is when a discussion in regard to a support team was brought forward by passionate supporters.

I must say I'm delighted with the response that has come from the Wolfpack Speedway Support Team. I want to thank everyone who has contributed and continues to contribute to help protect Wolverhampton Speedway for years to come.

All money raised will be reinvested back into the club when the need arises. This can be in the form of new track equipment or general maintenance.

I would also like to thank the Wolfpack Speedway Support Team for the time invested in setting up the team. They have spent days putting things in place and are truly passionate supporters of our club.

Thank you to them for everything they've done and continue to do."



WOLFPACK SPEEDWAY SUPPORT TEAM

**SUPPORTING THE LONG-TERM SURVIVAL OF
WOLVERHAMPTON SPEEDWAY**

Write to us at:

4 Silverbirch Grove

Muxton

Telford

TF2 8RH

Email: enquiries@wsst.co.uk

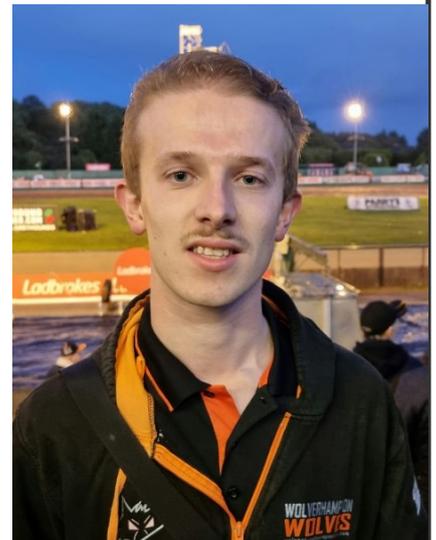
Membership Secretary's Report

Hello, my name is Elliot Hunt and I'm the membership secretary for Wolverhampton Speedway Support Team.

We started off this initiative at the end of October 2021 to raise money for the long-term future of Wolverhampton speedway following the impact COVID had on the club.

We've currently recruited 43 members and between us our donations have raised £2,000, which is an amazing amount during the close season.

With the season starting soon, I hope we can get many more people signed up and help to raise more funds to secure the future



of Wolves speedway and support with unexpected costs that may arise. If you would like to ask any questions or sign up, please visit our table on meeting nights by the admission area before the meeting or email us. Our email address is enquiries@wsst.co.uk.

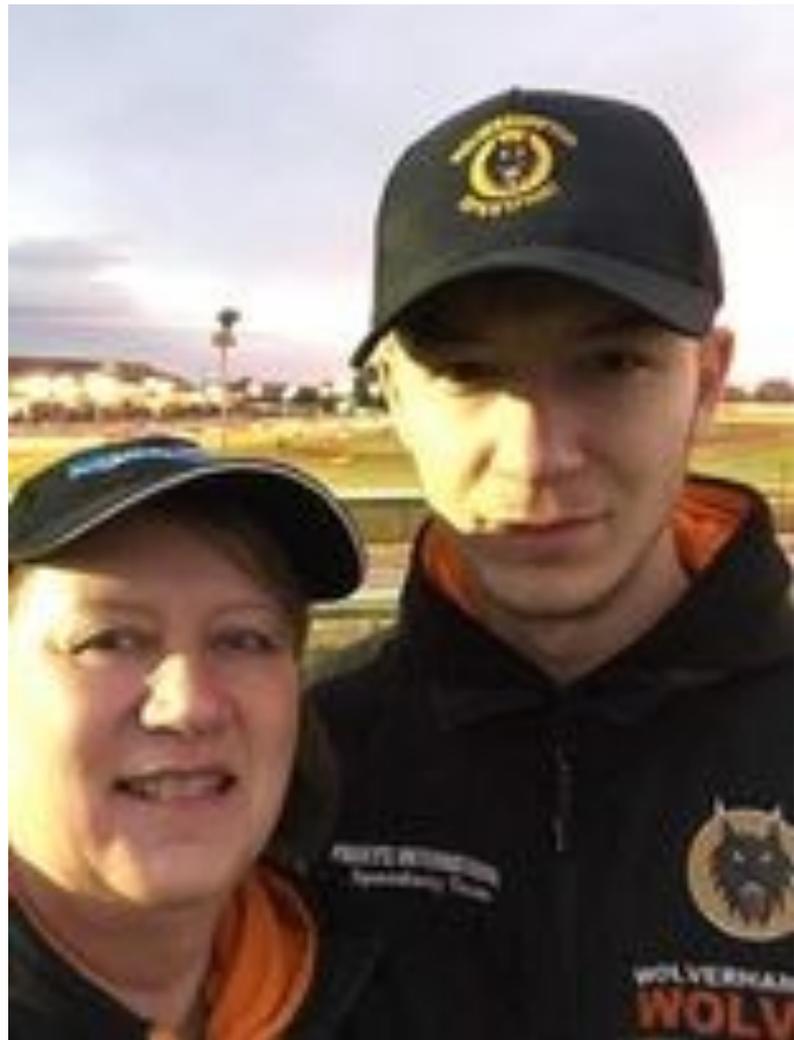
Meet the Committee: Alison Hartshorne

Alison is our secretary and is a long-time fan of Wolverhampton Speedway—but only became a fan after a stroll across Cannock Chase!

“We were walking across the Chase one day in 1979 when my dad spotted a car. On the windscreen was a sticker advertising Wolverhampton Speedway. My dad said he used to go when he was young, and he was keen to see it again. I was 13 years old at the time, and I’ve been going ever since.”

Alison, who lives in Wednesbury, has had a few favourite riders over the years. “As a kid, it was Hans Nielsen all the way,” she said, “even though all my mates liked Bruce Penhall! Later on, it was Sam Ermolenko and Fredrik Lindgren who I liked the most. I also admired Dennis Sigalos, and it was a shame his career was ended prematurely by injuries.”

Picking out a top memory from her years as a speedway fan isn’t easy for Alison. “There have been so many. The Elite League title wins at Swindon and Belle Vue were really special, and I was lucky to be there to witness them,” she told us. But the best meeting she’s attended wasn’t a Wolverhampton one—and in fact wasn’t even in the UK. “We went to the 2019 Grand Prix at Wroclaw, and had VIP seats right by the start line. I



was overwhelmed by how amazing it was.”

Alison thinks the best things about being a speedway fan are the people and places. “I’ve met some fantastic people along the way, and made friends with many of them. I’ve also been to some incredible places. When I was young, my Dad drove us all over the country which included visits to places such as Eastbourne, Ipswich and Edinburgh.”

Alison, who’s married to husband Malcolm, attends speedway with her son,

Michael. She can be found on a Monday evening by the Speedway Office. She works for Sandwell Council in Community Development and likes ice hockey, walking, swimming and reading.

So, why get involved in the Wolfpack? “It’s a chance to give something back, for all the pleasure Wolverhampton Speedway has given to me and my family over the years. The pandemic has shown us that we can’t take anything for granted anymore and we have to fight to keep the things that mean the most to us.”

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 Parry's 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 Parry's 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 Cardless'.

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>.

Q&As (continued)

What do the committee get from this?

The short answer is nothing – we all pay to get into Monmore Green each week and we'll continue to do so!

What happens if Wolverhampton Speedway closes or is sold to new owners?

We'll decide at that point what will happen to the money we've raised. Obviously if we can help the club to survive, we will – and would donate funds to help that to happen. If the club folded, we'd hold a meeting to decide what to do with the money in our account. It's likely we'd donate it to the Speedway Riders' Benevolent Fund, to help injured riders.

Treasurer's Report

Hello, my name is John Smith, and I am the Treasurer of Wolfpack Speedway Support Team. I've been a supporter of Wolverhampton Speedway since 1969 and an accountant with various organisations for over 40 years.

I'm pleased to report upon the finances of the Team for the Period 21st October 2021 to 7th March 2022.

We've received total donations of £2,055, including two very generous donations from one supporter totalling £1,000. We're extremely grateful for all donations that have been made to help ensure the long-term survival of Wolverhampton Speedway.

Of the total donations, £920 has been received via GoCardless, who have charged us £39 for the collection of those donations with £881 being transferred into our bank account. We've expended £67 on promotional material.

The balance in our bank account on 7th March is £1,949. We've not had any requests from the Speedway Club yet to help with any large expenditure.

It's 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.

Much is expected of the exciting Leon Flint in 2022.

Thanks to ace photographer Phil McGlynn for the photograph.



**WOLFPACK SPEEDWAY
SUPPORT TEAM**



SOCIAL EVENING

QUIZ RAFFLE AUCTION

MEMORABILIA & MERCHANDISE STALLS

All proceeds raised will help Wolverhampton
Speedway to continue

**CLEVELAND ARMS
TUESDAY 24TH MAY 2022 7PM**

Tickets £2.00 - Available from WSST
members on race nights

Email - enquiries@wsst.co.uk