

Wolfpack



The newsletter of the Wolfpack Speedway Support Team
Issue Three: Spring 2023



**WOLFPACK SPEEDWAY
SUPPORT TEAM**

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

WOLFPACK SPEEDWAY SUPPORT TEAM

SOCIAL NIGHT

QUIZ

RAFFLE & AUCTION

All proceeds will help the long-term future of Wolverhampton Speedway

Merchandise on sale

Thursday 22nd June

Cleveland Arms

Doors open 7pm

Tickets £2.00

Available from our table on race nights

Or email us enquiries@wsst.co.uk

Adults only



Chairman's Notes



Hello again,

Obviously the news that stadium owners Entain have decided not to renew Wolverhampton Speedway's agreement to race at Monmore Green has come as a bolt out of the blue.

It wasn't news that anyone was expecting and has cast a shadow over our season.

The one positive thing which has come out of the announcement has been the way in which the Wolverhampton Speedway family has come together. The positivity and love for the club showed in the campaign has been nothing short of remarkable.

In addition, the support shown by the Express & Star, other local media and Wolverhampton's politicians—of all political stripes—has been almost without precedent.

Then there's been the petition, started by our good friend Chris Adams. It now has over 20,000 signatures, and has attracted support from all over the world.

I hear that Paul and Andrea Blackwell, two very loyal Wolfpack supporters, have even managed to get former Spurs and England footballer Glenn Hoddle to sign it! Thank you to Paul and Andrea—who are fans of Tottenham Hotspur as well as the Parrys International Wolves—for signing up Glenn to our cause.

“What happens next?” is the question we're being asked on a regular basis. I can provide two answers.

The first is that it's “business as usual” for the Wolfpack. We'll keep doing what we're doing—raising money to help guarantee the long-term future of Wolverhampton Speedway. To this end, we've purchased a ‘magic wheel’ from the funds you've kindly contributed. You'll find a picture of this later in this newsletter.

The second is that we're throwing our support behind the Save Wolves Speedway campaign. We're keeping a paper copy of the petition on our table by the turnstiles, and you'll have no doubt seen the t-shirts we're wearing each Monday. You can buy them from Caroline, whom you can visit at the table every Monday.

The aim now has to be for the club to secure a place we can call our own. And when that happens, the funds we're raising will be more important than ever.

Finally, please remember to buy a ticket for our Social Evening on 22 June at the Cleveland Arms. It'll be a great night, and I'm looking forward to seeing you there.

Keep the faith!

Mark Sawbridge, Chairman

Cover Picture

Thank you to ace photographer Phil McGlynn for the picture of the Parrys International Wolves, taken on the press day at Parrys head office in Cheslyn Hay.

Meet the Committee



My name is Elliot and I am the Membership Secretary lead and have been a fan of Wolves Speedway for over twenty years now. I got into speedway in the early 2000's when Wolves had a few legends riding for us like Sam Ermolenko, the Karlsson brothers, David Howe and Adam Skornicki. I remember watching us win the Elite League title in 2002 and this was one of my first big speedway memories, and started my life-long passion for the sport.

I have had a wide range of favourite riders from our different teams over the years. Sam Ermolenko was my first favourite, then Freddie Lindgren and Tai Woffinden from our 2009 and 2016 winning seasons. Sam Masters is now my current favourite rider who leads our team and is our number one

I have seen Wolves win the Elite League title three times since I have been watching us. My favourite winning season was in 2016 when we had a strong year to finish third in the table. We had to beat Poole and Belle Vue to become eventual champions. Tai Woffinden came back to help us win the title in the closing stages with Freddie Lindgren, Sam Masters, Jacob Thorssell and Kyle Howarth our top five. Peter Karlsson also featured in this great team.

I have seen various Grand Prix rounds at Cardiff. My first one was in 2012 on the late summer Bank Holiday, when Chris Holder won the meeting, Freddie Lindgren also featured in the final and finished last. I have been to many more Cardiff Grand Prix meetings over the

seasons, it is one of my favourite places to visit, always looking forward to this occasion each year.

As many of you probably know, I'm a member of the Speedway Updates team. I did my first meeting in 2011 when I started updating Newcastle home meetings. Over the seasons, I have covered many different clubs' updates via the computer. I now text on a weekly basis from Wolves and Birmingham speedway and update meetings via the PC. It involves watching the meeting and summarising the action from each heat into a short text. This is pulled together in a tight time frame, so quick typing and good memory is required. I enjoy texting updates from a close and exciting meeting which makes it more interesting to deliver commentary that will evoke the excitement of the meeting to the online audience.

Doing the speedway PC updates for Birmingham speedway on a weekly basis got me into attending their meetings from midway through the 2019 season. I have been a season ticket holder for the last two seasons and attended some away meetings last season. I am now their weekly texter and enjoy watching a second team each week, helping out with their raffle and track work too.

I have visited a wide range of different tracks over the last few years, with my list getting ever longer. Over the last two seasons, I have visited more away meetings for my clubs. I attended 58 meetings last season, and it was amazing to see so much action, follow my teams and watching some neutral action around the UK. This season I'm hoping to see some new tracks, follow my clubs' journeys throughout the season and hope we can get some title wins.

Speedway is real family-oriented sport. Through my involvement over the years I have had the opportunity to meet and make friends with a wide variety of people across the country, whether this be at meetings, social events or online forums. I have made friends for life.

Outside of speedway I like visiting National Trust properties with my mum, following the darts, and watching Ice Hockey at Coventry Blaze. It is only my 2nd season watching the Ice Hockey thanks to my friend Ruth, a fellow Birmingham speedway supporter. We enjoy watching the matches and have visited some new ice rinks to support both home and away matches.

Please get involved in supporting the Wolfpack to ensure Wolves speedway keeps going and we can help to support the team. With the current economic climate, we need to support our club and attend meetings throughout the season to ensure the sport can keep going for many years to come.

Elliot Hunt, Membership Secretary

Treasurer's Report

We have continued the healthy growth of our funds and we are extremely grateful for all donations that have been made to help Wolverhampton Speedway.



At the recent AGM we presented our first formal accounts covering the period 21st October 2021 to 31st March 2023.

The Accounts showed a Total Income for the Period of £9,765 and a Net Surplus for the Period of £6,616. Our main source of funds during the period was Members Contributions, Income from Social Events, Income from donations and income from the sale of Memorabilia items donated to us by supporters.

The main expenditure items were Administration Charges charged by Go Cardless for the collection of members contributions and costs related to the promotion and running of Social Events.

During the period £1,700 was donated to the Speedway Club to contribute to the cost of a new Wonder Wheel.

No further donations to the club have been made since, but we stand ready to help in whatever way we can, especially considering recent news.

Our Bank Account currently shows a Balance of £7,247.

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

Cleveland Arms and SportsTalk Events proudly present...

AN EVENING WITH...

TEAM GREAT BRITAIN

Featuring Grand Prix star **DAN BEWLEY** and Co-Team Manager **SIMON STEAD**

HOSTED BY STEVE BRANDON

An evening of chat as the country prepare for the forthcoming Speedway World Cup

TICKETS : VIP £25 | Standard £15

VIP Entry: 6pm | Standard Entry: 7pm | Show Starts: 8pm

Available from www.clevelandarms.com or call 01902 451021

Wednesday, July 12

Cleveland Arms, Stowheath Lane, Wolverhampton, WV1 2QN

A promotional poster for a speedway event. It features a speedway rider in a Union Jack-themed suit and helmet, holding a flag. The background is a large Union Jack. The text is in various fonts and colors, including blue, red, and white.

The Chairman's Report

At our recent Annual General Meeting, Mark Sawbridge (our chairman) gave the following address about the work of the Wolfpack Speedway Support Team since its foundation in November 2021.

How did we begin?

When COVID-19 hit these shores in early 2020, few could have seen the catastrophic impact the virus would have upon everyone. Many people lost their lives, and many businesses were closed for good.

The sports and entertainments sectors were hit particularly hard. There was very little speedway in 2020, and none at all at Monmore Green. When the 2021 season began, clubs such as Wolverhampton had to contend with restrictions on crowd levels which left many clubs struggling to stay afloat. Wolverhampton Speedway's promotion ran a series of meetings with a restricted crowd which saw the club sustain heavy losses each time they opened the turnstiles.

As a result of this, fans set up a Go Fund Me page with the aim of raising money to keep Wolverhampton Speedway in business. This was an enormous success, with several thousand pounds being raised over a short period of time.

As a result of this, some fans got together to see whether a more permanent fund-raising organisation could be formed. This was initially going to be called the 'Wolfpack Speedway Support Trust'. However, the legal costs, and ramifications, of setting up a trust weren't viable. As a result, instead we set up the Wolfpack Speedway Support Team.

What is our aim?

The principle with a trust is that money is held by a trustee for the good of a beneficiary. In setting up the Wolfpack Speedway Support Team, we've taken the same principle. Any money we raise doesn't go to Wolverhampton Speedway directly. Instead, we retain it and we use it to help the promotion with any one-off expenses it incurs.

If the promotion has a one-off expense, the principle is that they approach us for assistance. Providing we're happy to do so, we'll then pay the funds to purchase the item or service in question.

Put quite simply, our aim is to help Wolverhampton Speedway to thrive and prosper. Paying for one-off

expenses in the way we have done is the way in which we're able to do this.

How do we raise funds?

We've used three methods of raising funds:

Member subscriptions, by making a monthly payment to the WSST. The vast majority of this has come through members paying by Direct Debit, although we do have some cash payers as well. We're able to do this through Go Cardless, a system which enables members to pay funds to us without the headache of administering such a scheme. We're grateful for the support of all of our wonderful members, the overwhelming majority of whom have stuck with us since day one. We've issued membership cards to our members – if you haven't got yours, please come and see us!

Social events. We've organised two highly successful social evenings (24 May and 13 September) at the Cleveland Arms which were well attended. These included a quiz, raffle and auction. As a result of the success of these events, we were asked to organise the End of Season Party on 30 October. Again, this was well attended and was well received by those who attended. Thank you to all those who've been at these events.

Memorabilia. This is something we'd not anticipated, but when a supporter (Mike Thompson) approached us at a social evening with a box of books and programmes, we accepted the challenge. This snowballed somewhat, with several boxes of speedway memorabilia being donated. We've been selling this on eBay, and have raised over £600.00 so far. We've also been able to auction or raffle some items at our social events, which has raised even more money. Thank you to those who have donated or bought memorabilia items from us.

What else have we done?

Prize draws. We've held two prize draws in the last year, which has seen two lucky members win £50.00 each.

Shifnal Carnival. We were able to support Wolverhampton Speedway with their float at Shifnal Carnival last year, and handed out leaflets, stickers and posters to those who lined the streets.

We've had a table at Monmore Green each week, so that members (or those interested in joining) can talk to us. This also enables us to take cash payments from members.

We've attended talk-ins at the Cleveland Arms to promote WSST.

We've produced two newsletters for members. A third one will be on the way very soon!



Members of the Wolfpack Speedway Support Team committee with the 'Magic Wheel' - our first purchase!

How have we spent the money we've raised?

Until recently, the only money we'd spent had been on expenses we'd incurred – which, I'm glad to report, had been extremely minimal. Each member of the committee

has given their time free of charge. Furthermore, none of us receive free admission as a result of our commitment to WSST. All of us pay our way, or do work for Wolverhampton Speedway (e.g. the raffle) to gain admission.

So, the money we've raised has been stacking up nicely in our bank account. However, we've recently made our first purchase. Earlier this year, Chris Van Straaten informed us that the 'magic wheel' – a vital tool in track preparation – had broken and needed to be replaced. We've been able to do so, at a cost of £1,700 (including transport costs).

We hope the purchase of the magic wheel makes the standard of racing at Monmore Green second-to-none.

The future

I believe that the WSST has been a success, and our aim is to continue to raise funds to make further purchases

es for the benefit of Wolverhampton Speedway.

However, we're very open to ideas that anyone has about how we take WSST forward. We've felt that members should have benefits to being in the WSST. It would be easy for us to produce badges, stickers and so on for members but they cost money. Would WSST members want us to use club funds for such things? I suspect many members will be happy just to pay their subscription each month knowing they're benefitting Wolverhampton Speedway – which we're happy with – but we're open to suggestions on this subject.

The committee

Finally, I can't complete this report without mentioning the WSST committee. Alison, Elliot, John, Mark, Mary and Steve have all worked their socks off to help make the WSST the success that it's become. I've been very proud to have worked with all of them, and I'd like to offer my sincere thanks to them for all they've done. I couldn't have asked for better people to be with.

Mark Sawbridge
Chairman
Wolfpack Speedway Support Team

Membership Secretary's Update

Hello, I'm Elliot Hunt, I look after the membership for the WSST.

Since the last membership update at the end of August, we now have 63 members. We are making just over £325.00 each month from membership donations alone. We also have regular cash donations throughout the racing season and social events.

It has been a great season for Wolves, with winning every home meeting, taking a vital away win at Ipswich and all the aggregate points available as yet. I have been attending all the home meetings and majority of away meetings to support the Wolves this season.

If you would like to ask any questions, please visit our table on meeting nights as you enter through the turnstiles or email us: enquiries@wsst.co.uk

Elliot Hunt, Membership Secretary



Thanks once again to ace photographer Phil McGlynn for this amazing photo of Rory Schlein , who's leading the way in our recent humdinger of a meeting against Ipswich.

Wolfpack Kids

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

It would be fantastic if you could write a message about why you love Wolves Speedway, maybe you could even draw a picture showing how you feel about it, just remember to add your name and age at the bottom of it.



We would really like to put lots and lots of these together and use them to help the 'Save Wolves Speedway' campaign, to show just how much Wolverhampton Speedway means to the future generation of speedway our Wolfpack Kids.

Please hand in your creations to the WSST table on race days, or alternatively you can email them to enquiries@wsst.co.uk



Thank You

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>



SAVE WOLVES SPEEDWAY



HELP SAVE WOLVES SPEEDWAY!
PLEASE SCAN THE QR CODE TO SIGN THE PETITION



 **PARRYS**
INTERNATIONAL

