

French is great but Luton fade

Luton 2 Millwall 2: by JAMES FRENCH

LUTON WERE cheered off after a great first-half display followed by a splendid goal from Graham French in his first game for more than two years. Yet they had failed to achieve their first home win for three months.

It was a great come-back by Millwall, achieved by outfootballing Luton in a rather graceful match, full of neat touches and chess-board subtleties.

Luton's fans, hungry for a victory, were angered as they saw the prospect dissolving before their eyes.

But their mightiest and longest cheer was given to French, back from prison.

It seemed that everything he did had artistry. He was best at killing the ball, best at tricking an opponent, the most perceptive at using the open space.

Luton went ahead after six minutes when Millwall goalkeeper Bryn King was lured well out of his area and could not secure a low cross by Peter Anderson. New £50,000 centre forward Barry Butlin drove in a low shot that glanced off a defender for his second goal in two games.

CLEARANCE

Five minutes after half-time came French's goal. A long clearance from goalkeeper Keith Barber was touched on by Butlin. French controlled it beautifully, swept it swiftly ahead to a shallow funnel left by Millwall's defence, and stroked a beautiful shot well clear of King.

The cheering had not died down when Millwall scored. Alan Garner checked Alf Wood illegally. Little Eamon Dunphy took the kick quickly, and Derek Possess dived low to head in.

It was a goal that broke Luton's confidence, putting the whiff of defeat in their nostrils.

Millwall started harrying them tenaciously, and midway through the second half their rally was rewarded.

Doug Alder outmanoeuvred Luton's defence, and Barber dived in his path without contacting the ball.

Gordon Bolland, in his new role of a prompting back-four man, shot home a textbook penalty.

LUTON.—Barber: Shanks, Thomson, Anderson, Garner, John Ryan, Jimmy Ryan, French, Butlin, Nalem, Aston. Sub: Fern.

MILLWALL.—King: Bolland, Gripps, Dorney, Kitchener, Burnett, Brown, Poses, Wood, Dunphy, Alder. Sub: Smethurst.

Graham French 'shattered'... but he's king of Kenilworth Road



● Graham French goes through to score Town's second goal after 51 minutes. Below, he turns and raises his arm with a joy only he can know. At his first attempt he had again become king of the terraces.



