

LIGHTS GO OUT ON CUP DREAM

THE LIGHTS WENT out on Hatters' FA Cup dreams as off-the-field drama threatened to mar a second successive tie between Luton and Millwall.

The last time these teams met in the FA Cup — on a bleak night in March 1985 — the occasion was ruined by an orgy of violence.

This time the floodlights failed with just seven minutes of an enthralling cup tie remaining — and referee John Martin came close to abandoning the game.

Eight of the lights on one pylon failed soon after Hatters had completed a sensational comeback from two goals down.

But by the time fire had put paid to the remaining lights on that pylon — leaving just three floodlights working — Hatters' brave fightback had been thwarted by a third Millwall goal.

Ref Martin decided the dimness was an unfair advantage to Luton and ordered the players off in the 83rd minute — to the disgust of the Millwall faithful.

The Londoners could face disciplinary action after several Luton players — including David Preece and Ricky Hill — were pelted with missiles as they left the field.

Light was restored 28 minutes after play had been halted and when Martin led the players out again, skipper Steve Foster joined Hatters' attack for the remaining minutes.

But his efforts were in vain as the Lions hung on to their slender lead to complete an unhappy hat-trick of defeats in South London for Hatters this term.

MILLWALL 3 LUTON 2 By MICHAEL WEINSTEIN

It was a pity that the floodlight failure became such a talking point after such a thrilling game.

Millwall started in blitz fashion and once

son had already cleared off the line when Tony Cascarino struck from close range in the 15th minute.

And seconds later it was two.

The ball stopped dead as Les Sealey ran to clear and suddenly the keeper, who had been favourite to reach it first, was in no man's land and Jimmy Carter belted home.

Hatters were reeling under the Lions' incessant bombardment and a defeat akin to the one at Wimbledon seven days earlier seemed imminent.

But Hatters were made of sterner stuff and the lifeline given by Kingsley Black's first FA Cup goal was no more than Hatters deserved.

The midfielder — who later retired with an ankle injury — controlled the ball with his chest and turned in an instant to volley in off the crossbar.



• Kingsley Black.

again Luton succumbed to goals in quick succession.

When the sides met for a League game at the Den in November, Hatters were destroyed by three goals in seven minutes.

This time their apparent downfall was even swifter.

Young Marvin John-



• What happens now? Referee John Martin (third from left) explains the situation after the floodlights failed at the Den on Saturday.

Hatters were let off the hook well into injury time when Cascarino shot wide, but five minutes after the re-start, it was all-square.

Danny Wilson was shoved in the back as he waited for the ball to drop and Martin had no hesitation in pointing to the spot.

Wilson picked himself up and levelled with a penalty that sent Barry Horne the wrong way.

Millwall came back into the game after Wilson's strike and when Foster fouled Sheringham in the 72nd minute, the striker gained immediate revenge.

Hatters failed to clear the free-kick and when Les Briley chipped back into the danger area, Sheringham beat Sealey to the ball and headed the winner.

TEAMS

MILLWALL: Horne, Stevens, Salman, Morgan, Wood, McLeary, Carter, Briley, Sheringham, Cascarino, O'Callaghan. Subs: Sparham, Horrix.

LUTON: Sealey, R Johnson (James 83), Harvey, Preece, Foster, M Johnson, Wilson, Negerle, Harford, Hill, Black (78).

• Attendance: 12,504.