No happy ending at The Den

THE Town's final visit to The Den brought defeat but not shame to a side that had to bereshaped through injury and illness.

The only goal was well worked, although Town boss David Pleat complained of bad defending that allowed it to happen in the 25th minute.

The Town had looked composed and disciplined until that happened, but not very menacing in attack.

With David Preece and Julian James ruled out by flu, Kerry Dixon was put on the

The five-man midfield included Richard Harvey, in his first Division one game of the season, with Des Linton returning after injury to play at right back.

But the service to Phil Gray was not too good, with Scott Oakes looking the most likely to give him close support.

For the second half Linton was taken off,

Millwall 1 Luton Town 0

with Paul Telfer moving to right back and Dixon joining Gray in attack.

It was a formation that worked well at holding Millwall without threatening major damage to their defence.

The decisive goal came when Malcolm Allen and Ian Bogie set up Alex Rae to get to the by-line. His hard and low pulledback cross evaded Marvin Johnson, Trevor Peake and John Dreyer, but not the onrushing Jamie Moralee, who netted his 14th goal of the season.

Match details

TOWN: Chamberlain; Linton (Dixon HT), Peake, Dreyer, Johnson; Rees, Telfer, Oakes (Williams 82 mins), Hughes, Harvey; Gray. MILLWALL: Keller; Cunningham, Cooper,

Stevens, Dawes; Rae, Roberts, Bogie (Kerr 75 mins), Barber; Moralee, Allen. Other sub, not used: T. McCarthy.

GOAL: Jamie Moralee, 25 minutes, close range after swift passing move by Malcom Allen, Ian Bogie and Alex Rae ended with a hard low cross being pulled back from the right by Rae.

OTHER ATTEMPTS: Town four saved and two wide; Millwall six saved and four wide. Corners: 7-6 to Millwall.

REFEREE: Paul Durkin, Portland. Did well, and always tried to keep the game flowing.

BOOKED: Keith Stevens of Millwall for a foul on Marvin Johnson.

ATTENDANCE: 8,286, including 350 from Luton to see the Town's 25th and last league visit to The Den. The record: five wins, seven draws and 13 defeats.

ENTERTAINMENT: Not as good as it sometimes promised because the Town could not do the business where it really mattered.