

# Five out of six ain't bad!

Luton 1 Millwall 0

By PETE KENYON

**TONY Thorpe slotted home a controversial last gasp penalty as ten-man Hatters tamed Millwall's Lions.**

Under furious Millwall protests the referee Jim Rushton adjudged Tony Witter to have hauled Dwight Marshall down inside the box - and after consultation with the linesman gave Hatters the chance to extend their unbeaten league run to seven.

That Witter escaped what certainly should have been a red card - he had been booked just ten minutes earlier - came as little consolation to men in blue.

A game which had very little to it, in terms of skill or goalmouth action will be remembered for all the wrong reasons - anything that could go wrong did go wrong.

Five players were booked, and Ceri Hughes was given his marching orders after lunging in on Bobby Bowry, studs first, fifteen minutes from time.

It was his second bookable offence in just four minutes, though Hughes will argue the first foul was nothing that merited a card.

The fiery Welshman will now be suspended for key future games - this is his second sending off this season, and he has already served a separate suspension for a collection of yellow cards.

But if Hughes was a trifle unlucky to be sent off then Millwall's Gerard Lavin was lucky that Mr Rushton was looking the other way when he appeared to spit at the home fans behind the dugout during the second half.

The fans showered with what appeared to be the contents of Lavin's mouth leapt to their feet in furious protest - but the ex-Watford player got away with it.

With an example like that, is it any wonder that Millwall's much maligned following seem unable to behave themselves.

Just after Luton's late goal the fans behind the goal began to get restless and police had to wade in to make an arrest.

It took just twenty seconds for the game to explode into life when Julian James sent a woefully short backpass to his keeper and Ian Feuer had to be alert to clear his lines.

Fifteen seconds later Boncho Guentchev was put clear by Hughes only for the ball to get stuck under his feet, which allowed Keith Stevens to clear with a sliding tackle.

After that it was huff and puff without either keeper being seriously tested.

On a heavy Kenilworth Road pitch the ball spent long periods pinging between players of either side but never making it into the danger area.

Witter forced Feuer into a save from a header half way through the first half but apart from that there wasn't another single clear chance in the first 45 minutes.

For the second time in successive weeks it was substitute David Oldfield threading a ball through for substitute Marshall to latch onto which brought about a decisive result.

But Witter cluttered the little Jamaican to the floor inside the box - and Thorpe did the rest with a sweetly struck spot kick into the bottom left corner.

It was the only way either keeper was going to be beaten - during a match which was farcical in places.

Even the ball got fed up and had to be replaced - ironically a minute before the games only goal - after being kicked out of shape.

Two other balls went missing in the first half and to cap it all the scoreboard broke down a minute before the end.



● DETERMINED  
- Tony Thorpe dominates midfield



● Bontcho Guentchev puts pressure on Millwall's keeper Kasey Keller