

Time called in the CC Cup

ON A NIGHT of heartbreak at Kenilworth Road, the Coca Cola Cup adventure ended with referee Mike Riley the scapegoat in the view of many Town fans.

An own goal by Dean Blackwell was the least the Town deserved for a tremendous first-half performance, and the biggest crowd of the season was pleading for the belated final whistle when Stewart

Luton Tn 1 Wimbledon 2 (After extra time)

Castledine equalised after 91 minutes and 23 seconds. That was to compensate for time-wasting, much of it by Ian Feuer slowing things down on his clearances.

Wimbledon had revived in the second half, and were stronger in extra time, when Peter Fear struck the 98th-minute winner.

Manager Lennie Lawrence

spoke with pride of the effort his men had put into it, but praised the ref's performance and had no complaints about his time-keeping.

He added: "It has been great entertainment and the crowd have had their moneysworth. We gave it our best shot and the players have done us proud."

Dons boss Joe Kinnear said: "That was a real battle from the word go. We got stronger as the game went on, and once we scored I thought we were going to be the only winners."

"But it was a difficult game and Luton played well."

COCA COLA CUP THIRD ROUND REPLAY DETAILS

LUTON TOWN: Feuer; James, Johnson, Davis, Thomas; Alexander, Hughes, Waddock, Showler (Guentchev 90 mins); Thorpe (Douglas 85 mins), Grant (McLaren 97 mins).

WIMBLEDON: Sullivan; Blackwell, Holdsworth (Harford 71 mins), Perry; Cunningham, Ardley, Castledine, Fear, Kimble; Gayle (Clark 85 mins), Ekoku (Reeves 115 mins).

GOALS: Dean Blackwell for the Town, back-header into his own net, 27 mins; Stewart Castledine for Wimbledon 83 seconds into stoppage time; Peter Fear for the Dons, 98 minutes.

OTHER STRIKES: Town seven saved and 12 wide; Wimbledon six saved and five wide.

CORNERS: 10-7 to Wimbledon.

OFFSIDES: Town 19, Wimbledon 7.

FOULS: Town 15, Wimbledon 21.

REFEREE: Mike Riley, Leeds. Excellent.

BOOKED: Graham Alexander and Peter Fear in the last minute, for a foul and retaliation respectively.

ATTENDANCE: 8,076, highest of the season and despite Wimbledon's end being 1,000 short of capacity.

ENTERTAINMENT: A cracking cup-tie, with the Town on top in the first half, and paying the price for not adding more goals because Wimbledon fought their way back into it after that.