

TIME UP: AGONY FOR THE HATTERS

Luton Town 1 Wimbledon 2

AFTER two hours of compelling football in a packed Kenilworth Road on Tuesday, Luton Town were finally beaten by the clock and the powerplay football of one of the Premiership's top teams.

Referee Mike Riley of Leeds left Luton fans furi-

ous and frustrated by adding on stoppage time in which Wimbledon saved the game.

And in extra time the Dons made their power count, and Luton bowed out of the Coca Cola Cup after a thrilling last stand.

Boss Lennie Lawrence knew the ref's time-keeping was right. Ian Feuer was the major culprit, with Mr Riley signalling publicly time and again as he stopped his watch while the goal-keeper delayed clearances.

Better

Luton gave everything and were the better side in the 48-minute first half, with Graham Alexander and Ceri Hughes bossing midfield.

But they paid the price for not adding a killer second goal after a free kick by Hughes had been comically back-headed into his own net by Dean Blackwell in the

Coca Cola
Cup Soccer:
Brian Swain
reports

28th minute. Tony Thorpe, Paul Showler and Kim Grant had good efforts saved by Neil Sullivan.

But The Dons fought back after the break, settling for two at the back and beefing up the attack, and they gained the upper hand.

All set

Luton held out for 90 minutes, and the biggest attendance of the season was all set to celebrate a famous victory.

But 83 seconds into stoppage time Stewart Castledine equalised after a corner for which all 11 Dons were in the Luton box.

And eight minutes into extra time Peter Fear completed Luton's misery with a thumping drive.

But the Luton team could be proud of its display. Wimbledon were forced to show why they have been in the top flight for a decade, and are now unbeaten in 13 games.