

LIONS TAMED AND HATTERS GO TOP

MILLWALL 0 LUTON TN 1

A goal out of the blue by Ceri Hughes shot Luton Town to the top of the first division last night.

The midfielder, back in the side after missing the demolition of Crewe because of a stomach bug, left second-placed Millwall feeling heartily sick as he lashed in a last-minute winner.

The Hatters may be knocked off their perch when other teams play on Saturday but the

774 Luton fans who made up ten per cent of the gate at the New Den won't worry about that. They had seen their team struggle to make the breakthrough and it seemed it was not going to be their night when Julian James cracked a drive that looked like winning the game with 17 minutes to go.

But with the goalkeeper well beaten the ball came back off a post and no-one could provide the finishing touch.

That had been the story throughout a tough and uncompromising battle and ironically Tony Thorpe missed the best chances earlier.

His hat-trick in the 6-0 demolition of Crewe made him the second division's top scorer but he fluffed an early chance after doing brilliantly to get behind the Millwall

**Brian
Swain
reports
on last
night's
match at
the New
Den**

defence. Set up by Graham Alexander and Dwight Marshall he shot over the bar from ten yards.

The Hatters' defence took to heart manager Lennie Lawrence's plea to stop giving away daft goals and operated a smooth offside trap to keep Millwall at long range.

With Gary Waddock dominant in midfield against one of his former clubs Luton never looked like losing and should have won more handsomely.

But all their tension vanished with 50 seconds to go when Hughes intercepted a loose ball on the edge of the penalty area and smashed in his fifth goal of the season.

Attendance
7,077.