

It's mad Hatters after Lions' late roar clinches win

LUTON boss Lennie Lawrence took his share of the blame as the Hatters' promotion play-off hopes were dented as Millwall inflicted on them their second home defeat of the season.

Lawrence admitted a gamble he made in a bid to win the game had backfired.

Skipper and centre-half Steve Davis netted Luton's 69th-minute equaliser and

Lawrence then decided to use the central defender as a striker.

Alan White, a reserve centre-half, was sent on as a substitute and Millwall scored the winner within four minutes through Lucas Neill.

Lawrence said: "We gambled to try to win the game and instead we lost it. With hindsight, perhaps I should have played five at the back.

"On the day, we just weren't good enough and Millwall's



speed on the break was as good as anything I have seen in this division except for Stoke.

"Millwall deserved the win. Things might have been different if we had taken one or two of the early chances we made but after that Millwall looked a good side."

Millwall deserved the lead given to them by Neil Harris in the final minute of the first half, with Tim Cahill and Stephen Reid both wasting acceptable chances before Luton's equaliser.

Millwall player-manager Keith Stevens turned out for the second half as deputy for

injured Ricky Newman. Assistant manager Alan McLeary explained: "He (Stevens) keeps himself fit by playing in the reserves and he did alright."

He added that his only grumble was that Millwall had missed several good chances but added: "It's pleasing that at least we are creating them."

Millwall's win saw them leap four places from 12th at start of play to eighth and only one point adrift of a play-off place. It was also the London-

ers' fourth away win of the campaign.

Luton moved in the opposite direction, dropping from eighth place to 11th after only their second defeat of the season at Kenilworth Road.

Luton: Davis, McGowan, Fraser, Spring, Davis, Johnson, Scarlett, McLaren, Douglas, Gray, Showler. Subs: White, Fotiadis, McIndoe.

Millwall: Spink, Lavin, Ryan, Cahill, Stuart, Fitzgerald, Reid, Newman, Harris, Shaw, Neill. Subs: Sadlier, Hockton, Stevens.

Referee: E Lomas (Manchester).



DAVIS: Equaliser.