

"Disgrace" jibes could land Bees boss in hot water after stormy Carling Cup exit

Leroy braced for FA rap

06/07 (LC)

Brentford v Luton Tn

by Yann Tear



LEROY Rosenior knows he faces the prospect of a touchline ban after his extraordinary spat with referee Clive Penton during Tuesday's stormy Carling Cup tie.

The normally mild-mannered Bees boss was unrecognisable as he directed a torrent of abuse at Penton midway through the second half.

The official had no option but to send him to the stands with a red card, but even then the sparks did not stop flying.

It needed the intervention of assistant boss Paul Mortimer and fourth official Marvin Thompson to shepherd Rosenior away from the touchline as the Bees boss looked to continue the argument.

Such an uncharacteristic level of frustration hinted at a personal feud between the men – a view later confirmed by Rosenior, who revealed he 'had words' with the official at half-time to protest at perceived one-sided decision-making.

"It takes a lot for me to react like that," said Rosenior.

"I deserve everything I get because I shouldn't have reacted that way and I apologise to the players because it's not the way I should react. It's not a good example.

"But I hope the assessor watches the referee's performance and is honest because I thought it was a disgrace.



CONTROVERSIAL NIGHT: Referee Clive Penton is escorted from the pitch by police after Tuesday night's incident-packed cup tie in which Chris Moore (right) was sent off along with his boss, Leroy Rosenior



Pictures: Mark Chapman

"A good game of football was spoilt by a poor performance by the referee.

"We had a few words at half-time. I shouted back at him and I think that affected his performance.

"Second half, I don't think he gave us one decision.

"We just didn't get the decisions right round the pitch. He was inconsistent. I thought he was vindictive and maybe it was aimed at me.

"I've never ever come across that in all my time in football. It was as if he was trying to prove a point that he was in control. But he didn't get a lot right.

"I'm not really worried about a touchline ban but I hope the referee gets what he deserves too. He's not fit to referee because he's not good enough...or a Luton supporter.

"The fourth official kept telling me throughout the game: 'Yeh he's made a

mistake there, he's having a bad one'."

With such loss of discipline, it was hardly surprising that the poison transmitted to the players and that two red cards followed – one for each side.

Sub Chris Moore was instantly dismissed after a lunge at the ball with Rowan Vine on the half-way line – the tackle undoubtedly reckless in light of the charged atmosphere.

And in the final minute,

Penton evened up the score by dismissing Luton's Leon Barnett for what Rosenior thought was no more than a shoulder charge on Calum Willock.

"It wasn't a sending-off. It was shoulder to shoulder. But he had to try and balance it out to make out he was being fair," Rosenior said.

Needless to say, he thought Moore was also hard done by.

"It was a really hard tackle, but it looked like he got the ball and

didn't go to hurt the lad. It looked worse than it was," he said.

Moore's team-mate Paul Brooker said: "He apologised to the lads, but I don't think he really needed to.

"They both went for the ball and if he hadn't gone in, he'd probably have got hurt.

"He's got nothing to worry about there. The referee didn't give us anything all night and I thought it was bad decision to send him off."

Somewhere among all this was a football match and a fairly entertaining one at that.

But during an opening half in which the Bees hit the post, had a shot cleared off the line and generally enjoyed much of the play, they conceded a soft goal on the break to Dean Morgan and the pattern was set for a night of frustration.

The Bees gave the ball away too much in important areas but at least tried to play football on the deck.

The second half goals from Warren Feeney – another case of sloppy defending – and a neat injury-time slalom and finish from former Bee Rowan Vine gave the scoreline an unfair gloss for Luton.

● Skipper Kevin O'Connor (hip) is hopeful of a returning this weekend. Adam Griffiths is doubtful with a similar knock.

BRENTFORD 0 LUTONTOWN 3
Line-up: Nelson; Osborne, Haywood, Charles; Mousinho (Willock 56), Brooker, Pinault, Cox (England 89), Tillem; Tomlin (Moore 67), Juffour. Subs not used: Masters, Carder-Andrews. Attendance: 3,005.

GOALS: Morgan (10), Feeney (53), Vine (90). **Star player:** Jo Kuffour
Entertainment rating: ✓✓✓✓✓