LUTON TOWN.....0 MILLWALL.....3

RUN OF THE MILL WIN

Buckle undone after pride of Lions shines through

GOING FROM MILLWALL TO BARKING!

SHIRTY: Millwall's Alan Dunne sneaks up behind team-mate James Henry at the final whistle

COP FOR THAT: Dunne shoves Henry towards the police dog

DOGS ABUSE: Henry gives the vicious alsatian a wide berth

NON-LEAGUE Luton Town's remarkable FA Cup run was brought to a shuddering halt by bitter rivals Millwall.

First-half strikes from James Henry and Rob Hulse killed off the Wembley dreams of the Conference side before a late third from Dany N'Guessan eased their Championship opponents into the last eight.

The Hatters – who had eliminated Wolves and Norwich to set up this clash – were bidding to become the first club from outside the top four divisions to reach the quarter finals in 99 years.

But despite a gutsy, battling display, any hopes of a third giant-killing act on the bounce were dashed inside 36 minutes at Kenilworth Road – thanks to a couple of costly defensive lapses.

Afterwards Hatters boss Paul Buckle said: "The Cup has been massive for this club and to be part of such a good run is something I've always wanted to do.

"While I'm very proud of what we've achieved this season, for me, today, the biggest disappointment was we didn't give ourselves a chance.

"The first two goals we gave away were very bad ones to concede. We didn't do the basics at the back right. That was our Achilles heel again.

"But to be fair to Millwall they took their chances and that was the difference today, along with their keeper, who I thought was simply outstanding.

"I just hope we can take our FA Cup achievements on board and knuckle down to the business of promotion from the Conference, as that's always been our priority."

The moment these clubs were drawn out together memories of the so-called 1985 Kenilworth Road riot came flooding back for many.

On that occasion, Millwall hooligans rampaged through Luton town centre before, during and after a Sixth-Round defeat. It remains one of the worst days of violence in the history of the English game.

Fortunately, though, football was the winner yesterday. Just about.

Sure, there was some serious tension between the fans throughout, unsavoury chants were heard and the odd missile was thrown but a heavy police presence at the away end ensured no repeat of those shameful scenes of 28 years ago.

Only when the visitors opened their account did the red-hot rivalry threaten to boil over as hundreds of away fans surged towards Luton supporters.

It was more euphoria than aggression, however, sparked by the 12th-minute goal clinically tucked away by Henry. Luton skipper Ronnie Henry was at fault, with a needless backward header failing to reach keeper Mark Tyler. That was the only sniff impressive Henry needed to intervene, waltz around Tyler and put the Lions ahead.

The first goal was always going to be key and for the rest of the half Millwall, runners-up in 2004, began to make the 67 places separating the teams tell.

It might have been different had Luton playmaker Arnaud Mendy not seen his snapshot 27th-minute volley brilliantly denied by Millwall stopper David Forde.

Ten minutes later, Kenny Jackett's troops were all but out of sight. Henry crossed for Hulse who, having won the initial ball, produced the tie highlight when deftly lobbing home.

Hard as they tried, Luton were unable to conjure up a miraculous fairy-tale comeback.

Rubbing salt into their wounds, Lions sub N'Guessan sealed it four minutes from time, bundling in from close range.

Thrilled boss Jackett said: "We will be dreaming and looking to get one of the big boys to the Den. We've never had that in my time there.

"We're one step from Wembley thanks to a professional performance. This was a very tricky tie against a side with nothing to lose.

"If it is an omen that the last time we made it into the last eight we made it all the way to the final, then we will take it.

"We do want to progress."

Harry Pratt
AT KENILWORTH ROAD

KENNY: I DIDN'T HEAR RACE JIBES

★ KENNY JACKETT last night played down racist chanting between Millwall and Luton fans during their Fifth Round FA Cup clash. Lions fans sang "Where's your Taliban?" in response to taunts from home fans about Millwall "living in caravans".

But Millwall boss Jackett said: "I didn't hear that at all. We need to look at how it is week in, week out. That is my view."

Jackett confirmed that a missile was hurled at his men as they celebrated their second goal. He added: "A bottle was thrown on to the pitch but it didn't hit anybody."

GUESS IT'S ALL OVER: The French star makes it three-nil

LUTON MILLWALL

LUTON: Tyler 7; Taylor 6, Kovacs 5, Henry 5, Howells 6, Lawless 7, Mendy 6 (Shaw (67m) 6), Smith 6, O'Donnell 7, (Fleetwood (62nd) 6), Rendall 7, Gray 7.

MILLWALL: Forde 8, Dunne 7, Beevers 7, Osborne 7, Lowry 7, Henry 8 (Smith 88th), Abdou 7, Trotter 7, Feeney 6 (N'Guessan (62nd) 7, Keogh, Hulse (Marquis (70m) 6)

STAR MAN: James Henry

Ref: I Probert

FUN AND JAMES: Henry skips past Tyler before scoring Millwall's first

HULSE POINT: The striker taunts Luton fans after he made it two-nil

LOYAL MASCOT: Zampa and Happy Harry