

No need for riot gear as Luton go quietly

LUTON 0
MILLWALL 3
Henry (10), Hulse (36), N'Gueissan (19)
By Ian Stafford

LUTON'S dream was ended by a thoroughly professional Millwall performance on a day when the sight of hundreds of police in riot gear with dogs on the pitch at the end brought back memories of an era all but gone.

Their presence was unavoidable after a build-up to this tie dominated by recollections of the 1985 quarter-final riot at the same ground and, more recently, the arrest of a Millwall supporter for racially abusing El Hadji Diouf of Leeds last November.

Apart from some unsavoury comments from the stands, and a cola bottle thrown on to the pitch from the Luton end after Millwall's second goal, what was more obvious was the 66-place gulf between these sides in the league pyramid.

Not in terms of possession, territory or, often, skill, but when it came to defending crosses and putting the ball into the back of the net, Millwall, 12th in the Championship, handed Luton, seventh in the Blue Square Bet Premier, a harsh lesson.

Luton believed that they could add to their wins over Wolves and Norwich to become the first non-League club since QPR in 1914 to reach the quarter-finals of this competition.

Millwall, however, had meted out their own giant-killing by seeing off Aston Villa in the previous round, having been cup finalists as recently as 2004.

Their cause was helped by a 12th-minute goal from James Henry after a defensive howler from Janos Kovacs. And when Rob Hulse added a second in the 36th minute, coupled with the sight of Millwall keeper David Forde keeping anything Luton threw at him out, the writing was on the Luton wall.

Substitute Dany N'Gueissan's late third goal put the gloss on Millwall's day.

'It was an excellent win for us in which the first goal was always going to be important,' said Millwall manager Kenny Jackett. 'That early goal sent us on our way. We dealt well with anything in the air and finished our chances well.'

His counterpart, Paul Buckle, was understandably down after seeing his side play so well apart from where it mattered most. 'We never gave ourselves a chance by gifting them their goals,' he said. 'We needed to be at our best. We weren't.'

Yet it started so promisingly for Luton. Andre Gray, who threatened Millwall all day down the left wing, tested Forde twice inside the first six minutes with well-struck shots. Luton's start was undone, however, when captain Ronnie Henry headed a clearance behind and Kovacs



GAP IN CLASS: James Henry capitalises on a Janos Kovacs error to score Millwall's opener, while Scott Rendell (right) raises a missed chance for Luton

MATCH STATS	
SHOTS ON TARGET	6 5
SHOTS OFF TARGET	4 9
POSSESSION	51.6% 48.4%
PASSES	337 316
PASS SUCCESS	59.1% 58.2%
FOULS	14 15
TACKLES MADE	16 14
TACKLES WON	72.2% 57.1%

was caught napping, James Henry rounded Luton keeper Mark Tyler to slot the ball into the empty net.

Forde then kept out a sharp effort from Arnaud Mendy but Hulse's goal, sending a looping volley into the top corner from an angle after he initially headed Henry's cross upwards, left the

chances of another upset bleak. If Kovacs's 55th-minute clear header from in front of goal had found its target, a fiery finish might have followed. But the longer the second half continued, the more likely it was that Millwall would add to their tally.

In the stands the taunting and counter-taunting between two

sets of supporters in one corner became increasingly unpleasant — comments about the Taliban and Luton being a small town in Bengal hardly help Millwall's image, although they were subjected to a fair degree of verbal provocation, too.

Four minutes from time Millwall settled any lingering debate when John Marquis saw his shot parried by Tyler and N'Gueissan was quick to follow up to score.

The south London club can now dream of a glamour quarter-final. 'I'd love one of the big boys to come down to The Den,' Jackett admitted.

Luton face the prospect of Macclesfield away on Tuesday evening. 'We've got to roll our sleeves up now,' added Buckle. Indeed they do.

LUTON (4-4-2): Tyler; Howell, Henry, Kovacs, Taylor, O'Donnell (Barneshead 84min); Smith, Mendy (Daw 69), Lawless, Rendell, Gray (Subs first used); Lucy, Robinson, Woolley, Bell, Longden, Booked, Rendell.
MILLWALL (4-4-2): Forde; Henry, Bevan, Osborne, Dunne; Henry (Smith 89), Trotter, Abdou, Feeney (N'Gueissan 53), Hulse (Jurgens 70), Krugh, Sub (not used); Wright, Goodman, Malone, Taylor (Booked), Bevan, Krugh.
Referee: L. Probert (Wiltshire).

7 are arrested in stand-off as 300 police keep order

BEDFORDSHIRE Police said a small minority of people had caused trouble and seven men had been arrested for public order offences. Three were arrested before the game — one for breach of a court order and another for affray inside the ground after stewards ejected him from the crowd.

The other arrests were made after the game ended when 'a minority of fans' gathered for a stand-off with officers, said police.

One man was detained for throwing a bottle at a police horse. All those arrested were taken into custody.

The police were well primed for possible trouble at Kenilworth Road, with 300 officers on duty.