

4 **FOOTBALL: The FA Cup: Fifth ROUND**

12/13 (acc)

ON HIT BRICK WALL

Lions have too much roar power

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

First-half strikes from James Henry and Rob Hulse, and a late third from Danny N'Gassan, killed off the Conference side's Wembley dreams.

Luton, who had previously eliminated Wolves and Norwich, were bidding to become the first club from outside the top four divisions to reach the quarter-final stage in 99 years.

But, despite a gutsy display, any hopes of a third giant-killing act on the bounce were dashed early on thanks to a couple of costly defensive lapses.

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

"But while I'm very, very proud of what we've achieved this season, the biggest disappointment for me today was that we never really gave ourselves a chance."

The first two goals we gave away

Millwall took their chances and

had a super keeper

were very bad ones to concede. We didn't do the basics at the back right. That was our Achilles' heel once again.

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

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

On that occasion, Millwall hooligans rampaged through Luton town centre before, during and after a sixth-round cup defeat on one of the worst days of violence in the history of the English game.

Fortunately, football was the winner yesterday. Just about.

Sure, there was serious tension between the fans throughout, some unsavory chants and the odd missile thrown. But a heavy police presence at the away end ensured that order was kept.

Only when the Lions opened their account did the red-hot rivalry

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

Henry 32, Hulse 36, N'Gassan 69

From Harry Pratt

AT KENILWORTH ROAD



threaten to boil over as

hundreds of travelling supporters surged towards their Luton counterparts.

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 his unnecessary backward header failing to reach keeper Mark Tyler. Impressive Lions' ace Henry then walked around Tyler and put the Lions in the ascendancy.

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

But minutes later Kenny Jackett's troops doubled their advantage when Henry crossed for Hulse who, having won the initial ball, deftly lobbed home.

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

And Lions' sub N'Gassan finally ended all their hopes when he sealed victory four minutes from time, bundling in from close range.

Thrilled Lions boss Jackett said:

"Like everybody we will be dreaming and looking to get one of the big boys to the Den. We've never had that in my time here."

"We are now one step from Wembley thanks to an exceptional, professional performance. This was a very tricky tie against a Conference side with nothing to lose."

"If it's an omen that the last time we made the last eight we went all the way to the final, then we'll take it. We want to progress."



MAN OF THE MATCH: JAMES HENRY
The midfielder showed real flashes of class as well as putting in a shift, and his goal sealed Millwall's nerves and put them on the road to victory.

LUTON: Tyler, Taylor, Kozack, Howells, Henry, Lovell, Mundy (Zhuo 60), O'Donnell (Shefferson 64), Smith, Bennett, Gray.

MILLWALL: Forde, Ellis, O'Donnell (Shefferson 64), Taylor, Henry (Smith 69), Forney (N'Gassan 62), Abbas, Hulse (Marque 70), Knight.

Ref: L. Probert**Att:** 9,768

JAMES THE FIRST: Millwall's James Henry takes the acclaim after scoring the opener for his side while (below) Luton's defeated players trudge off amid a heavy police presence



'Like everybody else we will be dreaming and looking to draw one of the big boys back at the Den' KENNY JACKETT