



by Tom Hopkinson

SO the great adventure is over for Luton.

After leaving Wolves and Norwich trailing in their wake, Millwall were a giant too far for The Hatters, cruelly dashing their hopes of becoming the first non-League side to reach an FA Cup quarter-final since QPR in 1914.

It was fun while it lasted for Paul Buckle's men and they earned themselves deserved plaudits along the way.

But the fairytale is finished for another season at least and now the serious work begins at Kenilworth Road as Luton look to rediscover the form that will guide them into the Conference play-offs.

Goals from James Henry and Rob Hulse in the first half gave the Lions a healthy lead, and sub Dany N'Guessan's third midway through the second half finally killed off the dream.

In truth, Millwall's performance justified the scoreline. Their fitness and physicality were far superior to that of their hosts. But a



KING HENRY: James Henry powers past Luton keeper Tyler to score, and later on Luton's Janos Kovacs clears acrobatically

HATS YOUR LOT LUTON

Buckle's non-leaguers mauled by Lions

LUTON v MILLWALL

6	Shots on Target	5
4	Shots off Target	9
8	Corners	2
14	Fouls	15
3	Offsides	4
1	Yellow Cards	2
0	Red Cards	0
59.1%	Passing Success	58.2%
51.6%	Possession	48.4%
53.8%	Territory	46.2%

consolation goal would not have been undeserved for Luton and, in particular, for Andre Gray, who ran his socks off up front.

Gray is quite a talent and his movement all afternoon gave the Lions' defence plenty to think about.

Sadly for him, and everyone associated with his club, his final touch too often let him down yesterday and the couple of chances which did come his way went begging.

Indeed, it was Gray who fashioned the first two chances of the afternoon.

Challenge

First he turned on the edge of the area but his shot was straight at David Forde.

And when he skipped past Nadjim Abdou moments later Forde had to be alert to save his effort at the near post.

Luton, unsurprisingly, were up for the challenge, but all too quickly they made what was always going to be a difficult task even harder.

Forde kicked a long ball downfield and, when Janos Kovacs completely misread it, Henry pounced.

There was still work to be done but he pushed the ball

round Luton keeper Mark Tyler and then tucked it into the empty net.

It was a huge blow for the underdogs but they responded well.

When Alex Lawless nodded Ronnie Henry's free-kick down to

Arnaud Mendy, he connected with a fierce effort from the edge of the box.

Forde did well to make the save, although it signalled to Millwall that there was still plenty of work to be done.

Luton were

certainly enjoying a good deal of possession, but Tyler still had to be alert when Hulse let fly with an acrobatic attempt.

That effort flew well over, but soon after that an equally flexible attempt saw Millwall double their advantage.

Henry sent a cross to the far post which Hulse and Kovacs might have done more with a header from Jake Howells' corner.

Applause

Try as they might, though, Luton just couldn't find a way through.

That has so often been the case for them this season, and when N'Guessan scored the third four minutes from time there really was no coming back. John Marquis's shot was saved

by Tyler but the loose ball fell to the substitute and he tucked it home.

The home fans gave their players a wonderful round of applause as they paid tribute to a fine cup run.

But next up for Luton is a trip to Macclesfield on Tuesday night as they begin the job of cutting the six-point deficit between themselves and the play-off places.

Only time will tell if they are still clapping at the end of the season. 12/13 (Pae)

LUTON: Tyler 7 - Taylor 6, Henry 6, Kovacs 6, Howells 6 - Lawless 7, Mendy 7 (Shaw, 68mins, 6), Smith 6, O'Donnell 6 (Fleetwood, 63mins, 6) - Randall 5, Gray 7.
MILLWALL: Forde 6 - Dunne 7, Osborne 6, Beevers 6, Lowry 7 - Feeney 7 (N'Guessan, 61mins, 7), Trotter 7, Abdou 6, Henry 7 (Smith, 88mins) - Keogh 6, Hulse 7 (Marquis, 69mins, 6).
REF: L. Probert 7.



NOT MY DAY: Luton's beaten boss Buckle