

THE FANS' ROAR



By Ian Toal

Woeful home defeat was unacceptable

Millwall Supporters Club  
millwallsupportersclub.co.uk

It was our first loss of 2013 and probably our worst performance of the season in the inept 2-0 home defeat to Burnley last Saturday. We were truly awful.

Before the game all of us congregating around the ground were saying how glad we were the game had beaten the snow after the referee had passed the pitch fit to play at an 8.30am inspection.

By 5pm most of us wished the game had been called off. Supporters can accept the odd defeat, even at home, as long as the players have put in full effort and competed as best they could with the opposition.

Adam Smith and Jimmy Abdou apart, I don't think any of the players could truthfully say that about themselves. Former Lions player and Burnley manager

Sean Dyche managed to turn us over yet again.

We gave them too much room near our goal

We gave them too much room, especially near to our goal, where too often they were

unmarked and we were lucky to escape with just a 2-0 defeat.

But it wasn't just at the back we had problems. Our midfield, despite the best efforts of Abdou, was overrun and up front the ball just didn't stick to allow us to create anything meaningful.

Ever since Chris Wood left the club we have struggled to score goals. Dany N'Guessan has been given plenty of chances and he shouldn't be given any more, especially in a partnership with Andy Keogh. We need one of our two strikers to be a big lump so we can occupy the opposition defenders and build our attacking play in that manner.

Keogh also had a stinker against Burnley – constantly giving away the ball – but we know he is a class act and just needs matches to regain his form.

Manager Kenny Jackett has shown loyalty to N'Guessan and given him the opportunity to perform, but he is just not physical enough.

The short time that young striker John Marquis spent on the pitch showed how much we need a target striker. Marquis is not the answer at the moment. He needs to get first team experience out on loan at a League One or Two side.

Ideally we would have Darius Henderson to partner Keogh, but Henderson's injured yet again.

# Games' legacy is seen in grass roots uptake

AWARDS

Mark Hunter talks rowing up the Thames and giving something back

Sarah Graham  
The Wharf

Olympic rower Mark Hunter says last summer's Games have had "a huge impact" on grass roots sport in the East End.

Gold and silver medallist Mark Hunter, who grew up in East Ham, said: "In my sport, Come And Learn To Row programmes have been fully booked up."

"From speaking to kids, a lot of sports really captured their imagination – handball, in particular."

Hunter, who will be a presenter at next week's Canary Wharf Sports Personality of the Year Awards said having grown up in the area he was keen to give something back.

He said: "I'm looking forward to it – I'm a local boy at heart. Not everyone



Olympic rower Mark Hunter

has to be an Olympic champion, it's just about participating and getting active."

He began his career at Poplar Blackwell and District Rowing Club, on the Isle of Dogs, at the age of 14 and, 20 years on, is pleased to keep up his connections.

He said: "I used to row past Canary Wharf when everyone still thought it was a white elephant."

He went on to win an Olympic gold medal in the lightweight double

sculls at Beijing in 2008, and picked up a silver at last year's Games after narrowly losing out to the Danish team.

Celebrating achievements from an outstanding year of British sport, the awards will take place on January 31 at the East Wintergarden. First held in 2001, the awards are part of Canary Wharf Group's work supporting grass-roots sports.

Zakir Kahn, from Canary Wharf Group, said: "2012 has seen the East End host the most extraordinary display of sport ever."

"Now is the time to capitalise by encouraging the young local sports people, not only to participate, but to aspire to greatness."

"The Canary Wharf Sports Awards will allow the spotlight to fall on sporting achievement in the communities dotted around the Olympic Park."

Former winners have gone on to achieve international recognition, including at London 2012.

East-Londoner Perri Shakes-Drayton, from Bow, won the top award in 2005 and represented Team GB in the 400m hurdles.

Mark Hunter also works as a motivational speaker. For more details go to [markhuntergb.com](http://markhuntergb.com).

CHARLTON

## Volunteers ensure match goes ahead

ADDICKS supporters were out in force yesterday trying to ensure the home clash with Sheffield Wednesday on Saturday would go ahead as planned.

Scores armed with shovels swept the stands' walkways and the car park after the club expressed concern last weekend's snow could see the game called off. Charlton are desperate to play to keep their fine run of form going.

Manager Chris Powell said: "When you have the momentum, that character and believe you can do the right things, you'll get results. Of course if you get wonder goals as well that can only help, but it's a good place for us to be at the moment."

Charlton v Sheffield Wednesday, 3pm, Saturday.

WEEKEND FLUTTER

WITH THE RACING POST

RACING

If Cheltenham can beat the bad weather then **Bobs Worth** looks a good bet at a stand-out 5-4 with Coral in the Argento Chase. Last year's RSA Chase winner, he won the Hennessy in grand style on his only start so far this season, beating subsequent Lexus Chase winner Tidal Bay. Ed Quigley

FOOTBALL

Leeds were beaten 5-1 by Chelsea in the League Cup and they could be on the end of a hiding from another London Premier League club in the FA Cup. **Tottenham** will arrive in Yorkshire full of confidence after holding Manchester United to a draw last time out. Spurs look good at 7-10. Mark Langdon

For daily expert advice, top tips and the latest news from our experts go to [racingpost.com](http://racingpost.com)

SPORT IN BRIEF

Sponsorship news

### Bank backs east London women

**RUGBY** A rugby club that says they are striving to promote "equality" in sport from its east London base has secured financial sponsorship from a major bank.

Founded just last year, the East London Women's Rugby Club has already attracted 25 members and an international sporting star, in the form of coach Fiona Pockock.

This week, the club received sponsorship from The Royal Bank of Scotland.

### Cash on offer to support athletes

**GRANTS** Athletes who live or train in Tower Hamlets can apply for a share of a £500,000 funding pot to boost their career prospects.

Offered by the GLL Sport Foundation, the grants were created to support the next generation of sporting talent.

The cash previously helped 56 sportsmen and women to take their place at London 2012, with 14 of the competitors funded bringing home a medal. Go to [gllsportfoundation.org](http://gllsportfoundation.org).

**BURLESQUE CITY**  
Formerly Known As VENUS

Open Mon - Sat  
From 8 pm

**NOW OPEN**

Free Admission With This Ad

London's premier fully nude table dancing venue  
29 Faringdon Road, London EC1M 3JB  
Tel: 020 7242 1571 [www.cityburlesque.co.uk](http://www.cityburlesque.co.uk)