



● Peter Hooper, the Bristol Rovers inside left, beats Luton full-backs John Bramwell and Seamus Dunne and gets in his header at Eastville.

Rovers tantalise shaky Luton

Bristol Rovers 4 Luton 1: by CHARLES WATSON

BRISTOL ROVERS' attack, which found its best form, pulverised and shattered a shaky Luton defence that failed completely to find a way of holding them on the slippery surface. New boy Watkins, who joined the Rovers in mid-week in part-exchange for Ward, teased and tantalised with his immaculate centres, and Bradford often got the better of his tussles with centre-half Kelly.

It was 20 minutes before Bradford put the Rovers on the track of their first win since December 10. Baynham had beaten out a fierce shot from right-half Sykes, but Bradford was on the spot to slam home the rebound.

Five minutes later, Bradford headed on a Watkins centre and Petherbridge scored. And it was Bradford again whose head provided the pass from which Hooper scored in the 55th minute.

For the whole of the first half Luton were on the defence, scrambling the ball off their goal-line again and again as the Rovers, with their wing halves holding complete command in midfield, piled into the attack.

The usual Cummins magic was missing for Luton, probably because the service he had was not good enough and Turner was given few chances to produce his powerful shot.

Davis, the man who marked

Turner and who was making his League debut, had a comfortable passage in early play but did well later on when the Rovers eased off and Luton came more into the picture.

Luton scored a goal in 78 minutes and a peculiar one it was.

A shot from Turner bounced out off goalkeeper Radford's chest and Mabbutt, following up fast, could only carry the ball into his own net.

Before the end, however, Luton paid the penalty for not playing the whistle. While they stood waiting for the whistle for offside Bradford strolled into the clear and calmly scored after his first attempt had been pushed out by Baynham.

Not much could be said about the Luton team except that, on this form, they looked far more likely candidates for relegation than the Rovers.