

● Are these teams good enough for Division I?

NO COMPLAINTS BY LUTON FANS

By BRIAN JAMES : Luton . . 4 Rotherham . . 3

IT would be easy to make great play of Roy Ironside's hideous error, which presented Luton with the game . . . and Rotherham's proudly held third place in the Second Division.

It would be fair to drive shafts of criticism through the standard of these sides—to illustrate why neither deserve this promotion-fringe prominence.

Better side

But the fact that stood out like a beacon amid Luton's lowering lights was this : *When I stood by the main exit for the last four minutes of this breathless match just 14 people of a 9,800 crowd passed me to leave before the whistle.*

So in Luton, anyway, it's goals that make glamour. The passing may have been poor, the methods obtuse . . . but you'd have to go beyond the borders of Bedfordshire on Saturday night to find a fan with a complaint.

This cup-tie of a tussle swung like a pub-sign in a gale : Luton arrowing through to go two up

. . . Luton slipping to go a goal down . . . Luton, lively again, equalising with the sixth goal of the first half.

Yet through all this Rotherham were the better side.

They moved swiftly through a muddy middle with Kirkman and Sawyer changing roles like a pair of Northern comedians swapping funny hats. But with his defence either spread wide or dashing back to crowd him, Luton goalkeeper Standen was too busy to laugh.

There was never a chance of six more goals in a second half in which both defences tightened beyond recognition. Until Ironside's dread moment, that is, when he fumbled a cross from the right wing . . . and Ashworth rammed joyfully home.

Goals.—Luton : McGuffie (3min.), Walden (15), McKechnie (44), Ashworth (71). Rotherham : Taylor (17), Sawyer (29), Kirkman (30).

Luton.—Standen : McNally, Bramwell ; Pacey, Cope, Groves ; Walden, McGuffie, Ashworth, McKechnie, Fleming.

Rotherham.—Ironside : Cassidy, Morgan ; Lambert, Madden, Lancaster ; Webster, Houghton, Sawyer, Kirkman, Taylor.