

Luton hail goal hero Turner

Luton 1 Newcastle 0

THE happy-go-lucky chance chasers of Luton snatched a win against Newcastle, who seemed burdened by the shame of their absence from the fifth round of the Cup (writes JAMES MURRAY).

Luton had all the goalmouth luck that was going. Newcastle left-winger Liam Tuohy shot over from a Thomas pass, and headed weakly from a Suddick lob—two chances he should have goaled.

Ten minutes before time Tuohy shot against a post and shortly after Thomas headed against a post.

Luton's strength lay in their unpolished but industrious half-back line, but their forwards badly need some tactical coaching.

The play of both sides lacked authority, but referee Mr. M. A. Fussey (Retford) didn't. He is my choice as the fastest referee over the first 10 yards in the League.

He was energetic and diligent, but I could not agree with the accuracy of his early indirect free-kick decision when Newcastle centre-half Thompson bundled centre-forward McKechnie over the line inside the penalty area.

Turner, as so often, was Luton's match-winner. McKechnie pounced on a defensive slip, gained a stumbling victory in the tackle, and squared for Turner to drive home from close in.

The greatest failings of Luton seem to be unhelpful positioning when a colleague is in possession and bad passing.

Newcastle have the talent to climb. Indeed, there is little scope for them to do otherwise.

Best men? For Luton, busy left-half Pacey. For Newcastle, rugged, uncompromising Thompson and Allchurch, still a great player even if he does not move in the company of great players.