



Centre-forward Davies rushes in past a Walsall defender, to connect with a pass from the wing, but heads wide.

DAVIES LOOKS ANSWER TO LUTON PROBLEM

Luton Town 4, Walsall 3

By GEORGE SIMMS

ANYONE could have been forgiven for pre-match apprehension! A bitterly cold, wet, and depressing afternoon; Luton at the bottom of the table; Walsall almost equally in distress; and the lowest Kenilworth Road crowd of the season spread thinly around like currants in the proverbial workhouse pudding.

But how wrong everyone was! This lively Luton win in an enthusiastic game took the chill off the atmosphere, made mockery of their League position and, they will hope, augured better for the future.

Luton won because in Walden and Jardine they had a pair of old-fashioned fast, direct-raiding wingers who gave Sharples and Gregg a most unhappy time. But they also had the intelligent leadership of Davies, switched to centre-forward for the first time since his recent £10,000 signing from Chester as an inside man. It could be a move to cure Luton's goal-shy ills.

Defence shaky

Newton had one shot beaten down by Baynham; side-footed another into the goalkeeper's arms; had a third pushed out; and, after Walden had opened Luton's account in the 28th minute, had yet a fourth effort saved by Baynham's outstretched leg. All of which confirmed that faithful servant Baynham is still among the best in his business!

Meek, who sparkled for Walsall on this wingers' day, shot an equaliser (34 minutes) but a fast Jardine break (35 minutes) and a clever lob by him into the open space (45 minutes) gave Davies two well taken goals.

A thick, choking, pea-souper of a chimney fire in an adjoining house stopped play for 2 minutes soon after the re-start before Jardine, in the 55th minute, took a return pass from Davies to hit Luton's fourth. In a late rally Meek (64) and Taylor, two minutes from the end, put respectability on Walsall's efforts.

Luton Town: Baynham; McNally, Bramwell; Morton, Pacey, Groves; Walden, McKechnie, Davies, McGuffie, Jardine.

Walsall: Christie; Gregg, Sharples; Hill, McPherson, Dudley; Meek, Hodgkisson, Richards, Newton, Taylor.

Referee: H. Webb (Leeds).