

LUTON STILL NEED THOSE FORWARD REINFORCEMENTS

Luton 1 Bournemouth 0: by GRAHAM BUXTON

LUTON'S problems are far from being solved but at least four points from two home games in four days have gone in some measure to lift the gloom over Kenilworth-road.

Four directors were out on scouting missions with forwards as their aim and manager Bill Harvey returned yesterday morning from watching a match at Bristol on Friday night.

With a couple of forward reinforcements Luton could go places because their defence has suddenly found stability—as the Bournemouth forwards discovered to their cost.

Luton's consuming problem was a lack of thrust forward. Tommy McKechnie has at last found his form at centre forward, but he needs far better support before he can realise his true potential.

There was promise from Jim Weir but Gareth Salisbury and Freddy Jardine were too slow to overcome the hard, fast tackling of the Bournemouth defence.

In the first-half the game threatened to become a rough-house as Bournemouth came in hard and fast and not always in accordance with the rules.

Yet it was Luton's right-half Dave Pacey who was booked first, harshly so it seemed. There was far more justification for the name of Roy Gater going into the book of referee R. Tinkler, of Boston.

But it all seemed to sober everybody up because the second-half was played at a slower pace.

Even so, Bournemouth paid the penalty of their over-robust tackling when McKechnie was brought down by Tom Standley and Salisbury scored from the spot.

That sunk Bournemouth who showed little flair in attack except when the speedy Charlie Crickmore was on the ball.

Even then he was well held by Bob Morton, who has taken on a new lease of life since he switched to right back. So easy is he finding it that there seems no reason why he should not go on for years yet.

On this showing Bournemouth are not promotion material. Like Luton they need incisive forwards. Derek Reeves had a bad game and Charlie Woods and Jimmy Singer, who have played in the First Division, did not live up to their reputation.

Query on this, however, is whether skill pays off better in the Third Division than sheer "guts." Luton have had a bitter baptism, but there are signs that better things are in store.