

French has quiet start for Luton

Bradford City 2 Luton Town 2: by LEONARD BARLOW

BRADFORD CITY were far too charitable to Luton in this first-ever League meeting between the clubs. City missed three glorious chances, and then presented the visitors with a gift goal minutes before the interval.

Luton were in the wars too. They lost goalkeeper Colin Tinsley in the 34th minute. He got a bump on the head in a goalmouth collision and went to hospital for a check-up.

Inside-right Tony Read, who was originally signed by Luton as a goalkeeper, went between the posts and substitute Billy Stark took over in the attack.

Early indecision in Luton's

defence soon had them trailing, Roy Ellam scoring in the 12th minute after City had produced a length-of-the-field move.

Left-half John Moore hit a magnificent 17th-minute equaliser, and near half-time a lapse by Mike Smith let in the lively John O'Rourke for a gift goal.

Ellam put City level after the interval, but he later wasted a great chance of completing a hat-trick when he ballooned the ball over the bar from close range.

Acting 'keeper Read foiled City too, pushing away a troublesome Hall centre and then making a good save from a Newton header.

Though a fluctuating struggle, play deteriorated after the promising opening. Luton were frequently in trouble in defence, but good work by Bobby Thomson did much to steady them later against the persistent Bradford attack.

Up front, O'Rourke chased tirelessly, but Luton's finishing was unconvincing. Ray Whittaker let one opportunity go astray, though substitute Stark was not far away with a bullet-like drive.

Graham French, Luton's £5,000 mid-week signing, was threatening early on and helped with Moore's goal, but generally his League come-back had a quiet start.