

Luton rely on defence

Orient 0, Luton 0

THE standard of play produced by Orient and Luton, two informal teams, at Brisbane Road, fell so low that many of the 13,719 fans will doubtless think twice before they return there.

Luton Town must take a large share of the blame for a match full of spoiling tactics, and Orient rarely revealed the skills which enabled them to knock Fulham out of the League Cup. They lacked the speed, and the control to break down Luton's resolute defence.

Luton were interested only in getting a draw, and angered the crowd with their off-side tactics and their refusal to bring their vaunted attacks into use.

Bruce Rioch, Luton's much-sought inside-forward, produced flashes of class while Laurie Sheffield impressed with one or two neat touches. But this apart, Luton were happy to play a negative game.

In an appalling first half, the only good shot at goal came from Luton left-half Moore, whose first-time drive from 35 yards was saved by Goddard.

For a spell in the second half, Orient looked more dangerous, with player-manager Jimmy Bloomfield on in place of Massey. Slater missed a great chance following a good pass by Halom in the 60th minute and five minutes later, Halom wasted another opportunity in front of goal after a mistake by French.

But as Luton's defence got on top again Orient became more disappointed. Both sides were satisfied to keep their unbeaten records intact, but they will want to forget this match as quickly as possible.

Orient: Goddard; Jones, Howe; Harper, Mancini, Taylor; Slater, Massey, Allen, Halom, Brabrook. Sub.: Bloomfield.

Luton: Read; Dougan, Jardine; Allen, Slough, Moore; Ryan, Lewis, Sheffield, Rioch, French.

Referee: G. McCabe (Sheffield).