

WATFORD JOLT PACEMAKERS

Watford 1, Luton 0: by GEORGE CRANFIELD

★ Roy Low, makeweight in the exchange deal that took Watford's star man Billy Bonds to Spurs, deservedly cracked in the winner.

★ But latecomers in the 22,176 crowd, well over double the average gate, missed the crucial move.

★ The goal, from a smart Scullion pass, came in two minutes flat.

★ Scullion, brought down and expecting a penalty, got up, scythed the ball through four defenders, and Low unmarked, smacked it home.

★ Victory was sweet revenge for Watford's 3-nil League Cup hammering at Kenilworth Road in August.

★ It boosted them to eight points in their last five matches to zoom them into championship challenging range.

★ It also had manager Ken Furphy saying: "We were good value for our win but we have played better. I was pleased with our work rate."

★ Garvey was superb at centre half, giving Luton's Sheffield only two scoring chances.

★ With such a barrier to contend with League pacemakers Luton rarely got a look-in and their much-wanted star Rioch had a poor game.

★ Watford should have been three or four up by the interval and a series of lucky Luton escapes stopped them adding to their total in the second half.

★ Frustrated Luton gambled on a tactical switch twenty-five minutes from the end.

★ They called off Alan Slough and substituted Keith Allen. It had Slough storming off in disgust.

★ Slough left for home on his own. Luton did not like their trip home much, either. Hooligans smashed a window of their coach.

★ Before the game started a group of boys clashed on the terraces. Eight of them were treated for cuts.

Crowd rating: 75.