

It's all so sunny for Luton

By MAX REESE

Bournemouth 0, Luton 2

LUTON did themselves a good turn with a convincing win over promotion rivals at Bournemouth. It was also some revenge for the point Bournemouth took at Luton in November, the only point Luton have conceded at home this season.

The sunny south lived up to its reputation here with several hours of cold but continuous sunshine, and apart from a treacherous strip in the shadow of the stand, the pitch was in excellent condition.

In the morning the only doubt was whether or not the Luton team could make the journey. Two of the players, Branston and Lewis, were delayed trying to reach Luton overnight, and the party were held up again at Waterloo. The referee, who had to travel from Suffolk, was also in difficulties, but in the end the start was punctual.

Although nominally playing four reserves, Luton were in control all the time. The vital initiative was

won for them by Sheffield, playing his first game for 10 weeks. His clever shielding of the ball and neat deflections opened the Bournemouth defence and created chances for Allen and Jardine.

Lewis also was creative and industrious, and it was nearly 20 minutes before Bournemouth even contrived a shot. Then a mix-up between French and Dougan let in Peters, but his centre sailed harmlessly across the goalmouth.

Luton were soon pressing again and a low curling corner from French might have produced a goal if anyone could have got a foot to it. Just before half-time a deep centre from Dougan glanced off White's head perilously near a post.

After half-time Peters was replaced by the inexperienced Burns, a managerial ploy that was as surprising as it was ineffective. But Bournemouth did open the second-half with a brief spasm of attack during which a shot from Bumstead was kicked off the line by Dougan.

But this did not last and in the 57th minute Luton went ahead,

French and Lewis made ground on the right, and Sheffield, unmarked on the edge of the area, turned swiftly and shot high into the corner.

A pleasure

Davie, who had a quiet afternoon, now showed his quality in the way he caught a swift and dangerous centre from Gulliver, and then Luton scored again. Once more Lewis was at the back of it, his header hitting the crossbar and dropping at Jardine's feet.

Jardine, Luton's longest serving player, has lately been playing at full-back and the chance to score on his return to his original position at outside-left caused him considerable pleasure.

This was in the 68th minute and, having no difficulty in shutting up the remainder of the game, Luton returned well satisfied to their snow-bound Beds.

Bournemouth: Jones; Gulliver, Miller; White, Stocks, Longhorn; Bumstead, Pound, East, Bolton, Peters. Sub.: Burns.

Luton: Davie; Dougan, Bannister; Slough, Branston; Moore; French, Lewis, Sheffield, Allen, Jardine.

Referee: J. R. Osburn (Ipswich).