

Luton vault into second place as Davie holds out Bristol Rovers

MARK SCOTT REPORTS: Bristol Rovers 0, Luton Town 0

LUTON TOWN stretched their unbeaten run to 12 matches and moved into second place above Swindon Town in the Third Division promotion race by gaining a point away to Bristol Rovers.

In a scoreless game Luton lived dangerously pressing nine men in defence but they escaped thanks to a high degree of luck and some brilliant goalkeeping by 23-year-old Davie, a former Scottish under-23 player.

It was frustrating for Bristol who battled in vain for most of the 90 minutes.

After failing to crack the tight Bristol defence in the first 12 minutes when

Jardine completely missed a Rloch centre in front of an open net, Luton went back into their shell.

But Bristol had one stroke of luck, when skipper Petts got in the way of a free kick by Dougan and the ball flashed wide.

Davie showed his class in the 25th minute when from a Petts-Barney move Wayne Jones hammered in a rising drive which the 'keeper punched over the bar.

Stuart Taylor headed another chance over the top

and all Luton could produce in reply was a speculative volley by Sheffield.

Sheffield, a Bristol Rovers' reject nine years ago, had an unhappy match as he and Lewis fought a lone attacking role.

Sheffield had one chance in the second half but fell and injured a leg and went off.

Davie again came to Luton's rescue as Rovers did everything except score.

Wayne Jones had two of the best chances to clinch

the game. In the 68th minute he drove the ball high over from the edge of the penalty area and ten minutes later he blundered badly when, with only Davie to beat, he screwed his shot from five yards across the face of a gaping goal.

This was the first of three successive away games for Luton in which manager Alec Stock has set a target of a point a game. They met his demands in this match but made few friends by the way they achieved it.