

Mistakes let Hatters off the hook

74/75 (TC)
THE Texaco Cup action at Brisbane Road on Saturday confirmed my long-standing feeling that Orient are better equipped for the First Division than Luton.

Os were a cut above newly-promoted Luton in a thoroughly entertaining match and deserved much more than a 2-2 draw. What a pity that under 6,000 spectators witnessed the constant excitement.

A sweetly-timed header by Gerry Queen three minutes from the end gave Os a share of the spoils and robbed the Hatters of a place in the Texaco Cup quarter-finals.

The goal was made by substitute Laurie Cunningham who sent over a perfect left-foot cross from the right-wing. Cunningham, replacing the aggrieved Barrie Fairbrother, had been on the field only a few minutes and it's a measure of his considerable

talent that he created a goal out of nothing.

But there are other Orient players who also have reason to be pleased.

Tom Walley was a revelation in midfield and he crowned a first-rate display with a corking 25-yarder for Orient's first goal.

Bill Roffey was an efficient attack-minded full-back and his partner, play-anywhere Bobby Fisher, was superb in defence.

Paul Harris gave a surprisingly polished performance at centre-half alongside the steadfast Phil Hoadley and tricky Ricky Heppolette, Orient's acting captain, covered a tremendous amount of ground to great effect in midfield.

Queen was the liveliest for-

ward on view and earned his late equalising goal but Derek Possee, Fairbrother, Mickey Bullock and Ray Goddard failed to shine.

With Walley clipping the inside of a post, Heppolette thumping a shot against the bar and Bullock, Possee and Fairbrother going desperately close it was clearly Orient's unlucky afternoon. But it wasn't bad luck which resulted in Luton's two goals—just rank bad play.

In the 56th minute Jimmy Husband ran onto a poorly-aimed back pass by Heppolette and easily rolled the ball into goal. Two minutes later Goddard was indecisive in coming off his line to meet Don Shanks' centre and Barry Butlin powered home a header.



● Horn is quick to pounce on a thundering left-foot shot from Bill Roffey. ★ (911)