

One-way system

Luton 0, Wimbledon 0

THE gates of the fortress-like stadium at Kenilworth Road were tentatively opened to let the players and officials of Wimbledon into the ground for the first time in the London club's history, writes **Steve Bottomley**.

It completed the set of 91 other clubs in the Football League having played competitively at Luton. But only some of them have travelled there since the now famous membership scheme was introduced.

This creates a lively atmosphere when Luton are attacking, such as in the 23rd minute when Stein deftly backheeled the ball for Hill to hit a thunderous shot from 25 yards which Beasant saved brilliantly. In contrast, the place becomes positively morgue-like when the visitor have possession.

With no away supporters in sight, the ground takes on the appearance of an oversized social club. One could imagine everybody walking on to the synthetic carpet for tea and scones and a little chat after the game. They didn't, it was raining.

The cosy feeling was enhanced with the introduction of a just-married middle-aged couple in Luton colours before the game.

Wimbledon, without the suspended John Fashanu, used their usual tough tactics to knock Luton out of their stride and could have snatched a late winner. In the end, a 0-0 scoreline summed it up. Dull.

Luton: Sealey; Breacker, Harvey; Nicholas, North, Donoghue; Hill, B. Stein, Newell, Harford, McDonough.

Wimbledon: Besant; Gage, Winterburn; Jones, Morris, Thorn; Fairweather, Sayer, Cork, Sanchez, Hodges.

Referee: J. Key.