

## UNEXPECTED WIN AT CHARLTON.

Few were willing to credit the Town with the ability to succeed at Charlton, and when the news came through there was much satisfaction, and, later, a tendency to harp on what might have been. Charlton had played so well at Luton on Easter Saturday, although losing by two goals clear, that there seemed little prospect, if that was their average form, of Luton picking up all four points from them. They did, however, and the odd goal victory put

them in a good way towards finishing third on the League table.

The game was played under awful conditions, but it proved to be a really exciting encounter, with the result in doubt right to the last kick of the game. The Town had out what is regarded as the strongest possible eleven, and, although hard pressed in the first half and again just before the finish, they, according to our special correspondent in London, showed better balance, sounder judgment, and a keen appreciation of the methods by which to hold what they got. This only goal of the match was scored by HIGGINBOTHAM near half-time, when he seized the ball after Barnes had been compelled to throw away from Hoar, and he made no mistake in netting. Before and after this Charlton made many determined attacks, but neither by speed nor cunning could they outwit the Luton defence.

In the second half the Luton team attacked with great vigour and persistence, and only admirable goalkeeping by Barnes, and the striking play of his backs, kept the ball out of the net. Time after time Hoar and Bookman would outstrip opponents and drop the ball into goal, and it required all the strength and courage of the Charlton defenders to prevent score. In the closing stages the issue was challenged at the other end, and it was in this, the tensest period of the game, that Luton's defence won general praise, and took away chief honours.

For Luton Bailey was superb in goal, and made many thrilling and unexpected saves, while in Lennon and Tirrell he had two of the cleverest backs seen on Charlton's ground this season. The latter was little short of wonderful, and revelled in the heavy going, his gauging of a slippery ball on a greasy ground being remarkably accurate. Lennon was a fast and keen tackler, and kicked a splendid length. The halves were a tough line, pouncing on the ball with wonderful celerity, and giving the home forwards very little scope for shooting. Walker had not a difficult job in holding Filliston, and the Redhill amateur will not soon forget his introduction to first-class football. Foster and Roe were strong and skilful, and all three were attentive to the men in front.

Higginbotham was the pick of the vanguard, as well as the strongest, and he deserved the honour of scoring the only goal. Reid was lacking in experience, perhaps, but for a youngster he was very cool and thoughtful in his work, and was seldom unbalanced. He showed much promise. Butcher was a great worker all through, quick on the ball, and judicious in his passing, while Hoar and Bookman showed remarkable speed, and while the former could often beat his man with close footwork, the latter trusted largely to the wide swinging pass, that enabled him to win in a race for the ball. Both centred well all through, and also proved that they could shoot strongly.

For Charlton Barnes was a fine keeper, Burton a great back, and Whalley the outstanding figure in the middle, and Thomson was as good as any forward on the field.

LUTON TOWN ..... 1

CHARLTON ATHLETIC ..... 0

LUTON:—Bailey; Lennon, Tirrell; Foster, Walker, Roe; Hoar, Higginbotham, Reid, Butcher, Bookman.

CHARLTON:—Barnes; Burton, Goodman, Dowling, Whalley, Dunn; Castle, Bailey, Filliston, Thomson, Wilson.

Referee:—Mr. Bailey.