

# CULLEN'S HEAD PUT TOWN IN FRONT

## Forwards Fell Away After Promising Great Things

By Chiltern

56/57

**CHARLTON ATHLETIC 1, LUTON TOWN 2**

**F**ROM the way in which the Town began their first away match of the season at The Valley, the portents were that Charlton would be crushed just as completely as were Sunderland the previous Saturday.

Then, something went wrong with the works and, after gaining an early lead and generally looking the part of a top-of-the-table team, the Town lost their rhythm and for the remainder of the time, they had a struggle on their hands.

What set them back on their heels, or, perhaps conversely, what gave Charlton the incentive to fight, was a bolt from the blue type of goal from HURST after 15 minutes just when the Town had achieved a superiority that seemed completely authoritative.

Unmarked, Hurst picked up a pass midway in the Town's half of the field and made ground quickly with defenders vainly trying to converge on him.

On he went and then, when everyone expected him to cross the ball, he drove it between Streten and the near post to land it low in the far corner of the net.

That equalised a coolly taken goal by MORTON after six minutes, when he ran on to a through pass by Dunne, brushed off a not very severe challenge by McCarthy and left Marsh helpless.

### EQUALISER CHANGED IT

The equaliser brought a radical change to the game, with Charlton beginning to have more of the play and the Town had their slice of luck when Hurst struck a post with another fierce cross shot.

At times there were signs of

uneasiness in the Town defence, but it was the forwards who fell away most and, for a long time they could make little ground.

Then, just as everyone was waiting for the half-time whistle, Pemberton went on one of his forays down the right wing and, scenting what was to happen, CULLEN raced across to near the far post in readiness for the centre.

Over it came unerringly, and, with Marsh failing to cut it off, Cullen was on the spot to nod the ball into the net.

So, unexpectedly in view of what had occurred previously, the Town led at the interval, but they did not hold it without a struggle in the second half.

With desperation lending them strength, Charlton did much pressing after the interval, but were thrown back repeatedly by a defence that in Owen had a sound foundation.

### STRETEN'S GOOD SAVES

Several good saves by Streten helped maintain the slender thread by which the lead hung. Though they were far from consistent, there were occasions when the Town forwards gave a hint of their real capabilities, but the game degenerated into much of a scramble.

Tricky conditions as the result of heavy rain did not help accuracy, and this match the Town will not want to remember with any great amount of pleasure, except for the fact that it left them with a couple of valuable points.

Outstanding in defence was Owen, particularly in the second half, when he threw back attack after attack and generally contrived to give Ayre an uncomfortable time.

Also much in the picture was Streten, never caught napping again as he was when the goal came, and he made a series of daring, spectacular clearances.

### OWED MUCH TO DEFENCE

Basically, it was the defence to whom the Town owed most for this success and closer marking after the interval, especially by Aherne who had tended to give Hurst too much room, tightened up things a lot.

Pemberton is taking the chance afforded him by the fact that Morton is being used as a centre-forward, just as well as he has in the past, and Shanks and Dunne both added their contributions.

Best of the forwards was Cullen, always working and looking for the ball, and Morton was next in line. Weak finishing was Adam's greatest fault and Groves seldom provided the scheming that was necessary, partly because he was late getting into the tackle and partly because he took too long in which to use the ball.

So, there were few chances for the Turner break through and there were times when he just could not get into the game.

**CHARLTON ATHLETIC.** — Marsh; Campbell, Townsend; Hewie, McCarthy, Hammond; Hurst, Gauld, Ayre, White, Kiernan.

**LUTON TOWN.** — Streten; Dunne, Aherne; Pemberton, Owen, Shanks; Cullen, Turner, Morton, Groves, Adam.

Referee. — A. A. Howlett, Swindon. Attendance.—19,014

### Critics Gave:—

## PRAISE—BUT NOT QUITE SO LOUDLY

National newspaper critics were not quite so loud in their praise of Luton after the Town's 2—1 win at Charlton on Saturday.

They gave them credit for maintaining a 100-per-cent record, but this time it was the defenders who received more praise than the attack.

Even so, the critics appeared to be favourably impressed and the general impression seems to be that Luton's successes cannot be termed a "flash in the pan."

### Here are some quotes:

"All five (Luton) forwards are bursting to have a crack at goal and with the wing-halves always ready to join in, they play the sort of football we used to see pre-war."—"Sunday Express."

\* \* \*

"Luton look a likely bet this campaign."—"Empire News and Sunday Chronicle."

\* \* \*

"Streten . . . gave a magnificent display of cool courage and uncanny anticipation to rob the Charlton forwards of goals they worked hard for."—"The People."

\* \* \*

"Charlton's brave bid to dent the Luton 100-per-cent run fumbled against a defence tightly organised around Sid Owen — a centre-half in the grand manner."—"Reynolds News."

\* \* \*

"It would have been rank injustice if Manager Dally Duncan's team of triers hadn't won at The Valley."—"Sunday Pictorial."

\* \* \*

Luton deserved to keep their 100-per-cent record—they were superior all round."—"Sunday Graphic."

\* \* \*

"Bob Morton is a centre-forward who believes that the velvet touch is sometimes more effective than the iron boot."—"News of the World."

\* \* \*

"Luton remained a poised side against the fire and fury of Charlton's attack."—"Sunday Dispatch."

\* \* \*

"Cold self-criticism by (Luton's) hard-to-please players is going to keep them at the top when this strange game is forgotten."—"Daily Express."

\* \* \*