

Charlton 0, Luton 1.

By BILL MARSH

DOWN to the bottom of the Second Division table go Charlton—surely the most unfortunate team in the League. For the thousands who stayed away from the Valley it can be said that this was yet another of the hard-luck stories which seem to be Charlton's speciality this season.

They had nine-tenths of the play—even with only ten men for nearly half an hour—and yet they failed to get the victory they deserved.

They were beaten by a disputed goal, which came after an hour, on one of the few occasions in the second half when Luton could get near goal.

John Groves centred to Gordon Turner smack in front of goal. Down went Willie Duff to Turner's ground shot, but he could not hold the ball and it rolled into the goal-mouth as he frantically grabbed behind him.

Crowd don't agree

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John Sewell rushed up and hooked it out, but the linesman was signalling that it had gone over the line.

The crowd behind the goal roared their disapproval—rather naturally—and Duff and the nearer Charlton players protested, though not too strongly.

From the stand it was impossible to decide.

Said Gordon: "It was a clear foot over the line before Sewell got to it." Said Duff: "It was well outside when John cleared it."

But even allowing the goal Charlton should still have won easily against a below-normal Luton who never looked a menace once they tried to move up from midfield.

The oddity was that while Charlton were without Stuart Leary after ten minutes of the first half—he was carried off with a damaged knee—and for a few minutes without Brian Kinsey as well, they were at their best.

It seemed that the situation inspired them to an extra bite that must have brought goals, but for a fairly steady performance by Ron Baynham.

Similarly after that shock goal, they found a renewed energy and were right on top, swarming on to the Luton goal.

Towards the end they slackened off.

Even then Luton still looked no match for them, though Turner and Tommy McKechnie were trying to get somewhere.

CHARLTON.—Duff 8; Sewell 7. Townsend 8; Hewie 7. Hinton 8. Lucas 8; Lawrie 7. Leary 8. ★ **EDWARDS** 9; White 7. Kinsey 8.

LUTON.—★ **BAYNHAM** 9; McNally 7. Bramwell 8; Morton 7. Cope 6. Groves 8; Walden 7. Ashworth 6. Turner 8. McKechnie 7. Fleming 7.

Referee: R. E. Smith (Monmouth) 7



● **RON-BAYNHAM** clings for dear life to the ball—and all **BRIAN KINSEY**, Charlton left-winger, can say is "Ouch! Get off my foot!"



Luton centre-half **Ronnie Cope** clears a Charlton attack in the Division II match at the Valley on Saturday, with **Stuart Leary** in attendance.