

CHARLTON EXPOSED TOWN WEAKNESSES

Rumblings Of Discontent Will Take Time To Die

By CHILTERN

LUTON TOWN 1, CHARLTON ATHLETIC 6

THIS is something the Town will want to forget as speedily as possible, but I fear that it may be some considerable time before the rumblings of discontent which were heard from the crowd at Kenilworth-road on Saturday, die down.

No one can recall the last occasion on which the Town had six goals scored against them on their own ground, and the thrashing could have been even more severe had Charlton made the fullest use of the chances that came their way.

It really was a shocking, unimaginative display by the Town, and it remains to be seen whether Manager Sam Bartram will write it off as one of those things liable to happen in the best regulated circles, or whether he decides to take the team apart.

Certainly, on this showing, only two or three players can be considered as automatic choices for the next match, but I doubt whether the Town can ever plumb such depths again.

While it was recognised beforehand that the rejuvenated Charlton would prove to be a tough proposition, certainly no-one expected from them the brand of football which they produced.

With Leary the schemer-in-chief and a great general, and Edwards providing most of the thrust down the middle, the

Town's defence was quickly a thing of rags and tatters and weaknesses that few dreamed existed quite so blatantly were exposed.

Even in the early stages of the match, the defence was rocky, but it looked as if the Town had perhaps surmounted their bad spell and would settle down when TURNER, somewhat unexpectedly, put them into the lead from Ashworth's pass after 24 minutes.

However, they did not have sufficient time to benefit from this advantage because, a minute later, Baynham was picking the ball out of the net, placed there, not by a Charlton forward, but by a flashing header by Pacey as he tried to clear.

CONFIDENCE EVAPORATED

What little confidence the Town had evaporated after that and EDWARDS struck two quick blows before half-time. His first goal came from a well-judged header and his second from a rebound after a shot by White had gone through Baynham's hands and struck the bar.

Turner raised the Town's hopes with a great shot, but Duff brought off a great save and that was virtually the end of the Town.

In the 59th and 60th minutes, EDWARDS and LEARY scored again and KINSEY made it a round half-dozen 17 minutes from the end.

So badly rattled were the Town that other goals against them would not have been surprising and might have come had Charlton really pressed home their advantage in the closing minutes.

For weaknesses in the half-back line, the Town paid dearly because Groves was very much at sea both in defence and attack and Cope spent most of the afternoon chasing shadows.

Even Pacey, who has been outstanding for weeks suffered from the general mediocrity and Bramwell never got to grips with White, a late replacement for Lawrie.

Defender who was nearest to his best form was McNally, but Baynham did not escape criticism, though due allowance has to be made for the inadequate cover with which he was provided.

Only Turner of the forwards promised to achieve anything, but he was poorly supported, though the line could have been more dangerous had Walden's finishing been better.

Ashworth achieved little, McKechnie was too often caught in possession and scarcely anything came from Legate, who was blotted out.

LUTON TOWN. — Baynham; McNally, Bramwell; Groves, Cope, Pacey; Walden, Ashworth, Turner, McKechnie, Legate.

CHARLTON ATHLETIC. — Duff; Sewell, Hewie; Tocknell, Hinton, Bailey; White, Matthews, Leary, Edwards, Kinsey.

Referee: W. Clements, West Bromwich. Attendance: 9,827.