



● Luton right back Brendan McNally moves in to cover 'keeper Ron Baynham as Charlton inside left Dennis Edwards bursts through.

EDWARDS LEADS 6-GOALS SLAUGHTER OF LUTON

Luton 1 Charlton 6: by ROY HOROBIN

LUTON manager Sam Bartram was not amused. A joke's a joke, but to be handed a thrashing like this on your own ground by a club you served faithfully for 22 years is a bit much.

For a whole decade a Charlton side without the red-headed indestructible Sam in goal was almost unthinkable. He was with them when they sensationally went up from the Third Division to the First in consecutive seasons and he was still guarding the Charlton goal in their two Cup Finals just after the war. Yesterday he said to me before the match: "There is no sentiment in this game I'm afraid, and I shall shed no tears if we win."

What Sam said after the game was explosive, plus the fact that in his considered opinion Stuart Leary, the Charlton centre forward, is the most intelligent player in football today. Although Leary managed to score only one goal in this glut he dictated the speed of the game throughout and Ron Cope, the old Manchester United centre half, had a fearful time.

Dennis Edwards, who improves every time I see him, scored a great hat-trick and with Brian Kinsey formed a devastating wing.

On this form it is inconceivable that Charlton can be relegated. They simply tore Luton to shreds and but for sheer exhaustion in the last quarter of an hour they might have reached double figures.

The early stages were almost one incessant Charlton onslaught on the Luton goal and the players stood dumbfounded when Luton took the lead after 24 minutes. From a throw-in on the right wing Alec Ashworth crossed a low centre to Gordon Turner and the centre forward easily turned the ball past Duff.

It took Charlton two minutes to equalise—with a brilliant header. Unfortunately for Luton, it came

from their own left-half Dave Pacey. Charlton left-winger Kinsey crossed the ball hard, and Pacey, throwing himself full-length to clear, could only beat his own goalkeeper with a glorious header.

This was just the incentive Charlton had been waiting for, and after 32 minutes they took the lead. Again, over came a centre from Kinsey, and this time it was Edwards who leaped up to head a great goal.

Four minutes later the Luton defence looked on helplessly as Charlton went further ahead. A tremendous shot from Ronnie White, deputising for Sam Lawrie at outside right, crashed against the crossbar and from the rebound Edwards scored with a low shot.

For a few minutes in the second half it looked as if Luton might make a fight of it. But after 60 minutes Edwards completed his hat-trick with an easy goal.

Then, a minute later, Leary took advantage of slackness in a demoralised Luton defence to burst through and beat Baynham with a furious shot.

Eighteen minutes from the end Luton's humiliation was complete when Kinsey, with all the time in the world, made it 6-1.