

LUTON CLIMB ON

Luton 4, Charlton 1

By GEORGE SIMMS

LUTON may not yet be safe from the Second Division guillotine but this workmanlike victory over the equally distressed Charlton should set the odds greatly in their favour.

And if the "any two from three" for relegation turns out to be Charlton and Walsall, then Luton should give the freedom of the borough to their slimly built centre-forward Davies.

This free-scoring leader impressed with his intelligent use of the ball and brought his personal tally to 21 goals in his 27 appearances since he was acquired from Chester. His two well-taken chances in the first half undoubtedly settled the course of events and took much of the spirit out of Charlton.

Small wonder that Mr. Nicholson has already made the short trip from Tottenham to see whether all he has read about Davies's promise is true.

Kinsey helps

Davies's first goal in the fourth minute was beautifully taken. He got a pass from Morton, ran on, side-stepped two defenders, and let loose a fierce cross-shot that left Reed rooted.

Reed's vigilance prevented another in the 12th minute when he somehow smothered a Davies shot from three yards, but in the 37th minute the centre-forward was on hand to run in a fast short cross from Turner, who in the 54th minute was assisted by a luckless Kinsey in registering the third.

Turner it was, too, who made it four (73) with a 20-yard free-kick and although Hewie got one back two minutes later from a short free-kick by Kinsey, the Third Division was already looming larger for Charlton.

Full praise to an unyielding Luton defence in which Kelly, Morton and Baynham starred. The apparently evergreen Baynham made superb saves from headers by Ryan and Matthews in the first half, and

from fierce shots by Peacock and Lucas in the second.

Charlton's forwards, full of fight and endeavour, never gave up the hunt, but they lacked the ingenuity that was needed to pierce a purposeful defence. And they also lacked a Davies.

Ahead of Luton now lie Sunderland (home) and Stoke (away); Charlton have Southampton (home) and Walsall (away) who also have a home game with Norwich. With only two points covering the three teams it's anyone's guess yet.

Luton: Baynham; Daniel, McNally; Morton, Kelly, Bramwell; Clapton, Turner, Davies, McGuffie, Jardine.

Charlton: Reed; Sewell, Hewie; Lucas, Tocknell, Kinsey; Kenning, Matthews, Ryan, Peacock, Durandt.

Referee: P. Brandwood (Wolverhampton).