



● Luton's Malcolm Macdonald is foiled by a daring dive from Charlie Wright

Careless Luton caught with giveaway goal

Charlton 1 Luton 1: by JOHN MURRAY

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CHARLTON, SO out of touch it was a wonder they did not crack up completely gained a reward of the brave when they snatched an equaliser five minutes from time. Luton manager Alec Stock said: "Good luck to them—they never gave up running. My chaps were too keen to slow it down and they came unstuck."

Charlton chief Theo Foley said: "The effort is there but we have one or two weaknesses that must be cured. How Luton are at the top is a mystery to me!"

The clear message of this game was that Charlton are genuine strugglers and Luton are not of genuine promotion calibre — on this tentative display.

Luton scored after six minutes. Charlton were slow to react to Malcolm Macdonald's long chip and Don Givens raced on and beat a recovery tackle by Graham Moore to ram home a low, 20-yard shot.

Luton were denied a penalty when Paul Went and Peter Reeves sandwiched Macdonald.

BRAVERY

Moore, Charlton's best player almost gave a goal away midway through the second half, putting Macdonald on-side with his back pass, but Charlie Wright's bravery cut the damage to a corner.

Went, who achieved mastery over high-scoring Macdonald, was booked for imposing it with a late tackle. Then he escaped another penalty when he handled inside the area, but was penalised outside.

With 12 minutes left Charlton replaced youngster Alan Ellis with veteran Brian Kinsey and six minutes later Givens, injured in a tackle with Went, was replaced by Vic Busby.

Luton tried to slow the game to a walk, never risking a forward pass when they could pass back. Alan Slough's long back pass was made unsafe by Plumb's charge, the forward shot twice when passes were demanded, but Ray Treacy hit home from the second rebound.

CHARLTON: Wright; Curtis, Bruck Moore, Went, Reeves, Ellis, Treacy Plumb, Davies, Peacock. Sub: Kinsey.

LUTON: Read; John Ryan, Slough Roy Nicholl, Moore, Jimmy Ryan, Court Macdonald, Keen, Givens. Sub: Busby