



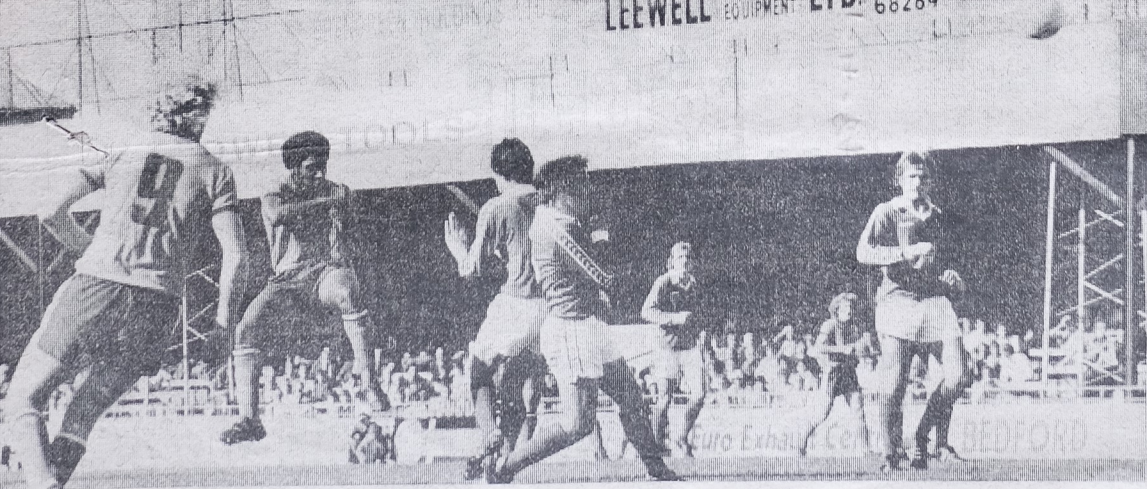
ONE:

● The goal that gave Jim Husband most pleasure: the Town's first, in the 19th minute. Warman had fouled Ron Futcher a few yards outside the penalty area. Alan West wrecked Charlton's concentration by delaying the kick. While Charlton wondered when it was going to be taken West flicked the ball over the wall and Husband scored with a left foot shot.



TWO:

● Steve Buckley hammers the Town's second goal in the 30th minute. Ron Futcher and Jim Husband laid on the chance after Alan West set an attack moving down the left wing. Futcher's cross-shot flew across the face of the goal, Husband ran wide to the right to catch the ball, and Charlton's defence was facing all ways as Buckley's left foot made contact.



THREE:

● Ricky Hill, still airborne, watches his dipping drive head for the net in the 59th minute. A sparkling move involving Gary Heale, Jim Husband and Lil Fuccillo gave Hill the yard he needed for a 25-yard super-goal, with vicious spin making the ball drop under the bar

Seven goals swamp

Charlton: Husband

hits four of them

AFTER AN AFTERNOON of soccer magic at Kenilworth Road in which seven goals had been poured into Charlton's net, one of the calmest men around in the dressing room excitement was four-goal hero Jim Husband.

He had scored four in a league match for the first time in his 14-year career and one of his first comments was to praise his midfield men. "The service I got was tremendous," he said. The hapless Charlton team could hardly believe what had happened.

Manager Andy Nelson used two words to describe his feelings. The second was "ashamed." The first was a blunt, unprintable adjective.

Charlton really were pathetic. Their midfield was swamped, the attack non-existent and the defence ripped to shreds by the Town's quicksilver thrusts.

At half-time the Town were two up, cruising easily to victory, and they moved into a slick top gear to hammer in five more, with Charlton's late consolation a penalty by Mick Flanagan.

Not since Sunderland were beaten 8-2 in 1955 had Town fans been given such a treat. This hammering of Charlton will surely live as long in the memory as that day does.

It was a day when everything the Town tried worked beautifully. There were 11 contenders for the man of the match title, and much discussion about which was the goal of the match.

For me, Husband's pace and sharpness just gave him both unofficial honours.

The first goal was a gem, and gave Husband and coach Roy McCrohan most pleasure. A move practised in training so often that it had become boring put the Town ahead

Match Details

LUTON TOWN 7, CHARLTON ATH 1

Half-time 2-0
TOWN: Aleksic; Price, Buckley, Faulkner, Paul Futcher; Fuccillo, Hill, West; Husband, Ron Futcher, Heale, Sub: Carr; not needed.

CHARLTON: Wood; Curtis (Gritt 79 mins), Warman, Campbell, Berry; Tydeman, Burman, Peacock; Powell, Flanagan, McAuley.

THE GOALS: Four by Jim Husband; 19 mins, 65 mins, penalty 75 mins and 78 mins; Steve Buckley, 30 mins; Ricky Hill 59 mins; Gary Heale 72 mins; Flanagan penalty for Charlton, 82 mins.

REFEREE: Roger Kirkpatrick, Leicester: likes to be an entertainer himself, but even he couldn't compete with show the Town put on.

ENTERTAINMENT: Dazzling—a match to remember when everything went right for the Town.

ATTENDANCE: 9,061—pathetic, particularly after the League Cup win at Wolves. Can it be customer resistance to increased charges for admission, programmes and car parking?

with a goal that combined sheer cheek with expert technique.

Skipper Alan West, leading a sparkling Town midfield trio, flicked the ball over the defensive wall from a free kick, and Husband raced into position to smack it into the net.

Husband's speed off the mark baffled Charlton's cumbersome defence all afternoon, while Ricky Hill turned in a superb demonstration of all the football skills.

He and Lil Fuccillo teamed up with West to form an irresistible combination, and Hill's goal was a beauty. It killed Charlton's faint hopes of pulling back from the 2-0 deficit, and was a remarkable demonstration of Hill's ability to hit the ball with ferocious topspin.

His shot from 20 yards looked as though it was going over the bar, but Hill turned in triumph, knowing that it would dip at the last moment, as it did.

Steve Buckley had cracked in his second goal of the season in the first half, after Ron Futcher and Husband combined to turn the Charlton defence inside out.

Charlton were murdered by 13 minutes of devastation which hit them in the second half. Husband got a hat-trick, and Gary Heale, an 18-year-old from Canvey Island, marked his debut with a text-book far post header to score from John Faulkner's cross.

Heale had been given his chance because Phil Boersma failed a fitness test on a pulled hamstring, and could not have been given a better stage for his first taste of league football.

John Aston was also missing, and on the evidence of two games without him there is obviously now no reason at all why he shouldn't be granted his wish to move to a Northern club.

A major reason for the Town's success was the work of Ron Futcher. Manager Harry Haslam must have had him particularly in mind when he commented: "Our players did a lot of unselfish running. They were always working for each other, looking for openings, and always ready to help each other out."

Futcher did exactly that, and made a large contribution to the score-line even if he did not put his own name on it.

SOUVENIR FOR JIM

JIM HUSBAND has been presented with the matchball from Saturday's game. It joins two others from previous seasons—one for a hat-trick for Everton and the other for his hat-trick against Orient in a 3-1 home win in March, 1974.

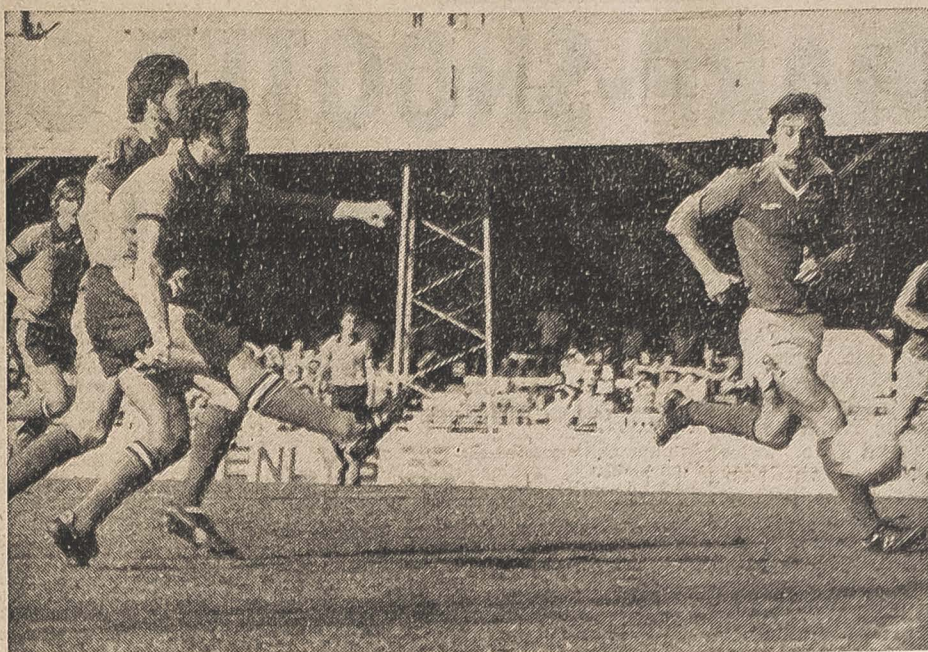
YEARS



Action pictures
by **STEVE
TEMPLEMAN**



Report and
goal-guide by
BRIAN SWAIN



FOUR:

● Jim Husband's right foot piles on the agony for Charlton in the 65th minute. He did most of the spade-work himself, with darting acceleration and close ball control leaving Charlton defender Les Berry floundering. By the time Berry had tried to recover and covering defenders had started to move, Husband's shot was already on its way into the net.

The keep-fit tour

TOWN boss Harry Haslam summed up the win as a tribute to consistent and unselfish team-work by all his players. "We continued with the style we showed at Wolves," he said, "And if we can keep this up we can go right through the Second Division."

Jim Husband suggested that a major reason for his sharpness was the busy summer the Town had.

"I don't think I am usually as sharp as that

early in the season," he admitted. "Usually we have a long rest every summer, and probably it takes some time to reach peak sharpness."

"But this year, with the tour of America and New Zealand we only had a five-week break. Possibly we have hit top form earlier than usual."

ANOTHER FOR THE RECORDS

ONLY once in their 87-year history as a professional club have the Town chalked up a bigger win than Saturday's slaughter of Charlton — at Easter 1936, when they hammered Bristol Rovers 12-0 in a Division Three (South) game.

It was the match in which Joe Payne set a record that still stands: he hit ten goals, the most any player has scored in a game.

Bristol Rovers will be the Town's next opponents, at Eastville on Saturday.

The six-goal winning margin against Charlton was last equalled by the Town in November 1955, their first season in Division One.

Sunderland were the visitors to Kenilworth Road, and they came as league leaders, with a run of six games without defeat behind them.

But the Town crushed them 8-2, with Bob Morton scoring his first-ever hat-trick, Gordon Turner collecting two penalty goals, two goals from Mick Cullen and one from Jimmy Adam.

Ted Purdon got both Sunderland goals, and their wingers were Billy Bingham and Len Shackleton.

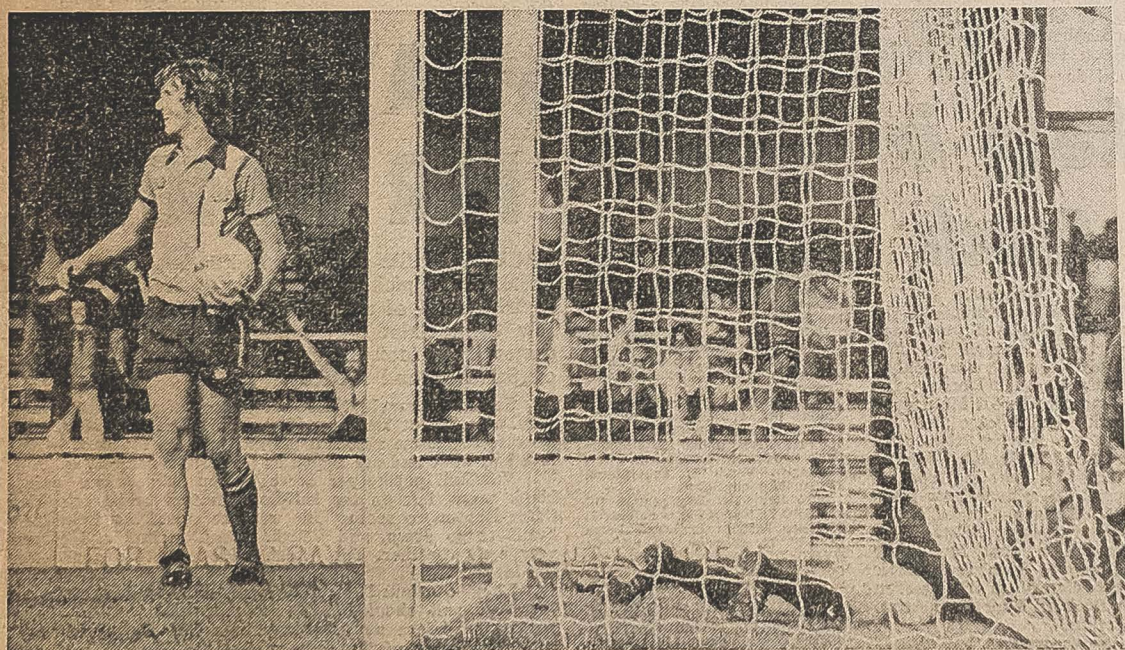
FIVE:

● Gary Heale's debut goal, in the 72nd minute: he is barely visible, grounded behind Ricky Hill after rising well to head in a centre from the right wing by John Faulkner. David Campbell is the Charlton defender who must be wondering why he has two men to mark. The ball is already in the roof of the net.



SIX:

● Jim Husband's hat-trick, from a penalty in the 75th minute: Charlton goalkeeper Jeff Wood had been advised by team-mate Mick Flanagan that Husband was going to shoot to the keeper's left. Jim changed his mind and the penalty, given when David Campbell handled, zipped in off the inside of the post to the goalkeeper's right.



SEVEN:

● The end of a perfect day: a smiling Gary Heale collects the ball after Jim Husband's looping header from a centre by Paul Price leaves goalkeeper Wood down and out in the back of the net. "I asked the ref what was the quickest way out of the ground," said Wood later.