



Jimmy's the four-man

By ERIC HARRIS

The game was 75 minutes old. Luton had already scored five times when David Campbell handled in the area and referee Roger Kirkpatrick awarded Luton a penalty. Charlton goalkeeper Jeff Wood, walked up to the ref and said: "Which is the quickest way out of the ground, Rog?"

Wood's question was understandable. His defence had left him exploited throughout the afternoon, and, when Husband slipped the penalty past him for Luton's sixth goal, it just about completed a nightmare match for the visitors.

But while Charlton's problems rested on their own

Left, debutant Gary Heale takes to the air to head Luton's fifth goal, and, below, Jimmy Husband whacks in the first of his four goals.

Pictures by KEITH DOBNEY

LUTON LEAD CHARLTON A MERRY DANCE

shoulders, Luton were only too pleased to take advantage of their mistakes. Jimmy Husband hit four goals for the first time in his career; Steve Buckley scored with a drive which most goalkeepers would not have stopped; Ricky Hill completely deceived Wood with his spin, and Gary Heale crowned his League debut with a headed goal.

Wood summed up Charlton's pathetic display. "I have now conceded 13 goals in four games against Luton.

"Everything we did this afternoon went completely wrong and this type of defeat was particularly hard to swallow. I have taken it very hard."

So, too, did Charlton manager Andy Nelson. He disappeared from the ground shortly after the match to reflect on his team's miserable display against Luton's non-stop attacks. He must have wished he had a striker with as much energy and sparkle as Husband.

He has looked particularly sharp since the start of the season. The reason? Luton's exhausting close-season tour.

"The tour of America, New Zealand and Fiji did me the world of good," he said as he celebrated with a pint of beer.

"I have previously scored only two hat-tricks in my career, one with Everton and one with Luton. I don't believe a long summer lay-off does anyone any good, and I think I proved my point today."

If the Luton players were pleased with themselves, the expressions on the faces of manager Harry Haslam and coach Roy McCrohan after the game, spoke for themselves.

Thrashed

Before their senior side thrashed Charlton, the youth team had crashed Stevenage Borough 12-0 in a Chiltern Premier League match. Godfrey Ingram going one better than Husband with five goals.

What did Haslam think of Luton's display despite the fact they achieved it without winger John Aston, who was transfer-listed after walking out on the club on Tuesday.

"Draw your own conclusion," he told waiting Pressmen. "You saw how the team played. I don't have to spell it out for you."

For the second successive year, Haslam was forced to make changes. He was forced to include 18-year-old Heale when Phil Boersma failed a fitness test on his injured hamstring.

The alternative would have been to include David Carr as an extra defender, and play with only two strikers. He decided to give Heale his chance, and, although he is not quite ready for the first team, he showed brief glimpses of class.

The back four and midfield departments were clearly superior to anything Charlton could muster, and although it took Luton 19 minutes to open the scoring, one wondered why.

Faulkner, Husband and Hill all went close before Husband scored the first of his goals. And the build-up was a reward

for Luton's patient work on set moves in training.

Charlton conceded a free kick, and Luton skipper Alan West placed the ball on the ground. But, before he straightened up, he chipped the ball over Charlton's defensive wall for Husband to score with a blistering drive.

"We have worked on that for months, and were wondering if it was ever going to come off," said Husband.

Luton had to wait another ten minutes before scoring their second, Buckley completely mesmerising Wood with a fine drive from Husband's long cross.

But Hill's goal was probably the best of the match. Picking up Fuccillo's pass, he tried a long, floating shot which appeared to be going over the bar. Wood made no effort to cover the ball, which dipped at the last minute and floated into the net.

Husband banged in the fourth in the 65th minute from Hill's pass, and Heale headed the fifth seven minutes later. Husband celebrated his hat-trick after 75 minutes, after being offered the penalty by skipper West.

But Husband hadn't finished. A few minutes later he beat Wood with a perfect header from Faulkner's cross.

Charlton managed to pull one back eight minutes from the end when Flanagan scored from a penalty after Paul Futchner upended Powell. But it was no more than a token effort.

MATCH DETAILS

Luton: Aleksic; Price, Buckley, Fuccillo, Faulkner, Paul Futchner, Husband, Hill, Ron Futchner, West, Heale. Sub: Carr.

Charlton: Wood; Curtis, Warman, Campbell, Berry, Tydeman, Powell, Burman, Flanagan, Peacock, McAuley. Sub: Gritt.

Referee: Roger Kirkpatrick (Leicester).

Goals: Husband (19, 65, 75 — pen, 78), Buckley (29), Hill (59), Heale (72). Flanagan (82 — pen).

Attendance: 9,061.

