TOP OF SECOND

Chelses .. 36 21 4 11 59 48 46
Birm'ham 35 19 7 9 50 31 45
Luten ... 36 14 14 8 60 41 42
Leicester 35 15 12 8 49 35 42
Newcastle 36 15 12 9 48 39 42
Q P R ... 36 16 9 11 64 45 41
Sund'land 34 16 9 9 54 37 41

79 80

LUTON showed a marvellous sense of timing as they ended their recent unhappy run to come surging back into the sizzling Second Division promotion race.

They just had to win to keep their hopes alive. And two goals in the opening 13 minutes set them up for their first win in eight matches and hoisted the unhappy Hatters to third place in the table.

Victory also sent their confidence soaring for the remainder of the vital Easter programme. But they have no margin for error.

Luton's remaining six games include a visit to fellow challengers Chelsea, on Monday, as well as Birmingham and Newcastle. By JACK STEGGLES
Charlton 1 ,Luton 4

And manager David Pleat was far from pleased by his side's overall performance.

Luton stopped playing against relegation-doomed Charlton after the first two goals and Pleat thundered: "We were rubbish for too much of the game and want shooting for surrendering the initiative.

"But perhaps it will work in our favour. For we pulled off a win that was vital without really extending ourselves and have plenty left for the rest of the holiday programme."

He went on: "I feel a

bit like Robin Hood in reverse today, because we have robbed the poor."

David Moss, back after his two-game lay-off through injury, put Luton ahead with an eighth minute penalty his 23rd goal of the season.

Tony Grealish got the second five minutes later from a close range header

Alan West volleyed the third in the 48th minute and Bob Hatton completed the tally five minutes from the end.

Sixty seconds later.
Derek Hales grabbed a
consolation for a Charlton side who clearly regard Third Division football next season as a
formality.

THE CHAMPIONSHIP RACE

—page 31