

Luton..... 5 Charlton..... 2

By BRIAN SCOVELL 88/89

MICK HARFORD'S brilliance in the air gave Luton a far greater chance than Charlton of escaping relegation.

Charlton's manager Lennie Lawrence inexplicably changed his team's tactics to deal with the Harford threat, starting with Colin Pates and Tommy Caton as orthodox centre halves and using skipper Peter Shirliff as a sweeper in front of them.

But the veteran Harford outjumped them all, laying on the first two goals and scoring the fourth himself. After the second goal went in, Lawrence left his seat in the director's box and ordered Pates into midfield and switched Shirliff back to mark Harford.

### Skills

But the damage had already been done. Lawrence said: 'We had a disastrous spell in the first half when Harford ran riot.'

'We know he's great in the air but we gave him too many free headers. For a spell we lost concentration utterly and

# High-flying Mick gives Luton hope of survival

completely. It wasn't down to tactics, it was down to bad marking.'

Not that the Littlewoods Cup finalists used the aerial route exclusively. They exploited the passing skills of two-goal Danny Wilson, David Preece and Ricky Hill, who was watched by two representatives of the French club Le Havre, and by half-time Charlton were demoralised.

They now drop to 18th position while Luton move above them and Sheffield Wednesday. But Lawrence maintained: 'We can still do it. We have two home games and no one else at the bottom has two home games.'

'Its wearing after three seasons because you're on a tightrope and if you wobble its the trap door and you're down to 3,500 crowds. But we've just got to bat on.'

His team reverted to the passing game that is their hallmark in the second half and substitute Andy Jones, recently back after a lengthy loan period with Port Vale, headed consolation goals in the 71st and 83rd minutes. He will start Saturday's home game against Wimbledon.

Harford has scored only 11 goals in 39 appearances this season but such is his ability,

### BOTTOM EIGHT

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Southmptn...	36	9	14	13	49	64	41
A Villa.....	36	9	12	15	43	53	39
Middlesbro...	36	9	12	15	44	59	39
Luton.....	36	9	11	16	41	51	38
Sheff Wed....	35	9	11	15	31	47	38
Charlton.....	35	8	12	15	40	54	36
Newcastle....	35	7	9	19	30	58	30
West Ham....	32	6	8	18	28	52	26

especially against defenders who are in awe of him, that he makes more goals than he scores.

He nodded back a Kingsley Black cross in the 11th minute for Wilson to head in the first goal and the second in the 24th minute was a headed own-goal by Colin Walsh from his left-wing cross.

Wilson looked yards offside when he poked in Preece's shot in the 42nd minute and the unmarked Harford headed the fourth at the near post from Roy Wegerle's right wing cross seconds before half-time.

Within a second of coming on for Black in the 77th minute, Richard Cooke dribbled through and his blocked shot fell conveniently for Wegerle to drive low past Bob Bolder.

Manager Ray Harford said: 'I would have been happier if we'd had a clean sheet because goal difference is important.'