

Nelson writes script

95/96

A GAME that initially did nothing to further the Endsleigh League's case for an improved television contract mercifully improved later on, though Luton Town's fortunes did not.

They have won only one home game out of nine in all competitions this season and remain in the bottom three. Understandably the natives are restless, but yesterday they were torn between abusing rookie manager Terry Westley and admiring his team's spirit in adversity.

Losing Ceri Hughes at half-time through sickness, Westley sent on new Norwegian striker Vidar Riseth, who impressed with his touch and positional awareness as Luton began

Steve Tongue on Luton's plucky spirit that sadly lost the plot

to go forward with greater conviction. Riseth created their best chance by heading a right-wing cross square for David Oldfield, whose shot was turned aside by Mike Salmon.

Earlier Scott Oakes had hit the bar, shortly after Garry Nelson's goal. The Charlton striker, now a published author, had another entry for his football diary *Left Foot Forward* after doing just that, beating goalkeeper Ian Feuer to Colin Walsh's well-judged pass.

Young Charlton midfielder Lee Bowyer, watched in successive weeks by Liverpool's Roy Evans and now Arsenal's Bruce Rioch, as well as a television audience, was for once below his best.

That did not entirely displease his manager, Alan Curbishley, who said: "All the press speculation about our players has possibly been a little bit off-putting. People are forgetting about the other players in the side."

Luton: Feuer; Peake, Davis, Johnson; Alexander (Guentchev 80), Waddock (Linton 80), Hughes (Riseth 46), Harvey; Oakes; Marshall, Oldfield.

Charlton Athletic: Salmon; Humphrey, Chapple, Rufus, Stuart, Newton, Bowyer, Walsh, Robinson; Leaburn, Nelson (Grant 79). **Subs:** Robson, Chandler. **Booked:** Walsh.

Referee: J Kirkby (Sheffield).