

Charlton ride luck to set up Spurs tie

Luton Town

Kroca 38

Charlton Ath

Wagstaff 44, Anyinsah 66, Jackson 80 Att: 5,914

By Neil Trainis

A mouth-watering third-round tie against Tottenham Hotspur awaited one of these two sides, but despite early signs that an upset could be on the cards, it was Charlton who claimed safe passage last night.

It would do Luton a disservice to suggest the prospect of a White Hart Lane showdown prompted them to strain every sinew when a cold night might have frozen the joints.

They have regularly coloured the Blue Square Premier with expansive attacking football but were ultimately worn down by Charlton Athletic.

The result was not a reflection of proceedings. Luton tore at Charlton on the flanks. Claude Gnaka ran at players with purpose on the right and on the other side Amari Morgan-Smith's vim never allowed Charlton respite.

For 45 minutes Luton made everyone forget that, these days, they are a non-League club. A few minutes in, a six-pass move ended with Charlton scrambling away Jake Howells' cross before Zdenek Kroca stabbed a good chance wide.

The League One side were rattled when Gnaka galloped to the byline



Just the job: Joe Anyinsah (centre) celebrates with team mates after scoring the second goal for Charlton

and found Danny Crow, who struck Charlton's crossbar. Such was Luton's vitality that hardly an eyebrow was raised when they finally scored, Kroca slamming in from close range after Charlton failed to clear a corner.

In contrast to their sprightly hosts, Charlton were often leaden-footed.

Matthew Barnes-Homer sped past Gary Doherty before the danger was cleared. An equaliser on half-time was almost perverse. A rare Charlton attack saw Simon Francis escape and deliver for Scott Wagstaff to glance home. Joe Anyinsah fired the ball through a crowded goalmouth and in before Johnnie Jackson's

deflected free-kick shattered plucky underdogs.

Luton Town (4-4-2): Tyler; Gleeson, Pilkington, Kroca, Howells; Gnaka, Keane, Drury, Morgan-Smith (Poku 70); Barnes-Homer, Crow (Atieno 75). **Subs:** Hinton, Besta, Lacey, Walker, Kidd (gk).

Booked: Keane, Crow.

Charlton Athletic (4-4-2): Elliot; Francis, Doherty, Fortune, Fry, Wagstaff, Racon (McCormack 90); Sernedo, Jackson; Anyinsah (Sodje 83), Benson (Abbott 60). **Subs:** Llera, Reid, Mambo, Worner (gk). **Booked:** Doherty, Racon, Benson.

Referee: S Tanner (Somerset).