

Western League.

LUTON v. CRYSTAL PALACE.

THE "BLUES" IN BRILLIANT FORM.

A small crowd—certainly not more than a thousand—witnessed Luton defeat the Crystal Palace team on the Ivy-road ground on Monday in the Western League by five goals to one. The visitors had practically their strongest side in the field. For Luton, Jarvis kept goal; Folley partnered Gregory at back; White played at centre-half, with Fleckney left half; while in the forward line Bradley was inside right to Brown.

Fred Hawkes captained the home eleven, and lost the toss, and the visitors chose to kick with the advantage of a slight breeze.

The Palace were the first to take up the running. White nipped in the bud a dangerous rush, but a moment afterwards Ryan shot over. The Glaziers were still on the attack, and Jarvis had to handle a clever effort. The defence however saved the situation, and Menzies put Stansfield in possession, but Thorpe robbed him, and play was quickly transferred. The Palace forced a corner, which was well placed, but sent high over. Thorpe again beat Stansfield when the Luton wing man had a chance of testing the visiting custodian. Luton now bucked up, and Stansfield tested Johnson with a hard drive from the corner. Then Needham just took the ball off Moody's toe, as the latter was about to obtain what looked a certain goal for Luton. The Glaziers raced away, and Jarvis was brought to his knees with a well directed shot from Lawrence. The visitors were having rather the better of matters. Luton, however, forced a corner, which proved abortive, Fleckney sending over. Immediately Brown sent across a magnificent centre, which Johnson, standing by the opposite upright, guided out, Thorpe eventually clearing. Next Johnson gathered up two long shots, one from Fleckney and another from Brown.

The locals were now doing most of the attacking, and once the Glaziers' goal had a marvellous escape. Brown centred, and the leather appeared to whirl in towards the upright. Moody tried to head into the net, but Johnson literally took the ball off his head. Then Gregory sent in a terrific drive from the half-line. Johnson gathered up with difficulty, being pressed by the Luton front line, but he succeeded in clearing. Brown shortly afterwards missed the goal by inches only. Bradley was put in possession, but was unable to pull himself round, and the shot went wide. After Johnson had punched out a hot shot from Stansfield, Woodger got well away, beating Folley; Gregory, however, came to the rescue and saved the situation at the expense of a fruitless corner. A rush by Bradley looked dangerous for the Palace, but Johnson was not to be caught napping. Stansfield and Moody next worked up on the wing. The inside man shot from close range, but the custodian pushed the ball round the upright, and the corner kick was easily cleared. Next Johnson fisted out a beauty from Stansfield.

Play was now in the visitors' quarters, but the Palace were set going, and Lawrence opened the score for them with a rather soft effort. Luton went right away, and Menzies sent in a shot that had so much vim behind it that Johnson failed to stop, and Luton were on level terms. Moody must next have scored, but with the appeal of "offside" the local

man hesitated, so that by the time he had realised that he was onside Johnson had rushed out and cleared. Brown got going, and centred. Moody essayed a shot; the custodian saved, but failed to clear, and Stansfield coming up safely placed between the uprights.

Then Bradley, beating the defence, raced away on his own, but sent too far, and Johnson coming out cleared. Half-time now arrived with Luton leading 2-1.

Resuming, Swann opened with a real Corinthian sprint, and finished up by sending tamely by. For a few minutes the home goal was in danger, but the defence eventually set the Luton front string going. At the other end Menzies tried a shot, and the ball glided off Thorpe's foot into the net out of Johnson's reach. Shortly after this the Glaziers' goal was a little fortunate in twice escaping. Garrett eventually got away, but Gregory was enough for him, though from a tight corner. enough for him, though in a tight corner, the home back had to concede a flag kick which by Lawrence, Jarvis brought off a fine save.

At the other end Moody surprised the crowd by placing in the net between Johnson and the upright, the custodian being deceived apparently by the course of the ball. Then Johnson pushed out a corner kick from just under the bar. From a second flag kick, Moody headed in a low shot, but Johnson picked up, and the situation was for the moment saved.

But the locals were not to be shaken off altogether, for Brown, passing from the wing, Menzies had no difficulty in registering Luton's fifth goal. Then Gregory fouled inside the penalty area, but the ball was shot right at Jarvis, who had no difficulty in stopping. At the other end Moody scored an offside goal, but "Bert" disputed the "ref's." decision. Next Jarvis saved well an unexpected shot from one of the Palace forwards. Bauchop was then conspicuous for a fine oblique shot, but Jarvis was equally as conspicuous in keeping it out of the net at the expense of another abortive corner.

Result: Luton 5 goals, Crystal Palace 1.

As the score indicates, Luton were "all over" their opponents during the greater part of the second half, and but for the superb exhibition of Johnson between the uprights, the Blues must have made a much bigger score. The home defence showed up very well indeed, but it is also true that the attacking force of the visitors was occasionally weak and undecided.