

FOOTBALL.

The Southern League.

LUTON BEAT THE GLAZIERS.

Poverty Stricken First Half.

RALLIED IN THE SECOND MOIETY.

The Crystal Palace "fresh"—or stale—from their handsome whacking by Burnley in the English Cup, visited Luton on Saturday afternoon in cold weather accompanied by a piercing wind. Earlier in the season the team had met at Sydenham by the big glass house, and the climatic conditions were a contrast indeed. The trees then had their best autumnal tints aglow, and the air was soft and genial. Saturday afternoon was indeed a contrast.

The following were the teams:

Luton.—Jarvis; McOurdy and Gregory; F. Hawkes, Jones and R. Hawkes; Brown, Haycock, Menzies, Johnson and Stansfield.

Palace.—Balding; Collyer and Needham; Thorp, Lewis, and Brearley; Garratt, W. Lawrance, Bauchop, Lee and Woodger.

Referee, Mr. G. Rose, Coventry.

The Palace won the toss, and Luton had the sun at the side of their faces during the first half. Balding was quickly called upon, for after Luton had lost one chance by Johnson slipping, Haycock gave him a red hot 'un at close range, and he just pushed the ball round the corner of the goal for a useless corner. Brown came sailing down the wing, but Menzies headed his centre over the goal.

Bauchop was penalised for a foul, and once again Balding had to clear, but he was all there. Woodger was ruled offside, and once more Luton returned to the attack. Garratt next succeeded in transferring operations to the other end, and beat Gregory for pace, and, sending the ball to the centre, Bauchop headed wide of the post.

Luton kept up a bombardment of the visitors' goal, but hands against them relieved the pressure temporarily. Brown raced off once more, but Needham kicked away, and also did an ungentlemanly trick to the Luton outside-right. The crowd booed, and just afterwards seemed inclined to be amused when Brown caught him with the ball and there had to be a stoppage.

Gregory, who gives signs of improvement as the season advances, unaccountably miskicked, but Bob Hawkes dropped back and cleared the attempt. Johnson followed the ball all over the place, and occasionally got it, but all the efforts of Luton seemed to hold out no promise of goals.

Play was very poor. Jones hereabouts could do absolutely nothing right, and seemed off colour; in fact, the complaint seemed pretty general. The only real hot live shot at goal was from the foot of Menzies, who sent in a splendid shot from the right wing, but Balding saved well. After the worst first half exhibition this season, the whistle sounded with a blank sheet:

LUTON

0

PALACE

0

Woodger and Garratt both centred across the goal, but there was no one in the centre with the necessary sprightliness to seize the opportunity, and a foul took the play to the opposite end, where Jones tried to head in from a corner. "Albe" was already doing much better, but play had once to be suspended for him to recover.

Haycock looked all the world a sooner, but shot wide, and next Stansfield dribbled the ball right across the goal mouth and sent the sphere by the opposite post on the wrong side.

Bob Hawkes made a neat clearance from Lee, but shortly afterwards the game underwent a complete transformation. Haycock received the ball from Menzies, and though offside the referee allowed him to go on and score a goal.

There was no holding the home players after this. Brown and Haycock took the ball up on the wing, and Brown went to the corner line before centring. Haycock twice kicked and had the ball stopped, but a bit of luck came his way the third time, and he netted.

The Palace made a half-hearted response, but that was all. They were easily sent back, and the ball was sent to Stansfield. The latter ran down and centred. Johnson headed across the mouth of goal, and Haycock found himself quite unmarked, and so quickly chalked up another mark on the Luton score sheet.

Brown broke away on the restart and Balding made a great save from him on his knees. The goal was only delayed a minute, for Brown once more went through and added the fourth goal of the day.

Needham, in endeavouring to keep Haycock off whilst Collyer kicked away had the misfortune to be cannoned on the head with the sphere and once more laid out. The trainer and our own Billy Lawson went to his assistance, and though he took the field again he soon retired and was cheered in true sportsmanlike spirit by the crowd for he had shown immense pluck after two nasty knocks.

From a foul for hands against Bob Hawkes, the ball was transferred to Woodger, who centred, and Bauchop headed through the only point for the Palace. The game therefore ended:

LUTON

4 goals

Palace

1 goal

NOTES ON THE GAME.

THE POVERTY OF THE PALACE

LUTON ROMP HOME.

HAYCOCK'S HAT TRICK.

Crystal Palace have just now struck a bad patch. Some three weeks or a month ago they had the temerity to beat Wolverhampton Wanderers, the English Cup holders. Since then there has been no luck about the Glass House. They came to Luton with what would have been a big blot on

their escutcheon had they possessed such a heraldic emblem. As they came into the arena there were shouts of "Play up, Burnley," the allusion being to that memorable event of a few days ago when the Glaziers were ground to a fine powder by the team from the Lancashire cotton town.

Personally, I expected the Palace to make a big effort to show that their form in the cup tie was all wrong, but they did nothing of the kind. Their display was halfhearted and listless, and Luton with a trifle of luck might have got more than the four goals that fell to their lot. The first half was blank, bot in regard to score and the finer points of football. In the second half we saw Luton make their effort, and Haycock had the satisfaction of performing the hat trick in that he scored three goals in succession.

The first of these came from a forward pass by Menzies and looked offside. The visitors debated the point with the referee for some time. If they argued as long over all the nine goals of the Burnley encounter it must have been a long match.

The referee, Mr. Rose, is not a pattern to his kind. I think I will leave it at that. There was a lot of offside play in the match which went unchecked. Brown, who played a sparkling game, got the fourth goal with a brilliant bit of individualism, and he had a big hand in the second, Bob Hawkes congratulating him when the point was scored, though it was Haycock who hoofed the ball into the net.

Luton's best forward work was on the right wing. Stansfield does not seem to assimilate himself to Johnson's methods somehow, and was more ineffective than usual. Menzies, though not in the scoring, played his usual thoughtful game. Those long raking passes of his which change the scene of action in a flash were a big feature in Luton's success.

The Palace are evidently still suffering from shock. Of their forwards the veteran Woodger, whose cranium is beginning to peep through the thatch, was the only one with any dash or devil about him. He is as lithesome and sinuous as ever. The only goal scored by the visitors was really his, a perfect centre from his foot being headed in by Banchope.

Luton have now a good position in the League, and I am hoping to see them maintain it to the end.