

A DRAWN GAME WITH THE PALACE.

The visit of the Crystal Palace team on Saturday provided a fairly bright game, which deteriorated somewhat towards the close. The result was a division of points, and this is very creditable to Luton, as they had had a tiring match and a long journey on the previous day, while the Palace were merely engaged in a "friendly." The home team were also handicapped by an injury to Bushell, which necessitated that player's retirement shortly after the interval, and the absence of Bob Hawkes, who was hurt during the Plymouth match. The latter was deputised by Johnson, who played quite a good game until the closing stages, when he became a little bit erratic.

For the third home match in succession a new forward was given a trial, this being a young amateur named G. West, who has been winning laurels in the Tyneside League. He made a promising debut, and should turn out a very useful player. He has more knowledge of tactics than most amateurs, and is very adept at passing with his head. Quite the best man on the field was Ernie Brown, who was always doing good things. His individual runs and centres were admirable, and it is a great pity that he cannot take opportunities for scoring as well as he can make them. It was his good work which put the Palace defence in a tangle, and produced Luton's goal.

Of the other players, Wightman was prominent, and was the best back on the field, although the Palace are particularly well served in this direction by Collyer and Bulcock. Potts did not play with quite the same amount of dash as usual, but the halves played an excellent worrying game, that rarely enabled the visitors' forwards to get into their stride. Walker proved himself a hard worker, and at times he was assisting the half-back line when in difficulties. Stephenson's opportunism was again responsible for a goal, and this young player improves with every game. Stansfield was very clever at times, but he did not have very much to do, as he was unused to West's style of play.

The weather was brilliant, but a fairly stiff breeze made the winning of the toss of considerable advantage to Luton in the first half. Very early in the game, West almost slipped past Collyer when right in front of goal, and Bushell gained a round of applause by a shot from long range which was only saved at the expense of a corner. Soon afterwards, Luton gained another corner, this time as the result of some dazzling dribbling by Johnson. About fifteen minutes from the interval Bushell retired owing to an injury, and the Palace naturally had more of the game. They gave the Luton defence plenty of work to do, and at one point it seemed that Wightman used his hands to control the ball in the penalty area. At half-time the score sheet was blank.

Luton resumed with only ten men, and although Bushell came on the field after a few minutes, he soon had to retire for the rest of the match. Three minutes from the re-start, Luton were a goal to the good. Brown put in a magnificent run for about half the length of the field, and then centred into the goal-mouth. The three inside forwards all went for the ball, and eventually Stephenson netted. This infused more life into the play, and Luton looked like increasing the lead. They failed in front of goal, however, and after a break-away, the visitors equalised. Hewitt tested Naisby with a shot that caused the custodian to fall a full length, and before he could recover, Williams put on the finishing touch. West was given a splendid chance of regaining the lead, but he shot wide of the posts from close in, and the final whistle went with the score:—

LUTON 1, CRYSTAL PALACE 1.