

FROM THE FOOTBALL FIELD.

If fortune favoured the Town a wee bit in their division of points with Crystal Palace at Luton, it certainly swung round the other way in denying them an exactly identical result on Saturday. The Palace are only the second team who have taken three points from Luton this season, and their success takes them back into second place in the Third Division table, while Luton fall to eighth, with a record of: Played 14, won 6, lost 4, drawn 4, goals 23 against 28; points 16.

The Nest at Selhurst has never been exactly a happy hunting ground for Luton. The old days of Croydon Common furnished rare rivalry, and many rousing, bustling, bustling struggles, in which the Town did not always come empty away, but the Robins were invariably nearly as difficult to beat as the Palace. Last season's visit was marked by a 4-1 defeat at the hands of the Palace, and the Glaziers' display at Luton the previous week left little room for hope that the Town would on Saturday be able to avenge that loss or even recover the point given up at home.

Both sides made one change from the previous Saturday, Higginbotham returning to the Town team in place of Roe at inside right, while the Palace had Feebary back at left half instead of Collier. Teams:—

Luton Town: Bailey; Lennon, Tirrell; Molyneux, Parker, Lamb; Hoar, Higginbotham, Simms, Mathison, Bookman.

Crystal Palace: Alderson; Little, Rhodes; McCracken, Bates, Feebary; Bateman, Storey, Conner, Menlove, Whibley.

Referee, Mr. R. Marshall, Kettering.

Luton commanded a fair element of support among the 12,000 crowd, and their supporters had plenty to enthuse about, for the game was almost a replica of the previous week in its fast and stirring character, the forwards on both sides excelling in speedy and thrustful movements. Jack was every bit as good as his master in a dour struggle in the first quarter of an hour, in which Alderson experienced the most trying moments, but a couple of goals to the Palace in five minutes made a great change in the game. Conner netted the first after Bateman had drawn the defence, Bailey dashing out in a frantic effort to smother the danger, and Feebary registered the second with a first timer, after Bailey had punched away from Bateman. For the rest of the half the Palace monopolised the game to such an extent that practically all the danger was at an end, and splendid as was the defence of both Luton backs and the goalkeeping of Bailey, the Town owed a great deal to the weakness displayed by the Palace inside forwards in utilising the fine opportunities presented by their outside wingers. In fact, although Alderson was not nearly so hard worked as Bailey, he had two of the most difficult propositions in saving from Higginbotham and Bookman.

The second half was only five minutes old when Luton met met with success. From a great piece of work on the left wing a corner resulted, and from this Alderson saved near the post, but in a melee was able to clear, and was penalised for "carrying." Although the kick had to be taken close in, Bookman displayed a positive genius in the way he hooked the ball up, and Simms headed by Alderson. From this point, Luton were quite a different team. The half back work was finished, and their well-directed passes were seized upon by the forwards for the development of attack after attack. There seemed no resisting the go-ahead methods of the Town attack, and the Palace defenders had scarce a moment's rest, but there was just the "fly in the ointment" there had been when the Palace attack was most aggressive—alternate hesitancy and wildness in front of goal. Simms and his inside colleagues were all sinners in this respect, several really fine chances being missed, but Alderson also had to be at his best, and more than once was extremely lucky.

The Palace once more netted, only to have the point disallowed for hands, but they rarely had a look in at the Luton goal, and it was really miraculous how they prevented the visitors from drawing level. McCracken played a great game, and both the backs defended valiantly, but an equaliser seemed as if it must come from the persistent pressure put on, and the crowd did not disguise their relief when the end came with the score:

Crystal Palace 2, Luton Town 1.