

A POINT FROM THE PALACE

LUTON TOWN RETURN TO FORM.

Did Thompson Score?

By Crusader.

CRYSTAL PALACE 1 goal
LUTON TOWN 1 goal
CRYSTAL PALACE.—Callender; Cross, Orr; Gallagher, Smith, Hilley; Grant, Turner, Cherrett, Blakemore, Clarke.

LUTON.—Harper; Richards, Till; Black, Rennie, Millar; Clark, Reid, Thompson, Woods, Dennis.

Referee: Mr. E. Greenland, London.

The correct result of this game, in the minds of all the Town players, and at least one Palace player, was that it was won by the Town. A goal scored by Thompson was not allowed. I do not blame the referee, for he was supported in his refusal by a linesman whom he consulted on the appeal of the Town players. He was too far from the spot to get a good view, and the sun was glaring in his eyes, but to us who sat in the shade it seemed impossible that the ball could have failed to hit the net just inside the post. A pretty movement, in which Dennis, Thompson, and Clark were concerned, ended in the latter centreing beautifully, and Thompson hit the ball hard with his head; it flashed past Callender, seemed to strike the net just inside the upright, and then come out.

HARD LUCK.

Clark, Thompson, and Dennis were all fairly close up, and as the twist brought the ball back into play, while one of the Palace players who was also close at hand, expressed the same opinion after the game. It was very hard luck, especially as the Town deserved to win on the day's play, but Mr. Greenland conducted this game better than any previous game he has had in which Luton have been concerned, and for that reason I would not hold him blameworthy. He rightly gave the defending side the benefit of the doubt if he were not assured that it was a goal.

CALLENDER'S SKILL.

The Town were the better side, if not man for man, department for department, and they should have won. The game at Luton when the Palace were here was a really good game, with Callender the hero, though the Town scored the only goal of the match. Though they did not have so much the better of the game as in the previous meeting, they were superior as a team, and but for the skill of Callender, would have won. The ball travelled quickly from end to end in the first half, and there was little to choose between the teams. The work demanded of the respective defences was about equal, with hot gusts of pressure at intervals, but the Town did the more shooting.

ALL TOGETHER.

A pleasing feature of the Town's play was the co-operation between the middle and forward lines, and it would have been no surprise had either side scored. Both goalkeepers saved well, and Richards' fine headwork was often noticeable. Harper's best efforts were when he turned round the post a header from Cherrett, and when he diverted a brilliant shot by Turner. At the other end Callender made a remarkable save from Reid, while a good dribble by the latter all but carried him through. Cross luckily managing to turn aside a certain scoring shot from a range under six yards.

When the interval came the Town had well held their own, and had been better together than the Palace, with both teams trying to play football rather than kick-and-rush tactics.

PALACE 0
LUTON 0

The second half was restarted with similar football, but during a very heavy shower of rain the Palace altered their tactics, and went in for the bustling, vigorous game. They swept down on the Town goal with long kicking and heavy charging, and more than once the goal was in grave danger. The defence played finely, but once Harper punched away and the ball struck the back of Cherrett's head. It would certainly have entered the net but for the foresight of Richards, who had dropped back into goal. He cleverly hooked the ball out with a beautiful kick and sent it out of danger.

Then the Town began to take a bigger share in the game, and they gave the Palace halves and backs a sultry time. Thompson was always in the right spot, and, as he steered the ball out nicely to the wings, the assaults were full of danger. The home backs defended magnificently, however, and Callender was on his best behaviour. Well for the Palace he was, as he got to several shots that would have beaten the average custodian.

A GREAT GOAL.

The second half was thirteen minutes old when the Town succeeded, and a great goal it was. Rennie, Millar and Till all had a hand in the earlier proceedings, and then Wood and Dennis took part. The ball was pushed through to Thompson, who gave it to Reid, and then got in the way of Smith and Cross, as the inside right manœuvred for an opening. As soon as this was spied, REID shot with delightful precision, and the ball travelled at a great pace all along the ground into the net, right away from Callender, who had no chance to save. It was a really brilliant goal.

Alas! Soon was the Town goal to fall, and that in the most unlucky fashion. A determined rally by the Palace did not look very dangerous, but Hilley came again from the left flank, and shot along the ground. Richards let the ball go, and it appeared likely to go wide of the post. Harper ran out of goal and picked it up,

but half stumbled, dropped the ball, and CHERRETT, who had followed up, had only to tap it into the vacant goal. It was a bad blunder, but the Town resumed undismayed, and from this point they were well on top.

THOMPSON ON THE MARK.

Thompson and his extreme wingers were always dangerous, and once from Clark's centre Thompson hit the upright with a beautiful shot that had Callender beaten, but went the wrong side of the upright. They came again, and from Dennis' centre, Thompson sent out to Clark; the latter returned the ball beautifully, and Thompson then headed what I thought was a goal. After consulting the linesman the referee dropped the ball in midfield.

The Palace made several attacks, chiefly through the agency of Hilley and Grant, the latter being the most active forward, but the Town soon got going again, and a grand shot by Thompson was lifted over the bar by Callender.

Right to the end the Town pressed, and Callender twice saved at full length, and once could only stop the ball when Reid shot, but Thompson could not reach the ball to put it into the net. The home goalkeeper saved a point by his work in the last stages, though once Hilley fouled Thompson when the Town centre-forward went to tackle the goalkeeper as he was on the ground. The referee made no sign, however, and the Town were still pressing when the final whistle went.

HARPER'S ONE FAULT.

A point away from home is always a good achievement, but against a team of the quality of the Palace it is something to write about. It was really very hard luck that they did not get both points. Harper's blunder would have been excusable had he not made several fine saves in the first half. Richards played a champion game at right back. His kicking was more accurate than against Watford, though still open to improvement, but his headwork, thanks to splendid height, and his great strength in resisting the powerful rushes of the home inside men, were invaluable. Till was a fine foil. He tackled with a skill unequalled by any other defender, always playing the ball, and his kicking was of the right length and direction.

BRILLIANT HALVES.

The halves played brilliantly as a line. Now and then Rennie seemed a trifle indolent, but positioned nicely, and frustrated many attempts of the inside men to get through, while he tried with some measure of success to find his centre-forward as well as his wingers. Black and Millar were also on top form. The former was often a host in himself, and the ex-Villan, Clarke, has seldom had so unhappy a time, while the Town right half several times ran through into the forward line and tried his luck with a shot. Millar was nothing like the left-half who played against Watford. He was quite at his best in tackling and feeding, and was responsible for clever triangular work with Woods and Dennis.

ATTACK.

Thompson again led the forwards magnificently. Always bustling two hefty backs, frequently taking a shot at goal, and keeping his wings going nicely, he shone far more than Cherrett, and deserved to have scored. Reid was not entirely happy at inside right, for he did not give Clark enough to do, but his goal was typical, and a player who shoots as he did is always a powerful factor. Wood seemed to tire in the late stages, but did an immense amount of work for an hour, holding in the rear, drawing the opposition, and then feeding Thompson or Dennis impartially. Dennis made a most successful return to the team, and seemed as strong and accurate as ever, while Clark was as successful on the extreme right as he has been on the other flank.

For the Palace, Callender was a grand goalkeeper, protected by two stalwart and relentless backs. The halves played well, with Hilley the pick, and Grant was the outstanding forward, though Turner shot well. There were about 9,000 spectators.

SPECIAL PURCHASE of 1,000 Gent's Tunic Shirts to sell at 3s. 11d. A limited quantity only, which cannot be repeated under 5s. 6d.—Harold Cook, Tailor, 23 and 30, High Town-road, Luton.—[Advt.]

FOOTBALL

ON THE TOWN GROUND

WEDNESDAY NEXT,

MARCH 30th.

Graham's & Millar's Benefit
LUTON RESERVES

v.

ARSENAL RES.

Admission Ground 1/-. Boys. 6d.

Everybody Pay.

Kick-off 3.15 p.m.