

NOT SO HAPPY OR LUTON

FIRST AWAY VICTORY: FIRST HOME DEFEAT IN LEAGUE GAMES

Striking Reversal of Form

(By Crusader)

At Luton on Saturday.

LUTON TOWN	1
CRYSTAL PALACE	1

Scorers: RENNIE for Luton; BERRY for Palace.

Attendance 7,042; receipts £396 19s. 6d.

LUTON.—Imrie; Kingham, Mackey; Kean, McGinnigle, Fraser; Mills, Nelson, Alderson, Rennie, Roberts.

Palace.—Dunn; Parry, Crilly; Wilde, Barrie, Rivers; Harry, Roberts, Manders, Walters, Berry.

Referee.—Mr. P. Graham, Coventry.

At Bournemouth on Monday.

LUTON TOWN	2
BOURNEMOUTH	0

Scorer: ALDERSON (2).

Attendance 6,000.

BOURNEMOUTH. — Gold; Proctor, Whitehouse; Miller, Coxford, Moralee; S. M. Beswick, Ledwidge, Eyre, Russell, MacPhail.

Referee.—Mr. F. Ratcliff, Crouch End.
LUTON team as above.

At Luton on Tuesday.

LUTON TOWN	1
BOURNEMOUTH	2

Scorers. ALDERSON for Luton; WHITE and BESWICK for Bournemouth.

Attendance 10,428; receipts £616 14s. 6d.

LUTON team as above.

BOURNEMOUTH. — Gold; Proctor, Whitehouse; Miller, Coxford, Moralee; S. M. Beswick, White, McGowan, Russell, MacPhail.

Referee.—Mr. F. Ratcliff.

DRAW AT HOME

CRYSTAL PALACE owed their point in the first place to the virtue of their goalkeeper; and, secondly, to a fighting spirit that may not have been altogether admirable, but yet contained much that made them worthy of their point. When, as in this case, I read about half a team being left out owing to injuries I am inclined to be sceptical, and the fact that several of the Palace team who played in the previous League game appeared with the Reserves at Selhurst went to prove that the changes were expedient rather than compulsory.

THE team at Luton provided a thrilling first half, and it was only in the second half that the Town enjoyed the greater measure of the play. Indeed, until the interval it was just about the fastest game that we had seen this season, and though the Town did the more attacking, the Palace merited equality for the splendid way in which they fought back when a goal down. It was persistence and courage that brought the equalising goal, and while the Town ought to have won on the amount of pressure and the opportunities they made, we should be in a much better position in the League if the team as a whole had in the away games the fighting qualities of the Palace.

RENNIE'S goal was fully deserved, for he had been playing remarkably well, and, probably for the first time this season, I heard no criticism of his play. It was a wonderful shot, and though it skimmed the head of a defender en route, I doubt if Dunn would have saved it. He had saved many others, but that was going at a tremendous pace. The credit for the equalising goal belong as much to Walters as to BERRY, the marksman, for the former made a shrewd move in crossing in front of Kean and leaving it to Berry, who had come up on the blind side of the Town captain. Still, the balance of play was with the Town, and though Imrie was lucky on three or four occasions, the better fortune was with Dunn, whose charge had a charmed existence in the few minutes before the cross-over.

THE second half found the Town on the attack for long periods, but there was a decided weakness at centre, and with the Palace backs showing strenuous resistance to the moves of the Town forwards, and Dunn never faltering in the slightest degree, there was no further score. Possibly the heavy state of the centre of the field had something to do with Alderson's inability to get through, but he seemed too leaden-footed to take up passes that went up the middle, and he rarely got in a shot. But Nelson was just as bad, and much though I think of this young player, I feel that to be worthy of his position and to give the club the full benefit of his skill he will have to realise that he is only one link in the line, and he will also have to show much better marksmanship. Rennie gave a delightful exhibition, and was virtually the only member of the attack to live up to his reputation, for Mills and Roberts have done much better.

KEAN had no equal as a half-back, and some of his initiatory work was superb; he played magnificently, and Fraser and McGinnigle were not far short of him. As a line they were much better than the big middle men of the Palace, and did not resort to so many improper tricks. There was not much to choose between the backs, both playing well, while Imrie did very much better than in some recent games. I think he made the save of the match in the second half when he dived at an opponent's feet and took the ball when a goal seemed a certainty.

IT is rather difficult to understand the poor position of the Palace in view of this exhibition. Dunn and his backs were a grand rearguard, and the forwards showed a lot of skill, speed and clever combination. I liked the way the forwards found their colleagues with long or short passes, and their strength when they converged on goal. They were a well balanced line, and had they been as well served by their halves as were the Town both points would have gone to Selhurst. Their middle men showed glimpses of cleverness, but were prone to play the man too much, and as a result a good deal of unpleasantness arose. The referee was much to blame for this, unless he were imbued with the spirit of the season.