

PAIR FOR PEASE

And a Point from the Palace

LUTON TOWN AT SELHURST

(By CRUSADER)

LAST night Luton Town achieved a magnificent performance at Selhurst, and the little company of followers thoroughly enjoyed a fine game, in which, taking the match throughout, the Town deserved both points, though perhaps only by a very narrow margin. They did so because they were the more accomplished team; they played real football; in the second half they had the giants of the Palace defensive lines in many a pickle, and had the finishing been anything like as good as the approach victory would have been assured long before the end.

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AS usual, the Palace have a very big side; fore and aft they threw plenty of weight into the business, and all too frequently they were either forgiven or were too clever to be caught when committing infringements of the laws. The Town, however, did the right thing by keeping on the ball, and it was that virtue ultimately enabled them to share the dividend at the close. Every man played well, though, of course, some did better than others. Their best came after the interval, and it was no mean feat to draw level twice against such a side.

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THE match was arranged for last night, because in ordinary circumstances it would have been played on January 13, but as the Town are making their first venture in the Cup Competition on that date, it was agreed to bring the match forward. The ground was all the better for the rain; indeed, for the first time this season we saw the turf cut up a bit, and there were half-a-dozen occasions in which Pearson was beaten by inability to keep



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his feet owing to the slippery turf. Still, it was all the better for the Town, and they showed their appreciation by serving up splendid football, though not until after change of ends did we get their best, the Palace having the better of the play in the first half.

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LOSING the toss, the Town immediately made tracks on the right, but Barrie kicked into touch. A free-kick against Rennie was cleared by Kean, but the Palace returned, and from a centre by Harry, a grand header by Simpson flashed narrowly by the upright. Then Mittell had to punch away as Simpson dashed into him, and a moment later he again knocked the ball clear, but the whistle had gone for a foul against Norris. The Town were getting away when the ball ran up Fraser's arm, and another free-kick was given, but this also was fruitless.

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THE Town right wing then made ground by clever combination, and the home defenders were in a tangle, but Martin ran offside. Mackey was conspicuous for powerful work in the rearguard, and from his clearance Pease and Martin once more transferred play. The ball was temporarily cleared, and then it was swung over to the right, where Pearson looked like doing things, until Norris and Turner both bundled into him. Simpson then snapped up a loose ball and went through on his own, but shot wide. In a further rally, however, SIMPSON got the better of a sharp struggle with McGinnigle, and, shooting first time from the edge of the penalty area, he had Mittell beaten with a ground shot just inside the post.

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PLAY had been in progress eight minutes, and the Town rearguard had further trouble to contend with, the Palace backs and halves booting the ball hard down the field, and their forwards chasing it and usually having plenty of room in which to work. Martin's foresight enabled Bell to burst through on the right, but he was overhauled and beaten after a scuffle. Mackey adopted the right methods when he knocked Simpson over, for the Palace centre was using his weight, and took a lot of holding. Hayward stopped the Town left wing when Pearson was going well. The Town were very unlucky just afterwards. Fraser started a movement and made a lot of ground, and Wilde deliberately handled in the penalty area, but the referee ignored the appeals of the Town players, who had stood still, expecting the whistle, and the ball came to the other end. Apparently Mackey had something to say about the oversight, for the referee had a word with him.

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THE Town right wing came again, and Kean dashed up to take a pass from Martin, but the ball was just short. A rush by the Palace right wing brought a corner off Mackey, and Harry placed well for Simpson to head finely, the ball going close to the post. There was a brief halt when Kean and Earle collided, with consequent damage to their faces, and on the re-start Pease and Martin were making headway when Parry stepped in. Pearson made a tricky run, but was beaten by Hayward, and then the right wing had a turn, but hard tackling spoilt them. Rennie then put a fine pass up the middle to Bell, who beat Parry in a race and pushed the ball along to PEASE, and the winger scored with a lightning shot that touched a defender in transit to the net.

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THERE was more nip in the Town's play now, and Rennie and Pearson, with Fraser helping, had Hayward in a difficulty, twice the ball was passed to Rennie, but came awkwardly as he framed for a shot. The ball was rushed away, and Roberts just missed with a grand effort. A quick reply by the Town right wing again found Bell, but he centred badly, and the danger passed. A repetition, in which Kean took part and passed on to Rennie, ended with the latter shooting hard enough, but the aim was wrong. The Palace fought back again, and from a free kick against McGinnigle, Harry got away to centre nicely, and Norris skimmed the bar with a fine shot. McGinnigle played wonderfully well in defence at this period, and gave Simpson little rope, but Mittell made a grand save from Earle, and though he did not hold the ball, he managed to get it again as the inside forwards closed in, and he was fouled.

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PLAY was very robust, and though they were getting plenty of knocks, the Town right wing caused a lot of anxiety, and it was some time before the Palace could get away, and when they did, Harry sent wide. A free kick against Norris was well taken by Mackey, the ball going out as Bell made a vain effort to turn it into goal. After Mittell had saved from Earle again, there was another raid on the Palace goal, the left wing being the leaders, and Pearson centred well, but the ball was set away. Play travelled rapidly from end to end, and Rennie had a hard shot rebound from Hayward. Wonderful footwork by Fraser and Pearson beat Hayward, and the ball went across to Bell, who rounded Parry, but his final effort went over the bar. Roberts and Earle then made a similar essay, and Mittell had to save again before the whistle went for the interval.

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THE Matters were away on the restart, and the referee got in the way of a

pass from Rennie when things looked promising, and as a result the Palace were able to get right away, but Earle was behind. The Town returned, and Dunn saved from Martin a shot that had not much powder behind. Rennie sent Pease away but the return pass was taken by Barrie, and the ball went to the other end, where Mittell had to save, and in quick succession there were raids of either hand, in which each goalkeeper had to tackle, and had to receive attention, and then the Town went away and Bell forced a corner. This was headed out by Turner, and a free kick was given against Fraser for a tackle on Harry, the Town player resenting the decision. McGinnigle cleared finely, and when Pease and Martin went going through a lousy kick by Parry was believed, and Harry raced away to centre behind.

IN a further rush by the Palace, Mackey dallied, and was robbed by Earle, who from the latter's centre Norris cleared the spot and accepted. Luton took up on attack again, and but for wideness within range they would probably have scored, for they now had the measure of the Palace defenders. A free kick just outside the penalty line was taken by Rennie, but the ball travelled over the bar, and just afterwards the same player sent over opposition by brilliant foot work, and the Pease centred right; across goal, but as get the ball under control.

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ONE of the finest movements of the game so far was started when Norris dribbled a long way and then swung the ball over to Earle, who centred finely, Roberts turning the ball just behind. Pease and Barrie had a little tussle, and the Town player was fouled, but the incident passed without punishment. Immediately afterwards the ball was sent inside to Martin, who headed hurriedly and wide. Twenty-four minutes after the re-start Fraser was short with a pass to Rennie, and the ball was snapped up by Norris, who passed inside; there were three or four players together on the edge of the penalty area, and ROBERTS shot promptly, and the ball went right away from Mittell into the net.

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FOR a few minutes the Palace pressed hard, and Kingham made grand clearances in quick succession, his kicking being fine, while Mackey was cool as a rock. Then came another offence on Pease by Parry, and Kean took the kick and lifted the ball well into the goal-mouth. It was headed out to Pearson, who slipped it into the goal-mouth and PEASE cleared in and netted to equalise the score once more. There remained fifteen minutes to play, and after the Palace had been thwarted by Kingham, Rennie sent him across to Pease, who put in a high shot which Dunn took under the bar. The Town pressed strongly now, and their combination had the Palace backs and backs frequently in trouble.

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DUNN made several saves before the ball was cleared, and then it was the Palace's turn, and Simpson made a desperate effort to force Mittell through as the goalkeeper caught and threw the ball away. Simpson tried hard to force the goalkeeper into the net, and both arrived there, but Mittell was on top. The Town left wing then made a grand run, and Dunn saved finely from Bell, and again from Pease and Martin. A fine rush by the Palace right wing brought a centre from Harry, but Mittell got the ball all right, and saved again a minute later, and this was the last incident of note.

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WHETHER Mittell should have and either or both goals was hard to judge from the Press box, but I thought he had little chance. He made many good saves, and had plenty of work. Both backs put up a valiant game, and gave nothing away. They kicked strongly at the face of fierce opposition, and seldom put a foot wrong, though now and then there was a tendency to dally. At last there was a vast improvement, and it was felt both in defence and attack. All three showed up well, and Kean was a real captain. The right wing once more played brilliant football, and the left wing little behind in effectiveness, while Bell again completely justified his inclusion. He was full of enthusiasm and gave the defenders no rest, and probably his assistance unsettled them quite as much as the excellence of Martin and Pease. Rennie was not on shooting form, and otherwise he and Pearson are very good.

LUTON.—Mittell; Kingham, Mackey; Kean, McGinnigle, Fraser; Pease, Bell, Rennie, Pearson.
PALACE.—Dunn; Hayward, Parry, Turner, Barrie, Wilde; Harry, Roberts, Simpson, Roberts, Earle.
Referee: Mr. J. Whittle, Worcester.

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TOWN TEAM

Luton Town team at home to Norwich County will probably be the same as at Selhurst last night.