

HANDICAPPED TOWN SHOW BETTER FORM

By **CHILTERN**

CRYSTAL PALACE 1, LUTON TOWN 1

DESPITE the fact that they were reduced to ten and a half fit men for five-sixths of the game, the Town fought hard and with great enthusiasm to return with a point from Elthurst Park last night.

Salisbury was injured in the early stages when the Town were showing great promise and spent the rest of the match hobbling at outside-left. This told heavily on the Town as the game wore on because right-back Long was able to join more and more in attack.

They say that the darkest hour comes before the dawn. We may have seen the former on Saturday and the latter last night, because the Town showed more resilience and a much better appreciation of what the Third Division requires than in recent matches.

The defence was strong, going to meet the ball, as they seldom did against Brentford, with the result that the lively Palace forwards were largely crowded out.

The Town gained more control in the middle of the field through a marked improvement by the half-back line.

I am glad to record a better display by Fincham, who came to the team at the last moment, apart from a sketchy ten minutes before half-time he looked more like the dominating centre-half at we hoped for.

There was hard work and hard tackling from Pacey and Lownds. Morton and Bramwell cut out the opposing wingers effectively, and while there may have been some suspicion about the Palace goal, Baynham made two tremendous saves in the second half.

This was a highly creditable performance, and might be the forerunner of better things.

LUTON: Baynham; Morton, Bramwell; Pacey, Fincham, Lownds; Fairchild, Turner, McKechnie, Salisbury, Jardine.

CRYSTAL PALACE: Glazier; Long, Townsend; Petchey, Wood, Lowe; Werge, Holton, Dowsett, Burridge, Kellard.

Referee: R. Aldous (Ipswich).

Palace had to make a late change as the result of Ronnie Allen, scorer of two goals at Luton, going down with gastroenteritis, and Bobby Kellard, formerly of Southend and a fairly recent big-money signing, took his place.

TWO GOOD EFFORTS

In the early stages the Town showed a marked improvement, coming in to meet the ball, which they seldom did last Saturday,

How The Goals Came

JARDINE for Luton after 32 minutes.

DOWSETT for Crystal Palace after 48 minutes.

and they were containing the Palace without much trouble.

Palace were being met by a solid Town defence.

For a change, the Town were looking the more dangerous and there came two goal-worthy efforts by McKechnie, the first with a shot that brought Glazier full-length, and the second with a header from Salisbury's pass, that drew a spectacular diving save from the goalkeeper.

Salisbury was injured in a tackle by Wood and there was a hold-up while the inside-left had attention to his left ankle.

He resumed with a pronounced limp and was on his way to outside-right until Manager Bill Harvey, on the trainer's bench, waved him to go on the other wing, and Jardine came inside.

This happened when the game was 17 minutes old and was a slice of misfortune for the Town.

The Palace forwards were still not making much impression on a Town defence that was showing new-found soundness and much better covering than has been the case in recent matches.

After 32 minutes the Town took the lead and deservedly through **JARDINE**, who ran on to a pass from Turner and, shooting as he fell, drove the ball over the diving Glazier.

Even with Salisbury still limping on the left wing, the Town looked the more composed team but they had a narrow escape when Dowsett went through a hole in the defence to be confronted only by Baynham.

He came out to narrow the angle and managed to deflect the ball wide.

TESTING TIME

This was the start of a testing time for the Town defence because the Palace, with the big crowd roaring them on, suddenly launched a series of attacks in which Baynham was in action three times in a little over a minute.

A defensive mix-up in which Turner and Pacey were concerned should have brought the Palace an equaliser, because Burridge was left with a comparatively simple chance but he scooped his shot. It hit the bar and Bramwell belted the rebound to safety.

Half-time:

CRYSTAL PALACE 0

LUTON TOWN 1

Palace resumed strongly and were level after three minutes.

Right-back Long, who had previously had a shot beaten out, made a long centre and **DOWSETT** went up high to head with great deliberation into the far corner of the net with Baynham who may have been unsighted, not moving towards the ball.

That was the signal for heavy Palace pressure.

Fincham made a timely clearance when he intercepted a dangerous cross by Petchey. At the other end Pacey came racing up at speed to connect first time and narrowly missed the post.

From a corner, only a wonder, diving save by Baynham prevented Wood from giving Palace the lead with a well-directed header.

The handicap of having Salisbury limping on the left wing was telling increasingly on the Town who, however, continued to fight with determination.

Another brilliant full-length save by Baynham kept out a power drive by Burridge, and the goalkeeper pulled down the corner with equal efficiency.

Running back with the ball by Salisbury nearly proved fatal to the Town and a fine tackle by Bramwell on Dowsett extricated them from another awkward position.

Soon afterwards the left-back, from long range, dropped the ball just over the Palace bar.

There was an attacking spell by the Town, but Palace were increasingly throwing everything into attack in an attempt to snatch the winner.

A free kick six yards outside the penalty area for a foul on Dowsett by Fincham brought a narrow escape for the Town be-