

BARBER TAXES ORIENT

By CHESTER STERN

Orient 2, Luton 0

THE Palace exiles of Orient served up champagne soccer yesterday. Before 11,135 spectators, Brisbane Road's largest crowd for two years, they produced an exhilarating 90-minute display of sustained aggression.

Luton's stand-in 'keeper Barber gave an impeccable performance, keeping Orient at bay for more than an hour. In a breathless first half he made plunging saves from Bullock and Fairbrother and then watched thankfully as Bullock's header hit a post.

Orient's new 'keeper Jackson, short of match practice, made an uncertain debut.

Preferring to punch rather than catch, his legs and body twice saved him as John Ryan and West tried to convert Luton's best chances. But Orient worked hard for each other and they frequently played themselves coolly out of trouble to resume attacks with obvious relish.

Their constant pressure brought its reward after 67 minutes. Brisley laid a square ball into the path of Queen, who cracked a firm left-foot drive through the crowded defence. Eight minutes from time Fairbrother scored the second with a header.

The rest was a story of Orient enterprise. Heppolette, Walley and Allen were strong and intelligent ball winners and Hoadley kept Butlin firmly in his place.

Orient: Jackson; Payne, Downing; Allen, Hoadley, Walley; Fairbrother, Brisley, Bullock, Queen, Heppolette. Sub.: Harris.

Luton: Barber; Shanks, Thomson; Anderson, Faulkner, Garner; Jim Ryan, John Ryan, Butlin, West, Aston. Sub.: Cruse.

Referee: R. Challis (Tonbridge).