STEINLORDSIT

IN CONDITIONS dubbed "a leveller" by manager David Pleat, Luton swept aside the spirited challenge of Crystal Palace absorbing FA Cup third round tie at Selhurst Park on Monday.

Hatters moved on to a four minutes. home fourth round tie against Third Division Bristol giant-killers Rovers.

Stein's superbly timed a lead Palace threatened until five minutes from Rovers on January 25. time when Mark North



Crystal Palace 1 Luton Town 2

Harford Mick combined to set up an easy second for Preece.

A deflected 30-yard shot by Palace midfield player Kevin Taylor Top-form Brian Stein halved the lead a minute and lively David Preece later and gave the Luton grabbed the goals as the defence an anxious last

Control

Hatters the But eighth-minute header greater calm and control from Mitchell Thomas' always looked like seeing precise cross gave Luton them through to that home clash with Bristol

Stein's goal, his 15th

of the season, was his first in seven matches and his incisive display have surely watching impressed England manager Bobby Robson.

Preece was a bundle of energy throughout a match which Luton did not always come to terms with on a pitch heavily sanded after Sunday's televised tie between Charlton and West Ham.

And he deservedly ended a long sequence without a goal by getting the name on scoresheet for the first time since the 7-0 thrashing of Southampton.

But with Palace's two PALACE: speedy young black Locke, former Everton winger Ketteridge. Alan Irvine exposing LUTON: Thomas' defensive Breacker, shortcomings, Steve Nicholas, Coppell's blend of Donaghy, Hill, Stein, experienced defenders Harford, North (M), - Mick Harford hardly Preece. Sub: Johnson. won a ball all night Referee: Brian Stevens against Micky Droy — (Stonehouse).

forwards useful and were always a handful.

Fortunately, Mal Donaghy was in great form and a fine save by Les Sealey prevented thundering Wright's long range drive from levelling the scores halfway through the secondhalf.

Relieved

"That wasn't a tie we relished," said Pleat afterwards. was relieved to see the second goal go in.

"The players tended to be too exact. They wanted to play to feet, our normal game, when I thought we should be hitting the ball beyond Droy and Cannon and

giving chase.

"Still, we won." Wood, Hughton, strikers Ian Wright and Taylor, Droy, Cannon, Andy Gray giving Steve Irvine, Wright, Gray, Foster a rough ride and Barber (Higginbottom),

Sealey, Thomas, Foster,



• BRIAN STEIN . . . super goal.