

Point made at Palace

DAVID PLEAT was critical of the Town's lethargic start at Selhurst Park, but then well pleased with the way they opened up after going a goal down.

Eddie McGoldrick, the best winger on view, laid on the chance for Mark Bright to put Palace ahead with a scrambled 19th-minute goal.

But that turned out to be the only time Steve Sutton was in real trouble as the Town footballed their way back into the game.

David Preece was lively and effective on the left, and from one of his crosses a marvellous save by Nigel Martyn denied Brian Stein a first-half equaliser.

Five minutes after the break Julian James broke forward and

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produced some deft footwork to take out three opponents and send Stein clear in the penalty area.

He got goalside of Eric Young, who brought him down, and Mark Pembridge thumped home the penalty, volunteering for spot kick responsibilities after the manager decided that John Dreyer should give them up.

Match details

TOWN: Sutton; James, Peake, Dreyer, Harvey; Oakes (Hughes 72 mins), Kamara, Pembridge, Preece; Stein (Campbell 80 mins), Harford.

PALACE: Martyn; Humphrey, Young, Thorn, Sinnott (Coleman 7

mins); McGoldrick, Thomas, Osborn, Rodger; Bright, Whyte (Southgate 83 mins).

GOALS: Mark Bright for Palace, 19 mins, scramble after cross-shot by McGoldrick was beaten out; Mark Pembridge for the Town, 50 mins, penalty after Brian Stein was pulled down by Eric Young.

OTHER ATTEMPTS: Town four saved and four wide; Palace three saved and eight wide. Corners: 9-7 to the Town.

REFEREE: Paul Danson, Blaby; very firm throughout with both sides.

BOOKED: Pembridge and James of the Town; Osborn and Thorn of Palace, all for fouls.

ATTENDANCE: 12,109, Selhurst Park's lowest of the season.

ENTERTAINMENT: A very good contest between a team of footballers and the Palace battering ram.