

Pembroke denies lacklustre Palace

By Ivo Tennant

Crystal Palace 1 Luton 1

MARK BRIGHT, who made such a prolific start to the season, scored only his third goal in 26 outings but it was not enough to give Crystal Palace victory over Luton in front of a crowd of 12,109, their lowest of the season.

Mark Pembroke earned Luton a draw from a second-half penalty to give them an important point in their struggle to avoid relegation.

Palace were worthy of the lead provided by Bright's scrambled goal after Rodger's 20th-minute free-kick found McGoldrick on the right-hand side of the area.

His cross-cum-shot reached Bright, who stabbed the ball past Sutton in an ungainly manner at the second attempt for his 16th goal of the season.

Luton, for all their neat approach play that belied a dismal standing in the

League, were restricted to just one chance in the rest of the first half.

It fell to Stein after the unmarked Preece found him with an accurate cross from the left. Martyn saved instinctively at point-blank range.

It was hard to envisage Luton faring any better in the second half, yet they did. Young needlessly upended Stein as he advanced on goal after 50 minutes, and Pembroke drove the penalty kick well wide of Martyn.

This match had twice been postponed. Alas, much of the football in the second half showed just why so few came to watch.

Crystal Palace: Martyn; Humphrey, Sinnott (Coleman 10), Osborn, Young, Thorn, Rodger, Thomas, Bright, Whyte (Southgate 85), McGoldrick.

Luton: Sutton; James, Harvey, Kamara, Dreyer, Peake, Oakes (Hughes 74), Stein (Campbell 81), Harford, Pembroke, Preece.
Referee: P Danson (Blaby).