

MORRISON MAKES MIKE MOAN

By KEITH MCWILLIAMS

LUTON TOWN manager Mike Newell bemoaned the paucity of his squad as two goals by **Crystal Palace** striker Clinton Morrison consigned his relegation-threatened side to yet another defeat.

He said: "We're suffering from a number of long-term injuries and it doesn't help not having a decent squad."

"We don't have the opportunity to buy quality players like other clubs can."

Republic of Ireland international Morrison grabbed two well-taken



C PALACE2

Morrison 45, 68

LUTON1

Hudson 55 og



Att: 16,177 Rating: ★★★★★ Ref: S Mathieson - 5/10

strikes to keep Palace living in hope that they may reach the play-offs.

Luton never really got going and they had to thank an own goal from Palace defender Mark Hudson to level early in the second half.

But it got worse for Luton as a few minutes later Richard Langley got his marching orders after picking up two yellow cards.

Palace took advantage and Morrison, who fired the Eagles in front in first-half stoppage time, was

left to restore Palace's lead with the winning goal 20 minutes from the end.

Up until Morrison's first goal, the fans were getting restless with an awful, boring first half.

Gabor Kiraly's long free-kick then fell to James Scowcroft, who cleverly glanced the ball to Morrison, and he finished superbly with a low 15-yard shot into the far corner of the net.

Luton needed to up the tempo in the second half and within ten min-

utes of the turnaround they were level.

Lewis Emanuel got forward to join the attack and swung over an awkward cross which bounced just in front of Hudson.

Kiraly made a late call to collect the ball, but by then it had struck the hip of the unfortunate Hudson and dropped over the line into the empty net.

Two minutes later, Luton were down to ten after Langley fouled Matt Lawrence to get his second yellow of the afternoon.

Palace responded by putting players forward and Morrison completed a fine performance with another classic finish.

Danny Butterfield crossed from the right, the ball was headed on by Leon

Cort and Morrison reacted first with a cracking finish from 12 yards out, giving Marlon Beresford in the Luton goal no chance.

Palace's first-team coach Kit Symons said: "It wasn't always a sparkling performance but it was a committed display and Clinton Morrison took his two goals very well."

"We're capable of winning every game and the play-offs are still in our minds. Dougie Freedman did so well for us this afternoon and he's got that extra bit of class."

"David Martin showed he's very quick and did exceptionally well. He's a player we'll hear a lot more about in the future."

STAR MAN: CLINTON MORRISON
(Crystal Palace)

MATCH STATS

C PALACE v LUTON

10	Shots on target	3
6	Shots off target	5
6	Corners	2
0	Offside	0
10	Fouls conceded	12
1	Yellow Cards	0
0	Red Cards	1
49	Possession %	51

CRYSTAL PALACE: 4-4-2: Kiraly 6, Borrowdale 5, Hudson 6, Cort 6, Lawrence 4 (Martin 6, 60), Soares 6, Kennedy (Butterfield 6, 8), Fletcher 5, Scowcroft 7, Morrison 8, Freedman 7. Subs not used: Speroni, Ward, Grabban.

LUTON: 4-4-2: Beresford 6, Barnett 5, Foley 5, Emanuel 6, Langley 6, Keane 6, Bell 5, Robinson 7, Spring 6, Talbot 4 (Morgan 73), Runstrom 4. Subs not used: Brill, Asafu-Adjaye, O'Leary, Boyd.