

Words: Tony Wainwright

Everton and Palace through the years

Our first meeting with today's opponents came in March 1907 when we travelled, as holders, for an FA Cup quarter-final tie at Crystal Palace (the club's stadium doubled as the FA Cup final venue in this period).

Palace at the time were playing in the Southern League and the game ended in a 1-1 draw, with the evergreen Jack Taylor equalising for the Blues. Everton won the replay at Goodison Park 4-0 with Jimmy Settle (2), Sandy Young and Harold Hardman on the scoresheet. The Blues would progress to the final again but lost 2-1 against Sheffield Wednesday.

Surprisingly, we had to wait until our Championship-winning campaign of 1969/70 for the first Football League meeting between Everton and Palace when the south Londoners were the visitors for our first home game of the campaign on 16 August. Everton had already won their first two away matches of the season – at Arsenal on the opening day (1-0) and then at Manchester United (2-0) to be the early leaders of the First Division table.

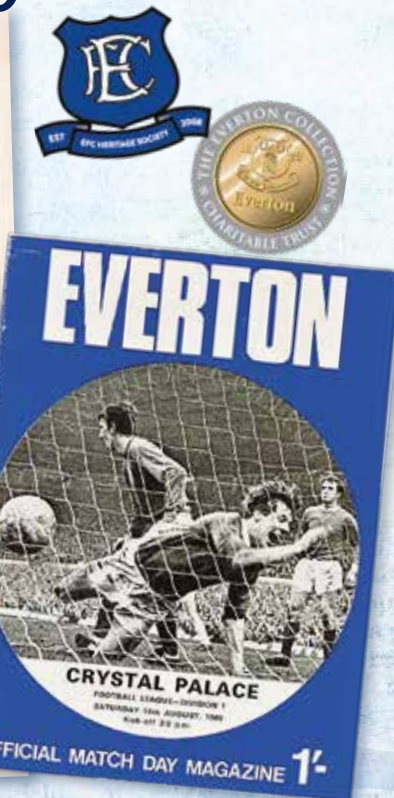
It was, therefore, something of a surprise when Palace, back in the top-flight after promotion from the Second Division the season before, took the lead at Goodison with a goal by Tony Taylor after just six minutes. Johnny Morrissey equalised before half-time with a clever lob and a penalty after the break from Joe Royle – awarded for a foul on Jimmy Husband – saw us record a 2-1 win in



front of a gate of 51,241. 'All-out Blues Crack the Crystal Wall' ran Michael Charter's match report headline in the *Liverpool Echo*. Colin Harvey was hailed as the best player on the pitch with praise, too, for Morrissey.

The return fixture at Selhurst Park two months later saw 33,967 witness a goalless draw. Everton were still top of the pile on that Wednesday night in October, but Palace were finding life tough and had slipped to 17th.

Everton went on to record the seventh League title in the Club's history, recording 66 points and



finishing nine clear of runners-up Leeds United, while Palace avoided relegation by one point. A last-day 1-0 victory against Manchester City kept the Glaziers, as they were then known, in the First Division. The largely unheralded defender Roger Hoy scored the all-important goal against Joe Mercer's City.

Incidentally, a link between the two clubs is that architect Archibald Leitch, intrinsically linked with Goodison Park, was employed to draw up plans for Palace's new home at Selhurst Park which opened in 1924.