

BAYNHAM RECEIVED WONDERFUL OVATION

Fans Cheered Him Off After Town's Victory

By CHILTERN

BARNSELEY 1, LUTON TOWN 2

62/63

(FLE)

A WHOLE-HEARTED enthusiastic crowd of 10,335, the biggest Barnsley have had since their successful Cup run of 18 months ago, nearly shouted them to victory in this League Cup tie at Oakwell on Tuesday night.

But true to the tradition of Yorkshire hospitality and sportsmanship, most of them remained, overcoming their disappointment, to give Ron Baynham just about the biggest ovation he has received in his life.

Did he deserve it? I'll say he did, after one of the greatest exhibitions of goalkeeping it has been my privilege to see. At one time at the start of the second half, when Barnsley were throwing everything in, he almost alone, stood between the Town and disaster.

Some of his saves bordered on the miraculous, and he finished as the hero of the hour. The Town went into this match knowing that it was no push-over, but they eased their path in the first half by showing unaccustomed goal punch.

In the tenth minute TURNER ran on to a flicked header by Fleming as the final prong of a movement begun by Morton, but his first shot was saved by Hill, a goalkeeper of great promise. Out came the ball, as it happened, to Turner's favourite acute angle and he hammered it home, with unmistakable deadliness.

TOWN WEATHERED MAJOR STORM

After that there was a major storm for the Town to survive in the face of a fighting onslaught by Barnsley, and Baynham twice made magnificent saves from Leighton and also kept out a drive by Wood. Meanwhile, the Town were looking more purposeful in attack than in recent matches, and Turner drove just over.

A chance to increase the lead fell to Fleming but the goalkeeper saved his shot from point blank range and the inside-right turned the ball wide on the rebound. However, immediately afterwards, in the 26th minute, FAIRCHILD popped up in the inside-left position to head in a corner by Walden and increase the Town's lead.

Even in the face of this Barnsley never relaxed their efforts, with the result that Baynham was kept busy even though the Town defence was in hard tackling vein.

At half-time the game seemed reasonably well in the bag but we reckoned without the tremendous Oakwell roar and fighting spirit of this predominantly young Barnsley team.

In the first three minutes of the second half they forced four corners quickly followed by a fifth, and with their wing-halves coming through, the Town were almost over-run.

It was during this period that Baynham achieved his most prodigious feats, saving from all sorts of angles, ranges and heights. However, in the 53rd minute, coming out of goal, he could not quite reach a high ball before LEIGHTON's head bobbed up to push the ball goalwards, and although McNally and Bramwell rushed back, it was too late.

That, of course, was the crucial point, but the Town weathered it through the brilliant anticipation of Baynham, and partly, too, through the experience of Pacey and Morton.

There was also the added factor that the sheer enthusiasm of Barnsley led to too hurried shooting, but at the same time, some of their efforts missed by an uncomfortably narrow margin.

When the full blast of their rally blew out, the Town came into it again and Fleming twice aimed and missed for the near corner when he should have tried for the opposite post.

Turner brought Hill into action and Fairchild missed by inches with a raking drive. But the heavy pressure was from Barnsley although the more clear cut chances were created by the Town, and Baynham made more wonder saves from Leighton and Oliver.

Thirteen minutes from the end, all the anxiety of the Town officials should have been removed, when Jardine was

blatantly pulled down almost on the penalty spot. It seemed incredible that a penalty should not be given, but that was what happened.

MUCH SYMPATHY FOR THE DEFENCE

Many defences would have wilted completely in the face of the inspired Barnsley attack, and let us face it, the Town's rear-guard did not look the force it did at Cardiff.

Pacey again showed that he is the best centre-half on the books and Morton was rather better than McGuffie who after an excellent first half did not look so good when the pressure was at its height.

McNally had an unhappy start, but improved, as O'Hara became a little more apprehensive of the strength of his tackling. Bramwell tended to give his winger a lot of room, but there could be much sympathy for the defence as a whole, for the second-half pressure they had to withstand.

That they did so was a highly creditable performance. Forward, had there been at Cardiff the first-half liveliness they showed here, they would have had at least a point.

Turner was shown in a better light, and Fairchild always a fighter, repeated the success he achieved at Southport. Always dangerous in possession was Walden, but I am afraid the Town must think again about Jardine as an inside-left.

He faded out altogether after the interval, while as for Fleming, one can only present him again as an enigma. He has so much natural talent, but so much of it is wrongly applied because he will try to do the difficult thing instead of playing it simple.

At the same time this was no mean performance by the Town. Because Barnsley, playing above themselves, are a tough nut to crack on their own ground, and they had the crowd solidly behind them.

Teams:

BARNSELEY: Hill; Hopper,

Brookes; Nicol, Winstanley,

Wood; Hosie, Kerr, Leighton,

Oliver, O'Hara.

LUTON TOWN: Baynham;

McNally, Bramwell; Morton,

Pacey, McGuffie; Fairchild,

Fleming, Turner, Jardine, Walden.

Referee: K. Dagnall, Bolton.