

TOWN YIELD LEAD AND THE POINTS

2618 Attack Again Fails To Press Home Midfield Advantage

By CHILTERN

LUTON TOWN 2, BARNSLEY 3

IT needed people with brave hearts and enthusiasm to come to Kenilworth-road this afternoon, where the conditions were near Arctic. In the event, not so many braved them, and in this well-below-par season for attendance, I made this the lowest yet.

The sky was black with threat, the wind icy, and altogether it was no sort of day for watching anything outdoors.

Obviously, the pitch was hard, because it had been heavily sanded.

Neither team found it necessary to make any late change, and Barnsley who scored a notable Cup win in mid-week, were handicapped by being without their leading scorer and centre-forward, Tony Leighton. To fill the vacancy, Byrne moved into the middle and Cochrane came in at inside-left.

As for the Town, they retained the defence that played at Fulham, but re-shuffled the forward line, following an injury to Tommy McKechnie, which caused him to cry off yesterday morning.

This simplified the task of securing an opening for John Reid to return, and Turner, Walden, and Smith all found new positions compared with last week.

The Town were set to defend the Oak-road end, and in the opening exchanges, Pacey and O'Rourke were prominent.

Conditions were not easy, the ball bouncing about on the hard surface. The nearest approach to a goal came from Bramwell, whose longish-range shot might well have beaten Williamson had it been on the target instead of a yard wide.

TOWN PLAYING ATTRACTIVELY

O'Rourke won a corner when he adroitly pulled down a slide-rule pass by Turner, and then O'Rourke, who is a good header of the ball, got up high to nod down Turner's cross, but Williamson was able to save easily.

In mid-field, the Town were exuding confidence, and switching the ball about attractively. They were also tending to keep it too close, however, and the final passes were going astray, so that the Barnsley goal was not in much danger.

Ten minutes had gone before Barnsley had their first chance. It fell to Byrne after some slack marking, but he sliced his shot, and the ball went amely wide.

The Town were soon back at the Barnsley end, but Pacey, after making an opening for himself, found Smith in the way when he made his shot. To add insult to injury, the inside-right was also offside.

There was a little light relief when one charge by Reid grounded both Kerr and Cochrane to give Barnsley a free kick, following which, Wood placed the ball gently into the hands of Baynham.

The best chance Barnsley had had yet followed a mistake by Reid, and if Kerr had been quicker in his re-action, the Town might well have been in fatal trouble. As it was, Baynham was able to come out to collect.

Obstruction by Winstanley spoiled a promising move by Reid, and the enthusiastic O'Rourke popped up to get a foot to the free kick, but unfortunately hooked it wide.

BOTH TEAMS LACK FINISH

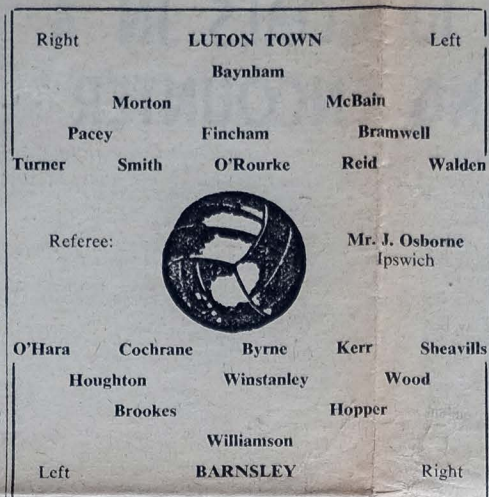
There was little punch about either team, and in 20 minutes neither goalkeeper had been called upon to save a serious shot. Several free kicks for niggleing fouls did not profit the Town much.

Then came the best scoring attempt so far. Smith ran on to a long, through pass by Pacey and crashed the ball just wide with his left foot. This was followed by an opportunity at the other end, when Bramwell and Fincham collided, but Cochrane, who was left with a clear run to goal shot too hurriedly and inaccurately so that a worried Baynham was able to watch the ball sail harmlessly by.

Then, the Town were in luck, when O'Hara got clear of Morton to smash in a drive that Baynham misjudged, because as he shaped to catch it, the ball struck him somewhere above the wrist and luckily for him rebounded over the bar.

There was still the more constructive showing from the Town in mid-field, but they were still tending to overdo it, and finishing power was still absent. **PACEY GIVING FINE SUPPORT**

There was a rather better effort from Turner. He was caught off balance, but at least he did manage to get the ball somewhere near the target area following a



John O'Rourke, Town's 18-year-old centre-forward, was again in fine form and was the most impressive man in the front line. Several times he troubled Williamson, the Barnsley goalkeeper. O'Rourke's reward came in the 57th minute, when he scored his first goal since joining Town, and gave them the lead.

strong raid by the Town, sparked off by Reid, at the end of which Pacey drove the ball just wide from a pass by Smith.

Almost straight away from this, Barnsley broke away and scored through KERR.

It was a snap breakaway in which Byrne pushed through a long pass to which Fincham had committed himself prematurely. Morton and Reid converged on Kerr in an attempt to repair the damage, and Baynham came out when he might have been better advised to stay at home.

In any event, there was an unholy mix-up at the finish, and Kerr was able to sidefoot the ball in.

One of the best Town movements so far was begun by Walden and carried on by O'Rourke and Reid, but when the ball finally came across from Walden there was no-one in the outside-right position.

Quite by far the best scoring effort by the Town came from Reid, with a fierce 25-yards drive

following a clever back-heel pass by Turner. In fact, Williamson who looked to have seen the ball late, did extremely well to throw himself full-length and save.

TOWN GET AN EQUALISER

If the Town were to save this match, it seemed that it would be due to the driving power of Pacey and the enthusiasm of O'Rourke. Pacey was unlucky with a header that went inches too high from a corner by Turner.

Then the Town broke away to equalise after 56 minutes in somewhat fortuitous circumstances.

TURNER fastened on to a loose ball in mid-field, which had come from Walden, and his shot made quickly struck Wood in transit and was deflected wide of Williamson.

A minute later, the Town were ahead with O'Rourke deservedly scoring his first goal for the Club. Certainly, no-one has tried harder for this elusive success. It came from a centre by Turner which O'Rourke met first time with the inside of his foot, and Williamson's dive was too late to prevent the ball going under him.

This had been a sensational turn of events, and the crowd so apathetic previously was now wholly behind the Town, and we now had cheers instead of the groans that had punctuated the earlier play.

FINCHAM IN TROUBLE

Fincham ventured up into the Town attack and was rewarded only by a clout in the face which caused a stoppage for emergency treatment.

For some time after this, there was little of any consequence, with play mainly confined to mid-field and Barnsley making sporadic raids which mainly came to nothing.

Then, Walden embarked on a highly ambitious solo run, in the course of which he got himself into all kinds of trouble, so that at the finish he had to unload the ball by passing back to McBain. After that there was a more positive contribution from Reid, with a long, swinging centre. Turner rose to meet it with his head, but the tall Williamson had no difficulty in pulling the ball down.

O'Hara had a chance for Barnsley from what looked suspiciously like an offside position, but he got himself so badly angled that all he could do was to turn the ball inside and Morton headed clear.

Some quick-fire work by Walden, O'Rourke and Smith took

the Town on the attack again, only for it to fizzle out. Walden, who was not looking happy on the left wing, put the ball behind.

SHOCK GOAL BY BARNSLEY

Then came a shock when Barnsley drew level after 72 minutes, and it was a mistake by Smith, back in his own penalty area, which led to it. He let in BYRNE, whose first two shots were saved at point-blank range by Baynham, who, however, could not hang on to either of them, and at the third attempt the centre-forward blasted the ball in, defeating McBain's attempt to keep it out.

It was pretty much anybody's game now, and depended largely on whether either forward line could raise itself out of its pretty insignificant rut.

There was some ironic cheering when Turner was at last brought into the game, but he tried too much and was stopped before anything could accrue from it.

Barnsley had a chance of going ahead when a clearance hit Fincham and dropped to the feet of Byrne, but the centre-forward's



Gordon Turner cropped up with a timely equaliser for the Town after 56 minutes. His quickly taken shot was deflected by a defender to beat Williamson in goal.

after 87 minutes through BYRNE. He fastened on to an innocuous-looking pass down the right wing, and Fincham made as if to tackle. He nearly obstructed the centre-forward, and as things turned out, it might have been better if he had. In the end, there was no tackle at all, and Byrne, from a narrow angle, squeezed the ball in between Baynham, who had advanced, and the near post.

At this stage, the Town defence was looking anything but happy, especially in the middle, and Fincham came out the worse in a



tussle with Byrne, but at the finish was given the benefit of a free-kick. It was a bedraggled-

How The Goals Came

- KERR for Barnsley after 48 minutes.
- TURNER for Luton after 56 minutes.
- O'ROURKE for Luton after 57 minutes.
- BYRNE for Barnsley after 72 minutes.
- BYRNE for Barnsley after 87 minutes

looking Town now, and that third goal had just about taken out the last vestige of fight. Result:	
LUTON TOWN	2
BARNSLEY	3