

65/66 TOO MANY GIFT GOALS FOR COMFORT

LUTON TOWN 5, BARNSELEY 4

IF it's goals you want, then Kenilworth Road is the place these days. But, unfortunately they are not all going in at the right end.

For the second time in three days the Town gained two points with just a little in hand. Though, as was the case with Doncaster on Thursday, their victory over Barnsley this afternoon, was more complete than the score would indicate. In point of fact, Barnsley's fourth goal, which gives the impression that they were only just beaten, came in the dying seconds.

In truth, this was an amazing game, with the Town scoring four times in 19 minutes. At that point no one could have envisaged anything like a tight finish.

Almost every time they went into the Barnsley penalty area it was a goal, and it was the sort of deadly attacking football that would have worried many better defences than the somewhat creaking rearguard of Barnsley.

Then for some reason much of the sparkle evaporated, and Barnsley were allowed to get back into the game, making it a six-goal first half.

The second half threatened to be completely arid, mainly due to the fact that misplaced passes made the task of defenders much more easy. But all the same, it came as a relief when Read apparently put the issue beyond doubt 17 minutes from the end with a fifth goal.

But there was a quick reply from Barnsley, and then came the finish in which Kerr was carried off with what was said afterwards to be no more than severe bruising.

Everybody can be pleased with the ease with which the forwards are scoring goals, nine in two matches. But there is not so much pleasure in the way in which goals are being gifted away. There were two in this category on Thursday, and at least two more today, and I made Tinsley at fault twice.

Part of the reason for the uncertainty was that Rivers was drawn all over the place by Kerr, and Rivers left a gap down the middle. Jardine was rather more consistent than Thomson, but there seems to be a need for some tightening up, particularly in the middle.

Forward, if the line could maintain their form of the first 20 minutes, the Town could become a promotion prospect. Even though O'Rourke was not so prominent, partly because of close marking, they looked a slick outfit.

Whittaker was the danger man early on, popping up all over the place and one cannot discount the useful job being done by Read at inside right.

All in all, a satisfactory result from the points point of view, but it could have been a whole lot better had the Town not been quite so generous in the way they gave away goals.

Attendance: 5,948.