

RESULT DID TOWN SCANT JUSTICE

All the vital decisions went against them

By CHILTERN

BARNSELEY 3, LUTON TOWN 0

WITHOUT in any way trying to over-state the case, this result at Oakwell on Saturday was a complete travesty.

In fact, no one could have complained had the game, played in dreadful conditions, ended in a draw, with a fair share of the "breaks," the Town could have registered a badly needed victory.

However, all the vital refereeing decisions went against them—at least four, which finally made all the difference between success and failure.

These included three penalty claims, two of which were completely clear-cut to me, and a second goal to Barnsley which should never have been allowed.

With considerable determination and no little mid-field skill, the Town achieved their first objective by reaching half-time on level terms, despite the fact that they had been kicking into the teeth of a gale-force wind.

There could have been goals to either team and Read fully tested Hill on two occasions, but the big let-off for Barnsley came shortly before the interval when O'Rourke, left in a fine scoring position, was pulled down from behind, but no penalty came.

Nor did it soon after the resumption when Swallow seemed to me to handle quite clearly in clearing from O'Rourke, but again, the Town's claims went unheeded.

Then, with six minutes of the second half gone, there was a brisk home break in which Bettany pushed the ball through to KERR who, in the face of a challenge by Woods and Tinsley, got there first and slammed it low into the net.

NOT IMPRESSIVE AT CLOSE QUARTERS

Town manager George Martin thought Kerr was off-side, but the movement developed so quickly that it was difficult to form an opinion.

While, perhaps they did not make the most of having the wind behind them, the Town were always in the game, had plenty of pressure, but did not really impress in front of goal.

Crowning blow came 11 minutes from the end when Ferguson went for a ball out on the right and secured possession by dint of pulling Woods out of the way.

To the astonishment, obviously of the centre-half, there was no official reaction and Ferguson went on to score with a shot that was deflected considerably by striking REID.

Meanwhile, Rioch and Moore had changed places and both the former and Whittaker tested Hill to the full, but this was just not the Town's day and three minutes from the end came the final blow when the wind took hold of a speculative shot by HEWITT and Tinsley was left groping at thin air.

Despite the score-line, I would find no major fault with the defence, with Woods again doing an excellent job in the middle and receiving splendid support from Reid and Rioch.

Nor did Riddick and Jardine do other than an adequate job and Tinsley certainly could not be blamed for the defeat.

Forward, there was a lack of final punch, mostly because O'Rourke is having one of those patches in which nothing is going right for him in front of goal, though his general play was successful enough.

Read, too, might have had a goal or two had things really been running for him and Moore, in the comparatively strange position of inside-left, did a good job in the first half, though was less effective later.

There was no doubt that Whittaker was the more effective winger because French wasted far too much material, either through putting the ball behind or being caught in possession.

BARNSELEY—Hill; Parker, Brookes; Jackson, Swallow, Addy; Hayes, Bettany, Kerr, Ferguson, Hewitt. Substitute: Duerden.

LUTON TOWN — Tinsley; Riddick, Jardine; Reid, Woods, Rioch; French, Read, O'Rourke, Moore, Whittaker. Substitute: Harber.

Referee—A. W. S. Jones, Liverpool. Attendance: 4,867.