

Own-goal blow shatters Luton

Barnsley 3 Luton 0: by GEORGE MEADE

BARNSLEY'S ball-playing inside forward John Bettany salvaged one piece of class Soccer in a dour, weather-beaten battle fought out in atrocious conditions.

The swirling wind and driving rain played havoc with Bettany's precision until the 51st minute when he split Luton's defence with a swinging 30-yard pass.

Scottish centre forward George Kerr accepted it as gleefully as a plate of haggis at Hogmanay to give Barnsley a moral-boosting lead with his 16th goal of the season.

Until then the elements had been master and Barnsley had never really looked like avenging their 5-4 defeat at Kennilworth Road in October.

They seemed completely at a loss as to how they could best harness the wind to their cause in the first half. Time after time the ball was pumped heftily down-field and it almost always resulted in the Barnsley attackers being caught offside.

As it was, Barnsley played better against the wind and ran out worthy winners with Reid (own goal) and Hewitt adding to Kerr's opener.

Great triers

Not that Luton were out of it altogether. O'Rourke and Whittaker were great triers but they came up against uncompromising defenders in Jackson and Swallow.

When they did get through, they found 'keeper Alan Hill in competent form.

John Reid, a non-stop worker in the Luton cause, could count himself unlucky to net the own goal which really put the Town out of it.

He found himself with two Barnsley forwards to cover 12 yards out and when Ferguson shaped to pass but shot instead the ball cannoned off the hapless Reid into the net.

With virtually the last kick, Dick Hewitt stood astonished as his intended centre was swept over Tinsley's head into the net by a trick of the wind.