

REFEREEING 'LET-OFF' ROCKS TOWN, BARNSELEY POUNCE

1-1-1966 *Luton not disgraced, but finish lacking*

By CHILTERN

BARNSELEY 3, LUTON TOWN 0

TWO goals in the last eleven minutes sealed the Town's fate at Barnsley this afternoon. One down just after the interval, Luton held out until Ferguson took advantage of a refereeing "let-off" after 79 minutes.

Although Luton were never out of the game, their finishing let them down and they were unable to make the most of a strong following wind after the interval.

TEAMS

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: Mr. A. W. S. Jones (Liverpool).

As had been anticipated, Town Manager George Martin decided on what I suppose must be the gamble of playing John Moore, a wing-half, at inside-left.

The move was designed to give greater power and drive to an attack that has not been functioning particularly well in away matches recently.

Any doubts in his mind about his final decision were removed by the fact that the pitch, although looking well enough from the sideline, was very heavy and was obviously going to cut up. This meant that Billy Harber, occupant of the position in the two Christmas matches, stood down and became the substitute.

HEAVILY-SANDED PITCH

Barnsley made two alterations. At left-half Duerden was rested, which brought in Addy, and Joe Hayes, the former Manchester City player, was preferred to Earnshaw, who replaced him at Halifax on Tuesday.

It was a cold, raw day with the wind blowing briskly from end to end, which meant that the winning of the toss was more of a factor than usual.

The pitch had been heavily sanded in the centre circle and in the goalmouths, and there was only a small crowd scattered around the quite spacious terraces just before the start.

Reid lost the toss, which meant that the Town were set to face the strong wind.

After an early attack by the Town was driven off, there was a free kick against Reid.

Then came a sharp Town breakaway in which O'Rourke worked the ball promisingly, only to shoot quite four yards wide from the edge of the penalty area.

First clear-cut chance fell to Barnsley when Hewitt was presented with the ball in an unmarked position but failed to control it at the crucial moment.

With Barnsley pressure continuing, Woods did well to dispossess Kerr at the expense of a corner, which was half cleared by Moore. But the ball was again sent into the Town penalty area before Jardine finally brought it out.

TWO ESCAPES FOR BARNSELEY

There was a corner to the Town, gained by O'Rourke after Read had been stopped in an attempt to break through. This brought a couple of escapes for Barnsley—one from Read, who had a shot pushed out, then from O'Rourke from whom Hill saved at point-blank range.

The middle of the pitch was cutting up badly and players found considerable difficulty in dragging the ball through the mud in those regions.

The strength of the wind was illustrated by the fact that Hill, kicking from hand, was reaching nearly into the Town's penalty area, whereas Tinsley was finding great difficulty in reaching anywhere near the centre line.

IN THE NET, BUT DISALLOWED

From one of Hill's big clearances, Woods was penalised for a foul on Kerr. Following a free kick, Kerr put the ball into the net, but the goal was promptly disallowed for offside.

In view of the conditions the Town's policy had to be to try to contain Barnsley in the first half and then take full advantage of the wind later.

A determined chase by O'Rourke prevented the ball running for a goal kick and his pass to Whittaker looked promising until Riddick, following up, placed the ball straight to a defender.

In patches the Town attack

How the goals came

KERR for Barnsley after 51 minutes.

FERGUSON for Barnsley after 79 minutes.

HEWITT for Barnsley after 87 minutes.

was moving with some threat, but there was no evidence yet of real finish and French shot well wide after coming in on the inside purposefully.

REID DID NOT PLAY SAFE

Good work by Read sent away French, whose centre was intercepted by Brooke's head—but not before the linesman had raised his flag for offside.

There was nearly trouble for the Town in a quick breakaway when Reid, who should have played safe, tried to go it alone and succeeded only in leaving Ferguson with an opening. It took a save at the foot of the post by Tinsley to retrieve a desperate situation.

Some brilliant play by Read, O'Rourke, Whittaker and French put the Town sweeping on to the attack, but once again the flag went up for offside.

Woods got the Town out of a tricky situation as Kerr tried to wriggle his way through.

A foul by Riddick on Hewitt right on the centre line gave Barnsley a free kick which, helped by the wind, was apt to be highly dangerous even at that range. But Hayes obliged by getting off side.

TASTE OF THEIR OWN MEDICINE

Now Barnsley were having a taste of their own offside tactics when Ferguson was neatly trapped.

Although they were playing some good football in midfield the Town were not looking very dangerous, even allowing for the wind. They might have had a goal when first O'Rourke was just baulked as he made to shoot and then when Whittaker just missed the near post.

With this flurry continuing, Whittaker made a brisk run, but his low centre went straight to Swallow.

There was nearly an

involuntary goal to the Town when Addy, attempting to clear inside his own penalty area, crashed the ball against Read's legs, it went on towards the net and it took a full-length save by Hill to prevent the Town taking what would have been an invaluable lead in the circumstances.

Possibly though, the advantage of having the wind in their favour was a mixed blessing to Barnsley, who were constantly overkicking their forwards.

There was a close call for the Town when Kerr, out on the left wing, found himself in an open space. Tinsley and Jardine went for it together, and the latter's foot reached it first to deflect it just past the post for a corner. This was followed immediately by another when a clearance by Riddick was caught in the wind.

Some slack work in midfield by Read led to the next threat from Barnsley. Ferguson went right through to hit the ball hard and true, but Tinsley made a great save.

From this the Town struck and Whittaker should have done better than shoot wide after O'Rourke had unselfishly slipped the ball to him.

DESPERATE HAND SAVES

There was nearly a goal to the Town when Read came through in the most determined style. Hill saved only by throwing out a hand desperately.

Straight from this Barnsley broke away and Kerr looked a possible scorer but had difficulty in controlling the ball and Reid came across to cover and clear.

Towards half time there was some Town pressure and O'Rourke was pulled down from behind when bearing on to goal with only Hill to beat. Barnsley broke away in force and Reid made the clearance.

SHOT HIT WOODS ON LEGS

Then there was a free kick to the Town, midway in the Barnsley half, but the massed home defenders cleared without undue difficulty.

Almost on the stroke of half-time Barnsley went away in threatening style through Kerr, whose shot fortunately struck Woods on the legs and went for a corner. From the corner, Whittaker broke away



JOHN MOORE. A move to the forward line

and narrowly failed to find O'Rourke in the middle.

A foul by Reid on Kerr just inside the Town half gave Barnsley what seemed to be their last chance of a first-half goal, but Brooke's shot landed first bounce in front of Tinsley who coped safely.

Half-time:
BARNSELEY 0
LUTON TOWN 0

The Town, through fighting with considerable determination, had done well to remain on level terms and it remained to be seen whether they could harness the strong wind.

Topic of conversation during half-time was the refusal to them of a penalty when O'Rourke was brought down. Then came another penalty claim, again disregarded, when Swallow appeared to handle the ball in dispossessing O'Rourke.

After a couple of Barnsley raids had been driven off, the Town attacked in force and eventually their came a typical shot from Rioch which flew wide.

LOW DRIVE FINDS THE TARGET

Then came a Barnsley break-away and the first vital goal to Barnsley through KERR, six minutes after half-time. Bettany pushed the ball through to the centre-forward who was pursued by Woods and challenged by Tinsley coming out of his goal. Kerr just had time to get in a sure-footed low drive that flew into the net.

After this Barnsley seemed to take new heart following a phase in which the Town looked as if they would get on top and Jardine made a very timely clearance.

A chance for the Town to equalise slipped by when O'Rourke failed to gain control of a floating centre from Whittaker and the ball propelled by the wind went for a goal kick.

A mistake by Riddick put Barnsley on the attack again and it needed a desperate tackle by Reid to clear this trouble. Then the Town came back in full force but their shooting was certainly not the best part of their display and Moore shot wide from the edge of the penalty area.

FRENCH BROUGHT DOWN

A solo attempt by French ended when he was brought down full length, but which did not result in a free kick.

After this there was a corner to the Town when Parker wildly sent the ball behind, but Whittaker's kick fell short and Barnsley were able to make ground from the clearance through the busy Kerr. He eventually worked the ball into the middle and a first-time shot from Hayes flew just off the target.

Long clearance kicks by Tinsley reaching almost into the penalty area were causing Barnsley some concern and there was some panic at times as Read and O'Rourke tried to plough their way through.

Twice Barnsley were held up for offside as the Town moved smartly forward.

DIFFICULTY IN CLEARING

Two goal kicks taken by Hill were swung back by the wind and Barnsley were finding it difficult to get the ball clear, but unfortunately the Town's shooting was still not up to standard and first Read and then Whittaker went wide.

the Town this half came from Rioch, who picked up a loose ball in midfield and then set off at top pace, before letting fly a hard drive that Hill just reached.

Then Jardine joined in the attack in a fashion that reminded us that he was once an outside-left but Hill cut out his centre and at the end of the pressure the only reward the Town got was a fruitless corner.

Straight from this there was tremendous activity in the Town goalmouth and a lucky escape—it took a wonder save by Tinsley to keep out a drive by Hayes. All he could do was push the ball out in quick succession Kerr and Hewitt had point-blank shots cannon against the legs of defenders.

Then to make conditions even more unpleasant, rain began to fall heavily and was being swirled along in the wind like smoke.

There was still plenty of determination about the Town even if they could not find the finish, and Hill did well to hang on to a high corner by Whittaker after O'Rourke had again found a path down the middle blocked by Swallow.

When the Town did get a shot on the target—and a good one it was from Whittaker—Hill pulled off a brilliant, full-length save.

French won a corner and then wasted it by putting the ball behind. Rioch and Moore switched positions, which was virtually a return to the orthodox.

SECOND BLOW FOR TOWN

Then the Town were the victims of another refereeing decision which led to them going further into arrears after 79 minutes.

FERGUSON picked up the ball on the right wing and was challenged by Woods, who was pulled off the ball from behind. But Ferguson was allowed to go through.

Woods was too surprised to recover and the inside left

went on to score with a shot that went in off Reid's body.

Such credit as is due for this goal belongs to Ferguson, but there is no doubt that the fact that the ball struck Reid changed its flight completely, otherwise Tinsley might have saved.

Ferguson went through strongly, then the Town retaliated with Read giving possession to French who lost it.

Three minutes from the end HEWITT scored from what seemed to be an impossible angle. The ball came across, Tinsley jumped at it, could not make contact and it hit the far top corner just inside the angle of the woodwork.

There was a furious response by the Town with Hill saving twice from Rioch, the second one being a very good effort indeed.

Then Whittaker tried his luck from 30 yards, but the ball flew just too high.

It was the Town pressing now and O'Rourke had a point-blank shot deflected for a corner. Result:

BARNSELEY 3
LUTON TOWN 0