

# HOME FIXTURES END WITH A WIN

## Missed penalty made issue look much closer

By CHILTERN

### LUTON TOWN 3, BARROW 2

**W**HILE the result was not so close as the final score would tend to indicate, the fact was that the Town, even taking into account the fact that they were weakened by injuries, did make rather heavy weather of this match at Kenilworth Road on Thursday.

At the same time, it would be wrong to detract from the merit of a useful Barrow team which has never quite been good enough to blossom forth as promotion challengers.

This was the completion of the Town's home programme in which their record is quite clearly the best in the Fourth Division because they have dropped only six points out of 46, and, in addition, they earned the title of being the most prolific home scorers in the country.

On this occasion their 10,647 fans had to overcome something of a shock start because Barrow took the lead in the 19th minute through MARSHALL after Read had done extremely well to keep out his first attempt.

A typical goal by O'ROURKE from Harber's pass levelled matters nine minutes later, and the situation began to look more tenable when a shot by FRENCH beat Millard after having been deflected accidentally by Arrowsmith.

There were nine minutes left before half-time when that happened, and although Barrow played some useful-looking football in midfield afterwards and the Town made some pointed threats, we had to wait until the closing stages for the real excitement.

#### FRENCH'S MISS FROM PENALTY

With 10 minutes left, RID-DICK made the issue safe, apparently, with a header from Harber's centre, and the score should have been 4-1 two minutes later when O'Rourke was pulled down in the penalty area, and French shot over from the spot.

That could have turned out

having so many matches in such a short time was beginning to show.

#### DEBT WAS OWED TO READ

Both Gibson and Harber, of necessity, had to be brought in without having had the benefit of recent match practice and did well enough in the circumstances.

There was strong defensive play in particular from Woods and Slough, while there is no doubt that a considerable debt was owed to Read for the excellence of some of his saves.

From the forwards, there was an in-and-out sort of show with French and O'Rourke having periods of excellence, but in the main this was a game from which the Town could be happy enough to have extracted the two points they simply had to have, without having reached the heights.

**LUTON TOWN:** — Read; Thomson, Slough; Gibson, Woods, Moore; French, Rickard, O'Rourke, Rioch, Carter.

**BARROW.** — Millard; Mallon, Edwards; Worthington, Arrowsmith, Eddy; Marshall, Smith, Mulholland, Alston, Pilkington.

Referee: R. L. Johnson, Lowestoft.