

Fittingly, it was the Town's best forward, RIOCH, who put them on the winning path in the 75th minute with a goal for which Wood carried the blame.

Perhaps wary of the new law, he made a hasty, ill-advised clearance that sent the ball straight to Rioch, who, just as quickly, but with more accuracy, sent it bouncing into the net with Wood unable to recover.

ALLEN MADE NO MISTAKE

Having at last secured some reward for their superiority, the Town then crowded on pressure and Brown made an opening for ALLEN, who made no mistake from the inside-left position with a low, cross shot that found the far corner of the net.

There was not much doubt that the result was right because Barnsley were unimpressive in attack, apart from Evans, who missed a couple of acceptable chances, and Earnshaw.

Allen was not so prominent for the Town as he can be, which could possibly be traced to the fact that neither French, who found difficulty in passing the tall Brookes, nor Whittaker, really made the best use of the ball.

BRANSTON THE STRONG MAN

In defence, Branston was the strong man, effectively putting Thomas out of the game, and McDerment is now beginning to find the form that persuaded the Town to pay quite highly for his services from Leicester City.

Hare continues to impress as a hard tackling defender. Jardine did well in view of the fact that he was affected by a strain and, apart from one

TOWN NEVER LOOKED LIKELY TO LOSE

But had to wait for goals

By CHILTERN

LUTON TOWN 2, BARNSELEY 0

THIS was never a game which the Town looked likely to lose but, on the other hand, they took an unconscionable time to win it, because it was not until a quarter of an hour from the end that they opened their account to celebrate their first home League match of the season before a crowd of 7,887.

Before that belated success, they had missed some chances which did not please Manager Allan Brown but, on the other hand, some regard had to be paid to the fact that two late changes were forced upon them.

Certainly, the power of Green in front of goal was missed because, although Micky Brown was a willing worker and distributed the ball well at times, he did miss a couple of good opportunities.

There was nothing wrong with the defensive play of Slough, who does a capable job wherever he is called upon to play, but the extra driving force that Moore can provide when things are not going quite right, was missing.

piece of mishandling, there could be no criticism of Read.

LUTON TOWN: Read; Hare, Jardine (Walker); McDerment, Branston, Slough; French, Allen, Brown, Rioch, Whittaker.

BARNSELEY: Wood; Murphy, Brookes; Bettany, Winstanley, Howard; Earnshaw, Evans, Thomas, Barton (Raggett), Taylor.

Referee: D Nippard, Bourne-mouth.