

BARROW FALTER BEFORE

SOLID DEFENCE

Lewis shines in Luton attack

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By CHILTERN

FACING a tough assignment at Barrow this afternoon, Luton Town put up creditable resistance to reach the interval on level terms. Both teams were below full strength.

Barrow might have been ahead at this stage had they taken their chances, but they failed to do so, and the Town continued to fight hard for at least a point.

It was a beautiful, sunny day of the type cricketers have been looking for in vain on many Saturdays during this so-called summer. The Town found the Barrow pitch bone hard and bumpy, and to make matters more difficult there was a strong wind blowing from end to end.

The Town travelled yesterday morning and spent last night at Newby Bridge in the Lake District.

Once again manager Allan Brown found his choice of team restricted by injuries which made John Ryan and Mike Harrison unavailable, joining Graham French and John Moore on the injury list.

That meant first competitive games of the season for

TEAMS
BARROW: Else; Mallon, Edwards; Harrison, Arrowsmith, Bebbington; Riley, Ellison, McLean, Mulholland, McCarthy. Substitute: Mulvaney.

LUTON TOWN: Read; Dougan, Jardine; Allen, Branton, Slough; Brown, Lewis, Sheffield, Riach, Whittaker. Substitute: McDermott.

Referee: Mr. H. Williams, of Sheffield.

Mickey Brown and Ray Whittaker in the wing positions.

Barrow were deprived of the services of their manager, Colin Appleton, and David Storr, the ex-Rochdale winger.

Also listed was Mick Hartland, and Barrow had one on Monday's cup replay with Southport, prize for the winners being a home match with Newcastle United in the second round.

SUPPORTERS
Bebbington, Ellison and McCarthy were the deputies.

Despite the distance, the Town had their customary following of supporters, including some who are on holiday in the Lake District.

Barrow won the toss to give themselves the advantage of the wind.

From the start they launched a dangerous movement down the left, McCarthy crossed the ball low, and a scoring attempt by McLean was scrambled away for a corner.

Barrow came back immediately to force another corner off Slough, and from this McLean headed narrowly over.

Refusing to be rattled by this tearaway start, the Town made some ground with Lewis sending Dougan away down the right wing, and Else pulled down the centre from under the bar.

After another Barrow raid had been driven off, Riach found Lewis in midfield, and the inside-right caught the Barrow defence napping by racing straight for goal, before letting go a fierce shot that ended a foot wide with Sheffield just failing to get his head to it as it flashed across the goalmouth.

With the Town defence half committed to setting the offside trap which didn't come off, McCarthy was left with a clear run to goal but was finally hustled off the ball by Dougan. However, the danger persisted and Slough cleared a shot by McLean.

Barrow were certainly look-

ing a very useful, fast-moving team, and the Town hadn't settled in defence yet.

In fact, they were looking vulnerable to the through pass, which Barrow were using with some persistence.

Again the defence was split by a long pass by Edwards on which McCarthy fastened quickly, and his shot went wide of the post as Read came out.

Lewis had been the one forward to give the Barrow defence any trouble so far and it had been a distinctly sticky opening quarter of an hour for the Town, who had not been allowed to settle down. There was a hint of better things when Whittaker pushed the ball inside to Riach, who embarked on one of his ambitious runs before smacking in a shot that Else was able to watch go wide.

Barrow were not accurate with their shooting from inside the penalty area, which was fortunate from the Town point of view, otherwise they could have been behind.

SHOVING
There was a good deal of pushing and shoving going on by both teams, not all of it detected by the referee. The pace was fast and there was no sign of any slackening and it was probably being emphasised by the liveliness of the ball.

It had to be borne in mind, of course, that the wind was a decided advantage to Barrow, but the Town now began to come more into the game.

Sheffield was twice caught offside, and then was frustrated again as Edwards and Arrowsmith closed in on him as he sought to make contact with a through pass from Riach.

Slough was again doing a tremendous amount of covering in defence, and the Barrow attacks were not so dangerous as in the opening stages. At the same time, the Town were finding themselves running continually into a solid barrier, and shooting mostly from long range.

INFRINGE
Stoppages for minor infringements were becoming frequent. There was a chance for the Town when Riach went racing through a gap in the middle, but he got himself angled so that he could only turn the ball inside and the Barrow defence had covered. Edwards hit a free-kick for hands, and Read had his work cut out to push the ball over the bar.

Then with the Town looking for an offside decision which did not come, Mulholland had a chance, but sliced his shot wide.

A free-kick to the Town was well placed by Dougan, and Else came out to punch away as Sheffield went up for the ball.

Good covering by Dougan spoilt a chance for McLean after Mulholland had beaten Slough for a high ball and flipped it forward with his head.

Quite the best scoring attempt for the Town came from Whittaker, who headed in a centre by Riach, and Else made a smart save, but the whistle had already gone for a foul by Sheffield.

"SPECIAL"
The first half produced very little constructive football, due in some measure to the quick, hard tackling, Sheffield had his

feet ripped from under him again, and from the free kick which Allen touched to Riach, Else had some difficulty in saving one of the inside-left's "specials."

When Barrow got away again, Read with ease cut out a centre by Riley. This was not a game that looked likely to produce a crop of goals.

Just before half-time, Brown won a corner, but Sheffield's header went up in the air and was cleared.

Next foul was by Branton on McLean, who was pushed in the back, and from the free-kick Harrison hit another strong drive that finally brought Barrow a corner, which Read punched clear.

Half-time:
BARROW 0
LUTON 0

First incident of the second half was a run on the right wing from which Brown gained a corner.

Ellison made some ground down the left wing and there was a chance from his centre, but again Mulholland shot weakly.

The scrappy nature of the play continued, and Dougan put his goal in some danger when his attempt to clear first time left-footed caused the ball to go high into the air, but the Town covered up and Riley, who gained possession, was tackled by Jardine.

With the wind behind them the Town were showing a little more cohesion in attack, and after Lewis and Brown had combined, Sheffield was just beaten to the latter's centre by Arrowsmith. However, the ball remained in the danger area and Sheffield had a close-range shot scrambled away for a corner.

With Lewis lurking close, Else pulled down a centre by Whittaker, and Sheffield was penalised for pushing as he sought to climb up for a centre by Allen.

SCARE
There was a minor scare for the Town when a clearance by Branton struck McLean, who gained control, but then wasted it all by banging the ball right across the field, almost to the corner flag.

Branton then tried to set the Town alight by advancing deep into the home half, only for his pass, intended for Whittaker, to run out of play.

With Barrow threatening to take a grip again, Slough came to the rescue with a firm tackle on Mulholland. When play moved to the other end, the referee waved an admonishing

finger at Sheffield after he had challenged Else for a high ball.

Next time Barrow advanced Slough impeded Mulholland to bring yet another free kick, of which there had been an astonishing number in this game.

Yet another stoppage came when Lewis was bowled over by Arrowsmith and there was half a chance for Sheffield when Slough booted the ball into the penalty area, but it bounced awkwardly for him.

One of the best chances produced fell to McLean, who was sent clean through by Harrison. Read seemed to be caught in two minds, but he finally advanced quickly enough to smother the shot. Straight from this there was an opportunity at the other end when Riach went through on his own, but his shot went wide.

BOOKING
The spate of fouls, not vicious by any means, had to lead to somebody being booked in the end, and McLean proved to be the unlucky one after a foul on Branton.

With defenders converging on him from all angles, Riach made a strong run for goal, at the end of which his shot was deflected for a corner, and then Else had to come out to the edge of the penalty area to prevent Sheffield collecting a long pass from Dougan.

Arrowsmith gave away a corner through failing to control the ball.

There was some persistent Town pressure at this stage, which brought another corner, for which Branton came up, closely shadowed by McLean, but Else removed all speculation by catching the ball at the second attempt.

Then, with the Town being seen in a better light, Lewis suddenly produced a great drive that Else couldn't hold, and in the rush by Sheffield and Arrowsmith, it was the latter who got a foot on the ball, lifted it over the bar.

At least we were getting some goalmouth excitement now and Read did well to push over, one handed, a cross shot by Mulholland. Immediately after this the Town should have taken the lead, following individual work by Riach, who pushed the ball to the unmarked Lewis. The inside-right, however, placed his shot too close to Else, who was able to save with some difficulty, and he did so again a minute later, again from Lewis.

APPEAL
There were claims by the Town for a penalty when Ellison pulled down Slough, but the referee gave an indirect free kick for obstruction two yards inside the penalty area. After some difficulty in persuading Harrison to keep the ten yards distance, the ball was pushed to Riach, who pulled it across the face of the goal.

INJURED
With rather more than five minutes left, Read did well to



pull down a centre by Riley with McLean in close attendance and play went on with Sheffield vainly trying to open an avenue down the middle while McLean was lying injured.

Barrow were now throwing in everything in an effort to snatch a late winner, and Lewis came back to reinforce the defence, leaving Riach upfield.

The fouls in this match continued, with Branton being the next to be laid out by McLean, and the referee consulted first one linesman, then another, before coming back into the penalty area, where Branton was still receiving attention. Finally he took no action against McLean.

The hold up became prolonged, as Branton received repairs.

Then with play concentrated in the Town half, Slough suddenly pushed the ball through to Riach who looked a certain scorer, out came Else desperately and Riach's shot, aimed for the far corner, missed by inches. Result:

BARROW 0
LUTON TOWN 0