

FIVE GOALS FOR TOWN

BY CHILTERN

68/69

LUTON TOWN 5, BARNSELEY 1

WHO can halt Luton Town now in their bid to race from the Fourth Division to the Second in two seasons?

The question is being asked by thousands of ecstatic fans after the 5—1 mincing of Barnsley at Kenilworth Road last night.

Inside-left Bruce Rioch, wanted by several First Division clubs, started the avalanche in the 19th minute with the sort of goal seen once in a blue moon, putting thousands on his transfer value.

It was a feast enjoyed by a crowd of 15,899.

Rain which began shortly before the kick-off made the pitch greasy on top, and this was reflected in some early uncertainty in ball control by both teams.

Barnsley's forwards were causing a bit of trouble in the early stages, but the first serious scoring attempt came from the Town when Rioch raced through at speed after Sheffield had helped on a pass from Lewis, but his raking drive was just too high.

Barnsley were needing careful watching, and Evans nipped in too quickly for the Town defence from a corner by Hamstead, and the ball finished uncomfortably close to the post.

More trouble came for the Town when Harrison raced back to tackle Evans and was pulled up for a free kick, which Howard slammed a foot or so wide.

SLOW TO SETTLE

Certainly the Town had not settled down yet into the mastery that had been expected, though Sheffield went close with a header from a free kick by Harrison.

In the 19th minute, came another tremendous goal by RIOCH, and, if anything, it was more spectacular than his second one on Saturday.

This time, he picked up a clearance from defence in his own half of the field, and set out on a swerving run that took him through the visitors' defence, finally past Howard, before firmly planting the ball into the net.

It was a magnificent effort, and the crowd simply erupted.

The Town badly needed such a flash of inspiration, because Barnsley had been playing rather too well for comfort.

They were moving the ball quickly, and making good use of the open spaces, and there might have been an equaliser had Earnshaw not sliced his shot.

However, the Town began to look more dangerous, and

BRANSTON went up to score a vital goal from a corner after 28 minutes. The kick was well placed by French, and Branston went low to head the ball past Arblaster.

THIRD GOAL

A misunderstanding by Howard and Arblaster brought the Town another corner, which brought them their third goal after 33 minutes.

The scorer was LEWIS with a header, after Harrison had headed back into the goalmouth as the ball came over deep from French.

So, once again, the Town had scored three goals when kicking towards the Kenilworth Road goal, as they did on Saturday, and there were visions of another when Rioch came striding through again, but this time his cross shot was wide.

There was more employment for Arblaster when another drive by Rioch was deflected by a defender.

Then, seven minutes from half-time, the Town made a change, Jardine, who had developed a limp, being pulled off. Moore came on as substitute.

He took over Jardine's position of left-back, to which he is no stranger.

Now, the Barnsley attack was being contained competently, and it had not maintained its early flourish.

Just before half-time, Rioch cleverly sent away French, who gained another corner from which Robson nearly put into his own goal. Half-time:

**LUTON TOWN ... 3
BARNSELEY 0**

The second half began with the Town hungry for goals, and Rioch had a shot blocked.

Then came a shock when Barnsley reduced their arrears in the 51st minute through EARNSHAW. The Town's offside trap had failed to work, believing that Evans was offside.

Read came out to beyond his penalty area to smother Evans's shot, and appeared to handle in doing so. However, the ball went to Earnshaw, who lobbed it into the empty net.

The Town's three-goal advantage was restored by LEWIS, following a free kick which was taken twice. Harrison touched the ball to him, and the inside right drove



Bruce Rioch started it all with a wonder goal after 19 minutes.

with such force that the ball flew off Arblaster's hands into the corner of the net. This was after 54 minutes.

We are certainly seeing some wonderful goals at Kenilworth Road this season, and another came in the 61st minute, with ALLEN the marksman this time.

Sheffield laid on the pass for him, and Allen, from near the edge of the penalty area, sent the ball simply screaming into the top corner of the net.

There was still plenty of fight about Barnsley, and there was a close call for the Town when a shot by Bradbury struck Dougan and was deflected just wide, with Read left stranded.

Lewis was shining, not only with his approach work, but with his marksmanship, and he might have had a hat-trick had not Howard got in the way of a terrific drive.

In almost the last minute, Slough went racing through to force Arblaster to make a fine save. Result:

**LUTON TOWN ... 5
BARNSELEY 1**

LUTON TOWN: Read; Dougan, Jardine; Allen, Branston, Slough; French, Lewis, Sheffield, Rioch, Harrison. Substitute: Moore.

BARNSELEY: Arblaster; Murphy, Booth; Bettany, Howard, Brookes; Earnshaw, Evans, Robson, Bradbury, Hamstead. Substitute: Graham.

Referee: P R Walters, Bridgwater.