

TOWN GO NAP AGAINST BARROW BOYS

By CHILTERN
LUTON 5, BARROW 1

LAST NIGHT'S MATCH

LUTON TOWN: Davie;
Dogan, Bannister; Slough,
Branston, Moore; French,
Allen, Sheffield, Lewis,
Rioch. Substitute: Jardine.

BARROW: Else; McDon-
ald, Davis; Harrison, Arrow-
smith, Hartland; McCarthy,
Morrin, Hopkinson, Knox,
Storf. Sub: Riley.

Referee: R. V. Spittles, of
Caister-on-Sea.

FROM the start of their home match with Barrow last night, the Town made no secret of the fact that nothing short of a clear-cut victory would suit them, and they went on to register their best win since the early part of the season.

They went into an all-out attack, and although it had the effect of leaving some gaps at the back early on, Barrow, who were neat enough in the first half, were finally outplayed.

Just for one short period were there grounds for anxiety, and that was when the visitors gained a shock equaliser to Slough's early goal.

Two goals in two minutes—from Rioch and Lewis—ensured that these precious points would stay at Luton.

Allen added to his growing total, and Lewis, showing more of his old opportunism, came along with the second.

Altogether it was a joyful night for a crowd of 14,255.

For the Town, unchanged after their disappointing performance last Saturday, there was the advantage of winning the toss and attacking the Oak Road end.

From the start it was all out attack by the Town for which they nearly paid because in a quick Barrow break Storf was left with a reasonable chance just inside the penalty area and Davie saved on all fours.

Obviously the Town were all out for a shock early goal but they were also tending to leave gaps in defence and Knox should have made better use of one instead of pulling the ball behind Hartland, who was running up at speed.

EARLY MISS

As the Town kept up the pressure a left-footed drive by French flashed just wide of the far post. But Barrow were playing some neat football in midfield and the Town certainly could not afford to take liberties.

In another break a cross by Storf flew across the face of the goal.

But the Town were a little unlucky with a quick-fire movement begun by Slough and carried on by Allen who

was fouled two yards outside the penalty area.

Lewis touched the free kick to Rioch, whose drive crashed against the defensive wall.

At the other end there was some suggestion of a mix-up between Dogan and Davie and the danger was removed by the goalkeeper's quick reaction in snatching the ball away from Hopkinson.

Slowly the Town began to take the upper hand and after a header by Sheffield had missed by inches there was another free-kick pushed through by Lewis to Slough, whose shot struck Sheffield.

Free-kicks against Barrow were becoming frequent, all for comparatively mild infringements, and one taken by Moore was well dealt with by Else.

ONE UP

Then in the 19th minute came the goal that the Town had obviously gone out for from the start and it was a spectacular affair from SLOUGH.

It really came from almost nothing when Slough regained possession just outside the penalty area, wasted no time in hitting it and it rose above

the frenzied grasp of Else, who was a little out of his goal.

Despite their neatness in approach Barrow did not seem to have the power to suggest that they would be a real threat to Town who always seemed to have more potential in front of goal. Sheffield drove wide when left with rather more than a half chance and then saw Else whip the ball off his head from a centre.

Then the Town came within inches of increasing their lead when Allen let go a full-blooded drive from over 20 yards that beat Else's frantic dive and whipped just the wrong side of the post.

Then with 32 minutes gone came a shock for the Town when McCarthy out on the left wing worked the ball cleverly, beating Dogan before pulling back a judicious pass which KNOX swept into the net giving Davie no chance, knocking the Town back on their heels.

That goal produced an altogether different situation and the Town were now finding themselves pushed back on the defensive.

Davie was in action pulling down a centre from Storf and it took the Town some time to settle down.

MASS RAID

When they did there was a mass raid on the Barrow goal in which Branston made a tremendous effort to connect with a centre and finally Rioch shot wide.

There seemed to be some trouble behind the Oak Road goal which produced activity from the police, and one fan

was frog-marched off the ground.

Then after an edgy period the Town regained the lead after 42 minutes through RIOCH. It was his first goal since his return from injury for the first team.

There was a rare old mix-up in which Allen and Slough were prominent, and the ball ran loose just inside the penalty area.

That was enough for Rioch, who wasted no time, swung at it, and literally blasted it into the net.

Harrison's name went into the referee's book for a foul on Lewis as the Town crowded on the pressure in their attempts to improve their position.

Then came a third goal a minute from half-time through LEWIS who was left with a simple chance from close in, after Rioch had crossed the ball low.

Half-time:

LUTON TOWN 3
BARROW 1

The second half began with the Town on the attack with Lewis having a header saved by Else, following a good centre from French, who then missed a possible chance through being over-hasty.

GREAT PASS

Continuing in search of further goals Moore was a bit unlucky with a shot that was just wide with Else well beaten. Those two quick hammer blows just before half-time had increased the Town's confidence considerably, and

Barrow were not much in it now.

A brilliant run by Sheffield, who chased a ball out to the right, turned in and beat two opponents cleverly, deserved a better fate than his shot going too high.

One of the game's best moves came when Allen found French with a great pass and nearly brought a fourth goal. Slough came racing up to meet the ball, with his head, and it missed the post by the barest of margins.

Barrow were now being forced consistently back on to the defensive, and two corners came in rapid succession. From the second Sheffield made two gallant but abortive efforts to force the ball through.

When Barrow attempted to repeat their first-half success in break-aways they were not receiving much encouragement from a Town defence which had tightened up considerably.

Then Dogan joined in the attack to let go a long-range shot to which Else had to move sharply.

His full-back partner Bannister suddenly appeared in the penalty area, and in fact should have scored, but his shot was deflected on to the under part of the bar by Else.

Rioch was showing more confidence in his shooting on this occasion, and from about 30 yards he aimed straight for

the target area, but unfortunately it was straight at Else.

Barrow's finishing, never the strongest, had deteriorated, and there seemed no sort of threat to the Town's lead.

FOURTH GOAL

Then after 71 minutes came the Town's fourth goal through ALLEN.

French began the movement, which was carried on by Lewis, and Allen had a shot stopped before the ball rebounded to him.

This time he got his head to it and although a defender tried to clear it off the line it was obvious that the ball was over and the referee had no hesitation in awarding a goal.

With a quarter of an hour left, both teams introduced substitutes. Jardine came on for French, and Barrow pulled off Storf for Riley.

Now the goals were coming in sufficient quantity to satisfy the crowd, and the fifth arrived in the 78th minute when LEWIS calmly side-footed past Else a centre from Rioch.

With five minutes left there was a sudden thrust by Barrow, who were unlucky not to reduce their arrears when a shot by McCarthy hit the outside of the post.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Watford	35	20	9	6	58	24	49
Swindon	36	21	7	8	56	29	49
Luton	35	20	7	9	59	32	47
Plymouth	38	17	10	11	46	39	6
Bournemouth	36	17	6	13	52	35	6