

NEW-BOY COLLINS SOON ON TARGET

Luton Town 3 Barrow 0 69/70

LUTON opened the new season in the way their fans had prayed for — with a convincing 3-0 win over Barrow at Kenilworth Road.

New-boy Collins scored the second goal only 10 minutes after helping to make the first in an impressive debut for his ex-Reading player.

There was an air of excitement before the match.

Heavy rain just after lunch made people leave home later and the crowd was slow to build. But there was no lack of enthusiasm behind the popular Oak Road goal, which was the first part of the ground to fill.

The Luton Pitch was a credit to groundsman Eddie Hartley, and it has never looked better. It has levelled and the grass is thick and lush. It had been mowed "Wembley" fashion in broad lanes, and looked a treat.

Debut

Tony Read was named in the Luton goal in favour of last season's regular Sandy Davie.

With Max Dougan unfit John Ryan, who came on a free transfer from Fulham, made his League debut for the club at right back.

And latest acquisition John Collins, who came from Reading this week, made his debut for the club on the right wing.

Also playing his first League match for the Town was utility player Malcolm MacDonald. He cost £17,500 from Fulham this summer.

The rest of the Luton faces were familiar with Graham French acting as substitute.

Youngsters

Barrow brought a young team containing many changes from that which travelled south in March to be beaten 5-1 at Kenilworth Road.

In goal was former Swansea first-teamer George Heyes, and at right back was Charlie Cooper, who played for Bolton last year.

Eddie Garbett, 19, from Shrewsbury and left half Mick Hollis who is also 19, were among the youngsters included.

Centre forward Barry McArthur led the attack. He is a 20-year-old who went North from Notts Forest.

An interesting point came to light before the start when hospital commentator Roy Shackleton told his listeners that it was a

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most discussed by the fans. But this afternoon he looked sharp as a needle, working well with his colleagues and always out-jumping the big Arrowsmith.

At times Sheffield was a bit too enthusiastic, and he was penalised for "feet up" against Heyes.

MacDonald looks a good buy. He has the ability to go past a defender quickly and throw the ball back from the sharpest of angles with his left foot.

There was a flare-up in the 23rd minute when Lewis and Morrin clashed. Both players were spoken to sternly by Mr Challis.

Branston was joining in the attack whenever possible and he chased a neat through ball from Keen and almost beat Heyes with a sharp little shot from near the by-line on the right.

When they decided to play pure football Luton had the Northerners at sixes and sevens.

It was from one of these instances that Keith Allen scored their first goal of the season in the 27th minute.

Keen, Moore, Allen and Collins swept the ball across

TEAMS

LUTON TOWN: Read; Ryan, Bannister; Keen, Branston, Moore; Collins, Lewis, Sheffield, Allen, MacDonald. Sub: French.

BARROW: Heyes; Cooper, Davis, Street, Arrowsmith, Hollis; Garbett, Morrin, McArthur, Mulvaney, Storr. Sub: Ellison.

Referee: Mr R. C. Challis (Tonbridge).

GOALS

ALLEN (Luton) 27 min

COLLINS (Luton) 37 min

KEEN (Luton) 89 min

Attendance: 12,080

the base of the Town defence at such speed that Barrow were left flat-footed. ALLEN raced inside, took a smart return from Collins and hit a low shot past Heyes into the net.

Within the next two minutes the Town, who were well and truly on top at this stage, might have scored twice more. First of all full-back Jack Bannister raced upfield and brought a fantastic flying save out of Heyes, and seconds later Sheffield, still looking dangerous, hit a good opportunity over the top from close in.

Upset but not discouraged, Barrow fought back, and Mulvaney tested Read with a powerful drive.

There was no end of enthusiasm in this Luton attack. From a Keen free-kick on the left the ball bobbled out towards the right, and Collins burst in at speed to volley just wide.

In the 37th minute Luton



New boy John Collins gets into the act between two Barrow defenders. He scored Luton's second

were awarded a penalty when Sheffield was bundled off the ball in the box by two players. Lewis took the kick and it was just a bit of a weak one which Heyes stopped with a flying dive to his left.

But COLLINS sped in to hit the rebound into the roof of the net before the goalkeeper could recover.

Amends

Luton kept going forward, and a well-placed free kick from Moore was met by Lewis, anxious to make amends for his penalty miss, but the header lacked power and was saved by Heyes.

On half-time Barrow mounted a good looking attack and Read made a good save to a hard shot from Hollis which was flashed through a bunch of players who must have unsighted the Luton goalkeeper.

HT: Luton 2, Barrow 0.

The start of the second half was greeted by drizzle which made the surface tricky.

But it didn't stop Luton going into the attack immediately, and Collins wandered over to the left and won a free kick which, though half cleared, resulted in Allen nodding a header to Keen, whose first-time effort was blocked.

MacDonald gave us a preview of his long throwing ability when he lobbed the ball into the goalmouth from touch as a result of which Keen was only just wide with a snap header.

There was a smart piece of work from the linesman on the Bobbers Stand touchline.

He spotted Graham French limbering up on the touchline in his blue track suit — almost the same colour as the Barrow shirts, and drew the referee's attention to it. Mr Challis had a word with the Luton trainer, who called French back into the box.

Town kept a firm grip on the proceedings, and Lewis went close with a shot. Then a neat through ball by Bannister resulted in MacDonald being fouled on the corner of the box,

but Lewis's free-kick into the middle was cleared.

Luton were still moving well across field, with Lewis, Keen and Collins finding a perfect understanding as they moved quickly and smoothly.

Moore was beginning to move well, and he did a good job in getting the ball back to Read from a difficult situation near the corner flag.

In the 70th minute Mulvaney left the field to be substituted by Ellison.

Yards wide

Barrow wasted a fair chance of success when they were awarded a free kick just outside the box for a bit of shirt-tugging by Ryan.

Morrin and Hollis seemed at a loss as who should take it, and then Morrin hit the kick into the goalmouth for McArthur to head yards wide.

The Town swept back into attack, and Sheffield was badly shaken after a heavy collision as he chased the ball. Luton were awarded a free kick which Keen lobbed across to French, who headed at goal but without much power.

French was looking good, and on his next sortie he outstripped three pursuers before hammering across a left-footed centre which Sheffield, still looking a bit groggy from his injury, was just unable to reach.

It was all Luton, and Collins was unfortunate in not quite being able to reach a through ball from Keen before being thwarted by the brave Heyes, who sprinted out to the edge of the box to foil the Luton winger.

Luton netted their third in injury time.

A good free kick into the goalmouth by Bannister was deflected high into the air, and with Sheffield looking as if he was going to score a much deserved goal the ball bounced lightly back for KEEN, who stabbed it into the net from close range.