

NEW BOY COLLINS HITS GOAL FOR THE TOWN

THE HONOUR of scoring the Town's first goal of the new campaign for promotion fell to Keith Allen in the 26th minute. But although they had the edge over Barrow, the Town were never dominant in the opening half.

Newcomer John Collins consolidated the Town's position shortly before half-time when he blasted home Lewis's partly saved penalty—awarded after a foul on Laurie Sheffield.

Although there was no sun, it was a hot, steamy, oppressive afternoon, scarcely the sort of weather for football, and this may have deterred some supporters. Five minutes before the start the crowd was considerably smaller than last season's average.

After much speculation the only real surprise in the Town team was that Tony Read was in goal instead of Sandy Davie.

In the No. 7 shirt, usually worn by substitute Graham French was John Collins, £10,000 signing in mid-week from Reading. Two other newcomers were on view—both from Fulham—John Ryan and Malcolm MacDonald.

Barrow, who narrowly avoided relegation last season, have done considerable re-building during the summer, and fielded six newcomers.

Terry Branston, again the Town skipper, lost the toss and the Town were set to defend the Oak Road end.

SPARKED

There was an early raid by the Town, sparked off by Ryan and carried on by Collins, leaving Lewis with a bare chance in front of goal, which disappeared when three Barrow defenders converged on him.

The Town forced Barrow back on the defensive, and Sheffield did well to get up high to reach a centre from MacDonald. Heyes saved and in the next minute was beaten by Lewis, but it was no goal because the inside-right was offside.

In Barrow's first real raid, Ryan was penalised for a foul on Storf, whose free-kick was headed clear by Allen.

An escape for Barrow came when two of their defenders collided and the ball went to MacDonald, who blazed it across the face of the goal from an acute angle.

MacDonald obviously was being given a roving commission, and he sparked off the next Luton assault, which nearly brought a goal.

Lewis was very much on the spot to make a first-time shot that Cooper, standing on the line, hooked behind for a corner.

SHARPER

So far the Town were looking much sharper up front than their opponents, and the determined Sheffield made a

flying header that went too high.

Barrow's reply was prompt, and more positive, because McArthur headed in a long centre and Read was forced to push the ball hurriedly over the bar.

The corner was followed by another, with McArthur threatening again. Hesitancy in the Town defence let in



KEITH ALLEN

Garbett and it needed a fingertip save by Read to prevent him scoring.

For a short spell the Town did not look too happy, but they came back again when Sheffield, hemmed in by two defenders, met with his head a fine centre by Collins, but the ball flicked wide.

Barrow were giving nothing away and were funneling back into their penalty area in considerable strength when there was a hint of danger.

SHAKEN

Keen was badly shaken up when fouled by McArthur, and there was a hold-up while he was attended to.

The referee angered the crowd when he failed to use the advantage rule after Collins had been fouled. The free-kick sailed over to MacDonald, whose high centre was well pulled down by Heyes.

There was a flare-up between Morrin and Lewis after the Barrow player had committed a foul and the referee had a word with both.

Barrow were certainly rugged in their methods, but they were nearly taken by surprise by a sudden advance upfield by Branston, who nipped in as Davis was dithering about a clearance, got a foot to the ball and sent it into the side netting.

A good service of high

centres was coming from Collins and MacDonald, but the tall Barrow defenders were coping with this pretty well.

It was Collins who made the opening for the Town's first goal of the season, after 26 minutes. It must be credited to ALLEN, although in fact his shot struck Cooper en route. Whether there was any undue deflection was difficult to say, but it scarcely qualified for an own goal.

POWERFUL

In the next minute there was nearly another goal from an unexpected quarter when Bannister picked up the ball in mid-field, made some ground and let go a terrific drive that Heyes just tipped over the bar.

The corner was headed on by Keen to Sheffield who should have done much better than slice the ball high and wide. It was a good chance gone astray.

There was equally violent action soon afterwards for Read who had to throw himself across his goal to his left to keep out a dangerous drive by Mulvaney.

Collins continued to be prominent and came very close to scoring with a shot on the volley following a free-kick by Keen. The ball passed just wide of the post.

PENALTY

There had been a rare old tussle between Sheffield and Arrowsmith and in the 37th minute the centre-half conceded a penalty for a foul on the centre-forward.

Lewis, the Town's new penalty taker, I nearly said expert, had his shot saved by Heyes. However, he could not keep hold of the ball and COLLINS followed up to blast the ball into the net.

The Town continued to exert pressure, and Lewis just failed to get sufficient power behind a header to worry Heyes. Collins continued to be prominent in the Town attack.

Just on half-time Read was in action saving a shot from Hollis which went through a crowd of players after Keen had half cleared. Half-time:

LUTON		2
BARROW		0

It had been a pretty satisfactory first half for the Town, with newcomers Collins and MacDonald showing up brightly in attack.

First incident of the second half was a fierce drive by Keen that Davis, throwing himself full-length, headed out.

Rain was falling quite steadily now, but not many

TEAMS

LUTON TN. — Read; Ryan, Bannister; Keen, Branston, Moore; Collins, Lewis, Sheffield, Allen, MacDonald.

Substitute: French.

BARROW. — Heyes; Cooper, Davis; Street, Arrowsmith, Hollis; Garbett, Morrin, McArthur, Mulvaney, Storf.

Substitute: Ellison.

Referee: Mr. R. C. Challis, of Tonbridge.

on the uncovered Kenilworth Road terrace bothered to move.

TRICKY

After a quiet spell, Collins came into the picture again with a tricky run, but Lewis failed to control his pass.

A bad clearance by Ryan put the Town in some trouble, and it needed a sliding tackle by Branston to clear the situation.

A foul on Allen by Garbett brought the Town a free-kick from which Lewis hit the side netting, and the Town were now beginning to exert their superiority again.

Lewis was tending to lie deep on the left wing, while MacDonald was roaming into the middle as a second striker, with Sheffield.

Bannister received a knock on a knee when colliding with Read, in fact, seconds after the whistle had gone for a free kick to the Town.

DANGEROUS

The Town continued to be the more dangerous without getting to close quarters as often as one would hope.

Next test for Heyes came from Keen, and the goalkeeper had to go full length to keep out his shot from outside the area.

In the 65th minute the Town used their substitute, Graham French, for Lewis. Even though Lewis had received a slight knock early on, this looked to be a voluntary change. French went in at outside-left, with MacDonald now apparently firmly in the inside-right position.

ASSAULT

Then there was a quick assault at either end. First Ryan flashed the ball just wide and then in a quick Barrow break a mistake by Branston let in Mulvaney, who did not make the most of a good chance.

Then Barrow used their substitute, Ellison, in place of Mulvaney, who hadn't been very penetrative.

Ellison quickly made an impression, pushing the ball through to Storf, who saw a direct route to goal. However, Ryan challenged, there was much pushing and shoving,



JOHN COLLINS

and finally it was a free-kick to Barrow, which went to waste.

WELCOME

Another free kick for the Town when Sheffield was fouled was well placed by Keen, and headed into the hands of Heyes by French, to whom the crowd had given a very warm welcome.

Then French gained a corner, following which there were strident appeals for a penalty by Branston, who was right up in front of the visitors' goal.

Collins set another Town attack in motion by sending away French, who cut in and just missed the near post with a terrific drive.

There was a lucky escape for Barrow when MacDonald suddenly swooped down the left to make a low centre. Collins closed in, only to be baulked by Davis sticking out a long leg, and scooping the ball away.

HANDLED?

More bright work by French kept the Town on top and they had confident appeals for a penalty turned down after Morrin appeared to handle.

Then Collins went racing through, tried to dribble round Heyes, who had come to the edge of the penalty

How the goals came

ALLEN for Luton after 26 minutes.

COLLINS for Luton after 37 minutes.

KEEN for Luton after 89 minutes.

area, but the goalkeeper managed to fall on the ball and deflect it to safety.

After a few sorties by Barrow, none of them particularly dangerous, the Town came back again through MacDonald and French. Collins, shooting first time, was wide of the mark, but was showing a refreshing liking for having a go.

So, too, was French, who teased the defence before



letting loose with his left foot from 18 yards, and Heyes did well to get down to the ball.

A minute from the end the Town secured a deserved goal through KEEN, who pushed the ball through from close range after it had come across from the left, following good play by MacDonald.