



● **IT'S OURS:** Skipper Brian Horton and manager David Pleat hold the Second Division championship cup aloft at Kenilworth Road. Chief coach David Coates and Lil Fuccillo are on the right, with Jake Findlay showing a title-winning smile

Tykes nearly spoil the party

**LUTON TOWN 1,
BARNSELEY 1**

NO-NONSENSE tackling and hard graft by Barnsley went within three minutes of spoiling the Town's championship afternoon at Kenilworth Road.

Norman Hunter's team politely applauded the Town onto the pitch before the kick-off, but then got stuck in to play as though they really needed a win bonus.

Their defence was superb, their midfield worked like men afraid of the sack

if they were seen slacking, and the aerial threat of Trevor Aylott made their basic ploy of high balls into the penalty area a regular threat.

The Town, by contrast, wandered through the first half looking jaded and short of commitment. In view of the season's outstanding success perhaps all their friends would allow them one lapse when it didn't matter.

But luckily for the fans, Barnsley went into the lead in the 50th minute, and that was the spark the Town needed to get back into the game.

Barnsley had created and missed the better chances before they scored from a penalty. Referee John Martin had a poor game, but was quite right to point to the spot when Alan Birch launched a one-man attack down the right wing and cut into the area, where he was pulled down by Jake

Findlay.

Mr Martin was almost too quick with the whistle because the ball ran free from the foul and Glyn Filey netted a split second after the ref signalled the penalty.

Birch converted from the spot, and at long last the Town started to win control of midfield and put more consistent pressure on the Barnsley goal.

Steve White flicked a powerful header from David Moss's cross straight at Bobby Horn. A few minutes later the striker bundled goalkeeper and ball into the net after Lil Fuccillo's lob had been caught under the bar. The ref was right again when he disallowed that effort.

Barnsley boss Hunter thought his team did enough to become the first to complete a double, but conceded that the equalising goal from Brian Stein in the 87th minute was

something special.

Stein attacked down the inside right position, taking a pass from Kirk Stephens, and drifting wide of his marker before hurling himself into a ferocious shot.

Stein was airborne as he hit the ball from the edge of the penalty area with stunning force into the far corner of the net. "A marvellous strike," said the envious Hunter, whose own forward star, Aylott, is about to leave Oakwell at the end of his contract.

DETAILS

TOWN: Findlay; Stephens, Goodyear, Donaghy, Money; Hill, Horton, Fuccillo (Antic, 66 mins.); Stein, White, Moss.

BARNSELEY: Horn; Law, McCarthy, Evans, Chambers; Riley, Banks, McHale; Walker, Aylott, Birch. Sub: Mann, not used.

THE GOALS: Alan Birch penalty, 50 minutes, after he had been rugby-tacked by Jake Findlay; Brian Stein, 87 minutes, thundering 18-yard drive.

OTHER GOAL ATTEMPTS: Town six saved and seven off target. Barnsley five saved and five wide. Corners: 6-5 to the Town.

ATTENDANCE: 14,463.
REFEREE: John Martin, Hampshire.

ENTERTAINMENT: The pre-match presentation of the Second Division championship and medals was more enjoyable than the first 60 minutes of the game.



● **NO GOAL:** Steve White turns in hope, but his effort against Barnsley was ruled out for a foul on the goalkeeper.