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Sports News

TOWN MATCH VERDICT

Barnsley.....1
Luton Town.....0
(Half time 0-0)

★★

Brian Swain reports. Action pictures by John Sherwood.

Barnsley muscle too hot to handle

● FLYING SCOTT: A second-half strike by Scott Oakes, which produced a good save from Lee Butler. Below: Well policed, Oakes is unable to get clear of his marker.

THE team that can be out of this world in the FA Cup showed us the other side of the coin again in the league at Barnsley.

Luton Town seemed to have little stomach for a fight in the hurly-burly game Barnsley played as they battled for First Division survival.

And there could be no complaints about the defeat. It was the Town's fourth league game without a win.

ROBUST

Barnsley, robust and determined, were unlucky: goalkeeper **Juergen Sommer** was easily the Town's man of the match, with a series of fine saves.

On a windy afternoon, the quality of football was very poor, and the Town failed to produce anything near the quality they are capable of.

And while they were low key, Barnsley were fired up, with force and muscle compensating for a lack of guile and skill.

They operated with three centre-backs, with the wide defenders pushing well forward, and the Town, with five in midfield, were second best for all the first half, but much better when it was too late, after the 67th-minute winner.

With **Des Linton** on crutches, **Paul Telfer** started at right back, and struggled when Owen Arhdeacon and Neil Redfearn raided down that flank.

In the first 45 minutes, the Town managed just one shot, with **Scott Oakes** having a shot tipped over the bar following a left wing cross by **Julian James**.

Referee Kevin Wolstenholme from Blackburn failed to see that Lee Butler had got a hand to it, so the Town were denied even the consolation of a corner. They had to wait until the 81st minute for the only one they managed.

Ther ref made a few other mistakes as well, particularly in the 75th minute when he allowed Payton to stay on the field after an off-the-ball assault on **Alan Harper**.

But the Town could blame only themselves for the failure to beat a side that looked keen as mustard but a long way short of brilliant.

In the first half, with the exception of that one strike by Oakes, it was Sommer v Barnsley as the Town were pressed back by football that was more about power than finesse.

In the first ten minutes Andy Rammell, Redfearn and Payton were all in the clear for scoring opportunities, but wasted them by shooting straight at Sommer.

A good save tipped a 25-yarder by Payton round a post and Sommer's best efforts came in the closing minutes of the first half.

He got down very quickly to grab a downward header by Archdeacon and was full length to clutch a drive by Andy Liddell.

In midfield Danny Wilson was enjoying the afternoon against his old mates, although there was nothing friendly about a crunching tackle on **David Preece** which earned a yellow card, and left Preece unable to return for the second half.

The little midfielder hardly got in the game, and it was a case of if Preece was not ticking nor were the Town.

Kerry Dixon, also the subject of a bad tackle, laboured as the only Town front man, but things improved after half-time changes.

Preece was taken off and **Mitchell Thomas** went on as sub at left back. James switched to the right and Telfer went into midfield, where he was more effective.

But **Martin Williams**, first-half midfielder and second-half attacker, had an unproductive afternoon as Barnsley's hustle and bustle all but passed him by.

The same was true for much of the game of **Scott Oakes**, who was well policed until he began to find an opening or two after the interval, when he was playing between midfield and attack.

Butler raced out to the edge of the box to kick clear when Oakes almost capitalised on a through-ball by Thomas, and when **Ceri Hughes** put Oakes in for the kind of chance that brought his first goal against West Ham the cross-shot was saved.

But too many Town men were below their best, and it was only justice when Barnsley scored after 67 minutes.

Archdeacon, wide on the left, crossed to beyond the far post. Nicky Eaden, the overlapping defender on the right flank, returned the ball hard and low, and Sommer had no chance with the close-range shot by Payton.

But the Town might have salvaged a point, because within a minute Hughes headed wide of an open goal, from a good position, after meeting an excellent cross by Telfer.

DENIED

Redfearn smashed a shot against a post at the other end, but the Town's second sub, **John Hartson**, was almost as close.

Dixon limped out of the game with 15 minutes to go, after bravely persevering while his ankle got more and more swollen.

Hartson's all-action enthusiasm set Barnsley a new problem, but Butler denied him with a double save in the 84th minute, parrying the first shot and catching the second from the rebound.

Hughes fired a cross-shot narrowly wide as nerves got to Barnsley in the closing minutes, but on the overall team performance the Town hardly deserved to be that close to a point.

The match details

LUTON TOWN: Sommer; Telfer, Dreyer, Peake, James; Williams, Harper, Preece (Thomas HT), Hughes, Oakes, Dixon (Hartson 75 mins). Goalkeeper sub: Petterson.

BARNSLEY: Butler; Eaden, Fleming, Taggart, Bishop, Archdeacon; Liddell, Wilson, Redfearn; Rammell, Payton. Subs, not used: Snodin, Jackson and goalkeeper Watson.

THE GOAL: Andy Payton, in the 68th minute. Close range shot after Owen Archdeacon crossed deep from the left to beyond the far post and Nick Eaden, the other overlapping defender, knocked the ball back hard and low into the goal area.

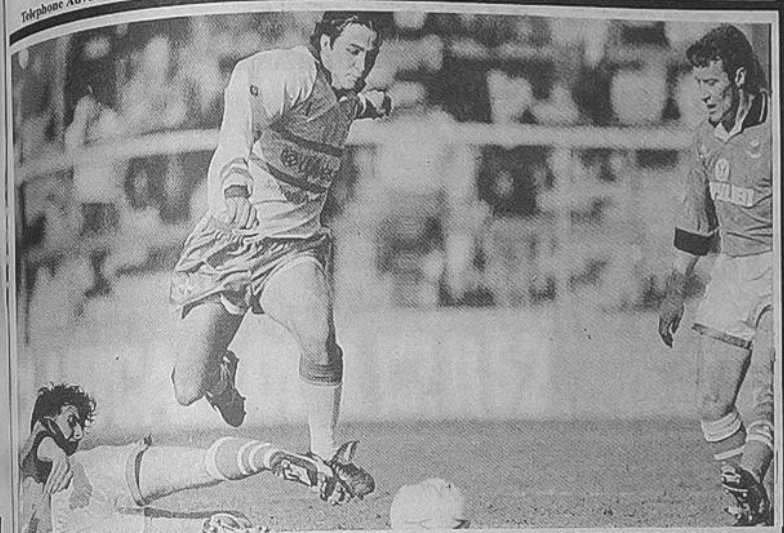
OTHER ATTEMPTS: Town six saved and two wide. Barnsley ten saved, four wide, and a cracking drive by Neil Redfearn hit the bar. Corners: 4-1 to Barnsley.

REFEREE: Kevin Wolstenholme, Blackburn. Let an awful lot of physical stuff go on, despite five yellow cards.

BOOKINGS: Ceri Hughes for a foul and John Dreyer for hands; Danny Wilson for a foul on David Preece, and Andy Payton and Neil Redfearn for fouls on Alan Harper. Payton's offence should have been a red card job, for felling Harper off the ball.

ATTENDANCE: 6,289, including 395 from Luton.

ENTERTAINMENT: In short supply, with Barnsley muscle more than strong enough to brush aside a below-par Town side which was saved from a real hammering by Juergen Sommer.



● TWO TO ONE (1): Ceri Hughes forces a way past one Barnsley man, with another, former Town Wembley hero Danny Wilson, ready for the second bite.

Opposition all fired up

PREDICTABLE AND therefore avoidable was the view of manager David Pleat when he discussed why his team could be so superb in the FA Cup quarter-final replay, then so poor in the league.

The Town were unhappy with Kevin Wolstenholme's handling of a physical game. "The referee was weak," said the Town boss. And the Town camp was incensed that Andy Payton got away with a yellow card after smashing Alan Harper to the ground after the Town man had cleared the ball.

But the Town manager was not blaming the ref for the result. "We looked as though we had come for a game of cricket and someone had nicked the stumps so we had to play football instead," he said.

"The game was very physical at times, and we wasted some opportunities. But Barnsley took the game to us and deserved the points.

"We didn't get our breath until the last 20 minutes, but the truth is we were out-battled."

And the manager expects more of the same in the next few weeks as other teams relish the chance to put one over on a team in the FA Cup semi-finals.

"We are going to get whacked a bit," he said. "Barnsley were up for this game and so will other teams be."

Barnsley manager Viv Anderson said his team is a far better side now than the one that was stuffed 5-0 at Kenilworth Road in October.

"We work harder and we're tighter at the back," he said.

"I thought we deserved to win. We played quite well and would have scored more except that the Luton goalkeeper did well."

The First Division

	HOME					AWAY					
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
C. Palace	38	13	4	2	35	15	8	4	7	26	24	71
Nottm Forest	36	10	7	2	32	18	8	2	7	26	21	63
Leicester City	36	11	5	2	39	21	6	4	8	19	23	60
Millwall	35	12	5	1	29	12	4	6	7	16	25	59
Derby Co.	36	11	2	4	33	19	5	6	8	22	31	56
Notts County	36	14	1	3	36	19	3	3	12	17	39	55
Charlton	35	11	3	4	25	11	5	4	8	19	24	55
Tranmere	36	11	3	4	34	19	4	5	9	13	23	53
Middlesbrough	36	9	5	3	27	11	5	6	8	19	24	53
Stoke City	37	11	2	5	26	16	3	8	8	17	32	52
Grimsby	36	6	10	1	22	13	6	5	8	24	26	51
Sunderland	35	12	2	4	26	13	3	4	10	13	26	51
Wolves	35	8	7	3	28	15	4	7	6	19	20	50
Bristol City	36	8	5	5	20	16	5	6	7	17	24	50
Southend	37	8	5	6	28	22	6	2	10	22	28	49
Bolton Wdrs	35	8	6	2	29	19	4	5	10	18	26	47
Portsmouth	37	9	5	4	25	15	3	6	10	17	34	47
Luton Town	34	10	2	5	31	18	2	5	10	13	25	43
Barnsley	35	6	3	8	18	21	6	4	8	26	29	43
West Brom	37	7	7	5	32	24	3	3	12	17	32	40
Watford	37	8	4	7	33	32	2	3	13	18	39	37
Peterborough	37	6	8	5	23	19	2	3	13	14	31	35
Oxford Utd	36	7	3	8	22	29	2	5	11	15	33	35
Birmingham	38	7	6	7	20	25	1	4	13	15	34	34

● Not including last night's matches

OUR QUIZ in the West Ham match programme provoked some plaintive phone calls from fans trying to think of three ex-Luton Town men who have played for the Hammers in the last couple of years.

Tim Breacker and Mitchell Thomas were easy to remember. The third was Mick Small. The man who played for David Pleat (at Spurs) then nearly did again (he turned down Luton) before joining the Hammers was Clive Allen, and the unusual feature of the Town's 2-1 win at Upton Park on the first day of the 1980/81 season was that all the goals were from penalties, two by David Moss and one by Ray Stewart.

● TWO TO ONE (2): Alan Harper outnumbered, with that man Wilson again hovering.

THE WEEKEND'S FULL LOCAL SOCCER RESULTS

S. Midlands League

PREMIER DIV: Bedford Town 1 Biggleswade 2; Langford 3 Arlesey Town 1; Letchworth 3 Shillington 2; Milton Keynes 2 Hatfield Town 1; Potters Bar Town 1 Hoddesdon Town 0; Welwyn GC 1 Harpenden Town 3; Wingate 4 Buckingham Ath 1.

O'BRIEN TROPHY: London Colney 1 Brache 0.

SENIOR DIV: Shenley 1 61FC Luton 0; Toddington Rov 4 Ampthill 0. **CUP:** Leverstock 3 Risborough 0; Tring Ath 1 Pitstone 0; Shefford 2 N Bradwell 1; Winslow 2 Bedford Utd 0.

DIV ONE: Ashcroft 4 Scot 1; Caddington 0 Mercedes Benz 1; Cranfield Utd 3 Eaton Bray 2; Delco 3 Potters Bar Cru 1; Sandy 0 De Havilland 3; Walden 2 Houghton Town 1. **CUP:** Emberton 2 MK County 1.

RESERVE SECTION

TROPHY: Totternhoe 0 Oxford City 2. **DIV 1A:** Barton Rov 0 Bedford Town 4; Bedford Utd 0 Cranfield 1; Buckingham Ath 4 Tring Ath 1; Pitstone 0 Langford 4; Shillington 1 Toddington 1; Tring Tn S P. Bar Town 1. **DIV 1B:** Arlesey 5 Caddington 3; Biggleswade Town 1 Letchworth 1; Brache 1 Shenley 2; Harpenden Town 0 Welwyn 0; Hatfield Tn 4 Leverstock 3; Leighton Tn 10 Ashcroft 3. **DIV 2:** Ampthill 2 Sandy 1; Houghton Tn 3 MK County 1; Mercedes 2 Winslow Utd 3; Scot 1 Flamstead 2.

Luton District League

PREMIER DIV: O Dunstabllians 1 Lewsey Pk 1; Christians In Sport 10 Singh Sabha 0; Dagnall 2 AC Cadoza 2; Ebony 3 Kent 2; Studham 1 Luton OB Res 3; Flitwick 3 Stockwood Ath 3.

DIV ONE: Kent Ath 4 Monarch 4; Markyate 2 Lea Sports 2; Thresher 1 Lewsey Pk 1; Thomas-De-La-Rue 2 Brickmakers 1; Luton Eagles 3 Studham Res 0; Flitwick Tn Res 2 Luton OB A 6; Crawley Green 0 Thistle 7.

DIV TWO: Eaton Bray Res 1 Flitwick A 0; 61FC Luton 0 Sportsman Dun 1; Whitbread 2 Compasses 4; Hockwell Ring 2 Markyate Res 11; Harlington 3 Christians A 1; Harveys 9 First & Last 2.

The NHC Sunday League

PREMIER DIV: Sacred Heart 2 Brache Green Man 1; Stag Sports 1 FC Coral 7; Crawley Sports 2 Enterprise 5; Celtic 2 GIS Leagrave 1.

DIV ONE: Heron Res 0 Horseshoe Saints 0; Lewsey 0 Celtic Res 0; Crawley Sports Res 1 S. Heart Res 3.

DIV TWO: Wheatsheaf 3 Stopsley Harriers Res 2; Chalton Strollers 0 TRW 1; Lea Sports 1 The Brewery 1; Caddington 0 The Boater 0.

DIV THREE: Borough Arms 1 Dog & Duck 2; GIS Res 0 Magnum 2; Strawplaiters 6 Coral 2; Vaux HT 2 First & Last Parkside 1; Red Star 2 Coulter 2.

DIV FOUR: Stopsley WMC Res 1 Britannia 1; Flint Utd 2 Markyate 1; Vine OB 0 NT Sugar Loaf Res 2; Thames Utd 6 Lewsey Res 1; Roman Legion 0 AFC Oakley 2; Laporte 0 Wigmore Ath 2.

DIV FIVE: AFC Stopsley 3 Lea Sports Res 4; FC Houghton Res 7 Streatley Chequers 0; Borough Arms Res 0 Casa Bianca 0.

DIV SIX: Woodstock Wdrs 1 Wellington 2; Black Swan Res 2 Houghton Town Res 5; Toddington 3 Houghton Regis 4; Swan Rgrs 0 O. Moat House Res 0.

DIV SEVEN: L. Rover 1 Postels 0; Limbury Utd 3 Fidus 3; Sportsman 4 Red Star Res 0; Thameslink 0 Pulsebeat 6; Markyate Res 1 Lynmore 3; Bedco OB 0 Magnum Res 2.

Luton Sunday League

DIV ONE: Bridge 1 Oakley 9; DFL 5 Meds 3; First & Last 1 Purley 7; Dukes A 0 Lea A 0.

STEVE SMITH CUP: High Town 2 AFC Barn Owl 5.

DIV TWO: AMC 1 GML 1; Icknield 0 Round Gn 5; Dukes B 3 Lea Sports B 11; One Nation 3 Hibbert 0.

S. Beds Sunday League

INVITATION CUP: Beds Yeoman 3 Britannia 0.

PREMIER DIV: Leicester Arms 2 Sundon Pk 2; Coach & Horses 6 Bricklayers 2; GM Clophill 3 Nurdin & Peacock 3.

DIV ONE: Inter-City 0 EG Chiltern 2; Rose and Crown 2 Painters Arms 1.

DIV TWO: Emerald 1 Tophill Utd 0 Crown & Keg 4 Sundon Pk Res 3; Sus Systems 0 Robin Hood 7.

DIV THREE: Painters Res 3 Air Express 3.

BERNARD PEARCE TROPHY: Lea Bank 0 Park Town 2; Bromley Ath 4 Northside 1.

SUPPLEMENTARY CUP: Sportsman 2 Vauxhall Griffin 6.

Chiltern Youth League

UNDER 18: Park Tn 7 Sundon Pk Rgrs 2; Ampthill 1 Icknield 6.

UNDER 17 DIV ONE: W. Eaton 0 Foxes 7; Newport Pagnall 4 Wootton 1. **DIV TWO:** Leighton Cor 4 Ramridge B 2; Griffin Brache 3 Downside B 1; Warden Hill 2 Ampthill 5; Tring Tn 0 Barton Stars 3. **CUP:** Ramridge A 2 Limbury BC 1.

UNDER-16: St. Joseph's 4 Sundon Park 2; Leighton Cor 5 Putteridge 0; St. Mary's 2 Valley Park 3.

UNDER 15 DIV ONE: Aylesbury 1 B. Hill 1; Scot 2 St. Joseph's 2. **DIV TWO:** Ramridge B 8 Tring 0; Ampthill 5 Downside 2; Icknield 1 Sundon Park 9; Leighton Cor 7 H. Hatters 2.

UNDER-14 DIV ONE: Ampthill 0 Fairlands 1; Astra 3 E. Bray 0. **DIV TWO:** Pin Gn 0 Dragons 6; Ramridge 2 Houghton Tn 1; W. Hill 3 Markyate 4. **DIV THREE:** Barton Stars 15 Downside 1; Delco 0 WL Saints 4.

UNDER-13 DIV ONE: Ramridge A 3 Celtic 0; Sundon Pk 1 St. Joseph's 7; Leighton Cor 2 Lewsey 1. **DIV TWO:** Arrows 1 Markyate 7; Kempston 1 Houghton Yth 1; Icknield 0 Pioneer 6; Ramridge B 11 S. Heart B 2; St. Mary's 6 Westoning 1; Ampthill 3 Selby 2.

UNDER 12 DIV 1: Lewsey 3 Limbury B 3; Ampthill A 1 Dragons 3; Leighton Cor 0 St. Joseph's 7; Celtic 0 Limbury A 3; Foxes 2 AFC Houghton 1. **DIV TWO:** Barnfield B 2 Beaconsfield 0; Redbourn 3 Sundon Pk 2; Gliders 1 Ampthill B 7; H. Hatters 1 Flamstead 3; Westoning B 0 Markyate 7.

UNDER 11 DIV ONE: Ampthill 0 AFC Houghton 5; Lewsey A 6 St. Joseph's 2; Ramridge 5 Sundon Pk 4. **DIV 2:** Dragons 3 Barton Stars 1; Markyate 0 WL Saints 17; Dunstable C 11 Redbourn 8; Celtic 4 Limbury 3; Leighton Corn B 3 Kenworth 2.

UNDER-TEN DIV ONE: Leighton Cor 7 Celtic 2; St. Joseph's 7 Dunstable Colts 0; St. Mary's 1 Lewsey 1; Ramridge 0 Foxes 0. **DIV TWO:** WL Saints 0 Barnfield 7; Dunstable Tn 0 S. Heart 4.

BOYS NEED MANAGERS

LEA SPORTS, who amalgamated with Stopsley BC two years ago, are setting up teams at ages from under 10 to under 12 in the Chiltern Youth League, and need managers to lead them. Players or would-be managers can get further information from Steve Smith ☎ Luton 712279.

MISSING FROM this week's results is a Division Three match in the A & B Sports North Home Countiues Sunday League.

And leaders Silsoe Rangers were unhappy when their game against Caddington was called off.

Said manager **Tony Durkin:** "The ref failed to show up, and after we had waited for 30 minutes Caddington packed up and went home. We would have been happy to play with a temporary official."