

Barnsley3
Luton1

BARNSELY's sound home form was put to the test by Luton's impressive away form of seven victories at Oakwell this afternoon as both teams sought to stay in touch with the First Division's top six.

And there was one surprise for Barnsley player/manager Danny Wilson, he recalled striker Andy Rammell after a long stretch out injured and dropped Andy Payton to the substitutes' bench, obviously mindful of the fact that Rammell got Barnsley's winner at Kenilworth Road in October.

Teenager Adrian Moses kept his place in defence with the suspensions of Gerry Taggart and Charlie Bishop, both in operation.

Luton boss David Pleat brought ex-England man Kerry Dixon back into the team to cover for this week's £2.5million transfer of teenager John Hartson to Arsenal.

It was clear to see from the early play why Luton have had so much success on their travels.

They took the game to Barnsley at every opportunity and Telfer, backing up from midfield down the right had a header on target but saved by Watson.

Then Watson had to dive at Oakes' feet as Luton mounted a raid which had germinated deep in their own territory. Telford's long throw-in as far as the near post had Davis heading behind for safety in the air with Dixon for the first corner of the match.

Organising

Liddell then forced Barnsley's first corner which Sommer caught unchallenged on the six yards line. Next Sommer saved at Rammell's feet and got a rebuke from the goalkeeper as the game evened out.

Liddell's quick free kick caught Luton's defence still organising, and put Eaden clear round the back but having got to the line his low centre was cut out by Thomas.

Reds' Liddell caps Hatters

Trevor Lovett at Oakwell

BARNSELY

Watson

Eaden

Fleming

Wilson

Moses

Davis (S)

O'Connell

Redfearn

Rammell

Liddell

Sheridan

Subs: Bullock,
Payton, Butler
(gk)

LUTON

Sommer

James

Johnson

Waddock

Thomas

Peake

Telfer

Oakes

Dixon

Harvey

Marshall

Subs:
Skelton, Woodsford,
Davis (K) (gk)

Referee: Neale Barry (Scunthorpe)



Andy Rammell
replaced Payton

The best attempt at goal came from Liddell when Redfearn sent a free kick high into Luton's penalty area. Although the lively striker had his back to goal, he still managed to produce a high volley on the turn but too much height spoiled his attempt.

At this stage Barnsley were into their best spell and some close approach work threatened to find a way through but Redfearn's clever little back heel when he realised there was no chance of shooting, fell a yard short of Rammell.

Marshall, who had once destroyed Barnsley during his days at Plymouth, looked dangerous running at full speed at the heart of Barnsley's defence, but with Sheridan on his heels he over-ran the ball slightly and Watson blocked at his feet.

Barnsley twice got themselves into good positions to deliver centres, but produced nothing from either of them and then almost took the lead when, for no reason at all play seemed to come to a halt.

It stemmed from Johnson's aerial challenge with Rammell who did not realise where the ball had gone. When he did so he was allowed to run in on goal and shoot but Sommer got a leg to it.

And when the ball came back off the post it dropped straight into the goalkeeper's hands while he was kneeling on the ground.

Davis, who was finding Dixon an awkward customer was booked for dragging him back but Dixon was not always the innocent party.

Half time:

Barnsley 0
 Luton 0

Moses took it upon himself to show the rest how it might be done running the ball out of his own half and then shooting off target from long range and straight from that attempt Barnsley found themselves behind.

The goal kick was played out to Oakes who pumped it upfield and when it fell to DIXON there looked to be no danger at all.

But the former England man looked up, spotted Watson well off his line and from fully 40 yards sent the ball up and over the goalkeeper into the net on the first bounce.

Within seconds of the restart Marshall might have delivered more than he did when Fleming

made a mistake, but after that Barnsley started to produce.

As Barnsley kept buzzing round the Luton box, Wilson's 25 yards free kick hit the wall and came out for Rammell, but he was forced to stretch too far and saw his shot go inches wide of the post, but in the 66th minute the goal that Barnsley had been threatening arrived.

The ball was played in high from the right beyond the far post where Rammell headed down to Liddell. His instant little redirection of the ball went straight into REDFEARN's stride pattern and from 10 yards he equalised

The turn around was completed six minutes later when Barnsley went in front.

Wilson started the move from well inside the Barnsley half and a quick high release from the centre circle had LIDDELL galloping away unchallenged down the right. He cut in and made goalscoring look matter of fact with a low angled shot past Sommer.

But the match was surely wrapped up in the 78th minute when LIDDELL repeated his first goal almost inch perfect when Sommer made a mess of a kick to relieve the pressure. It went straight to Liddell who might have tried a lob, but instead moved the ball forward and shot in low to put Barnsley 3-1 in front.