

BARNLSLEY

VITO MANNONE	5/10
The young Italian had another nightmare, gifting Town a last-minute winner	
SAM TOGWELL	6/10
Hard worker in and did well in breaking up Luton's forays forward	
BOBBY HASSELL	8/10
Again in the centre of defence, confident and cool throughout	
NEIL AUSTIN	6/10
Had the better of the exchanges with Morgan for most of the game	
PAUL HECKINGBOTTOM	7/10
Had a difficult time against Edwards, one of Luton's best performers	
MARTIN DEVANEY	6/10
Lively again on the right, quick and tricky but his final cross was wayward	
ANTHONY KAY	6/10
Steady and reliable when Luton looked to get through the Tykes backline	
MICHAEL MCINDOE	6/10
Dangerous and clever against the side where he started as a youngster	
BRIAN HOWARD	7/10
Creative and linked well with the front pair, took his goal superbly	
PAUL HAYES	7/10
Always looking to be on the end of crosses or loose balls in the box	
MARC RICHARDS	7/10
Was shackled by the Luton defence, but was always looking for an opening	
SUBSTITUTES	
WRIGHT; FOR DEVANEY (81)	
WILLIAMS; FOR AUSTIN (90)	
NOT USED: LETHEREN; HEALY; WROE	

STAR PLAYERS

Bobby Hassell	Dean Morgan
	
STAR RATING 8	STAR RATING 8

LUTON

MARLON BERESFORD	6/10
The ex-Barnsley keeper was steady, but was almost caught out early on	
MARKUS HEIKKINEN	7/10
Kept his cool under pressure as Town earned a crucial victory	
LEON BARNETT	7/10
Solid and strong against Richards and Hayes, but distribution sometimes suspect	
KEVIN FOLEY	6/10
Had to be on his toes against livewire McIndoe, who came out on top	
LEWIS EMANUEL	6/10
Cleared off the line to deny Barnsley an early lead and went close later on	
DEAN MORGAN	8/10
Excellent provider when he had the opportunity, his cross led to Town's opener	
STEVE ROBINSON	6/10
Energetic and pacy skipper who led by example and directed operations	
CARLOS EDWARDS	7/10
Quick and tricky going forward on the right and deserved his goal	
RICHARD LANGLEY	6/10
Hard-working in midfield and keen to link up with Edwards and Robinson	
SAM PARKIN	6/10
Worked tirelessly looking for an opening, gave the Barnsley defence a hard time	
ROWAN VINE	6/10
Busy and creative but had a tough afternoon against a resolute defence	
SUBSTITUTES	
DAVIS - 6/10; FOR MORGAN (63)	
BRKOVIC - 6/10; FOR LANGLEY (63)	
NOT USED: BRILL; KEANE; FEENEY	

YOUNG GUNNER BLOWS UP TYKES

Keeper boob hands Luton points

By MIKE STOKES

YOUNG ARSENAL keeper Vito Mannone, on loan at Barnsley, handed Luton the three points with a last-minute boob after Mike Newell's men had earlier given him an easy ride.

The 18-year-old Italian made his home debut as a replacement for the suspended Nick Colgan but was rarely troubled by the Luton strikers who peppered the stands with their shots.

The youngster, behind the league's leakiest defence, was beaten by a brilliant strike from Carlos Edwards but then 14 more efforts were off target until he mishandled a late cross and substitute Ahmet Brkovic headed the winner.

Barnsley should have been in front after carving out two chances in quick succession in the first six minutes.

With the pressure on from a corner, Bobby Hassell headed across goal leaving former Barnsley keeper Marlon Beresford stranded as Paul Hayes connected with his head, but Lewis Emanuel somehow headed the chance off the line.

A minute later some neat inter-play between Brian Howard and Martin Devaney had Luton back-peddalling and Devaney should have scored but his low 15-yard left footer was easily held by the keeper.

Ex-Luton trainee Michael McIndoe swung across a 35th minute corner that dipped over to Hassell but his looping header was over the top.

When the ball broke to Devaney wide on the right, instead of crossing, he tried a wild shot on the run and only found the stand before Howard smacked the bar with a volley from 15 yards.

Moments before half-time Marc Richards drilled a volley over and, when play swung to the opposite end, Edwards darted in and saw his low angled shot held by Mannone.

Two minutes into the second half Luton took the lead when Barnsley failed to clear Dean Morgan's cross and it dropped for Edwards. He kept his head, span and hit a rasping shot home from the edge of the box.

Luton held on to the lead for less than a minute before Hayes slipped a neat pass to Howard who beat Leon Barnett's challenge and

MATCH STATS

BARNLSLEY v LUTON

5	Shots on target	8
6	Shots off target	11
4	Corners	8
6	Offside	5
11	Fouls conceded	23
0	Yellow Cards	2
0	Red Cards	0
52	Possession %	48

Att: 10,175 Rating: ★★☆☆
Ref: D Whitestone - 5/10

stabbed the ball past Beresford as the keeper came out.

The visitors could have regained the lead but Rowan Vine's cross was headed wide by Richard Langley who should have done better.

But at the death Mannone handed the chance to substitute Brkovic who gratefully headed the ball home.

Tykes boss Andy Ritchie said: "I'm disappointed for the team but, most of all, I'm really disappointed for Vito. It was his home debut, 30 seconds to go, and unfortunately he's made a terrible mistake."

"You've got to feel for him. He was close to tears at the end. I went straight up to him on the pitch and told him not to worry about it."

"When I saw him coming for the cross I was confident he would take it because he'd done the same thing two minutes earlier to relieve pressure, but the ball slipped through his hands."

Luton boss Mike Newell admitted: "The winner was a gift. You feel for the young keeper but I'm glad that we won the game."

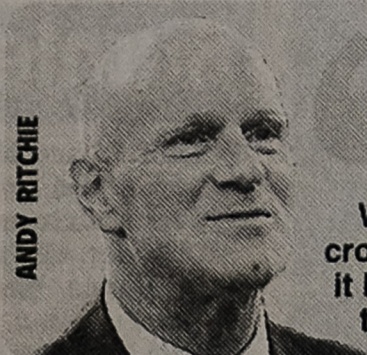
"We had enough chances in the second half to have gone in front before then."

"I'm satisfied with the start we've made to the season. We're well-placed in the top half going into the international break."



IN FIRST: Luton's Rowan Vine loses out on this header with Anthony Kay

PICTURE: Keith Turner



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The winner was a gift. You feel for the young keeper but I'm glad that we won the game.

We had enough chances in the second half to have gone in front before then and if anyone was going to win at that stage it always looked as if it would be us.