

Victory Tykes a bit of pressure off

06/07
Luton.....0
Barnsley2

BRIAN Howard's first half strike and a last minute Martin Devaney effort secured Barnsley's first away win in the Championship since August.

Both sides created chances in an even contest but Luton lacked a cutting edge up front and, in the main, both sides were restricted to long-range efforts.

Barnsley last won on their travels on August 12 when they edged out Colchester 2-1 at Layer Road.

Defender Leon Barnett and midfielder Richard Langley returned to Luton's starting line-up, while Barnsley manager Simon Davey recalled Antony Kay, Adam Eckersley, Grant McCann and Marc Richards following his side's home FA Cup

replay defeat to Southend.

Barnsley made the brighter start and after Richards fired narrowly wide, they were rewarded in the seventh minute when Howard latched onto Daniel Nardiello's pass to shoot low into the bottom corner.

Luton goalkeeper Dean Kiely held another effort from Richards.

Kiely then turned away Martin Devaney's spectacular 30-yard free kick in fine style, before Luton created their first effort on goal in the 26th minute when Barnett's bullet header from Langley's corner was well held by Barnsley goalkeeper Nick Colgan.

Langley and Sam Togwell traded 25-yard shots that were saved and David Bell rifled another long-range effort over the crossbar in an even contest.

Nardiello's piledriver flew wide and Devaney's shot

from distance was held by Kiely.

Luton suffered a further blow when they lost both Sol Davis and Barnett to injury not long after the interval, with Ahmet Brkovic and Russell Perrett on as replacements.

Warren Feeney had limped out of the action during the first period, with Adam Boyd stepping off the substitutes' bench.

Langley and Boyd fired in shots from outside the penalty area which Colgan held, while Howard's effort was just over the crossbar at the other end.

The action continued to flow from end to end.

Steve Robinson's 25-yard shot was blocked by Barnsley defender Bobby Hassell and the Luton midfielder was then denied by Colgan, who got down well to parry another effort from the edge of the area.

Winger Kyel Reid and striker Michael Coulson replaced Barnsley strike pair Nardiello and Richards with 10 minutes to go.

Togwell let fly with another 25-yard shot and in the last minute, goalscorer Howard turned provider when his pass inside from the left wing set up Devaney who shot into the bottom corner.

Davey points to improved finishing

BARNSLEY boss Simon Davey was delighted to see his side finally win away from home.

"We haven't won away from home since August but I said that the team spirit was great this week in training and they have

proved that with this result," he said.

"The work ethic was fantastic and we took our chances, which we haven't been doing in the past couple of weeks.

"I am pleased for the lads because we've come in for a bit of stick lately. It's a fantastic result for us.

"Luton had some pressure in the second half, which is understandable, but the lads at the back, the goalkeeper and the whole team worked their socks off to keep them at bay."

Luton manager Mike Newell said: "It wasn't our day in any department.

"The second half we had all the game, but needed that bit of fortune to get back into it.

"I'm looking for strong characters at the moment. I believe we have them here, but if we don't, we'll have to add a few more."