

- **TOWN:** Davis; James (Linton 79 mins) Peake, Johnson, Harvey; Telfer, Waddock (Matthews 61 mins), Praeger, Oakes; Marshall Taylor. Goalkeeper sub Sommer.
- **READING:** Hishop; Bernal, Wdowczyk; McPherson, Williams, Taylor, Gooding, Osborn, Kerr; Nogan, Lovell (Giles 83 mins). Unused subs Quinn and goalkeeper Sheppard.
- **THE GOAL:** John Taylor header into his own net, 43 minutes, from a free kick by Simon Osborn, with Reading skipper Ade Williams competing for the ball and claiming the goal as his.

- **OTHER ATTEMPTS:** Reading saved and five wide; Reading the Town (10-2 at half-time).
- **REFERENCE:** John Kirkby, Sheffield; he looked good every time he has been in Kenilworth Road this season, and had another good no-fuss game.
- **BOOKED:** Reading's Scott Taylor and Arsenal, both for fouls on Rob Matthews.
- **ATTENDANCE:** 8,717, second highest League gate this year, and including 2,000 Reading supporters.
- **ENTERTAINMENT:** Pretty good up and down the pitch, but then the Town went to pieces.

BLOCKED . . . Reading skipper Ade Williams reaching the target in a penalty area

DATE...	OPPONENTS...	RESULT...	TOWN SCORERS...	ATTENDANCE...	LEAGUE POSITION	APPEARANCES...	GOALS
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[illegible]

BLANKET DEFENCE . . . No way through for the Town strike force as Reading get men back in numbers to protect their goal.

UTON **LEADER** SPORTS **A** KICK in the teeth was David Pleat's description of the self-inflicted damage the Town did to end their run of ten home games without defeat.

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The winning goal, just before the interval, was a fluke, but it gave Reading the encouragement to control the rest of the game.

Not for the first time in recent weeks, the Town faded badly in the second half and while they might have been three or four ahead before Reading scored, just as certainly they would have been three or four behind after the goal.

Reading could have had a couple more goals when the Town were chasing the game.

Reading used three centre-backs to bottle

"If you don't take your chances you get kicked in the teeth," said the Town boss.

ital tackle to stop John Taylor's shot with balloons by visiting fans.



"I could understand how the game changed," the Press discussed how well the Town had half, but been second-best after the break.

\$0 CLOSE... Reading goalkeeper Shaka Hislop is caught off his line as a cross by Dwight Marshall, also pictured inset, flashes across the goalmouth, with John Taylor unable to make contact for the equaliser.

set at Sunderland, Dwight Marshall was
swapped in place of Matthews, to partner
Taylor and the front mouth.

[illegible]

Hop, voted the best goalkeeper in the division by the PFA, was rarely troubled despite the Town's ascendancy.

As the Town pushed upfield with more optimism than pattern – even David Proctor, who's excellent at Sunderland, started to have an off day – Reading looked more punchy

[illegible]

Taylor hooked a shot over the bar from about 12 yards, and Marshall, Paul Telfer

...to the box, and Taylor, back-tracking to

Bolton's lucky escape

SUNDERLAND: Norman; Kubicki, Ofo, Belmont, Sommer, Atkinson, Martin Gray, Matthews, Scott, Phil Gray.

PROMOTION contenders Bolton were lucky to escape with a home draw as the Town turned on the style, but not, unfortunately, the goals. **GOALKEEPER** David Prece (honestly, Michael Gray 70 mins, Russell 75 mins, Phil 80 mins). **DEFENCE** John Taylor header, Goalkeeper sub David Prece (honestly, Michael Gray 70 mins, Russell 75 mins, Phil 80 mins). **ATTACK** The GOAL 0-1, 9 mins: John Taylor header, Goalkeeper sub David Prece (honestly, Michael Gray 70 mins, Russell 75 mins, Phil 80 mins).

The Town looked the better footballing side, and goalkeeper Keith Benagosa was the Bolton man of the hour.

The only major scare for the team came in injury time, when Bolton threw everybody forward to attack. But the visitors were saved and four wide; Bolton were saved, two wide, and in the seventh minute Alan Thompson bounced headed a post and was cleared off against a post and was cleared off by Peter Peske.

Alan Thompson's header caught a deflection of Dwight Marshall, leaving the Ironworkers K'asia Davis

● **ATTENDANCE:** 13,619, including 257 from Luton.

● TOWN: Davis; Linton (Greene), Oakes, Pr
Harvey, Telfer, Waddock, Taylor, Goalkeeper

● **SUNDERLAND:** Norman; Kubicki, Ord, Be
Atkinson, Martin
Gray 70 mins. Scott; 75 mins. Phil
Bussell

● **THE GOALS:** 0-1, 9 mins: John Taylor h after Gary Bennett chose not to attack a di
Phil Matthews; 1-1, 58 mins: Phil Gray blocked by

● OTHER ATTEMPTS: Town four saved a

● REFEREE: Peter Richards, Preston. The game, and refused to allow the Roker roar to

● **ATTENDANCE:** 17,292, the day's highest for Luton since the First Division. If only the people of Luton gave unflinching support!

ing winning the first half and
and commitment giving them the edge in the