

# Taylor tops!

## LINCOLN CITY 0 LUTON TOWN 1

DAVE FLETT reports from  
the SINCIL BANK ground

MATTHEW Taylor's ninth goal of the season gave Luton Town three more crucial points in the quest for promotion against a sorry Lincoln City side.

The Hatters clinched a 1-0 victory thanks to Taylor's 42nd minute opportunist strike, but the talented 21-year-old later missed several easier chances to give the visitors a more comfortable margin of victory.

Three points also marked the Hatters' 10th away win this season, which equals a club record.

Boss Joe Kinnear made three changes to the side that started Saturday's 2-1 victory over York City.

Paul Hughes replaced the unfit Aaron Skelton in midfield, with club captain Marvin Johnson and centre-back Russell Perrett also making the starting line-up.

French winger Jean-Louis Valois made way for Johnson, allowing Taylor to move into midfield, and Perrett replaced Emmerson Boyce, with new signing Alan Neilson switching to right-back.

Both sides struggled to master blustery conditions at a cold Sincil Bank during the opening stages.

Hughes had the game's first shot on target after 13 minutes when Ahmet Brkovic guided the ball into his firing range, but home keeper Alan Marriott made a comfortable save.

Brkovic then sent an ambit-

### match facts

●LINCOLN CITY: Alan Marriott, Mark Bailey, Grant Brown, Paul Morgan, Stuart Bimson, Paul Smith (sub 64 mins, Tony Battersby), Justin Walker, Ian Hamilton (sub 83 mins, Adam Buckley), Peter Gain (sub 64 mins, Ben Sedgemore), Lee Thorpe, Dave Cameron. Other subs: Darren Horrigan, Paul Mayo.

●LUTON TOWN: Carl Emberson, Alan Neilson, Chris Coyne, Russell Perrett, Marvin Johnson, Ahmet Brkovic, Paul Hughes, Matthew Spring, Matthew Taylor, Steve Howard, Adrian Forbes. Subs: Mark Ovendale, Emmerson Boyce, Jean-Louis Valois, Dean Crowe, Gary McSwegan.

●Referee: Tony Bates (Stoke).

●Attendance: 2,921.

●Top Hatter: Ahmet Brkovic – very industrious display at Sincil Bank.

ious 25-yard drive sailing over Marriott's bar on 24 minutes.

Justin Walker's inswinging corners provided the only first-half concerns for Carl Emberson and his defence at the other end as the Imps struggled to create any clear-cut chances.

The Hatters won their first corner on 38 minutes, but Matthew Spring's delivery was poor and the ball brushed the top of the netting.

Perrett, who was returning to the side after a one-match suspension, was booked on 40 minutes for a foul on home striker Lee Thorpe.

But the visitors went in front two minutes later when Taylor took advantage of terrible positioning by Marriott to fire in a 30-yard opportunist strike from

an acute angle. Luton started the second-half brighter and Taylor, lifted by his goal, tried another speculative effort on 47 minutes, but fired wide from 25 yards.

Seconds later, Taylor's penetrating run into the home penalty box caused panic and Howard shot low at Marriott when the ball broke loose.

Emberson's first save of the match was on 51 minutes from a weak Thorpe header, but the visitors should have doubled their lead on 57 minutes when three Hatters strikers broke against a solitary Lincoln defender.

Brkovic sent in a low cross from the right for an unmarked Taylor but he fired wastefully wide.

Lincoln continued to lack attacking inspiration, although Stuart Bimson tested Emberson with a free-kick on the hour mark.

The Hatters keeper was also called into action on 72 minutes when Thorpe's poor cross deflected off Hughes.

Perrett went close at the other end with an attempted lob and Taylor blazed over as the Hatters searched for a second goal to settle a poor encounter.

Top scorer Howard tumbled in the box in front of the Hatters fans on 75 minutes but shouts for a penalty were hopeful rather than realistic.

Taylor then missed another great opportunity to secure maximum points when he rattled the bar from eight yards with only Marriott to beat.

●Last night's Rochdale v Hull game was called off because of a waterlogged pitch.

Talk of the Town – pages 78 & 79.



**ACTION MAN:** Luton's Adrian Forbes threatens the Lincoln goal during last night's Third Division match at Sincil Bank.  
Picture: GARETH OWEN