

# Crow's swoop not enough to secure win

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BLUE SQUARE BET PREMIER

LINCOLN CITY 1  
LUTON TOWN 1

**IT'S been a similar story so often this season for Luton Town, get a lead and then sit back and protect it... the problem is it never goes to plan.**

Richard Hinds 77th minute header denied the Hatters three valuable points after Danny Crow had given Town a first-half lead. Then, Luton's discipline let them down as Alex Lawless and Jamie Hand were dismissed for double yellow card offences.

The result marks Luton's halfway point of the season and as the cold weather starts to kick in, they now need to turn up the heat on the leading pack if they're going to stand any chance of being in the promotion picture come the end of May.

Luton enjoyed the majority of the opening play and thought they had taken an early lead when Aaron O'Connor beat his marker to head home past Paul Farman after six minutes. But the line-man's flag was quickly raised to indicate Robbie Willmott's corner had drifted out of play before O'Connor netted.

Watkins in particular was looking lively and fired marginally wide when Lawless teed up him

on the edge of the Lincoln box. The youngster didn't have to wait long to get another sniff on goal after Farman's save from Willmott rebounded out to Watkins who, after two attempts, couldn't fire past the in form stopper.

However, as the Hatters dominated they were nearly caught napping at the back as Alan Power blasted over after a brilliant through ball from Conal Platt to split the Luton defence.

The two sides seemed to be having a competition to see who could get the miss of the season. First it was O'Connor, who after a clever dummy from Howells, fired straight at Farman, but then Power went one better by missing the goal completely from five yards after a perfect delivery by Simon Russell.

Crow then stepped up to show them how it's done, poking home after O'Connor had done well to bring down Willmott's corner and give Town a deserved lead.

The Imps started the second half the brighter but somewhat lacked in terms of creativity with an optimistic long-range effort from Tyrone Thompson that almost cleared the stands summing up Lincoln's attacking play.

That was until Jamie Taylor was introduced just before the hour. The attacker made an immediate impact and came close with virtually his first touch as his effort whistled past Pilkington's post.

Too many times this season, Luton's perform-

Hatters drop more vital points and see red as two players are sent off



**EARLY BIRD:** Crow threads the ball through the Lincoln defence for Luton's goal – but Lincoln hit back to share the points

ance has dipped in the second 45 minutes and this fixture followed a familiar pattern and the Hatters were fortunate that John Nutter was off target with his header and then lucky again when Taylor followed suit by nodding over Nutter's cross.

Taylor then wasted the Imps' best opportunity of the half. After nut-megging Dan Gleeson, Lincoln were three on two and with Power and Francis Laurent both in the middle, Taylor opted to shoot and failed to hit the target.

But Luton never learn their lesson and Hind punished them with 12 minutes left on the clock to nod home Platt's cross.

It got worse for Town after Lawless's needless push on Platt warranted his second yellow card and referee Richard Clark wasted little time in dismissing the midfielder. And Lawless wasn't the only one to go. As Lincoln pressed for a winner, Hand tripped Sheridan for his second booking to join Lawless in the dressing room.

**LUTON TOWN:** K. Pilkington, Gleeson, G. Pilkington (Hand, 45), Kovacs, Howells, Keane, Lawless, Watkins, Willmott (Dance, 77), O'Connor, (Brunt, 81), Crow. Unused subs: Fleetwood, Tyler.  
**Referee:** Richard Clark (Northumberland).  
**Attendance:** 2,049 (327).