



□ GOAL! Newell scores for Luton.

Picture: DAVID GRAVES

MICK ^{85/86} TRICK

THE BEST advertisement for these plastic pitch pioneers was that the surface allowed the game to be played at all.

The game itself? Well, England boss Bobby Robson's name was on the complimentary tickets list but failed to show up.

"He's not a bad judge," said QPR boss Jim Smith. And Jim's judgment was about right.

Robson missed a skillful display from England shadow striker Mick Harford and a gutsy one from fringe defender Steve Wicks. There was not much else to get excited about.

Luton, who looked by far the more composed side, fell behind to Rangers' first shot with the interval loom-

By BILL BRADSHAW

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ing and ended the game happy with a point.

Harford and Wicks featured in the most memorable moment of the match after only eight minutes. Harford killed a high pass with his chest and detonated a volley past Barron. Wicks, somehow, hurled himself backwards to head clear from under the bar.

Pinched

Luton were unlucky to find Foster at the end of two of their better attacks and then Rangers pinched the lead.

Neill knocked a free-kick into Luton's box where

Wicks neatly steered a header into Byrne's path. Byrne finished sweetly with a right-foot drive inside Sealy's right-hand post.

But Harford was not to be denied. For once neglected by Wicks and McDonald, he rose to power Preece's free-kick across Barron from ten yards. Newell made a telling deflection and claimed the goal. Harford can claim the credit.

Harford won't get the England call for Israel this week. But he's certainly equipped for the job. Wicks will vouch for that.

Rangers did not threaten more than Fereday's persistent and pacey breaks. They were as happy with a point as Luton.

For Luton, defender Rob Johnson has to be a bonus. He's had crippling ligament

damage in both knees and is just carving out his career at 23.

QPR: Barron 6—Neill 7, McDonald 7, Wicks 7, Dawes 6—Allen 6, Fenwick 7, Fillery 6, FERE DAY 8—Byrne 7, Bannister 6.

LUTON: Sealy 5—Johnson 7, Foster 7, Donaghy 6, Thomas 7—Hill 7, Nicholas 6, Preece 7—Newell 7, North 6, HARFORD 8.

Ref: J Ashworth (Leicester) 8.