

Nine-man Hatters cling to point

02/03

Luton o QPR o

NINE-man Luton earned a priceless point in the goalless draw with QPR after the Hatters had a man sent off in each half.

Striker Steve Howard was the first to be shown the red card after a late two-footed challenge on Clarke Carlisle in the early stages.

And a difficult task looked almost impossible when captain Kevin Nicholls followed shortly after half time for a second booking, having been cautioned in the first half.

But Luton defended bravely with inspirational performances from Chris Coyne and Alan Neilson although they were helped by some terrible finishing from QPR.

Callum Willock, in particular, was guilty of three dreadful misses and Luton might even have stolen three points at the end when substitute Andrew Fotiadis had a shot saved by Simon Royce, and then fired wide with only the goalkeeper to beat.

Luton manager Joe Kinnear believes referee Eddie Wolstenholme was wrong to send off his two players.

Kinnear, who will study the match video before considering an appeal, said: "Howard said he didn't touch the guy.

"I have spoken to the referee and he says he will rescind the red card if he has made a mistake. I think he has.

"Nicholls still doesn't know why he got that first yellow card.

"With a bit of luck that will be Wolstenholme's last match. He was a shambles. He lost the plot."

Rangers boss Ian Holloway was angered by Kinnear's suggestion that the bench had tried to influence the official to send off the Hatters duo.

He said: "If that's what Kinnear has said I am disgusted.

"If they think I would try and get someone sent off I am very upset. I would never do that."

Holloway was also unhappy with his side's inability to hit the target.