

Striker Furlong goes the distance

03/04

Luton Town1

McSheffrey (60)

Queen's Park Rangers1

Furlong (90)

Half-time: 0-0

Attendance: 8,339

Luton		QPR
50	Possession %	50
3	Corners	5
3	Yellow	4
0	Red	0
7	Shots On Target	6
1	Shots Off Target	0

LUTON: Beckwith 8, Boyce 7, Davis 6, Coyne 7, Bayliss 6, Spring 7, Brkovic 6, Leary 7, Foley 7, Howard 7, McSheffrey 7 (Pitt 88). **Subs not used:** Forbes, Hillier, Mansell, Brill. **Booked:** Bayliss, Foley, Leary
QPR: Day 7, Edghill 6, Padula 7, Gnoghre 6, Shittu 7, Palmer 6 (Bircham 77), Rowlands 7 (Thorpe 65), Bean 6, McLeod 5 (Ainsworth 65), Gallen 6, Furlong 7. **Subs not used:** Forbes, Culkin. **Booked:** Bean, Furlong, Gnoghre, Thorpe

NEXT FIXTURES

Charlton (a) 23/09

Sheff Utd (a) 23/09

BY SIMON WILLIAMS

PAUL FURLONG grabbed a last-gasp equaliser for QPR to leave Luton feeling robbed for the second time in a week.

Steve Howard fired Luton ahead on the hour mark with a shot which took at least one deflection to wrong-foot Rangers keeper Chris Day.

At that stage, Luton had the edge in a tough contest, with Danny Shittu on form at the back for QPR.

And as Rangers came back following double substitution midway through second half, teenage goalkeeper Bert Beckwith looked like being the real hero with a couple of top-class saves to deny Kevin Gallen and Arthur Here.

With David Bayliss in commanding form at the heart of the Luton defence, Rangers were within seconds of giving a blank when a long clearance the goalkeeper was touched on by substitute Tony Thorpe and Furlong beat Chris Coyne before finishing expertly.

It was a sweet moment for Thorpe. Luton are in receivership and in August, after giving interviews saying



Hard to pass: QPR's Danny Shittu, left, was a commanding figure at the back

how much he loved Luton, he jumped ship to join Rangers. The home fans flourished £10 notes at him when he went on after 65 minutes and subjected him to a continual barrage of abuse.

Rangers boss Ian Holloway confessed it was like getting out of jail when Furlong, who had an earlier headed effort disallowed for off side, struck his sixth goal of the season.

Holloway said: "I would have preferred an earlier goal and a bit better football from us.

"We weren't really on song for a lot of the game, but if you can get a point when you play like that it's the sign of a half-decent team.

"Their young goalkeeper did very well and it was looking as though it was not our day. Perhaps the substitutions made a slight difference and it was a fantastic goal, which gave us the draw. Luton did really well, they got

themselves into a winning position and we're delighted that we managed to claw away two of the points they thought they had.

"There were two good teams out there and not many will come here and win. I'm pleased that we kept going to the very end, although some of our football wasn't as sweet as it can be.

Luton manager Mike Newell shared Holloway's feelings that referee Uriah Rennie should not have found seven yellow cards in a match which was tense, but never dirty.

Newell admitted he felt deflated by the late goal. "It feels like we have been robbed again, just like we were at Plymouth a week ago. The lads are gutted because we had the game won. They played very well and it was a tremendous performance against a strong outfit, which will be there or thereabouts at the end of the season. We more than matched them."