

SHOW THE WAY

Picture: Mark Lees

03/04



QUEEN'S PARK RANGERS 1

Furlong (45)

LUTON TOWN1

Showunmi (76)

BY TERRY DYSON

QPR missed the chance to put pressure on leaders Plymouth, as Enoch Showunmi's goal saw Luton come from behind to earn a draw at Loftus Road.

Rangers were the better side in a hard-fought first-half and both Martin Rowlands and Kevin Gallen forced good saves from Luton keeper Morten Hyldgaard.

At the other end, Ahmet Brkovic's deep cross was headed goalwards by Emmerson Boyce, only for Clarke Carlisle to hook the ball off the line.

Paul Furlong's 25-yard free-kick forced another good save but he went one better in first-half injury time as QPR grabbed the lead.

Gallen got down the left again and crossed for Furlong to head in his 11th goal of the season.

Injury-hit Luton had been forced to make all three of their substitutions in the opening 26 minutes but the reshaped team gelled and they were in the ascendancy after the break.

The dangerous Showunmi got away from Richard Edghill and forced a good save from Lee Camp, while Tony Thorpe shot over for Rangers



Knees up: Luton Town's Curtis Davies is challenged by QPR's Paul Furlong at Loftus Road

and Adrian Forbes fired inches wide at the other end.

Steve Robinson put in Kevin Nicholls after 63 minutes, only for the skipper's shot to be well saved by Camp.

And Nicholls was denied again, with another shot from the edge of the penalty area.

Luton's persistence finally paid off in the 76th minute when they grabbed the equaliser.

A difficult ball was not dealt with by the hesitant QPR

defence and Showunmi took advantage to hook it into the corner.

QPR pressed forward looking for the winner and it should have come in the 82nd minute.

Rowland's cross picked out Furlong, but this time the striker put his shot inches wide with the goal gaping.

QPR boss Ian Holloway said: "The effort was there. I felt we were a new team, with the players coming in and we

lacked a bit of cohesion. We needed the second goal but it just didn't come.

"Full marks to Luton. Considering the injuries they have, they played very well."

Luton manager Mike Newell felt his side were good value for their point.

He said: "I don't think anyone can say we didn't deserve something out of the game. We've played the top two in consecutive weeks and I couldn't ask for more effort."

QPR		LUTON TOWN	
43	Possession %	57	
15	Corners	4	
6	Offsides	6	
17	Fouls	17	
2	Yellows	0	
0	Reds	0	
5	Shots On	5	
4	Shots Off	1	
0	Hit Woodwork	0	

QPR: Camp 7, Edghill 6, Carlisle 6, Gnohere 6, Bignot 6, Gallen 8, Bean 6 (Cureton 82), Johnson 6, Rowlands 7, Thorpe 5 (McLeod 72), Furlong 6.

LUTON: Hyldgaard 7, Keane 6, Boyce 7, Davies 7, Neilson 7, Nicholls 7, Robinson 6, Hughes 5 (Forbes 35), Underwood 6 (P Holmes 19 (Foley 36)), Showunmi 6, Brkovic 6.