

Happy Newell on a high after touchline ban

05/06

LUTON manager Mike Newell was banished from the dug-out at half-time after a row with Gloucestershire referee Lee Probert.

But, from his seat in the Kenilworth Road directors' box, Newell saw enough to be happy with the draw that preserved his promoted side's unbeaten start after seven games of the season.

Newell said: 'If we have come up against a better side than us this season we would hold our hands up. But we have not done that yet.'

'We did not know how many of our players would be capable of playing at Championship level, but from what we have seen so far they all look capable.'

Less clear was the cause of Newell and Probert falling out. It looked as though Newell was arguing out of frustration after Luton outplayed Wolves in the first half, only to be denied a clear penalty and trail to a Carl Cort goal.

Luton also had Carlos Edwards booked for a foul on Kenny Miller, while Warren Feeney received a yellow card for diving in the penalty area. Newell, however, said: 'I was sent to the stands for kicking the ball at the referee in an aggressive manner.'

'But the referee takes the ball off the pitch at half-time and I was passing it to him. It never left the ground, so how can that be aggressive?'

Whatever the offence there, it would have been a steal had Wolves taken all three points on the day Luton were celebrating 100 years since football was first played at Kenilworth Road.

LUTON

Nicholls (79)



1

WOLVES

Cort (25)



1

By Graham Otway

From the start Luton laid siege to the Wolves goal, only to be denied by a string of saves from Michael Oakes, a goal-line clearance and the bar.

Yet the visitors scored from their first dangerous attack in the 25th minute when Cort charged home Mark Kennedy's low cross, and Wolves might even have added a second on the interval when the striker shot wide with only Marlon Beresford to beat.

Oakes denied striker Feeney brilliantly after the break and Markus Heikkinen missed a simple chance with his head before Luton finally equalised 11 minutes from time through Kevin Nicholls's low 18-yard strike.

Wolves manager Glenn Hoddle said: 'Luton and Sheffield United are the form teams in this division and a year ago I don't think we would have got a point from a game like that.'

LUTON (4-4-2): Beresford; Edwards, Coyne, Heikkinen (Perrett 87min), Davis; Brkovic, Robinson, Nicholls, Underwood; Howard, Feeney (Showunmi 70). **Subs** (not used): Morgan, Holmes, Brill. **Booked:** Edwards, Feeney, Nicholls, Davis.

WOLVES (4-5-1): Oakes; Edwards, Gyepes, Lescott, Naylor; Seol (Cameron 88), Ricketts, Anderton (Olofinjana 60), Kennedy, Miller (Clarke 28); Cort. **Subs** (not used): Craddock, Postma. **Booked:** Kennedy, Clarke, Gyepes.

Referee: L Probert (Gloucestershire).