

Nicholls' late strike saves day

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By Stewart Jackson

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LUTON'S party to celebrate 100 years of football at Kenilworth Road nearly turned into a damp squib: torrential rain, going 1-0 down against the run of play and the manager being sent to the stands were not part of the plan.

Much like Saturday's celebration of the old ground, Luton's proposed move to a new stadium has been a stop-start affair. An announcement is due this week but the fans are not holding their breath.

A sodden home support were in good voice for the visit of a side tipped for promotion but lucky to escape with a draw on Saturday.

Luton hit the bar and had a header cleared off the line in the first half before they fell behind to a Carl Cort goal after 25 minutes. Captain Kevin Nicholls saved the day with a 20-yard strike 10 minutes from time.

Victory would not have flattered Mike Newell's side, but the Luton manager will face a touchline ban for having "kicked the ball at referee Lee Probert in an aggressive manner".

Newell said he had simply passed the ball back to the referee at half-time.

Luton Town (4-4-2): Beresford; Edwards, Coyne, Heikkinen (Perrett 86), Davis; Brkovic, Nicholls, Robinson, Underwood; Feeney (Showunmi 69), Howard. **Subs:** Brill (g), Morgan, Holmes. **Goal:** Nicholls (79). **Booked:** Edwards, Feeney, Nicholls, Davis.

Wolverhampton (4-3-3): Oakes; Edwards, Gyepes, Lescott, Naylor; Anderton (Olofinjana 60), Ricketts, Kennedy; Seol (Cameron 88), Cort, Miller (Clarke 28). **Subs:** Postma (g), Craddock. **Goal:** Cort (25). **Booked:** Kennedy, Clarke, Gyepes. **Referee:** L. Probert (Gloucestershire).