

HATTERS MIKE VOWS: NEWELL NOT SHUT ME UP

Luton 0 Cardiff 0

By AIDAN MAGEE

MIKE NEWELL says he will ignore anyone who tells him to shut his mouth in 2007.

The Luton boss has ruffled more than a few feathers in the game with his views on the state of football during the last 12 months.

A year ago he claimed he had been offered a bung by an agent and went on to reveal the guilty man on BBC's Panorama.

Then in November he said the presence of female assistant referee Amy Rayner was a "token gesture for politically correct idiots" after a home defeat by QPR.

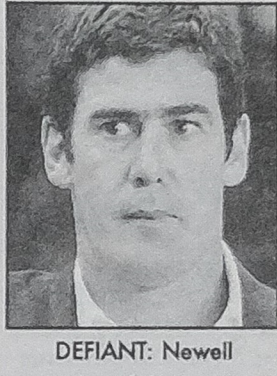
Newell saw his side reduced to 10 men at Kenilworth Road yesterday as they battled to a goalless draw with promotion-chasing Cardiff.

But after a dull clash he said he will continue to speak his mind.

He said: "I'm not looking for attention or to be making headlines. I am expecting the corruption issue to run and run.

"I made comments about corruption in the game and about women officials. I'm not planning of thinking up something else to say.

"But I won't look back because I want to look



DEFIANT: Newell

forward and it won't stop me saying whatever I feel. That's all I've done up to now."

Luton were lucky to get a point against Dave Jones' lively side - but that did not stop Newell blasting ref Andy Penn.

The official sent off Luton's David Bell for a second yellow card on 72 minutes after what seemed to be two harmless tackles on Darren Purse and Willo Flood.

Newell added: "The rules these days are such that you can do nothing and still get a red card."

Luton missed the best chance of the game when Leon Barnett's header was brilliantly tipped over by keeper Neil Alexander.

When Bell was dismissed Luton lost their momentum and the game finished with Cardiff the most likely to snatch a first win in 10 games.

Their best chance fell to striker Michael Chopra - who half-volleyed wide from an angle when he should have hit the target.

Cardiff boss Dave Jones said: "I'm frustrated not to have won the game. We were the better side and dominated."