

Tigers in slow mode

Gainsboro.....3

Hyde Utd.....1

HYDE were hit by injury at the last minute, when Billy Garton was forced out of the side by food poisoning.

However, that can be used as scant excuse for this lacklustre display. As manager Mike McKenzie later said: "At Leigh, we could claim we were unlucky but, in this one, we got what we deserved."

The Tigers had plenty of possession, and Paul Varden was lively in the opening exchanges; but this is a curious Hyde outfit in that it has lost its cutting edge up front, and tends to crumble whenever it comes under concerted pressure.

It took Trinity half an hour to get on top, but they held the lead after 13 minutes when Paul Murrow got his head to a cross from the right. He made it 2-0 shortly before the break.

The game degenerated as a spectacle, in the second half, although Varden directed a header straight at the Gainsborough keeper after being well set up by Lutel James.

Ged Kimmins, playing his first game after injury, then beat the offside trap but, in trying to effect a chip, succeeded only in putting the ball right into the arms of the keeper, who was well of his line.

Effectively, however, the Tigers were just huffing and puffing, and it was no real surprise when they went 3-0 down, with eight minutes left.

All that remained was for James to claim a consolation strike in the dying seconds of the game.

With five games left to play, fans will be hooing for something better this weekend, when Hyde travel to Lancaster, on Saturday; and then entertain Colwyn Bay at Ewen Fields on Monday evening.