



HOMING IN ... Ged Kimmins' concentration is total as he takes part in yet another Hyde United attack.

Switzer sets seal on win

HYDE stormed to victory at gale-lashed Ewen Fields on Saturday, but not before handing Winsford a late Christmas present.

The generous Tigers gifted their Cheshire neighbours two goals in the first ten minutes and, after clawing their way back, gave them another.

However, as the winds threatened to turn into a hurricane, Hyde mounted a thundering finish, with George Switzer grabbing a rare goal.

It was no more than they deserved in a topsy-turvy match which was packed with action.

The Tigers should have taken a second-minute lead, but Ged Kimmins' close-range effort was turned for a corner by Andy Oakes.

Two minutes later, however, Winsford scored from their first attack, and Jon Scargill had to shoulder the blame.

Nathan Peel, on loan from Macclesfield, broke into the box from the left to bury a low shot between keeper and post.

Scargill looked slow to react, but it was impossible to fault him for the visitors' shock second, after nine minutes.

Ex-Hyde favourite Joe Connor drifted over a cross that may have been helped on by the wind, and no one went up, allowing Paul Wheeler to head past Scargill.

With the gale at their backs, Winsford put the home goal under siege, but Scargill redeemed himself with two great saves.

The Tigers pulled one back, four minutes before half time, when Paul Varden popped up in the goalmouth to slam in a low cross.

Kimmins had a great chance of equalising, seconds after the break, when he outpaced defenders in a long run down the middle. However, as

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by DAVID JONES

Oakes raced out, he slipped the ball wide.

Hyde piled on the pressure and, in the space of two minutes, Colin Lambert tried in vain to force the ball in after Oakes had fumbled a cross.

Then, Oakes went full length to block a Jason Gallagher piledriver which seemed destined for the top corner.

Goals had to come and, after 62 minutes, Lutel James hooked into the goalmouth for Lambert to flick home.

Seconds later, Oakes just got his hands to a Val Owen shot as the Red Army howled from the Scratin' Shed.

However, when a goal did come, it was at the other end. Peel picked up a Mark Came pass on the halfway line, on 74 minutes and, despite being surrounded by defenders, sprinted through the middle to score at the far post.

Hyde kept on battling and, four minutes later, a Varden free kick from way on the left took a deflection to crash over the keeper's head.

A grandstand finish seemed certain and, unless you came from Winsford, you were not disappointed. Shots poured on the away goal.

With four minutes to go, a period of purple pressure ended with Switzer picking up a loose ball in the penalty area, and he lit up bleak Ewen Fields by poking home a goal.

Hyde: Scargill 6, Gallagher 7, Switzer 7, Wilson 7, Garton 7, Lambert 6, Kimmins 7, Owen 6, James 7, Varden 7, Nolan 7. Subs: Carty 7 for James (77), Finley 6 for Gallagher (82), Lockett. Winsford: Oakes, Booth, German, Came, Hibbert, Bryne, Thomas, Wheeler, Peel, Steele, Connor. Subs: Hussin for Thomas (46), Talbot for Booth (55), Birmingham for Steele (80). Ref: Glyn Mellor (Derby).