

Single point is good enough

Marine 1
Hyde Utd..... 1

by DAVID JONES

ARIGHT old knees-up robbed Hyde of two points at bitterly cold College Road on Saturday. Paul McNally cancelled out Vinnie Brockie's 36th-minute opener with a goal off his knee. Mind you, the Tigers' goal had a touch of luck, too. Brockie's 20-yard hotshot hit the inside of the post before squeezing past Kevin O'Brien.

Yet, if it was lucky it was also deserved. It came after a period of sustained pressure during which Ged Kimmins' header brought a great save from the keeper. Unfortunately, Hyde kept their lead only three minutes. McNally lunged for a bobbling Jon Gautrey cross, the ball hit his knee, and squirmed into the corner.

Both sides had chances after that, but defences were always on top.

With Lutel James injured, Mike McKenzie threw Brockie the number-nine shirt but, despite his goal, the former Guiseley man was mainly based in midfield.

The Tigers' attacking strength lay in Kimmins and Tony Carroll but, despite packing such punch, they found it tough going against Marine's dour rear-guard.

Hyde's best spell was in the second half, when they managed to find a way through using slick, sweet passing.

A Kimmins' cross beat O'Brien, but was headed clear as Dave Nolan homed in. The keeper saved again as Carroll, looking surprised to be in a scoring position, needed too much time.

The home side were still dangerous and, with 20 minutes left, Mick McDonough drilled one off the post. But the Tigers still looked likelier to score.

A telling cross from Kimmins was clawed away by O'Brien and, as Hyde went for the winner, fans shouted for a penalty when Nolan was bundled over in the box. With seconds to go, the Tigers came again, and Jason Donnelly clipped over a cross that fell to Val Owen, but the midfielder was a little too eager and fired wildly over the bar.

A point won or two dropped? A draw at Marine is always an achievement.

Marine: O'Brien, Nally, Rooney, Cavanagh, Draper, Gautrey, Greenhalgh, Rowlands, McDonough, McNally, Cowley. Subs: Barnicle for Greenhalgh (56), Bengshaw for McDonough (89).

Hyde: Jones 7, Gallagher 7, Cox & Wilson 7, Reid 7, Henshaw 7, Kimmins 8, Owen 7, Brockie 7, Carroll 7, Nolan 7. Subs: Donnelly 7 for Nolan (79), Camilleri for Henshaw (87), Garton.

Ref: Graham Salisbury (Preston).