

# Switzer winces as luck run out

**Blyth Spartans..2**  
**Hyde Utd.....1**

A TRAGIC last-minute own goal sent Hyde to their first defeat of the season in this superb top of the table clash. Stuart Young hooked the ball into the area. It bounced across goal and, with Bond running in at the far post, George Switzer tried to clear the ball for a corner.

Unfortunately, he only managed to plant his header high into the net, and the goal robbed the Tigers of what would have been a deserved draw.

Credit should go to Blyth for fighting back after being outplayed in the first half, when Hyde were very impressive. All in all this was a very good advertisement for the UniBond League.

Tony Carroll twice went close in the early stages, and it was no surprise when the Tigers went ahead on 17 minutes.

A superbly flighted cross from Lutel James was headed down and into the net by David Nolan, past helpless veteran keeper John Burrige.

Spartans replied immediately. Within a minute, Young had headed Kirkham's inswinging corner against the underside of the bar and then into the net.

Carroll again caused havoc, and Kirkham had to block his drive on the goal line as Hyde continued to press. The pace of James left Gamble flat-footed in the middle, but Burrige came out to snatch the ball off the striker's toes.

Just before the break, Nolan almost put the Tigers ahead with a great left-foot strike from 12 yards, but the ball flashed just past the post.

Blyth gradually pulled their way back into the match after the break, although they could not quite match the midfield quality of their opponents. Nonetheless, chances started to come.

Spartans had a superb chance on 71 minutes, when Cole picked up a loose ball from a free kick only six yards out, but he screwed his shot well wide from very close range.

Raffell then saved Blyth with a brilliant tackle on the 18-yard line, taking the ball away from Carroll. He repeated the tackle later, against Jim Cameron.

Cole hit the bar on 76 minutes, with Gamble's follow-up shot cleared off the line. Bond then almost snatched a goal after 87 minutes, but his volley flew just over.

Blyth: Burrige, Farrey, Locker, Raffell, Gamble, Cole, Nicholls, Kirkham, Pyle, Young, Henderson. Subs: Hall, Bond.

Hyde: Jones 7, Esdaille 7, Cox 7, Wilson 7, Gallagher 7, Brookie 8, Kimmins 8, Owen 7, James 9, Carroll 8, Nolan 8. Subs: Moncrieff 7 (for Cox), Switzer 8 (for Gallagher), Cameron 7 (for Kimmins).

Ref: Tim Masterson (Chorley).

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