

Tigers should have won six-goal thriller

HYDE should have become the second Tameside team in seven days to send Bridge tumbling to defeat on Saturday.

Mossley surprised the local soccer world by dumping the Unibond League leaders out of the FA Cup.

And United should have given them a second helping of Tameside hospitality.

They had chances in the closing minutes.

As battered Bridge fought for survival a Dave Nolan effort was knocked off the line and seconds later two-goal Ged Kimmins had a header scrambled clear.

It just about summed up a frustrating day for the Tigers, who did enough to win hands down but who could have thrown it all away by defensive blunders.

Even without Billy Garton, Colin Murphy and Val Owen, Hyde looked good enough to topple a Bridge side also hit by injuries.

Penetrating attacks with Kimmins and Dave Esdaille prowling and piercing holes in the flimsy defence.

Jez Baldwin headed a Colin Little shot off the line

Bamber Bridge	3
Hyde United	3

by DAVID JONES

before Hyde's promised opener came in the 16th minute when a Tony Camilleri free kick found Kimmins who curled home from 10 yards.

Hyde promised more with Steve Berryman brilliantly dealing with a Nolan shot that took a deflection.

But they did not come and on the half hour Kenny Mayers knocked in the equaliser after Arthur Williams could only parry a Dave Leaver cracker.

The goal boosted Bridge and they went close several times before taking the lead two minutes after the break.

Defenders were caught square as a loose ball was picked up by O'Neill who slipped it past Williams for defender turned striker Mayers to tap into an empty net.

O'Neill should have put the game beyond Hyde's reach five minutes later as the central defence obligingly opened but he stabbed the ball wide with only Williams to beat.

The seesaw soccer continued with Kimmins powering in a 59th minute equaliser and when Little deftly headed home from Nolan two minutes later, Hyde looked home and dry.

But with 20 minutes left Williams failed to collect a far post cross and Senior nipped in behind them to head home.

In 90 minutes Bridge had conceded more goals than their last nine league matches, and were lucky it was not more.

Bamber Bridge: Berryman, Brown, McHugh, Peake, Baldwin, Senior, Byrne, Allen, Mayers, O'Neill, Leaver. Subs. Corcoran, Eaves, Spencer.

Hyde: Williams 6, Cox 6, Switzer 7, Wilson 7, McLellan 7, Gallagher 7, Kimmins 8, Camilleri 6, Little 7, Esdaille 7, Nolan 7. Subs. Henshaw 6 (for Camilleri 77 mins), Carroll 6 (for Little 85 mins) and Donnelly.