

Tigers' return is a damp squib

A FUSILLADE of fireworks marked the Tigers' return to Ewen Fields on Saturday, but their second-half slump produced a damp squib finish.

Before the break, Hyde rocked and rolled the league leaders but, once again, chances went begging. After the break, Bridge went like a rocket to spoil the Tigers' first home game on grass since 1986.

With the smoke still lingering, Hyde went for goal. However, the opener was scored at the other end when Kenny Mayers headed Bamber into a third-minute lead.

Fans looked stunned, but relief was just six minutes away. A neat build-up on the left resulted in Ged Kimmins flicking the ball into the area for Dave Nolan to fire home.

The goal spurred on the Tigers, who mounted sharp attacks down the flanks. With the mid-field in control, the swarmed all over the league's top dogs and, on 22 minutes, Kimmins claimed his 14th goal of the season.

Bridge should have been punished even more. Ten minutes from the break, Steve Berry-

Hyde Utd.....2
Bamber Bge3

by **DAVID JONES**

man could only look on as a Nolan cracker went past the post and, in the dying seconds, Berryman clawed a Billy Garton header for a corner.

Hyde had their chances after the break, with Dave Esdaille making a mess of a free header and ballooning a shot over the bar.

Then, came the turning point. Dave Leaver's shot was handled in the box by Jason Gallagher, and Leaver rammed home from the spot.

After that, there was only one team in it and Steve O'Neill should have scored when he burst down the middle, only to shoot feebly wide.

With 15 minutes left, Simon Burton had the luxury of another free header, and gratefully nodded the winner.

Hyde: Williams 6, Gallagher 6, Switzer 6, Wilson 7, Garton 6, Owen 7, Kimmins 7, Tobin 7, Little 6, Esdaille 6, Nolan 8. Subs: Pybus 6 for Owen (72), Cox for Garton (89), Camilleri.

Bamber: Berryman, Brown, McHugh, Milligan, Baldwin, Myers, Kerfoot, Eaves, Burton, O'Neill, Leaver. Subs: Byrne for O'Neill (72), Senior, Allen.