

Carroll makes the sparks fly



FIREMAN Tony Carroll gained his second man of the match award in two games on Monday, as Hyde lit the blue touchpaper and Marine retired.

Marine were dumped, and had it not been for gift goals, the scoreline would have been far more emphatic. The Tigers' normally tight defence teetered at times, and two of the Mariners' strikes were down to poor covering.

The first, after two minutes, was a prime example. A quick break down the left caught Hyde napping, and the unmarked Eddie Murray's pass inside looped over the startled Arthur Williams.

However, the visitors' joy was shortlived. Twelve minutes later, a thundering drive from Ged Kimmins was only parried by Kevin O'Brien, and the lurking Colin Little bludgeoned it in.

Four minutes later came the goal of the game. Val Owen powered through the middle, leaving men for dead, before slipping the ball to Carroll. His inside pass was met by Kimmins, whose shot almost burst the net.

The Tigers came again, with Carroll missing a good chance by shooting directly at goalkeeper O'Brien.

That miss proved costly. The Crosby side made one of their rare sorties upfield, and a Graham Rowlands shot from the right gave them a 28th-minute equaliser.

Hyde got their noses back

Hyde Utd.....5
Marine3

by **DAVID JONES**

UniBond Challenge Cup
third round

in front 12 minutes into the second half, when the much sought-after Kimmins ghosted in at the far post to connect with a powerful diving header.

But back came Roley Howard's men.

Williams had to perform an acrobatic, backwards dive to knock a Pete Withers cross off the line. Unfortunately, he had no control with regard to where the ball went to, and it fell to Jimmy Blackhurst, who crashed home the 60th-minute leveller.

Then Hyde picked themselves up and took the game by the scruff of the neck.

Two minutes later, O'Brien failed to hold a stinging shot, and Carroll blasted into an empty net.

Suddenly, the league champions were under siege and, with two minutes to go, Carroll raced into the box and to smash the ball past an exposed O'Brien. It was one of the most lethal finished seen at Ewen Fields in years, delivered with staggering ferocity.

In two games Hyde had scored 12 goals. What a Christmas cracker.

Hyde: Williams 6, Cox 6, Switzer 6, Wilson 7, Garton 6, Henshaw 6, Kimmins 7, Owen 7, Little 7, Carroll 7, Nolan 7. Subs: Tobin 6 for Owen (87), McLeilan, Esdaille.

Marine: O'Brien, Baines, Proctor, Brennan, McNally, Ward, Withers, Rowlands, Blackhurst, Murray, Rooney. Subs: Moss for Ward (70), Odgers, Riley.

DOUBLE ... David Nolan scored two goals for Hyde during Saturday's defeat of Buxton. Picture: Jon Snape