

Midfielder sparks F.A. Trophy tie into life after three hours and 45 minutes without a goal

Nolan breaks stalemate

Hyde United3
Marine.....0

by DAVID JONES

F.A. Trophy second replay

HYDE United came together as never before, on Thursday last week, as they finally got past Marine to earn a second round home tie with Vauxhall Conference side Welling United.

Supporters played their part by working until midnight, on Wednesday, to shift tons of snow from the pitch. Doing their part, the players responded with a truly resounding victory over visitors who were missing two key defenders because of suspension.

Hyde adapted to the hard surface much better than Marine and, had it not been for the brilliance of College Road goalkeeper Kevin O'Brien, they would surely have doubled their score.

He made brilliant saves from Dave Nolan and Tony Carroll, before Nolan punished a defensive lapse by shooting home from a goalmouth scramble after 15 minutes.

The Tigers kept up the pressure and looked good for a second, minutes later, but Ged Kimmins was brought down as he was about to dart into the penalty area. Amazingly, defender Paul McNally escaped a sending-off, and Gary Henshaw wasted the free kick.

Marine had another left-off seconds before the half-time break, when a stinging Nolan header rattled the underside of the bar.

However, the Crosby side were punished a minute after the restart, when a sweeping Kimmins run down the left produced a perfect pass to Carroll, who cracked the sweetest of shots into the net, and without breaking stride.

Hyde, now in complete control, contemptuously swept Marine aside. Colin Little had a shot kicked off the line, and Carroll screwed another wide.

The punishing penetration told on the hour when Andy Rooney sliced a cross past O'Brien as he tried to clear.

Colin Murphy and Dave Esdaille both tested O'Brien in the closing stages, but the former Everton reserve was equal to them.

At the other end, Arthur Williams, with three clean sheets behind him, dealt capably with anything that came his way.

Hyde: Williams 7, Gallagher 7, Switzer 7, Wilson 8, Garton 7, Henshaw 7, Kimmins 7, Owen 8, Little 7, Carroll 7, Nolan 8, Subst: Murphy 6 for Gallagher (66), Esdaille 6 for Carroll (72), McLellan.

Marine: O'Brien, Baines, Proctor, Murray, McNally, Gentry, Withers, Brennan, Blackburn, Fenman, Rooney, Subst: Henshaw for Murray (66), Grant for Withers (59), Henshaw.

Referee: Mr James McGrath (Birkenhead).



FLASHBACK ... David Nolan (right), scorer of Hyde's first goal in last week's tie, pictured during last season's F.A. Trophy semi-final, first leg, at Kidderminster Harriers. Picture: Jon Snape