

Drab tie provides fans with little to cheer

THE Tigers booked their second cup final date of the season on Monday, when they beat their "reserve" side, but there was little about the match that could be described as memorable.

Former Hyde players Kevin Glendon, Jimmy Golder, Levi Edwards, Joe Connor, Andy Kilner and Andy Graham returned to Ewen Fields.

However, they never looked anywhere near to causing an upset - even though they created most of the half-chances in a game that was generally scrappy and lacklustre.

The home side got off to a dream start, with the blossoming pairing of Ged Kimmins and Topy Carroll giving them a two-goal advantage within less than half an hour.

Kimmo took his tally for the season to 28 when Carroll chased a Loz Greenhalgh back-header, and squared the ball for the England man to blast past the stranded Andy Johanson.

The deadly duo struck again 12 minutes later, but this time it was a reversal of roles, and Kimmins turned provider. He rounded off a neat piece of inter-passing by pushing the ball to Carroll, who drifted into the box before poking home his 25th goal of the season.

Hyde United2
Radcliffe Borough0

by **DAVID JONES**

Manchester Premier Cup semi-final

Hyde almost went further ahead bang on half time, when a fierce header from Dave Nolan had to be bundled away by Johnson.

And that was where the excitement ended for the always vociferous Tigers' fans.

There were ironic cheers every time a former Hyde man touched the ball, and spectators held their breath whenever a Borough player went close.

Radcliffe shaded the first half as both managers used all three of their substitutes as the game wore on to its inevitable conclusion.

I only hope the final is better than this,

Hyde: Williams 6, Cox 6, Switzer 6, Wilson 6, Garton 6, Henshaw 6, Kimmins 7, Owen 6, Esdaille 6, Carroll 7, Nolan 6. Subs: Murphy 5 for Nolan (75), Dowe 5 for Esdaille (80), Camilleri 5 for Henshaw (64).

Radcliffe: Johnson, Astley, Benn, Whittle, Greenhalgh, Brennan, Lunt, Brown, McCrea, Edwards, Connor. Subs: Graham for Benn (60), Kilner for McCrea (60), Haddon for Brennan (72).

Referee: Gary Shaw (Oldham).