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HEAVY VEHICLE RECOVERY 24 HRS
PICK-UP (Unless Otherwise Stated)



Flinton full-back Locke keeps tabs on Glossop North End midfielder Steve Kamara during a match at Surrey Street.

Male lights up drab afternoon

THANKS to Malcolm O'Connor, Curzon did just about enough to win this one - a match that had end of season stamped all over it.

The match programme was full of references to the match being one of the last to be played at Surrey Street.

Having tried so hard to convince themselves there was something to play for, they then proceeded to let the game pass them by.

However, as is often the case in matches like this, the underdogs took the lead. Fleetwood showed flashes of flowing football, and had gone close on a couple of occasions before they went ahead.

With 34 minutes gone, Nick Brown found Jimmy Rasul, who made his way through the Curzon box - despite attempts to pull him back - to give the home side the lead.

However, Fleetwood's hopes were raised only briefly. Before the referee had blown for half time, O'Connor had scored twice.

Labour Club call old boys

GORTON Trades and Labour Club F.C. are celebrating their 21st birthday with a sportsman's dinner and reunion at their home premises on Thursday, May 9.

The guest speaker will be former Leeds United and Scotland captain Bill Bremner, and the comedy will be supplied by local comic Austin Knight.

Any former players or officials interested in attending should contact club chairman God Musgrave on 0161 221 3756.

Trophy finalists rip Celtic defence to shreds

STALYBRIDGE's home programme came to a shattering end on Thursday last week, when they conceded four goals in a chaotic last 20 minutes.

A run of four successive home victories was torn apart by Vics' exposure of Celtic's defensive frailties.

The margin of defeat would have been even more embarrassing had it not been for some great work by Harvey Willette, who made three excellent saves in one-on-one situations.

It had all been so much different early on, with Stalybridge in sparkling form for the first hour. Playing with width and pace, wit and

Baines strikes at the treble

MOSSLEY'S title aspirations are now clearly over and, with Kidsgrove also playing for nothing, there was an unreal end of the season feel to this game - that is, until the Lilywhites took the lead in the 28th minute.

Richard Bevan's cross from the right invited a typically physical challenge from Bernie Hughes on Stuart Sutton, and Andy Baines gratefully hooked the loose ball into the open net.

It was the start of a spell of pressure in which Mossley looked for too good for Kidsgrove and, by half time, the match was as good as over.

The Lilywhites second goal came on 39 minutes, after Hughes had missed a sitter, and Peter Withers had lobbed against the bar.

This time, former Marine man Withers snapped a header into the bottom corner from 12 yards after Bevan had provided yet another fine cross.

Mossley looked capable of scoring at will as Kidsgrove's defensive discipline dissolved and, a minute before the break, Matt Holt crossed for Baines to make it 3-0.

Baines did not have long

to wait for his hat-trick. Only 13 minutes of the second half had elapsed when Chris Lomas's 50-yard pass sent him clear to lob Sutton.

Kidsgrove had created absolutely nothing so, when Brian Hall smashed a thunderbolt past Peter Cole from 25 yards, in the 65th minute, Mossley felt they had no reason to be unduly worried.

They were six minutes later, however, when Cole made a mad rush at a free kick by Steve Norris, and Peter Hall rolled a simple shot into the gaping goal.

It gave Mossley a more nervous final 19 minutes than should have been necessary and, had Steve Oliver done better with two chances in the dying minutes, the Lilywhites might have faced an unlikely draw.

Mossley: Cole 5, Bevan 8, Lomas 7, Thomas 7, Allcock 7, Holt 7, Conlon 6, Withers 8, Hughes 7, Baines 9, Murray 7 for Joyce (65), Case 7 for Allcock (58).

Kidsgrove: Sutton, Royall, Bevan, Norris, Evans, B. Hall, Burton, Oliver, Farley, Conlon, Booth, Sule, P. Hall for Burton (46), Griffiths for Bevan (57), Nickey, Ref: Edward Terry (Brocklands).

That setback spurred on Glossop but, hard though they battled, they could not get in any goal attempts; and they paid for it in the fifth minute.

A through ball from Gary Cooney found Clarke, looking yards offside, and he beat Morris low to his left.

It was a case of playing out time from that point on, with Flinton content to sit on their lead and remain top of the North West Counties League.

Glossop: Morris 7, Sinnott 7, Patterson 6, Coyne 6, Reynolds 7, Boyle 7, Hulme 6, Imrie 6, Smallwood 7, Scarborough 6, Kamara 6, Sub: Williamson 6 for Coyne (40).

Flinton: Roberts, Locke, McWilliams, Moloney, Dixon, Anderson, Byrne, Hall, Clarke, Higginbottom, Cooley, Sub: Birmingham for Dixon (53), Cameron (53), Hibbert for Clarke (50), Ref: Gary Stott (Manchester).

Paul Higginbottom soon showed his paces when he interchanged cleverly with Jimmy Clarke, only to shoot directly at Steve Morris.

Kevin Scarborough was just wide with an effort for North End, and a free kick from the little striker was scrambled away.

Smallwood was making his presence felt with some timely runs and passes; and combined well with Scarborough, who was thwarted by the keeper.

Morris was again brought into action when he palmed away a chip from Clarke, and saved from Chris Payne.

After the break, Flinton looked more like a title-chasing side, and forced the pace accordingly. They were rewarded just after the hour when a corner was somewhat luckily forced home by Paul Dixon.

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Heaton denies tiring Tigers

JOHN McMAHON'S Ewen Fields comeback lasted just six minutes on Friday, when he became the first of two players to be stretchered off with broken legs.

The match had already started late after Droydsden turned up with the wrong kit. Then, the match had barely begun, when McMahon fell awkwardly following a tackle.

It was obvious the injury was bad by the players' reactions, and Darren Pybus ran towards the press box shouting "get an ambulance".

Twenty minutes later, another ambulance was called for after Dave Nolan and Mark Molyneux went for a 50/50 ball. The Bloods' keeper seemed to catch the full impact on his legs, and almost stretched out.

McMahon later underwent more than three hours' surgery for a broken fibula and tibia. Molyneux broke his ankle.

Both incidents were purely accidental, with no one to blame. However, they threw a tense cloud over a game that Droydsden needed to win, and almost did.

Simon Heaton took over in goal and, although he performed heroics to keep out the Tigers, it was by no means one-way traffic.

The electric pace of Nigel Evans, and the bludgeoning of Allan Pannett, gave Hyde's shaky central defence plenty of problems.

Hyde United 1
Droydsden 1

by DAVID JONES

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Then, the Tigers took control, with Dave Nolan - playing his 200th consecutive game for Hyde - having a blinder.

He equalised four minutes later when he slithered a shot, practically from the by-line, through Paul Connor's slippery fingers.

The red-haired Liverpoolian almost grabbed another, seconds later, when he pounced on a high bouncing ball, only to kick it over the top of the crossbar.

Hyde made Spartans look a spent force, and Paul Vanden, after swivelling in the box, saw his left-foot shot hit the post.

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Connor was kept busy with shots from all angles and, on the stroke of half time, he brilliantly pushed a Varden shot round the post.

The escape was short-lived, however. The corner found George Switzer, who dispatched an absolutely glorious 35-yard shot into the top corner.

Hyde kept up the pressure after the break and, on 68 minutes, Gary Heaton's cracking 20-yard shot hit the bar, and Tony Carroll headed in the rebound.

Five minutes later, Dave Edsall found Carroll on the edge of the box, and he gently pushed the ball past Connor.

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The escape was short-lived, however. The corner found George Switzer, who dispatched an absolutely glorious 35-yard shot into the top corner.

Hyde kept up the pressure after the break and, on 68 minutes, Gary Heaton's cracking 20-yard shot hit the bar, and Tony Carroll headed in the rebound.

Five minutes later, Dave Edsall found Carroll on the edge of the box, and he gently pushed the ball past Connor.

Hyde Williams 7, Cox 8, Switzer 7, Wilson 7, Heaton 7, Evans 7, Edsall 6, McMahon 6, Carroll 7, Nolan 7, Sub: Donnelly 6 for McMahon (61), Switzer 7, Gallagher 28, McCallan 6 for Nolan (80).

Droydsden: Molyneux 6, Cooke 7, Chappell 7, Ashton 7, Tunnicliffe 8, Latta 8, Heaton 9, Pybus 6, Hall 7, N Evans 8, Heywood 6, Sule, Pannett 7, For Chappell (12), Bradshaw 7 for Molyneux (30), McEne 6 for Pybus (16), Ref: Paul Canavan (Rotherham).

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THE tired legs and lack of ideas - so common in recent games - were gone as McMahon's men gave the Georgies a lesson in football.

Blyth took a 12th-minute lead when a dreadful Gus Wilson clearance fell to Richard Bond, who blasted past goalkeeper Arthur Williams.

Then, the Tigers took control, with Dave Nolan - playing his 200th consecutive game for Hyde - having a blinder.

He equalised four minutes later when he slithered a shot, practically from the by-line, through Paul Connor's slippery fingers.

The red-haired Liverpoolian almost grabbed another, seconds later, when he pounced on a high bouncing ball, only to kick it over the top of the crossbar.

Hyde made Spartans look a spent force, and Paul Vanden, after swivelling in the box, saw his left-foot shot hit the post.

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