

Paul ignores pressure to net winning penalty

PAUL COX kept an ice-cool nerve to rifle Hyde to victory in a tense penalty shoot-out at Burnden Park on Friday.

After the mandatory five spot kicks the scores were level, both sides having missed one penalty. Steve Jones beat Kurt Edgington in the sudden-death shoot-out, Jason Donnelly equalised, and then it was high drama.

Leek defender Mark Beebey crashed his kick off the bar, and all eyes turned to Cox. With a hitch of the shorts and a nervous glance into the night sky, he started his run. Two seconds later crestfallen Tony Bullock was pulling the ball from the net, and the Tigers had done it.

To be honest, it was what they deserved. Leek looked

Hyde Utd 1 Leek Town 1

by DAVID JONES

*UniBord League
Challenge Cup final
after extra time*

Hyde win 6-5 on penalties
backwards to push the ball over the bar in spectacular fashion.

The Tigers could have scored just after the break when Carroll sent Dave Esdaille chasing a long ball down the right.

"Pineapple" pushed over a lovely cross as Bullock raced off his line, Carroll met it perfectly, but his effort was cleared off the line.

Hyde looked like winners, but disaster struck 12 minutes from time when Edgington failed to collect a Dave Sutton free kick, and Martin Filson headed in at the far post.

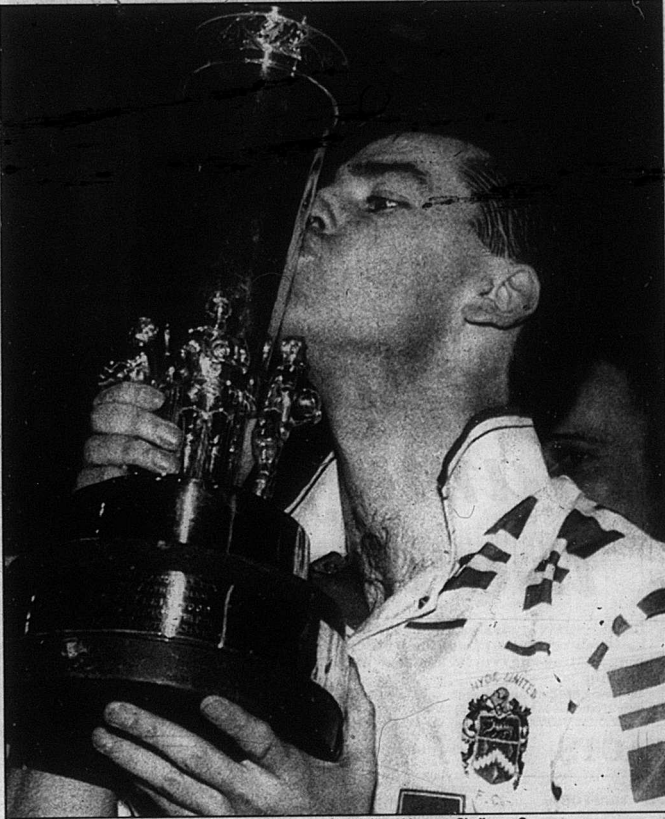
The Tigers kept on going but, with 90 minutes and 40 seconds up, we thought it was all over. Then Cox swept down the right and flashed over a cross which Mark Ogley - trying to clear - headed past the stranded Bullock.

Amazingly, Hyde could have had another, seconds later, but Bullock brilliantly blocked a Nolan header. It was to prove a temporary reprieve.

Hyde: Edgington 7, Cox 9, Switzer 8, Wilson 8, Gierton 7, Hamshaw 8, Camilleri 7, Esdaille 7, Varden 7, Carroll 7, Nolan 8. Subs: Donnelly 7 for Varden (84), Iain McMillan, Harstin.

Leek: Bullock, Beebey, Dickinson, Ogley, Filson, Sobey, Leicester, Bates, Twigg, Sutton, Bamrose. Subs: Batho for Sutton (70), Jones for Filson (79), Blackman.

Ref: Andy Brockell (Astrington).



COX: winning kick

good early on, and Hyde's high ball game seemed destined for failure but, suddenly, they found their free-flowing short passing game, and started running the show.

Dave Nolan almost brought the terraces alive after 15 minutes, when he raced behind defenders to head a Tony Carroll cross that crashed off the bar.

Twenty minutes later, Paul Varden saw Bullock off his line and clipped in a perfectly weighted chip. However, the keeper divi-