

TT No.061: 29/03/05 Ground/Ground Focus: *Mike Latham* - Hyde United (Unibond Premier League)

Easter Monday 28 March 2005, Unibond Premier Division; Hyde United 6-1 Burscough (attendance- 462)

Hyde United continued their pursuit of Workington at the top of the Unibond Premier with a spectacular second half demolition of fifth-placed Burscough on Monday evening.

Some of Hyde's one-touch football and build-up play was breathtaking at times and manager Steve Waywell, who performed miracles at Leigh RMI a few years ago, has clearly assembled a talented squad.

Hyde missed at least half a dozen chances before Burscough came to life, striking the bar twice before taking a 1-0 half-time lead. But in the second half Hyde really turned it on, equalising within a minute of the re-start and going on to run riot after Burscough were reduced to ten men following the sending-off of their central defender for dissent to the linesman following Hyde's third goal.

Burscough conceded two penalties; from the second their goalkeeper was fortunate not to receive a red card also, and Hyde scored three goals in the last four minutes to send their fans home happy.

Hyde, who trail Workington by four points with two games in hand, play the Reds on 16 April at home- what a game that should be. Burscough can console themselves they will not meet a side of this quality too often for they certainly contributed to a splendid game.

Ewen Fields has been dramatically transformed in recent years and is now part of a leisure complex in the town. It is a model of what a small stadium can be like.

The playing surface is first class, still lush and green at this stage of the season despite a heavy workload. Manchester United reserves regularly play at the ground.

The main stand gives a fine view of the action and to its right is the Scrattin' Shed where Hyde's most vociferous supporters gather. The other three sides are newly concreted standing terraces, all covered and affording a close and intimate view of the action.

Admission was £7 adults with a £1 transfer to stand. Inside the superbly maintained ground are two refreshment huts and the supporters' club bar that also houses an excellent shop. A superb 48-page programme, that had been updated for games on Easter Saturday, was a bargain £1.20.

Ewen Fields has the feel of a terrific football ground and a visit there is highly recommended, especially for football of this quality.

