

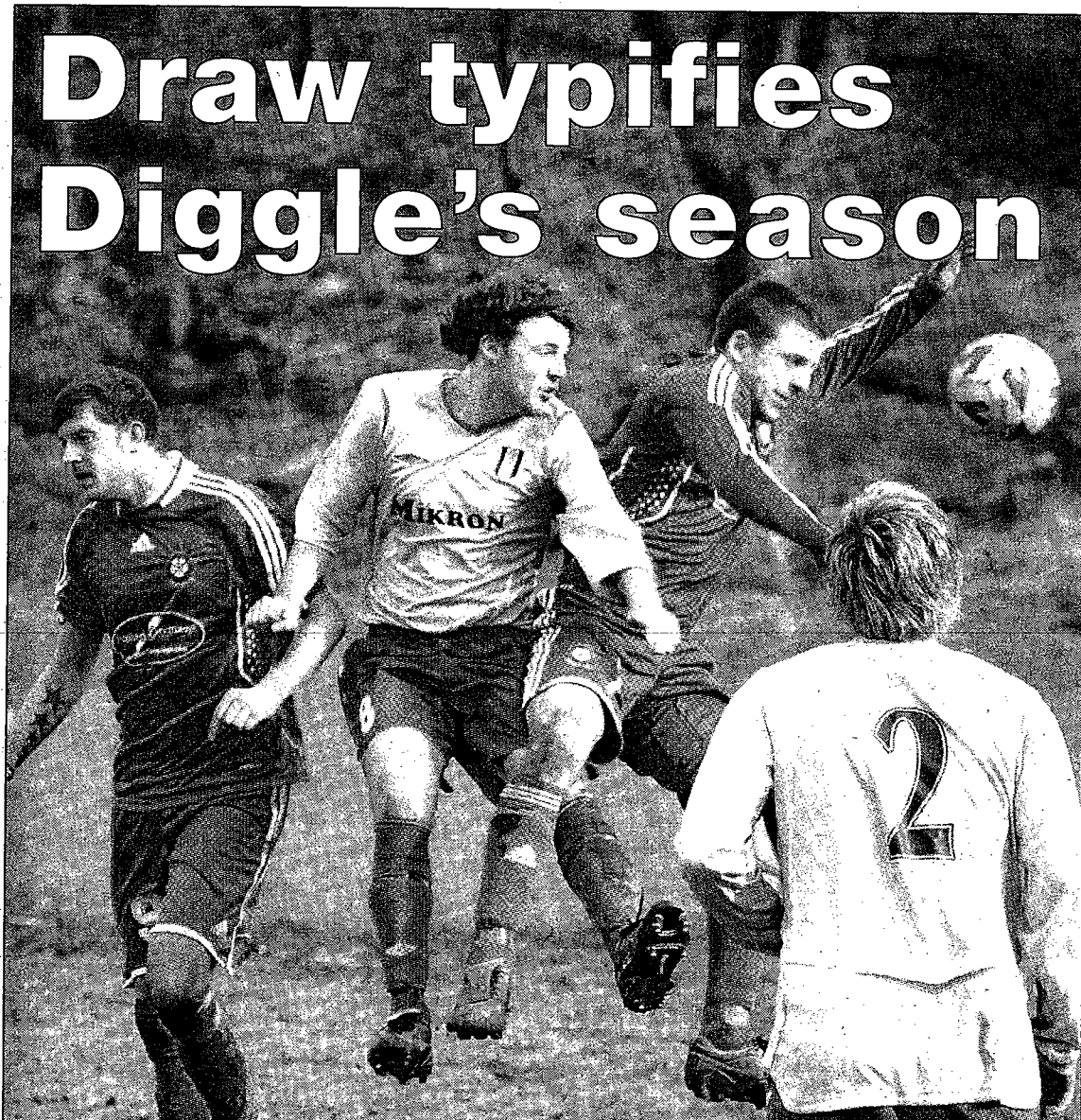
THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2009

OST

Amateur football round-up

Huddersfield and District League

Draw typifies Diggle's season



UP AND AT'EM: Diggle's Tom Matley (right) and Alex Pearson, of Britannia Sports, jump to it in the Huddersfield and District League clash.

Diggle 3,

Britannia Sports 3

A POINT apiece at Churchill playing fields was of little use to Diggle and Britannia Sports in the battle for runners-up spot in division one of the Huddersfield and District League.

With matches rapidly running out, it was a game that both sides needed to win to claw back points on runaway table-toppers Lepton Highlanders.

In truth, a draw was a fair result, but Diggle had the better of it in the closing stages and could have snatched victory after two last-gasp efforts.

STERLING

But then it would have been a case of snatching victory from the jaws of defeat as Steve Southern's side staged a sterling fight-back from 3-1 down.

Southern said: "It sums up our season as we have tended to start matches strongly and finish strongly.

"Some of our defending against Britannia was awful but I have to give credit for the way we came back after trailing by two goals early in the second half."

Southern made three changes to the side that lost in the previous outing to Heywood Sports, and his pre-match talk was all about improving standards, both on and off the field.

With Gareth Chew impressing up front in only

NEAR POST

DIGGLE'S Daring Cheetham regains his balance after a challenge from Bob Elliott, of Britannia Sports.



Match of the Day by JOHN GILDER

his second game of the season following a spell at Mossley. Diggle started the stronger of the two sides.

Gary Godard's flag kick was flicked on by Chris Moore to Chew, whose momentum in meeting the ball allowed him to score with ease.

Britannia levelled 10 minutes before the break and, with the second half less than three minutes old, Diggle conceded two more goals.

Southern was funning

about some of the defending for the two Britannia goals, and said: "All that was missing was a comedy car which falls to pieces and some flowers squirting water."

Diggle were clearly not clowning about when they launched their recovery — even Charlie Carroll would have been impressed.

With substitutes Keiron Matley and Matt Taylor thrown into the fray Diggle gained the territorial ascendancy and when Chew

netted his second of the game — a nearly-struck drive just after the hour mark — the scene was set for a grandstand finish.

Diggle got their reward with nine minutes to go when centre-back Ryan Hewitt displayed plenty of commitment to convert another Godard corner.

Late changes were spurned by Tom Matley and Wayne Broadbent, leaving Diggle to reflect on another missed opportunity to claim the title.

DIGGLE: M. Moore, Jones, Platt, Gedard, Cheetham, Hewitt, Broadbent, Chew, C. Moore, B. Mayall, Matley, Subs: K. Mayall, Taylor.

UPPERMILL once again pressed the self-destruct button as they crashed to a 4-1 defeat at home to Wooddale Wanderers in division one of the Huddersfield and District League.

For the sixth time this season, Uppermill found themselves in front — Dave Taylor got the goal — only to be let down by some slipshod defending.

Fellow strugglers Wooddale scored three goals in a mad 10-minute spell before half-time, and added a fourth late on to seal Uppermill's fate.

A late goal denied Heyside a much-needed win in division three, but at least they ended a run of poor results with a 2-2 draw against HV Academicals.

Early pressure paid off for Heyside, who went ahead through a Michael Ward strike.

They created several chances to increase their lead, but allowed Academicals to draw level after a defensive lapse.

Despite being reduced to 10 men with half an hour to go, Heyside took the lead for a second time through Carl Winstanley.

They looked to be heading for a welcome win until Academicals scrambled home an equaliser with five minutes to go.

Diggle 'X' are through to the last four of the Richardson Cup after a 7-2 win over Newsome WMC reserves.

In reserve division one, Uppermill's second string were involved in a thrilling 5-5 draw at Berry Brow Libs. Chris Barlow (two), Sam Royle (two) and Mark Jackson scored for Mill.

Diggle reserves enjoyed a fine 4-0 victory over Meltham Athletic reserves.

John Lees bagged a brace for Uppermill 'X' who edged out Wooddale Wanderers 2-1 in reserve division two.

In the Works League, Uppermill's fifth team were beaten 7-2 by Hepworth.

Results are —

Richardson Cup, quarter-final: Diggle 'A' 7, Newsome WMC Res 2.
Division one: Diggle 3, Britannia Sports 3, Uppermill 1, Wooddale Wanderers 4.

Division three: Heyside FC 2, HV Academicals 2.
Reserve division one: Berry Brow Lib Res 5, Uppermill Res 5, Meltham Athletic Res 0, Diggle Res 4.
Reserve division two: Wooddale Wanderers Res 1, Uppermill 'A' 2.

Sloppy 'Mill let it slip again