

# Matt applies Hampstead's

## Hampstead & W 4

Shipperley 41, 57

Calnan 46, Guise Brown 67 (PC)

Kettle, Alexander, Edwards, Roche, Calnan, Franch, Guise-Brown, Watt, Browne, McCabe, Cargo.

Replacements: Botha, Dowds, Jakeman, Shipperley, Loughrey.

## East Grinstead 3

Jackson 19 (PS), Piper 19

Farres Palet 38

Smith, Kirkham, A. Jackson, Bowden, Faulkner, Swanepoel, Driver, Wilson, Catlin, Farres Palet, Scanlon.

Replacements: Piper, W. Jackson, Mulholland, Stott, Deakin.

Umpires: Mark Everard & Nick White

by Graham Otway

**THERE** were so many talking points during half-time at Paddington Recreation Ground that had the interval lasted half an hour instead of ten minutes then none of the spectators would have been lost for words.

The fact that East Grinstead, the outsiders for an end of season play-off place, were leading by two goals against the team occupying fourth place in the table was certainly a surprise.

Then there was the weather factor which bathed the arena in sunshine. But, at the same time, the surface of the pitch, and many spectators, were left awash amid a mixture of rain and small hailstones driven by a fierce, cold wind.

East Grinstead coach Karl Stagno took his players out of the elements to the warmth of their changing room to deliver his verdict on the first 35 minutes.

Meanwhile, questions were being asked about what Hampstead's player/coach Kwan Browne said to his team about their lacklustre efforts as he huddled them in a goalmouth and talked to them as they shivered.

There were some heated words of discontent on the sidelines about the lack of severity early in the game that saw Hampstead's Chris Cargo handed only a five-minute yellow when he blatantly fouled Sam Drive from behind as he bore

down on goal.

Equally, there were genuine words of admiration and sympathy for Rebecca Holden, a 17-year-old forward who plays for Hampstead Women's Fives who was selling programmes and raffle tickets in aid of a cancer charity just days after being diagnosed as having hip bone cancer.

Yet 35 minutes later, after the final whistle, those conversations were history as Hampstead, after going three-down at the start of the second half, staged a stunning revival to collect three points through Matt Guise-Brown's 67th minute winner.

That had not looked on the cards in the first half an hour when East Grinstead were running riot.

They scored twice in the 19th minute with Ashley Jackson converting a penalty flick and almost straight from the push back another visitors' attack left Ashley Piper with the simple task of knocking home into an open goal.

Hampstead had a let-off when Martin Scanlon failed to take a similar opportunity, but three minutes after the interval Dominic Bowden set up East Grinstead's third by evading four tackles on a run through from midfield to feed Josep Farres Palet.

It was then, however, that the wisdom of Browne's half-time talk to his players got into their minds and they turned the game around.

"We always try not to get too emotional," he explained later. "We don't question umpiring decisions or argue with each



other about things that might have gone wrong.

"We talk about each line of play - defence, midfield and attack - and the things they have got to do better to pull a match around.

"Yes, we did then go three-nil down very quickly, which was due to some very loose marking. But we had played better in the final ten minutes of the first half and once we got going again and scored our first goal things just got better.

"And to come back from three down to win was very important for us at this time of the season when we have still so much to play

for. I couldn't have asked for more."

The start of the game being turned on its head arrived in the 41st minute when Rupert Shipperley scored from close range after a flowing move.

Browne had a hand in Hampstead's second five minutes later when his run from midfield set up Will Calnan.

Shipperley scored his second and Hampstead's equaliser from open play in the 57th minute but then were two suggestions that the match might end with each side taking a point.

First, Paddy Smith pro-



# perfect finish for comeback kings

**Paddy power:** East Grinstead goalkeeper Paddy Smith saves a Hampstead goal attempt

PICTURES:  
Andy Crayford



## KEY PLAYER

Rupert Shipperley  
Hampstead



Shipp ahoy! Hampstead's Rupert Shipperley tries to stop Nick Catlin

duced a highly impressive reflex save to keep out a shot from Mike Watt.

Then when Stevie Dowds, who had been at the heart of a lot of the pressure applied by Hampstead, managed to find the back of the net he saw his effort disallowed.

Three minutes from time, however, Hampstead won a penalty corner and Guise-Brown's shot managed to find the backboard to complete his side's comeback and East Grinstead's second-half misery.

That was summed up by

visiting coach Stagno as he walked back to the dressing room to try to get some warmth back into his body and wipe the obvious look of disappointment from his face.

"It was very cold out there," he said.

"Especially in a dug out with no roof. And the fact that we were not quite successful was because it was definitely a game of two halves.

"I was very pleased with our first half but not happy with the way we played in the second."