

United players 'hurting'



Hard lines A slip-up for Newmains
Photo: Graham Robb

NEWMAINS.....1
THORNIEWOOD.....2
DANIEL TULLY

Newmains co-manager Paul Davies says his players were hurting after defeat to 10-man Thorniewood.

United trailed but were given a lifeline when Thorniewood keeper Jonny Duncan was sent off on the stroke of half-time.

Marc Howson grabbed his second goal in as many weeks to level the clash, but United couldn't make the advantage count and slipped to another loss.

Davies was convinced there were clear improvements in his players despite a hard lesson for the League Two strugglers.

He said: "Last week we were beaten 6-3 by Vale of Clyde after being 2-1 up at half-time.

"When we came back into the changing rooms at full-time in that game I felt the boys had chucked it.

"But on Saturday it was clear they were hurting in there. Really, really hurting."

Thorniewood opened the scoring midway through the first half when Alistair Morgan's perfect inswinging corner was met by the head of an unchallenged Jake Morris.

It looked set for another bleak afternoon for Newmains until a minute before the interval.

Tony Duffy found himself through one-on-one with Duncan and tried to cleverly lob the keeper.

But just as he connected with the ball he was taken out by Duncan. Ref Sean Murdoch didn't hesitate and brandished the red card.

After the break Newmains pounced almost immediately.

Captain Howson had netted a stunning free-kick against Vale of Clyde and was at it again as he curled home from 20 yards.

Declan Brown then found himself down the right flank of a sleeping defence and calmly slotted home under the keeper.

Cherrie's corner came crashing back off the bar in the final minute to sum up United's hard luck story.

Davies felt Brown was offside at the winner and believes whistler Murdoch could have given more decisions their way. He said: "I'm disappointed about their winner.

"The ball was slid down the side of the park and I thought the boy was in a clear offside position.

"These things go for you and against you.

"I'm not criticising the ref because it's hard out there for him."

We still have a Shotts at promo

WHITLETTS VICTORIA.....0
SHOTT'S BON ACCORD.....1
Boss John McKeown isn't ruling out a late Shotts surge for the Championship promotion places after a win over Whitletts Victoria.
An Ally Martin penalty after nine minutes was enough for The Bonny to

return to North Lanarkshire with three points.

The Hannah Park outfit sit 11 points off the promotion places, but have played four games less than third-placed Renfrew.

McKeown said: "It was a decent win and performance. We're happy with

the clean sheet as well, now we haven't conceded in the past couple of games.

"We had a bit of a dip of the Christmas period but the players are improving. They have really stepped up in training and you see that with the results.

"If we were to seriously think about

challenging for need to put a where that tak

"I'm really ju a time though this weekend! They're better can't expect a



Blaze repairs to focus at Wishaw

MARK PIRIE

Wishaw Juniors playing budget won't be bolstered for a relegation scrap as the recovery from The Beltane blaze steps up.

Committee member Alex Young revealed that strides were being made in the repairs to the two-storey building.

The club house and dressing room facility was destroyed by vandals last year, but it is now expected to be opened before the end of the season thanks to kind-hearted donations from the

public.

However, with the side struggling at the foot of League One Young says boss Mark Daly's budget won't be increased to ensure survival.

He says the cash has been put into a separate "fire fund" by the club: "Any money that has been raised goes towards the repairs and goes into the club, not to fund the team.

"We have put all of our efforts into getting the building back in working order.

"We have been doing things like auctions that have put money into the

fire fund, and have organised a speakers

night in March to help with fundraising.

"Hopefully we are up and running before the end of the season.

"We still have costs of materials to think of and the labour costs so if anyone is willing to help we would really welcome it."

Young says they are making progress with the clubhouse despite a hold up over the festive period following game call-off's.

He added: "We had been set to put a generator in that had been looked at and repaired, but the game was called

off.

"We that p the bu

"Th has p been

"T and 1

set a com worl

"E volu real



Anger Braves boss Ricky Waddell

Ref rage in Braves

Caledonian Braves boss Ricky Waddell fumed as referee Alan Proctor awarded a controversial penalty in the defeat to BSC Glasgow.

Nell McLaughlin's half-volley cancelled out Martin Grehan's opener for the visitors. However, just before the break the official pointed to the spot for an apparent push in the box. BSC man Declan Hughes slotted the penalty away, before grabbing his

second after the break. Thomas Collins completed the rout.

The Braves gaffer said he has watched the penalty award clip 20 time times and still can't see the foul.

He said: "The game was fairly even at that point so it does change the game. The boys are gutted to come in a goal behind after a decent first half.

"The boys came in at half time and told me it was never a penalty, they