

Tilbury 1

Barking 1

Essex Senior League

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Attendance- 130

Report by Mason Hutchinson

The Dockers managed to bounce back following three games without a win, as they defeated Hullbridge 2-0 on Saturday. Their next challenge was at home to an in-form Barking who occupied fourth in the Essex Senior League table. Marc and Liam made two changes to their side as Harry Girling replaced the injured Christian North and Elliott Johnson joined the defence with Roman Campbell returning to his natural striker role.

The Blues were the first to challenge inside the opening few moments when Luke Hirst was slotted through, but denied by returning Docker, Harry Girling.

However, it was Tilbury to open the scoring courtesy of Shae Hutchinson, who put the defender under pressure and then beat the keeper to the back pass, before rounding him and firing into the empty net to score on just his second start for The Dockers.

The hosts continued to threaten in the first outing but failed to extend their lead heading into the break. Then the game completely flipped on its head as Barking dominated the second half.

Substitute, Ezekiel Bademosi burst through down the left-hand side and was just one touch away from having just the keeper to beat. But he was stopped in his tracks by a fantastic intervention from Alfie Fry, who made a perfect sliding challenge to stop the attack.

Barking would eventually find their goal though, as Luke Hirst was released once again. This time he was shown wide by Elliott Johnson but still managed to get a shot off. The strike seemed to be from an impossible angle from the left-hand side, but the ball managed to find its way and nestle into the top right corner.

That was all the action at Chadfields and in a game of two halves in horrible conditions, the draw was a fair result. The result also meant that Tilbury had extended their lead at the top of the league table to 10 points with both Woodford and Romford gaining a game in hand. The Dockers are back in action on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March as we host West Essex for a 3pm kick off.

SQUAD: Girling, Fry, Joynes, Johnson, Hall, Carter (Osei-Bobie), Spooner ©, Donovan, Hutchinson (Clark), Ibe, Campbell.

GOAL: Shae Hutchinson.