

Brentwood Town 3 Tilbury 2 Essex Senior Cup Tuesday 21st November 2023

Report by Mason Hutchinson

Following victory in the Essex Senior League over Athletic Newham, Tilbury's attention turned to the Essex Senior Cup as they travelled to Brentwood on a bitter cold Tuesday night. Marc and Liam's side had a few changes from Saturday, with North returning to action. Mokwenye and Metalia also started replacing Macauley Joynes and the injured Oli Spooner.

The Blues started the game on the front foot putting the ball in the net after just 10 minutes through Ogunleye. However, the flag was up before he took the shot, and the goal was not given. The Dockers quickly got the game back underway, going up the other end as Roman Campbell slotted through Harry Donovan. Donovan spotted the keeper off his line and whipped an effort around him and into the top corner for the lead.

Looking for an equaliser, Brentwood charged down the right-hand side and into the area. Connor Martin got across to make a fantastic challenge, but the ball struck the attacker and took a nasty bounce right in front of Christian North as it headed for the goal. North got down superbly to throw an arm out and tip the ball out for a corner.

Tilbury were back down the far side quickly though as Jack McQueen bent a pass down the line to Campbell. The striker chopped back and set play to the arriving Sam Carter, whose first-time effort struck the outside of the post.

The hosts would find the equaliser though, when the right winger did exceptionally well to dance past his man before firing in a cross to the near post where Alex Akrofi was making a darting run. Akrofi got in front of his man to head home from close range and to get his side level.

On the stroke of half-time, Tilbury came forward again hoping to regain their lead, and almost did just that. North fired a long kick to Martin who won the flick on into the left-hand side corner of the pitch. Roman Campbell played a chipped pass to Harvey Browne down the line, giving the winger time to pick his pass to Donovan in the area. Donners fired toward the top corner but Minter got across well to deny him of his brace.

But on the hour mark, there was nothing Minter could do to stop Harvey Browne, as the substitute made an instant impact, sliding in at the back post to convert Donovan's cross.

The rest of the second half was one-way traffic, with Brentwood throwing everybody forward to find another equaliser. They came close twice with Akrofi sending a shot high and wide and another effort that was fantastically blocked by Jack McQueen.

However, with just one minute on the clock, Nzenge skipped past three challenges before splitting the defence with a perfect pass to Josh Rusoke who fired home to get his side back into the game. But Brentwood were not content with the game going to penalties and instead wanted just one for themselves as Nzenge turned on the burners again to run into space on the right as he was taken down inside the area. Alex Akrofi stepped up and sent North the wrong way to help his side advance to the next round of the cup.

That was all the action in Brentwood and Tilbury's 18-game unbeaten run had come to an end as two late goals saw them bow out of the Essex Senior Cup. The Dockers are back in action on Saturday 25th November as we host FC Clacton for a 3 pm kick-off.

SQUAD: North, McQueen, Mokwenye (Joynes), Martin, Hayes, Donovan, Carter, Metalia, Browne (Clark), Salter (Trendall), Campbell ©

SUBS UNUSED: Page, Plunkett.

GOALS: Donovan, Browne.