

Canvey 1 Tilbury 1 Friendly Tuesday 26th September 2023

Report by Mason Hutchinson

Following victory in the FA Vase at the weekend, Tilbury had scheduled a friendly away to fellow Essex side and Isthmian Premier team, Canvey Island. The starting lineup was familiar for the Tilbury faithful, but trialists were on the bench for Marc and Liam's side.

It was a quiet but tightly contested opening 20 minutes, with a couple of half chances for both sides, but the first real sight at goal went the way of the hosts. In the 30th minute, a dinked ball over the defence was chased down by the striker and made awkward for North in goal. But after a scramble on the edge of the area, the ball was sent out of harm's way.

Five minutes later, The Dockers were able to construct a chance of their own when North's long kick was brilliantly won and flicked on by Brian Moses and into the path of Trialist A. The winger was given his first run at his full-back and managed to cut inside onto his right foot. However, his effort was bent just wide of the far post.

Tilbury came forward again not long after when Harvey Browne was allowed to drive inside and, under zero pressure, he hit his strike that dipped just too late and flew over the crossbar. But the visitors continued their pressure, this time getting a chance through Spooner who danced through the midfield and exploited space on the right flank. Spooner's low cross was deflected and fell to Igli Metalia on the edge of the box, but the midfielder couldn't keep his shot down.

The second half is when Canvey began to grow into the game, causing problems just 10 minutes after the break when the full-back bolted past his marker and found the number 9 in the area. The striker was able to get a shot away but didn't hit the target and didn't trouble Christian North.

The Dockers then started creating their own problems when a poor throw-in was given straight to a Canvey man, who took a touch to set himself a brilliant strike goalward. Fortunately, this effort narrowly escaped nestling into the bottom corner.

Then, in the 71st minute, the best chance of the lot was handed to Canvey's number 10 when he beat the offside trap and had just the keeper to beat. But as the striker attempted to poke the ball past North, he sent his shot wide of the target.

The home side's pressure was relentless, and they should have taken the lead in the 75th minute when a ball into the box was to the striker who had space. His first touch took the ball away from a recovering defender as he fired a low strike that beat the keeper, but the ball was fantastically cleared off the line by Connor Martin.

And against the run of play, Tilbury took the lead with another chance that started with the skipper, Oli Spooner. Spooner's first touch set himself to play a brilliant ball out wide to the substitute, Tom Salter. Salter beat his man with ease and after bursting past the full-back, he found Brian Moses at the far post for an easy tap-in to put his side ahead.

However, Canvey did find an equaliser in the dying moments when the midfielder stole the ball in the middle of the park and unleashed his winger making a run beyond the Tilbury resistance. The winger ran through, one-on-one, and made no mistake in finding the far corner.

That was all the action at the Movie Starr Stadium, and it was a very good result against tough opposition, with some good spells for The Dockers. Tilbury remain unbeaten in all competitions in

September and hope to continue this form as we travel to Frenford on Saturday 30th September for a 3pm kick off in the league.

SQUAD: North, McQueen, Joynes (Trialist C), Hayes, Martin, Carter, Spooner, Metalia (Trialist B), Howson (Trialist A), Browne (Salter), Moses.

Goal: Brian Moses