

Romford 0 Tilbury 1
Saturday 20th January 2024
Essex Senior League
ATT 281
Report by Mason Hutchinson

Following our victory in the FA Vase it was back to league action in a first vs third clash at Rookery Hill. The Dockers have been undefeated in the league since August when they lost 2-1 at home to Romford, so they were looking for revenge today! Marc and Liam fielded a side with only one change seeing Alex Clark return from suspension to replace Igli Metalia.

The opening portion of the game was very scrappy as both sides were learning to deal with the pitch. Fans saw very little of the ball on the floor until the 37th minute when Romford almost opened the scoring. Hassan Nalbant retained possession just inside his own half before spinning and leaving two defenders for dead. The striker continued to drag his team up the pitch before picking out Siddick arriving on the edge of the area, but the midfielder's strike flew over the bar.

The visitors then came close with an attack of their own as Alex Clark managed to dig out a cross from the left-hand side to find Roman Campbell in the area. However, his header was blocked and rolled safely into the keeper's hands.

The Dockers began to take control following halftime and found the opener in the 56th minute. Macauley Joynes sent in an in-swinging corner which was won by Connor Martin who rose well. The defender's header looped on top of the keeper before the ball was bundled over the line by Sam Carter.

Tilbury were close to doubling their lead when Roman Campbell's high press forced a mistake from Scott Doe. Campbell won the ball just outside Romford's penalty area and hit a strike headed for the bottom corner. But Jake Anderson got down well to equal the effort and keep his side in the game.

The final 20 minutes was one way traffic in the host's favour. Romford continuously knocked on the door but had no response from the Tilbury back line which held firm. The Borough saw multiple corners in the dying moments all cleared away until the referee finally allowed Tilbury fans to breathe again with the sound of the final whistle.

That was all the action at Rookery Hill and Tilbury extended their lead at the top of the table to 4 points with 3 games in hand over Sporting Bengal in second place. The Dockers are back in action this Monday 22nd January away to Ilford for a 7.45pm kick off.

SQUAD: North, McQueen, Hayes, Martin, Joynes, Carter, Donovan (Spoonier), Marlow, Clark (Fry), Trendall (Browne), Campbell ©

SUBS UNUSED: Page, Salter.

GOAL: Sam Carter