

Takeley 0 Tilbury 3 Att 80 Saturday 16th September 2023 Essex Senior League

Report by Mason Hutchinson

Following a disappointing draw away to White Ensign, it was back on the road for Tilbury as we travelled to Takeley for more Essex Senior League action. Due to injuries suffered on Wednesday by Johnny Ashman and Elliott Howson, Jack McQueen stepped in at right-back with Alfie Fry advancing to right-wing. Igli Metalia and Brian Moses also made returns to the bench.

Tilbury started the game on the front foot when a ball into the area from Macauley Joynes was met by Oli Spooner, but the midfielder just put the effort wide. It did not take long for the opener though, as in the 10th minute, Harvey Browne gambled on a flick-on from Campbell and received the ball on the edge of the area. Browne's first touch chopped against the defender's momentum before he calmly slotted home to put his side ahead.

The Dockers continued to stay on top and had another attempt on goal when a free kick was not cleared by the Takeley defence and met Sam Carter who was 18 yards out. Carter hit his effort first time but couldn't connect correctly and the keeper claimed simply enough. Then soon after, Tilbury's high press allowed Spooner to steal the ball in a dangerous area before slotting through Roman Campbell. Campbell rounded the keeper but was forced wide and delivered a square ball to Browne, who dragged his effort wide.

Harvey Browne thought he had rectified his miss just 4 minutes later when he netted from a supposed offside position. It was Oli Spooner with the initial drilled effort, which the keeper couldn't keep a hold of. Browne was first to react and had his first strike saved and headed home with his second bite of the cherry. However, the linesman was quick to raise his flag.

Browne did get an assist just 1 minute later though, as on the stroke of half time, Campbell fed the winger on the left flank for him to deliver a delightful first-time cross to the back post. Harry Donovan was the man making the late run and a fantastic header back across goal saw him double Tilbury's lead.

It was a very quiet second half with the first big chance coming in the final few minutes of the game when Donovan produced a perfectly weighted outside-the-foot pass over the defence for Moses to chase. The substitute found himself with just the keeper to beat, but Joe Walker was out quickly and matched the effort with a very good save.

But the visitors continued to knock and Takeley's resistance was broken through once again when Harry Donovan grabbed an assist to cap off a delightful performance as he found Roman Campbell behind the defence. Campbell made no mistake in driving a low effort into the bottom right corner to put the hosts to bed.

That was all the action in this Essex Senior League fixture and 3 goals meant 3 points for The Dockers to take back home as we prepare for FA Vase action. This game will be played at the EMR Stadium on Saturday 23rd September at 3pm as we host Baldock Town.

SQUAD: Page, McQueen (Moses), Joynes, Martin, Hayes, Carter (Metalia), Donovan, Spooner, Fry, Browne, Campbell.

SUBS UNUSED: North, Baker, La Rose.