

Tilbury 2

Frenford 0

Attendance – 245

Essex Senior League CHAMPIONS

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Report by Mason Hutchinson

The Dockers welcomed Frenford to Chadfields for the final game of the season. A win would see Tilbury lift their first league trophy since 1976 and automatic promotion back to the Isthmian North. Marc and Liam re-introduced Christian North to the side following his injury and David Knight and Harvey Browne got a start with Roman Campbell playing in defence.

It was a cagey affair in the first half with few chances created by either side. The closest Tilbury came to breaking the deadlock was after 22 minutes. Harry Donovan spread the play out wide to Shae Hutchinson who cut inside and bent his effort just wide of the far post.

Frenford had the better of the chances when Kai Haysmann's cross found Nick Reynolds at the back stick. But his header was denied by Christian North's fantastic save down to his left-hand side. Reynolds came close once again on the stroke of halftime, shanking his shot and rattling the outside netting.

Tilbury did manage to put the ball into the net on the hour mark through David Knight poking the rebound into the empty net. However, his celebrations were cut short by the linesman who deemed Knight to be offside.

The hosts started to turn things up as Hutchinson forced an incredible save from Jimmy Parker at his near post.

But the deadlock was finally broken when Alex Clark's in-swinging cross landed at the feet of David Knight. His strike hammered against the post but fell to captain fantastic,

Oli Spooner who once again saved the day with a vital goal to make it 4 in his last 4 games.

And the game was put to bed in the dying moments when substitute, Alex Clark finished off a well-worked counterattack. The breakaway was headed by David Knight who squared the ball across to Clarky for him to secure Tilbury their first league title in 48 years.

That was all the action at Chadfields and The Dockers finished the night champions of the Essex Senior League. Thank you to everybody who has supported the club all season and can't wait to be back next year! UP THE DOCKERS!

SQUAD: North, Fry, Joynes, Campbell, McQueen, Donovan, Carter, Spooner ©, Hutchinson (Troy Osei-Bobie), Browne (Clark), Knight.

SUBS UNUSED: Girling, Bell, Hall.

GOALS: Oli Spooner, Alex Clark.