

Walsham Le Willows 0 Tilbury 1 ATT 244
Saturday 13th January 2024
FA Vase 4th Round
Report by Mason Hutchinson

It was back to vase action for The Dockers as we travelled to Suffolk to face Walsham Le Willows in the last 32 of the FA Vase. Igli Metalia earned himself a start following his substitute appearance last weekend as he replaced the suspended Alex Clark.

It was a cagey start from both sides, with three players receiving bookings early in the game for late challenges, one of which was Sam Carter for Tilbury. Carter was also the man who almost opened the scoring as the ball fell to him on the edge of the area. The crowd instructed him to shoot, and Carter obliged, firing his venomous strike toward the far corner but it was well blocked by Nunn.

We had to wait until the 40th minute for the next shot which went the way of the hosts. It was a good attack from Walsham, as Norman played the ball to Garcia who then found Iglesias. The winger crossed into the feet of Glover, but his volley flew over the bar.

Approaching the break, Ben Marlow played a clever pass down the line to Roman Campbell who used his body well to win a free kick on the right-hand touch line. Macauley Joynes took the set piece to the back post, but Walsham failed to clear their lines and caused a scramble in the area. The ball landed perfectly to the feet of Jack McQueen who poked home from close range to give Tilbury the lead at half-time.

The second half was much the same as the first, making us wait until the 70th minute for some action. It was The Dockers who came forward with a Joynes free kick over on the far-left side. A tilbury man won the first ball but as it fell to Campbell with his back to goal, the striker attempted an acrobatic finish that was just wide.

The visitors were almost made to regret this miss as Walsham were straight up the other end looking for an equaliser. Norman drilled a cross into the area that was calling to be hit into the net, but no attacker could find the killer touch.

With 10 minutes to play, Tilbury crafted an identical attack to Walsham's. Sam Carter had possession 20 yards from goal before playing an exceptional reverse pass to break the line of defence and release Dan Trendall. Trendall delivered across the face of goal where Oli Spooner was sliding in, but the ball managed to evade the outstretched leg of the substitute.

That was all the action at The Morrish Stadium and Tilbury had battled their way through to the last 16 of the FA Vase. The draw for the next round will take place on Monday 15th at 3.15pm on Talksport2.

The Dockers will also be back in action on Tuesday 16th for a 7.45pm kick off as we host West Essex for a game under the lights at Chadfields!

SQUAD: North, McQueen, Hayes, Martin, Joynes, Carter, Marlow, Donovan, Trendall (Spooner), Campbell, Metalia (Salter) (Agyiri)

SUBS UNUSED: Browne, Page, Mokwenye, Fry.

GOAL: Jack McQueen