

West Essex 0
Tilbury 0
Essex Senior League
Tuesday 19th March 2024
Report by Mason Hutchinson

Following a first league defeat in 23 straight matches for The Dockers, they faced a trip to Wadham Lodge to play West Essex for the first time this season. Only one change was made to Marc and Liam's starting squad with Alfie Fry replacing the suspended Jack McQueen.

Tilbury started with a much improved look about themselves contrary to Saturday's defeat when Oli Spooner's early free kick nearly caught out the keeper with the help of Harry Donovan's flick.

This proved to cause problems for the hosts as Spooner sent in another free kick, this time his delivery headed for the far corner. Unfortunately, the keeper pulled off a brilliant save whilst backpedaling.

West Essex made sure to show that they were still very much in this game though and kickstarted a quick counterattack. The charge was headed by Bartlett-Antwi who picked out David Bell inside the area. However, Bell could not keep his effort down and sent the ball over the stand.

Oli Spooner continued to be a threat from set-pieces, this time with an in-swinging corner to the back post. Connor Martin rose well to meet it and beat the keeper to the ball, but he failed to direct his header goalward.

But The Dockers were unable to take any of their chances as they came close once again, this time when Callum Ibe beat his man on the right-hand side and sent an inviting cross into the area. Dan Trendall got a touch to help the ball on its way to Roman Campbell. However, Campbell did not know much about it and the ball missed his foot, hitting the inside of his calf and rolling into the keeper's arms.

The visitors continued their attempts to break West Essex's resistance, utilising Trendall's pace on the left flank. The winger did well to slide a pass through two men to find the arriving Oli Spooner on the edge of the area. The captain unleashed a rocket of a first time strike, but the effort flew agonisingly wide of the near post.

After a spell of Tilbury dominance, West Essex came forward down the right-hand side again. Their cross was low and managed to sneak through multiple bodies on the edge of Tilbury's penalty area. The ball was bouncing into the path of Effah, but Christian North did exceptionally to dive on top of the loose ball, taking a knock in the process, to shut down the attack.

That was all the action at Wadham Lodge and the draw meant that Romford closed the gap in the title race. Our lead now sits at 9 points clear of both Woodford and Romford with 7 matches

to play. The Dockers are back in action this Saturday 23rd March as we host Hullbridge for a 3pm kick off. Make sure to check our socials for information on special offers for Non League Day!

SQUAD: North, Fry, Joynes, Hall, Martin, Spooner ©, Donovan, Carter, Trendall (Browne), Ibe, Campbell.

SUBS UNUSED: Salter, Osei-Bobie, Knight.