

White Ensign 1 Tilbury 1 Wednesday 13th September 2023 Essex Senior League

Report by Mason Hutchinson

Following a win on Saturday for The Dockers, Tilbury took the trip to Great Wakering to face White Ensign for more league action. Just one change was made to Marc and Liam's starting xi as new signing Sam Carter stepped in for Harry Hope.

It was a cagey start to the game from both sides with the only real talking point coming in the form of a half-chance after 23 minutes. Roman Campbell caught the keeper off-guard and drilled a shot from distance which narrowly missed the target.

Tilbury were the side coming forward again and on the half-hour mark Roman saw another effort go wide. The chance started from a brilliant challenge by Joynes to keep a Tilbury attack alive before Donovan fed Johnny Ashman on the left. Ashman cut back onto his favoured right foot and a perfect cross met Roman in the area, but the striker couldn't direct his header goalward.

Just two minutes later Macauley Joynes saw the ball down the left-hand side once again and this time whipped an early ball to the edge of the area. Roman Campbell was there to cushion his header to the arriving Donovan but Donners dragged his effort agonisingly wide.

The visitors continued to stay on top and looked like they had to find an opener soon, but they were denied again in the 40th minute. Two massive mistakes by the White Ensign back line saw, the gambling, Oli Spooner run through one-on-one and be stopped by a magnificent save from Harry Fairs.

On the stroke of half-time, the referee appeared to lose hold of the game with tackles flying in and late fouls from both sides going without bookings. The frustration set in for the players and led to pushing and shoving from multiple men resulting in yellows for Connor Martin and McAdlinton.

Following the break, the hosts appeared to grow into the game and also grow in confidence, coming close to opening the scoring with a good ball from Sargent to Galbally on the far side. But the fullback was not able to keep his effort down.

In the 60th minute, the home side threatened once again with a blistering quick counterattack spearheaded by Bradshaw. The winger put in a low ball across goal which found Adebayo but somehow, he missed the target, and the Tilbury defence blew a sigh of relief.

However, a goal for Ensign was inevitable and they finally broke down the Tilbury resistance in the 65th minute, when a ball was fizzed into Bademosi, who had his back to goal and a defender pinned behind him. The attacker's first touch was perfectly into his path to open the angle to shoot. The shot was blocked but fell kindly for a rebound which nestled into the corner.

The travelling fans didn't have to wait long for an equaliser though when Spooner received the ball on the edge of a crowded penalty area. The midfielder stayed calm and set the ball off to Connor Martin who showed even more composure, faking a shot to skip past one before forgetting he was a center-half and firing a cannon of a strike into the roof of the net.

With 10 minutes left of the 90, White Ensign were down to 10 men as the skipper, Stuart-Evans, put in a late challenge on Elliott Howson which ended up being his final action of the game as he was given his marching orders.

However, despite some late pressure, Tilbury couldn't take advantage of the extra man, until in stoppage time when the defender had a handful of Campbell's shirt when he was about to get on the

end of an inviting ball in. The striker was pulled to the ground in the area, but the referee and linesman didn't give the penalty, despite strong claims from players and fans.

That was all the action at Burroughs Park, and it was 2 points dropped as far as Tilbury are concerned. The Dockers are back in action as we travel to face Takeley on Saturday 16th September for a 3pm kick off.

SQUAD: Page, Fry, Joynes, Donovan (Howson), Martin, Hayes, Ashman (La Rose), Spooner, Campbell, Carter, Browne.

SUBS UNUSED: North, Baker, McQueen.