

Tilbury 1

Maldon & Tiptree 3

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2026

Isthmian League North

Chadfields

ATT 455

Report by Mason Hutchinson

Happy New Year from everybody at Tilbury Football Club! Thank you for all your brilliant support in 2025. We look forward to seeing what 2026 has in store for us.

Following a victory in El Chavico last weekend to finish off 2025 in the best possible way, it was time for Tilbury to kick off 2026 with a match against title hopefuls, Maldon & Tiptree. The Jammers currently sit 2<sup>nd</sup> in the league, but are just one point off top spot with two games in hand. George and Jack made just one change to last week's starting lineup, as Mo Amir replaced Tyler Forbes, who was amongst the substitutes. With him was also Connor Martin, returning to the squad following an injury which had kept him sidelined.

Despite the weather's best efforts to have the game postponed, the pitch remained invincible, and the game was on. Maldon & Tiptree took control of the game early on and nearly took the lead inside 20 minutes, as Anisius Lewis' flicked effort was lofted over Dion Henry and bounced towards the top corner. However, Luke Reeve got back brilliantly to clear the ball off the line and keep the scoreline level.

The Jammers continued to search for the opener, as Cameron James' weaving run down the right saw the full back beat his man before delivering a low cross to Michael Faulkner with time inside the area. Faulkner took a touch, but then failed to find the target, blazing his shot over the crossbar.

The visitors threatened once again before half-time, as Anisius Lewis was slotted through with just the keeper to beat, but Dion Henry stood tall to make an important save. Unfortunately, the resulting corner was whipped towards Lewis at the front post, and this time his headed effort found the right side netting to break the deadlock.

Following the break, the away side doubled their lead courtesy of a swift counterattack spearheaded by Michael Faulkner. The midfielder found the pass to release Anisius Lewis, and he made no mistake, doubling his and Maldon's tally for the afternoon.

But The Dockers struck back on the hourmark, when Lester Ward did excellently on the left to shift the ball onto his left foot and stand a cross up to the back stick. Substitute, Tyler Forbes was the target and rose well to nod the ball into the back of the net, and kick-start a possible comeback.

However, it was not to be, as The Jammers put the game to bed in stoppage time with another breakaway attack. This time Anisius Lewis became the provider, rolling his pass across to Michael Faulkner, who cut back onto his right foot and calmly placed the ball into the bottom corner.

That was all the action at Chadfields, and the league favourites came out on top. The Dockers are back in action on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> January when we travel to face Newmarket Town in a 3pm kick off.

SQUAD: Henry, Fry (Forbes), Winn, Reeve, Hayes ©, Carter, Braney, Amir (Jones), Trendall, Elliott, Ward (Brocklebank).

SUBS UNUSED: Agyiri, Martin.

GOAL: Tyler Forbes.