

Brentwood Town 2

Tilbury 0

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> August 2025

Pre-Season Friendly

The Arena

ATT 200

Report by Mason Hutchinson

Following Saturday's annual pre-season El Chavico, Tilbury made the short trip to face Brentwood Town in Friday night action. During the week, The Dockers announced some new signings, with all of them featuring in this final friendly before the start of the season next week.

The visitors almost got off to the perfect start as a deep cross was curled in towards the back post and met by the late-arriving Dan Trendall. However, his diving header bounced wide of the target.

But it was first blood to Brentwood Town as they worked the ball down the right-hand side and drove towards the by-line. The cutback was into the path of Charlee Hughes, who ran across the front post and poked home from close range.

The Dockers were quick to work the ball forward from the restart as they searched for a swift reply. And their wish almost came true when Medo Konte found space to shoot from distance, but his strike flew past the wrong side of the post.

The Blues continued to pose a threat in the second half when they almost doubled their lead with a clipped cross deep into the Tilbury penalty area. The eventual shot was drilled past Fairs, but Jimmy Wallace was on hand to clear the ball off the line and out of harm's way.

On the hour mark, The Dockers had their best chance of the game so far, inspired by new signing, Max Appauh. Appauh gained possession on the left wing before skipping past his full-back and dancing through two more challenges inside the area. He managed to find a square pass to Nathan Best, but the forward was unable to direct his effort goalward.

Searching for a second goal, Brentwood Town tried their luck from distance with efforts from Benas Vaivaida and Jesse Olukolu hitting the target, but Harry Fairs was able to match the strikes with a couple of brilliant saves.

In the 82<sup>nd</sup> minute, Tilbury would cause problems for the hosts once again through Max Appauh. The winger won the ball back high up the pitch and drove goalward. Appauh chopped inside onto his left foot and unleashed his shot, only to be denied by the frame of the goal.

But the game was eventually put to bed in the dying moments when the ball made its way out wide to a familiar face, Jesse Olukolu, who fizzed a low cross into the area. The ball ricocheted off a defender to deceive Fairs and roll over the line as the hosts doubled their advantage.

That was all the action at The Arena and, despite defeat on the night, there were many positives Marc and Liam could take from the performance. The Dockers are back in action on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> August, as we kick off our 2025/26 campaign away to Mildenhall Town.