

Berkhamsted 4

Tilbury 0

Saturday 21st September 2024

FA Trophy Second Qualifying Round

Report by Mason Hutchinson

Following defeat in the FA Cup at home to Chelmsford, Tilbury travelled to Berkhamsted for some FA Trophy action. Jack McQueen and Alex Akrofi returned to the starting 11 for this fixture as new signings Ben Nightingale and Quelle Weekes featured on the bench in Marc and Liam's squad.

The hosts came close to opening the scoring after 20 minutes as Ross Oulton's free-kick was curled around the wall and denied only by the post. Tilbury were quick to work the ball up the other end as Jamie Reynolds' pass picked out Sam Bantick, however, the Berkhamsted defender managed to get back and get the ball clear.

But just three minutes later Berkhamsted took the lead courtesy of Luke Andrews who turned in the rebound following a save from Christian North. The goal came from a long ball which was not dealt with by the Tilbury defence, allowing Bateman to run through and force the save from North.

And it did not take long for The Comrades to double their lead with a brilliant cross from the right-hand side found the late-arriving Jonathan Lacey who finished at the far post.

The home side then extended their lead further straight after the break as Lacey grabbed his second goal of the day. It was a poor clearance from The Dockers and Lacey was given time to have a shot. His effort dipped over the keeper and into the net to all but confirm their place in the next round.

Tilbury continued to search for a consolation and the closest they came was through an Alex Akrofi free-kick which went up and over the wall before coming down just too late to hit the crossbar.

However, Berkhamsted were not content with the scoreline and were hungry for more goals. A deep corner almost gave them exactly what they wanted but a goal-line clearance from Connor Martin denied the centre-half. But the inevitable arrived in the form of another corner which was

probably their worst of the day. The ball came in low and managed to find its way through a sea of bodies before landing at the feet of Dan Newton who poked home from close range.

There was enough time for The Dockers to have another attempt as during stoppage time Kieran Jones rifled a strike heading for the top left corner but Josh Bowler was across quickly to confirm his clean sheet.

That was all the action in the FA Trophy and Tilbury had been knocked out of their second competition in the space of a week. The Dockers are back in action on Saturday 28th September when we host Waltham Abbey back in league action at Chadfields.

SQUAD: North, Metalia, Joynes, Martin, Clark, McQueen (Donovan), Spooner (Jones), Carter (Weekes), Reynolds, Akrofi, Bantick.

SUBS UNUSED: Trendall, Nightingale.