

Chertsey Town 1

Tilbury 2

Saturday 4th October 2025

FA Trophy Third Round Qualifying

Alwyns Lane

ATT 410

Report by Mason Hutchinson

Following a much-needed victory in the league on Tuesday, Tilbury travelled around the M25 to face Chertsey Town in FA Trophy action. Marc made a couple of changes to the starting lineup, with Kieran Jones starting to make his 50th appearance as he replaced the absent Jamie Reynolds. Lester Ward featured on the left, as Sam Carter also started for his 100th appearance, and new face Aaron Bryon featured amongst the substitutes.

The Dockers got off to the perfect start against higher opposition as we looked to play on the break. A long ball forward was brilliantly flicked on by Kieran Jones and played into the path of Tyler Forbes, who kept his composure, took it around the keeper and slotted into the empty net.

Tilbury were one kick away from dreamland when Kieran Jones almost got his name on the scoresheet. The chance was created by Oli Spooner, who took the ball on the half-turn in the middle of the park and released Kieran Jones on the left wing. Jones skipped past two challenges as he advanced into the area, but the curling shot was saved by Luke Roberts.

The Curfews began to take control of the game and kept Tilbury pinned back into their own half. The hosts passed through the centre, and managed to slot a pass to the arriving Archie Harland-Goddard, but his effort was comfortably denied by Harry Fairs.

This pressure continued into the second half, when Oliver McCoy found space down the left and was fouled on the edge of the area. McCoy was given the responsibility of the free-kick and bent the strike towards the far corner. Oli Spooner jumped in an attempt to clear the ball away, but he got a slight touch, which in turn deceived the already diving Harry Fairs, and Chertsey Town had found their equaliser.

Then things went from bad to worse for The Dockers, when Oliver McCoy was fouled again, this time in the penalty area. As the forward took the ball around the keeper, Harry Fairs brought him down and Chertsey Town had an opportunity to go ahead in the tie. But Harry Fairs went from zero to hero as he dived down to his right-hand side and saved McCoy's spot kick.

Then, in the 87th minute, two substitutes combined, as Alex Balisani collected the ball on the left wing and drove at the full-back. Balisani danced his way to the by-line and his cross found Juwon Akintunde in space. The striker took a touch and fired the ball into the near-side bottom corner, and Tilbury were ahead once again.

Deep into stoppage time, The Curfews pushed forward and worked the ball to Daniel Berry who forced his way through the defence and into the penalty area. He lifted his strike over Harry Fairs, but Jack Hayes got back incredibly to dive in and make a crucial goal-line clearance.

That was all the action at Alwyns Lane and Tilbury are through to the next round of The FA Trophy. The Dockers are back in action on Tuesday 7th October when we travel to Brantham Athletic, unfortunately we will not have a two goal head start.

SQUAD: Fairs, Reeve, Hayes, Martin, Konte, Carter (Bryan), Jones, Spooner © (Balisani), Ward, Appauh (Aderibigbe), Forbes (Akintunde).

SUBS UNUSED: Bett.

GOALS: Tyler Forbes, Juwon Akintunde.