

Grays Athletic 0

Tilbury 1

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> December 2025

Isthmian League North

Chadfields

ATT 567

Report by Mason Hutchinson

Following a comfortable victory against Brantham Athletic last week, it was finally time for some more festive football as we faced Grays Athletic in El Chavico. Thurrock's two oldest clubs are meeting again, at the home of The Dockers (despite this afternoon being an away fixture). George and Jack made just one change from last week's starting 11 as the absent Kieran Jones was replaced by Tobias Braney. Mo Amir also returned from suspension to feature amongst the substitutes, as did new signing Issa Sidibe, who joins from Hackney Wick.

The Dockers came close to taking the lead after 20 minutes, when Lester Ward's corner found Joe Elliott. However, the defender's powerful header was straight into the gloves of George Marsh.

The former Tilbury shot-stopper was called into action again as Ronnie Winn delivered a flat free-kick towards the near post. Marsh was beaten to the ball by Tobias Braney, but the eventual shot on the turn was well saved.

Tilbury worked the ball forward again before the break, with Braney receiving the ball inside the area with his back to goal and a defender behind him. The forward took his first touch on the swivel and hit a snapshot, which was once again denied by Marsh.

After the break, it was a similar story, with Tyler Forbes being released by Alfie Fry through the middle. Forbes drove forward and worked the ball onto his right foot before drilling a strike towards the far corner. However, George Marsh was alert to make another important stop.

The 'visitors' continued to knock on the door, and on the hour mark, some dazzling skill from Braney on the left wing saw him disappear from the full back with a nutmeg, which opened the space for a shot. His effort was full of venom, but the strike was blocked and put out of play.

But it was almost biblical as after making so many vital saves, George Marsh made a mistake from the resultant corner and the ball dropped kindly for Joe Elliott to poke home from close range and give The Dockers the lead.

Right at the death, The Blues had an opportunity to draw level, when Michael Bareck's pass split the defence and left James Sasere in space inside the penalty area. His effort was low towards the near bottom corner, but Dion Henry was down quickly to deny the Grays substitute.

That was all the action at Chadfields, and Tilbury had climbed up to 13<sup>th</sup> in the table and took the bragging rights with them. The Dockers are back in action on Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup> January, when we host Maldon & Tiptree in a 3pm kick-off at the EMR Stadium.

SQUADS: Henry, Fry, Ward, Reeve, Hayes ©, Elliott, Winn (Brocklebank), Carter, Forbes T (Amir), Trendall, Braney (Sidibe).

SUBS UNUSED: Agyiri, Forbes J.

GOAL: Joe Elliott.