

Barking 0 Tilbury 2 ATT 107 Tuesday 8th August 2023 Essex Senior League

Following last week's FA Cup defeat, it was back to league action on a cold Tuesday night in Barking. Dan Trendall made his first start of the season as Olly Miles moved to the bench and Leach started once again as McQueen is still out following a concussion.

The Dockers were a lot livelier than what they showed on Saturday as they found the net inside 17 minutes, but it was quickly disallowed. Joynes' free kick was nodded on to the back stick where Harry Hope was waiting to fire a rocket into the top corner, but the assistant had his flag up early.

The hosts then came close near the break when a ball from the left-hand side was fizzed into familiar face Martin Tuohy. Tuohy intelligently flicked the ball over the full back and into his number 7's path. The winger bared down on goal, but his eventual effort flew wide of the far post.

That finished off a very quiet but competitive opening half which was blown out of the water by a much more action packed second half. Tilbury had the first real look at goal when Harry Hope drilled a low corner to the front post which was met by the arriving Donovan, but his flick on was blocked and put out for another corner. The resulting set piece found Brian Moses unmarked, but his header was wide of the target. It was the same story for the visitors when just a few minutes later, Donovan's headed effort flew over the bar from Hope's free kick.

Then in the 71st minute, Tilbury but the ball in the net once again and this time it was allowed, as Ashman played a short free kick to Tom Salter who carried the ball a few feet and hit a strike from around 25 yards out which flew past Harry Girling in goal to brilliantly open the scoring and net our first of the season.

The Dockers found their groove and kept coming forward, leading to a second just 6 minutes later when Joynes threw the ball down the line to Harry Hope who cushioned the ball down for Brian Moses who was now free on the left-hand side of the penalty area. He looked for a square ball which made its way to Johnny Ashman on the opposite side of the box as the winger hit a left footed strike into the top corner to double our lead.

And much like the A13 following a lorry hitting the bridge, it was one-way traffic at the Lawtech Stadium with Tilbury looking like the only side that would score, and they almost did again when a recycled attacking following a corner saw Fry knock the ball on out wide to Ashman. Johnny cut inside and looked for the near side bottom corner, but his strike rolled agonisingly wide.

5 minutes into stoppage time, there was still time for Johnny Ashman to look for his brace when a long throw-in by Spooner was flicked on to Ashman who was under pressure from both defender and keeper. Johnny was the man who made contact with the ball though, but he was unable to direct the ball on target.

That was all the action in Barking and goals from Salter and Ashman helped Tilbury to their first win of the season. The Dockers now found themselves on 4 points from the opening 3 league matches and with much more confidence following a dominant display and much improved defensive performance. We will look to carry this momentum into Saturday as we make the journey to Clacton for a 3pm kick off in the Essex Senior League.

Goals: Salter, Ashman.

Report by Mason Hutchinson