

Romford 1 Tilbury 0  
Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2024  
Peter Butcher Memorial Trophy  
Report by Mason Hutchinson

Following defeat in the Vase, Tilbury travelled to Rookery Hill for the second time this season as they faced Romford in the cup. Marc and Liam made a few changes to the starting lineup with Saturday's league fixture in mind. Igli Metalia and Ben Marlow started in place of Jack McQueen and Harry Donovan with Harvey Browne also replacing the absent Roman Campbell.

The Boro were the first of the two sides to find the target and the chance came after 30 minutes. A snapshot just inside the area was well saved by Christian North but he had to be up quick to pull off a brilliant double save and keep the scoreline level.

The Dockers finally began to pick up the pace after halftime, but they couldn't find the opener. Dan Trendall was first to pounce on a loose ball and drove into the box, however his leg-footed curled effort was denied by a good save.

Then Tilbury came close once again, this time through Alex Clark who was picked out perfectly by Trendall's switch of play. Clark continued his weaving run to open up a shooting opportunity, but he was also unable to find a way past Romford's keeper.

Then, in the 73<sup>rd</sup> minute, the hosts found the net as Romford were allowed to dink a cross to the near post, where Hassan Nalbant was on hand to head home into the bottom corner.

And he thought he had found his second of the game when his strike from distance was heading for the top right-hand corner, until the effort was tipped around the post by the fingertips of North.

As the time ran down, Tilbury were still searching for an equaliser but were unable to find the end product. The Dockers won a free kick just outside the opposition penalty area which sparked a comment from Romford's boss, resulting in the ref giving him his marching orders.

That was all the action in the cup, and it was another defeat for Tilbury. Focus can now shift back to the league as a trip to Coggeshall Town on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> February is up next.

SQUAD: North, Metalia (McQueen), Joynes, Martin, Hayes, Marlow, Carter (Salter), Spooner, Browne, Clark, Trendall.

SUBS UNUSED: Page, Donovan, Baker.