

The Dockers took the short trip to the Len Salmon Stadium, on a muggy Tuesday evening, for their second pre-season fixture against Isthmian Prem side, Bowers and Pitsea. Tilbury are still searching for their first win ahead of the upcoming season, following a draw in their last game. A second run out in short succession for the visitors will allow Covo to get a good look at his new team before the new season commences.

Tilbury started the game on the front foot, as Alex Clark caused problems for the Bowers defence early on. He picked up the ball on the left-hand side before driving goalward and carrying the ball into the box. His eventual shot was blocked by ex-Tilbury centre half, Jamal Allen. Clark continued to cause trouble on the left-hand side as he was released by Lewis Smith, which allowed him to bomb on into space and win a corner for his side.

Alex Clark saw a lot of the ball in the opening few minutes of the game and this continued as in the 10th minute he fizzed in a low cross to the front post. Roman Campbell was able to get onto the end of it and tried to improvise with a Zola-esque flick which was sent just wide of the post.

The visitors were gifted another chance in the form of a throw by the by-line on the right side of the pitch. The ball was delivered into the box, causing a scramble inside the home team's area. The ball eventually fell to Chris Millar, who flicks at it but he is unable to hit the target, wasting a big chance for the Dockers.

The next chance of the game went the way of the visitors as Campbell was released on the right-hand side and beat two defenders with a great chop back to work his way into the penalty area. He was then brought down and called for a penalty, but the claims were waved away by the referee.

Tilbury continued this pressure, however in the 37th minute, Thompson made a challenge on the edge of his box, before starting a devastating counterattack as he drove into acres of space ahead of him. He slipped through Spencer to put him one-on-one, but Josh Blackburn was quick off his line to make a great save with his feet.

The deadlock was finally broken in the 50th minute and the goal went the way of Bowers. Clark was disposed on the edge of his box as Stephen Okoh pinched the ball back before firing into the roof of the net from close range to put the hosts ahead.

The home side seemed to come out as a new team in the second half, with higher tempo and a lot more urgency. They had another chance just 6 minutes later as Freddy Moncur made an overlapping run and received the ball on the right-hand side before a pinpoint cross found Boller. His header was sent wide of the post.

Tilbury winger, Alex Clark, whipped in a deep corner in the 62nd minute which found Martin who was unmarked and directed his header goalward. This was the first time Plumley was called upon in the game, but he was able to beat it away.

Just three minutes later, Bowers were able to double their lead as a corner found its way to Peter, who had enough time to chest it down and drill it into the bottom corner to further extend the home side's lead.

The Dockers tried to find a way back into the game as Millar switched play brilliantly with a cross-field ball out wide to Clark. The winger beat his man and drilled in a low ball across the goal, but nobody could get on the end of it, and the danger was dealt with.

After a couple of substitutions, Tilbury didn't have long left if they wanted to decrease their deficit. Henry Hart collected the ball in space on the right-hand side, just inside the opposition half. The fullback carried the ball forward before fizzing it into Campbell's chest with his back to goal. The striker turned his man and won his side a free kick on the edge of the box. Lewis Smith was the man to take it, as he managed to get it over the wall but couldn't get it to dip quick enough and his strike flew just over the bar.

That was all the action at the Len Salmon Stadium as a very exciting and enjoyable game came to a close. Another frustrating result for the Dockers in pre-season but a decent performance from the team. Tilbury are back in action on Tuesday 19th July as they travel to Canvey for a 7:45pm kick off.

Report by Mason Hutchinson