

## **Tilbury 1 Felixstowe & Walton United 1**

Following a mix of results in our last two fixtures, including a much needed 3 points against Romford and a narrow loss away to Dereham Town in our last outing, the Dockers welcome Felixstowe & Walton United to Chadfields. Tilbury knew this would be a tough game as the visitors sat 8<sup>th</sup> in the league table and 15 points ahead of Tilbury, as well as currently fighting for a spot in the play off places.

The game started slow and took 7 minutes before we saw the first piece of action which fell the way of Felixstowe through striker Oliver Canfer, who picked up the ball on the right-hand side before making a driving, determined run goalward. He found himself with just the keeper to beat but his effort was tame and made for an easy save from Lamar Johnson.

The Seasiders kept up this early spell with relentless pressure to dispossess Smith in a dangerous position as Warren slipped through Canfer to put him one-on-one once again. However, the striker stumbled after a nudge from a Tilbury defender and once again Johnson made a simple stop.

Still looking for a lead Felixstowe & Walton stole the ball off Jamal Allen and Canfer was gifted with another chance to put the visitors ahead, but some determined defending from Anderson was enough to put off the striker whose effort was over the bar.

We had to wait until the 30<sup>th</sup> minute before another chance as Billy Holland broke the lines of Tilbury's defence with an inch perfect pass to find Canfer who couldn't finish the chance as he dragged his shot just wide of the far post.

The 44<sup>th</sup> minute was the first and only Tilbury chance of the first half and it started with Lee Noble who spread the play out wide to Jesse Olukolu before he shifted the ball past his man and found space for a cross. It was headed away but only as far as, skipper, Kendall on the edge of the box whose effort was fired over the bar.

The Dockers came out a lot stronger in the second half and in the 47<sup>th</sup> minute Noble brought down the ball from the air with ease before passing it out on the right to Olukolu. Tilbury's number 7 cut inside to fire a shot off straight into the keeper's arms.

Felixstowe & Walton didn't wait long after this to take the lead in the 58<sup>th</sup> minute with a goal from a set piece. The corner was taken by Ainsley and was about to find the top corner before Noble diverted it onto the crossbar, however, the rebound fell directly to Joe Whight who drilled home a first-time strike to put the Seasiders a goal to the good. The away side had a chance to double their lead in the 63<sup>rd</sup> minute as Hasanally's corner fell to an unmarked Whight but his effort was denied by Johnson and the follow in was also saved to complete a brilliant double save by Tilbury's keeper.

Tilbury managed to equalise in the 81<sup>st</sup> minute after a beautiful eye-catching passing move which started on the right with Anderson. The full back drove forward before finding Sam Jeremiah who started a lovely passing triangle by quickly moving the ball to Olukolu who squared it across to super sub Balde, who was given the easy task of tapping it into an open net to top off a brilliant goal from the Dockers.

That was all the action at the EMR stadium as Tilbury managed to scrape a draw against a difficult opponent to help them jump ahead of Coggeshall Town to place them 14<sup>th</sup> in the league table. The Dockers are back in action on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> February just along the A13 to face former Chadfield tenants Hashtag United away from home.

**SQUAD:** Johnson, Anderson, Peart, Noble, Smith, Allen, Olukolu, Kendall (Nelson), Campbell, Jeremiah, Millar (Balde)

**SUBS UNUSED:** Worrell, Metalia, Tiffin

Report by Mason Hutchinson

