

GRAYS 2 TILBURY 2 ATT 302

Following a 2-1 loss last week against Heybridge Swifts, the Dockers were welcomed to Parkside on a bitterly cold afternoon to face Grays in the local derby, as Thurrock's two oldest football clubs go head-to-head once more. Grays were the favourites as they went into this fixture sitting 5th in the league table with Tilbury in 13th.

The earliest chance of the game went to Grays as in the 6th minute Lewis Clark played the ball down the line for Kai Brown to chase and swing a cross in, which was comfortably dealt with by keeper Harry Girling.

Tilbury started to control the game, and in the 18th minute a long ball up field found target man Roman Campbell whose header was flicked on to Lee Noble who forced a good save from Grays keeper Sambridge. The resulting corner was taken by Noble who's cross found Worrell unmarked in the box, but his first-time effort was blazed over the bar.

The men in red and white continued to create chances and in the 20th minute Jordan Peart made his way to the by-line after some lovely close control to beat two defenders, but his low cross was unable to find a teammate.

In the 24th minute Grays played a hopeful ball down the line to striker Brown who was taken down in the penalty area by George Allen who received a yellow card for the foul. David Knight converted his strike from the spot to put the blues 1-0 up against the run of play.

Tilbury began creating their own problems as Grays grew into the game, creating chances by finding Brown and Gordon in wide areas, and in the 43rd minute, Grays' player of the month, Aron Gordon broke down the left-hand side, skipped past two challenges in the tilbury box before firing home a beautiful finish into the top right-hand corner.

This was all the first half action until on the stroke of half time, Remi Nelson committed a clumsy challenge on the halfway line which led to him finding himself in the book.

The second half commenced under the floodlights, and it only took 7 minutes before Tilbury found the net when Coombes' cross found Lee Noble who fired home to kickstart a comeback.

3 minutes later, Campbell's header was denied by a great save as Tilbury tried finding an equaliser in this thrilling derby game.

The 71st minute saw Lee Noble get taken down in the box for the second penalty of the match. The strike was delayed due to Grays disputing the decision, however in the 73rd Roman Campbell finally got to convert his penalty straight down the middle to level up the game.

Tilbury continued to push for another goal to try and win a much needed 3 points and in the 87th minute as tensions were rising, Grays defender Lewis Clark seemed to give Lee Noble some afters following their challenge, which led to a fight occurring between the local teams. This resulted in both Grays' Clark and Tilbury's Campbell receiving yellow cards.

That was all the action at Parkside as the honours, as well as the points, were shared at this outing with Tilbury getting a well fought point away to their local rivals. After all the results came in Tilbury saw themselves overtaken in the league by Basildon united, meaning they had dropped to 14th in the table.

Tilbury are back in action away to Brentwood Town on Saturday 11th December with a 3 o'clock kick off.

SQUAD: Girling, Boswell, Worrell, Nelson, Allen J, Allen G, Smith, Coombes (Kendall), Campbell, Noble, Peart

SUBS UNUSED: Metalia, Mensah, Mills, Wright

Report by Mason Hutchinson

