

Heybridge Swifts 3 Tilbury 3 (ATT 248)

A cold and sunny afternoon set the scene for what would be a great game for the neutral. A 6 goal game that still didn't produce a winner but still showed a good performance from the Dockers edging them ever closer to mathematical safety of the Isthmian North.

Tilbury started the game fairly lively with some great link up play through the midfield that offered Roman Campbell an early chance on just 3 mins with a shot that was blocked by the Heybridge defence. Not to be outdone Heybridge created their own opportunity just 2 mins later with a headed effort from Rhys Henry.

The early pressure continued with Tilbury looking to have the upper hand. Still within the first 10 mins of the game Brian Moses hits a low driven shot that Callum Chafer can only save with his feet. The follow up shot from Lee Noble was again saved by the feet of Chafer to put the ball out for a Tilbury corner that eventually came to nothing.

Billy Harris was the next player to attempt to make the game advantage Tilbury. A great move that started with a Jermaine Anderson throw in found the head of Moses who flicked on the Harris who somehow managed to send the ball over from 6 yards.

Following the 4 mins of Tilbury pressure Heybridge finally got their break to counter Tilbury. Lionel Ainsworth broke through down the right hitting his shot goal bound, Tilbury Keeper Lamar Johnson pulls off a save but is unable to hold the ball punching it away to Jack Adlington-Pike who hits a follow up for Johnson to make a second concessive save pushing the ball away before a third Heybridge attempt eventually goes wide and out of play.

The end to end play continued with a breakthrough finally coming in the 21st minute. A Lee Noble cross is flicked on by Igli Metalia, Brian Moses connects and slots home from close range following a goal mouth melee to give Tilbury a 1 goal advantage.

Heybridge looked to level up straight after with Adam Topley hitting a long range shot straight into the hands of Johnson. Tilbury were not done for the half just yet on 34 mins a long ball from Chris Millar just inside the Heybridge half finds the chest of Brian Moses who brings the ball down easily beating Lance Atkins and then comfortably slotting past Chafer to make to double the Tilbury lead.

Heybridge are far from beat and again looked to reduce the deficit with a great chance on 38 mins. A long high ball from the right played by Emmanuel N'Daw finds the head of Adlington-Pike who puts his header wide. That was quickly followed by ball played over the head of Jamal Allen setting up a one on one situation between Ainsworth and Johnson only for the shot to be fired well over.

At the very end of an eventful first half Tilbury were still looking to increase the lead with a Lee Noble effort pushed onto the post by Chafer.

The second half had a lot to live up to following what was a great first half. The first 15 mins of the half started as a midfield battle that Heybridge looked to be edging. It took until the 58th minute for Heybridge to pull a goal back following a cross from the right side Jack Adlington-Pike meets the ball to head home.

Heybridge pressure was present for long spells as they looked to level the game. A free kick on 70 mins for Heybridge right on the edge of the box following a foul by Charles Brown was fired hard and high failing to trouble the Tilbury goal.

The Dockers finally extended their lead further, a 72nd minute corner delivered by Noble was headed goal bound by Roman Campbell forcing a good one handed save from Chafer that sent the ball into the path of Tilbury Defender Jamal Allen who struck home to make it 3 for Tilbury.

It took less than 5 mins for Heybridge to again reduce the Dockers lead, A failed attempt to clear the ball from the Tilbury area allowed Ben Sartain to drive a low shot goal bound and beat Johnson to set up a fantastic climax to the fixture.

A busy spell of attack followed for both teams notably on 77 a Jermaine Anderson going just over and Heybridge following up by swiftly making moves towards the Dockers goal and N'Daw also striking over followed by more action the other end with Noble hitting a 30yrd strike forcing a good 2 handed diving save from Chafer.

Heybridge finally levelled the game up on 90 mins, following some more lacklustre defending the ball falls to Ainsworth who strikes from 10 yrds high into the Tilbury net. This only spurs Heybridge on to look for the win. Attacking down the left Heybridge create 2 attempts to seal victory but are unable to find the back of the net. Full Time 3-3

Tilbury: Johnson, Anderson, Peart (Alatise), Millar, Allen, Shogbeni, Harris, Noble, Campbell, Moses (Jeremiah), Metalia (C Brown)

Subs Unused: P Brown, Nelson