

Hullbridge Sports 0 Tilbury 4 (Att 188)

A sunny afternoon in Hullbridge was the setting for this must win Isthmian North League fixture for Tilbury. The game witnessed 3 debuts starting with Billy Harris in the number 7 shirt. The game didn't take long to get started with both teams testing each other in the opening minutes. The first real chance of the game was a chipped shot from striker Roman Campbell on 10 mins that found itself just wide of the target. The Tilbury pressure remained following a foul on Brian Moses 2 mins later. The resulting free kick from Lee Noble was easily cleared by the Hullbridge defence.

This sent the ball quickly up the other end and a 1st real test for Lamar Johnson and his defenders. A crossed ball from the left found the head of former Docker Tony Stokes who drilled his header past Johnson at the near post only for the assistant Referee to raise his flag to disallow the goal for an offside.

No more real pressure from Hullbridge gave Tilbury plenty of play in the Hullbridge final third for long spells. On 20 min a deep delivery into the box from Noble found Ayo who's header could only find the hands of Hullbridge stopper Lewis Greene. It took 5 more minutes of Tilbury pressure before any real chance. Another Nobel cross this time finding Chris Millar who struck a low shot to Greene's right forcing a good low one handed save.

Finally the deadlock was broken and the goal spell began for Tilbury. A through ball from Jermaine Anderson on 26 mins finds Roman Campbell in a one on one situation that resulted in Campbell finding the back of the net down to the bottom left of Greene's goal. 1 nil Tilbury.

Hullbridge looked to strike back instantly following a free kick on 31 mins, Kieran Bailey hits a dangerous ball into the Tilbury area creating a goalmouth scramble. Ayo attempted to clear his lines but only as far as Stokes who eventually strikes high and wide.

Another debutant enter the game on 40 mins when Chris Millar left the field injured to be replaced by Charles Brown who had an immediate impact on the game. A Campbell headed flick on fell straight to Brown who struck on the half volley with his first touch of the game directly into the back of the net to double the Tilbury advantage.

More and more pressure ensued a one on one battle between Campbell and Emmanuel Folarin ended with Campbell being brought down in the Hullbridge area. The Ref points straight to the spot for a penalty kick, up steps Billy Harris who smashes home for a debut goal and a 3 nil advantage to Tilbury on 43 mins.

The first half action did not stop there within 2 mins of the first penalty Brown was this time brought down for a second Tilbury spot kick. Brown stepped up and never had any intention of missing firing low to Greene's right making it 4 nil at half time.

Hullbridge came out for the second half looking to reduce the deficit as quickly as possible pressurising the Tilbury box. On just 46 mins a penalty was awarded to Hullbridge following a foul committed by Tilbury keeper Lamar Johnson. Tony Stokes stepped up to take the kick low to Johnsons right only for Johnson to be equal to it and make a comfortable penalty save.

The next real attacking opportunity fell to Brian Moses on 52 mins a Jordan Peart throw was flicked on by Campbell onto the chest of Moses who hits his shot on the turn only to rebound of the crossbar. The woodwork was hit again a minute later by Campbell following his strike from another Tilbury throw.

The game appeared to level out with few chances for either side, Tilbury still looked the more dominant but without the attacking prowess they had shown for large parts of the fixture. The most notable chance however fell to Tony Stokes on 79 mins hitting a 20 yard strike wide of Johnson's right stick.

A third debut was given to youth player Harry Upton on 79 mins replacing Roman Campbell up top. Having been at the club since 7 years old and never kicking a ball for anyone else this was a fantastic achievement for club and player.

The play remained very much Tilbury in control, a Noble corner found a diving Jamal Allen's head only for the ball to go just over.

In the final few minutes of the game Moses came close to getting on the score sheet, A Harry Upton cross finding the head of Moses only to again hit the crossbar.

A great afternoon of football for Tilbury and many positives to take into the next fixture away to Coggeshall.

Tilbury: Johnson, Anderson, Peart (Metalia), Nelson, Shogbeni, Allen, Harris, Noble, Campbell (Upton), Moses, Millar (Brown)

Subs Unused: Worrell, Jeremiah