

Tilbury vs Hutton 23rd July 2022 Pre-Season Friendly

Tilbury welcomed their new tenants Hutton FC to the EMR Stadium for their first home friendly of the 2022/23 campaign. Hutton play their football in the Olympian Premier division and will be ground sharing with the Dockers next season.

The hosts started the game strong as it only took them 5 minutes to open the scoring. Lewis Smith shuffled past his man on the edge of the box to give himself space to find a shot on goal. His strike was low and hard towards the near bottom corner. The keeper was beaten but the shot deflected off the post and the chance was handed to Tom Salter who had the easy job of tapping the ball into the vacant net, to put the home side a goal to the good.

However, it only took 10 minutes for the visitors to cause problems for the home side as the ball was sprayed out wide to the attacking full back. He beat his man and wriggled his way into the box. Billy Harris made the challenge that the ref deemed a foul and Hutton were awarded a penalty. The number 7 stepped up and fired it into the bottom right-hand corner, sending the keeper the wrong way and levelling up the score.

In the 24th minute, Lewis Smith picked up the ball and drove towards goal taking on three players and beating them. As he was about to release the ball, he was taken down inside the area, but the referee waved away the penalty claims of the Tilbury players. The Dockers continued to apply pressure, as Harris played a quick one-two with Chris Miller and darted forward past the Hutton line of defence. However, his shot at the end of the passage of play was fired wide of the target.

The home side finally reclaimed their lead in the 33rd minute when Smith won a free kick on the edge of the box. The midfielder stepped up to take it, and fabulously whipped it around the wall as it curled past the keeper and flew into the bottom corner, to put John Coventry's side ahead once again.

Lewis Smith was given a chance to re-create his brilliance early in the second half as Tilbury won another free kick on the edge of the box. Smith's strike was heading for the top right corner, until it smacked against the crossbar, which had denied him his brace.

In the 65th minute Hutton found another equaliser, as a corner was whipped in and the keeper was unable to deal with the danger. The ball went through his hands and the Hutton player converted his chance from close range to make the game 2-2.

Tilbury tried to find a winning goal from somewhere but were unable to convert the chances they were creating. In the 67th minute, a ball was delivered into the box and headed back across goal into the path of a flying Roman Campbell. His header was somehow amazingly cleared off the line by a Hutton defender to deny Tilbury's number 9.

It became evident that it was not the Docker's day when Callum Fitzer found space on the edge of the box, as he cut back onto his favoured right foot. He curled it toward the far corner and past the goalkeeper, but his strike kissed the wrong side of the post to make it the second time the hosts were denied by the woodwork.

That was all the action today at Chadfields, as Covo's men were unlucky not to walk away from this friendly as victors. However, their opponents fought hard and played very well. Tilbury are back in action on Monday 25th July at 19:45 at home against Romford.

Report by Mason Hutchinson