

Report by Mason Hutchinson

Following a first defeat in 18 matches for The Dockers, they had to pick themselves up quickly as they hosted FC Clacton in the Essex Senior League. Tilbury went into this game 1 point clear of second-placed, Woodford Town and looked to extend their lead at the top. As for the visitors, they sat 12th, 10 points clear of the drop and 16 behind the hosts.

The home side looked to show their dominance early on, seeing two efforts narrowly miss the target. The first came from a beautiful pass by Alex Clark to release Dan Trendall on the right. Trendall chopped back onto his left foot and set the ball to Harry Donovan, but his strike was sent over the bar. The second was once again crafted by Clark as his cross to the back post was met by the arriving Roman Campbell who headed wide.

The Dockers would find the opener though, when Trendall and Clark linked up once again with a cross-field ball to Clark on the left wing. Clarky had bundles of space to drill his strike into the far corner for the lead. During the aftermath of the goal, FC Clacton's manager had some words with the referee that resulted in his marching orders as he was forced to watch the remainder of the match from the stands.

But this did not faze The Seaside, who found a quick response winning a free kick in a dangerous area. The ball was sent into the penalty box and met by Michael Okafor who looped his header over Page and into the net for the equaliser.

And they thought they were sure they'd take the lead when Teddy Collis was slipped through one-on-one, but Page was out quickly to make a superb stop.

Tilbury needed to be livelier after the break and showed much better intensity as they regained their lead when the ball ricocheted to the feet of Carter who cannoned a volley into the top corner. A third would soon follow as Macauley Joynes' free kick was whipped into the corridor of uncertainty where Connor Martin ran in to bundle the ball over the line.

FC Clacton's day then went from bad to worse as Jenson Mulqueen went in recklessly on Harvey Browne and was shown a red card, being sent to join his manager. But that wasn't all, as Alex Clark put the final nail in the coffin, chopping past his defender and netting his brace with a calm finish past the keeper.

That was all the action at Chadfields and Tilbury extended their lead at the top of the table to 4 points. The Dockers are back in action on Saturday 2nd December as we host Saffron Walden in the FA Vase.

SQUAD: Page, Joynes, McQueen (Fry), Hayes (Browne), Martin, Carter, Donovan, Metalia, Trendall, Clark, Campbell.

SUBS UNUSED: Baker, Mokwenye, Spooner.

GOALS: Clark, Carter, Martin.

