

Tilbury 0 Romford 2 Pre-Season Friendly 25th July 2022

On Monday night, Tilbury welcomed Romford to Chadfields for their pre-season friendly ahead of the fast-approaching 2022/23 season. Romford were relegated from the Isthmian North division last season meaning that they will be playing their football in the league below Tilbury next year. The Dockers are still chasing their first win of the year and they hoped to break the streak in this match.

Fans didn't have to wait long for the first piece of action in this game, and the chance went the way of the visitors. The ball made its way into the middle of the park where a Romford midfielder picked up the ball and took two touches to set himself, before unleashing a rocket of a strike which flew into the top right-hand corner after kissing the post on its way in, to give Romford the lead early on.

Tilbury attempted to find an answer quickly, when Tom Salter wriggled through three Romford defenders before he was taken down on the edge of the box to win a free kick. Fitzer was the man to take it and he managed to get it up and over the wall and ensured that it would dip in time to stay on target. His striker forced a full stretch save from the keeper, to deny the hosts from finding an equaliser.

The away side started to find joy in the wide areas and wanted to exploit that as much as they could. In the 20th minute, Romford worked the ball out to the right-hand side to their winger, who swiftly cut inside and whipped an attempt toward the far corner. His curling effort was denied as it smacked against the crossbar and was cleared away before anyone could get on the end of the rebound.

The Dockers were still trying to find the equaliser that they needed to get back into the game, they looked to their wide players to create chances, which they both did in quick succession. Both Clark and Salter had chances to drive goalward with the ball but neither of them were able to find a way past the Romford goalkeeper.

The hosts were given a golden chance early in the second half, when Roman Campbell was played through and began to bear down on goal. Unfortunately, his low, left footed strike was saved by the keeper before the defence were able to scramble the ball away from danger.

In the 64th minute, Romford doubled their lead with a piece of excellence from former Tilbury player, Kris Newby. Newby retained the ball on the edge of the area before weaving in and out of 3 defenders and then firing past the keeper from close range to put his side two goals to the good.

The 78th minute, saw Alex Clark win a free kick by the by-line on the right-hand side. He got up to take it and found a teammate who directed his header goalward and past the keeper. However, Newby was there to make a goal line clearance to ensure the score line stayed at 2-0.

In the 84th minute, the visitors had a chance to extend the lead even further when they won the ball back in the midfield. The number 7 had space to run into and then he released a cannon of a strike that was unsavable. The ball arrowed for the top right corner before it smashed the bottom of the crossbar and bounced back up to hit the crossbar again. However, the ball somehow didn't cross the line and Tilbury were spared of a three-goal deficit.

That was all the action at the EMR Stadium as the Dockers suffered another disappointing result ahead of the upcoming season. Tilbury are back in action on Saturday 30th July as they take the short trip to face Thurrock rivals, Grays.

Report by Mason Hutchinson