

Welwyn Garden City 2

Tilbury 2

Tilbury won 4-3 on penalties

Saturday 20th September 2025

FA Trophy Second Round Qualifying

Report by Mason Hutchinson

Following a goalless stalemate on Tuesday night in the league, Tilbury travelled to Welwyn Garden City as we continued our FA Trophy campaign. The last round saw us come out 3-0 victors after a brace from Dan Trendall and a first Tilbury goal for summer signing, Medo Konte. Marc and Liam made just one change to the starting lineup from Tuesday, Kieran Jones started in place of Lester Ward, who started on the bench.

The Citizens took the lead after just a quarter of an hour, when an in-swinging corner was delivered to the edge of the six-yard box, where Panny Boxer came charging in to attack the ball and head home.

Welwyn Garden City came close to adding a second when a delightfully inviting cross was curled towards the back post. Lewis Taaffe was the target, but his diving header attempt bounced wide of the goal.

Tilbury's equaliser came in the 68th minute, when Dan Trendall beat the offside trap to latch on to Connor Martin's header, before bearing down on goal and poking the ball past Donnie Green to level the scoring.

And it didn't take long for The Dockers to completely turn the tie around and take the lead for the first time in the game. This time, it was Welwyn Garden City that suffered the fate of a corner as the ball was not cleared and instead bounced into the path of Dan Trendall, who struck a volley into the bottom right-hand corner, to score his second of the day and to give Tilbury the lead.

However, there was still time for a final turn, when in the dying moments, the home side were awarded a free kick. Layne Eadie delivered the set-piece deep into the penalty area, and the first header was incredibly denied by Harry Fairs. But the rebound was emphatically cannoned home from close range by Brad Gothard. That was the last kick of the game, and a penalty shootout was to follow.

Tilbury got off to the perfect start in the shootout when Harry Fairs saved Bailey Stevenson's spot kick. Fairs would go on to save another penalty, which handed Lester Ward the opportunity to send us through to the next round. And he made no mistake, as history repeated itself and Welwyn Garden City were knocked out of the FA Trophy by Tilbury on penalties for the second year in a row.

That was all the action at Herts Way, and Tilbury progressed in the FA Trophy thanks to a penalty shootout victory. The Dockers are back in Isthmian League action this Tuesday 22nd September, when we travel to Brantham Athletic for a 7.45 pm kick-off.

SQUAD: Fairs, Reeve, Konte, Martin, Hayes, Carter (Aderibigbe), Spooner ©, Reynolds, Appauh (Wallace), Jones (Ward), Trendall (Balisani)

GOALS: Dan Trendall x 2

Penalties :

Welwyn: Stevenson (SAVED), Jones (GOAL), Read (SAVED), Taaffe (GOAL), Rookard (GOAL)

Tilbury: Reynolds (GOAL), Konte (SAVED), Balisani (GOAL), Reeve (GOAL), Ward (GOAL)

Tilbury win 4-3.