

FC Clacton 2 Tilbury 1 Saturday 12th August 2023 Essex Senior League

Off the back of their first win of the season, Tilbury made the journey to Clacton for another league affair. Brian Moses made his way into the starting 11 with Jack McQueen returning from a concussion to join the starting squad and Igli Metalia also returned to the Matchday squad.

The Dockers came close early on when Dan Trendall battled very well to muscle the defender off the ball and win possession in a dangerous area on the left-hand side of the box. The winger played a square ball to Moses, but he didn't manage to connect with the ball as it rolled across the face of goal.

But it was the home side who broke the deadlock as a long ball was won in the air by the striker who flicked play on in-behind the Tilbury defence. The number 10 found a second gear, unleashing his blistering pace which created a 1-on-1 chance for himself which he executed calmly to give his side the lead.

Then in the 34th minute, Harry Hope slipped through to the striker Moses, who intelligently played one more pass to Trendall in space on the right flank. However, his effort rolled just wide of the far post.

The visitors then constructed a half chance after the break when play on the right-hand side made its way to Tom Salter who received the ball on the edge of the area. Tilbury fans urged him to shoot, and Salter listened, but his strike was low and simple enough for the keeper.

Tilbury would find their equaliser though as, with 15 minutes to play, Pagey was called to action as he made a brilliant save before Tilbury got the ball up the other end quickly and out wide to Harry Hope. Hopey clipped a ball toward the back stick where Olly Miles was unmarked to head an effort goalward. The ball looked as if it was about to be blocked on the line, but Brian Moses was on hand to bundle the ball over the line and bring the game back level.

Five minutes later, The Dockers then thought they had found the winner when Folan's free kick from the halfway line was deep into the crowded penalty area. Brian Moses inevitably won the first ball and headed it across to Salter who ran through two men and fired the ball into the net. However, the goal was somehow disallowed for offside, and Donovan was then picked out by the linesman to be sin binned for dissent.

With Tilbury flustered and frustrated Clacton took their chance in the 93rd minute as the fullback whipped a ball in around the defence for an arriving attacker to finish from close range and snatch all three points for The Seaside.

That was all the action at The Austin Arena, and it was another loss for The Dockers to face. A scrappy game with the ball spending most of its time in the air was not a fun one to watch but the hosts did enough to walk away with all three points. The Dockers are back in action on Tuesday 15th August as we host Sporting Bengal for a 7.45pm kick off.

Goal: Brian Moses

Report by Mason Hutchinson