

Tilbury 2
Romford 1
Saturday 20th July 2024
Pre-Season Friendly

Report by Mason Hutchinson

Tilbury were back in action for their first match back at home ahead of the new season. New signing Lewis Manor made his first start for the club as David Bell also returned as he began the match on the bench.

It was Romford that delivered the first piece of action as a shot from distance deflected off of Sam Carter and managed to wrong foot Christian North and land in the back of the net for the game's opener.

The Dockers thought they had found an equaliser when Sam Carter spread play out wide to Sam Bantick. Bantick drilled the ball across goal but Lewis Manor was unable to find the target.

Lewis Manor and Sam Bantick linked up once again just 10 minutes later when Manor rose well to meet Bantick's corner. However, the striker's header flew narrowly over the crossbar.

But Manor would finally open his Tilbury account when trialist, Kasper, chopped back onto his left foot and incredibly picked out Lewis Manor's darting run into the penalty area. The striker never had to break stride and brilliantly headed back across the keeper to level the scoring.

Following the break, Sam Bantick had a shot saved but the keeper was unable to hold onto the effort. Oli Spooner was first to react and tried to lift the ball over the keeper who was right underneath him and was denied by the woodwork.

It was the same story for Romford as they were quickly up the other end searching for the goal to take them ahead. Their right winger weaved in and out of three challenges before unleashing a rocket that headed for the top corner but hammered the underside of the crossbar and bounced out of harm's way.

With 15 minutes left of the clock, Sam Bantick was returning from an offside position when a Romford defender played a blind back pass straight into the attacker's path. Bantick knocked the ball past the keeper when he was taken out. The ref blew the whistle and players prepared themselves for the Tilbury free kick. However, after a quick word with his linesman, the referee awarded a free kick to Romford for offside, despite the ball being played by a Boro player.

Despite this decision, Sam Bantick finally got his goal when Sam Carter found David Knight at the back post. Knight headed the ball back into the danger area where Bantick met it fantastically and netted the winner.

That was all the action at Chadfields as The Dockers grabbed their first win of pre-season. Tilbury are back in action on Tuesday 21st July as we "travel" to face Grays in the annual Stan Veness Memorial Trophy.

SQUAD: North (Girling), McQueen, Trialist, Hayes, Hall, Carter, Spooner, Clark J, Trialist (Bell), Bantick, Manor (Knight).

GOALS: Manor, Bantick.