



## MATCH REPORT

# MIDDLEWICH TOWN 1-2 PILKINGTON

IMAGE | JANUARY 26, 2016 | PILKINGTONFC

*Report courtesy of Middlewich Town FC*

**Saturday 23rd January 2016, Cheshire League Division One**

Town's stuttering start to 2016 continued with a defeat at home to Pilkington. Despite enjoying the majority of the possession they were left to rue missed chances that ultimately proved costly.

They started brightly and could have gone ahead after 3 mins when Jack Weedall's cross was flicked to the back post by Priestley but James Dean was unable to get enough on the volley and the keeper was able to gather comfortably. Pilkington were unable to take the next chance when a ball forward was flicked on by the centre forward and their pacey winger got in behind the Town defence but lifted his volley over Masters and the other side of the post.

Middlewich went on to create three golden chances to take the lead but were unable to take advantage. On 16 minutes Sam Wakefield made a clever run inside to evade the offside trap and latched on to Priestley's through ball to leave him 1v1 with the keeper, but he saved well as he tried to slide the ball past him. On 20 minutes Priestley slipped Weedall in down the right in the box who delivered a ball to the unmarked Wakefield at the back post but again he was unable to turn the ball in to the net from close range. Just before half time the Pilkington keeper was forced to save again after Sam O'Sullivan jinked his way past two players on the left of the box and put a low square ball into Wakefield but the keeper saved his effort from close range.

HT 0-0

Pilkington started the second half brightly and a run down the right by the winger saw a cross pulled back but Town defended well to stop a runner getting a shot away. Pilkington took the lead on 52 minutes after they broke quickly from a Middlewich corner. After the corner was headed out and cleared to the half way line Middlewich attempted to play their way out of trouble and when they lost possession suddenly found themselves outnumbered. Pilkington broke and with 2v1 the forward slid the ball past Masters from just inside the box. 0-1.

Their lead was short lived though as Callum Priestley equalised on 55 minutes. Sam O'Sullivan's free kick on the right was headed clear to the far side for a throw in and when the Pilkington defence momentarily switched off the ball was played to Dean who crossed to Priestley to smash home from close range. 1-1. Middlewich were now in the ascendancy and on 62 Wakefield again found himself with a clear run on goal but under pressure his low shot was once again turned away by the Pilks keeper. James Dean then turned cleverly and hit a left foot drive from the edge of the box in to the keeper's hands.

Town were then dealt a sucker punch as Pilkington regained the lead on 72 minutes. A ball crossed from the right to the far post was headed back towards the edge of the box and the forward had too much time and space to take the ball down and bend a lovely shot into the top corner past Masters who could do little to prevent it. 1-2.

As Middlewich now had to commit more players forward it opened up spaces for Pilkington to counter attack and minutes later they went down the left and crossed to the back post which Joe Devaney did well to clear. They then broke

down the opposite side and Masters had to turn away a shot from the right winger when he was in on goal. At the other end Middlewich had a couple of free kicks that were dealt with by the Pilkington defence and Town were unable to find the equaliser as Pilkington hung on to claim the win and all 3 points.

◀ [MATCH REPORT](#)



## **MATCH REPORT**

# PILKINGTON 2-1 GRAPPENHALL SPORTS

[JANUARY 31, 2016](#) | [PILKINGTONFC](#)

**Saturday 30th January 2016, Cheshire League Division One**

With rain and hailstone throughout the week the Ruskin Drive pitch was in a heavy condition, despite this the referee made the decision to play and this meant the chance of any free-flowing football for the fans to watch was gone even before the kick off.

With a strong wind-blowing straight up the pitch it was always going to be a game of two-halves and the advantage was with the Pilks in the first half. They we're the team that got into their rhythm the quickest, surging up the pitch and creating a few half chances for Graham Boylan and Danny Hughes.

With Grappenhall struggling with the conditions and the rain and hailstone starting to fall again, Pilks took the lead on the 28th minute. Full-back Jake

Worrall pulled off a great tackle on the touchline and the ball ricocheted to Graham Boylan in space who slotted home nicely with the outside of his foot. Two minutes later Jake Worrall was again rampaging down the left and his cross was missed by the keeper and Brad Smailes scrambled the ball over the line to make it 2-0. With Pilks looking to capitalise further on their advantage Brad Smailes was unlucky as his shot from 20 yards narrowly missed curling into the top right hand corner.

In the 34th minute with the hailstone getting stronger the referee called a halt to the proceedings and with all the players and managers huddled into the dugouts there was one attempt to carry on before play finally resumed 10 minutes later. This seemed to knock Pilks out of their rhythm and Grappenhall started to get a foothold in the game. A few sloppy mistakes at the back gave Grappenhall encouragement and a quick break in the 41st minute resulted in Pilks debutant goalkeeper, Tom Roach bringing down the Grappenhall forward for a penalty. Roach redeemed himself however with an outstanding save as he tipped the penalty over the bar as it veered towards the top-corner.

#### *Half time – Pilkington 2-0 Grappenhall Sports*

Pilks were hoping for a good start to the second half to counteract the strong winds but this plan fell apart after one minute. Some slack defending led to the Grappenhall forward being in space, as Roach advanced the shot went past him and was destined to be going wide until it deflected off Pilks defender Dominic Whelan and into the goal. Debutant Jack Baines replaced Josh Woodhall who got injured in the build up to the goal.

It was now game on. Pilks continued to try and pass it around on a difficult surface and they struggled to get out of their own half, the only outlet for seemed to be the lively Baines on the left. Grappenhall's direct play was having greater effect and a few half chances fell their way and a half-hearted penalty shout was waved away by the referee on the 55th minute. Young Dylan Rees came on in the 60th minute for the injured Sean Aimes.

Pilks finally got to grips with Grappenhall's tactics and a little reshuffle nullified their attacks and the game became a midfield battle for most of the remaining second half. Brad Smailes should have wrapped the game up in the 80th minute when he found himself free in the penalty box but lobbed it over the bar rather than placing it past the keeper.

*Full Time – Pilkington 2-1 Grappenhall Sports*





#### **MATCH REPORT**

# PILKINGTON 1-1 ALTRINCHAM RESERVES

FEBRUARY 14, 2016 | PILKINGTONFC

## **Saturday 13th February, Cheshire League Division One**

Pilkington FC were chasing their fourth win in a row against the impressive, title chasing Altrincham Reserves. On a very difficult pitch, the soft conditions made it very hard to play any sort of passing football but it was Pilkington who started the quickest as they hunted down the opposition with great determination. Within the first 10 minutes Pilkington FC had three or four half chances to take an early lead but failed to convert.

The breakthrough came in the 15th minute when Calvin Birchall headed a corner onto the bar and then reacted the quickest to convert the rebound.

Altrincham were struggling to get a foothold in the game and we're relying on some quick counter attacking football to create their chances but resolute defending by the whole back four restricted them to only half chances.

Graham Boylan was a tower of strength up top for Pilkington and his lay offs were paying dividends for the rampaging Jake Worrall. On 25 minutes, Worrall's run into the box on 25 minutes nearly resulted in another goal, but he couldn't quite cut it back enough for the late arriving Boylan.

A few minutes later some neat play down the left got Brad Smailes free. His cross was met at the far post by Callum Chisnall but his neat header back across goal failed to beat the keeper.

With the Pilkington central midfield trio of Danny Hughes, Andy Mines and Jake Worrall all over the opposition midfield like a rash, Altrincham were under pressure for most of the remainder of the half but despite the effort Pilkington failed to convert their pressure.

*Half Time – Pilkington 1-0 Altrincham Reserves*



The message at half-time was about concentration and determination – however the small advantage was wiped out immediately after the kick off. Pilkington defender Ross Travis sliced a clearance and with the Pilkington keeper, Tom Roach hesitant as to whether he could handle it the Altrincham forward



challenged him and slotted home to level the score at 1-1.

As a result Tom Roach had to receive treatment from the challenge and spent the rest of the game limping. Altrincham's neat game started to take shape and with constant pressure it was now Pilkington who were playing on the break. Again the back four remained strong under the Altrincham pressure and some neat saves from the injured Tom Roach kept them at bay.

In the 60th minute Graham Boylan scored what would have been the winner. From a corner Boylan's header seemed to creep in at the back post before the defender cleared it. Unfortunately the referee was the only person in the ground unconvinced that it had crossed the line and disallowed it.



With 25 minutes remaining, Matty Taylor came on for Callum Chisnall – a welcome return to action after nearly five months out with knee ligament damage. He was to make an instant impact as he found space on the left and as he cut inside on his right unleashed a curling shot from outside the box that just missed the top corner of the net.

With 20 minutes left, the game was more open with both sides having chances. In midfield it became a battling display with bone-crunching tackles from both sides. Matty Taylor again broke free with 15 minutes to go but his

lack of match fitness shown with the defender recovering to make the tackle.

With 13 minutes to go, the best chance of the match fell to Graham Boylan who after working hard to win the ball back off the central defender found himself through on goal but unfortunately his placement was too close to the keeper.

Debutant Aidy Wintersgill replaced Brad Smailes on the 80th minute and a late rally by Pilkington FC was too no avail as the game ended in a draw.

In terms of providing a great advert for local, amateur sport then this game was it as the fans went away very satisfied after watching a gripping game full of passion, determination and missed chances.

*Full Time – Pilkington 1-1 Altrincham Reserves*





#### **MATCH REPORT**

## PILKINGTON FC 4-3 EGERTON FC

FEBRUARY 21, 2016 | PILKINGTONFC

### **Saturday 20th February, Cheshire League Division One**

A thrilling game provided by two teams playing on a heavy pitch and in constant rain Pilkington finally edged the game 4-3.

Egerton took the game to Pilkington from the first minute and kept their opponents pinned in their own half for a full 10 mins during which time they had 2 half chances and 2 clear cut chances to take the lead. Only poor finishing denied them an early lead.

In the 13th minute Pilkington had their first real attack and somewhat against the run of play a diagonal ball across the Egerton box avoided the centre half and was contested by the full back and Pilkington's midfield dynamo Andy Mines got there first and despatched the ball neatly between keeper and near post.



### *Pilkington FC 1-0 Egerton FC*

They say you're at your most vulnerable when you've just scored and both teams experienced this phenomenon when a flurry of 3 goals in 4 minutes saw Egerton equalise, Pilkington retake the lead and then Egerton to equalise for a second time to make it 2-2.

### *Pilkington 2-2 Egerton FC*

Goals from Egerton's Andrew Brown and Christopher Trowbridge sandwiched a goal from Pilkington's Jake Worrall providing this flurry between the 32nd and 34 minutes. That was the Half-time position.

If not in possession, then by chances alone Egerton had shaded the first half by 10 attempts to Pilkington's 4.

In the second half both teams clearly tightened up some of their defensive frailties but it was Pilkington who reclaimed the lead in the 69th minute when 2 shots on goal had been well blocked by the Egerton defence, but the 3rd attempt falling to substitute Josh Woodhall who despatched a low shot passed keeper Christopher Davies.



### *Pilkington FC 3-2 Egerton FC*

Egerton, clearly not a team to lie down persisted, and when Rory Pownall, a constant driving force, went on a foray deep into Pilkington's half he eventually won a free kick from referee Stephen Wright for what was in all honesty an innocuous challenge.

Rory dusted himself down and positioned himself in the penalty box. The free kick was well delivered and he nodded home with some ease to make it 3-3.

### *Pilkington FC 3-3 Egerton FC*

Once again game on! Enter substitute Matty Taylor for Pilkington. Matty is still gaining game time after a long term knee injury but is a striker who knows his way to goal.



With 5 minutes remaining, a great ball from midfield found an advancing Taylor and in a one on one position he placed his shot passed the keeper to make it 4-3.

### *Pilkington 4-3 Egerton FC*

Egerton were still not beaten and pressed hard in the last few minutes for an equaliser but Pilkington held out for the 4-3 win.

It should be noted that the game was played in a good spirit in very difficult conditions and Egerton's contribution to this must not be understated.

The win for Pilkington takes them up to 5th place in Division One after 4 wins and a draw in their last 5 games.





## MATCH REPORT

# DATEN FC 1-3 PILKINGTON FC

FEBRUARY 28, 2016 | [PILKINGTONFC](#)

**Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> February, Cheshire League Division One**

Both teams defending an unbeaten 2016 so something had to give at the Culcheth Sports Club on a chilly but otherwise perfect day for football.

From the start it was Pilkington who pressed and very early on it was that man Andy Mines who had the first 2 half chances, one a shot, the other a header. This seemed to set the tone of the half in which Pilkington were rarely in trouble.

Full back Ross Travis can throw a ball further than some players can kick it! This phenomenon was used to great effect to launch balls into the Daten box.

The pressing continued and on the quarter hour it was captain Graham Boylan, aka Boycie, who collected the ball, his back to goal, turned and unleashed a

shot no keeper was going to stop – 0-1. It was no more than Pilkington deserved.

### *Daten FC 0-1 Pilkington FC*

Not even “Boycie” could explain how he contrived to miss his next opportunity on 21 mins. Through one on one, he tried to place the ball passed an advancing keeper but placed it wide of goal.

However on 26 mins it was Boycie again who won a header releasing Brad Smailes who managed to get his shot away but without troubling the Daten keeper.

Daten had to wait until the 29 min to have their first attempt, a free kick in a promising position but which was despatched high over the goal.

Calvin Birchall survived a handball appeal which seemed to have some merit but which didn't impress referee Paul Dean. Daten rightly aggrieved.

Pilkington keeper Tom Roach was not called upon too much in the first half but just after the half hour produced a save which amazed everyone, not least, the striker who despatched the shot.

He hadn't had much to do but like all good keepers, was ready when called upon.

On the 35 min we had a moment of magic from midfielder David Baines. He collected a Daten clearance approx. 35 yards from goal, looked up and seeing the Daten keeper quite advanced, coolly passed the ball over his head into the net. (Shades of Beckham, Alonso or Suarez, take your pick!)

### *Daten FC 0-2 Pilkington FC*

0-2 did not flatter Pilkington and just before half time the complexion of the game might have worsened for Daten had Josh Woodhall managed to finish off his fine effort.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> half was not as entertaining and in fairness was a little scrappy at times.

Danny Hughes had 2 or 3 direct free kicks to find his range and was in truth

getting closer but didn't trouble the keeper.

The back 4 of Ross Travis, Calvin Birchall, Jamie Dickson and Josh Woodhall provided solidity denying the Daten attackers too many opportunities to be effective.

The pressing from Pilkington was unrelenting as they sought to add the 2 nil lead and after 78 mins "Boycie", far advanced on the left side, toyed with the right back turning him inside out before delivering a low hard ball across the goal where Callum Chisnall side footed the ball home with perfect poise.

### *Daten FC 0-3 Pilkington FC*

Interchanges for Pilkington later in the second half saw Dylan Rees enter at left back and Matty Taylor upfront, Brad Smailes and Callum Chisnall giving way. Midway through the second half saw Boycie felled in the box and the only person to think it wasn't a penalty was the referee

At 3-0 the game was secure but there was still time for one more breath taking save from Tom Roach before Daten finally produced their one solid effort of the half, a stunning finish from David Wright.

### *Daten FC 1-3 Pilkington FC*

Even at -1-3, it was unthinkable that Daten could do more damage and so it proved. The game had its unsavoury moments late on and how referee Paul Dean kept his cards out of his pocket was hard to understand.

The game ended after 92 mins and Pilkington march on to the prospect of Billinge next week – hang on to your hats for that one!!

### **Final Score 1-3, Half Time 0-2**

*Scorers:* Graham Boylan, David Baines, Callum Chisnall.

David Wright (Daten)

### **Pilkington Starting Lineup:**

Tom Roach, Ross Travis, Josh Woodhall, Jamie Dickson, Calvin Birchall, Danny Hughes, David Baines, Callum Chisnall, Graham Boylan (capt), Andy Mines, Brad Smailes. Subs: Dylan Rees, Matty Taylor.





#### **MATCH REPORT**

# GRAPPENHALL FC 2-5 PILKINGTON FC

MARCH 13, 2016 | PILKINGTONFC

## **Saturday 12th March, Cheshire League Division One**

Pilkington finally overcame a defiant Grappenhall with a late flurry of goals. The game started with Pilks pressing immediately and causing defensive uncertainty in a Grappenhall defence which appeared a little static early on.

First opportunity fell to Jake Worrall in the 3rd min who shot over the bar from a Boycie, (Graham Boylan) cross. Ross Travis continues his fine form by getting forward efficiently and by that long throw which always causes havoc in opposition defences. Grappenhall did have the ball in the net on the 8<sup>th</sup> minute but the even the striker who put it in knew he was well offside.

One minute later Danny Hughes was clearly pushed from behind in the box and a penalty correctly awarded. Boycie took the spot kick and with the now



familiar pause in the run up, placed it neatly beyond keeper Brett Balac who had a fine game throughout.

#### *Grappenhall Sports FC 0-1 Pilkington FC*

A curious incident in the 16 min saw Sean Aimes cautioned. The Referee had asked Sean to leave the field of play after noticing inappropriate tape on his socks. It appeared that he had gained the refs permission to enter the field of play but apparently not, and he got caution with a yellow card.

A feature of Pilks game in this half was the constant pressing high up the pitch, a feature which allowed Matty Taylor to help himself to 3 good chances before he finally bagged his first goal of the day in the 38 minute, a very accomplished finish under pressure, skidding the ball passed the advancing keeper into the left corner of the goal.

#### *Grappenhall Sports FC 0-2 Pilkington FC*

Further chances followed as Pilks pressed with Dominic Whelan, Calvin Birchall and Boycie all involved. Boycie in fact had two shots on goal after creating the chances for himself late on in the half.

#### *Half Time – Grappenhall Sports FC 0-2 Pilkington FC*

Pilks, for whatever reason, simply didn't start the second half as they had the first and Grappenhall seized a good advantage and had 2 very good chances in 2 minutes.

Pilks keeper Tom Roach finally succumbed to a niggling groin injury and was replaced by Mike Henthorn, (Spike) after only 3 mins of the second half. Spike has deputised a number of times as keeper and has always proven very able.

That advantage produced 2 goals to level the game at 2-2 which was no more than Grappenhall deserved. Their first goal was somewhat fortuitous as Dom Whelan had made a superb challenge but which saw the ball spew sideways to an advancing striker who, although "shinned it", looped it over the Pilks keeper. A second goal quickly followed and the momentum without doubt was with Grappenhall.

#### *Grappenhall Sports FC 2-2 Pilkington FC*

After this early second half assault for Grappenhall, Pilks managed to regroup and set the scene for a remarkable finale. Regardless of the goals which followed, it should be said that Boycie could have had the match ball twice over in this second half. A number of chances fell his way, all were dispatched but it was simply one of those days for the Pilks captain. A major influence throughout the game but just couldn't find the net on the day. (Boycie you owe me!)



Pilks wide man Josh Woodhall has a magical left foot and in the 68 min crossed the ball without breaking stride and found Matty Taylor in the box who barely had to move in order to despatch a powerful header past the keeper for a 3-2 lead. The momentum was regained.

#### *Grappenhall Sports FC 2-3 Pilkington FC*

Brad Smailes was now introduced to add energy to the attack. A few minutes later a free kick for Pilks was discussed between Matty and Josh. Matty won the debate and from the left hand side delivered a curling cross which is a keeper's nightmare. Calvin Birchall was nearest the cross but did not interfere and the ball curled past the Grappenhall keeper into the goal.

#### *Grappenhall Sports FC 2-4 Pilkington FC*

Pilks had ridden a brief second half storm and responded magnificently. Danny Hughes a constant driving force had a few chances on goal. David Baines had been energetic throughout for Pilks, a dynamic and aggressive midfielder, and very late in the second half produced a moment to remember.

The ball was cleared out of the box by the Grappenhall defence and from 25 yards Baines hit a low shot which didn't leave the grass by more than 2 feet. It arrowed low into the net producing a fitting finish to a fine second half recovery, a stunning strike.

*Grappenhall Sports FC 2-5 Pilkington FC*

Game finished at 93 minutes and Pilks continue their fine late season form.

**Full-Time: Grappenhall Sports FC 2-5 Pilkington FC**

**Scorers:** Graham Boylan, Matty Taylor x 3, David Baines

#### **Pilkington Starting Lineup**

Tom Roach, Ross Travis, Sean Aimes, Calvin Birchall, Dominic Whelan, David Baines, Jake Worrall, Danny Hughes, Matty Tylor, Josh Woodhall, Graham Boylan. *Subs:* Callum Chisnall, Brad Smailes, Dylan Rees, Aidy Wintersgill, Mike Henthorne.



#### **MATCH REPORT**

# TARPORLEY VICTORIA FC 3-0 PILKINGTON FC

MARCH 27, 2016 | PILKINGTONFC

## **Saturday 26th March, Cheshire League JA Walton Cup**

10 man Pilks eventually succumbed to defeat but the score flattered the home team. In driving rain and with a strong wind blowing straight down the pitch this was not an occasion to inspire any sort of flowing football.

Neither team got into any sort of rhythm early on as the conditions ensured passes went astray. However it was Pilks who started the better and without creating too many clear-cut chances pressed forward, with just final over hit passes denying genuine opportunities.

Already with centre back Calvin Birchall deputising in goal, things worsened as early as the 8th min when captain Graham Boylan saw red after apparently kicking out at an over attentive defender.

Despite this, it was Pilks who continued pressing and to the onlooker it wasn't apparent which team was down to 10 men. David Baines in midfield was a constant driving force for Pilks but it must be said no Pilks player went absent in the attempt turn the game in their favour against all odds. The first half passed without too many chances for either side.

#### *Half Time – Tarporley Victoria FC 0-0 Pilkington FC*

The second half started in even worse conditions than the first as the hailstone and then heavy rain fell and the temperature dropped. It is a credit to both teams that they produced a second half which bettered the first. As with the first half, Pilks enjoyed most of the possession but just couldn't find the right pass in the final third.

The deadlock was broken in controversial manner on the hour mark as a Tarporley shot was saved by keeper Calvin Birchall but where the rebound fell to a player, one of three who appeared to be in an offside position when the original shot was struck. The ball was despatched into the goal and though players from both sides appeared bemused, referee Thomas Cassidy awarded the goal.

#### *Tarporley Victoria FC 1-0 Pilkington FC*

It has to be said it wasn't the early sending off which compromised Pilks effort on the day, the team responded magnificently to that: it was this first goal which disturbed the minds of the Pilks players. They found the decision difficult to take but showed great resolve and responded in the best way possible by keeping their heads up and their footballing instincts intact.

Pilks best chance came in the 65th minute when Matty Taylor, a constant threat, found some space on the left and delivered a scorching cross which was met by substitute Callum Chisnall just outside the 6 yard box. Callum connected perfectly but saw his effort hit the bar and rebound to safety. If only!!!!

Pilks continued to press and had all the chances but when a team is down to 10 men and determined to press, gaps can and will appear. To compound things, stand-in keeper Calvin Birchall sustained an hamstring injury in the 68th minute which now compromised his efforts.

Piiks introduced Brad Smailes to the attack with 20 minutes left and this had good effect particularly down the left side, where Tarporley appeared



vulnerable.

With 15 minutes left, Pilks then started to gamble and introduced Aidy Wintersgill up front and Dylan Rees into a back three. Dylan's cultured left foot delivered a number of probing crosses that added to the threat on the Tarporley goal. The gamble to push forward inevitably left gaps at the back and Tarporley's 2nd and 3rd goals came in the 85th and 89th minutes.

*Tarporley Victoria FC 3-0 Pilkington FC*

The game finished at 90 minutes. Have to say, given the conditions on the day – a cuppa after the game in the clubhouse would have gone down very well!

### **Full-Time Tarporley Victoria FC 3-0 Pilkington FC**

#### **Pilkington Starting Lineup**

Calvin Birchall, Ross Travis, Sean Aimes, Jamie Dickson, Dominic Whelan, David Baines, Jake Worrall, Danny Hughes, Matty Tylor, Andy Mines, Graham Boylan. *Subs:* Callum Chisnall, Brad Smailes, Dylan Rees, Aidy Wintersgill.



#### **MATCH REPORT**

# WYTHENSHAWE TOWN FC 10-0 PILKINGTON FC

APRIL 2, 2016 | [PILKINGTONFC](#)

## **Saturday 2nd April, Cheshire League Division One**

A day to forget for Pilks as they were crushed by a rampant and ruthless Wythenshawe Town.

From the start it was Wythenshawe who pressed and within 5 mins a direct free kick and then an individual effort produced 2 goals.

Pilks found Wythenshawe too strong and too mobile as they danced their way towards the Pilks goal with ease.

The writing was on the wall very early on for Pilks and the 7-0 scoreline after only 30 minutes was no exaggeration given Wythenshawe's first half performance.

There was a lethargy about Pilks which allowed their opponents the freedom

of the pitch and Wythenshawe took the fullest possible advantage. Pilks were simply outrun and out fought.

It was the 46 min before Pilks had an effort on goal when Matty Taylor curled a shot towards the top corner. The shot was brilliantly tipped over the bar by the Wythenshawe Town Keeper.

The 47th minute saw the second effort from Pilks when a direct free kick was fired over. Matty Taylor again with the effort.

The first half was a half Pilks will want to forget as Wythenshawe dominated throughout.

*Half time – Wythenshawe Town 7-0 Pilkington FC*

The second half saw some improvement from Pilks as there was some semblance of recent good performances in evidence, but even with the game effectively over Wythenshawe kept up the energy levels and kept producing chances.

3 goals in this half saw the demolition completed. Tom Roach did offer a bright moment for Pilks with a late and great penalty save but it was a rare moment of joy for Pilks.

Plenty to ponder for the Pilks coaching staff before the next game, things just can't be this bad again?

**Full time – Wythenshawe Town FC 10-0 Pilkington FC**

**Pilkington Starting Lineup:** Tom Roach, Sean Aimes, Mike Henthorne, Jamie Dickson, Dom Whelan, Andy Mines, Danny Hughes, Matty Taylor, Callum Chisnall, Brad Smailes, Graham Boylan. *Subs:* Josh Woodhall, Dylan Rees, Martin Finnerty



#### **MATCH REPORT**

## BILLINGE FC 3-1 PILKINGTON FC

APRIL 10, 2016 | [PILKINGTONFC](#)

### **Saturday 9th April, Cheshire League Division One**

Pilks, in their last league of the season succumbed to a 3-1 defeat but there's a story behind that headline.

Referee Roger Andrew deemed the pitch playable, a decision that was questionable at the start of the game and indisputably wrong by half time. Nevertheless the game went ahead and both teams did their best to play football but with standing water in various parts of the pitch neither team could be expected to play football of any kind. These conditions worsened within ten minutes of the kick off when the heavens opened again and we had rain and hailstone.



Pilks, hampered by suspensions and injuries, had to re-arrange their formation and were set up to stifle the creativity of the opposition's midfield and in such conditions the ability of both teams to pass the ball accurately was gravely affected and understandably long balls were the order of the day.

Neither team could muster a meaningful chance in the opening exchanges, however in the 19th minute, Pilks midfielder Danny Burns shifting the ball out wide to Pilks striking talisman Matty Taylor, he cut inside and out the blue curled an effort towards goal which at first sight appeared harmless. The Billinge keeper apparently thought the same but regretted his judgement as the ball sailed over his head into the net.

*Billinge FC 0-1 Pilkington FC*

Pilkington gained confidence from this and in the 24th minute Matty Taylor's effort narrowly missed the target. With ten minutes of the half left and the hailstone falling heavily it was important that the concentration levels were high in defence. However, a corner from Billinge resulted in a heavy deflection and the Billinge centre half was able to stab home the equaliser.





*Half time – Billinge FC 1-1 Pilkington FC*

Falling rain ensured that conditions had worsened as the 2nd half began and immediately from the kick off Roger Andrew awarded a penalty to Billinge. It was a contentious decision as there was minimal contact as the Billinge attacker dramatically dove into the water to ensure the referee's decision.

*Billinge FC 2-1 Pilkington FC*

Conditions continued to worsen and the game became a lottery in terms of football quality but Pilks stuck to their task admirably. But with further injuries to an already stretched squad, Pilks finally succumbed to the third Billinge goal in the 63rd minute. Sloppy defending and an inability to clear the ball led to the Billinge forward slotting home.



Brad Smailes, Aidy Wintersgill and Dylan Rees were all introduced and Pilks continued to fight and mustered a few chances towards the end of the game. The best one falling to Aidy Wintersgill in the 87th minute. A corner was cleared to Aidy at the edge of the box whose volley was close to going in.

The game finished in the 91st minute.

### ***Full time - Billinge FC 3-1 Pilkington FC***

The Pilks squad can be proud of their efforts against the top of the table team in a game which arguably should not have started. On balance Billinge were the stronger team but it was a magnificent from a determined Pilks squad who, without doubt, have a bright 2016-7 ahead of them.

**Pilkington Starting Line Up:** Connor Atherton, Ross Travis, Jamie Dickson, Dom Whelan, Jake Worrall, Calvin Birchall, Danny Burns, Sean Aimes, Josh Woodhall, Josh Hoults, Matty Taylor. *Subs:* Brad Smailes, Dylan Rees, Aidy Wintersgill, Mike Heathorn, Tom Roach



#### **MATCH REPORT**

## WEST DIDSBURY & CHORLTON 'A' 2-4 PILKINGTON FC

MAY 8, 2016 | [PILKINGTONFC](#)

### **Saturday 7th April, Cheshire League Presidents Cup**

Pilks FC recovered from an indifferent start to record a fine win which sees them advance to the quarter finals of the Cheshire League's Presidents Cup.

A very dry uneven pitch and high temperatures welcomed the players to this eventful last 16 fixture, rearranged after last week's postponement.

A minute's silence was held in honour of West Didsbury & Chorlton's Vice-Chairman Rob Turley who had passed away the previous day – our condolences to his family.





Offensively Pilks started very bright and carved out numerous good chances early on with Charlie Duke, Matty Taylor and Brad Smailes helping themselves to well worked chances. Ross Travis continued with his exocet throw-ins which always cause damage to the defending teams. Danny Hughes and Callum Chisnall toiled hard in midfield to support the lively Duke, Smailes and Taylor ahead of them.





After 10 mins however it was Disbury who opened the scoring. Centre backs Calvin Birchall and Jamie Dickson had struggled to adjust early on and as a result the Pilks defence offered little resistance to a counter attack which saw the ball finally poked home giving the home side a 1-0 advantage.



#### *West Didsbury & Chorlton 'A' 1-0 Pilkington FC*

After 24 mins the Pilks defence again succumbed to a tame goal as the Didsbury striker walked his way through a mesmerised defence to finish nicely for a 2-0 lead. Two attacks, two goals.

#### *West Didsbury & Chorlton 'A' 2-0 Pilkington FC*

At the other end Brad Smailes rattled the woodwork with a fine angled volley and Charlie Duke had headed wide and sent a low shot just wide. Pilks were playing good football going forward and it was clear they didn't need to press any panic buttons.

It was the 47th minute when yet another fine attacking move from Pilks resulted in Sean Aimes sending a perfect cross to the far post where Charlie Duke ghosted in to head home. Pilks were on the score board and back in the game right on half-time.



The first half had seen injuries to Didsbury which disrupted their efforts to compete and they couldn't build upon what had been a good start for them.

*Half-Time – West Didsbury & Chorlton 'A' 2-1 Pilkington FC*

Didsbury suffered in the 2nd half as further injuries and ill-discipline allowed Pilks to take control of the match.

Pilks were carrying injuries of their own as neither keeper Peter Alston nor Sean Aimes were near 100% fit but we were treated to a piece of magic from Sean 20 mins into the half.

Sean's an attack minded defender anyway but collected the ball on the left, ventured inside and from well outside the box curled a beautiful shot into the top corner of the Didsbury net. (*What a goal, Coutinho!!!!*)

*West Didsbury & Chorlton 'A' 2-2 Pilkington FC*

Didsbury began to crumble and the chances came thick and fast and with striking predators like Matty Taylor around any weaknesses are going to be exploited.

Didsbury's ill-discipline saw captain Danny Iredale sent off which made Pilks task a little easier. Didsbury no 8 Mike Chapman had sustained an earlier injury but somehow soldiered on providing Didsbury's only attacking option for much of the 2nd half.

Midfielder Andy Mines and defender Dylan Rees replaced Sean Aimes and Cal-lum Chisnall during the half and that gave Pilks fresh impetus.



It was looking good for Pilks but they were still only level and though the pressure was building, chances came and went. Matty Taylor was effective throughout and not just in attack. However when Andy Mines delivered a cross into the box from the right hand side on 76 mins, Matty rose to despatch a looping header over the hapless keeper and Pilks were ahead for the first time.

#### *West Didsbury & Chorlton 'A' 2-3 Pilkington FC*

Pilks 3 goals had each been well made and perfectly despatched but all were surpassed by an intervention from Brad Smailes late on in the game. Brad has vision and touch in equal abundance and had been unlucky not to score in the 1st half.

The 85th min saw a great team goal that culminated in Brad finishing exquisitely. The ball was moved from back to front and left to right before Brad collected the ball on the right hand side. We all thought a shot was about to happen, including the Didsbury keeper, but as he entered the box and with the keeper advancing, produced a controlled chip which drifted over the keeper and nestled into the net. That goal was worthy of any level of football and sealed this game for Pilks.





### *West Didsbury & Chorlton 'A' 2-4 Pilkington FC*

Ref David Smith allowed 5 mins of overtime and as the game finally petered out in the heat of the day, he was forced to send a further Didsbury player off the field for dissent. A good win for Pilks and a brave effort from the West Didsbury & Chorlton side.

Pilks now meet their local rivals Billinge FC in the quarter finals on 12th May 18.45pm at Billinge.

### **Full-Time – West Didsbury & Chorlton 'A' 2-4 Pilkington FC**

**Pilkington Starting Line Up:** Peter Alston, Ross Travis, Jamie Dickson, Calvin Birchall, Sean Aimes, Josh Woodhall, Brad Smailes, Danny Hughes, Charlie Duke, Callum Chisnall, Matty Taylor. *Subs:* Dylan Rees, Andy Mines