

## MATCH REPORT

# 5 STAR PERFORMANCE SINKS THE YELLOWS

AUGUST 11, 2016 | PILKINGTONFC

### Pilkington Fc 5-3 Warrington Town Reserves

Cheshire League – Division One

*After a rigorous pre-season campaign Pilks welcomed a much fancied Warrington Town team to a well-attended Ruskin Drive for this opening League 1 encounter.*

Town appeared very composed from the kick off and in the opening 10 mins or so and kept the ball to themselves without really threatening the Pilks goal.

Pilks energy was evident from the start however and personified perfectly by debutant midfielders Ian McBride and Chris Clark who were combative and creative in equal measure.

New youngsters Tom Potter and Jack Cunliffe also showed no signs of being overawed as they were tireless in their pressing and in hunting down the Town mistakes.

In fact, wherever you looked in the Pilks team there was energy, composure and discipline despite the number of debutants.

Neil Hilton managed to hold up the ball and lay it off time after time giving runners the chance to be released by the Pilks midfield.

A young Mr Leyland, debuting at right back was simply exceptional on the night as was Captain Danny Hughes, standing in at left back.

Between these two stood the very experienced centre halves Tom White and Andy Webster, who having never played together before showed that quality and experience is priceless.

Town however have genuine quality of their own, especially up front. And they

were a threat on a few occasions just before the half hour, with Pilks keeper Rob Cork snuffing out the chances they created.

So...enter a certain Matty Taylor, who just before the match had reported feeling ill but insisted on playing regardless. In the opening quarter Taylor had threatened the Town goal but was unable to convert.

On the 30th minute he received the ball on the wide right high up the field and apparently decided it was time to score! Coming inside leaving the defender behind and coolly fired past the keeper.

*Pilkington FC 1-0 Warrington Town Reserves*

The Town defenders are all tough physical guys but Matty, over 20-30 yards will outrun anyone and so he did again 4 minutes later. A similar effort for 2-0. Onlookers and players alike were mesmerised.

*Pilkington FC 2-0 Warrington Town Reserves*

Town however seemed to wake up after that second goal and piled on the pressure in the 10 mins up to half time and on the 42nd minute despatched a clinical header past Rob Cork to reduce the deficit to 2-1. It had been coming to be fair and a different half time team talk now beckoned for both teams.

*Half time – Pilkington FC 2-1 Warrington Town Reserves*

After the break the momentum was certainly with Town and they did the early pressing in the half. However, the Pilks midfield sensed again that the Warrington defence was not the most mobile and was looking to play Matty through on every occasion.

It didn't take long for Matty to capitalise on a ponderous defence, steal the ball and despatch it passed a hapless keeper. 3-1 completing a fantastic hat trick. The lad was on fire!

*Pilkington FC 3-1 Warrington Town Reserves*

3-1 should be a comfortable score but on 69 mins Town latched onto to a Pilks clearance out of the box and a 35 yrd shot was unleashed which was never going to be stopped, A superb strike to bring Town back into the game.

### *Pilkington FC 3-2 Warrington Town Reserves*

Town smelled blood and continued to press sensing Pilks were nervous and starting to tire. On the 76 min a curling cross into the Pilks box struck a defender on the arm and Referee Stan Lee gave the penalty decision, Harsh but probably correct. In any event the spot kick was despatched for a 3-3 score. **Game on!!**

### *Pilkington FC 3-3 Warrington Town Reserves*

Now if you come back from 2-0 and 3-1 to level at 3-3, you would certainly fancy your chances late on, Warrington Town did and understandably so.

Scott Williams and young Jack Smith all featured late on to ensure Pilks kept up their quality and energy levels when it mattered most, and this they did admirably.

The Town defence had shown itself to be tough and very good in the air but overall had had a less than convincing game and certainly on the night encouraged Matty Taylor with their hesitancy. They simply didn't know how to deal with him and if they did, couldn't put it into practice.

So it was that Matty capped a magnificent personal performance by adding 2 more goals in the 80th and 86th minutes, both coming from Town defence hesitancy and Matty's predatory instincts.

### *Pilkington FC 5-3 Warrington Town Reserves*

To the onlooker it might have appeared to be the Matty Taylor show having bagged all 5 goals on the night and to be fair it was a truly remarkable performance.

But the real pleasure was to see the team perform with energy, passion, discipline and quality. The team boasted a very low average age and on the night and the blend of performances was just perfect.

### **Full-Time – Pilkington FC 5-3 Warrington Town Reserves**

**Pilkington Starting Line Up:** Rob Cork, Liam Leyland, Danny Hughes, Tom White, Andy Webster, Tom Potter, Christopher Clarke, Ian McBride, Jack Cun-

liffe, Neil Hilton, Matty Taylor. *Subs*: Scott Williams, Jack Smith.





#### MATCH REPORT

## A FIERCELY CONTESTED DERBY ENDS IN A WIN FOR THE PILKS

AUGUST 20, 2016 | PILKINGTONFC

**Pilkington FC 2-1 Billinge FC**

Wednesday 17th August 2016

*Photographs are courtesy of Billinge FC, please view <http://goo.gl/kWDQxn> for more.*

**Referee Ian Bonney got the game under way right on 6.30 at a well-attended Ruskin Drive for the second week in a row and it turned out be a fiercely contested local derby saw Pilks edge out Billinge by the odd goal.**

Billinge pressed from the start, holding possession very well in the first quarter and fashioning just a few half chances without causing too much panic in front of Pilks keeper Rob Cork.

Pilks continued where they left off from last week against Warrington Town and kept a disciplined shape which Billinge found hard to disrupt. Matty Taylor remained a constant threat up front but the Billinge back four had obviously heard about his exploits last week and paid him close attention.



Pilks centre back pairing of Tom White and Andy Webster once again were imperious giving the opposition few opportunities to impress. Full backs Jake Worrall and Liam Leyland again were superb both in attack and defence and their energy levels were very impressive once again.

Ian McBride, Tom Potter and Neil Hilton all gave Billinge plenty to think about as their creativity and energy at times overran their opposition counterparts.

The first half however was nip and tuck in terms of opportunities until the 41st minute when Captain Danny Hughes, this week playing in midfield, found a perfect through pass to Matty Taylor who ran around the ball to get it on his right foot and then lifted it over an advancing Billinge keeper. It was a superb finish to put Pilks 1-0 up.

#### *Pilkington FC 1-0 Billinge FC*

Both sides would have settled for a 1-0 half time score and probably were expecting just that. On the 43rd minute however Billinge cleared the ball out of their area and must have felt sure any danger had passed. Chris Clark however

had other ideas and didn't hesitate when returning the ball with a fierce low drive which into the far corner of the Billinge net.

#### *Half time – Pilkington FC 2-0 Billinge FC*

Second half saw Billinge start with greater purpose and the momentum shifted to them as they pressed forward and produced some good chances.

They say 2-0 is a dangerous lead and so it proved for Pilks on the 61st minute when they lost possession outside the box and the ball fell to Billinge talisman Ste Wolhuter. The Billinge man despatch a stunning 30-yard volley passed Pilks keeper Rob Cork. It was probably what Billinge deserved at that point. It was game on at 2-1 with half an hour to go.

#### *Pilkington FC 2-1 Billinge FC*



There was a time when a Pilks team might have folded when pegged back to 2-1, but not this team. Billinge sniffed further rewards but Pilks offered stern resistance to all that was thrown at them. The last half was indeed frantic and Billinge became frustrated at their inability to level the game. Frustrations spilled over and a flurry of yellow cards followed for Billinge culminating in a second yellow for a Billinge defender very late on.

#### **Full-Time – Pilkington FC 2-1 Billinge FC**

**Pilkington Starting Line Up:** Rob Cork, Liam Leyland, Jake Worrall, Tom White, Andy Webster, Tom Potter, Christopher Clarke, Ian McBride, Danny Hughes, Neil Hilton, Matty Taylor. *Subs:* Scott Williams, Adam Edwards, Graham Boylan, Ian Frazer, Brad Smailes





#### MATCH REPORT

# LACKLUSTRE PILKS EDGED OUT ON DERBY DAY

SEPTEMBER 12, 2016 | PILKINGTONFC

**FC St Helens 1-0 Pilkington FC**

*Saturday 10th September 2016*

Check out the best bits here: <http://goo.gl/s49Au0>

**An injury ravaged Pilks team were unable to lift themselves enough to compete against the resilient FC St Helens team which on the day simply wanted the result more.**

After Danny Hughes pulled up in the warm up it meant that Pilks started the game with both Hughes and striker Matty Taylor playing with injuries.

Both teams missed half chances within the first 5 minutes but things got worse for Pilks in the 10th minute when an horrific challenge from the FC St Helens

full back went unpunished by the referee but left Pilks midfielder Ian McBride with a badly cut ankle which needed hospital treatment.

McBride was replaced by Ian Frazer and with Hughes and Taylor struggling it left Pilks manager, Ste Palfrey with limited options so early in the game.



With Pilks unable to keep their usual disciplined shape, the first half was nip and tuck with both sides having chances and the game itself must have been a good watch for the crowd as it was end to end for most of the game.

In the 32nd minute full-back Liam Leyland found Hughes whose ball into the box found Tom Potter on the six yard box but somehow he fired over. A couple of minutes later, Boylan wriggled his way free in the six yard box but as he turned the keeper was right upon him and he was unable to convert his opportunity.

In the 35th minute, Pilks management finally made the decision to make changes as the ineffective Taylor was replaced by Brad Smailes.

In the 45th Minute a long ball from Pilks Centre half Chris Tingay found Boylan whose chest off to Adam Edwards left him free to play in Brad Smailes down the wing. His cross went over everyone and landed again at the feet of Pilks winger Tom Potter who once again fired over. Frustration again for Pilks and although not the greatest of performances they would certainly have been dis-

appointed to go in at half-time still level.

### **Half-time: FC St Helens 0-0 Pilkington FC**

The Pilks management team were clearly not happy and made further changes to the team shape at half time, withdrawing substitute Smailes and introducing Josh Darlington down the left whilst moving Hughes more forward.

Seven minutes into the half things got worse for Pilks. From an FC St Helens corner, ex Pilkington Player, Paul Meadows rose unopposed to head home.

### *FC St Helens 1-0 Pilkington FC*

The pattern of the second half was pretty much in the same vein as the first half, with both sides having missed chances. FC St Helens forward, Callum Laird shot wide on the 55th minute whilst Hughes' effort from 25 yds whistled over the bar. Hughes was finally withdrawn on the 60th minute as Pilks gambled again by introducing a clearly unfit Matty Taylor.

In the 66th minute a deep cross from Adam Edwards was cleared over the bar from a few yards out by the FC St Helens full-back with Taylor lurking to tap it in.

In the 78th minute the chance of the match fell to FC St Helens substitute Chris Meadows, who found himself with an open goal but somehow Leyland was able to clear it off the line.

Pilks pressed hard in the last ten minutes to find the equalizer, but it seemed too little to late. The performance was certainly below par from Pilks but credit needs to be given to FC whose resilience saw them through to collect the 3 points.

### **Full-time: FC St Helens 1-0 Pilkington FC**

**Pilkington FC Starting Line-up:** Rob Cork, Liam Leyland, John Riley, Tom White, Chris Tingay, Tom Potter, Adam Edwards, Ian McBride, Danny Hughes, Graham Boylan, Matty Taylor. *Subs:* Ian Frazer, Brad Smailes, Josh Darlington





#### MATCH REPORT

# PILKS PEGGED BACK AFTER IMPRESSIVE START

SEPTEMBER 24, 2016 | PILKINGTONFC

**Middlewich Town FC 3-3 Pilkington FC**

*Saturday 24th September 2016*

**It is certain that the crowd left Seddon Street feeling they had received value for money as PILKINGTON and Middlewich fought out this 6 goal thriller.**





Pilkington's new look team which included debutants Connah Kilgallon, Alex Higham and Luke McCausland from the reserves, took control from the first minute and were two goals up within the first twenty minutes without Middlewich even troubling Rob Cork in the Pilkington goal.

Within ten minutes, Pilkington were one up after forward, Graham Boylan, turned cleverly on the edge of the six-yard box and guided the ball under the advancing keeper.

#### *Middlewich Town 0-1 Pilkington*

Pilkington's impressive start continued as they controlled the game with some neat possession play and dynamic movement from the front two. In the 18th minute, Luke Sephton, returning after a spell at Congleton Town, ran clear of the defenders and rounded the keeper and slotted home for Pilkington's second.



### *Middlewich Town 0-2 Pilkington*

Despite Pilkington's overall dominance in the early period, they were well aware that Middlewich were capable of getting back into the game after they recently clawed back a 3-0 deficit against title hopefuls Billinge.

Gradually Middlewich started to find space in the midfield and managed to get their passing game going. Despite their increased influence on the game, Pilkington's defensive partnership of McCausland and Chris Tingay looked comfortable and restricted Middlewich to long-range shots.

But then, in the 35th minute came the sucker punch out of the blue. A long punt upfield went over full back Liam Leyland's head and when maybe a simple tap into touch was the right option, he tried to turn and the Middlewich winger nicked the ball and delivered into the centre. The ball came in at an uncomfortable angle for Pilkington's Danny Hughes and it hit him and deflected past the keeper.

### *Middlewich Town 1-2 Pilkington*

This gave Middlewich momentum and they pushed Pilkington further backwards as they took control of the game. With the bit between their teeth, they

struck again five minutes before half-time. A neat one-two on the edge of the penalty box resulted in a shot that went under Rob Cork to level the scores.

### ***Half-Time: Middlewich Town 2-2 Pilkington***

Middlewich started the second period again on the front foot and for the opening twenty minutes should have found themselves ahead as they missed a few half chances as well as hitting the woodwork.



Kilgannon and Miguel Gillam rallied and regained control in the middle of the park to push Pilkington forwards once again. They begun to carve out some opportunities and in the 65th minute, a neat through ball from Gillam, found Boylan who powered past the Middlewich defender and calmly slotted his second goal past the keeper.

### ***Middlewich Town 2-3 Pilkington***

Pilkington made an immediate change to sure things up by introducing Adam Edwards for Higham whose influence on the game had wained. Brad Smailes had a wild swipe at a chance to make it 4-2 but largely the game was now being played in the Pilkington half with Rob Cork making some important saves.





With 12 minutes left, Middlewich levelled things again when the forward wriggled free to fire into the bottom corner from the edge of the area. A well-placed finish that earned Middlewich a share of the spoils.

*Middlewich Town 3-3 Pilkington*

Pilkington had an injury time free-kick deflected wide, but the game, probably rightly, ended all-square. The performance was much improved on last week's lacklustre display in the League Cup, with some impressive debutants.

***Full-Time: Middlewich Town 3-3 Pilkington***



#### **MATCH REPORT**

# MISSED CHANCES COST PILKINGTON

OCTOBER 3, 2016 | [PILKINGTONFC](#)

**Pilkington 0-1 Lostock Graham**

*Saturday 1st October 2016*

**Saturday's game was a tale of missed chances and one slack defensive moment that proved costly for Pilkington as they dropped points in a 1-0 defeat at home to Lostock Gramam.**

Pilkington started brightly enough but their defenders initially struggled to get a grip of the Lostock forwards as they combined well in the opening 15 minutes to carve open a few half chances. Pilkington were soaking up this spell of early pressure well and both Graham Boylan and Alex Higham had chances to put Pilkington in the lead.





However, the hammer blow came in the 20th minute. The Pilkington defence switched off for a moment and Lostock's William Reid found himself free to finish from 10 yards out.

*Half time – Pilkington 0-1 Lostock Gralam*

Pilkington went on to dominate possession in the second half, but, yet again, they couldn't take their chances with Graham Boylan, Alex Higham and Adam Edwards all failing to equalise.

With 20 minutes left, Pilkington introduced Ian Frazer and his pass to Graham Boylan on the 75th minute found the striker clear with only the goalkeeper to beat. Unfortunately, he failed to hit the target with his effort narrowly missing the top corner.



Then Luke Sephton should have put Pilkington level but he couldn't finish from close range. In between all this Pilkington hit the woodwork for the second time in the game and in the dying moments Edwards again missed from close range with a header.

Pilkington boss, Ste Palfrey said: "I'm frustrated with the result, we deserved a lot more than we got, at least a point. We had the best chances in the game but we didn't make the right decisions in the final third. We had clear-cut chances and we needed to be more clinical."

***Full time – Pilkington 0-1 Lostock Gralam***

***Line up:*** Rob Cork, William Jones, Danny Hughes, Luke McCausland, Dominic Whe-  
lan, Connah Kilgallon, Miguel Gillam, Brad Smailes, Alex Higham, Luke Sephton,  
Graham Boylan ***Subs:*** Tom Potter, Ian Frazer, Adam Edwards, Liam Leyland.





## MATCH REPORT

# PILKINGTON EXIT CUP AFTER A SHOT SHY PERFORMANCE

OCTOBER 12, 2016 | PILKINGTONFC

**Bootle Reserves 1-0 Pilkington**

*Liverpool County FA Challenge Cup*

*Saturday 8th October 2016*

Despite again overall dominance of possession, Pilkington could not find the breakthrough to capitalise on it and one moment switching off cost them the game.





A change in shape saw a much more controlling midfield performance and Pilkington were the dominant side and had built up pressure in the first-half but were unable to make any breakthrough.



The front three of Luke Sephton, Brad Smailes and Adam Edwards all went close but the scores remained level at the break.

*Half-time: Bootle Res 0-0 Pilkington*





The second half started with Bootle on the front foot but the pattern soon reverted back to the first half with much of the same as the dominant Pilkington midfield performance restricted Bootle's attack.



Sephton thought he had opened the scoring ten minutes into the second-half but saw his goal-bound effort was saved by the goalkeeper.



Pilks central defensive partnership of Boylan and Smith defended excellently but switched off momentarily in the 65th minute to allow the Bootle forward free to score what was to be the decider.

*Bootle Res 1-0 Pilkington*

Bootle survived a late scare when Miguel Gillam was fouled within the area but the referee waved play on. One goal was enough to send Bootle through to the next round as Pilkington go away wondering what they have to do to convert all their domination into wins.

***Full-Time: Bootle Res 1-0 Pilkington***

***Line up:*** Rob Cork, William Jones, Tom Potter, Kade Smith, Graham Boylan, Connah Kilgallon, Miguel Gillam, Ian McBride, Brad Smailes, Adam Edwards, Luke Sephton  
***Subs:*** Alex Higham, Ian Frazer, Liam Leyland.





UNCATEGORIZED

# MATCH PHOTOS – PILKINGTON RES V AFC MACCLESFIELD

OCTOBER 12, 2016 | PILKINGTONFC









































#### **MATCH REPORT**

# PILKINGTON END 5 MATCH RUN WITHOUT A WIN

OCTOBER 24, 2016 | PILKINGTONFC

**Pilkington 2-1 Middlewich Town**

*Saturday 22nd October 2016, Cheshire League Division One*

**Pilkington secured a deserved victory over Middlewich but it could have been a lot easier as they continue to miss easy chances.**





Pilkington dominated the opening exchanges and took the lead within ten minutes as Luke Sephton curled Matty Taylor's flick on into the top corner.



*Pilkington 1-0 Middlewich Town*

Despite the threat from the lively Middlewich forwards, Pilk's defence stood firm and they threatened to be out of sight within the first half but somehow Sephton and Graham Boylan missed chances to convert from six yards out.

As it was both teams went in at half-time level. Middlewich were awarded a dubious free kick on the touchline. The ball was whipped in and it somehow found it's way into the net with what was the last kick of the half.



### *Half-Time: Pilkington 1-1 Middlewich Town*

The second half was a more even affair with both teams hitting the woodwork and missing chances. On 75 minutes Chris Tingay was able to convert a Danny Hughes cross to give Pilks the lead.



### *Pilkington 2-1 Middlewich Town*

Pilks went on to survive a late onslaught and Taylor even managed to break clear and beat the keeper only to find the ball hitting the post once again.

### **Full-Time: Pilkington 2-1 Middlewich Town**

*Line-up: Matty Hodge, Danny Hughes, Tom Potter, Chris Tingay, Luke McCausland, Ian McBride, Connah Kilgallon, Miguel Gillam, Graham Boylan, Matty Taylor, Luke Sephton. Subs: Adam Edwards, Ian Frazer, Alex Virton.*



## MATCH REPORT

# BOYLAN PENALTY HANDS PILKS ALL THREE POINTS

OCTOBER 31, 2016 | PILKINGTONFC

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

*Saturday 29th October 2016, Cheshire League Division One*

Pilkington were by far the better side and completely dominated the first half, having all the possession and creating at least six clear chances to finish the game off by half time.





A string of early corners should have been converted but were somehow missed by the Pilks players who seem hesitant in front of goal at the moment. However, in the 10th minute a corner fell to Gillam who smartly chested the ball down and volleyed it into the net.

#### *Golborne Sports 0-1 Pilkington*

On 25 minutes, the Golborne keeper pulled off a great save from Boylan but the ball bounced to Edwards who somehow managed to head the ball wide from a few yards out. Then minutes later another corner sailed through everyone and Gillam was unable to convert with a header again from only a few yards out.

10 minutes before the half Taylor found himself with a free run on goal but somehow his shot was saved onto the post by the keeper.

As the half went on, Golborne continued to ride their luck with Pilks missing more glorious chances to finish the game off before half time. Golborne barely created a chance until the final minutes of the half when a fine strike hit the bar.



### *Half-time: Golborne Sports 0-1 Pilkington*

The second half started in much the same vein of the first half with Pilks high pressing game stifling any worthy Golborne attacks. A combination of fine goalkeeping and poor finishing continued to make the game even. Both Boylan and Edwards again missed chances from within the 6-yard box to finish the game off – it would seem that the job was completed during a 5-minute spell with 20 minutes to go.

In the 72nd minute, Taylor neatly slotted the rebound from his initial shot that was again well saved by the keeper to make it 2-0.

### *Golborne Sports 0-2 Pilkington*

A couple of minutes later, Taylor was fouled in the box and Boylan converted the penalty.

### *Golborne Sports 0-3 Pilkington*

Pilkington now seemed in complete control of the game as they introduced Cunliffe and Frazer into the midfield – but somehow complacency set in. In the 82<sup>nd</sup> Minute a cross was spilled by Carrol and the Golborne forward was presented with a simple tap in.



### *Golborne Sports 1-3 Pilkington*

Golborne sensed a comeback was on with Pilkington seemingly starting to lose the midfield battle that they had convincingly controlled for most of the game. In the 89<sup>th</sup> minute another cross was met by the Golborne forward who guided it into the goal to make it 3-2. Game on!

### *Golborne Sports 2-3 Pilkington*

There was a last few frantic minutes for Pilkington who managed to hang on to a much-deserved victory. They dominated Golborne and created 8-9 excellent chances but just couldn't put them out of sight.

### **Full-Time: Golborne Sports 2-3 Pilkington**

**Line-up:** Lee Carroll, William Jones, Liam Tarrington, Chris Tingay, Luke McCausland, Ian McBride, Connah Kilgallon, Miguel Gillam, Graham Boylan, Matty Taylor, Adam Edwards. **Subs:** Ian Frazer, Jack Cunliffe, Danny Hughes.



#### **MATCH REPORT**

# PILKS ROMP HOME WITH A 7 GOAL CONVINCING WIN OVER TARPORLEY

NOVEMBER 7, 2016 | PILKINGTONFC

**Tarporley Victoria 1-7 Pilkington**

*Saturday 5th November, Cheshire League Division One*

**After what seemed a tight affair in the first half, Pilks blasted away Tarporely with an emphatic second half display.**





Both Boylan and Taylor should have put Pilks ahead within the first ten minutes. Within the first few minutes Taylor found himself clear but was unable to beat the keeper and then a few minutes later a cross from Taylor was met by Boylan but couldn't be converted. In between this, Tarporley shown they could be a threat when a shot from their forward was neatly saved by Cork in the Pilks goal. The opening 20 minutes, was an even affair until a strong tackle from right back Jones allowed Pilks to break quickly and the through ball from Taylor found Boylan clear and he provided the very neat finish.



### *Tarporley Victoria 0-1 Pilkington*

Despite being a goal up, the first half display from Pilks was sluggish. Tarporley were stronger in all departments, especially in midfield and only poor finishing let them down.

### ***Half-Time: Tarporley Victoria 0-1 Pilkington***

Strong words must have been said at half-time as Pilks came out the second half a different team. The midfield started to press and with sharp and short passing they began to dominate the game. In the 50th Minute, a Taylor corner was met by centre-half MacCausland whose header beat the keeper to make it 2-0.



### *Tarporley Victoria 0-2 Pilkington*

Tarporley then took the decision to change to three at the back which seemed a strange decision as Pilks, in Taylor, have one of the quickest forwards in the league. Within two minutes, Pilks were 3-0 up, now completely dominating the midfield battle, Gillum played a neat through ball for Taylor to finish impressively in the bottom corner.





*Tarporley Victoria 0-3 Pilkington*

Pilks impressive second half display continued and Taylor made it 3-0 in the 68th minute. From 25 yards out, his stunning free kick beat the wall and then the Tarporley keeper to nestle in the top left hand corner.





### *Tarporley Victoria 0-4 Pilkington*

Taylor was now being left in too much space down the left and it was becoming too easy for him to get in behind the Tarporley defence. In the 75th minute he broke free once more and delivered a pinpoint cross from Boylan to head home from 8 yards out. Two minutes later, Tarporley had a rare second half attack and their forward managed to find space to slot home a consolation goal.



### *Tarporley Victoria 1-5 Pilkington*

Then, minutes later the Tarporley midfielder misplaced a pass on the halfway and it fell to Taylor who after seeing the keeper off his line, chipped the ball into the net from 35 yards out to complete his hat-trick.

### *Tarporley Victoria 1-6 Pilkington*

In the 88th minute, with Tarporley just wishing the game was over, Gillum again put Taylor through on the left hand side and he hit it near post into the roof of the net.

### *Tarporley Victoria 1-7 Pilkington*



This completed the rout. It was an impressive second half display by Pilks who finally shown their potential to put teams away after weeks of poor finishing.

**Full-Time: Tarporley Victoria 1-7 Pilkington**

**Line-up:** Rob Cork, William Jones, Liam Tarrington, Chris Tingay, Luke McCausland, Tom Potter, Connah Kilgallon, Miguel Gillam, Graham Boylan, Matty Taylor, Adam Edwards. **Subs:** Ste Palfrey





## MATCH REPORT

# POOR DISPLAY COSTS PILKS

NOVEMBER 14, 2016 | PILKINGTONFC

### **Pilkington FC 0-2 Halebank FC**

*Saturday 12th November 2016, Cheshire League Division One*

Pilks started the game as they finished the last one with some sharp passing giving both Boylan and Taylor chances to put them in the lead. Sadly though this lasted all of 15 minutes as Halebank settled into the game.

Pilks midfield couldn't handle the neat passing of the Halebank midfield and unlike previous games the opposition's forwards were also commanding of the Pilks back line. Halebank created a few chances and were unlucky to be ahead until the 25th minute, when the Halebank forward turned on the edge of the box and provided a neat finish just inside the post.



### *Pilkington FC 0-1 Halebank FC*

Pilks were just too sloppy in their play and gave possession away too easy which meant any kind of momentum was hard to find. However, they still carved out a few chances from Boylan's bustling runs. Taylor hit a free kick from 20 yards out that produced a fine save from the keeper, they hit the bar with another effort and even had a few goal line scrambles which suggested it wasn't going to be their day. On 39 minutes Boylan missed a glorious chance, heading it just wide at the back post.



In the 42nd minute, Pilks then committed suicide. A simple throw-in that should have gone down the line was thrown inside and the Halebank midfielder won possession and fed the forward for a simple finish.



## Half-time: Pilkington FC 0-2 Halebank FC

Pilks came out in the second half with a different shape and a slightly different attitude – they looked sharper in both their tackling and possession play. But again the final ball seemed to let them down too often. On 68 mins, they finally managed to get Taylor free but he could only hit the ball at the keeper whilst a succession of Taylor corners couldn't find the finishing touch. Another free kick from Taylor produced a fine save from the keeper and Boylan wasted another chance from a cut back.



On 75 mins it seemed the breakthrough had come when Taylor broke free again down the left and fed the ball through to Sephton whose rocket shot rattled against the bar again. Halebank had hardly mounted a useful attack in the second half as Pilks were dominant once again at the back. But in midfield they were still too wasteful and not able to find that final ball through to the forwards. On 85 mins, Gillam had his header saved again by the keeper.



It was a very poor performance by Pilks and a chance to move a few places up the league lost. They will have to pick themselves up quickly as they have a tough away fixture at AFC Macclesfield this weekend.

**Full-Time: Pilkington FC 0-2 Halebank FC**

**Line-up:** Rob Cork, William Jones, Liam Tarrington, Chris Tingay, Luke McCausland, Ian McBride, Connah Kilgallon, Miguel Gillam, Graham Boylan, Matty Taylor, Adam Edwards. **Subs:** Luke Sephton, Danny Hughes, Stephen Palfrey





## MATCH REPORT

# SLUGGLISH PILKS MISS OUT AGAIN

NOVEMBER 21, 2016 | PILKINGTONFC

## AFC Macclesfield FC 2-1 Pilkington FC

*Saturday 19th November 2016, Cheshire League Division One*

With all other games in the League off due to the weather, this was another chance for Pilks to climb the table. The game started at a frantic pace on the carpet at Stockport Sports Village and both teams had chances to go ahead in the opening 15 minutes. For Pilks, Taylor had a half chance before being put clear only for the keeper to stand up well to keep the scores equal.



The Macclesfield No 10 was proving to be a handful with his pace and but for two or three brave saves from the impressive debutant keeper Finney Pilks could have been a few goals down. Pilks lacked sharpness and width in their play on the large 3G surface but still managed to carve open a few more half chances through Boylan, Taylor and Hughes.

The deadlock was broken in the 30th minute. Pilks lost the ball sloppily on the edge of the Macclesfield box and the long clearance found the pacy No 10 in space. His pass inside was neatly finished by the Macclesfield Forward.





### **Half time: AFC Macclesfield FC 1-0 Pilkington FC**

At half-time, Pilks made 3 changes as Sephton, Smailes and Potter were introduced to provide some width. There was nearly an instant response from Pilks as straight from the kick off Taylor found Smailes on the edge of the box and his shot rattled the bar.

Two minutes later and Pilks were caught out again albeit this time it was down to luck. As they cleared a Macclesfield corner, the ball deflected to a forward who was unmarked in the box and his scuffed shot bounced into the ground giving Finney no chance in goal.



### *AFC Macclesfield FC 2-0 Pilkington FC*

Pilks were completely dominant in the game from this point on. They were sharper and more direct which led to Boylan, Smailes and Taylor all having chances. They reduced Macclesfield to few attacks on the break which were easily smothered by the Pilks defence.

In the 75th minute, Taylor found himself one-on-one with the keeper again and his low shot was nestling into the bottom corner before the keeper once again pulled off a great save.

Pilks were knocking on the door but only found the key in the 87th minute. Boylan turned in space on the halfway and drove at the Macclesfield defence. With players either side of him the pass was on but he kept driving and unleashed a power shot from 25 yds out that finally beat the Macclesfield keeper.





### *AFC Macclesfield FC 2-1 Pilkington FC*

The final few minutes were frantic for Macclesfield as Pilks pushed for the equaliser. Sephton's shot was deflected wide and Boylan got onto a through ball in the dying seconds and he slipped it under the keeper's body only to see it go fractionally wide.



It all seemed a little too late for Pilks who if they had scored earlier in the second half may well have got something from this game. For the second game running they started the game sluggish and left themselves too much to do.

**Full-Time: AFC Macclesfield 2-1 Pilkington**

**Line-up:** Daniel Finney, William Jones, Liam Tarrington, Chris Tingay, Luke McCausland, Ian McBride, Connah Kilgallon, Danny Hughes, Graham Boylan, Matty Taylor, Ian Frazer. **Subs:** Luke Sephton, Brad Smailes, Tom Potter





## MATCH REPORT

# SEPHTON SEALS THE FIRST WIN

NOVEMBER 28, 2016 | PILKINGTONFC

**Pilkington FC 3-1 Dagen FC**

*Saturday 26th November, Cheshire League Division One*

This was the first game for the 1st team on the new 3G surface so there were high expectations for a good performance. Fortunately, they didn't disappoint on this historic day.





Straight from the kick off you could see that they were in the mood with high pressing, slick passing and exciting wing play. Within two minutes, Pilks were 1-0 up. A neat one-two between Matty Taylor and Brad Smailes allowed Taylor to drive into space. Smailes followed him down the wing where Taylor released him and his first time cross was met by Graham Boylan who neatly converted for the first goal on the ground for the 1st Team.





## *Pilkington FC 1-0 Daten FC*

Pilks were completely dominant and Taylor, Luke Sephton and Smailes all had chances to put this game away early on. Miguel Gillam's powerful tackling and veteran Ian Frazer's composure in midfield coupled with the dynamic running of the front four meant Pilks were finding it all too easy to get in behind the Daten defence. On 20 mins, Sephton raced clear and his neat finish under the body of the keeper made it 2-0.



## *Pilkington FC 2-0 Daten FC*

Five minutes later and Boylan converted a Taylor corner only for the referee to

disallow the goal – a decision that even the Daten bench found bemusing. The opposition we're reduced to the odd counter attack and long shot but all in all the first half performance was a dominant display by Pilks.



***Half-Time: Pilkington FC 2-0 Daten FC***

With the crowd hoping for more of the same in the second half, Pilks again didn't disappoint. One minute in and some neat play from Frazer fed Taylor and his reverse pass released Sephton down the wing. He cut inside and again finished neatly for his second of the match.





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

More chances fell Pilks way as Taylor, Boylan and Smailes had efforts saved by the keeper. On 57 mins the ball fell to Gillam, whose forward run found him clear with only the keeper to beat but somehow he managed to steer it clear.

On 60 minutes, Pilks made changes as they introduced Dean O'Brien to replace Boylan and Gillam was replaced by new signing from East Villa, Adam Dixon. Daten themselves reacted and changed their formation. They started to dominate possession in midfield but were reduced to a few half chances as Tingay and McCausland patrolled Pilks back line well.





With 20 minutes left Pilks made further changes with Edwards and Tarrington coming on. As Pilks took their foot of the pedal, Daten started to control more of the game. With 15 minutes left Daten pulled back a consolation goal, a disappointment for Pilks as they were looking for that elusive clean sheet.





This made the last 15 minutes a little tense but Pilks were in control. Both Taylor and Sephton missed one-on-one chances to put them further ahead and an instinctive save from Rob Cork kept the final score at 3-1.

*Pilkington FC 3-1 Daten FC*

Overall it was a very impressive display from Pilks and the hope is that they can find the consistency to take this into next week's tough away trip to Loo stock Gralam.

***Full-Time: Pilkington FC 3-1 Daten FC***

***Line-up:*** Rob Cork, Calvin Birchall, Connah Kilgallon, Chris Tingay, Luke McCausland, Ian Frazer, Miguel Gillam, Brad Smailes, Graham Boylan, Matty Taylor, Luke Sephton. ***Subs:*** Liam Tarrington, Adam Edwards, Dean O'Brien, Adam Dixon



#### **MATCH REPORT**

# TAYLOR HAT-TRICK EDGES OUT LOSTOCK IN A 7-GOAL THRILLER

DECEMBER 5, 2016 | PILKINGTONFC

**Lostock Gralam 3-4 Pilkington**

*Cheshire League Division One, Saturday 3rd December 2016*

Matty Taylor's first half hat-trick seemed to suggest that this was to be an easy day for Pilkington, but Lostock's tenacity got them back into the game and with four goals and two penalties in the 2nd half the game turned into a seven goal thriller.





The game started as a tight affair but came alive on 18 mins when a cleared corner fell to Taylor whose cross was met by Graham Boylan's header that went close.





Two minutes later and Lostock's midfielder fired a rocket from 25 yards that went narrowly wide. This was now an end-to-end match and after a strong tackle by Miguel Gillam, Brad Smailes received the ball in the Lostock box but his effort could only hit the side netting.



At the other end, the Pilks midfield got caught in possession at the edge of their own box and with a neat one-two the Lostock midfielder found himself clear on the six yard box for what looked like the opener. Fortunately, Connah Kilgallon recovered well and prevented a sure goal with a strong tackle.

In the 22nd minute the deadlock was broken. Ian Frazer won the header in midfield before Luke Sephton lofted pass eluded the Lostock defender to leave Taylor clear who rounded the keeper to slot home.

### **Lostock Gralam FC 0-1 Pilkington**

Two minutes later and a fine save from Rob Cork prevented a Lostock equaliser from a free kick. It did seem as though it was too easy for Pilks to get in behind the Lostock defence and on 31 mins a Boylan through ball got Taylor in again who cut inside and forced a good save from the keeper. Five minutes later though and there was nothing the keeper could do about Taylor's second. Gillam won possession and fed it wide to Tarrington whose ball into Boylan



was laid off to Taylor for him to curl it into the top corner from the edge of the box.



### **Lostock Gralam FC 0-2 Pilkington**

Lostock could have pulled one back straight away as from the restart a cross found the forward free in the box but his header went over the bar. Taylor had another half chance from a long clearance before making it 3-0 a minute before the half. Frazer won the header and Sephton set Taylor free and he smashed it into the top corner again from just inside the box.





**Half-time: Lostock Gralam FC 0-3 Pilkington FC**

The start of the second half was much of the same as Pilks continued to dominate possession and create the chances. Taylor had the ball in the net five min-



utes in but was deemed offside and in the 60th minute Boylan's strong run down the wing produced a great cross that was met by Brad Smailes but his shot was blocked on the line.



Two minutes later and the game changed on its head. Some neat play and a quick turn in the box from the Lostock forward caught Luke McCausland out and his tackle resulted in a penalty for Lostock.



### **Lestock Gralam FC 1-3 Pilkington FC**

The momentum suddenly shifted Lestock's way and Pilkington were under real pressure for the first time in the game. Lestock pushed men forward as they searched for another goal and this helped Pilks. A neat one-two with Boylan set Smailes free and he slotted past the keeper only to see it hit the post. Fortunately Gillam followed up to make it 4-1.





### **Lostock Gralam FC 1-4 Pilkington FC**

Despite the goal difference, Pilkington seemed very nervous as Lostock kept coming back. With 17 minutes left, Lostock scored their second at the back post.

### **Lostock Gralam FC 2-4 Pilkington FC**

Boylan was replaced by McBride to add steal to the midfield that was now being dominated for the first time in the game by Lostock.

It seemed as though Pilks were falling apart. Their shape had gone and they were panicking every time they got the ball. With six minutes left Lostock scored again and it was clearly panic stations now for Pilks.



### **Lostock Gralam FC 3-4 Pilkington FC**

In the last minute though, a long punt found Taylor free down the side and he drove into the box and his cut back found Gillam who was just about to convert before being fouled by the Lostock defender – penalty! Unfortunately, the keeper saved well from Taylor and the scores stayed the same.

Lostock still kept coming forward in the five minutes of injury time but Pilks held on for the win, even surviving a late penalty shout with one of the last plays of the game.

### **Full-time: Lostock Gralam 3-4 Pilkington**

*Line-up: Rob Cork, Liam Tarrington, Tom Potter, Connah Kilgallon, Luke McCausland, Ian Frazer, Miguel Gillam, Brad Smailes, Luke Sephton, Graham Boylan, Matty Taylor. Subs: Ian Macbride*





#### MATCH REPORT

## PILKS RUN RIOT AT GRAPPENHALL

DECEMBER 12, 2016 | PILKINGTONFC

### Grappenhall 0-7 Pilkington

*Cheshire League Division One, Saturday 10th December 2017*

Pilkington swept aside Grappenhall with goals from Graham Boylan, Brad Smailes, Matty Taylor, Connor Kilgallon and Luke Sephton.



Pilks dominated this game from the beginning and both Sephton and Boylan had chances in the first 10 minutes to open the scoring whilst long range shots from Tom Potter and Ian Frazer also failed to hit the back of the net.

In the 13th minute a cleared corner fell to Frazer whose cross eluded the Grappenhall defence and fell to Taylor on the edge of the six yard box but again he failed to take his chance. It took 15 mins before there was a meaningful shot on goal by the hosts. Kilgallon got caught in possession and a neat ball inside to the Grappenhall forward whose shot produced a fine save from Rob Cork.





Despite their dominance, Pilks were still very sluggish and lacked the sharpness of recent games. Sephton broke free in the 22nd minute but could only hit the side netting and a few minutes later his shot hit a defender on the way in after Taylor pulled it back to him.

In the 25th minute, Taylor had a shot cleared off the line after some neat play between him and Kilgallon. Taylor was started to exploit the space down the sides now and in the 35th minute a good ball down the line from Kilgallon found him free again but Boylan couldn't connect to his cut back.



Finally in the 41st minute the deadlock was broken, albeit with a slice of luck. Boylan used his strength to turn the defender out wide and as he got to the byline his miscued cross caught the impressive Grappenhall keeper out and it somehow crept in at the nearpost.



**Grappenhall Sports 0-1 Pilkington**

3 minutes later and Pilks were 2-0 up. Liam Tarrington was finding more space



to move forward from right back and his low cross was finished first-time by Smailes at the back post.



### Grappenhall Sports 0-2 Pilkington

Despite the score Pilks were lucky as the performance was very sluggish and Grappenhall had a few half chances saved by Cork in the Pilks goal.



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

In the first minute of the second half Grappenhall had the ball in the back of the net but it was ruled offside. For the first ten minutes of the half, Grappenhall rallied and it looked like Pilks were going to let them back in the game.



But they regained control of the match in the 60th minute. Boylan bounced a ball back to Taylor whose 30 yard rocket flew into the bottom corner.

### **Grappenhall Sports 0-3 Pilkington**

This seemed to knock the wind out of Grappenhall and from this point on it was all too easy for Pilks. In the 65th min, Taylor broke free from a tackle and powered through to chip the advancing keeper to make it 4-0.





#### **Grappenhall Sports 0-4 Pilkington**

Calvin Birchall replaced the injured Frazer and in the 75th minute, Sephton released another 25 yard rocket to make it 5-0.



#### **Grappenhall Sports 0-5 Pilkington**

There were some neat finishes on show but the goal of the game came in the

81st minute. Taylor released Kilgallon out wide, he cut inside and danced past four players before calmly slotting past the keeper from a tight angle.



### Grappenhall Sports 0-6 Pilkington

A minute later and the keeper cannoned the ball against Sephton and it fell to Smailes whose cross was met by Taylor but his effort shaved the post.



In the final minute, Taylor tapped in Sephton's cross to complete his second hat-trick in as many games.



## **Grappenhall Sports 0-7 Pilkington**

Overall it was a strong performance which puts Pilks right back in the promotion race.

### **Full-Time: Grappenhall Sports 0-7 Pilkington**

*Line-up: Rob Cork, Liam Tarrington, Tom Potter, Chris Tingay, Luke McCausland, Ian Frazer, Connah Kilgallon, Brad Smailes, Luke Sephton, Graham Boylan, Matty Taylor.*

*Subs: Calvin Birchall*

## MATCH REPORT

# PILKS MARCH ON UP THE TABLE

DECEMBER 18, 2016 | PILKINGTONFC

### **Pilkington 3-2 Mersey Valley**

*Cheshire League Division One, Saturday 10th December 2016*

**In foggy conditions, Pilkington edged out 4th place Mersey Valley to move into 2nd place before the xmas break.**

Almost straight from the kick off Graham Boylan put Brad Smailes through but his shot was well saved by the keeper. Pilks started the game with Ian Frazer a doubt through the injury he picked up last week and in the first 25 minutes Mersey Valley dominated the midfield and had a few half chances to put themselves ahead. Frazer finally succumbed on 30 mins being replaced by Adam Dixon. The fog was also descending and the conditions were worsening making it more difficult for both sets of players.

In the 35th minute, a 60 yard ping from Chris Tingay found Matty Taylor who nutmegged the centre half to get clear but his shot went just wide. Pilks were now starting to dominate the game as Dixon and Migual Gillam gained control in midfield. Five minutes before the half, Boylan turned on the edge of the box but his shot went over the bar. A minute later he had another effort well saved before Gillam's follow up went wide.

With Mersey Valley being totally dominated, their frustrations were being taken out on the Pilks players. In the 43rd minute, Gillam was chopped down 25 yards out but Taylor's free kick sailed wide.

The deadlock was broken right on half-time, Smailes played a nice ball round the corner for Taylor to break free out wide and with the keeper advancing well outside his box, Taylor rounded him to finish from the angle.

**Half-time:** *Pilkington 1-0 Mersey Valley*



There was some debate between both management teams and the referee at half-time over whether the conditions may force the game to be abandoned. The Mersey Valley management were pressing hard for it to be abandoned but the referee was satisfied that he could carry on.

Pilkington started the half again in dominate form and in the 50th minute, Dixon's cross was met at the back post by Smailes who should have made it 2-0.

Five minutes later and Mersey Valley were down to 10 men after the Mersey Valley Centre-half threw a punch at Taylor after a spat between the two.

The fog was now heavy in patches and as it was getting more difficult for the referee so he halted proceedings for five minutes. The fog lifted slightly and the referee was happy to restart the game, although understandably Mersey Valley were against this decision. Almost straight from the restart, Dixon won possession in midfield before sliding in Taylor who raced to the by-line before pulling it back for Smailes to make it 2-0.

#### *Pilkington 2-0 Mersey Valley*

A few minutes later and Boylan made it 3-0 after some neat play between him and Taylor.

#### *Pilkington 3-0 Mersey Valley*

In the 70th minute, Smailes went clean through but failed to increase Pilks lead. With 15 minutes left and Pilks strolling they made two changes but this seemed to unsettle Pilks slightly and Mersey Valley started to dominate the game for the first time since the opening quarter.

In the 81st minute, the Mersey Valley forward forced a brilliant double save from Rob Cork. In the next two minutes though, Pilks lost all their composure and Mersey Valley were able to pull back two goals in as many minutes.

#### *Pilkington 3-2 Mersey Valley*

This set up a tense final few minutes to a game which the Mersey Valley Management team now wanted to continue! Pilks held on for a massive win that means they finish 2016 on a high.

**Full-Time: Pilkington 3-2 Mersey Valley**

**Line-up:** *Rob Cork, Calvin Birchall, Connah Kilgallon, Chris Tingay, Luke McCausland, Ian Frazer, Migul Gillam, Brad Smailes, Luke Sephton, Graham Boylan, Matty Taylor. Subs: Alex Higham, Adam Dixon, Adam Edwards, Tom Potter*





#### **MATCH REPORT**

# EMPHATIC FIRST WIN FOR 2017

JANUARY 9, 2017 | PILKINGTONFC

**Mersey Valley 0-4 Pilkington**

*Cheshire League Division One, Saturday 7th January 2017*

It's always hard after the Christmas break to get up and going straight away but for Pilkington's this was a must win after the good form they shown in December.



The key was to get a positive start and take command of the game early on and boy did they deliver. In the first 35 minutes, Mersey Valley only managed one meaningful attack but for the rest of the time it was all Pilks.

Within the first 5 minutes, Pilks could have been 2-0 up. Matty Taylor broke free on the left and his cross was met by Graham Boylan but he couldn't convert and then Brad Smailes turned on the 18 yard box but his effort was saved by the keeper.





On 8 mins though, Pilks defence did switch off and Rob Cork pulled off a great save to keep the scores level. From the corner, Cork gathered the ball well and quickly released Taylor who burst down the left and despite being fouled, cut the ball back to the unmarked Sephton who coolly slotted in the corner to make it 1-0.

**Mersey Valley 0-1 Pilkington**



6 minutes later and a poor clearance down the line by Mersey Valley keeper fell to Taylor who ambitiously tried a lob from 40 yards out. Thankfully for Mersey Valley the keeper recovered to keep the scores at 1-0.

With the new midfield pairing of Adam Dixon and Miguel Gillam pressing hard, Pilks were in total control.





In the 25th Minute, Calvin Birchall failed to convert Chris Tingay's free kick despite being free in the 6-yard box and 3 minutes later and following some great recovery work from Sephton, Taylor broke free but with only the keeper to beat he put it wide.

The Mersey Valley defence were struggling to deal with the pace of the Pilks forward line and a minute later Taylor was in again after a great pass from Dixon. This time he finished to double Pilks lead.

**Mersey Valley 0-2 Pilkington**



Again it seemed too easy for the forwards to get in and almost straight from the kick off Connah Killgallon worked hard in the corner to recover the ball before finding Boylan in the middle of the pitch. His flick on got Taylor in again but he was wasteful with the chance.

10 minutes before the half and Pilks were 3-0 up. Boylan made a strong tackle in midfield to recover the ball and then lifted the ball over the top for Sephton to break free for his second of the match.

**Mersey Valley 0-3 Pilkington**





Finally this was the catalyst for Mersey Valley to make some changes and this seemed to sure up the back line for them. Pilks also went off the boil in the last five minutes of the half and started to allow Mersey Valley into the game.

Despite this Boylan had a chance to make it 4-0 in the dying minutes of the half before Mersey Valley had their best chance of the game. The ball was half cleared by the Pilks defence and the cross found the forward free in the six yard box but somehow Cork produced a point blank double save to preserve Pilk's clean sheet.

### **Half-Time: Mersey Valley 0-3 Pilkington**

The second half started with Pilks conscious that they couldn't become complacent, whilst Mersey Valley introduced a player who seemed content on disrupting the play as much as he could. On 55 mins, the player's over the top tackle resulted in Tingay leaving the field and Pilks needing to reshuffle with Boylan going to centre half.



On 60 mins, Smailes won back possession before passing to Gillam who, after a neat 1-2, slotted Taylor in for his second of the game.





### **Mersey Valley 0-4 Pilkington**

The game itself seemed to fizzle out at this point despite Taylor having a few further chances to extend their lead. Pilks need to be thankful to Cork in goal. With Pilks taking their foot off the gas he produced a few great saves late on to ensure they didn't concede.



This was a really dominant performance by a Pilks team that seems to be growing in confidence with every game and this can only be a good sign as they enter the title run in.

**Full-Time: Mersey Valley 0-4 Pilkington**

**Line-up:** Rob Cork, Calvin Birchall, Connah Kilgallon, Chris Tingay, Luke McCausland, Adam Dixon, Miguel Gillam, Brad Smailes, Luke Sephton, Graham Boylan, Matty Taylor. **Subs:** Ian Frazer, Callum Fearnley





#### **MATCH REPORT**

# SLUGGISH PILKS MOVE INTO SECOND PLACE

JANUARY 15, 2017 | PILKINGTONFC

## **Pilkington 4-2 Egerton**

*Cheshire League Division One, Saturday 14th January 2017*

**This was a sluggish performance by Pilks but even so they managed to edge out Egerton in a match where possession dominated proceedings.**





In the 9th minute the first chance of the game fell to Matty Taylor who should have squared it to Brad Smailes but instead he elected to fire the ball wide.

10 minutes later and Pilks took the lead. After some neat work on the left by Brad Smailes, Tom Potter produced the cross that midfielder Miguel Gillam stabbed home.



*Pilkington 1-0 Egerton*



Pilks could only hold onto the lead for a few minutes though. An Egerton free kick was not cleared and it dropped to the Egerton centre half who fired home the equaliser.

### *Pilkington 1-1 Egerton*

This spurred Pilks on and in the 35th minute, a tigerish run into the box from Smailes forced a corner. The inswinger was met at the front post by Gillam to put Pilks in the lead again.

### *Pilkington 2-1 Egerton*

Straight from the kick off and Pilks should have been further ahead. Potter won the ball back and he played in Smailes who should have crossed first time for Boylan who was free in the box.



### **Half-time: Pilkington 2-1 Egerton**

Despite being ahead, the performance was far from perfect and the management attempted to bring more composure to their play by exchanging Gillam for Ian Frazer.



The first chance of the half fell to the Egerton forward who was looking more dangerous as the game went on.

In the 55th minute Pilks extended their lead. Sephton closed down well to win the ball before feeding Boylan who squared it for Taylor to tap it in.

### *Pilkington 3-1 Egerton*

Despite being two goals down, the second half was dominated by Egerton. They had most of the possession and the two Egerton forwards were a constant threat but the impressive Luke McCausland was a rock at the back.





With 25 minutes left, Boylan won a strong tackle before turning neatly and playing the ball forwards to the advancing Taylor. Both the Egerton defender and keeper misjudged the flight of the ball and Taylor was able to roll it into the net to make in 4-1.

#### *Pilkington 4-1 Egerton*

Pilks introduced McBride and Fearnley for the final quarter of the game and with 17 minutes left Egerton pulled one back. The Egerton forward turned neatly on the edge of the box before he dispatched his shot into the back of the net.

#### *Pilkington 4-2 Egerton*

Straight from the kick off and Pilks should have scored again. Taylor played Sephton in down the line from the kick off and his cross was met by Smailes but his header was cleared off the line.

Egerton had the ball in the back of the net again with 10 minutes left but it was ruled out for offside. It was not the best performance from Pilks and they didn't dominate in the way they have in the last few games but nethertheless they extend their unbeaten run to 6 games and moved back into second place in the league.

## **Full-Time: Pilkington 4-2 Egerton**

**Line-up:** *Rob Cork, Calvin Birchall, Connah Kilgallon, Tom Potter, Luke McCausland, Adam Dixon, Miguel Gillam, Brad Smailes, Luke Sephton, Graham Boylan, Matty Taylor. Subs: Ian Frazer, Callum Fearnley, Ian McBride, Adam Edwards*





#### **MATCH REPORT**

# PILKS HOLD ON TO EXTEND THEIR WINNING RUN

JANUARY 23, 2017 | PILKINGTONFC

**Pilkington 4-3 AFC Macclesfield**

*Cheshire League Division One, Saturday 21st January 2017*

**In a 7-goal thriller at Ruskin Drive, Pilks held on for the 3 points, but it was only just!**

It was always going to be a tight game against a team who are in the hunt for the title and Macclesfield had the chance to go ahead after just 8 minutes. After a cushioned pass from Miguel Gillam, the Pilks keeper Rob Cork elected to catch the ball 7 yards out but fortunately Macclesfield shot wide from the free kick.



Seven minutes later and Pilks were ahead. After a great recovery tackle from the impressive Adam Dixon, Cork released Matty Taylor who finished impressively over the advancing keeper.

#### *Pilkington 1-0 AFC Macclesfield*

With Macclesfield controlling a lot of the possession and Pilks being very disciplined it was always going to be a game of few chances. However with four minutes to go until the half Macclesfield seemed to switch off and Pilks were able to extend their lead.





In the 41st minute, Ian Frazer had a speculative shot from 20 yards out but somehow the keeper managed to spill the ball under his body to double Pilks lead.



*Pilkington 2-0 AFC Macclesfield*

Two minutes later and Pilks scored again as Luke Sephton headed home Taylor's corner at the front post.

### *Half-time: Pilkington 3-0 AFC Macclesfield*

There had not been much between the teams in the first half and Pilks came out in the second half determined to keep hold of the lead. 1 minute in and Sephton hit the post and Taylor should have converted the rebound.

But this game was not all Pilks and Macclesfield still looked strong in possession and were carving out a few half chances for themselves. On 55 mins they should have converted the corner with the centre-half missing at the back post.



A minute later and after another poor clearance from the Macclesfield keeper Dixon won the ball back but the keeper recovered well to save his shot from 25 yards.

On 62 mins, Sephton won the ball back and drove into the Macclesfield penalty box and his shot somehow went past the Macclesfield keeper to make it 4-0.





#### *Pilkington 4-0 AFC Macclesfield*

Macclesfield had nothing to lose at this point and a change in formation seemed to rattle Pilks. Suddenly the game changed with 25 minutes to go as Macclesfield scored two quick goals.

#### *Pilkington 4-2 AFC Macclesfield*

With Pilks losing composure and unable to cope with the Macclesfield onslaught you feared for the worst. With 10 minutes left Macclesfield scored again to set up what was going to be a tense and nervous end to the game.

#### *Pilkington 4-3 AFC Macclesfield*

With Pilks wobbling, Macclesfield had the ball in the back of the net again but the referee ruled it offside. They also had to be thankful to Rob Cork for two tremendous saves in the dying minutes.



For the second game running Pilks had to hang on for their seventh win in a row and with 3rd placed Billinge beating league-leaders Warrington Town Reserves this title race seems to be going to go to the wire.

**Full-Time: Pilkington 4-3 AFC Macclesfield**

**Line-up:** Rob Cork, Miguel Gillam, Connah Kilgallon, Tom Potter, Luke McCausland, Adam Dixon, Ian Frazer, Brad Smailes, Luke Sephton, Graham Boylan, Matty Taylor.  
**Subs:** Jake Worrall, Ian McBride, Calvin Birchall





## MATCH REPORT

# ITS ALL LEVEL AT THE TOP

FEBRUARY 5, 2017 | PILKINGTONFC

### **Pilkington 3-1 Cheadle Town Reserves**

*Saturday 4th February, Cheshire League Division One*

**Pilkington moved level on points at the top of the league after they edged out a very accomplished Cheadle Town Reserve side whose position doesn't reflect the quality they possess.**

Cheadle started the game the quickest and could have been ahead in the first few minutes when a long throw caught out the Pilks defence but Gillum was able to clear at the back post.





It took Pilks 15 minutes for their first meaningful opportunity when some neat play between Smailes and Taylor led to Frazer shooting over from the edge of the box.

The first half was a midfield battle as both teams held firm in defence and it took 41 minutes for the deadlock to be broken.

Tingay won the ball midway in the Pilks half and he played Taylor in who rounded the keeper for his 30th goal of the season.



*Pilkington 1-0 Cheadle Town Reserves*



A photograph showing a youth soccer game in progress. In the foreground, a player wearing a green jersey with the number 17 is captured mid-kick, sending the ball downfield. To his right, another player in a dark blue jersey is also in motion. Further back, several other players are visible; some wear blue jerseys while others wear red training bibs over their clothing. On the far left, a man in a dark blue tracksuit stands observing the play. The background features a chain-link fence and a dense line of trees. The field itself is green grass with visible white and yellow boundary lines.

The opening exchanges of the second half saw Pilks have a few chances to extend their lead. Boylan had his effort well saved from the keeper and Taylor



had one cleared off the line.

The game itself was pretty even and Cheadle were threatening to get back in it.



But on the break, Pilks were still a danger with Taylor having two chances where maybe a simple ball inside could have been more effective.



With 15 minutes left Cheadle got one back when the unmarked centre mid-fielder dispatched his shot from the edge of the box into the bottom corner. Game on!



### *Pilkington 2-1 Cheadle Town Reserves*

Pilks instantly hit back a minute later. A misplaced pass fell to Frazer who put Taylor in. As he drifted wide the opportunity seemed to be lost but he cut inside and chipped the keeper with a sublime finish.

### *Pilkington 3-1 Cheadle Town Reserves*



Pilks closed the game out well and could scored a few more in the last ten minutes. Taylor flicked the ball round to release Worrall who got to the byline and cut inside before firing a cross against the post and Smailes failed to convert the rebound. With minutes left, Worrall crossed again but Smailes couldn't find the finish.

Whilst not at the same level as they have been in recent games, Pilks ground out the result to keep themselves right in the title race.

### ***Full-time: Pilkington 3-1 Cheadle Town Reserves***

**Line-up:** Rob Cork, Miguel Gillam, Connah Kilgallon, Chris Tingay, Luke McCausland, Ian McBride, Ian Frazer, Brad Smailes, Tom Potter, Graham Boylan, Matty Taylor. **Subs:** Jake Worrall, Calvin Birchall, Will Jones



#### MATCH REPORT

# EIGHT MATCH WINNING RUN ENDS AT TITLE RIVALS

FEBRUARY 11, 2017 | PILKINGTONFC

**Warrington Town Reserves 2-1 Pilkington FC**

*Saturday 11th February 2017, Cheshire Division One*





This top of the table clash ended with a narrow win for Warrington after Pilks had pushed them all the way. Warrington are an accomplished footballing team and it showed throughout though they didn't fashion too many chances against a very resilient Pilks team who showed exactly why they've had such a good unbeaten run lately.

It was however Town who had the first chance as early as the 4th min when a scuffed low shot brushed the Pilks post. After that it was Pilks who pressed, especially down the right hand side and when full back Calvin Birchall turned the Town defence around with a throw in Town could only clear at the expense of a corner. The corner was only half cleared and it was Pilks centre back Luke McCausland who returned the ball past Town keeper Nathan Butler for the first goal in the 12th minute.

*Warrington Town Res 0-1 Pilkington*

Matty Taylor then fired a free kick over the bar in the 17th min and Pilks were looking good. Town had a goal ruled out for a clear offside in the 34th min but were now mounting increasing pressing on Pilks.



But Pilks were always dangerous on the break and a minute later, Taylor drove down the line and cut the ball back to Boylan who really should have made it 2-0 from six yards out.

In the 44th min Pilks survived another scare when keeper Rob Cork made a superb save to deny Town an equaliser, before Taylor had the last chance of the half when he failed to pop the ball over the advancing keeper.

### **Half-time: Warrington Town Res 0-1 Pilkington**

Pilks centre back partnership of Tingay and McCausland were solid throughout the game and Ian McBride with Ryan Mason and Brad Smailes in midfield showed incredible energy and invention as they hunted down the ball and created chances for the lads ahead of them, add to that the guile and coolness of veteran midfielder Ian Frazer and you have a midfield to match any in the league.





Early in the second half and Boylan had the first chance but couldn't capitalise on poor Town defending. Cork then made a superb save on 51 mins when he stretched to tip a fierce shot over the bar to keep Pilks in the lead.

Pilks best chance of the second half came in the 55min when Smailes and Taylor combined down the left hand side resulting in a perfectly delivered cross which was steered just wide by Boylan.

That would have made things very difficult even for Town had they gone 0-2 down but as it was they stepped up the pressure and began to push Pilks back.

On 70mins, the game turned even more in Town's favour when Pilks thought they had cleared their lines only for the Town midfielder to deliver a fierce low drive from all of 35 yards giving Pilks keeper Rob Cork no chance, a superb equaliser.

*Warrington Town Res 1-1 Pilkington*

But Pilks responded superbly well at the other end when on 74 mins from a corner, Ryan sent an instinctive header against the Town bar. However, 1 minute later Town took the lead when the ball was headed home from a superb cross.

*Warrington Town Res 2-1 Pilkington*

Smailes and Birchall gave way for Potter and Clarke as Pilks Coach tried to recover the damage. Late on Pilks were denied a penalty when a very high boot in the penalty box caught Ryan on the head however the referee apparently seeing nothing amiss.



Pilks can be very proud of their efforts on a day when every man gave a superb performance going down to a strong Town team. Still plenty to play for and Pilks remain well placed to challenge for the title.

**Full-time: Warrington Town Res 2-1 Pilkington**

*Rob Cork, Calvin Birchall, Connah Killgallon, Luke McCausland, Chris Tingay, Ian Frazer, Ryan Mason, Ian McBride, Graham Boylan, Matty Taylor, Brad Smailes. Subs: Chris Clarke, Tom Potter, Jake Worrall*





#### CLUB NEWS

## PILKS HIT DOUBLE FIGURES

FEBRUARY 20, 2017 | PILKINGTONFC

**Pilkington 10-2 Wythenshawe Development Squad**

*Cheshire FL President's Cup, Saturday 18th February 2017*

Pilkington's dominant second half display brushed aside a youthful Wythenshawe Development Squad but it wasn't without a fright.



For the first 35 minutes it seemed as though Wythenshawe were going to pull off a result. They stunned Pilks by going 2-0 up within the first five minutes after sloppy defending.

*Pilkington 0-2 Wythenshawe Development Squad*

Their high energy and physical play knocked Pilks out of their stride and it took 20 minutes before Pilks had a meaningful shot on goal.

Pilks got their breakthrough after 23 minutes, when Matty Taylor slotted from a tight angle.

*Pilkington 1-2 Wythenshawe Development Squad*

Despite this setback, Wythenshawe continued to dominate the play and were unlucky to go further ahead on 30 minutes when a shot rattled the Pilks bar.





With ten minutes to go in the half Pilks seemed to wake up and start to put a few passes together, creating half-chances for Brad Smailes, Graham Boylan and Luke Sephton.



Right on half time Pilks leveled the score when Taylor grabbed his second of the match. Ian McBride battled well and deflected the ball to Taylor on the edge of the box. He turned neatly to dispatch his shot into the bottom corner.

*Pilkington 2-2 Wythenshawe Development Squad*

There was still time for another chance when McBride won the ball again and

put Boylan through but he failed to finish.

### **Half Time – Pilkington 2-2 Wythenshawe Development Squad**

Pilks came out in the second half with much more energy and in a 10-minute spell Pilks turned this game on the head.

The introduction of Jake Worrall at left back seemed to give more balance to the Pilks attack and in the 60th minute, a crossfield pass from Worrall found Sephton who turned neatly and slotted to give Pilks the lead.



### *Pilkington 3-2 Wythenshawe Development Squad*

A minute later and Worrall won the ball back and crossed only for the keeper to spill the ball to Taylor who fed to Sephton for his second of the match.

### *Pilkington 4-2 Wythenshawe Development Squad*

On 65 minutes, Taylor completed yet another hat-trick for the season with a lovely cushioned volley from the edge of the box.

### *Pilkington 5-2 Wythenshawe Development Squad*

Pilks were now completely dominant as the young Wythenshawe side became disheartened. On 67 minutes another ball down the line from Worrall found



Taylor whose pass allowed Smailes to round the keeper and finish from a tight angle.



### *Pilkington 6-2 Wythenshawe Development Squad*

A minute later and Sephton should have completed his hat-trick but wasted a clear cut chance after great work from Boylan.

It was now the Captain's turn to get in on the act. On 69 minutes he was fouled in the box and converted the penalty neatly.



### *Pilkington 7-2 Wythenshawe Development Squad*

Six minutes later he netted his second of the game after Chris Tingay's searching pass put him clear to finish.



### *Pilkington 8-2 Wythenshawe Development Squad*

With five minutes to go, Tingay returned the ball to the box after a cleared corner and Boylan managed to scramble the ball over the line to complete his hat-trick.

### *Pilkington 9-2 Wythenshawe Development Squad*

The last action of the game saw Smailes get his brace after McBride put him clear to make it 10-2.

### *Pilkington 10-2 Wythenshawe Development Squad*

It was a strong second half performance but there was a scare in those opening minutes and Pilks can't afford to start games so slowly in the important league games they have coming up.

### **Full Time: Pilkington 10-2 Wythenshawe Development Squad**

**Team Line up:** Rob Cork, Calvin Birchall, Connah Killgallon, Luke McCausland,



Chris Tingay, Ian Frazer, Luke Sephton, Ian McBride, Graham Boylan, Matty Taylor, Brad Smailes. **Subs:** Jake Worrall, Miguel Gillam



#### **MATCH REPORT**

## **PILKS BATTLE TO A WIN**

FEBRUARY 26, 2017 | PILKINGTONFC

**Pilkington 2-1 Moore United**

*Cheshire League Presidents Cup, Saturday 25th February 2017*

Pilkington battled to a 2-1 victory against Moore United in what was a tight affair at Ruskin Drive. Both sides had few chances in the opening half and neither side was able to open the scoring.





Pilks first chance fell to Luke Sephton on 12 minutes when lifted the ball over the bar from a few yards out. Brad Smailes shot just wide from 25 yards five minutes later and their only other chance fell to Sephton again.



Pilks full-back Jake Worrall was a constant threat down the left and in the 37th minute his cross fell to Graham Boylan whose shot rebounded to Sephton but as he prodded the ball goalwards the referee ruled him offside.





For a lot of the first half it was a tense midfield battle with both teams being very organised and they went in level at half time.

#### ***Half-time: Pilkington 0-0 Moore United***

The deadlock was broken three minutes into the second half. A Matty Taylor corner was met by Calvin Birchall whose bullet header flew past the keeper.



#### ***Pilkington 1-0 Moore United***

From the kick off Moore United went straight up the other half and as the for-



ward wriggled free young debutant Dan Finney pulled off a great save to preserve Pilk's lead. Moore were then unlucky to draw level as the ball was cleared off the line from the corner.



10 minutes later and a sweeping counter attack put Smailes through but he rushed his shot from the edge of the box and it just shaved the crossbar.

In the 65th minute the Moore United threw the ball against his own defender and it fell to Ian Frazer 25 yards out, he chipped it over the retreating keeper but it hit the bar and bounced clear.







This game was still tight and the Pilks defence didn't look like they were in the mood to concede. However, in the 69th minute, a series of basic mistakes led to the Moore equaliser. A poor free kick from the halfway was easily cleared and with players out of position Moore were able to counter and score with ease.

#### *Pilkington 1-1 Moore United*

But Pilks hit back almost instantly when a few minutes later a Taylor corner was met by Boylan whose header hit the bar and as Kilgallon's rebound went goalwards it ricocheted off two Moore defenders before going over the line.





## *Pilkington 2-1 Moore United*

As the game drifted to the final whistle, Pilks were much the stronger side. However, they were unable to open up the well-organised opposition in the way they have with teams this season. They showed great character to get the win that puts them top of their President's Cup group.



**Full Time: Pilkington 2-1 Moore United**

**Team Line up:** Dan Finlay, Calvin Birchall, Connah Killgallon, Jake Worrall, Chris Tingay, Ian Frazer, Luke Sephton, Ian McBride, Graham Boylan, Matty Taylor, Brad Smailes. **Subs:** Tom Potter, Miguel Gillam



#### **MATCH REPORT**

## **PILKS MOVE BACK INTO SECOND PLACE**

MARCH 6, 2017 | PILKINGTONFC

**Pilkington 3-1 Grappenhall Sports**

*Cheshire League Division One, Saturday 4th March 2017*

**Pilks negotiated another tricky game to make it 11 wins out of last 12 and move back into second place in the Cheshire League Division One.**





They started the game cautiously with their first real opportunity coming after 15 minutes when Luke Sephton delivered a low cross that the defender touched to deflect it away from Matty Taylor who was waiting to tap it in.

On 22 mins, Pilks had their best chance of the half. Migual Gillam played a neat ball down the line to Taylor who cut it back to Sephton and with just the keeper to beat he blasted the ball wildly over. A few minutes later and Taylor missed another opportunity for Pilks to take the lead.

Despite their position in the league, Grappenhall were strong opposition with their forwards causing constant problems. On 28 mins, Rob Cork pulled off a



great save to keep the scores level.



A few minutes before the half, Ian Frazer's power drive was heading for the top corner but the Grappenhall keeper managed to tip it round the post.

### **Half-time: Pilkington 0-0 Grappenhall Sports**

Pilks came out in the second half knowing they just needed a bit of quality to take control of this game. Graham Boylan had two early chances before Sephton forced the keeper into another good save on 49 minutes.





A minute later and Pilks were ahead. Grappenhall failed to clear the ball and as it fell to Taylor he managed to find a bit of space before curling the ball into the bottom corner.



*Pilkington 1-0 Grappenhall Sports*



Further chances fell to Taylor and Smailes before they doubled their lead on 60 minutes. Sephton glided past the defender before delivering the ball to Taylor who finished neatly for his 36<sup>th</sup> goal of the season.



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

Two minutes later and a simple ball over the top let the Grappenhall forward in to pull one back.

### ***Pilkington 2-1 Grappenhall Sports***

This gave Grappenhall some encouragement and they threatened the Pilks goal again but Cork pulled off another good save to preserve the lead.

Pilks made changes to secure up the game with Reg Healy coming on for Frazier and Alex Higham replacing Sephton.





With seven minutes left, Higham sealed the game for Pilks. He received the ball on the halfway line and with space in front of him he drove at the defence and finished from the edge of the box.

***Pilkington 3-1 Grappenhall Sports***



Another hard fought victory that sets Pilks up nicely for next week's important derby game away at Billinge.

**Full Time: Pilkington 3-1 Grappenhall Sports**

**Team Line up:** Rob Cork, Miguel Gillam , Connah Killgallon, Jake Worrall, Chris Tingay, Ian Frazer, Luke Sephton, Ian McBride, Graham Boylan, Matty Taylor, Brad Smailes. **Subs:** *Reg Healey, Alex Higham, William Edwards, Tom Picton*





#### **MATCH REPORT**

# PILKS OUTBATTLED IN DERBY DAY DEFEAT

MARCH 13, 2017 | PILKINGTONFC

**Billinge FC 5-2 Pilkington FC**

**Cheshire League Division One, Saturday 11th March 2017**

On a derby day it is about working hard and battling but unfortunately Pilks were second to every ball as Billinge took all the spoils and effectively knocked them out of the promotion race for another season.



Billinge opened the scoring on 14 mins when poor marking let them in at the back post. Pilks hit back within 2 mins when Taylor found space in the box to lift it over the keeper.

### ***Billinge 1-1 Pilkington***

Pilks were still very poor in possession and it took two great saves from Cork to keep them in the game. A hammer blow was dealt right on half time when poor defending again let Billinge in to make it 2-1.

### ***Half-time: Billinge 2-1 Pilkington***





Pilks came out strong after the half and put pressure on the Billinge defence but two breakaway goals within the first 15 minutes looked to have killed the game.

### ***Billinge 4-1 Pilkington***

On 65 minutes Pilks pulled one back when a hopeful ball from Taylor found Clarke at the far post who smashed it in off the bar.

### ***Billinge 4-2 Pilkington***



Taylor, Clarke and McCausland all had chances to pull another back as Pilks sensed a comeback. But it was a strong performance from Billinge who stood firm even when they went down to 10 men and they finished the game off with another goal 6 minutes from time.

### ***Billinge 5-2 Pilkington***



It was a disappointing display from Pilks who couldn't handle the opposition's movement or keep the ball long enough to play their usual football. They were out-thought and outfought and they will need to toughen up both mentally and physically if they are going to do what's expected of them.







**Full-time: Billinge 5-2 Pilkington**

**Team Line up:** Rob Cork, Connah Killgallon, Jake Worrall, Chris Tingay, Luke McCausland, Ian Frazer, Luke Sephton, Ian McBride, Graham Boylan, Matty Taylor, Brad Smailes. **Subs:** Miguel Gillam, Calvin Birchall, Tom Potter, Chris Clarke



#### **MATCH REPORT**

## POOR SECOND HALF DISPLAY COSTS PILKS

APRIL 3, 2017 | [PILKINGTONFC](#)

**Pilkington's second half display against a spirited West Didsbury side effectively knocked them out of the promotion race for another season.**

They started brightly with Sephton having two early chances and Taylor had the ball in the net on 10 minutes but this was ruled offside. A few minutes later and Taylor's cross was narrowly missed by Boylan.





Despite their bright start, Pilks looked nervous in possession and gave it away too easily and it took great composure from 16 year old Dan Finney in the Pilks goal to keep the scores level.





On 28 minutes a long clearance down the middle from Finney was misjudged by the West defence and Taylor brought it down and volleyed it in from 25 yards out. A typical wonder strike from Taylor who has been doing this all season.

*West Didsbury & Chorlton Reserves 0-1 Pilkington*

Pilks continued to give the ball away too easily but the good break up play by McBride was stemming most West attacks. With 6 minutes left Finney pulled off a great save, pushing the ball onto the bar to preserve Pilks lead at half-time.

**Half-time: West Didsbury & Chorlton Reserves 0-1 Pilkington**

Pilks just didn't come out in the second half and this game swung when West gradually started to dominate the midfield. They hit the post in the 57th minute and Finney produced a brilliant point blank save to keep Pilk's lead.





It took a bit of fortune for West to equalise. On 63 minutes, a clear handball was missed by the referee and this allowed the West winger to counter down the right and his cross was converted off the bar.

#### *West Didsbury & Chorlton Reserves 1-1 Pilkington*

One minute later and West were ahead. Another counter down the right but this time it was a tap in off the bar from a yard out.

#### *West Didsbury & Chorlton Reserves 2-1 Pilkington*

Pilks introduced Hughes and Frazer who brought calmness to their play and for the first time in the half they started to create chances. Taylor forced a great save from the West keeper and with ten minutes left Frazer's shot just dragged wide of the post.

Pilks dominated the play as the game came to a close. They had a penalty shout waved away before great play from Hughes down the right produced a low cross that was just turned around the near post.



The final action of the game saw a free kick spilled by the West keeper and with Boylan looking like he was going to equalize the rebound was somehow turned around the post.

This game provided great entertainment but it was a stuttering performance by Pilks who will regret allowing West back into the game.

**Full-time: West Didsbury & Chorlton Reserves 2-1 Pilkington**

**Team Line up:** Dan Finney, Connah Killgallon, Calvin Birchall, Chris Tingay, Luke McCausland, Miguel Gillam, Luke Sephton, Ian McBride, Graham Boylan, Matty Taylor, Brad Smailes. **Subs:** *Ian Frazer, Danny Hughes*





## MATCH REPORT

# TAYLOR STRIKES AGAIN

APRIL 10, 2017 | PILKINGTONFC

### **Pilkington 7-3 Unicorn Athletic**

*Cheshire League President's Cup, Saturday 8th April 2017*

**Pilks cruised into the quarter-final of the President's Cup as Matty Taylor went past 40 goals for the season.**

But it could have all been so different as Unicorn started the brightest and were 2-0 up after 15 minutes. Unicorn took the lead through their captain Ryan Stewart after 10 mins and this was doubled 5 minutes later with Mike Ashton's bullet header from a corner.

### *Pilkington 0-2 Unicorn Athletic*

It took another great solo effort from Taylor to wake Pilks up. In the 22nd minute, he collected the ball out wide on the half-way line and waltzed past

the Unicorn defence to score.

#### *Pilkington 1-2 Unicorn Athletic*

From here on in Pilks settled into a neat passing game and took control of the game. Five minutes before the half, a superb move was finished by Brad Smailes after a neat cut back from Luke Sephton.

#### *Pilkington 2-2 Unicorn Athletic*

Calvin Birchall should have put Pilks in the lead but his header from Ian Frazer's free kick went just wide. A minute before the half and they were in the lead. Chris Tingay's long pass was brought down by Taylor who wriggled through to score his 40th goal of the season – a fantastic achievement!

#### *Half-time: Pilkington 3-2 Unicorn Athletic*

Pilks came straight out after the half and doubled their lead when Graham Boylan's superb cross field ball was cushioned down by Smailes to the advancing Jake Worrall who drove into the box and finished to make it 4-2.

#### *Pilkington 4-2 Unicorn Athletic*

Unicorn's winger was a constant threat in the second half and Pilks survived a penalty shout in the 70th minute. In the 76th minute, Smailes was unlucky not to score when he ran at the defence and shot just wide. Taylor completed yet another hat-trick with ten minutes to go when he broke free and stood the keeper up well before tapping home.

#### *Pilkington 5-2 Unicorn Athletic*

Despite their dominance, Pilks were still under pressure and Unicorn pulled one back through a penalty with eight minutes left. It also took a great save from keeper Rob Cork a minute later to ensure that the gap wasn't closed further.

#### *Pilkington 5-3 Unicorn Athletic*

With six minutes remaining the goal of the game came from Luke Sephton whose wonder strike from outside the box flew into the top corner. Taylor



wrapped the game up with another goal as the referee blew for the final whistle.

*Pilkington 7-3 Unicorn Athletic*

It was a great start from Unicorn but Pilks shown their resilience to get back in the game and advance to the last eight.

**Full-time: Pilkington 7-3 Unicorn Athletic**

**Team Line up:** *Rob Cork, Connah Killgallon, Calvin Birchall, Chris Tingay, Jake Wor-rall, Ian Frazer, Luke Sephton, Ian McBride, Graham Boylan, Matty Taylor, Brad Smailes. Subs: Miguel Gillam, Danny Hughes*



## MATCH REPORT

# PILKS CRUISE TO VICTORY

APRIL 17, 2017 | PILKINGTONFC

### **Pilkington 6-1 Rylands Reserves**

*Saturday 15th April 2017, Cheshire League Presidents Cup*

**Pilks completed their Presidents Cup group games by cruising to a 6-1 win against Rylands Reserves.**

The hosts should have been ahead after only two minutes but Captain Graham Boylan failed to convert the penalty after Matty Taylor had been fouled.





Pilks were in complete control of the game from the beginning and should have been a few goals up before Ian Frazer drove through the middle of the Rylands defence to open the scoring on 22 minutes.



*Pilkington 1-0 Rylands Reserves*

Brad Smailes then missed a golden chance on 25 minutes before Taylor's shot hit the hand of the Rylands defender to give Pilks another penalty. This time Boylan made no mistake and dispatched it into the corner to make it 2-0.

*Pilkington 2-0 Rylands Reserves*



Taylor then blazed over the bar from a Boylan pull back before neatly finishing a free kick to make it 3-0 inside 30 minutes.



*Pilkington 3-0 Rylands Reserves*

Pilks swift passing play and penetrative runs from Clarke and Smailes was causing all sorts of problems for Rylands and Clarke got his reward on 41 minutes when he converted Smailes cross to make it 4-0 at half time.



*Half-time: Pilkington 4-0 Rylands Reserves*



Pilks came out in the second half in similar fashion when four minutes in Miguel Gillam drove down the left before crossing to the unmarked Boylan to tap in his second of the game.

#### *Pilkington 5-0 Rylands Reserves*

Boylan should have completed his hat-trick on 60 minutes but somehow scuffed his shot wide. Pilks final goal came on 65 minutes when Gillam again drove through the middle before playing in Smailes who made it 6-0.



#### *Pilkington 6-0 Rylands Reserves*

There should have been more as Boylan, Gillam and Clarke all missed chances and as the game fizzled out Rylands pulled a consolation goal back.



### *Pilkington 6-1 Rylands Reserves*

It was an all too easy win for Pilks with the only blight on the day being the sight of the league's top goalscorer, Matty Taylor limping off after 70 minutes with what seems to be a reoccurrence of the hamstring injury that kept him out of six games earlier in the season.



### *Full-time: Pilkington 6-1 Rylands Reserves*

**Team Line up:** Rob Cork, Connah Killgallon, Calvin Birchall, Luke McCausland, Jake Worrall, Ian Frazer, Chris Clarke, Ian McBride, Graham Boylan, Matty Taylor, Brad



Smailes. **Subs:** Miguel Gillam



#### **MATCH REPORT**

## **PILKS EARN TOUGH AWAY VICTORY**

APRIL 24, 2017 | [PILKINGTONFC](#)

### **Halebank FC 3-4 Pilkington FC**

*Cheshire League Division One, Wednesday 19th April 2017*

Pilkington could have made this game a lot easier at a notoriously difficult place to visit. It was Halebank who could have led first though after Rob Cork's first minute mistake was left unpunished. They also failed to convert an easy chance on 13 minutes.

Pilks started to gain control in midfield and on 20 minutes Luke Sephton's strong run down the side was rewarded when his pass to Chris Tingay fell to Ian McBride who finished from the edge of the box.





### *Halebank 0-1 Pilkington*

Pilks doubled their lead 8 minutes later after Chris Clarke broke free down the right hand side and cut inside before delicately chipping the keeper.

### *Halebank 1-2 Pilkington*

Halebank pulled on back on 35 minutes before Ian Frazer fed Brad Smailes who finished to make it 3-1 just before the half.

### **Half Time – Halebank 1-3 Pilkington**

Pilks changed a few personnel at half-time and this seemed to unsettle their play slightly as they lost control of the midfield battle. Halebank pulled one back 5 minutes into the half after Luke McCausland took too long in clearing the ball.



### *Halebank 2-3 Pilkington*

Pilks gathered their composure and hit back on 65 minutes when captain Graham Boylan drove into the box and his low shot was diverted in by the defender.

### *Halebank 2-4 Pilkington*

Halebank made it a tense finish when they pulled back a goal with 13 minutes left but Pilks managed to hang for a tough victory.

**Team Line up:** Rob Cork, Connah Killgallon, Chris Tingay, Luke McCausland, Jake Worrall, Ian Frazer, Chris Clarke, Ian McBride, Luke Sephton, Miguel Gillam, Brad Smailes. **Subs:** Matty Taylor, Graham Boylan, Danny Hughes, Warren Mitchell





#### MATCH REPORT

## PILKS ADVANCE TO THE SEMIS

APRIL 24, 2017 | PILKINGTONFC

### **Pilkington 7-0 Sandbach United Reserves**

*Cheshire League Presidents Cup, Saturday 22nd April 2017*

Following a tough midweek win at Halebank, Pilks continued their good form with an emphatic cup quarter final win Sandbach United Reserves.

They were 1-0 after 5 minutes when Jake Worrall won the ball on the halfway line and continued his run to finish neatly after getting on the end of Matty Taylor's pass.



### *Pilkington 1-0 Sandbach United Reserves*

Sandbach wasted two opportunities to pull a goal back before Luke Sephton wasted three chances to extend Pilks lead. He headed over on 22 minutes before taking too long to stab home with Taylor's neat free kick. He then failed to convert after being put clear by Danny Hughes.



Pilks were being wasteful with their opportunities. Brad Smailes was also played in but again he chose the wrong choice, electing to pass the ball across the box rather than finishing himself.

It took the ruthlessness of Matty Taylor to settle the nerves for Pilks. A minute before the half a throw-in was rebounded to him and he dispatched an instant shot into the top of the net to make it 2-0.



## Half-time: Pilkington 2-0 Sandbach United Reserves

Pilks came out in the second half with more purpose and Taylor rattled the bar after 50 minutes before finishing for his second of the game 10 minutes into the half.

## *Pilkington 3-0 Sandbach United Reserves*

The youthful Sandbach player's heads were now starting to fall as Pilks took full control. On the 65th minute, Smailes scored the goal of the game when his mazy run was finished with a 25 yard lob over the keeper.



## *Pilkington 4-0 Sandbach United Reserves*

Sephton finally got his goal with 15 minutes left when he headed home a corner.



*Pilkington 5-0 Sandbach United Reserves*

Five minutes later and Taylor completed yet another hat-trick after some trickery in the box and Sephton got his second of the game with 5 minutes left.

**Full-time: Pilkington 7-0 Sandbach United Reserves**

A comfortable win for Pilks in the end which sets up a semi-final game against Unicorn Athletic at Ruskin Drive on May 6th.

**Team Line up:** Rob Cork, Connah Killgallon, Danny Hughes, Graham Boylan, Jake Worrall, Ian Frazer, Chris Clarke, Ian McBride, Luke Sephton, Matty Taylor, Brad Smailes. **Subs:** Miguel Gillam





#### **MATCH REPORT**

## **PILKS HIT SEVEN FOR THE SECOND MATCH RUNNING**

MAY 1, 2017 | PILKINGTONFC

### **Cheadle Town Reserves 0-7 Pilkington**

*Cheshire League Division One, Saturday 29th April 2017*

Pilks put in a top performance and scored some sparkling goals as they continue their good form going into next week's President's Cup semi-final with Unicorn Athletic.

The first goal came within 15 minutes but not before Matty Taylor and Graham Boylan both missed easy chances to take the lead. Firstly, a Luke Sephton cross found Taylor at the far post but he somehow missed with his header from two yards out, then Boylan missed a golden opportunity when he hit the side netting.

It took Brad Smailes cool finish after being put clear from a searching pass from

Ian Frazer to open the scoring.

#### *Cheadle Town Reserves 0-1 Pilkington*

In the 22nd minute a Cheadle clearance made it's way to Luke Sephton whose deflected shot fell to Graham Boylan to double Pilks lead.



#### *Cheadle Town Reserves 0-2 Pilkington*

A sweeping move three minutes later added another goal. Gillum played the ball out from the back to Boylan, he laid it off to Ian McBride who played in Taylor. His shot was well saved onto the post but Boylan was following up to get his 20th goal of the season.

#### *Cheadle Town Reserves 0-3 Pilkington*

Pilks were in complete control and with ten minutes to go to the half Boylan tried an acrobatic finish but got it wrong and Smailes hit the post from a few yards out.

On 37 minutes, Taylor got his first goal of the game when Boylan won the ball again high up the pitch and dispatched Taylor to finish past the keeper.

#### ***Half-time: Cheadle Town Reserves 0-4 Pilkington***

Cheadle abandoned playing out from the back in the second half but still couldn't get a foothold. Taylor's shot produced a great save from the keeper 10



minutes in before Pilks scored the goal of the game.

Smailes played two one-twos with Boylan to get into the box and his finish was delicate and cool to make it 5-0.



*Cheadle Town Reserves 0-5 Pilkington*

Matty Taylor had been relatively quiet in this game but he produced two great finishes to complete the rout. Firstly he got onto Smailes chip before lobbing the keeper to make it 6-0. And with 5 minutes left it was all his own work that got him yet another hat-trick. He battled hard to win the ball on the half way line and then drove through the heart of the defence before again chipping the keeper to make it 7-0.



*Full Time: Cheadle Town Reserves 0-7 Pilkington*

This was a top performance by the Pilks lads as they continue to finish the season strongly.

**Team Line up:** Rob Cork, Alvin Smith, Miguel Gillam, Luke McCausland, Jake Wor-rall, Ian Frazer, Ian McBride, Luke Sephton, Graham Boylan, Matty Taylor, Brad Smailes. **Subs:** Rhys Roberts, Jake Parton





#### MATCH REPORT

# BATTLING PERFORMANCE OVER EGERTON

MAY 8, 2017 | PILKINGTONFC

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

*Cheshire League Division One, Wednesday 3rd May 2017*

**Following the news that the third placed team may be promoted Pilks put in a battling performance to beat Egerton 3-2.**

This was a difficult game and despite a few half chances, Pilks went 1-0 down after 20 minutes. But they responded excellently when Graham Boylan chested in Matty Taylor's corner a minute later.

## ***Half-time: Egerton FC 1-1 Pilkington FC***

On a tight pitch this was a scrappy game and it took a touch of brilliance to break the deadlock. On 65 minutes Taylor turned on the half and broke free

but was cynically fouled by the defender.

From 35 yards out Taylor then dispatched a wonder free kick that flew into the top corner. A brilliant way for Taylor to score his 50th goal of the season.



*Egerton FC 1-2 Pilkington FC*

6 minutes later and Boylan scored his second of the game after some neat play between him, Ian Frazer and Taylor.



*Egerton FC 1-3 Pilkington FC*



Egerton pressed hard and put Pilks under pressure for the last quarter of the game but only managed a late goal in injury time.

**Full-time: Egerton FC 1-3 Pilkington FC**

**Team Line up:** Rob Cork, Connah Killagllon, Miguel Gillam, Luke McCausland, Jake Worrall, Ian Frazer, Ian McBride, Luke Sephton, Graham Boylan, Matty Taylor, Brad Smailes. **Subs:** Rhys Roberts, Jake Parton, Chris Clarke



## MATCH REPORT

# SMAILES DOUBLE TAKES PILKS INTO THE FINAL

MAY 8, 2017 | PILKINGTONFC

**Pilkington FC 3-1 Unicorn Athletic**

*Cheshire League President's Cup Semi-Final, Saturday 6th May 2017*

Following on from a battling win over Egerton in midweek that saw Matty Taylor score his 50th goal of the season, Pilks put in a composed performance to beat Unicorn Athletic and reach the final of the Cheshire League President's Cup.





Pilks started strongly and were ahead after only 4 minutes. Graham Boylan headed Ian Frazer's free kick goalwards and the keeper somehow fumbled the ball through his legs and over the line.

*Pilkington FC 1-0 Unicorn Athletic*

Pilks didn't allow Unicorn to settle and went 2-0 up after 30 minutes. Brad Smailes and Boylan combined well on the edge of the box, before Smailes dispatched the ball into the bottom corner.

*Pilkington FC 2-0 Unicorn Athletic*

It was expected that Pilks couldn't keep up the high pressing game and they gradually allowed Unicorn to get into their passing game. But despite this they were not causing any issues for Pilks and it took some hesitation in the Pilks defence to let them in. On 37 minutes, a mix up between Connah Kilgallon and keeper Rob Cork gave Unicorn the opening to pull one back.

*Pilkington FC 2-1 Unicorn Athletic*

As the half came to a close Pilks hit back again. Miguel Gillam's pass released Boylan who drove into the box before squaring the ball for Smailes to make it 3-1 at half-time.



### ***Half-time: Pilkington FC 3-1 Unicorn Athletic***

The second half was an edgy affair and despite Pilks being under pressure the visitors could only manage speculative attempts. The Unicorn keeper pulled off a good save from a Luke McCausland header and on 61 minutes Taylor was put clear but somehow the keeper again managed to prevent Pilks going further ahead.

As the game came to a close, the Unicorn substitute was dismissed for dissent.

Pilks go onto the final against Fords on May 20th at Styal FC.



**Full-time: Pilkington FC 3-1 Unicorn Athletic**

**Team Line up:** Rob Cork, Connah Killagllon, Miguel Gillam, Luke McCausland, Jake Worrall, Ian Frazer, Ian McBride, Luke Sephton, Graham Boylan, Matty Taylor, Brad Smailes. **Subs:** Chris Clarke



## MATCH REPORT

# PILKS DERBY DAY WIN SECURES THIRD PLACE

MAY 15, 2017 | [PILKINGTONFC](#)

## **Pilkington FC 4-2 FC St Helens**

*Cheshire League Division One, Saturday 13th May 2017*

Pilks welcomed near neighbours FC St Helens for their last Cheshire League Division One game of the season.

It was a tense affair in the opening 10 minutes although FC survived a clear penalty shout on 7 minutes when Matty Taylor was upended in the box.





On 11 minutes FC broke the deadlock when some sloppy tackling allowed FC's Ste Ashton to slide the ball through to Paul Sweeney who finished neatly.

*Pilkington FC 0-1 FC St Helens*

7 minutes later and FC had doubled their lead when Jordan Smith lobbed Rob Cork. Pilks were simply not in the game and they had allowed FC to pass the ball around at will.

*Pilkington FC 0-2 FC St Helens*

As the game went on Pilks started to gain control of the ball and mounted some pressure on the FC goal. With 8 minutes to half-time they got the breakthrough when Luke McCausland headed home Taylor's corner – an FC defender protested too much and was sent off.



### ***Half-time: Pilkington FC 1-2 FC St Helens***

With a more determined Pilks coming out in the second half and pressing higher they started to completely control the game. However, they still couldn't find the openings with the Chris Brinksman standing firm in the FC goal.

10 minutes in and Pilks introduced Adam Dixon and Chris Clarke and these changes seem to give Pilks a different dimension.

On 59 minutes Matty Taylor equalised with another stunning free-kick and a minute later Adam Dixon followed up his pass to neatly head home Chris Clarke's cross.

### ***Pilkington FC 3-2 FC St Helens***

With 30 minutes to go FC lost another player when Callum Laird was sent off for his second bookable offence.

Pilks now had total control and extended their lead with 25 minutes left when Chris Clarke's cross was finished by Graham Boylan.





### *Pilkington FC 4-2 FC St Helens*

With 15 minutes left, disaster struck for Pilks when their top goalscorer Matty Taylor went down after attempting to jump over an FC defender. With him unable to move and a suspected broken ankle an ambulance was called.

It's a sad end to what has been a remarkable season for Matty that has seen him score an incredible 51 goals from 34 games.

The game restarted after a 35-minute delay and was played out more like a training session than a derby game. The 3 pts secured Pilks third place in the league – a great effort after the early season squad disruptions.

They now move onto their final game of the season when they play Ford Motors at Styal FC next Saturday in the final of the Cheshire League Presidents Cup.

### ***Full-time: Pilkington FC 4-2 FC St Helens***

***Team Line up:*** Rob Cork, Connah Killagllon, Miguel Gillam, Luke McCausland, Jake Worrall, Ian Frazer, Ian McBride, Luke Sephton, Graham Boylan, Matty Taylor, Brad Smailes. ***Subs:*** Chris Clarke, Adam Dixon, Alex Higham



**MATCH REPORT**

# PILKS LIFT THE PRESIDENTS CUP

MAY 22, 2017 | PILKINGTONFC

**Ford Motors 0-3 Pilkington**

*Cheshire League Presidents Cup Final, Saturday 20th May 2017*

Pilks completed their 2016/17 season by overcoming a tough Ford Motors team to lift the Cheshire League Presidents Cup. The game started well for Pilks and they had the ball in the net after just three minutes but the linesman ruled it offside.





Although they were missing injured Matty Taylor and Captain Graham Boylan, a strike partnership that has produced 75 goals this season, Pilks still looked to have real cutting edge with Luke Sephton up front.

On 23 minutes he combined well with Jake Worrall and Brad Smailes but a mix up with Chris Clarke left them both waiting for each other to tap the ball into the net. Three minutes later and the Ford's keeper somehow saved Sephton's free kick without knowing much about it.

For the most of the first half it was Pilks who were knocking on the door and they got their opening on 35 minutes. The keeper fumbled a Jake Worrall cross and Adam Dixon provided the finish with a smart overhead kick.

**Ford Motors 0-1 Pilkington**



This goal somehow panicked Pilks and they let Fords take control in the last ten minutes of the half. They forced a good save out of Rob Cork with four minutes to go and then the moment of the match was Cork's outstanding point blank save when the Ford's forward seemed destined to score from a few yards out.

This shocked Pilks back into action and Sephton had his effort cleared off the line as the whistle was blown for half time.

### **Half-time: Ford Motors 0-1 Pilkington**

Both teams came out in the second half with real vigour to attack. It was end-to-end play but despite all their enthusiasm Ford's couldn't find a way past the outstanding Rob Cork in the Pilks goal.





Up the other end and Luke Sephton was keeping the whole of the Ford's defenders busy. On 54 minutes he rattled the upright with a powerful shot and his great work down the wing produced a great chance for Smailes to extend their lead but he somehow scuffed his shot.



Pilks finally got their second goal with 8 minutes to play. A Danny Hughes corner was met by Luke McCausland's bullet header that flew past the Ford's Keeper. This was effectively the end of the contest and Pilks closed the game out 4 minutes later when Sephton again worked hard to win the ball back before passing to Smailes who finished well.



### **Ford Motors 0-3 Pilkington**

Sephton still had time to force the keeper to pull off another good save and, whilst it was a pity he didn't get his goal, his performance was inspiring.

And so the season ends!! It's been a great campaign for Pilks and they will be back at it again after only a few weeks rest as they look to gain promotion back to the Cheshire League Premier Division.

### **Full-time: Ford Motors 0-1 Pilkington**





**Team Line up:** Rob Cork, Connah Killagllon, Miguel Gillam, Luke McCausland, Jake Worrall, Ian Frazer, Ian McBride, Luke Sephton, Chris Clarke, Adam Dixon, Brad Smailes. **Subs:** Danny Hughes, Chris Tingay, Dan Finlay

◀ **FEATURED**