



2017-18 MATCH REPORT, MATCH REPORT

SOLID START AGAINST A RESILIENT HALEBANK

AUGUST 14, 2017 | PILKINGTONFC

Pilkington 3-1 Halebank

Saturday 12th August 2017, Cheshire League Division One

Pilks kicked off the Cheshire League season with a home victory against a resilient Halebank team.

They got a great start when after 2 mins Luke Sephton got in front of the Halebank defender to head home Ian Frazer's free kick. They could have extended their lead in the 10th min when Sephton drove at the heart of the Halebank defence but his cut back failed to reach his strike partner Danny Norris.

The first half was played at a frantic pace with both sides creating openings and Halebank were unlucky not to go into half-time level when they squandered two chances to peg back Pilks.

Half Time: Pilkington 1-0 Halebank

The second half was a little more settled as Pilks started to control the possession. They extended their lead 10 mins into the half when Sephton turned swiftly and drove down the channel before squaring the ball for Norris to finish.



The Halebank defence couldn't handle Sephton's strong running and with 15 minutes left he drove through again and rounded the keeper who dragged him down for a penalty. Captain Graham Boylan duly converted to make it 3-0.



Pilks instantly switched off though and a simple long ball from the kick off caught them out and Halebank pulled one back. Nevertheless it was job done

for Pilks, who might not have been perfect but played with a sense that they mean business this season.

Final Score: Pilkington 3-1 Halebank



2017-18 MATCH REPORT, [MATCH REPORT](#)

PILKS SCRAPE DERBY DAY CUP WIN

SEPTEMBER 18, 2017 | [PILKINGTONFC](#)

Pilkington FC 4-2 Windle Labour FC

Liverpool FA Challenge Cup 1st Round, Saturday 16th September 2017

Pilks required a slice of good fortune and an outstanding display from young goalkeeper Dan Finney to progress to the next round of the Liverpool County FA Challenge Cup against local Cheshire League rivals Windle.

They started bright enough and were ahead after just four minutes when full back Jake Worrall drove into the box and his good delivery was turned in by the Windle defender.

Pilks had further chances to go ahead with Smailes, Matty Taylor and Phil Marsh all wasting chances before Windle were awarded a penalty after 30 minutes. Andy Mines stepped up for Windle but keeper Finney redeemed himself for giving away the penalty by pulling off a save to preserve Pilks lead go-

ing into the half.

Half-time: Pilkington FC 1-0 Windle Labour FC

Pilks started the second half sloppy and it took 2-3 fine saves from Finney to keep them in the game but they finally succumbed as Windle equalised on 55 minutes.

As Windle pressed for the lead Finney denied them again and it took a bit of magic from a Taylor free-kick to get Pilks back into the lead.

But Windle responded to draw level again and with 15 minutes left this was turning into a real exciting cup-tie.

Pilks had the ball in the net twice but on both occasions they were disallowed but as it looked like we were entering a dreaded penalty shoot-out they came to life to put the game to bed.

With five minutes left, Luke Sephton spun on the edge of the box to fire Pilks into the lead and with Windle pressing for an equaliser Taylor wrapped the game up with a neat finish in injury time.

Full-time: Pilkington FC 4-2 Windle Labour FC



2017-18 MATCH REPORT, [MATCH REPORT](#)

PILKS HAMMERED ON THEIR TRAVELS

SEPTEMBER 25, 2017 | [PILKINGTONFC](#)

Mersey Valley FC 7-1 Pilkington FC

Cheshire League One, Saturday 23rd September 2017

Pilks were completely outplayed as they went down 7-1 to Mersey Valley. They struggled from the first few minutes with the physicality of the opposition and the constraints of the small pitch. Mersey Valley took the lead after only 3 minutes when they didn't deal with a simple long ball and it took Pilks over 20 minutes to get a shot in the region of the oppositions goal.

Somehow they managed to get themselves back in the game on 35 minutes. Good work from Brad Smailes released Matty Taylor on the wing and he netted from 20 yards out after spotting the keeper off his line.



This should have settled Pilks down but they committed suicide as another long ball caught them out almost straight from the kick off. Smailes had a few chances to draw level but the keeper saved well and Pilks went into the half 2-1 down.



Half-time: Mersey Valley FC 2-1 Pilkington FC

Pilks started the second half with some vigour as they tried to get their game going but this was short lived as ten minutes in Mersey Valley got their third – again from sloppy defending.



The story of the game was that Pilks huffed and puffed without any real efforts on goal and struggled defensively all day, they conceded the fourth and fifth goals too easily midway through the half.

A change in formation didn't help Pilks and with the game entering the dying minutes two further quick goals, again from simple long balls, compounded a truly miserable day for Pilks.

The team is struggling to find the scintillating form of last season as they lie in mid table but they must find the answer soon to ensure they are not out the title race before Christmas.

Half-time: Mersey Valley FC 7-1 Pilkington FC



2017-18 MATCH REPORT, MATCH REPORT

PILKS EXIT LEAGUE CUP IN 8 GOAL THRILLER

OCTOBER 2, 2017 | PILKINGTONFC

Pilkington 4-4 Halebank (Halebank won 9-8 on penalties)

JA Walton Cup – 1st Round, Saturday 30th September 2017

It took eight goals in normal time and seventeen penalties to separate Halebank and Pilkington in this thriller at Ruskin Drive. The game started well for Pilks when they went ahead after three minutes as Frazer played in newcomer Sean Boyle who finished very coolly for his first of the day.

Brad Smailes had the ball in the net again for Pilks on 25 mins only for the referee to rule it offside. Smailes should have again extended the lead a few minutes later but he blazed over the bar from six yards out.



Pilks injury woes continued this week with six regular defenders and a goal-keeper currently unavailable and as Halebank settled into their game, the frailties began to show. Three good saves from young keeper Dan Finney kept them at bay but they finally got the equaliser 10 minutes from the half.



Half-time: Pilkington FC 1-1 Halebank FC

Pilks started the second half much the same as the first when, 2 minutes in, Boyle finished calmly after a drive and cut back from Sephton.

Within 7 minutes though Halebank were ahead. Firstly, Finney spilled a free kick and then a simple through ball was converted on 54 minutes.

This was now turning into a thriller as it swung one way and the other. Pilks equalised on 63 minutes when Boyle completed his hat-trick with a lob over the keeper from wide.

But again this was shortlived for Pilks as they failed to deal with another simple through ball and Halebank took the lead again.

As Pilks pressed for an equaliser it looked like they were heading out of the Cup until Captain Graham Boylan popped up with a header deep in injury time to send the game to penalties.

The shootout was equally tense with the goalkeepers unable to get near sixteen penalties until Smailes missed the target to send Pilks out of the cup.

Whilst performance was much improved from last week's disaster at Mersey Valley, Pilks defensive woes must be a concern and they cant keep relying on their goal-scoring power to keep teams at bay.

Full-time: Pilkington FC 4-4 Halebank FC
(Halebank won 9-8 on penalties)



2017-18 MATCH REPORT, MATCH REPORT

PILKS LOSE OUT IN INJURY TIME

OCTOBER 16, 2017 | PILKINGTONFC

Stay FC 3-2 Pilkington FC

Cheshire League Division One, Saturday 14th October 2017

Pilks have only themselves to blame after losing out on three points. They should have put title-contenders Styal to the sword in the first half but they failed to convert numerous clear-cut chances.

Styal survived an early onslaught of wasted chances plus the referee waving away a clear penalty in the first few minutes. On 15 minutes, Taylor's free kick came off the bar and over the line but the referee seemed to be the only one who didn't see this.

Pilks continued to miss chances to go ahead until in the 24th minute when Septhon neatly laid the ball off to Taylor and his power shot rocketed past the keeper.

Pilks were in complete control, Styal had not managed a shot on goal and with ten minutes left in the half they survived another penalty claim. This time the referee blew for the penalty after Taylor was taken down but then bizarrely changed his mind a few seconds later!

With a few minutes of the half left Styal were let back in the game. In a rare attack the clearance hit a Pilks defender and bounced down to a Styal forward who equalised.

Half-time: Styal FC 3-2 Pilkington FC

Early in the second-half Marsh's effort was well saved and Styal broke straight away to force a goal-line clearance from Gillam. This was the story of the half with Pilks again enjoying a lot of possession but unable to find the cutting edge in front of goal.

It was going to take mistakes from Pilks to let Styal in and they certainly obliged. On 68 minutes a poor back pass from Boylan allowed Styal in to take the lead.

As Pilks pressed to find an equaliser gaps appeared but again Styal did not threaten too much. Pilks showed great character to keep plugging away and got their reward in the 89th minute when Sephton tapped the ball into an empty net after Taylor's effort squirmed under the keeper's body.

Pilks sensed the winner could be there and continued to press as the game went into injury time, but disaster struck with the last kick of the match. Young keeper Finney's clearance from the edge of the box went straight down the middle to a Styal player who dispatched a looping ball over his head for the winner.

Pilks need to quickly rediscover their ruthless eye for goal and defensive solidity if they are to stay in the title race.

Full-time: Styal FC 3-2 Pilkington FC



2017-18 MATCH REPORT, MATCH REPORT

INJURY TIME NIGHTMARE CONTINUES

NOVEMBER 13, 2017 | PILKINGTONFC

Pilkington FC 3-4 Mersey Valley FC

Cheshire League Division One, Saturday 11th November 2017

Pilks started this encounter a little apprehensive after the 7-1 drubbing by Mersey Valley in September but the first chance of the afternoon fell to Luke Sephton as he turned and skimmed the post after just 5 minutes.

It was a pretty even first half with both teams having chances but it was Mersey Valley who opened the scoring on 18 mins when Curley's rocket shot was unstoppable.

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

The opening minutes of the second half saw a penalty appeal for Pilks waved

away by the referee and Mersey Valley doubling their lead when Ferguson broke free to finish on 49 minutes.

Pilks play was good and had their fair share of the game with both Sephton and Adam Dixon coming close to pulling a goal back.

The game seemed dead and buried on 60 minutes when Bennett increased Mersey Valley's lead.

But Pilks continued to press for that elusive first goal and it came with 15 minutes left when Sephton slotted after a well-worked goal.

Pilks kept on pushing as they sensed Mersey Valley were tiring – Smailes, Frazer and Taylor all having chances but to no avail.

Then in the last minute Sephton popped up to finish again and set up a tense and exciting final few minutes. Mersey Valley were on the ropes and Pilks came back at them again with Sephton completing a fine hat-trick when he got the equaliser in the first minute of injury time.

Rather than sitting back Pilks sensed a winner and when Taylor wriggled through everyone thought that was it but he somehow scuffed his shot into the side netting.

However as the game entered the 3rd minute of injury time disaster struck for Pilks when for the 3rd time this season they conceded a killer goal with virtually the last kick of the game.

Mersey Valley lobbed a free kick into the box and debutant keeper, James Conaghan spilled the ball to the oncoming Kyle Watson who got the winner for Mersey Valley.

Full-time: Pilkington FC 3-4 Mersey Valley FC



2017-18 MATCH REPORT, MATCH REPORT

PILKS FIND THEIR GOAL-DEN TOUCH AGAIN

DECEMBER 4, 2017 | PILKINGTONFC

Pilkington FC 8-2 Egerton FC

Cheshire League Division One, Saturday 2nd December 2017

Egerton arrived at Ruskin Drive with ex-Premier League stars JLyold Samuel & Nathan Ellington and 'Trusox' Millionaire Jim Cherneski in their line up.

And they started well when Ellington was given too much space to show his obvious class and wriggled through to open the scoring on 5 minutes.

Egerton had another chance on 15 minutes but a good save from the returning Rob Cork pushed the header onto the post. But from then on Pilks put in a masterful performance.

Firstly Dale Keenan headed onto the post and after Luke Sephton's shot was

well saved his shot from the corner hit the bar.

On 38 minutes, Pilks got their equaliser when Sephton crossed for youngster Rory Campbell to convert. 1 minute later and Pilks were in the lead when Sephton turned in Brad Smailes low pass across the box.



Half-time: Pilkington FC 2-1 Egerton FC

Egerton switched formation in the second half and it caused a few issues early on but Pilks quickly adapted and Sephton extended the lead on 52 mins. Seven minutes later Campbell also grabbed his second of the game. It seemed that Pilks were in control but great feet by ex-Bolton Academy star Issaac Nelson allowed Egerton to grab one back.

But Pilks bounced back again with Campbell completing his hat-trick when he turned his man on the edge of the box. Egerton ran out of steam and Pilks finished off a scintillating performance by scoring 3 more goals in the last ten minutes. Campbell grabbed another two before Smailes finished off the scoring with a minute left.

This was by far the best Pilks first team performance in a long time and after a season of frustration hopefully they have finally found some form and can

push on for a promotion spot.

Full-time: Pilkington FC 8-2 Egerton FC



2017-18 MATCH REPORT, MATCH REPORT

PILKS RESCUE A POINT

DECEMBER 10, 2017 | PILKINGTONFC

Daten FC 2-2 Pilkington FC

Cheshire League Division One, Saturday 9th December 2017

In wintery conditions, Daten had total control in the first half. How they weren't 4-5 goals up at the interval is a mystery as they missed chance after chance.

Daten could have scored with their first attack but they hit the side netting and 5 minutes later they rattled the post. Pilks were very sloppy in possession and it took them 20 mins before they mustered a meaningful attack.

Despite the pressure the scores remained level until seven minutes from the half when Connah Kilgallon turned Daten's deep cross into his own goal.

This seemed to spark some life into Pilks and they Daten backwards for the

first time in the game. They got their reward with a few minutes left in the half, Young Rory Campbell pressured the defender whose back pass was short and Captain Graham Boylan's challenge rebounded the ball into Campbell's path for an easy tap in.



Half-time: Daten FC 1-1 Pilkington FC

Clear words were said at half-time and with two changes, Pilks came out a different team. They gained control of the game with Campbell, Brad Smailes and Luke Sephton all having chances to put them ahead.

However, 10 minutes in a simple mistake in midfield let the Daten winger in down the left and he cut inside to put Daten ahead once again.

Pilks bounced back and Sephton should have done better when the ball was pulled back by Smailes. They got back into the game on 70 minutes when Sephton was fouled in the box and Boylan converted the penalty.

Both teams went at each other in the final minutes of the game but the deadlock couldn't be broken. Pilks will feel disappointed that they squandered a chance to do more against a team that sits second in the league.

Full-time: Daten FC 2-2 Pilkington FC



2017-18 MATCH REPORT, MATCH REPORT

PILKS COMEBACK IN SEVEN-GOAL THRILLER

DECEMBER 18, 2017 | PILKINGTONFC

Deva Athletic FC 3-4 Pilkington FC

Cheshire League Division One, Saturday 12th December 2017

Pilks got the worst possible start when Deva Athletic took the lead two minutes in but they responded positively and both Dale Keenan and Graham Boylan had really good opportunities to level the score.

Firstly Keenan turned in the six yard area but somehow stabbed the ball wide and then Boylan blazed a penalty over the bar.



Pilks did manage to level on 20 minutes. An early ball from keeper Rob Cork was brought down well by Adam Dixon and his quick switch released Luke Sephton who drove at the heart of the Deva defence before rocketing his shot into the roof of the net.

Pilks seemed more composed than the opposition and generally in control of the game but their defensive frailties were on show again. With ten minutes of the half left they switched off twice in two minutes to allow Deva to edge in front. There were two almost identical goals as they were allowed the luxury of driving right through the middle of the defence for simple finishes.

It was a mystery as to why Pilks were two goals down but they managed to get one back three minutes before the half when Andy Cook's spectacular overhead kick gave the keeper no chance. A certain contender for goal of the season.

They could have gone in level but for a clearance off the line when Ian Frazer's far post header had beaten the keeper.

Half-time: Deva Athletic FC 3-2 Pilkington FC

The second half was all about Pilks pressing for the goals. They had complete control of the game and restricted Deva to just a few breaks.

The equaliser came 5 minutes into the second half when Sephton won the ball back well and drove down the line before Boylan converted his pass.

10 minutes later and Pilks should have been ahead when David McGrath's throughball put Sephton in one-on-one but he made it too easy for the keeper.

It took until the 80th minute for Pilks to take the lead for the first time in the game. Dixon laid the ball off well to Boylan and his 40 yard throughball put Sephton clear for his 14th goal of the campaign.



Pilks survived a nervy end to the game when Deva had three corners, one of which was cleared off the line by Dixon, before the referee blew for full-time.

Full-time: Deva Athletic FC 3-4 Pilkington FC



2017-18 MATCH REPORT, MATCH REPORT

PILKS GO TOP AFTER DERBY DAY WIN

JANUARY 2, 2018 | PILKINGTONFC

Pilkington FC 4-0 Garswood FC

Saturday 30th December 2017, Cheshire League Division One

Pilks ended the year at the top of the Cheshire League Division One after a dominant display against local rivals Garswood. They ran out 4-0 winners with in form striker Luke Sephton bagging another hat-trick.

Pilks started well with Brad Smailes finding it too easy to get in behind the Garswood defence. On 10 mins his great work released Graham Boylan who pulled it back to the edge of the box but David McGrath skewed his shot wide.

It was McGrath who opened the scoring on 22 mins. Some great interplay released Smailes again and his cross was met by Sephton but the keeper pulled off a great save only for McGrath to follow up.

10 mins later and Pilks doubled their lead. In the move of the match, Smailes won the ball on the halfway and played a slick one-two with McGrath to get in behind and his pass across the six yard box was tapped in by Sephton.



Pilks had a few more chances before the half, the most notable was Boylan's header that was cleared off the line.

Half-time: Pilkington FC 2-0 Garswood FC

The second half started slowly and it took 15 minutes before Pilks had their next chance to extend their lead. Andy Cook's free-kick hit the bar and Boylan somehow missed the follow up and a chance to secure the game for Pilks.

Somehow despite their dominance Garswood were still in this game as Pilks struggled to put them to bed. On 65 minutes Smailes had his effort cleared off the line after Danny Hughes free kick was well saved.

Finally with 20 minutes left Pilks got the breakthrough they wanted. A reverse pass from Ian McBride set Boylan free down the right and his cross to Sephton was easily dispatched to make it 3-0.



In injury time Sephton completed his hat-trick. Substitute Danny Hughes played Boylan in again down the right and he squared for Sephton to score his 18th goal of the season.

It was a dominant display that puts Pilks in a good position to push on for the second half of the season.

Full-time: Pilkington FC 4-0 Garswood FC



2017-18 MATCH REPORT, MATCH REPORT

PILKS KNOCK MIDDLEWICH OFF THE TOP

JANUARY 2, 2018 | PILKINGTONFC

Middlewich Town 1-2 Pilkington

Saturday 23rd December 2017, Cheshire League Division

OneMiddlewich Town's credentials as the league title contenders was certainly given a test as Pilks ran out 2-1 winners in this Cheshire League Division One clash.

Pilks started well and they opened the scoring on 5 minutes when some good work by Luke Sephton fed Graham Boylan. He turned in the corner and delivered a cross that was finished neatly by the late arriving David McGrath.

This was a bruising encounter and on 18 minutes Pilks gave Middlewich rare space to shoot from the edge of the box. Unfortunately Rob Cork spilled the ball and Rory Gorton followed up to draw Middlewich level.



It was Pilks who ended the half on the front foot though with both Rory Campbell and Sephton having chances to extend their lead. They got the lead back four minutes from the half when Sephton stabbed in Boylan's header after it was cleared off the line.

A couple of half chances presented themselves at the start of the second period for both sides but this encounter quickly turned into a stop start affair as the referee failed to control the persistent fouling.

There were few chances for both sides in the second half with the highlight being the dismissal of the Pilks Manager, Ste Palfrey, after he grew increasingly frustrated with the referee's insistence not to punish the fouls.



As the game went into the 10th minute of injury time, Middlewich pressed hard for the equaliser but they failed to break Pilks down.

It was another crucial win for Pilks that moves them to within two points of the top spot.



2017-18 MATCH REPORT, MATCH REPORT

PILKS STAY TOP AFTER BEATING CLOSE RIVALS

JANUARY 22, 2018 | [PILKINGTONFC](#)

Pilkington FC 3-1 FC St Helens

Saturday 20th January 2018, Cheshire League Division One

Pilks stayed top of the Cheshire Division One after defeating local rivals FC St Helens 3-1. The large crowd gathered expecting a good game between two sides that have produced some close encounters over the last few seasons.

Pilks started well and were ahead after just 5 minutes when Graham Boylan stabbed home the rebound from Luke Sephton's shot.

Despite the good start it was FC St Helens who had most of the play and ex-Pilks stalwart, Paul Meadows hit the post 13 minutes in. Somehow though Pilks extended their lead on 20 minutes. Brad Smailes ran onto Sephton's flick and turned Meadows inside out before placing it past Brinksman in the FC

goal.



Pilks were still struggling to get a grip of the game and FC's Sweeney was a constant threat down the right. They wasted a few chances to pull a goal back but got their rewards on 30 minutes when Pilks failed to deal with another cross and FC captain Liam Houghton headed home.

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

It certainly was a close contest and Pilks were lucky to go in at the break ahead. Straight afterwards they were again fortunate not to be pegged back as Rob Cork pulled off a wonder save to preserve their lead. Cork was called upon a few more times as Pilks struggled.



Despite this Boylan had a chance to extend their lead after a mistake by Meadows got him in but he made it too easy for the keeper. Pilks eventually got control of the game on 70 minutes. Sephton cut inside and played a pass to Boylan who was free to cross for substitute Rory Campbell to secure the game.

This was a great advertisement for Cheshire League football as it was a game played with great attitude and passion from both clubs. Pilks can count themselves a little lucky to come away with the three points but their resilience and clinical finishing was the difference on the day.

Full-time: Pilkington FC 3-1 FC St Helens



2017-18 MATCH REPORT, MATCH REPORT

PILKS LOSE OUT IN THE BATTLE AT THE TOP

FEBRUARY 5, 2018 | PILKINGTONFC

Pilkington FC 0-2 Daten FC

Saturday 3rd February 2018, Cheshire League Division One

It was first v second in the Cheshire League Division One clash at Ruskin Drive. By the end of it Pilks were knocked off the top after being defeated 2-0 by a Daten side that simply shown more aggression and desire on the day.

In the first half-hour, Daten dominated all the possession and were stronger in the tackle and quicker all over the pitch. They were very unlucky not to be a few goals ahead and it was Rob Cork who came to Pilks rescue as he pulled off a few stunning close range saves.



Pilks rallied themselves with ten minutes left of the half and managed to muster a few half chances. Firstly, Ian Frazer's shot was deflected onto the bar and Graham Boylan steered Connah Kilgallon's scuffed shot wide.

Half-time: Pilkington FC 0-0 Daten FC

The second half turned out to be a more even affair. Pilks enjoyed more possession but still didn't offer much going forward as they struggled to find an answer to unlocking the well organised Daten defence.

Daten didn't stop pressing but they knew it would take something special to beat Rob Cork in goal. The deadlock was broken on 60 minutes when Pilks failed to deal with a clearance and a 25 yard strike from McLoughlin rifled into the top corner.

Pilks rallied a little with a succession of corners but all they could muster was Luke Sephton's shot that hit the defender before bouncing clear off the bar.

As Pilk pressed for the equaliser they became more open and with 9 minutes left Massey cut inside to beat Cork and extend Daten's lead.

This effectively killed the game for Pilks and ended their 8 match unbeaten run. With eleven games left there is plenty to play for and they must pick themselves up now and fight on for the title.

Full-time: Pilkington FC 0-2 Daten FC



2017-18 MATCH REPORT, MATCH REPORT

PILKS HIT DEVA FOR SEVEN

JANUARY 14, 2018 | PILKINGTONFC

Pilkington 7-2 Deva Athletic

Saturday 13th January 2018, Cheshire Division One



Luke Sephton was again on fire as his four goals moved Pilks back to the top of the Cheshire League Division One with an accomplished 7-2 win over Deva Athletic.

Pilks were completely dominant in this game and Sephton opened the scoring after just seven minutes when he rounded the keeper following a Graham Boylan throughball.

Pilks didn't allow Deva any chance to get into their rhythm and Sephton should have doubled the lead ten minutes later. He pounced on a misplaced pass but was unable to beat the keeper..

Andy Cook also had a clear-cut chance but he dragged his chance wide with only the keeper to beat. With 15 minutes of the half left, it was Cook who provided for Boylan to finish easily for Pilks second goal.

Pilks were in total control and Sephton grabbed his second 7 minutes from the half when he again closed down well to win the ball on the edge of the area before he dispatched his shot into the bottom corner.

Half-time: Pilkington 3-0 Deva Athletic

Pilks may well have been in control of the game but they allowed Deva a glimmer of hope as they started slow after the break. Firstly Rob Cork gave away a penalty that was dispatched by Leyton Ashford and by the midway point of the half Ashford seemed to get Deva back in the game when he grabbed a second

goal.

However, Pilks stepped up a few gears again and brushed Deva aside in a five minute spell to put the game to bed. Cook dispatched a penalty on 70 minutes before Sephton grabbed his hat-trick a minute later.



Deva were demoralised at this stage and it was too easy for Pilks to extend their lead further. David McGrath got in on the act on 74 minutes with a neat finish after Boylan laid the ball back and Sephton finished the day with his 20th goal of the season after Rory Campbell played him in again.

This was an accomplished performance and Pilks move onto next week's derby day clash against FC St Helens – 3pm kick off at Ruskin Sports Village.

Full-time: Pilkington 7-2 Deva Athletic



2017-18 MATCH REPORT, MATCH REPORT

PILKS GET BACK ON TOP

FEBRUARY 19, 2018 | PILKINGTONFC

Pilkington 3-0 Styal

Cheshire League Division One, Saturday 17th February 2018

Pilks responded to last week's defeat to title rivals Dagenham by beating Styal 3-0 to move back to the top of Cheshire Division One.

The opening exchanges of the game were very much the same as when these two sides met earlier in the season. Pilks with all the possession in the opening 15 minutes but unable to put the ball into the net.

They missed 4-5 chances with both Rory Campbell and Adam Dixon having clear sights on goal only to be denied by good saves from the keeper. As Styal settled down into the game they started to create their own chances and really should have gone ahead themselves.



The breakthrough came on the 25th minute when a great ball from Ian Frazer picked out Luke Sephton who skipped past the defender before cutting it back to Dixon to slot home.

Dixon was denied again five minute later when Sephton's flick fell to him and he steered it past the keeper only for it to be scrambled off the line.



Sephton was again his usual menacing self and had a couple of sighters as half time approached but the chance of the game fell to Boylan. After a good lay off from Sephton he found himself on the penalty spot with a large space to aim at but somehow he uncharacteristically placed it wide.

Half-time: Pilkington 1-0 Styal

Pilks should have been out of sight in the first half and it looked like they were going to pay for this as Styal started the second half much stronger. They were stretching Pilks who looked nervous on the ball and were unlucky to see the ball hit the bar on the 60th minute.

Against the run of play though Pilks managed to grab the goal that finally settled them down. Matty Taylor pressed the full back well to win the ball back and played in Sephton who slipped the ball under the advancing keeper.



Pilks now seemed a little more comfortable but Styal were still posing a threat and the game wasn't dead and buried yet. Finally though, with 13 minutes left, a dubious handball decision resulted in a Luke Sephton penalty that was dispatched with ease to kill the game off.



The game was now effectively over and Pilks enjoyed the final ten minutes, again creating a few chances to stretch the lead. The best of which was Brad Smailes who cut inside and beat the keeper only to see the defender scramble back and save it again off the line.

Full-time: Pilkington 3-0 Styal



2017-18 MATCH REPORT, MATCH REPORT

SLUGGISH PILKS GET OVER THE LINE

FEBRUARY 26, 2018 | PILKINGTONFC

Pilkington 3-1 Garswood

Cheshire League Division One, Saturday 24th February

Pilks finally saw off a stubborn Garswood side to run out winners 3-1 but they were by no means at their best and played with a slow tempo for most of the game.

Having said this it was the quality of the Garswood keeper that kept the scores level in the first half. Luke Sephton muscled past the defender on 10 minutes but was denied and then Ben Maddocks turned in box only to see his shot saved. With ten minutes left Matty Taylor fizzed the ball across the 6 yard box and the keeper tipped it into the path of Mike Samson but his shot was cleared off the line.

Half-time: Pilkington 0-0 Garswood



The second half started better for Pilks as they finally got their breakthrough just after the restart. Sephton held the ball up well before playing in Ben Maddocks who opened the scoring. 15 minutes in and Sephton should have extended the lead but somehow blazed over the bar when he could have squared it to Taylor.

Taylor finally got his goal on 65 minutes. Maddocks burst through the defence before squaring in to Taylor to finish easily.



Samson had a cheeky back heel cleared off the line before Rory Campbell wrapped up the game with 8 minutes left. Sephton broke free down the right and Campbell neatly put away his cross.

With two minutes left Garswood pulled back a goal but it was too late to have any effect on the game. This was a poor display by Pilks but they had enough quality in their team to get the three points.

Full-time: Pilkington 3-1 Garswood



2017-18 MATCH REPORT, MATCH REPORT

PILKS LOSE GROUND AT THE TOP

MARCH 5, 2018 | PILKINGTONFC

Pilkington 1-3 Windle Labour

Saturday 3rd March 2018, Cheshire League Division One

Pilks lost ground at the top of the table when their second half display sent them to a 3-1 defeat at local rivals Windle Labour.

Pilks started the game brightly as they didn't let Windle settle into the game. On the 5th minute Luke Sephton robbed the defender but his pull back was dragged wide by Ben Maddocks. Sephton was involved again when his pass was brought down by Matty Taylor but his shot was easily saved by the keeper.



On 16 minutes Pilks opened the scoring. Sephton broke free again but couldn't put it past the keeper who pushed it wide but Sephton was then on hand to flick in Taylor's corner.

Despite being in total control, Pilks somehow couldn't punish their opposition further. They were wasteful in front of goal and missed three or four more chances to put the game to bed. The easiest being when Sephton rounded the keeper but somehow missed the net.

You sensed the longer the game went on the more encouragement was being given to Windle and in a rare first half attack it took a good block from Dean Smith and save from Rob Cork to keep them out.

Half-time: Pilkington 1-0 Windle Labour

The game changed on its head immediately after the half. Windle came out with a lot more desire and it was now them who were first to everything and the scores were level after just 3 minutes of the half.

Pilks simply couldn't respond and they looked completely disjointed as they failed to match Windle's effort. On 70 minutes, Pilks failed to deal with another attack and they went behind 2-1. The large crowd was expecting a response

from the team at the top but it didn't come. A change of personnel didn't even inject any change and they fell further behind with five minutes left.

Taylor managed to put a half chance over the bar with minutes left but it was all too little too late. With no notable shots on goal in the second half you wonder what happened to the team that in the first half was in total control of the game.

Full-time: Pilkington 1-3 Windle Labour



2017-18 MATCH REPORT, MATCH REPORT

PILKS FIGHT BACK TO GO TOP

MARCH 12, 2018 | PILKINGTONFC

Egerton FC 2-3 Pilkington FC

Cheshire League Division One, Saturday 10th March 2018

Pilks went back to the top of the Cheshire First Division with a 3-2 victory against third placed Egerton. With a team full of ex pro-footballers including Dean Gorre, J Lloyd Samuel and Tru-Sox billionaire Jim Cherneski, Egerton's quality was evident and they took control of the first quarter of this game.

Quick passing and quality possession meant Pilks struggled to get a foothold in the game and they found themselves 2-0 down within 30 minutes. After the second went in Pilks made changes and introduced Matty Taylor who seemed to spark some life into Pilks.



Five minutes later they had pulled one back. Danny Hughes won the ball and his pass to Luke Sephton was flicked onto the advancing Adam Dixon who returned the pass for Sephton to slot home.

Pilks were in the insurgency and started to press quicker to stop Egerton from playing. With four minutes of the half left Sephton drew the game level after Ian McBride had won the ball and slid him in for a cool finish.

With their tails up and Egerton on the ropes, Pilks struck again with a minute to go to half time. A cross-field ball from Rory Campbell was sublimely brought down by Taylor and his shot from an acute angle bounced off the post back to Dixon who finished well.



Half-time: Egerton FC 2-3 Pilkington FC

Egerton were rocked and it was Pilks who had more of the opening exchanges of the second half with Campbell hitting the post and missing a one-on-one. But Egerton grew back into it and they were forcing a few opportunities for themselves.

As the game entered the last 20 minutes there were horrific scenes as Pilk's defender Mike Samson suddenly collapsed after what seemed an innocuous challenge. Alarming scenes ensued as Samson was kept comfortable by both team's physios before the paramedics arrived. Thankfully he suffered just a fractured bone in his face and was airlifted to hospital.



After an hours delay the game restarted and with the Pilks players a little shell-shocked in what was difficult circumstances it was Egerton who had all the ball in these last twenty minutes. It took two outstanding saves from keeper Rob Cork to see Pilks over the line against the team with the most quality in the league.

Full-time: Egerton FC 2-3 Pilkington FC



2017-18 MATCH REPORT, MATCH REPORT

SEPHTON HAT-TRICK KEEPS PILKS TOP

MARCH 19, 2018 | PILKINGTONFC

Pilkington 5-1 Golborne Sports

Saturday 17th March 2018, Cheshire League Division One

Pilks eased to a comfortable 5-1 victory over bottom club Golborne Sports with Luke Sephton grabbing another hat-trick.

Pilks started sharp as Ben Maddocks found space in the box but his shot was well blocked. A minute later and Pilks had opened the scoring, Matty Taylor intercepted a pass out of defence and his cross was turned in by the retreating Golborne defender.



Pilks were in total control of the ball and by half-time the game was dead and buried. On 25 minutes Adam Dixon played in Sephton who rounded the keeper to make it 2-0. Then Sephton grabbed his second on 39 minutes with some breath-taking counter attacking football after defending a corner.



The goal of the game came with 4 minutes of the half left when Dixon's well struck effort from outside of the box found the bottom corner.



Half-time: Pilkington 4-0 Golborne Sports

With the game effectively over Pilks were hoping to come out in the second half and build on their goal difference. It looked to be going to plan when Sephton completed his hat-trick on 58 minutes after he met a Taylor corner to convert.

Changes to personnel ensued and for a while Pilks lost a little rhythm but were never in any danger.

On 70 minutes Golborne managed to grab a goal back when a simple long ball caught out the defence and Rob Cork clipped the advancing forward to concede a penalty that was easily converted.

The last 20 minutes passed without incident in what was horrendous conditions with driving snow and Pilks recorded another win in their push for promotion.

Full-time: Pilkington 5-1 Golborne Sports



2017-18 MATCH REPORT, MATCH REPORT

PILKS SLIP UP AT HOME

MARCH 27, 2018 | PILKINGTONFC

Pilkington FC 0-1 Middlewich Town FC

Saturday 24th March 2018, Cheshire League Division One

Pilkington suffered a huge blow in their promotion battle when they were defeated 1-0 by promotion chasing Middlewich Town at the Arcoframe Stadium.

But the 1-0 scoreline does not tell the whole story. Simply put, Pilks were dominant in the game but couldn't find the goals to kill the game off.

As the game settled down, Luke Sephton's cross was met by Matty Taylor but the Middlewich keeper pulled off a great save. A couple of minutes later and Miguel Gillum headed wide.

The golden chance of the game came on 30 minutes when Sephton knocked the ball down to the advancing Adam Dixon but again he failed to convert.



With minutes left in the half, Sephton was presented with a chance when Ian McBride slid him in but somehow he dragged it wide.

Pilks knew that they needed to get the first goal to settle things down and the second half started the same with the midfield trio totally controlling the ball.

Half-time: Pilkington FC 0-0 Middlewich Town FC

Within a few minutes of the restart Jake Worrall burst down the left and his cross was just missed by the outstretched leg of McBride. From the resulting corner Sephton then skewed it wide after a scramble in the box.

Another cross from Worrall found Boylan at the back post and his header back across goal was again narrowly missed by McBride. You sensed it wasn't going to be Pilk's day and the hammer blow came on 58 minutes.

The lively Middlewich winger cut inside and delivered a ball over the top to catch the Pilks defence out and in one of their few attacks of the day Middlewich were able to take the lead.



From then on in it was all about the equaliser for Pilks. You thought that they just needed to one for the floodgates to open but it didn't arrive.

Firstly, a backflick from Boylan was just missed by Sephton at the back post and then Boylan seemed to hesitate twice in the box as the ball bounced around. They went on to hit the post and bar but somehow it wasn't destined to go in.

This was definitely three points lost for Pilks and they need to start to find that cutting edge once more if they are going to get over the line and grab one of those promotion spots.

Full-time: Pilkington FC 0-1 Middlewich Town FC



2017-18 MATCH REPORT, MATCH REPORT

EMPHATIC DERBY DAY WIN

APRIL 23, 2018 | PILKINGTONFC

Pilkington 6-3 FC St Helens

Cheshire League Division One, Saturday 21st April 2018

Pilks showed their qualities on Saturday as they brushed aside close rivals FC St Helens with an emphatic 6-3 victory.

Rampant Pilks started the game with a good attitude to put it to bed very early on and they were on the scoresheet within 3 minutes. Matty Taylor spun clear down the right hand side and his cross was met at the back post by the league's top goalscorer, Luke Sephton.

FC seemed to want put up a fight and were level within five minutes. They rallied some effort but a ruthless Pilks put them to the sword with 25 minutes of scintillating football.

On 22 mins Captain Graham Boylan turned in the box to feed Taylor who finished coolly for his first of the afternoon and after a quick water break on a hot afternoon, Kane Gerald won the ball back straight from the kick off and after some great link up play with Taylor extended their lead further with a good finish from a tight angle.



Taylor got his second five minutes before the half when Pilks broke again after a good tackle from young defender Tom Moore. And just on half-time Boylan got in on the act when Sephton's cross was pulled back by Taylor for him to round the keeper and make it 5-1 at half-time.



Half-time: Pilkington 5-1 FC St Helens

The second half was more like a training session for Pilks as FC concentrated on keeping men behind the ball to stop conceding goals. They did manage one

attack on 60 minutes with Laird getting his second to pull one back for FC.

On 70 minutes Sephton should have extended the lead but a good save from the keeper prevented this but 5 minutes later he got the last touch in a scramble in the box to get his second of the game.

Taylor and Campbell had further chances to extend the lead before a mix up from the Pilks keeper let FC to score a third late on. A final flurry by Pilks didn't bring another goal but Taylor was unlucky to not get his hat-trick when his effort struck the post.

This game was effectively over at half-time as Pilks shown their true class with a top drawer performance as they continue to chase a promotion spot.

Full-time: Pilkington 6-3 FC St Helens



2017-18 MATCH REPORT, MATCH REPORT

PILKS GRAB A POINT

MAY 8, 2018 | PILKINGTONFC

Pilkington 4-4 West Didsbury & Chorlton Reserves
Cheshire League Division One, Saturday 5th May 2018

Pilks will be bitterly disappointed as they slipped up at home in their last game of the season at the Arcoframe stadium.

Pilks had a shocking start and were 1-0 to West Didsbury & Chorlton Reserves within 3 minutes when a corner flew straight in at the back post. For the first 30 minutes Pilks were unable to gain control of the game and despite a few half chances for Graham Boylan, Luke Sephton and Matty Taylor they didn't threaten.

Finally with ten minutes left of the half they came to life – firstly Taylor spun away from his marker and his cut back was put away by Sephton but amazingly the referee felt that this was offside and promptly disallowed the goal.

A minute later and Pilks were level. A long through-ball found Boylan who equalised and almost straight from the kick off Taylor won the ball back and squared it to Sephton to make it 2-1.

Half-time: Pilkington 2-1 West Didsbury & Chorlton Reserves

Within two minutes of the restart Pilks had stretched their lead when Taylor's shot across the keeper nestled into the bottom corner.

You would have felt that Pilks should go on and win the game but some awful defending let West Didsbury straight back in it a minute later.

Pilks had further chances to put the game to bed when Ben Maddocks went through but couldn't quite go round the keeper and Taylor put it wide from Fidan Hjdari's free kick.

Despite the chances Pilks were always struggling to control the midfield and on 60 minutes West Didsbury were level. Pilks now laid siege on the opposition as they sought the winner, however more shocking defending saw them go 4-3 down with only 10 minutes left.

Pilks pushed and pushed for the equaliser but a combination of poor finishing and good saves was preventing this. Finally with the last kick of the game they got the point. As Rory Campbell's shot rattled the bar, Maddocks arrived in the six-yard box to scramble to ball over the line.

Relief for Pilks that they had rescued a point but as they chase promotion it remains to be seen how crucial it will be.

Full-time: Pilkington 4-4 West Didsbury & Chorlton Reserves



2017-18 MATCH REPORT, MATCH REPORT

GOLBORNE EDGED OUT

MAY 14, 2018 | PILKINGTONFC

Golborne Sports 2-3 Pilkington FC

Saturday 12th May 2018, Cheshire League Division One

Pilks finished this game knowing that this 3-2 victory over Golborne Sports was vital in their push for promotion to the Cheshire Premier League.

Against the bottom club you would have thought on paper that this would be an easy win. However with a team bolstered by the return of some key players including non-League star Matty Hughes, Golborne were resolute and put up a fight right to the end.

Pilks started well with top goalscorer Luke Sephton heading wide and then hitting the bar. The breakthrough came on 25 mins when Matty Taylor's cross found Graham Boylan free to convert on the back post.

5 mins later, Boylan held off the defender at the edge of the box and turned to feed the advancing Ben Maddocks but his effort was pushed onto the bar.

Just before half-time Pilks extended when Sephton converted a penalty for his 30th goal of the season.

Half-time: Golborne Sports 0-2 Pilkington FC

Golborne came out in the second half with more effort and put Pilks under a bit of pressure. The introduction of Rory Campbell breathed new life into the Pilks attack and on 60 mins he flashed a shot over the bar. This was quickly followed a few minutes later with another effort from Maddocks.

5 mins later some quick thinking by Taylor made it 3-0 when he took a free-kick quickly when Golborne had switched off.

Pilks should have been in cruise control at this point but with the quality Golborne possessed up front they were always going to be a threat and on 70 minutes they pulled one back after a great solo run.

As the game entered the final minutes, a poor clearance from Pilks keeper Rob Cork fell to the Golborne midfielder who lofted it into the net from the halfway.

This set up a nervy injury time but Pilks managed it well to record another win in their push for promotion.

Full-time: Golborne Sports 2-3 Pilkington FC



2017-18 MATCH REPORT, MATCH REPORT

RAMPANT PILKS SWEEP ASIDE HALEBANK

MAY 28, 2018 | [PILKINGTONFC](#)

Halebank 1-9 Pilkington

Cheshire League Division One, Tuesday 22nd May 2018

Pilks travelled to Halebank midweek knowing that a win was a must and in the end they rampaged past them to run out 9-1 winners.

Pilks should have scored straight from the kick off when Graham Boylan broke through but his cutback couldn't quite make it to Kane Gerald.



Halebank had a few half chances themselves and the scores were kept level when Rob Cork pulled off a good save before Halebank then missed a sitter.

On 13 minutes, Matty Taylor found space in the middle to slot past the keeper to make it 1-0. Halebank however hit straight back to equalise.



Five minutes later and Boylan put Pilks back in the lead when he stabbed a corner home at the back post. Within the half hour Pilks were 4-1, firstly Luke Sephton managed to get the last touch as he challenged the keeper for a high ball and then Gerald's shot from 30 yards flew into the bottom corner.



15 minutes into the second half and we saw a rare goal from Ian Frazer. After great work by Sephton the keeper miskicked down the middle and Frazer met it on the half volley from 40 yards out to make it 6-1.



Ten minutes later and Smailes made it 7-1 before Sephton got his second of the game following a good cross from Gerald.



As the game came to a close Taylor made it 8-1 and Sephton completed his hat-trick when he headed home for his 33rd goal of the campaign.



2017-18 MATCH REPORT, MATCH REPORT

WE ARE GOING UP!!! WE ARE GOING UP!!!

MAY 28, 2018 | [PILKINGTONFC](#)

Lostock Gralam 1-4 Pilkington

Cheshire League Division One, Saturday 26th May 2018

Following an emphatic midweek 9-1 win over Halebank, Pilks travelled to Lostock Gralam in their last game of the season knowing that dropping points was not an option.



A win for either team would see them promoted whilst a loss or draw would put them out of the promotion race. Pilks started sluggish and found themselves 1-0 down within six minutes after some slack defending.

They tried to strike back immediately when Ben Maddocks forced a great save from the keeper who pushed it onto the post. A minute later, Graham Boylan's half volley on the turn also hit the post.



At the back Pilks really were not at the races and Lostock spurned three or four good chances to extend their lead. They struggled to get to grips with their counter attacking style and it seemed every time they went forwards Lostock looked like scoring.

Despite this, at the other end, but for the brilliance of the keeper Pilks could have had a few themselves. Matty Taylor's effort on 25 minutes produced another good save and Sephton, Maddocks and Boylan all had chances that needed the keeper to preserve Lostock's lead.

The second half was a different matter. Pilks came out with a more determined feel about them as they fought for every ball. Within 3 minutes of the restart Taylor had equalised. He cut inside the defender to place the ball in the top corner.



Gradually Pilks started to take control of the game and on the 70th minute Taylor struck again when he broke free and lobbed the keeper.

Lostock were starting to tire and with ten minutes left Boylan made it 3-1 when his miskicked lob seemed to go past the keeper.

Lostock tried a fightback and Rob Cork tipped a 30 yard shot onto the bar with five minutes left. But as they pushed to get back in the game they were leaving gaps at the back and Sephton broke free with four minutes left to supply Rory Campbell who made it 4-1.





And so the season ends on a high as Pilks are promoted to the Cheshire Premier Division. Objective one complete in their long term plan to be playing North West Counties football.

◀ [FEATURED](#)