

COUNTY LEAGUE NEWS

on behalf of Cheshire Clubs Cricket Committee (4 Cs)

EDITOR: JAMES EMMERSON

AUTUMN 2019

End of season edition

League Dinner & Awards Night

2019 in numbers

If DLS was used in 2019....

and

Bramhall's ground renamed

PLUS

Enter the 2019 prize quiz



VIVIO

CHESHIRE COUNTY CRICKET LEAGUE

COUNTY LEAGUE DINNER AND AWARDS

Friday October 4th saw a fitting celebration of an excellent 2019 season at Toft C.C.

Toft CC laid on another excellent evening for some 270 guests at the annual League dinner. The format that had worked so well in 2018 was repeated effectively, with the specially erected marquee and extended bar proving a very successful combination. Toft - who, along with Nantwich reached national finals in 2019 - were mentioned specifically during the opening comments from MC Rob Sproston who led the celebrations of a very successful year for Cheshire Cricket, with the county side ensuring their place in the top division of minor county cricket in 2020. It was, of course, a much wetter summer than 2018 but despite this, there was still plenty of good cricket played. As is the custom at the dinner, the captain of the Premier

League winners made a speech, with Rick Moore hitting just the right tone, rightly speaking proudly about his club after a very successful season but also congratulating others on their successes. Rick also led the tributes to Ian Greensmith, the popular chair of the Umpires & Scorers association who has retired from 'active duty.' After Toft chair Nigel Muirhead got the 'heads and tails' competition running more smoothly than last year (not that difficult tbh), he introduced guest speaker Graham Gooch. With over 70,000 runs (incl. 180 centuries!) in all formats in a career of some 25 years, Gooch (*bottom photo*) was spoiled for choice as to what he could talk about, although his claims of the hazards of batting with Geoff Boycott prompted yours truly to look at the facts (see below!)



2019 ROLL OF HONOUR



ECB PREMIER LEAGUE WINNERS
(The Murray Smith Trophy)

CHESTER BOUGHTON HALL

DIVISION ONE WINNERS
(The Foden Trophy)

OXTON

DIVISION TWO WINNERS
(The Bloor Trophy)

CONGLETON

2nd XI Prem: **Chester BH** 2nd XI Div 1: **Bowdon** 2nd XI Div 2: **Davenham**

3rd XI Prem: **Didsbury** 3rd XI Div 1 E: **Romiley** 3rd XI Div 2 E: **Ch. Hulme**
3rd XI Div 3 E: **Mobberley** 3rd XI W Div: **New Brighton**

Over 40's Champ'sp: **Ch. Hulme** Over 40's SE: **Bredbury SM**

Over 40's W: **Neston** Over 40's C: **Toft** Over 40's NE: **Ch. Hulme**

1st XI T20: **Toft** 2nd XI T20: **Chester BH**
3rd XI T20 (Jack Gardner Trophy): **Didsbury**

To clarify the Gooch and Boycott opening partnership in Tests - they opened 41 times together (30 of those were against West Indies or Australia), with 3 run outs - Gooch was run out twice, Boycott once. Where the blame lay is not clear! Together they added 1498 runs including 4 century partnerships. Gooch was once run out for 99 vs Australia attempting what Wisden described as "a ridiculous run" but David Gower was the non-striker on that occasion.

COUNTY LEAGUE DINNER AND AWARDS

Major Award Winners 2019 - Players

YOUNG PLAYER OF THE YEAR
The John North Trophy

George Balderson (Hyde CC)

491 league runs at 34.94 (19 inns)

4 x 50

16 wkts at 15.69 (75 overs) 6 catches

Captain of England U19s

Pic: @Lancs cricket (Twitter)



ECB PREMIER LEAGUE PLAYER OF THE YEAR
The Keith Belfield Memorial Trophy

Will Evans (Neston CC)

932 runs at 51.78 (19 inns)

3 x 100; 5 x 50

16 catches, 2 stumpings

Runner up: Rick Moore (CBH)

Third Place: Ash Davis (Neston)



DIVISION ONE PLAYER OF THE YEAR
The Mark Alcroft Trophy

Nick Anderson (Didsbury CC)

369 league runs at 26.36 (17 inns)

1 x 50

40 league wkts at 15.80 (189.2 overs)

1 x 5 wkt haul

6 catches



Runner up: Chris Stenhouse (Oxton)

Third Place: Chris Ashling (Bowdon)

DIVISION TWO PLAYER OF THE YEAR
The Mike Talbot-Butler Statuette

Joe Cooper (Hale Barns CC)

461 league runs at 28.81 (17 inns)

1 x 100, 2 x 50

58 league wkts at 10.66 (206 overs)

6 x 5 wkt hauls, 8 catches



Runner up: Mike Eley (Stockport)

Third Place: Alex Matthews (Lindow)

OVER 40s PLAYER OF THE YEAR:

Phil Sharples (Davenham)

Major Award Winners 2019 - Clubs

FAIR PLAY AWARD

The Eddie Howard Memorial Shield
Barrow CC



MOST IMPROVED CLUB OF 2019:

The Sandy Scrimgeour Bowl
Chester Boughton Hall CC



Major Award Winner 2019 - Officials

UMPIRE OF THE YEAR

The Terry Hill
Memorial Trophy

Graham Pugh

(receiving his award from
Umpires Chairman
Ian Greensmith)



PERFORMANCE OF THE MONTH WINNERS
Award sponsored by Joseph Holt Brewery

April/May - **Will Evans** (Neston)
181 v Toft, 25th May

June - **Liam Booth** (Didsbury)
10.1-5-10-7 v Brooklands, 29th June

July - **Caleb Ziebell** (Bollington)
125 v Macclesfield, 13th July
Caleb was also noted for the
highest 1st XI innings of the
season, 191 v Upton, 1st June



Aug/Sept - **Luke Robinson** (Nantwich)
150* v Neston, 24th Aug

2019 IN NUMBERS

Drawn league matches are cited as a key reason why people lose interest in playing the game. Sides who bat second blocking out from ball one, with no intention of getting the target, are the main reason why the concept of the draw seems unpopular in some quarters. And of course, when this happens it can be a painful scenario to take part in, either as a player or official. So what does the statistical evidence from 2019 indicate, and how does this differ from 2018? The basic statistics make for interesting reading:

2019 CCCL	MATCHES	DRAWN	RAIN AFFECTED DRAW	% OF MATCHES DRAWN	TIED	CANCELLED	ABAND	CONCEDED
1ST XI PREM	132	18	6	17.4	1	23	2	-
1ST XI DIV 1	132	20	10	12	-	25	3	-
1ST XI DIV 2	132	24	1	9.8	-	23	1	-
2ND XI PREM	132	16	3	14.6	-	21	2	2
2ND XI DIV 1	132	17	3	16.1	-	22	5	1
2ND XI DIV 2	132	14	1	13.3	-	26	1	-
3RD XI SUN PREM	90	16	3	20.7	-	13	1	4
3RD XI SUN WEST	66	-	-	-	-	18	2	26
3RD XI SUN EAST DIV 1	90	-	-	-	1	8	2	4
3RD XI SUN EAST DIV 2	72	-	-	-	-	10	3	2
3RD XI SUN EAST DIV 3	126	-	-	-	-	15	1	21
TOTALS	1236	125	27	13.24	2	204	23	60

Bear in mind that the 3rd XI Sunday Central Division was abolished this year, hence the increased number of fixtures in Sunday East Div 3. Also, all the Sunday divisions bar the Premier voted to have win/lose cricket throughout.

1. 2019 WAS BADLY AFFECTED BY THE WEATHER

The stats certainly back up the anecdotal evidence; 95 cancelled matches in 2018 shot up to over 200 in 2019, including two completely blank Saturdays (with one completely blank weekend, at the end of July, to add). Such a large increase will clearly have an impact on the percentage of drawn games, as fewer games were completed.

2. THE ACTUAL NUMBER OF DRAWN MATCHES IS LOW

In 2018, 18.66% of matches across all senior cricket were drawn (i.e. less than one fifth played); the percentage figure is lower again in 2019 although given the number of cancellations and abandonments it is in reality probably similar, proportionally speaking. Given the usual argument that drawn matches are bad for the game and bad for participation, the actual figures make those views - not without merit - nonetheless harder to sustain.

3. DRAWN MATCHES AREN'T NECESSARILY BORING MATCHES

The majority of cricketers know this only too well. Yes, there are grinds where it is difficult for all of those involved to stay motivated, but there are examples aplenty in 2019 of tense finishes where everyone will have been interested right up to the final ball. And there are some who would argue that these are the best kind of games!

4. CONCESSIONS ARE A BIG ISSUE FOR CCCL CRICKET

In two seasons, 110 matches have now been conceded; clearly the issues in Sunday cricket in 2019 are the biggest factor behind the figures being as they are, but it is something that continues to be a cause for concern.

WHAT ABOUT DUCKWORTH LEWIS STERN?

With 2019 having so many games disrupted by the weather, James Emmerson looks at the impact DLS would have had in 2019, were it in use in the CCCL.

Being an ardent supporter of the introduction of DLS into CCCL league cricket, you may be surprised to learn that had it been in use in 2019, three 1st XI matches would have been affected by it. Yes, three matches - two in the Prem and one in Div 1, with no games affected in Div 2. The majority of rain affected games led to reduced overs games with an equal split of overs. But this is precisely the point with DLS - it is there as a back up on those occasions when weather interruptions lead to an unequal split of overs. This does not happen often, but when it does it can lead to obviously unfair scenarios, and had DLS been available this could be avoided. Here are those matches, and an outline of what difference DLS would have made had it been in use:

CCCL PREMIER LEAGUE

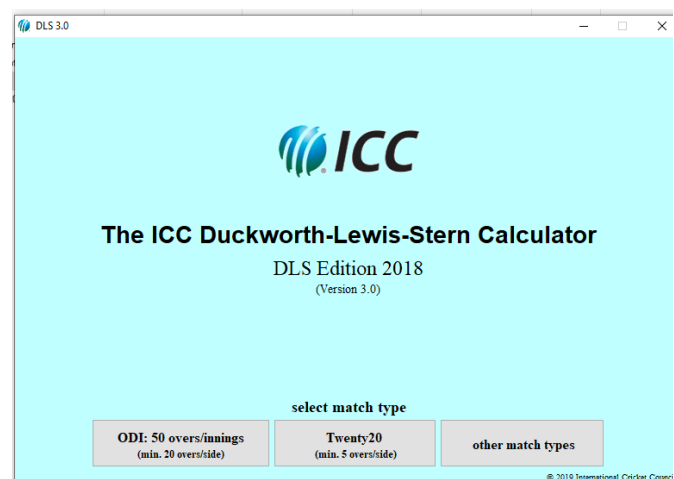
On May 11th, Hyde v Widnes was rain interrupted after Widnes had scored 167 from 50.3 overs. Hyde were left with 41 overs to chase 168 (i.e. a loss of 14 overs with no reduction in target). **Using DLS, Hyde would have chasing 149 from their 41 overs.**

On Aug 31st, Nantwich v Marple was rain delayed and also rain interrupted. The match started as a 53 overs a side game but further rain appears to have curtailed the Nantwich innings after 46 overs, after which they had totalled an imposing 243-8. **Using DLS, Marple's target would have been enhanced to 251 from their 44 overs,** as DLS would have compensated Nantwich who were expecting to receive another 7 overs.

In the event, neither of these games were impacted by the unequal overs split, with both Hyde and Nantwich winning comfortably, but of course this could have been very different.

CCCL DIVISION ONE

The match between Didsbury and Macclesfield on 15th June is the prime example of the difference DLS can make. In an already rain affected match, Didsbury received 41 overs, in which time they made 180-7. More rain led to a lengthy delay and on resumption, Macc were left with 19 overs to chase 181 - clearly an unfair and unsatisfactory situation. **Using DLS, Macc's target from 19 overs would have been 115** which is clearly a more equitable requirement. Macc finished on 107-6 on the day.



WOULD DLS MEAN WIN-LOSE CRICKET THROUGHOUT ALL CCCL MATCHES?

No! The 'draw' is a legitimate result in a team sport, and that can be retained in league cricket. Using DLS to recalculate the target in a weather-affected league match with an unequal split of overs still leaves all the result options open, and as the figures show, this in itself is a rare occurrence. The side batting second could still draw the match if they don't reach their target (but are not bowled out), but equally, a fairer target calculation where an unequal overs split has occurred makes it a better and more equitable game, which can only be for the good.

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE 'STANDARD' AND 'PROFESSIONAL' VERSIONS OF DLS?

The professional version can be only calculated on a computer. The standard version can be calculated both manually and via software or an app. In general, a professional calculation will always produce a slightly higher target than one made with standard. The standard formula has been kept in use for a number of reasons, and is available as a back-up at every professional one-day match, in case of major equipment failure at the venue.

2019 IN PICTURES



The end of a season is a good time to reminisce so I have chosen a few snaps that are personally meaningful, for different reasons, during 2019.

ABOVE: I scored NZ v WI in the World Cup at Old Trafford with the media; an amazing Carlos Brathwaite innings in a fabulous game, a full house engrossed as the sun set.

TOP LEFT: Yes, it's a hard life - some of the post match spreads at the World Cup in the media centres.

TOP RIGHT: a rare day at the cricket as a spectator only, glorious at Colwyn Bay as Lancs hammered Glamorgan.

RIGHT: Cheshire taking on Devon at Alderley Edge

BOTTOM RIGHT: This is my works team in action. I was already out (for 3) at Blackley cricket club near Huddersfield (hence the photo) but I atoned with the ball, taking 7-18 (yes really) as we reduced our much stronger opponents to 44-8 chasing 132! We still managed to lose.....



BELOW: there are a number of photographers who share their work on club websites or on the County League website, which provide a wonderful record. Do check them out!



2019 QUIZ OF THE YEAR

It's your chance to test your cricket knowledge and see if you can outdo the editor! Have a go at these 20 questions and submit your answers to the email address on the back page; the number of points available per question is in brackets. The first correct entry (or nearest in excess of 32 pts) drawn at random will win £50. Entries must be received by Monday 2nd December at 12.00 noon. Prize paid via bank transfer shortly after 2.12.19.

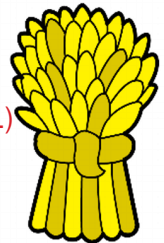


THE CRICKET WORLD CUP 2019

- 1) How many sixes did Eoin Morgan hit when England played Afghanistan? (1)
- 2) 166 was the highest innings in the tournament - made by who? (1)
- 3) Which players in the England squad did not play in any matches? (2)
- 4) How many CWC19 matches were played at Old Trafford? (1)
- 5) What unusual occurrence briefly delayed the SA v SL match at Durham? (2)

CHESHIRE CRICKET IN 2019

- 6) How many bowlers took 40 wickets or more in the three 1st XI divisions? (1)
- 7) Who made highest score for Cheshire in their West Division Championship games? (1)
- 8) Which four clubs were finalists in the 3rd XI CCCL T20 competition? (4)
- 9) There are five CCCL 1st XI clubs that start with the same letter - name the 5. (5)
- 10) What is the maximum number of points that can be earned for a winning draw? (1)



THE LAWS OF CRICKET



- 11) A no-ball is bowled which the striker hits into the outfield, wanting two runs. However, the striker sees a fielder getting to the ball more quickly than anticipated, and wanting to stay on strike, deliberately runs the first run short. What signals should be given to the scorers, and how many runs should be recorded? (2)
- 12) How many ways can a batsman be dismissed from a wide? (2)
- 13) The law regarding runs accrued from overthrows came to great prominence after the World Cup Final. But whereabouts in the 'little blue book' can that specific law be found? (1)
- 14) The striker hits a fair delivery into the air and the batsmen run. The non-striker, seeing a fielder getting underneath the skied shot, shouts 'drop it!' and the fielder does indeed drop the catch, as the batsman complete two runs. There is an appeal - what should happen next? (2)
- 15) The striker allows a no-ball to hit his thigh pad, making no attempt to play a shot. The ball goes to fine leg and the batsmen run. The fielder throws the ball back, which hits a helmet on the ground belonging to the fielding side as the batsmen complete a single. What signals should be given to the scorers and how many runs are scored? (2)

TEST MATCH MISCELLANEOUS

- 16) What did captain Viv Richards decide to do while WI fielded at Wellington in their Test with NZ in Feb 1987? And why did play start 90 mins late when WI played Zimbabwe at Harare in Nov 2003? (2)
- 17) Why is Test Match number 1,376 of particular significance? (1)
- 18) What record was set in the 1st Test between India and S. Africa at Visakhapatnam this October? (1)
- 19) Apart from being England's leading wicket taker, what other Test Match record does James Anderson currently feature in? (1)
- 20) How many batsmen have been out for 199 in a Test match, and who was the most recent? (2)

IT'S OFFICIAL(S) UMPIRES AND SCORERS



Cheshire Education Officer Geoff Young has arranged a number of courses over the Winter and Spring for umpires - so whether you (or someone you know) is wanting to get started in on-field officiating, or whether you want to develop further by taking the stage three course, please get these dates into your diaries. There are also two refresher courses next year, suitable for all who want to revise and refresh their understanding in like-minded company. In addition, Cheshire ACO is prepared to run an umpiring course specifically for women and girls, or for men and boys with connections to the Women's League and its member clubs (suggested minimum age for participants is 14.) Whether the course takes place is dependent on the level of interest and will require attendance for two full days over a weekend in November 2019, late January or early February 2020, and the venue is likely to be either Oakmere CC or Toft CC.

For more information about any course, and to book, please contact Geoff directly in the first instance, either via email: curzon99@tiscali.co.uk or on 01352 755881.

UMPIRING COURSES

ECABACO have redesigned the umpiring syllabus into stages, with stages 1 and 2 replacing the former Level 1 and Level 1A. Courses will be run over two weekends; there is no obligation to do stage 2, but a discount applies if both stage 1 and 2 are booked at the same time. There are two courses running in Cheshire during Winter & Spring:

UMPIRE STAGE ONE & TWO 2020

15th March (Stage 1) and
5th April (Stage 2).
Oakmere CC, 9.30am - 4.45pm



UMPIRE STAGE THREE 2020

29th February and
14th March (two day course)
Oakmere CC, 9.30am - 4.45pm

UMPIRE REFRESHER COURSE 2020 OAKMERE C.C. 18th & 25th January



UMPIRE REFRESHER COURSE 2020 TOFT C.C. 2nd & 9th February

Refresher courses are open to all umpires and are recommended as a great way of interacting with colleagues, looking at laws knowledge and fieldcraft in preparation for the coming season.

INTRODUCTORY UMPIRING & SCORING COURSE

This course is offered by Cheshire ACO for all clubs that wish to provide some basic 'how to' education for parents (and players) involved in junior cricket, to give them more confidence in undertaking these vital roles in junior games.

Clubs request a course and then make arrangements as to a suitable date etc. The course is a 2 hour session which is interactive, lively and fun.

Course cost is £50.



SCORING COURSES

A number of different courses will be available in the spring of 2020.

CLUB SCORER COURSE

Sat 22nd & 29th February 2020 at Toft C.C, 9.30am - 4.00pm
Suitable for beginners and/or inexperienced scorers.

ELECTRONIC SCORING MODULE

Sunday 8th March 2020
at Toft C.C.

A one day course which will provide guidance on how to score matches on computer or iPad.



QUICK SCORER - THE BASICS OF IPAD SCORING

Please contact James to discuss arranging this at your club

LINEAR & DLS MODUES ARRANGED ACCORDING TO DEMAND

FOR MORE DETAILS AND TO BOOK
CONTACT JAMES EMMERSON: semajemm@gmail.com

NEW NAME FOR BRAMHALL'S GROUND

Richard Cragg honoured by club

Bramhall have renamed their Church Lane ground in honour of their long serving groundsman. In 2020 matches will be played at the Richard Cragg Cricket Ground.

Over 40s captain and club stalwart Ian Milligan told newsletter "Richard has been our Head Groundsman for over 40 years; he has served as club President and also as 1st team captain. In addition, he was the youngest captain of Cheshire, and is a former English Universities and Schools captain. Perhaps most importantly, Richard is one of the nicest human beings and a widely respected cricket man. It was Richard who nurtured our move from Queensgate 20 years ago and transformed what was a farmer's field into one of the nicest grounds in Cheshire."



It was clearly a popular decision, judging by the response to the announcement made on the penultimate Saturday of the season.

The 'Inside Bramhall' magazine has run a feature on Richard, which you can read by accessing the following link and choosing the appropriate magazine.

<https://insidemagazines.co.uk/read-our-latest-issues/>



BramhallCricketClub
@BramhallCC

Follow

Yesterday we formally renamed our facility at Church Lane after the legendary "Craggie", who we surprised in a ceremony involving other friends of BCC. #beavers #bramhall



BramhallCricketClub Retweeted



RPGBabs @RPGBabs · Sep 1

Replying to @BramhallCC

Well deserved recognition for all his hard work, over the years, from Queensgate to Church Lane.

1 2

BramhallCricketClub Retweeted



Matthew Dawson @TCA_Coach · Sep 1

Replying to @BramhallCC

Brilliant! Well deserved Craggy 🐻

1 3

BramhallCricketClub Retweeted



Cheshire Cricket Board @CheshireCB · Sep 1

Replying to @BramhallCC

What a fantastic gesture by @BramhallCC to recognise one of Cheshire's most deserving volunteers. We look forward to visiting the Richard Cragg Ground very soon

OXTON & CHRISTLETON TOP GROUND MARKINGS

Oxton topped the outfield marks in 2019, and came second in the pitch marks table, while Christleton's pitches came out top in the markings and their outfield second! Neston, Chester BH and Bramhall made up the top five in the outfield markings while Chester (again), Grappenhall and Didsbury were the other three top clubs in the pitch marks table. Only eight clubs were below a 17.5 mark for their outfields, but only 16 clubs got a mark of 16 or above for pitches, compared to 27 clubs in 2018. This perhaps reflects the difficulties experienced in pitch preparation during a much wetter season. The full list of marks is available on the Cheshire Groundsman's website: www.cag.org.uk



FROM THE EDITOR



As I write, England have just appointed a new head coach, Sri Lanka have completed a quite astonishing 3-0 clean sweep of their T20 series in Pakistan, the first full international team to tour there in 11 years - and that without 10 of their regular squad who opted not to travel! Closer to home, next years' T20 Blast Finals Day has already sold out, and the preparations for 'The Hundred' are well and truly un-

derway. I suspect I am not alone in still being none the wiser about how this particular event is supposed to work (or be scored)! But it is going to happen. And in that sense, whether we like it or not, it is indicative of the relentless march of change. Apparently, the ECB were informed by the BBC that they would not televise any existing format of cricket, hence the need to devise this 'variation on a theme' in the hope of getting cricket to the widest possible audience. That being the case, it at least makes the rationale behind 'The Hundred' a little easier to accept. But the wider issue - making the game accessible - is a constant one, and as all clubs make the most of this downtime to reflect on the good and the bad from 2019, and start

preparations for 2020, drawing more people into their clubs at all levels will be a priority. Not straightforward, but I read an idea in the current Wisden magazine that clubs should bring juniors onto their selection committees, to broaden knowledge and also get more involvement amongst younger players - food for thought. And there are a range of courses available to equip club members in officiating - clubs could fund a place to encourage participation. In the meantime, do have fun with the first ever newsletter quiz, enjoy all the overseas cricket and have a happy and healthy autumn / winter / early spring. Thank you to all who have got in touch to encourage and inform the newsletter throughout 2019. Back at some point pre-season!

James

UPCOMING DATES

Thurs 24th Oct: CCCL Cricket Committee

**Mon 4th Nov 19.30: CCCL Umpires & Scorers
AGM (Toft CC)**

Weds 13th Nov: CCCL Management Meeting

**Weds 15th Jan 2020: AGM & Management
Meeting**

Fri 2nd Oct: 2020 League Dinner & Awards

CLUBS ARE RESPECTFULLY ASKED NOT TO ARRANGE THEIR
PRESENTATION EVENINGS ON THIS DATE .



Send your feedback and information to James: editorclnews101@gmail.com

VIVIO CHESHIRE COUNTY CRICKET LEAGUE

VIVIO

