

# COUNTY LEAGUE NEWS

on behalf of **Cheshire Clubs Cricket Committee (4 Cs)**



**MAY 1ST - MAY 16TH**  
**Miserable Month!**

Rain decimates League programme.....

....but Cheshire Cup & Shield see play

1st XI T20 underway (& underwater)  
3rd XI T20 quarter finals drawn



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I need to have a word with the twit who writes this column, after the previous newsletter heralded a 'sun-blessed' start to the 2021 season. I suppose that much was at least true but it seems a very distant memory now after a thoroughly miserable fortnight which has seen, for the first time in my almost 15 years involved with Cheshire cricket, successive virtual 1st XI washouts, and a dispiriting start to the 1st XI T20 with as many games cancelled as played. There is a 'clutching at straws' argument that the cancellations level up the various leagues with no side able to establish a

significant early advantage but that is the smallest of consolations as the continually unsettled weather causes such disappointment. Still, despite this, there are reasons for optimism - cricket continues to be played with notable performances and achievements already being recorded. There were two 1st XI matches which went the distance on Saturday, another that got a good way into its course, and quite a number of 2nd XI games, proof again of the way cricketers and officials do their best to adapt when conditions are far from ideal. The weather has also put the spotlight on the rain regulations, which in my opinion need adjusting without delay - more of which in the next newsletter, which by the way should be in a fortnight, after we have decided to trial a more regular edition this season. Better news still is of course the relaxing of Covid restrictions which, whilst still on a knife-edge in some respects, can only be good news for

players and officials allowed to inhabit changing rooms again - which could well make a significant difference to how delayed or disrupted matches are handled. No-one likes hanging around outside in the wet and cold. Clubs that are already at full tilt handling safeguarding requirements for their burgeoning junior practice sessions have been as stretched putting in place Covid protocols and a relaxing of these will be a huge relief, as well as enabling all clubs to benefit from offering open bars and more hospitality. Yes, the sanitisation requirements on-field are a pain, but I think by now most accept that this is the price we need to pay in order to have cricket, and in that context it should be no big deal. Let's all keep our personal Covid hygiene standards high and keep hoping for a let up in the weather as the longer days are upon us.

*James*

## COVID RESTRICTIONS RELAXED GRADUALLY

There has been some good news for all cricket clubs with the next stage of lockdown release being announced. Whilst caution and diligent personal hygiene remains the watchword, the following guidelines have now been issued, with effect from Monday 17th May:

**On-field Activities:** All on-field restrictions remain as previously communicated.

**Changing rooms:** can open where it is safe to do so but social distancing and other mitigation measures must be observed, including restrictions on capacity limits.

**Hospitality:** Clubhouses and facilities that serve food and drink can open. At *Step 3*, both indoor and outdoor hospitality will be permitted. The provision of food and beverage should be as per government guidance on hospitality settings.

**Teas:** Teas can now be served at clubs where this can be done safely and in compliance with government guidance on hospitality settings.

**Spectators:** Spectators are permitted at both public and private venues. Spectators must observe social distancing and legal gathering size limits (groups of up to 30 outdoors).

**Travel:** Car sharing is permitted at *Step 3* for sport in accordance with the government guidance for safer travel.

**Scoreboxes:** Both scorers can now sit in a scorebox providing the scorebox is large enough to allow social distancing between the scorers



**1st May** was the only day so far in May that gave all sides an opportunity to play, but it was a low scoring day all round, with Cheadle's 209-8 as they won at Widnes the highest total, skipper Dan Brown leading the way with 68. Widnes were 42-0 but lost all 10 for another 92 runs, as **Josh Dooler** added to his handy 27 with 6-48, Will Holmes 4-38 making it both an all-spin win for the visitors and successive 25 pt days for the Kingsway side. Didsbury's 204 (**Steve Green 96**) was 57 too many for Timperley, who were 12-3 in their chase but fought hard before succumbing to a third straight loss. Oxton and Hyde recorded welcome first wins, the latter getting home by 4 wickets in a tight match at Toft, **Jason Whittaker's** 7-35 in a 17 over spell a decisive contribution. **James Scott** continued his good form with 42 and when **Andrew Jackson's** 3 wickets saw Hyde precariously placed at 56-5, it was anyone's game. **Cole Turner** came to the rescue for Hyde, his 40 edging the visitors over the line. Meanwhile Oxton recovered from 53-6 against OP to post 170 (**Damario Goodman 51**); OP were 35-0 but were all out 67 runs later, Goodman's 3 wickets assisting **Chris Stenhouse** (5-44). CBH knocked off 200 in 34 overs to

see off Neston while the most remarkable game of the day occurred at Moss Lane. Nantwich were shot out for 98, **Chris Sanders** taking 4 wickets in 7 overs as Nantwich were all over the place. They scrambled 20 runs for their last wicket, however, and this proved to be worth many more as **Jimmy Warrington** got to work, his 6-27 seeing AE shredded inside 20 overs for 46. **8th May** was washed away apart from Oxton / Toft, a 30 over match which ended in an exciting draw, visitors

Toft posting a respectable 153-6 from their allocation. Oxton went for the win and a finely balanced innings came down to the last over, with **Luke Filer** hitting a six off the penultimate ball to leave four needed off the last, but Andrew Jackson's parsimony meant only one was scored, Oxton finishing on 150-6. Toft were again in action on the rain-ruined **15th**, although not for long, as the rain forced them off the field at Booths Hall after visitors Nantwich reached 37-1 off 11 overs.



TOFT V HYDE, MAY 1ST

IMAGE: JEFF TENNER

## PREMIER LGE TABLE AND STATS TO DATE

TEAM	PTS	PLAYER	RUNS	PLAYER	WICKETS
CHESTER BH	89	WARREN GOODWIN	241	HARRY KILLORAN	11
DIDSBURY	74	TIM HUGHES	207	ASH DAVIS	10
CHEADLE	71	SAM PERRY	193	JOSH DOOLER	10
NANTWICH	71	JAMES SCOTT	174	CHRIS SANDERS	10
NESTON	71	LUKE CAMDEN	173	DAMARIO GOODMAN	10
OULTON PARK	68	HENRY DOBSON	168	CHRIS STENHOUSE	10
OXTON	60	ANDREW JACKSON	146	JASON WHITTAKER	9
TOFT	51				
ALDERLEY EDGE	50				
HYDE	47				
TIMPERLEY	32				
WIDNES	23				

### MAY PERFORMANCES OF NOTE

Steve Green 96, Dids v Timp, 1.5

Jason Whittaker 7-35, Hyde v Toft, 1.5; Jimmy Warrington 6-27, Nant v AE, 1.5

Josh Dooler 6-48, Chead v Wid, 1.5; Chris Sanders 5-41, AE v Nant, 1.5

Chris Stenhouse 5-44, Oxt v OP, 1.5

**1st May** saw Grappenhall's batting fire once again, a rapid ton for **Adam Roy-lance** (111 off 75) the centrepiece as a quickfire 70 partnership between **Albert & Arthur Pennington** saw Grappers to a towering 284-5 at Congleton who battled with some intent but had to hold on for a draw on 202-9 as **Sam Guest** returned 4-33. Bowdon maintained their promising early season form, a 109 opening psp between **Jack Tipton & Pat Ashling** the foundation for 259-7 at Sale. **Ross Zelem's** great start to the season continued with 70 and it was his stunning one handed catch to dismiss another man in form, **Tyrone Lawrence** (75) that tipped the balance Bowdon's way as they won by 70 runs. Brooklands enjoyed their trip to Davenham, the hosts 0-4 after 4.2 overs but doing well to bat out 33 as **Rob Leach** took 5-29, Brooklands easily managing the 77 required. Bollington made similarly short work of Macclesfield in their local derby. The freshly painted scoreboard at Macc was in the event only in use for 43 overs, Bolly quickly reducing Macc to 3-3 and going on to win by 10 wickets. Macc did battle to recover from such a bad start but **Tom Horsfield** was unstoppable with 6 wickets and captain **Calum Rowe** hit 53\* to seal an emphatic triumph. There were morale boosting

wins for Urmston and Warrington. Urmston won at Marple, who welcomed back **Mark Bennett** for his first match in over two years. As has happened previously this season Marple started well but then fell away, this time from 94-1 to 186 all out, **Andrew Hall** 53. **Jack Grundy** dismissed both in-form Urmston openers for ducks to make it a lively start to the reply, but 95\* from **Sumit Panda** (including a six over the pavilion) did the business for the visitors who edged home by 4 wickets. Warrington, having been 54-0, were disappointed to only have 150 to finally defend against Bramhall, after **Luke Littlewood** and **Oliver Webb** bagged three wickets apiece. However, to their great delight the Wire still managed to claim 25 precious points, being indebted to **James Rudd**, his 5-22 seeing Bramhall splutter from 97-4 to 129 all out. Sadly **8th May** was completely rained off across the division, and it was almost a depressing repeat on **May 15th** - but those hardy souls in the very south of the county had their patience and determination partly rewarded at Booth

St, where Urmston's long trip at least saw them get some cricket in an 80 over match with Congleton. The hosts made a good start with 86 being added for the first by **Tom Blease** and **Simon Prime** (54), but **Arav Shetty's** 3 wickets pegged Congleton back as they finished on 147-8 off their allocation. Shetty was left unbeaten on 28 as Urmston reached 57-3, needing 90 off 18 overs with 7 wickets in hand, when the weather intervened terminally.



**SALE'S TYRONE LAWRENCE MADE 75 AGAINST BOWDON**

**IMAGE: GEORGE FRANKS**

## DIVISION ONE TABLE AND STATS TO DATE

TEAM	PTS	PLAYER	RUNS	PLAYER	WICKETS
BOWDON	89	ADAM ROYLANCE	248	TOBY PHIPPS	10
BROOKLANDS	79	TYRONE LAWRENCE	232	ROB LEACH	9
GARPPENHALL	79	ROSS ZELEM	205	MATT KILCOURSE	9
BOLLINGTON	73	JACK GOODE	181	MATTHEW TULLY	9
BRAMHALL	69	GRANT HODNETT	164	CHRIS ASHLING	9
SALE	58	JONATHAN FLETCHER	149	LUKE LITTLEWOOD	9
WARRINGTON	52	DAVID CUNLIFFE	140	AJ HART	8
URMSTON	50	CHRIS WATSON	140	SEAN CARDALL	8
CONGLETON	46				
MARPLE	35				
MACCLESFIELD	30				
DAVENHAM	15				

### MAY PERFORMANCES OF NOTE

Adam Roylance 111, Grapp v Cong, 1.8  
Tom Horsfield 6-31, Boll v Macc, 1.8;  
Rob Leach 5-29, Brook v Dav, 1.8

Sumit Panda 95\*, Urms v Marp, 1.8  
James Rudd 5-22, Warr v Bram, 1.8;

**May 1st** saw six winners in the Division 2 fixtures. The most emphatic occurred at Church Lane where Mobberley were blown away for just 36 by Hale Barns, for whom **Ben Hicks'** purple patch continued, his 6-21 including 5 wkts in 10 balls. **Sam Smith** took 4 wkts and then hit 20 as the match was completed in less than 30 overs. Christleton made much better use of their home pitch than in their previous match, this time racking up 266-5 against Stockport Georgians, **Aamir Afzaal** run out for 97, **Joshua Joseph's** fine form continuing with 74 and **Josh Morgan-Jones** chipping in with 43\*. **Arslan Dar's** 5 wkts then kept Georgians in check, Afzaal taking two himself as Christleton won by 70 runs. Alvanley made it three from three with a much tighter two wicket win over visitors Lindow, who got to 169 after being 109-5. The hosts were 128-8 but 47 from **Lee Ainsworth** helped them over the line. There was a similarly tense encounter at Haslington where AOM's **Ed Faulkner**, another player in great form, scored 69\* as his team mates struggled to share his fluency, 160 all out the result. It looked plenty as the hosts slipped to 9-3, **Ben Istead** once again rescuing his side with 64 as Faulkner took 4 wkts. However, with Istead out and Haslington 123-8 it

was anyone's game, but the 9th wkt pair remained resolute to see the hosts to victory. It was far more clear cut in the match between two near neighbours as Romiley bowled Stockport out for 99, Alex Barber 5-26. An unbroken stand of 64 between **David Badrock** and **Alex Hooton** secured a comfortable Romiley win. There was also joy unspeakable and much rejoicing for Barrow who got a much needed first win after grinding out an attritional 4 wkt garner at Upton, who totalled 156-9. **Macca Hooton's** painstaking 46 and 41\* from **Nick Mumford** saw Barrow past the post in the 49th over. Sadly **8th May** saw every match wiped out, and although four games suffered the same fate on **May 15th**, including the always eagerly anticipated Stockport derby, two were played to a conclusion, with Lindow and Mobberley thanking their lucky stars on such a sodden day to be claiming 25 valuable points. Mobberley shook off their May 1st embarrassment by declaring at 200-3 against AOM at Church Lane, the game starting on time and Mobb having much the better

of the regulations, as a subsequent stoppage and restart still entitled them to bat their full 50 overs with Ashton having less to chase a not-reduced target. Mobb's **Ibrar Latif** (57), **Hamza Butt** (50\*) and **Osman Butt** (41) all made handy contributions. AOM were 37-3 with the top order gone but at 164-5 (**Tom Scott** 47) had got themselves into a decent position despite the disadvantage of having less overs to chase, before tumbling to 170 all out as captain **Matt Mounthey** returned 4-35. AOM's twitter feed described the difficulties their attack faced with the wet ball and unflinchingly stated that *"brains went missing in the last three overs"* as they pushed for the win. The best twitter feed in the division, however, belongs to Upton, but sadly for them it described a 6 wkt win for visitors Lindow in a rain hit, 30 overs a side match as **Alex Matthews** and **Neil Holden** claimed 4 apiece, **Matt Owen** hitting an impressive 72 (90 bs) for Upton in their 121. Suitably inspired, **Rob Herriott's** 75\* (85 bs) for Lindow saw them home.

## DIVISION TWO TABLE AND STATS TO DATE

TEAM	PTS	PLAYER	RUNS	PLAYER	WICKETS
ALVANLEY	89	ED FAULKNER	179	ED FAULKNER	16
HALE BARNS	89	JOSHUA JOSEPH	172	BEN HICKS	15
CHRISTLETON	72	ROB HERRIOTT	169	ABDUL AQEEL	11
LINDOW	71	JOSH MORGAN-JONES	158	ALEX MATTHEWS	11
HASLINGTON	69	MATT OWEN	156	TOM GLEDHILL	10
ROMILEY	68	IBRAR LATIF	148	RYAN O'BRIEN	10
ASHTON ON MERSEY	56	AAMIR AFZAAL	147	JAMES BASHFORD	9
MOBBERLEY	53	BEN ISTED	137	CHRIS CHARLES	9
BARROW	50	<b>MAY PERFORMANCES OF NOTE</b> Aamir Afzaal 97, Chris v SG, 1.8 Ben Hicks 6-21, HB v Mobb, 1.8; Alex Barber 5-26, Rom v Stock, 1.8 Arslan Dar 5-47, Chris v SG, 1.8			
UPTON	51				
STOCKPORT GEORGIANS	46				
STOCKPORT	23				



Reigning champions **Chester Boughton Hall** are making the early running in the **2nd XI Premier Division** after beating the virtual county-wide washout at Filkins Lane on May 8th to polish off Cheadle, **Alex Townend's** 4-10 the headline effort as they bowled the visitors out for 66 and knocked off the runs required in under 10 overs, making it successive wins after a 3 wkt triumph at Neston the previous week. CBH were one of several sides frustrated on May 15th, however, as the rain finally won out at Marple with the hosts 120-5. Neston will probably feel more disappointed than OP that their game was finally abandoned after **Owen Williamson's** splendid 7-21 saw the hosts all out for 125, but with OP 77-8 (**Paul Stimson** and **Matty Ayre** claiming 8-40 between them) no more play was possible. Cheadle and AE had to give up at Kingsway after the visitors reached 73 -1 off 23, so with three matches not even starting it was Bowdon who were Saturday's big winners, beating Macc by 4 wkts in a 40 overs game and going second. **Will Smith's** 54 and 43 from skipper **Chris France** took Macc to an okay 152-9, Bowdon bowlers **Hal Dwobeng** and **Haydn George** taking 5 between them (having taken 5 each when they bowled out OP for just 37 on May 1st). An unbeaten 50 from **Robert Shenkman** saw Bowdon home with two overs in hand. In **2nd XI Division 1** it's **Oxton** setting the early pace, a breathless 1 wkt win over Sale on May 1st followed by a more comfortable 29 run over Timperley on Saturday, 29 also the margin they lead the division by. Four other games

were played but all were weather affected draws. On May 1st Brooklands beat Davenham by 178 runs; **Ben Bodha** scored 101\* in Grappers draw with Upton; **Neil Holden** scored 98 for Lindow v Heaton Mersey who clung on for the draw at 137-9, Timpers & Georgians shared 496 runs as SG finished on 242-9 chasing 254 - **Neil Pennington** scored 101 for Georgians, **Saul Ashton** took 6-51 for Timpers. **Ans Rashid Muhammed** hit 118 for Rom as they beat Warrington. **2nd XI Division 2** was also washed away on May 8th but on the Saturdays either side

there's been some interesting cricket. Ashton OM and Cheadle Hulme shared over 500 runs on May 1st, AOM racking up 302-6 in just 48 overs, Cheadle Hulme replying with 205-5. Didsbury 2A were boosted by a 120\* psp for 4th btwn **Andrew Jones** and **Ed Owen** to win at Bollington; **Abid Noor** took 5-16 and scored 47 as Bramhall (271-6) beat Tattenhall. Urmston joined Dids as joint leaders after bowling Congleton out for 59 on Sat 15th, one of only two games played in the division.



13 year olds Kenul Watawana (left) and Arjun Kunjoor returned remarkable senior debut performances for Bramhall 3s on May 9th, enabling them to tie with Cheadle, who required 3 runs to win with 3 wkts and plenty of overs in hand. See the full story on the Bramhall Facebook and Twitter accounts. On April 25th, former Bramhall player Ellie Mason hit an amazing 158 off 104 balls for Stockport Trinity Women against Leigh, putting on 262 for the 1st wicket with Jenny Dunn (103\*).

## 2ND XI T20 TROPHY FIXTURES SCHEDULE

### May 18th:

Tattenhall v Neston; Upton v Chester BH; Widnes v Grappenhall; Oxton v Warrington; Bramhall v Marple; Romiley v Cheadle Hulme; Cheadle v Heaton Mersey; Hyde v Stockport Georgians

### May 25th:

Davenham v Lindow; Toft v Congleton; Nantwich v Macclesfield; Bowdon v Brooklands; Didsbury v Hale Barns; Urmston v Sale; Timperley v Ashton OM

Oulton Park were awarded a bye to the next round

## 3RD XI JACK GARDNER T20 TROPHY

There were some interesting matches as the 8 mini groups were decided at the start of the month. An emphatic win saw **Macclesfield** seal top spot in 1; **Elworth** beat OP by a distance to win 2; **Bramhall** booked their QF spot with three wins in 6 while **Timperley** became the other non-Prem side through after their 14 run win over Sale enhanced their NRR just enough to pip the Dane Rd side. **Alderley Edge**, **Grappenhall** and holders **Didsbury** all topped their groups, as did **Hyde**, despite a surprise defeat by Heaton Mersey in their final game, their much superior NRR to Mersey saving the day. Quarter final draw is as follows:

**MACCLESFIELD v ELWORTH; GRAPPENHALL v TIMPERLEY; ALDERLEY EDGE v BRAMHALL; HYDE v DIDSbury** with all clubs currently in the process of agreeing dates to play. Panel umpires will be appointed to these ties.

News on the 3rd XI Leagues will follow in the next edition.

# 1ST XI T20

It's been a frustrating start in the 1st XI T20 with the weather claiming a number of fixtures and Covid restrictions also playing their part. Ideally, matches should be underway at 6.00pm but this often proves impractical. So, to date, matches that start by 6.15 pm have been a maximum of 16 overs per side to allow time for the still mandatory hand sanitising at 6 and 12 overs, with the evening light also an issue. From the

next round of fixtures (May 20th & 27th) this will increase to 18 overs a side (if the game doesn't start until 6.15) and then a full 20 overs per side thereafter. Bowler's overs allocation will also be adjusted accordingly and confirmed by the match officials. These instructions will be reviewed in the event of the requirement to sanitise being changed but currently there is no sign of this being lifted. In the cricket that has been played there has been plenty to im-



press and as there's still plenty to play for in all the groups, let's hope all host clubs can welcome good crowds and weather!

## CURRENT T20 SITUATION

### 1 Ashton-on-Mersey, Hale Barns, Brooklands, Timperley

With Timperley's match against HB washed out on the 6th, a rapid 53\* from Kevin Carroll propelled Brooklands to an 8 wkt win over AOM on Thurs and into pole position in the group. Fixtures to come this month: Timperley v AOM (20th), Hale Barns v Brooklands (27th).

### 2 Cheadle, Didsbury, Romiley, Urmston

Both Prem clubs have a win each; Cheadle beat Urmston in a 14 over game on a soggy 6th, despite 2 wkts and 46 runs for Matt Kilcourse. Didsbury beat Romiley by 10 runs on the 13th after the Div 2 side, needing 20 off the last over, got a six off the first ball but couldn't find another boundary. Fixtures to come this month: Cheadle v Romiley (20th), Urmston v Didsbury (27th).

### 3 Alderley Edge, Bollington, Bramhall, Lindow

All available sources suggest there haven't been any matches played in the group so far. The scheduled Bramhall/Lindow match on the 13th was a victim of the weather and AE/Bolly is listing as 'not played'. Fixtures to come: AE v Lindow (20th); Boll v Bramhall (27th).

### 4 Alvanley, Barrow, Chester BH, Davenham

CBH beat Alvanley by 86 runs in the first group game (Warren Goodwin 56), while Davenham's match with Barrow (13th) was cancelled due to the rain. Remaining fixtures in May: CBH v Barrow (20th); Alvanley v Davenham (27th).

### 5 Grappenhall, Warrington, Widnes

Warrington's trip to Grappenhall on the 13th was cancelled after heavy rain and is being rearranged. Warrington will be hoping for better luck with the conditions when they travel to Widnes on 20th.

### 6 Hyde, Marple, Stockport, Stockport Georgians

A magnificent 95\* off 50 balls from SG's Ned Bailey (6x6, 8x4) was the highlight of their 59 run win over Marple on the 13th, (for whom Connor Bergin took 4-17) and put SG in a good position after the May 6 washout which gave Stockport an unlikely point against Hyde. Remaining May fixtures: Hyde v SG (20th); Stockport v Marple (27th).

### 9 Congleton, Haslington, Macclesfield, Nantwich

Haslington's emphatic 62 run win at Macc on the 13th also served to give them a NRR advantage. Matthew Kennerley- Ryan's unbeaten 60 and a quick 46 from Ben Istead saw 81 added in 7.4 overs and a total of 154-3 off 16; Macc could only manage 92-7 in reply. Congleton conceded their game with Nantwich on the 6th, which gives the meeting of the Dabbers and Haslington at Whitehouse Lane on the 20th a decisive edge. Congleton host Macc on Sun May 30th, 2.00pm start.

### 7 Neston, Oxton, Upton

Will Evans' 91 was the highlight of Neston's comfortable 98 run win over Upton on May 6th in the only game played so far. No relief for Upton who host another Premier Division side - Oxton - on the 27th.

### 8 Bowdon, Oulton Park, Toft

Rain on May 6th gave a point each to OP and Bowdon in the only game so far scheduled in this group. Bowdon host holders Toft on May 27th.



## CHESHIRE CUP

### ROUND 1 RESULTS (SUN 16TH MAY)

Bowden Lane: MARPLE (120-6) v GRAPPENHALL abandoned  
 Werneth Low: HYDE (206) v BRAMHALL abandoned  
 Upcast Lane: LINDOW (95-3) beat Warrington (94) by 7 wkts  
 Victoria Rd: OXTON (290-4) beat Macclesfield by 135 runs  
 Alsager CC: OULTON PARK (91-3) beat Alsager (90) by 7 wkts  
 Dane Rd: BROOKLANDS (231-7) beat Sale (157) by 74 runs  
 Kingsway: CHEADLE (129-6) beat Toft (140) by 4 runs (D/L)  
 Moss Lane: ALDERLEY EDGE (125-4) beat Elworth (124-9) by 6 wkts  
 Bollington Rec: BOLLINGTON (143-7) beat N.E. Cheshire (140-7) by 3 wkts  
 South Downs Rd: BOWDON (184-8) beat Port Sunlight (158) by 26 runs  
 Moorside Rd: URMSTON (165-7) beat Widnes (119-7) by 19 runs (D/L)

### CUP ACTION AT AT MOORSIDE ROAD AS URMSTON TOOK ON WIDNES



First round Cheshire Shield games on Sunday saw wins for current Div 1 leaders **Kingsley**, as well as **Caldy & Stockport Georgians**. The other two games scheduled for the 16th were rained off and will be rearranged.

The first set of Cheshire Cup fixtures saw two games abandoned midway through, but otherwise a remarkably dry set of matches played. Lowish totals were the order of the day, though, as the sodden grounds had barely recovered. A notable exception to this occurred at Victoria Rd where **Oxton's** Luke Filer cracked 101 off 75 balls, which along with Henry Dobson's 79 and 50 off 20 balls from Mahdi Quadri, saw a vertiginous 290-4 posted against **Macclesfield**. The hosts lost a wicket to the first ball of their reply and could only muster 155. The other sizeable total of the day was at Dane Rd, where Kevin Carroll was dropped four times on his way to 94 off 72 balls as **Brooklands** racked up 231-7 at **Sale**. Carroll also chipped in with a wicket as part of a workmanlike bowling display, the hosts struggling for fluency in the increasing gloom, losing by 74 runs. Last year's semi finalists **Elworth** fell at the first hurdle this time round, well beaten in a low scoring game by **Alderley Edge**. Another low scoring match at **Alsager** where visitors **Oulton Park** put on a strong show to ease into round two, likewise for **Lindow** who bowled **Warrington** out for 94, Rob Herriott taking

3-12 and then scoring 53\* in their 7 wkt win. Jack Ward's 47\* helped **Bollington** to 143-7 and a ticklish 3 wkt win over **North East Cheshire**. D/L decided two ties; at Kingsway, the all Premier League clash saw **Cheadle** four runs ahead of par against **Toft** when terminal rain fell; and at Moorside Rd, where **Urmston** pulled off a notable win against top tier side **Widnes**, the hosts recovering well to post a competitive 165-7 on a tricky surface with Harry Singh carrying his bat (53\*), taking 2 wkts and effecting a run out. Widnes were 19 runs behind par when heavy rain prevented any further play. **Bowdon** got through a tricky assignment, 66 from Ross Zelem helping them to 184-8 against **Port Sunlight**, who were up the Irrawaddy in short order but rallied thanks to John Harris (74) who made sure Bowdon stayed switched on until PS finally folded for 158. **Marple** and **Grappenhall**, along with **Hyde** and **Bramhall**, will both try again next week when three other ties are due to be played. **Didsbury v CBH** and **Romiley v Timperley** will have dates confirmed, after CBH and Timpers had their National Cup KO matches respectively abandoned & cancelled.

**REMAINING ROUND 1 CHESHIRE CUP FIXTURES (MAY 23RD):** New Brighton v Birkenhead Park; Hyde v Bramhall; Wallasey v Neston. Didsbury v CBH, Marple v Grappenhall and Romiley v Timperley will all have dates confirmed. The cancelled round 1 Cheshire Shield games on May 16 between Parkfield Liscard & Alvanley, and Cheadle Hulme & Ashton-on-Mersey, will also be rearranged.

**CHESHIRE OVER 70s** don't often get a mention in the newsletter due to lack of space, but their match on Thursday against Worcestershire at Crewe saw a magnificent opening stand of 208 put together by Nick Bell (128\* off 126) and Steve Yates (96 off 112) as Cheshire reached 237-1 in their 35, rain sadly then ending proceedings.

### OVER 40s NEWS

The weather has been reasonably kind on Wednesday nights and all the over 40s divisions have seen action. After the first couple of games, Chester Boughton Hall and Wallasey lead the **West** division, the latter getting just the better of neighbours Oxton in a 9 run win on Weds; Cheadle have won two from two in the **Central Div 1**, as have Grappenhall, although what looks like a 4 wkt win for them over Urmston has been recorded as a Grappers concession. Despite being washed out at AOM on Weds, Timperley head up the early **Central Div 2**. In the **South-East** group, a tie between Bredbury St.Marks and Hyde on Weds gave BSM the early top spot over neighbours Woodley, who had a comparatively spacious six run win over Bollington.