

COUNTY LEAGUE NEWS



on behalf of Cheshire Clubs Cricket Committee (4 Cs)

MAY 17TH - MAY 30TH
Playing at last!

Rain menace still disrupts
....but a full last weekend compensates

Cup action for 1st & 2nd XIs
Cheshire one day side get underway



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DUCKWORTH-LEWIS IN ACTION

Rather than my usual thoughts and observations appearing in this edition, given the rain ruined month we have all endured I hoped it would be more helpful to devote space to the subject of Duckworth-Lewis. The Cheshire Cup has been bad-

ly affected by weather interruptions and, having scored one such game myself last week, I was struck by the differing responses and reactions to the thought of D/L coming into use in the game. So here's a quick summary with some of the

key points, as well as examples (and a rationale) behind it all. No-one would be happier than me if all of this turns out to be not needed for the rest of the season!

James

Duckworth-Lewis (D/L) uses both a **par** score and a **target** score. The **target** score will not change once set, unless there is a further stoppage and loss of overs in the chasing team's innings. The **par** score will change at the fall of each wicket and also the end of each over (except where the chasing side have lost a lot of wickets with a lot of overs remaining, but it's generally immaterial by that stage).

D/L is not perfect! Creators Frank Duckworth and Tony Lewis said this themselves, recognising from the outset that a 'perfect' solution could never be achieved. They described their creation as "*the most equitable means of dealing with an inequitable situation*" - namely, a weather-interrupted match which leads to an unequal split of overs between the two teams.

A D/L calculation is based upon the use of wickets and overs (also referred to as 'resources'). D/L makes a statistical assessment of how each side has used their resources at the point of any interruption and sets a target based upon this assessment. D/L will also calculate where the side batting first has had their innings cut short and then terminated.

EXAMPLE: WALLASEY v NESTON, CHESHIRE CUP, 23.5.21 NESTON 268 (40 os), ABANDONED

In this match there was no further play possible after the first innings. Neston made 268 from 39.5 overs. Under competition regs, Wallasey had to face a minimum of 10 overs for a result. Had this been possible, their D/L target off 10 overs would have been 97, almost 10 an over. Neston scored at a rate of 6.7, so why is D/L so much higher?

Firstly, D/L assesses the use the batting side made of their resources, and I think all would agree that 268 off 40 overs (less one ball) is an impressive total, so in this instance D/L has taken account of an above average batting performance, which is perfectly reasonable. It is also assessing the fact that the chasing side know they only have 10 overs, and will thus pace their batting accordingly, possibly altering their batting order knowing they have 60 balls to score 97 runs. Bowlers will be restricted to two overs each - possibly one over spells for some bowlers, which is not easy to adjust to - and likely bowling with a wet ball. There's also the first two overs of powerplay with only two fielders out.

A Wallasey supporter may say "they scored at 6.7 so why don't we have 6.7 as the target, say 68 off 10 instead?" It's because D/L recognises that sustaining a rate of 6.7 through 40 overs takes some doing - maintaining that rate for 10 overs, whilst not easy, is not as difficult as maintaining it for 40. Therefore a chase of 97 off 10, which is a challenge, gives both sides more of a sense of 'fairness' on the day - the chasing team are going to have to bat as well as their opponents, but if they can do it, the fielding side can have no complaints about the batting side's task being easier.

As stated above, no-one is claiming the above scenario is 'perfect' - it is simply a more equitable way of trying to resolve an unsatisfactory situation, being fair to both sides by reflecting what's happened in the match to date.

EXAMPLE: CHESTER BH (187-8) BEAT DIDSBURY (105) BY 82 RUNS

A delayed start made this a 70 over game. Thankfully there were no further interruptions, although the threat of rain was rarely far away, so the 10 over equation was of great interest. Didsbury's par score at 10 overs was 36, if no wickets were lost, but sadly for them, Dids were 10-3 after 4 overs, at which point the par score (although not actually germane until 10 overs were bowled) was 45. By comparison, had Didsbury kept all their wickets intact after 4 overs, the par score would have been 13. A big difference - but all the D/L par score does is reflect the match situation. In this case, losing 3 wickets in the first 4 overs, while not necessarily ending a team's chances of winning, does deal them a major blow. As with an uninterrupted match, keeping wickets in hand and the run rate under control is the ideal way to chase - and keep on the right side of the D/L par.

More gloom for Cheadle and OP on **22nd May** as their cancelled clash meant both suffered their third successive blank Saturday, but thankfully elsewhere the Prem surfaced after two weeks almost completely underwater. Nantwich even got so lucky as to have a full 55 overs to bat against Timperley. **Aneesh Kapil** in particular made the most of a return to the middle with a fine 109 off 116 balls, but was almost half the final total of 219-9. However, it was soon evident this would be plenty as the accomplished Nantwich attack got to work, spinner **Scott Wardley** leading the way with 5-13 - including a hat-trick - and Kapil himself taking the last wicket to seal a thumping 126 run win. Didsbury have been delighted with new recruits **Charles Lowen** and **Henry Charlton**, and their knocks of 72 and 64 respectively helped Dids also post 219 in their 80 over game with Chester BH. The champions were indebted to captain **Harry Killoran** whose skillful 88 held things together, CBH finishing on 170-9 in a gripping game. It was equally tense on the Wirral as Hyde, without Jason Whittaker, dismissed Oxtun for 155 in a 100 over match, **Charlie Barnard** taking 5-42 in an unbroken 15 over spell. Hyde's reply was unspectacular graft, 42 from **Ad-**

am Worrall the highest score, but absolutely the right approach on the day for the 25 pts. Neston had no such problems at Parkgate as they clattered the Toft attack for 237 in their 40 overs, **Simon Stokes** (104) and **Luke Camden** (63) adding 158 for the 3rd wkt. Toft drew solace from batting out only 6 down, **Thomas Roe** with an unbeaten 54. **Sam Perry** also enjoyed the day, his second ton of the season for AE and a quickfire 46 from **Chris Sanders** powering them to 218-5 from 40 overs at Beaconsfield Rd. Not for the first time in 2021, Widnes saw their innings fall away, this time losing 8-69 to be all out 131, Sanders tormenting them further with 4-40. However, **May 29th** saw Widnes break their duck with an improbable but well deserved away win at OP, the old firm of **Qamar Hafiz** (6-32) and **Majid Majeed** (4-23) causing havoc on a difficult day for all batsmen as OP were all out 103. Majeed then scored 23 priceless runs as the visitors inched to a 2 wkt victory. Timperley also enjoyed the sweet taste of success for the first time, and in some style too with a 74 run win over Neston. Solid contributions all the way through the order saw Timpers total 220-9, with 4 wkts

each for **Chris Page** (including the first ball of the innings) and **Furqan Shafiq** meaning the visitors were all out 146. Didsbury rounded off a great month with an extraordinary win at Oxtun. **Tim Hughes'** superb 76 helped Dids to 116-2 after 30 overs but they were all out 13.5 overs later for 131, **Chris Stenhouse** and **Damario Goodman** causing a shuddering collapse. **Nick Anderson** then shook off his captain's *contrariété* with 6-25, this the lead act as Oxtun (72) didn't last 23 overs. AE also enjoyed a brilliant win over Chester BH, who recovered from 50-6 to post 177, **Jack Williams** and **Ashraf Qureshi** adding 117 for the 7th. **Sam Perry's** 85 was a class apart as AE eased to a 6 wkt victory with almost 12 overs unused. Toft recorded the biggest win of the day, a fantastic performance from **Andrew Jackson** (8-22 and 28 runs) sealing a Booths Park boshing for Cheadle who were bowled out for 66 after the hosts had posted 223. The match at Hyde would probably not rank as one of the better games but visitors Nantwich cared not one jot as they garnered the 145 they needed to take away a 4 wkt win - and top spot in the table.

PREMIER LGE TABLE AND MAY FORM GUIDE

TEAM	PTS	TEAM	MAY PTS	CANX
NANTWICH	121	NANTWICH	89	1
DIDSBURY	114	DIDSBURY	79	2
CHESTER BH	101	ALDERLEY EDGE	68	2
ALDERLEY EDGE	100	HYDE	68	2
NESTON	89	TOFT	53	0
TOFT	83	CHESTER BH	51	2
CHEADLE	81	OXTON	50	1
OULTON PARK	78	WIDNES	50	2
HYDE	76	CHEADLE	49	3
OXTON	71	TIMPERLEY	48	2
TIMPERLEY	61	NESTON	38	2
WIDNES	55	OULTON PARK	28	3

22-29 MAY PERFORMANCES OF NOTE

Aneesh Kapil 109, Nant v Timp, 22.5
Simon Stokes 104, Nest v Toft, 22.5
Sam Perry 100, AE v Wid, 22.5

Andrew Jackson 8-22, Toft v Che, 29.5
Nick Anderson 6-25, Dids v Oxt, 29.5
Qamar Hafiz 6-32, Wid v OP, 29.5
Scott Wardley 5-13, Nant v Timp, 22.5
Martyn East 5-25, OP v Wid, 29.5
Charlie Barnard 5-42, Hyde v Oxt, 22.5

22nd May saw four games played, three of which were overs shortened, but depressingly for Marple and Sale, no Saturday cricket for a third straight week. Bowden Lane was just too wet, visitors Congleton also left frustrated, while Sale's shorter trip to Urmston was also not necessary. In the cricket that was played, it was a bee-autiful day as Bowdon, Bollington and Brooklands all claimed 25 points, the latter coming out on top in a low scoring scrap at Whitehall Rd after only managing 134 against Bramhall. **Alex Edwards'** patient 60 was the only prolonged resistance against **Ryan Macciocchi**, whose wonderful 8-49 put his side in with a great chance of victory, but not for the first time, **AJ Hart** girded his loins, returning 13-5-13-5 with **Thomas Starkes'** 4-24 polishing the visitors off for just 97. The other two Bs both romped to victory. **Pat Ashling** (105*) and **Ross Zelem** (76) added 154 for Bowden's 2nd wkt as they raced to 204-2 in just 28 overs against Warrington. **Matt Tully** and **Chris Ashling** then took 7 wkts between them, the visitors only managing 115. Bolly were equally dominant with fomer and present captain putting on 177 for the 1st wkt, Calum Rowe's 130 coming off just 89 balls while Rick Hough's supporting 59 saw

the hosts rack up 217-2 in just 32 overs. **Elliot Alston's** defiant 49* was the only thing to remotely cheer Davenham, accounting for 63% of their total as they folded in the 70s for the third time in four games, **Jerome Jones** taking 4-21. The result of the day came at Broad Lane, where the form book was well and truly shredded as visitors Macclesfield recorded a heartening 5 wkt win in their 80 over game. Grappenhall's powerful batting had a real off day, only two batsmen getting past 20 as youngsters **Bradley Porter** and **Miles Bradshaw** took 5-40 in 19 overs between them. Macc's reply hit the buffers as they lost 3 wkts in one over, but **Harry Elms** and **John Birchall** calmed things down, their unbroken stand of 52 for the 6th taking Macc to victory. **May 29th** saw Brooklands climb to the top of the table with a 45 run win at Macc, a 48 ball 70 from **Kevin Carroll** in stark contrast to everything around him. **Rob Leach's** fine bowling form then helped Brook to a still healthy win, although a recalcitrant last wkt psp of 74 between **Rob Porter** and **Chris Moores** made it an intriguing finalé. Bolly were jolly after they came out on top by 66 runs at Bowdon, especially **Stuart Plant**, whose amazing return of 9.1-6-8-8

will take some beating this season, blowing the hosts away for 115, the visitors workmanlike batting display earlier taking them to 181. 6-13 from **Arthur Pennington** gave Grappers their second win over Warrington in 2 days, 62 from **Richard Green** and 54 from **Grant Hodnett** the batting backbone in their 75 run win. Urmston rounded off a decent month with a 4 wkt win in a low scoring scrap at Bramhall, **Harry Singh** with 5 wkts and captain **Lewis Jackson** (35*) seeing his side over the line. Despite a fine 70 (retired not out) from **Andrew Hall**, Marple's batting trend of falling away after good starts haunted then again at Sale, 103-2 turning into 140 all out. **Tyrone Lawrence** then added a 68-ball 71 to his earlier 4-25 as the hosts won by 7 wkts. **Simon Prime** (106*) was the day's only centurion, carrying his bat as a 156 psp for the 2nd wkt with **Muhamad Shahbaz Bashir** (69) took Congleton to a king-size 232-4 against lowly visitors Davenham. Batting at eight, captain **Ben Gough** fought tooth and nail for 71 balls with 44* but **Jack Higginbotham's** 6-20 was the star turn as Dav were all out 114.

DIVISION ONE TABLE AND MAY FORM GUIDE

TEAM	PTS	TEAM	MAY PTS	CANX
BROOKLANDS	129	BOLLINGTON	89	2
BOLLINGTON	123	BROOKLANDS	89	2
BOWDON	119	URMSTON	71	2
GRAPPENHALL	111	BOWDON	69	2
SALE	90	CONGLETON	56	2
URMSTON	87	GRAPPENHALL	56	2
CONGLETON	85	SALE	52	3
BRAMHALL	77	WARRINGTON	50	2
WARRINGTON	63	MACCLESFIELD	43	2
MACCLESFIELD	59	MARPLE	34	3
MARPLE	47	BRAMHALL	27	2
DAVENHAM	24	DAVENHAM	16	2

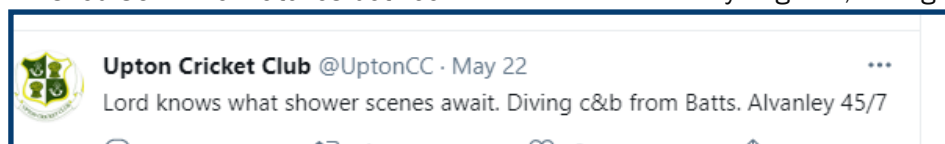
22-29 MAY PERFORMANCES OF NOTE

Calum Rowe 130, Boll v Dav, 22.5
 Simon Prime, 106*, Cong v Dav, 29.5
 Pat Ashling 105*, Bowd v Warr, 22.5
 Stuart Plant 8-8, Boll v Bowd, 29.5
 Ryan Macciocchi 8-49, Bram v Brook, 22.5
 Arthur Pennington 6-13,
 Grapp v Warr, 29.5
 Jack Higginbotham 6-20, Cong v Dav, 29.5
 Rob Leach 6-22, Brook v Macc, 29.5
 AJ Hart, 5-13, Brook v Bram, 22.5
 Harry Singh 5-23, Urms v Bram, 29.5

Although Upton's 128-9 in their 49 overs on **May 22nd** was never likely to see the league strike rate records rewritten, it proved more than enough to win at the then leaders Alvanley in an improbably thrilling finish. **Rich Battersby**, whose strike rate in his 13* was 40% higher than any of his team mates, claimed 6-29 in a remarkable spell. As good in its own way was **Sophie Morris'** 13-5-20-2 including the final Alvanley wicket off the last ball of the match as the hosts were dismissed for 97. It was far more clear cut at The Beets where 50s from **Miraj Patel** and **Tom Scott** took AOM to 208-9 and an 84 run win over Romiley, **Ed Faulkner** with another four wkts. A 74 over game proved possible at Barrow, where visitors Christleton won by 16 runs, **Aamir Afzaal** top scoring, running out **Iroshan De Silva** and taking a crucial wicket. Mobberley made it successive wins with an impressive 8 wkt win at Lindow, captain **Matt Mountney** with 5 wkts as the hosts were bowled out in under 29 overs for 118. There were no ifs but two Butts as Mobb replied, **Hamza Butt** with 59 adding 105 for the 2nd wkt with **Osman Butt**, who finished 39*. The matches between

Georgians and Haslington, and Hale Barns and Stockport, were both cancelled, all these four teams suffering a third straight Saturday washout. **May 29th** meant it was a case of never mind the quality, feel the points at Cale Green where Stockport (67-6) got a precious win against lowly Barrow in a penurious struggle. In complete contrast, Romiley and Lindow played out a high scoring thriller at Birchvale Drive, the visitors' **Robin Broom** (80*) sweeping aside (sorry) the early perils of 7-2 to help his team tally 233-9, 64 from **Neil Holden** (and a corpulent 27 extras) also major factors as were 4 wkt hauls for **Brad Snape** and **Alex Barber**, the latter then whacking 4 sixes in a 25 ball 40 to as Romiley, teetering on 151-7, made Lindow sweat, a last wkt stand of 24 cranking the tension high before Lindow wrapped up a thrilling 12 run win. No such drama at Church Lane, Mobberley ending the month as they began it, taking

zero points from a chastening home defeat, this time an 8 wkt loss to Alvanley. **Simon Gee's** 51* in a 3rd wkt stand of 80* helped the visitors put last week's hiccup behind them, moving to second in the league behind Christleton, whose 195-7 was 53 too many for visitors AOM. **Aamir Afzaal** made it two nineties in the month, this time an ice-cream (that's a 99 for younger readers) as **Joshua Joseph** made up for a rare modest batting performance with 4-29. A 7th wkt stand of 75 between **Joseph Goodier** and **Tom Hackett** lifted Haslington to 171 at Upton, a total worth a lot more, proven when Upton tumbled for 90, **Jack Taylor** with 5-28 as **Matthew Smith's** 17 was the highest individual total, Smith earlier taking 4 catches. A remarkable match at Brooks Drive saw Georgians last wkt pair **Jordan Richards** and **James Locke** add 69 to take SG to 144-9. Richards then bowled superbly, taking 5-12 as HB went from 80-3 to 104 all out. Umpire Ian Wilson, standing in the game, told me "it epitomized 'what a great game cricket is' or 'it's a funny game', take your pick!"



DIVISION TWO TABLE AND MAY FORM GUIDE

TEAM	PTS	TEAM	MAY PTS	CANX	MAY PERFORMANCES OF NOTE
CHRISTLETON	122	CHRISTLETON	89	2	
ALVANLEY	117	HASLINGTON	71	3	Aamir Afzaal 99, Chris v AOM, 29.5
LINDOW	103	ALVANLEY	67	2	Aamir Afzaal 97, Chris v SG, 1.8
HASLINGTON	101	LINDOW	65	1	
HALE BARNs	99	MOBBERLEY	57	1	Rich Battersby 6-29, Upt v Alv, 22.5
ASHTON ON MERSEY	83	ASHTON OM	51	1	Jordan Richards 5-12, SG v HB, 29.5
ROMILEY	80	ROMILEY	51	2	Saqib Ali 5-16, Stock v Barr, 29.5
STOCKPORT GEORGIANs	78	GEORGIANs	51	3	Jack Taylor 5-28, Hssl v Upt, 29.5
MOBBERLEY	78	HALE BARNs	49	3	Matt Mountney 5-44, Mobb v Lind, 22.5
UPTON	78	UPTON	49	1	
BARROW	59	STOCKPORT	47	3	
STOCKPORT	55	BARROW	46	2	

2ND XI T20 TROPHY RESULTS

May 18th:

Werneth Low: (18 os) STOCKPORT GEORGIANS (122-4) beat Hyde (121-5) by 6 wkts

Georgians won with two balls to spare, Neil Pennington's 58 & 28 from Rhys Kibble helping the visitors to victory. Earlier Charlie Barnard made 63* off 49 balls as Hyde took 48 off the last 5 overs.*

Birchvale Dr: (18 os) ROMILEY (75-5) beat Cheadle Hulme (71-7) by 5 wkts

CH got completely gummed up, playing out two maiden overs with Dan Taylor taking 3-9. Romiley lost 4-4 at one stage in their reply but still won with room aplenty.

Beaconsfield Rd: (18 os) GRAPPENHALL (113-4) beat Widnes (111-8) by 6 wkts

Ben Bodha (60) and Iain Wright (24) put on 72 for the 4th wkt to see Grappers home with 9 balls in hand.

Bowden Lane: (18 os) MARPLE (97-9) beat Bramhall (85-8) by 12 runs

A run-a-ball 51 from Matthew Barrow and a return of 5-15 from Sam Saxelby were the main features of a low scoring contest which saw the hosts defend their modest looking total with some comfort in the end.

Old Greasy Rd: (20 os) CHESTER BH (130-7) beat Upton (121-6) by 9 runs

Holders Chester were pushed all the way by their opponents from two divisions below, as Upton finished just short of pulling off the result of the round.

The Flacca: (16 os) NESTON (72-1) beat Tattenhall (71-7) by 9 wkts

Neston won at a canter, knocking off the required runs in just 10.4 overs.

Kingsway: (18 os) HEATON MERSEY (110-6) beat Cheadle (109-5) by 4 wkts

Despite seeing the hosts take 42 off the last 5 overs of their innings, first division Mersey claimed a Premier Division scalp, recovering from 17-4 through captain Abbas Shah, Zeb Saleem & Luke Lewis (32).*

May 25th:

Stockport Rd: (20 os) TIMPERLEY (107-4) beat Ashton-on-Mersey (102-8) by 6 wkts

Matt Fletcher's 3-28 and 19 off 10 balls helped Timpers to a comfortable win, despite their gifting the visitors - for whom extras top scored - 23 wides.*

Butcher's Stile: (20 os) LINDOW (88-3) beat Davenham (83-9) by 6 wkts

Both wicketkeepers top scored for their teams, John O'Sullivan's 38 the only substantive contribution for the hosts as David Kendrick's 49 off 42 balls settled the argument with 7 overs unused.*

May 27th:

Whitehouse Lane: (20 os) MACCLESFIELD (141-4) beat Nantwich (137) by 6 wkts

A second wkt psp of 82 between captain Chris France (63) and Alex Griffiths (38) put Macc on course to surpass the hosts total, which promised to be much higher before they stumbled from 51-0 to 93-6.

Remaining Round 1 fixtures:

Didsbury 2 v Hale Barns; Urmston v Sale; Bowdon v Brooklands; Toft v Congleton

3RD XI JACK GARDNER T20 TROPHY

ALDERLEY EDGE have already booked their place at finals day after a 10 run Q/F win over Bramhall on Friday 28th May. Scores: AE 113-6 (18 os) (Blair Campbell 39, Oscar Robinson 32) Bramhall 103-8 (18 os) (Edward Gray 41, George Valentine 3-12).

Remaining Quarter-Finals:

8th June, 3pm: MACCLESFIELD v ELWORTH

10th June, 6.30pm GRAPPENHALL v TIMPERLEY

15th June, 6pm: HYDE v DIDSbury



After a bleak May, the **2nd XI Premier Division** saw action in all 6 games on the **22nd**, albeit reduced in most cases. Bowdon went top after a 101* psp between **Tom Makin** (60) and captain **Oliver Simons** (46*) helped them surpass Hyde's 130 (**Jason Ebbrell** 67). The other winners were Toft, who won by 7 wkts against Neston, for whom **Matt Brookes** hit 69*. **Phil Raikes'** 58 and 49* from **Ewan Williams** saw Toft home with 5 overs unused. AE won a thrilling match against Marple in the last over, while 50* from **Mark Latham** helped OP beat Cheadle by 6 wkts. Didsbury 2s had the better of their draw at CBH (**Max Fisher** 82, dad **Marcus** 57) while Macclesfield held on for an exciting draw with Nantwich in an 80 overs game. On the sunny **Sat 29th**, CBH returned to the top of the table thanks to 5-32 from **Alex Townend** as AE were all out 99. 71* from **David Hurst** saw Neston go second, one of five other clubs past 100 pts, as they beat Macc. 5-27 from Nantwich's **Phil Marsh** saw them make short work of Hyde who were 64 all out, the Dabbers winning without undue alarm. The other two sides in the chasing pack played out a very one sided affair at Wilmslow Rd as Bowdon, without Hal Dwobeng (on England lacrosse duty) suffered an 8

wkt defeat by Didsbury. Cheadle pulled off quite a heist at King-sway to beat Toft, for whom **David Blackburn** hit 84 in at total of 150. **Matthew Cornes** then took 5-27 as the visitors seemed on course for a win but lower order resolve led by **Alex Read** and **Ben Samuels** got Cheadle over the line by 2 wkts.

2nd XI Div 1 still suffered on the **22nd** as three matches didn't see any play. Oxton took full advantage with a workmanlike 5 wkt win over Warrington (**James Lewis** 72) to establish a healthy advantage at the top. **Mohsin Malik** hit an unbeaten 90 for H.Mersey as they beat Upton, while Sale's **Mike Bishop** nudged 300 runs for the season already with 86 as Sale drew a thrilling match with Lindow, who looked on course for a win after a 105 psp for the third wkt between **Jamie Peel** and (69*) and **Henry James** (61) but were pegged back and finished 5 runs short of victory. The **29th** saw a full programme of games, Oxton going further clear after a 10 wkt demolition of Georgians, the game lasting 43 overs. Grappenhall and Romiley lead the chasing pack,

Grappers beating Warrington by 9 wkts while 69* from **Ravi Patel** helped Romiley to a 7 wkt win at Lindow, for whom **Finn Gavaghan** made 73. There were 5 wkt hauls for HM's **Faisal Maqsood** in their 6 wkt win over Sale and **Tom Mitchell** in Brooklands' 8 wkt canter over Timperley who were 52 all out. In complete contrast there was a thrilling finish at Butchers Stile as Davenham held on to beat Lindow by just 6 runs.

2nd XI Div 2 was badly affected on the **22nd** with four games cancelled. Didsbury 2As made the most of their weather fortune at Mere, going top with a big win over Upton, **Oli Dodd's** 70 the feature of their 156 as Upton tumbled to 59 all out. Widnes moved into 2nd after an enjoyable trip south to Congleton where they won by 93 runs, **Jonathan Cowan** 65* and 4-25. However, on the **29th** Urmston took over at the summit after they won at Bramhall and Dids 2A lost at AOM, for whom **Henry Murray** made 107*. Widnes are third after a high scoring draw with Neston for whom **Harry Beddard** made 91 as they batted 55 overs to finish 218-6.

3RD XI CRICKET

Sunday cricket has suffered as badly as Saturday with the weather and ground availability an issue. The **3rd XI Premier Division** has been stop-start but in the early action, **Sale** have raced away to lead the table, being awarded an originally abandoned game against **AE** after the hosts played ineligible players, and then after an amazing game with **Didsbury** at Macc on Sunday, Sale recovering from 34-6 to reach 134-9 and a 1 wkt win. There was an equally remarkable card on May 16th which showed **Hyde** 13-7

off 23 soggy overs against **H.Mersey** before play was finally halted. In **Div 1** **Ashley** racked up a massive 268-7 to win by 130 runs over **HB** and go top, this being in sharp contrast to their last over win playing **Bramhall** the week before. **Marple & Compstall** have won their last two and are second, Sam Saxelby taking 6-13 in their 10 wkt win over **Timpers**. It's **Stockport Trinity** heading the **Div 2** table; Trinity were involved in a fantastic game with **Woodley** on the 23rd. Danny Baker scored 117 as Woodley totalled 231-9, but Trinity, playing four of their women's team, replied with 235-7, Ellie Mason hitting 100. They followed this up with a three wkt win over Hyde 4 in a low



scoring tussle on 30th. Woodley's run streak continued however, being unfazed by **OP** reaching 240-1 on 30th (**Andrew Dufty** 102, **Jonny Litler** 100, both ret. n/o) replying with 243-8 and victory with 2 balls to spare. **Hawk Green** are 6 pts clear in the **C&E Div** while in the **West**, **Trafford Metrovicks'** 104 run win over **Northwich** made it four from four for them.



1ST XI T20

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Fine weather on Thursday, as seen here at Urmston, finally enabled play in most of the groups, with several excellent individual performances and a wonderful all round team effort from Romiley, who pulled off the result of the night. The latest situation in each group is as follows:

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

With no further games in this group since the last newsletter, all could be decided in the coming week. The bad weather has led to Brooklands having two matches in two days, going to Hale Barns on Tuesday 1st before entertaining Timperley on Thursday 3rd. Two wins for Brooklands will make them uncatchable, but all four teams still have an interest in qualification.

3 Alderley Edge, Bollington, Bramhall, Lindow

A potential fixture pile-up awaits all the clubs in this group as all have played only one match each. Bollington v Bramhall and Alderley Edge v Lindow are scheduled to go ahead next week.

4 Alvanley, Barrow, Chester BH, Davenham

Promising Alvanley youngster Andy Bennion's dramatic 55* from 56 balls helped his side scramble across the line in a low scoring game at home to Davenham on Thursday. Elliot Alston continued his good form with a run a ball 37 for the visitors, whose 105-5 didn't seem especially imposing, but Davenham fought hard in the field to have Alvanley 81-5 after 18, before Bennion's *tour de force* in the 19th, with 3 sixes as 21 runs came. However, Chester BH still hold the whip hand in the group and if they win at Davenham next Thursday they will qualify.

6 Hyde, Marple, Stockport, Stockport Georgians

Hyde's T20 know-how did for Stockport Georgians on Thursday night, winning a low scoring encounter by 6 wkts, while Stockport picked up a morale boosting win against Div 1 Marple. Hyde travel to Bowden Lane next Thursday knowing that a win will see them top the group.

9 Congleton, Haslington, Macclesfield, Nantwich

Group 9 has been marred by concessions, the upshot of which is that if Nantwich can win at Macclesfield next Thursday, they will go through. Congleton beat Macc by 13 runs in a game played on Sunday afternoon.

2 Cheadle, Didsbury, Romiley, Urmston

May 27th was an intriguing night in the group. Batting at eight, 43 off 25 balls from James Green took Didsbury to 143-7 off their 18 overs at Urmston, who, despite racing to 42-0 off 4 overs, were pegged back well, finishing 19 runs away on 124-5, the best efforts of Michael Ness (41* off 30) notwithstanding. Meanwhile, 2nd Division Romiley pulled off a fantastic win in a dominant performance at Kingsway. Premier League Cheadle, with a strong side out, were restricted to 101-9 in 18 overs, the Romiley bowlers conceding just one wide. A 2nd wkt stand of 80* between Alex Hooton (45*) and Tom Rolph (40*) saw Romiley home and hosed with 2.3 overs in hand. Next Thursday sees the final two matches - Didsbury know a win over Cheadle sees them qualify, but wins for Cheadle and Romiley will see NRR decide who goes on.

5 Grappenhall, Warrington, Widnes

Rain has blighted group 5, but there was action at last on Thursday, and thoroughly entertaining it was. Adam Roy-lance blasted 62 off 35 balls and Albert Pennington 47* off 36 as Grappenhall racked up 165-3 in their 18 overs at home to Warrington. The visitors gave it a real go and a splendid 91 off 50 balls from Jonathan Fletcher (5x6, 8x4) in an excellent opening stand with Mike Rudd hinted at a real heist, the usually parsimonious pair of Guest and McCabe going for 82 off their 8 overs, before the middle and lower order found the rate just too steep. Widnes will play two games in two days next week with their Thursday trip to Broad Lane potentially decisive.

7 Neston, Oxton, Upton

64 off 51 from Henry Dobson and a 5th wkt stand of 64 off 35 balls helped Oxton to 163-4 in 20 overs at Upton on Thursday, who lost a wicket to the first ball of their reply and were all out 112. Neston visit Oxton next Thursday, the winner qualifying for the knockout stages.

8 Bowdon, Oulton Park, Toft

Holders Toft made a statement of intent with a thumping 83 run win at Bowdon on Thursday, Henry Hughes (77 off 45) and James Drummond (52 off 41) the standout displays. OP visit Toft next Thursday - the winner will qualify, although a point will be all fine and dandy for Toft.

CHESHIRE LOSE SEASON OPENER



Cheshire's opening fixture in the 50 over NCCA competition got off to a disappointing start with a comprehensive loss to Cumbria at Didsbury on Sunday. With the ground (above) in superb condition, Cheshire opted to bat but were soon in disarray at 45-5. Robert Sehmi was, by general consensus, unlucky to be given lbw but Didsbury capt Nick Anderson fortunate not to be first ball, but he made the most of the decision to top score with 67 as the hosts were all out in the 47th over for 172, Michael Slack wreaking havoc with 7-22. Anderson continued a fine personal performance with 3-22 but Sam Dutton crashed 102 off 79 balls as Cumbria won with 16.4 overs unused. Highlights on Didsbury YouTube channel.

UK FAST

CHESHIRE CRICKET LEAGUE

Runcorn lead the way in the CCL, with **Cheadle Hulme**, **Ashley**, **Kingsley** and **North Esst Cheshire** heading up the early peleton. The CCL table does require careful studying in order to fully comprehend its structure, but the clubs in the bottom two spots (**Stockport Trinity** and **Tattenhall**) have a long season ahead, being all out for 77 and 36 respectively on Sat. **Ashley** and **Oakmere** tied on the opening day, at which time **Trinity** crashed to 46 all out and a 124 run loss at **Port Sunlight**. No sign as yet of DLS being used to determine matches, with the two games that survived the rain on May 8th both being equal (reduced) overs matches. **Maritime** are already 37 pts clear of **Winnington Park** in Division 2, **Old Parkonians** are healthily atop Division 3 while **Saughall** head the pack in Div 4, which, for those who know their Cheshire cricket history is the current home of **Malpas CC**, 10 years ago an established County league club and now looking to revive again.

OVER 40s NEWS

Neston's last over win at Wallasey on Wednesday in a high scoring match made it three out of three for them as they atop the early **West** table. **Central Div 1** sees Toft leading the way after a 13 run win over AE on Weds, with Cheadle Hulme & Grappenhall, who also both won that evening in hot pursuit. Timperley are top with 18 pts from 5 games in **Central Div 2**, with Brooklands second and a gap already to the rest. In the **South-East** group, Bredbury St.Marks are a point ahead of Woodley, their match on Weds sadly cancelled. Macc racked up 150-4 against Bramhall and won by 10 runs. Macc's capt Keith Dixon pens a most readable account of his teams' travails in the weekly club e-newsletter, recently explaining that the Macc over 40s reported 56 injuries between them in their pre-match huddle! Dixon also thanked the area's chiropractors for making their matches possible.



Macclesfield
over 40's

Image:
Tandy Palmes

SALE ANNOUNCE LANCASHIRE DEAL



Sale CC announced the fruition of many years of hard graft and significant investment in their Dane Rd site on Friday with the signing of a three year agreement that will see Lancashire using the club as a training facility. As part of the deal Lancs will install two state of the art stitched pitches, as well as running a number of coaching sessions and player experiences for the club's junior section involving professional players from both Lancashire and Thunder. Full details are on the Sale website but this major development, which is hoped to benefit women's cricket in particular, is a real boost for all involved at the club.



CHESHIRE CUP

ROUND 1 RESULTS - SUN 23RD MAY

Wilmslow Rd: **CHESTER BH** (187-8) beat Didsbury (105) by 82 runs
 Werneth Low: **HYDE** (137-6) beat Bramhall (132) by 4 wkts
 Wallasey CC: Neston (268) v Wallasey ABANDONED

ROUND 1 RESULTS - SUN 30TH MAY

Rake Lane: **NEW BRIGHTON** (74) beat Birkenhead Park (63) by 11 runs
 Birchvale Drive: **TIMPERLEY** (225-4) beat Romiley (224-8) by 6 wkts



The Cheshire Cup fixtures on **May 23rd** fared better than the awful forecast suggested, but rain was still a factor in the three ties played. It proved frustratingly terminal in the clash of Wirral heavyweights at **Walla-sey**, where **Neston** posted an imperious 268, built around Mark Rowlands' 81 ball ton. He was finally out for 111 off 98 as Neston coped well with a rare failure for Luke Camden, being especially severe on Harry Meehan who finished with 8-0-95-2. Sadly the rain came before Wallasey could bat, play finally called off at 6.14 (see previous pages for a discussion of the D/L situation for this match). **Hyde** and **Bramhall**, washed out the previous week at halfway, got through to a finish this time but albeit in a 20 overs a side game. Hyde stuck the visitors in and despite a feisty 60 from Greg Dixon, Bramhall couldn't get any partnerships established, Ben Balderson's 4-18 a key factor in a final total of 132. Fresh from taking 3-26, James Duffy fired off 61 opening the batting, leading the way for Hyde who had to scramble a little but got over the line with 8 balls remaining. It was far more clear cut at **Didsbury** where a 35 overs a side game

proved possible. **Chester BH** were 88-4 off 20 but took 99 off the last 15 to set the hosts 188 for victory. A super opening burst from Luke Young had Didsbury 10-3 within 4 overs and after two more wickets had fallen by the 11th over CBH were comfortable, going on to win by 82 runs. D/L was thankfully nowhere to be seen on **Sun 30th** as two remarkable games unfolded. On the Wirral, Satyajeet Bachhav took 6-14 as **Birkenhead Park** remarkably skittled **New Brighton** for just 74 in 23.2 overs, a total inflated by over half thanks to a last wkt stand of 38 between no. 10 Philip Lees and no.11 Ashraf Nawab. BP eased to 26-0 and despite a stutter, seemed well placed at 60-5 after 20 overs - but three overs later they were all out after 4 wkts fell in the 23rd over, the last man run out going for two. Sebastian Botes was the bowler whose 5-13 pulled off an unthinkable triumph, Ashraf Nawab also taking 2 wkts. A very different sort of game at **Romiley**, where home captain Tom Rolph's 58, and a solid middle order effort, helped the hosts recover from 30-3 to post a sizeable 224-8. **Timperley's** Ed Galley hit a magnificent 113* (103 bs) to steer the visitors to the win in the 38th over.

ROUND 2 FIXTURES : SUNDAY JUNE 6TH

BOLLINGTON v GRAPPENHALL

URMSTON v NANTWICH

CHESTER BOUGHTON HALL v BROOKLANDS

HYDE v CHEADLE

BOWDON v OXTON

ALDERLEY EDGE v OULTON PARK

The R1 Wallasey v Neston match will be replayed on Sun 13th June, with R2 fixtures for Lindow, New Brighton & Timperley still to be announced.

CHESHIRE SHIELD NEWS

An air of mystery surrounds the early matches in the Shield, with two round 1 ties still to be played but the draw already made for round 2. The matches, scheduled for June 6th, are:

BARROW v KINGSLEY; CHRISTLETON v SANDBACH; HALE BARNES v HAWK GREEN (arguably the tie of the round with the current holders playing the 2019 winners); **MARITIME v STOCKPORT GEORGIANS; UPTON v BROADBOTTOM; WOODLEY v CALDY.**

Hosts for **WESTMINSTER PARK** and visitors for **STOCKPORT TRINITY** are still to be announced.