

COUNTY LEAGUE NEWS

on behalf of Cheshire Clubs Cricket Committee (4 Cs)



AUGUST 2019

All to play for!

Rain ruined month hits leagues
before the heat returns

PLUS

Toft & Nantwich on the national stage

Many tight title races

First relegations confirmed

Cheshire Cup goes on, Shield won



VIVIO

CHESHIRE COUNTY CRICKET LEAGUE

CCCL PREMIER LEAGUE IN AUGUST

A quick word with JOHNATHAN CAMPBELL



Overseas signing Jono Campbell loved being part of the promotion winning Widnes team of 2018 and in his own words was desperately keen to “test the waters” of the Premier Division. Successive hundreds in August - including 105 against CBH which helped his side to a memorable one wicket win - have vindicated his decision to return. Jono said “yes, that was a proper game of cricket against Chester! They’re a top quality side. After a pretty average start to the season on a personal note, it has been great to finally find a bit of touch and make it count. Our captain, Tom Evans, led from the front against CBH and he was brilliant with the ball which set the platform for us to chase an attainable target. I got stuck in and battled against some tough bowling, and I struck it nicely. I did have a bit of luck here and there which every batter needs! But credit goes to Tom Fletch & Parky who got the job done after I got out with 2 still needed, which made it extra special to get the win.” Jono agrees it was quite something that the game took place at all after all the rain. “The ground staff deserve massive credit for that, it was an incredible effort. We had a decent crowd watching too, just a fantastic day.”

Despite suffering their third loss of the season in a thrilling finish at Widnes, Chester BH quickly regrouped to put together an accomplished chase of 232 to defeat Alderley Edge on Saturday, meaning they need 28 more points from their remaining three matches to secure their second Premier League title in three seasons. Alex Money’s unbeaten 98 in that run chase was the stand-out performance and meant that Neston, after starting the month with two wins, were left ruing their inability to take the last Cheadle wicket in a reduced overs game on the 17th, and then defeat in a high scoring match at Nantwich on Saturday. Dane Williams 98* for Neston was eclipsed by a magnificent unbeaten 150 from Luke Robinson as the reigning champions put together a strong run of form - too late for the title this year, sadly for them. Nantwich do have a national date in the Club Championship semi-final, however, and Toft also have

one eye on the national stage with finals day of the T20 to look forward to. Successive wins in the league mean they can do so pretty sure of retaining Premier League status, one of those victories coming in a relegation clash at Marple. Will Dunkerley’s remarkable figures (9-2-10-6) and an agonising one wicket loss at Cheadle on Saturday, left Marple on the brink of a return to Division 1 after two seasons in the Prem, but Oulton Park are not yet safe despite some decent August form, and they will want to make sure. Grappenhall’s relegation was confirmed with their 12th defeat of the season by Hyde, who have returned to the top flight in style - recovering from 13-5 to post 181 and beat Cheadle by 119 runs was one of the performances of the season. Johnathan Campbell’s wonderful August form has been a big part of assuring Widnes of Premier League cricket in 2020.

PREMIER TABLE

TEAM	PTS	TEAM	AUG PTS
CHESTER BH	357	CHESTER B.H.	87
NESTON	309	NANTWICH	82
HYDE	282	NESTON	74
NANTWICH	278	WIDNES	69
ALDERLEY EDGE	270	HYDE	61
TIMPERLEY	263	TOFT	58
CHEADLE	237	OULTON PARK	57
WIDNES	230	CHEADLE	43
TOFT	205	TIMPERLEY	34
OULTON PARK	198	ALDERLEY EDGE	30
MARPLE	150	GRAPPENHALL	21
R GRAPPENHALL	101	MARPLE	19

AUG FORM GUIDE

AUGUST HONOURS BOARD

Luke Robinson 150*, Nant v Nest, 24.8
Johnathan Campbell 116, Wid v Grapp, 10.8
Johnathan Campbell 105, Wid v CBH, 17.8

Will Dunkerley 6-10, Toft v Marp, 17.8
Danny Cranmer 6-20, Hyde v Chead, 3.8
Ash Davis 5-18, Nest v OP, 3.8
Mitchell Spencer 5-21, Nant v Hyde, 17.8
Max Fitzgerald 5-36, Marp v Chead, 24.8
Ash Davis 5-40, Nest v Toft 10.8
(incl. a hat-trick and 4 wts in 5 balls)
Majid Majeed 5-44, Wid v Grapp, 10.8
Andrew Dufty 5-45, OP v Wid, 24.8
Tom Evans 5-54, Wid v CBH, 17.8
Charlie Fleet 5-68, CBH v AE, 24.8
Liam Brown 5-81 Marp v Op, 10.8

CHESHIRE CLUBS ON THE BIG STAGE

TOFT THROUGH TO NATIONAL T20 FINALS



ever, as Toft hammered 207-6 off their 20 with Jackson again to the fore (87 off 47) and Stubbs taking just 11 balls to reach 44*. Menai Bridge were more like the London Garden Bridge in reply, collapsing somewhat embarrassingly to 48 all out in less than 10 overs to give Toft victory by a scarcely creditable 159 runs. Thus it was that Toft went forward to a quarter final away at mighty Ormskirk. Electing to bat, Toft's 167-4 was a very good total, all the batsmen contributing and going at better than a run a ball. Ormskirk, featuring Lancs' George Lavelle, were 58-3 off 8 when rain fell and, as it turned out, that was to be that. Will Dunkerley's dismissal of Alex Rankin shortly before the rain proved critical as this third wicket put Toft ahead on DLS and, eventually, off to Derby with the good wishes of all in Cheshire cricket going with them.

Toft have followed in Nantwich's 2018 footsteps by making it all the way through to the National T20 Finals day, which takes place at Derbyshire's County Ground on Sunday 22nd September. After their triumph in the Cheshire T20 Finals day that was reported in the previous newsletter, Toft went forward to the area finals day which they ended up hosting on a hastily rearranged date after yet more rain prevented any play in the original fixture at Checkley CC. In their semi (without Rob Sehmi), Toft beat Prestwich by 5 wickets, chasing down 144 with 2.2 overs to spare thanks to some effective hitting by Andrew Jackson (65 off 43), with James Scott and Ed Stubbs also weighing in with cameo 20s. This was but small potatoes compared to their performance in the final against Menai Bridge, how-



Toft Cricket Club
 @ToftCC_News

Follow

Toft progress to the National Finals at Derbyshire CC after game rained off and Toft win on DLS

10:11 am - 18 Aug 2019

5 Retweets 89 Likes



T20 NATIONAL FINALS DAY, 22.9.19, DERBYSHIRE CCC

11.15 = CRANLEIGH v SWARDESTON

14.45 = TOFT v SHEFFIELD COLLEGIATE

FLOODLIT FINAL TAKES PLACE AROUND 18.30



Luke Robinson & Henry Dobson after their unbroken 164* partnership powered Nantwich past Bath. [photo: Desmond Evans]

NANTWICH AIM FOR LORDS

Having beaten five strong teams in the Royal London Club Championship, Nantwich had a quarter final clash against Bath, which took place at Whitehouse Lane on August 11th. And what a day, as Nantwich romped to victory by 9 wickets with almost 5 overs in hand. Despite Bath's Ben Ackland carrying his bat for 77, only one other player passed 20 as the visitors reached 196-9 in their 40 overs. After a brisk opening stand of 36, Luke Robinson came to the crease and over-powered Bath with wonderful stroke-play that sent the ball to all parts. Rob-

inson raced to 124* off 85 balls, with 7 sixes and 10 fours, finding the perfect foil in Henry Dobson, whose unbeaten 53 off 107 balls put together a stand of 164* and Nantwich just one match away from a Lords final. Standing in their way are Ormskirk, so this Sunday at Nantwich should be an exciting occasion full of good cricket. It's a noon start and a very good crowd is expected. Nantwich's excellent twitter feed will carry all the latest news and the best wishes of Cheshire Cricket go to the Dabbers.

AUGUST IN CCCL DIVISION 1

A quick word with RICK HOUGH



2019 has been a quietly remarkable season for Bollington, with popular captain Rick Hough delighted that his side have exceeded expectations and confirmed their place in Div 1 next year. "It's certainly been eventful!" said Rick. "We've had some heavy defeats, but also won by big margins. No draws at all, either! Can't think when that last happened. But yes, some real nailbiters that we thankfully came out on the right side of." A 17 run win over Sale in June was as nothing compared to the week after, when Bolly beat Romiley by one run, before snatching a two run win at Urmston in July. "I really enjoy captaining the team, and when a hunch comes off, like switching the batting order round when we beat Upton, or throwing the ball to Horse (Tom Horsfield) and seeing him clinch all three of the tight games with the last wicket, it's a great feeling." What about the impact of overseas player Caleb Ziebell? "Absolutely brilliant. Caleb had a tough act to follow in Andrej Yaksender but he has been a dream. Top run scorer in the division [664 runs including two hundreds], 26 wickets, and a great fielder. All the guys are great to have, we have a good team spirit throughout the club and we hope to finish strongly."

Division 1 is turning out to be a tense tussle at both ends with three teams battling out the promotion places and five involved in the relegation dogfight. Didsbury's surge up the table continued with three August wins, and with fixtures coming up against Macc, Urmston and Brooklands (who they bowled out for 33 in June), Didsbury have it in their own hands to secure an immediate return to the Prem. Oxton remain top after a curious end to the month; Jack Smith and Luke Filer added 235 for the first wicket, almost batting through the innings in their big win over Urmston, only to tumble to 79 all out and a surprise loss to Brooklands the week after. Third place Bowdon had a mirror image month, starting by stumbling to 97 all out against Romiley and, despite reducing them to 66-8, losing by one wicket, before two thumping wins kept them 12 pts off second spot. The Bowdon/Oxton

clash on Sept 8th looks like a pivotal fixture, given the run-in Didsbury have. Bramhall's promotion push was derailed by the weather, with four successive cancellations and then defeat to Sale on Saturday just about putting paid to their hopes - although promotion is not impossible if results go in their favour. Bramhall play Oxton on Sat and Bowdon on the last day. At the bottom, five clubs are involved in the fight to stay up. Upton have the most to do, anything but victory over second bottom Urmston on Sat meaning they will be at the mercy of other results. Urmston's alarming slump - since winning three of their first four games, they haven't won again - shows no sign of ending. Sale and Romiley meet in a crucial game on Sat with both clubs still needing wins, while Macc's first victory in 7 games on Sat over Upton was a much needed fillip in their bid to steer clear of relegation dramas.

DIV 1 TABLE

TEAM	PTS
OXTON	319
DIDSBURY	304
BOWDON	292
BRAMHALL	255
DAVENHAM	240
BOLLINGTON	239
BROOKLANDS	236
SALE	202
MACCLESFIELD	200
ROMILEY	190
URMSTON	174
UPTON	150

AUG FORM GUIDE

TEAM	AUG PTS
DIDSBURY	88
BROOKLANDS	82
OXTON	78
BOWDON	61
ROMILEY	61
DAVENHAM	45
SALE	43
MACCLESFIELD	37
UPTON	36
BOLLINGTON	36
BRAMHALL	23
URMSTON	20

AUGUST HONOURS BOARD

Jack Smith 117*, Oxt v Urms, 17.8

Luke Filer 102, Oxt v Urms, 17.8

(1st wkt psp of 235 btwn Smith & Filer)

Craig Melrose 6-38, Macc v Upt, 24.8

Stuart Plant 5-25, Boll v Upt, 17.8

James Bottomley 5-35, Bowd v Macc, 17.8

Liam Sundve 5-30, Upton v Sale, 3.8

Ben Watkin 5-46, Sale v Upton, 3.8

AUGUST IN CCCL DIVISION 2

While the bell finally and inevitably tolled for Northwich after a wretched 2019, they did at least have the solace of a first league win of the season with a ton from Zenol Jayasena the centerpiece of a 107 win over Christleton. Tattenhall seem certain to go out of the league with them; 65 points adrift and with a visit from Lindow on Saturday followed by a trip to Congleton the week after, it is hard to see them escaping. Indeed it was Congleton's tense one wicket win over Lindow on Sat that has given the top of the division even more spice. Chasing 156, Congleton were 33-4 before a recovery took them to 108-5. They then inched to 141-8 and the last pair finally scrambled five runs for victory despite the best efforts of Alex Matthews, who claimed his second 7 wicket haul in two weeks. However, despite the setback, Lindow remain 6 points clear in second and their next two opponents are Tattenhall and Northwich....before a final day meeting with league leaders War-

rington! The Walton Lea outfit had a pleasing August, three wins - including a nailbiting one wicket victory over Christleton on the 10th - keeping them top. Needing 179 thanks to Ashley Scholes' 7-33, Warrington were 124-3 before losing 5-26, and needed the last pair to scramble 8 runs, which made up for claiming only 5 points in a drawn game with Hale Barns, Joe Cooper continuing his magnificent 2019 with an unbeaten hundred and five wickets in that game. 17 points clear of third, Warrington have it in their own hands and will want to make the most of games against Alvanley and Barrow before the visit of Lindow. As for third place Congleton, they can only keep winning and hope, and with Stockport, Tattenhall and Northwich to play, the form table would suggest they should do that. The remaining teams will all feel pleased to have assured their place in the division in 2020, and look forward to finishing the season as strongly as possible.

A quick word with ASHLEY SCHOLES



As the season draws to an end, Warrington sit top of the pile, but Ashley is still not content. "Lindow and Congleton keep winning!" he laughs. "I'd love a bigger gap being first, but credit to all three teams at the top, it's going to go to the very end. On paper the others have lighter run-ins than us, but obviously the game with Lindow on the last day will be massive." It's Ashley's first season as captain after several years at the club. "It took a few games to get used to it, but I'm growing into the role now. We lost on the first day, then won two, then got thrashed at Mobberley (Warrington all out 50). But after that, we won 10 games in a row." Has he pulled many tactical masterstrokes during the season? "Ha! Not that I can think of! As captain it has been great to have so many bowling options - 7 different bowlers have taken 15 or more wickets, which is fantastic. John Fletcher has been different class with the bat, leading run scorer in the division just now. So I am fortunate as captain and it was nice to contribute wickets at Christleton - two years running I have got a 7-for there, strangely! We focused on promotion over cup competitions this year but we know with so little margin for error now, we have to play really well to get there."

DIV 2 TABLE

TEAM	PTS
WARRINGTON	360
LINDOW	349
CONGLETON	343
MOBBERLEY	247
BARROW	245
HALE BARNs	241
STOCKPORT	233
CHRISTLETON	222
ALVANLEY	214
ST.GEORGIANS	213
TATTENHALL	148
R NORTHWICH	97

AUG FORM GUIDE

TEAM	AUG PTS
CONGLETON	82
WARRINGTON	80
HALE BARNs	77
LINDOW	71
CHRISTLETON	46
ALVANLEY	38
NORTHWIC H	38
TATTENHALL	37
STOCKPORT	36
BARROW	36
ST.GEORGIANS	31
MOBBERLEY	27

AUGUST HONOURS BOARD

Atiq Uz-Zaman 112 Lind v Barr, 10.8
 Joe Cooper 107*, HB v Warr, 17.8
 Zenol Jayasena 100 North v Chris, 3.8
Honourable mention: Tom Leese 94 Cong v SG, 3.8*

Alex Matthews 7-18, Lind v Stock, 17.8
 Alex Matthews 7-28, Lind v Cong, 24.8
 Ashley Scholes 7-33, Warr v Chris, 10.8
 Joe Cooper 7-36, HB v Tatt, 3.8

Joe Cooper 6-42, HB v North, 10.8
 Iroshan De Silva 6-39, Barr v Lind, 10.8

Mubashir Hassan 5-27, Chris v Stock, 24.8
 John Copeland 5-30, Cong v Lind, 24.8
 Mike Eley 5-45, Stoc v Barr, 3.8

CCCL 2ND & 3RD XI

2ND XI CRICKET - CHESTER BH ON COURSE FOR THE DOUBLE

Chester Boughton Hall 2s won the 2nd XI T20 title on Sunday, beating Nantwich 2s by 31 runs in the final to seal the silverware. There will (hopefully) be more details in the September edition. In the league, CBH are top, like their 1st XI colleagues, but the 2s margin is only 14 points from Oulton Park. Intriguingly, both sides have Grappenhall to play - who are bottom - before meeting each other at Little Budworth on the final day. OP had a nail-biter at Didsbury on the 24th, winning by one wicket with their last pair



CHESTER BOUGHTON HALL 2ND XI - T20 WINNERS

adding 21 for a crucial win. Earlier in the month OP conceded 45 extras against Neston but still managed a 3 wkt win. Apart from Grappers, the other sides at the foot of the Premier Division, Cheadle and Upton, play at Kingsway on Saturday. Upton recorded a remarkable win at Toft on Sat, Tommy Maguire's 6-24 seeing the hosts go from 71-2 to 83 all out, Upton sneaking over the line by three wkts. Hyde, who won a vital game against Grappers on Sat, and Marple also have work to do - and they play each other on the final day. In other Premier League action in August, Joey Chong scored 92 twice in consecutive weeks for AE, and James O'Neill hit 102* for Neston against Toft, the only August ton in the Prem. In Division 1, Timperley are top by just 7 points from Macclesfield after Macc had the better of their drawn match

on Saturday. Bowdon are just 6 points behind Macc and Warrington 30 points away in fourth. Timpers' Oli Bevan took 7-25 against Sale on the 3rd. At the bottom, like their 1st XI counterparts, Urmston are involved in a fight to avoid the drop, although they are an uncomfortable 48 points from safety. Bramhall, Georgians, Sale and Brooklands are the other sides embroiled in danger. Oxton's 1 wkt win over Brooklands on Sat featured captain Ian Gauntlett and Molly Price as the last pair. In Div 2, Rowan Day's 7-11 helped Lindow beat Congleton and stay top - Day claimed 6-8 against Alvanley earlier in Aug - with 20 more points enough for promotion. Davenham, Widnes, Hale Barns and Cheadle Hulme are still also very interested. Five teams separated by 37 points are involved in the relegation scrap, with Stockport and Alvanley the bottom two.

3RD XI CRICKET - T20 FINALS DAY NEARS AS LEAGUES BOIL UP

Despite losing to Grappenhall for the second time this season, Didsbury 3s remain top of the Premier Division after three wins in a row, bowling their opponents out for double figure scores in each instance. Didsbury have two games remaining, against Georgians, who have enjoyed a successful season in the top division, and Toft, whose return has been more of a challenge. Didsbury will also defend their T20 crown on Sunday against surprise package Cheadle Hulme Ladybridge. Hyde and Nantwich are the other sides involved in what promises to be a good day's crick-

et, although all the teams will be waiting nervously on the weather forecast, with so little time left in the season. Ben Clissold hit a superb 168* as Grappenhall went past 300 against Toft on Sunday. In the Sunday West Division, New Brighton have finished top, with no further fixtures scheduled in the league handbook but a messy divisional table seeming to indicate a number of games outstanding - 20 matches have been conceded in Div 3W during 2019. Heaton Mersey lead the way in the East Div 1, their clash with third placed

Didsbury 4s on Sun a key fixture. Didsbury 4s face second place Romiley on the final day. CH Ladybridge currently lead a very tight Div 2, with Haslington, Cheadle Hulme and Hyde 4s all on 42 pts at the top of Div 3. CH's Asif Malik and Adil Ali are pictured after a massive stand on Sun v Wilmslow.



AROUND THE COUNTY.....



Haslington march on to what looks like an inevitable (and well deserved) promotion to the County League after a remarkable month in which they dismissed Kingsley for 31, Lymm OP for 65 and Weaverham for 41. Unfortunately the rain meant their clash with third placed Ashton didn't go ahead, meaning that the other promotion spot looks to be between Ashton and Cheadle Hulme, who themselves have had a good August - although their

loss at Oakmere on the 3rd was a shock to their system. Haslington and CH meet on Sept 7th in what looks to be a decisive clash in terms of the title. At the foot of the table, it's all still to play for. Weaverham and Lymm (who meet on the final day) are battling it out with Port Sunlight, who play struggling Barnton on Sept 7th and North East Cheshire, who are not yet safe, on the final day. Ashley have already secured promotion to Div 1 next season, with Hawk Green odds-on to join them.

UK FAST DIV 1 TABLE	PTS
HASLINGTON	330
CHEADLE HULME	306
ASHTON ON MERSEY	293
KINGSLEY	236
STOCKPORT TRINITY	233
OAKMERE	226
RUNCORN	225
NORTH EAST CHESHIRE	214
BARNTON	201
LYMM OP	187
PORT SUNLIGHT	184
WEAVERHAM	154

All UK Fast league info is at ukfastccl.co.uk

UK FAST T20 FINALS DAY AT OAKMERE, 1.9.19: 2ND XI FINAL AT 12.30, 1ST XI FINAL AT 15.30

UK FAST PLATE FINALS DAY AT TIMPERLEY, 8.9.19: SEMIS AT 12.00, FINAL AT 15.30

CHESHIRE MAKE HAY IN AUGUST

Cheshire put a bad start in their Championship fixtures well and truly behind them with a stonking run of form in the month, two innings victories over Devon and Shropshire the perfect answer to those wondering what the team was capable of. At a sun-drenched Alderley Edge early in the month (pictured) Cheshire made the best possible start by bowling Devon out for just 85, ending day one with a healthy lead. Even so, declaring with a lead of 220 early on day two meant the visitors had plenty of opportunity to turn things round, but the spin of David Wainwright and Simon Norman saw wickets fall at regular intervals, Devon tumbling to defeat just before the scheduled close.

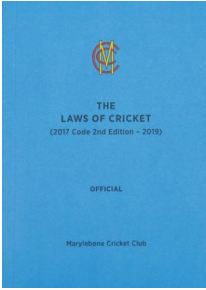
Even better was to follow at Nantwich a fortnight later as Cheshire racked up 479-8 after being asked to bat, their second highest score ever in the Championship. Their highest (502-8 - in a day - against Herefordshire) was last September and although different players contributed this time (principally Toft keeper Robert Sehmi with 122), it brought back many happy memories for the Cheshire faithful. Searching for 330 to avoid the follow on, Shropshire managed 274, Normanton taking 4-60 and Ben Gibbon 3-55 with Matt Swift carrying his bat for 92 and Xavier Clarke striking 61. Going for the jugular, captain Danny Leech enforced the follow-on and his bowlers again did him proud. Shropshire fell for 174, Norman



ton's 4-28 producing match figures of 8-88. Rick Moore weighed in with 3-39. Clarke stood firm again with 52 but it was a convincing win for the home side. These successive wins have given Cheshire real hope of a top five finish in the Championship Western Division, which will secure their place in the new Western League Division 1 which is being introduced in 2020. One game remains to be played, with Cheshire travelling to Thame to take on Oxfordshire on September

1/2/3, knowing that victory will confirm a top five finish.





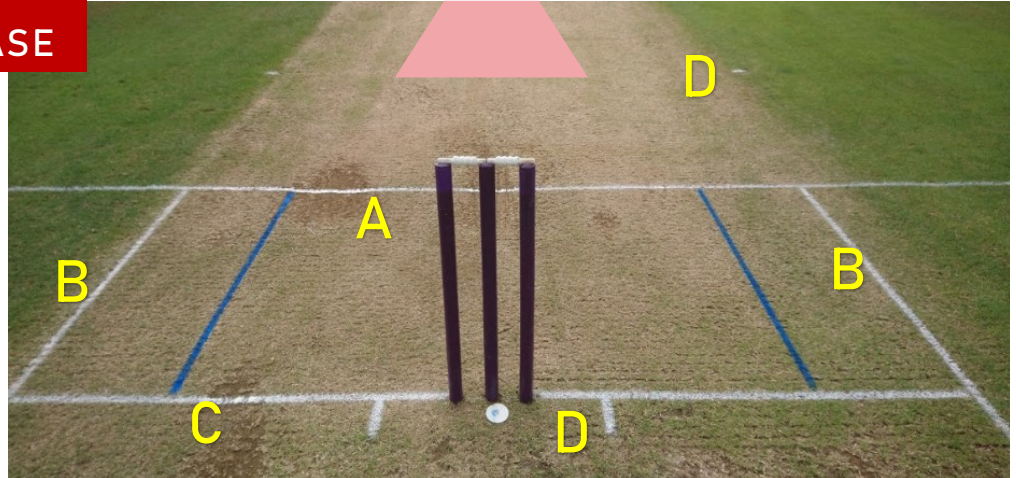
LAWS & LAPTOPS

UMPIRES AND SCORERS

The crease, and crease markings, are a part of every game of cricket. Most players know something about where bowlers' feet should and should not be landing. Batsmen too generally have some idea of where they should be, the recent discussions about running out the non-striker who is out of his crease, and also about batsmen going into the protected area, helping raise awareness. But what are the key points?

A THE POPPING CREASE

The crease marking that is 'in the game' the most. 4 feet in front of the stumps, the thickness of the crease marking is irrelevant, as it is the back edge of the popping crease which is the crucial part. Batsmen must have their bat, or some part of either foot, grounded behind this back edge to be in their ground. Bowlers must have some part of their front foot, either grounded or raised, behind this back edge.



B THE RETURN CREASE

4 feet 4 inches either side of the middle stump, the return crease shows where the back foot of the bowler can land. If any part of the bowler's back foot touches the return crease in the delivery stride, or lands completely outside it, no-ball will be called. Additionally, although only marked for 8 feet, the return crease is considered to be unlimited in length - as is the popping crease, incidentally. If the front foot of the bowler touches or lands outside the return crease, this is of no consequence, it is only the back foot which must have some part grounded within, and not touching, the return crease.

The blue lines in the above photo are not markings required by law but may be required by some match regulations, to give a visual indication for both players and umpires of where wides may be called. These lines will be marked 17 inches from the return crease.

D THE PROTECTED AREA

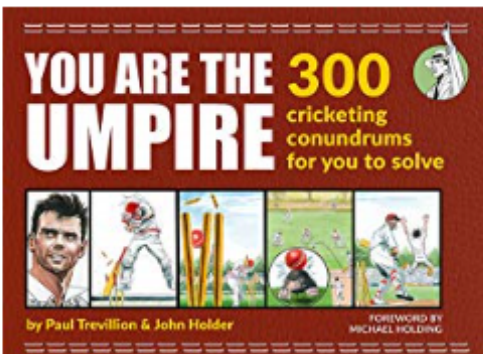
The two marks - a foot either side of middle stump, and then at the side of the pitch 5 feet in front of the popping crease - are the visual guides that indicate the location of the protected area (the area in pink). Bowlers must keep off this area in their follow-through and batsmen are not allowed to take a guard either in, or so close to, the protected area that encroachment into it is inevitable.

C THE BOWLING CREASE

Until 1963, the bowling crease was used to determine no-balls - the back foot of the bowler had to land behind it. Many quick bowlers became adept at landing their back foot legally and then dragging it through the crease, which meant their front foot could legally land anywhere! Since the law was changed and the popping crease made the decisive factor, the bowling crease indicates the end of the pitch and the place to position the stumps, which should be in the centre of the back edge of this crease marking.



Australia's Ian Meckiff bowls a legal delivery in the 1958-59 Ashes. Meckiff was one of many back foot 'draggers' during this era.



UP FOR THE CHALLENGE?

Some officials may already have discovered the new version of John Holder's 'You are the Umpire', with an improbable 300 questions for you to muse through! I have made a start, and already discovered a number of incorrect answers - including the very first question! But even these wrong answers should not deter anyone from getting themselves a copy, to think through the scenarios, look at the laws and discover the right answers. One of the ways that scorers can improve their own skills is to learn the laws of the game, so that they can know more instinctively what to look for and what to anticipate - this will help make scoring a game that bit easier.

IN OTHER NEWS....

CHEADLE HULME WIN CHESHIRE SHIELD AND OVER 40'S TITLE

Cheadle Hulme won the Cheshire Shield on August 4th with a 45 run win over holders Hale Barns. Cheadle Hulme made 196-9 in 45 overs, with 41 from Humayun Khalid the top score. 37 extras (including 33 wides) provided the second highest score and in the end proved to be of great significance as HB found their target getting steadily trickeier, losing wickets at regular intervals with only a last wicket stand of 33 enabling them to reach 151. On Sunday it was the turn of the CH over 40's to triumph, beating hosts Neston by 30 runs on a glorious afternoon. With three wickets in CH's semi-final win over Bredbury SM, and four more in the final, Richard Higginbottom was the bowling hero as the Grove Park outfit celebrated a successful season which they hope to top off with the 1st XI winning promotion back to the County League. Along with Bredbury and Neston, commiserations to Toft who were the other losing semi-finalists.



From the information available, the Cheshire Cup has reached the semi final stage. Hyde, who took Timperley for 314 in their quarter final, will play Neston in the semi, who beat Nantwich by 120 runs on Sunday. New Brighton beat Alderley Edge by 5 wickets and await the winner of Elworth & Chester BH in the other semi. The final is scheduled for Sunday September 15th.

Bramhall's rising star Jack Bridgeman hit a double century in the under 14s tournament at Taunton on July 24th.



UMPIRING COURSES

STAGE ONE: SUN 17TH NOV, 9.30 - 16.45
STAGE TWO: SUN 24TH NOV, 9.30 - 16.45

Venue: Toft Cricket Club

Each stage costs £30 to attend, but a discounted rate of £40 for taking both stages consecutively is available. The fee includes a comprehensive resource pack and also a years' membership of ECBACO (subject to meeting application criteria). For more information and to book contact Cheshire Education Officer Geoff Young on 01352 755881 or curzon99@tiscali.co.uk



Sale proudly announced the opening of their new clubhouse on August 10th, the culmination of a huge amount of work by many people at Dane Rd. They even had the opportunity to look after the Cricket World Cup Trophy for a few hours!

FROM THE EDITOR



What a contrasting month (and a bit) for Cheshire cricket. After a total washout on the last weekend of July, most of August proved every bit as challenging with the amount of rain falling. Some teams were more badly affected than others but every club was stretched to the limit in getting their grounds in some sort of shape to

host cricket matches safely and fairly. I have included some pictures that were circulating on social media during the month to indicate some of what we have been up against. Remarkably, each of the photos was taken in the middle of the week, yet matches were played at each ground that weekend. And then, finally, the heat returns and we are back to two drinks breaks per innings! Groundsmen across the county deserve a huge amount of gratitude and appreciation. It was during that very hot Bank Holiday weekend that many thousands got caught up in the drama of the Headingley Test - Didsbury 3s first innings came to a perfectly timed close to enable all the players to

enjoy the drama of watching the last 40 runs being scored over an extended tea interval, a scene replicated at many other games I'm sure. It can only be hoped that the incredible finish provides further encouragement for more involvement across the game. Although there is still one Saturday left in August, as the month end falls across a big weekend of cricket, I have put out this edition before the end of the month. The September edition will round up all the highs and lows as the season comes to an end, and here's hoping for some good weather to end 2019 with - I think we deserve it!

James



Far Left:
Didsbury CC

Top Left:
Macclesfield CC
(photo from the Macc website)

Bottom Left:
Canoeing on the outfield at Bollington CC
(photo: Sandra Mason)

Right:
Stockport Georgians CC



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

VIVIO CHESHIRE COUNTY CRICKET LEAGUE

