

AUGUST 29 - SEPT 6 2020

Finals Day approaches

All to play for on last weekend

Cheshire Cup & Shield finals

Womens Cricket & Cheshire Cricket League update







Finals day is almost upon us, marking the end of a season that many doubted would happen at all. That we have been able to have at least some cricket has been a triumph of both patience and will, and anyone who has been part of a match this year has been part of a tremendous effort to overcome the obstacles posed by Coronavirus. Frankly I still feel rather frustrated that all the fabulous weather of May and early June was wasted when very little was obviously different by the time we started playing at the end of July. However, that is now the past and it has been heartening to see many sports returning, albeit in an adapted form. On a club level the opportunity for clubs to at least recoup some revenue

been crucial, and hopefully all the various finals taking place will provide a further boost to club funds. Latterly I have also had the privilege of being one of the official scorers for the IT20s at Old Trafford, as England and Pakistan faced off. I wasn't at the first rain-ruined game but scored the other two matches, and what a display of cricket they were! The batting is simply breathtaking - eight seasons into scoring these types of games, I still marvel at the sound the ball makes off the bat, and the distance these players can hit the ball! The speed of the bowling makes the hitting even more impressive, the running between the wickets is

always fleet-footed (and looks effort-

less) and as for the fielding - I can't

breaking fingers ten times a game,

with the way they nonchalantly stop

stinging drives. It's all great to watch

and be part of (although not without

its challenges), but when someone

said to me recently that it must be

quite a come down to be involved in

understand how players aren't

through bar and food takings has

FROM THE EDITOR

club cricket after that, I was quick to disagree. Whilst I understood what they were getting at, the club game remains a fundamental part of cricket, and as such I have always considered it to be 'proper cricket'. It's the form of cricket that most people will have most immediate interaction with, and be involved with, and one that will keep going in some form whatever financial pressures end up doing to the professional and international game. Professional cricket is vital to help draw more people into the game, but it's at recreational level where involvement will be the greatest. And as finals day approaches in this truncated season, it's all the more reason to enjoy the opportunity to be part of the greatest of all team sports, and I hope as many as possible will make the most of these final couple of weeks of the 2020 recreational season.

James





CHESHIRE WOMEN'S CRICKET

Martin Saxon's latest newsletter has all the details of the current round of matches, with news of Porthill Park's triumph in the Western division as well as the tight tussle in the East between Didsbury and Stockport Trinity, who meet on Sunday in a game that will decide the champions.

FINALS DAY LINE UP AND VENUES

The exact make up of finals day will (apart from 2nd XI Division 2) not be properly confirmed until after Saturday's fixtures, and the venues, likewise, will be settled upon at this point. It is best to check club twitter feeds or websites, or play cricket, to get confirmation.

1st XI PREMIER DIVISON
NESTON or OULTON PARK v DIDSBURY or HYDE
(Neston or Oulton Park will be at home)

1st XI DIVISION ONE
URMSTON or MACCLESFIELD v GRAPPENHALL or SALE
(venue for the final will be confirmed)

1st XI DIVISION TWO
HALE BARNS or CHRISTLETON v HASLINGTON
(Hale Barns or Christleton will be at home)

2nd XI PREMIER DIVISION
CHEADLE V NANTWICH or OULTON PARK or CHESTER BOUGHTON HALL
(Cheadle will be at home)

2nd XI DIVISION ONE GRAPPENHALL v ROMILEY or SALE (Grappenhall will be at home)

2ND XI DIVISION TWO
DIDSBURY 2A v HALE BARNS
(Didsbury 2A will be at home)

CHESHIRE SHIELD FINAL - SUNDAY 13th SEPTEMBER
HAWK GREEN v BARROW
(Hawk Green will be at home)

CHESHIRE CUP FINAL - SUNDAY 20th SEPTEMBER
CHEADLE v NANTWICH
(Cheadle will be at home)

For all the league finals, a reserve date on the weekend of the 19th/20th September is in place.

All clubs - especially 2nd XIs - are urged to check the eligibility rules for this years competition before naming their teams for their final. Advice has been re-circulated to clubs this week, please check this and contact the competition secretary well in advance of Sunday 13th with any queries.

Where two T20 matches are played on finals day, and each club wins one match, a super over will then take place to decide the winners. Should this be tied, there will be a boundary count - umpires on the day at each final will confirm all of the regulations with the team captains.

PREMIER LEAGUE WEST **CHESTER BH NANTWICH NESTON OULTON PARK OXTON WIDNES**



PREMIER LEAGUE EAST **ALDERLEY EDGE CHEADLE DIDSBURY** HYDE **TIMPERLEY TOFT**

Both Premier divisions are reaching a fascinating climax with the top two in each region playing each other on Saturday in what have effectively become semi-finals, the winners progressing through to next Sunday's finals day which will be hosted by the winners of the West division. That will either be Neston or Oulton Park. The two met on Aug 29, with Neston coming out on top by 40 runs, captain Simon Smith leading the way with 69. Stokes then followed that up with a superb unbeaten 90 off 93 balls as Neston cruised to an 8 wkt win over Widnes on Sat, while OP were beaten in a tense low-scoring encounter at Little Budworth. Set at 45 overs per side, visitors Nantwich dismissed the hosts for a modest looking 131, only Martyn East (34 off 70) getting past 20. Nantwich found run scoring equally hard work but at 100-3 after 32 were looking comfortable. The loss of 4-16 in 8

overs then turned the game on its head, but Oliver Griffiths' nononsense solution put an end to Nantwich jitters as two sixes in the 41st over saw them over the line. One consolation for OP is that their net run rate is better than Neston's. so Saturday's equation for both teams is simple. In the other West division games, CBH's unusual poor run of form continued with three defeats, being bowled out for 70 at Nantwich on the 29th and then for 80 in their first T20 with bottom placed Oxton on Sat. Oxton winning by a massive 83 runs and then doing the double in a shortened second match, winning by 5 wkts. In the East, Hyde host Didsbury to sort out top spot on Sat. Top all year, Didsbury bounced back from their Cup disaster at Cheadle with two impressive T20 wins at Timperley on Sat, defending a modest 107 in

game one before a superb chase of 133 in match two saw them take maximum points. Hyde won at Cheadle on Saturday but suffered either side of that fixture through rain. Hyde and AE have tried to play four times this season, two matches being postponed because of Covid alerts, with their third attempt to play it completely washed out on Sunday. The previous Saturday, Hyde reached 136-9 against AE before rain prevented any further play. The upshot is that Didsbury need 1 point from the final round of games, their superior NRR meaning Hyde need 4 points to claim their place in the regional final. The other match on Saturday saw a thrilling finish, hosts AE beating Toft by 3 runs, Toft narrowly failing to take 9 off the last over which would have meant back to back wins for them.

PREM DIV WEST

PLAYER	IEAIVI	KUN5
WARREN GOODWIN	СВН	274
MARTYN EAST	OP	274
LUKE ROBINSON	NANT	239
SIMON STOKES	NEST	234
JACK SMITH	OXT	222

2020 LEAGUE STATS

Top Bowlers (Wickets) Mitchell Spencer (Nant) = 21 George McCormick (CBH) = 16 Steve Green (Dids) = 15 Jack Corran (Oxt) = 14 Luke Jones (Nest) = 14

PREM DIV	EAST	
PLAYER	TEAM	RUNS
FURQAN SHAFIQ	TIMP	338
TIM HUGHES	DIDS	337
STEVE GREEN	DIDS	261
NICK ANDERSON	DIDS	241
MATT GREGSON	DIDS	176

PREMIER LGE E TABLE

PREMIER LGE W TABLE

TEAM	PTS	CANC	NET RUN RATE
NESTON	28		0.03
OULTON PARK	24	1	0.74
NANTWICH	20		0.12
CHESTER BH	18		0.48
WIDNES	10	3	- 1.24
OXTON	8	2	- 0.56

REMAINING FIXTURES PREM DIV WEST **CBH v WIDNES NESTON v OP** OXTON v NANTWICH **AE v TIMPERLEY CHEADLE v TOFT HYDE v DIDSBURY**

TEAM	PTS	CANC	NET RUN RATE
DIDSBURY	29	з	2.05
HYDE	26	2	0.87
A.EDGE	24	4	0.20
CHEADLE	13	3	- 0.39
TIMPERLEY	10	2	- 1.09
TOFT	6		- 0.61

DIVISION ONE WEST BOWDON BROOKLANDS DAVENHAM GRAPPENHALL SALE WARRINGTON



DIVISION ONE

EAST

BOLLINGTON

BRAMHALL

CONGLETON

MACCLESFIELD

MARPLE

URMSTON

A terrific run of form has catapulted Urmston to the top of the East Division and left them in pole position as the last round of games approaches. Their two T20 wins over Bramhall on Saturday made it five in a row, with Urmston totalling a whopping 206-4 in the first game thanks to Sumit Panda (94 off 45) and Lewis Jackson (82* off 54) adding 129 for the 2nd wkt. Despite another fantastic start from Jack Clark and Greg Dixon, Bramhall could only get to 129-4. Sumit Panda was at it again in game two, 58 off 51 seeing Urmston to victory in their pursuit of 111. All of this fine form means that Urmston's last game hosting second place Macclesfield will decide who makes the divisional final. Macc, who on Aug 29th fielded four senior Saturday teams for the first time this century, beat Marple by 35 runs in one of their T20s on Aug 29, the second being abandoned after Marple reached 129-5. However, Macc

slipped up on Sat, Bollington winning both T20s batting first, with 127 and then 113 proving enough for the 4 pts. So Macc will have to put that behind them as their Urmston showdown approaches. In the other game on Sat, George Clarke took a hattrick as Congleton (89-2 at one stage) lost 8-22 in pursuit of Marple's 170, losing by 59 runs. The West division has had twists and turns in the last fortnight. In a gripping encounter on the 29th, form club Sale beat nearest rivals Grappenhall by 3 wkts, junior player Isaac Brooks scoring 35* and hitting the winning run off the very last ball of the match, but Sale then saw this advantage evaporate as they lost both T20s at neighbours Brooklands on Sat. Restricting the visitors to just 95 in the first game, Brooklands were 60-1 but three wkts in an over saw them 88-5 and a nervy finish in prospect. However, reports indicate that the ball struck a bowler's cap left behind the stumps, the penalty runs awarded meaning Brooklands won by 5 wickets. Game two was more clear cut. Sale tumbling to 55 all out and a 54 run defeat. In the meantime, Grappenhall raced to an 8 wkt victory over lowly Davenham to leave themselves two points clear of Sale, who are hoping that they can get a favour from Brooklands this coming Saturday and do the business themselves against struggling Warrington, shot out for just 42 on Saturday against a rampant Bowdon, who, powered by a brilliant unbeaten 125 off 124 balls from Pat Ashling, won by an eye watering 148 runs, Sulaiman Anis returning figures of 8.1-4-8-5 for them.

DIV 1 WEST 2020 LEAGUE STATS

PLAYER TEAM RUNS **PAT ASHLING** BOW 348 **KEVIN CARROLL** BRO 294 **ADAM ROYLANCE GRA** 213 193 PETER BARNES **GRA GRANT HODNETT GRA** 160

Top Bowlers (Wickets)
Rob Leach (Brook) = 21
Chris Ashling (Bowd) = 17
Jack Massey (Macc) = 17
Adam Roylance (Grapp) = 17
Patrick Turner (Macc) = 17

DIVILLA	DIV I LASI			
PLAYER	TEAM	RUNS		
GREG DIXON	BRA	437		
JACK CLARK	BRA	303		
ZEESHAN ASSI	URM	294		
ANGUS THOMPSON	MAC	273		
CALUM ROWE	BOL	242		

DIV 1 FAST

DIV ONE W TABLE

TEAM	PTS (CANC	NET RUN RATE
GRAPPENHALL	30		1.14
SALE	28		0.68
BROOKLANDS	25	1	0.15
BOWDON	17	1	1.10
WARRINGTON	4	1	- 1.31
DAVENHAM	4	1	- 2.45

REMAINING FIXTURES

SEPT 12

DIV 1 WEST

BOWDON v DAVENHAM

BROOK v GRAPP

WARR v SALE

DIV 1 EAST

BOLL v MARPLE

BRAM v CONG

URMS v MACC

TEAM	PTS	CANC	NET RUN RATE
URMSTON	24	2	0.36
MACCLESFIELD	23	1	0.83
BOLLINGTON	20	1	0.44
BRAMHALL	20	1	- 0.42
MARPLE	17	3	- 0.68
CONGLETON	3		- 0.61

DIV ONE E TABLE

DIVISION TWO WEST **ALVANLEY** ASHTON-ON-MERSEY **BARROW CHRISTLETON HALE BARNS UPTON**

Haslington sealed top spot in Div 2 East on Saturday with two comprehensive wins over their closest rivals Stockport Georgians, which gave them a seven point lead at the top. The gap was three points before Sat's games, Haslington having their pursuit of Mobberley's 136-6 curtailed by rain the week before, while Georgians squeaked home against neighbours Stockport in another rain affected match. Georgians recovered from 11-3 to make 151-8 (Simon Normanton 65), but rain saw Stockport set 122 off 32. James Locke's 6-21 meant Stockport were all out for 119 and a nerve jangling two run win for Georgians. However, they were to have no joy at Haslington, soundly beaten in both T20s by 54 runs and 7 wkts respectively. The following day, with a rearranged clash against Romiley still offering hope for Georgians to get within range of the leaders, rain al-



lowed only 5 overs, leaving Haslington five points clear with only four more available. Elsewhere in the East. Lindow found form, wins over Romiley (33 runs) and Stockport (108 runs) helping them end 2020 on a high, especially Robin Broom, whose fantastic 101 on Saturday is the only ton in the division. An entertaining encounter at Birchvale Drive saw Romiley (159-7) overcome Mobberley (158), whose only points this year have come from an abandonment. Despite two T20 defeats on Sat, the West division is very much Hale Barns to lose. Christleton, the only team who can catch HB, saw Aamir Afzaal's sparkling form - he scored 40 and took 5-26 the week before against Upton - propel them to a storming 192-5, Afzaal's superb 105 providing over half his team's total. This

DIVISION TWO EAST HASLINGTON LINDOW **MOBBERLEY** ROMILEY **STOCKPORT** STOCKPORT GEORGIANS

proved way out of HB's reach. and they could only manage 94 in game two, going down by 5 wickets. Christleton need to win well at Alvanley and hope HB suffer more travel sickness as they make another long trip to Barrow, who themselves schleked over to Ashton on Mersey on Saturday and won a fabulous victory by 5 wickets, chasing down an imposing 226-3 to win with 9 deliveries to spare. Tom Scott's 103 (119 bs) for Ashton was the main feature, his stand of 174 with Edward Faulkner giving the hosts a seemingly unreachable total, but Barrow paced their reply perfectly, Jehangir Afridi (54), Maneesha Nissanka (50) - and 44 extras, including 22 wides - helping the visitors to 229-5. Steve Charles (59* and 4-21) was the key as Alvanley beat Upton by 6 wickets.

PLAYER	TEAM	RUNS
MIR AFZAAL	CHR	267
DIS CHADI ES	ΛΙV	17/

AAMIR AFZAAL	CHR	267
CHRIS CHARLES	ALV	174
JAMIE GRIFFIITHS	CHR	171
SAM SMITH	НВ	151
MATT OWEN	UPT	145

DIV 2 WEST

2020 LEAGUE STATS

Top Bowlers (Wickets) Aamr Afzaal (Chrs) = 20 Tom Gledhill (Has) = 19 James Locke (Geo) = 17 Alex Hooton (Rom) = 17 Steve Charles (Alv); Arslan Dar (Chr); George Hardman& Simon Normanton (Geo) = 16

PLAYER	TEAM	RUNS
SIMON NORMANTON	GEO	347
BEN ISTEAD	HAS	342
ROBIN BROOM	LIND	255
JACK MORAN	HAS	248
FRANCIS YATES	GEO	208

DIV 2 EAST

DIV TWO W TABLE

TEAM	PTS	CANC	NET RUN RATE
HALE BARNS	28		- 0.01
CHRISTLETON	24		0.88
ALVANLEY	20	1	0.43
BARROW	20	2	- 0.21
UPTON	7		- 0.39
ASHTON O-M	6	1	- 1.06

REMAINING FIXTURES SEPT 12 ALVANLEY v CHRISTLETON **AOM v UPTON** BARROW v HALE BARNS DIV 2 EAS LINDOW v GEORGIANS

ROMILEY v HASLINGTON STOCKPORT v MOBBERLEY

TEAM	PTS	CANC	NET RUN RATE
HASLINGTON	29	2	1.20
LINDOW	24		1.74
GEORGIANS	24	1	0.96
ROMILEY	19	1	0.32
STOCKPORT	6	1	- 1.31
MOBBERLEY	2		- 2.37

DIV TWO E TABLE

2ND and 3RD XI

2nd XI cricket has a mix of very tight divisions, and some already sorted, with some intriguing matches ahead in the last round.

2ND XI PREM EAST

Congratulations to **Cheadle** who assured themselves of top spot in the division after beating nearest rivals Didsbury on Aug 29, their lead big enough to render subsequent results immaterial.

2ND XI PREM WEST

Nantwich and Oulton Park are level on points, after the Dabbers beat OP by 16 runs in a close contest on Sat. Nantwich travel to Bowdon on Sat, but with a home game against Neston and a slightly better NRR, OP have more in their favour on paper. Should they both fail to win, Chester BH could steal top spot with a good win at Toft - CBH keeping their hopes alive with a heart-stopping 1 run win over Bowdon on Sat.

In Division 1 East, Romiley remain top despite losing by 30 runs to nearest rivals Sale on Sat. Having tied with Georgians on Bank Holiday Monday, Romiley can secure top spot with a point at Timperley.

Sale must beat visitors Heaton Mersey and hope for a Romiley slip up. Lindow's 18 run win over HM on Sat featured a runa-ball 113* from Ian Park, with Avaz Cheema hitting 109* off 101 in a valiant Mersey reply. Whoever wins the East will face Grappenhall in the divisional final, Grappers having Div 1 West sewn up, an emphatic and rapid 9 wkt win over Davenham on Sat the icing on the cake. Oxton's Jack Breheny smashed 178 and Mahdi Qadri 90 in their whopping 182 run victory over Warrington, Oxton reaching 342-4.

Div 2 is the one division where both finalists are already known. In the East, Didsbury 2As have remained unbeaten all season and confirmed top spot with successive 8 wkt wins before a 41 run win over Bollington on Sat kept their impressive run going.

Hale Barns have bossed Div 2
West all season, and confirmed their spot in the final by making short work of AOM on Aug 29th. The rest of the division has been fairly evenly matched, although Tattenhall suffered a hiccup on Aug 29th when they were bowled out for 35 by Widnes.

CHESHIRE CRICKET LEAGUE

Stockport Trinity (N & E) and Kingsley (S & W) lead the two 1st XI divisions, which each have 12 teams, and also have another three weeks of fixtures scheduled, so there is still some way to go. Of the clubs relegated out of the County League last season, Tattenhall have found life easier than Northwich, and with 25 points available for a win, there are in theory seven clubs still in contention for the championship in both divisions.

3RD XI DIV A

Leaders = Hyde & Cheadle
3rd: Georgians, Heaton Mersey, Marple

Marple won two games in two days over last weekend, including an impressive win over Hyde, which has left the last round of fixtures with all to play for. Cheadle play at Romiley and Hyde travel to Heaton Mersey, both clubs on ten points.

3RD XI DIV B

Winners: Didsbury 3
2nd: Alderley Edge 3rd: Grappenhall

Havng won every game this season in a division made up of all Sunday Prem sides, Didsbury 3s wrapped up the divisional title with their victory over Grappenhall on Sun in a rain affected match. Alderley Edge beat Nantwich by 1 wkt in a last over nailbiter to leave them in position to claim second spot.

3RD XI DIV C

Leaders = Elworth, Hale Barns 3rd: Bowdon 3s

Hale Barns beat Elworth on Sun to leave the two teams level on points at the top. Bowdon are a point behind in third, and they play at bottom club Oulton Park on Sun. Elworth travel to Timperley and Hale Barns are at Northwich, so all to play for.

3RD XI DIV D

Leaders = Bowdon 4s
2nd: Brooklands 3rd: Lindow

Just two points separate the top three, who all won comfortably on Sun to set up the last round nicely. Bowdon host Ashton-on-Mersey knowing that a win will be sufficient to claim the division. Brooklands (whom play Didsbury 5s) and Lindow (home to Macclesfield) must both win and hope the others slip up.

3RD XI DIV E

Leaders: Didsbury 4
2nd: Bramhall 3rd: Bredbury SM 3

This division suffered a complete washout on Sun, leaving Didsbury 4s one point clear of Bramhall. These two play each other on Sun, with the winner claiming the divisional title. Depending on results, Bredbury could claim second with a win over Stockport.

CHESHIRE CUP & CHESHIRE SHIELD

CHESHIRE CUP



QUARTER FINALS - SUN 30 AUG

Cheadle (33-0) beat Didsbury (29) by 10 wickets

Elworth (107) beat Chester Boughton Hall (93) by 14 runs

SEMI FINALS - SUN 6 SEPT

Cheadle (109-5) beat Widnes (108) by 5 wickets (32 overs per side)

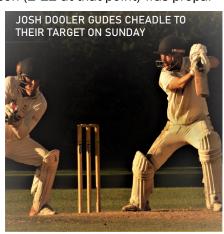
Nantwich (124-6) beat Elworth (123-6) by 4 wickets

FINAL: at Kingsway, Sun Sept 20th, (noon start tbc): CHEADLE V NANTWICH

The two delayed Cheshire Cup quarter finals both produced surprise results. In the far south of the county. and in front of a decent crowd at their attractive ground, Elworth produced a terrific bowling display to defeat a strong CBH side in a close run contest. CBH's Matthew Jones took 4-16 as Elworth were all out 107, and the Premier League champions, despite being on a poor run of form, would have been hopeful of a successful chase, but Elworth restricted them to just one 6 and five 4s as CBH fell 14 short, their third double figure total in a row. Surprising as this result was, it paled somewhat with the news from Kingsway - not so much that Cheadle beat Didsbury by 10 wkts, but the manner of the victory. It was a complete shock to everyone involved to see Didsbury humbled for just 29 and crash out of the competition. 11-9 at one stage. only last man Michael Taylor got to double figures as seven players were out for ducks, no boundaries scored, and Cheadle knocked off the runs in under 3 overs! Skipper Dan Brown struggled a bit to take it all in, telling newsletter "yes, everything went right for us, but it was still quite surreal. I have never been involved in a senior game when a side is all out for that low a total. Some of their batters will know their shot selection wasn't the best, but there's no doubt that Pat Meese (8-4-8-5) bowled superbly." In the semifinals, played on Sunday, two tense, low scoring encounters saw Nantwich and Cheadle progress to the final. Hosts Elworth chose to bat first against Nantwich and found runs at a premium, the miserly Dabbers attack restricting them to 123-6 in their 40 overs, Ash Rogers top score of 35 taking 83 balls. Olly

Griffiths returned a spell of 8-3-8-2 and might have thought his work for the day was done, but when Nantwich slipped to 58-6 in the 29th over, Griffiths joined opener Ryan Brown and slammed 42 off 24 balls (including 4 sixes) as their unbroken stand of 66 took Nantwich into the final. It was nip and tuck as to who would be playing them, as a rain-delayed match at Kingsway saw a 32 overs a side match agreed. Widnes struggled to 108 in their allocation, Matt Burns top scoring with 43. Pat Meese took 3-18 and Josh Dooler 4-23, and it was the latter to the fore with the bat, his cool-headed 28* from 59 balls providing a steadying influence after the hosts slipped to 67-4 on a tricky surface. As Cheadle edged towards their target, the equation came down to 11 runs required off 3 overs - Matt Parkinson (2-12 at that point) was prepar-

ing to bowl when it was realised that because of the restrictions caused by the rain delay, he had bowled his allocation of six overs (two bowlers had already bowled seven). Joe Prince plundered 10 runs from that over when it was bowled, taking



Cheadle to the brink of victory, which was achieved courtesy of a wide from the first ball of the next over.

CHESHIRE SHIELD SEMI-FINAL RESULT: (Sunday September 6th)

HAWK GREEN 153-5 (24.1 os) (B.Littler 50*) beat UPTON 123-4 (26 os) (C.Stowell-Smith 52) by 5 wickets (confirmation of the Hawk Green target in this rain-affected match is ongoing)

CHESHIRE SHIELD FINAL: SUN SEPT 13TH (noon start tbc): HAWK GREEN v BARROW at Hawk Green