

COUNTY LEAGUE NEWS



on behalf of Cheshire Clubs Cricket Committee (4 Cs)

JUNE 15 - 27
Twists and Turns!

All divisions finely balanced

1st XI T20 finals day line up settled

Cheshire Cup and Shield latest



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I've had a few half-decent cricket related ideas in my time involved with umpiring and scoring. Some have unaccountably failed to gain any traction - for example, when scoring I have had more than enough problems of bowlers getting through overs too quickly, so I wanted it writing into the laws that all bowlers had to have a minimum 15 yard run up. Scorers everywhere would surely rejoice, but alas, the po-faced lawmakers were having none of it. What about different coloured helmets for each batsman depending on their position in the batting order, so that a no.1 batsman always had, say, a yellow helmet, a no. 2 burgundy,

etc. Bound to be a big hit with scorers as it makes our job that bit easier, and a boon for spectators too. On a more serious note, I did actually once put it to a senior member of the MCC Laws Committee that there was an omission in the laws that could potentially lead to the batting side being awarded penalty runs on numerous occasions in their innings. It's true, as well - and the omission is still there, and all batting sides, if only they knew the laws well enough, could regularly enquire of umpires for a penalty runs award! I shall reveal more in future newsletters (well, I have to think of ways to keep the circulation up!). But one innovation that is also well worthwhile - but would never cause the laws to be rewritten - is a change in player thinking regarding their own personal fortunes in a game and those of their team. When I'm scoring, it's a common enough thing to be asked "how many did I get?" or "how many balls did I face?". And that's fair enough I suppose. But I am trying to get more of the players at my own club to ask instead "how

many runs were added while I batted?" Imagine getting that as the default question! Because after all, that's what really matters in the context of a team game, isn't it? The team, and the total. I recently described partnerships as the bacon sandwiches of the game on our club website, and it's true - partnerships are the key to good totals, and winning (or saving) games. The Ben Stokes/Jack Leach Headingley Ashes Test is the most famous in a long line of examples of partnerships where one player heavily outscores the other, for example - but it doesn't matter. This year already there have been many fantastic partnerships in 1st XI cricket, and probably others too, but the details aren't always available sadly. So why don't we encourage players to focus less on their individual stats and more on the impact their contribution has on the team performance? Just an idea!

James

2021 PARTNERSHIPS - THE 1st XI NUMBERS

195* highest 1st wkt psp in 1st XI in 2021

Also for the 1st wkt in 2021: **177, 172, 168, 143, 134**

160 highest 2nd wkt psp in 1st XI in 2021

Also for the 2nd wkt in 2021: **156, 154, 140**

For 3rd wkt: 161, 158

For 4th wkt: 166, 159

There has been at least one century stand for the 5th, 6th and 7th wkts in 1st XI

For 10th wkt: 74, 69*

Nantwich shrugged off their Cheshire Cup disappointment with a second successive comfortable win on **19th June**, this time bowling out a strong Neston side for just 113, **Olly Griffiths** and **Mitchell Spencer** taking 9-47 between them as they won by 7 wkts. The victory saw them open up a 20 point gap at the top after the battle between second and third ended in a thrilling draw at Wilmslow Rd. **Michael Robinson** led visitors **OP's** solid 248, but they gave an over to **Didsbury**, which looked to be of no consequence after Dids slumped to 96-5 (**Ben Gibbon** 5-54). **Fred Kamstra** (62) dug in and helped the hosts stabilise, adding 90 with skipper **Nick Anderson** (who had earlier taken 4-72) who went on to hit 4 sixes in his fine knock of 97 (98 bs). That extra over suddenly swung into view, Didsbury needing 9, but Anderson was bowled first ball and **James Green** was then caught off the last going for the 6 that would have won the match. **Sam Perry** hit a fabulous 133*, his third ton of 2021 for **AE**, putting on 134 for the 1st wkt with **Ed Foster** (69) as their 291-5 proved way out of **Toft's** reach, who put up a dogged rearguard and got to the 53rd over before the tireless **Chris Sanders** claimed his 7th victim, the 41 extras conceded by AE of no ac-

count. It was also a day of elation for struggling **Timperley** who recorded a brilliant 5 wkt win at **Chester BH**. The hosts declared after 52 overs on 268-7 but **Furqan Shafiq** swept all before him with a magnificent 139 (136 bs), putting on 131 for the second wkt with **Ed Galley** (57) as Timpers reached their target in the 50th over, leaving the hosts to reflect on a fourth straight league loss. **Widnes** also claimed a heartening 25 pts after **James McCoy's** 91 helped them to a healthy 258-7 at home to **Hyde**, who were just 3 balls shy of safety when their last wkt fell, and all out 185. With **Oxton** defied by **Cheadle's** last pair in their drawn game at Kingsway, 18 pts separated 6 clubs at the foot of the Prem. The **final Saturday** of the month brought no relief to **Cheadle's** struggles, as they limped to 78 off a suffocating 46 overs at **Nantwich**, who to precisely no surprise made it three straight wins after just over an hours' batting. The Dabbers lead the Prem from **Didsbury**, who recorded a terrific win at **Neston**. The hosts were 143-3 after 39 overs but 6-31 from **Steve Green** saw them all out 182. A nip-and-tuck reply, including 4

wkts for the recalled **Harry Don-lean**, kept the game finely balanced until Dids' 8th wkt pair calmly added the 18 they needed for a 3 wkt win. **OP**, bottom of the May form guide, shot to the top (and third in the league) after an impressive June, although they were again frustrated to have a team 9 down, the **Toft** last pair surviving 16 deliveries in a gripping encounter at Booths Park. With a touch of inevitability, former Toft favourite **Rob Sehmi** hit a brilliant 117*(105 balls) in OP's 243-6, **Henry Hughes'** 73 leading the Toft response which finished on 228-9. **CBH** got a much needed 25 pts to stop the rot with a 6 wkt win at **Hyde**. 3 early wkts for **Luke Young** and 5-63 from **Jack Williams** left CBH needing 153, which 55 from **Alex Money** helped them to surpass in the 30th over. **Widnes** were also rejoicing after winning by 22 runs at **Oxton**, leaving the hosts one of four clubs separated by 4 pts at the foot of the table. **Timperley** are among that number after being swept aside by **AE** on Sat, an opening stand of 92 between the prolific **Sam Perry** (72* off 57) and **Ed Foster** setting up an 8 wkt win.

PREMIER LGE TABLE AND JUNE FORM GUIDE

TEAM	PTS	TEAM	JUNE PTS
NANTWICH	199	OULTON PARK	80
DIDSBURY	179	NANTWICH	78
OULTON PARK	158	WIDNES	72
ALDERLEY EDGE	157	DIDSBURY	65
CHESTER BH	149	ALDERLEY EDGE	57
NESTON	136	TIMPERLEY	56
TOFT	127	OXTON	48
WIDNES	127	CHESTER BH	48
TIMPERLEY	117	NESTON	47
HYDE	115	TOFT	44
OXTON	114	HYDE	39
CHEADLE	113	CHEADLE	32

15-26 JUNE PERFORMANCES OF NOTE

Furqan Shafiq 139, Timp v CBH, 19.6
 Sam Perry 133*, AE v Toft, 19.6
 Robert Sehmi 117*, OP v Toft, 26.6
 James McCoy 91, Wid v Hyde, 19.6
 Chris Sanders 7-43, AE v Toft, 19.6
 Steve Green 6-31, Dids v Nest, 26.6
 Oliver Griffiths 5-19, Nant v Nest, 19.6
 Damario Goodman 5-45, Oxton v Chead, 19.6
 Aaron Soni 5-49, Wid v Oxt, 26.6
 Ben Gibbon 5-54, OP v Dids, 19.6
 Jack Williams 5-63, CBH v Hyde, 26.6

19th June saw **Bollington** top of the pile after their narrow 2 wkt win over **Sale** in a tense tussle at the BRG. The visitors' 151 didn't seem enough but they made early inroads into the Bolly batting and the game was in the balance throughout, with the hosts just doing enough. They came off the field no doubt as surprised as everyone to learn that **Brooklands** had been skittled for just 81 by **Grappenhall**, 3 wkts each for **Sam Guest**, **Lewis Porter** and **Ian Hall**. Grappers did the necessary in under 18 overs. Another one sided match was unfolding at Booth St as **Ashley West** (8-22) became the second **Bramhall** bowler this season to take an 8-for, **Congleton** also totalling 81 as **Jack Clark's** rapid 53* settled the result within 42 overs of play. Lowly **Warrington** got a much needed 61 run win at struggling **Marple** for whom **Andy Wylie** took 6-43 as the visitors made 172-8. **Jake Liddle** (5-21) took a triple wkt maiden as only **Conor Ramsay** (42) got a score of substance. Despite batting their allocation and reaching 200 for the first time in 2021, **Davenham** lost again as **John Birchall's** powerful 87 (88 bs) helped **Macc** to a valuable 3 wkt win at Butcher's Stile. The game of the day unfolded at Moorside Rd where in-form **Urmston** had a thrilling level

scores draw with **Bowdon**. The visitors were rescued from a dicey 108-6 by 61 from **Sid Mahadevan** who combined with skipper **Matt Tully** to add 74, **Bowdon** finishing on 206-8. **Urmston** were progressing safely enough at 158-3 but **Bowdon** held the required rate in check, and when skipper **Lewis Jackson** (51) was the first of 3 wkts to fall for one run, **Urmston** stuttered with the winning post in sight. Veteran **Ritesh Shetty** (3-51 earlier) then helped heist the 12 needed to level the scores before **Rudra Singh** was run out off the last ball of the match going for the win. **June 26th** saw an equally thrilling finish in the meeting of the top two, leaders **Bollington** winning by one run at **Brooklands**. A good all round bowling effort by the hosts had seen Bolly needing a 17 run stand by their last pair to reach 141. **Brooklands** had a poor start of their own but got into a great position before **Jack Ward** intervened, his remarkable spell of 8.4-4-5-4 when **Brooklands** needed 4 with 3 wkts in hand snatching it for Bolly. It was much more clear cut at **Bowdon** after the hosts

overpowered lowly **Marple**, **Pat Ashling's** 83* (82 balls) and an opening stand of 92 with **Jack Tipton** setting them well on their way to a handsome 9 wkt triumph. Earlier all the **Bowdon** bowlers shared the wkts between them as **Marple** fell away again, this time 88-2 becoming 139 all out. **Grappenhall** recorded an impressive 8 wkt win over form side **Urmston**, for whom only **Matt Kilcourse** (52) and skipper **Lewis Jackson** (31) played in-nings of any substance. 50* from **Grant Hodnett** led the Grappers successful pursuit of 132 with heaps of overs unused. **Bramhall** and **Sale** met at the Richard Cragg Memorial Ground, playing out a wiry draw. A stand of 103 between **Greg Dixon** (82) and **Nick Cantello** (56) inched the hosts to 192-7, before **Tyrone Lawrence's** 60 helped **Sale** do just enough to survive on 162-8. The basement battle went decisively the way of **Warrington**, as **Patrick Tyrell's** late 54* helped the hosts reach 199-7. Only **Christian Kouris** (59) stayed around for long as **Warrington** used 8 bowlers (and conceded 31 extras) in dismissing **Davenham** for 140. Covid related issues saw **Macc v Congleton** postponed.

DIVISION ONE TABLE AND JUNE FORM GUIDE

TEAM	PTS	TEAM	JUNE PTS
BOLLINGTON	212	BOLLINGTON	89
BROOKLANDS	186	URMSTON	68
BOWDON	179	BRAMHALL	66
GRAPPENHALL	176	GRAPPENHALL	65
URMSTON	155	BOWDON	60
BRAMHALL	143	BROOKLANDS	57
SALE	142	SALE	52
WARRINGTON	115	WARRINGTON	52
MACCLESFIELD	97	MARPLE	46
CONGLETON	93	MACCLESFIELD*	38
MARPLE	93	DAVENHAM	25
DAVENHAM	49	CONGLETON*	9

15-26 JUNE PERFORMANCES OF NOTE
Calum Rowe 130, Boll v Dav, 22.5

Ashley West 8-28, Bram v Cong, 19.6

Andy Wylie 6-43, Marp v Warr, 19.6

Jake Liddle 5-21, Warr v Marp, 19.6

*only played 3 league games in June

There were early finishes and low scores galore on **June 19** as Div 2 took another twist. Without the prolific **Ed Faulkner**, (injured) **Ashton OM** were skittled for just 59 by struggling **Barrow**, and in particular **Ryan Holloway** who took a spectacular 9-25 in the bowling performance of his life. Barrow had early reached 212-5 and Holloway's heroics thus led to a whopping 153 run victory. **Hale Barns** fared even worse, surprisingly all out for a grisly 50 (**Alex Matthews** 5-22) at a rampant **Lindow** who were soon in the bar reflecting on their fourth straight win after less than 27 overs cricket. **Romiley** were another side enjoying a quick 9 wkt victory, although they had the long journey back from **Upton** to enjoy their third win in a row. **Dan Owen's** 65 was the only resistance offered by the hosts, who struggled to 106 and then found **Ans Rashid Muhammad** in the mood again, his 55 the top score of the day. **Alvanley** moved into second after a 2 wkt win over visiting **Stockport** in an arid encounter, no batsman reaching 30 as **Mark Green's** 4-35 at least made a fight of it for the bottom club. The other two games were in a totally different vein, **Haslington** racking up 254-9 against visiting **Christleton**, **Ben Istead** with 70 and **Jack Taylor** with 67

providing the power after **Jack Moran's** 58 had earlier rescued the hosts from 19-3. **Tom Gledhill** then took 4 wkts as a bright start to Christleton's reply faded, losing 5 wkts for 33 after being 64-0 and eventually needing the last pair to survive 11 balls for the draw. **Mobberley's Osman Butt** scored a superb 101* in their 233-4 at **Stockport Georgians**, which proved to be not quite enough. **Ned Bailey** (73) and **Dan Box** (55) laid the foundations for the hosts reply, adding 113 for the second wkt, but when Bailey was caught he was the first of 5 wkts falling for just 24. **Jordan Richards** and **James Locke** then joined forces, Richards hitting the penultimate ball of the match for 6 as their psp of 56 off just 6.5 overs led to a pulsating victory. Even more low totals on **June 26th** as only 5 of 12 teams passed 100 and no team surpassed 180. **Lindow** rounded off their perfect month with an untidy 5 wkt win at **Barrow**, who totalled just 67. **Jadan Jones** hit 34 off 16 to take Lindow to 63-2 before 3 wkts fell in 9 balls. Romiley, the month's other 100 points club, walloped Mobberley after **Paul**

Garner's 6-29 helped dismantle an adhesive Mobb inns which lasted nearly 45 overs but only reached 104. No such dilly-dallying for **Ans Rashid Muhammad** (55 off 33) as the hosts charged past the winning line in under 19 overs. **Stockport Georgians** enjoyed the late afternoon at leisure as **Ashton OM** again suffered a horrendous batting seizure, this week an attenuated 52 off 31 tortuous overs. **George Hardman** took 5-13 and **James Locke** 4-4 as Georgians knocked off the paltry requirement in under 12 overs. **Haslington** (98-3) were scarcely any more extended in winning by 7 wkts at **Stockport** (96), but **Hale Barns** needed a stirring effort to end their poor run after managing just 120 against high-flying **Alvanley**. **Ben Hicks** (5-33) led a fine bowling reply as Alvanley, well placed early on, fell away dramatically and were all out 84. **Dan Owen** top scored with 72 as **Upton** posted a respectable 171 at **Christleton**, but the hosts **Joshua Joseph** (63*) led a composed chase as they recorded a first win in four games and remained in touch with the top.

DIVISION TWO TABLE AND JUNE FORM GUIDE

TEAM	PTS	TEAM	JUNE PTS
LINDOW	203	LINDOW	100
ROMILEY	180	ROMILEY	100
ALVANLEY	177	GEORGIANS	85
HASLINGTON	172	HASLINGTON	71
CHRISTLETON	166	ALVANLEY	60
STOCKPORT GEORGIANS	163	BARROW	56
ASHTON ON MERSEY	138	ASHTON OM	55
HALE BARNES	135	MOBBERLEY	44
MOBBERLEY	123	CHRISTLETON	44
UPTON	117	UPTON	39
BARROW	115	HALE BARNES	36
STOCKPORT	75	STOCKPORT	20

15-26 JUNE PERFORMANCES OF NOTE

Osman Butt 101*, Mobb v SG, 19.6

Ryan Holloway 9-25, Barr v AOM, 19.6

Paul Garner 6-29, Rom v Mobb, 26.6

George Hardman 5-13, SG v AOM, 26.6

Alex Matthews 5-22, Lind v HB, 19.6

Ben Hicks 5-33, HB v Av, 26.6

Zohaib Khan 5-72, AOM v Barr, 19.6

2ND XI T20 TROPHY RESULTS

ROUND TWO

JUNE 17th:

Broad Lane: GRAPPENHALL (229-3) beat Oxtun (215-7) by 14 runs

The hosts held off a spirited challenge from the Div 1 leaders in a run bonanza. An exhilarating 20 overs with 100* from Steve Rooney, 55 from Ben Clissold and 46 from Stephen Dickson seemed to have put Grappers out of sight. However, Clissold then conceded the same number of runs he'd scored when bowling his 4 overs, and Jack Critchley's solitary over went for 29 as a rapid 64 from Jack Breheny and 39 from Will Clayton - and 30 wides - kept the game alive as a contest until Oxtun just faded in the final couple of overs.

Victoria Rd: OULTON PARK (169-6) beat Macclesfield (120) by 49 runs

Ben Tomlinson hit 34 off 24 and then took 4-23 as the visitors won with something to spare. An opening psp of 90 between top scorer Johnny Litler and Matthew Worsdale gave OP a grip they never relinquished, Macc bowling 20 wides and 2 no-balls not assisting their chances, which diminished with each passing over of their reply.

JUNE 23:

South Downs Rd: BOWDON (151-3) tied with Didsbury (151-6)

DIDSBURY WON ON SUPER OVER

After protracted wrangling about a date, the final R2 match was played after the quarter-finals had started. It turned out to be a classic, Didsbury recovering well from a poor start through Jack Hastings (55) and a late cameo from Tom Bidwell (43* off 26) to reach 151-6. Bowdon made a fabulous start, 90-0 after 11 (Hal Dwobeng 57, Ben Atkinson 33) but 3 wkts fell in 14 balls and in the end it needed a 4 off the last ball of the match from Mark Playle to tie the scores. Bowdon could only manage 7 in their super over and Didsbury won with three deliveries unused, a leg side wide ultimately taking them to their target.

QUARTER FINALS

June 22:

Birchvale Drive: ROMILEY (67-2) beat Stockport Georgians (65) by 8 wkts

Having been put into bat, a calamitous start saw Georgians lose 3 wkts to the first 8 balls they faced, a run out then adding to their woes as only two players (and extras) got into double figures. Georgians were bowled out in 15 overs, Alex Napier taking 4-19 before opening the batting and hitting a brisk unbeaten 24 as Romiley knocked off the runs in under 7 overs, becoming the first side to book their spot at finals day,

Remaining matches:

June 29: Booths Park: Toft v Oulton Park

July 1st: Parkgate: Neston v Grappenhall

Date tbc: Wilmslow Rd: Didsbury v Sale

3RD XI JACK GARDNER T20 TROPHY

Holders **DIDSBURY** grabbed the last spot at the 3rd XI finals day with a tense 6 run win at Hyde on June 15th. Didsbury chose to bat but a burst of 5-10 in 3 overs from Nevan Meisuriya left them reeling at 30-5. Lower order determination and invention - aided by 35 extras - revived the visitors who ended on 144-8 (Meisuriya 6-13). Hyde were pegged back in their reply by accurate Didsbury bowling and despite a spirited late rally in a lively atmosphere, the hosts found the 22 they needed off the last over just out of reach.



Didsbury 2s went top of the **2nd XI Premier Division** on the **19th June** after a 5 wkt win at **OP**, 57* from **Hashir Khan** the highlight, after leaders **Neston** lost by 2 runs in a thriller at **Nantwich**, for whom **Jake Pearson** scored 73. 6-56 from **Simon Dimelow** put the skids under the visitors but a fighting last wkt stand took them to within touching distance of a famous win, before the final ball of the match saw the last wkt fall. **Macclesfield** feared the worst seeing **Lee Dixon** striding out to opening the batting for CBH and his sizeable opening psp with **Matt Hodges** paved the way for a 121 run Chester win which sent Macc to the foot of the table. 92 from **Alex Read**, batting at six for **Cheadle**, helped them to an important 51 run win at **Bowdon** who needed a defiant 65* from no.9 **Alex Robinson** to rescue them from complete ignominy after four of the top six bagged ducks. **Toft** played the **AE** attack at Booths Park, calling a halt after 45 overs on 265-7, but the visitors held on in reply at 183-8. But it was struggling **Hyde** who recorded the day's highest total, 92 from **Robert Brierley** the biggest of several good innings as they declared on 298-4 against beleaguered **Marple**, who subsequently folded in a buttock-clenching 219 run

loss. On **June 26th Didsbury** maintained top spot with a surprisingly easy 7 wkt win over **Neston** (**Marcus Fisher** 92*). **Toft** went second after a 174 demolition of **OP**, while **Rob Venables'** 7-30 for **Cheadle** was not enough as they lost by 45 runs to **Nantwich**, for whom **Adam Simpson** made 95 and **Simon Dimelow** again got among the wkts with 5-43. **Chris France** hit 101 as **Macc** had the better of their basement battle draw with **AE**, for whom **Andrew Kennedy** hit a superb 104 out of 215-9.

In **2nd XI Div 1 Oxtan** already seem to have one foot in next year's Premier Division. Two century opening stands in two matches - 128 between **Jack Perry** (80*) and **Will Clayton** (53) in their 7th wkt win over **Lindow** on **the 19th** and 119 (Perry 59*, **Jack Breheny** 53*) in their rapid 10 wkt win over **H.Mersey** on **the 26th** have given them a 69 pt advantage. The prolific **Mike Bishop** hit 85* as second place **Sale** were held by **Romiley** on Sat. Also on **the 26th**, lowly **Upton** recorded a heartening first win of the season over **Timperley**, but remain one of four clubs separated by 19 pts at the foot. Back on **the**

19th, 100 from **Ben Bodha** and 85 from **Paul Radage** helped second place **Grappenhall** to a 141 run win over **Brooklands**, on the 19th, whose 86 was two runs more than their 1st XI counterparts on the same day, **Ross Arrowsmith** taking 6-29. Another 6 wkt haul was recorded by **Timpers'** **Jordan Ruff**, 6-30 in their 7 wkt win over bottom club **Davenham**. **Warrington** were 0-4 against **Heaton Mersey** who won by 5 wkts.

In **2nd XI Div 2**, leaders **Didsbury 2A** and **Widnes** both had two comfortable wins in 2 weeks to maintain their places at the top. Despite losing to **Bolly** on **the 26th**, **AOM's** 4 wkt win over **Upton** on **the 19th** keeps them third. Also on **the 19th**, **Bollington's** **Cameron Mackinnon** took 5-52 and then top scored with 70 as they won at **Neston**. On Saturday **C.Hulme's** **Adil Khan** took 4-24 and hit 60* in their 7 wkt win over **Tattenhall**. Despite 24 and 5-32 from **Ian Sharrock** leading to an 18 run win over **Urmston**, **Upton** remain stuck at the bottom, 21 pts from safety.

3RD XI CRICKET

Romiley continue to lead the way in the **3rd XI Premier Division** as the division looks to be more tightly contested than in recent seasons, with **Toft's** 4 run win over third placed **Sale** on Sunday taking them second. **Toft** host **Romiley** next Sunday as the campaign reaches its halfway stage, 26 pts currently separating the top four teams. **Dan Ward**, pushed up to open the **Didsbury** inns, has responded with 55* and 72 in successive games, while **AE's** **Calum Wilson** hit the only century of the Prem season so far, 125*

in their 6th June draw with **Heaton Mersey**, who are currently the only team without a win. In **Div 1**, **Brooklands** head a congested table, an unceremoniously swift 9 wkt win over second placed **NE Cheshire** on Sunday giving them a 2 pt advantage for now. **Jon Jessop** scored 106* for **Ashley** but it wasn't enough as **Marple** beat them by 2 wkts. **Bredbury SM** are bottom with an unwanted 100% record to date, losing all 6 of their matches (the other 2 cancelled). In **Div 2**, **Lindow** made an astonishing 421-5 (yes really) in their 40 overs at **OP** on Sunday, including **Finn Gavaghan** at no.7 scoring 104* off 38 balls. **Joe Ashworth**



made 88 off 48 while **Ben Hamilton-Ryan** was unbeaten on 151 (101 bs) as **OP** used 10 bowlers in an increasingly painful afternoon - their eventual 306 run loss is fully documented online. **Joe Hodson** scored 104 for **Elworth** in their comparatively narrow 229 run win over **Bowdon**, which keeps them top as second place **Stockport Trinity** lost at **AOM**. More 3rd XI news next newsletter.

1ST XI T20 FRED GRAHAM TROPHY

CHESTER BH will host 1st XI T20 Fred Graham Trophy Finals Day on July 11th, meeting Alderley Edge in one semi-final, Oxton and Nantwich meeting in the other. Here's how all the action played out in the elimination match and quarter finals:

ELIMINATION QUALIFIER: Brooklands Sports Club, June 17th:

BROOKLANDS (157-8) beat Didsbury (141-8) by 16 runs

A tightly contested match between two in-form teams went the way of the then 1st Division leaders as they made it successive Premier League scalps in this year's competition. Dropped when 44, Kevin Carroll's 28-ball 56 along with three other 20+ knocks gave the hosts a competitive total. Didsbury reached 27 off 3 overs before a steady fall of wkts derailed them, and at 64-6 after 10, Didsbury were grateful for Max Fisher's feisty 56 (36 balls) and a stand of 62 with Sam Youds keeping their fading hopes alive. However, when they fell within four balls of each other, the equation of 24 off 9 balls remaining proved too much for the visitors tail to manage.



QF 1: Brooklands Sports Club, June 24

ALDERLEY EDGE (187-8)

beat Brooklands (94) by 93 runs

AE booked their place at finals day after a dominant performance over the Div 1 side. Choosing to bat, Sam Perry (56 off 28) and Ed Fluck (33 off 21) hammered 72 off the powerplay overs and AE were 101-2 at halfway. Chris Hart (4-32) led a relative recovery for Brooklands in the second half of their innings but their final total proved way out of reach for the hosts, who, in deteriorating conditions, were 29-4 after the powerplay, stifled by the skills of the varied bowling attack, all seven of whom took at least one wicket with Will Valentine claiming 3-24.

QF 2: Filkins Lane, June 24

CHESTER BOUGHTON HALL (189-6)

beat Grappenhall (96) by 93 runs

Grappenhall suffered the same margin of defeat as Div 1 counterparts Brooklands, overpowered by a commanding display by hosts CBH. Grappers soon had CBH 8-2, but that was as good as it got, captain Harry Killoran restoring order with 71 from 46, adding almost 150 runs whilst batting. A late cameo from Andrew Metcalf put CBH in a strong position which their bowlers never relinquished. With Peter Barnes unable to bat, Grappers were under the pump from the off and despite some resistance, they were never close to mounting a serious challenge.

QF 3: Werneth Low, June 24

OXTON (178-5)

beat Hyde (177-7) by 5 wkts

Oxton's long trip was rewarded with a fantastic last over win in increasingly trying conditions. Hyde were past 50 in three overs, but lost quick wkts before the mid-lower order found their range and set Oxton almost 9 an over. Warm sun was replaced by a gathering gloom, along with intermittent mist and light drizzle as Oxton replied at the same blistering pace, 58-1 off 3 before Hyde clawed their way back. Oxton were 165-5 with 8 balls remaining before Mahdi Qadri hit a no-ball out of the ground, and then did the same to the following delivery, bringing scores level, before the winning run in the last over sparked loud Oxton celebrations from team and supporters in the enveloping darkness.

QF 4: Booths Park, June 24

NANTWICH (128-1) (12 os)

beat Toft (141-7) by 9 wkts (ARR)

Despite another sterling effort from Andrew Jackson (33 off 18), the holders were comfortably beaten by visitors Nantwich in a match truncated by worsening conditions. By the time the umpires decided to end play, Nantwich were almost at their required total of 142 after Aneesh Kapil (71* off 39) and Luke Robinson (52* off 29) added an unbroken 117 in 9.3 overs to ensure a huge ARR margin for the visitors at the 12 over point. Earlier, Scott Wardley was the pick of a generally impressive bowling display, his 3-23 setting the tone, Phil Stockton and Ray Doyle following up with 2-23 from 6 overs between them as only Thomas Roe (30) and Jackson made scores of any substance.

The over 40s is getting towards the sharp end of their various competitions. In the **West Division**, **Chester BH** have an eight point lead over **Neston** (who have played a game less), while in **Central Div 1**, an emphatic 10 wkt win for **Toft** over **Urmston** gave them a 10 pt lead over the chasing pack. **Central Div 2** is a bit tighter, **Timperley** having a 6 pt advantage over **Brooklands**, who have a game in hand, but it's the **South East Division** that is the most hard fought at present, with the top three (**Hyde**, **Bredbury** and **Woodley** respectively) separated by just three points.

But I thought, amidst the tensions and trials at the top end, it was worth sharing with you **Macclesfield** captain Keith Dixon's account of his team's recent trip to **Offerton**, two teams at the wrong end of the SE Division but nonetheless coming head to head in a crunch clash.....



Maccy traveled to Offerton this week with only 10 men but it's experience that counts in life and we had plenty. Just not necessarily experience of a strictly cricketing kind...in fact, early in the evening as we gathered for the pre-match huddle, we realised that despite being only 10 players, we have had a total of 16 marriages between us. That had to count for something surely?

Experience of Offerton wasn't in short supply though either, at least six players had appeared here before. Five reported severe midge bites from previous experiences, one had killed a bird with a shot and one confirmed that the pizza delivery to the club was both excellent and reliable. All useful stuff to be considered in the match tactics.

Offerton is a club in flux (*I do hope spellchecker gets that one right*). The clubhouse is going to be fantastic...when it's finished. When I first arrived I enquired as to the whereabouts of the lavatories to the club captain. "Still in aisle 7 of B&Q" was the response. No matter, this level of cricket is a challenge taken on by seasoned cricketers and we're used to overcoming these hurdles. And so, one by one, we stepped over a few hundred yards of nettles and, with little grace, found nature's WC. Fine, no problem. Except when one of our later arrivals went to use the 'facilities' only to find themselves 'face to face' with the race leaders of an evening trail running competition coming his way. Some of those runners went on to set new PB's as a result of the incident.

For those who don't know, Offerton lies approximately 400 feet below sea level in a left over set from *The Land That Time Forgot*. A mix of huge trees, swamp land and all creatures great and small that come out when the sun goes down.

Offerton won the toss and elected to bat first. Possibly because they knew it gets dark early down in the 'jungle' or because they know what creatures hide in those trees and come out when darkness begins to fall. And so perhaps they know, the closer they are to their cars as the howling noises from the trees begin to increase, the better. Either way, it seemed like a sensible decision when they hit a very decent 144 off their 20 overs.

Macc's bowlers did their best but, unlike the monsters in the trees, perhaps lacked a killer instinct. The short boundaries worked to Offerton's advantage with runs and, opportunities to smash car windows. One such shot from an Offerton player was sent flying over into the car park and, with one bounce, onto the window screen of one of our very own Neil Montaldo's car. The Offerton player was initially apologetic and thankfully no damage was done and one of our players advised 'best to avoid that car, the owner is a barrister'. The Offerton player replied 'he must make very good coffee with a car like that'. The difference between *barrister* and *barista* was then explained, at which point the Offerton players then took turns to see if they could hit it again.

Daniel Slack offered the opposition some excellent bowling, as did Nick Heald, Robin Farmer who had an excellent caught and bowled to his name, DC and Oli Ward who also picked up a wicket for his efforts. Onto the batting - suffice to say, Robin Farmer again did what Mr Farmer does, that is score runs. His ongoing attempts to make sure he stays ahead of his sons runs total this season is reaping rewards for the over 40s. DC, Dan Slack and Neill Montaldo, having moved his car, all picked up runs as did Oli Ward with a lovely 18 at the tail end.

And then, having messed with our heads all night by removing toilets and stoking the local wildlife into a frenzied blood-lust, Offerton offered up their final tactical master-stroke. With Macc still just about in with a shout, the pizza delivery dude all but crashed his car into the skip out the front of the mid renovation clubhouse and staggered out with 18 boxes of fresh pizza.

The smell of basil and mozzarella clearly made it all the way to the crease as the Macc's batting then collapsed, what else could have explained two run outs in a row? A good effort but carbs win again. Into the clubhouse then for pizza and football and most importantly a toast to 'Grandad Jon Smart' and his two new grandchildren - the best stats we heard all evening!



CHESHIRE CUP

ROUND 2 RESULT - SUN 19TH JUNE

Stockport Rd: WALLASEY (146-3) beat Timperley (145) by 7 wkts

QUARTER FINALS - SUN 26TH JUNE

Werneth Low: HYDE (144-3) beat Oulton Park (142) by 7 wkts

Moorside Rd: BOLLINGTON (238-6) beat Urmston (195-9) by 43 runs



The final second round match (June 19th) saw [Wallasey](#) building on their first round reprieve to make it successive Premier Division scalps, and again by a comfortable margin as they won by 7 wkts at [Timperley](#) with 17 overs unused. Only 46 from **Jamie Matthews** gave Timpers any sort of score after they had been reduced to 70-6, with **Daniel Beaver** making 63* off 75 as Wallasey eased to victory. The quarter finals started on Sunday, with [Hyde](#) bouncing back from the double disappointment of a T20 exit and a league defeat the day before with an impressive victory over Oulton Park. **Cole Turner** took 3 wkts in the third over of the match, including **Rob Sehmi** first ball (Sehmi made an unbeaten hundred the day before, such is cricket!), then dismissing **Ben Gibbon** with the first ball of his next over, giving Turner 4 wkts in six deliveries (he finished 8-2-15-4). When **Martyn East** fell two overs later OP were 20-5 and it was only some fight from the lower order, and 36 extras (including 29 wides) that saw them to 142. Even a rare first baller

for James Duffy proved to be of no consequence as Hyde cruised serenely to their target, captain **Tom Partridge** and **David Fisher** putting on 90 for the first wkt, and **Dave Fitzsimmons** hitting a six to finish the game. Speaking of maximums, [Bollington's](#) **Jerome Jones** whacked seven (including three from the final 3 balls of the Bolly inns), finishing 93* (67 bs) in a total of 238-6 at [Urmston](#), sharing a stand of 96 for the 2nd wkt with **Rick Hough** (79) who had already added 80 for the first wkt with **Calum Rowe** (48). **Arav Shetty** (53) and captain **Lewis Jackson** (52) kept Urmston hopes alive but when both fell within three overs of each other the rate was just too steep for the remaining batsmen to manage, Bolly continuing their wonderful season with a 43 run win and a place in the semi-finals. In the other QF's, [New Brighton](#) host [Bowdon](#) on July 4th, while the heavyweight clash between hosts [Wallasey](#) and [Chester Boughton Hall](#), delayed due to national Cup KO commitments, has been provisionally planned for Sunday July 18th.

CHESHIRE SHIELD NEWS

Round 2 (June 19th) : [CHRISTLETON](#) (247-6) beat [Sandbach](#) (237-9) by 10 runs

Round 2 (June 27th) : [WOODLEY](#) (186-5) beat [Caldy](#) (185) by 4 wkts

[PARKFIELD LISCARD](#) beat [Westminster Park](#), who conceded.

The above results mean these winning teams, along with [Barrow](#), [Hale Barns](#), [Maritime](#), [Cheadle Hulme](#) and [Upton](#) all progress to the Quarter Finals, which have been provisionally slated to take place on [July 11th](#). The draw will be made soon and available to view online.

CHESHIRE CC NEWS



Cheshire recovered splendidly from the loss in their first NCCA Trophy match by getting successive wins on the board, an 80 run away win at [Northumberland](#) followed up by an eye-popping 365-8 against [Shropshire](#) at [Toft](#), with the side almost completely changed after a Covid-related alert but still winning by a handsome 99 runs. Cheshire travel to [Knypersley](#) on Sunday to take on [Staffs](#) before entertaining [Dorset](#) at [Oxton](#) on the 11th.

UK FAST CHESHIRE CRICKET LEAGUE

Despite losing at Hawk Green on Saturday, [Ashley](#) lead Div 1 after previously winning four on the bounce. [Cheadle Hulme](#) are in hot pursuit in second, with 19 pts separating the top seven teams. [Northwich](#) and [Tattenhall](#) (who I think are without a win this season) are the bottom two. [Maritime](#) and [Winnington Park](#) are well clear at the top of Div 2.