

# COUNTY LEAGUE NEWS

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



IMAGE: CBH TWITTER FEED

**JUNE 28 – JULY 11**

**T20 TRIUMPH FOR ALDERLEY EDGE**

Halfway point passed as league games

continue to throw up surprises



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Well, the footballers didn't quite "bring it home" this time, a tournament fairly modest on quality also featuring the usual amount of histrionics as players writhe around under the slightest touch and basically do everything they can to con the ref, get opposition players booked or sent off, and feign utter amazement at every decision given against them. It reminds me what I don't like about football and what I so enjoy about cricket. Don't get me wrong, we all know our game is far from incident-free but in the main, Cheshire cricket rightly enjoys a good reputation as a 'hard but fair' league. As I write, the 1st XI

T20 finals day has just been completed, an occasion marked by good sportsmanship - and good weather, thankfully. The same could not be said of the quarter finals, however! All of them took place in difficult / borderline unplayable conditions, but such is the narrow window in which to complete the fixtures, all sides were keen to get to a conclusion on the first available date. Talking to colleagues, it does not seem as though the poor conditions made much material difference to the ultimate outcomes in three of the four matches, but the game I umpired, Hyde v Oxton up on Werneth Low, was a real nip-and-tuck affair. The weather changed dramatically from bright warm sun for all of the first innings to conditions more suitable for staging a remake of 'The Hound of the Baskervilles' as both sides could claim the conditions were not in their favour. But there was no word of complaint about it from either team, who both played their hearts out as the match came to a dramatic conclusion. A chest-high full

toss was bowled - certainly the result of a wet ball - which was slammed for six. No complaints from the bowler or fielding side, though. Another six would bring the scores level with an over left. The next ball, pitched up, was hit hard and high over mid-off and disappeared into the night gloaming. I was at the bowlers end but couldn't see the flight of the ball as it landed, in the far distance away from the pavilion. The only player with a view, Hyde's James Duffy, was running back from mid-off, and as soon as the ball landed, signalled 'six'. The Oxton players, who could see even less than me, roared with delight, and they won a thrilling game next over. But that act of sportsmanship is what will stick in my mind longest - I thought it was a terrific thing to do. Regardless of what it meant for his team, James Duffy totally epitomised the spirit of cricket - bravo sir. Let me know of similar things you have seen this season - it's what makes the game truly beautiful.

*James*

## LEARN THE LAWS, GET AN ADVANTAGE

There have been a few incidents this season when I have been umpiring that once again show how little players actually know of the laws governing the game they play. So I thought / hoped a little look at a few laws would prove helpful:

**HITTING THE WINNING RUNS** - I had a discussion with a player recently in which we got onto discussing the winning runs. The law (law 16) is very clear:

*16.6.1 As soon as a result is reached...the match is at an end. Nothing that happens thereafter, except as in Law 41.18.2 (Penalty runs), shall be regarded as part of it.*

*16.6.3 If a boundary is scored before the batsmen have completed sufficient runs to win the match, the whole of the boundary allowance shall be credited to the side's total and, in the case of a hit by the bat, to the striker's score.*

The scenario we were discussing involved a side needing one to win, and the striker being on not out on 98. The striker hits a fair ball, the batsmen cross and complete a single, after which the ball rolls over the boundary rope. In this case, the single completed the match and the boundary would be treated as if it never happened, so the striker would finish on 99\*.

**WHERE IS 'BEHIND SQUARE?'** - A spin bowler was horrified to be no-balled earlier this season after my colleague at square leg noticed that the short leg fielder had his foot on the popping crease, with two fielders already behind (ie to the right of) the striker's end umpire.

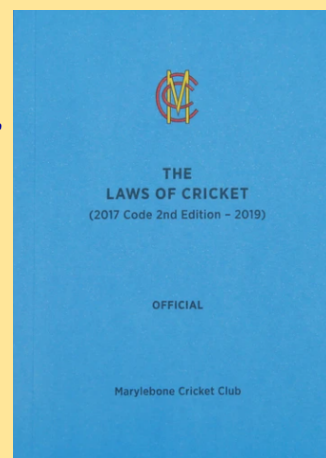
*28.4 Limitation of on side fielders: At the instant of the bowler's delivery there shall not be more than two fielders, other than the wicket-keeper, behind the popping crease on the on side. A fielder will be considered to be behind the popping crease unless the whole of his/her person whether grounded or in the air is in front of this line.*

**PENALTY RUNS** - at one stage in a recent match, the fielding side had three helmets on the field behind the wicketkeeper, which brought the inevitable question - "what happens if the ball hits all three helmets - is that 15 penalty runs?"

*28.3.1 Protective helmets, when not in use by fielders, may not be placed on the ground, above the surface except behind the wicket-keeper and in line with both sets of stumps*

*28.3.2 If the ball while in play strikes a helmet, placed as described in (the previous law) the ball shall become dead*

So the answer to the question posed is 'no' as the ball is immediately dead as soon as it hits a helmet. But, one to ponder....in the instance of a ball striking a helmet on the ground, does the delivery count as one in the over?



**July 3rd** saw the repeat fixtures commence on a curtailed day of action, with the matches between **Hyde** and **Alderley Edge**, **Neston** and **Cheadle**, and **Chester BH's** trip to **Oxton** all being postponed because of Covid-related issues. The matches that were played all contained some fascinating cricket. In a match rejigged to become a 98 overs game, **Nantwich** pulled off an amazing 2 wkt triumph over **Widnes**, who made 155, **Mitchell Spencer** with 5-37 and **Ollly Griffiths** 3-29. Both Dabbers openers fell for ducks before Nantwich then went from 41-3 to 41-8 as **Aaron Soni** and **Qamar Hafiz** had Widnes in dreamland. However, Spencer and Griffiths teamed up again, the latter starting 0,6,4,4,4 from his first five balls to change the mood. Despite another rain delay at 111-8 the teams got back on and when Spencer (40\*) clipped Majeed away to the boundary, he and Griffiths (73\* off 43) had compiled an unbroken 9th wkt stand of 117 in 17 overs for a brilliant victory. **Didsbury** will have felt the pain almost as much as Widnes after their 21 run win over **Toft** in another truncated match left them temporarily top. Fifties from **Nick Anderson** and **Steve Green** took Dids to 194-9 in 40 overs, both also later among the wkts as **Michael Taylor's** 4-19 helping stave off a Toft

fightback after an 8th wkt stand of 54 lifted them from 116-7, Toft eventually all out 173. **Oulton Park** stayed third with a scrambled 2 wkt win at **Timperley**, the home side suffering a ghastly seizure to go from 40-0 after 8 overs to 68 all out 25 overs later, **Andrew Dufty** with 9.3-7-5-4. **Chris Page** and **Jake Sandham** then fired up to have OP all over the place at 35-7 before **James Plant** hit 26 off 22 to just tilt the balance back to OP, Dufty taking 4 leg byes to seal a tense 25 pts. It was a day for bowlers on **July 10**. With 5-24, a run out and 20 useful runs, **Didsbury's** Steve Green was the main man in their 5 wkt win over Cheadle, who remain at the foot of the Prem after collecting just 9 pts from their last 4 matches. In contrast, Dids closed to within a point of leaders **Nantwich**, who went down by wickets at **Chester BH**, captain **Harry Killoran** with 3 wkts and a very handy 40 playing his part, as did **Jack Williams** (5-33) and **Luke Young** (60). Runs were at a premium for hosts **OP**, taking almost 50 overs to compile 127 against **Hyde**, but it was to prove plenty as the visitors lost 5 wkts in the first 5 overs of their reply, **Ben Gibbon**

(7-24) proving almost unplayable as OP ran out winners by 57 runs. **AE** recorded an efficient 6 wkt win over **Oxton**, with **Sam Perry** (80, taking him to 700 league runs this year) and **Ed Foster** (56) putting together their third century opening psp of 2021, 141 this time which set AE well on their way after **Richard Wilkinson's** 5 wkts had earlier seen the visitors dismissed for 173. **Timperley's** batting collapsed (again) in a penurious match at **Toft**, this time 52-3 becoming all out 60 less than six overs later, **Andrew Jackson** (again) the star turn with 7-21. **Jake Sandham** then led a terrific bowling effort as Timpers reduced Toft to 39-6 before the lower order cobbled together the 22 needed for a much needed but nervy first win in four. **Widnes** continued their resurgence, a superb 150 opening stand between **Chris Kirby** (55) and **Ali Chughtai** (129) helping them to a soaring 270-5 against **Neston**. Rain reduced Neston's allocation to just 33 overs - but, ridiculously, no reduction in target (DLS anyone?) - and despite another fine opening stand of 84 (**Will Evans** 74) the last pair had to block out 6 overs to avoid defeat.

## PREMIER LGE TABLE AND STATS TO DATE

TEAM	PTS	PLAYER	RUNS	PLAYER	WICKETS
NANTWICH	230	SAM PERRY	700	BEN GIBBON	37
DIDSBURY	229	ALI CHUGTAI	493	STEVE GREEN	31
OULTON PARK	208	HARRY KILLORAN	459	ANDREW JACKSON	31
ALDERLEY EDGE	182	ANEESH KAPIL	454	CHRIS SANDERS	29
CHESTER BH	174	SIMON STOKES	414	HARRY KILLORAN	27
TOFT	160	ANDREW JACKSON	389	QAMAR HAFIZ	26
WIDNES	148	TIM HUGHES	376	CHRIS STENHOUSE	26
NESTON	143				
OXTON	125				
TIMPERLEY	123				
HYDE	119				
CHEADLE	115				

### JUNE 28 - JULY 10 PERFORMANCES OF NOTE

Ali Chughtai 129, Wid v Nest, 10.7  
 Ben Gibbon 7-24, OP v Hyde, 10.7  
 Steve Green 5-24, Dids v Chead, 10.7  
 Mitchell Spencer 5-37, Nant v Oxt, 3.7  
 Andrew Jackson 7-21, Toft v Timp, 10.7  
 Jake Sandham 6-24, Timp v Toft, 10.7  
 Jack Williams 5-33, CBH v Nant, 10.7  
 Chris Page 5-35, Timp v OP, 3.7



Div 1 on **July 3** saw a full compliment of matches played, albeit with overs reductions in most cases. An 88 over match saw **Bramhall** complete a league double over **Bollington** with a 6 wkt win completed with two balls remaining. Former Bolly skipper **Rick Hough** suffered both elation and agony in finishing 99\*, sharing a stand of 105 for the 3rd wkt with stand in skipper **Jake Dickinson** (59) as Bolly totalled 208-4. **Greg Dixon** (58) and **Stewart Jackson** (62) led the Bramhall reply which stood at 185-4 with 2 overs remaining, before a burst of hitting by **Nick Cantello** (49\*) and **Ashley West** helped the hosts make it three wins out of the last four. **Bowdon** moved into second after a rapid demolition of **Davenham**, for whom it seems the season cannot end soon enough. 47 all out with only the no.11 in double figures was a sad new low for them in a torrid campaign, **Chris Ashling** and **James Bottomley** the only bowlers needed as the match was finished within 26 overs. Another struggling side, **Marple**, lost by 8 wkts at buoyant **Grappenhall**, 62 from **James Crisall** helping the visitors to 176-8 in their 40 overs, but **Grant Hodnett's** 70\* was the highest of a number of solid contributions as they eased to 25 pts. Marple are far from adrift at the bottom end, however, just 16 and 17 pts respectively away from **Warrington** and

**Congleton**, whose meeting at Walton Lea led to a comfortable 9 wkt win for the visitors, with **Tom Leese** unbeaten after a patient 108 ball knock of 67. The surprise result of the day was at Victoria Rd where **Macclesfield** beat **Sale** by the handsome margin of 90 runs. No batsmen found run scoring easy as **Ben Curwen's** 5-23, and some good Macc catching, saw Sale, chasing 187, bowled out for 96. A 74 overs match at **Brooklands** saw the only draw of the day, with visitors **Urmston** pressing **Michael Ness** back into service as an opener, Ness making 50 as Urmston made 160-7. Brooklands struggled to get going as **Sam Tootell** (4-21) led the bowling attack, the hosts left clinging on for safety at an edgy 122-9. On **July 10**, **Bowdon** went top for the first time with an impressive 70 run win at **Congleton**, with **Jack Tipton's** superb 107 the centerpiece of their 235-5 dec. A 109 stand for the fourth wkt between **Jack Goode** (63) and **Muhamad Shahbaz Bashir** (47) rescued the hosts from 15-3 but only one other player (and ex-

tras) made double figures. **Brooklands** bucked up with a comfortable 73 run win at struggling **Marple**, five wkts apiece for **AJ Hart** and **Rob Leach** seeing Marple all out 123 after a late cameo from **Luke Maitra** had set them 197. Brooklands came off to the good news (for them) that second place **Bollington** had come a cropper at **Urmston**, picking up a solitary point after being all out for 87 as **Sumit Panda** returned 5-27. Urmston were wobbly on 20-3 after 12 but 50\* from **Arav Shetty** calmed nerves and led the hosts to a handy 6 wkt win and 25 pts. The match at Sale saw a milestone with an 'SIS hybrid' pitch used for the first time in the Cheshire County league, albeit after a short delay as the game was reduced to 92 overs following a rain delayed start. Warrington skipper **Jonathan Fletcher** certainly enjoyed the new surface, hitting a superb 152 off 118 balls as Warrington made 234-5. Sale's task was made no easier by losing a further 12 overs from their innings (but no reduction in target) as they finished on 121-4. Grappenhall's trip to Davenham was postponed due to Covid related issues while Macclesfield's scheduled trip to Bramhall didn't take place either.

## DIVISION ONE TABLE AND STATS TO DATE

TEAM	PTS	PLAYER	RUNS	PLAYER	WICKETS
BOWDON	229	PAT ASHLING	539	AJ HART	34
BOLLINGTON	222	TYRONE LAWRENCE	534	ROB LEACH	31
BROOKLANDS	218	ROSS ZELEM	469	CHRIS ASHLING	25
GRAPPENHALL	201	CALUM ROWE	467	MATTHEW TULLY	24
URMSTON	195	GRANT HODNETT	442	RYAN MACCIOCCHI	21
BRAMHALL	168	JONATHAN FLETCHER	429	STUART PLANT	21
SALE	153				
WARRINGTON	133				
CONGLETON	122				
MACCLESFIELD	122				
MARPLE	106				
DAVENHAM	56				

### JUNE 28 - JULY 10 PERFORMANCES OF NOTE

Jonathan Fletcher, 152, Warr v Sale, 10.7

Jack Tipton 107, Bowd v Cong, 10.7

Chris Ashling 5-15, Bowd v Dav, 3.7

Sumit Panda 5-27, Urms v Boll, 10.7

AJ Hart 5-30, Brook v Marp, 10.7

Rick Hough, 99\*, Boll v Bram, 3.7

Ben Curwen 5-23, Macc v Sale, 3.7

James Bottomley 5-28, Bowd v Dav, 3.7

Rob Leach 5-35, Brook v Marp, 10.7

Lindow's lead at the top of Div 2 was cut to just 3 pts on **July 3rd** after a narrow but still surprising loss to **Ashton OM**. Two **Khans**, **Zohaib** and **Zaheer**, took 8-46 between them to knock the leaders over for just 115 (after being 71-2). With their recent batting calamities still fresh, AOM withstood a lot of pressure to squeeze over the line in the final over, Lindow again paying the price for a hefty extras count (25 here, incl 18 wides). **Romiley** stayed second after a squelchy 4 wkt win over **Georgians** at Birchvale Drive, **James Bashford**, **Brad Snape** and **Paul Garner** all amongst the wkts as the visitors tumbled from 65-3 to 96 all out. They pushed Romiley as hard in reply but **Andrew Harrison's** 29 (the game's top score) proved decisive. Another low scoring match at Brooks Drive where visitors **Haslington** reached 87-8 and a 2 wkt win over **Hale Barns**, who conceded 27 extras (incl 20 penalty runs) as their earlier 84 proved not quite enough. **Michael Rowlands'** good form continued as he made 65 in **Alvanley's** 166-3 dec against **Barrow**, **Simon Gee** 51\*. In reply, a 3rd wkt stand of 115 between **Lee Dwyer** and **Jehangir Afridi** steadied the Barrow reply but the home side seemed unsure whether to stick or twist and finished 143-3 off 40. A more exciting, but equally curious draw took place at Cale Green where visitors **Upton** needed 16

off 12 balls with 4 wkts in hand to overtake **Stockport's** 146-8, which came down to 6 wanted off the last ball. The hosts remain 33 pts adrift at the bottom but only 3 pts separate the next three clubs, with **Mobberley** one of those, their game with **Christleton** postponed after Covid-related issues. On **July 10th** **Lindow** bounced back with a 5-star batting show, 82\* from **Robin Broom** and 57 apiece for **Jadan Jones** and **Rob Herriott** powering them to 256-9 and a corking 131 win over **Stockport Georgians**. **Haslington** remain in hot pursuit though, defending their 124 against **Barrow** with some ease in the end, 4 wkts apiece for **Tom Gledhill** and **Jack Taylor** after a fine 6-47 from Barrow's **Joe Williams**. After five straight wins, **Romiley** fell in a heap after their long ride to **Christleton**, losing by 85 runs as **Arslan Dar** took 5-21 for the hosts who are up to fifth, 18 points behind Romiley who remain third. **Alvanley** passed the 200 point mark after a thrilling draw with **Ashton OM**. **Simon Gee** hit a brilliant 88 as the home side were all out 205. Despite a late dash for the line as the tension grew, **Ashton** ran out of time on 201-6.

There was also tension aplenty - and a surprise - as bottom club **Stockport** pulled off a crucial five run win at **Mobberley**. **Mike Eley** scored a vital 30\* at no.9 to lift Stockport from 100-7 to 159, but at 96-4 in the 33rd (and with 5 extra overs), all seemed well for Mobb. But the visitors restricted them to 20-1 off the next 12 with a sterling performance and although the run rate picked up, the wickets kept falling, two in two for **Mark Green** sealing it. An unbroken 9th wkt stand of 52 gave **Upton** a two wkt win over **Hale Barns**.

## ALVANLEY GO NATIONAL

Newsletter's man in the hills **Andy Bennion** sent in an update after **Alvanley's** latest excursion to far-flung places.

Having won the regional Village Knockout, **Alvanley** are making progress in the National rounds - literally! A long trip to Scarborough in the last 16 pitted them against **Folkton & Flixton**. A fine effort saw **Alvanley** pile up 274/8, **Simon Gee** top scored with 54, while **Charlie Fletcher's** 39 included 5 sixes! The home team never came to terms with the run rate and outstanding bowling and fielding saw them fall well short in front of a large crowd - a good portion of which came from **Alvanley**. CCL 'old boy' **Guy Emmett** was there to watch and cheer the **Alv** on! Next up a trip owt' t' **Barnsley** to play **Houghton Main**.



## DIVISION TWO TABLE AND STATS TO DATE

TEAM	PTS	PLAYER	RUNS	PLAYER	WICKETS
LINDOW	233	AAMIR AFZAAL	429	ALEX MATTHEWS	39
HASLINGTON	222	ROB HERRIOTT	414	TOM GLEDHILL	31
ROMILEY	209	MICHAEL ROWLANDS	412	BEN HICKS	30
ALVANLEY	202	OSMAN BUTT	407	ARSLAN DAR	29
CHRISTLETON	191	ANS RASHID MUHAMMAD	355	ABDUL AQEEL	28
STOCKPORT GEORGIANS	175	ROBIN BROOM	343	JAMES BASHFORD	28
ASHTON ON MERSEY	172	ED FAULKNER	316	JACK TAYLOR	27
UPTON	150	<b>JUNE 28 - JULY 10 PERFORMANCES OF NOTE</b>  Ben Hicks 6-41, HB v Hasl, 3.7 Imran Khan 5-19, Hasl v HB, 3.7 Zohaib Khan 5-34, AOM v Lind, 3.7 Joe Williams 6-47, Barr v Hasl, 10.7 Arslan Dar 5-21, Chris v Rom 10.7 Abdul Aqeel 5-52, Mobb v Stock, 10.7			
HALE BARNES	147				
MOBBERLEY	129				
BARROW	126				
STOCKPORT	114				

The top 2 in the **2nd XI Premier Division** played out a draw in their meeting on **July 3rd**, with hosts **Toft** boosted by a 134 psp between **Andrew Bones** (83) and **Ewan Williams** (59) to take them to an imposing 232-9 against leaders **Didsbury**, who finished 172-7 after an off-day with the bat, an injury to **Stuart Stoneman** one more thing on a disappointing day for them. 72\* from keeper **Matt Samuels** took **Cheadle** to 147-7 in a reduced game with **Neston** at Kingsway, which proved more than enough as the visitors managed just 78 in reply. **CBH** and **Bowdon** had to settle for a draw after a rain ruined match at Filkins Lane while **Hyde** took a handy 15 pts after racking up a healthy 225-8 at **Alderley Edge**, who just survived on 192-9. **Nantwich** didn't even travel to **Marple** after the heavy rains of Friday night, with **OP** and **Macc** rearranging following Covid-related issues. On **July 10th** a magnificent 117\* from **Chris Elsdon** rescued **Didsbury** from 3-4 and led

them to 222-9 against **Cheadle**, which proved just enough, **Dids** going clear at the top with an 18 run win. **Neston** got a much needed 5 wkt win over **Marple** to move back to 2nd. **Macclesfield** beat **Toft** by 26 runs in a low scoring derby, while **Bowdon** hosted a thrilling rain affected draw with **AE**, the home side losing 19 overs as they finished on 134-7 chasing 135. **Hal Dwoheng** taking 5-21 and scoring 55\*. The other two games were also drawn, **OP** posting 270-5 against **Hyde** who clung on, while **CBH** finished 141-9 chasing 156 set by **Nantwich**. In **Div 1** on **July 3rd**, **Jack Perry** (61) and **Grant Hughes** (71\*) were the pair responsible for this latest in a growing line of century open ing psp for leaders **Oxton** who raced to another effortless win, this time by 9 wkts over bottom club **Davenham**. **Sale** are a distant but creditable second after a 53 run win over neighbours **Timperley**. **Will Beckley** took 7-18 as **Lindow** bowled **Brooklands** out

for 74, winning by 9 wkts, while **Upton** won by an equally comfortable 8 wkts over **Warrington**. In contrast, **Georgians** won a thriller against **Romiley**, getting to their target with 1 wkt and 1 ball left of their 80 overs game. **Heaton Mersey** and **Grappenhall** finished in a tense draw after, Grappers blocking out the last three balls to finish 163-9 chasing 172. On **July 10th Oxton** and **Sale** both won comfortably while **Romiley's** 6 wkt win at **Timperley** kept them third and within sight of second place. In **Div 2** on **July 3rd** there were no totals over 200, **CH's** 199-7 the highest, with **HB** almost there but almost not at 191-9. The draw didn't really suit either side, stuck in mid-table watching the leading sides win. Leaders **Didsbury 2A** did so comfortably, second place **Widnes** less so, holding off bottom club **Upton** by just 1 wkt. On July 10th, despite 110 from **Sashwat Rusia**, **Widnes** could only draw with **AOM**, while **Didsbury 2A** beat **Bramhall** - just - by 13 runs to go 20 points clear at the top.

## 2ND XI RED INSURE T20 TROPHY QUARTER FINALS

**June 29th**

**Booths Park: TOFT (142-2) beat Oulton Park (140-8) by 8 wkts**

*OP got off to a decent start after choosing to bat, 50-2 after their powerplay, and after 13 overs they were 117-4. However a squeeze tighter than an otters pocket saw just 23 runs come off the last 7 overs, Pete Talbot the squeezer in chief, bowling a double wicket maiden on his way to 4-1-9-4 as OP's hopes of a sizeable score suddenly went up the Irrawaddy. Phil Raikes and Ed Stubbs had 57 on the board in the powerplay, Stubbs finishing 70\* off 55 balls as Toft won with almost three overs unused.*

**July 1st**

**Parkgate: GRAPPENHALL (173-1) beat Neston (120) by 53 runs**

*The third quarter final followed the pattern of the previous two with a comfortable win, this time visiting Grappenhall booking their place at finals day with an emphatic victory which made the lengthy trip west more than worthwhile. An opening stand of 114 between Steve Rooney (76 off 46) and Ben Bodha (73\* off 55) set the standard for a dominant Grappers display, and with Neston never able to get momentum going they were all out in the 17th over.*

**July 8th**

**Wilmslow Rd: DIDSBURY (151-8) beat Sale (116-6) by 35 runs**

*The last quarter final resulted in another decisive win, the Premier League leaders making 151 for the second T20 game in a row, which again proved to be a match winning total. Jack Hastings top scored for the third time in three T20 games for Didsbury but no batsman really got going after a spirited showing in the field by the Division 1 side. However, the 22 Didsbury took off the last two overs set Sale a bigger target than had seemed likely, and despite a good start, they were soon under pressure as the dot balls mounted and the run rate climbed.*



The **3rd XI Premier Division** is intriguingly poised, with **Romiley** and **Toft** level at the top on 161 points. After such a good start in their first season in the Sunday Prem, Romiley have gone three without a win and needed a backs-to-the-wall effort to stave off defeat at **Hyde** on Sunday after **Liam Grindlay's** 67 helped the hosts reach 165-8. Hyde are upto fifth as a result. **Toft** also scored 165 on Sunday, but theirs was only three down and enough to surpass the 164 target set by bottom club **Heaton Mersey**, with **George Muirhead** unbeaten on 84. **Sale** are third, skipper **Ian Hammershion** hitting a splendid 106 in their monster 257-8 at **Nantwich**, who replied with 155-5, **Freddy Woodfine** 63\*. A 10-player **Alderley Edge** side continued their revival with a precious 3 wkt win at struggling **Grappenhall** who were bowled out for 96, **Ashray Bhamidipati** taking 5-23. **Didsbury** also reignited a stop-start campaign for them with a nail-biting last over 1 wkt win at **Stockport Georgians** which kept them in fourth place. As the season has now passed halfway there will be plenty of twists and turns in the Sundays ahead.

The **3rd XI Division 1** is really getting tight, with **Timperley** two points clear at the top after their sixth win out of ten in the campaign on Sunday, beating **North East Cheshire** by 28 runs. **Marple & Compstall**, **Brooklands** and **Cheadle** are all on 26 points bunched up behind the leaders. **Josh Trickett** finished 99\* for Cheadle on Sunday out of their 30 over total of 148-5, which was 42 too many for **Bramhall** to chase. **Marple** beat **Brooklands** with something to spare while **Bredbury** won the battle of the bottom two after a rapid chase of the 108 **Hale Barns** set them. **Didsbury** bowled out **Ashley** for just 41 on Sunday and recorded a welcome 105 run win in so doing.

In **Division 2**, **Elworth** have had a cancellation and a concession in July, and thus maintain a six point gap at the top of the division, having won their June fixtures by margins of 109, 39 and 229 runs - all of which occurred after their only loss of the season so far, to third bottom **Woodley**. **Mobberley** and **Lindow** (both on 26 points) are their nearest challengers. **Oulton Park** prop up the rest.

**Didsbury 5s** top the **3rd XI Central & East** having won more games than **Prestbury** and **Haslington** but all three sit 10 points clear of their other challengers. **Didsbury's** 7 wicket win at **Stockport Georgians** on Sunday included 48 extras. It's far more clear cut in the **3rd XI West** where **Trafford Metrovicks** are 10 points clear of the rest, their 100% record intact after 9 straight wins





# 1ST XI T20

## FRED GRAHAM TROPHY

**VENUE: CHESTER BOUGHTON HALL, SUNDAY JULY 11th**

**ALDERLEY EDGE** lifted the 2021 Fred Graham Trophy after an 18 run win over Nantwich. The two semi-finals and the final all proved to be close run matches watched by a healthy gathering of supporters. Here's the story of a fantastic day for Cheshire cricket:

### SEMI FINAL 1 (SECOND GROUND)

**ALDERLEY EDGE (166-6) beat Chester BH (158-9) by 8 runs**

**UMPIRES: MARTIN HOWE & ANDY STANCLIFFE**

**SCORERS: JIM LAW (CBH) AND CHRIS SMITH (AE)**

Alderley Edge pulled off a fantastic win over hosts Chester BH after a gripping finish. Choosing to bat first, the in-form AE pair of Sam Perry and Ed Fluck got their side off to a fabulous start, with 54 on the board in the powerplay (and that with Perry having played out a maiden in the second over) and at 109-2 at halfway things were looking very healthy for AE. CBH fought back well to have the better of the second 10 overs, with AE grateful to Tom Foreman (32 from 36) keeping some momentum going after Perry was dismissed in the 11th over for 66 off 39 (6x6 and 3x4). AE finished with 166-6.

In reply, Richard Wilkinson made up for his first ball dismissal by dismissing Warren Goodwin (who had just hit him for 3 sixes) in the second over. The last over of the powerplay proved pivotal, CBH starting it 46-1 but ending it 54-3, with Charlie Reid taking two in two and AE conceding just two boundaries in the next five overs, leaving 93 required off the last 10, which thanks largely to Alex Money (57 off 42) became 49 off the last five with four wkts in hand. However, when both Money and Luke Young fell within 5 balls of each other it left CBH on 129-8, with 38 required off the last 18 balls. Charlie Fleet and Alex Townend then took 26 off the next two as the excitement grew more intense but Alan Day proved to be the AE hero, conceding only 3 from his last over and taking a wicket as the CBH charge just failed.

### SEMI FINAL 2 (MAIN GROUND)

**NANTWICH (164-7) beat Oxton (161) by 3 runs**

**UMPIRES: TREVOR BURNETT & GED KINSEY**

**SCORERS: DAVID HUME (NANTWICH)**

Nantwich used their cup experience to spark an Oxton collapse after the underdogs held the upper hand for much of the game, sneaking through to the final after a gripping struggle. The Wirral side chose to field and were not unhappy to see the back of Ray Doyle and concede just 46 in the powerplay, the dangerous Luke Robinson following two overs later. Oxton kept things in check, conceding just five boundaries in the next seven overs despite Aneesh Kapil still being in, and when Kapil tried to repeat the six he had just hit off Matt Jones, he was caught to leave Nantwich 121-4 in the 16th. However, Olly Griffiths (51\* off 26) was still there, registering 39 runs off seven scoring strokes to take his team to a decent but far from formidable total. It looked very much within range after Oxton captain Luke Filer carried on his quarter-final form with another dazzling array of shots, 61 runs coming up in the powerplay for just one wicket as Filer and Henry Dobson hit well and accumulated effectively, reaching 107-1 at the ed of 10 overs and very much favourites to pull off a memorable triumph. Mitchell Spencer then sparked Nantwich hopes with two wickets in the 11th over, including Dobson (36 off 23) but Filer and Mahdi Quadri kept their nerve well to leave Oxton requiring 28 off the last five overs with 7 wkts in hand. It was at this point Scott Wardley became the Nantwich hero, bowling Filer (63 off 48) with his first ball and then taking two in two to have personal figures of 1-0-5-3. Oxton were reeling and Nantwich seized the moment. Wardley took another wicket with the first ball of his next over as Oxton's last pair found the 7 they needed off the last just too many to get.



Aneesh Kapil hits another boundary during Nantwich's semi-final win

IMAGE: Graham Pearson/Nantwich twitter feed



# 1ST XI T20

## FRED GRAHAM TROPHY



### FINAL (MAIN GROUND)

**ALDERLEY EDGE (156-3) beat Nantwich (138-8) by 18 runs**

**UMPIRES: MARTIN HOWE & ANDY STANCLIFFE SCORERS: DAVID HUME (NANT) AND CHRIS SMITH (AE)**

A sensational start to the 2021 T20 final was soon overshadowed by an amazing partnership that helped set Alderley Edge up for a first ever triumph on T20 finals Day. Put into bat, AE's opening pair of Sam Perry and Ed Fluck, so prolific in cup (and league) this season, were both back in the pavilion after 9 balls of the innings, and when the unfortunate Richard Wilkinson bagged his second duck of the day in the next over, AE were taking a standing count at 9-3 after 3 overs. But from such an ugly start for them, Ed Foster and Tom Foreman began the rebuilding job with a steadying partnership that passed 50 in the 10th over, as AE reached halfway at 65-3. The pair continued to grow in confidence as they accumulated, which led to a spectacular finale of 50 runs from the last four overs and loud acclamation from their team mates and supporters. Foster finished 64\* off 54 and Foreman 78\* off 55, their magnificent unbroken stand of 147 in 17 overs giving AE something to defend as well as a great boost to team morale after such a desperate start. AE captain Chris Sanders led by example, claiming the prize wicket of Aneesh Kapil cleaned bowled for just a single as Nantwich struggled to get some fluency in their batting, keen AE bowling restricting them to just three boundaries in the powerplay and a score of 28-2 from the first six. Luke Robinson led a spectacular riposte, hammering 7 sixes from 19 balls on his way to a blistering 63 off 35 balls as he and Chris Simpson added 71 in just under 7 overs. However, the dismissal of both these batsmen within three deliveries of each other turned the match once again, and when Spencer Byatt fell five balls after Robinson was out, Nantwich were 108-5, needing 49 off 36 balls, five wickets remaining. Charlie Reid and Alan Day then both kept things under control for AE with two excellent overs, no boundaries and just 11 runs conceded, before Sanders was involved again, catching Ollly Griffiths at a crucial juncture as Nantwich were 122-7, just three overs remaining. Two more parsimonious overs followed as Nantwich couldn't break free. With their target of 157 having looked reachable at one stage, they ended up needing 27 off the last, more than enough for AE to defend before starting their deserved celebrations.



#### ← Tweet



**Nantwich CC**  
@NantwichCC

Nantwich have lost by 18 runs. Congratulations to [@AECC\\_cricket](#) on their win and many thanks to [@CBHCC](#) for being superb hosts

5:24 PM · Jul 11, 2021 · Twitter for iPhone

#### Action from the T20 Final

Above: League Chairman David Humpage presents the trophy to Chris Sanders

Below: AE get into their stride after a shaky start

Left: great sportsmanship from two of the defeated sides on finals day



**Chester BHCC** @CBHCC · 18h

Congratulations to [@AECC\\_cricket](#) - Cheshire County League T20 champions 2021 [@NantwichCC](#)



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## CHESHIRE CC NEWS

### CHESHIRE'S THREE-DAY CAMPAIGN GETS UNDERWAY AT OXTON

*New-look County side hit by rain in their Western Division opener after qualifying for the 50-over knockout stages*



Badly affected by availability and the clash with T20 finals day, Cheshire were left frustrated by rain after the second day of their three day match with Dorset was almost completely washed out. An uninterrupted first day, which featured no less than six left-arm over quick bowlers, had seen Cheshire asked to field (the umpires confirming the words "we'll bat" were out of the Dorset skipper's mouth as soon as the coin landed!) and after a steady, at times slow, first two sessions, the visitors took 108 off their last 14 overs after tea from a tiring attack, their innings closing after 90 overs on 325-8 with maximum batting points achieved. Didsbury's Tim Hughes, on his Cheshire debut, and Bollington captain Calum Rowe batted impressively to reach 63-0 off 19 at the close, but they were only able to extend their stand by nine more runs in the 22 balls possible on Monday before rain forced the sides off. Last Sunday the rain hadn't allowed either Cheshire or Staffordshire to bowl a ball at Knypersley, meaning Cheshire qualified from their group and will travel to face Cambridgeshire in the quarter final on July 18th.

Cheshire team at Oxtown: Rob Sehmi (capt), Ben Gibbon (Oulton Park); Will Evans (Neston); James Scott (Toft); Michael Finan (Flowery Field); Simon Normanton (Stockport Georgians); David Wainwright (Castleford); Calum Rowe (Bollington); Nick Anderson, Tim Hughes, Charles Lowen (Didsbury). Oulton Park's Andrew Dufty was 12th man on Sun with Oxtown's Matt Jones in the role Mon/Tues.



## CHESHIRE CUP

### SEMI-FINAL DRAW

Aug 1, BRC: Bollington vs New Brighton

Date tbc: Wallasey *or* Chester BH v Hyde

*Q-F: July 18, Wallasey CC: Wallasey v Chester BH*

### CHESHIRE SHIELD LATEST

Some remarkable performances in the Shield quarter finals saw **Upton** and **Cheadle Hulme** join **Hale Barns** in the semi finals, HB winning after Barrow conceded. Rauf Hakeem hit 107 off 89 for Maritime as they made 215-9 at Upton, but the home side won by 8 wkts after recovering from 7-2 thanks to 111\* from Matthew Smith and 86\* from William Colwell, the pair adding an unbroken 210 for the 3rd wkt. Nauman Akram scored 122\* out of a CH total of 211 in their q-f win over Woodley before picking the ball up and taking 7 wickets, including six batsman bowled, in an astonishing one man show. The result of the **Parkfield Liscard** v **Christleton** match was unavailable.