

COUNTY LEAGUE NEWS



APRIL 22 - MAY 1 2023

Rain, rain, go away!

Wet start blights the new season

Cheshire washed away in T20

3rd XI T20 group stage concludes



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FROM THE EDITOR



It's good to be back, writing about and covering the game we all love. We were extraordinarily blessed last year with the amount of fine dry weather which saw hardly any disruption to fixtures - but this year, it's been a different story, with rainfall already a factor, and to have only two 1st XI centurions across 36 matches already played also hints at the type of conditions cricket is being

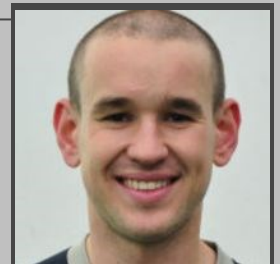
played in. The county side have also suffered, with five of their opening six T20 matches washed out, and qualification to finals day now sadly beyond them. The one major change to County League cricket is the decision to make all Sunday cricket a win/lose format, the Sunday Prem being reduced to 80 overs and losing the draw element. Quite how this was passed by a 10-4 margin when there are only 10 teams in the division is another matter! But we will see what impact this has and how players looking to play for their 2nd and 1st XIs are impacted by the difference. We also have a raft of amended laws to adapt to, most of which I think aren't really necessary - it's the fourth laws revision since 2017 and the mass of pulped law books, outdated editions of Tom Smith's umpiring and scoring handbook (which has become ever more unreadable and

frankly off-putting) as well as training materials is really quite shocking. Hopefully the MCC will now leave well alone. But I want to finish this first 2023 piece on a positive note, and, as was pointed out to me recently, the opening rounds of County Championship fixtures have seen Jack White (ex-Timperley) and Ben Gibbon (ex-OP) open the bowling for their respective counties, as well as Cheshire's Michael Finan taking the new ball for Leicestershire. Along with George Bell being the latest CCCL-bred player impressing for Lancs, and Sophie Ecclestone continuing her reign as the world's no.1 bowler in IT20 and ODI, Cheshire cricket can continue to point to its impact on the wider game, which we can all take pride in. Let's hope for a bumper May full of good weather and great cricket!

James

10 YEARS AGO

A virtually unspoilt first couple of weeks of the 2013 campaign saw eventual champions **Chester BH** draw their opening two matches despite racking up sizeable totals in both - indeed, **Hyde** finished just 10 runs shy of overtaking CBH's 292-8 in wk 2. CBH's **Warren Goodwin** hit 92 and 116 in what was to be a prolific season for him, with 1468 runs coming in all competitions. Eventual runners-up **Neston** started strongly with two wins over **Marple** and **Oxton**, as did **Toft**, who followed up a thrilling 1 wkt opening day win at **Bowdon** with a 5 wkt win over **Marple**, inspired by **Rob Jones'** 6-45. The Bowden Lane outfit were to endure a tough season, losing five of their last six games (the other abandoned), but they somehow survived, their 33 run win over **Didsbury** on July 27 proving crucial as **Didsbury** and **Macclesfield** went down. In Division 1, **Heaton Mersey's** overseas player **Aaron Ayre** was to embark on a spectacular personal 2013 with 15 x 6 and 11 x 4 in his 150 as they thrashed **Bredbury SM** by 108 runs, but this proved to be the falsest of all dawns as Mersey were to finish bottom of the division, with BSM also going down - both 1st XIs hitting a downward spiral that was to take some years to stabilise. **Bramhall** topped the division with **Urmston** runners-up, despite losing their first two matches. **Timperley** won Div 2 by a mile, starting off with two resounding wins, by 96 runs over **Congleton** and then a 212 run hammering of **Irby**, who were bowled out for 36. **Davenham** finished second while **Stockport Georgians** and **Bollington** made up the bottom two. One other notable feature of the opening fortnight ten years ago were the fortunes of **Oxton** bowler **Andy Birley**. In 2012, after two games he had figures of 38.2 - 12 - 61 - 14; two games into 2013 and his combined figures read 19 - 1 - 118 - 0. Well, we all know what a great leveller cricket can be!



AARON AYRE MADE A SPECTACULAR DIV 1 DEBUT FOR HEATON MERSEY IN 2013.

RSK

Cheshire CCCL are delighted that RSK are continuing their sponsorship of the league throughout 2023. For more information on RSK and their activities around the world, visit rskgroup.com

The MCC have produced yet another revamp of the laws of cricket, this being the fourth since 2017! Here's a brief guide to the significant additions and alterations.



NEW BATTER TO TAKE STRIKE WHEN A CATCH HAS BEEN COMPLETED

Law 18:11 is the most well-publicised of the new laws, adapting an idea brought in via The Hundred, so that when a catch is taken, the new batter will be on strike regardless of whether or not the batters have crossed (unless the dismissal occurred from the last ball of an over).

NO SALIVA TO BE APPLIED TO THE BALL

Law 41:3 covers changing the condition of the match ball, and MCC have instructed that applying saliva to the ball is to be dealt with under this law – in other words, should it occur, an immediate award of penalty runs takes place and the batters can choose to replace the ball. Players can still apply sweat, and rub the ball on their clothing to shine it – just don't use saliva.

SHORT RUNS AFTER OVERTHROWS WILL NOT COUNT

Law 18:4:2 is quite a technical alteration (in my view, somewhat un-necessary) but it is nonetheless now enshrined in law. As an example: striker hits ball into outfield, batters run and cross, fielder picks up ball and shies at the stumps, misses, and the ball speeds off towards the boundary. Batters stop running as the boundary is inevitable and indeed, the ball crosses the boundary. Under the previous code this would be five runs (batters have crossed before the ball was thrown) but now, unless the batters actually complete the run, they will only get the four runs for the overthrow. I reckon this will catch out quite a few batters (and umpires) during the season!

There is also a sensible amendment to **Law 19**, to allow umpires to signal a boundary where an unforeseen obstruction or occurrence prevents the ball from actually crossing the rope or line. For example, when an over-enthusiastic spectator steps onto the ground to throw the ball back before it has crossed the boundary.

A BATTER'S HELMET FALLING ONTO THEIR WICKET IS NOT OUT

An interesting alteration to **Law 29:2** (which covers the wicket being broken fairly) states that the striker's protective helmet (or attached bits, like a neck protector) is exempt from being penalised (by dismissal) should it break the wicket if it falls from the head. From now on, in such instances, it's not out.

EXCESSIVE MOVEMENT BY KEEPER OR FIELDER PRIOR TO A SHOT BEING PLAYED

Law 27:4:2 (the wicketkeeper) and **28:6** (the fielder) both now bring an immediate award of penalty runs into play should either a keeper or fielder alter their position significantly before the batter has played their shot. A keeper (and fielders) are still permitted to move in anticipation of a shot that the batter looks likely to try and play – e.g. a reverse sweep. The change in the law is to penalise any fielders moving excessively (e.g. from deep square leg to fine leg, say) while the bowler is running in, or a keeper moving too far (e.g. standing back but then coming much closer to the stumps as the bowler runs in). Previously such an occurrence would be called 'dead ball' but the powers-that-be have decided to take this further.

TIMED OUT LAW ALTERED

Timed Out (**Law 40**) is a perfectly valid form of dismissal – more relevant in T20 where there is a 90 second allowance. The law has now been altered to say that the new batter must be 'ready to receive the ball' within 3 mins (or, presumably, 90 seconds in T20), or that the batter currently in must also be ready to receive the ball within those time frames. The only exception is if 'time' has been called (e.g. drinks are being taken at the fall of a wicket).

BATTER MUST PLAY THE BALL STANDING ON THE PITCH

You will be familiar with the scenario of a bowler getting their release all wrong and the ball ballooning out towards gully or point. Although it generally provokes laughter and apologies, there has been controversy in such instances of the batter racing towards the ball to try and whack it to the boundary, bowler and/or fielders trying to retrieve it before it's hit - and whether the umpire should allow it, or call dead ball, or no ball (or wide). Well, from now on **Law 21:8** and **25:8** (which slightly contradict each other) deal with this – the batter must have some part of their person or bat either grounded on (or raised directly above) the pitch to play any shot. If such a ball is delivered the umpire will call no ball immediately followed by dead ball.

CHESHIRE CUP & CHESHIRE SHIELD 2023

HOLDERS: NANTWICH (CHESHIRE CUP) & ROMILEY (CHESHIRE SHIELD)

The 2023 competitions get underway on **May 21** with 15 fixtures spread across the county. Nantwich receive a bye into round two after their win last year at Birkenhead Park, who face a long trip across to Bowdon in their first tie this season. The Cheshire Cup will be a red ball, white clothing competition although changes to this are being considered for 2024 and beyond, with competition regulations unchanged from 2022. The first round draw is as follows:



ALDERLEY EDGE	v	BOLLINGTON
ALSAGER	v	NESTON
BOWDON	v	BIRKENHEAD PK
BRAMHALL	v	CHESTER B.H.
DIDSBURY	v	PORT SUNLIGHT
ELWORTH	v	OULTON PARK
GRAPPENHALL	v	URMSTON
LINDOW	v	NEW BRIGHTON
MACCLESFIELD	v	WIDNES
N.E.CHESHIRE	v	CHEADLE
ROMILEY	v	BROOKLANDS
STOCK. GEORGIANS	v	HYDE
TOFT	v	SALE
WALLASEY	v	TIMPERLEY
WARRINGTON	v	OXTON

**CCCL Div 2 or 3 clubs who are knocked out in R1 will automatically be entered into the Cheshire Shield.*

PROVISIONAL DATES FOR THE RESPECTIVE COMPETITIONS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

CHESHIRE CUP: R1 = MAY 21st R2 = JUNE 11 R3 (Q/F) = JULY 2 SEMI-FINALS = AUG 6
FINAL = SEP 3

CHESHIRE SHIELD: R1 = JUNE 18 R2 = JULY 9 R3 (Q/F) = JULY 23 SEMI-FINALS = AUG 13
FINAL = AUG 27



Nantwich (left) beat Birkenhead Park to win the 2022 Cheshire Cup by 5 wkts, while Romiley defeated Mobberley by 45 runs to claim the 2022 Cheshire Shield.



WK 1: APRIL 22

A mercifully dry first day of 2023 saw six teams victorious in the top flight, with champions **Didsbury** involved in the game of the day as they ran out 22 run winners over **Alderley Edge** at Wilmslow Rd. The result looked improbable after the hosts slid to 135-8 in the 40th over, but a magnificent unbroken stand of 99 for the 9th between **Sam Leech** (78*) and **Liam Booth** (50*) powered Dids to the unthinkable heights of 234-9. AE slid to 39-3 but **Archie Vaughan** - dropped fourth ball - led the recovery, first with **Ed Foster** and then **Richard Wilkinson**. The AE veteran looked in commanding form, hitting 42 off 19 balls at one stage as AE reached 158-4 in the 42nd, by that time the favourites. But when Vaughan (69) was stumped, a clatter of wkts courtesy of **Steve Green** (7-66) saw Wilkinson run out of partners, ninth out for a superb 89 as Didsbury claimed the last wkt in the penultimate over. Just down the road, **Nantwich** put in a workmanlike display to record a 75 run at promoted **Cheadle**, **Luke Robinson's** 67 the mainstay of their 220. Debutant **Jason Foulkes** then returned 7-36 as Cheadle, fighting hard from 54-7, were bowled out for 145. **Neston** recorded a hugely encouraging 77 run win against a strong **Hyde** outfit at Werneth Low. 56 from **Matt Strong** and 68 from **Luke Jones** (at no.7) saw

the visitors go from 145-5 to 256-9, aided by 34 extras. Only four Hyde batsmen made it into double figures, and despite a typically pugnacious 61 from **Andrew Jackson** (including 8 sixes!) Hyde were bowled out inside 36 overs for 179. Elsewhere, **Matt Burns** (60) and **Rohan Luthra** (73*) added 101 to help **Widnes** to a 7 wkt win at **Brooklands**, while a low-key affair at Filkins Lane saw **Chester BH** complete an untidy 5 wkt win over **Oxton** after dismissing the visitors for 125. **Grappenhall's** return to the Prem was a difficult one, four early **Tom Forster** wkts leaving them 43-4, and despite a painstaking 40 from **Ben Bodha**, Toft were set just 123 to win, which they reached in the 32nd over. Grappers will be encouraged to have taken 6 wkts at least but the 25 early pts for a Toft side that struggled last season was a big boost.

WK 2: APRIL 29

However, **Toft** then suffered the worst possible start to their home fixtures, losing 9-15 in a horror show with the bat as **Didsbury** skittled them for just 49, **Liam Booth's** 6-12 setting up a 10 wkt win comfortably completed inside 32 overs of playing time. **Nantwich** also made it two from two with a surprisingly straightforward 6 wkt win over **Chester BH**, extras top scoring

in their pusillanimous 116 at Whitehouse Lane. Although a couple of early wkts boosted the visitors, **Luke Robinson's** 65* saw the Dabbers home inside 26 overs. **Neston** were the other side to make it a 50 pt April after knocking off a challenging 265 set by visitors **Brooklands**, a 48-ball 77 from **Kevin Carroll** their mainstay. In reply, captain **Dane Williams** made 81 and **Matthew Strong** 70*, his good early season form continuing as Neston completed an impressive chase with an over to spare-won with an over to spare. **Henry Dobson's** 72 for **Oxton's** was their only crumb of comfort in a total of 128 against **Hyde**, who had few problems notching their first win of the campaign, leaving Oxton - who won their first four games of 2022 - with only 3 pts from their opening matches. **Cheadle** have also found it hard going back in the top flight, another battling display with the bat to reach 188-7 (**Dan Williams** 66*) not enough against **Alderley Edge** who had to work, but won by 4 wkts, while **Grappenhall's** **Albert Pennington** made 60* and **Arav Shetty** 56 (after taking 3-31) as their side recorded a morale boosting first win away at **Widnes**.

APRIL TABLE

TEAM	PTS
DIDSBURY	50
NANTWICH	50
NESTON	50
ALDERLEY EDGE	31
HYDE	31
WIDNES	30
GRAPPENHALL	27
CHESTER BH	26
TOFT	25
BROOKLANDS	15
CHEADLE	11
OXTON	3

LEADING PLAYERS

PLAYER	RUNS
LUKE ROBINSON (NANT)	132
MATTHEW STRONG (NES)	126
RICHARD WILKINSON (AE)	117
HENRY DOBSON (OXT)	102
DANE WILLIAMS (NES)	100
PLAYER	WKTS
JASON FOULKES (NANT)	10
STEVE GREEN (DIDS)	7
TOM MACRURY (GRAPP)	7
NICK ANDERSON (DIDS)	7

PERFORMANCES OF NOTE

Jason Foulkes 7-36,
Nant v Che, 22.4
Steve Green 7-66,
Dids v AE, 22.4
Liam Booth 6-12,
Dids v Toft, 29.4
Kevin Carroll, 77 (& 4-77),
Brook v Nest, 29.4

WK 1: APRIL 22

Two emphatic results in Div 1 as six sides all kicked their campaigns off with wins. **Sale** were the headline act, a 158 run demolition of new boys **Stockport Georgians** at Dane Rd really catching the eye. Player of the season 2022 **Pat Ashling** (97) carried on where he left off last year, before **Dan Newton** (84 off 66 and then 5-18) put in a stellar performance as Georgians were dismissed for just 96. **Tyrone Lawrence** also chipped in with 38 in his side's 254-6, and later 3-22.

Bowdon set about an immediate return to the top flight with an equally dominant bowling display at Church Lane, dismissing **Bramhall** for just 74 after the hosts had reached 51-3 in pursuit of 173. **Ross Zelem** earlier made 76 for a Bowdon side that looks a good bet to be involved at the top end throughout the season. Two other sides harbouring Premier ambitions, **Timperley** and **Oulton Park**, played out a thriller at Stockport Rd. Put in, OP made 186-9 in their allocation before reducing a healthy-looking Timpers line-up to 74-6 in the 26th. However, a brilliant revival led by **Caedence Kupper** (71*) saw him add 39 with **Jonathan Fowler** and then an unbroken 74 for the 9th with **Tom Matthews** (26), the pair scrambling 2 byes off the fourth ball of the last over to claim a famous win. There was another remarkable recovery at Moorside Rd as

Lindow were powered to a 5 wkt win over **Urmston** courtesy of a fabulous 120* from **Rob Herriott**, the only centurion in any 1st XI fixture on day 1. Along with **Max Law** (54*), Herriott's 101-ball gem saw the pair add 172*, Lindow racing to their 186 target after being 17-5, a stunned Urmston side unable to press home their seemingly strong advantage. **Romiley** had a much more straightforward win over **Congleton** at Birchvale Drive, **James Badrock's** 5-22 seeing the mercurial visitors dismissed for 134. An impressive 82* on debut from **Isaac Willett** saw an 8 wkt win secured with plenty to spare. **Alvanley** were the other winners, their 170 at Victoria Rd proving to be 36 too many for **Macclesfield**.

WK 2: APRIL 29

A thrilling match at South Downs Rd saw **Bowdon** make it two from two with a last-gasp one wkt win over **Romiley**. The visitors' 151 looked no great shakes but another 5-for from **James Badrock** put the skids under the hosts, taking a standing count at 96-8. **Rob Lord** was joined by **James Bottomley**, the pair getting to 133 before Lord fell, and in tangible tension, Bottomley and last man **Neel Deshpande** scraped together the 19 needed, winning with three balls remaining. **Sale** and **Timperley**

were the other 100% sides, Sale winning a low scoring tussle at **Lindow**, although after Sale collapsed from 95-2 to 148 all out, hopes were not high. However, a fine spell of aggressive quick bowling led by **Amyln Layton** saw the hosts fold for 108. **Timperley** were even more comfortable at **Congleton**, dodging the showers and seeing **Viraj Sorathia** (58) and **Jamie Matthews** (64) add 118 for the opening wkt as Timpers' 224 was way too many for the hosts, **Nathan Brown** claiming 5-18 in their 113 run win. **Bramhall** got off the mark with a five wkt victory in a low scoring game at **Stockport Georgians**, as did **Oulton Park** after they won by the same margin in an entertaining tussle with **Macclesfield** at Little Budworth, **Andrew Dufty's** 6-46 the standout performance, although **Ollie Law's** 62* was equally crucial for OP, as were half-centuries for another former CBH player in **Andrew Metcalf**, and veteran **Danny Leech**. However, the man of the day was **Urmston's Liam Marshall**, who top scored with 55 in his side's 194 up at **Alvanley** before retuning 5-24 as the hosts crashed to 87 all out, Urmston's long trip well worth it as they got off the mark for 2023.

APRIL TABLE

TEAM	PTS
BOWDON	50
SALE	50
TIMPERLEY	50
OULTON PARK	34
ROMILEY	33
URMSTON	33
BRAMHALL	29
ALVANLEY	29
LINDOW	29
MACCLESFIELD	13
CONGLETON	7
STOCKPORT GEORGIANS	6

LEADING PLAYERS

PLAYER	RUNS
ROB HERRIOTT (LIN)	121
PAT ASHLING (SALE)	120
ISAAC WILLETT (ROM)	115
JONATHAN FLETCHER (T)	122
LIAM MARSHALL (URM)	115
DAN NEWTON (SALE)	105
PLAYER	WKTS
JAMES BADROCK (ROM)	10
LIAM MARSHALL (URM)	8
ANDREW DUFTY (OP)	8
AMLYN LAYTON (SALE)	7
OLIVER WEBB (BRAM)	7

PERFORMANCES OF NOTE

Rob Herriott 120*, Lind v Urm, 22.4
 James Badrock 5-22,
 Rom v Cong, 22.4
 Oliver Webb 5-46,
 Bram v Bow, 22.4
 Dan Newton 84 (and 5-18),
 Sale v SG, 22.4
 Andrew Dufty 6-46,
 OP v Macc, 29.4
 Nathan Brown 5-18,
 Timp v Cong, 29.4
 James Badrock 5-39,
 Rom v Bow, 29.4
 Ali Azmat 5-46, Cong v Timp, 29.4
 Liam Marshall, 5-24 (and 55),
 Urm v Alv, 29.4

WK 1: APRIL 22

A thrilling finish at Brooks Drive was the standout in the opening round of Div 2 fixtures, **Hale Barns** just holding off a spirited **Christleton** recovery to claim a three-run win. Opener **Jonathan Aikins** made 52 on debut but HB fell away from 93-4 to 129 all out. In reply, Christleton were 62-6, but recovered to 90-6 before opener **Max Dunvaband** became one of five victims for **Joe Cooper**, stumped for 43. It was soon 94-8 but the lower order, led by **Ben Dowling's** 32, inched towards the victory target. As the tension grew, HB skipper **James Guest** bowled Dowling with just four needed to win. There were four other victories on day 1, all much more clear cut. **Port Sunlight** made their long trip to Cale Green worthwhile, ensuring **Stockport** had a tough start to life back in Div 2 as **Tom Palin's** 5-26 helped PS to a 75 run win. Not so far away in Poynton, the other promoted club, **NE Cheshire**, had an equally difficult introduction to Div 2 as they crashed to just 51 all out in the face of **Cheadle Hulme's** experienced attack. Skipper **Jake Reynolds** made almost two-thirds of his side's total, and although an inevitable defeat followed, NEC will at least be encouraged that they made CH work for the runs, taking six wkts. A more surprising batting failure at Butchers Stile as **Davenham's** bowling attack rolled

back the years, skittling **Haslington** for just 78 - the visitors were 35-7 at one stage. Back to bolster the troops, **Mike Rudd** made a patient 41 to seal the 25 pts with a 7 wkt win. **Bollington** were another side to make a disappointing start, folding for just 94 in pursuit of 147 to beat **Mobberley** at the Rec. Mobb's **Osman Butt** made a careful 51, and **Will Beresford-Ince** 48 as Mobb reached 94-3, but there was little else to cheer as **George Hardman** and **Keegan Fortune** both marked their Bolly bows with 3 wkts apiece. Fortune then took 80 balls to make 15 runs as Bolly's batting crumbled in the face of the ageless **Abdul Aqeel** (5-16) and skipper **Matt Mountney** (4-37). **Ash-ton-on-Mersey** (204-7) couldn't decide whether to stick or twist against a strong-looking **Marple** team (237-7) looking for an immediate return to Div 1, Marple having the better of the points.

WK 2: APRIL 29

Sadly it was rain which dominated the divisional programme, but **Cheadle Hulme** escaped the downpours and claimed a second successive win over **Bollington**, who have made the worst possible start to life in Div 2. Bolly's decision to field looked inspired as CH slumped to 7-3, but divisional player of the year **Adam Wilde** made

72, helping CH garner 154-7. **James Longhorn** (38 off 91 bs) led Bolly's painstaking response, **Keegan Fortune** surpassing last week's vigil with 7 off 67 bs, digging a hole that two Toms, **Whitehouse** and **Balderson** exploited, sharing 7-48 between them as Bolly were all out in the 48th over for 84. **Haslington** got their season up and running with a big 141 run demolition of **Ash-ton OM**, who were bowled out for 93 in pursuit of 234. 6-19 from **Mobberley's Luke Stow** saw **Stockport** stumble to 67-8 at Church Lane, but the last two pairs added another 37 to take the visitors to 104, which proved more than enough after **Mike Eley** enjoyed a halcyon day with 7-36, Mobberley showing the inconsistency that haunted them in 2022 as they folded for just 66. **Hale Barns** went from 138-0 to 179-9 playing **Marple**, who were 67-3 when rain ended it. **Port Sunlight** (201) v **Davenham** was abandoned at halfway, and **NE Cheshire's** long trip to **Christleton** frustratingly ended in a washout, even more so as NEC had reduced the hosts to 51-8 at one stage, 92-9 the score when rain had the final say.

APRIL TABLE

TEAM	PTS
CHEADLE HULME	50
DAVENHAM	32
HALE BARNES	32
PORT SUNLIGHT	32
STOCKPORT	30
MOBBERLEY	29
HASLINGTON	26
MARPLE	21
CHRISTLETON	12
ASHTON O.M.	11
N.E.CHESHIRE	9
BOLLINGTON	7

LEADING PLAYERS

PLAYER	RUNS
JONATHAN AIKINS (HB)	121
ADAM WILDE (CH)	84
TYLER STAGG (PS)	75
JACOB NOAKES (MAR)	72
LEWIS DAVIES (PS)	72
PLAYER	WKTS
TOM BALDERSON (CH)	8
MATT MOUNTNEY (MOB)	8
MIKE ELEY (STOCK)	8
LUKE STOW (MOB)	7
ZOHAIB KHAN (AOM)	7

PERFORMANCES OF NOTE

Abdul Aqeel 5-16,
Mobb v Boll, 22.4
Tom Palin 5-26,
PS v Stock, 22.4
Joe Cooper 5-30,
HB v Chris, 22.4
Mike Eley 7-34,
Stock v Mobb, 29.4
Luke Stow 6-19,
Mobb v Stock, 29.4

WK 1 - APRIL 22

The result of the opening day in Div 3 came at **Hawk Green**, where visitors **Oakmere** pulled off a superb 23 run win after themselves managing just 141. Put into bat, Oakmere were all out inside 42 overs, **Slade Mitrovic's** 40 proving to be the highest score of the match as HG - who only just missed out on promotion last year - inexplicably struggled to get going. They lost skipper **Josh Hampson** to the first ball of their reply and then further wkts in clumps as they fell to 118 all out in a chastening start to 2023 for them. **Ashley's Ammad Mushtaq** put in a fine personal display, his 61 followed by 5 wkts as his side made it an unhappy return to the County League for **Northwich**, who went down by 92 runs at Ashley's attractive home. The other side returning after several years away, **Heaton Mersey**, fared much better, taking 13 pts from their drawn game with **Upton**, themselves having to regroup after their 2022 relegation. But Mersey - who lurched to 28-4 before a lower order recovery led by faithful servant **Hassan Rashid** took them to 193-9 - were within a wkt of all 25 pts as **Luke Marshall's** 5-19 led them to the brink of victory, the last Upton pair surviving 10 balls between them to escape. Skipper **Matt Owen** had earlier made a fine 74 out of 115. An egregious struggle took place at The Croft,

where hosts **Barrow**, led by **Ryan Holloway's** 5-37, despatched visitors **Kingsley** for just 93, but in the event this was to prove more than enough as the hosts collapsed for just 51 in 35.1 overs (three more overs than Kingsley batted) **Joel Logan's** 5-20 the main factor in the Barrow demise. **Warrington** found run scoring no easier over at Bromborough Pool, managing just 135-9 in 50 overs against **Maritime**. Pat Tyrrell made 62, as did **Bilal Anwar** for the hosts, who won by 5 wkts. Player of the year **Tom Hyslop** was immediately into action for **Tattenhall** at **Winnington Park** with two wkts and three catches as the hosts made 177-8 in their allocation. With the bat it was a different story, however, Hyslop one of nine players to make single figures as Tatt were all out 100, overseas player **Brett Taylor** making almost half that total himself with a stylish 45. **Scott Edwards** was the pick of the WP attack with 6-24.

WK 2 - APRIL 29

Despite another 5-for from **Kingsley's** Joel Logan, **Maritime's** Vishal Barigela went one better, his 6-21 securing a 33 run win for the Wirral side which saw them joint top of the division along with **Ashley**, for whom **Ammad Mushtaq** again starred. He made 73, comfortably

the innings of the match, to go along with 4-25 as his side came away from The Flacca with a 3 wkt win over **Tattenhall**. There were a few examples of fluent run scoring, the notable one being **Hawk Green**, who clattered 261-3 at **Warrington** with **Elliot Young** hitting a 53-ball 102* after **Josh Hampson** (56) and **Tearan Gleeson** (79) put on a big opening psp. However, the hosts escaped with seven pts after rain washed out their reply. **Tom Marsland** made a run-a-ball 86 as **Upton** raced to a 7 wkt win over **Winnington Park**, while **Heaton Mersey** ground out a 4 wkt win over visitors **Oakmere**, who could only manage 86. HM's 90-6 occupied almost 38 overs, (**John Moon** making 14 off 80 balls) but they were delighted to secure their first CCCL win since their demotion some eight seasons previously. **David McClements' 78** for **Barrow** stood out a mile in their 132 against **Northwich**, his 3-19 then a key factor as the Vics stumbled from 61-2 to 104 all out. **Nicholas Verma** took 125 balls over his 48, the eighth wicket to fall as Barrow recorded a most welcome 25 points. Northwich, on the other hand, look to have a tough season ahead of them.

APRIL TABLE

TEAM	PTS
ASHLEY	50
MARITIME	50
HEATON MERSEY	38
UPTON	33
KINGSLEY	30
BARROW	29
WINNINGTON PARK	28
OAKMERE	27
HAWK GREEN	12
WARRINGTON	11
TATTENHALL	10
NORTHWICH	9

LEADING PLAYERS

PLAYER	RUNS
AMMAD MUSHTAQ (ASH)	134
ELLIOT YOUNG (HG)	118
TRAVIS SCHOLES (WP)	103
TOM MARSLAND (UPT)	99
DAVID McCLEMENTS (BAR)	89
PLAYER	WKTS
JOEL LOGAN (KING)	10
AMMAD MUSHTAQ (ASH)	9
VISHAL BARIGELA (MAR)	8
LUKE MARSHALL (HM)	8
SCOTT EDWARDS (WP)	6

PERFORMANCES OF NOTE

Scott Edwards 6-24, WP v Tatt, 22.4
 Ammad Mushtaq 5-18 (and 61),
 Ash v North, 22.4
 Luke Marshall 5-19, HM v Upt, 22.4
 Joel Logan 5-20, King v Bar, 22.4
 Phil Magowan 5-36, Upt v HM, 22.4
 Ryan Holloway 5-37, Bar v King, 22.4
 Elliot Young 102*, HG v Warr, 29.4
 Vishal Barigela 6-21, Mar v King, 29.4
 David Williams 5-37, Upt v WP, 29.4
 Joel Logan 5-50, King v Mar, 29.4
 Hariprashanth Visvanathan 5-52,
 Nor v Bar, 29.4

2ND XI CRICKET



April 22: a full programme of 2nd XI cricket got underway with five sides recording opening day wins in the **Prem**. **Didsbury's** was the most emphatic, a 10 wkt win at **Bowdon** (**Stuart Stoneman** 87*, **Dan Ward** 64*). Newly promoted **Brooklands** - with **Rob Leach** taking 6-47 - bagged a 6 wkt win over **Toft**, **Oxton** beating **Hyde** by the same margin, while the other promoted side **Lindow** lost a close game to **Sale**. The only side to pass 200, **Nantwich**, beat **Cheadle**. Champions **Chester BH** had to settle for a draw at **Neston**, despite **Riley** father & son taking 7-65 between them. In **Div 1**, **Georgians** captain **Chris Dodd** made 102* as his side hammered **H.Mersey** by 10 wkts, with five other sides all recording opening day wins, while in **Div 2** **Ashton OM's** long trip to **Neston** was rewarded with a nail-biting 1 wkt win, no.10 **Charlie Eaton** ensuring there was no mess as he and **Lee Heap** cobbled together 20 runs to seal 25 pts. **Chris Becker** made 107 for **Dids 2A** in their drawn game at **Warrington** while **Urmston** knocked off 199 to

win at **P.Sunlight**. Three sides were bowled out for double figures in **Div 3**, **Mobberley's** 32 against **Runcorn** the most ignominious in a game lasting 21 overs. **April 29 - Prem:** **Ed Catt's** 6-47 and 63 from **Stuart Stoneman** helped **Didsbury** to a 6 wkt win over **Toft**. **Oxton** also made it two from two with a tense 2 wkt win chasing 184 (in the 51st over) in a great game with **Sale**, while **Lindow** beat **Brooklands**, and **Bowdon** beat **Cheadle**, **Haydn George** with 6-61 there. **Chester BH** drew again, thwarted by the rain as their overs allocation to chase 157 against **Nantwich** was cut, ending on 151-8. **Hyde** were probably more grateful for the rain that saved them after **Neston** had walloped 256-5 at **Werneth Low**. **Div 1:** **Macclesfield's** last pair added an unbroken 50 to record a magnificent 1 wkt win over **Alvanley**, Macc one of four sides to win both April fixtures, along with **Georgians**, **Timperley** and **Grappenhall**. **Div 2:** Three sides lead the way with 50 pts, **Ashton OM**, **Cheadle Hulme** and **Urmston** all with

2ND XI PREM	
TEAM	PTS
DIDSBURY	50
OXTON	50
NANTWICH	34
SALE	34
LINDOW	30
BOWDON	29
BROOKLANDS	26
CHESTER BH	20
NESTON	16
HYDE	14
CHEADLE	10
TOFT	10

perfect starts, while in **Div 3** it's **Bollington** & **Christleton** leading the way. A real run-fest at **The Croft**, where **Barrow** racked up 252-6 against **CBH 3s**, who replied with 215-7.



CHESHIRE CC NEWS

CHESHIRE WASHED OUT OF T20

The early start to the NCCA season did Nick Anderson's men no favours at all, heavy rain completely washing out their opening five games in the competition. Cheshire did finally get to play one of two scheduled T20 games against Staffordshire at Nantwich on Bank Holiday Monday but lost out by 10 runs, a result which left them unable to catch Staffs at the top. Bowdon's Rob Lord was the pick of a decent looking Cheshire attack as Staffs reached a challenging 176-5, but despite a 46-ball 72 from Sam Perry, and skipper Anderson hitting four sixes in his 16-ball 34, he was run out in the last over, from which Cheshire needed 16. Staffs, who enjoyed more fortune with the weather in the group, playing four of their eight matches, top the table, but Cumbria - currently second without having played a single match! - and Northumberland could both still overtake them. Cheshire travel to Netherfield next Sunday (May 7) to take on the Cumbrians, first of two games scheduled to start at 11.00am.



CHESHIRE SENIORS

50s, 60s & 70s Men's County Cricket

PLAYERS WANTED!

CHESHIRE OVER 60s & OVER 70s

Cheshire continue to run thriving teams for those past the venerable age of 50! In 2023 they are especially looking for players for the over 60s and over 70s teams and anyone in those age brackets with an interest in playing is invited to contact Ian Brown on 07802 180980. The over 60s lost out by just 7 runs in their opening game against Durham on April 25 - full details on the County Board website.



3RD XI JACK GARDNER TROPHY MINI-GROUP MATCHES

As is customary, the 3rd XI season kicked off with the T20 mini-groups, all of which were affected by the wet conditions. Holders Didsbury 3s, aiming for a fifth straight win in the competition, won their three games to qualify, one of four Premier Division sides to go through. Here's a round-up of the groups:

Grp 1: DAVENHAM are recorded as winners, beating Northwich and Runcorn and taking a point from their washout against Grappenhall, whose chase of 63 in under 6 overs to beat Northwich was in vain.

Grp 2: SALE won the group, winning the pivotal fixture with last years' beaten finalists Ashley to secure their passage. Bowdon recorded a thrilling 5 run win over Ashton OM in their final fixture, the 54 AOM took off the last six overs not quite enough to overtake Bowdon's 138-3.

Grp 3: BROOKLANDS beat Timperley by 10 runs on BH Monday to finish top, Timpers paying the price for bowling 20 wides & 4 no-balls as Brooklands 110-7 proved enough. Trafford Metrovicks and Hale Barns bowled 44 wides between them in a high scoring match on Monday, 'Vicks winning by 14 runs.

Grp 4: NANTWICH progressed through serenely, although Prestbury's concession of their match with the Dabbers was a disappointment. Toft and Elworth tied a low-scoring clash on BH Monday.

Grp 5: DIDSBURY 4s made it through a rain-affected set of games, winning a truncated tussle at Stockport on ARR, squeaking home against Bramhall in a 12-overs-per-side game by 2 runs, and then having their final fixture against Heaton Mersey cancelled.

Grp 6: DIDSBURY 3s won all three of their matches, the key one their 33 run victory over Premier Division rivals Stockport Georgians. In their other games Georgians walloped 208-2 v. Stockport Trinity and 218-3 v. Cheadle, where Saj Hussain made 102* off just 59 balls.

Grp 7: MARPLE & COMPSTALL were the group winners, winning two and taking a point from the cancelled game against Romiley, one of two fixtures washed out for the Premier Division side, their other a tie with Woodley.

Grp 8: Some confusion over the results in this group but it appears that **MACCLESFIELD** have won the group, beating Premier Division Alderley Edge in a tense, low-scoring affair on Monday.



1ST & 2ND XI T20

The 1st XI T20 mini-groups have been allocated with matches commencing sometime in mid-May. As in 2022, it's a 16 group set up with 4 of those groups comprising just two teams, who will, it seems, only play the one match to decide who goes through. Holders Alderley Edge, looking to record a third successive competition win, are in a three-team group this time, Cheadle Hulme and N.E.Cheshire to be overcome. The other twelve groups all have three teams, Again, as per last year, all the Premier Division clubs are in separate groups, with Cheadle arguably facing the toughest task to qualify, although Didsbury will also have no straightforward passage.

The 2nd XI competition - with the straight knock-out format - sees 10 ties taking place in Round 1, provisionally scheduled for May 23rd (subject to change). 21 teams have received byes into Round 2, with holders Didsbury 2s already drawn against Romiley. Five other round 2 ties have also been drawn (see Play Cricket for details). The Round 1 matches are as follows:

BARROW v OAKMERE UPTON v MARITIME TATTENHALL v CHESTER BH 3s ALVANLEY v RUNCORN
ASHLEY v STOCKPORT URMSTON v ASHTON OM HEATON MERSEY v DISBURY 2A
MACCLESFIELD v CONGLETON WARRINGTON v HALE BARNES DAVENHAM v HASLINGTON

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