

Keeping you connected ...

**2017 OCTOBER AFTER - DINNER NEWSLETTER**

Dinner speaker 'declares'

THE 216 men and women who attended Friday's 43rd annual League Presentation Dinner at Mere, were unable to learn much about principal speaker John Barclay, the former Eton College and Sussex captain and England team manager.

After a gruelling six hours' drive up from London, he had been speaking for less than 10 minutes when the faltering microphone he was holding went dead and he decided he couldn't continue. "That's me done, I'm declaring myself out!" he announced, jumping down off the stage to resume his seat.

Fortunately for the audience – and the event organisers – the second speaker, Dr. Kevin Jones MD rose to the occasion and delighted everyone with half an hour of humorous tales about the country's operating theatres. By profession a leading consultant chest physician, he lived up to his description as 'a practising mirthologist' saying he had now become an 'After-Dinner shouter!' He had clearly extended his repertoire since last speaking at Mere in 2006.

MC Rob Sproston said the League would take up the case of the failing PA system with the hotel authorities.

The attendance, although rated disappointing by the organisers, was three up on 2016 even though Bollington, Cheadle, Mobberley and Weaverham were not present and will face fines.

Another absentee was League secretary Geoff Wellsted who had put in many weeks' work organising the function. He was called away shortly before the start when receiving a message that his wife, Penny, was ill. Geoff dashed away to take her to Arrowse Park Hospital near the couple's Caldby home and later reported her to be stable. Ian Sharrock took over the trophy organisation at short notice.

Ross speaks

AN amusing and modest address was given by Ross Dixon, captain of Chester Boughton Hall after he had been presented with the Murray Smith Trophy as ECB Premier League champions.

Ross said: "It was a thrill, at 25, to win the league's biggest honour in my first season in charge. We had a fantastic team spirit, helped by the fact that nine of our squad of 15 had been club members since the age of 13".

He recalled: "We didn't make a very good start in our first match back in April. I feared the worst when we were 0-2 at home to Neston. But we went on to declare at 367-5, so I knew then we had the ability to go all the way".

The Chester skipper thanked the League's main sponsors Vivio - who occupied a table of 10 at the dinner – for their continued support. Also Joseph Holt Brewery for providing the financial backing for the three T20 knock out competitions, the Umpires panel and the League committee for their hard work.

Other guests were welcomed from Cheshire County Cricket Club and UKFast Cheshire Cricket League.

AFTER DINNER NEWSLETTER: p2

THE 30 - STRONG HONOURS LIST

THIRTY awards were presented in the following order at the Dinner, by chairman David Humpage, president Mike Talbot-Butler and Umpires Association representative John Lofthouse.

Fair Play award (Eddie Howard Memorial Shield): BARROW

Umpire of Year (Terry Hill Memorial Trophy): MARTIN HOWE

July Performance of Month (Joseph Holt Brewery sponsored): DAVID HURST (Neston)

August / September Performance of Month (Joseph Holt Brewery sponsored): TOM ISHERWOOD (Macclesfield 2nd)

John North Memorial Young Player of Year: ED FLUCK (Alderley Edge)

Most Improved Club (Henderson Rose Bowl): NANTWICH

Division 2 Player of Year (Mike Talbot-Butler Statuette): ALEX REID (Barrow)

Division 2 Player of Year (Mark Alcroft Trophy): PAUL WOOD (Marple)

Premier Division Player of Year (Keith Belfield Memorial Trophy): JIMMY WARRINGTON (Nantwich)

Over 40s Central Division joint winners (Ron Fleet Memorial Trophy): GRAPPENHALL & TOFT

Over 40s North-East Division winners (Bill Brown Shield): URMSTON TIGERS

Over 40s South East Division winners: (BOLLINGTON VETERANS).

Over 40s West Division winners: (Wyn Talbot-Butler Trophy): CHESTER BLAZERS

Over 40s play-off winners (Tailor Made Trophy): GRAPPENHALL

Third XI Joseph Holt T20 winners (Jack Gardner Trophy): NESTON & STOCKPORT shared

Second XI Joseph Holt T20 winners: ALDERLEY EDGE

First XI Joseph Holt T20 winners (Fred Graham Trophy): NESTON

Aggregate Trophy winners (Sandy Scrimgeour Rose Bowl): OULTON PARK

Third XI Sunday Division 3 East winners: LINDOW

Third XI Sunday Division 2 East winners: TIMPERLEY

Third XI Sunday Division 1 East winners (Douglas Bourne Trophy): STOCKPORT

Third XI Sunday West Division winners (Sunday Trophy): OXTON

Third XI Central Division winners (Norman Bloor Trophy): TOFT

Third XI Sunday Premier Division winners (Benoy Trophy): SALE

Second XI Division 2 winners: SALE

Second XI Division One winners (Foden Shield) : OULTON PARK

Second XI Premier Division winners (Norman Halsall Trophy): TOFT

First XI Division 3 winners (Norman Bloor Trophy): BARROW

First XI Division 1 winners (Foden Trophy): OULTON PARK

First XI ECB Premier League champions (Murray Smith Trophy): CHESTER BOUGHTON HALL.

All winners and some runners-up also received plaques.

● The menu card produced by MC Sproston, referred to the external successes of Neston reaching the ECB National T20 Area finals; Chester winning the Cheshire Cup for the fifth time in six seasons, Romiley winning the Cheshire Shield and Cheshire Veterans winning the Seevent National Over 60s 2nd XI championship.

The MC's Citations script was written by Mike Talbot-Butler.

PLAYER OF YEAR AWARDS

Jimmy Warrington is Premiership's favourite

THE only current ECB Premiership bowler with more than 500 wickets to his name, popular Nantwich paceman JIMMY WARRINGTON was presented with the Keith Belfield Memorial Trophy as the division's Player of the Year at the Dinner.

Jimmy claimed 28 pc of the votes cast, capturing 60 wickets to help his team finish runners-up in the table.

Second with 16 pc backing from his peers was reliable Nantwich batsman Ryan Brown. An ever-present for the Dabbers, who also played for Cheshire, Ryan totalled 767 runs.

Third in the voting with 12 pc was classy Chester batsman Warren Goodwin, who scored 791 runs.

DIVISION 1 AWARD FOR PAUL WOOD

AN impressive 48 per cent share of the total vote for the First Division Player of the Year went to Marple skipper PAUL WOOD.

His superb batting form helped his team win promotion on the final day of the season, scoring 791 runs at 55, including half centuries in nine successive games.

Runner-up was 2016 winner Danny Leech of Oulton Park, with a 31 per cent voting share. One of the league's longest-serving and most popular players, Danny helped Oulton win the title and promotion with 837 runs, earning a recall by Cheshire and his first Minor Counties century for seven years and scoring a century against Oxfordshire at Chester.

Third spot with a 9 pc vote share went to one of the division's best all-rounders, Urmston skipper Callum Turner, who scored 750 runs including three centuries.

Barrow's Alex Reid caps a fine season

BARROW captain and all-rounder ALEX REID with a 25 pc share of the total vote won him the Second Division's Mike Talbot-Butler Statuette.

Alex's fine form with 697 runs and 20 wickets was an inspiration to his team

Second place with a 12 pc vote share was Ryan O'Brien of Lindow, who scored 584 runs and took 26 wickets.

Third (10 pc) was outstanding Mobberley all-rounder Abdul Aqeel who scored 532 runs and took 54 wickets including a 9-21 return against Cheadle Hulme, the best bowling figures for any division last season.

The voting invigilator was 1st XI Competition secretary Ian Sharrock.

ED FLUCK IS NUMBER 1 YOUNG PLAYER

THE League have presented their Young Player of the Year award to a succession of highly-talented players in recent years, several of who have gone on to play in first-class cricket.

But few have matched the credentials of latest winner, 17 year-old ED FLUCK of Alderley Edge.

Cricket captain at Cheadle Hulme School, for whom he scored a double century last season, Ed has skippered every Cheshire age group from the age of 10 and was recently named Cheshire Youth Cricket's Player of the Year.

Currently gaining experience at the Lancashire Academy, he recently scored a century from 37 balls in a T20 game and when called upon for Minor Counties duty by Cheshire, hit 80 against Wales on his home club ground here his proud father, Andy, is chairman.

AFTER DINNER NEWSLETTER: p4

Nantwich are Most Improved club

WINNERS of the Henderson Rose Bowl as the League's Most Improved Club were NANTWICH.

Reaching their decision, the Cricket Committee considered that Nantwich had moved up nine places in the Aggregate table, their 1st XI from near relegation to runners-up in the ECB Premier League; the 2nd XI from promoted to runners-up; 3rd XI from promoted to sixth. The club's pitch marks were up and administration was good with only two fines imposed..

Principal other contenders were Toft: up seven aggregate places from 20 to 13; 1st XI up from 8 to 4; 2nd up from 7 to champions; 3rd XI up from relegated to divisional play-offs.

Also considered were the improvements made by Alvanley, Sale, Oulton Park and Marple

AGGREGATE TABLE (1st & 2nd XI pts. combined)

FOR the first time on record in 2017, the same clubs occupied the top seven places in the premier divisions of 1st and 2nd XI cricket.

PLACING & CLUB	1st XI pts.	2nd XI pts.	Total pts.	2016 placing (+ or -)	
1. OULTON PARK	419 (Div. 1 ch)	453 (Div. 1 ch)	872	2	+1
2. CHESTER BO.HALL	411 (PL ch)	411	822	10	+8
3. NANTWICH	398	418	816	11	+9
4. ALVANLEY	368	377	745	17	+13
5. NESTON	317	411	728	7	+2
6. GRAPPENHALL	261	450	711	5	-1
7. SALE	247	444 (Div. 2 ch)	691	16	+9
8. BOLLINGTON	350	322	672	8	-
9. ALDERLEY EDGE	352	305	657	6	-3
10. BROOKLANDS	345	286	631	15	+5
11. BRAMHALL	275	332	607	22	+11
12. TIMPERLEY	309	297	606	21	+9
13. TOFT	318	284 (P Div. Ch)	602	20	+7
14. MARPLE	387	204	591	26	+12
15= WARRINGTON	163	417	580	29	+14
15= WIDNES	366	214	580	1	-14
17. CHEADLE	261	307	568	30	+13
18. MACCLESFIELD	349	215	564	24	+6
19. URMSTON	291	272	563	34	+15
20. DIDSBURY	278	280	558	4	-16
21=BOWDON	186	351	537	11	-10
21=LINDOW	329	308	537	19	-2
23. DAVENHAM	348	178	526	18	-5
24. OXTON	270	229	499	27	+3
25=STOCKPORT	377	111	488	13=	-12
25=UPTON	296	192	488	3	-22
27. NORTHWICH	292	171	463	25	-2
28. HYDE	226	229	455	9	-18
29. CHEADLE HULME	132	254	386	32	+3
30. TATTENHALL	237	122	359	31	+1
31. WEAVERHAM	115	128	243	13=	-18.

● Ashton on Mersey, Barrow (1st XI Division 2 champions), Bredbury St. Mark's, Christleton, Congleton, Heaton Mersey, Middlewich, Mobberley and Stockport Georgians all fielded one team in the league and do not qualify.

Promoted Barrow top Fair Play rankings

LEAGUE Division Two champions BARROW finished top of the Fair Play table and received the Eddie Howard Memorial Trophy at Friday's dinner

With a return of 4 marks (maximum 5), Barrow finishing narrowly ahead of three joint runners-up Lindow and Tattenhall – also of Division Two – and Urmston, all narrowly behind with returns of 3.99

The only ECB Premiership club in the top nine was Neston (3.96).

At the foot of the table with a return of 3.70 were Cheadle Hulme, who have lost their place in the league after finishing bottom of Division Two.

The overall figures indicate a slight improvement on 2016 despite complaints from umpires about general player behaviour.

John Lofthouse assembled the weekly umpires' reports.

HOW THEY RATED ...

1.	4.00	BARROW
2=	3.99	LINDOW, TATTENHALL, URMSTON
5=	3.98	MARPLE, SALE
7=	3.96	CHRISTLETON, MACCLESFIELD, NESTON
10=	3.95	BRAMHALL, CHESTER BOUGHTON HALL
12=	3.94	BOWDON, CHEADLE
14=	3.93	HYDE, NANTWICH, OULTON PARK
17=	3.91	ALDERLEY EDGE, ROMILEY, UPTON
20=	3.90	DAVENHAM
21.	3.89	MOBBERLEY
22=	3.87	BOLLINGTON, GRAPPENALL, WARRINGTON
25.	3.86	DIDSBURY
26=	3.85	BREDBURY ST. MARK'S, TIMPERLEY, TOFT
29.	3.83	WIDNES
30=	3.81	BROOKLANDS, WEAVERHAM
32.	3.80	NORTHWICH
33	3.79	OXTON
34.	3.78	STOCKPORT
35.	3.77	ALVANLEY
36.	3.70	CHEADLE HULME

● Joint Fair Play winners in 2016 were Bramhall with a return of 4.03. Second equal with 3.99 were Chester, Congleton, Mobberley and Upton. Bottom were Timperley (3.59).

MARTIN HOWE IS UMPIRE OF YEAR

WINNER of the Terry Hill Memorial Trophy as the League's Umpire of the Year, MARTIN HOWE received his award at the Presentation Dinner.

Martin arrived from the Cheshire Cricket League in 2013 and was subsequently promoted to the ECB Premiership panel on the strength of consistently good marks from club captains.

A former player at Ashley CC, Martin enjoys his winters by refereeing and running the line in the Northern Premier and North-West Counties Football Leagues

AFTER DINNER NEWSLETTER: p6

Trio have best pitches and outfields

OXTON, Christleton and Grappenhall were all placed in the top four in the **Pitch and Outfield tables** compiled by League Grounds chairman John Bygate from 2017 panel umpires reports .

Division 2 Christleton topped the Pitch rankings with an average of 18.36 marks per match (maximum 20). Second on 18.09 were Grappenhall, with Oxtton fourth on 17.82 closely following champions Chester Boughton Hall, 17.89.

At the foot of the table, Timperley's marks can be discounted as they played most of their 'home' games away due to ground problems. The bottom seven clubs averaged below 16.

In the Outfields list, Oxtton achieved the high mark of 19.90, followed by Christleton, 19.80 and Grappenhall, level third with Neston on 19.78

Timperley had the same problems, while Bollington and Lindow averaged under 16.

Many clubs' marks in both categories were below those achieved in 2016 due to the wet season resulting in groundsmen struggling in bad conditions. Many weekly reports were discounted altogether.

John Bygate says: "Almost all clubs made big efforts to produce pitches and outfields of the highest order and while pitch figures were generally down on 2016 this was due to the wet summer".

He added: "We remain fortunate in Cheshire to have such fine grounds and groundsmen, but I urge clubs not to be complacent and for those at the foot of the table to re double their efforts to improve".

PITCH MARKS

(varying number of reports indicates many matches cancelled/abandoned/wet)

CLUB	Reports	2017 average	2016 average	=& + or -
1. CHRISTLETON	11	18.36	18.38	+
2. GRAPPENHALL	11	18.09	17.91	+
3. CHESTER BO. HALL	9	17.89	18.57	-
4. OXTON	11	17.82	18.64	-
5. NANTWICH	10	17.50	17.00	+
6. URMSTON	11	17.45	17.67	-
7. ALVANLEY	10	17.40	17.71	+
8. NESTON	9	17.22	16.64	+
9. WEAVERHAM	10	17.20	17.20	no change
10. SALE	10	17.10	17.67	-
11=CHEADLE HULME	10	17.00	15.71	+
11=HYDE	6	17.00	17.33	-
13. NORTHWICH	11	16.91	15.20	+
14. MACCLESFIELD	11	16.82	16.88	-
15=BOLLINGTON	10	16.80	15.89	+
15=WIDNES	10	16.80	17.13	-
17=BARROW	11	16.73	17.13	-
17=WARRINGTON	11	16.73	17.00	-
19. BRAMHALL	9	16.67	16.25	+
20. MARPLE	8	16.63	16.60	+
21. BOWDON	11	16.45	17.50	-
22=ALDERLEY EDGE	9	16.44	17.00	-
22=TOFT	9	16.44	16.88	-
24. DIDSBURY	10	16.40	16.67	-
25. TATTENHALL	11	16.27	17.25	-
26. MOBBERLEY	10	16.20	17.50	-
27. UPTON	11	16.18	17.43	-

28. DAVENHAM	10	16.00	17.00	-
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AFTER DINNER NEWSLETTER: p7

Pitch marks continued ...

29. BREDBURY ST.M.	11	15.91	does not apply	
30. OULTON PARK	10	15.90	18.14	-
31. BROOKLANDS	11	15.82	15.60	+
32. STOCKPORT	11	15.82	16.89	-
33. ROMILEY	8	15.63	does not apply	
34. CHEADLE	8	15.25	15.63	-
35. LINDOW	10	15.10	16.56	-
36. TIMPERLEY	5	-	16.43	-

OUTFIELD MARKS

	Reports	Average	2016 average	= + or -
1. OXTON	10	19.90	19.91	-
2. CHRISTLETON	10	19.80	19.80	no change
3. GRAPPENHALL	9	19.78	18.50	+
4. NESTON	9	19.78	19.64	+
5. CHESTER BO. HALL	11	19.64	19.43	+
6. NANTWICH	11	19.55	19.56	-
7. URMSTON	10	19.40	19,43	-
8. BRAMHALL	9	19.33	18.11	+
9. DIDSBURY	10	19.20	18.78	+
10=BOWDON	11	19,18	18.83	+
10= STOCKPORT	11	19.18	19.44	-
12. TATTENHALL	10	18.90	19.63	-
13. ALDERLEY EDGE	11	18.82	18.78	+
14. WEAVERHAM	11	18.73	18.50	+
15. HYDE	9	18.67	19.75	-
16= MACCLESFIELD	11	18.45	17.33	+
16=TOFT	11.	18.45	18.67	-
18.WIDNES	10	18.40	18.00	+
19, BARROW	11	18.27	18.75	-
20. CHEADLE HULME	9	18.22	16.57	+
21=ALVANLEY	10	18.10	19.43	-
21 =DAVENHAM	10	18.10	18.67	-
23. MARPLE	8	18,00	18.80	-
24. NORTHWICH	11	17.91	17.50	+
25=BREDBURY ST. M.	10	17.90	-	does not apply
25=MOBBERLEY	10	17.90	18.50	-
27. WARRINGTON	10	17.80	17.71	-
28. CHEADLE	10	17.70	18.00	-
29. SALE	10	17.50	17.22	+
30. OULTON PARK	11	17.36	18.71	-
31=BROOKLANDS	12	17.00	17.50	-
31=ROMILEY	8	17.00	does not apply	
31=UPTON	10	17.00	17.71	-
34. LINDOW	10	16.80	17.22	-
35. BOLLINGTON	10	16.30	15.78	+
36. TIMPERLEY	7	15.40	16.11	+

Umpires' pitch and outfield marks for the final games on Saturday, September 16 were:

ECB Premier League. Alderley v Neston pitch 16 outfield 19; Bowdon v Bramhall 17-20; Cheadle v Toft 16-16; Chester v Hyde 17 – 20; Nantwich v Didsbury 17 – 18; Timperley v Grappenhall 15-19.

Division 1: Davenham v Oulton 16-17; Macclesfield v Marple 17-18; Sale v Weaverham 16-19; Upton v Oxtan 16-16; Urmston v Bollington 15-20; Warrington v Widnes 15-18.

Division 2: Alvanley v Cheadle Hulme not played; Bredbury v Brooklamds 15-18; Lindow v Christleton 14-16; Mobberley v Romiley 16-17; Northwich v Barrow 18-20; Stockport v Tattenhall 15-20.

Marked below standard were umpires rooms at Alderley Edge, Nantwich, Upton and Bredbury.

AFTER DINNER NEWSLETTER: p8

Players of Month for July and August / September

AWARDS for the Best Individual Performance of the Month for July and also for August & September were presented at Friday's dinner.

The July prize went to Neston batsman DAVID HURST, who scored 150 off 58 balls in his team's Joseph Holt T20 semi-final victory over Hyde at Werneth Low.

Winner of the August & September award was TOM ISHERWOOD (Macclesfield 2nd) who contributed an unbeaten innings of 174 to his side's victory at Marple on the last day of the season, Saturday, September 16. It was the highest innings in 2nd XI cricket.

The awards provided by Joseph Holt Brewery took the form of framed certificates and packs of the company's best beer.

21 players were suspended in 2017

WITH poor discipline continuing to be a concern, a total of 21 players were suspended during the 2017 season.

Five been been from the Premier Division, nine from Division One, four from Division Two and three others.

This was reported by League Umpires & Scorers Association chairman Ian Greensmith at the end of season meeting at Alvanley on September 20.

Mr. Greensmith said 11 cautions were also issued and Urmston were called before the disciplinary panel for a poor record of abusing opponents

Pre-season Discipline Forums had been effective, but indiscipline continued.

Inconsistency was cited by some captains, as a criticism of umpires.

All 1st XI fixtures had been covered last season except for one due to a misunderstanding.

This had been helped by good co-operation by the UKFast League.

New Laws were coming into effect on October 1 and there would be training panels to help explain them. All members had been sent a booklet containing details

The Association AGM was booked for Wednesday, November 8 at Toft starting at 8 p.m.

The Association had a healthy bank balance of £1,033.37.

Umpire David Gane suggested that some money might be put towards providing panel umpires with walkie-talkies so they could keep in closer touch with the scorers. It was suggested these could cost £20 per pair. The Association committee would consider this.

It was proposed that there should be an amalgamation of the county's three Umpires & Scorers Associations. This would be considered further, but not for 2018.

The quiz was deferred to the AGM.

Hyde seek to rejoin Over 40s

FOUNDER members Hyde will apply to rejoin the **Over Forties section** at the special general meeting planned for Wednesday, October 18 at Warrington, starting at 7 p.m.

As there have been no resignations from the 32-club format, Hyde's admission would mean one of the four divisions having to accommodate nine clubs which would mean an open date for one each week.

The season will provisionally open on Wednesday, May 1 with Finals Day on Sunday, September 2 on a ground yet to be decided.

Competition secretary Mike Talbot-Butler invites contact from clubs prior to the meeting with further applications, resignations, proposals for regulation changes etc. to mike.t-b@talktalk.net.

Agendas have been sent out to all existing member clubs within the past week. Anyone who has not received a communication should contact the above.

AFTER DINNER NEWSLETTER: p9

Death of Keith Warburton, 69

THE death occurred on Thursday, September 28 of Keith Warburton, aged 69, the former Cheadle Over Forties, Woodford and Wilmslow Wayfarers cricketer, a leading member of the UKFast Cheshire League umpires panel and formerly that of the Cheshire County League.

Keith, who had been suffering from cancer, was a keen Stockport County fan and his death was announced to a crowd of 3,000 at a recent County v FC United FA Cup match at Edgeley Park from information provided by his good friend, Cheshire Board secretary David Sharp.

He leaves a brother, Ian and partner, Carol.

His funeral is at Stockport crematorium on Wednesday, October 11 at 12 noon.

2018 SEASON DATES

THE Vivio Cheshire County League's 2018 season will officially open on Saturday, April 21.

The playing season will end over the week-end of Saturday / Sunday, September 15 / 16.

**This *Newsletter* was compiled & edited by Mike Talbot-Butler
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**Up-to-date club news, e-mails of any variety with opinions,
corrections, comments, grumbles etc., will be welcomed before the
next issue in early November**