

COUNTY LEAGUE NEWS



on behalf of Cheshire Clubs Cricket Committee (4 Cs)

SEPT 12 - 20, 2020

Neston & Nantwich

triumphant !

Grappenhall, Hale Barns, Cheadle and
Didsbury also take titles



CHESHIRE COUNTY CRICKET LEAGUE



FROM THE EDITOR



It's been a great pleasure putting this final edition of the newsletter together, as I have had chance to catch up with all the finals played last Sunday and also was able to see in person the Cheshire Cup final, the first time I have been able to do so! And what a wonderful end to the season, the weather being very kind to the whole of Cheshire as all the finals were played uninterrupted in front of good size crowds, generating plenty of crucial bar revenue. And there was the whole spectrum of cricket - lots of brilliant individual moments, great team performances, some nail biting finishes - including a super over in one of the finals - plenty of tension, and also some more comfortable vic-

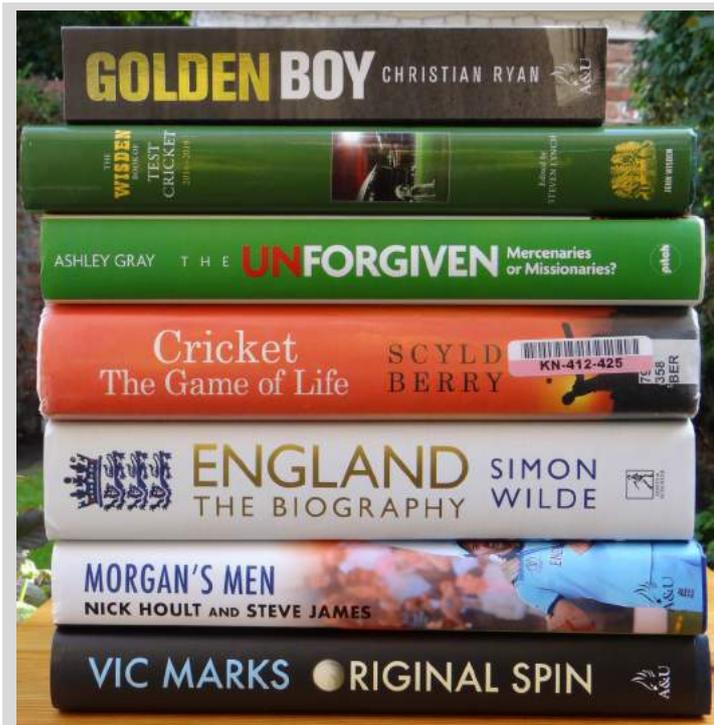
tories too. In other words, just what you would expect from a finals day featuring six matches. And what a great reward it turned out to be for the County League. I have been aware of some carping in the later stages of the season along the lines of the multi-formatted games being too much choice and making it unfair. Frankly, that's rubbish. Given the guidelines the ECB laid down for short matches being the default, the County League, in something of a 'no win' situation, tried to be as flexible as possible within those parameters, trying to encourage participation and competitive cricket too, and as a result there has been plenty of varied cricket to play and enjoy. 'Win-lose' was boldly instituted in all matches and this experiment will help inform decisions about whether it remains in 2021. No-one is saying that the solutions were perfect - travel and Covid-safety issues in the regionalised divisions were a problem, in particular, and playing back to back T20s was a new experience for many - but considering there was the very

real possibility of no cricket at all, I would like to hope that all of us could simply be glad we had the few weeks we did have. Which brings me to more rubbish that I heard recently, about the league having had 'months to prepare' - they didn't. Lots of time could have been spent on umpteen hypothetical scenarios, not knowing if there would be any cricket at all, or how long a season might last - and in the event, on July 3rd the Government said cricket could commence on July 11! To try and organise the logistics of a competition, working out when and where 1st and 2nd XIs would have access to grounds, ensuring clubs had time to become as Covid-proof as possible, and be started by July 26, and come up with a meaningful system of matches and finals days was a miracle, achieved by hundreds of players, officials, groundsmen and club members pulling together. If that's you - a very, very big thank you!

James

READ ANY GOOD BOOKS LATELY?

I spent much of the early season downtime catching up on some reading. Cricket being a sport which attracts acres of written coverage, if books appeal then you are spoiled for choice, and the selection opposite - a couple of recent books, some older - should appeal, if you haven't discovered these titles already. Cricket bios aren't often that good but **Vic Marks** thankfully reverses that trend; **Simon Wilde's** award winning book is a brilliant combination of facts and stories piecing together the development of the game we all love, while **Scyld Berry** will particularly appeal to older readers in his depiction of what cricket means. **Christian Ryan's** fascinating account of Kim Hughes' tenure as Australia captain shines a light on the less glamorous side of international cricket; **'Unforgiven'**, from the same era, looks at the rebel West Indies tours to South Africa in 1983/4 by telling the stories of all those who decided to go and tracking them down now. More up to date, **'Morgan's Men'** recounts England's 2019 World Cup with two of the best current cricket writers, while the latest edition of the **Wisden Book of Test Cricket** is quite simply an indispensable part of a cricket lovers' library.



1ST XI RUNS AND WICKETS

A final summary of the top run scorers and wicket takers in each division. More detailed stats are available on the Play Cricket site and, of course, it's an 'unscientific' set of tables due to the differing formats played. But nonetheless it's a fair effort to be in the top five of any of these tables, and a particular word of note for Christleton's Aamir Afzaal, the only player to hit two league hundreds this year and finish top run scorer and wicket taker in a division.

PREM DIV WEST	TEAM	RUNS
WARREN GOODWIN	CBH	303
ALEX MONEY	CBH	298
LUKE CAMDEN	NEST	291
SIMON STOKES	NEST	291
MARTYN EAST	OP	282

PREM DIV WEST	TEAM	WKTS
MITCHELL SPENCER	NANT	22
GEORGE McCORMICK	CBH	16
MATTHEW JONES	CBH	15
ANDREW DUFTY	OP	15
JACK CORRAN	OXT	15

PREM DIV EAST	TEAM	RUNS
TIM HUGHES	DIDS	384
FURQAN SHAFIQ	TIMP	376
STEVE GREEN	DIDS	300
NICK ANDERSON	DIDS	292
ED FLUCK	AE	236

PREM DIV EAST	TEAM	WKTS
STEVE GREEN	DIDS	16
NICK ANDERSON	DIDS	15
LIAM BOOTH	DIDS	14
CHRIS SANDERS	AE	14
MATT GREGSON	DIDS	13

DIV 1 WEST	TEAM	RUNS
PAT ASHLING	BOW	348
KEVIN CARROLL	BRK	315
GRANT HODNETT	GRA	243
ADAM ROYLANCE	GRA	238
PETER BARNES	GRA	193

DIV 1 WEST	TEAM	WKTS
ADAM ROYLANCE	GRA	22
ROB LEACH	BRO	22
SAM GUEST	GRA	20
CHRIS ASHLING	BOW	18
BRAD RODEN	WAR	18

DIV 1 EAST	TEAM	RUNS
GREG DIXON	BRA	461
ZEESHAN ASSI	URM	345
JACK CLARK	BRA	303
ANGUS THOMPSON	MAC	303
SUMIT PANDA	URM	274

DIV 1 EAST	TEAM	WKTS
STUART PLANT	BOLL	19
JACK MASSEY	MACC	18
PATRICK TURNER	MACC	17
JOHN BIRCHALL	MACC	16
KIERAN BERRINGTON	BRAM	15



Aamir Afzaal

DIV 2 WEST	TEAM	RUNS
AAMIR AFZAAL	CHR	395
CHRIS CHARLES	ALV	219
KHURRUM HUSSAIN	HB	195
JAMIE GRIFFITHS	CHR	180
SAM SMITH	HB	162

DIV 2 WEST	TEAM	WKTS
AAMIR AFZAAL	CHR	20
ARSLAN DAR	CHR	19
STEPHEN CHARLES	ALV	17
JOE WILLIAMS	BAR	14
BEN HICKS	HB	14

DIV 2 EAST	TEAM	RUNS
SIMON NORMANTON	GEO	370
BEN ISTEAD	HAS	358
ROBIN BROOM	LIND	346
JACK MORAN	HAS	298
IBRAR LATIF	MOB	254

DIV 2 EAST	TEAM	WKTS
TOM GLEDHILL	HAS	22
ALEX HOOTON	ROM	20
JAMES LOCKE	GEO	19
GEORGE HARDMAN	GEO	19
RYAN O'BRIEN	LIN	19

CCCL PREMIER DIVISION

WINNERS: NESTON RUNNERS UP: DIDSBURY



FINAL SATURDAY ROUND UP: Both divisions had 'semi finals' in effect; *in the East division*, Hyde hosted Didsbury with the visitors needing a point and the hosts knowing two wins would see them qualify. Hyde barely broke sweat winning the first T20, which set up match two perfectly. Batting first, Hyde's 152-8 on a used pitch was a good score, but having been 110-2 after 14, they looked set for more. Didsbury overcame the loss of an early wicket to pace their chase well, a burst of 36 off 2 overs mid-innings helping see them to victory, and the required points, in the 18th over. *In the West*, Oulton Park travelled to Neston knowing they needed two wins, but the hosts crucially prevailed in match one, winning by 6 wickets with three overs in hand, to render the second result academic - in the event, Neston squeezed home by just 5 runs. Good prep for the final....!

FINAL: SUNDAY SEPT 13TH

MATCH 1 - NESTON (144-7) beat DIDSBURY (142) BY 2 RUNS

MATCH 2 - NESTON (132) beat DIDSBURY (114) BY 18 RUNS

UMPIRES: STEVE WALTON & GED KINSEY

SCORERS: NIGEL HARDERN (NESTON) & HENRIK HOLM (DIDSBURY)

In front of a packed crowd, the Premier Division reached a gripping climax at Neston's beautiful facility on a glorious Sunday. The hosts chose to bat first in game one and were off to a flyer, captain Simon Stokes & Will Evans helping the hosts rattling up 62-1 after 6 overs but Didsbury stuck at it and dragged the run rate back, Steve Green even conjuring a maiden and captain Matt Gregson picking up 3-20 as Neston reached 144, a decent target but not as many as looked likely. Luke Jones then caused havoc as Neston dominated in the early stages of Didsbury's reply, two wickets in the first over, one in the second and two in successive balls in

PHOTO: PHIL DAVIS



the fifth left the visitors listing heavily to starboard at 28-5. Sam Leech (55 off 42) masterminded a brilliant recovery, first with Fred Kamstra and then with Liam Booth (32 off 26), the pair adding 71 off 48 balls until both fell in the 19th over having taken the visitors right to the brink, needing 5 off the last with the last pair at the crease. Sadly for Didsbury they could only manage two under a lot of pressure and, despite a magnificent fight-back from the early wreckage, Neston held on and won by 2 runs.

Game two followed a similar pattern. On a wearing pitch, Neston reached 51-2 in the powerplay and saw useful contributions from Luke Camden, Dane Williams and the experienced David Hurst but Michael Taylor's 4-16 saw Neston manage 132 - just one wide in those 20 overs, incidentally. Didsbury avoided the early disasters

of game one and got themselves to 98-5 at the end of the 15th over, needing 35 off 30. Then the crucial blow for Neston, as David Hurst removed the dangerous Fred Kamstra, and off the next 11 balls Didsbury could only manage two runs, losing another wicket in the process. Matt Gregson hit back, taking 13 off Ash Davis, to leave Didsbury requiring 20 off 2 overs. But again it was Hurst making a crucial contribution, with a run out and two in two as Didsbury were all out for 114. A fabulous advert for the game, both sides congratulated each other and enjoyed a beer after a wonderful day and a full on weekend, Neston's Simon Stokes receiving the winners Shield.



Neston Cricket Club @Neston_CC · Sep 14

2 fantastic games Mike, your lads played very well, unlucky on the day, could have gone either way. See you all next season 🍀



Michael Taylor @M_H_Taylor · Sep 14

@Neston_CC well done today (yesterday) lads - you beat us and properly deserved it. Looking forward to next year.



Photos:
Don Hurst



CCCL DIVISION ONE

WINNERS: GRAPPENHALL RUNNERS UP: URMSTON



FINAL SATURDAY ROUND UP: *In the East division, Macclesfield travelled to Urmston with the winners going into finals day, and it was to be from side Urmston who prevailed, a fast start in their first T20 getting 60 on the board in 8 overs, with Zeeshan Assi then hitting 51* off 37 and Matt Kilcourse 21* off 13 as the hosts totalled 154-4. 54-0 off 8 in reply, Macc were set to have a tilt at the remaining 101 off 72 balls, but tight Urmston bowling saw the next six overs yield 16-3, Macc unable to pick up the pace again, finishing 33 short. Their second game, although academic points-wise, was tied, Macc taking nine off the last over to claim a point. The West division got very tense for a time. Leaders Grappenhall needed 3 points to be sure of top spot but lost their first T20 at Brooklands by 9 runs, the 39 extras conceded by Grappers (including 34 wides) top scoring by a mile. While this was unfolding, Isaac Brooks 5-27 helped Sale skittle Warrington for 80, but Brad Roden caused havoc with 6-40 as Sale's last pair helped them bellyflop over the line for a 1 wicket win. Grappers then regrouped and rolled Brooklands for 97 second time round, winning by 6 wickets and just doing enough to stay top on net run rate.*

FINAL: SUNDAY SEPT 13TH

MATCH 1 - GRAPPENHALL(156-6) beat URMSTON (144-6) BY 12 RUNS

MATCH 2 - GRAPPENHALL(89-4) beat URMSTON (88) BY 6 WICKETS

UMPIRES: **MARTIN HOWE & TREVOR BURNETT**

SCORERS: **HASNAIN SHEIKH (URMSTON) & STEVE WRIGHT (GRAPPENHALL)**

The Divisional final was played out at a sunny and busy Moorside Road, lots of spectators enjoying some entertaining cricket on a beautiful afternoon. Despite the difficulties Urmston have had using their ground this year, Grappers were happy to play there and ended up worthy winners of the division. The hosts were dealt a blow before the match with the loss of talented young all rounders Harry Singh and Arav Shetty, both called up by Lancs academy and thus not able to play, despite Urmston pleas. Grappers chose to bat in the first game

and were soon peppering the Grammar School courtesy of Adam Roylance, Grant Hodnett and in particular Richard Green, whose 60 was the top score of the day. Captain Sam Guest played a handy late cameo of 30 as Grappers reached 156-6. Guest then quickly removed the dangerous Sumit Panda and captain Lewis Jackson, and with Zeeshan Assi also falling cheaply Urmston were in the doo-doo, but youngster Matt Kilcourse led a spirited riposte, his gutsy 57 re-

newing the faint hopes of the hosts. Rahul Premrajh and Bervis Burke both hit and ran hard towards the end but Grappers experience told and they won the match by 12 runs, with just 5 extras conceded, in contrast to the day before!

Match two - played with the same ball as used in the first match - didn't match the excitement of the first as Urmston's decision to bat failed to pay off. All the Grappers bowlers took wickets at regular intervals - Adam Roylance took 3 in each match - and Arthur Pennington taking four catches, two of which were real worldies. Michael Ness top scored with 23 as Urmston could only manage 88 in 18.4 overs, and despite removing Roylance and Green cheaply, Grant Hodnett whacked 36* as Grappers eased home with three overs and six wickets in hand. But a fantastic day for all and congratulations to everyone involved.



PHOTO: ARTHUR RIDLEY

**INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY UMPIRE
MARTIN HOWE.**

CCCL DIVISION TWO

WINNERS: HALE BARNES

RUNNERS UP: HASLINGTON



FINAL SATURDAY ROUND UP: Although there were clear 'favourites' in each division to reach the divisional final ahead of the last round of fixtures, there was still the possibility of things changing. However, *in the East*, Stockport Georgians lost both of their T20s at Lindow and were unable to close the gap on leaders Haslington, who had a hiccup of their own, losing their first T20 at Romiley before a 26 run victory in match two sealed top spot. *In the West*, only a win for Christleton and a heavy defeat for Hale Barns could change things; Christleton rounded off an excellent 2020 with a successful, and very impressive chase of 178 at Alvanley (Aamir Afzaal a magnificent 101*, his second ton of the season) but Hale Barns beat Barrow in their first T20 match to confirm their place in Sunday's final.

FINAL: **MATCH 1** - HALE BARNES (164-2) beat HASLINGTON (163-5) BY 8 WKTS
MATCH 2 - HASLINGTON (120-7) beat HALE BARNES (116-8) BY 3 WKTS

SUPER OVER: HALE BARNES (12-0) BEAT HASLINGTON (11-0)

UMPIRES: **ANKIT JAIN & GRAHAM CHURCH**

SCORERS: **NICKY SMITH (HALE BARNES) & ADAM WHITE (HASLINGTON)**

Report from match umpire GRAHAM CHURCH

A glorious sunny and warm afternoon with 200+ eager spectators at Brooks Drive was a perfect setting for the spectacle that was about to unfold. Firstly much praise and thanks must go to Hale Barns groundsman Ian Schora and his team in getting the ground fit because the outfield was completely waterlogged on the Tuesday prior to the final.

Hale Barns won the toss for the first match and elected to field. Highlights - the Haslington 3rd wkt partnership of 76 between Matthew Kennerley-Ryan (49 off 31 balls 4x6) and skipper Ben Istead (67* off 38 balls, 5x6) with a total of 11 6s being scored in the first innings. There was drama in the 15th over when Ben Hicks came back into the attack bowling his final over, taking wickets with the 2nd, 3rd and 5th balls, but Istead's hitting enabled Haslington to post 163-5.

From the start of the second innings HB continued the onslaught of 6s being scored, to the great delight of the home spectators, matching the 11 that were scored by Haslington in the first innings. A 2nd wkt partnership of

133 between opener Sam Smith (74 off 52 balls, 6x6) and Khurram Hussain (75* off 58 balls, 5x6) almost got HB over the line. Ben Hicks ably supported Hussain enabling Hale Barns to reach the required total with just 1 ball to spare. Lots of jubilant home spectators!

There was plenty of drama saved for the second T20 including penalty runs when the ball slipped through wicket-keeper/captain Tommy Smith's hands and hit his helmet on the ground, and overthrows akin to the 2019 World Cup final!

Having won the toss and elected to field, Haslington took vital early wickets in the 2nd, 3rd and 4th overs (wickets falling on first ball in each of these overs) and on the first and second balls of the 6th over reducing Hale Barns to 29 for 5 with Imran Khan taking 4. HB were further pegged back in the 14th over (Ben Istead's first) losing 2 wickets with the score on 63. HB progressed steadily finishing their innings on 116 for 8 after an 8th wicket partnership of 51 between Ben Hicks

(42 no off 43 balls) and James Fullerton-Batten (24 off 17 balls). At the start of their reply, Haslington scored freely, 21-0 after just 2 overs and despite losing 7 wickets, secured a good victory in the 18th over. Opener Jack Moran top scored with 43 off 44 balls.

The warmth from the sun, lack of wind - and playing twice in two days - might have influenced the second match not quite having the exhilaration of the first (only 6x6 were scored in total).

By now, the spectators were pretty raucous (ably assisted by the considerable quantity of alcohol being consumed) - but perfectly well behaved! - and keen to grasp the regulations should the super-over be tied.

Haslington batted first and a six off the final ball took them to just 11, Ben Hicks having managed a crucial dot ball. HB had 5 off the first two balls, before 5 wides had a major bearing. 2 byes off the next ball gave victory to HB and their jubilant supporters. To sum the day up - a true spectacle for recreational cricket!

2ND XI FINALS DAY

2ND XI PREMIER DIVISION

CHEADLE (176) BEAT OULTON PARK (92) BY 84 RUNS

UMPIRES: DAVID TATE, KETH TYSALL

SCORERS: ELLIS WOODS (CHEADLE), INGE BEVERS (O.PARK)

A good sized crowd at Kingsway saw the hosts asked to bat, Richard Nicholson (25) and Jack Langley (38) putting together a 2nd wkt partnership of 68 off 94 balls, to give Cheadle some control, but they stumbled from 82/2 to 83/4, Matthew Dufty (3-29) taking two wickets in his first over. Matt Samuels (38) and skipper Aaron Wall (20) steadied things with a stand of 63 for the 4th wicket. Oulton Park struck back again, 147-4 becoming 159-9 with skipper Owen Williamson (3-32) being particularly effective. Nos 10 & 11 Read (18) and Hampson (4*), however, decided they weren't going to make life easy on Oulton Park and by playing smart cricket managed to use up almost all of their overs and lift the score to 176.

Oulton Park certainly backed themselves to chase it and things looked promising with Andy Mills and Jonny Litler making 19 off the first four overs, but Read (3-13) and Hampson (1/24) combined again, along with a run out, to wreck the OP innings and leave them 39-5, (including the crucial wicket of Williamson for a duck) and it was clear Oulton Park faced an uphill struggle. The lower order battled hard but could not get any rhythm going and were eventually all out in the 35th over. A shame for OP who did not do themselves justice, having played so well in the Divisional games, but congratulations to Cheadle, worthy winners on the day. *Information: Inge Bevers*

2ND XI 1ST DIVISION

GRAPPENHALL (150-8) BEAT ROMILEY (146-7) BY 2 WKTS

UMPIRES: MARK HIGNETT, BARRIE BURNS

SCORERS: MIKE JUDGE (GRAPP), DAVID STOTT (ROM)

Romiley skipper Andrew Harrison says: *"it was a fantastic day, with a very high standard of second team cricket on display from both sides. The game was wonderful to be a part of, both teams in the game until the last ball. Bowling was excellent, Ian Hall and Gaz Burns early on for Grappers before Rob Booker hit a terrific 47 to get us to a competitive total. Joe McNeeney bowled brilliantly for us, taking four wickets, but Gaz Burns and then Ben Clissold steadied the ship to see Grappers home. Both sides put on a fantastic spectacle for the many spectators watching. Grappers were great hosts who helped stage a really good day in fine weather, a brilliant end to what was a difficult summer when no cricket looked likely. It was brilliant to get some form of competitive cricket and Sunday was a fantastic day for everyone playing or watching to bring the season to an end."*



Grappenhall 2nd XI

2ND XI 2ND DIVISION

DIDSBURY 2A (147-3) BEAT HALE BARNES (146-8) BY 7 WKTS

UMPIRES: PARTH KAPOOR AND SIMON SMITH

SCORER: JAMES EMMERSON



Didsbury's Ben Anderson on his way to 58

A beautiful afternoon in front of a very good crowd at a Didsbury ground in tip top condition saw the home side notch up a comfortable victory. Hale Barnes chose to bat but were tied down pretty much from the off, only Mike Hunter (48) able to get some rhythm going as HB finished on 146-8 off their 40 overs. An opening stand of 90 in 20 overs, led by Ben Anderson's half century, meant the hosts remained in control throughout, with almost 10 overs unused when the winning runs came. Highlights are on the Didsbury YouTube channel.

CCCL 3RD XI IN 2020

3rd XI cricket in 2020 by necessity took a different format, with the emphasis being on participation and enjoyment in the limited time available for matches, rather than on the more usual competitive league structures and T20 cup competition, for which there was unfortunately no time to accommodate. As such, there are no formal 'awards' for teams topping their respective divisions, but warm congratulations to all clubs who have taken part, given match time, and won games!

3RD XI DIV A

Joint 1st: Hyde & Cheadle

Joint 3rd: Stockport Georgians & Heaton Mersey

The top two couldn't be caught or separated on the final day. Cheadle's 7 wkt win over Romiley featured Hamza Rais scoring 102*. Hyde had Mike Ainger & Hri Nath to thank, their unbroken 8th wkt stand of 81 propelling them to 189-7 and a 55 run win over H.Mersey.

3RD XI DIV B

1st: Didsbury 3

2nd: Alderley Edge 3rd: Toft

Only one game was played in the Division on Sun 13. Fielding three senior teams on the same day, Grappenhall lost by 98 runs to Alderley Edge, meaning AE claimed second spot. Nantwich conceded to Sale and Didsbury's match at Toft was cancelled due to a positive Covid test result for a Toft player.

3RD XI DIV C

1st: Hale Barns

2nd: Bowdon 3s 3rd: Elworth

Fielding 3 senior teams on the same day, Hale Barns scored 152-7 to win by three wkts at Northwich on Sun 13th and finish top of Div C. Bowdon had already bagged concession points and Elworth conceded to Timperley 5s after 9 overs - no information as to why.

3RD XI DIV D

1st: Bowdon 4s

2nd: Brooklands 3rd: Lindow

The top three all won on the 13th, and all scored well over 200 in doing so. Bowdon's Sid Mahadevan hit 137 in their 249-6, their 118 run win over Ashley leaving them top. Lindow won by the same margin, helped by 48 extras from Macc in their 239-6, while Brooklands ran up 232-6 to beat Didsbury 5s by 149 runs.

3RD XI DIV E

1st: Bramhall

Joint 2nd: Bredbury SM 3 & Didsbury 4s

Bramhall won a tight match with leaders Didsbury 4s by 14 runs, withstanding a Dids fightback from 32-5 to restrict them to 135-9 in the process overtaking them and finishing in top spot. Bredbury 3s beat Stockport by 43 runs to finish joint second, BSM's Jimmy Stuart claiming 6-10.

CHESHIRE SHIELD FINAL: (Sunday September 13th)

at Hawk Green: HAWK GREEN (223) BEAT BARROW (162) BY 61 RUNS

Hawk Green won the Cheshire Shield with a convincing win over Barrow. A good sized crowd saw visitors Barrow make the most of winning the toss by taking three wickets in seven balls to leave HG teetering on 18-3 in the 4th, but the middle order rallied well, Peter Richards (61) and Jack Needham (44) adding 94, and a number of lower order cameos, and 29 extras, lifted HG to 223. Barrow's reply started disastrously for them, non-striker Lee Dwyer run out off the first ball of the reply and Alex Reid bowled off the fourth. Iroshan de Silva tried everything to hold things together, batting through the innings for 87 off 126 balls, but his dismissal, caught by Peter Richards, marked the end of the game and big celebrations for Hawk Green. For his batting, a good catch and taking the final wicket, Jack Needham was named the Cheshire Shield man of the match.



PHOTO: DAVID TURNER

CHESHIRE CUP FINAL, SUNDAY 20 SEPT

Cheadle CC, Kingsway



NANTWICH 172-5 (36.3 os) beat CHEADLE 168 (40 os) by 5 WICKETS

Cheadle: S.Mahmood 70(70), E.Bullock 37(83), R.Doyle 3-27

Nantwich inns: R.Doyle 52(60), O.Griffiths 37*(13), A.Paterson 36(52), D.Brown 3-35

Toss: Nantwich

Player of the Match: Ray Doyle (Nantwich)

Umpires: John Williams & Graham Pugh

Scorers: Will & Lisa Clift (Cheadle), Ellie Pearson (Nantwich)

Nantwich won the 2020 Cheshire Cup after getting out of a very tight spot, as Cheadle initially made a great fist of defending a moderate total at Kingsway on Sunday. A glorious day saw a large crowd safely accommodated within the well appointed ground, and they enjoyed an absorbing and hard fought contest. Asked to bat, Cheadle lost Dan Adams early, but Elliott Bullock and skipper Dan Brown carefully added 43 in 13 overs, with Bullock and Subhaan Mahmood then adding 49, Mahmood going on to make a fine 70 at a run a ball, helping the hosts overcome the loss of four wickets for 22

runs towards the end of their innings as Cheadle were all out off the last ball of their allocation. The large crowd were unsure whether that would be defensible but the start of the Nantwich innings went perfectly to plan for Cheadle, as the visitors got completely bogged down in the face of accurate bowling from Pat Meese and Will Holmes. After 10 overs Nantwich were 13-1; Ryan Brown was badly dropped top edging a sweep but failed to make the hosts pay, being bowled shortly after. Luke Robinson had already been dismissed, caught at mid off trying to hit over the top, and at the halfway point, 46-3 was definitely advantage Cheadle. However, Dabbers skipper Ray Doyle was at the crease and his big occasion experience was a decisive factor as he and Alex Paterson added 83 for the 4th wicket, the momentum and scoring rate increasing as the pair ran well and started to find the boundary. Doyle reached 50 off 55 balls, but then a twist as Paterson was bowled. This brought Olly Griffiths to the crease with 9 overs remaining and 55 wanted. Griffiths wasted little time getting to work, hitting his third ball for six, then another two balls later - off a no-ball - before sending the following free hit for a maximum.



Even Doyle's dismissal didn't cause any alarm, as Griffiths continued to hit powerfully. Phil Stockton also found the boundary twice before Griffiths hit his fourth 6 to bring the scores level, a four off the next ball meaning that 126 had come off 16.3 overs as the Nantwich team and a sizeable contingent of supporters celebrated in the evening sun. A splendid match played in a great spirit brought the curtain down on an extraordinary 2020 season!

RAY DOYLE



CHESHIRE CUP PHOTO GALLERY



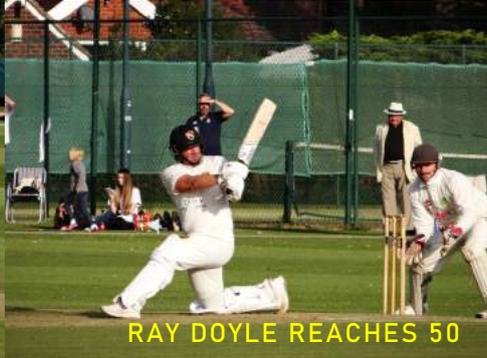
UMPIRES JOHN WILLIAMS & GRAHAM PUGH



ACTION GETS UNDERWAY



MITCHELL SPENCER BOWLS



RAY DOYLE REACHES 50



JOSH DOOLER



NANTWICH CC



RYAN BROWN SKIES A SWEEP, BUT SURVIVES



OLLY GRIFFITHS BRINGS THE SCORES LEVEL WITH A SIX