

# COUNTY LEAGUE NEWS



on behalf of Cheshire Clubs Cricket Committee (4 Cs)

**JULY 12 - AUG 1**

**Twists and Turns!**

**All divisions finely balanced**

**Cheshire Cup and Shield finalists decided**

**Alderley Edge & Alvanley make  
national cup progress**



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As we get to the sharp end of the league season - which feels like it's come round very quickly, I must say - I have heard some speculation about the possibility of clubs manipulating Covid alerts to avoid playing games and just take the 7 points instead. I'm sure many other readers will have pondered such scenarios too. What clubs choose to do if faced with such a possibility is guesswork but our game needs all the help and positive approaches it can get. But, after discussing fair play in the last newsletter, one aspect of fair play that has become something of a bugbear of mine this year relates to slow play, especially in matches not regulated by appointed offi-

cial - which, lest we forget, is the majority of club cricket played in this country. Being involved with my club's (Didsbury) 3rd XI on Sundays this season has been tarnished by poor over rates in almost every league game played. Recently one of our opponents took 3hrs 4 mins in the field (and didn't even complete their 45 over allocation), another took 2 hrs 49 to bowl 40 overs, another just shy of 3 hours to bowl 44.4 overs, another 42.5 overs in 2 hrs 54. And there are other examples. I had it confirmed from another source that things are barely any better in Sunday Divs 1 & 2, with the added issue of sides sometimes posting 7 or 8 boundary fielders. On Saturdays, 1st XI cricket is well regulated and with teams of officials issuing reminders to captains at regular intervals during the game, and possible points deductions at stake, these sorts of issues are few and far between. But, like I say, go beneath 1st XI level and the way in which captains fail to take their obligations seriously in terms of the tempo of the game has significant implications for attracting and retaining players. I

have made suggestions about some possible ways in which these sorts of issues could be addressed and no doubt there are other ideas in the mix. But there has to be a pro-active approach to dealing with issues related to slow / unfair play because of the likely impact upon people choosing to play or be involved as officials, or not. One of the key concepts of The Hundred has been the strict 2½ hour time limit on the match, and whether you are already a big fan of the tournament, or (like me) much less persuaded by it, I am all in favour of any innovations within a game which make sure it is played at a reasonable tempo.

I hope you enjoy the slightly extended format of this newsletter, encompassing the last three weeks of action. Plenty to look forward to in all the divisions as well as Cup Finals, T20 finals day in 2nd & 3rd XI, and Alderley Edge and Alvanley flying the flag for Cheshire in national competitions.

*James*

**ALDERLEY EDGE THROUGH IN T20**



Alderley Edge kept up the tradition of Cheshire clubs doing well in the T20, beating Menai Bridge and then a strong Clifton side to win the area finals day on Aug 1st. They now progress to the North region final on Aug 15th where they will face Denby CC of Huddersfield. A great achievement for the club, congratulations!

**INTERNATIONAL HONOURS FOR A CCCL VETERAN**

After a terrific season for Lancashire over 50s, Urmston's Chris Turner received a call up to the England over 50's set up and enjoyed a couple of games at the fabulous and famous Marlborough College



ground, against UK India and then against Wales. "I was at the crease when we won the match but the captain was at the other end on 49\* so I thought it wise to let him get the winning runs!" Chris told the newsletter. "But I have been told the Wales match was a recognised full international fixture so I hope to receive a cap at some point." After a hundred in his first innings for Lancs over 50s at Southport, and some 300 runs in 2021, Chris was thrilled to be involved with England and is hoping for more later in the season. "I have made myself available and hope to get the call."

Time for all the officials to give themselves a little work out with three scenarios. Based along the lines of the excellent MCC laws of cricket app, there are three different types of question, starting with a more simple situation through to a more complex one. I will look forward to receiving your comments and will publish the answers in the next edition!

## UMPIRING AND SCORING - BEGINNER

The batting side have their opening bat still in, along with their number 11, and are battling to save the match. Off the last ball of the penultimate over the opener hits a fair ball along the ground towards the boundary, but the ball stops rolling and does not touch the boundary rope. The batsmen cross for an easy single. Seeing this, a fielder kicks the ball over the boundary in order to keep the opener off strike for the start of the last over.



**UMPIRES** - how many runs are scored here, what do you signal to the scorers, and who is on strike for the start of the last over? Is any other action appropriate?

**SCORERS** - how many runs have been scored, how are they recorded, and what signals should you receive?

## UMPIRING AND SCORING - INTERMEDIATE

It's a T20 match. From the final ball of the game, the batting side need one to tie and two to win. The bowler bowls a fair delivery which the batsman misses, as does the keeper, who is standing up to the stumps. The batsmen complete one run and start on a second when a fielder gathers and throws the ball to the keeper, who is standing on the pitch to one side of the stumps. The batsman is running full tilt to make his ground and violently shoves the keeper over before grounding his bat. In so doing the keeper's helmet comes off and the throw from the fielder strikes it, at which point the batting side ask for five penalty runs. The batsman claims the keeper was obstructing him. The wicketkeeper claims he was obstructed by the batsman shoving him. The umpires come together and agree the batsman's actions constitute a level 2 offence.

**UMPIRES** - which laws would you refer to, to deal with this situation, and what is the result of the match?

**SCORERS** - how many runs have been scored, how are they recorded, and what is the result of the match?

## UMPIRING AND SCORING - ADVANCED

It's a CCCL 1st XI match. Skies are darkening and rain is in the air. Having collapsed, the batting side are in danger of defeat, and lose their eighth wicket, at which point the bowlers' end umpire calls 'time' and the scheduled drinks break takes place. The new batsman waits on the pavilion steps and does not step over the boundary rope. As the fielders and umpires move back into position, an umpire asks the new batsman to come onto the field. The batsman replies *"I am waiting for you to call 'play', because from that point I can wait another two minutes here and then come on, as long as I am taking guard within three minutes of the previous wicket falling I cannot be out, and it might start raining before then."*

**UMPIRES** - how would you deal with this situation, and what laws would you cite in so doing?

**SCORERS** - when would you record the new batsman's innings as commencing, and how would you justify your decision according to the laws?

## 17 July

Leaders **Nantwich** and second place **Didsbury** turned up the heat on the rest of the Premier Division, both with dominant wins on a baking hot day. Any euphoria **Alderley Edge** were feeling after their T20 cup triumph was quickly dispelled in a collective batting seizure at Whitehouse Lane, losing their last 4 wkts without any addition to the total and all out 86, the Dabbers coasting home by 9 wkts, AE zero pts. After recent batting problems of their own, **Timperley** opted to field first at **Didsbury** and had 44 overs in the hot sun before taking a wkt, running out **Henry Charlton** five short of his ton. Charlton and **Marcus Fisher** (105), a makeshift opening pair, put on 187 for the 1st wkt. Timpers, at one stage 82-1, finished 165 all out. **Oulton Park** lost ground in third after a real arm-wrestle of a draw at **Oxton**. The hosts' 188-5 seemed some way short, especially after **Jimmy Sullivan** (42 off 127) and **Danny Leech** (71) put on 106 in 32 overs for OP's first, but Oxton fielded and bowled brilliantly, and a spell of four wkts in 5 overs towards the end left OP clinging on at 181-9. A magnificent third wkt stand of 182 between **Alex Money** (133\*) and **Harry Killoran** (105) took **CBH** to a skyscraper 342-3 at **Neston**, who had 57 overs to survive and did so - just - at 213-9. A gripping game at **Hyde** saw the hosts claim a precious 25 pts after a 2 wkt win over **Toft** in a match marked by middle order recoveries. Toft were again indebted to **Andrew Jackson** and **James Scott** as they recovered from 94-5 to post 191-9, both then in action with the ball as Hyde were quickly 17-3. A superb 92 from **Adam Worrall** and 39 from **Cole Turner** helped Hyde upto 163-6 before a crucial 9th wkt stand of 30 got them over the line. **Widnes'** good run continued, moving into mid-table with a third win in five, **Aaron Soni** taking 5-11 as **Cheadle** went from 39-0 to 55-7 and eventually 99 all out. The hosts fought hard with the ball and the

chase was far from straightforward, **Majid Majeed** the Widnes hero with 44\*.

## 24/25 July

Some fabulous feats of run scoring, and big partnerships, were the features of the weekend. **Neston's Simon Stokes** took the individual honours with two tons in two days. On the 24th, his 108 helped **Neston** to a sizeable looking 271-8 against **AE**, who coming off the back of a debacle the week previous, powered to a famous win by 8 wkts. **Sam Perry's** 2021 gets better and better, a magnificent 151\* (153 bs, 4x6, 15 x4) taking him past 1000 runs for the season in all comps. He and **Tom Foreman** (97) added a wonderful 233 for the 2nd wkt as the target was reached with almost 10 overs unused. **Neston** then played **Cheadle** the following day and **Stokes** was at it again, a brilliant 131 off 135 as he added 183 for the 3rd with **Dane Williams** (67\*), **Neston** piling up 285-3. **Cheadle** were quickly 1-2 but **Josh Dooler** (69) and **James Clift** (87) led the fightback, a fantastic effort by the visitors seeing them bowled out for 275 off the penultimate ball of the match. It was **Cheadle's** second defeat of the weekend after going down by 5 wkts against **CBH** the day before and although they remain bottom they are still in touch with the sides above them. One of those, **Timperley**, got a morale boosting 25 pts against **Hyde**, who just cannot string wins together and remain in some trouble. 90 from **Furqan Shafiq** was the main-

stay of **Timpers'** 5 wkt win, although **Ben Balderson** (30\*) and **Charlie Barnard** (48) added 75 for the last wkt as **Hyde** recovered from 95-8 to total 193. Differing fortunes for the leaders, **Nantwich** pulling clear after a scrambled 3 wkt win in a penurious struggle at **OP**, **Phil Stockton's** 6-43 and 4 wkts from **Olly Griffiths** (and 23\*) doing the business, but **Didsbury** lost by 49 runs at **Widnes**, for whom **Majid Majeed** scored 90 and took 4-36 in a terrific personal display, a late flourish from **James Green** (70\*) to no avail. Meanwhile, 80s from **Jonny Crick** and **Matt Jones**, and 6-38 from **Damario Goodman**, helped **Oxton** dole out a 123 boshing of **Toft** and claim a much needed 25 pts.

## 31 July

The sides in the bottom half all fought hard but couldn't force wins as July came to a close. **Cheadle** defended 182 with real vigour against **AE**, who had 57 overs to chase but were left holding on as **Katie Haszeldine**, on her 1st XI debut, played out two maiden overs, including the last of the match, AE finishing 155-9. **Oxton** made it successive wins as they won an excellent game against **Timperley** by 15 runs. **Grant Hughes** top scored with 66 for Oxton, who had Timpers 20-3 in reply, only for a strong fightback led by **Ed Galley** (64) and **Jake Sandham** (51) which helped take Timpers very close. **Widnes** concluded a great month for them with a fantastic chase of 271 to record a memorable win over **CBH**, for whom **Atif Qureshi** (106) and **Jack Williams** (86) added 171 for the 5th wkt, CBH giving Widnes two extra overs. An unbeaten 83\* from **Majid Majeed** then anchored Widnes' reply as they reached their target in the 56th over. Leaders **Nantwich** beat **Toft** by 56 runs

**Alderley Edge's Sam Perry has racked up 882 Premier Division runs in 2021 including four centuries and four fifty+ scores.**





# CCCL PREMIER LEAGUE



in a match in which no batsman passed 50 and the Dabbers themselves just reached 200, while second placed **Didsbury** kept up the pressure with a tight 15 run win over Hyde. 60s from **Henry Charlton** and **Nick Anderson** (who is unable to bowl at present) helped Dids recover from 46-4 to post 234-7. **Charlie Barnard** and **Dave Fitzsimmons** took Hyde to 158-3 in the 44th before the returning **Matt Gregson's** 3 wkts

helped Didsbury regain control, Gregson's haul including the last of the match as Hyde carelessly eschewed a batting point. Three half centuries helped third place **Oulton Park** to 246-6 and a roomy 104 run win over **Neston**, **Ben Gibbon** (5-39) and **Andrew Dufty** (6.5-3-6-3) the pick of the OP attack. It's been a poor run for the Parkgate club who have won just one of their last seven and now have a weather eye on the foot of the table.

## REMAINING PREMIER DIVISION FIXTURES

### AUGUST 7

ALDERLEY EDGE v WIDNES  
 CHESTER BH v DIDSBURY  
 HYDE v OXTON  
 OULTON PARK v CHEADLE  
 TIMPERLEY v NANTWICH  
 TOFT v NESTON

### AUGUST 14

CHEADLE v TOFT  
 CHESTER BH v ALDERLEY EDGE  
 DIDSBURY v OXTON  
 NANTWICH v HYDE  
 NESTON v TIMPERLEY  
 WIDNES v OULTON PARK

### AUGUST 21

ALDERLEY EDGE v DIDSBURY  
 HYDE v NESTON  
 OULTON PARK v CHESTER BH  
 OXTON v NANTWICH  
 TIMPERLEY v CHEADLE  
 TOFT v WIDNES

### AUGUST 28

ALDERLEY EDGE v OULTON PARK  
 CHEADLE v HYDE  
 CHESTER BH v TOFT  
 DIDSBURY v NANTWICH  
 NESTON v OXTON  
 WIDNES v TIMPERLEY

### SEPT 4

HYDE v WIDNES  
 NANTWICH v NESTON  
 OULTON PARK v DIDSBURY  
 OXTON v CHEADLE  
 TIMPERLEY v CHESTER BH  
 TOFT v ALDERLEY EDGE

### SEPT 11

ALDERLEY EDGE v TIMPERLEY  
 CHEADLE v NANTWICH  
 CHESTER BH v HYDE  
 DIDSBURY v NESTON  
 OULTON PARK v TOFT  
 WIDNES v OXTON

## PREMIER LGE TABLE AND JULY FORM GUIDE (5 matches)

TEAM	PTS	TEAM	JULY PTS
NANTWICH	305	DIDSBURY	107
DIDSBURY	286	NANTWICH	106
OULTON PARK	241	WIDNES	96
CHESTER BH	225	OULTON PARK	83
ALDERLEY EDGE	220	CHESTER BH	76
WIDNES	219	OXTON	66
OXTON	186	ALDERLEY EDGE	56
NESTON	184	TOFT	51
TOFT	178	NESTON*	48
HYDE	165	TIMPERLEY	43
TIMPERLEY	160	HYDE	43
CHEADLE	137	CHEADLE*	24

\* played 6 games in July

### 17 -31 JULY PERFORMANCES OF NOTE

Alex Money 133\*, CBH v Neston, 17.7  
 Harry Killoran 105, CBH v Neston, 17.7  
 Marcus Fisher 105, Dids v Timp, 17.7  
*(Henry Charlton 95 and an opening psp of 187 in the same fixture)*  
 Simon Stokes 108, Neston v AE, 24.7  
 Sam Perry 151\*, AE v Neston, 24.7  
*(Tom Foreman 97 and a 2nd wkt stand of 233 in the same fixture)*  
 Simon Stokes 131\*, Neston v Chead, 25.7  
 Atif Qureshi 106, CBH v Wid, 31.7  
 Damario Goodman 6-38, Oxt v Toft, 24.7  
 Phil Stockton 6-43, Nant v OP, 24.7  
 Aaron Soni 5-11, Wid v Chead, 17.7  
 Charlie Reid 5-32, AE v Chead, 31.7  
 Ben Gibbon 5-39, OP v Nest, 31.7  
 Andrew Jackson 5-42, Toft v Nant, 31.7  
 James Scott 5-49, Toft v Hyde, 17.7  
 (also scored 54\* batting at 7)

### 17/18 July

Only three matches were played on a glorious Saturday afternoon, with the impact of Covid still being felt. It was **Bramhall** who benefitted the most, playing through two days of very hot weather to record successive wins and give themselves a real lift after an inconsistent campaign to date, first by bowling **Warrington** out for just 98 and knocking the runs off in 22 overs, **Greg Dixon** 50. Then on Sunday, a more demanding chase in their rear-ranged game with **Macclesfield**. Played at Bollington, **Bramhall** won by 5 wkts, more runs for **Dixon** (67) and a stylish 62 from **Jack Bridgeman** helping them to 205-5 after **Miles Bradshaw's** 63\* and 54 from **Rob Porter** got Macc to 204-9. It was Macc's second match at **Bollington** in two days, having also lost there 24 hours earlier. Former Bolly favourite **James Cross** made 63 but spinners **Toby Phipps** and **Stuart Plant** shared 8 wkts between them as Macc were all out 182. 48 apiece from captain **Calum Rowe** and **James Longhorn** helped Bolly to their target and still top of the pile. Contenders **Bowdon**, **Brooklands** and **Grappenhall** all had no game, but **Urmston** lost a little ground on the chasing pack despite a high scoring draw with visitors **Marple**, who put behind them a succession of disappointing batting displays with a splendid 279-6, superb centuries for captain **Albert Hall** (103) and **Mark Bennett** (105) in a second wkt psp of 176 the main story. Without skipper **Lewis Jackson**, Urmston gave it a real go in reply, an opening stand of 90 between **Harry Singh** (47) and **Arav Shetty** (76) giving them a start and a quickfire 57 off 44 from **Matt Kilcourse** making it lively, but ultimately the chase fell short at 245-7, Marple holding their nerve and making Urmston's choice to field first rebound on them somewhat with only 7 pts to show for such a big batting effort. Marple remain second bottom but closed the gap with the 14 pts they

took away with them.

### 24/25 July

It was back down to earth for **Bramhall** who suffered a heavy defeat at home to **Bowdon**, who went top after a dominant display. Invited to bat, the visitors had 50 on the board within 5 overs and hit a total of 42 x 4 and 5 x 6 in a score of 283, **Pat Ashling** leading the way with 81 (74 bs). **Bramhall**, who lost **Luke Littlewood** to enforced absence and **Greg Dixon** to injury, were all out 206. **Bollington** stayed joint top after a losing draw at **Marple**. The hosts, 90-6 at one stage, posted 203-8 in their 50 and an excellent bowling effort then restricted Bolly to 193-8. **Brooklands** picked up 25 pts to keep them very much on the premises, an unbroken 6th wkt stand of 81 between captain **Jack Bagshaw** and **AJ Hart** at **Congleton** taking them over the line after **Rob Leach** had earlier returned 5-27. **Sale** recorded an excellent 47 run win over **Grappenhall**, **Dan Newton** with a run-a-ball 48 and 3 wkts, while **Macclesfield** also claimed a valuable 25 pts with a 3 wkt win over **Warrington**, for whom skipper **Jonathan Fletcher** hit 81 off 60 to set Macc 210. Fifties from **John Birchall** and **Miles Bradshaw** set them up and other useful contributions got Macc home with two deliveries remaining. **Urmston** kept up their promotion push with an easy 8 wkt win at **Davenham** who were bowled out for just 70, their fifth double figure innings of a miserable 2021. On the 25th, **Congleton** recovered from 84-4 to reach 217-7 and had **Macc** clinging on at 189-9 when the overs ran out.

### 31 July/1 Aug

**Bowdon** made it a perfect month with a tense 8 run win over **Macclesfield**. An 80 over match, **Bowdon** made 166-8 before reduc-

ing **Macc** to 45-6, who recovered enough to reach 113 before the 9th wkt fell. At this point **Jack Massey** was joined by **Chris Moores** and together the pair inched towards the target before **Massey** was run out trying for a second with some six overs still in hand. It's fair to say that the rest of the Div 1 fare lacked anything like the same tension, although **Congleton** again failed to take the last wkt as they drew at **Urmston**. **Congleton** added 72 off their last 10 to total 195, before reducing the hosts to 21-4. **Lewis Jackson** (55) and **Sumit Panda** (71), who both had lives after catches were dropped, added 123 before **Urmston** fell to 164-9 by the time of the last over. In the event no.11 **Sam Tootell** didn't have to play at a single delivery despite 10 men round the bat. **Bollington** had an easy 7 wkt win over **Warrington**, who are now back in the relegation places, while **Bramhall** bucked up again with an excellent 4 wkt win at **Grappenhall**, who did well to make 135 having been 83-7. **Stewart Jackson** made a 114-ball 34 before **Oilly Latter** (a run a ball 39) secured a welcome 25 pts to keep alive promotion hopes. **Brooklands** took only two points from a disappointing loss to visitors **Sale**, who won by 5 wkts in a low scoring derby. **Tyrone Lawrence** continued his great 2021 with 5 wkts as **Brooklands** fell from 53-2 to 103 all out, before making 32, the top score of the game. **Marple** won the battle of the bottom two by 6 wkts over **Davenham**, who were 112-0 (**Ben Gough** 49, **Mark Greaves** 50) but ended up all out 178. An unbroken stand of 86 between **Mark Bennett** (64\*) and **Conor Ramsay** (40\*) then gave the hosts a first victory since June 5th and a 14 pt gap to 11th place.

## REMAINING DIVISION ONE FIXTURES

### AUGUST 7

BRAMHALL	v	BROOKLANDS
CONGLETON	v	MARPLE
DAVENHAM	v	BOLLINGTON
MACCLESFIELD	v	GRAPPENHALL
SALE	v	URMSTON
WARRINGTON	v	BOWDON

### AUGUST 14

BOLLINGTON	v	BOWDON
BROOKLANDS	v	MACCLESFIELD
DAVENHAM	v	CONGLETON
GRAPPENHALL	v	WARRINGTON
MARPLE	v	SALE
URMSTON	v	BRAMHALL

### AUGUST 21

BOWDON	v	GRAPPENHALL
BRAMHALL	v	MARPLE
CONGLETON	v	BOLLINGTON
MACCLESFIELD	v	URMSTON
SALE	v	DAVENHAM
WARRINGTON	v	BROOKLANDS

### AUGUST 28

BOLLINGTON	v	GRAPPENHALL
BROOKLANDS	v	BOWDON
CONGLETON	v	SALE
DAVENHAM	v	BRAMHALL
MARPLE	v	MACCLESFIELD
URMSTON	v	WARRINGTON

### SEPT 4

BOWDON	v	URMSTON
BRAMHALL	v	CONGLETON
GRAPPENHALL	v	BROOKLANDS
MACCLESFIELD	v	DAVENHAM
SALE	v	BOLLINGTON
WARRINGTON	v	MARPLE

### SEPT 11

BOLLINGTON	v	BROOKLANDS
CONGLETON	v	MACCLESFIELD
DAVENHAM	v	WARRINGTON
MARPLE	v	BOWDON
SALE	v	BRAMHALL
URMSTON	v	GRAPPENHALL

## DIVISION ONE TABLE AND JULY - AUG 1 FORM GUIDE (5 MATCHES)

TEAM	PTS	TEAM	JULY PTS
BOWDON	279	BRAMHALL	106
BOLLINGTON	279	BOWDON*	100
BRAMHALL	249	MACCLESFIELD**	82
BROOKLANDS	245	URMSTON	78
GRAPPENHALL	237	GRAPPENHALL†	68
URMSTON	233	BOLLINGTON	67
SALE	203	MARPLE	66
MACCLESFIELD	179	SALE*	61
MARPLE	159	CONGLETON	61
CONGLETON	154	BROOKLANDS*	59
WARRINGTON	145	WARRINGTON	31
DAVENHAM	63	DAVENHAM †	21

### 17 JUL - AUG 1

#### PERFORMANCES OF NOTE

Steve Rooney 5-0, Grapp v Dav, 1.8

Tyrone Lawrence 5-20, Sale v Brook, 31.7

Rob Leach 5-27, Brook v Cong, 24.7

*Grappenhall scorer Steve Wright got in touch to outline a remarkable series of events at the Davenham/Grappers rearranged game on Aug 1st. Davenham's struggles in 2021 are no secret, and it was another tough day for them as they were bowled out for 63 and lost by 9 wkts. Davenham were 55-3, but two lots of four byes were the only runs subsequently scored as Steve Rooney, normally a 2nd XI batsman, recorded figures of 3-3-0-5, including a hat-trick, which matched the feat of Arran McCabe in the reverse fixture earlier in the season.*



\* PLAYED 4 GAMES IN JULY

\*\* PLAYED 6 GAMES IN JULY

† INCL. MATCH ON AUG 1ST

**17 July**

With leading sides [Lindow](#) and [Alvanley's](#) clash derailed by Covid, [Romiley](#) made the most of the situation with a 6 wkt win over neighbours [Stockport](#). It was a good day for **Badrock** family members, brothers **James** and **David** each hitting 55\* as their unbroken partnership did the necessary. **James** had earlier taken 4 wkts in an impressive all-round display as [Stockport](#) fell away after a solid start and remained mired in the relegation spots. [Barrow](#) are also still there although their tense 19 run win over [Upton](#) boosted morale. Chasing 184, [Upton](#) reached 152-6 in reply, but the last four fell for just another 12 runs, 4 wkts for **Sultan Raja** a key element. There were hearteningly comprehensive wins for [Stockport Georgians](#) and [Ashton-on-Mersey](#) on a lovely afternoon, both sides shrugging off indifferent recent form. [Georgians'](#) massive 144 run win over high flying [Christleton](#) was perhaps the biggest surprise of the day, the visitors all out 91 as **James Locke** led the attack with 5-25. Earlier, a quickfire 46 from **Neil Pennington** helped get [Georgians](#) to a healthy 235-8. [Ashton OM](#) likewise had a three figure win, 82 from **Miraj Patel** and 56 from **James Marshall** taking [AOM](#) to 248-7 against [Haslington](#), who tumbled from 96-4 to 138 all out and a 110 run loss. [Mobberley's](#) consistent inconsistency continued, this time in a good way with a thumping - and speedy - 8 wkt win over [Hale Barns](#), who, thanks to **Abdul Aqeel's** 7 wkt haul, could only manage 92.

**24/25 July**

[Romiley](#) soon had the scoreboard whizzing round as **Ans Rashid Muhammad** and **Tom Rolph** plundered 140 for the 1st wkt on their way to a 136 run win over [Hale Barns](#), and top spot. [Lindow](#) had an equally profitable time with the bat, **Jadan Jones** making 97 as they declared on 269-9 and gave [Haslington](#) an extra eight overs to chase. At 96-7 [Haslington](#) hopes

were not high, but resolute stands led by **Tom Gledhill** (49\* off 103) helped them survive on 207-9. A very different type of innings for **Aamir Afzaal** of [Christleton](#), as he hit 180 off 105 balls including 19x4 and 12x6, putting on 230 for the 1st wkt with **Max Dunvaband** as lowly [Stockport](#) were cut to ribbons, [Christleton](#) calling a halt after just 36.5 overs on 309-4. The [Stockport](#) bowling figures are not for those of a sensitive disposition but to their credit they had a good go in reply, **Kyle Gavin** hitting a splendid 95 off just 79 balls as [Stockport](#) made 221, their highest total of the season. [Mobberley's](#) 10 wkt hammering of [Barrow](#) took barely 40 overs, while [AOM](#) made it three wins out of four with a tense 4 wkt win over [Upton](#). [Alvanley](#) got a first win in four with an unprepossessing 6 wkt victory over [Georgians](#). On the Sunday, [Christleton's](#) batting returned to the ranks making 179-9 against [Mobberley](#). The [Mobb](#) got themselves to 130-2 in the 35th but **Arslan Dar** and **Aamir Afzaal** turned the tables, [Mobberley](#) needing two off the last ball, their last man run out going for the win and a thrilling tie (and 16 pts each) the result.

**31 July / 1 Aug**

Four very close games in the division on the Saturday. Take your pick as to whether [Alvanley's](#) last pair putting on 19 to win with four balls to spare over [Haslington](#) is a tighter finish than [AOM's](#) 6 run win defending 101 against inconsistent [Mobberley](#), but no doubt the two winning teams will both be checking their heart rates. Hosts [AOM](#) had slumped to 35-7 in their game, [Mobb](#) skipper **Matt Mountney** with 5 wkts, but an 8th wkt stand of 48 and a last wkt stand of 22 gave them three figures, which still looked inadequate. [Mobberley](#) were soon wobbly at 7-3 but a 4th

wkt stand of 65 put them in a great position, only for **Zaheer Khan** to take 6-6 as the visitors lost their last 4 wkts for just 2 runs to be 95 all out. Lowly [Upton](#) pulled off a brilliant 18 run win over promotion chasing [Lindow](#). [Upton](#) were 108-2 (**Chris Stowell-Smith** 64) but could only manage 175 in the end. [Lindow](#) also fell away after reaching 94-3 as **Liam Sundve** returned 6-46, [Lindow](#) 157 all out. [Hale Barns'](#) difficult month in the league ended positively with a 20 run win over [Christleton](#) in their Cheshire Shield semi dress rehearsal. **Luke Skade's** 68 helped [HB](#) total 163 but the visitors' batting heroics of the week previous were a distant memory, extras the top scorer as **Younas Saeed** and **Joe Cooper** each took 4 wkts, the latter making up for a first-baller, and a very welcome 25 points. No such dramas for leaders [Romiley](#), **Alex Hooton's** 5 wkts and **Andrew Harrison's** 63\* the leading acts as bottom club [Barrow](#) fell even further from safety after a 7 wkt defeat. [Stockport Georgians](#) also made merry against struggling [Stockport](#), **Ben Jones** scoring 114 and **George Hardman** then taking 6-52 in a 138 run derby day demolition which leaves the [Cale Green](#) side 59 points adrift of third bottom [Upton](#) and, like [Barrow](#), needing a miracle. [Lindow](#) and [Alvanley](#) rearranged their Covid-postponed game for the Sunday, but with [Alvanley](#) involved in the National Village Cup, their makeshift 1st XI couldn't cope with a strong [Lindow](#) side and slid to 49 all out and a chasmic 199 run defeat. However, the main 1st XI won their q-f and are still in touch in third spot, with both sides facing leaders [Romiley](#) in successive weeks in August.





## ALVANLEY THROUGH TO NATIONAL VILLAGE CUP SEMI-FINAL

It's great to report more on Alvanley's National Village Cup progress after they beat Barnsley's Houghton Main by 28 runs in the quarter-final on Aug 1st. A large crowd saw Alvanley battle hard to make 128 - just 6 x 4 on a slow outfield - after being 50-4, but a tremendous bowling effort restricted HM to just 100, Lee Ainsworth 4-18 and Chris Charles recording figures of 7-3-7-3. The Alv face an odyssey to S.Wales for their semi final, playing Neyland on Sun 8th for a place in the Lords final. Good luck Alv!

### REMAINING DIVISION TWO FIXTURES

#### AUGUST 7

CHRISTLETON	v	BARROW
HASLINGTON	v	S GEORGIANS
MOBBERLEY	v	LINDOW
ROMILEY	v	ASHTON OM
STOCKPORT	v	HALE BARNES
UPTON	v	ALVANLEY

#### AUGUST 14

ALVANLEY	v	MOBBERLEY
ASHTON OM	v	CHRISTLETON
BARROW	v	STOCKPORT
HASLINGTON	v	UPTON
LINDOW	v	ROMILEY
S GEORGIANS	v	HALE BARNES

#### AUGUST 21

CHRISTLETON	v	LINDOW
HALE BARNES	v	BARROW
MOBBERLEY	v	HASLINGTON
ROMILEY	v	ALVANLEY
STOCKPORT	v	ASHTON OM
UPTON	v	S GEORGIANS

#### AUGUST 28

ALVANLEY	v	CHRISTLETON
ASHTON OM	v	HALE BARNES
HASLINGTON	v	ROMILEY
LINDOW	v	STOCKPORT
S GEORGIANS	v	BARROW
UPTON	v	MOBBERLEY

#### SEPT 4

BARROW	v	ASHTON OM
CHRISTLETON	v	HASLINGTON
HALE BARNES	v	LINDOW
MOBBERLEY	v	S GEORGIANS
ROMILEY	v	UPTON
STOCKPORT	v	ALVANLEY

#### SEPT 11

ALVANLEY	v	HALE BARNES
HASLINGTON	v	STOCKPORT
LINDOW	v	BARROW
MOBBERLEY	v	ROMILEY
S.GEORGIANS	v	ASHTON OM
UPTON	v	CHRISTLETON

### DIVISION TWO TABLE AND JULY -AUG 1 FORM GUIDE (5 MATCHES)

TEAM	PTS	TEAM	JULY PTS
ROMILEY	284	ASHTON OM	109
LINDOW	279	ROMILEY	104
ALVANLEY	253	LINDOW	76
ASHTON ON MERSEY	247	ALVANLEY	76
HASLINGTON	243	MOBBERLEY	76
CHRISTLETON	241	CHRISTLETON	75
STOCKPORT GEORGIANS	228	HASLINGTON	71
HALE BARNES	199	UPTON	70
MOBBERLEY	199	GEORGIANS	65
UPTON	187	STOCKPORT	54
STOCKPORT	129	HALE BARNES	42
BARROW	99	BARROW	37

17 JUL - 1 AUG PERFORMANCES OF NOTE  
 Aamir Afzaal 180, Chris v Stock, 24.7  
 Ben Jones 114, SG v Stock, 31.7

Abdul Aqeel 7-33, Mobb v HB, 17.7  
 Zaheer Khan 6-6, AOM v Mobb, 31.7  
 Liam Sundve 6-46, Upt v Lind, 31.7  
 George Hardman 6-52, SG v Stock, 31.7  
 James Locke 5-25, SG V Chris, 17.7  
 Alex Hooton 5-26, Rom v Barr, 31.7  
 James Bashford 5-33, Rom v HB, 24.7  
 Steve Charles 5-41, Alv v Hasl, 31.7  
 Matt Mountney 5-54, Mobb v AOM, 31.7  
 Joe Cooper 5-68, HB v Rom, 24.7  
 James Badrock 4-25 & 55\*,  
 Rom v Stock, 17.7

**Didsbury 2s** have been tightening their grip on the **2nd XI Premier Division** after three straight wins left them with a 37 point advantage over second place **Toft**. **Didsbury** made short work of the two bottom sides, beating **Macc** by 5 wkts on July 17th and following that up with a 9 wkt triumph at home to **Marple** on the 24th, **Mathew Laker** 5-33 as the visitors could only manage 102. **Dids** then beat **Hyde** by 5 wkts on Saturday. **Toft** are still going well in second, but after beating **Hyde** on the 17th they were then involved in two thrillers, firstly a level scores draw at **Bowdon** on the 24th. The hosts declared after 48 overs on 232-6, **Thomas Graham** 77\*. Graham later took 2 wkts as **Toft** found themselves needing 10 off the last over and two off the last ball, but skipper **Paul Ashley** was restricted to a single. **Toft** then beat **Nantwich** by one wkt off the last ball of the match on Sat. **Hyde** themselves got a much needed win on the 24th, **Jason Ebbrell** 4-53 and 40 off 26 as they beat **Macclesfield**. That came a week after drawing with **Chester BH**, who played twice in two days to catch up after Covid postponements and drew both, a losing one at **Neston** where they were left hanging on at 192-9 chasing 237, and a winning one against **Hyde** in an 80 over game, **CBH** 192-9, **Hyde** 182-4 and presumably the more frustrated not to have won. **CBH** finally claimed 25 pts on Sat after beating **Marple**, who, like **Macc** (who lost to **Bowdon** on Sat) remain in the relegation spots but are still very much in touch with the other strugglers. **Alderley Edge** are one such, despite winning two in a row, including over third place **Neston** on the 24th, which renewed their hopes of survival, although a desperate draw against **Cheadle** on Sat gained them only 5 pts. After a 5 wkt defeat at **Nantwich** on the 24th, and then another loss at **Neston** on Sat **Oulton Park** slipped further down the table. They do, how-

ever, have games in hand and will hope to find dates and venues to play these.

Having confidently predicted **Oxton's** winning of the **2nd XI Div 1** title in the last edition, the runaway leaders have been pegged back somewhat by a Covid postponement, then just holding on to draw with visitors **Romiley** on the 24th, before losing by 21 runs to **Timperley** on Sat. It was a shame for the division that **Oxton's** Covid postponement was against second place **Sale**, who have moved to within 50 points after a crushing 10 wkt win at **Grappenhall** on the 24th, **Viraj Sorathia** (pictured below) 79\* and **Joe Molloy** 51\* in an unbroken 151 stand, although **Sale** were then frustrated by the last **Brooklands** pair on Sat in a tense draw, **Sorathia** again top scoring with 70. Prior to beating the leaders, **Timperley** had two centurions, and two big totals, in successive weeks, 126\* from **Rob Matthews** helping beat **Georgians** by 89 runs on the 17th. **Aadam Hasan** then hit 141 as **Timpers** racked up 291-7 at **Warrington** on the 24th, the hosts batting out for a draw and with work to do to get out of the bottom two spots. Like their 1st XI counterparts, **Davenham** are rooted to the foot of Div 1 and must hope for a huge upturn in their remaining games, after another heavy defeat on Sat at the hands of **Heaton Mersey**, for whom **Hassnain Shah** took 6-13. **Ben Bodha** hit 100\* for **Grappenhall** in their 97 run win over **Upton** on the 17th, the

latter getting a much needed third win of the season with a three wkt win over **Lindow** on Sat.

In **2nd XI Div 2**, leaders **Didsbury 2A** have opened up a bit of a gap to second place **Widnes**, the former with three straight wins. On the 17th (by 7 wkts over **Bollington**) and 24th (by 62 runs over **Tattenhall**, **Dan Ward** 6-33) things were pretty straightforward, but having skittled **Hale Barns** for a palsied 29 on Sat (extras top scoring) their 4 wkt win was nothing like as polished as it should have been. **Widnes** also won a low scoring scrap against **Cheadle Hulme** (59 all out), in complete contrast to an altogether more commanding 281-3 against **Urmston** on the 17th, **Matt Burns** (131) and **Shashwat Rusia** (72) putting on a large 1st wkt stand, matched by the visitors as **Hamza Ahmed** (55) and **Josh Espley** (94) set the visitors up for a decent crack at the target, ending on 250-8. **Widnes** then needed a chunky 8th wkt stand to see them to a 3 wkt win on the 24th over **Bollington**. Extras top scored in both innings as **Congleton** (134) beat **Upton** (55) on the 17th, on which day **Ashton OM** and **Bramhall** both had 10 wkt wins. **AOM's Norman Ghous** took 8-24 as they beat **Cheadle Hulme**, and then hit 57\* on Sat in their successful chase of 200 to beat **Neston** and stay third. **Urmston's** last pair put on 20 to take them to a nailbiting one wkt win at **Congleton**, while **Bramhall's Tom Mason** (91\*) and **Rhys Mallard** (57\*) raced to 149 in just 17.1 overs to conclude matters against **Tattenhall** on the 24th. **Tattenhall** lost again on Saturday and, along with **Upton** (who conceded their fixture with **Bramhall**) are getting further adrift in the bottom two spots.



IMAGE: GEORGE FRANKS

A string of fascinating results has left the **3rd XI Premier Division** intriguingly poised as the final weeks of the season, and 1.00pm starts, come into view. **Romiley** suffered only their second defeat of the season on Sun 25th, even more surprising given that they required just 85 from 60 overs to beat **Georgians**. Romiley could only manage 63, as **Neil Pennington's** 5-18 and **James Tilley's** 10-5-9-4 led to an astonishing SG win. Romiley were then reliant upon a blockade to avoid defeat at the hands of a resurgent **Alderley Edge** on Sunday, finishing on 145-8 after AE reached 234-5. AE beat **Didsbury** for the first time since their return to the Premier Division, on the 18th - with plenty to spare - but the reigning champions shook off their torpor to win their next two. First, a dramatic victory with two deliveries remaining, as **Grappenhall** collapsed from 99-1 to 140 all out to give Dids a 35 run win on the 25th, before a more convincing 6 wkt win over second place **Sale** on Sunday, a stand of 72 for the 4th wkt between **Enam Hoque** (60\*) and **Hashir Khan** (55) the crucial factor. **Toft** are top of the pile though, having put **Grappers** to the sword on the 18th, where **Tom Maddocks** and **George Muirhead** hit 104 apiece, putting on over 200 for the 1st wkt. Grappers replied with a creditable 214-8. **Toft** then had to cling on themselves the following week to draw at Hyde,

the last pair blocking out three overs, before a resounding 7 wkt win over Nantwich on Sunday gave them top spot. But it is the closest contest in many years, just 12 points separating Toft, Didsbury, Romiley & Sale, and games between the sides all coming up. With a finals day commitment, Didsbury's league campaign will probably be extended, as will Grappenhall's for the same reason, although after their humbling 38 all out at Hyde on Sunday - 4 wkts for 5 runs on debut for **Kathryn Axon** - they have got a job on. However, the foot of the table is as congested as the top, with **Nantwich** and **Heaton Mersey** both well within Grappers' range, HM's **Gautam Narayanan** hitting 127 in their chunky 246-4

against the Dabbers before **Ali Raza's** 6-30 helped HM to a whopping 154 run win. In **Div 1**, **James Massey** hit 109 on Sun as **Marple & Compstall** beat **Bramhall** by 92 runs and went top, two points clear of **Timperley** and four clear of **Brooklands**. **Bredbury SM** and **Hale Barns** are closest to the exit. In **Div 2**, **Elworth's Joe Hodson** hit 104 as they knocked off 231 to beat **Lindow** by 5 wkts (for whom **Henry James** hit 114) and go 10 pts clear at the top. **Trafford Metrovicks** have won all 13 of their games in **Div 3 West** and are the champions-elect, while **Didsbury 5s**, **Prestbury** & **Hastington** are all on 40 pts atop **Div 3 Central & East**.



DIDSBURY 3's MATT PLESTED CLEAN BOWLS THE LAST MAN WITH TWO DELIVERIES REMAINING AT GRAPPENHALL ON JULY 25TH

## 2ND AND 3RD XI T20 FINALS DAY

**2nd XI Finals Day** is at Toft CC on **Sun August 8th**.

10:30 - Grappenhall v Toft  
 13:30 - Didsbury v Romiley  
 16:30 approx - final

**3rd XI Finals Day** is at Bramhall CC on **Sun August 22nd**.  
 Teams: Bramhall, Didsbury, Grappenhall, Macclesfield

Draw for the semi finals will be made soon.



## CHESHIRE CUP

### QUARTER FINAL - SUN 18TH JULY

Wallasey CC: CHESTER BH (186-8) beat Wallasey (185-9) by 2 wkts

### SEMI FINALS - SUN 1ST AUGUST

BRC: NEW BRIGHTON (120-6) beat Bollington (116) by 4 wkts

Filkins Lane: CHESTER BH (157-7) beat Hyde (153) by 3 wkts



Bollington playing New Brighton

Image: Sandra Mason

New Brighton and Chester Boughton Hall will contest the final of the 2021 Cheshire Cup after both won through in low scoring semi final matches on Sunday. CBH's bowlers did a very effective job of restricting Hyde to just 153, captain Harry Killoran leading by example with a spell of 8-2-15-2 as no.7 Danny Cranmer top scored with 47. Hyde's bowlers were then just as parsimonious, Charlie Barnard 8-3-17-1 the pick as a strong CBH batting line up slumped to 115-7 but Luke Young, having taken 3-31, top scored with 40\* as he and Charlie Fleet added an unbroken 42. In the other match, New Brighton chose to field first and dismissed Bollington for just 116, claiming the prize wicket of Calum Rowe for a duck as no batsman passed 20, all six NB bowlers taking wickets. Bolly fought hard to have NB 86-5 but that was as hopeful as it got, the visitors reaching their victory target with more than 10 overs in hand. That CBH were in the semis at all was due to them pulling off an amazing recovery to defeat Wallasey in a tense quarter-final back in mid-July. The hosts made a bright start and were 93-2 after 14 overs, only to slump to 110-5 at halfway, their eventual total of 185-9 more than they should have got but less than looked likely at one stage. However, Wallasey got right into a strong CBH line-up and reduced them to 69-6 off 23 overs. CBH's challenge looked in serious difficulty but a stand of 111 for the 7th between Lee Dixon (61 off 69) and Andrew Metcalf (69 off 50) turned things completely around, CBH winning a thrilling game with 7 deliveries remaining.

## CHESHIRE SHIELD NEWS

### Semi Finals: Sun Aug 1

Hale Barns (199-8) beat Christleton (194) by 5 runs

Upton (198-5) beat Cheadle Hulme (194-8) by 5 wkts

Hale Barns won a dramatic contest at Brooks Drive, holding off a Christleton team who were 127-3 at one stage. Despite conceding 40 extras, HB managed to do enough and will play Upton in the final, who beat CH with more than 5 overs in hand. Match scorecards on Play Cricket.

## UK FAST

## CHESHIRE CRICKET LEAGUE

With six games remaining, Cheadle Hulme lead an increasingly congested Div 1, with Hawk Green in hot pursuit, just 12 points back in second. NE Cheshire, Ashley, Port Sunlight and Runcorn are all within 30 points of top spot. Tattenhall and Northwich are the bottom two but both can still survive.

## CHESHIRE CC NEWS

Cheshire recorded a fantastic 8 wkt win over Oxfordshire at Banbury last week, an unbroken stand of 160 between skipper Rob Sehmi (80\*) and Sam Perry (77\*) for the 3rd wkt hefting 24 points for Cheshire in a result that gave everyone a real lift. A first innings ton from Will Evans (112\* off 97), as well as another good contribution from Sehmi (65) and Calum Rowe (75) helped Cheshire overtake Oxfordshire's 329. Declaring 25 ahead, Cheshire were up against it as Oxfordshire reached 195-4 in the second innings, but a turnaround saw them lose 5-20, only for a dogged last wicket stand to take the hosts to 237 and leaving Cheshire to watch the skies and the clock. However, the heroics of Sehmi and Perry meant that it was a comfortable win in the end. Cheshire will be in action at Alderley Edge from Sunday Aug 15th when they host Wiltshire in their next Championship fixture, before travelling to take on Berkshire the following week.



WILL EVANS

Despite yet more runs from the bat of Sam Perry (97), Cheshire were knocked out of the 50 over trophy on Sun 18th after a four wicket loss away at Cambridgeshire.

Scores: Cheshire 247 (48.5 os) Cambridgeshire 253-6 (43.5 os)