

COUNTY LEAGUE NEWS

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



AUGUST 2021

Almost there!

Nantwich within one win of title

Rain plays havoc with fixture calendar

Cheshire denied in West Division



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Apologies to those who were waiting for the newsletter to hit their inbox. I made the decision to abandon the normal fortnightly publication this month after rain almost completely wiped out the first weekend of the month, so to effectively to do a 'one weekend' edition didn't seem to make sense. Then the 21st was hit by another continuous downpour...so I felt it best to put together a monthly summary as the season nears its end. Then major comput-

er problems delayed things further - argh! Despite all the depression caused by some miserable match day weather, there has still been plenty going on. There have been trophies won, some of the relegation and promotion issues in various leagues already decided, and on a wider stage Alvanley have made it to a Lords final! Alderley Edge, meanwhile, narrowly missed out on the national T20 finals (see feature below). The Cheshire Shield has been won but the Cheshire Cup Final itself has yet to be played, and the 2nd XI T20 competition is still not concluded, after the original finals day was twice postponed due to bad weather. 3rd XI Finals Day, meantime, did get played, albeit in conditions that were far from ideal at the start of the day in particular! It all again illustrated the problem

of leaving these finals days so late in the season. One spectator I was chatting to at the 3rd XI day suggested that the semi finals of both the 2nd and 3rd XI T20 should be played as stand alone fixtures, on an evening in June or early July, with the Finals day comprising the 3rd XI Final followed by the 2nd XI Final. Less fixtures to fit in on one day, more flexibility, and a showcase League occasion. Well worth pursuing, I think. Anyway, good luck to all teams in this last big fortnight, with much still to play for. The last newsletter will capture (hopefully) two unspoiled weekends of cricket action and be with you shortly after the last day.

James

ALDERLEY JUST EDGED OUT

Alderley Edge's fantastic run into the later stages of the ECB Vitality Club T20 came to a valiant ending at the last hurdle before National Finals Day when they lost out to Barnard Castle in the North Region Final on August 15th. Played at Denby Cricket Club (Derbs), AE won the first semi final, a tight affair seeing them beat Appleby Frodingham (Yorks) by 9 runs. AE's Andrew Windle posted a detailed online report of the game, describing how a number of excellent contributions throughout their innings helped AE total 182-4. In reply, Appleby got off to a decent start but two youngsters, Will Valentine (with the ball) and George Bell (with the gloves) made key breakthroughs, and with the game gradually turning in AE's favour, Appleby



were left needing 17 off the last, captain Chris Sanders taking two wkts to send AE into the final. In a thrilling second semi, Barnard Castle (North East) beat Westhoughton by just 3 runs. The final, in which the weather grew increasingly unkind, saw Sam Perry (41 off 34) the only AE batsman to get any tempo going, AE restricted to just 135-9. Despite Alan Day striking with the fifth ball of the reply, BC pro Samarth Seth hit an unbeaten 81 off 47 balls as BC won by 9 wkts. Nonetheless, AE did brilliantly to get so far in a tough competition.





ALVANLEY MAKE IT TO LORDS

Alvanley v Calmore (Hants)
Voneus Village Cup Final, Lords, Sun Sept 19th

Well well well! The role call of Cheshire sides excelling on the national stage has expanded further this year with the remarkable achievement of Division 2 Alvanley in getting through to the final of the National Village Trophy, after a series of away matches which culminated in a semi-final victory in South Wales on Sunday 8th Aug. There has been previous coverage of Alvanley's exploits to date but after such a terrific feat in winning the semi-final, newsletter caught up with the Alv's **Andy Bennion** to find out all about it in detail. Here's Andy's take on the events of an amazing day, campaign to date, and of course, the final!

"We had the league match at Upton on Sat 7th - they kindly agreed to an early start, but in the event we sat and watched it rain for most of the day. Then it was off to Neyland, some went under their own steam, others went on the 6am coach, along with the supporters that braved the early start. The opposition was always going to be a complete unknown. Neyland is a big club catering for all manner of sports. It seems that the whole town came out to support Neyland but not to be outdone, Alvanley's support was incredible given the journey. It was very windy but with no chance of rain and a hard dry pitch Alvanley had no hesitation in batting first. At 1-2, our nerves were jangling but a healthy stand of 75 between the skipper (Mike Rowlands, who made 45) and Si Gee (55) steadied us. Some hefty hitting in the lower order saw us to 188/9 at the end of 40 overs - just over par seemed the common opinion. Chris Charles and Jimmy Ecclestone were both real handfuls, late movement and good bounce saw Jimmy bag 4/15 off his 8 overs. Ben Tumilty and Ste Charles continued the squeeze with spin, and the pressure manifested itself in a spectacular hat-trick for Ste, his 4 wickets snuffing out any hope for Neyland - our energetic fielding also played its part and they were all out 102. Celebrations with the extended Alvanley family were joyous and went well into Monday!"

"We have covered around 880 miles so far. Previously we'd never progressed beyond the regional stage, but since the home regional semi final every round since has been won away, four of them at the grounds of former winners - Caldý, Woodhouses, Folkton & Flixton and Houghton Main. The game at Woodhouses was of the highest quality with Alvanley coming out of a very close game just in front. All the games have been great events with both Alvanley and opposition support exceeding all expectations. The defence of a hard earned 128 at Houghton Main will live long in the memory too. A perfect fielding and bowling session was needed and delivered."

"Our support has been quite brilliant. Also the number of former players that have come along, sometimes after an absence of many years, has been refreshing. As well as supporters turning up in person, huge numbers of messages have come in via social media. Lords will be a new experience for all of us. Already the communication from the home of cricket has been as classy and comprehensive as you'd expect. They have really whetted the appetite! Apart from a couple of Cheshire Cricket League trophies and some local knockout shields, the club has never been in this sort of territory. People have asked if Sophie Ecclestone could play, but she's on England duty that day so any temptation to study the rules won't be needed! A group of Alvanley's girls and women players had booked tickets for Sophie's game in Worcester, needless to say, those plans have changed. Hotels are being overwhelmed by a sea of Alvanley blue as all manner of people are making plans for a special day at Lords on September 19th."



Sophie Ecclestone [@Sophecc19](#) · Aug 8

THEY DID IT! [@AlvanleyCC](#) are going to Lords 🙌🙌🙌 unbelievable scenes 🏆 not too bad [@jimmyecc4](#) with 4 wickets, very proud of them all. The first Ecclestone to play at Lords. Unreal. ❤️ [#upthealv](#)



7th Aug was a real damp squib for the Premier League, two cancellations, one Covid casualty (CBH v Dids), Toft only getting in 6 overs batting against Neston and Cheadle just 22 overs at OP before no further play was possible. Surprisingly, Hyde was the only ground to see any substantive action as they reached 186-7 in 44 against Oxton, who were 70-3 off 30.5 in reply when that was that.

14th Aug was also weather affected, but more significantly, leaders Nantwich lost for only the third time in 2021 as lowly Hyde pulled off the shock of the day with a deserved 87 run win at Whitehouse Lane. 60 from Keshana Fonseka along with 49 from Charlie Barnard taking Hyde to 213, Phil Stockton 6-71. In reply, Barnard was one of five Hyde bowlers to take 2 wkts as the Dabbers only managed 126, a last wkt stand of 33 a big part of that. In hot pursuit of the leaders, Didsbury narrowed the gap to five pts with a 161 demolition of Oxton. Dids made the most of winning the toss and thus getting every advantage after a 47 overs a side game was agreed. A dazzling 97 from Tim Hughes set up a spectacular late blitz from James Green and Sam Leech, who together added 62 in the last 4 overs as the hosts soared to 254-7. More rain then gave the luckless visitors just 32 overs to chase but no reduction in target (it would have been 205 off 32 under D/L - just saying) and with Liam Booth (8-45) in irresistible form they were all out 93 in just 19.2 overs. OP were frustrated by the rain as they drew at Widnes, reaching 118-4 off 21 in pursuit of 160, but Chester BH, despite having an 80 overs game, were able to dispatch AE by a handsome 117 run margin. 70 from Rick Moore and 56 from Harry Killoran were the mainstays of their 250-5 before Luke Young (5-32) proved too much for the visitors who were all out 133.

A heartening 2 wkt win for bottom club Cheadle in a reduced overs game with Toft provided another twist at the foot of the table. Cheadle were 66-6 but a defiant stand of 54 for the 8th between Rashid Amin and Kris Ali took them to their victory target of 147, after George Dickinson and Patrick Meese had earlier each taken 3 wkts as Toft got to 146, a good effort having been 80-7. Timperley gave their survival hope a boost with 13 pts from their draw at Neston in a 104 over match, although having the hosts 9 down they were frustrated not to claim a vital win.

The weekend of **21st/22nd** looked to have proved pivotal. Amidst blanket cancellations, Nantwich's trip to Oxton went ahead, an incredible fightback from the Dabbers who made 232-9 after being 65-7 and then 141-9. Batting at 9 Ollly Griffiths marshalled the fightback, adding 83 for the 8th with Phil Marsh (41) and then an unbroken 84 for the last with Jimmy Warrington (20*). Griffiths himself ending with a magnificent 98* (62 bs, 4x6, 6x4), while Warrington then returned 15-7-21-7 as Oxton were all out 89, their second successive double figure total. This result grew in significance the following day when Didsbury lost their game in hand at CBH, picking up just 5 pts after their 6 wicket defeat. The

visitors actually did well to reach 162 after being 89-7, Rick Moore and Harry Killoran returning 7-78 between them, the same pair then adding 70 for the 4th (Killoran 67*) as CBH eased to victory and consolidated third place. Didsbury, meantime, gave an 18 point lead to Nantwich ahead of the two clubs playing on the forthcoming Saturday....

And thankfully **Aug 28th** was a beautiful day for cricket, with Wilmslow Rd in superb condition. And it was Nantwich who made the most of a great batting service to record their second emphatic win of the season over their nearest challengers, beating Didsbury by 114 runs and opening up a 38 point gap with just two games remaining. Nantwich had no hesitation in batting and a wonderful 104 off 76 balls from Luke Robinson, who added 145 for the 2nd wkt with Chris Simpson, put the visitors in a strong position. The match then took a turn as 153-1 became 217-8 in the 42nd, Didsbury getting themselves right back, led by Steve Green's 6-66. However, the Nantwich tail wagged vigor-

Luke Robinson catches Dids' Matt Gregson to seal a pivotal win for Nantwich on the 28th.





CCCL PREMIER LEAGUE



ously again, **Mitchell Spencer** helping to add 46 precious runs and, crucially, absorb another 12 overs. Spencer was then amongst the wickets, his 3-32 the best figures amongst an impressive Dabbers bowling display as only **Tim Hughes** got past 30. **Chester BH** closed to within 14 pts of Dids with an impressive 125 run win over **Toft**. CBH rattled up 308-6, the second time they have broken 300 this season and the only Prem outfit to do so in 2021.

Ashraf Qureshi hit 139 in a dominant display which Toft couldn't touch as they were bowled out for 183, now just 14 pts clear of 11th. Fourth placed **Oulton Park** lost a thriller at **Alderley Edge** by just 9 runs. **Ben Gibbon's** wonderful form continued with 7-50 as AE were restricted to 208-8, and **Rob Sehmi** seemed to be in control despite OP losing regular wkts. However, **Sehmi** was ninth out for 97 as the last OP wkt fell 6 balls later. At the bottom,

Cheadle suffered a 113 run reverse at home to **Hyde**, who, after a great month, need 5 more pts to ensure Prem cricket next year. Cheadle host Nantwich on the last day so they are looking increasingly unlikely to survive, while **Timperley's** 11th loss of 2021 - by 8 wkts at the hands of resurgent **Widnes** - saw them claim no pts and remain stuck in the drop zone, with CBH and AE to play. **Neston** recorded a welcome 25 pts - just their second win in 11 games - as they won an entertaining Wirral derby, beating visitors **Oxton** by 3 wkts. However, the 11 pts Oxton gained took them 35 pts clear of 11th spot.

PREMIER LGE TABLE, AUGUST FORM GUIDE, AND STATS TO DATE

TEAM	PTS	TEAM	AUG PTS
NANTWICH	366	CHESTER BH	82
DIDSBURY	328	HYDE	68
CHESTER BH	314	NANTWICH	61
OULTON PARK	269	WIDNES	48
WIDNES	267	ALDERLEY EDGE	46
ALDERLEY EDGE	266	NESTON	46
HYDE	233	DIDSBURY	42
NESTON	230	CHEADLE	42
OXTON	222	OXTON	29
TOFT	201	OULTON PARK	28
TIMPERLEY	187	TIMPERLEY	27
CHEADLE	179	TOFT	23

AUGUST PERFORMANCES OF NOTE

- Ashraf Qureshi 139, CBH v Toft, 28.8
- Luke Robinson 104, Nant v Dids, 28.8
- Olly Griffiths 98*, Nant v Oxt, 21.8
- Tim Hughes 97 Dids v Oxt, 14.8
- Rob Sehmi 97, OP v AE, 28.8
- Liam Booth 8-45, Dids v Oxt, 14.8
- Jimmy Warrington 7-21, Nant v Oxt, 21.8
- Ben Gibbon 7-50, OP v AE, 28.8
- Steve Green 6-66, Dids v Nant, 28.8
- Phil Stockton 6-71, Nant v Hyde, 14.8
- Luke Young 5-32, CBH v AE, 14.8

LEADING RUNS AND WICKETS

PLAYER	RUNS	PLAYER	WICKETS
SAM PERRY	901	BEN GIBBON	57
HARRY KILLORAN	731	STEVE GREEN	50
SIMON STOKES	707	DAMARIO GOODMAN	45
ALI CHUGTAI	624	ANDREW JACKSON	41
ANEESH KAPIL	553	JACK WILLIAMS	38
ALEX MONEY	548	HARRY KILLORAN	37
TIM HUGHES	543	JIMMY WARRINGTON	35
FURQAN SHAFIQ	502	CHRIS SANDERS	35
DANE WILLIAMS	483	QAMAR HAFIZ	35
ROB SEHMI	480	PHIL STOCKTON	34

Bramhall became the only CCCL club to record a win on a rain ruined **7th Aug**, squelching home by 1 wkt against promotion rivals **Brooklands** who almost defended their 112. **Davenham** got to 70-4 against **Bollington** before the rain got too much, with every other game cancelled. The following day, **Davenham** conceded their rearranged trip to **Brooklands**. It was a modest run scoring day on the soggy **14th** with the exception of **Bowdon**, who ran amok at **Bollington** and blazed 276 in 36 overs before declaring. One imagines it was a mercy not too many members of the public were promenading around the park, as the accident book would have likely been in high demand after the onslaught unleashed by **Pat Ashling** (115 off 90) and **Shardul Viinoday** (107* off 67) who added 142 for the 3rd in rapid time. A punch-drunk Bolly were listing heavily to starboard on 143-7 when the weather finally prevailed. **Brooklands** suffered their third consecutive loss, collapsing from 67-6 to 75 all out in their pursuit of just 135 to beat **Macclesfield**, for

whom stalwart **John Birchall** returned 5-14 to claim a refreshing 25 pts. **Warrington** almost pulled off a famous win at **Grappenhall**, who declared on 156-7 after 37. The visitors were left with just 25 overs to chase and got to within two hits of victory, **Jonathan Fletcher's** 68 off 50 getting them desperately close. **Marple** were also left wondering what might have been after **Sale** finished 117-9 chasing their 193-9 (**Mark Bennett** 66) while **Congleton** took full advantage with a valuable 6 wkt win at **Davenham**, who were all but officially relegated after this latest reverse. At the other extreme, **Bramhall** picked up another 25 pts at **Urmston**, who have just gone off the boil somewhat. They managed just 154-9 in a full 50 overs here, which **Bramhall** overtook with more than 10 overs unused, **Nick Cantello** and **Ollie Latter** putting on an unbroken 87 for the 5th wkt. **Bowdon** (180-7) then had the better of their draw with **Sale** (165-9) in their rearranged match on **Sun 15th**, **Sale's** last pair again having to hold out to avoid defeat. On the same day **Grapp-**

pers picked up a useful 25 pts with a 3 wkt win over **Congleton**. After a blank **21st**, a fascinating set of results on the **28th** left the promotion race wide open. **Bramhall's** easy 9 wkt win at relegated **Davenham**, in a game that failed to last 40 overs, sent them top. **Bollington** went second with a more surprising, but equally emphatic, 7 wkt win over **Grappenhall** who were bowled out for just 97, 4 wkts each for **Jerome Jones** and **Stuart Plant**. More surprising still was **Bowdon's** 102 all out at **Brooklands**. Only 46* from **Matt Tully**, batting at 8, rescued **Bowdon** from total ignominy, but the hosts won with almost 40 overs unused. The upshot is that 14 pts separate the top four teams, with **Bollington** hosting **Brooklands** on the final day. **Marple** travel to **Warrington** next week, and it will be one of those two sides, or **Congleton**, who will join **Davenham** in Div 2 next year. **Macc** survived the last 8 balls to deny **Marple** a crucial win, while despite a fine 94 (81 bs) from **Jonathan Fletcher**, **Warrington** only took 6 pts in their drawn pursuit of 270 to beat **Urmston**. **Sale's** win at **Congleton** leaves the **Booth St** side vulnerable, with a trip to **Bramhall** next up for them.

DIVISION ONE TABLE AND AUGUST FORM GUIDE

TEAM	PTS
BRAMHALL	331
BOLLINGTON	325
BOWDON	321
BROOKLANDS	317
GRAPPENHALL	287
URMSTON	266
SALE	257
MACCLESFIELD	225
CONGLETON	200
MARPLE	198
WARRINGTON	173
DAVENHAM	71

TEAM	AUGUST PTS
BRAMHALL	82
BROOKLANDS	72*
GRAPPENHALL	50*
CONGLETON	50*
SALE	47
MACCLESFIELD	46
BOLLINGTON	46
BOWDON	43*
MARPLE	39
URMSTON	33
WARRINGTON	28
DAVENHAM	1

*played 5 games in Aug

AUGUST PERFORMANCES OF NOTE	
Pat Ashling 115, Bowd v Boll, 14.8	
Shardul Viinoday 107*, Bowd v Boll,	14.8
Jonathan Fletcher 94, Warr v Urm,	28.8
John Birchall 5-14, Macc v Brook, 14.8	



CCCL DIVISION TWO



Although Div 2 saw more action on the rain-blighted **7 Aug** there were no winners, the awful weather having the final say in all matches played. **Romiley** were especially cursing their luck having reached 109-7 in pursuit of 117 to beat **AOM**. **Lindow** rattled up 201-4 at Church Lane (**Jadan Jones** 73, **Ben Hamilton-Ryan** 68*) with **Mobberley** 34-0 when play was halted. **Stockport's** pursuit of 161 to beat **Haslington** was truncated at 62-3, while both **Christleton** and **Upton** only batted briefly in their respective games against **Barrow** and **Alvanley** before no more could be done.

On the **14th**, the key game at the top was surprisingly one-sided on the day, **Alex Matthews** 4-22 the main factor in **Romiley** managing just 117 against **Lindow**. 63* from Rob Herriott led to a jaunty 6 wkt win and a 20 pt lead for **Lindow**. **Haslington** did their best to keep the pressure up on the top two with a 7 wkt win over **Upton**, but both **Alvanley** and **Christleton** could only draw and lost ground as a result. **Christleton** reached 231-7 at **Ashton OM**, but a magnificent 103* from **Miraj Patel** enabled the hosts to cling on at 208-9. **Osman Butt** batted through the **Mobberley** inns for 89* as they reached 183-7 against **Alvanley**, for whom **Michael Rowlands** and **Steve Charles** put

on 100 for the 1st wkt in reply. That **Alvanley** then finished hanging on at 152-9 shows what a great effort **Mobb** put in as they moved further away from what is increasingly becoming a straight fight between **Stockport** and **Upton** to avoid being relegated. Sadly for them after their 9 wkt defeat by the **Cale Green** side on Saturday, escaping the drop became a remote prospect for **Barrow**. **Upton** claimed a 38 pt advantage over **Stockport** and have three of their remaining four games at home too. **Hale Barns** drew at **Georgians** in the other game on Sat, the hosts only having 25 overs to reply to HB's 212-7 in 41.

One matter was settled during the total washout on **Aug 21st** - **Barrow's** relegation was confirmed.

On the 28th, **Lindow** took a giant step towards achieving the promotion they narrowly missed out on in 2019, with a comfortable win over **Stockport**. 4 wkts apiece for **Ryan O'Brien** and **Alex Matthews**, and 62* from just 29 balls from **Robin Broom**, means that 16 more points will ensure Div 1 cricket at Upcast Lane next

year. On the other hand, **Stockport's** faint hopes of survival are all but over as they are now 41 points adrift of safety, although **Upton's** dramatic 4 run loss at home to **Mobberley** - the hosts were 84-5 chasing 101 - means they still need 10 pts to be mathematically safe, and with a long trip to promotion-chasing **Romiley** next for them, it could keep things interesting a while longer, although with third place **Alvanley** visiting **Cale Green** at the same time, **Stockport** will know they face a real battle to claim a vital 25 pts. **Romiley's** scrappy 4 wkt win at **Haslington** moved them second, while **Christleton** conceded their game at **Alvanley** who are 14 pts behind in third. **Georgians'** 220 run demolition of **Barrow** featured a fabulous 137* from **Francis Yates**, who saw 172 added for the 3rd wkt with **Dan Box** (59). **Simon Normanton** took 4-15 to add to his earlier 46. **AOM** captain **James Marshall** top scored with 76 as his side easily won against **Hale Barns**, **Zohaib Khan** and **Zaheer Khan** taking 7-49 between them as HB were all out for 77.

DIVISION TWO TABLE AND AUGUST FORM GUIDE

TEAM	PTS	TEAM	AUGUST PTS
LINDOW	346	LINDOW	67
ROMILEY	326	GEORGIANS	62
ALVANLEY	312	MOBBERLEY	54
ASHTON ON MERSEY	294	ASHTON OM	47
HASLINGTON	286	ALVANLEY	46
STOCKPORT GEORGIANS	274	HASLINGTON	43
CHRISTLETON	260	ROMILEY	42
MOBBERLEY	253	STOCKPORT	40
HALE BARNES	232	HALE BARNES	33
UPTON	210	UPTON	23
STOCKPORT	169	CHRISTLETON	19
BARROW	101	BARROW	17

AUGUST PERFORMANCES OF NOTE

Francis Yates 137*, SG v Barr, 28.8

Miraj Patel 103*, AOM v Chris, 14.87

Didsbury 2s need 10 points to secure the **2nd XI Premier Division** title. Despite them suffering only their second loss of the year on the **14th**, when they were heavily beaten at Bowdon, they somehow escaped the worst of the weather the week before, and also got away with a poor batting display, beating **CBH** at Wilmslow Rd by 4 runs in a gripping finish after themselves only totalling 103. **CBH** reached 90-6 only for **Ed Catt** to put the, er, cat among the pigeons by taking 3-9 as **CBH** were all out 99. Then on the **28th**, a thrilling draw with **Nantwich** (who finished 207-8 chasing 209 to win) saw **Didsbury** establish a 41 pt advantage with two games remaining. **Toft** are second, a 55 run win over **Cheadle** on the **14th** (**Andrew Bones** making 97 in their 202-7) followed by a defeat to **Chester BH** on the **28th** (for whom **Ben Spaven** made 90). **Neston** are third after a massive 124 run win over **Macc** on the 14th, despite totalling just 188 themselves. **Macc** could only manage 64, but after being 13-6 this represented something of a recovery. However, beating (and relegating) **Marple** on Sat, **Macc** are now just 6 pts away from third bottom **Oulton Park**, who lost to similarly-imperiled **Alderley Edge** on Sat. **OP** were left frustrated at **Cheadle** on the 7th when heavy rain ended the

match with **OP** 126-2 off 25 chasing 166 off 40. **Alan Day** made 80* in an appearance for **AE** as they eased to an 8 wkt win over **CBH**, who then lost their third game in a row the following day, falling short of **Cheadle's** 200-6 by an agonising 5 runs. **Hyde** are also in the relegation equation - despite a brilliant win over third place **Neston** in the only game played on the **21st**, they lost to **Cheadle** on Sat. In **Div 1**, a 13th win of the season confirmed that **Oxton** will be promoted as champions. They got back to winning ways with a 5 wkt win at **Georgians** on the **14th** before 85* from **Jack Breheny** in their 8 wkt win over **Brooklands** on Sat got the champagne corks popping. **Sale** are second with an 11 point gap to **Romiley** in third - the two clubs meet on the last day of the season for some pretty high stakes. **Timperley** whacked 323-4 in 47 overs against visitors **Brooklands**, on the **14th**, **Jordan Ruff** making 104 and **Shahnawaz Khan** 88. **Brooklands** themselves were off to a flyer, 26-0 off 4.1, when no more play was possible. **Upton** also made hay

with the bat, 105 from **Paddy Delaney** the centrepiece of successive century partnerships as they reached 244-2 against **Davenham**, who lost by 65 runs and remain firmly rooted to the foot of the table. **Warrington** will be joining **Dav** in **Div 2** after they could only garner 6 pts from their derby draw with **Grappenhall** on the **14th** and were then thrashed by **Lindow** on Sat (for whom **Gus Watson** made 103*). **Heaton Mersey** hammered **Sale** by 154 runs in the other game on the **14th** and then beat **Timpers** on the **28th** to go fourth, but they will need two wins and for others to falter to nick second. In **Div 2**, **Didsbury 2As** recovered from a surprise defeat at **Ashton OM** on the **14th**, when they were bowled out for just 84, with 91 from **Adam Slater** helping them to beat title rivals **Widnes** on the **28th** and go 28 pts clear with two games left. At the bottom, **Tattenhall** require a miracle to escape while it's too late for **Upton**. The two sides played out a tense draw at the **Flacca** on the 14th, the visitors ending on 172-7 in pursuit of 176 for victory.

3RD XI CRICKET

The most closely contested 3rd XI Premier Division in some years has come down to the last match day. **Didsbury 3s** have put together five straight wins, including over title challengers **Sale**, and on **BH Monday** a nervy and distinctly tense 2 wkt win over **Toft**. That win put **Didsbury** top again by 7 pts from **Sale**, who themselves had beaten **Toft** the day before. **Sale** also recorded a 7 wkt win over **Romiley** earlier in August which finally ended **Rom's** creditable title tilt, while **Toft**, also in with a shout after good recent form, have just faded. Despite 84 from the in-form **George Muirhead**, and 198 to defend, **Toft** were beaten by **Alderley Edge** on the 15th, for whom **Ben Chapman** cracked 65* as they finally banished any lingering relegation fears with a terrific 4 wkt win. At the bottom **Grappenhall** and **Heaton Mersey** will be relegated. **Saj Hussain** hammered 160 for **Georgians** as they beat **Grappers** on Sunday, the same day that **Joe McNeeny** hit 162* for **Romiley** at **Mersey**. In **Div 1**, **Marple & Compstall**, have won the league. **M&C** won a close game against **Didsbury 4s** on the 15th, and then beat **Ashley** on Sunday, holding off the challenge of **Timperley**, who won a heartstopper by 2 runs against **Cheadle** on the 15th. **Shahnawaz Khan** hitting another century (115*) in that game and then smashed 186 on Sun as **Timpers** walloped **HB**, who had also been pummelled on the 15th at **Brooklands**, **HB** folding for just 39 and a 219 run loss. With an unassailable lead, **Elworth** have won **Div 2**, despite a defeat on Sunday. After an unbeaten 2021, **Didsbury 5s** finished top of the **Central and East Div**, having won more games than challengers **Prestbury**, while **Trafford Metrovicks** have dominated the **West Division** all season and won it at a canter.

Frustrating problems with the weather meant that 2nd XI Finals Day was completely cancelled on two separate occasions, the constant rain on August 8th putting paid to the original date. A rearranged date of the 22nd was set but conditions at Toft were judged unfit after a series of inspections, with concerns about fitting in the three fixtures on the day. The semi finals were thus arranged to be played as separate events.

SEMI FINAL 1 (TUESDAY AUG 24TH, TOFT CC)

TOFT (138-7) BEAT GRAPPENHALL (123-8) BY 15 RUNS

Hosts Toft accumulated steadily throughout their innings, 42 off 38 balls from Joe Stanley the mainstay of their innings, and David Blackburn's late 27 off 22 giving them a late boost to set Grappers almost 7 runs an over to win. They lost opener Steve Rooney in the first over and struggled to get any momentum in their reply, 3-18 from Zain Basharat keeping the run rate under control and ensuring Toft's place in the final.

SEMI FINAL 2 (SUNDAY 5TH SEPTEMBER, MACCLESFIELD CC, 12.00pm)

DIDSBURY 2s v ROMILEY

The winner of this match will play Toft on the same day. Ground availability has been a major issue for the rearranged semi and the final itself, with potential matchdays running out. Not for the first time this season, Macclesfield's facility and willingness to help has come to the rescue!



AN EVENING WITH COOK & MILLER



Toft are hosting an evening event with Sir Alistair Cook and Geoff Miller, as they embark on more fundraising for their new pavilion. Please contact the club directly for further details.



**THURSDAY
30TH SEPTEMBER**

- TICKETS - £39.50
- INDIVIDUAL OR TABLES OF 8-12
- SMART CASUAL
- 7PM TILL LATE
- 3 COURSE DINNER
- DIAMOND RAFFLE & PLEDGE AUCTION FOR NEW PAVILION FUND

TO BOOK PLEASE EMAIL: [INFO@TOFTCC.CO.UK](mailto:info@toftcc.co.uk)



3RD XI T20 FINALS DAY



DIDSBURY 3S MADE IT THREE JACK GARDNER T20 TROPHY VICTORIES IN A ROW WITH A 48 RUN WIN OVER GRAPPENHALL IN THE FINAL ON SUNDAY AUGUST 22nd, AT BRAMHALL CC. HERE'S THE STORY OF THE DAY.



A fantastic effort by the groundsman, players, volunteers (incl the 1st XI captain) at Bramhall meant the Finals Day did get underway, albeit in conditions that were far from perfect. The weather did improve as the day went on but a delayed start to the day meant the two semi-finals were reduced to 15 overs per side.

S/F 1: DIDSBURY (134-2) BEAT BRAMHALL (57-9) BY 77 RUNS
Toss: Didsbury



Opting to bat first, a superb opening stand of 95 in 10.4 overs between Andrew Mashiter (32 off 32) and Harry Rigby (66 off 39) gave Didsbury match-winning momentum, a late cameo from Enam Hoque enabling them to set Bramhall almost 9 an over to win. The host club were pegged back from the outset by accurate Didsbury bowling, Taiyyib Khan's 4-10 the standout figures as the holders eased into the final.

At 54-2 after 7 overs, Macclesfield were well set, but Ben Bravington's 4-11 saw them add just 34 more in the last 8 overs. In reply, Grappers tumbled from 24-0 to 47-5 in the 9th, and a nervy period ensued as Macc dropped four catches and Grappers gifted them two run outs. Stanley Pennington then hit an imperious straight six off the last ball of the 14th over to settle it.

S/F 2: GRAPPENHALL (91-7) BEAT MACCLESFIELD (88-8) BY 3 WKTS
Toss: Grappenhall



FINAL: DIDSBURY (145-9) BEAT GRAPPENHALL (97) BY 48 RUNS
Toss: Didsbury



After another good start, Didsbury went from 58-0 to 60-4 in one over as Richard Wiles took a hat-trick. Then, just as they did in their q-f win at Hyde, Jamie Collinge (28) and John Battersby (41) put together a decisive stand, this time of 71 in 9 overs to help Didsbury reach a healthy 145 in their 20. Wiles (29 off 24) also weighed in with the bat, and along with Alex Perry (30 off 21) helped Grappers to reach 72-2 in the 9th. Spinners Rab Nawaz and Dan Ward then took 7-37 between them as, in all, Grappers lost their last 8 wkts for 25 in a startling collapse.



CHESHIRE CC NEWS

Cheshire finished third in the Western Division after a heavy defeat away at the hands of reigning champions Berkshire ended their hopes of reaching the 3 day Final. It was the second day which proved pivotal for Cheshire, as they bowled out Berks for 190 only to then be themselves dismissed for just 92. A strong 2nd innings by Berks set Cheshire a daunting 351 to win and they were all out for a battling 192. However, Berks' 283 run defeat at Oxfordshire in their previous match meant they were also to miss out on the final, Oxfordshire finishing top of the division. Earlier in August, rain frustratingly washed out the final day of Cheshire's match with Wiltshire at Alderley Edge, the hosts very much in pole position after claiming a first innings lead of 148 thanks to a century from David Wainwright and a fine man of the match performance from OP's Ben Gibbon, with 5-43 and a valuable 44 batting at no 10, adding 94 for the 9th wkt with Wainwright. But overall Cheshire can take a number of positives from 2021.



OVER 40s NEWS

The over 40s finals line up has been sorted during August. The Divisional programme concluded with Chester BH top of the Western Division, Toft finishing six points clear at the top of Central Div 1, losing only once all season, while East Div winners Hyde hammered 202-4 in 20 overs in their last (ultimately abandoned) game with Bramhall. However, Urmston (third in Div 1) beat Hyde in the q-f, while Davenham, Neston & Chester BH also won through to finals day, on 12 Sept. On that day, Neston will take on Davenham in one semi, while finals day hosts CBH and Urmston contest the other. In the over 40s Plate final, Cheadle will play Wallasey, also on Sept 12th, with the venue yet to be announced.

Cheshire Over 70s beat Wales by 9 runs at faraway Port Talbot CC in mid August to progress through to the Final of the National Cup. They play Surrey at Kidderminster CC on Thurs 2nd Sept.

UK FAST CHESHIRE CRICKET LEAGUE

Having already made no secret of my difficulty comprehending the points scoring system in the CCL this year, things have taken a further twist with the introduction of average points per game now deciding league placings. **Cheadle Hulme** are currently top of **Div 1** on both total points and highest average PPG - bowling Northwich out for 22 on the 14th and beating P.Sunlight by 2 runs on the 28th part of this, but **NE Cheshire**, in fourth, have 17 pts more than the sides in 2nd and 3rd, (**Hawk Green & Runcorn**) and **Port Sunlight** in fifth 10 more! I am pretty sure **Northwich** will be relegated, with one of **Barnton** (bowled out for 35 on Aug 21st), **Stockport Trinity** or **Tattenhall** going down with them. **Maritime** and **Winnington Park** look all set for promotion from **Div 2**, while at the other end, it looks like **Middlewich** - playing in CCCL Div 1 as recently as 2015 - will be relegated along with **Appleton**. Two OPs - **Over Peover** and **Old Parkonians** - are first and second in **Div 3** although **Wirral** (third) have 17 more points than their Oxtan-based neighbours, while in **Div 4**, **Cholmondley** (third) have more points than **Wistaston Village** (top) and **Trafford Metrovicks** (second). I need a lie down!



UPTON WIN CHESHIRE SHIELD

Upton staged two separate finals events on the same day (Sun 22 Aug), the Womens T20 Finals taking place on the back pitch while on the main ground, **Upton** won the Cheshire Shield in a tightly contested final with Hale Barns, in their fourth consecutive Shield final. On winning the toss, Upton elected to bowl, reducing Hale Barns to 33-5 before they recovered to total 183, Rory Allen making 68 and Jimmy Guest 43. Tommy Maguire (5-52) was the pick of the Upton attack, keeper Tom Marsland taking 4 catches and a stumping. Needing 54 off the last 9 overs, Upton kept up with the rate and won the game in the final over. Darren Warburton top scored with 35, while four batsman made 20+ scores to see the hosts home amidst scenes of great celebration. Upton's twitter feed has a large selection of good quality photos of the event that give a really good flavour of an enjoyable day.

UMPIRES AND SCORERS CHALLENGE

Thanks to all who sent in their responses to last edition's umpiring and scoring conundrums. On the whole, we have some knowledgeable officials out there! Here are the scenarios again, and the answers.....so see how you got on!

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 from the umpire?*

In this instance the fielder's actions are treated in the same way as overthrows (law 19:8) so the batsman would be credited with 5 runs. Umpires should signal a boundary four and then hold up an outstretched palm to indicate 5 runs. All 5 runs are credited to the striker, who will also be on strike for the next over. The umpire is within their rights to also issue a formal team warning (law 41:2) for unfair play to the fielding side.

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?*

The key element here is the umpires' decision of the Level 2 offence committed by the batsman (law 42:3). Technically the batting side have completed two runs and won the match (law 16:6) but there will be penalty runs to be awarded to the fielding side because of the umpires' decision (law 16:6). These should be signalled in the prescribed manner (umpire holding their left shoulder with their right hand, or vice-versa). If there was an appeal the offending batsman could be given out obstructing the field, but they would be credited with one run as their actions have not prevented a catch from being taken (law 37:5). Assuming this occurred, the fielding side would win by 5 runs (law 16:7), or by 4 runs if the umpire rejected the appeal for obstruction. The ball hitting the helmet is immaterial because the helmet was not deliberately discarded (law 28:2).

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 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?*

The batsman here is technically correct (law 25:2) as, after the call of 'time', a batsman's innings is not deemed to have started until the call of 'play'. However, given the statement given by the incoming batsman, it is quite clear that there is intent to waste time (law 41:10) and therefore his actions can be dealt with by this law, that is, a team warning and penalty runs on repetition, plus a report.