

## **CHESHIRE WOMEN'S LEAGUE**

### **Division One – September 10:**

Didsbury 87-6 (30; Hannah Jones 37, Leesa Mellon 28, Ali Cutler 2-6, Sammi Short 2-15) (25pts)

Chester Boughton Hall 83-8 (30; Lorna Starkey 23, Hannah Marshall 3-19, Mellon 2-16) (6pts)

(Restricted to 30 overs per side)

- Chester's hopes of a treble, and of retaining their league title, slipped away as Didsbury came out on top. Chester were always facing an uphill battle from April onwards, when they lost their opening two league matches. Boughton Hall duly responded in a manner worthy of the defending champions, when they proceeded to win their next eight completed league matches. However, today was their first defeat in the league since April, and also ended a 14-match winning run across all competitions. For the first time in recent years at least, the division one lead changed on the final day. Rosh Navaratnam bowled a tight spell and Hannah Marshall took crucial wickets, but it was once again Hannah Jones who played the main role in restricting the scoring rate during Chester's innings, as the Lancashire spinner sent down six overs for only two runs. The win lifted Didsbury to third place.

Appleton 102-2 (30; Emma Barlow 41, Holly McCurrie 25) (6pts)

Oakmere 103-3 (26.4; Dawn Prestidge 31\*, Raffaella Rodighiero 26\*, Kerry Hartnett 22, Olivia Horsfield 2-24) (25pts)

(Restricted to 30 overs per side)

- With Chester slipping up, it was Oakmere who clinched their first title since 2014 – Dawn Prestidge and Raffaella Rodighiero's partnership seeing them home here. Having started the day 11 points adrift, Oakmere ended it eight points ahead. Appleton's run of seven successive top two finishes ended as they were forced to settle for fourth place – indeed had they failed to hold their nerve and complete a three-run win over Stockport Trinity last week, it would now be Appleton who were facing up to the prospect of relegation. Oakmere's title win means that no club has retained the Championship since Appleton in 2012. It also means that while Chester's dreams of the treble were dashed today, one player is celebrating a personal treble, as Prestidge is a member of Oakmere's League squad, and also of the Chester T20 squad that won the Knockout Cup and the Divisional Competition in the shorter form of the game. Given her successes in captaining Cheshire to first place in their T20 division, it can in fact be said to be a personal quadruple!

### **Division Two – September 10:**

Wistaston Village 113-6 (40; Hannah Bratt 37, Jen Regan 27\*, Alison Smith 21, Amanda Gettins 2-15, Becky Baldock 2-19) (6pts)

Ashton-on-Mersey 86-6 (28; Azure Wilkinson 28\*, Regan 4-17) (25pts)

(Ashton win on faster scoring rate)

- Jen Regan's extraordinary feat of taking four wickets in four balls was not enough for second division champions Wistaston to end their season with a win. Instead Azure Wilkinson held Ashton's reply together to ensure a narrow win on faster run rate in yet another rain-affected match.

### **Division One / Two Cross Divisional – September 10:**

Stockport Trinity v Oxton – Cancelled due to rain, 8pts each.

- This was the one and only occasion on which a match in the top two divisions was washed out this year. Although there were several abandoned matches, all of them in the closing weeks of the season, the number of no result matches suffered by the top two was the same (one) and the finishing order in division one would have been the same if the table had been based on average points from completed matches. Wistaston's win over Didsbury was the only occasion in 2017 where a division two side won a cross-divisional match – very different to the situation in previous years.

### **Division Three – September 17:**

Chester Boughton Hall 2<sup>nd</sup> XI 86-6 (20; Beth Nicholson 34, S Hughes 3-13) (7pts)

Lymm Oughtrington Park 87-4 (16.5; Amy Coutoure 41\*, Zoe Cabral 2-6) (25pts)

- Neither side had won this year, with the match between the two sides back in July ending in a tie. However, it was Lymm who edged this one, their first win in several years coming courtesy of Amy Coutoure's latest promising innings.

### Other outstanding Division Three matches:

Chester Boughton Hall 2<sup>nd</sup> XI v Woodley – no play due to rain on original date of July 11, and never re-arranged. Recorded as cancelled, 8pts each.

Chester Boughton Hall 2<sup>nd</sup> XI v Hawarden Park – Chester unable to fulfil on original date of August 16, and never re-arranged. Awarded to Hawarden – 25/ minus 10pts

### Player loans:

Clare Edwards – Woodley to Ashton-on-Mersey

A final reminder that the League's annual Presentation Dinner will take place this Saturday, September 23, at Hazel Grove Golf Club – 1900 for a meal at 1930. Some exciting news for those who have reserved places is that England World Cup winner Lauren Winfield will speak at the dinner, and will present the prizes. Lauren has opened the batting for England ever since the retirement of Charlotte Edwards, and has played two Tests, 32 one-day internationals and 18 T20 internationals since her international debut in 2013. The Yorkshire/Yorkshire Diamonds batsman has made one century and six half-centuries in her England career to date.

The next meeting of the Committee will be on Tuesday October 10, venue tbc. The next annual cycle of Small Grants applications will open at this meeting, so clubs may want to consider now whether they wish to apply for monies to fund winter training and other off-season activities. The League is pleased to announce that in the next applications cycle, clubs may apply for up to £300 of funding, and can request up to £500 if they field a second team in the League.

The League's Annual General Meeting will take place on Tuesday November 14, venue tbc once again. Any clubs wishing to join the League's senior competitions for 2018 must submit an application ahead of this meeting, and must send a representative to the meeting to answer any queries the Committee may have. Any clubs currently in Division 3 who believe they may be interested in promotion to Division 2 should also make their intentions known to the League prior to this meeting.

## FINAL LEAGUE TABLES

Division 1	p	w	wcn	l	lcn	a	c	BatP	BowlP	Pen	NRR	Pts
Oakmere (CH)	12	8	1	1	1	1	0	8	3	1	1.58	233
Chester Boughton Hall	12	8	0	3	0	1	0	10	7	0	0.6	225
Didsbury	12	5	2	4	0	1	0	11	14	0	0.05	208
Appleton	12	6	0	4	0	2	0	14	14	0	0.06	194
Stockport Trinity (REL)	12	5	0	6	0	0	1	20	14	1	0.52	166

<b>Division 2</b>	<b>p</b>	<b>w</b>	<b>l</b>	<b>lcn</b>	<b>t</b>	<b>a</b>	<b>c</b>	<b>BatP</b>	<b>BowIP</b>	<b>NRR</b>	<b>Pts</b>
Wistaston Village (CH & PROM)	11	4	6	0	1	0	0	15	15	-0.52	145
Leigh	11	3	7	0	0	1	0	22	13	-0.45	118
Ashton-on-Mersey	11	3	6	1	0	1	0	22	14	-0.56	109
Oxton	11	1	6	1	1	1	1	19	14	-1.58	79

p - Played, w - Won (25), wcn - Opposition Conceded (25), l - Lost (0), lcn - Team Conceded (-10), t - Tied (15), a - Abandoned (8), c - Cancelled (8), BatP - Batting Bonus Points, BowIP - Bowling Bonus Points, Pen - Penalty Points, NRR - Net run rate, Pts - Points

Each team in the top two divisions played the others in their division at home and away, plus one fixture against each of the teams in the other division. One up one down promotion and relegation will apply between the two divisions.

<b>Division 3</b>	<b>p</b>	<b>w</b>	<b>wcn</b>	<b>l</b>	<b>lcn</b>	<b>t</b>	<b>c</b>	<b>BatP</b>	<b>BowIP</b>	<b>NRR</b>	<b>Pts</b>
Stockport Georgians (CH)	10	9	0	1	0	0	0	4	3	1.56	232
Didsbury 2 <sup>nd</sup> XI	10	8	0	2	0	0	0	8	4	1.32	212
Hawarden Park	10	5	1	4	0	0	0	10	7	0.05	167
Woodley	10	4	0	5	0	0	1	17	15	0.26	140
Lymm Oughtrington Park	10	1	0	8	0	1	0	28	8	-2.19	76
Chester Boughton Hall 2 <sup>nd</sup> XI	10	0	0	7	1	1	1	18	13	-1.8	44

The division three teams played each other home and away.