

COUNTY LEAGUE NEWS

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



PHOTO: NANTWICH CC TWITTER

Nantwich are the champions!

Cheshire Cup triumph for Chester

Uninterrupted end to 2021



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So we are all done for another season! I have been recalling this time last year, when we were blessed by a very warm September which enabled a full set of finals in the hurriedly revamped competitions to be played. Twelve months on and, although we have suffered badly with some very wet weekends throughout the season we have been very fortunate to have got a full season in, as Covid continues to have such a stifling impact on so many as-

pects of life. The cancelled fifth Test at Old Trafford was a vivid cricketing reminder of this, but even then there was something positive which came out of it for one of our Cheshire clubs (see further on in this edition). Congratulations to all the clubs that enjoyed success this year - there is so much that goes on across Cheshire cricket it is next to impossible to capture but the broadest snapshot of it in this publication. I must say that it is still rather 'hit and miss' when researching news items and I know which clubs take the time and effort to publicise what's going on. I hope more clubs can get their social media feeds up-to-date, it can make a big difference in attracting new members and potential volunteers too. As for the newsletter

this year, I have tried a more regular publication schedule which has not been without its challenges, shall we say! Latterly my computer problems which I alluded to in the previous edition are far from over, the upshot of which is that many of the statistics of the season which I had hoped to feature in this edition will have to wait for another time as they are still inaccessible. But that's as it is, and thankfully I am still able to feature the conclusion of a very interesting season. We will have to wait a while to celebrate it all at the League Dinner but as and when next March ticks round, we will hopefully also be ready to go again and enjoy another season of the greatest of games.

James



OVERVIEW 2021



1ST XI PREMIER DIVISION WINNERS: **NANTWICH**

RUNNERS UP: DIDSBURY

THIRD PLACE: CHESTER BOUGHTON HALL

RELEGATED: TIMPERLEY, CHEADLE

1ST XI FIRST DIVISION WINNERS: **BOWDON**

RUNNERS UP (PROMOTED): BROOKLANDS

RELEGATED: WARRINGTON, DAVENHAM

1ST XI SECOND DIVISION WINNERS: **LINDOW**

RUNNERS UP (PROMOTED): ALVANLEY

RELEGATED: STOCKPORT, BARROW

2ND XI PREMIER DIVISION WINNERS: **DIDSBURY 2s**

3RD XI PREMIER DIVISION WINNERS: **DIDSBURY 3s**

OVER 40s CUP: **NESTON & URMSTON** (SHARED)

1ST XI T20: **ALDERLEY EDGE**

CHESHIRE CUP: **CHESTER BOUGHTON HALL**

2ND XI T20: **DIDSBURY 2s**

3RD XI T20: **DIDSBURY 3s**



CHESHIRE CUP 2021



CHESTER BOUGHTON HALL WIN THE CUP!

67 RUN TRIUMPH OVER NEW BRIGHTON

SUNDAY 5TH SEPTEMBER AT CHESTER

CHESTER BH 238-6 (40) (L.Dixon 53*, R.Moore 47, A.Metcalf 47)

NEW BRIGHTON 171 (35.2) (D.Cooke 44, A.Watkins 43,
H.Killoran 5-27, J.Williams 3-50)

Man of the Match: Lee Dixon (CBH) awarded by Geoff Wellstead

UMPIRES: PHIL PRINCE, MARTIN ROBERTS

SCORERS: JAMES LAW (CBH) & MARTIN HUMPHREYS (NB)

Chester BH claimed their sixth Cheshire Cup Final win in nine years, and ninth overall as they ran out comfortable winners over New Brighton at Filkins Lane on September 5th. With his 5-27 leading by example, Harry Killoran tasted success in his first year as skipper in a carnival atmosphere on an historic day when the Chester Ladies 1st XI won the league title on the back pitch.

Put into bat, Chester got off to a solid start adding 54 before Warren Goodwin was caught behind for 25. Rick Moore went on to make 47 and Alex Money added 33, but Chester looked to be heading for an under par total. However, after their terrific partnership at Wallasey in the quarter final, Lee Dixon and Andy Metcalf did it again, Dixon making an unbeaten 53 from 50 balls and Metcalf 47 off just 35 as the pair added 93 for the sixth wicket in 12 overs, enabling Chester to reach 238-6 from their allocation.

The New Brighton reply got off to a dramatic start, George McCormick opening up with a wicket maiden, and although the Wirral side tried to rebuild, they kept losing momentum with wickets falling in the 10th, 13th and 15th overs. That fourth wicket was Ashley Watkins, who made a good 43, which was followed by an impressive fifth wicket partnership of 72 between Dan Cooke (44) and Louis Botes (32) which took New Brighton to 135-4 in the 26th. The breakthrough for CBH was conjured by Rick Moore, trapping Cooke lbw, and when Botes was caught by Goodwin on the boundary three overs later, the match had taken a decisive turn.

Harry Killoran and Jack Williams then spun CBH to victory as the last four wickets went in under 7 overs. It was a wonderful sun-blessed occasion for such a big game with the locals out in force alongside a great contingent from New Brighton who more than played their part in a terrific atmosphere.

Peter Davies (Chairman, Cheshire Cricket Board) and David Humpage (Chairman, Cheshire County League) presented the trophy and Geoff Wellstead - on a welcome return from Yorkshire - chose Lee Dixon as man of the match.

Photo: CBH Men and Women celebrate their double success

***WITH GRATEFUL THANKS FOR THE MATCH INFO AND PHOTOS TO THE CBH WEBSITE**



NANTWICH LIFTED THE PREMIER LEAGUE TITLE, THEIR SECOND IN THE PAST THREE COMPLETE SEASONS, HOLDING OFF THE CHALLENGE OF RUNNERS-UP DIDSBURY, WITH CHESTER BH THIRD. CHEADLE AND TIMPERLEY WERE RELEGATED.

A glorious afternoon on **Sept 5th** saw the title race extended, mathematically at least, into the final weekend after a surprise defeat for leaders **Nantwich** at **Neston**. Choosing to bat first, Nantwich put together a healthy enough looking 254, **Rob Cook-Seivewright** making 63 and keeper **Spencer Byatt** with a welcome 54. Four wkts apiece from **Ash Davis** and **Chris Hackett** saw the Dabbers dismissed in 49 overs, and those extra overs claimed were to prove crucial as Hackett came to the fore again with the bat. His 43 off 38 balls saw 71 added for the 7th wkt in under 12 overs with **Dane Williams** (58*) after **Matt Strong's** 63 had given Neston a solid base to build from. Davis hit the winning runs in the 58th over to conclude a brilliant game. Despite their fifth loss of the season, **Nantwich** took 11 pts from the game, which gave them one hand on the title trophy, their emphatic win over **Didsbury** the week before assuming even greater significance. **Didsbury** themselves staged an astonishing recovery to pull off a massive 171 run win at **Oulton Park**. Choosing to bat, Dids were all over the place at 29-6 before skipper **Nick Anderson** (58 off 52) was joined by keeper **Sam Leech**, who hammered a magnificent 94, both batsmen hitting four 6s as they added 105 for the 7th. Leech continued on his merry way with **Max Backhouse** as they added another 85 for the 8th, Didsbury finishing on a remarkable 256-9, 4 wkts apiece for **Ben Gibbon** and **Martyn East**. OP were never at the races as Anderson took 4-26, all out 85 in under 24 overs. **Chester BH** kept up their pursuit of second spot with another of their trademark tight squeak victories, winning for the second time in 2021 by 1 wkt at **Timperley**, whose 112 (**Jack Williams** 4-8) didn't look anywhere near enough. However, **Chris Page**

(4-53) and **Jake Sandham** (4-30) set about their work so well that CBH were reeling at 58-7 and then 90-9, before **Alex Nash** and **George McCormick** inched them over the line. The result also meant that Timperley - third in 2018 and 2019 - were relegated after a difficult season which has seen them lose the most games (13) in the division. It was also confirmed that **Cheadle** would be going down with them after they lost by 8 wkts at **Oxton**, with **Chris Stenhouse** returning 5-32 and **Henry Dobson** then hitting 73*. **Toft** banished any lingering relegation concerns with a handsome 110 run win over **AE**, **James Scott** smashing 90 off just 39 balls (6x4, 8x6) and adding 118 for the 6th wkt with **Toby Drummond** (60*) as Toft racked up 277-7. Scott then took the last wkt after **Matt Cornes** 5-32 saw AE all out 167. **Hyde** also went big, only one batsman failing to get into double figures as they totalled 283-5 against **Widnes**, who slumped to 142-6 in reply before a late rally left them 35 runs short on 248. And so to **the final day**, where **Nantwich** skipper **Ray Doyle** led from the front with an unbeaten 100, securing the necessary batting pts for the champions crown as the Dabbers declared after 44 overs on 234-5 at **Cheadle**. On the ground where he helped win the Cheshire Cup 12 months earlier, **Olly Griffiths** took 5-27 as the hosts were all out in 27.1 overs, Nantwich winners by 93 runs. **Didsbury** topped off a fantastic season for the club with a comprehensive win over **Neston**, **Nick Anderson** taking



Jimmy Warrington (left) & captain Ray Doyle celebrate five Premier Division Titles with Nantwich (photo: Nantwich CC twitter feed)

the wicket of **Will Evans** with the first ball of the match as Neston managed just 90, Dids knocking off the runs in under 14 overs. The two teams then had a game of football on the outfield which saw Neston sneak a 1-0 win! **Chester BH** won a terrific game with **Hyde** to finish in third spot in another successful season for them. **Tom Partridge** (78) and **Charlie Barnard** (76) added 157 for the 2nd wkt as Hyde totalled 235-7, before **Lee Dixon** (55*), batting at 8, led a CBH recovery from 146-7 to 239-8. There was an even tenser game at **Widnes** where **Oxton** won by just 3 runs. Elsewhere 100 from **Rob Sehmi** against his former club **Toft** helped his present club **Oulton Park** to a 107 run win while, despite recovering from 6-3, **Timperley's** 175 didn't tax **Alderley Edge**, who won by 5 wkts in 37.1 overs after another half century opening stand between **Ed Foster** and **Sam Perry**.

PREMIER LEAGUE FINAL TABLE & MAIN STATS FOR THE SEASON

TEAM	W	L	DBF	DBS	RAD	RADu	C/A	BAT PTS	BOWL PTS	OTHER	TOTAL POINTS
NANTWICH	14	5	0	0	0	0	3	16	15	0	402
DIDSBURY	12	5	1	1	0	0	3	34	19	0	378
CHESTER BH	11	5	1	1	0	0	4	37	20	0	364
OULTON PARK	8	5	2	1	1	0	5	21	27	0	297
ALDERLEY EDGE	9	6	0	2	0	0	5	9	18	0	296
WIDNES	7	8	1	0	2	0	4	39	27	-4	279
OXTON	6	9	3	1	1	0	2	49	35	0	272
HYDE	7	9	0	1	1	0	4	40	23	0	269
NESTON	6	7	2	2	1	0	4	45	22	0	255
TOFT	5	10	1	2	0	1	3	38	35	0	231
TIMPERLEY	4	13	1	0	0	0	4	27	39	0	197
CHEADLE	4	11	1	1	0	0	5	18	27	0	184

LEADING RUNS, WICKETS, CATCHES

PLAYER	RUNS	PLAYER	WICKETS	KEEPER	CT / ST
SAM PERRY	958	BEN GIBBON	61	SPENCER BYATT	26 / 3
HARRY KILLORAN	763	STEVE GREEN	57	ROB SEHMI	23 / 2
SIMON STOKES	730	DAMARIO GOODMAN	50	ALEX PATERSON	20 / 4
ALI CHUGTAI	639	ANDREW JACKSON	44	CHRIS KIRBY	19 / 4
TIM HUGHES	601	JACK WILLIAMS	42	ELLIOT BULLOCK	14 / 7
ROB SEHMI	589	HARRY KILLORAN	39	FIELDER	CAUGHT
HENRY DOBSON	582	PHIL STOCKTON	39	LUKE ROBINSON	23
ALEX MONEY	574	CHRIS STENHOUSE	39	HENRY DOBSON	16
DANE WILLIAMS	557	QAMAR HAFIZ	38	DAN BROWN	15
ANEESH KAPIL	553	CHRIS SANDERS	37	JIMMY O'SULLIVAN	12

2021 PREMIER DIVISION HIGHLIGHTS

25 centuries made

Best: Sam Perry,
Alderley Edge v Neston 24 July
151* (153 balls, 4 x 6, 15 x 4)

2 eight-wkt hauls

Best: Andrew Jackson,
Toft v Cheadle 29 May
15 - 8 - 22 - 8

16 150+ psp

Highest: 233 (2nd)
Sam Perry & Thomas Foreman
Alderley Edge v Neston, 24 July

SEPTEMBER PERFORMANCES OF NOTE

Ray Doyle 100*, Nant v Chead, 11.9 Rob Sehmi 100, OP v Toft, 11.9 Sam Leech 94, Dids v OP, 4.9
James Scott 90, Toft v AE, 4.9 Matt Cornes 5-32, Toft v AE, 4.11 Chris Stenhouse 5-32, Oxton v Chead, 4.9
Oliver Griffiths 5-37, Nant v Chead, 11.9 Andrew Dufty 5-54, OP v Toft, 11.9 George McCormick 5-58, CBH v Hyde, 11.9

ON A FINAL DAY WHEN ANY TWO OF FOUR TEAMS COULD GAIN PROMOTION, BOWDON BECAME CHAMPIONS, WITH BROOKLANDS FINISHING SECOND, THUS TAKING THE OTHER PREMIER DIVISION PLACE. BRAMHALL & BOLLINGTON JUST MISSED OUT.

An astonishing outbreak of good sportsmanship made **5th Sept** a remarkable afternoon in Div 1, as all the leading sides did their level best to hand the advantage to everyone else. **Bramhall** ended the day still on top by a solitary point after holding on for a draw at home to lowly **Congleton**, who assured their own safety with the better of the match. Put into bat, **Mohammad Shabaz Bashir**, badly dropped when 4, scored 95, and skipper **Jack Goode's** run-a-ball 48 took Congleton to a healthy 227-8, which looked even better when Bramhall slumped to 87-8 in reply. However, captain **Nick Cantello** inspired the lower order as he reached a magnificent 101* with a third six, the last two wickets adding 102 as Bramhall finished on 189-9, four unlikely looking but vital batting pts attained. Their value became even clearer as second place **Bowdon** lost to **Urmston**. Declaring after 47 overs on 211-7 (**Thomas Graham** 56), **Matt Tully** (4-35) and **Chris Ashling** (4-30) had Urmston in all kinds of trouble before **Sumit Panda** (78) and skipper **Lewis Jackson** (93*) joined forces, Jackson then coaxing an injured **Harry Singh** as last man to get the 21 needed for a 1 wkt win. **Bollington**, in third at the start of the day, lost at **Sale**, the hosts recovering from 49-4 to reach 207-9 before all the home attack took wickets as Bolly could only manage 168. **Brooklands**, also still pursuing promotion, were frustrated by **Grappenhall** who reached 193-5 in reply to Brooklands 245-8. Skipper **Jack Bagshaw** scored 69* while **Ian Hall** scored 39 and took 3-51 for Grappers. The key clash at the bottom ended in tears for **Warrington**, who lost by 4 wkts in their game with

also under-threat **Marple** and were relegated as a result. **Andy Wylie** took 4-35 as Warrington needed 40 from the last 2 wkts to reach 118. In a tense atmosphere, **Mark Bennett's** 66 provided the ballast needed to get Marple over the line. **Davenham's** fate was already known some weeks previously but they at least had the morale-boosting first win of the season over **Macclesfield**, who were shot out for just 69 as **Dean Jackson** returned a superb 13-6-23-7, Macc losing 9-28 in all after being 41-1. Davenham had an early wobble but reached their target four down. So it was an **intriguing last day** that held the attention, with **Brooklands** making the first statement of intent as they recorded a surprisingly comfortable win in good time at **Bollington**, whose own promotion hopes were shattered as they bowled out for just 96, having been 65-3 at one stage. The Brooklands attack, led by **AJ Hart** (4-27) proved irresistible, **Joe Gill** wrapping things up with 3-0 as **Alex Edwards** (40) and **David Cunliffe** (44*) knocked off the bulk of the target inside 25 overs to ease Brooklands to an 8 wkt win. The relatively early news of this result focused the minds of Bowdon and Bramhall even further, and it was **Bowdon** who got their part done next as they inched to a 5 wkt win at **Marple**. The hosts looked in a heap of problems at 48-7 after **Matt Tully's** 5-32 but **Jack Grundy** led the lower order resistance, helping his team to total 145, and when **Andy**



Brooklands celebrate their elevation to the Premier League after beating Bollington (photo: Brooklands CC Instagram)

Wylie marked his final game for the club with the early wicket of **Pat Ashling**, it was very much game on. However, **Ross Zelem's** 41 led a steady if unspectacular recovery, Bowdon passing their target in the 45th over. It was then all eyes on Dane Rd, where 77 from **Viraj Sorathia** and 70 from **Gareth Davies** had helped **Sale** reach 154-2 against **Bramhall** before 6-46 from **Ryan Macciocchi** saw the hosts bowled out for a relatively disappointing 191. **Tyrone Lawrence** rounded off a fine personal season with the early wickets of both Bramhall openers, leaving **Nick Cantello** to lead another recovery mission. However, when he fell for 39, the Sale bowlers **Isaac Brooks** (4-30) and **James Dodds** (3-43) proved too much for the lower order and Bramhall were all out for 163, ending just 12 pts outside the promotion spots. Elsewhere, **Warrington** won the battle of the two relegated clubs, beating **Davenham** by 5 wkts, while **Congleton** thumped **Macc** by 172 runs and **Urmston** concluded an encouraging 2021 by beating **Grappenhall**.

DIVISION ONE FINAL TABLE & MAIN STATS FOR THE SEASON

TEAM	W	L	DBF	DBS	RAD	RADu	C/A	BAT PTS	BOWL PTS	OTHER	TOTAL POINTS
BOWDON	10	4	1	0	2	0	4	43	27	0	358*
BROOKLANDS	10	5	2	0	0	0	3	22	17	+25	355
BRAMHALL	11	6	1	1	0	0	3	20	24	0	344
BOLLINGTON	10	5	1	1	1	0	4	27	15	0	331
URMSTON	8	3	1	3	0	1	4	38	18	0	316*
SALE	8	3	2	1	2	1	5	29	25	0	307
GRAPPENHALL	8	5	1	3	1	0	4	32	24	0	299
CONGLETON	5	7	3	2	1	0	4	48	30	0	244
MACCLESFIELD	5	9	0	4	0	0	4	37	28	0	229
MARPLE	3	9	4	0	1	0	5	68	37	0	229
WARRINGTON	4	11	0	1	2	0	4	35	20	0	202
DAVENHAM	1	16	0	0	0	0	4	27	16	-10	100

*includes points for a level scores draw

LEADING RUNS, WICKETS, CATCHES

PLAYER	RUNS	PLAYER	WICKETS	KEEPER	CT / ST
PAT ASHLING	815	A.J.HART	48	JAMES LONGHORN	22/8
JONATHAN FLETCHER	723	ROB LEACH	44	CHRIS CANNING	21/7
TYRONE LAWRENCE	656	MATTHEW TULLY	42	GREG DIXON	16/6
GRANT HODNETT	649	STUART PLANT	37	JACK MATTSOON	16/4
M.SHAHBAZ BASHIR	583	RYAN MACCIOCCHI	36	DAN O'GORMAN	18/0
ROSS ZELEM	580	JEROME JONES	35	FIELDER	CAUGHT
CALUM ROWE	580	CHRIS ASHLING	33	KEVIN CARROLL	18
NICK CANTELLO	574	MILES BRADSHAW	32	TYRONE LAWRENCE	16
JACK GOODE	522	JOE CASH	31	MATTHEW TULLY	14
LEWIS JACKSON	489	JAMES DODDS	30	PETER HENSHALL	12

2021 DIVISION ONE HIGHLIGHTS

19

centuries made

Best: Jonathan Fletcher,
Warrington v Sale, 10 July
152 (118 balls, 2 x 6, 22 x 4)

3

eight-wicket hauls

Best: Stuart Plant,
Bollington v Bowdon, 29 May
9.1 - 6 - 8 - 8

4

150+ psps

Highest: 178 (2nd)
Andrew Hall & Mark Bennett,
Marple v Urmston 17 July

SEPTEMBER PERFORMANCES OF NOTE

Nick Cantello 101*, Bram v Cong, 4.9 Mohammad Shahbaz Bashir 95, Cong v Bram, 4.11

Lewis Jackson 93*, Urms v Bow, 4.9

Dean Jackson 7-23, Dav v Macc, 4.9 Ryan Macciocchi 6-46, Bram v Sale, 11.9 Matt Tully 5-32, Bow v Marp, 11.9

LINDOW DEALT WITH A PENULTIMATE DAY WOBBLE TO RECORD AN EMPHATIC LAST DAY WIN WHICH SAW THEM CROWNED DIVISION TWO CHAMPIONS. IN A DRAMATIC CLIMAX, ALVANLEY CAME THROUGH TO TAKE THE OTHER PROMOTION SPOT.

A low key series of matches on **5th Sept** confirmed the relegation situation as **Stockport's** remote prospects of survival were obliterated by a 100 run defeat at home to **Alvanley**, for whom **Steve Charles** returned 6-19 and kept the Alv in with a shot at promotion, 13 points away from the top two, comprising **Romiley** and **Lindow**. Chasing 115 to beat **Upton**, **Romiley** found themselves an egregious 23-5 but captain **Tom Rolph** (35*) and **Lewis Clarke** (31*) did the necessary to ensure Romiley had it in their own hands on the final day to ensure an immediate return (discounting the 2020 season of course) to Div 1. **Lindow**, meanwhile, had what for them was a horrible case of history repeating itself, as, with promotion in sight, they snatched defeat from the jaws of victory. All seemed well with the world as **Ryan O'Brien's** 4-19 were the standout figures that saw **Hale Barns** muster just 73 - although from 37-6 they will have been glad of doubling their score. The returning **Ben Hicks** (5-35) and **Joe Cooper** (3-6) then induced a shuddering collapse as Lindow were taking a standing count at 56-8. The last two wickets cobbled together 13 runs but that still left them five from victory when the last wkt fell. Elsewhere there was only pride to play for, with **Georgians**, **Haslington** and **Ash-ton OM** all recording wins, the latter easing to a 9 wkt win over basement club **Barrow**, who lost their last 7 wkts for just 10 runs as they ended 119 all out. 46 from **Ned Bailey** and 39 from **Francis Yates** helped **Stockport Georgians** overtake **Mobberley's** 161, with **Abdul Aqeel** making 76 and **Ibrar Latif** 47, **James Locke** taking 5-25. **Ben Instead** didn't bowl but made a decisive 67* to rescue **Haslington** from 47-4 and an eventual 5 wkt win over **Christleton**, who had earlier fallen apart after being 107-1, with **Aamir Afzaal's** 67 putting the hosts into a strong position. However, **Tom Gledhill's** 5-36 was instrumental in re-



Lindow are champions! (Photo: wilmslow. co.uk twitter)

ducing the visitors to 149 all out. And so to the last day, **Sept 11th** dawning dry and clear, and it was at last all smiles at **Lindow**, determined not to repeat their stumble of 2019. They were in complete control against **Barrow** from the off, **Will Espley's** 5-27 the pick as the visitors were shot out for just 66. Lindow knocked off the runs in some style, a fusillade of boundaries from **Rob Herriott** and **Jadan Jones** seeing them race to 70-0 in less than 6 overs. **Romiley** had started the day in second but were utterly crestfallen after a chastening decision to field first at **Mobberley**. Opening pair **Sohaib Butt** (90) and **Ibrar Latif** (133) put on a magnificent 215 for the 1st wkt in a stand spanning almost 42 overs, with 27 x 4 and 11 x 6 between them (all 11 sixes hit by Latif). An eye-watering 285-3 meant Romiley took only one bowling point and faced a gargantuan task to win, which was the only way they could take the necessary points. As it was, a disheartened Romiley side were soon on the brink at 86-8, and it took a feisty 65 from no.10 **James Bashford**, partnering with

James Badrock (74) to provide but the measliest crumb of comfort for the visitors as they were all out 194. Meanwhile, up in the hills near Frodsham, **Alvanley** went about their task with quiet efficiency, taking a **Hale Barns** wicket with the first ball of the match with only lower order defiance getting HB into three figures. Alvanley were clearly a bit jittery as news filtered through of Romiley's struggles, but they did enough to seal a 4 wkt win which proved enough to secure them a spot in Div 1 next season in what has been an amazing 2021 for them. In the other matches **Stockport** rounded off a disappointing season with a terrific chase of 174 at Haslington, **Patrick Firth's** 58* overcoming another great effort with the ball from **Tom Gledhill** (6-46), which left the Cale Green side reflecting on what might have been after they finished just 20 pts from safety, with **Upton** suffering a 13th defeat of the season at the hands of **Christleton**, who won by 7 wkts in a low scoring encounter. **James Locke** made it successive 5-wkt hauls for **Stockport Georgians** as they beat **Ashton on Mersey** by 4 wkts at Flowery Field to finish strongly.

DIVISION TWO FINAL TABLE & MAIN STATS FOR THE SEASON

TEAM	W	L	DBF	DBS	RAD	RADu	C/A	BAT PTS	BOWL PTS	OTHER	TOTAL POINTS
LINDOW	12	6	1	0	0	0	2	28	21	0	375
ALVANLEY	10	4	1	1	4	0	4	15	15	+50	362
ROMILEY	12	6	0	0	1	1	3	13	19	0	355
GEORGIANS	10	6	0	0	0	1	5	16	9	0	324
ASHTON O M	10	7	0	2	1	0	2	29	26	0	323
HASLINGTON	9	6	1	1	0	0	5	28	28	0	320
CHRISTLETON	8	6	1	1	0	0	4	31	22	-10	291*
MOBBERLEY	7	9	2	0	0	1	2	40	26	0	284*
HALE BARNS	6	9	0	0	2	0	4	27	25	+25	259
UPTON	5	13	0	1	0	0	3	39	31	0	217
STOCKPORT	4	11	1	1	1	0	4	35	23	0	197
BARROW	3	13	0	0	0	0	4	8	15	-60	103

* pts total includes a tie

LEADING RUNS, WICKETS, CATCHES

PLAYER	RUNS	PLAYER	WICKETS	KEEPER	CT / ST
AAMIR AFZAAL	736	ALEX MATTHEWS	61	JOSEPH GOODIER	22 / 3
OSMAN BUTT	691	TOM GLEDHILL	50	TOM MARSLAND	16 / 8
ROB HERRIOTT	639	ABDUL AQEEL	50	DAVID PATTERSON	17 / 7
IBRAR LATIF	561	ARSLAN DAR	48	MATT BARNES	17 / 5
ANS RASHID MUHAMMAD	547	JACK TAYLOR	44	PATRICK FIRTH	15 / 5
JOSHUA JOSEPH	528	ZAHEER KHAN	41	FIELDER	CAUGHT
MIRAJ PATEL	506	MATT MOUTNEY	40	MATT KENNERLEY-RYAN	13
ROBIN BROOM	484	JAMES BASHFORD	40	ALEX MATTHEWS	11
JACK TAYLOR	477	RYAN O'BRIEN	37	JAMES BADROCK	10
FRANCIS YATES	467	JOE COOPER	36	JAMES MARSHALL	10

2021 DIVISION TWO HIGHLIGHTS

10 centuries made

Best: Aamir Afzaal,
Christleton v Stockport, 24 July
180 (105 balls, 12 x 6, 19 x 4)

5 hauls of 7 wks
or more

Best: Ryan Holloway,
Barrow v Ashton OM, 19 June
13-6-25-9

19 century
psps

Best: 230 (1st wkt)
Aamir Afzaal & Max Dunvaband
Christleton v Stockport, 24 July

SEPTEMBER PERFORMANCES OF NOTE

Ibrar Latif 133, Mobb v Rom, 11.9

Sohaib Butt 90, Mobb v Rom, 11.9

Steve Charles 6-19. Alv y Stock. 5.9

Tom Gledhill 6-46. Hasl v Stock. 11.9

James Locke 5-12. SG v AOM. 11.9

James Locke 5-25, SG v Mobb, 5.9

Tom Gledhill 5-36, Hasl v Chris, 5.9

Will Espley 5-27, Lind v Bar, 11.9

Didsbury 2s had to settle for a draw against Oulton Park on Sept 5th but the 13 pts they accrued were enough to secure the **2nd XI Premier Division** title. Batting first, the hosts found it difficult to find fluency against a testing **OP** attack, for whom **Ben Ainsworth** returned 4-46. **Marcus Fisher** top scored with 56 to take him past 350 league runs for Didsbury, whose bowlers pegged OP right back, **Raza Mian** leading the way with 4-35 as OP's last pair had to survive almost 8 overs. Nevertheless, the side that had led the division from the early stages ended up deserved champions. As for OP, they were left with their destiny still in their own hands, 7 points clear of second bottom **Macclesfield** who had a morale boosting 118 run win over already relegated **Marple**. An unbroken 6th wkt stand of 79 helped **Cheadle** beat **Hyde** by 5 wkts to leave the Werneth Low club still in jeopardy as the last day approached. However, **on the 11th** it was **Macclesfield** who went down, a dismal 82 all out leading to a 7 wkt loss against **Alderley Edge** and next season in Div 1. Bizarrely, Macc were one of only 3 sides to beat champions Didsbury in 2021, but sadly for them could not replicate that form often enough. **Oulton Park** also lost to **Toft** but escaped the drop due to Macc's result, finishing just 8 pts ahead. Toft skipper **Pete Talbot** scored 22* after earlier taking 4-31 as Toft won by 4 wkts and secured for themselves a

highly creditable runners-up spot in an excellent season all round for the club. **Hyde** drew with **CBH** to secure their Prem Division status for another season, **Didsbury** concluded their 2021 with a comfortable win at **Neston** (who finished third) while a highly entertaining match at **Nantwich** saw **Cheadle** knock off 225 from the last ball of the match. **Jasper Wong** was the Cheadle hero with 82*, while **Jake Pearson** had earlier made 90 for the Dabbers.

In **Div 1** on the **4th**, champions **Oxton** recorded a 14th win of the season, a brilliant 131 from **Jack Breheny** and 97 from **Will Clayton** helping them to a 118 run win over **Lindow**, the pair adding 214 for the 2nd wkt before **Ali Crick** took 6-45. **Mike Bishop** scored 63* to take him to almost 800 league runs for **Sale**, whose comfortable win over **Stockport Georgians** left them 11 points clear of third place **Romiley** - whom they travelled to on the 11th. And what a cliffhanger it turned out to be, **Romiley** scoring 208-7 (**Rob Booker** 80) and then reducing **Sale** to 98-6 before youngster **Saad Khan** led a doughty rearguard, his 38 off 104 balls taking Sale to the

brink of safety before he fell, dramatically leaving no.11 **Max Bishop** under great pressure to survive three balls - which the junior did, to ensure Sale claimed the promotion prize. After a great season, **Romiley**, narrowly denied promotion at the last, thus mirrored their 1st XI counterparts fate on the same day. **Warrington** and **Davenham**, like their 1st XIs also did, went down. Two fabulous innings were the feature at Stockport Rd, **Jordan Ruff** making a brilliant 189 as **Timperley** reached 318-7 in 40 overs against **Upton**, for whom **Sam Talbot** scored 100 and **Luca Di Stefano** 84 in a total of 251. The week previous, **Timpers' Matt Fletcher** hammered 86 at no 10 in their 284-9 v **Davenham**.

In **Div 2**, **Didsbury 2As** beat **Congleton** by 121 runs and secured the title, holding off a spirited season long challenge from **Widnes**, who also had a big win on the final day by 182 runs over **HB**, the Widnes total of 296 including 76 extras! **Ashton OM** finished third while at the other end, a penurious campaign for both **Upton** and **Tattenhall** saw them occupying bottom spots.

3RD XI CRICKET

DIDSBURY 3s ARE CHAMPIONS

After the closest title race in many years in the Sunday Premier Division, **Didsbury** made it a third successive league and cup double, their fifth title in the last six completed seasons being achieved by just 7 points as they held off the challenge of Sale. Both teams won their final matches, Sale's 5 wkt win over Hyde proving to be not quite enough as Didsbury trounced Nantwich by 153 runs on the same afternoon. Heaton Mersey won an entertaining battle of the bottom two, scoring 201-7 to beat Grappenhall by 3 wkts. **Marple & Compstall** were already confirmed as **Div 1** winners, an easy win over bottom club Hale Barns rounding off an encouraging season for the new-look side, for whom James Reeve finished with the amazing analysis of 7-4-7-8. **Timperley** recorded a 119 run win over Brooklands to end as runners-up. In **Div 2**, Matthew Greasby hit 123* as top of the league **Elworth** walloped 257-3 in their 40 overs, their eventual margin of victory over Mobberley 107 runs. Another Elworth player, Thomas Curry, hit 114 for their 4s in their **Central & East** division match against Cheadle Hulme, but CH won out by 31 runs. **Didsbury 5s** had already been confirmed as winners of this division, as had **Trafford Metrovicks** in the **West** division.



Frustrating problems with the weather meant that 2nd XI Finals Day was completely cancelled on two separate occasions, with one of the semis played on a Tuesday evening (Toft beating Grappenhall, as reported in the previous newsletter) and the other being scheduled on the same day as the final. Here's what unfolded:

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

DIDSBURY (181-2) BEAT ROMILEY (108-9) BY 73 RUNS

A magnificent unbeaten 126 from Jack Hastings powered Didsbury emphatically into the final. Hastings faced just 65 balls, hitting six 6s and eleven 4s as Romiley were left looking at more than nine runs an over to win, and with Hastings involved again, taking two early catches, Romiley's slim chance quickly evaporated, the varied Didsbury attack comfortably containing their opponents.

FINAL

(SUNDAY SEPT 5, MACCLESFIELD CC, 3.00pm)

DIDSBURY (186-7) BEAT TOFT (118) BY 68 RUNS

Didsbury again dominated from the start, choosing to bat and again seeing Jack Hastings in superb form, this time with four 6s in a 41-ball 58. With Max Backhouse then hitting 42 off 27 balls, and Toft donating 20 wides, it was another daunting target set by Didsbury, who were again able to defend it with ease. Only George Muirhead (30) passed 20 for Toft before he became one of three wickets for Tom Bidwell, the end coming quickly on a lovely afternoon as captain Ryan Wilson received the trophy. It also meant a league and cup double for Didsbury on the same weekend.



CANCELLED TEST MATCH HAS A LOCAL UPSIDE

Emirates Old Trafford's loss on Friday 10th Sept was Sale's gain as disappointed England fans headed to Dane Road instead as Sale CC hosted North West Thunder vs. Southern Vipers in the Rachael Heyhoe Flint trophy. **Rob Moore** sent this report and a selection of photos from the excellent portfolio of **George Franks**.

"The last-minute cancellation of the decisive fifth test against India meant this latest Thunder fixture at Sale enjoyed a capacity crowd of 250, including cavemen, dinosaurs, wizards and frogs who started to arrive shortly after the 10.30 start. The match, played on a state-of-the-art hybrid pitch, went to form with league leaders Southern Vipers winning comfortably after restricting the home side to 110 all out inside 33 overs. Current England international Kate Cross secured the biggest cheer of the day as she went to 50 with a six hit into the cavemen. Cross went on to top score with 57 and was then straight into the action with the ball, taking two early wickets, before Emily Windor's unbeaten 26 saw Vipers go into the final round of games in pole position to reach finals day. This prestigious fixture helped raise the profile of Sale CC with both sides praising the organisation on the day, the quality of the wicket and the facilities. Guests included Wythenshawe and Sale East MP Mike Kane who tweeted "what a great afternoon and what a great set up you have ... great to see people enjoying themselves".



Get into the game - become an umpire!

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- Develop new skills
- Make new friends



UMPIRES WANTED!

Cheshire ACO are recruiting for new members to join the CCCL Umpires Panel, and with the reintroduction of face-to-face courses, there are plenty of opportunities for anyone interested to get started! Dates and venues are as follows:

Stage 1 Umpire Course - Sat 14 Nov, Upton CC
Sat 20 Nov, Toft CC

Stage 2 Umpire Course - Sat 21 Nov, Upton CC
Sat 27th Nov, Toft CC

Numbers are limited to 15 per course - please contact County Education Officer Ingeborg Bevers for more information at:

ingeborg_bevers@yahoo.co.uk

OVER 40s NEWS

There was a disappointing conclusion to the Over 40s Cup competition as the trophy was shared between Urmston and Neston. Newsletter presumes this was because of the increasingly poor weather conditions on Sunday 12th making a third match on the day impossible. Earlier, the two semi finals were played, Urmston recording a resounding 10 wkt win over Chester BH as they knocked off the 129 they needed with some 5 overs in hand, three batsmen retiring not out (including Sumit Panda who hit 31* off 12 balls). Neston beat Davenham by a comfortable 50 runs in the other semi. There are no details available regarding the Over 40s plate final other than that it is reported that Wallasey beat Cheadle by 10 wkts, no verification possible.

UK FAST CHESHIRE CRICKET LEAGUE

Time for one last dart at making sense of the state of play in the **Cheshire Cricket League**. As things stand, **Cheadle Hulme** are top of Division 1 with **Hawk Green** in second. Both of these teams have only played 21 games, with third place **Port Sunlight** having played 22 and having more points than Hawk Green. **Runcorn** are fourth, having played 21 games and in theory able to overtake Hawk Green's tally. So we will for now assume that is that and that Cheadle Hulme will be making a County League return in 2022, and Hawk Green a County League debut, so congratulations to them both. It does seem certain that **Northwich** (played 21) and **Stockport Trinity** will be relegated. **Maritime** won Division 2 with **Winnington Park** second, former County league sides **Heaton Mersey** and **Weaverham** finishing third and fourth respectively. **Middlewich** and **Appleton** drop into Division 3, being replaced (I think) by **Over Peover** and **Wirral** - again, four sides in this division have only played 21 games and, as in Division 1, no other fixtures seem to be scheduled. **Styal** and **Prestbury** go down to Division 4, where **Trafford Metrovicks** and **Wistaston Village** are currently first and second.

Cheshire Over 70s lost out in their seniors final as Surrey beat them by 9 wkts in the final at Kidderminster CC on Thurs Sept 2nd.
Cheshire 182-5 (40), Surrey 186-1 (35.1)

AN EVENING WITH COOK & MILLER



**THURSDAY
30TH SEPTEMBER**

TO BOOK PLEASE EMAIL: info@toftcc.co.uk

- 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

CCCL LEAGUE DINNER will now be in MARCH 2022.