

CHESHIRE WOMEN'S LEAGUE

New clubs and teams welcomed

The Cheshire Women's League welcomes current Lancashire League champions Leyland as a new club for the 2022 season, with Greenfield CC and Buxton CC also joining the league. The number of teams playing in the league's hardball divisions will also be boosted by a new second team at Oakmere, the re-formed Appleton second team and a third team at Stockport Georgians, to be run in co-operation with North East Cheshire CC.

League champions Chester Boughton Hall start the defence of their title away to 2021 second division champions Nantwich on April 24. The other division one newcomers, Stockport Georgians, are at home to 2022's first division runners-up, Didsbury, on the same day.

The newly promoted clubs in division two both have home matches on the opening day, with Lindow hosting Leyland and Woodley welcoming Upton.

New teams in Division 5 (the softball cricket division) include Kingsley, Northwich and Wallasey.

The Annual General Meeting and the subsequent Rules Meetings agreed for Lindow's first team and the Woodley and Hawarden Park clubs to be promoted to division two; and for Georgians' second team and Hawk Green to move up to division three.

Porthill Park will no longer play in the first division and will now only field a development level team in division three. With a majority of representatives agreeing to an eight-team first division, this means that 2021 division two runners-up Stockport Georgians are promoted to division one, and Leigh will not be relegated from the top-flight.

Please note that Heaton Mersey & Cheadle will now only field a 1st XI this year, who will now play in Division 4.

The teams in each division will be as follows:

- Division 1: Chester Boughton Hall, Didsbury, Oakmere, Stockport Trinity, Appleton, Leigh, Stockport Georgians, Nantwich
- Division 2: Upton, Oxton, Leyland, Ashton-on-Mersey, Lindow, Woodley, Hawarden Park
- Division 3 West: Chester Boughton Hall 2nd XI, Nantwich 2nd XI, Porthill Park, Wistaston Village, Appleton 2nd XI
- Division 3 East: Hayfield, Greenfield, Didsbury 2nd XI, Stockport Georgians 2nd XI, Hawk Green
- Division 4: Langley, Lymm Oughtrington Park, Stockport Georgians 3rd XI/ North East Cheshire, Lindow 2nd XI, Buxton, Oakmere 2nd XI, Heaton Mersey & Cheadle

Teams will play the others in their division twice (home and away), except in Division 3 West, where the teams will also face each other on a third occasion.

The updated Master Fixture Spreadsheet, showing all re-arrangements of which I have been notified, can be viewed [here](#).

Division 5: Kingsley, Wallasey, Northwich, Wistaston Village 2nd XI, Alvanley, Chester Boughton Hall 3rd XI, Runcorn, North East Cheshire, Macclesfield, Broadbottom, Toft.

Regulation changes for 2022

- 25-yard fielding circles are to be marked on the ground for matches in Division 1 and in the Senior Knockout and T20 Divisional Competition. No more than two fielders may be outside this area for the first 20% of the innings, and only four may be outside during the remaining overs

- Batters will now retire on reaching 40 in the Senior Knockout and T20 Divisional Competition. They will still be permitted to return to the crease once all of the team has been dismissed or has retired
- Players can now be loaned to clubs two or three divisions lower. Loans of this type, however, will only be permitted where the player in question is not a member of their parent club's first choice 11, and where the player does not play in their parent club's next 1st XI match following the end of the loan
- The seeding system used in recent years for the first-round draw of the Senior Knockout, whereby the previous year's quarter finalists are kept apart, will no longer be used. The first-round byes will still be allocated to the teams that progressed furthest in the previous year's competition
- There will no longer be any restrictions on Division 1 players appearing in other ECB regional premier leagues
- The home team is no longer required to provide matchday teas for any match in any competition administered by the League

Full regulations for all competitions have been circulated to club representatives and can also be viewed [here](#).

A new Code of Conduct was adopted at the recent Committee meeting, and this can be viewed [here](#). Please note that the section relating to 2nd XI player selection is guidance only and is not a formal part of the competition regulations.

Other important matters

- It is necessary to inform the League in advance of the match if a player represents a second club during a season (e.g. via the loan system, a dual T20 registration or a permanent transfer)
- Most clubs will need communicate summary result details to myself by 1900 on the day following the match. This is compulsory in division 1/2, the senior Knockout Cup and the T20 divisional competition, and is encouraged for division 3/4 and the Development Knockout Cup. This can be done via a live phone call, or by emailing the official Results Summary Form, or by completing the full scorecard on Play Cricket
- Fixtures in division 3 or any of the T20 competitions can be re-arranged by mutual consent of the two clubs involved at any time up until the scheduled date of the match. Division 1/2 fixtures can be re-arranged by mutual consent up until Sunday April 17, which is one week before the start of the season, and after this time can only be re-arranged if the home team has no ground available to stage the fixture. Please do not re-arrange fixtures for August 21 (Finals Day) or September 18 (Finals Reserve Day), unless both sides will definitely not be involved in these matches
- There is now a [WhatsApp group](#), which can be used by clubs wishing to arrange friendly matches this year. This is ideally aimed at clubs in Divisions 3, 4 and 5 as well as clubs who may not have entered the league yet
- Following discussions at Committee, the League wishes to highlight that clubs can mutually agree to change the start time of any match, and this includes evening matches, where the current default start time is 1830. Because of concerns over fading light, evening matches must start as early as possible, and clubs are also reminded that there are no official drinks breaks in 20-over matches, and any drinks should only be taken with the umpire's permission
- The softball Division 5 teams will need to pay a league affiliation fee for the first time in 2022, and the cost of this will be £40

Other news

The League invites offers from any club wishing to stage our Finals Day on August 21. There will be three finals, so only one ground is required, provided the programme commences around 1030. Offers are welcome from any club, regardless of whether you currently offer women's cricket or not. There will be no need to provide matchday teas.

There may also be the opportunity for a League member club to offer their ground for the annual fixture between the League XI and MCC on Thursday August 11. A cooked meal will need to be

served on this occasion, but interested clubs are asked to note that there is no obligation to also offer the ground for the following day's match between the Lancashire League XI and MCC.

The next meeting of the League Committee will take place on Wednesday June 8.

NATIONAL KNOCKOUT

Of the four League teams who have entered the Northern section of the National T20 Knockout, two have been paired together in the second round. Didsbury, regional finalists in 2018 and 2019, will host Leyland on Bank Holiday Monday May 2, with both clubs having received first-round byes in the draw.

Nantwich, who reached last year's Northern final, will host Liverpool club Wavertree on the same day.

Leigh will be at home to either Littleborough or Ramsbottom in round two, with the winners of that match travelling to Didsbury or Leyland in round three.

The League has had a team in the northern regional final in each of the last three competitions, but in each case, our representatives have lost this regional final to Yorkshire club Sessay. However, one difference this year is that any CWCL team that makes it as far as the regional final on July 3 will enjoy home advantage. Indeed Didsbury, as the first club out of the hat, could potentially be at home in every round of the regional section.

Porthill Park will make the trip to Caythorpe in Nottinghamshire on May 2 in the second round of the Midlands section.

OTHER NEWS

The Cheshire Cricket Board have a number of [Scorers and Young Officials courses](#) in the coming weeks, and there may well be one near you.

Ray Bell, the head of women's cricket at Stockport Georgians CC and the league's new Planning and Strategy Officer, is the latest guest on Tom Jones' excellent [Lives in Women and Girls' Cricket Podcast](#). Ray can be heard in episode 71, but also be sure to check out:

- Episode 67: Amanda Gettins of Ashton-on-Mersey CC
- 63: Kim Davies (Wallasey)
- 24: Jimmy Lomas (Toft)
- 13: Tilly Buss (Chester BH)

Sophie Ecclestone, Emma Lamb, Hannah Jones and Laura Jackson for Manchester Originals; and Eve Jones for Birmingham Phoenix are the players with connections to Cheshire cricket who are in the 'retained list' for the 2022 Hundred.

The Thunder regional franchise team have named 12 players as their Academy Intake for the 2022 season, and the list is dominated by familiar names from the CWCL. The selected players include Grace Michell and Bethan Robinson (Nantwich), Liv Bell and Amelia Sammons (Stockport Georgians), Sophie Morris (Upton), Summer Carrington and Emily Sutton (Leyland) and Tilly Kesteven and Emilia Lamb (Appleton). With around half of Thunder's current senior squad having played in the CWCL in the past, there is every reason to believe that these girls can also make it to professional and semi-professional level in the future.

Georgia Munro of Chester Boughton Hall is in the Western Storm's Academy squad.