

CHESHIRE WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Before we get on to the local results from the first two weeks, of course we now all know that England fell short in the World Cup final against one of the all-time great Australia teams. I imagine all readers are also very aware that the tournament decisively emphasised why Sophie Ecclestone is the top ranked bowler in the world in both white ball formats; and her World Cup performances highlight that everyone who has been involved in her development as a player should be genuinely proud, including the coaches at Alvanley – where the club's members staged an all-nighter to watch the final - and Chester Boughton Hall and at Cheshire Youth Cricket. At age 22, Sophie is already England's ninth highest wicket taker of all time and has the potential to break every record in the book before the end of her career.

Division One – April 24:

Leigh 210-6 (40; Sophie Heaton 93, Ellie Davey 27, Sarah Worsdale 2-33, Jane Tarpey 2-40) (25pts)
Oakmere 159-8 (40; Worsdale 54, Leah Holland 45, Emma Capper 2-29, Heaton 2-30, Adelaide Mather 2-30) (8pts)

- After finishing bottom of last year's top-flight, Leigh made a major statement here, with Sophie Heaton's 93 from 88 deliveries – with 16 fours and two sixes – leading the way to a significant total. Oakmere ultimately fell short as a number of Leigh bowlers recorded good figures, despite a century stand for the second wicket between Sarah Worsdale and Leah Holland. Leigh have been boosted this season by a number of new acquisitions, who include former Lancashire wicketkeeper Sian Phillips and one-time Lancashire and Cheshire player Rachael Walsh, who previously played a handful of league matches for Poynton and Bowdon. However, it was Heaton, possibly the standout performer in their last campaign, who played the leading role here. Today also marked a new era for the league, with more than one club handing a debut to an Australian overseas player, and although Leigh's Jaimie-Lee Strang and Lindow's Heidi Cheadle failed to make significant contributions on day one, we hope they have a profitable playing experience in the CWCL.

Stockport Trinity 110-6 (40; Sarah McCann 60, Georgia Heath 2-14, Annie Rashid 2-15) (25pts)
Appleton 111-1 (20.2; Emma Barlow 53ret, Holly McCurrie 26ret) (4pts)

- An impressive start from Appleton – after their promising all-round bowling attack had restricted Trinity to below three runs per over, a rapid partnership between Emma Barlow and Holly McCurrie quickly snuffed out any hopes the Stockport club might have had of mounting a comeback. Appleton opening bowlers Annie Rashid and Rebecca Othick gave nothing away early on and left Trinity struggling at 21-4 from 14 overs. Although Sarah McCann did an excellent job in improving her sides' fortunes after that, the final target posed little difficulty for Appleton.

Nantwich 116 (39.3; Bethan Hughes 40, Gemma Rose 2-15, Annette Axon 2-17, Georgia Munro 2-17, Ffion Jones 2-24) (7pts)
Chester Boughton Hall 117-8 (40; Katie Bennett 61, Katie Haszeldine 2-17) (25pts)

- Newly promoted Nantwich gave a good account of themselves on their first day in the top division but, despite losing a flurry of late wickets as they neared the target, Chester Boughton Hall sneaked home from the final ball to start the defence of their title with a win. Katie Bennett, one of eight half-centurions on the opening day, scored more than half their runs.

May 1:

Stockport Trinity 159-7 (40; Jenny Dunn 88, Sarah McCann 24, Kerry Hartnett 3-24, Rachel Tidd 2-24) (6pts)

Oakmere 160-1 (37.1; Hartnett 64*, Sarah Worsdale 47*, Carol Ingham 33) (25pts)

- Oakmere ran out winners of this match between two teams who lost on the first day. Although only 17 balls remained when the Northwich club reached the victory target, they always had a measure of control during their run chase. Kerry Hartnett, Sarah Worsdale and Carol Ingham scarcely offered a chance to the bowlers throughout the innings, and the only wicket fell to a run out. It all meant that Jenny Dunn's fine innings earlier in the day proved to be in vain – it was a patient effort from the former Cheshire captain, building her innings well before accelerating significantly in the closing overs.

Didsbury 144 (39.4; Roshini Prince-Navaratnam 45, Emily Wilkins 38, Adelaide Mather 2-7, Emma Capper 2-15) (25pts)

Leigh 125-8 (40; Sophie Heaton 39, Rachael Walsh 34, Prince-Navaratnam 5-8) (9pts)

- In something of a nailbiter, Didsbury held their nerve to ensure that the 2019 champions and 2021 runners-up opened their account with a win. After top scoring earlier, Roshini Prince-Navaratnam also played the crucial role with the ball, with Leigh having looked well placed at 100-3.

Division Two – April 24:

Hawarden Park 203-5 (35; Holly Mayers 82, Nicola Deane 36, Laura Nichols 22, Rachel Warrenger 21, Molly Saunders 4-44) (25pts)

Ashton-on-Mersey 103-7 (35; Beth Caunce 50, Mayers 3-7) (6pts)

- Hawarden Park marked their promotion in style, with Holly Mayers sharing a century opening stand with Nicola Deane, before going on to finish with 82 runs, and then taking three wickets in the second innings for good measure.

Lindow 165-9 (35; Claire Ashworth 49, Libby Ackerley 34, Katie Poole 3-17, May Hardy 2-7, Abigail Bates 2-32) (25pts)

Leyland (35; Bates 54, Eleanor Boardman 20, Michelle Hesslegrave 4-19, Ackerley 2-12, Libby Beckley 2-29) (9pts)

- A great day for newly promoted Lindow, who ran out comfortable winners over league newcomers Leyland. The Wilmslow club are another side to be boosted by a number of new players this year, but once again, many of their 2021 squad registered standout performances here.

Woodley 38 (18; Ruby Walsh 10, Philippa Dagger 5-8, Ellen McGowan 2-3, Charlie Scudder 2-11) (1pt)

Upton 39-1 (Lily Scudder 19*) (25pts)

- One team who found life difficult on their first day in the top two divisions were Woodley, put to the sword by Philippa Dagger's five wicket haul as Upton started the season in style.

Matches that can be re-arranged: Woodley v Lindow (from May 1, Covid isolation issues)

Division Three West – April 24:

Porthill Park 113-7 (30; Peyton Hulme 16, Isla Entwistle 2-7, Charlotte Barratt 2-17, Amy Bourne 2-19) (9pts)

Wistaston Village 114-9 (26.5; Hannah Burnett 41*, Hulme 4-6) (25pts)

- Hannah Burnett was comfortably the top scorer, helping her Wistaston side recover from a poor start – after wickets for Peyton Hulme and others - to register this nailbiting win.

May 1:

Nantwich 2nd XI 53-9 (30; Anna Bourne 4-4, Phoebe Howle 4-10) (4pts)
Wistaston Village 54-7 (25; Zoe Davies 11, I Hartley 2-4, J Hudson 2-11) (25pts)

- Wistaston battled to a second win of the season. Phoebe Howle's four wickets were impressive enough, but Anna Bourne not only bettered these figures, dismissing all of the top four while conceding just four in a six-over spell, but also made it nine wickets for the weekend after taking five for the club's men's second team the previous day.

Division Four – May 1:

Heaton Mersey & Cheadle 154-3 (20; Olivia Randles 41ret, Lauren Oliver 41ret, Amy Shaw 25) (25pts)
Lymm Oughtrington Park 84-7 (20; Amy Buckley 18, Caroline Tyley 3-11, Eliza Chadwick 2-8) (7pts)

- Heaton Mersey and Cheadle began in fine style, racking up a big total, before Caroline Tyley and Eliza Chadwick led the way in snuffing out the Lymm reply.

Player loans:

Alicia Peacock and Olivia Downs-Haskell – both Hayfield to Stockport Trinity, for maximum three division 1 matches commencing May 1.

Amelia Berry – Greenfield to Stockport Georgians, for maximum three division 1 matches commencing May 8.

Buxton CC were featured in the [ECB Weekly Clubs and Leagues Update](#), explaining the steps they have taken to establish a senior women's team.

Hawk Green CC will host the League XI v MCC on August 11. Christleton CC will host Finals Day on August 21.

NATIONAL KNOCKOUT

Round Two – May 2:

Leyland 103-5 (20; Abigail Bates 30*, Abigail Culshaw 28, Kathryn Styles 23)
Didsbury 108-2 (16.3; Roshini Prince-Navaratnam 72*)

- Didsbury prevailed in this clash involving two teams from the league. Although Abi Bates provided some fireworks with an unbeaten 30 from 14 deliveries, she was ultimately upstaged by Roshini Prince-Navaratnam. The Didsbury opener completed a fine weekend for her by scoring her runs from 54 deliveries and finishing matters with a six, with some 21 balls still in hand.

Wavertree 45 (15.3; Kelsey Barker 3-14, Hannah Bratt 2-9, Beth Hughes 2-10)
Nantwich 49-1 (6; Hughes 15*)

- Nantwich made light work of their Liverpoolian opponents, who had initially made a decent start at 36-1.

Leigh 86-8 (20; Jaimie-Lee Strang 27, Ellie Davey 26, Daisy Hunt 3-11)
Ramsbottom 87-2 (20; Abriella Bingham 27*, Sophie Ullah 21)

- Leigh are however exiting the main competition after being kept down to a modest total, which Ramsbottom passed off the final delivery.

This all means that Didsbury host Ramsbottom in the northern quarter final. There could then be another all-CWCL affair in the northern semis, with Didsbury to host Nantwich if they both win their next matches. Leyland and Leigh now go into the Plate, where one of them could yet make a major impact.

Caythorpe w/o Porthill Park

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.

Also, a final reminder for any coaches at your club who could benefit from some CPD at the start of this cricket season. Performance Coaches Gavin Colebourn and Owen Williamson are delivering a workshop in 'Wicket-keeping Development' and Bowling fixes. The session is FREE OF CHARGE to Cheshire coaches (ECB Foundation 1 and above) and can be booked [here](#). It provides a fantastic opportunity for club coaches to build confidence and upskill in these two key areas.