

The next two weeks see the League stage both of its major showpiece occasions for 2022.

The League representative team to play MCC on Thursday August 11 from 1130 at Hawk Green CC is:

Roshini Prince-Navaratnam (Didsbury, captain), Marianne Lea, Rosie Davis, Hannah Marshall (Didsbury), Gemma Rose, Nandu Valliyil, Daisy Cooke (Chester BH), Eleanor Brennan (Stockport Trinity), Heidi Cheadle (Lindow), Jaimie-Lee Strang (Leigh), Laura Nicholls (Hawarden Park). Additional fielders: Emily Murray (Lindow), Natasha Sen (Didsbury). Scorer: Nicola Deane (Hawarden Park). Umpires: Chris Moore & Jeff Langham.

Sadly, we will no longer be able to welcome women's cricket legend Claire Taylor as part of the MCC team, as she has withdrawn due to injury. However, there is still an enjoyable day's cricket in store, and the bar will be open at the venue.

On Sunday August 21, Christleton CC hosts Finals Day, where Stockport Trinity will be aiming to repeat their T20 double from 2019. Nantwich Vipers feature in their first senior final. Their second opponents will be either Appleton Tigers – who must win their last T20 West Division match on Monday next week to make Finals Day – or Chester Boughton Hall Deemons. The intended programme is:

1030: Senior Knockout Final: Stockport Trinity Fire v Nantwich Vipers

1330: Development Knockout Final: Hayfield v Greenfield / Chester Boughton Hall 2nd XI

1630: T20 Divisional Competition Final: Stockport Trinity Fire v Appleton Tigers / Chester Boughton Hall Deemons

Umpires: Keith Wells & Duane Jones for Knockout Finals; Andy Marsland & Derek Barnett for T20 Divisional Final.

CHESHIRE WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Division One – July 31:

Oakmere 111-7 (40; Amy Jones 49, Phoebe Cottam 25, Sophie Heaton 3-28, Millie Baldwin 2-9) (7pts)

Leigh 112-8 (39.3; Jaimie-Lee Strang 31, Rachael Walsh 21, Kasey Bentham 21, Emily Renshaw 4-12) (25pts)

- If one of the characteristics of a championship winning side is getting through matches when they are not on top form, then this win by table toppers Leigh might indicate they are indeed on course for a first title. Leigh's normally prolific batting line up faltered at 67-6 and then 95-8 as Emily Renshaw and others took regular wickets, before Gaby Crabb and Emma Capper saw them over the line.

Stockport Georgians 129-9 (40; Gaby McKeever 68, Roshini Prince-Navaratnam 3-10, Stacey Miles 2-20) (8pts)

Didsbury 130-7 (34.2; Prince-Navaratnam 58*, Rosie Davis 29, Cleo Johnson 2-21, Lucy Neill 2-22, Holly Batey 2-23) (25pts)

- Didsbury were indebted to Roshini Prince-Navaratnam for seeing them through in a tight contest. Thunder contracted professional Hannah Jones made one of her occasional appearances for Didsbury here and produced figures one wicket for five runs in her eight overs. This helped reduce the home team to 37-4, and although Gaby McKeever countered with some fine shots in a run-per-ball 68, Prince-Navaratnam duly mopped up the tail, leaving her side to chase little more than three per over. After Prince-Navaratnam and Rosie Davis added 50 in an opening stand, wickets began to fall regularly, and it was left to Prince-Navaratnam to see her side over the line.
- Match live stream, starting close to the end of the first innings.

Stockport Trinity 60 (30.4; Gillian Spragg 22, Emily Page 3-9, Kathryn Jackson 3-12, Abbey Gore 2-18) (2pts)
Appleton 61-1 (14.1; Emma Barlow 29*) (25pts)

- Appleton's outside chance of the league remains alive after an all-round bowling display dismissed opponents Trinity cheaply.

August 7:

Leigh 244-0 (40; Rachael Walsh 115*, Danielle Collins 113*) (25pts)
Chester Boughton Hall 162-8 (40; Ali Cutler 71, Katie Bennett 35, Nandu Valliyil 22, Adelaide Mather 2-14) (5pts)

- Leigh's winning run scaled new heights, as an unbroken stand of 244 took them one step closer to title glory. Rachael Walsh made a century to add to her three half-centuries this year, and Danielle Collins joined her in three figures, with both players scoring at almost a run per ball. Chester chased down 220 to win in one match earlier this year, but despite the best efforts of Ali Cutler, this run chase proved a step too far.

Oakmere 116 (40; Dawn Prestidge 19, Emily Renshaw 19, Hannah Marshall 3-6, Zara Matthews 2-17) (25pts)

Didsbury 105 (37.3; Rosie Davis 35, Amy Jones 3-9, Kate Renshaw 3-14) (8pts)

- Didsbury's hopes of overhauling Leigh suffered a major blow here. Hannah Marshall and Zara Matthews looked to have put them on course for victory, but the Didsbury innings fell away from 78-3 as Amy Jones and Kate Renshaw mopped up the middle and lower order.

Nantwich 92 (33; Morganne Prince 51*, Abbey Gore 3-1, Annie Rashid 2-17, Kathryn Jackson 2-20) (3pts)

Appleton 93-1 (18; Emma Barlow 48*, Charlotte Cross 27*) (25pts)

- The previous league meeting between these two teams ended in a tie, while their Knockout Cup match also finished with scores level. However, here it was an emphatic win for Appleton, where Abbey Gore's three for one in 18 balls and Olivia Horsfield's eight overs for three runs were the best of some impressive figures. Appleton climb into second spot, but Leigh are just 38 points from clinching the Championship, with three matches remaining. Indeed, the contest could be all over as soon as this Sunday, were Leigh to beat Stockport Georgians and both Appleton and Didsbury were to lose.

Division Two – August 7:

Upton 122 (29; B Ray 37*, Libby Ackerley 4-17, Michelle Hesslegrave 3-14, Lily Beckley 2-23) (25pts)
Lindow 53 (22; Emily Murray 14, Lily Scudder 4-8, Hannah McGowan 3-14, Philippa Dagger 2-5) (6pts)

- An exciting finish is brewing in division two after this result, which really threatens to shake up the title race. Upton's 122 was way below some of the totals Lindow have posted or chased down this season, but today was a very different story, with Hannah McGowan dismissing the top three cheaply and Lily Scudder taking over in the middle order. Leyland lead by a single point from Lindow now, with the Wilmslow club's failure to get more than one batting point here potentially crucial. However, Upton are now just eight points off the lead with a game in hand, so are arguably in the best position. The only remaining 'showdown' match between the top three this season is Upton v Leyland on September 11.

Oxton 102 (27.3; Molly Price 37, Rachel Warrenger 3-7, Chey Walker 2-8) (5pts)
Hawarden Park 106-4 (26; Llio Parry 24*, Nicola Deane 21, Freya Davies 2-28) (25pts)

- A comfortable win for Hawarden, who may now be eyeing a top four finish.

Matches that should be re-arranged:

Woodley v Hawarden (ground availability)

Division Three West – July 24:

Wistaston Village 65-5 (18; Nicki Jarvis 10*, Carrie Gunn 2-16) (12pts)
Appleton 2nd XI dnb (11pts)

July 25:

Nantwich 2nd XI (25pts) w/o Appleton 2nd XI (minus 10pts)

July 28:

Porthill Park Northern Stars 161-2 (20; Ellie Cope 93*, Melisha Tennakoon 48*, Ffion Jones 2-30) (25pts)
Chester Boughton Hall 2nd XI 81 (17.1; Hannah Thorley 29. Sophie Harper 2-21) (6pts)

- A potentially vital win for Porthill in the race for the title. After the loss of two early wickets, Ellie Cope (93 from 66 balls) and Melisha Tennakoon (48 from 49) dominated, adding 151 in their unbroken stand. Chester reached 72-2 but then collapsed as the imposing required run rate took its toll.

August 1:

Nantwich 2nd XI 117-6 (20; Ellie Pearson 29, Katie Conroy 20*, Callie Biggs 2-15, Nicki Jarvis 2-19) (25pts)
Wistaston Village 37-0 (10; Amy Bourne 15*, Anna Bourne 11*) (7pts)
(Nantwich win on faster scoring rate)

- Nantwich were well ahead of the required rate here when rain forced an early conclusion, despite Wistaston not having lost a wicket to that point.

Appleton 2nd XI 75-5 (20; Abbey Gore 28, Jess Jones 2-5, Hannah Thorley 2-16) (14pts)
Chester Boughton Hall 2nd XI 8-3 (4; Holly McCurrie 2-5)

- On the same night, this match didn't quite reach the 10th over and the minimum amount for a result, which was certainly a shame for Appleton, who had made a fine start with the ball.

August 3:

Chester Boughton Hall 2nd XI 64-5 (18; Daisy Cooke 20*, Emma Powell 2-7, Amy Bourne 2-14) (6pts)
Wistaston Village 66-4 (14.3; Tanith Allwood 21*, Ava Rogers 2-16) (25pts)

- Chester's title hopes suffered a blow as Wistaston recorded their first win since their second match of the season.

August 4:

Nantwich 2nd XI 78-6 (20; Florence Seymour 19, Sophie Harper 2-3)
Porthill Park Northern Stars 79-2 (12.2; Isla Johnson 33*)

- Porthill took one step closer to winning this division, indeed it looks like the only realistic way they will fail to finish top is if they lose both matches in their Bank Holiday double header with Chester seconds.

Matches that can be re-arranged: Chester Boughton Hall 2nd XI v Appleton 2nd XI (Appleton unable to fulfil fixture on original date)

Division Three East

Matches that can be re-arranged: Stockport Georgians 2nd XI v Hawk Green (weather conditions on original date), Hawk Green v Stockport Georgians 2nd XI (Georgians unable to fulfil fixture on original date)

Division Four – July 25:

Oakmere 2nd XI v Lymm Oughtrington Park – Cancelled due to rain and will not be re-arranged, 8pts each.

July 27:

Heaton Mersey & Cheadle 66-6 (20; Amy Shaw 30ret, Charlotte Thompson 4-14, Naz Hancioglu 2-3) (4pts)

Lindow 2nd XI 70-1 (11.4; Sara Bracken 30ret) (25pts)

- Lindow took one step closer to the fourth division title by easily winning what, on paper, could have been one of their toughest remaining matches. Naz Hancioglu produced another miserly spell to lead the way in restricting Heaton Mersey & Cheadle to a low total.

July 28:

Stockport Georgians 3rd XI / North East Cheshire 79-8 (20; Chloe Waites 15, Jenny Wallace 2-13) (6pts)

Langley 82-4 (16.5; Jen Lamidey 30*) (25pts)

- A potentially important win for Langley as they seek to keep the pressure on Lindow seconds at the top. Jenny Wallace was the pick of their bowling attack, before Jen Lamidey led the successful chase.

August 2:

Heaton Mersey & Cheadle 87 (20; Jessica Isaacs 21, Sara Allen 3-9, Lucy Highton 2-23) (25pts)

Buxton 73 (15.3; Denise Morris 28*, Ruby Arya 3-13, Isaacs 3-14) (9pts)

- Jessica Isaacs helped her team recover from an uncertain start and then took key early wickets in the second innings, playing a significant part in this victory.

Matches that should be re-arranged: Oakmere 2nd XI v Lindow 2nd XI (exceptional circumstances)

Matches that can be re-arranged: Langley v Stockport Georgians 3rd XI / North East Cheshire (rain on original date), Langley v Lindow 2nd XI (rain on original date).

Division Five East (Pairs scoring):

Toft 314, North East Cheshire 288

Stockport 307, Broadbottom 271

Division Five West:

Irby 313, Wallasey 259

Northwich 225 v Runcorn Roses – abandoned

Runcorn Rebels 508, Kingsley 446

The next League Committee meeting will take place on Wednesday August 10 at Oakmere CC. The main meeting will be preceded by an Extraordinary General Meeting at 1930, which will consider:

- The election of a new League Secretary
- The adoption of the ECB's Anti-Discrimination Code

LEAGUE TABLES

	Division 1	P	w	l	t	a	c	BatP	BowIP	NRR	Pts
1	<u>Leigh</u>	11	9	1	0	1	0	9	5	1.65	247
2	<u>Appleton</u>	10	6	3	1	0	0	8	11	0.52	184
3	<u>Oakmere</u>	12	5	6	0	1	0	27	23	-0.19	183
4	<u>Didsbury</u>	10	6	2	0	1	1	5	10	0.74	181
5	<u>Chester Boughton Hall</u>	11	5	5	0	1	0	15	15	-0.64	163
6	<u>Nantwich</u>	11	4	5	1	0	1	11	14	0.16	148
7	<u>Stockport Georgians</u>	10	2	6	0	0	2	15	21	-0.23	102
8	<u>Stockport Trinity</u>	11	1	10	0	0	0	33	20	-2.02	78

	Division 2	P	w	wcn	l	lcn	c	BatP	BowlP	NRR	Pts
1	<u>Leyland</u>	9	4	2	2	0	1	7	8	1.05	173
2	<u>Lindow</u>	9	4	2	2	0	1	6	8	1.15	172
3	<u>Upton</u>	8	6	0	2	0	0	9	7	0.81	166
4	<u>Hawarden Park</u>	9	4	1	4	0	0	14	11	-0.15	150
5	<u>Oxton</u>	8	2	2	3	0	1	10	8	-0.77	126
6	<u>Woodley</u>	8	0	1	3	3	1	5	7	-1.94	15
7	<u>Ashton-on-Mersey</u>	9	0	0	4	5	0	12	9	-2.21	-29

Division 3 West		P	w	wcn	l	lcn	a	c	BatP	BowlP	NRR	Pts
1	<u>Porthill Park</u>	9	4	2	1	0	1	1	6	9	2.13	181
2	<u>Chester Boughton Hall 2nd XI</u>	9	4	1	3	0	1	0	15	10	0.29	158
3	<u>Nantwich 2nd XI</u>	11	2	1	7	0	1	0	27	13	-0.67	123
4	<u>Appleton 2nd XI</u>	11	4	0	1	3	2	1	9	8	0.84	111
5	<u>Wistaston Village</u>	10	3	0	5	1	1	0	13	12	-1.11	98

Division 3 East		P	w	l	BatP	BowlP	NRR	Pts
1	<u>Greenfield</u>	5	4	1	5	2	2.27	107
2	<u>Hayfield</u>	5	4	1	1	5	2.47	106
3	<u>Didsbury 2nd XI</u>	6	2	4	11	8	-1.06	69
4	<u>Stockport Georgians 2nd XI</u>	3	1	2	1	5	-1.76	31
5	<u>Hawk Green</u>	3	0	3	4	7	-3.67	11

	Division 4	P	w	wcn	l	lcn	t	c	BatP	BowIP	NRR	Pts
1	<u>Lindow</u> 2 nd XI	8	7	0	1	0	0	0	5	3	1.27	183
2	<u>Oakmere</u> 2 nd XI	10	3	1	4	0	1	1	20	11	0.02	154
3	<u>Langley</u>	8	4	1	2	0	1	0	7	2	0.24	149
4	Heaton Mersey & <u>Cheadle</u>	10	6	0	2	2	0	0	8	4	1.01	142
5	<u>Stockport Georgians</u> 3 rd XI / North East Cheshire	10	4	0	6	0	0	0	23	14	-0.47	137
6	<u>Buxton</u>	9	4	0	5	0	0	0	18	13	-0.23	131
7	<u>Lymm Oughtrington Park</u>	9	0	0	8	0	0	1	32	20	-1.68	60

T20 DIVISIONAL COMPETITION

Western Division:

Oakmere Kats v Appleton Tigers – no play due to weather conditions on original date and will not be re-arranged, recorded as Cancelled

Appleton Tigers w/o Oxton

NATIONAL KNOCKOUT COMPETITIONS

Under 19 Regional Quarter-Final – July 24:

Stockport Georgians 152-7 (20; Lucy Neill 107*, M Andrews 2-6, I Pitt 2-26)
Cutthorpe 137-5 (20; S McCollum 79, Liv Bell 2-17)

- Lucy Neill made an unbeaten 107 from 64 balls to lead an extraordinary recovery from one for five, and ultimately saw her side finish on the winning side!

OTHER NEWS

My contribution to Tom Jones' Lives in Women and Girls' Cricket Podcast. All views my own and not necessarily those of the league.