

COUNTY LEAGUE NEWS

on behalf of Cheshire Clubs Cricket Committee (4 Cs)



SEPTEMBER 2022

Didsbury do it!

First Prem title in over 20 years

Cheadle & Grappenhall promoted to Prem

Lords heartbreak for Nantwich



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FROM THE EDITOR



And so ends a quite remarkable season! Easily the driest we have known - not been a single Saturday 1st XI game cancelled this year. No, I couldn't quite believe it either, but having checked through several times, it is indeed true! There have been a handful of rain affected games, and one Div 2 game that was abandoned a short way in due to concerns about the pitch, but otherwise it must be the first time this has ever happened! What a job has been done by so many groundstaff. We have had the addition of a new Division at both 1st & 2nd XI level, continued success on the national stage for our clubs, one of the world's best cricketers still turning out for the club where she honed her skills, batters passing 1000 runs....and plenty of excellent cricket. One thing I keep my eye on during the season is the ratio of drawn games. We will all be aware of the on-going arguments about having a straight win/lose format throughout (or not),

but while that argument is likely to continue, the facts are that in each 1st XI Division, the ratio has been relatively low. Division 3 has seen around 10.6% of its matches drawn, the lowest ratio (14 matches); the Prem, and Div 1, are each around 15% (21 & 20 games respectively, not including a tie in the Prem game between Oxton & Didsbury), while at 18.93%, Div 2 has seen the most draws. And that is only a broad analysis - there are draws and draws, so to speak, and I been aware of both the gripping and more prosaic ones during the year. Personally I still think a split format season is the most attractive option, but we will see what gets proposed and supported during the close season. One less satisfactory element of 2022 has been the number of games conceded, especially on Sundays although Saturday 2nd XI cricket has also been affected, something else that I know will be exercising the minds of the various committees and competition secretar-

ies. I still get the impression we do better than most in terms of the overall level of quality and cricket played here in Cheshire but it can never be taken for granted. Personally it has been deeply satisfying to record my club making an amazing dash for the line in the Prem, but the successes of our junior teams at Didsbury have also been a source of great satisfaction, and as this fourth season of newsletters comes to an end, I am still hopeful of being able to do greater justice to this level of cricket if it proves possible to develop the newsletter's coverage as I would like. We shall see. But for now, congratulations to all the winners and commiserations to the clubs that have had a tough year. Thanks for reading, and for your feedback, and I hope to see you at the league dinner.

James

2022 SEASON SUMMARY

PREMIER DIVISION: WINNERS: DIDSBURY

RUNNERS-UP: HYDE

RELEGATED: OULTON PARK, BOWDON

DIVISION ONE: WINNERS: CHEADLE

RUNNERS-UP: GRAPPENHALL

RELEGATED: BOLLINGTON, MARPLE

DIVISION TWO

WINNERS: STOCKPORT GEORGIANS

RUNNERS-UP: ROMILEY

RELEGATED: WARRINGTON, UPTON

DIVISION THREE: WINNERS: NORTH EAST CHESHIRE

RUNNERS-UP: STOCKPORT

RELEGATED: BARNTON, RUNCORN

2ND XI PREMIER DIVISION: WINNERS: CHESTER BOUGHTON HALL

RUNNERS-UP: DIDSBURY

RELEGATED: OULTON PARK, ALDERLEY EDGE

3RD XI PREMIER DIVISION: WINNERS: DIDSBURY

RUNNERS-UP: SALE

BOTTOM TWO: HYDE, ROMILEY

1ST XI T20 WINNERS: ALDERLEY EDGE

RUNNERS UP: CHESTER BOUGHTON HALL

CHESHIRE CUP WINNERS: NANTWICH

RUNNERS-UP: BIRKENHEAD PARK

CHESHIRE SHIELD WINNERS: ROMILEY

RUNNERS-UP: MOBBERLEY

2ND XI T20 WINNERS: DIDSBURY

RUNNERS UP: CHESTER BOUGHTON HALL

3RD XI T20 WINNERS: DIDSBURY

RUNNERS UP: ASHLEY

OVER 40s CUP WINNERS: CHESTER BOUGHTON HALL

RUNNERS-UP: HYDE

OVER 40s PLATE: WINNERS: NESTON

RUNNERS-UP: DAVENHAM



CHESHIRE CUP FINAL 2022

SECOND CUP IN THREE YEARS FOR NANTWICH

BIRKENHEAD PK, SUNDAY 11 SEPTEMBER:

**NANTWICH 164-5 (33 os) BEAT
BIRKENHEAD PARK 160-9 (40 os) BY 5 WKTS**

The disappointments in their league campaign were set aside as Nantwich produced an excellent team performance to record a second Cheshire Cup Final win in three seasons. Putting the hosts in, and with a sizeable and partisan crowd in attendance, the Nantwich attack was at its relentless best, with two wickets in two balls at the end of the 35th over leaving BP on a parlous 115-7. Alex Harris and Sam Beadsworth led a feisty late rally, helping to lift the total to 160 in their allocation as the game took a twist. But home optimism was initially brought to heel as skipper Ray Doyle led the way with a quickfire 28 off 17. His departure saw a glimmer of hope for BP, who applied pressure but couldn't properly disrupt the composure of the Dabbers line-up, Luke Robinson, whose 36 (off 34 bs) making the joint top score of the match. With the weather starting to close in a little, and the prospect of DLS calculations becoming involved, Phil Stockton hit the winning boundary as Nantwich won with some seven overs in hand, and a final played in an excellent spirit was concluded. Nantwich's attention now turned to their date at Lords the following Saturday.



IMAGE: NANTWICH CC INSTAGRAM

A TWO MINUTE SILENCE IN HONOUR OF THE QUEEN WAS IMPECCABLY OBSERVED BEFORE THE MATCH.

IMAGE: NANTWICH CC TWITTER



Nantwich CC Retweeted

Mark Rowland @rolo8efc · 10h

Absolutely devastated we couldn't get over the line, but to be beaten by a side like @NantwichCC is no disgrace! Top team, top lads enjoy your night and good luck at lords! 🙌👏 @bpcc1846

1

2

32

↑

MATCH OFFICIALS

UMPIRES: BRIAN BOYS & SIMON SMITH

SCORERS: WILL FILDES (BP), RICKY REBELO (NANT)

REFEREE: DAVE LEE



LAST BALL AGONY FOR DABBERS AT LORDS

ROYAL LONDON NATIONAL
CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL
SATURDAY, SEPT 17, LORDS

BEXLEY 241-8 (40 os)

NANTWICH 240-9 (40 os)

Bexley won by 1 run

Amidst scenes of high drama, Nantwich saw victory snatched from their grasp when the two they needed off the last three balls of the match somehow did not materialise, a last-ball run out of non-striker Jimmy Warrington (above) sparking scenes of wild celebrations amongst the Bexley team. Put in to bat, Bexley managed 42 off their last five overs to post 241-8, with Nantwich, thanks to 75 from Luke Robinson & 51 from Marcus Stables, needing 40 off their last five to win. Despite a terrific effort in those overs from Spencer Byatt (59*) and Scott Wardley (14), Byatt's best efforts in the last, when Nantwich needed 8, saw his side fall just short. You can see all the reaction and read reports on the Nantwich twitter feed and website, and a full stream of the match is available to view on Play-Cricket.

An extraordinary set of results in September saw Didsbury claim their first Premier Division title in over 20 years. Having led the table for so long, Hyde suffered successive defeats and finished second. Bowdon and Oulton Park were relegated on a climactic final day.

WK 20 - SEPTEMBER 3

Oxton's revival, which has been one of the features of the last part of the season, played another part in a dramatic twist at the top of the table when they won comfortably at leaders **Hyde**, who dropped down to third having led the league since mid-June. Without leading wkt taker **Danny Cranmer**, Hyde bowled tidily but struggled for a breakthrough, an opening stand of 80 not broken until the 34th over. Oxton in turn found raising the tempo difficult, although 45 off the last five overs took them to 211-8, and they carried that momentum through by dismissing Hyde for just 116 in under 32 overs, **Chris Stenhouse** leading the way with 5-19. This news buoyed the chasing pack, although **Didsbury**, having been set 263 by **Widnes** after **Luke McCoy's** run-a-ball 78, seemed like they too would falter as they subsided to 179-7 in the 40th. However, young **Dan Ward** belied his age with a nerveless 44, working the gaps with **Jack Hastings** (32) and finally fellow junior **Rohan Aggarwal**, who helped scramble the 24 needed with just two balls remaining, the extra over gained by Dids proving critical as they went top. **Nantwich** were also encouraged by the events at Werneth Low, although they were chasing a much higher target than seemed likely after **Bowdon** had been reduced to 50-4 at Whitehouse Lane. No. 6 **Shardul Viinoaday** hit a wonderful 103* (111 bs, 13x4, 4x6) as the bottom side reached 263, but even then, this proved small potatoes for the Dabbers as **Marcus Stables** (112*) put on 139 for the 2nd with **Jake Pearson** (67) and then an unbroken 125 with **Luke Robinson** (79*), Nantwich home and hosed inside 45 overs. **Alderley Edge**, also pressing for the title, scrapped their way to a 5 wkt win at **Oulton Park**, **Sam Perry's** 78 the standout as OP's barren run - now 16

games without a win - saw them drop into the relegation spots, albeit **Brooklands** had just a 4 pt cushion after getting a tonking at the hands of **Chester BH**. **Rick Moore** hit a fine 107, involved in stands of 80 and 125 before he departed as CBH racked up 315-5, their highest score of the season. Despite a typically pugnacious 58 off 32 from **Kevin Carroll**, Brooklands were 128-6 when he fell and it was only feisty resistance led by no.9 **Joe Gill** (67) that kept the margin of defeat to 80 runs. All of which meant that **Toft** picked a very good day to win for the first time in four games, their 7 wkt triumph over an out-of-sorts **Neston** thanks to 5-38 from skipper **Jimmy Lomas** and a fine opening stand of 123 between **Genaro Reddy** (59) and **Henry Hughes** (57). Toft gave themselves what could be a vital 16 pt cushion as they looked ahead to their trip to Bowdon on the following week.

WK 20a - SEPTEMBER 4

With their appearance in the National Cup Final scheduled for the last day of the season, **Nantwich** had no option but to rearrange their fixture with **Didsbury** for the Sunday, both sides thus facing a second demanding game in 24 hours. However, despite their nerve-shredding late win and then a lengthy ride south, it was Didsbury who defied their recent indifferent history at Whitehouse Lane to record a massive 156 run win which set them up perfectly for their final, decisive match. Put into bat, Dids rattled along to 290, a jaunty alliance of 61 for the 7th between brothers **Steve & James Green** and two big maximums from junior **Dan**



NICK ANDERSON HAMMERS THE ENORMOUS SIX THAT SEALED THE TITLE FOR DIDSBURY

Ward in the closing overs building on half centuries from **Nick Anderson** and **Noah Croes**. Nantwich simply had no answers to the accuracy of Anderson and **Liam Booth**, **Steve Green** & **Raza Mian** polishing things off in the 38th over.

WK 21 - SEPTEMBER 10

The magnificent run of form that had seen them win 7 and tie 1 of their previous 8 was crucially extended when it mattered, as **Didsbury** delighted a large crowd of onlookers with a 6 wkt win over fellow title-aspirants **Alderley Edge** that confirmed them as **Premier Division Champions**. **Nick Anderson** won an important toss and led from the front, returning 6-52 as AE's batting fell to bits, going from 91-3 to 108-9 in less than 7 overs, finally folding for 123. Anderson then strode to the crease at 46-3, creamed a boundary off his first ball, and along with **Sam Leech** and **Steve Green** ushered his side to a resounding win, hammering a huge six to win the game, to the delight of a healthy gathering of supporters. After receiving the sporting congratulations of the AE team, Anderson received the trophy from League chairman David



Humpage after the game. With matters at the top now settled, interest turned to the foot of the table, where the four sides all in danger of relegation played each other. **Brooklands** had the best of it with a vital 5 wkt win over **Oulton Park**. **AJ Hart** passed 50 wkts for the season, and a rejuvenated **Rob Leach** also returned 17 parsimonious overs, getting rid of OP skipper **Martyn East** cheaply, East only able to watch as his struggling side slipped to 116-9. The 40 runs added for the last brought some cheer, but a brisk 100 opening stand between **Todd Walker** (67) and **Dave Cunliffe** (44) enabled Brooklands to claim the 25 pts and the knowledge that they were in prime position to stay up. *Sur les mains autres*, OP fell to the foot and knew that nothing less than a win on the last day would do, and even then might still not be enough to survive. At South Downs Lane, the heavy rain of Friday had soaked the square and meant that the **Bowdon/Toft** clash became a 30 overs a side affair. Boosted by the appearance of **Glen Chapple**, Bowdon declared after 26 overs on 158-6, **Ross Zelem** 88* off 55 bs. Chapple senior and junior opened the bowling and both took wkts as Toft tumbled from 64-3 to 79-9, the last six overs runless as Toft lost three and the tension mounted. The

last pair survived and the value of the extra point for the draw would almost certainly count come the final day, when all four sides at the foot could still go down. Elsewhere, four more wkts for **Rowan Shelton** as **Hyde** fell from 109-1 to 205 all out at **Neston**, who won by 3 wkts. **Oxton** beat **Chester** by 1 wkt in a thriller, **Jordan Collier's** all-round brilliance the key with 7-52 (incl. a hat-trick) as CBH fell from 148-0 to 209 all out, then 47* to help steer his side to a fifth win in 7 games. Another close one at **Widnes**, where the hosts beat **Nantwich** by 9 runs, **Luke McCoy's** 104* the only Prem ton of the day.

WK 22 - SEPTEMBER 17

The last day dawned chilly but beautifully bright, with the relegation issues foremost for everyone connected with the Premier Division. Of the four clubs involved, **Brooklands** were the first to secure their status after an ultimately successful debut year, with an emphatic win at **Alderley Edge**, who faded surprisingly in the final weeks. Brooklands chose to bat and **Todd Walker** was a class apart, rounding off a fantastic season for him with a cultured 86 (113 bs) which was almost half his side's total of 177. The evergreen **AJ Hart** then got to work with **Rob Leach**, whose late renaissance has boosted the Brook attack and was on this day responsible for separating the key AE pair of **Foster** and **Perry** cheaply, Leach going on to take 5-30 as AE slid to 61 all out. This was a body blow for **Bowdon**, who bravely chose to

field first at **Hyde** but took a pasting as the hosts (and eventual runners-up) walloped an eye watering 364, **Luke Young** 91, **Keshana Fonseka** 83. A sparkling 92 off 57 bs from **Tom Graham** was to no avail as Bowdon not surprisingly fell some way short, 247 all out meaning they return to Div 1 after just one season. Despite their first win since May 14, **Oulton Park** were confirmed to be joining them, ending a five-season stint in the top flight. Their two wicket win in an impressive chase over a resurgent **Oxton** side (who finished sixth in the end) was rendered immaterial - as was OP having two of the top ten run scorers in the Division - after **Toft** skipper **Tom Forster** reminded everyone of his class with a brilliant 121*, his side recording their highest total of the season, 295-8, against **Widnes**. The batting pts thus secured were just about enough for Toft, but they made absolutely sure by bowling their opponents out for 175, Forster fittingly taking the last wkt to end stubborn Widnes resistance (they were 107-8), claiming 3-38 in the individual display of the day. After a tough season at Booths Park, the margin of Premier Div safety - Toft finished 19 and 26 pts ahead respectively of the bottom two - shows just how finely balanced these things can be. In the Prem's other game on Saturday, a below-strength **Ches-ter BH** lost by four wickets at home to **Neston**.

PERFORMANCES OF NOTE

3 Sept

Marcus Stables 112*, Nant v Bow; Rick Moore 107, CBH v Brook; Shardul Viinoday 103, Bow v Nant; Chris Stenhouse 5-19, Oxt v Hyde; James Lomas 5-38, Toft v Nest; Steve Green 5-73, Dids v Wid

10 Sept

Luke McCoy 104*, Wid v Nant; Jordan Collier 7-52 (incl. hat-trick) & 48*, Oxt v Nant; Nick Anderson 6-52 and 51*, Dids v AE; Todd Walker 3-12 & 67, Brook v OP

17 Sept

Tom Forster 121* (& 3-38), Toft v Wid; Tom Graham 92, Bow v Hyde; Luke Young 91, Hyde v Bow; Rob Leach 5-30, Brook v AE; Andrew Dufty 5-51, OP v Oxt; Andrew Jackson 5-58, Hyde v Bow; Shardul Viinoday 5-112, Bow v Hyde; Luke Camden 65 & 3-61, Nest v CBH

TEAM	PTS	HIGHEST	LOWEST	TOP BATTER	TOP WKTS
DIDSBURY	445	299-7	150	NOAH CROES - 829	STEVE GREEN - 56
HYDE	422	372-3	92	LUKE YOUNG - 889	ANDREW JACKSON - 57
ALDERLEY EDGE	398	271-5	61	SAM PERRY - 969	JAMES NAYLOR - 40
NANTWICH	392	306-6	118	MARCUS STABLES - 1012	OLLY GRIFFITHS - 42
CHESTER BH	344	315-5	76	RICK MOORE - 867	JACK WILLIAMS - 36
OXTON	308	349-2	97	HENRY DOBSON - 622	JORDAN COLLIER - 57
NESTON	305	257-6	72	LUKE CAMDEN - 609	ROWAN SHELTON - 52
WIDNES	279	310-4	99	KIERAN MAHER - 647	QAMAR HAFIZ - 49
BROOKLANDS	252	331-7	62	TODD WALKER - 844	A.J.HART - 55
TOFT	246	295-8	77	TOM FORSTER - 483	TOM FORSTER - 26
OULTON PARK	227	285-8	145	MARTYN EAST - 861	ANDREW DUFTY - 34
BOWDON	220	270-6	38	ROSS ZELEM - 635	ROB LORD - 34

SEPT. FORM GUIDE

TEAM	PTS
DIDSBURY	75
OXTON	61
BROOKLANDS	56
NESTON	55
TOFT	54
CHESTER BH	47
WIDNES	41
HYDE	37
NANTWICH	37
OULTON PARK	35
BOWDON	31
ALDERLEY EDGE	30

LEADING RUNS

PLAYER	RUNS
MARCUS STABLES	1012
SAM PERRY	969
LUKE YOUNG	889
RICK MOORE	867
MARTYN EAST	861
ROB SEHMI	844
TODD WALKER	844
NOAH CROES	829
NICK ANDERSON	745
KEVIN CARROLL	743
LUKE ROBINSON	741
TOM PARTRIDGE	703
ALEX MONEY	686
KIERAN MAHER	647
ROSS ZELEM	635

LEADING WKTS

PLAYER	WKTS
ANDREW JACKSON	57
JORDAN COLLIER	57
STEVE GREEN	56
A.J.HART	55
DANIEL CRANMER	53
ROWAN SHELTON	52
QAMAR HAFIZ	49
OLIVER GRIFFITHS	42
JIMMY WARRINGTON	40
JAMES NAYLOR	40
LIAM BOOTH	38
JACK WILLIAMS	36
NICK ANDERSON	36
JOE MENNIE	35
ASHLEY DAVIS, CHARLIE BARNARD, ANDREW DUFTY,	34

MARCUS STABLES, LEADING RUN SCORER



IMAGE: PETER STONIER / STOKE SENTINEL

WICKETKEEPERS & FIELDSERS

Spencer Byatt of Nantwich, with 24 ct & 5 st, was the Premier Division's leading keeper, followed by Widnes' Chris Kirby (19/6), Brooklands' Dan O'Gorman (20/4) and Bowdon's Oliver Simons (18/1).

With 19 catches, Brooklands' **Kevin Carroll** is the leading outfielder, with Nantwich's **Luke Robinson** taking 16 catches. **Alex Money** (CBH), **Todd Walker** (Brook) & **Noah Croes** (Dids) were also notable for catches and run-outs.

Cheadle returned to the Premier Division at the first time of asking as Div 1 champions, with Grappenhall also returning after a three season absence. After a disappointing month & heavy last day loss, Marple were consigned to join Bollington in Division 2 next season.

WK 20 - SEPTEMBER 3

Grappenhall and **Cheadle** both confirmed their elevation back to the Premier Division, although the divisional title was still very much up for grabs with just one point separating the two sides. **Cheadle** went back to the top after a comfortable enough win at **Congleton**, although it would have been a brave person to predict such after Cheadle were bowled out for a painstaking 124, **Ali Azmat** taking 6-27. The last Cheadle pair added what proved to be an invaluable 28 as the hosts found batting no easier, slipping from 29-0 to 49-6 and finally folding for just 86 as **Dan Brown** bagged 6-29. Meanwhile, **Grappenhall** were suffering just their third reverse of the season at the hands of **Timperley**, who won a high scoring game at Broad Lane in the last over. **Grant Hodnett** was the Grappers hero, his 102* believed to be his hundredth in all cricket, and helped lift his side from 48-3 to 226-5. Timpers looked washed up at 128-6 in the 33rd but a terrific stand between **Nathan Brown** (54*) and **Chris McCarthy** (65*) saw the 99 needed added with four balls remaining. Despite the loss, the 10 pts gained put Grappers out of Timperley's reach, the Stockport Rd side left to rue their slow start to 2022 when they won just 3 of their first 9 games. There was also some clarity at the bottom of the Division, where the seven sides at the start of play who could all still notionally go down were reduced to four. **Bollington's** 8 wkt loss at **Urmston** confirmed their drop into Division Two after a difficult season in which they have never been out of the bottom two spots. Coming just a year after they were potentially within a victory of a Premier Division place, it's been a rapid decline at the Rec, but there has been no lack of spirit or effort amongst the team. They posted a hard fought 195-7 at Moorside Rd but **Harry Singh's** class was too much, his 78* the corner-

stone as Urmston secured their place in Division 1. There was an unbearably tense finish at Victoria Rd as **Macclesfield** overcame **Lindow** by just 2 runs to claim a priceless 25 pts. Macc were limited to just 161-8, but were heartened by an 8th wkt stand of 47 which gave them hope. With so much at stake, Lindow's reply was solid, reaching 113-3 in the 34th before **Max Law** fell for 37, the highest score of the game. Macc were in business as Lindow fell to 129-7, but a valiant effort from their tail was almost enough, **Fraser Phillips** going for a winning boundary but being well caught at short extra in a breathless finale. **Bramhall** had a much more comfortable time of it against **Marple**, who were quickly on the ropes at 48-5, **Mark Makin** (64) and **Conor Ramsay** (33) arresting the slump somewhat but only setting the hosts 165. Despite the early loss of **Greg Dixon**, **Jack Clark** (88*) and **Ashley West** (63) added 119 as Bramhall won by 8 wkts to gain valuable breathing space, while Marple's run of one win in 8 really was proving costly. **Alvanley** did themselves a power of good with a surprisingly comfortable 9 wkt win over **Sale**, thanking the powers-that-be for the availability of **Sophie Ecclestone** who took 6-22 as Sale were



CHEADLE, DIVISION ONE CHAMPIONS

bowled out for 136, **Tyrone Lawrence** making 77 (56% of the total). **Michael Rowlands** (83*) and **Steve Charles** (39) almost won the game on their own, adding 132 for the 1st, and leaving Alv's fate in their own hands, albeit an improbable set of results would be needed for them not to survive.

WK 21 - SEPTEMBER 10

After another dramatic day, the situation at the foot was clarified, with three teams left fighting to avoid going down. Successive wins lifted **Macclesfield** clear of danger, their 3 wkt win at **Bramhall** in a low scoring match not pretty, but Macc cared not one jot after securing their Div 1 status. It was a good toss to win at a damp Church Lane as **Craig Melrose** and **Miles Bradshaw** took 4 wkts apiece. With **Ian Tait** making a welcome return to 1st XI action, Bramhall were 65-8 and grateful for determined resistance from their last three batting out 25 overs and getting to 140. Melrose and Bradshaw were amongst the Macc batters to all chip in as they inched towards their target, reached in the 49th. It was a blow

bowling them out for just 84 in under 32 overs. **Alex Matthews** led the way with 4-49 as his batters knocked off the runs in under 28 overs. The result left Lindow a point behind third-bottom Bramhall while Alvanley still needed two pts to be mathematically safe. **Marple**, the other side in the soup, came away from a soggy **Timperley** with an agonising draw in a rain reduced match. With the minimum 30 overs a side possible, Timpers' **Jonathan Fletcher** cracked 64 off 45 as the hosts were bowled out for 181 in the 28th (**Jack Grundy** 4-32) giving Marple a valuable two extra overs to chase. With **Andrew Hall** providing stability, Marple got to 124-3 in the 24th when a stand of 75 between Hall and **Max Fitzgerald** (29) was ended. Marple were left needing 39 off the last 5 overs with 5 wkts in hand, which came down to 13 off the last. It was a messy over that featured two wides and a no-ball, Hall needing six off the last ball but falling just short with a boundary four. Still, the nine pts bagged could prove critical as Marple prepared to host aspirant champions **Cheadle** on the last day, the Kingsway side unable to force victory against their title rivals **Grappenhall** after posting 203-5. Grappers' reply featured an alliance of 144 spanning some 30 overs for the 5th wkt between **Ed Barnes** (78) and **Ben Bodha** (59), as they finished on 180-7. It was a bowlers' game at Booth St, although two **Congleton** tweekers, **Jack Goode** and **John Copeland**, were the headline act with the bat, putting together a handy 55 run stand for the 7th wkt as the hosts totalled

122 against **Urmston**. Copeland clearly learned from what he saw, as his 4-14 was part of an unstoppable Cong response which saw Urmston bowled out for 70, Goode not even needed to turn his arm over. In the other game, **Sale's Pat Ashling** topped 1,000 league runs for the season after crunching 82* off 71 bs in his side's 10 wkt win over a dispirited **Bollington**, opening partner **Gareth Davies** making 50*.

WK 22 - SEPTEMBER 17

What could have been a day of high drama turned out in fact to be a total anti-climax. The tone for the day was set at **Grappenhall** where **Congleton's** end-of-season approach in pretty much reversing their usual batting order backfired embarrassingly, bundled out in less than 16 overs for 38, **Arran McCabe** taking a hat-trick in the only over he bowled as seven wkts in total fell in three overs. Grappers finished matters in less than 6 overs to round off a successful season at Broad Lane. Their hopes of going up as champions were dashed a little later in the afternoon as **Cheadle** completed a 10 wkt thrashing of a subdued **Marple** side. It was the day of the **Dooler** at Bowden Lane, skipper **Josh** returning 6-32 as the home side were bowled out for just 128, **Albert Hall's** 55 (largely made with a runner) the sole innings of note. **Adam Dooler** (pictured, with Josh) then led off with the bat, his 82* including the winning hit as he and **Ben Marsden** (48*) knocked off the required runs with absolutely no trouble. With only two pts



IMAGE: CHEADLE CO TWITTER

attained from the match, Marple's fears as they trooped off were soon to be confirmed, as both **Bramhall** and **Lindow** won to condemn them to relegation, their second in three complete seasons. **Lindow** were bristling with positive intent at **Bollington**, rattling up 270-3 in just 44 overs after being put in, **Rob Herriott** a superb 128, putting on 109 for the 1st (**Gus Watson** 32) and 89 for the 2nd with **Max Law** (61*) before bowling Bolly out for 205 to ensure survival. A 102 run opening stand between **Ashley West** (67 off 39) and **Greg Dixon** (70*) set **Bramhall** on their way to a crucial 25 pts at **Alvanley** to secure their Div 1 status. Elsewhere two fabulous tons at **Urmston** were the feature as **Sale** won by 20 runs; **Pat Ashling** made 143 in an opening stand of 219 (**Gareth Davies** 86) in Sale's 273-8; **Arav Shetty** then hit a magnificent 148 (having earlier taken 5-85) in an entertaining end to a frustrating season for both sides. **Timperley** finished third, signing off with a 113 run win at **Macclesfield**.

PERFORMANCES OF NOTE

3 Sept: Grant Hodnett 102*, Grapp v Timp (Hodnett's 100th century in all cricket); Sophie Ecclestone 6-22, Alv v Sale; Ali Azmat 6-27, Cong v Chead; Dan Brown 6-29, Chead v Cong; Mark Farrell 5-37, Lind v Macc; Harry Singh 78* & 2-11, Urms v Boll.

10 Sept: Andrew Hall 95*, Marp v Timp

17 Sept: Arav Shetty 148 & 5-85, Urms v Sale; Pat Ashling 143, Sale v Urm (opening psp of 219 with Gareth Davies (86)); Rob Herriott 128, Lind v Boll; Josh Dooler 6-32, Chead v Marp; Jonathan Fowler 5-31, Timp v Macc; Arran McCabe 3-0 (hat-trick), Grapp v Cong

CCCL DIVISION ONE



TEAM	PTS	HIGHEST	LOWEST	TOP BATTER	TOP WKTS
CHEADLE	455	271-5	68	LIAM FITZPATRICK - 933	WILL HOLMES - 48
GRAPPENHALL	445	233-4	160	GRANT HODNETT - 759	IAN HALL - 31
TIMPERLEY	395	287-7	115	JONATHAN FLETCHER - 863	JONATHAN FOWLER 41
SALE	331	267-8	62	PAT ASHLING - 1214	TYRONE LAWRENCE-37
CONGLETON	312	269-7	38	ALI AZMAT - 501	MUHAMMAD KASHIF-57
MACCLESFIELD	286	251-6	81	ROB PORTER - 425	CRAIG MELROSE - 41
URMSTON	284	260-6	98	HARRY SINGH - 663	CALLUM STOW - 47
ALVANLEY	283	264-4	84	MICHAEL ROWLANDS - 590	CHRIS CHARLES & STEPHEN CHARLES - 25
BRAMHALL	281	258-3	65	NICK CANTELLO - 827	SEAN McNICHOLL &
LINDOW	280	284-5	94	JOHAN WESSELS - 940	WILL ESLEY &
MARPLE	263	258-3	65	MARK BENNETT - 578	JOE CASH - 29
BOLLINGTON	179	240	85	BEN GIBSON - 718	M.HAROON CHEEMA & HARRI DICKINSON - 23

SEPT. FORM GUIDE

TEAM	PTS
CHEADLE	65
TIMPERLEY	64
BRAMHALL	57
LINDOW	55
MACCLESFIELD	54
SALE	52
GRAPPENHALL	41
URMSTON	36
ALVANLEY	33
CONGLETON	29
MARPLE	15
BOLLINGTON	13

LEADING RUNS

PLAYER	RUNS
PAT ASHLING	1214
JOHAN WESSELS	940
LIAM FITZPATRICK	933
JONATHAN FLETCHER	863
NICK CANTELLO	827
GRANT HODNETT	759
BEN GIBSON	718
GREG DIXON	712
HARRY SINGH	663
LEWIS JACKSON	631
MICHAEL ROWLANDS	590
JARRYD BASSON	587
DAN NEWTON	581
MARK BENNETT	578
ANDREW HALL	566

LEADING WKTS

PLAYER	WKTS
MUHAMMAD KASHIF	57
WILL HOLMES	48
JOSH DOOLER	47
CALLUM STOW	47
JOHN COPELAND	42
WILL ESLEY	42
ALEX MATTHEWS	42
JONATHAN FOWLER	41
CRAIG MELROSE	41
SIMON WILKINSON	40
SEAN McNICHOLL	40
ALI AZMAT	39
TYRONE LAWRENCE	37
MILES BRADSHAW	36
DAN NEWTON	35



SALE'S PAT ASHLING HIT 3 TONS & 8 50's IN 2022

IMAGE: GEORGE FRANKS

WICKETKEEPERS & FIELDERS

Congleton's **Jacob Wilshaw**, with 17 stumpings & 15 catches (and a r/o) ended top of the keeper stats, with Bramhall's Greg Dixon (18 ct/10 st), Cheadle's Elliott Bullock (18/4), Bolly's James Longhorn (20/1) and Timperley's Jonathan Fletcher (19/2) making up the top five.

With 17 catches, Cheadle skipper trio **Josh Dooler** led the fielders table, with team-mate **Dan Brown** claiming 16 and Timpers' **Nathan Brown** 12 in the top 3.

WK 20 - SEPTEMBER 3

The glimmer of hope afforded to the two chasing teams by **Stockport Georgians'** surprise loss at home to **Haslington** was only partly capitalised upon, **Romiley** frustrated by a rearguard but **Mobberley** gaining some ground with a win. At Flowery Field, visitors **Haslington** were put into bat and were listing heavily to starboard at 75-5 in the 22nd over. A fabulous alliance between skipper **Ben Istead** (pictured below) and keeper **Joe Goodier** (61) saw 159 added for the sixth in some 26 overs, Istead reaching a superb



100* in the final over of the innings. Georgians were soon on the back foot, a brilliant slip catch accounting for **Ben Jones**, and when a

counter-attacking stand of 69 between **Francis Yates** and **Simon Normenton** was ended, **Jack Taylor** returned to the attack to claim 6-40 as Haslington won by 79 runs. Georgians knew they were still in a good position, however, and they were further cheered as news of **Cheadle Hulme's** last-gasp survival at **Romiley**. The hosts dominated the match, captain **Tom Rolph** carrying his bat for a magnificent 137*, putting on 157 for the 1st wkt with **Tom Roberts** (52) as the CH attack laboured, **Scott Howarth** (4-69) the pick. And Howarth had a further part to play, batting some 13 overs at no.10 for 25 runs, falling with just two balls left in the match, but last man **Niall Greenlees** (3-73 earlier) kept them out and the match was drawn. Meantime at Walton Lea **Mobberley** eased to victory against struggling **Warrington**, who were left on the brink of relegation after a 10th reverse of the season. The hosts chose to bat but no-one could build an innings of substance, all out 144 in the 42nd, Mobberley knocking the runs off with few alarms. This result was doubly good news for **Upton**, who arrested a run

of four straight defeats with an astonishing 10 wkt win over **Port Sunlight** who they dismissed for just 74. This total was even more remarkable for the fact that PS were 59-2, 8 wkts falling for just 15 more runs in 13 crazy overs, **David Williams** finishing with 5-4 as Upton took care of business within 16 overs.

That result left **Ashton OM** with plenty to ponder after they returned from **Davenham** with just 5 pts after an 81 run loss. **Connor Mizzi** hammered 82 as Dav reached 212, Mizzi also busy with the ball, taking the last two wkts as AOM, despite a typically punchy half century from **Macca Hooton** (50 off 39 bs), were all out for 131. With just one win in their last seven now, AOM were in some peril. Another side who had been in relegation danger for some while pulled well clear after a third win in five, **Hale Barns** producing a brilliant run chase after **Christleton** had reached 255-6 at Brooks Drive. This was mainly due to the peerless **Brad Munro**, who hit a wonderful fourth ton of the campaign, his 124 taking him past 1,000 league runs in a highly impressive season. However HB had their own run machine **Joshua Agar** to thank for their successful chase, his 100 off 119 bs the base on which the 25 pts were gained. Agar added a quickfire 109 with **Joe Cooper** for the 1st as a series of good psp did the business for a relieved and delighted HB.

WK 21 - SEPTEMBER 10

Stockport Georgians put last week's minor setback firmly to one side as they travelled across to promotion rivals **Romiley** and recorded a comfortable victory which secured them elevation to Div 1 and status as Champions. The hosts chose to bat but got hopelessly bogged down in the



STOCKPORT GEORGIANS, CHAMPIONS

face of accurate bowling and keen fielding, all out for just 100 in the 44th. Romiley made SG sweat for the runs, but after a slight tremor, SG were over the line in the 28th to spark the celebrations. As for Romiley, promotion was still in their hands, with 10 points or more from their final game at Davenham needed to ensure a return to Div 1. **Mobberley**, who could still overtake them, suffered a shock defeat at the hands of lowly **Upton**, who recorded a nailbiting 1 wkt win off the last ball of a gripping match at Church Lane. Mobb were going ok at 106-3 in the 37th but 10 overs later they were all out for just 158, **Lachlan Ford** 5-36. Ford was later run out first ball, part of a mid-inns collapse as Upton's careful progress was in ruins at 108-7. But the last four steeled themselves and made use of the extra two overs, **David Williams** holding his nerve as he was down to his last partner, getting two off the last ball of the game for a priceless 25 pts. It still looked likely that Upton would be joining **Warrington** dropping into Div 3, but successive wins had given them a glimmer of hope. That was because of **Ashton OM's** run of one win in eight that had seen them dip uncomfortably close to the drop zone, but the draw point they gained against resurgent **Hale Barns** was a valuable one, **Joshua Agar** was again the star for HB with the bat, his 70 out of 174 whilst batting the ballast for their total of 235. AOM were soon in strife at 31-3 but 60 from **Miraj Patel** inspired a middle order revival, four other batters making 20 or more and the last pair surviving to claim a draw. As mentioned, sadly for **Warrington** it

was to be successive relegations after their valiant struggle to retain Div 2 status ended at **Christleton**. It was an arid affair, **James Lewis'** 28* the highest score of the match in a Warrington total of just 140, **Kamran Hussain's** 4-20 the stand-out amongst the bowlers. The bottom side gave it a real go, however, dismissing **Brad Munro** cheaply as the hosts found run scoring no easier, sinking to 105-8 before **Zaighum Abbas** (25*) and keeper **Scott Graves** (6*) stayed calm, survived a few alarms, and won the game in the 43rd over. Warrington travelled back reflecting on a season that started with two wins in their first three games, but saw them claim 25 pts on only three more occasions.

WK 22 - SEPTEMBER 17

Some entertaining cricket rounded off the season in Div 2 but sadly for **Upton** there was to be no dramatic

escape as they went down to a crushing 92 run loss at **Christleton**, **Zaighum Abbas** taking 7-22 as the Wirral side suffered a second relegation in the last three completed seasons, dropping down along with **Warrington**. They played out a close draw with **Ashton OM**, who just got away with the collapse in form that had plagued them since mid-July. Warrington's **James Lewis** made 68* at no.8 as his side couldn't quite conjure 11 off the last to win, finishing 206-9 in reply to 211-5. At the top, **Stockport Georgians** rounded off a wonderful season with a flourish, demolishing **Port Sunlight** by a whopping 223 runs. **Simon Normanton's** 93 was the pick of several attractive SG knocks as they blazed 290-7. PS were soon taking a standing count at 20-6 and the end was mercifully not long delayed. **Romiley's** 5 wkt win at **Davenham** was untidy but that was not

too big a concern for **Tom Rolph's** side as they secured an immediate return to Div 1. **Mobberley**, who could have caught them, went down to a 37 run loss at **Haslington**, a disappointing end to one of Mobberley's most successful seasons in some years. At Brooks Drive, **Hale Barns** late purple-patch which propelled them from the trapdoor to the top six was cemented with a fabulous chase of 275 set by **Cheadle Hulme**, for whom **Adam Wilde** (111*) made a third ton of 2002. An aggressive response saw HB over the line in the 44th over, 62 from **Luke Skade** and 51 from **Josh Agar** the highlights of an entertaining match which featured 76 extras. CH were left thankful for their strong start to 2022, the 42 pts they collected from their last 7 games seeing them slide alarmingly down the table.

PERFORMANCES OF NOTE

3 September

Tom Rolph 137*, Rom v CH; Brad Munro 124 (and 2-53), Chris v HB; Ben Istead 100*, Hasl v SG; Joshua Agar 100 (& 1-47) HB v Chris; Jack Taylor 6-40, Hasl v SG; David Williams 5-4, Upt v PS; Connor Mizzi 82 & 3-39, Dav v AOM

10 September: Lachlan Ford 5-36, Upt v Mobb

17 September

Adam Wilde 111*, CH v HB; Simon Normanton 93, SG v PS; Zaighum Abbas 7-22, Chris v Upt



DIVISION TWO TABLE AND FORM GUIDE

TEAM	PTS	SEPT. FORM	PTS
STOCK. GEORGIANS	420	HALE BARNES	64
ROMILEY	393	CHRISTLETON	59
MOBBERLEY	358	HASLINGTON	56
HASLINGTON	331	STOCK.GEORGIANS	54
CHRISTLETON	309	UPTON	54
HALE BARNES	292	DAVENHAM	52
DAVENHAM	292	ROMILEY	42
PORT SUNLIGHT	286	MOBBERLEY	39
CHEADLE HULME	284	ASHTON OM	29
ASHTON OM	273	PORT SUNLIGHT	28
UPTON	244	CHEADLE HULME	20
WARRINGTON	234	WARRINGTON	18

TOP BATTERS	RUNS	BEST
BRAD MUNRO (CHRIS)	1060	130*
JOSHUA AGAR (H.B.)	895	120
ADAM WILDE (C.H.)	772	111*
MAX DUNVABAND (CHRIS.)	719	118
SIMON MELBERZS (P.S.)	711	111

TOP BOWLERS	WKTS	BEST
STEVE GRAHAM (P.S.)	64	7-46
JACK TAYLOR (HAS)	58	6-40
ALEX JONES (S.G.)	58	7-14
SIMON NORMANTON (S.G.)	54	8-52
SAM GAINSFORD (MOB)	51	6-34

TOP KEEPER	CT	ST
DAVID BADROCK (ROM)	29	2

WK 20 - SEPTEMBER 3

Significant results at the top and bottom of Div 3 as, after a successful first season, **North East Cheshire** confirmed their promotion with a comprehensive thumping of **Barrow**, who were bowled out for 95 in under 25 overs at The Croft, NEC's **Andrew Clarke** helping himself to an unbeaten 59* at a healthy lick to wrap up win number 15 of 2022. However, the question of who accompanied them up was still intriguingly hanging in the air. The big clash between **Hawk Green** and **Stockport** went the way of HG, who won an excellent match by 29 runs. Stockport put HG in at Upper Hibbert Lane, and when **Naveed Gondal** took a wkt with the first ball of the game they were cock-a-hoop. **Elliott Young's** 82 changed the complexion of things, however, HG totalling 219-8. **Kyle Gavin's** 59 stirred Stockport from a poor start, but his dismissal at 113 was the first of 5 wkts to go for just 19 runs. The last three battled hard but there was just too much to do, and Stockport were all out for 190, Young crowning a splendid personal display with 5-68. **Maritime**, the other team with a chance of going up, were frustrated at **Winnington Park**, the hosts batting through to 179-7 after Maritime had racked up 254-8 (**Vensakar Kanthiraj** 66, **Poorna DeSilva** 52*) and declared 5 overs early. WP still could not be tempted, however, as Maritime used 8 bowlers in an attempt to win, **Vishal Barigela** the most successful with 5-20. The other big game was at the bottom, where **Runcorn** came away from The Flacca mulling a bruising 110 run defeat at the hands of resurgent **Tattenhall**, who recorded a fourth win in five. Skipper **Tom Hyslop** again led the way, his 89 off 97 giving him a personal tally of 328 runs from his last three inns as Tattenhall survived a mid-innings wobble at 140-5 to post 251-9, **Freddie Cheshire** whacking 54 off 43 at no.8 and then straight to business as Runcorn replied, catching the dangerous **Rob Magee** first ball. That set the tone for the visitors who offered only fleeting resistance before tumbling to 64-7. **Ryan Beech** (42*) and no.9 **Daniel Booth** (32) did their best and got the total to 141, scrambling an extra batting pt at least which could prove vital. In the other games, **Ashley**, whose promotion hopes faded some while ago, beat **Kingsley** by 46



NORTH EAST CHESHIRE, CHAMPIONS (image: NEC website)

runs after posting 194-7, **Martyn Jenks'** 56 at no.8 for Kingsley the only half century of the game as they were bowled out for 148. In the game of two captains having almost identical names, **Oakmere** rattled up 236-8 against relegated **Barnton**, **David Purcell** (62*) and skipper **James Hodgkinson** (60) the main contributors. Barnton skipper **James Hodgkinson** (24) was one of only three batters to make double figures in their ice cream total (99).

WK 21 - SEPTEMBER 10

More celebrations for **North East Cheshire** as they were confirmed champions. NEC did it the hard way against title rivals **Maritime**, who were left frustrated for the second time in two weeks after being unable to bowl their opponents out. Without prolific skipper **Vensakar Kanthiraj**, Maritime made an unusually modest 176-9 in their allocation, seven batters making 20 or more but no-one passing 30. In reply, NEC seemed to be overtaken by the occasion as their reply was in tatters at 39-7 in the 22nd, but skipper **Jake Reynolds** (68*) and **James Banner** (23* off 96 bs) managed to grind through to the end unscathed on 128-7 - their first draw of the season giving them the pts necessary to claim the trophy. Maritime's angst was compounded by the news from Cale Green that **Stockport** had beaten **Tattenhall** by 5 wkts, a result which tied the two clubs on

396 pts with Stockport having won a game more. Crucially, **Tom Hyslop** was absent at Cale Green, the visitors managing just 154-9 after being put in, **Ethan Joi-Evans'** painstaking 45 (104 bs) the highest contribution. Despite their best efforts Tatt could not get rid of key man **Naveed Gondal**, whose 73* settled the match with some 10 overs in hand. Adding further spice to the top of the table was a fourth straight win for **Hawk Green**, who had to work harder than they might have expected at **Barnton** after the hosts batted through 50 overs to make 180-8. Skipper **Josh Hampson** (62*) and **Jason Downey** (68) put on a substantial psp for the 1st which enabled HG to move within a point of the promotion spots. All three teams were therefore left with final day fixtures against opposition with nothing to play for as such, so a fidgety week lay ahead for them all. The other element from the result at Cale Green was that **Runcorn** had a lifeline as a result of their massive 107 run win over **Ashley**. Skipper **James Wells** set the example, making 71 after choosing to bat, Runcorn a healthy 227-8 off their 50. **Ryan Beech** and the **Magee** brothers took 3 wkts apiece as only no.10

Sabtain Baig made more than 20, Ashley all out 120. Elsewhere a last wkt stand of 38 in some 12 overs staved off defeat for **Oakmere** in their draw with near neighbours **Winnington Park** while **Ben Stoddard** made 51 before taking 6-42 in **Kingsley's** 77 run win over **Barrow**, their first success in five games, while Barrow were thankful for the points accumulated earlier in 2022 after winning just one of their last seven.

WK 22 - SEPTEMBER 17

A thrilling conclusion to the inaugural Div 3 saw **Stockport** claim the second promotion spot behind champions **NE Cheshire** by virtue of having won one more match than **Maritime**, with **Hawk Green** just one point behind in fourth and with more wins than both the two sides immediately above them. **Stockport** claimed a scrappy but priceless 6 wkt win at **Ashley** after bowling the hosts out for 135. They made steady progress towards the target

and thus ensured an immediate return to Div 2. **Maritime's Chalitha Samarasekera** whacked 76 as his side posted 223 at home to **Kingsley**, for whom **Craig Lynch** took 5-37. Despite them then sweeping the visitors aside for just 105 in 27.4 overs, Maritime were left to reflect on the two drawn games in September when they just couldn't bowl their opposition out. In similar vein, **Hawk Green** raced to their paltry victory target of 91 in under 13 overs against **Oakmere** (who, incidentally were 50-9 in that game) and could consider themselves somewhat unfortunate, having won 13 of their last 14 matches, to miss out. In the end, it was the 4 pts they took from their defeat at champions N.E.Cheshire in August that proved almost disproportionately costly - NEC reached their target of 151 just two down in that game, so one more wkt would have given HG an extra point....but on such fine margins can things be decided. It was considera-

bly more clear cut at the foot, however, where **Tattenhall's** late season rally reached utopian fruition with a sumptuous 151 run win over **Barnton**. Losing 3-0 to leave themselves a wobbly 144-7, a dose of **Harvey Salt** (64*) enabled the tail to dig them out of a hole and reach 258-9, Barnton all out of answers as they spluttered to 107. **Runcorn's** faint hopes of survival were dealt a heavy blow by the news of Tatt's batting revival and by their own subsidence from 54-4 to 108 all out at **Barrow**, who clung on at 58-7 to inch over the line on 110-8 in a desperately tight game. As for the champions, **N.E.Cheshire** didn't sign off as they would have hoped, losing at **Winnington Park** in a low-key encounter, but NEC were still delighted to receive the trophy from League chairman David Humpage after the game.

PERFORMANCES OF NOTE

3 September: Elliott Young, 82 & 5-68, HG v Stock; Vishal Barigela 5-20, Mar v WP; Tom Hyslop 89 & 2-16, Tatt v Runc

10 September: Naveed Gondal, 73* (& 2-23, & a r/o), Stock v Tatt; Ben Stoddart 6-42 (& 51), King v Barr; Jack Needham 5-35 (& 21), HG v Barn

17 September

Jason Downey 6-29, HG v Oak; Craig Lynch 5-37. King v Mar



DIVISION THREE TABLE AND FORM GUIDE

TEAM	PTS	SEPT. FORM	PTS
NORTH EAST CHESHIRE	439	HAWK GREEN	75
STOCKPORT	421	STOCKPORT	56
MARITIME	421	TATTENHALL	56
HAWK GREEN	420	MARITIME	51
KINGSLEY	314	WINNINGTON PARK	45
ASHLEY	308	NORTH EAST CHESHIRE	38
WINNINGTON PARK	297	RUNCORN	34
OAKMERE	281	KINGSLEY	34
BARROW	279	OAKMERE	33
TATTENHALL	270	ASHLEY	32
RUNCORN	234	BARROW	31
BARNTON	58	BARNTON	15

TOP BATTERS	RUNS	BEST
TOM HYSLOP (TATT)	835	158
VENSAKAR KANTHIRAJ (MAR)	788	105*
ROB MAGEE (RUNC)	706	152
ELLIOT YOUNG (KING)	652	92*
MATTHEW PARKS (BARR)	647	121*

TOP BOWLERS	WKTS	BEST
NAVEED GONDAL (STOCK)	61	7-18
HAKEEM RAUF (MAR)	50	6-20
BEN STODDART (KING)	49	8-18
JACK NEEDHAM (H.G.)	46	8-28
DAVE OLDFIELD (N.E.C)	45	5-11

TOP KEEPER	CT	ST
JAKE SKELTON (H.G.)	23	10

2ND XI CRICKET - SEPTEMBER

SUMMARY: PREMIER DIVISION - CHESTER BH are champions, going through the entire season without defeat. **DIDSBURY** finish as runners-up. **OULTON PARK** conceded their last three matches and were relegated along with **ALDERLEY EDGE** after a heart-breaking last day for them. **DIVISION ONE: LINDOW** are champions, with **BROOKLANDS** also promoted; **DIDSBURY 2A** and **UPTON** are relegated. **DIVISION TWO: ALVANLEY** finished top, with **BRAMHALL** also promoted; **CONGLETON** and **BOLLINGTON** drop down. **DIVISION THREE: HASLINGTON** topped the division, with **STOCKPORT** second. **IRBY & MOBBERLEY** finished adrift at the foot.

In the end, the chase for the Premier Division title went decisively the way of **Chester BH** (pictured left), their season-long battle with **Didsbury** decided in the first two weeks of September. CBH's opponents on the 3rd, **Oulton Park**, conceded, the same day that **Didsbury** fell 31 runs short at **Neston** after **Will Brewster** made 103 for the hosts in their 220. Dids were soon 13-3 and could only manage 189. The following week, an unbeaten 62 from **Matt Griffiths** helped CBH to a comprehensive 8 wkt win over Sale, while Didsbury's batting again failed in pursuit of a modest 101 at **Nantwich**. The hosts were 89-5 but fell apart in the face of 5-30 from **Rohan Aggarwal**, but Dids' batting inexplicably failed again as they were all out 88, which meant celebrations could begin at Filkins Lane. CBH rounded off a brilliant campaign with a draw at **Oxon**. Skipper **Dan Riley's** 5-33 (and 10*) was not quite enough to claim another 25 pts but nonetheless, CBH went through 2022 unbeaten in the league, and in what is thought to be another first, topped the 500 pt mark. **Didsbury** finished with a victory over **Toft** and second spot, while Nantwich were some way clear in third. The battle in the basement went to the last day, although **Oulton Park's** relegation had already been confirmed after they conceded all their September fixtures, a move unprecedented in recent 2nd XI Prem history and one that may have further ramifications. **Bowdon** pulled off a last gasp escape in their battle with lowly **Hyde**, who also could theoretically still have gone down. **Finlay Grosfils** hit 100* as Bowdon declared after 49 overs on 178-5. Hyde's **Charlie Harris** made 75 at no.6, holding things together as the tension increased, Hyde just surviving on 154-9. The 13 pts Bowdon gained proved sufficient after news of **Alderley Edge's** 5 wkt loss at **Cheadle** came through, the 6 pts gained not enough for AE to survive. Despite winning as many games as Hyde - and losing five fewer - AE were left to reflect on the six games they drew batting second and the fine margins involved.

IMAGE: CHESTER BH WEBSITE



2ND XI PREM	PTS
CHESTER BH	500
DIDSBURY	462
NANTWICH	391
CHEADLE	338
NESTON	328
OXTON	325
SALE	292
TOFT	234
HYDE	220
BOWDON	216
ALDERLEY EDGE	211
OULTON PARK	139

2ND XI DIVISION 1

Congratulations to **Lindow** who confirmed their place in next season's Prem after two wins in their first two Sept fixtures. In a climatic final fixture, **Brooklands** leapfrogged **Heaton Mersey** and took the second promotion spot after beating them by 4 wkts. HM were just five points adrift in third, left to lament their late season stutter when they won three of their last seven fixtures. Other last day acts of note included **Timperley's** no.10 **Andrew Horsfield** smashing 75* off 48 in a 9th wkt stand of 98* which propelled his side to 264-8 and a 38 run win over **Macc. Grappenhall's** push came just too late, after they beat **Widnes** in a high scoring game on Sept 3, their successful pursuit of 250 helped by 54 extras, and a brilliant last wkt stand of 51* which gave them a nailbiting 1 wk win over **Romiley** on the 10th. However they lost to **Didsbury 2As** on the last day, a consolation for Dids who already knew they were going down along with **Upton**, who copped a heavy final loss at **Lindow**.

2ND XI DIVISION 2

Despite a last day loss at Neston, **Alvanley** claimed the Div 2 title after two massive wins over **Bollington** (127 runs) and **P.Sunlight** (164 runs) earlier in Sept, **Tom Kenton's** 114* in the latter game the feature, as were four more wkts for Phil Erasmus, who finally finished with 49 for the season. **Bramhall** finished strongly and also went up, a 77 run win over luckless Bolly on the 10th after a 9 wkt win the week before making them uncatchable. Their opponents that day were **Congleton**, who finished at the foot despite a creditable 23 run win (defending 120) at **Davenham** on the 10th. **Urmston** won two of their last three which meant that although they sank by a whacking 83 runs at **C.Hulme** on the last day, they ended ten pts outside the drop zone, where **Bollington** finished. After two thrashings, Bolly did superbly to knock off 190 at **P.Sunlight** but in the end it proved not quite enough, even though Bolly won as many games in 2022 as Sunlight, who finished seventh. Such is the game!

2ND XI DIVISION 3

An action packed month ended with congratulations to **Haslington** who recorded a hard-fought 9 wkt win over **Lymm OP** to claim the title. Lymm could also have gone up with a win and some help from elsewhere, but despite the best efforts of **Chester BH's Andrew McFarlane** - 6-30 and 71* in their 10 wkt win over **Runcorn** - CBH finished ten pts shy of **Stockport**, who bashed **Ashley** by 8 wkts to secure promotion. It was one of two unusual games for Stockport - Ashley's last pair added 46 to get the total to 87 - and on Sept 3 there was dramatic level scores draw in a fabulous match at Cale Green as **Tattenhall's Harvey Salt** was run out for 99 in his side's 238-8. Stockport's **Jack Warrington** (81) and **Stuart Knott** (64) put on 138 for the 4th, Stockport needing 10 off the last to win. **Finlay Perry** hit a six off the first ball but was run out off the last. **Mobberley** and **Irby** finished in the bottom spots.

3RD XI PREMIER DIVISION

Didsbury 3s (right) won a fourth successive league title, and a sixth in seven seasons (discounting the 2020 Covid competition) after winning three of their final four matches. A tense 3 wkt win at **Nantwich** on BH Monday, when Dids recovered from 31-4 to chase 137, was sufficient to finally end **Sale's** outside chance of claiming the title. The Dane Rd side started August well, **Josh Patel** making 98* as they beat **Hyde**, before a last wkt stand of 47 took them to 101 and an eventual 41 run win over **Marple & Compstall**. However, a quite astonishing conclusion on BH Monday saw Sale draw with **Alderley Edge** (which put Didsbury out of reach) after needing three runs from the last over with 5 wkts in hand for victory. **Ashray Bhamidipati** took a wkt, bowled 2 dots, took 2 more wkts and then affected a run out off the last ball when the batters went for a second run to level the scores. After a disappointing season, **Hyde** finished at the foot of the table in spite of a fabulous victory over **Romiley**, who had racked up 265-9 (**Joseph McNeeny** 83). **Charlie Hewitt** walloped 18 sixes (!) in an innings of 159 off 76 bs, putting on 210 for the 1st wkt with **Zak Kelly** (54) en route to a 5 wkt win with 7 overs in hand. Earlier in August, **Toft's Simon Locke** made the first of three tons in a month, scoring 100* as he enjoyed Romiley's bowling - along with **Harrison Milner** (90) - Toft declaring after 39 overs on 246-3. **Alex Napier** (114*) then batted 51 overs as Romiley reached 231-9 in an exciting climax. Locke hit another ton (113*) and **George Muirhead** 91, the pair adding 157 as Toft made 248-2 against **M&C**, who were quickly 20-2 before rallying brilliantly to leave six needed off the last over with 2 wkts in hand. In a thrilling finish, captain **Sachin Strivastava** held his nerve to concede just three, the match drawn. Locke's third hundred, 113*, came against **AE** in a drawn game. Another Toft player, **Ed Stubbs**, made 113 in their defeat at Didsbury. A word too for **Timperley** who completed a successful first season and more than survived in the Prem - and were the only side to defeat Didsbury, beating them by 2 wkts chasing 140 to win. As Timpers were 135-5, it was a nervy finish!



3RD XI DIVISION 1

DIDSBURY 4s sewed up the divisional title with a thumping win over **Ashley** on Aug 21st, finishing 16 pts clear of the chasing pack. **Brooklands** and **Bramhall** (after losing their final fixture to **Grappenhall**) finished tied on points, although Brooklands were runners-up having won a game more. The two sides played out a thriller on Aug 14, Bramhall winning by 1 run despite Brook's **Piyash Kumar** making 119*. Bramhall then whacked 300-8 off their 40 against **Elworth** in a 149 run win. **Lindow** were the bottom side with just a solitary triumph, hit by a number of conceded and washed out games. Elsewhere **Cheadle's Jasper Wong** made 101 in their 9 wkt win over **Grappenhall** on Aug 7th. **Lindow** finished last, winning just one of their 18 fixtures and conceding their last two games.

3RD XI DIVISION 2

ASHTON ON MERSEY 3s finished 10 pts clear of runners up **Bowdon** after a marvellous campaign which saw them win 13 of their 18 matches, concluding with a 53 run win over **Bredbury SM**. Bowdon actually beat AOM off the penultimate ball of their clash on Aug 14, winning by 1 wkt, but AOM had a big enough lead to weather the setback, **Tom Jenkinson** hitting scores of 68, 80 and 87 in three inns for them. Although Bowdon won their last two games by 146 and 178 runs, and had **Shardul Viinoaday** make 104* for them in early Aug, they left it too late for the title. **Hale Barns** brought up the rear, failing to win after July 17th. 9 games were conceded during the season, while 10 more were cancelled or abandoned.

3RD XI WEST DIVISION was won by **Trafford Metrovicks 4s**, who survived a late wobble and a determined challenge from **Timperley** to claim the title. It was a topsy-turvy season results-wise, Timpers going down by 10 wkts at **Runcorn** at the start of Aug before winning by 156 runs against **Lymm OP** two weeks later; **Runcorn** themselves beat **Metrovicks** before losing by 119 runs at **Widnes**, who were involved in one of three tied matches in August. **Sale** finished at the foot while **Bowdon**, who tied two matches during the season, also conceded five games.

3RD XI CENTRAL & EAST DIVISION was won by **Trafford Metrovicks 3s** Sadly this division of 18 sides was marred by concessions - 21 games were lost in this manner, with two sides conceding 9 matches each. **Stockport 3s** were runners-up whilst **Romiley 4s** were adrift at the foot of the table. Notable displays in the final weeks included **Hawk Green's Lee Hallas** scoring 111* (at no.7) as his side recovered from 138-7 to post 288-9 against **Langley**, who also conceded 69 extras! **HG's** recovery from 23-5 to make 212-8 against **Stockport** was not enough to prevent a 69 run reverse.

FINALS DAY - SUN. SEPTEMBER 4TH

CHESHIRE SHIELD 2022

ROMILEY WON THE CHESHIRE SHIELD AFTER A 45 RUN VICTORY AGAINST MOBBERLEY AT CHURCH LANE.

SCORES: **ROMILEY 194** (39.5 os), **MOBBERLEY 149** (36.2 os)

Umpires: Chris Hyde and Ian Barber

Player of the Match: James Badrock (Rom)

As in their semi-final, Romiley recovered from a collapse after choosing to bat first, but recovered to record what was ultimately a convincing win.



Both sides were in good form going into the final, just 22 pts apart in second and third spots in Div 2. **Mobberley's** veteran seam bowler **Abdul Aqeel** was soon in on the action, his spell of 8-3-18-3 seeing **Romiley** on the ropes at 20-4, but the middle order added 149 between them, **James Badrock's** unbeaten 44 anchoring things as a late flourish took Romiley to 194. Player-of-the-match Badrock was also to play a crucial part with the ball, running out the dangerous **Ibrar Latif** for 39, and taking 2-14 from six overs as part of an excellent effort by the six-man attack, **James Bashford** getting rid of top scorer **Osman Butt** whilst **Alex Hooton** dismissed **Sam Gainsford** cheaply. **Bradley Snape** (3-24) then polished things off as Romiley celebrated in style in front of a good crowd at the attractive Church Lane ground.

Skipper Tom Rolph lifts the Shield (left) while James Badrock shares his champagne with the rest of the team (above).
Images: Romiley CC

OVER 40s FINALS DAY

NESTON CC

CHESTER BOUGHTON HALL ('The Blazers') WON AN EXCITING OVER 40's CUP, BEATING HYDE IN A RAIN-INTERRUPTED FINAL.

S/F 1: HYDE 171-3 (20) beat CHEADLE HULME 132 (16.5) by 39 runs

S/F 2: CHESTER BH 164 (20) beat SALE 115-7 (20) by 49 runs

FINAL: CHESTER BH 154-3 (17) beat HYDE 152-2 (20) by 49 runs

Hyde had three batters retire on their way to a comfortable win over C.Hulme in their semi; as did Chester BH on their way to an equally decisive victory over Sale. The final was again a story of batters in control, three of Hyde's reaching the retired score as CBH were set 153. Captain Jude Chaminda led the reply - despite reportedly hitting himself on the head attempting a scoop shot in the first over - being one of three CBH players to retire. Two separate rain interruptions did threaten to spoil things but the teams were able to complete the match as Chester celebrated an excellent win. There's a good write-up of the day on the CBH website (from where also the image above was taken).

**Unfortunately only umpires Andy Crick and Dion Kelly, and scorer John Lofthouse, were recorded as officials on the day, despite other officials obviously being involved.*

NESTON won the Over 40s Plate Final after a 10 wkt win over Davenham. Played at Neston after the semi-finals of the cup, Davenham's decision to bat didn't work out as only two batters got to double figures, Brad Donelan with 4-10 as Davenham succumbed for a sub-optimal 77. Neston knocked off the target in just 11.1 overs.



FAIRPLAY TABLES - 2022

Umpire Simon Smith collates the Fair Play tables, which are based upon the marks submitted by umpires during the season. Simon writes: "The overall Fairplay average mark across all divisions was 3.92 which, given that a score of 4 equates to 'attained expected standard' indicates good levels of behaviour in the league. The average scores across divisions were: Premier League = 3.89; Division One = 3.92; Division Two = 3.93; and Division Three = 3.94.



Scores of 5 are given where expected standards are exceeded and an explanation from umpires is required. Some examples of this during the season are when a Lindow batter walked for a caught behind having been given not out by the umpire, and a Cheadle batter stopping the bowler during his run up to point out that there were 3 fielders behind square on the leg side (this had not been spotted by the umpires). Scores of 2 and 1 equate to expected standards not being met and again requires an explanation from umpires and invariably relates to matches where a disciplinary report was made.

As can be seen from the tables the overall Fairplay trophy was shared between **Alvanley, Barnton and Mobberley** with **Hyde** topping the Premier league table. Congratulations to all those clubs. It is also important for players and officials from clubs at the wrong end of these divisional tables to address the reasons for this and put plans in place to redress this position next season."

PREMIER DIV

TEAM	MARK
HYDE	4.00
Didsbury	3.99
Alderley Edge	3.98
Oxton	3.97
Oulton Park	3.93
Toft	3.92
Bowdon	3.88
Brooklands	3.88
Chester BH	3.87
Neston	3.81
Widnes	3.80
Nantwich	3.75

DIVISION ONE

TEAM	MARK
ALVANLEY	4.02
Marple	4.00
Cheadle	3.98
Grappenhall	3.98
Lindow	3.98
Sale	3.98
Bramhall	3.97
Macclesfield	3.97
Urmston	3.92
Bollington	3.90
Congleton	3.74
Timperley	3.68

DIVISION TWO

TEAM	MARK
MOBBERLEY	4.02
Romiley	3.98
Ashton OM	3.97
Upton	3.97
C.Hulme	3.98
S.Georgians	3.93
Warrington	3.92
Christleton	3.92
Haslington	3.92
Hale Barns	3.89
Port Sunlight	3.89
Davenham	3.78

DIVISION THREE

TEAM	MARK
BARNTON	4.02
Runcorn	4.00
Tattenhall	4.00
N.E.Cheshire	3.99
Kingsley	3.98
Stockport	3.93
Oakmere	3.92
W.Park	3.92
Barrow	3.91
Ashley	3.90
Hawk Green	3.89
Maritime	3.84

FINES & NON-COMPLIANCE

£5,500

In these times of economic hardship and all kinds of pressures on the costs of living, it seems quite extraordinary to be reporting the above figure as the approximate amount levied in fines during 2022 for failure to adhere to simple match administration requirements. But there it is! A detailed breakdown is available on the league website but in brief, it is a neglect of some far from taxing housekeeping that is seeing clubs handing over cash that could otherwise be going into their own facilities. Not submitting umpires marks; not ensuring players are registered before being entered onto Play Cricket; submitting late or inaccurate scorecards (especially with 'unsure' entries) and failure to provide scorers, are the chief reasons why the level of fines has run so high. Food for thought indeed!



LEAGUE DINNER 2022

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 11th

HALTON STADIUM, WIDNES

(WA8 7DZ - HOME OF WIDNES VIKINGS RLFC)

GUEST SPEAKER:

CHARLES DAGNALL

**(formerly Cumberland, Warks,
Leics, and now broadcaster)**

PLUS LEAGUE AWARDS



HUSSAIN & MILLER AT TOFT C.C.

Nasser Hussain & Geoff Miller will be
the guests of Toft on

Friday October 7th, 6.30 onwards

Tickets £40 each, for a table of 8 - 12

Three course meal & coffee is included.

Speeches, Q&A, and more.

For more information
and to book please
contact:
toftpavilionfund@toftcc.co.uk



Send your feedback and information to James: editorclnews101@gmail.com