

A great deal has happened in the five months since the last newsletter!

### **New and Promoted Teams**

The League's Annual General Meeting accepted applications to join the league's hardball divisions from these clubs:

- Alvanley
- New Mills
- North East Cheshire - having formally supported the Stockport Georgians 3rd XI in 2022, they are now in a position to field a standalone team
- Macclesfield
- Toft

2023 will also see these teams playing at a higher level, after they either chose to take up their automatic promotions or had applications for promotion approved at the AGM:

- Upton - promoted to Division 1
- Greenfield - promoted to Division 2
- Hayfield - promoted to Division 2
- Buxton - promoted to Division 3
- Lindow 2nd XI - promoted to Division 3

The following clubs had applications to enter additional teams into the hardball divisions approved:

- Buxton - 2nd XI
- Lindow - 3rd XI

Ashton-on-Mersey and Woodley, who were the bottom two teams in Division 2 last year, had an application to field a joint team in Division 3 approved by the AGM

### **New Laws**

Changes to the Laws of Cricket effective from October 1 2022, and which will therefore apply in the CWCL for the first time in 2023 include:

- After a dismissal of caught, the new batter will now always face the next delivery, unless the wicket fell off the final ball of an over. Regarding who takes strike for the next delivery, it is now irrelevant whether the batters 'crossed' before the catch was taken. After a run out, the new batter shall still go to the end where the dismissal took place
- A delivery shall only be considered to be a wide if it passes out of reach of the striker in all of these positions: where the striker is standing at the time the ball reaches her, where the striker has stood at any point since the bowler began their run up, and the striker's normal batting position
- If the ball should land away from the pitch, the striker can only play the ball so long as some part of her bat or person remains within the pitch. Should a striker venture beyond the pitch to play the ball, the umpire will call and signal Dead Ball
- Saliva must not be used on the ball in any way

## **Rules Meeting Resolutions**

### **Matters affecting all competitions**

#### Resolutions adopted:

1. Matches can be re-arranged if they clash with a match in the Senior National Knockout for either side. If the club does not enter the Senior National Knockout, then re-arrangements are also possible for clashes with the Under 19 National Knockout
2. Any club that fails to enter a full scorecard on Play Cricket for their home matches within 5 days of each fixture will be docked 5 points for the third and subsequent transgression in this area
3. No player from school year 7 or below can play in a senior competition in any circumstances
4. If a red heat warning is in place for the area where a match is to be played and for the scheduled time of the match; and remains in force 24 hours before the time of the match, either side shall be entitled to withdraw from the fixture without it being treated as a concession. In these circumstances, it is also permissible to change the match to a morning or evening fixture of no less than 20 overs per side. If the match is not played due to extreme heat, it should be re-arranged if possible, but if this does not occur, the match will be recorded as Cancelled and treated in the same way as a match cancelled due to rain
5. If a match does not take place on the original scheduled date as there is agreement from the League Chair that exceptional circumstances apply, and the match cannot then be re-arranged, the points allocated to each team will be their average points from completed league matches across the season
6. While the restriction on only fielding one elite overseas player remains in force, it is now the case that any overseas player who is permanently resident within 30 minutes travel time of the ground or who has played for the same club at Under 15 level or below, or who has been a member of the club for at least two years, will be exempt from this restriction. (An elite overseas player is a current member of a national senior first or second team squad from a country other than England)
7. Teams are no longer able to select a 12-player squad with the intention of fully flexible rotation of players throughout the game, as per the 2022 rules. Instead, use of a 12th player will only be for injuries, illnesses and other issues covered by the Laws relating to substitutes
8. Teams may wear either coloured clothing or traditional white cricket clothing in all matches
9. The home team shall provide two new balls for each match. These should both be the same brand of ball from the same manufacturer
10. The default shall be a pink ball. Matches can only be played with a red ball where both teams have agreed this in advance; and where both teams are wearing white clothing

#### Resolutions not adopted:

1. To restrict clubs to fielding only one overseas player in each match
2. To adopt a points system whereby teams would receive no points for a cancelled or abandoned match and where the league positions would be determined by teams' average points in completed matches

Notes:

- There is no automatic right of re-arrangement for Under 19 matches if a club enters both the Senior and Under 19 National Knockouts. Nor is there a right of re-arrangement for junior national competitions, such as the Under 13 and Under 15 Lady Taverners
- If hot weather is forecast, but no red warning is in place, it is expected that division 1 and 2 matches will go ahead as scheduled. Matches in other competitions can only be re-arranged by mutual consent and any club withdrawing from a match in the absence of a red heat warning risks being deemed to have forfeited the match.
- The League wishes to clarify that Law 21.7 applies in all competitions, and deliveries which bounce twice before reaching the batter, or roll along the ground, or land off the pitch, should be called and signalled as 'no balls'
- The away team is no longer required to provide any new balls for matches

**Matters affecting divisions 1 and 2**

Resolutions adopted:

1. There will be no 8-ball maximum over and all overs should be completed as per the Laws of Cricket, i.e., 6 legitimate deliveries
2. In an abandoned match, bonus points will only be awarded for an innings where there has been at least 20 overs bowled
3. Any club that fails to bowl 40 overs within 2 hours 40 minutes shall be reported by the umpires to the Executive Committee

Resolutions not adopted:

1. To apply a stricter interpretation of a leg side wide once three leg side deliveries have been bowled in the same over
2. To deduct points from clubs that fail to bowl 40 overs within 2 hours 40 minutes

**Matters affecting the senior Knockout and T20 divisional competition**

1. There will be no 8-ball maximum over and all overs should be completed as per the Laws of Cricket, i.e., 6 legitimate deliveries
2. If a fielding team is not in a position to commence bowling the 20<sup>th</sup> over of the innings within 75 minutes of the start time of the innings, they will only be allowed to have three fielders outside the fielding circle for the rest of the innings

Resolutions not adopted:

1. To impose runs penalties on clubs that fail to bowl 20 overs within 75 minutes

Notes:

- These changes do not apply in the Development Knockout

### **Matters affecting division 3**

There will be two regional divisions, as follows:

- Division 3 West – Porthill Park, Chester Boughton Hall 2<sup>nd</sup> XI, Nantwich 2<sup>nd</sup> XI, Appleton 2<sup>nd</sup> XI
- Division 3 East – Woodley & Ashton-on-Mersey, Stockport Georgians 2<sup>nd</sup> XI, Didsbury 2<sup>nd</sup> XI, Buxton, Lindow 2<sup>nd</sup> XI

The teams will play the others in their division home and away, plus one additional match against each of the teams in the other regional division

### **Matters affecting division 4**

There will be two regional divisions, as follows:

- Division 4 West – Wistaston Village, Lymm Oughtrington Park, Toft, Lindow 3<sup>rd</sup> XI, Oakmere 2<sup>nd</sup> XI, Alvanley
- Division 4 East – Buxton 2<sup>nd</sup> XI, Hawk Green, Macclesfield, New Mills, Heaton Mersey & Cheadle, North East Cheshire, Langley

The teams will play the others in their division home and away

Resolutions adopted:

1. There shall be compulsory retirement of batters on reaching a score of 30. They may resume their innings once all of the team have batted.

### **Matters affecting divisions 3 and 4**

Resolutions adopted:

1. Where a club has two teams and a 2<sup>nd</sup> XI in division 3 or 4, the fixture list will be drawn up so that there are no clashes between their 1<sup>st</sup> XI and 2<sup>nd</sup> XI. Where a club has three teams, they should expect to have to field two teams at the same time, but the fixture list will be drawn up so that there are no occasions when all three teams are in action

### **League Fixtures**

Because of their National Knockout involvement, Leigh will wait until April 30 and their trip to Stockport Georgians to start their defence of their first ever league title. Promoted Upton make their top-flight bow at Chester seven days earlier.

Greenfield and Hayfield both have home matches on April 23 as they start their time as division two clubs, with Hawarden Park and Stockport Trinity respectively providing their opposition.

All fixtures for the hardball divisions have been issued to club representatives and can also be viewed [here](#) or on Play Cricket.

## **Knockout Draws**

The draws for the Knockout competitions are as follows. As in previous years, all 2022 semi-finalists received first round byes in the Senior Knockout. In the Development Knockout, the draw was regionalized in the first round only.

### **Senior Knockout**

Round 1:

A - Didsbury Swordettes v Greenfield  
B – Upton v Lindow  
C – Hayfield v Oakmere Kats

Quarter Finals:

Nantwich Vipers v Chester Boughton Hall Deemons  
Winner C v Stockport Georgians  
Winner B v Stockport Trinity Fire  
Winner A v Appleton Tigers

### **Development Knockout**

Preliminary Round:

A - Chester Boughton Hall 2<sup>nd</sup> XI v Wistaston Swans  
B - Stockport Georgians 2<sup>nd</sup> XI v New Mills  
C – Didsbury 2<sup>nd</sup> XI v Macclesfield

Round 1:

1 – Winner A v Oakmere 2<sup>nd</sup> XI  
2 – Alvanley v Porthill Park Northern Stars  
3 – Toft v Lymm Oughtrington Park Lightning  
4 – Nantwich 2<sup>nd</sup> XI v Lindow 2<sup>nd</sup> XI  
5 – Winner B v Winner C  
6 – Woodley & Ashton-on-Mersey v Hawk Green  
7 – North East Cheshire v Langley  
8 – Heaton Mersey & Cheadle v Buxton

Quarter Finals

Winner 5 v Winner 4  
Winner 3 v Winner 8  
Winner 2 v Winner 6  
Winner 1 v Winner 7

### **National Knockout**

As many as eight CWCL clubs – the highest to date – will be involved in the ECB's national T20 club competitions this year. This includes a majority of the first division teams.

The preliminary round draw for the main Cup competition shows two all-Cheshire league matches: Leigh at home to Stockport Georgians and Lindow hosting 2021 and 2022 regional finalists Nantwich. The winners of these two matches will then face each other in the first round. Leyland play Littleborough in the preliminary round, while Didsbury go straight into the first round. All preliminary and first round losers will go into the Plate.

Porthill Park play at Lichfield in the preliminary round of the Plate, having won this competition last year. First time entrants Upton have also chosen to go straight into the Plate, where they have a preliminary round bye.

### **Representative Cricket**

The annual fixture between the League XI and MCC will take place at Chester Boughton Hall CC's second ground on Friday July 28, as part of the host club's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations. A men's MCC team will take on either the club 1<sup>st</sup> XI or a President's XI on the main square at the same time as our showpiece.

### **Under 19 World Cup**

With Nantwich's Seren Smale behind the stumps in all but their first match of the tournament, England finished as runners up in the Under 19 T20 World Cup, held in South Africa in January. She made scores of 28\* from 19 balls against West Indies, 37 against Pakistan and 30\* from 14 versus Ireland; and also claimed three dismissals.

Stockport Georgians' Liv Bell played in all of Scotland's group matches, with a best bowling performance against the UAE, conceding 20 runs in four overs.

### **Awards Recognition**

At the Lancashire and Cheshire Grassroots Cricket Awards and Lancashire Cricket Player of the Year Awards, where most of the CWCL's Officers were amongst the 750 attendees, Sarah McCann was again recognised for her 25-year commitment to the league and for the advances made during that time as she was the joint winner of Cheshire's Growing The Game award. Stockport Georgians' women's manager Ray Bell scooped the Inspired To Play award, having also had a crucial role in the running of the league's junior girls' competitions in recent years. Ray and Sarah then achieved further recognition at the ECB ceremony, where Ray was the national winner of the Inspired To Play award and Sarah was highly commended in the Growing The Game category.

Jacqui Faulkner of Oakmere has won the Cheshire Cricket Board award for Coach of the Year.

### **External Publicity**

Tom Jones' Lives in Women and Girls' Cricket podcast has reached its century. If you have missed any, the good news is that all episodes are still available for you to listen to. League President Di Totty was Tom's 100th guest. Previous episodes featured a number of familiar names from the CWCL and from the wider cricketing world.

### **Board Appointment**

Lindow captain Jo Seddon has been appointed as the Independent Director – Women and Girls Lead at the Cheshire Cricket Board, in succession to Di Totty. Jo is also co-opted onto the League's Executive Committee as a result of her appointment.

### **Next Meeting**

Please be advised that the next CWCL meetings will take place on Wednesday March 22, with the annual Captains Meeting at 1830 and the full League Committee meeting at 1930. The venue will be confirmed in the near future. Julie Rafferty, Cheshire's County Safeguarding Officer, will be in attendance at the League meeting. If your club has safeguarding questions this would be an

opportunity to ask. Please ensure either your captain or vice-captain attends the first meeting as some very important information about the season ahead will be communicated.

### **Big Help Out**

Organisations that depend on volunteers, such as sports clubs, are able to register their interest in seeking new volunteers via the Big Help Out scheme, an initiative connected to the King's coronation.

### **Play Cricket and Officials Training**

Many of us need to use Play Cricket for results and fixture management, and others might like to know more about electronic scoring on Play Cricket. ECB are running three different courses in the coming days. All start at 1930 and all will be conducted via Microsoft Teams:

Club Administration – Tuesday March 21

Fixtures & Results Management and Scoring – Wednesday March 22

Club Members Administration – Tuesday March 28

Forthcoming umpiring and scoring courses in Cheshire can be viewed [here](#).